I've seen that special occasion and I'm going to refer to it in a moment. Well, as the story is told, any time the pipe comes to him--he still might be telling a story--but he can puff that pipe and pass it on and then continue his story. That's the sense of that oath.

(How long would each man keep the pipe--or how much would he smoke of it?)

Well, maybe just one round. Even these opponents on the south side could smoke that pipe. The pipe has to go clear around. And then other times they'd smoke just to be smoking. Especially old men. I got some of that sumac here that's ground up, but I haven't mixed it yet (with tobacco). This kinnekinnec, we call it. We use this sumac leaves as Oklahoma kinnekinnec. It makes a good flavor.

(Who would start the pipe around on these occasions?)

The man that sits right there on the west side--in the middle. Or he could sit on the southeast end, depending on where the leader sits. The pipe is lit and then it goes around.

(Who is the leader?)

Well, it could be the elder of this particular organization. And in other words, he's a higher degree that this organization that's sitting there. Or, he could be from any organization. He might be a chief of the tribe. He might be invited there as a guest. But the invited guests--the chiefs and the high-up men--are always seated on the west side, where the chiefs always sat. The west side. Others can sit on the north side or the south side, but the chiefs always sit on the west side.

MEN'S SOCIETIES AND STORY RIVALRIES