

HISTORY OF TURKEY DANCE?

(Today I'd like to talk about the turkey dance and one of the things I'd like to ask you is whether or not there is a story about how the Caddo got the turkey dance, and where it came from. Could you tell me about that? Well the...said once upon a time there was a special man that composed these songs and when ever the runner came in why then he related the story of the battle or whatever the outcome had been and then this old man would compose the songs within the hour before the warriors came in. There are different versions of the story of how this dance came to be but it's always been considered as a victory or either a scalp dance and this dance is never danced after late hourse. It's always been the late afternoon because the Caddos never went on the warpath at night. They always went by day. So that's one of the main things. We have been requested by variou groups to give a dance at night but that's been strictly forbidden according to the custom of the dance.

(Do you know if the Caddo danced this dance while they were in Louisiana too?)

Oh, yes, they said of them way back when they received rations, according to the story, that when the gave them these trace chains for their wagons and so on when they were first introduced here when they had the oxen, before the horse days, and so they put on these things so they'd jingle like they do today. Said that some of the fashionable women, they had that chain around them so they could jingle. This was way back, I don't know before 19 I guess 1925 or so. But they did use various rattles that they use.

MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS:

(Oh, you said that at one time, they had rattles?)

Something like that. They were made of shells. Anything that made noise