

these items, these shawls, calico or something that's useful--they kinda have a lot of respect for that. They praise that. They keep it. They try to keep it long as it's useful. When it's no more useful, well they take this item and take it down to the river. Haul it down to the bottom of the water and then they turn it loose. So that's their road. That's their way. That's the reason why they throw calicoes down. These fellows that's dancing with the staff now, you're not supposed to touch 'em. But these other guys, these dancers, well it's all right. Then if one of these relatives want to get one of these boys that's dancing with a staff to dance with 'em over here at a special place, well I go over there and get one of these dancers to dance in his place till their request or their special is over. Then I go over there and get that staff and put it in his hand. So that's kinda a little bit my idea to put that in there. It's kinda appropriate. Just pay your respect to the people that owns that, you know--owns that staff. I try to be good to them--all of them. And I think all the leaders should have that responsibility. I like to work that way. I like other peoples try to look at it--same ideas like that. It's wonderful.

BLACKFEET DANCE: HISTORY OF THE STAFFS

(You know you were talking about--Back in '61 when you first started it up and you said you had to go around and get the staffs and fix them up--well, where did you get the staffs and how did you fix them up?)

Well, these ladies--it's their department. They're the ones that-- I don't know--I wasn't even involved at that time. , But they-- This staff that they got what Apache Ben had, which belonged to Old Man

Achilta-- When Old Man Achilta had it, well somehow--I don't know what