CHEYENNE SACRED ARROWS AND ARROW WORSHIP

(What are these Arrows?)

Well, a woman is not supposed to talk about them. And a woman does not know anything about them, because she's never allowed to see them. If she sees those Arrows, she's going to become blind. Yeah. When they have Arrow Worship they call all men to come and look at them. That's the first time they're exposed to the light, I guess, where people can see them. And then they're tied back in this fox hide or coyote hide--something like that. And that's when one man vows that Arrow Worship. That's the only time they're going to renew them, these Arrows. And when they untie them, if there's any killing done between now and the next ten years, well, whenever they open them again, there's going to be blood there. If the Cheyennes kill themselves (each other). And in other words, they would be to a white man a bunch of prayer sticks. Like prayers put together with these sticks. But those sticks represent the Cheyennes. So when you come to worship when they have that Arrow Worship, in front of your tipi--like I'd go camp there--and my children didn't come, well I'll put up a tipi. And I'll say, "This one is for my oldest boy, and this is his wife and little boy." There's just three of them. I'd put that to represent them. And over there I'd go and put another tipi. I'd say, "This is my daughter and her three children and her husband." And then I'd go to this other one--this little girl's father. "This is their tipi. This is my son and his wife and his five children." I'll put sticks around there. So when they go to praying they include all those that's in this camp. See, their camp is already in there because I made it--even if they didn't come. Well, when they tie those