

T-226

Informant: Grant White, Pawnee

Interviewed by: Ramona Osborne

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Transcribed by: Linda Butler

BRIEF INTRODUCTION

(This is Ramona Osborne, of the American Indian Institute. I'm talking with both my parents and Mr. Grant White, one of the older members of the Pawnee tribe. Mr. White is an uncle of mine, having been married to my mother's oldest--oldest sister of my mother.)

DOCTOR DANCE, A PART OF A RELIGIOUS CEREMONY

(The topic with which we will begin will be in the area of the Doctor Dance Ceremony which was one of the religious ceremonies which the Pawnee people performed, years back. Grant, what was the meaning--what was the meaning of-- or the reason behind these Doctor Dances?)

Well, I don't know. That's the part I don't know about the Doctor Dance. I could remember that when I was a little boy you know. It's be all most of them be doctor you know--

(You mean those people that took part were the Indian doctors?)

Took part, yeah.

(Was--would this restricted just to those that were doctors?)

I guess--I think so. Just them you know. Doctors. Yeah.

(But a person, anybody could attend these--)

Yeah, anybody. They always--

Mrs. Osborne: I think they went through some ceremonies first, by themselves.

Yeah, they can invite people. They be a lot of them that time. Be a lot of them. Doctor. And they invite somebody you know to come and kind of witness, listen of what they do and the talking of that.

PROCEDURE PRECEDING THE REAL DOCTOR DANCE

(What was the ceremony? What did they actually do in the--at the Doctor Dances?)

What they do? Well, there be two of them--Pawnee--two of them well them the