

wives go to a peyote meeting as long as a child is nursing. I don't know why.

(I just started to ask you if there was any reason for that.)

No, they didn't tell me why. But I suppose it's because it might affect the milk for the child. At that stage of life.

(Did women ever sing?)

One Cheyenne woman used to sing. Her husband's name was Iron Turtle. I think she was----I can't think of her name now--I think she was a sister of the wife of Three Fingers--a famous Cheyenne chief that lived in El Reno. She's the only one that I heard singing. I heard she drummed, but I never seen her drum. I only heard her sing. But they all know the songs, and they sing with men, all of 'em. They sing with men. In fact the women preserve those songs better than the men do, I think.

(Why don't the women sing more often?)

Well, not alone like men do, shaking the gourds, but they sing. They sing all the time but they weren't allowed to use the gourd or hold the cane. In fact, the Cheyenne custom that I know--that I learned from the old ones--a Cheyenne woman's not supposed to have anything to do with, or handle eagle feathers. That's against their tradition. I know when they're gonna fumigate them feathers--there's some of them--these ladies have--all gather all the feathers and fans all around there and then they get them in one pile and then they set them in front there and then the cedar's put in there and the chief gets up and fumigates them. Well, when these feathers come by, when Cheyenne woman comes to the eagle feathers, she just covers herself (illustrates behavior or crossing her hands over her chest and turning away)--and they have to skip her.

(She folds her hands over chest and turns away?)

Yeah. And then they have to skip her and pass it on to the next--nearest one. I've seen that happen two or three times. But now, you take these girls at the pow-wows--young Cheyenne girls--they carry eagle feathers. You notice that.