

with their leaders were to go the ordeal of fasting four days to the sun. The priests or sun dance leaders were sent to recruit young men to help and go through the ordeal of this sun dance. The sacred teepees were put up for those who were to take part. They were painted the colors of the tree. Each day a different color was worn or painted on their body to the great tree. A buffalo skull was put at the base of the tree to remind the people that we shall all go back to bone and earth. A matting of sage bursh was put as a carpet for the skull, a sun was made in the shape of a crescent, some firewood was placed in the center of the crescent to give light at night, a black handkerchief was placed near the top to tell the Almighty the prayers of the men participants and the prayers of the people. At no time were children allowed to play or hang around the area where the men were dancing and fasting. No dogs were allowed around the dancers and the dogs knew better than to go there as the buffalo police would kill them.