

LEARNING TO CONDUCT MEETINGS : DESCRIPTION OF PEYOTE RITUAL

(Then how would a young person get their first experience?)

Well, like, there's a bunch of boys that get together and say, "Let's have a meeting." Some young fellow--a group, you know. We invite some of these old fellows to come and say, "We want so-and-so to run meeting. We want him to be trained and the oftener he runs a meeting, the better he's going to be qualified." So in that case a young man can run a meeting.

(It's sort of a training session.)

Yeah.

(Is there anything special that he had to go through in order to learn how to run meetings?)

Just learn the songs and the form--what procedure to take after the Beginning Song is sung. And how he should watch his attendants (persons attending) all the time.

(What do you mean by that--watch the attendants?)

Well, see if they're comfortable. See if anybody wants to go out, or, if it's cold, see if anybody's cold, and maybe one of them goes out and gets a blanket for him from the camp or the house. Or if it's raining, see if the smoke (flap) is regulated, so the smoke will go out. All those things. And at Mid-night Water time, see that the Fire Man fix that fire, so that it be blazing good. And when he goes out and gets water, see that everything is ordered, clean--swept the floor--the dirt floor swept, and everything is in position. Then he brings water in. See that that bucket is set right. And then the Fire Man sits down. That smoke is offered to him. Got to pass it on properly. When he gets through smoking, he pass it on the the chief (peyote leader) and prayers are made. And see that the water starts (around). Everybody drinks. When it gets back to him (The Fire Man) then he puts that bucket in front of him. Then he gets up and follows the bucket. Gets back to his