

No. It's where the trigger is, on the side, there. It's flat metal there, that fits in there for a certain purpose where you put the bullets in. When you're going to load on. Well, that part is what one man--one family--used in their hide scraper. It was pure steel. All they have to do is temper it and set it in shape.

(When they tempered it and put it in shape--what kind of tools did they use to shape it with?)

I don't know. They had all kinds of ways. Some of them probably used a hammer, while it was hot. They could handle it better when it was hot. But they always temper it back to good steel, you know. They know how.

(By temper it, what do you mean?)

They heat it, you know, and soon as they heat it they put it in cold water quick, you know. That sets it to the steel strength, you know. And then they heat it again and then they shape it when it's soft--red-hot--they shape it. Then even then they put it in cold water again. That resets it--the steel. They used to make a lot of horse shoes like that, Indians. They take horse shoes--mostly ponies shoes--and they heated them and they tempered them so that they last longer. My dad was good at that.

HIDE DRESSING: DEFLESHING AND DEHAIRING TOOLS

(How did they use these hide scrapers?)

When they had a deer hide or an elk hide--moose or antelope hide or bear hide--before they took the hair off they stretched it out. Tight. On level ground. And nothing would bother that--it would set out there for days. And when they got ready to scrape the hide, they turned it upside down with the hair side exposed. And they staked it out tight and then the women started to scrape that. And they worked around the edges first, all around, and then down the middle, and when they get through there was no hair left.