

Indian Bows

September 20, 1957

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Mr. John Jones
P. O. Box 1171
Hollywood 28, California

Dear Mr. Jones:

In reply to your letter of June 19 about Indian bows, I suspect that there were a good many different techniques of archery among the more than 2,000 tribes of North America.

I know best the Plains tribes, especially the Sioux and the Cheyenne. They held the bow in the left hand and drew the arrow back with the right. They held the knock and string between the ball of the thumb and second joint of the index finger, and sometimes the second and third fingers were on the string, or almost on it, so that they could, if necessary, be used to pull.

I am well acquainted with the best archer in the Cheyenne tribe, Paul M. Rhodes, who, by the way, makes excellent bows. His address is Route 1, Clinton, Oklahoma. You could get a bow and four arrows from him for \$15.00, probably. The Plains Indians pulled the string instead of thrusting with the bow. They were not long distance archers, using short bows on horseback.

Cordially yours,

W.S. CAMPBELL
(Stanley Vestal)

WSC:vhp