

life of that tipi and its contents. I know my grand-aunt done that.

(How long did it take them to make that tipi?)

Well, we were there about five days. My folks went from Geary--from north of Geary--when we heard that tipi was made. My mother's sister was married to a missionary and she sent for my mother and my folks went up there and I went along. And they sewed that tipi in two days. Great big--poles about that big. And it stood about sixty to eighty feet high. It could house eighty people inside--sitting in a circle.

(Goodness. Was it made out of canvas?)

Canvas, yeah.

HIDE TIPIS

(Well, could they ever make tipis that big out of buffalo hides?)

No, they never could. In the first place, every time they'd tear a buffalo hide down to pack it, it's have to be ripped in the middle. Have to be two bundles of it. Before they put it up they'd have to sew it back--to put it up. It's so heavy and thick. Canvas, they didn't have to do that.

(Wouldn't they have to have awful long poles for that big tipi?)

Oh, yeah. Great big long poles. Cedar poles. Red Cedar.

(Where did they get them?)

I remember they got some southeast of Colony down there in the canyons. Great big tree--about that big. And they'd cut it about eight to twelve inches (in diameter). They'd cut it and they'd take a double team. Go down there and they'd chain this log. And they'd bring the team up with this big cedar. They'd load it on a wagon. They'd take the box off a wagon. Just run together and they'd load them logs on and they'd take it home. And for days the women would hew--hew the tree, until they get it down to that size. Until they come down to the red.

(Oh, just the red part?)

Yeah, just the red part (the heart wood). They cut the trees down when the tree is dormant.