

over forty years old and never was positive of his age. The first chance he got near that old man, he invite him to his tent. Maybe feed him or give him some money. Ask him, now, "Old man, I'm so-and-so's son. My mother is so-and-so. I'm the third child--or second child, or first child. I want to know just what year I was born." Maybe it was a time that something occurred, like when they were moving to Kansas from Wyoming or from Kansas to Oklahoma or to Colorado. Whether they camped that winter at a certain river, like the Platte River or Arkansas River--an event that would indicate, you know, this old man's starting point. "There was a Sun Dance there, made by such-and-such a party." "Yeah, I know that. I know." He says, "Well--" He start to count the years. Maybe he says, "Well, that camp was there from August till about September or the middle of October. Then they went out buffalo hunting." Then he said, "If you was born that year, well, you was born in September or October--" He'd just tell him the same month that he was born, the early part of the month or later part or middle part--middle of the month.

(Did the Arapahoes have names for months?)

Oh, yeah. Yeah. So I know a lot of Indians got their birth years--months--from this old man. He had a keen knowledge of remembering--recollection.

(How did he learn all that information?)

Well, you know it's that way today. You take a man that's lost a arm. Well, his strength improves somewhere else. Or if he lost an eye or is deaf, why his strength--senses--increases in other part of his body. Well, because this old man was blind, well, his mind naturally was his eyesight, you might say, or was his thinking--faculties. So he had good recollection. Everybody knew that. Very keen recollection, that old man. Lot of people go to him, you know, to determine their age. He'd determine their age just by appearance of years when something happened, and on down--certain period. Like Sun Dances or other events. Like when you had smallpox, or the year they had cholera. He could tell by those events. And year after year he'd always enumerate them. Oh, he was a good one.

(Would he hold his hand out, the way you're doing while--?)