

Once there was a bat. All the birds go back where it was warm in the fall but the bat stayed north to find out what the winter was like. Chicken came along and said, "I see you are going to stay; it is cold. We are used to it" and Bat said, "I am going to stay just to find out about the winter" and Chicken said, "You are going to freeze to death" still the bat thought he would stay and see what it was like. Chicken built a log house for the bat and brought him wood and told him to go too far outside or he would freeze to death and the chicken brought in food and they ate together. One day while the chicken was out hunting, the heart of an animal came through the smokehole and the bat tried to seize it but missed it. He tried several times and when chicken came back he told him about it and chicken said, "Do not try to catch that heart, for if you do, he will throw you outside and freeze you to death." Bat said to Chicken, "Make me a bow and arrow" and the next time the Heart came down through the smokehole, he shot it and it flew out and back of the lodge and rolled. When C came home he told him about shooting the heart and Chicken could hear the groaning and went out to see. He saw a buffalo lying there dead. He came back and said, "You killed a buffalo and it is lying back of the house. The Bat wanted to go out and see what he killed but C said it was too cold to go out there, he would freeze but the Bat was so anxious to go out and see that the Chicken went out and built four fires around the house and the Bat went out. He saw the B lying there dead and he ran back in again. The Chicken was going to skin the Buffalo. Bat said, "When you butcher the buffalo, save me the paunch; I am going to hang it up and keep it for the Geese when they come back in the spring." Chicken skinned the buffalo, saved the paunch, and saved all the best parts of the meat to go into the paunch for the geese and the Chicken and Bat ate what was left.

When warmed weather came and the birds were coming north, the birds came and the Geese saw that Bat had hung up all that dry meat for them and they were glad. When they reached the lodge, (Eagle lodge tyoe) First Creator happened to come to the lodge at the same time and he sang for them and the geese and they danced around. He waited on the Geese, giving them the meat the Bat and Chicken had prepared. Then the Geese went on

First Creator married one of the geese and his wife told him that he was a goose and she told him that he was supposed to sing whenever they came back. The geese went north to raise their young and in the fall there were more of them coming back. In the fall they came back and F.C. sang for them. They cut up the meat. The people there had all the different kinds of corn and when they passed the food around, the people gave the waiter two or three different kinds of corn, another still other kinds. During the dancing, his wife was with them and she flew up with the other geese and went on, leaving F.C. to run along under them crying.

That is the reason when they want to have the goose dance they have them twice, in the spring and in the fall. When they have a string ready, they hang the best of the meat on a line then one of the best men of the tribe runs along the line of the meat and strikes the piece he wants and another man follows and takes the meat that was struck, sometimes men of the Dog Bad are invited, carries his knife and sticks it in the meat and the next man of his band comes and takes it.

Pretending Coyote selected one of the best men to go and pick out one of the dry pieces hung up. They select two and the next man takes the meat. They went back to the house with the meat and divided it between the Pretending Coyote. The Pretending Coyote gives corn to the waiter and each getting meat gave corn back. When they are through eating they go back where they are having the ceremony. Also the Dog Men go there and pick out their meat and give corn too and then go back where they are dancing. While the geese were dancing, they had a bundle

of sage tied up together and a corn in the center to carry in their arm the movements represent the movements of the corn stalk in the wind.

These women with the sage dancing are the old geese and the young ones helped with the waiting, and if a young woman wants to get in, by her mother but can join in, just as other day, Arth Mandan's mother sold her rights to younger women but still she meets with the younger ones. But she was the only one. She was here too, when the younger bought in.

In the fall when they gather the corn, gather them in one heap, put a blanket on top of the corn and that it is piled, tell that it is ready and anyone can go, strike the object like enemy, take it, circle a ways and go home.

When they had the first feast, there was a gooden pipe which FC made for them and since that they use such a pipe in all the other ceremonies. Mrs White Duck is custodian and got it of her father, Poor Wolf

In the beginning Sioux came below Ft. Clark and one of men of heads Mrs. White Duck has was living and asked for a shield of sister-in-law and he brought a good shield but he did not want it, then she brought an old piece of hide and he made a shield of it, he wanted a lance and she brought a good one but he did not want it and she took it back and cut a little cottonwood pole and brought it to him and he said it was alright; he wanted an earring and she got shells but he did not want it and she got corn husks and he said that would be alright; he took the shield, lance, and earrings and went out against the Sioux, swung at them with the pole and the enemies would be cut down like weeds and the Sioux saw they could not do anything and ran, chases them and they ran into the water and he after them. They came out of the water and he after them and in the case they all turned into grass and the Mandans called them xa-nu-mak-i or the grass people.

The pole he had represents the stick that was stuck in the dry meat and used here and you took it home and that looks like the heads must be connected with the geese in some way. (Apparent he feels that there is a relationship of Goose Society and the Corn Medicine rites of the Mandans.)