

WECOTCHE, JOHN

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Carl R. Sherwood, Interviewer.
Indian-Pioneer History
May 20, 1937

Interview with John Wecotche,
Pierce, Oklahoma

Mr. Wecotche a well educated Creek Indian living about twelve miles west of Eufaula gave me a sketch describing the domestic life of his tribe.

The Indians of the Five Tribes are very much alike in their habits of living.

In the early days the men, women and children of the neighborhood rode horseback many miles to some store where they did their trading. The ponies were all left in the wagon yard back of some general merchandise store where they did their trading. After they had purchased what they needed they all would get on their ponies and leave town in single file, the men rode in the lead the women in the rear. The latter received all the dust from the ones in front.

They lived mainly on the products of the chase, yet many others had small patches of corn which were cultivated by their women. When the corn was ripe, it was beaten in a log mortar, with a large wooden pestle until the grain was broken and the hull mostly

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torn off from the kernel. It was made into hominy or was allowed to ferment and made into sofka. Some made this into very thin gruel and drank of a morning instead of coffee. The continued beating of corn in these wooden mortars gave a fine quality of meal which could be made into bread.

When they traveled from place to place the ponies were as numerous as cars are today. The ponies were low and sure footed; and from babyhood were taught to make their own living. Most Indian ponies never knew what it was to be broken, as the children played with them from the time of their birth. When a few months old the small children rode them.

Indians are fond of visiting each other, and when they do all the ponies are rounded up, the bedding and other belongings are lashed with rawhide strings to the backs of the extra ponies; the dogs are called, and the procession is ready to start.

Only a few of the fullbloods at this day use the bow and arrow and are not expert shots. The Indians of the Five Civilized Tribes haven't worn moccasins for many years.

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There is no race of people among whom chastity reaches a higher perfection than among the Indians. Their laws regarding the marriage relations were as closely observed as among the white race. However, until abolition of their tribal governments, the Indians could have as many wives as they wished.