

PAINKELLER, WATASHE

INTERVIEW

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Interview with Watashe Painkiller,
Medicine Man and Chief of the Uchee-
Creek Indians. Given to Rufus George
Indian Research, February 4, 1937.

Watashe Painkiller relates on Tribal Rituals-Customs.

I am working on Old Indian Ceremonial. Mr. ^{Painkiller} Watashe
is 85 years old at the present time. He is know as the
oldest Indian man living nowadays. He is one of the chief
that is living. He has a lot to tell me but it would take
about 3 or 4 days to tell all he know, at this time he is
tell about the Indian religious worship. What is known to
our White Brother, The Indian stomp dance. He said this
dance was the Euchee Indians only way to worship their heav-
enly father God above. He said this way of worship was handed
down to him from his forefather way back in time. He said
the dance has been going on over 100 years (this dance--rituals
all given them in 1729 by Ka-sih-ta, when Captured by Confed-
erates--Meagher) and it has been handed to his great Grand-
father. He said before the white man found the Indians it
was going on then that what they have told him he said. He
says the Indian all get together and have the Indian religious
dance. They have it in July or August. They have about 4
days of it. The Indians from all around camp at the ground
and they all help one and another and build the brush arbors
for the big dance. The Indians look up to this old man for

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the Gourd and Drum and Feathers for the dance and he is the Chief of the people, and he is also a medicine man too for the tribe of Euchee. He also has an old time gourd and a drum and also Ball sticks that has been used for good many years. The Indians men have a day dance it is call Green Corn dance. They dance all day long and drink medicine and also dance the ladies. Also have a dance known as ribbon dance. (The usual Women's Ribbon Dance--practiced by all Conf. Creek Tribes-Towns--Meagher.) Everybody that camp they take part in it. This old man tell the people how to carry it on. He tell them what his fore-fathers has told him about it and he has all the things they use for the dance for he is the Chief of it. They have numbers of dance during those four days of worship. This old man trys to carry it on and the younger people try to help him and worship as our forefather has done in back times. He is the only man that know how to carry it on. In those four days the Indian do their cleaning of cemetery. This old man has a family cemetery that he cleans, there are 12 graves on his place that he and his family cleans at that time. That is the way the older people carried it on up to this date for he believed it that way and that is the way his forefathers carried it on in those days back there and up to this time that is what he tells me at this time. Those graves on his place are old graves. He said he do not know the dates of them.

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Field Worker: Rufus George
May 12, 1937

Interview with Watashe Painkiller
Euchee Man
7 miles northwest of
Kelleyville, Oklahoma.

OLD INDIAN DYES.

^{Painkiller}
Mr. ~~Watashe~~ says the Indian in early times used different kind of tree barks to make Indian dyes to dye different articles.

They would take the bark of the trees and would boil them to make the dye, and after the dye was made they would take out the bark and use the colored water to dye the goods, or any other kind of articles. They would put the goods in the colored water and boil it real hard until the cloth had taken the color.

They would use walnut tree bark to dye goods a dark color; they would use cedar tree bark to dye anything light red, and they used mulberry tree bark to dye any kind of articles yellow.

The Indians in early times did not have the dyes like we have today, and so this was how they made their dyes in early days.
