

you some." And I did. Now, right now, is a good time to cut arrows--to the middle of this month. When the dormant stage of the winter wood is beginning to green up--sap up, you know. But right now is a good time to get this wood that they make arrows out of. Because it'll dry and cure and always be set. Otherwise if it's sappy, it'll dry but it'll be twisted. And it won't be--the wood won't be so solid.

(What kind of wood do they use?)

Dogwood. But they use bois d'arc and other hard woods like hickory. But they split it and braise (abrade) it down, you know--braise it so it be round. I got some dogwood sticks here that I made--cut about--it must be several years ago. I never did work on them. Well, you know that knife that they made into this implement for grooving the arrows--what kind of a knife was it?)

Any butcher knife that's got old, or the blade's got so thin. I think they'd break the blade off into the handle--the metal end of the wood handle--is what they made you know--file. It must have been tedious work because it has to--that wood has to--I mean that groove have to be like that with a little tip. This little one-eighth inch wide--one-eighth inch thick. Got to be set in there and how they did it I don't know. But they used files, I guess. Then after they'd fix it, the Indians know how to hot temper it--to make steel out of any ordinary iron. They're good at that.

(They were?)

Oh, yeah. They could temper horseshoes and make steel out of them. I know my dad used to--temper his. Any iron they could make steel out of. Blue steel, too.

(You mean they'd just take this old butcher knife and--like this was the knife and this was where the metal came out and they just break it off so that--)

The blade--see, like this'll be the knife--see? Right, here's the knife. Well, it wore so thin for any further use. Well, they take and break the blade off. Then--see that little piece of metal there--in that butcher knife? It's a (?) iron. It's a continuation of this blade. Then they start to file. V-shape, first. Narrow. And they get down there so far--and they probably got a rat-tail