

I'm thinking about now, is the Pipe Dance we used to have. I've heard that several of the Plains Tribes danced this type of dance. Among the Poncas it was a sacred dance which was handed down and had been practiced and danced back up there in South Dakota and Nebraska. And when the people that knew about this dance, passed on, naturally it ceased to exist as did the Sun Dance. And songs that went with these dances, from the time that I was just a mere child, I remember hearing a lot of these songs and I was very much interested. In fact, I learned some of those songs, even though, I never did witness them because they were danced before my time.

THE ORIGIN OF THE TRUE WAR DANCE

But one of the songs--one of the dances that really impressed me, that I was really interested in, secretly, just to myself without letting anyone know, was this commonly called War Dance. It's been erroneously called a war dance by the white people. And other people that didn't know the actual meaning of this dance. Of course, in our language it was one of the dances which was called, well they call it one of the Societies--the dance of the Societies of the Ponca people. There were several of these dances, but it happened that this one was one of the most outstanding, due to the fact that most of the members were outstanding warriors of the tribe. And a lot of the songs pertaining to this dance were sung in honor of most of these men, who were members of this organization. And it seems to me through the information that I gathered down through the years, from the information of my own people--I may be saying a little too much here, but there wasn't a War Dance in Oklahoma prior to the time of the Ponca removal. Of course these dances while they were up north and they had several tribes that had adopted it, that had given it to some tribes, just like they did the Sun Dance, they give it to other people--other tribes, the surrounding tribes, neighbors, people, Indians that were friendly with and a lot of that has been recorded. But then the people that