

and one man did that before. They say you are blessed when that snake's head don't roll off that pan. But this old man--Buffalo Left Hand was his name--he was one of the medicine men before this Old Man Allrunner--he was doing the same thing like what this old man (Allrunner) was doing. As he was keeping up with the music with the noise of the snake, this snake all of a sudden went down like that. It wasn't very long till his wife died. They said that was the sign that something was going to happen. And for that (reason) maybe they used to be afraid to try it.

(Was the snake on a pan of some kind?)

Yes. It was the flat bottom of a tin pan. You've seen these--they're not aluminum, but regular tin. It tarnishes, you know. It's just polished like silver, but then when that comes off it turns kind of black and then rusts. And that's the kind of pan they have to use. I guess they make a loud noise.

(Well, what was he rubbing back and forth like this?)

I told you--it was a stick. You know I told you it (the snake) was cut fancy. This snake was carved like a snake. And then there was just a straight stick--just a fancy stick--that was used to rub its (the snake's) back. That made a sound. I can't describe the sound.

(This must be a kind of musical rasp--J. Jordan)

(So the stick was used to rub the snake's back?)

Yes. The snake's back was carved some way. I guess they tried to shape it like a real snake, you know. You know a snake's hide, how rough it is? It's kind of like this. Only this was bigger--kind of wide apart so when you rub it, it would make that noise. It's too sacred. Nobody couldn't handle them.

(The figure of that snake that was carved, was it--?)