

Elbowoods, N. Dak.
June 6, 1924

Dr. Melvin R. Gilmore,
New York N.Y.

Dear Dr. Gilmore:

I remember that two years ago you came here to take down some old time Indian ceremonies in baptismal and I understand that you were not quite satisfied with the records and it seem to you to be unreal in some ways of how the ceremonies should be carried out. Then I began to wonder if I can find out some way or to find someone that know the real history of Arikara tribe Baptismal ceremony and I have run across the man to know more about the ceremony and I want to tell some things that he has told me and all the rest of the Arikara older people can prove that he know more of the Arikara history of baptismal ceremony.

This story of Baptismal ceremony was outlined by Running Rabbit who was the interpreter for one of the ceremony which took place while the old village was still in effect, and this writing Paul Yellow Bear writes just the outline of it so as to give you some idea and consider yourself that this seem to be the real Arickara ceremony on baptismal. The origin of this baptismal ceremony of the Arickaras was in the Indian name the place is (the Horn on the Tree) in English is some hear Moorehead. 2nd. Before ceremony takes place the Buffalo Head ceremony is first, 3rd ceremony for the day that is ceremony is gone though that the day will be still no wind but to be a good day, 4th the nest the grass are 4 in number instead of 5 as you took down. 5th the marking of the ground before ceremony takes place. 6th the painting of the one that will be you the painting, is to be on the chest and on the back moon. 7th the painting on the face, meaning of each stripe the strip from the forehead down to the nose is the heaven and two stripes on each side of the face is the elements of the earth the four corners. 8th the pipes the origin of this pipes was from the Milky Way the horse and the buffalo race and cause the melting of these stones and this where stone of this pipe is gotten and the ornaments of this stem of pipe is the instead of the horses hair it is the corn silk and the ribbons as you have seen is the intestines of a bear this is taken out and dried and tan and dyed to different colors instead of the ribbons. Running Rabbit has the real basket and the pipes has this ornaments as described

above and has all the old real objects that was used 100 years ago.

So I hope that this will be a real ceremony of the Arikara in baptismal and I would advise you that Running Rabbit will be the one to get this ceremony through as all the older Arikaras will prove this to be so please let me hear from you in regard to the above as he is anxious to know and if you authorize him to take up this ceremony he will prepare himself and tell all the real facts about ceremony and people beginning to wonder if this ceremony is taken they would want the one that knows about it so I advised you to take this matter at the early date and hoping to hear from you at an early date, I remain,

Very truly yours

Paul Yellow Bear
Blackwater, N.D.