

INTRODUCTION OF INFORMANT:

(This is Velma Neiberding. I am at the home of Mrs. Ruby Diebold, a prominent leader of the Seneca-Cayuga tribe. She recently returned from New York, from the Seneca reservation--the Six Nations Reservation, it's called in Canada. She is an expert in the language--interpreter for her tribe and presently is conducting a class in Seneca-Cayuga language. Today is November 30, 1969. What is your name?)

My name is Ruby Diebold.

(What is your tribe?)

I am a member of the Seneca-Cayuga tribe. My mother's name was Amanda White Wing Turkey.

CEREMONIES - DANCES

She was the leader of the ceremonial committee of the Seneca-Cayuga tribe. And she passed away on June 1, 1951 and from that time to this date, I have been as hereditary privilege, in her position as the ceremonial leader of the Seneca-Cayuga tribe up to now. The ceremonial committee of this Seneca-Cayuga tribe are--consists of six men and six women and they participate in the religious part or tradition--age old tradition of the Seneca tribe. We have--in the beginning--the spring of the year, we have the Sun Dance. Which at that time we give thanks to our Creator for the beginning of the spring season, for the sunlight, the growth of vegetation, the fertility of all animals and in fact, it is a worship to God for creation of everything he put on this earth, and as well as our spiritual well-being and all. And then we have the Strawberry Dance which we give thanks to God for our first fruit of the season--we use the wild strawberries. Again, we thank God in our own way as God gave us as Indians to worship Him in our language for what He has given us. Then we come to the month of July, we have the Blackberry Dance--we honor the moon at that time. Because God created the moon to watch over