

Call number: 02-00-133-14 PT. 5

Name and place: Nulato Stick Dance

Date: March, 1972

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Series: ATS-1 Educational Satellite Project Tapes

Notes: Original in 7-inch tape, master copy on CD. Produced by Roger McPherson. THESE TAPES WERE PRODUCED AS A PART OF AN EXPERIMENTAL PROGRAM NOW DEFUNCT AND WERE BROADCAST OVER THE RADIO FOR EDUCATIONAL PURPOSES.

The recording begins with a clinking of a bell and unclear talking.

Roger McPherson asks someone if she knows the names of the people who are being dressed. She tells there is Ellen Peters, Winnie Sephry, Peter Mountain, [Unclear], Jamie Esmailka, [Unclear] George, Louana Summer, [Unclear] Esmailka, Edna Stickman, Norma Esmailka, Olga.

11:57 Drumming and singing. Explanation of a Washup Dance: That's when they put a string across the hall and put a canvas over it. The first people who come in are the women who come in with a little dish of anything that they can make, like cookies, pie, cake, a piece of fish – anything that one can eat a little bite at a time. Some of the women have face masks and they dress funny.

Singers would be close to the canvas and a couple of them have drums. A couple of guys are on each side of the string and they sit down and use a long stick with a white rabbit tale tied to that stick. They keep time with the guys who are singing. [Singing a song.]

14:17 After all the women go out, the men go out as well. They go to the store and buy anything they have at the store, like candy or oranges. Then they do the same thing. They would have 5-8 more boys dressed in funny clothes, just like in Halloween night. They do the same thing: dance. That's the Washup Dance.

A lady says that Washup Dance is a cleanup dance that is the ending of the Stick Dance. [Drumming and singing. Applause.]

18:01 A man's voice tells that there is a drummer who drums a gas can. Roger McPherson's voice asks what the sticks with cotton are for, and the man tells that they are for keeping time when women start singing. He adds that they should have more singers than they do.

Roger asks what they do when they come inside the hall, and the man explains that they bring in stuff such as doughnuts, and then they dance the Washup Dance. The stuff is passed around.

The women are gathering at a house where they get ready. They bring in food that they put on the canvas and start dancing – a couple of women at the time. They dance for a while and stop, but they can dance again if they want. [Drumming and singing.]

20:33 A man's voice says he's never made a speech in his life but now he feels like somebody from Huslia should say something. He tells that everybody has had a good time and he thanks everybody from Nulato for giving them a good time. [Applause.]

[Singing by men. Applause. End of the recording.]