

attended peyote meetings with him. They have established a fictive kin relationship: Abraham calls John "Uncle," and John calls Abraham "Nephew." Glen Lumpmouth, Oklahoma Arapaho living in El Reno, carried the drum for Abraham, and functioned as his assistant in this meeting. Glen is a cousin of Abraham's wife, and thus these two call each other "brother-in-law."

Bobby Pedro, John's son, welcomed me and introduced me to some of the other, and told me I was welcome to take the tape recorder in. I went out to the tipi with him, and he helped me select a place to sit down inside, and put my blankets down. He told me I could sit anywhere, so I selected a place on the north side, next to a Caddo woman, Irene Kionut, whom I had met before and thought might be friendly to me. John was waiting to see if John Kionut and some other people would show up before starting the meeting. But we finally went into the tipi about 9:30 or 9:45 p.m. People had selected their seating places first, but the formal entry was made, single file, and with people in their proper order according to where they were going to sit. On entering the tipi, people went clockwise to their seats.

I do not remember much about the opening ceremony. I was nervous, and thought the tape recorder was catching the opening talks and prayers (which it did not). I know that a bunch of sage was passed around and everyone took a little and crushed it and rubbed it on themselves. The takings for cornshuck cigarettes were passed. Everyone took what they wanted--cornshuck papers, and then rolled smoke with Bull Durham tobacco. A stick from the fire was passed around and everyone lit their cigarette with its glowing end and smoked silently. Cedar was put in the fire and all the ceremonial equipment was smoked four times. Some talks were made--it was explained that the meeting was for Abraham, and to allow him to conduct the meeting in Oklahoma. People were invited to enjoy themselves and go the way they wanted to, etc.

John Pedro, who sponsored the meeting, did not come in till shortly before midnight. I was told later that he was waiting to see if others would come. He tried to allow them the seating space if necessary. However not as many people came as were expected, and there was plenty of room.

Abraham started the singing with the four opening songs. Glen Lumpmouth drummed for him. Peyote was passed around, I think before the singing started. First came some dried peyote which looked to me like pieces of dried peyotes instead of whole dried buttons. I took four pieces. Later a bowl of small green peyotes came around and I took two of these. Then a jar of ground dried peyote came and I took a spoonful of that. Later on in the meeting Bobby Pedro offered me a drink of some peyote tea and I took a swallow of that, and then later a bowl of the large green ones (that John had been cleaning) was passed and I took one of those and took three bites of that and left one bite uneaten.

