

of the man who danced with the Medicine Wheel at this time that "He is gambling with the sun." I do not know how to interpret these statements further at this time.

Strips of canvas and sheets were tied along the lower edge of the brush walls on the inside of the lodge along the west and extending to the middle of the south and north sides. These strips of cloth extended from a few inches above the ground to about 5 feet above it. I presume that the reason for these strips being tied there was to keep the sunlight from penetrating through the interstices of the brush walls, thus providing a measure of shade in which the participants could rest in the interior of the lodge during the hot part of the day. The weather was in general mild, but the temperature rose into the 90's during the afternoons, and fell into the 50's or 50's at night. Thus it was hot in the afternoons and cool to cold at night. The low humidity made it possible to be comfortable in the shade, even in the afternoons, however. The solidly shaded area increased as the afternoons wore on, and both dancers and grandfathers rested there at appropriate times. The dancers also hung their aprons and other paraphernalia over the top edge of the cloth strips. During the day the bedrolls were rolled up and placed against the inside walls of the lodge and used as backrests by the dancers.

On Thursday night, the first night, no lamps were used because none could be obtained. On Friday and Saturday nights Coleman lanterns were brought into the lodge and the dancers were plainly visible.

There is a small area on the southwest side of the center post where a shrine or altar is constructed on Friday morning, the first full day of the Sun Dance. This shrine has been called an "altar" by Dorsey and other writers on the Sun Dance, and this term will therefore be used in this report. The altar consists of a small trench flanked by a row of painted sticks on each side and two clumps of sod in which sticks or pieces of brush are placed. A buffalo skull decorated with dots applied with red and black paint and with plugs of grass in its eye sockets was placed at the head of the trench. Behind the altar were seven small trees about 6 or 7 feet high lined up in the ground in a row, and in the middle