

ELKHORN HIDE SCRAPING TOOLS

Oh, yeah. Hide scraper.

(These belong to the museum. You know you were telling me about how they used to keep track of the ages--? I went over and they had several--)

This has just got a few (examining the incised dots on an elkhorn scraper)-- one, two, three, four, five, six, seven, eight, nine, ten, eleven. And here are some more. (Looks at the scrapers with interest.) The Arapahoes have great big scrapers--big elk horn. Hm. See, all these are marked with children's ages (indicating the incised dots), probably. Here's one long one. Hm.

(I don't think that one has any marks on it.)

Oh, yeah, it has. You got three of them?

(Yeah.)

Oh. This one doesn't have any.

(Here's the one that has the dots.)

Yeah.

(What are these holes for down here at the end (in the butt end of the flesher)?)

They're just natural. The stump of the horn. They probably stick something in there, you know, like awls or something like that.

(Look--this one has got what looks like nails in it.

Yeah. It has got nails in it. I don't know what they put them in there for.

(I don't know what tribe these are from. I was wondering if these were anything like what the Arapahoes used.)

They're similar but ours are always bigger. Cheyennes and Arapahoes always have great big old elkhorn (scrapers). But all Plains tribes has those