

Well, as long as they're able in health. But the next ones that comes up that are trained, takes over and these old men retire. Just like Arapaho chieftainship. They're only councilors and advisors. They're there all the time, however, but the young ones that are active, they take over and carry on the Sun Dance. But they have to learn all the ways and necessary functions.

(Would all three of these men--these priests--have a part in that Sun Dance?)

Oh, yeah. Yeah. They all have a part. Some part--I don't know.

SACRED PIPE AND DANCING BY THE PIPE

(So this one Sun Dance, they'd all participate in that one dance?)

Yeah. But the woman that has custody of the Pipe--I don't know what she does--she just brings in that Pipe from her tipi.

Probably she's in there for some reason. Her husband carries the tripods where this Pipe is suspended. That Pipe never touches the ground. It's got a three-pole tripod and the straps hanging on this Pipe (bundle) hangs on it. And anybody that joins the Sun Dance, from what I observe, can vow to dance by the Pipe. Behind the Pipe. And hold their hands on the Pipe, you know. The Pipe be about that high. About that long. A bundle. And this man that vowed to dance by the Pipe, he stands--maybe sometimes there's two or three of them--they all stand in a row behind that Pipe. That's always put crossways, north and south. They stand behind and they put their hands on the Pipe and then they dance. That's the way I noticed it.

(Is it any harder to dance by the Pipe?)

Well, they say that Pipe gets pretty hot? And for some reason, everyone that I've heard talk about it says that that Pipe sure gets hot--your body and your hands. For what reason I don't know. But they have to dance according to their vow. Stick right there. And then when they stop dancing, of course they back up.

(Do they leave that Pipe in there all night?)

Oh, yeah. But they pack it away so it's out of the way. And