

(What role did the stick ball game play in life, then and today?)

A very important part really. It's just part of the yearly, it's a seasonal, it's a season of it's own that, and more or less right along, it's in the summertime. I mean that it's a pretty important part of the Creek-Seminole. Also the Choctaws and Chickasaws have it and the Cherokees have it. But it's all played differently. But everyone played it differently but the ball sticks is mistaken to a lot of people that's it's just a sport of the Indians. Well, in a way it is, but it's also a skill, skillful game by the Indians. All depends on the swiftness of one side to the other from different tribal towns. Say he's a Creek but yet he's from this other part of the town, or Seminole but from the other part of town but not the kind of town, that most of us say, city, with buildings and so forth. A town, a tribal town is a, is kind of a band and each one has names, clan names. And they all join with, like brothers and sisters and first cousins and so forth. They just more or less like all your relatives off over here and your relatives off over there, is against each other with a pair of sticks. Just depends on who's the skillfullest. Just break it down to plain fine English, this is the skillfullest, which of these sides. But yet they all come to one place and have a big competition. It's a competitive thing. One skill against the other. And it is very interesting. One time it was outlawed, because it was too rough. But that was in the past. They don't play it as hard as they used to anymore. But it's a very skillful game. You got guts enough to get a pair of those and get out there. You wouldn't know until you do. But and also, it is you more or less watch yourself, but oh, lots of things, you don't suppose to do and you're supposed to do. The ring has a strong meaning to just an individual. Like we belong to the ring, we're in the ring the day before and just anybody can't come in there after he gets through eating or anything or drinking water. It is a sacred