

Yeah, they used to get it. But they used to cut the willow themselves.

(Besides the willow they used, did they ever get the other material themselves?)

Well, they got this willow themselves.

(I mean the material they used to wrap around it.)

Well, they used to peel off these willows--the skin (bark) of the willow--and they used to use that. That's what they used to use.

(Have you ever heard from older people whether the Arapahoes made those kind of baskets long time ago--like back in the days when they were still hunting buffalo and so forth?)

No, I never did hear anything. (Note: This basket making probably learned from whites. There was no basketry in traditional Arapaho culture in historic times--jj.)

WILD POTATOES

(One thing I forgot--the name of those wild potatoes in Arapaho?)

yw.koxu.caē ei

(Does that mean "willow potatoes"?)

Willow potatoes, yeah.

(How do you just say "willow"?)

yw.gox

(And how would you say just "potatoes"?)

caē ei

(Why do they call them "willow potatoes"?)

Well, because they cut them off the roots of the willows, under the ground, you know, close to the bank of a creek or a river. (Note: This plant is probably Apios americana, the groundnut, utilized by many tribes.--jj)

(Was there any other kind of wild roots they used to go out and dig and eat?)