

CEREMONY ACCOMPANYING RAISING OF CENTER POLE

(That day they put the Sun Dance Lodge up--I think back in the house you were telling me a little bit about what they were doing with the center pole and those four decorated poles. I just wanted to ask you about that again. I remember seeing--about the time that we got there--there were men gathered. They were getting ready to put the center pole up. And there were some of the men that were to dance there, and I'm sure some of these other men had come out of the Rabbit Tipi. Anyway, they were going through some kind of ceremony. And these men that were to dance, they were all painted in that white paint and they had their quilts around them. Tell me again what they were doing about that time.)

That's the ones, I guess, that were in that Rabbit Lodge. They fast in that Rabbit Lodge. They got their certain degree they went through already. That's the ones that go over there. And they got certain old man--old priests--that knows certain things that they obtain. And they have to go through that certain procedure. Another one, he's got certain something he obtained. They all come together and they perform certain ceremonies here. Little ritual that they got. They're the only ones that can do that. They do perform the rituals, and they sing certain songs...and that weight's gone when they lift it up. If they don't do it, they can't put it up.

(But if they do these certain things, then when they try to lift that center pole up--)

That weight's gone.

(Did you say that they tried four times--?)

Yeah. They do that four times, and then holler a certain way, and then that goes up.

(Who makes the holler?)