

before they could read and write?)

Oh, yeah. This thing I'm going to show you is marked all over with their ages. Their years.

(Is there any reason why they wanted to keep track of their age?)

Well, just to know their age. You couldn't just say, "Well, I don't have to remember my daughter's age." You couldn't say that. You'd want to know how old your daughter is. Or sometimes, like "My baby was born the time Kennedy got assassinated." But then she'd forget how many years it has been. Well, she'd go to one of these old men--big men--you know, and say, "Well, how old would my daughter be? She was born at the time Kennedy got assassinated?" Well, this man would count back, how long that happened since this child was born.

(Could any old man count back that way or were there just certain?)

Yes, all the old men could count that way. Because they used to be together all the time and they'd count the years, you know--how long ago that has been.

(Are there any old men or old women living today that might have some idea of how they used to count back--the years--like that?

Or these events that happened?)

No. I don't think there's any more.

(The reason I asked you about why would they want to keep track of their age--like today--it's important to know if you're sixty-five if you want to get your social security or something like that. Or maybe you have to retire from your job. I was wondering--back in those days, did it really make any difference if they knew exactly how old they were?)

Yes. They kept up with their years. Nobody kept my father's