

(Well, what time was it that your mother went over to see him?)

It was summertime. Probably along in July or August.

(I mean, was it, like, around the 1890's?)

No, she went to him earlier than that. Eighteen-eighty something--1888 or something like that. I was just four or five years old then.

(Why did she want to find out what year she was born?)

Well, it was her sisters. She had two younger sisters and three older sisters.

See, there was a particular one of them that she wanted to know the age of-- whether she was three or four years older or five--or two or three years younger than her--one of them. I don't know which one it was.

(Did you ever hear any reason why they wanted to find out the age of that sister?)

Well, no particular reason, only that my mother wanted to be positive how many years older she was or how many years younger she was of her older sisters. She just wanted to ascertain--

(For her own curiosity?)

Yeah.

KEEPING TRACK OF CHILDREN'S AGES ON ELK HORN FLESHER

(I thought maybe it was to decide--)

--Because, you know, when they had these elk horn scrapers, you know. You've seen them. (Fleshing tool made of elbow-shaped elk antler and fitted with metal bit) Like the boys' was on the right side of that bone. They make a straight line--groove--and the boys' ages was on the right side and the girls' ages was on the left side. Little dots.

(I've never heard about that before.)

Oh yeah. Yeah. I seen my age when I was two years old, on that elk horn. And it started to build up till I was seventeen. Then I went off to school then. And I don't know what my mother did with that elk horn. It was a great big old elk horn. They always trimmed their antlers, you know. File it off and there just be one little old--and they'd have steel blade. And that's the way they