

So she backed it up. Just told us jus how--what to do--how to go at it, to complete the whole set-up. That was the way my mother worked with it. They had the dance several summers before I was involved (Alfred went into the contemporary Blackfoot Society in 1963). My wife can tell you that. I was here all that time and I never go to pow-wows. The way I tell them, I said, "My pow-wow days are already past." I danced everything except Sun Dance.

HOW ALFRED BECAME ACTIVE IN BLACKFEET DANCE ORGANIZATION

(Why did you start dancing again, then?)

Well, I started dancing ever since I was a kid--

(I mean now--today--)

Well, that's one of those things that's hard to answer. The way I look at it, well--I think my grandparents--they enjoyed it. So to show my appreciation, I'm enjoying it. I like to dance. They say, "Dance hard--dance hard. Don't just drag on. Get in there and mean it."

(Did you know that they were going to draft you to be the Whip?)

Well, I inherit into it. And they wanted me right at the beginning, but I declined it. I tried my best to stay out of it.

Evelyn: See, Ace's (Alfred's brother) boy--the one that died--he was the one that, you might say, was given that privilege of being the Whip. And when he died, they didn't get nobody. But they let

Muggsy, which is Pascal--they said he was his cousin and he (Ace)

was his uncle--we'll go ahead and let Muggsy take care of that. That's what happened up there, and then they had Ace's boy's costume--that whole costume. It was Alfred's Whip and they want Alfred to come back in there as a Whip Man. Well, they give him Bobby's (Ace's boy