

JESS'S EXPERIENCE IN BEING SELECTED AS A CHIEF; GIVE AWAY IN HONOR OF NEW CHIEF:

(Can more than one person pick up--?)

No, just one. The first one gets it. (Pause) I objected to my name being changed. They elected me as boy chief back in 1903. I wasn't quite seventeen yet. I didn't know anything about it. I was at my tent--took a horse's team and heard my name called--"Come to the center, your brother's calling you over." He meant cousins but cousins called each other brothers. I had three cousins that were chiefs--Circle Left Hand, Bird Chief, and Arnold Woolworth. They were my cousins, but they call them brothers. "Your brothers are asking you to come to the center." Well, that night my band was dancing--the Star Hawks was dancing. I didn't participate. In fact, I was too lazy to put on my Indian clothes and I stood back there and took care of the horses. But they called me out and I thought, "Well, maybe they want me to do something." So I took my blanket--this part-blue blanket, and left my hat and I come to the center. There was a big crowd of men and women. And there were Siouxs from South Dakota visiting us. I walked to the center and these three cousins of mine--Bird Chief and Woolworth and Circle Left Hand--well there was four--Red Wolf. They were all my cousins, but they called them brothers. So they announced that I was elected chief. My father came up after these men sat down. See, I brought myself to the center. They didn't pick me up. I brought myself to the center by that call, not knowing what it was all about. So I stood there and these men that was calling me in dispersed and one old man came and stood in front of me and my father was on the left and Left Hand on the right side, and one old man stood behind me. They told me my duties. So, when this old man--when it was announced that I was gonna be chief and my name be changed, I told my Dad, "No," I said. "I don't want to change my name. I want to keep my boy name. When I might grown up I might change my name later on." So my Dad says all right. So he told this old man that had the power to withdraw. That my name wasn't gonna be changed--that I wanted to keep my old name. My boy name was Magpie--Mysterious Magpie. So after they gave me my duties they stand in front of me--Left Hand and