

SATURDAY AFTERNOON POW-WOW PROGRAM (from tape)

The afternoon program July 11, 1970, the first day of the pow-wow, opens with a prayer in Cheyenne made by Charlie Curtis. Dave Fanman, Cheyenne from Canton, is the main announcer for the pow-wow. He makes a lot of "folksy" jokes and keeps up a stream of humorous commentary during the dance numbers and specials and whenever there is a lull in the program. Dave informs the audience that Charlie Curtis and his wife are both retired BIA workers from the Clinton hospital.

After the pray Dave Fanman calls on Bill Kaulaity for the Flag Song, and then for a Memorial Song. The Kiowa Flag Song is sung and the American flag is raised slowly. The flagpole is in the center of the arena, just west of the drummer-singers. Dave Fanman says the Memorial Song is for service boys and their relatives and friends. Some of the gourd dancers are veterans of World Wars I and II. The song is for boys of all races. The talks about the service boys, our flag, their relatives and friends.

The Gourd Dance gets underway after the Memorial Song. The first Gourd Dance song is slow and the drum beat is soft. The men dancers, sitting, shake their rattles. The singing gradually gets louder. At each repeat the singing gets a little louder. Towards the end of the son the drum beat gets loud. Then the next song begins and the dancers get up and start to dance. Women singers start singing. The women singers are all Kiowas, wives or relatives of men singing. The drum beat for Gourd Dance songs is even and accented--loud-soft--loud-soft--etc. After four songs Dave Fanman announces that any woman that wants to can dance. He also announces that giveaways can be made. He asks that people not crowd the specials tomorrow (Sunday). He comments on the ladies' shawls. He says they are hand-made, by Indians. Then he talks about the moccasins and leggins and the quality of Cheyenne and Arapaho beadwork for the benefit of non-Indian visitors. He also talks about the red and blue blankets--compares them to a tuxedo or to mink. He talks about the feathers the men are carrying. During a water break he introduces the pow-wow officers. A larger drum is brought out and substituted for the one used in the begging. The head dancers are introduced.

(Not all specials and announcements are recorded on this tape. Cut to Gourd Dance.) After a while Fanman comments, "We got three Hamilton boys on the west side--the three musketeers" (referring to Frank, Albert, and Walter Roe Hamilton, brothers). "Also two Wests--Ralph and Harvey." He recognizes some out-of-town guests: "Cedric Allruffner from Albuquerque is present. Someone from Fort Benning, Georgia also present--on his way to the Canal Zone."

Dave Fanman keeps up an almost constant stream of chatter--jokes, puns, comments, announcements. Some of his observations include:

"Frank Littlehead sits on the north because he's from the north. Same with the West boys--they're always on the west."

"Joe Hoof--he's the only Arapaho that lives on the northeast side of Canton. The rest are Cheyennes. That's my brother-in-law. Joe Hoof had a beaded generator but he don't have it now anymore. It burned out. It's on a junk pile somewhere. But there he's got a beaded jack handle now."

"We got special coming up now. Got to write the names down in black and white so we can turn it in on our income tax."