

GUY'S ACCOUNT OF TWO CASES WHERE HE WATCHED BUFFALO MEDICINE MEN
AT WORK

Well, I want to tell you about how these medicine men doctored my cousin--these buffalo medicine men. /

(What was his name?)

Wilbert. Wilbert Aointy. He had tried to commit suicide and he shot himself right about here.

(Oh, right above the heart.)

Yeah, right above the heart. And the blood was flowing. So they called the medicine men. They're supposed to stop the flow of blood and heal bullet wounds. That's what they was noted for. So my uncle--his father was dead--and my uncle called the buffalo medicine men. They doctored over here right in front of the house. They put up a tipi. And they carried him in there and laid him in there and those medicine men came. I think there was five of them. They doctored him all evening and night. They stopped the flow of blood and give him strength so he could get up. Some others went in and I went in there to see how they perform and all of them shaking those buffalo tails and those rattles and singing. Oh, it was interesting. And he was laying up there and he'd shake his head like a buffalo. He was laying all the time while they were singing and doctoring. He just shake his head. That's the way buffalo do. He shake his head.

(Was it your cousin shaking his head?)

No. They never touch him. They was just going through the motion. Just like wounded buffalo, they give him strength to get up. He was trying to get up off the bed. He shake his hand and he take his arm and paw like he's pawing the ground. And he tried to get