

And their songs are different from the gourd dance songs. They are different. We got a tape here that John Heap-of-Birds and Morris Medicine and John Hill and Larry White Bird--they taped that tape over here at Norman. And we caught it here a while back (on the radio). Just about--I think Carolyn (Jim's granddaughter) was about four or five years old. Wiley's got it. He plays it every now and then. And them songs, they're altogether different from these gourd dance songs. They are. They're so much prettier, to me. But they have a different beat and they have a different starting of the song. They have a different beat to it.

(Did the Arapahoes have any songs that were similar to those Bowstring songs?)

No. That's strictly Cheyenne songs. And you could tell the difference of them when you head this tape. And I noticed it was all strictly different from Arapaho songs. Then when the southern tribes pick up this gourd dance, their native tongue changed the tune of the gourd dance. You see, when a person starts a song--other than your own tribal song--your native tongue will interfere with the tune of a song. That's the reason I was telling you when I sing an Oto or Ponca song, when it comes to the wording of it, I just have to kinda sail through there with the rest of it. And I cannot say those words and still keep time with the drum and the song. I'd just mess it up. I'd mess up everybody. Because they're all in tune and they're all in the rhythm to where everybody's in time and if somebody misses two or three beats, it just knocks everything out. And they know who you are, right there.

(Didn't the Cheyennes have a Gourd Dance group, too, before they started this C & A Gourd Dance group?)

Well, this is the one I'm talking about--this Bowstring. That was. So, to keep the ceremony out of it--they have a ceremonial pertaining to this Bowstring--really, it's a ceremonial dance. And to have more songs in this Bowstring, they went to adding some of these gourd dance songs in there. They mix them up so they could have more songs. So, when they got interested enough, these Cheyenne boys said, "Say, that Bowstring Dance has got a little bit too much ceremonial way, to where we don't know