

don't quite recall whether it was brought to us or we had it, but there were Soldier Dance Society organized at that time in each district.

And this dance was more or less just done by the women, 'course they had their male drummers and singers, but the women were more or less commemorating and celebrating the return of the warrior from the wars and these dances were carried on. They were entirely separate from the Elonska dance. The Elonska dance mainly was for the men folks. The men more or less took the spotlight you might say, in there dances. The women were in the background and they were more or less permitted to get out with the men or warriors or dancers at that time. They were--they held the honor of dancing, the privilege of dancing, but the women had organized what they call the soldier dance in each district, with three soldier dance drums. These drums were, had organizations more or less I think more or less slightly resembled the Elonska organization and the women carried on these dances and it was really nice to look at in those days. But you might say these dances, these drums have more or less become dormant. They don't participate anymore. I don't its been several years since any of them had a dance and whether they will ever reorganize to come forth in the, with the Osages tradition, I wouldn't venture to say, but it is comparatively new. Since it was only began around I'd say 1918 to 1920 when it was organized and of course the other dance was much older than that and where they can revive this custom remains to be seen, but it is one phase that the Osage women had during that time and I think that it was really a sight to behold to see these women out there singing, celebrating the return of their warrior heroes and these dances like we say they mean something. It seem like it when they beat that drum when we put on our best, we try to in olden days commune with the spirit, Great Spirit. We hold and still hold very highly these dances, back to the soldier dance, I think the, I don't recall who has these drums at this time. These different districts, one time there were three, you might say, they called 'em Soldier Dance drums and they had just almost as big a time as they did when they had the Elonska time and these dances went on and of