

and he was just a young boy, so his brother-in-law and his brother-in-law's brothers took him along with them to find out what tribe that was that was camped along the Missouri. So he went along with them and they sat around under the pines there for a while and find out they were friendly. So some young men of that tribe came out and motioned for him to come over. He stopped and looked and he saw they weren't armed so he got up. Of course the universal sign language was pretty well established and had been for many years. So they told him who they were. The old sign language of the Arapaho was three times this way, put on (demonstrating old sign for Arapaho), whereas the Cheyenne language of the father and mother was this way--"nurse." So this man knew they were Arapahoes. So later on in years to come when they got among the Crows and then Bannocks and the Blackfeet and the Assiniboines, we wore a pompadour, you know--didn't part their hair. But they knew the Cheyennes and Arapahoes had a part in the middle--braids. So this Cheyennes and Arapahoes came this way--hair parts. ... That's the recent sign language, now. But the old sign language for Arapahoes was putting on three times (making motion as if putting something on breast three times; the sign for "nurse" or "suckle" would be motion of drawing something out of the breast--jj). What they did was, the men made circles (on their chests) about this big around here and here and here. They took this yucca and--you know it's got real sharp points--and they pierce their skin all the way around that dotted line--around that line--circle. And inside of it, till the skin bleeds, and they take charcoal--wood charcoal--and pulverize it and smear it and they daub it on this wound--this pierced skin circle. Of course when it heals up it turns blue. It heals blue. So that's why the Arapahoes are called Blue Cloud People. The Kiowas calls us (Kiowa word). That means the same word. "Blue-blue-grey people." The the Sioux calls us (Sioux word). That's the same meaning--"blue cloud painters--tattoos." And we call ourselves hin' n' w' i which means the same translation. hin' n' w' is "clouds." h' w' y means "paint,"