

T-479

JOHN PEDRO, ARAPAHO

INTERVIEWED BY: JULIA A. JORDAN

JULY 28, 1969

(What did you say they hit the drum like that for?) (referring to hitting folded ~~parfleche~~, thrown on drum at beginning of each day's dance.)

It's like--how would you interpret it?--when they tell a war story, they hit that drum. You get that spirit--it's too late to sit down--reveal what they seen and where they went. Be laying there in their body, but their spirit leaves (?) and they get to that stage where the Great Spirit abides and gives them a blessing. And it comes up to their body and then they reveal what took place. And ... the drummers, they hit it. Just like a warrior. When he gets through telling what he done.

VISIONARY EXPERIENCE IN SUN DANCE

(You were telling, too, that sometimes when they pass out or drop over, those are the ones that really make good doctors...)

Yeah. After they drop over from heat exhaustion, then...their ceremony--they say they get a blessing. Great Spirit calls upon their spirit to come out of their bodies and go to where the Great Spirit is. Blesses them and gives them a power. And they come back to their body. And finally wake up and then they reveal what took place.

REASON FOR PARTICIPATING IN SUN DANCE

(Do you suppose people want to participate in the Sun Dance just so they'll have this kind of experience?)

Some do. Some make a vow. Somebody gets sick in their family or they--like these young boys--the majority of them that's participating are all veterans just coming back. From Viet Nam or Korean conflict. They made a vow that they're gonna propose that Sun Dance if they don't get hurt or don't