

now, and the term "Elonska" meaning, it is more or less a meaning called the "playground of the eldest son." It more or less what the word means and that goes along with the who ever has been appointed the Keeper of the Drum, and the, which the Osages wanted the Hominy group that had the drum in this part of the reservation. They liked to see the drum, I mean whoever has the drum, is supposed to be the eldest son of a prominent family and have more or less earned his--earned, what I mean to say, you have done something to have earned the privilege to be the Keeper of the Drum. But to go back a little way before these drums became active, well, the Osages, themselves, had ceremonials and social dances themselves and they had the war dance and they also did the Sun Dance and this was many years ago and not very accurate accounts can be had except a few of the older people who recall their people seeing the war dance at that time. So, getting back to the dances we have today, the drums are, of today they are handed down from family to family in each district. I mean, what I mean to say, passed from one family to another. One family as the old custom was had an outstanding young man who had accomplished a feat of some sort that was or in olden days they had a great warrior or someone who would more or less would be recognized as outstanding in his field. They were more or less taken as a drumkeeper. These drums were at the time, they passed the drum from one family to another and they would, what they would say, pay for these drums and they-- It was a great honor to have the drum, as the tradition goes and when they would pay for the drum they would pay the former drumkeeper and they would exchange gifts and oh, various kinds of gifts depending on what each family wanted to give and even after they had accepted the drum well they had to appoint the committee and each organization consisted of the drumkeeper and the first choise--would, his first duty was to appoint him a head committeeman then the headcommittee would also be one that knew a lot about the customs and traditions of the dance and also be outstanding in his own right and so after he conferred with his family they would get the head committeeman and after the head committeeman was selected they went on down to the organization roll. Then they would, I believe, they would, select committee,