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DETAIL ABOUT THE PIPE DANCE

(What about the pipe dance as one of the religious ceremonies that the Pawnee performed? Could you tell us something about that?)

Mr. Osborne: Well I can tell you., I can tell you what little I know. I don't know what it really represented. But the pipe was used in our ceremony. Which what--they call it the pipe dance, well in this dance, a man was selected to be the head man. Then he would in turn get his assistants. And then when he had his assistant, he would work out some more men, to act as representatives for different positions of the ceremony to carry out say like service. He would pick out so many men to do that, to be ready to make preparations for everything that came up. Then, it would be like this. The Pawnee tribe had four bands, Confederate state bands. And each band like the Chauis. Now they're going to take this pipe dance to the Skidi man, and this man, the head man, he had make preparations. It usually took four days to complete. And then in those four days, in the evening they would have a get together and they'd sing, and dance this pipe dance. Then they would retire, oh sometime before the middle of night. Then early in the morning. Real early in the morning, before sun up. There would be a camp crier. He would get on his horse, or maybe he'd go around foot, on foot. And cry out to the camp, waking them up. He would instruct them to get ready for the day. He would tell them that the day was about to begin. Ask them to make their fires. Ask them to cook their breakfast. Ask them to wake the children up and get ready for breakfast. Get ready for the day. That whatever lie ahead where they would--I mean ask them to get ready for it. Then when it was over, then the four leading men of the Chaui band would represent the fathers. They would begin to sing. Songs. Early in the morning, they would sing some songs to represent something maybe for the day. Events of the day or maybe some blessings throughout the day. And after that was over, why they would then