**Jim Clark Anishinaabe Entertainment**

In the past when only Anishinaabe people were here in America, the Anishinaabe were always busy finding ways to survive, as there were no other ways they could get material for homes or food without making it themselves.

So keeping warm and getting food took up all their time.  There was very little time for having any kind of entertainment.  But they did have fun.  The men were always hunting, and the women were busy making the homes comfortable, cooking, and preserving food for future use.  The women were busier than the men.  They even had to make the clothing for everyone in the family, after preparing the material that was made from the hides and skins of animals.  We still wear skins from animals today, only we don’t give it a thought when we go out and buy our leathers, made by men mostly.

Speaking of entertainment, there were games that were played by the Anishinaabe people.  But any kind of game played usually needed some kind of material, so the people had to make their own game boards and game pieces.  Today most of those games the Anishinaabe played are forgotten, as the chimokoman (white man) brought their own games.  The Anishinaabe thought those looked like more fun and were already made.

One of the games still played by the Anishinaabe is the moccasin game.  The moccasin game, which is played wherever there is a group of men gathered, needs four pads about the size of a kitchen pot holder, maybe larger, and four marbles, with one distinctly marked.  This is the one teams are hunting for, as the opposing team hides it, trying to win points from the other team.  Natives played many different kinds of games, but only a few now remain, as fewer people remember the rules.  Lacrosse, foot races, and the dish game are still being played.  A dish game set consists of a wooden bowl and eight figures carved out of animal bone.  The figures include four buttons about a quarter-inch in diameter, a knife about a half-inch long, a woman half-inch tall, a fish half-inch long, and a man.  These figures are from a bone and are white, so one side is colored red or pink and matched colors determine the amount won.

I also learned that there are games for women only, and some are for men only.  Boys are given a carved snake, which is called a snow snake.  These are carved in such a way that when thrown in the snow, they should stay on top of the snow.  The object of the game is to throw your snow snake the farthest.  Girls also have a game called kickstick, played anytime and much like hockey.  There are two-, three- or four-inch sticks tied together by a four-inch piece of string, and there is a goal.  There were also games that were owned and played by women only.  From what I heard, the game pieces were made from the ribs of deer, and they were seldom seen by men.  They are well-hidden and guarded by the owner and played with no males around.