

I was 18 when I went out this time. When Old Bear said that he was going out eagle trapping, Black Eagle, myself, and Crows Breast volunteered to go along with him and all the others who were in the party spoke to him about going too. Spotted Bear took his wife, Not Woman along and she had her daughter. Old Bear took his wife All Yellow along; Spotted Horn had his wife Goes Out with him and Spotted Eagle's wife In the Spring went along. Crows Breast took his wife named Two Women; Young Bear went along with us but he was not an eagle trapper, he was a hunter and known as Bear's son-in-law. In a place like this the leader was called A-ci-ra i-ta-ga, there were two kinds of these black bears and it is the little one they used here, (Sam probably wrong in calling it grizzly then; probably the little Black Bear here as in Mandan stories)

We left in the morning early crossing our stuff in Bullboats and the trees were still green except that the leaves of the ash were beginning to turn brown. Being late in the afternoon, we only got as far as beaver creek and camped there for the night. The next day we moved camp and reached Hans Creek and camped there several miles above the mouth. The third day we moved and camped east of the Killdeer Mts on a flat near wood and a stream of water. When we camped there we commenced to hunt and Red Coyote or Sitting Crow (st(? p. 1) still living killed some antelope on the flats there and some of the others got some deer in the timber along the small ravines of which there were many there.

Next day we moved and we camped again to the Killdeer Mts just over the west side, going around the south side of them at a fine spring in the oak trees. The hunting was good and the men had good luck bringing in deer. Next day we had dinner at (Crosby Creek) Buffalo Chip Singer Creek. The Butte (Lone Butte) was to the west, it got its name because buffalo came to that creek in great numbers to water and there used to be much buffalo manure there and the name got its name from that.

We came to the place where we camped and when we arrived, the lodge was there because it was used before by Old Bear who put it up himself and that was his lodge and territory and no one else had the right to use it except him. We fixed up the lodge first and the next thing was to fix up the pits. He had been there several times before this and knew all the country. We settled down and all of us went out hunting and some killed elk, deer, antelope, and mt. sheep and after everything was ready the leader said, "We will get ready now to go into our pits.

The leader gave the pits to the trappers while others went out and selected sites for new pits. Spotted Eagle crossed the Little Missouri and selected a site at the end of prairie dog town and that pit was known as Broke Through. Right opposite our camp Seven Bears made his pit and that was a new site. It there is something valuable buried in the ground and a man digs and go through until he comes to those valuable things, hence the name Broken Through. He digs through the ground until he came to the valuable things and the people say, "You Dug Through" and the people then say, "Now you have found a treasure," meaning that he had a good pit and would catch many birds.

When the leader said, "We will now proceed to go into the lodge" and each one of us took our weapons and stood in front of the lodge. The leader said, "Crows Breast, you will be the first one to go in and you will be the Crack Shot" and Crows Breast refused by saying, "I have never attended eagle trapping before and I do not know the rules and I fear I might make mistakes" and then the leader said, "No, the foot bone has selected you to take the meat at the head" and some of the men said to Crows Breast "You have to take that place when it is offered you; you cannot refuse." Then Crows Breast picked up his gun and bedding and went in and took his place.

The next man who was to sit next to crack shot was Spotted Bear. Then all the others who sat on that side went in in the order I gave you in the drawing. On the other side he named the waiter first, followed by Little Owl, Seven Bears until he came to himself who was the last one to go in. The leader had fixed the altar before hand. The buffalo skull was one he found nearby and it was a buffalo bull's head and it was used year after year there and when they were through with it, it was taken out and put in a good place to the back of the lodge and left there until next time.

The leader took four sticks out of the ground and offered prayers to them and then he would name each of the four sticks by names calling each one of them by the name of the eagle that it represented and he did that with all of them until he was through with them and then he goes out and prays for the waiter who was called ix-ta-ki, meaning one of the bears but it was in an old language, he said. He prays and says, "Bear, you leave us alone you go and mind your own business and no not bother us" and the leader offered sacrifices (before the whites came when the trapping he made sacrifices of tanned deer and elk hides but since the whites came it was calicos) by placing them along the sticks or tied on the sticks on the lodge and then the waiter presented sacrifices to the leader who took them to the back of the lodge; others of us wanted to make sacrifices for the waiter and these too were taken outside of the lodge too. After going in, the leader sings and takes the long snare and makes a motion as of throwing the loop towards the entrance over the buffalo's head, he does that three times and the fourth time, Crows Breast the Crack Shop jumped over and grabbed the cord and said, "You have roped everything from the south to the north the west to the east, you have caught everything," meaning the eagles

Then he takes out his medicines out and makes a small fire just in front of him the waiter burning the incense and the waiter puts the things in the smoke, and then he puts the lariat back on the wall back of him, blesses all the people, the altar, and includes everything in the lodge and then the leader takes out his rattles and sings and prays to the gods and the bear and this is what he said, "I have bought this rite for eagle trapping and there are rules that I must follow and those are your rulings, a-ci-ra, I wish you would help us so that I and my people here would be successful in catching the eagles; you taught us how to catch eagles and I am doing just exactly what you taught my forefathers. Leave us alone and do not try to hurt any of us and keep away from us but help us." One of us young men fa t(? p. 4) for a whole month, every evening I cried for thirty days but there were others who fasted and cried too but one had to go out and cry every evening and I volunteered to do that myself, this season. Sitting Crow was out this year also crying every evening.

When I feasted, I prayed to the buffalo skull, the four different kinds of eagles, the bear, to the Black Root who was Lodge Boy and Spring Boy and I would cry and call of them by name and I would say, "Help me for I am poor and I want to get some birds" and I kept that up every evening for 30 nights. Then I stood a little ways from the lodge and cried, and the prayer that we make was, included everything, to be fortunate in eagle trapping but also to be fortunate at home, a good home, horses, do great things for the people, success in war against the enemy and to become a great warrior. Those were the things that we asked for.

One evening I asked to be tortured and Crows Breast for it was the duty of the Crack Shot but he did not have nerve enough to cut my hide so Spotted Bear Bear assisted by Sitting Crow, I was tortured and when the sticks were run through my skin, I asked the two for two dead bodies of eagles which they brought and fastened to the sticks of my back, this being in the fall, the evenings and nights were very cold. The leader sang a song and I cried and I went through the timber and walked until I came to the end of the trees and then I came back along the river

bottoms among the sagebrush. I came back to the lodge and Spotted Bear and Sitting Crow came out and took the dead birds off, took the skins out of my hide and placed them to the north of the buffalo skull and between the eagle sticks and snares of nos 2, 3, 4, 5,. The sticks they used were of the juneberry trees.

Several days after I was tortured, Sitting Crow asked to be tortured and he was hung up between the two posts in the lodge. He was tortured on the back and Spotted Bear and Young Coyote did the cutting. When one is tortured, the leader sings the medicine songs that go with the eagle trapping. The leader had so many songs and Sitting Crow asked him to sing them all and Spotted Bear with the help of another took hold of Sitting Crow and lifted him up and took the hide off and the sticks out and these sticks were placed beside those I had used then on the altar.

Several days after Sitting Crow was tortured, White Calf was tortured; he was tortured the same way as Sitting Crow, the same two men doing the cutting. These were the three that tortured.

Spotted Bear caught four eagles, Crows Breast got two, Sitting Crow three, I caught two eagles and the third one a striped tailed, young Wolf caught two, Black Eagle two, Big Thief none, Old Bear caught two, Spotted Horn two, Comes Back Standing two, Spotted Eagle, three, Seven Bears none because his pit was near our camp, Little Owl three, White Calf none.