

That's what they use that for.

(Then these are used to scrape the hair off?)

Yeah.

(Well, on the other side--the meat side--did they use anything for that?)

They had another one. They had an all metal--iron--and they flatten the point of it and they nicked it just a tiny bit. Like a fine-tooth edge. And that's what they used on the pelt side. To scrape all them loose, you know, meat part and whatever was left on the skin. And then they accumulated all that what came off that inner side of the hide and you know you can put that and boil it and it makes good dog feed. Lots of good meat on there, yet. Fat. And then had another one--it was a side wooden handle with a blade--nicked. And they finish the inside--the under side with that. They call it a "white side knife." "White knife" or "side knife."

(Why did they call it a white knife?)

Well, it's finished--it done smoother work than this scraper--this metal scraper under the skin. We call it "white knife" or "scraping knife." It had side handles--you kinda had to use it sideways. You hung the hide up and you scraped it until it comes down the full length (I think this step is to get the hide to uniform thickness by scraping down the thicker parts--jj).

(Well, when they were using that long metal tool you were talking about--with the nicked edge to take the flesh and stuff off--was that right after the animal was butchered?)

No--after the hide--either after you took the hair off or before you took the hair off--days afterwards. And they had a handle about that long and the point was about that wide, and nicked. And it was covered with skin--hide. And it had a loop on the handle so you could put your hand through there and use it like that--all up and down the hide. That's what they used.