

They come from Michigan and Maine and Colorado, as I remember. They were what we called "dressed in the hair." The whole skin. It was just open here and down between the legs, you know. And they took--they skin it wrong side out, and they tan it and when it was tanned it would be soft and they put it back in the shape of the whole skin. That's what we call "dressed in the hair."

(Do you mean--when the animal was dressed it was slit down here--(down the underside lengthways of the animal)?)

No, no.

(Oh, it was just like a cylinder--?)

Yeah. They just cut the hind legs, you know, and cut it right open here and they start to skin the legs, and they start skinning it back this way until they come to the head, and they just pull it out. The whole hide was there. But with beavers it was different. With beavers they cut the throat down about so far and they skin it from the arms. Why? Because a beaver's skin was as a pouch. The whole thing was a pouch, included the tail. The tail was always left there. And they used that for their herbs and medicines and things that they always preserve. It was always hung in a tipi where they have access to it, like comb or brush or whatever it was. It was sort of a cosmetic bag, I'd call it.

(How did they make those pouches?)

It's the whole skin. They just tan it. They take it wrong side out and dressed it and put it back the same way and that's all there was--the hide.

(Well, did you say it was cut down the stomach, too?)

Yeah, but just so far. (Skin removed almost intact so that it would be pouch-shaped when turned with hair side out.)

(Oh, I see.)

Just so far, and then that skin was kind of a natural container--pouch. It