ARAPAHO PEYOTE PARTICIPATION TODAY AND CHANGES IN OLD RITUAL

(Are there as many people today as there used to be that are peyote people?)

No. Just like us--we try to be peyote people but all our boys are going to be ministers and they work with the church. But they'll put in an appearance in the tipi, and fix the altar inside and gather wood and get everything all ready. They go that far. When they were little boys, they went to meetings. They got married to these other tribes--Creeks, and those people. They just naturally went along with their wives. If I was to have a peyote meeting on Saturday, they'd see that the tipi would be up and that everything would be all ready to go. Once in a while they attend. That one that's a minister, he goes once in a while. In fact they come out here to peyote meetings on mother's day. They all--the descendants of the peyote people are all Christians. And they all get together and they set this one day aside--Mother's Day--to come out here. Then they have church the next day. They give a service after it and then they all go home. They go another different church in town or somewhere else.

(Is this Arapaho way that you use in running meetings--is it a little bit harder than what they have now?)

It used to be, but we got it down to where the people--you can't satisfy everybody but we try to satisfy the most we can. The old original peyote men, there's none of them around. I can go in there and run it just the way they used to run it. But these young boys, they don't like it that way. They're just like white men, now. If they go down the street and see somebody praying, they're going to stop and take their hats off and try ahead, you know. That's the part we hold sacred--when anybody's going to pray, well, everything stop. But nowdays the drum goes on even if they're praying or anything. But we do that now-- unless they ask for permission. Sometimes they ask, "I want that drum to stop. I want everything quiet. I want to offer a prayer." Well, we honor them, you know. Stop the drum and listen to them.

(Do you have rules about going out--do you have to get permission