

in the hope that by giving their blood as an offering they would have good luck on the warpath which usually immediately followed. It was not a test of a warrior's valor. I remember I saw an Indian named Bull Tongue, a Cheyenne, being cut at a sun dance, but as it happened the man who was cutting him was nervous perhaps because white people were there. His hand slipped and gashed Bill Tongue. This ended the cutting, as according to the custom of the rite the accidental cut was considered an act of God, relieving him of his vow, so he did not swing to the pole and I missed seeing that ceremony. I believe the Shoshones and Crows have revived the sun dance and the Crows especially sometimes put it on for money and even have several in one summer. Among the Cheyenne and Arapaho Indians if several men vowed the dance, the first one to announce it gave the ceremony and the others merely took part. With the exception of one plague year I believe the Arapahoes never had more than one sun dance in a summer.

There was one sun dance recorded in photographs by Dorsey which was held so late in the fall that snow fell and the naked dancers had quite a time of it. I believe this is in the book on the Arapaho sun dance, or Re-birth Lodge as it is called in their language.

As you know, the Sioux dances were suppressed in the 80's, but there was some account of it by old-timers in Francis Densmore's book 'TETON SIOUX MUSIC' published by the Bureau of American Ethnology.

Cordially yours,

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