

sundown. Another group comes in and sing till about midnight. And another group comes in and they sing till morning. Just like they just go on--they don't stop. So these dancers--somebody's always dancing. The rest be laying around. They don't drink water and they don't eat. Sometimes they suck on that sage in order to get moisture out. But sometimes a big rain comes. And they always say, "One of those dancers stole water." (That is, if a big rain comes up, people think it's because one of the dancers drank water.) If they get in there they're not supposed to drop out. They have to stay in there four days and four nights. No water. No eat.

(What about sleeping?)

Well, they rest. They rest. I guess you seen the pictures of these Sun Dancers. They really something. They try to imitate nature. They got all different designs. They don't have any wardrobe from the waist up. They got some kind of a apron-- either calico or buckskin. I don't know what's wrapped around their waist. That's their tradition. But that's what I seen. I'm describing what I seen. And this fellow that's pretty well known--he was about the last fellow that I remember. Well, you know. They call him Noble. And he was the leader. (Probably Noble Star. Myrtle Lincoln said he always used to put up Sun Dancers long after everyone else had lost interest. See some of her tapes.--jj)

(Of the Arapaho?)

DANCING TO THE SUN ON LAST DAY

I think he was a Cheyenne or Arapaho. I don't know which. But of course that's the Sun Dance. So, last--say the last few moments--they open up the west. The west end of that arbor. (The brush on the west side of the Sun Dance Lodge is torn away so that the setting sun shines in.) And, say, about five o'clock, when that sun hits them direct, they dance towards that sun. And he's got two hoops that's got feathers--just like it's sewed on there. (Sacred wheel)

(He's got what?)

Hoops. And it's got--everything on it is decorated. But mostly feathers. And the way he holds it, well, it's got a rag tied to it. He's got two of them. Dancing towards the sun. When that