

always dressed in traditional Delaware costume and when they'd dance whoever led — well the leader would carry the doll, it was fastened on a little stick you know, a dowel you carry it when you dance. And each song when they quit singing why you hand it to the person behind you. And the would sing these songs over and over until everyone got to carry the doll. And then when the women, finished with the women, then the last one then would take it to the men. There's always the men dancing too, you know. So they carried the doll until they had, everyone had carried it that was dancing and then that would be the one to start the prayers songs I guess you would call them. And then there was — I don't know how many times — I never really ever found out just how many times they did that, because they would quit at a certain time you know. And then they would put the doll away, then they would have, you know, just social dancing until morning.

USING BREAD DURING THE DOLL DANCE

And they used to make bread, pounded corn like Indian always make. And the bread was baked in ashes, made into little biscuits and dropped in these ashes and baked in the ashes. Then in the morning, they would be oh, two or three big old baskets full of this bread. And then there was one piece that was just a long piece. They always just called it a "bear." And 'round this bear was wrapped one of these, wampum beads, you know, about a yard long and of course everybody always wanted to get the bear you know to get the beads you know. They used these beads at our Big House meetings in the fall. And then just as the sun was coming up in the morning, there would be little ceremonial songs then. And they would clear the fire away and everything. Then they throw that bread up, you know. Everybody that, I guess it'd just be the family would be the ones that would just pick up hands full of this bread and throw it out there and then all the throwing they would — the bear would be thrown out you know. Of course some people would watch you know, to be sure and get the bear. But I never did see one would just grab it and run. This is quite funny.

I remember I was just a small child and I wanted to get some of that bread so bad. And I wanted to go out there while they was throwing it out there. But mother kept telling me, you better not because that bread is hard and if it hits you it'd hurt. Well, anyway I insisted on going. She said, "Well alright let's go." And of course all Indian women wore aprons. She just gathered up her apron you know just like this one and you just go along and just pick up as many little bread as you can. Well, I went with her and I was picking up some but I was holding them here you know, two or three of them you know. And about the time one of them rolled rounds of bread hit me, and that was the end of my picking up bread, 'cause that hurt and I remember I ran back to Grandmother. She was sitting in front of her tent,