

dance like this, you know.

WOMEN NOT SUPPOSED TO HANDLE EAGLE FEATHERS

(Oh. With an eagle feather in each hand and then a movement of the arms up and down--?)

Yeah, like this. But since then I've found out there's a strict law among the Cheyennes. I guess that's one reason the Cheyennes never indulged in it even though many half-Cheyennes participate in that dance. But the reason I thought their girls never indulged was that a Cheyenne girl's never--it's a privilege for her to carry--or touch eagle feathers. Or handle eagle feathers. They don't do that. First time I noticed it was back in 1903. They had a peyote meeting down here and there were some Cheyenne women who were with their husbands in the peyote meeting. And when those feathers was to be fumigated before the midnight water was brought in, the conductor of that meeting said, "Now, all you got feathers. Pass them around. So each one hand their feathers or gourd (rattle) or whatever it was. After a while they had a big armful from these men. And the cedar man always sits on the left. He offered a prayer and throwed that cedar in there and they fumigated them feathers and all those things. But when those things were being collected, handed or passed on to the chief, everytime them eagle feathers would come by a Cheyenne girl, she's always sit like this and won't touch them. But now you see these dancers at these pow-wows--Cheyenne girls--carry eagle feather fans and carry eagle feather. They disregard that now. You've noticed that. (Did you ever hear why they were not supposed to handle eagle feathers?). Well, it's just a Cheyenne custom. I don't know the root of that, but they say the girls are not supposed to handle eagle feather. Even in peyote or prayer meeting. But I've seen them since. Some of these girls carry their husband's eagle feathers in a peyote meeting. (Going back to this Snake Dance, going back to the time just after Big Bow