

USE OF PEYOTE AS MEDICINE

(Have any of the Arapahoes ever just used the peyote itself outside of the meeting--maybe someone's sick and they use that--?) Oh, yeah, they use it. They used to boil it and give them that tea, you know. When they have fever or when they have cold or if they have sharp pain somewhere, they used to give them this water. They used to boil it and give it to them. And I used to see them when they take it--boy, they used to make a face. "My goodness--it must be bitter," I used to think that way, you know. And it is bitter. Yeah, they used to use it that way. And sometimes when a baby is sick they always boil it and bathe them with it. Yeah. If they have fever or something, you know, they use it.

(Did you ever use it with your kids?)

No. My kids used to use it, but we never did go as far as to use it for medicine because we didn't know nothing about it. It had to be somebody that was given that--how to do it and how to use it. But ourselves, we never did play with it. We never did use it. We always have a respect for it. Because there's a lot of people used to say that they get people well. Well, when they got me well, that was my deep belief that peyote can cure sickness.

MEDICINES FOR SWELLING AND FOR COUGH

(Is it like that with other medicines, too, that someone has to give it to you or tell you that you can use it before you can use it?)

Well, these medicine men, when they doctor you, "all they do, they just boil what medicines they think is good for you and they give it to you. And you have to drink it. But if there's any swelling place or sore, they have medicine to put on the sore. They had medicine to put on anywhere that swells up, like on your leg or your hands. But they never did--you know these white people have bandages--but they never did put no--nothing on them. They used to just put that medicine on there and that medicine used to dry on it. Dry hard on it. Just like it would hold it. (Is that that "white medicine"?)