

CHARCATONNEY, POLLY INTERVIEW.

6451

238

INDEX CARDS:

Tribe-Euchee
Games
Green Corn Dance

INTERVIEW WITH POLLY CHARCATONNEY
Euchee Indian, Sapulpa, Oklahoma
Rufus George, Field Worker
June 24, 1937

RECREATION

In early times the Indians used to have lots of fun and enjoy themselves very much by playing "Indian Foot Ball Games" and "Squaw Stick Ball Games." The Eucheas played these games.

Nearly every tribe of Indians have their own kind of games to play.

The Eucheas would play their ball game at the stomp ground, during the time when they were having their "Green Corn Dance."

It is the custom of a few other tribes to play these same games; for instance, the Creeks and Shawnees do.

It is the custom of the Eucheas to play the Indian foot ball game four times before they would have their first stomp ground in the summer. They would play on Sunday and play foot ball on the fourth Sunday, then they would have their stomp dance. The way they play the game is like this: The men and women would play against one another. They would have two goals far apart, one for the women and one for the men. The

goals are made of hickory sprouts staked about three feet apart in the ground. They bend them together and tie them with elm bark. The distance between the two goals is about seventy-five yards. The men are supposed to kick the ball and the women throw the ball. If he or she makes the ball go through the goal, then that would be a score for them. Some men would be standing where the women's goal was and would try to keep the women from making a score. Some women would do the men the same way. The chief would stand in the center of the ball ground and keep scores for both sides. The chief throws the ball up in the air and the men and women would all be standing around him and they would try to catch the ball and whoever gets the ball would run for the goal and would try to make a score. The game would be awfully rough.

The women would wrestle the men over the ball until that game was over.

The Indians have what is known as an "Indian Squaw Stick Ball Game." This game is played like this: There would be a pole about thirty feet tall that was put in the ground with a steer head on it. (It used to be the custom to put a buffalo head on the pole

but there are no more buffaloes to get their heads so they use steer heads instead) There would be a white cloth on the same pole below the steer head about five feet from the steer head. That cloth is put there for the women to throw at if they cannot hit the steer head. If the women hit the steer head it would count two scores for them, and if they hit the cloth it would count one score for them. The men would use ball sticks and throw the ball at the steer head. The ball would be made of buckskin. If the men hit the steer head that would be a score for them.

This is known as "Indian Squaw Stick Ball Game."