

Be one of the chief's. Tribal chiefs.

(One of the tribal chiefs?)

Yeah.

(Would they have more than one tipi?)

Oh, yes. They have three or four. Their son-in-law's and maybe a son's--maybe their own. But they have one what they call "council tipi." Or if he happened to be a chief, that'd be a chief tipi. And he might be one of the elders. He'd allow that to be used. They had painted tipis in them days.

(Was that tipi that you all were dancing in a painted tipi?)

It was one of our elder's tipis. His name was Mixed Hair.

(Mixed Hair?)

Yeah. It was painted. He was one of our elders.

(Well, did he ever just live in it when he wasn't using it?)

Well, when he wasn't using it for any purpose he could live in it. But if there's any other means for the use of that tent, then, of course, he'd move his bedding out to maybe his daughter's tent or he'd have another little tipi there--kitchen or something like that, and live in there. It's pretty liberal for those accommodations.

(What was--do you remember anything about how it was painted or what kind of designs were on it?)

Well, as best as I can recollect, it was green--green all around the bottom, about so wide.

(About two feet?)

Yeah, about two feet. All around the bottom--that represented the earth--green. And up at the top at the smaller part of that--that tapered part--that's blue. Dark blue. That represent the clouds in the sky. And then below that was a Thunderbird. Symbolism of a thunderbird. That was on the west side. On the south side there's a buffalo--a painted buffalo and a cedar tree. And by the right side of the door--the entrance is always on the east side--was a man holding his hand out like Indian in the form of prayer. Praying. The right