

materials, that's around eighteen and a half a yard. You got to have so much of that and so much of this and that. Everything's got to be according to tradition--the Indian way of life. And that's when you get prepared. You go up there and you buy a cow like that--a beef. And you kill it over there and butcher it up. Get it all prepared. Maybe you butcher it here and you dry that meat out. And you take it up there. And there you buy your groceries what you're going to use. You got to have a feast for them priests, in order for them to get together to decide whether they're gonna go through that ceremony for you or not. They decide whether they can handle it for you. If they decide "no", then you just made that trip for nothing.

(Why would they decide "no"?)

Well, they got to know what's what--whether you're prepared, or whether you're capable of it--honoring that pipe. Who you are and what you are--it's up to them. Whatever they decide, that's the way it is. They might give you a different date some other time. You got to do that all over again. Get prepared and go up there.

(What would be the reasons why--like if you wanted to have it yourself--what would be the reason you would request it in the first place?)

Well, a person have to make a vow on something. It has to be a certain kind of vow. You notify them you're coming up there. They get together and then send for you. You go up there--make that trip. And they cook and then they'll decide. They might say "no" and give you certain other date. And then you have to come back and prepare all over again.

(But why would you be wanting it? Would it be because of illness in your family or something like that?)

Yeah. Illness or something.. Like your boy's going into the service or going overseas. If you don't want him to get hurt, then you make that vow.