Oh, yeah.

(Why is it--I notice this is pretty polished and smooth right in here, where this blade is attached--is there any reason for that?)

No. Just so the blade fits in good and smooth there and can be fastened on. That's all.

(How would they make this kind of an edge?)

Well, they use these stones. Of course they had sawed it (the branches) off with a nicked knife--that's part of the antler, you know.

(Then did they make this edge here smooth too?)

Yeah, they have to make it smooth. You got the blades, too, haven't you?

(I don't have them with me. They do have one or two at the museum that have blades. But these don't happen to have blades, here.)

USE OF SCRAP METAL AND TECHNIQUES OF WORKING METAL

As far as I can remember and as far as my folks can remember, what part of iron or where the iron or steel came from that they use on blades was only what we know was the old early day bridles--wagon bridles that had those blinds (blinders). They always had that steel inside, you know--metal. That's what they used. They reheat it and they smooth it right--that's what they used. It's the metal part of a wagon bridle blind (er).

(That's really something.)

Some of them--I know of one case where they used one slab--one--of an old Winchester. The side--iron--steel--of course it had holes in it, but it didn't matter. Just so the blade in it was good. They used one side. Took that metal off and heat it and put it in shape, and use it as blade on these hide scrapers. It was off a piece of Winchester. Right in the muzzle--the magazine--where they put the bullets in. That's what they used.

(I don't know enough about guns--it's the part--the back end part of the gun where you put the bullets in--?)