

We were the only white people camped at the dance grounds for this year's Sun Dance, except for an anthropologist doing research for her doctoral dissertation who was camped with one of the families. A number of white people came to watch the performances in the afternoon, but not many. On Saturday, July 12, a busload of boy scouts from Mississippi visited the dance for about 20 minutes and the Entertainment Committee welcomed them and made it possible for them to get a good view of the dance from the lodge entrance. The chairman of the Anthropology Department of the University of Wyoming was there, along with a graduate student of his who was working on a research project with the Arapahoes on the Wind River Reservation. The Arapahoes, while not barring white spectators from the Sun Dance, do not publicize it, and it is in large part unknown to persons who follow the pow-wow circuit.

The Rabbit Lodge

The Sun Dance itself is preceded by the Rabbit Lodge which is a three day ceremonial and includes preparation and rehearsal for the Sun Dance. This year the Rabbit Lodge ceremonies were Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday, July 7-9. The highest ranking persons in the ceremonial organization of the northern Arapahoes belong to the Rabbit Lodge, and the rites and activities are largely secret. The membership consists of a number of men and two women. One of the women members is Josephine White, the niece of John Pedro of Calumet, Oklahoma. Josephine also has a part to play in the ceremony in which the Sacred Pipe is unwrapped, and she has the honor of carrying the Sacred Pipe out of the Sun Dance Lodge on the final day. Members belong to the Rabbit Lodge for life, and must never again eat rabbit meat after joining.

Everyone I met was reluctant to talk much about this secret organization and I could obtain only isolated fragments of information. I understood that the ceremonies take place at night. When the secret ceremonies are completed, men