

. PINSON, J. C. (JUDGE) SECOND INTERVIEW. 13900
INDIAN BUSK. 465

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Hattie Turner,
Investigator,
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Interview with Judge J. C. Pinson,
Coweta, Oklahoma.

Indian Busk.

At the old stomp dance ground of the Indians around Coweta, just off of Highway 72, south of town, between Coweta and the Arkansas River, the Indians also had a "Busk", which ceremony preceded the Stomp Dance.

On arriving at the selected spot for the "Busk", the Indians would have a dance which they called the Feather Dance, this being slightly different from the Stomp Dance. They lay the ground off in the form of a figure eight and in the center of one of the loops, a tall pole was erected, the top of the pole having an enormous steer's head on it. In the center of the other loop, which is usually smaller than the one with the pole in it, the altar fires are kept burning during all the time of the "Busk", which is about three or four days.

Early in the morning before daylight, the "King" or head Indian chief of the district helps the medicine man

fix the medicine for the group and everyone must drink of this. A big kettle is filled with water and placed over the fire. Willow of a certain kind called micco-ho-na-tah is boiled until the decoction is strong enough to give a very nauseating feeling. As the sun begins to rise the Indians are inside one of the loops. The drink is poured in drinking cups of various kinds and when the sickening dose has been drunk, they all rush toward the center and the one that can vomit the farthest is regarded as the most perfect physically. This is repeated three times during the day and no one is allowed to leave the ring, unless he had been given special permission. After the men have drunk the medicine, the squaws go up to the medicine man for enough water to wash the little papoose. This water is supposed to ward off sickness during the coming year.

The time taken for purification is until five o'clock, and then the men divide up into two squads and have a football game and the women prepare the feast while the men are playing ball.