there was no s and in the meal which was then drie

as an oak wood f re can make them a closely woven basket. Mocks, as hot a as an oak wood f re can make them a completely received and the state of a large fist, are flipped into the pot where the meal and water have been mixed. A wooden spoon, made of a bent, white oak limb, is used for this purpose. Four rocks will cook a basket of mixed mush. The mush is light t brown in color, and almost tasteless If prop rly mide it had no sign of bitterness.

Flat cakes are made of dampend meal, and these are cooked on hot rocks which like a pan cake, when acorn bread is dezired.

the very old Indians made Buckeye mush in the same manner, but none of the later-day indians know eat buckeye much.

Central Californa, all producing edible acorns. The indian s
hanve no nate for Oaktree, but have a name for each
kind of acorn and each kind of meandamush, which all tastes alike.

Loea-Whit is the kind of acorn, tae-peat is one kind of much and tata-lish is onekind of field cake into the Wuk-Chum-nee dialect.

In the days of the birdand animal people
Quandidadamacous december was only one oak tree. Each day an Indian
girl ground the family meal beside the river. One-day
the girl's mother-in -law told deadd scolded the girl
because whee was careless on the manner of the theacorns.

the girl hit the acorns just as hard as she could, and they will scattered to the four directions. All the f mily left but themen, a blue-jay man, and fearing that he go hungry if they will did not return, he picked up all the acorns he could find and he buried them in the ground. They sprouted and grew and then he dug up some of them and ate them. That is why acordo oak tresgrow all over now, and that is why blue ja spicks up the

This is the season so bastley have become legends past, The mush, and formand, is nature's heritage, the with hair course and plack legends are the her tage of the race. Little Indians, thrive and grow fat on the acorn gruel or bread and the sages of the tribes find in it strength to nourish their rabidly faili g bodies x but o only a scall andful of the older people remember the stories handed down from father to son, from mother to daughter . The sor legenotlecting, and it is a time art stary telling involves not only & keen wit and accurate interpretative recitation and but many graceful, motions of the hands, head and INFLECTIONS body and tonal conses. It is difficult to translate into print and the bunded of stories withering in the drought of the white MAN'S CIVILIZATION the older neonle Frank F. Letta, shafter school teacher who has studied the IndiaN Touch ed for years has only scratched the surface but has a ccomplished more to perpetuate the customs, language and stories of the San Joaquin valley Indian, the Yokuts, than any other person. in gathering material Latta's stidies have resulted in a partial dictionary of the represented by the property of 0000000 dialects the Yokuts language -- a language soon to become a lost of the only one or two known members of the Alaha. has para gentler particular artiful and with thom he fact that the Yokuts subsided principally upon acom mush and bread and had @@collows and a comparatively

fine cultural background as shown in his legends, is common to

all Colifornia Indians & The hard yokula

The Yokuts inhabitated the Great Central Codomonda valley of California, 150 miles north and south and 100 miles from east to west, Cooded pitched his camp in the hills booded one of dedided fringing the plain and migrated from camp-site to camp site as the seasons progressed, in search of animals, fish, weed seeds or roots and acorns. The great number of valley oaks, sprinkled over the valley and hills alike, provided him with his biggest share of food Coe The Yokuts were composed of almost 60 subtribed, each with a separate dialect, but a Yokuts from the north could converse with a Yokuts from the south. The thousands of pot-hole studded granite rocks along rivers and in the foothills were the grinding mills where Indian women patiently ground out the daily ration of acorn meal. The rock mortars found all over California when the pioneers came were the portable mills. Someties they were made of granite or soapstoke, sometimes of oak wood.

In the old, old days, legended their legends tell us, after creation of the world, there were only birds and animals, but these could could could talk, could shoot bows and arrows, but they could not be killed. They lived together and in later years gave up t eir camps and hunting grounds to the Indians, whom their leader created from a mud image, hardened y fire and cooled by rain. The man was made first, the his woman mate followed.

Wah-Nom'-Kot, aged Wuk-Chum-Nee Indian living in the valley, tells the Wuk-chum-'Nee story of creation. "Wah-Nom-Kot is known to her white neighbors as Ada I-Cho.

In the beginning there was only water and agreet tree, an oak three where lived Tro-Khud, the eagle, the first man. Tro-Khud made the animals, birds and reptiles that swam first. He sent duck down into the water to get mud to make the earth, but duck failed and almost drowned, and turtle, after a long @cdoudodddd struggle, returned to the surface almost dead, clutching some mud beneath his

The Yokuts inhabitated the Great Central California, a distance 73 150 miles are north and south, and checo 100 miles from east. They were composed of almost 60 tribes, each a Yokuts from the for north could understand the conversation of an Indian from the South. The thousands of per-studded granite rocks along rivers and in the foothills were the grinding mills Cooled de de de la company de daily ration of acorn meal. The sacrated the rock mortars found by the t-housands and send all over California, when such youk the pioneers came, were the portable mills. The long, smooth rocks Kots legends tell us in the old , old days, theocompand after creatin of the world, there were only birds, and animals, but these could speak and animals, but these could speak and animals, but these could speak like Inddians, they lived together and in later years gave up their land to the Indians, whom their leader created from a multiple of the land to the Indians, whom their leader created by rains Wah-Nom'-Kot, aged Wuk-Chum'-Nee Indian living accord in the

first His amon

San Joaquin valley tells the 1000000 the Wuk-chum-nee story of creation Wah New-Kut is know to the while neighbor as

In the beginning there was only water, and a great tree, an oak tree where lived Tro-Khud, the eagle, the first many the-Khud made the animals, birds and reptiles that swam first. He sent the duck down into the water to get semenud to make the earth, but the duck failed, and the tirtle, after a long struggle, returned to the surface, almost dead, clutching some mud beneath his fore-paws.

Trokkhud took this mud and cound it with seeds in a mortar with the first throwing it to the south, w st, north and eaxt, he created the earth, comp leting his work on the evening of the several day, and the water retreated, leaving only the mountains, lakes andrivers. He told some of the people to stay awakewhile others

forepaws. Troh-Kud took this mud and ground it in a ceremonial mortar with seeds of the shepherd's purse plant. The mixture swelled until it overflowed the mortar. Then throwing it to the south, west, north and east, he created the earth, committed completing his work on the evening of the seventh day. The water retreated, leaving only the mountains, lakes andrivers. He told the bird and animal people that some of them would have to stay awake while others slept of t the water would r turnbut all the people went to sleep at one one time and the water came back. Then eagle made the earth again and told Ki-Yo, the coyote, to keep watch. That is why Kh-Yo howls early in the morning. He dosen't wint everyone to go to sleep becatione time. Someday, when everyone goes to sleep, the waier will return at one time, the Yokuts believe.

sleep, the water returred and he at the people went to sleep, the water returred and he at the earth at our again. Then he told ki-yo, the coyote, to keep watch so everyone would not go to sleep. That is why ki-yo howls early in the morning. He dosen't want everyone to go to sleep because the water will return. Someday, when everyone goes to sleep, thewater will all come back,

Ki-yo, the coyote and road runner stole the first fire for the first people bird animal people from the first man whom From Khud later created. Ki-yo crept up into the mountains, grabbed a firebrand sand #start/ed to run. The first man ranafter him and the fire streaked back, blackening ki-yo's tail which is scortched to this day. He almost caught topyote and then road runner seized the fire and kept on running down the mountain.

first man, seeing that he could not catch rom or road runner, made a heavy rain. Koad-runner tucked some of the fire on each side of his head, under his feathers, to keep therain from putting

out thefire, ran on down the mo intain and dropped xhausted when we at the policy but he saved the fire. Now road-runner has a red spot on each side of his head where thefire Burned him.

When an Indian dies, he goes to an Indian heaven if he has been good. There is such a place, somewhere, far to the north, in the mountains, so and degen says, and the last big Indian fandango held in the valley attended by the 10,000 bindians, was when white men first begun to settle the stand California, was not a war gathering as the pioneers constant feared, but a council called to hear the story of an Indian who actually visited his sweetheast. His story verified for the Indians at least,

was not only showered with a wealth f gifts , but became a hero.

the existence of a heaven,, and a hell for that mtter too, and he

This is the season when California Indians gather around simmering baskets of fresh acorn mush and tell stories reaching far back into the past, stories so old that they have become legends.

he mush is nature's heritage, the legends are the heritage of the race. Little Indians with hair coarse and black grow fat on the acorn gruel or bread and sages of the tribes find in it strength to nourish their rapidly failing bodies. 00000

Only a few ofdeded older people remember the stories handed down from father to son, from mother to daughter. he art of legend telling, and it is an art as practiced by the Indian, involves not only a keen wite and accurate recication, but many graceful, interpretative motions of the hands, head and body and delicate tonal i flections. It is difficult to translate into print the stories rapidly withering away in the drought of the white man's civilization.

the fact that the Yokuts subsided principally upon acorn mush and bread andhad a comparatively fine cultural background as shown by his legends is c mmon to all "alif rnia Indians. The word Yokuts means" people."

adventures and a signific feast followed while the sector ng few bettlers waited with bettle fault to act and out and etell of his adventures and a signific feast followed while the sector ng few bettlers waited with bettle fault to act and out and etell of his adventure fault to act a

Wee-Hay-sit, lion or the brave, lost his sweetheart by death. he feigned death, and lay in a stupor for six days and six noted nights. On the eco seventh he arece, opened his doo eyes just as the legend says dead Indians do, and walked north. to sendialize for days through the mountains until he came to a deep gorge, com spanned by a narrow rock below bridge, slippery with the spray a nearb 1 waterfall. Three times he started across the bridge, and three times he turned back, knowing have that if he slipped and he would fall for all eternity into the bottomless chasm the chasm where Indians who ere in life, plunge after death. But finally he mastered up his courage and the bound walked come the bridge. The was a changed world on the other side, green meadows, running stream full of fish, hillsides almost tame thrick with deer and elk, antelope herds in the valleys and well sturked noth first and hidle a well stocked tule-reed houses, He entered the tule hut ofhis But his sweethear sweetheart to find it full of valuable basketx knew he was not dead the manner and 00 saw ham and 00 hid him in a large basket so he would not be found andthrown into the dia correct the four that he couldn't touch his bottomless chasm. sweetheart, that he couldn't eat has the acorn mush or ven ison ste stew she brought him, that his arrows failed to bring down one of the fat deer gr zing on 60 the hillsides, and almost faint with

He slept for six days and seven nights, awakening to return to his home where he told his story and where it was believed, because, did each it not prove the legend of life after death the indians themseves knew so well? Maybe Wee-Hay-Sit, a small kind of a medicine man, had taken one sip too much of the Jimpson weed root tea which made medicine men partook of the at the came of medicine men partook of the at the came of the attention of the a

rears ago, so goes a legend of the "Wuk-hum-Nee as told by Wan-Nom'*Kot, the Yokuts basketry, among the finest in the world, was without designs. It was plain, and entry will bunch grass for the center core, strengthened by the split root of swamp grass. Now baskets and have designs, carried out in red, from the red bud bark, beeled in ebruary and black, from fern root as soaked in actually sulphur spring. There are no dies used in the lockuts basketry, and some of the baskets require and a year of more to make. The finer ones will hold water. So A few are decorated with quail top-knots, tufts of the flannel or beads. Basketry is rapidly becoming a lost art,

the older basket makers are page rapidly passing on, few, if any of the children educated in which the white man's school as the patience required of years ofpractice to learn this excating art, and he rds of white man's cattle have so diminished the bunch gras that the few remaining basket makers have to scour hillsides and

river bottoms to find enough to make the few baskets they make each summer. It takes hours of work to prepare the materials

for the basket hand de

for the basket hand de

constitution that a flat office that a fact to flat basket,

back in the day of the bird and animal people, the grey back lizzard stole the baby daughter of Tro-Khud, the eagle and s who etarked up in the hills with the childy accommode silling Mountain lion fund the lizzard with the child sitting on a large work rock, but when he ed storted to rescue the beby the lizzard seized the child, ran into a large crakk inthe rock and then closed the rock. Lion jumped against the rock but couldn' find a hole large enough to enter. His flaw manns hud and Lim-ik started out to hunt for the eagle's baby The search led them throughout the whole valley, and they knew they waere on the right trail because every once in a while they food found a rock with a freshly painted design on it. Finally they came to a huge rock with the odo footsteps with some , MANY 6 of the little girl leading into it. They sat down and listened, and could hear her crying inside. Lizzard came out andlimik caught him by the tail, but his tail came of the company of and lizzzard ran back into the rock. That why lizzard's tail always comes off if you catch him by it. Then lim-ik hit the ruck andsplit it wide open, and all the baskets which the little girl had been making left their design on the side of the cloven hak They are there to this day, someplace in thehills, andit is from these painted rocks @cdodd designs, that the basket makers gozt a legel-des types in all all deayns dll their designs of

None of the old Indians knos the meaning of any of the pictographs which are on hundreds of rocks throughout hills for California and the Southwest in Cen ral alifornia. None of them re explained in the legends

that have come to light so far, other than the basket design design d, which has been nanded down for generations/ This would Conducted 4 Oddicad indicate that some race Indian preceded the Yokuts in Central California. This is further boomed borne out in the gigantic pot-holes, three to six feet deep, which are found only a certain elevation in the High Sizras, in proximity the great Sequoia Gigantea, and at Card less than 20 locations. For what purpose did man so long ago make the huge pot-holes which required years of tedious labor to make. NONE of the oldIndians know. Their legends say the holes were there when they came, when the bird, a imal men ler Certain it isthat no Yokuts within the past 1990 years has been able to decoded find a use for them. A study of a residue found in the bottom of the resulted in the scientific dixclosure, with without publicity, someyeas ago, that the was volcanic as ash. There do appears to be a connection b tween the rock paintings and the giant pot-holes. As far as the Yokuts are concerned they were just part of the earth, left to them & to another Cuse a race, driver to other parts, by an act of mostler farth, Then ever Moi-Yuk, the whirlwind, scurries through the giant valley baks late in the summer, bringing down

the giant valley baks late in the summer, bringing down half-pipened acorns waiting the fall frosts, old Indidns turn their heads soo and shieldtheir eyes from the dust. They don't want to die as did several hundr d Yokuts living along the maweah river wears ago.

on top of a rock pile near a settlement of several nundred indians the didn't want the called but other members of thetribe took pile and gave it acorn mush in two small brokets.

Gradually Moi-YUR AS they came to know him, grew and whenever anyone refused to give him food, he blew, the dust whirled around

the offender

even in the winter time, and go to the river and wash your hands and face / Perhaps this was a scheme to get children to wash their faces because this was a spears to be a superstition attached to it.

old Indian story tellers, after you gain their confidence and equation will tell you, slowly and with many gestures, their story and sen will tell you to be sure and d wash your face in a big bowl of water in the morning. They don't know why, but they are sure you should do this. Whis has factured true after the stories had been bed a bless were stories according to a stories when the morals were that the only doors much that the only doors much that the only doors much that the only doors have the morals were the stories and the land, were the fleen of the stories that the only doors much the many of the stories of the stories

like a whirlwind and he didddd soon sickened and died. The indians grew frightened and all refused food, but all died. Then

Moi-Muk disappeared. Lears later Indians noticed that

whenever a whirlwind blew around the rock, it left

small most refused not ad pot-loke holes in the face of the rock.

You can see them there now and when a whirl-wind shakes an

o ktr e, it is a sign that Moi-Yuk is still angry because the Indians

indians was refused him acorn mush, an is depliving them of their

mans many refused him acorn mush, an is depliving them of their

chiefly in the form of mush, s metimes baked on the hot rocks an A frequently with macoo deer meat or condition to quail.

and in the fallow the hills, has a big store of dried acorns put away pt this season. The acorns are split at a small rock, harmed the meats removed in halves and sun-dried. They They frequently become grub infeste 4 the following by summer, but even as late as 30 or 40 years ago, grubs ne ver bounded bothered the meats. heary are ground in the mortar holes and then winnowed comby a roun d tray, the just as deftly as a 49 % goes about removing gold from sand or com dirt. The coarse grains are rd-ground and re-winnowed until the resulting flour, arter por work, is as fine as whose wheat f flour. The bitterness of the ac orn is leached out by sales and soaking the flour in a cloth and then pouring mild, warm water on NO me ever told the older projete it. Someonew the Ind and know that pouring boiling water on it removed much of its food value. The oldtime ndians, Without any kind of cloth, scooped out a depression in fine and, pleed a thin layer of meal over this and then poured contact on the water, removing the top me al carefully an winnowing the residue.

- ara Teho, wah - nom- 1cut Ki-yoo - coguto mik-kit'-tee-low write-chum'- nee - Indian tribe? Jim-ik Prairie Falcon, Tro-Khud Engle 2 Oo'- 01 - Rondrumer = hi-ness first man= mi'ch the Indian =