

necessary. Each family provided from 20 to 30 separate dishes. The containers used were mostly large enameled kettles and dish pans and large coffee pots. Foods of all kinds were brought in: fried chicken, potato salad, soups and stews, roasted meat, dried meat, fruit, vegetable dishes, coffee, fry bread, and other things. In addition to the specially cooked dishes, each family also supplied a number of already packaged foods such as crackers, loaves of bread, cookies, cakes, pies, candy, canned food, and other items. The food containers were bright and clean and most of them were probably newly purchased. Many families had stencilled their family names on the utensils or otherwise marked them. Later on in the day these utensils, washed and cleaned, were returned to the dancers' camps.

As the food was brought into the lodge, it was set down on the ground around the center post. Various members of the family--men and women--carried the food in. Some people had to make more than one trip. I was asked by the Sankey family if I wanted to carry anything in, and of course I was glad to get to do this. Taking the food in took me as close as I ever got to the center post and the interior of the lodge. Several men were directing the placing of the food on the ground and taking dishes from people and setting them down. The food from each family was grouped together and separated from the food of other families by cat-tail markers laid on the ground. The men in charge even removed aluminum foil covers or punched holes in them. When all the food from one family was brought in, it was all covered with a clean sheet. Most of the sheets were new and most were white, though there were a few colored sheets. The sheets were presumably given to the grandfathers along with the food.

As the food was brought in, the family also brought in the bundle of sage and other equipment the dancer would need for the day. The sage and the buckets of water and the bundles of cat-tails were set close to the center post.

When all the food was in, it was blessed, the pipe smoking ceremony described above forming a part of this activity. When the pipes had all been smoked and emptied and returned to the dancers, one or two dishes from each family's contribution were