

MODERN STARHAWK SOCIETY: HOW ORGANIZED, ETC.

(This Starhawk group started about two years ago in Colony?. And you're one of the ones that started it up? And then these chiefs like Saul Birdshead and Henry Bates and Jess Rowledge--were some of the others interested in it, too?)

Yes. Yes. The chiefs called them together at the Watonga Pow-wow. We had a benefit dance there for the Starhawks a little after they got started. So the boys that was taking care of it there, we just let them go ahead and go on with it. But the chiefs would still have a little part of it. That's about all. (Why did the Arapahoes organize the Starhawks when the Cheyenne and Arapaho Gourd Dancers group was including Arapahoes in their group?)

Well, we was planning to organize long before the Cheyennes did. We was getting together long before they did. They just came about just overnight. That's all. Yeah, they're just about a year ahead of us. However the Kiowas, they been at this for years. The way the story goes, the Arapahoes, somewhere around Fort Supply sold that Gourd Dance to the Comanches. And then I don't know how the Kiowas got hold of it. But they're the ones that's really been carrying it on. Because they say they had it before, but I don't know. This Starhawk is part of a clan that belongs to this here--well all our organizations belong to this Sun Dance. The Starhawks done the most of the work (labor) because they were all young fellows like these guys here (his sons). They run in age maybe from twenty to thirty years old. Active. That's the Starhawks. But however there's some young ones that went on into join the other lodges, you know. But pretty near all the young boys their age, from twenty to thirty, they were all just kind--it's an organization for young men. They just made you join, I guess. They had to join. (This story about selling the dance to the Comanches--would this be something that had taken place a long time ago--?)

Long time ago. I really don't know, but somewhere around 1838 or somewhere along in there. It's way back. About 1838 or somewhere along in there. But the reason these Starhawks got together and reorganized, the Comanches never did finish paying