

Yeah, the blade fits in there.

(Did the Arapahoes have this kind?)

Yeah. Any way that was convenient they made their elkhorns.

KEEPING RECORD OF CHILDREN'S AGES ON ELKHORN SCRAPERS

(You were telling me about how your mother kept track of the ages of her kids--was hers anything like these?)

Yeah. But the Arapahoes usually put the dots--ages--this way.

(Oh, longitudinally.)

Yeah. But these are crossways. This might be Kiowa.

(Did the Arapahoes ever just make these lines like that?) (Referring to some other incised markings on one of the scrapers.)

Men did, on other things. But might be same way--different tribe make those nicks, those grooves. But mostly they were dots, like this. Holes, you know--the ages (of children represented by incised dots).

(Who would make the dots?)

The family--the mother. Maybe her sister or someone like that.

(What would they use to make them with?)

Knife blade or point--something like that.

(Well, if she was keeping track of your ages on here, would she put one dot every year--?)

Every year. Every year. Yeah.

(Any particular time of year she might think about that?)

Well, whatever month the child was born. They distinguish that.

(Would they keep track of anything else besides the ages of their kids?)

No.

(What about the different colors they used for different kids?)

Boys were blue. They put blue paint in those holes for a boy. Girls would be red. Different colors. Depends on what the family choice of colors was.