

286

PLAYING HAND GAME: OLD TIME AND MODERN GAMES

(I want to talk to you about hand games.)

You know way back then they had these and games they used to be men that had them sticks and them beans they have. Then when they call on them, they was the ones that were running hand game. And at that time in our handgames, they didn't just used to start off right now. They had a prayer before they'd start playing hand games. And they used to pray and then they used to tell them how they going play. And then towards--they used to win four games. One side win four games. And then they'd put all them sticks together for the last game. And then the ones that got it all, next hand game, the other side had to cook. Supper. That's the way they used to play, but over here they just play any way. But that's the way it was. When they get through with hand game they bring the food and pray and then certain ones used to dish out what they had to eat. They used to--they used it in a way of prayer. That's the way they used to play handgames. But now these young ones--just anybody plays that got sticks. They make sticks themselves. But these old people they used to say they--it had to be given to them before they could have handgames.

(How would it be given to them?)

Well, they used to pray a lot. Maybe they'd--filled with spirit of something. They used to say it tells them--talks to them and tell them how to start this handgame. They had certain songs. First song. They had their own songs.

(Each person that that hand game--?)

Yeah, had their hand game sticks--they used to have their songs. Their song used to be sung first. They had certain songs. There's one man that had sticks. His name was Mixed Hair. That tipi he had--he had hand in tent--he had eagle on it. I guess they draw eagle right in the center there.