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BOWS AND ARROWS OF THE INDIAN TRIBES

The Indians are the only class of people as recorded that ever used bows and arrows in their early days in hunting and at war times. He knew of a certain kind of poison weeds that he treated the arrow heads that when penetrated would cause death of enemies. Or they often related among themselves that when a hunter is going on a hunt, having their superstitious idea, would find a live centipede, put it in a bottle bring it home, place it in a hot skillet and emerge in the hot skillet where of course die. Let it remain until fried and when set aside and cool, the man would pour the grease in the barrel of his rifle and wiped clean and dry. They thought and they believed that through this method when a deer is shot and if hit in any part of the body beside its deathly spot,

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would pain so that it would not run far but that it would stop running and hide. Blood would flow profusely that it can be easily tracked without dogs and usually found in hiding.

In deer hunting with bows and arrows, they did not dare to sight a deer in an opposite direction of the wind as he will have to get the direction of the way of the wind and he will have to get a close range to shoot or the quadruped fleet would scent him and of course would make his get away. When a deer is seen, or sighted the first thing a hunter do is to see which way the wind is blowing. After finding the direction he would go around and come toward the deer, against the wind, and by this means he would crawl up to shooting range, and usually killed his game.

It is not known that the Choctaw Indians ever used flint rock arrow heads, but they made their arrow points out of iron or band of barrels commonly

used in hauling water. They would heat it red hot and cut out the shape desired and hammer it until shape to fit the arrow, and when chilled it was then ready for use.

To shoot turkeys, duck, quails or squirrels or other smaller game a blunt arrow head was prepared and shot on head usually brought the game home. This was to prevent cutting open the inside or through its body. Very often a cartridge hulls of a .44 or .38 Winchester rifle answered the purpose.

When there is to be a big fish fry, a rifle was not allowed to be used ~~but~~ bows and arrows only, after the stream is poisoned and fish began to come to the surface for fresh air. It was at this time that a great time was enjoyed in those days in shooting fish of any size big enough to fry to the largest fish that may be in the water. The State Law now prohibits the poisoning of streams to kill fish and provides that only certain kinds of rifle may be used to shoot deer with.

The bow is made out of a straight soured bois d'arc

tree which, when split with axe, trimmed to length desired and thickness, a strong cord is tied at each end, a good sun dried cane and arrowhead prepared. on each arrow was all the weapons that the Indian had to rely on for their living, and while on their war path this was their only defense that has ever used.