

certain day and it would be the same, of course, their was gifts given such as war bonnets, moccasins, hunting bags, beaded, tobacco bags and pipes, blankets, horses, and food of all kinds. After these visits the tribes returned to their own part of the country.

They tried to get along but the young bucks were always stealing horses so the tribe retaliated but there was never a general all out war. So that is the way of the people. They lost loved ones on these foolish raids, lots of sorrow was experienced by wives and mothers of the foolish young men. You cannot hurt people for they will in turn hurt you.

There is another part of the war dance that should be told. It is the wife-giving ceremony. When a man suspected or caught his wife in an act of unfaithfulness he went to the people and said he is doing it for her own good, her family, and his side of the family but from that moment on she was on her own. An incident took part in one of these occasions that put a stop to these give aways of a woman. There was a special song for this dance and the women folk got scared if they were in any form of guilt.

PONCA INDIAN SHINNY GAME, WOMEN'S BALL GAME, AND HAND GAME

This game is played the first part of the year. The old people say we have come through the fall and winter, the days that cramped our bodies by the temperatures which kept us cold and kept us in tense feelings. Now we are given another year. The Great Spirit is renewing everything and putting new clothing on all of its creation so lets all stretch ourselves and stretch our legs and exercise our hearing, our sight and move the way the Great Spirit wants us to be so the Ponca Indian Shinny Game was played the day our Lord rose from the grave which is Easter.

The man who is responsible for the game prepares for himself and his followers in a prayer and offering to the Almighty. He asked for guidance and for the fortitude of all the young men and old who takes part of this great game of Shinny. He asks the Almighty for all grievances to be set aside and to forget for a day all offenses that had been committed against each other and for good fellowship and conduct themselves in a sportsmanlike way