

Yeah, grains of corn, yeah. Count the grains of corn and said, "There's my share, and mother's share, and--and then they'd count--and when there wasn't no seventy-five dollars he'd find the number they were short. And he'd count up how many of us there were--maybe five of us in the family, and he'd say, "This should have been--there's so much missing." That's how they detected that.

(Did they count the money out in the same way?)

Yeah, oh yeah. They count it the same way. Had stacks of dollars and know how much was short.

(Is this way of counting with corn--is that an old way among the Arapahoes--?)

For all tribes. All Plains tribes. Uneducated people, yeah.

(What other kinds of things would they use this method to count for--can you remember any other situations where they might take an ear of corn and count out the grains?)

No, I don't. That's the only thing I ever saw. Of course they'd know how much they got--what was each one's share--and how much was missing. But they always started out on the basis of seventy-five dollars apiece. But this third year they got only nineteen dollars apiece. And where the balance had probably gone was to the payment of those depredations charges against the tribe.

(To be sure I understand that, now when you father was doing this, did he have the silver dollars right there with him?)

Right there by him, yeah.

(And what did he do--take an ear of corn--?)

Yeah, a corresponding amount. For me, or for father or mother and for brothers and sister. That's when they know there's a shortage