

(Is there an Arapaho name for the Scalp Dance songs?)

I believe there is--trying to think--I do know this other name for this--when the boys are going to go on the warpath. I got a name for that. They call it "War Path Song."

(How would you say that?)

nínw .tā hāw wā.t -- that's "war path dance."

(Do they actually do a dance to that?)

The boys' folks will get behind them and they give him his sword or spear and he'll take the practice of going through the motions that he's going to do to his enemy. They actually go through the motion of it. And they go on the warpath.

(This is before he departs--?)

That's right--before he departs from his tribe.

SINGERS AND RESPONSIBILITY OF A HEAD SINGER

(Do they still do that? Like today if a boy is going to Viet Nam or anything?)

Well, they only have this here Scalp Dance. But they don't have this War Path Dance. Because there ain't nobody that knows them songs. But I do know them, but I always hide around because I don't want to be the brain of the whole thing. That's how come I've been making myself scarce as possible. Because there's lot of things going on now. There's a lot of things going on. They rely on me to bring these songs out. But yet there's a head drummer chosen for that. He's supposed to know all that. But when he comes to that point of it, he pass the buck on to me. And I have to smooth it off. I don't get credit for it--he gets credit.

(That's pretty complicated, isn't it?)

It is. That's how come--I don't want to go in to anything. And now I have to go up there this weekend. That's my locality up there. I have to go up there and support them.

(Do peoples call upon you every now and then to bring out these old songs?)

They do. They do. They ask me, but I always have to find some kind of excuse to get out of it.

(Why do you not just want to come right out and sing them?)