

And also one of his duties was to assemble all the regalia or instruments that they would have to have to participate in the ceremony.

PEYOTE DRUM

This would include the drum. And we had a brass kettle -- let's say about eight inches wide -- and it would have a -- sometimes they might use a crock -- a small crock. But they would have the buckskin that they would have to soak. Then they would put the water in this drum and put some sort of rocks in the drum and sometimes I've seen them put (someone prompts "charcoal"), they would put some kind of beads (or beans) in these drums to give the drum a little better sound -- or a certain sound that would come out of it at the time. And which would include some kind of rock, and mescal beans and each fireplace had its own, that they would put in there. Then they would have this drum hide stretched over this drum. It would require, I would say, about twenty feet of rope to tie one of these drums. It was quite a strenuous operation to tie one of these drums, if you would get it just the way you wanted it. This was just one of the duties of the Fireman, that they had this drum to take in. And it was his duty to assemble the arrow that had meant a certain thing to each different fireplace. And each different one had their own special thing to put on our arrow which symbolizes -- oh I don't recall right offhand now. They had other things that they had to put on the altar, and it was the first Fireman's duty to take the arrow* and the drum and the peyote and all of what they were going to use -- all instruments they were going to use -- in the ceremony.

*Note on "arrow" used in meeting: The arrow referred to here is the staff which is owned by the Road Man and passed around in the meeting and held by each man as he sings. This staff is made of wood -- possibly hickory -- and carved in the shape of an arrow. Each staff owned by each Road Man is distinctive in the way it is carved. There is an opossum skin attached to the arrow, and feathers are attached to it. It is as big around as a cane. -- Verbal information told to Julia Jordan by Leonard Maker.