

METHEVE, J. J.

INTERVIEW

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282

Lillian Cassaway, Interviewer,
Indian Pioneer History S-149,
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An interview with
J. J. Methvin,

~~709 W. Alabama,~~
Anadarko, Oklahoma.

HIOWA SOLDIERY.

Every child, both male and female, is born a Pho-li-yo-ye or "Rabbit." An old man is put in charge and as soon as a child can totter he is taught to dance in the circle of the "Rabbits." When a big feast and dance is to be held the old man goes throughout the camps calling out: "Rabbits, Rabbits get ready; paint your faces; be prompt; come to the dance; plenty to eat; grand time!"

The children come from all directions, all ages from the youngest to those just entering manhood and womanhood. They dance, jumping around in a circle, mimicing the motion of a rabbit and keeping time with the two forefingers of each hand lifted like a rabbit's feet running. At the same time they make a little noise like the rabbit. The tom-tom is the only accompaniment to the performance.

In this way the young people are trained for war, for every boy must be a warrior and every girl

2

a warrior's wife.

There are five orders of soldiers, the Ti-e-pa-ko, the Tsai-e-ton-mo, the Ton-kon-ko, the Ah-tle-to-yo-ye, and the Ko-e-Tsain-ko. The five orders make up the whole army of "Dog Soldiers". The Ko-e-Tsain-ko is made up exclusively of those who have distinguished themselves in war.

Any member of the other orders may become a Ko-e-Tsain-ko, who has achieved some notable deed. They are distinguished by a red sash made of painted skins, and use only rattles made of deer hoofs, instead of the usual rattle gourd. The different orders are always watching the Rabbits and as the boys grow old enough for the army it is a race to see which order will catch them. In this way the ranks of the "Dog Soldiers" are kept filled by the captures from the Rabbits.

When a Rabbit is captured by an order he is sent to capture another Rabbit for his file man and close companion in the army. Then the choice is made and the pledge is made and sealed by the smoking of the pipe, which makes them boon companions ready to die for each other. They are no longer "Rabbits" ~~but of a higher order of the Kiowa~~ Soldiery.