

have the gray--men used to prefer gray. Men, you know--for their robes. The women used blue and green and that campbell tan and that candy-striped. But the men always used gray. I know my father always kept one or two gray Hudson's bay blankets. Some of them had stripes. They had a big black border on the end--each end. And these Winchesters--guns-- and they sold paints that come from Japan and China. And some other things--foreign stuff, like shells that come from other countries. Like these abalones. I got lots of them around here.

(What did the Indians do with those shells?)

They use them for necklace and on their buckskin dresses and other things. Like for decorations. Pretty, changeable blues and pinks. They use them for necklaces and they tied them on the scalp lock behind here.

(Were they very expensive?)

Well, the way the Indians made them they weren't expensive. They made them themselves. They sat day and night just fixing them. I got a few of them--let's see--where are they?

(Interruption--Jess looks for some things to show me.)

--the source of this has a meaning. You know when they have that Arapaho Sun Dance, they have a center pole--you saw a specimen of that at Medicine Lodge. They have a center pole that has a fork--Arapaho--and within that fork there's a whole buffalo hide--just like a live one. It's put in that--and these other poles comes all around it. Well, that buffalo--they skin it with the head on--and it hangs with the head towards--hangs over the front. And on that nose of that buffalo is this shell --about that big. And anybody that volunteers when Sun Dance is raised to furnish a shell like that, it's a blessing to him. My folks furnished one for me when I was a boy. It's a blessing. Because that buffalo has that shell on his nose, you know--that hide. That's what they do.

(You mean anybody that furnishes the shell for the buffalo--?)

Yeah. When they put that pole up and they say "When that buffalo goes up I want my boy's--or my daughter's--shell to be tied on that buffalo." It's a blessing, like. So my folks done