

to dance this. How we performed this and the songs. Today, our songs are sung all over the State of Oklahoma. I've heard them in New Mexico. I've heard them in Arizona. I've heard them in Los Angeles, California. I've heard them in Florida. I hear they are singing them in the north. But it has a great meaning. If a man was to apply himself and learn those things, it would amaze a person. It would really make a man think what this war dance actually means. It's been misrepresented. It's been misinterpreted. And since the modern times, it's been added to, there are some parts that have been taken out and it's been added to--for instance, ever pow-wow you go to would nowadays, you hear of contests. Back there before the turn of the 20th century, there was no such thing. It had all--all the dances knew why, or what they was dancing to. They were all ritualistic dances, ceremonials, religious dances. Years ago, back there in that time, they didn't know what social dances were. They were all religious dances, ceremonial dances. Today, a lot of our Indian people have lost their traditional dances. You see all the Indians performing this--it is common now to all the Indians of the State of Oklahoma. Everybody dances the war dance and we have other dances which are just as interesting--meaningful, that has it's meaning, which could be revived and could be danced and it could be shown to the people of which one particular tribe, whoever it might be, could still be retaining their traditional dance. Another type of dance that was in existence before my time, was the Sun Dance. They danced it while they was up there in South Dakota and Nebraska. It was a religious dance, in which the people, the men danced for four days, fasting four days, taking neither water nor any food and there were certain parts of it which were considered cruel by the government at the time the Poncas were moved down here to Indian Territory. And they stepped in and they stopped the Poncas from performing this religious dance. If I'm not mistaken, I believe