

CHILDERS, JOE

INTERVIEW.

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Fishing--Creek

Dawes Fife,
Research Field Worker,
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Interview with Joe Childers
Four and one-half miles northeast of
Sapulpa, Oklahoma.

Interview with Joe Childers (Creek Indian), 59 years old and living $4\frac{1}{2}$ miles northeast of Sapulpa at Little Cussetah Baptist Church ground, explains a method of fishing used by the Eushee, Cherokee, Creek and all Gulf state tribes.

A group of Indians selected a day for fishing. Then looked for a stream that could be dammed by poles at two ends.

Six or twelve men of the group were chosen to start early in the morning before breakfast to hunt for a root called Devil's Shoe Strings (Onoleskee) Creek name, this root being used to obtain the fish.

Each man was allowed to dig up only four roots apiece. The roots were beaten to a pulp and placed in a bag. The men would then eat breakfast.

The stream was dammed with poles at each end. The roots were soaked in the creek to pollute the water. The root was not poisonous but would made the fish unconscious.

The root did not have as much effect on the larger

fish so these were shot by men and boys using bows and arrows with light points.

The fish would rise and the Indian families would enter the stream and gather as many as they needed.

The poles were then removed. This method was later prohibited by the government.