

folks would always tell those stories.

SMOKING THE PIPE AN OATH TO TELL THE TRUTH

(Could you tell me some more about this smoking while the stories are being told?)

Well, the whole thing amounts to this--way, like in the Tomahawks, they always divide. The "Stalwart Men" are always on the north side, and the "Shorts" or "Runts" sit on the south. And they compete in stories. But in order to make that story authentic, when these stories are told, at certain times, in order to prove that they were true, those that participate in those stories always have to smoke a pipe. Even though the boy doesn't smoke, or hasn't got in the habit of smoking. Yet that pipe was used as an oath. Like the old saying is, "As straight as the stem is and the smoke travels upward, so this story will be accepted as truth." That's the symbolic to the truth and oath. So when they tell stories, if they know they're true, they're going to smoke that pipe. Which they usually do. No one refuses to smoke the pipe.

(How would the smoking take place--is everybody there smoking at the same time?)

Just the company that sits in there in that competition of matching stories.

(Does every man have his own pipe?)

No. One pipe goes (around).

(How does this take place--is the man who's doing the talking--is he also smoking at the same time?)

No. The smoke always goes from right to left. It never goes this other way--only on special occasions. Exceptional occasions.