

They used to scour them. They learned from white people--take all the beadwork off and take the soap suds and scour it, and dampen it and then rinse it out and-- but they had to spread it back or it would shrink. They ruined one good blanket, I heard, scouring it and then just letting it dry out in the sun. That selvedge edge didn't shrink but all the rest of it just shrunk.

(You said they had to take the beadwork off if they were gonna wash it?)

Yeah.

(Was they hard to do?)

Oh yeah. But now they can dry-clean them.

WOMEN'S DRESS, EARLY TWENTIETH CENTURY:

(I was asking you when you worked in that store how the men used to dress and you told me--well, how did the women used to dress at that time?)

Well, at some of these pow-wows you know seen these girls in cloth dresses, they call them--like Comanches, Cheyennes and Arapahoes--Kiowas. That's the way they used to dress. They had--they wore good cloth, too. Muslin, and sateen. There was no nylon in them days--all was silk. They wore good, mostly plain--very little figures. Very little, you know--

(Little designs?)

Yeah. Oh, that gingham had checks, but not too bright. But they wore open sleeves you know. Open sleeves. Then they had sides here, you know, to expand the skirt part--they have to put in--fit this in the side--

(A panel in the side seams.)

Yeah. And they had matched cloth for their aprons. Not so wide, but just so they have them around the waist. That's the way the girls dress now--you've seen 'em in these cloth dresses in these pow-wows. That was the style.

(Now this cotton material they used to make the dresses out of--did you sell that at the store?)

We sold all kinds of cloth.

(How wide was it?)

Some could be thirty inches wide and some twenty-eight. Very rarely we have thirty-