

ARAPAHO SUN DANCE REGARDED AS "SACRIFICE LODGE" AND KINDS OF SACRIFICE

(I want to get some more Arapaho words--how do you say "sacrifice lodge"?)

h^wseiy^w.t. And "sacrifice lodge" is h^wseih^w.wu'. That's "sacrifice lodge." That's the Sun Dance. It's not known to us as Sun Dance--that's the way the white man defines it or recognizes it.

(How do you say just "sacrifice" by itself?)

h^wseiy^w.t. There's another word for that, but the Arapahoes discontinued that years ago--like if you caught a prisoner, if you had a captive prisoner from other tribes--your traditional enemies--and you want to sacrifice, you'd put that--this has been discontinued hundreds of years ago--you'd put that captive in the lodge and tie him up. Not suspended, but just tied to one of those poles. They call it bitae^w. That could be a hide. It could be a blanket, or it could be a scalp. But sometimes human beings were used. They say--like if I'd say, "he's sacrificing"-- participation, but something-- binitae^weit they'd say. "He sacrifices." "He" or "she" is sacrificing. My aunt's name was bitae^w.naesei -- "Sacrifice Woman."

(What does this bitae^wei by itself mean?)

It means that they could sacrifice with anything--even including the life of a captive or even an animal--a horse or whatever it is. What they want to give as an offering.

(Did they apply that to the "Sacrifice Lodge"? Was that the same as h^wseiy^w.t?)

Yeah. h^wseih^w.wu' --that's an offering to the lodge. An