

it's losing some of it's meaning and, oh, I forget to mention we also have the town crier in our organization. And this town crier, I don't exactly recall. I recall the first one that I remember is back in the 20's and he was Mr. Jim Williams, a Ponca Indian. Then we've had Osage town crier, too, before him and that was--well anyway at one time it was just all Osage. Like I say, nowadays we have to call upon other tribes to help'em. The town crier during the course of the dance he call out different persons names as the dances is going on, in progress and on this certain day, the last day, the giveaway day, he calls out certain individual names whose songs are being sung at that time. So, it goes on through the years, it's been, like I say, it's been the tradition itself is dwindling, but the popularity of the dances is growing and our younger people go out and dance, but they don't really realize the purpose of the dance. They just--it hasn't been explained to 'em it should be, which it the duty of the drumkeeper and his committeeman and these dances are all through the years I can remember back, I'd say, oh thirty or forty years ago, that these dances were performed with great dignity and it seems like that, seem like someday or another they try to carry on this dance. I say back in, way back there, they more or less had kind of a--they didn't hardly carry it on, they were more or less interested in the peyote and they just kinda, you might say, neglected, but a few carried it on and so as it goes on today it seems to me that its, I would say, they are trying their utmost to carry on the tradition, traditions. But it's hard to instill these traditions in this younger generation because they don't have the leadership and quality they should have in the drumkeepers. 'Course that goes along with the trend of the our modern civilization.

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I might at this time describe the dress of the dancers which varies, how it differs from what is commonly known now as the war dance or the feather dance. We dance in our traditional costume which, of course, it too has also come along with the trend of the civilization and they don't dance, dress rather like they did back, way back there. But today they more or less go