

back down the valley. Turn it loose. Sometimes they get--Indians get pretty hungry. Maybe one or two Indians--nothing to eat, nothing to drink. Maybe two or three days. They run out of meat--pemmican, you know. And maybe water be long ways. And there's chance of a bear getting them or something. And they'd accumulate feathers like that.

BEAR CLAWS TRADED TO OTHER TRIBES

And they'd go out in the pines and rough places and maybe long there they see a bear. Little bears, they wouldn't fool with them. Oh, just to eat they'd kill it--to eat it. But they want to get them big old grizzlies--big old bear--them claws. Get it and get the hide. Then get the claws. And they'd go out and maybe get three or four elk and kill them. Each one has got two tusks (canine teeth), you know. Maybe other games, hunt. That way they accumulate a lot of elk teeth. My mother had 2200 elk teeth on her dress.

(Those things are really valuable, aren't they?)

Oh, yes! And then when they visit these Indians, like these Omahas, Pawnees--Pawnees was our enemies and Osages was our enemies, but sometimes they go into fort and they meet on friendly terms just to trade. The Osages always wanted them bear claws and the Pawnees, too, for their necklaces. Those Omahas, Winnebagoes, Mandans, they'd always want eagle feathers.

ARAPAHO WOMEN'S DRESS STYLES COMPARED TO THAT OF OTHER TRIBES

But the Arapahoes always kept the elk teeth for their girls. My sister was buried in an elk teeth dress. My mother gave her dress to her sister--I mean, her cousin. Part of hers--she took off about 600 of them and gave her sister that dress with them elk teeth. And then her uncle build her up other teeth up to about 2000 teeth. So, by trading with them for those mountain animals--like elk teeth and these eagle feathers and bear claws--that's probably the reason the Pawnees or Crows--whoever named us--called us "traders." And then we gave the Kiowas our dresses. Those Kiowas, they always come over and visit us, and put on dances. While our folks--girls--give them dresses--to their girls. And to a few Comanches. We've got three dresses among the Arapahoes yet--elk teeth