

painted and in full costume, got up and spread out around the center post, all facing the setting sun. Crawford White and Victor Rivera stood on the east side of the center post in the middle of the circle of dancers. One of them had the Medicine Wheel and raised and lowered it in time to the drum beat as he danced. These moments were laden with emotion on the part of the spectators. The singers were in full form and their performance was spirited. Several women gave victory cries as the dance got under way, probably close relatives of the dancers who seemed assured now of holding out to the end of the dance. The dancers stood on their cushions of sage, wearing their wreaths of sage on their heads and circlets of sage at their wrists and ankles. They blew on their eagle bone whistles. Most of them looked gaunt and hollow-eyed, but had faces set with the determination to dance now as long as necessary. Although I thought the Sun Dance lodge and ceremony was aesthetically pleasing at all times, I felt the final moments were especially beautiful with the dancers highlighted by the setting sun and rays of sunlight slanting through the rafters and the bright-colored strips of offering cloth gleaming as they moved gently back and forth.

The final song continued about twenty minutes, most of it after the sun had completely disappeared. I was told later that Mike Willow, the head singer, had his eye on Crawford White, one of the co-sponsors. When he thought Crawford had reached his limit, he brought the song to a close, thus ending the Sun Dance of 1969.

Immediately dancers and spectators began to mill about. Relatives rushed forward to embrace their dancers and cry with happiness on their shoulders. I was watching Warren Sankey, Sr. He had been recording the final song but as soon as it was over he rushed out to his son, Warren, Jr. He threw his arms around him and laid his head on his shoulder and thus embraced him close for a moment. When he turned away he was crying and wiping the tears from his eyes with a