

CHANGES IN PEYOTE RITUAL:

(Wasn't there some difference, too, in the way people used to sit a long time ago?)

Yeah. You sit on your knees. You sit on your knees, because I think the white way's got that, too, where they pray they get before the altar and have to get on their knees. So the Indian unknowingly do that. See, God is wonderful in a lot of ways. It's only culture or educated people, but the common peoples, there's a lot of things they don't know and it just comes natural to them.

(Another thing I remember reading about is that the leader sometimes used to sit by the door instead of on the west side. Have you ever heard of that?)

Osages do. They just seat anywheres. They have their meetings anywheres. Caddoes, too. They don't march in like we do. They go up there and see that tipi--just go in there and sit down. Just set there. Pretty soon somebody else gonna come in, one at a time. Pretty soon that boss come in--"Well, we might as well start!" It sort of seems funny to me, but that's their way. They don't have the midnite water. The water's in there. You want a drink, just tell the fireman and he'll give you a drink.

(Did they always have peyote meetings in a tipi? Were they ever held outside or anywhere else besides in a tipi?)

Oh yeah, they had it in a house, tents. They pitch a tent and they have 'em in there. And I heard one time the Kiowas had it outside--just tipi poles--no tent in there. That's what I heard, I don't know. But even at that it's just something that they tried. I don't know why. But you know there's always experiment on anything. Peoples always experiment on anything. But we have peyote meeting right in here--right in this room. I run a meeting here. Blackie (Chalepah) was carrying the drum. We had it for my daughter which was a small girl--and my grandson I don't know--I run meetings similar to Alfred and Frankie, myway, my songs. We use the two songs. That's the original Apache way--especially those four breakfast songs and one water song--when that woman brings that water in--the first one. But you can put three songs with it, you see. And at midnight they have special song--there's one beginning song. Nobody sings that but the leader.

(Going back to this crescent, this altar, is there any special ceremony connected