

negie. I didn't have them on but he had seen me wearing them before. Oh, here's some beads that I've been missing! (finding something in the box) These used to be my wife's rosary. She was Episcopalian. Here they are, see? (showing the mescal bean beads) Lots of them wants them, but no, I won't sell them. I tell them I've got grandsons and they're going to have them some day when I'm gone.

(They're heavier than they look.)

Oh, yes. That's Mexican money (referring to something else in the box)--

(Are these holes through these beads--?)

They burn them. My granddaughter's husband fixed these yellow ones. But these (a string of red mescal beans) were given to me in 1902. They're sixty-five years old.

(Who gave them to you?)

A cousin of mine, Henry Pohocsucut--Sarah's husband. He gave them to me in 1902 when I was just about seventeen years old. He had joined--his father went down to somewhere around San Antonio on horseback. A bunch of Comanches went down and they found them. They were the first ones that found them. They brought them back and they made holes. And his father gave them to him when he grew up. And in 1896 he joined the church--the Baptist Church. And he didn't wear them no more. (Mescal bean beads are associated with peyote ritual and thus would be given up by a man who joined a conventional Christian denomination--jj) And in 1902 I went over there and he gave them red ones to me. And a lot of people want to buy them and I say, "No, they're keepsakes." But then I got hold of these after that--on the Old Mexico side. And I'm just putting them together.

(These yellow ones are just the same kind?)

Yes, the same kind.

(Do you wear them over your shoulder?)

Yes, like this. (Demonstrates manner of wearing string of mescal bean beads in bandolier fashion--over shoulder and falling diagonally across back and chest).