

BRIEF INTRODUCTION

--Harjo. I should have said Bearskin first shouldn't I?

(What tribe?)

Seneca-Cayuga.

DOCTORING SHELLS - RESTRICTIONS

(Now you heard us talking about doctoring the shells. Can you tell me more about it. I believe you know.)

Well, the way the Seminoles doctor their shells, they have their dance in the spring and they--the one that makes the shells, has to shake them before anyone else can shake 'em. They go to the stomp ground where they have four different arbors for the different clans that are in these--stays in these arbors. And they have four leaders of men. And they scratch the womens legs with the--a piece of glass or a needle or something that makes 'em bleed. . /

Then they have this medicine made of a different herbs that they use to wash their legs with and they also pour this medicine on to the shells. And they've got to shake 'em in this Buffalo Dance first that they have that--the dance is a lot different from what we dance our Buffalo Dance around here.

(These are the real turtle shells?)

Yes, that's the real shell--well, they doctor their cans too, but the real turtle shell they really are strict. And you are not supposed to loan them to anyone or no one is supposed to shake 'em at what we always say, you know, during the change of the moon--what we call. And they are not supposed to even handle 'em at that time.

(Oh, really!)

No. The one that owns them doesn't handle them at that time. And they're supposed to put 'em out and sun 'em ever so often. And you are not supposed to play with them. Or you can't let anyone play with the, because if you do