

MEDICINE WHEEL USED IN SUN DANCE: ORIGINAL WHEEL BURIED WITH KEEPER

(Well, when I was in Wyoming and saw the Sun Dance--one of the things that one dancer danced with was a wheel--?)

Yeah. And that, when they had that kind down here, women wasn't supposed to just look right at it. If they did, they used to go crazy--faint or something like that. You just look at it one time and that's all. That's the way they had it down here, but I don't know about Wyoming--they just always play with anything down there.

(Who was the one that had it here in Oklahoma?)

Campbell. His name was Campbell. Samuel Martin--there's an Indian down there at Geary--that was his father-in-law that had it. They buried him with that thing. That's what I heard.

(You know about when that would have been?)

No. I don't know when it was. Not long ago when these Wyoming people were here we went down here to Myrtle Striking's House. They were talking about it. They wanted to know where that wheel was. And somebody spoke up and said they buried him with it. And I don't know. I didn't know when that man died or when he was buried. I just heard that that day, over there. Said that they buried him with that wheel. And this Wyoming man said, "They shouldn't have buried him with that wheel," he said. "They should have just left it in his house. Then the children could have looked after it. Because that's how you people down here is getting less for--just like they buried all of you." He said. That's what he said. They just die away. Every year. He told them that. I don't know.

(Do you know who it was that said that--which one of those Wyoming people?)

I think his name was Little Beaver. I think he's gone. Yeah, Little Beaver, I think was his name. I guess he's the one that just used to make them wheels. He said, "It's like he buried all of you."

(interruption)

MORE ON SUNDANCE & MEDICINE WHEEL

(Another question--you told me last Sun Dance they had here was about 1940-- did they still have that wheel?)

No. They didn't have it. A man by the name of Plenty Bears had to just make one. They had it over here. I don't know how he made it, but he had a small one and that's what they used. That one was already buried with that man. I don't know what kind of feathers he put on it, but they're supposed to have eagle feathers. And they went through with it.

(What happened to the one Plenty Bears made?)