

HAINY, BEATRICE.

INTERVIEW

10487

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LEGEND & STORY FORM
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

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HAINY, BEATRICE (MRS) INTERVIEW. 10457.

Field worker's name Augusta H. Custer,

This report made on (date) April 19, 1938. 1938

1. This legend was secured from (name) Mrs. Beatrice Hainy

Address 902 North Blaine, Geary, Oklahoma.

This person is (male or female) White, Negro, Indian,

If Indian, give tribe _____

2. Origin and history of legend or story Stomp dances, and other dances. Food and how prepared.

3. Write out the legend or story as completely as possible. Use blank sheets and attach firmly to this form. Number of sheets attached _____

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Augusta H. Guster,
Investigator,
April 19, 1938.

An Interview With Beatrice Hainney,
Geary, Oklahoma.

Mrs. Beatrice Hainney is the wife of John W. Hainney. She came to Oklahoma with her parents when she was eleven years old and there were only two white families near them for many years. She had a chance to see much of the Indians and their ways. This is the story she told:

I am the wife of John W. Hainney; I came to Oklahoma with my parents when I was eleven years old and there were only two white families near us for many years.

My parents came from Alabama to Holdenville in 1909. We came on the train and landed at 7 P. M. one night in January. There was snow and ice on the ground, and we had to get a man with a team and wagon to take us eleven miles to the place where my uncle lived, north of Holdenville. I remember that we were all very cold and part of the time the horses were slipping around and the wagon also was slipping and going sideways. There was only one other white family near us. There was nothing to amuse us and

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no society of any kind. There were plenty of Indian dances of different kinds but the one I remember best was the most common, called the Stomp Dance. The Indians wore dresses or costumes of black or some dark color. All had short skirts or shawls wrapped around them. Their legs would be wrapped in buckskin or cloth, and above their knees they had strands of shells or metallic pieces, of tin, copper or silver and these strands would hang down over the knees and jingle when they moved about. From strings on their shoulders they would have tin cups and from these cups they would drink the beverage from a large pot. They would collect a large amount of herbs, (weeds I called them), and these herbs they would put in a large pot over a slow fire and let them simmer. This liquid would make them drunk. While dancing they would stop and get a small amount of this every little while and in a few hours they would be staggering around and then it would make them sick and they would vomit.

The men would form a line and the women another and they would dance for hours around in a circle. Sometimes the women would be on the inside and sometimes the men.

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They all drank of this beverage from the pot and all were sick. They had some corn bread made from meal, water and salt and sometimes a little sugar would be added. Sometimes this dance would last for two days. Some would beat the tom-toms and always there would be two near the pot waving an instrument something like a tambourine. These Stomp Dances were held for weddings and when Sun Dances or dances for rain were held, the Indians did not drink and get drunk as they did at the Stomp Dance.

I remember one funeral; an old Indian had lived on the place where we lived and he was crippled and could not get around. We children would go every hour in the hot afternoon and draw a cool drink of water from the well for him and when he died they took him to the grave and as he had a paint horse, (pinto) after the body was placed in the large grave this spotted horse was led up to the open grave with his head right near the feet of the old man. Then some Indian shot the horse and it fell at the edge of the grave. A rope was placed on the horse's neck and they pushed and pulled that horse right in on top

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of the body. The whole bunch of Indians then filed around the grave and threw in some small articles which looked like beans. They had small pieces of white cloth similar to our handkerchiefs. These they dipped in the blood of the horse. These small pieces of cloth with just a drop of blood on them, they folded carefully and placed in their pockets or in their clothing somewhere. All the old man's clothing was placed in the grave also. He had some money put away and there was supposed to be a small piece of paper inside his shirt telling where it was hidden. But after he was dead this paper could not be found. A German girl and I found it under the boards in the floor. There was \$1,700.00 hidden there. I saw many other Indians buried and the clothing, trinkets, blankets and dishes would be placed in the grave, if they were not too large. Most always the favorite animal would be killed and placed in, or on the grave. Sometimes this would be a dog or horse.

My uncle had a magnet that located coins or metal.

We took this one time and went to the grave of a small
where
child/we knew that there was some metal in the grave and

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we dug in and found a can of old coins. I had never seen anything like them. We took them home but Father made us take them back and bury them where we had found them.

Sometimes the Indian women would take small pieces of bright colored cloth and sew them on their dresses and the skirts would look like a crazy quilts. The Indians like bright colors so much. They are also very superstitious and when they would hear a screech owl they would put their fingers in their ears to shut out the sound. They thought this meant a death.

Some Indians came to our house one night and asked Father to let an Indian who had gotten into some trouble, have a horse to ride for a short distance. He said that he would give Father \$2.00 for the use of the horse so Father let him take the horse and he never saw the horse again; Father got the law after the relatives who came with the Indian to ask for the horse, and made them pay for another. I saw lots of Indians fight and they would cut each other with knives and would be all bloody. This did not worry me as it was so common an occurrence, when they would all be drinking.