

cause nothing like that had ever happened before. The Shoshones let white men dance with them, but they secretly eat, you know. They secretly eat--they don't uphold--yeah, they drink pop and eat watermelon and all that, but the Arapahoes don't eat nothing. So, they got together and they called me over. Some menfolks that had to do with the paining of these dancers and those priests and those that have different jobs in the lodge. I went over there. So they said, "Jess, you've been connected with these ceremonies and these Smithsonian Museum anthropologists, and we want to ask you if you couldn't go and talk to that white man. Ask him if he's earnest. If he made a vow to join the Sun Dance. And if he understands what he's doing and if he won't ever write about it or made a story out of it or secretly, you know, look into things that he might jot down later on. And see if he will stand through the Sun Dance." "Yeah," I said. "I'll be glad to." Well, the Sun dancers had already gone in for the first day. They hadn't been painted yet. Oh, they had put on white paint, but they were not dotted yet. So he came out. He had a blanket on and had his apron like the rest of the dancers, and no shirt. So they told me, "There he is--" on this shady side of the lodge--a big round lodge. He's sitting down with them boys. So I said, "Are you the one that's going to participate in this Dance?" He said, "Yeah, I sure am." He sat up. "Well, the men that has to do with this lodge asked me to come over and talk to you. I'm connected with the Smithsonian Museum where all these records and everything in anthropology is recorded and kept. And they asked me to ask you some questions." "Yeah," he said, "I'll be glad to answer them." "Well," I said, "The first thing they asked me to find out did you make a vow to join this Arapaho Sun Dance?" He said, "I sure did." "And do you think you can endure through it three nights and three days without food and water and sleeping out here in the lodge without proper bedding and all that, on sagebrush and a few quilts and maybe a pillow or blanket?" "I think I can stand it," he said. "If these young fellows can stand it, I can stand it." "Yeah," I said, "But these young men are trained