

than sixty cents a bunch. But oh, they were pretty colors--just--oh, that red was pretty! Kiowas, Comanches, and especially Arapahoes like that red, that dark red. Just ruby--kind of--what they called this "pigeon-blood" ruby. Kinda milky-creamish red. Oh, it was pretty.

(This term, "pigeon-blood ruby," is that an Indian term or--?)

No. That's English. That's what we learned from them. Yeah. Well, personally, how I became acquainted with this "pigeon-blood ruby" --one of my girls was born in the month that the birthstone is ruby. And when I was buying a little ring for her as a baby, the merchant--the jewelry man--said, 'Now this is 'pigeon-blood' ruby. That's the best we got.' And he showed me a magnifying--you could tell the difference. So that's how I became acquainted with this particular color.

(Well, these dark red ones that they used to like--were they transparent--clear?)

No, they were sort of creamy--something like an opal. Sort of kind of creamy, smoky--but in red. Dark red. That's what they were.

(What were some of the other colors that they liked?)

Oh, they had that good sky blue, two shades of it--one was twenty-four and one was twenty-six. The blue that was twenty-six was sort of a cloud blue. But that number twenty-four was a pretty, clean, bright blue.

(You mean these different colors had numbers?)

Yeah, they had numbers, yeah. Twenty-two was a light blue we call baby blue. I knew all those numbers. Then they had one color there--well--I got opal here, and I got one that's--oh, what do they call that brown? (Pause to think) It's a kind of a brown, anyhow. They're cut beads. And those two beads that I got, I intended to put them on feathers. But I haven't got the kind of feathers I want to put them on. I think that was 'mocha' brown. They were those Austro-Hungarian beads. I've had them about fifty years.