Katherine: (Can you describe this religion just a little bit?)

Nora: This Xingwikaon was a twelve day prayer service, and on the fourth day they sang special songs for the hunters that the Delawares called Alahoting Asuwakàna. That's what the Delawares called these songs that were sung for the hunters before they went out on their hunt.

Katherine: (Could you translate that?)

Nora: Hunters' songs. And no one was permitted to sing in this Xingwikaon unless they had had a vision and that was where the songs stemmed from, the vision they had experiences in their youth. My mother was one of the women who Atehumwi, that is called the women's vision song. And that was held on the 9th night of the services. And a new fire was made before this service and the ashes all carried out the west door and everyone was smoked with cedar. And the Delaware people called this Pilhìksutin and that's the "cleansing ritual." And there were only about seven women in my day as they were fast dying away, so there was only about seven women left who could sing Atehumwi that is the women's vision songs. And my mother was one of those and Lucy Willetts was one, and Rosie Frenchman, Eliza Falleaf, Paolinao whose English name was Pauline Blackwing,

IMPORTANCE OF CEDAR TREE AND ITS USE AMONG THE PEOPLE

The cedar purification ritual, it was held on this 9th night, the Delaware people always looked upon the cedar tree as being a clean tree. So, in nearly all of our rituals that we have ever held, somehow the cedar has always held an important part, especially in the Big House. And then, too, at the funerals when anyone passed away at a home there was always someone who burned cedar and took it all around inside and outside of the home. And also the clothing that was given away of the descendant, given to the workers that was appointed for the funeral. Before these clothes and personal effects were given to the workers, these clothes were purified or smoked with cedar. And if anyone was sick, someone always prayed for this sick person and they used cedar and they fanned this sick person with cedar smoke. So, as long as I can remember, the cedar played a very important part in the lives of the Lenape people.

Then too when we held our feasts, we always burned cedar after the feast to purify the house. To go into this word "feast," as to we Delaware people, when we hold a feast it is something in memory of the descendant. The food that's given to others in memory of the deceased one, different branches of the Lenape people had different styles of these feasts. For example, the Munsee