

him that eagle whistle. So the fireman goes in and he makes fire, you might say, with one hand, or maybe he puts that whistle somewhere first, and he has to use cedar shavings to start that fire. Then he puts on a little wood on there and all the time he does it, he's praying. And when it gets lit he puts a little bigger wood in there and when wood starts to blaze he'll go around inside that tent and come to the door and before he goes out he turns around to the door and he whistles four times. When they . . . that, they say, "Now he's whistling. So then he turns around and comes out and steps to the right side of the door. Quite a ways from the door--toward the wood pile. The wood pile's sets right there by the tipi and there's always space. Then when the crowd comes, the leader walks first, and then the drummer. And when they get to the door they pray--the boss prays. And we all listen. And when he gets through with that, he goes around this tipi, outside, between the tipi and the wood pile. And this fireman stands by the wood pile, away from the tipi. And when they all go in there and get seated, then the fireman goes in with that whistle, and he goes around and he gets to that altar in front of the chief, and he wither hands that whistle to that chief or else he puts it down on the altars, and then he comes around and sits down there and then they begin.

(Is there any difference when you just have three people?)

No, it just the same ordeal -- same ordeal.

(How did you work the singing with just the three of you?)

I drummed for both of them all night. And then the fireman would fix his fire when my time--see, I sit to the right of the chief, and the fireman sit to the left--to the right of the door. So whenever it was my time to sing, this fireman would come around and drum for me. Then when he'd get through drumming for me, then he'd go back on, or else he'd go back and sit down in his place, and I'd drum for the boss. And sometime the chief would ask me, he said, "You take charge--I'm gonna vacate this seat. I'm gonna drum for the fireman." That seat's always got to be occupied by a boss of some kind. So I have to move on to his vacancy when he goes to drum for the fireman. And he comes around and as soon as he comes back, I move back and he sit down. We kept it up all night.

(Then you all had to do a lot more singing --?)