

HALL, JULIA

INTERVIEW

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Field Worker
8-16-37

How the Delawares made Warriors out
of their Young Boys,

By
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Nowata, Oklahoma

How well I can remember how my people would send all their young boys away out in the woods after they reached a certain size as we went by size in those days not by age.

The older men would teach the young boys how to shoot bows and arrows and how to build fires by using flint rock or by rubbing two sticks together, and how to cook their game on camp fires and we would have our Indian worships or our Stomp dances for the Stomp dances were what we call our worshipping God, and we looked upon these dances as great things and I believe the people in those days took the Stomp dances more seriously than they take the churches in the present times.

At these Stomp dances the men would pick out all the boys who were large enough and get them together and give them all a good talking to and tell them what they were to do and tell them that the older men were going

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to send them away to make warriors out of them and they then would send the boys into the woods and sometimes they would be gone as long as six months at a time.

When at any time any one of these boys had a dream he was to come in and tell the older people his dream and they in turn would tell the meaning of the dream; it was said that these boys saw the white man coming ten years before he came.

The older people in those days believed that after a boy reached a certain size he would not have these dreams and that the Great White Father would not give them visions; then they would call the boys in and they were called warriors and at any time one of these boys could not make his own way out in the woods and stay until he was called in he was called a poor warrior and was not cared for even by his own people.