

## 1993 Painted Lodge Transfer

*Told by Mike Swims Under*

“When I was young I went with my parents to the North Pikunni, where they were asked to run an Okan. They received several good horses as payments and gifts. They also received the ‘Matappi-kokaup,’ the Person-painted lodge. It was transferred to them. Years later they made a new cover for it. My dad painted my face, so that I had rights to it and could do the painting. I used red earth paint mixed with water. My dad showed me where the designs go. A few years ago I sold this cover to somebody who came to my house. It was old and worn, and I’ve got no wife to put it up with.

Later I found out that those up north who gave my parents that lodge, made it up again for themselves. Somebody from their family transferred the design to ‘Ap-sepisto,’ White Owl, (Paul Raczka). I heard that ‘Apoch-soyis,’ Weasel-Tail (Joe Crow Shoe) ran the transfer ceremony. The way it was painted was a little



bit different from the way my dad showed me, but otherwise it was about the same. When I went to North Pikunni in 1977 to run the Okan for ‘Pioch-komoni-tuppi-aki,’ Distant-Purple-Paint-People-Woman (or Distant Nez Perce Woman, Josephine Crow Shoe) and her husband, I saw that tipi in the camp. I didn’t mind—it looked good.

Then ‘Pita-auwastam,’ Eagle-Flag (G.G. Kipp) came to see me about getting that design. I gave him my rights, and ‘Ap-sepisto’ gave him his rights, so now it is complete again, and ‘Pita-auwastam’ owns it. He paid a good horse for it, and I ran the ceremony. ‘Apoch-soyis’ and ‘Nioks-kaina,’ Three Guns (George Kicking Woman) helped with the singing and prayers. We did it right in town, by the college. That People-painted design is so old, my parents said it came from the dog days. It’s good that they are still keeping it going.”