

what they now call the one that would be in charge of the singers. He in turn would name his singers. Now it kind of differs in each district. I mean it's not supposed to, but it does. They more or less make their own rules and go by what they want to do and they pick out a head singer then they, some places it's just become where the headsinger he picks out his and some districts the committee picks out the singers, which it used to when the Osages had their own singers, but they kinda got away from that now. It's been delegated to the head singers for him to select his singers to help him carry on these dances. These dances, Elonska dances, they're similar to the dances of the Poncas. The Poncas had brought into the Elonska of the Osages a certain rhythm of dancing and of course the Poncas have long been known for their singing and their dancing. Come right along with the Osages down to the generations and have a certain way to sing these songs and they, there more or less have a ceremony on these songs. They don't have just anyone that wants to, can't go out and request his individual song at anytime or request a song for anything that's not, more or less, not allowed in the ceremonials. They got their own pattern set down and they follow this pattern as much as they can and there is no pow-wow song sang in these dances and more or less the Ponca songs, which the Osages have known through the years and these songs have a certain tempo. They start out with the starting song and after this starting song they have a session of, sometimes its eight songs they sing and a certain tempo of these goes along. They dance along with the tempo gradually increases and the song is sung a little more rapidly. During the day its more or less kept at a certain tempo. At night time, it comes and you dance so long the tempo increases and the singers become more or less enthused or they want to dance harder and they get out there and they dance harder and the song tempo gradually increases with the dancers. Of course, we don't really dance the fast fast dance, you see at the pow-wow now days. We don't-- those are not in the tempo of the songs are all in the same tempo, in each set of songs. It's very dignified and these dancers they hold themselves back. They don't want to get out there and show that they are a better dancer. That's not the point of the