

(Do you know why they call it the Crow Dance?)

Well, the way I heard it--the movements of the birds when they're on the ground--moving from one place to another--that's the way I heard. That's one explanation I can give you is that.

(What about the Crow Indians--would it have anything to do with them?)

No.

(What's the Arapaho name for the Crow tribe?)

hóó.né n'w'

(What does that mean?)

That means "crow men."

(Did the Crow Indians do this War Dance too?)

Yeah. Most all the Indian tribes.

WAR DANCE BUSTLE CEREMONY

(To the Arapahoes is there anything sacred or ceremonial about the War Dance?)

There used to be, but now they got away from it. The older element gave them the right to just go ahead and dance without going through that certain ceremony. I went through that.

(Could you explain anything about that ceremony?)

Well, in a way I can talk about it, because I went through it. You take a man--they choose so many on each side to form a line. And they take their bustles off and place them in front of them. And the drummers start singing a certain song. They have to go through four or five songs. And the second to the last song, they go around taking their bustles up and they put them on and they start dancing, in a row. And they form a line towards the last and they make certain movements back and forth.

(Is it just one big line or two?)

Two.

(Are they facing each other?)

Yeah. The last one we performed was--it was in Ponca City. Somewhere in the thirties, I believe. No--in the forties. They want to see that dance so we perform it there. But all those songs, I don't think anyone knows anything about them. I know just a few of them.