

McKNIGHT, THOMAS

INTERVIEW

4943

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Form A-(S-149)

4943.84

BIOGRAPHY FORM
WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION
Indian-Pioneer History Project for Oklahoma

Field Worker's name Augusta H. Custer.

Report made on (date) July 22, 1937,

Name Thomas McKnight.

Post Office Address Geary, Oklahoma, Route 1.

Residence address (or location) One mile north, five miles west of Geary.

DATE OF BIRTH: Month _____ Day _____ Year 1880

Place of birth Canada

Name of Father Tom McKnight. Place of birth Canada.

Other information about father Has been dead since 1909

Name of Mother _____ Place of birth _____

Other information about mother
This man was very hesitant in talking of his family. He is a well respected citizen of the community. Resent prying (?) into his personal affairs.

es or complete narrative by the field worker dealing with the life and story
the person interviewed. Refer to Manual for suggested subjects and questions.
tinue on blank sheets if necessary and attach firmly to this form. Number of
ets attached 3.

Augusta Custer,
Interviewer.
July 22, 1937.

Interview With Thomas McKnight.

I have lived close to the Indians all my life and have been to many of their dances and celebrations. They have camped just across the road from my place for many years and when I have time and they are holding a festival of any kind I am always welcome to attend and take part in their games.

This is the way they play the Hand Game. Men and women play this game. They first get some smooth sticks, ~~or make them smooth by whittling.~~ These sticks must be small enough to be concealed in the closed hand. They usually use four. Some one and, most times this a young woman or young married woman, takes one of the sticks in ~~her hand and places the hand behind her.~~ She conceals the stick in one hand and then she asks some other girl or boy to guess which hand is holding the stick. If the girl or boy is successful he or she gets to choose first; but if not, the first woman chooses her players and they line up on either side of the tent. It is not necessary to have even numbers on the sides. The girl who chooses first gives the four sticks to four of her side, then, the second girl tries to find which of their hands holds the sticks, after

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they have put their hands behind them and decided how to hold the sticks.

If she is successful in finding any of the sticks she gets as many little flags or feathers as she finds sticks. These are taken from the group of twenty or twenty-four and placed in the original home ring. The number she wins if any, are stuck in a row in front of her row of players. Then the four sticks are given to four players on the other side, and the first girl has a chance to discover if she can, in which hands the sticks are hidden. She, in turn gets as many feathers or flags from the home place as she discovers sticks. The little flags or feathers are taken from the home place until they are exhausted, then they are taken from the row of the losing side. The object is to get all the feathers on one side.

This game goes on and on and sometimes lasts for hours, growing more exciting all the time. New players may be added at any time. If some one comes in late he or she is lined up on one side or the other and the game goes merrily on. The girl using the most judgment or the one who has the most luck in guessing correctly wins

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the game. This a very popular form of amusement among the Indians and they play the Hand Game at all their gatherings. It is usually followed by a dance.