

PERRY, SAMUEL

INTERVIEW

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W. T. Holland.
Field Worker.

Indian Moccasin Game,
As told by Samuel Perry,
Full Blood Shawnee, Tulsa.

The moccasin game, was one engaged in mostly by the men and boys, and was a game on which a betting was the chief source of interest. It was similar to the present "Shell Game" now so often seen at fairs and carnivals.

It was played with three moccasins and one bullet. Three moccasins would be placed on the ground, in a row, all inverted, and the player would put his hand under each moccasin, his hand holding the bullet, and would leave the bullet under one of the moccasins, and the point was to guess under which one it was left. The Indians would bet on this game, betting most anything they had, especially beads, leggins and such things as that. A close observer could tell, sometimes, which moccasin covered the bullet, by watching, closely, the movement of the skin, or leaders, on the wrist of the player, because when the bullet was released, the hand was opened slightly, causing a slight movement on the back of the hand. I, in this way, won lots of bets, by watching closely the hand of the player.