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OLD TIME INDIAN BALL GAMES

The Cherokee ball games were held during the summer months. A ball game was very interesting to watch, the ladies being on one side and the men on the other. A pole about 12 inches in diameter and about 20 feet in length was used, the pole being previously erected with a medium sized carved wooden fish about 12 inches long fastened on top of the pole so that it would turn when hit by a small yarn ball which was used in the game. The men used raques. The raques were about 15 inches in length and about 1 inch in diameter made of hickory or elm, looped on one end. A basket was formed out of the inner barks just a little larger than the ball. Each man used one in each hand, his job was to hit the fish on top of the pole. The ladies were allowed to use their hands, which made a hard fought game. Each time the fish was hit counted one score and seven scores for either side was counted a full game. A game a day was played for four days. If the men were the losers, they were required to hunt wild game and fish for a big feast which was given on the fifth day. On the other hand, the ladies being the losers, they were to make hominy and ^Ksin corn.

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OLD SALT WELLS

Louis Ross, a half-breed Cherokee Indian, worked a big bunch of slaves, beginning the year 1863 to the year 1867 or 68, at the old salt well just a mile from Salina, Oklahoma. You go south from Salina and you can see the water as it runs across the highway.

A large grave yard about a quarter of a mile south of the salt wells was a burying place for the slaves. Just a few small markers are left.

The salt well is 1800 feet deep. It is said that Cherokees came from as far as North Carolina to get salt.

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OLD TIME INDIAN RAIN MAKERS

Up to 1914, the rain makers were still active. A large crowd gathered from far and near for the ceremonies, which were held on a creek bank. The Cherokee tribe being divided into seven clans, one of the healthiest men was picked from each clan. One or more wagons were sent out to nearby Indian farm homes, to collect food stuffs for the people. A bunch of men were detailed to fish and hunt wild game.

Each of the seven men was given a club about two feet in length, which was laid along the side of the creek. The workers then lined up along the creek bank and then jumped in. Swimming out, taking their clubs, swinging them and following one behind the other in single file, each hit one time seven small trees, which were standing nearby.

This was done once a day for from four to seven days.