

CARTER, CHARLES INTERVIEW

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Tribe- Sac and Fox
Sac and Fox Sports

Lenna M. Rushing
Field Worker
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Interview with Charles Carter
R# 2. Avery, Oklahoma.

I was born forty-seven years ago in the Sac and Fox territory in Oklahoma, and grew up here. Many changes have taken place in that short time. Some have been good, others bad. It has been sad to see the older Indians dying out as fast as they have.

Customs and traditions have died faster, though. Even the sports and games are dying. I guess the car, football, baseball, "white" dances, and other interests have crowded out the older ones.

It has been years since I played a game of darts, and it used to be my pet hobby. This is a winter sport to be played on ice on the river or on a pond, preferably a river.

The darts were usually made of pecan wood, but sometimes were made from other hard woods. Long, straight poles about two and one half inches in diameter were selected, so that they could be whittled down to the center of the wood. They were seasoned with fire or with the sun, then whittled down to approximately three-fourths inch in diameter, leaving

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a knob unwhittled on one end. This knob was shaped into a spear point. After this it was seasoned some more, until the wood was very hard and tough. It was then ready for use.

Any number of persons could participate. Sometimes sides were chosen, sometimes each one played for himself.

We always played on the river, because there was no pond or lake long enough for us to play on. The individual stood at a certain point, and threw the dart from there. He whirled it windmill-fashion, like a modern baseball player, and hurled it with all his might down the river. It skipped along the ice as a stone skips along the water. The one who threw the farthest won.