mi-ra-ki-cE-gi Ceremony    Painted Red Stick
Buffalo Ceremony

Has to do with the Sun and Moon, Four Dancers still keeps the sticks. Gives Sun left side for left arm weakest and by getting there Buf Woman said he would be gotten the best of. Guts and Poor Wolf equal office so both on same place. In the beginning Sun came down himself and walked with Buffalo Woman.

In going in the first night, all men take their places and one of them goes out and calls four times to the four directions calling the buffaloes of the four directions, words of it “Come here meaning for the buffaloes of all directions to come there

Lodge is made of small cottonwood trees, lodge faces to west. Is a lodge where they prepare and when they come out, there are two stops outside of the circle and the third time they stop to one side of circle and form a circle with Poor Wolf in the center of the row singing. The man giving the ceremony takes the pipe over to Poor Wolf, men all with their robes hair side out, give a howl of kind that they make when on the warpath for in the tradition of the origin of the ceremony the enemy were coming to kill 100 men and they want to reverse the situation and kill 100 of the enemy instead.

The fourth time they reach the front of the lodge which faces the west and south of the Mandan mi-ninitalahErE singing the buffalo song, no words to the song. When they finish the song, they go in, the Black Mouths come in with the Poor Wolf and the Fox Society come in by themselves.

In the ceremony there was a woman to represent the Buffalo Woman but after that they did not put any particular person in but Wolf Chief’s wife served the place that Buffalo Woman did the time she walked with the Sun on the fourth night and thus got a promise from him and saved the people even though he had a ‘son’ among the enemy.

They go in and take their seats. Then food is passed around but there is no waiter and there will be a number of men usually here with their wives and he is the man who passes around the food. Each of the Fox Society had his wife there and they had their wives along and were the ones to give the food to the old men. When they finish eating, they give a filled pipe to the Black Mouths and when he finishes smoking wife will go to a man who has a ‘son’ and offer his wife. Some will pray for the wife but others have intercourse and let her hold his medicine bundle.

The sticks are not used inside but when approaching the lodge they are shook by the Black Mouths while Poor Wolf sings. Before Poor Wolf is a buffalo robe dried and rolled and when singing should be used in the four stations but when getting to the lodge it is put down and not used.

Guts and Poor Wolf are called pa-tu-ki, meaning shut meaning taking from fact that after all go out, fat after midnight when all are supposed to be asleep he goes to back of the buffalo lodge and prays that the people increase rapidly, if enemies come to overtake them and none of the people killed but if any are to be killed, “I turn it over to my enemy, they are the ones who should be killed” then he prays to the east outsides of lodge, then to south, and last time to west side and then he goes home. When they first got the Sun in, they put him on the weakest side, the left hand side and had some dry meat hanging just above him on the side and when Buffalo Woman told the people that he was eating, the people took sticks and struck him just like the enemy and they said that the enemy was coming and they would kill 100 gv, the leader of the enemy all painted red and a piece of rawhide tied around his head and some black sage put in his hair (sounds like OxinhEdE) and the GV began killing enemy until they got the leader, killed him and was going to cut the head off but his neck was a cherry tree. When they got the enemy they went on killing and when they stopped fighting, they began to count the number killed on the way back they found that they had 100 so in starting the ceremony, one man promised that if
he got the 100 enemies, he would take the head of the leader over to the Big Snake and he took the head there where the Knife empties into the MO and threw it in and the Big Snake came up and took it and swallowed it; the Sun came to the snake and wanted to give it back and the snake refused for it had been promised to him and he could not give it back and the Sun took a puffball and white sage and made a head and hair for the body and the body got up but fell four times and then the Sun went off crying, and in the battle no GV were killed.

If man single, one of Foxes, couldn’t get in but he could ask some man of his own clan for her wife to take in here and if he consented, it was proper and customary to take her there. If when Wolf Chief gave the ceremony, he gave his wife the first two nights, then his wife ran away and hid herself so he did not know what to do for he had started the ceremony and did not want the ceremony to stop so went to Knife also a chicken who told him it was alright to go ahead for all the women married to a chicken were alright and gave his wife for the next two nights. Man may take brother’s place when other is going out hunting can take her along, case of Holding Eagle who gave his wife to go out hunting and also gave her wife to him to take in the ceremony.

During the first night the Black Mouths while Poor Wolf was singing using the robe as a drum, Guts kept the fire going. During the night woman would approach some man and ask him to walk with her and bring her and her husband good luck. One after another goes out and does not wait for the next to come back so that several will be out at the same time. Fox man and wife are prayed for by the Black Mouths.

Exception is that when Wolf Chief takes the pipe to Poor Wolf, he not only prays for Wolf Chief and his wife but for the people in the ceremony and the WHOLE tribe for his prayer was supposed to show that through the ceremony he was responsible for the welfare of all the people. Poor Wolf is supposed to keep his place and if any young man comes in and asks Poor Wolf to move over, and he does, it would mean “I PROMISE TO MAKE THIS CEREMONY IN A YEAR” and then next day he would go up on the lodge and call that IN ONE YEAR I WILL GIVE THE BUFFALO CEREMONY. if he is off somewhere else and can’t get there when the ceremony is going on, he would find some time when Poor Wolf and the old men were smoking and say to Poor Wolf, “Move over, I want to sit in your place” and then all would know that he was going to make a promise. The young man would then say, “In one year I am going to make the Buffalo Red Stick Ceremony and get goods together for the buffaloes.” and then late in the afternoon, he would get up on the lodge and make a promise of the ceremony and all the young men of his clan would hear it and know that they should help him along in getting the goods together.

The second and third nights are the same as the first. Fourth is the same except that when it is all over they set fire to the building and make a big flame, the Fox Society doing the burning.

Just back of where the Sun sat was some dry meat, and before the lodge is burned, the men of the Fox Society take the meat and divide it among their wives.

Holy Women Society do not come in on this but after the First Ceremony was given, the Holy Women helped in getting the 100 men and then they picked one man to sing for them and would sing outside of the village and there have a ceremony that they would get the best of their enemy. When they come back from warpath these old women could tell who had struck the enemy and then they would go in front of the lodges of the men who had struck the enemy and then the man would give them goods, later these women always met in the separate lodge and
giver went there where they danced after the last night and received Black Medicine, Cherry Necklace singing and the women telling which of four directions they came from.

Wolf Chief was promised in the ceremony by Poor Wolf that he would get a roan horse on the ceremony and if he wants any of Poor Wolf’s medicine he would have to pay extra for it. He also gets some colored horse tails to wear but Poor Wolf does not promise him anything. But all the people here heard what he said about the horse and knew that Poor Wolf had fulfilled his promise.

ABOUT ALL A FELLOW GETS IN THIS CEREMONY ARE FUTURE PROMISES OF SUCCESS, LONGLIFE, OR POSSIBLY SOMETHING THAT HE HAD HIMSELF BEEN PROMISED AND NOT BEING ABLE TO TAKE POSSESSION, PROMISES TO GIVER OF THE CEREMONY.

Wolf Chief would have been eligible to buy Poor Wolf out and get the place of the Sun and then Poor Wolf would tell him the whole story; in the Buffalo Ceremony, Wolf Chief could have paid extra and bought Poor Wolf out and then later call him over and teach him all the songs, and how to pray for the whole people plenty of buffalo, and success on the warpath, everything then has to be for the benefit of the whole tribe. Anyone one could get Poor Wolf’s rights if he followed the rules.

All the Black Mouths located in the Buf dance had many different medicine and in addition to that they had fasted on the hills and there got some other gods in addition to those bought; for that reason, they said that all the gods came together in this ceremony.

In theory a man could sell to anyone but in actual practice one really sold to his son as shown by the genealogies. Poor Wolf got it of his mother’s father, Face. This is so much harder to put up, Poor Wolf would not get a chance to sell more than two or three times but in fact, Poor Wolf never sold rights at all; Guts sold his rights to Bob-Tail Bull only but could have sold as many times as people had asked but people did not ask. Poor Wolf had the red sticks too but when he joined the chirch he took them over to the badlands and put them away. Guts and Poor Wolf were equal in rights.