

mark their ages.

(And they keep track of their kids' ages?)

Every member of the family. I know mine was blue. Every little hole they drilled in there--every little old dot--they'd put blue paint in there, and that was mine. My sister's was red, on the other side. And my older brother's was green. And my younger brother was kind of a yellow, I think. Anyhow, different colors. And I know my mother's was black.

(They were all on that scraper?)

All on that hide scraper. That's the way they kept it.

(Did other families do that too?)

Every family of the Arapahoes does that. They all had those elk horn scrapers and their ages was on there.

(Then, your mother, she went to see this old man so she'd know how many dots to put on that scraper for your sister?)

Oh yeah. Well, her sister was married-- Her two oldest sisters were married to one man. They used to have plural wives, you know. Well, the younger sister eventually went over and lived with her sisters. That's how they lost--why they didn't know who took care of that--outside of my mother's family took care the dots, you know. So she wanted to be sure. Of course, her mother might have had the record, but she wanted to be sure. And that's the way they did.

(Did they ever use anything besides the scraper to keep this kind of record?)

Well, the boys--not the same purpose, but I know the boys would have bow and arrow. Everytime they kill a hawk or rabbit or quail, you made same kind of dots. Just little old knife tip, you know. And represent the color of how many quails you killed, and how many rabbits, and how many woodpeckers you shot off the tree--they was on your bow. That's another indication. How many turtles you found.

(Well, when this old man was helping your mother find out how old her sister was, did he count every single year?)