

STORY ABOUT WOMAN AND BOY IN PEYOTE FIELDS

(Today I wanted to talk to you some more about religion--the peyote ceremony and the Native American Church. I wanted to learn a little more about the meaning of the service in the Native American Church--what it means to the people that participate in it. One of the things I wanted to ask in particular--I've heard somewhere about a peyote woman. Sometimes people hear her sing during the ceremony. I wondered if you could explain that.)

I don't believe there's a peyote woman. You can hear a woman singing in there, all right. You can hear it some time. Used to, they'd have meetings way out there--their tipi is way out there where nobody will come around. But today they have them right close to the house and lots of noises are going on and everything. They say that will drive the spirit away and everything just won't come close. But if you have it way out there some where, that's when they do. Sometimes you can eat a lot of that medicine and then you sit there and close your eyes and you can pretty near tell what's outside--if anybody's coming to that meeting, you can tell it from way back there. Close your eyes and just sit there and when they get to the door, sure enough somebody comes in. If you eat enough of that peyote, that's the way it is, I guess. And you can hear that woman singing. Like if somebody's singing, some way you can hear that. It's just an echo, I guess.

(Is there any story connected with that?)

They just say "Peyote Woman"--I don't know if it's a real woman that's been in there. They just say "peyote woman". Well, I think the voice has got something to do with it--two or three voices together, and you can hear a lot of things in there--like drumming. When different guys hit it, it has a different sound. And they talk about "peyote boy". That's a little boy, they say. They say they always see them