

a fire. Put on any kind of dry wood. Spread big coals. And when the coals start to die out, ashes were hot, they'd throw all them forks in there--the willow forks. In other words, they cook them forks--the wood, you know. They just turn them a little ways, then turn them here. Sometimes there's five-- I know my mother, a lot of times she cooked as many as eight or twelve forks. Then let them cool down naturally, overnight. And they'd always have a big block of wood about that big--oh, about so long--hard wood. And then they'd start making a ax--little ax--no other tools, just rude--old butcher knife, hunting knife, and little ax. Hack away the forks, you know. Tie them up. And then they had draw knives. I got one draw knife here that's over a hundred years old.

(What's a draw knife?)

Oh, side blades and handles to it. Poles, you know. That's what they use to make tipi poles with. Hew them, you know. (Jess is talking about removing the bark and trimming irregularities off the long tree trunks used as tipi poles with a draw knife--which has a curved blade with handles on each end--jj)

And then they take a tree or something like that by the camp. They stick that fork in there and then they--drawing knife. That way. But they want to do is make the tops of the saddle--like the front of a saddle--the fork. With a little-- They say that they later made this kind of a saddle horn. And the same way the back. Only the back would have a little lean (slant) to it. You know, fork-- (Above explanation is not clear, but apparently Jess is trying to explain how wood saddle trees were made from fire-tempered tree forks, and then covered with rawhide and fitted with stirrups, etc. to make the saddle--jj)

And they worked day after day, with just a knife. They'd sharpen the knife good, then they'd--they had no sandpaper or any of the tools that's now. Get it all shaped up good. They had no drills or nothing. Get all shaped up good. Oh, they'd take sandstone and smooth all that high on the willow (sandstone abraded used to smooth wood). To shape of horse--saddle--and they'd fix that horn nice. Had a little kind of a-- And then they'd drill holes on the side where the