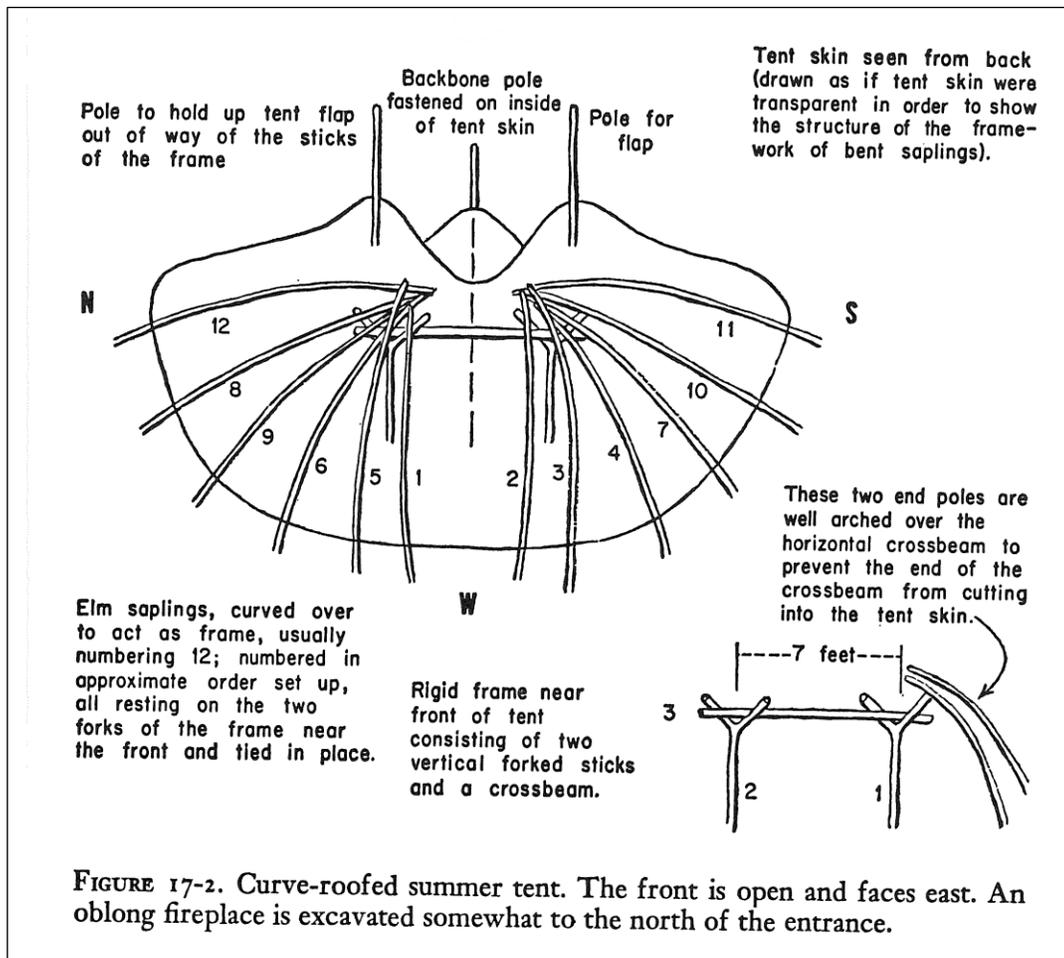


The Pawnee left their village of earthlodges each summer to hunt buffalo. While moving across the Plains on their hunt, the Pawnee live in hide tents.

“. . . White Woman and No Corn were busy putting up the tent (See Figure 17-2.) This was harder to erect than the pointed tipi, but the open-front made it cooler in the summer weather.



“The first step was to set up the frame in front. Two forked sticks were set vertically in the ground about 7 feet apart. Before each stick was inserted, White Woman punched a hole in the ground with the long pointed stick that she used as a digging iron. When the sticks were in place she joined them with a horizontal cross stick that rested in the forks. Now twelve sticks were stuck in the ground to form the outer frame. They were set in the form of a long half-oval. Before each stick was inserted, White Woman grasped her digging iron and punched a hole in the ground in front of her. Then the stick for the framework was inserted. These sticks were long flexible elm saplings about 2 1/2 inches in diameter. She set all twelve of them in place. The tent must be so oriented that they entrance faced east

and the rear was at the west. The first two sticks were set up at the west, the next two alternately on each side until the carved outline was complete with six uprights on each side. White Woman threw the far ends of each two sticks she inserted onto the entrance frame, fastening them with rawhide rope onto the fork, those on the southside onto the south fork and those on the northside to the north fork. She was careful to draw them over the fork so that they protruded well beyond it in order that the horizontal stick of the entrance frame would not cut the tent skin. The curved framework was now ready for the tent skin.

“White Woman went inside and stretched the skin over the frame, while No Corn fastened it on the outside with wooden pegs.”

Source Information

Title of Book: *The Lost Universe: Pawnee Life and Culture*

Anthropologist: Gene Weltfish

Pages this excerpt was taken from: 167-168