

to their fellow beings.

The game is played by two sides and the Bois-D'Arc Creek is the dividing line in the reservation. Those on the eastern side of the creek are the easterners and those on the western side of the creek are called the westerners. Now days they throw all the shinny clubs in a pile and the leader throws the shinny clubs right and left and then they choose their own goal which is about a quarter mile apart. But now days they are much closer.

The idea is to knock the ball between the goal posts. Sometimes six or seven games are played for fun that is. But in the old days people bet whatever they wanted to, such as horses, war bonnets, blankets and money. Money bets are usually picked up by members of one side and the other side had to match it or its value in some other form.

During intermission they had matched foot races and after the game there was horse races which was enjoyed by all. The game is played like hockey. If you get hit on the shins or any part of your body it was considered a great honor as you would live another year without sickness and enjoy good health. The game is pretty rough once you are caught in the thick of it. It's the closest thing to a hand to hand battle so those who are timid and faint hearted stay away from the main body of players and hit the ball when it is accidentally knocked to him by a stray lick.

They played four times before the grass gets thick or just below the ankle. The leader calls the day when it is to be played. He, his mother or grandmother sew the balls making a couple balls extra for sometimes a man has a bad stick and makes a tear in the hide and has to be replaced.

While the shinny game is going on the women folks make wind breaks on the fence line or now days they set up a tent, spread canvas and quilt and get their decks of cards out and start a card game, gambling that is, sometimes with a wooden bowl, shells and dice.

The women do not take part in the shinny game but if a ball is hit in their crowd lots of confusion takes place as the women folks try to pick the ball in their hands and toss it in the