

YOUNG MEN PARTICIPATING IN PEYOTE MEETINGS

(Talking about the Native American Church today--do you think the membership is growing today or--?)

Oh yes. Yes.

(--or declining?)

No--it's growing. The boys no more than get up to the age of sixteen when they join. Group up together. They're the best boys we got. They don't drink. They go to Saturday night peyote meetings if there's any. And they're interested. But these other boys--especially these returning army boys--go to drinking and bunch up together and they're what we call "winos." But they won't get into peyote church. This woman I was talking to--her husband and her don't live together. He came from Christian parents--his grandfolks were Christians and his mother was brought up Christian. And now he's took and shun the road, and he don't go to church and he don't go to no peyote meetings. He's an ancestor (Jess means to say "descendant") of the great Black Kettle--a great-great-grandson of Black Kettle. He don't mind that title. He don't want that stuff. All he wants is wine, wine, wine.

(Why don't the army boys go to peyote meetings?)

Well, they're --I don't know--maybe they're ashamed they drink so much.

They're afraid to mix up with these peyote boys. That's the only thin I can see. Now some goes (to the army) but they don't drink as much as these others. I've got a nephew, here, that's been to the army and got to drinking, and all at once he quit. And once in a great while he will drink and he goes to a peyote meeting now and then. Now about two months ago he got in jail with the other boys, drinking, but he wouldn't come to a peyote gathering or anything like that. But now, here about two weeks ago, he went to a peyote meeting.