

This marker is always in the form of a cross for a female, and always straight for a male. The end, or ends, are cut to form a diamond-shaped pattern and these ends are painted red. This stick is about five feet in length and made from two by four lumber. During the time of the grave digging, the preacher removes the black handkerchief from the face of the deceased and paints the face, at the same time he prays. On the face of a deceased man four stripes about a half inch wide are painted running from the cheek bone toward the ear. Sometimes a spot of paint is placed on the forehead near the hairline. A woman's face is painted with a spot on each cheek and the spot on the forehead. The paint is usually of some red substance. The purpose of painting the face is so the deceased can be easily recognized by the Almighty. About midmorning, the time depending on the distance from the home to the burial ground, the preacher prays, the casket still being open and an eagle feather is placed in the hand of the deceased. The casket is closed and carried to a wagon to start the journey to the cemetery. There are no pall bearers, as anyone present can help with this task. At the grave the casket is placed so that the head of the body is at the east. The preacher stands at the head of the casket facing west and prays. A close relative or friends stands with him. After the prayer, the friends walk clockwise around the open casket, and shake hands with the preacher as they move away. The family views the deceased last. The casket is closed and lowered into the grave. When the casket was made a hole was provided for the spirit to get out. The bundle of clothing that was kept under the casket at the home is now put into the grave at the head of the casket. As the grave is being filled the market "stick" is placed at the head of the casket and touching the casket. All is timed so that the burial will be finished by high noon. Two tables are placed near the grave running north and south. The tables nearest to the grave is for the family, and the other tables for the friends. The food furnished by the family is placed on the table farthest from the grave, the food provided by the family is for the friends and the food brought by the friends is for the family. Six pans are furnished by the family from which the two selected women, the two selected men, the preacher and a selected friend of the deceased eat their meal. This selected friend is to eat for the deceased. The pans are filled with food from both tables, a small helping from each dish. These six pans of food are placed on the family table in a row nearest the grave, or on the west side of the table. The two selected women have their pans of food on the north end of the table. The preacher is next, the selected friend is next, and the two selected men are at the south end. The preacher gets a pan of coals from the fire and places it between the grave and the family table. Onto these coals he puts a handful of cedar needles which causes the smoke to arise. The two selected women workers placed their hands over the smoke and rub and pat their hair and other parts of their body to cleanse themselves. Then, in this order, the two selected men, the selected friend, and the preacher cleanse themselves with the smoke. As each finished the process they take their place at the table. The preacher then invites the relatives to use the smoke. The pan of coals is then returned to the fire. The preacher prays, and then the six selected people hurriedly take a small bite of each kind of food, after which all the others begin to eat. During this time the personal belongings of the deceased are brought out and distributed at a point south of the grave. The family has brought gifts for the preacher and the selected workers. The two selected women get first choice of the personal effects of the deceased. The preacher usually gets a blanket. The husband or wife of the deceased can keep any articles they see fit such as valuables, jewelry, etc. The six selected people keep the pans in which their food was served. When the meal is finished the remaining food is divided up and taken home. All leave except the preacher