

No. You have to take the cotton out. Clean it good and then eat it. But, like if I bring peyote--about two or three hundred--I clean them myself. And I know what I'm eating. But if you go to Mexico and buy it from the Mexicans, you don't know what you're getting. You've been there--you know the way they got it dried, and just laying out there on the ground.

(When they're drying it, is there a right way to do it?)

Well, the money's all they want. They don't care. They just throw it out there and they dry it and they just put it in a sack. But if you clean it yourself and dry it yourself, you know what you got.

(Do you dry your own?)

Yeah. And some of that peyote's all right over there, where they do it. But I dry my own. That way I know what I'm eating.

(Once it's dried, how long will it stay good?)

Oh, it'll just stay with you a long time.

(Would it still be safe, say, like a year or two later?)

Yeah. When you dry it, it will just stay green. When you look at it, it's green, but it's dry. Just like crackers.

(Could it ever mildew or anything like that if you didn't dry it right?)

Well, if you get it too close, when it's green--if you get it too close (together), then it's going to get that mold on it. You can taste it on there. It tastes bitter. No, I don't think it would make you sick.

(Do they keep any of the green peyote around?)

No. I used to, but not now. Used to have it outside on the ground and water them every--

(Is it hard to keep like that?)

No. But in winter it will freeze. You got to keep it somewhere in the winter. Put it in the cellar or something.

#### MEDICINAL VALUE OF PEYOTE

(Is there any other type of sickness you've watched in peyote meetings)