

the water. And it's not too coarse--it's just the right kind of a willow--anyhow it don't get any larger than a broom handle. It's don't have the big trunk. It's a willow with fine features to it. It's more like where these people used to get those bed slats. That's where they used to get them. That's where them bed slats originated--from this lodge. The people got to using this yellow willow. They call it "orange willow." That's what they call it. They take that and they peel it. They peel it and the bark will just peel right off. It's so wet and so fine that they just peel off. So the tip end of the willow, and they just break it off, and that's where them sun dancers used to wear that head piece around there. You probably seen them up in Wyoming. But now they use that sage for a substitute. But originally it was yellow willow that they'd taken off a limb. They just peel it off. Just skin it back to where the top part of the willow, there would just be a few limbs on there--there'd still be leaves on there. Then they just weave it around to where they make a cap out of it. That's what sun dancers used to use at that time.

(What's the name of that yellow willow in Arapaho?)

Orange willow, they call it *yóókwéx*. The translation of the Arapaho--it's like we would say a "yellow river tree." Because there was a yellow river up somewheres in Colorado and they seen it up there and they thought it was the only place they could see them and people used to go way up there. And when they came down here, and stocks began to come here and there and they seen that, so they used that. So they just applied the name of what they had accumulated in the past, and when they got down here they recognized that willow and that's how come they call it that.

(Does it grow around that Canton area?)

Yeah, it grows around there. You don't see very much of it. It's hard to find. I seen some of it over here. But I couldn't get over about that much of it. Last summer I went over there. I got these kids to go help me. And I had one of those slats started, but these kids got into it and they scattered that. (Is this the same kind they use on their arbors today?)