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INDEX CARDS

Dances
Food

An interview with Mrs. Nancy A, Buck
Kiowa, Oklahoma.

Charline M. Culbertson,
Field worker
Indian-Pioneer History S-149
May 20, 1937

"CUSTOMS OF A UNCIVILIZED TRIBE
OF INDIANS"

I came to Indian Territory with my parents, Solomon and Sarah Holder, in 1893 from Franklin County, Arkansas, where I was born. We located on the banks of the Canadian River where my father made a good crop. My father came here for that purpose as there was very little else a person could do. Of course we did lots of hunting at that time. That season my father gathered one thousand bushels of corn from twenty-three acres. This was done by oxen and wagon. Our wagons were homemade and it was a common occurrence to see eight oxen pulling one wagon. Prices of corn at that time were from fifteen to twenty-five cents a bushel.

A year later we moved near what is now Clinton, which was close to an Indian colony. These Indians were Utes, and were what you would call uncivilized. They all lived in tepees or would bunk around on the ground. They wore very little clothes; however, they did lots of pretty hand work such as a basket that I still own. This basket,

however, was handed down to me from my grandfather, who states an Indian boy came to his house for eggs and the little basket he brought would not hold the eggs so as it was necessary to give him something else to carry them home in he left the basket and did not return for it. It was made of buck brush. It is about one hundred years old.

I was able to watch one of their willow dances one time. It was very odd and I would be unable to explain what the purpose was. There would be horses formed in a circle with willow sprouts on them, then in the center there were poles formed into what we would call a arbor with different pretty colored straps hanging from all sides and blowing about in the wind. On the top there was a bucket. Then the Indians would make a shout and the horses would make a jump. This was done over and over.

They had a school at this colony and had a white teacher, but I am unable to recall her name. She taught the Indian girls to cook, sew, embroider, and various other house hold arts. They would have a term of nine months.

They made a camp shed as they called it. The women brought up the poles and did the making or building of it, as the women did most of the work.

They would make big pots of terrapin soup. They would give ten cents to anyone who would bring them a terrapin. My brother was there to witness the making of terrapin soup on one occasion. A large group would form in a circle and each would take his turn to stir the soup and would take a taste of it from the very large wooden spoon. The captain offered him a taste of it and he thought he would as it did smell very good; but when one of them made a big stir and saw a dog's leg in it he very quickly changed his mind. This was the uncivilized tribe that had done this.

They made fences of these large sun flowers that would hold horses. They were woven in such a way that they were very strong.

Another custom was the taking of a cow's head and with the nose of it brushing the ground around in a circle. The purpose of this I could not explain.