

charity, it would be a blessing to you or to me, or anybody. That was our faith, that was our belief. Because..well you could feed..maybe you be yourself, you invite all the Pawnees here, or you invite certain people have a certain day, and you feed them. But when it used to be here at the old dance ground, they camped there and they used to have a dinner. Everybody have a dinner together.

(Was that at Camp Creek?)

Yea, they had an old grass house there, about forty feet in diameter.

(Do the Wichitas have any fund-raising things for the dances to get money together?)

Well, there's no way, what you might say, they money that they make, in that way..what is that the Wichita having a dance, and I was dancing, say I want to put so much money down. I'd give it to the dancers. I'd said specifically this is for the Pawnees, to take care of the Pawnees. They make pledges like that you know.

But still on top they get a blessing from somebody. It's just our belief. You know back yonder, they say, my daddy used to tell me that they looked upon the tobacco as something sacred because they used the tobacco in asking blessing from the Great Creator.

(When they accept the tobacco, and smoke it, do they pray then?)

Well, they pray for the meal.

(Are there certain families here among the Wichitas that put in a good sized bank of money when the Pawnees come down?)