

to elect so-and-so." And I tell them everythings' been settled and they're all right. Then they say, "Well, we're going to elect the first one." They don't tell him they're going to elect him, no. Then they get together, say, at a public dance-- be three or four hundred people there--spectators and white people. And they announce through the loud speaker: "This next on the agenda of our program is that the Arapahoes are going to select a chief to take the place of so-and-so who has passed away." And of course this reminds the people related to this man that has passed away and there's kind of a sorrow for a moment there. Then before the chief is elected, they get up and go around. They don't tell who is going to be elected till they locate this fellow that they're going to elect. The song is being sung--oh, it's a fine song. And they get this man they want, go to him, and pick him up. They say, "You! You're elected to a chief. You're recognized." Well, he might refuse, but they insist on it and bring him out. There's never anybody refuses once they're publicly known, and the public has seen the elected source. Course that's an honor to them and they get up and go with the other chiefs, clear all the way around--to show him, you know--show who he is. Course, the women holler and are happy, and enjoy whatever relation-- And then when he's elected--then, like, they come to me, being the oldest now--that's been my duty for several years now--and I give him his duties. I take a loud speaker and say, "Now, John Washee, you're a nephew of mine or a grand-nephew (However I'm related to him) You have been elected--picked--to be a chief in the place of so-and-so who has passed on. Your duties shall be so." And then I tell him his duties. And the old ways--times --they used to tell them--a chief that's just elected--to always look at the four ridges, whenever they may be. And if they see some visitors coming over that hill--they know they're visitors-- "Go to your camps and tell your women-folks to cook dinner, supper. See if you got room in there for them. Maybe the other chiefs do the same thing. Feed 'em. See if he's all right. See if there's no sickness in the family. See if there's anything to take care of--all those problems. And you are to ever watch the old folks in the camps" --there's always old folks in the camp--might be a old man, might be a blind person, might been orphan children--