

Old man girdled himself--he always have blanket--always carry nice-looking knife. Ripped hide from belly up. Opened the carcass, you know. And reach in there and feel the arrow and bring it out. Dead grass there, took dead grass and wife it. Looked at that arrow--it's blue. Blue. Said, "It's yours, boy." He tell this warrior, "You leave this boy along." Now that's the purpose of those grooved arrows. Sometimes they'd have red, black, color of paint in those grooves. Most of them was blue--different shades of blue. Because that's Arapaho color, you know. That was purpose of these arrows. Grooved arrows. (That's really interesting. Could you explain to me again where the grooves were on the arrows?)

Well, from--you know where the spike (arrowhead) is--and from there on up (the shaft) about as long as a good or eight inches from the white part would be the grooves. Zig-zagged, you know. See, they tipped the arrow. Usually their groover was an old knife. And they'd take a file and make a nick in there so that just a little of the tip of the steel would project there--they'd make like a chisel--sharp. And they'd temper that steel, you know--heat. That's what they used. They's set that knife-handle and press it with their hand, and this arrow would be under there and all they'd do is just take this arrow, and they'd get near that place where the spike is, and they start zig-zagging right there. Four sides.

(And they'd be holding the knife in this hand?)

The pressure of the knife would--the knife would do the cutting, you know, with that groove--would do the cutting--like a chisel. (Jess is talking about the tool used for making the shallow grooves on the arrow shaft--it was made from an old knife of which the blade was broken off close to the handle, and then the edge of the broken-off metal beveled like a chisel.)

(They'd hold that groover in their left hand and their arrow shaft in their right hand?)

Yeah.

(Their left hand would be underneath?)