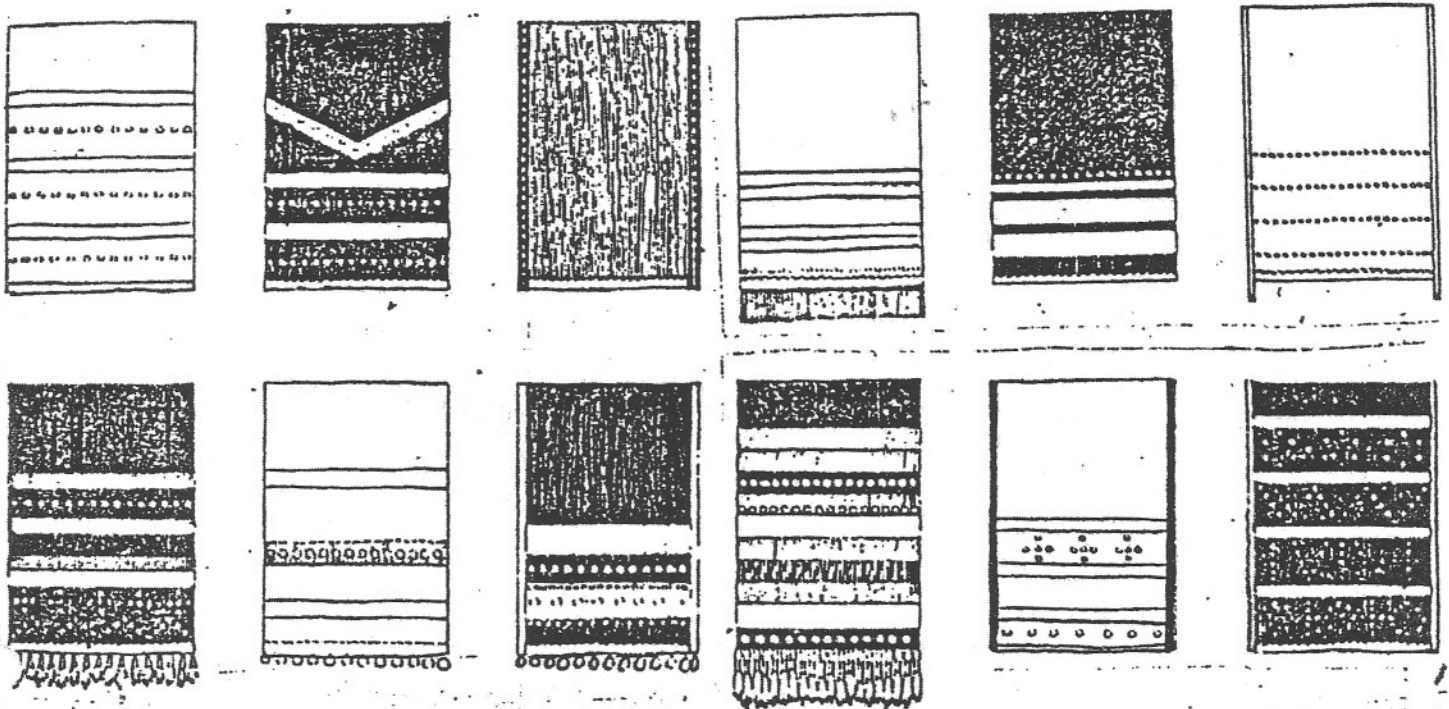


PLAINS INDIANS CLOTHING



The cloth clouts were often decorated on the front and back with an assortment of ribbon, rick rack, brass spots, tin cones, sequins, coins, small mirrors feather fluffs, fringe, and bead work.



LEGGINS- The style of leggins has changed quite dramatically throughout the passing years; since there is no classification for the different styles of leggins this narrative will refer to different styles by their circa, that is the approximate period in history that the clothing was found..

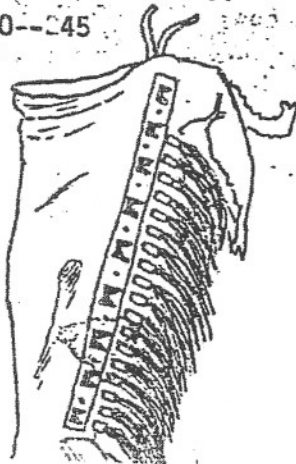
Leather: tanned

Material: animal hides with or without hair, tanned buck skin or elkhide. *sub- suede cloth

cloth:

trade cloth, wool blankets, canvas (unwater proofed), or a denim type material.

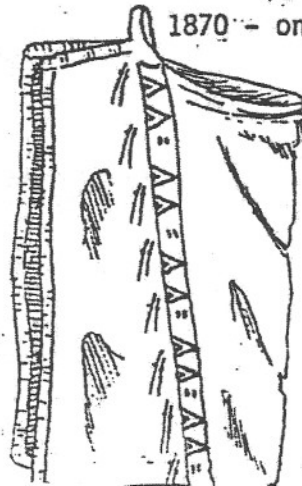
1800--245



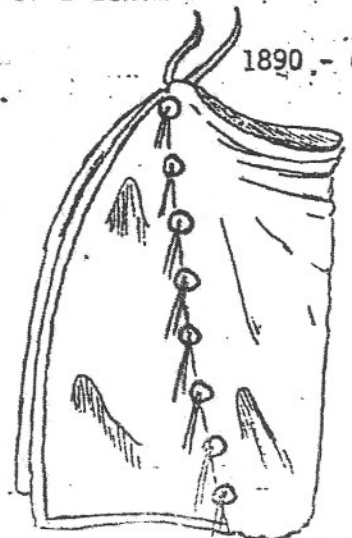
1830 - 70



1870 - on



1890.- on



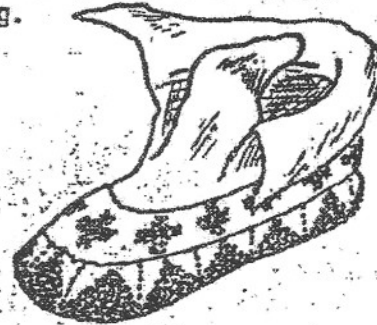
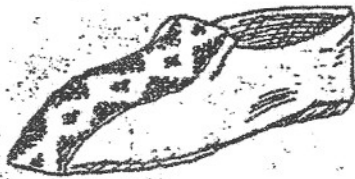
PLAINS INDIAN CLOTHING

MOCCASIN- Either low cut or ankle high, can be hand made, ready made or bought as a kit.

Plain tops- every day use.

Partially beaded tops- every day use, ceremonies, and dancing.

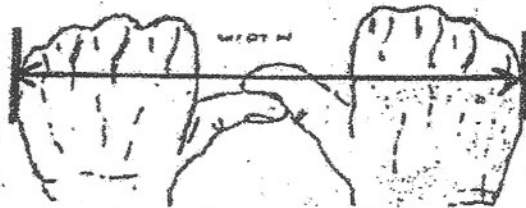
Fully beaded tops- ceremonies or dancing.



BREECH CLOUT- Clouts are divided into two simple categories;

- 1) Leather- a soft supple type of leather (not finished)
*substitution- thick weave suede cloth.
- 2) Cloth- a thick weave like trade cloth, wool blankets, canvas (unwater proofed), or a denim type material.

Length depends on wearer: usually its to the middle of the knee in both front and back, the width is denoted by the distance between the outside of the hands with the thumbs outstretched and overlapping about one inch. (see diagram)

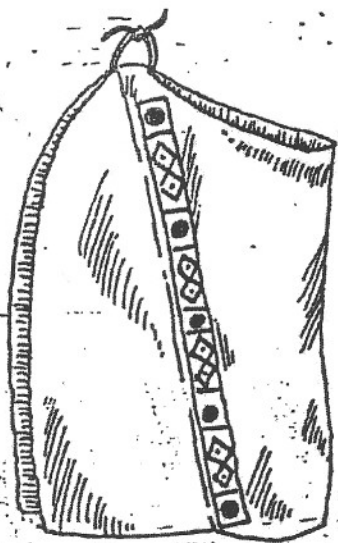


If the clout is cloth then it will generally be either blue or red, but tan, brown, green, black, and white were often seen (red denotes warrior status and should be avoided)

The cloth clouts were often edged in ribbon, and the bottom horizontal edge mostly trimmed in white.

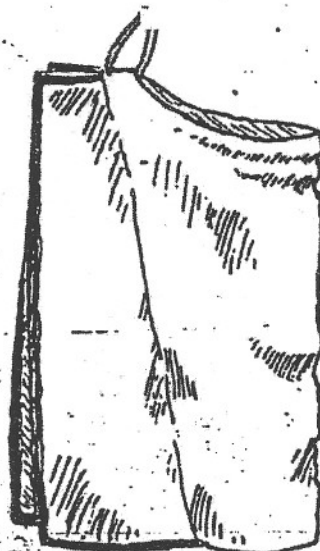
Leather clouts were usually decorated with artistic bead work on the front and back panel.

Sometimes a cotton cloth liner was put in the middle to make wearing more comfortable.



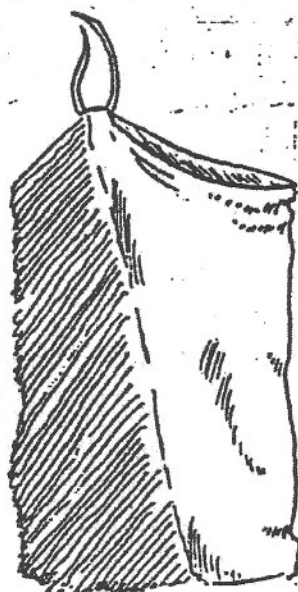
Circa 1890

rounded flap with beaded strip.



Circa 1870

square flap with ribbon edging



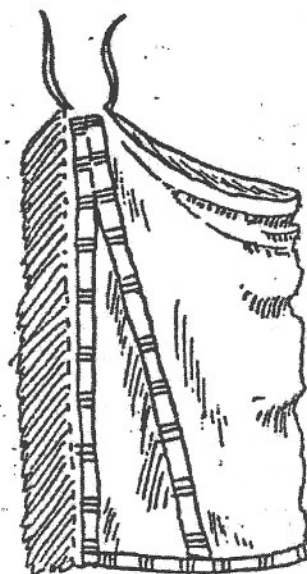
Circa 1830 - 1870

fringed flap



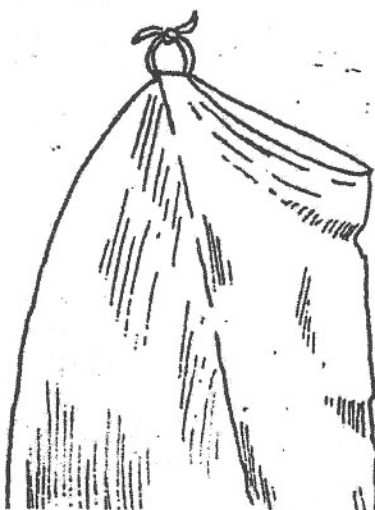
Circa 1890

short flap



Circa 186

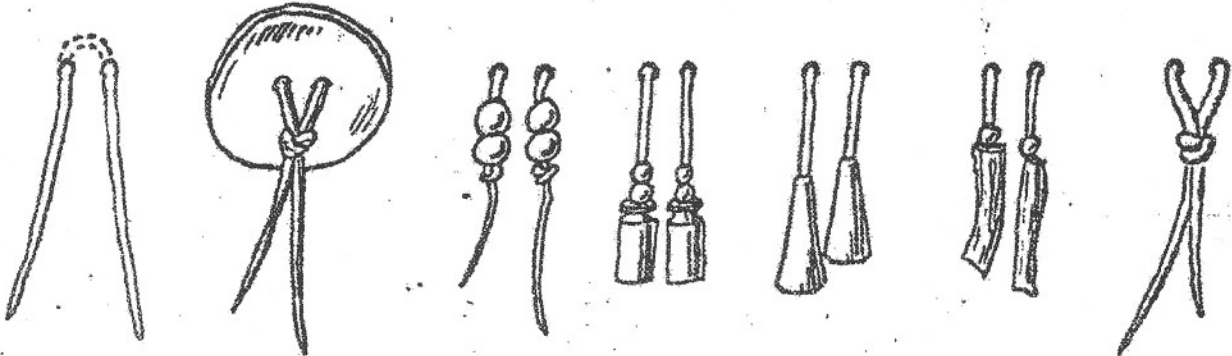
short flap with beaded trim, extra flap was fringed



Circa 1890

METHOD OF TYING LEGGINS-

- 1) Set two holes through both flaps where you would like to put the ties, then loop some string, raw hide, or wax cord through them; leaving about 4 or more inches dangling on each side.
- 2) the dangling cord can be strung through conches, snug fitting beads, brass shells, bones, or tin cones. they can be held in place with either a single knot or two separate knots.

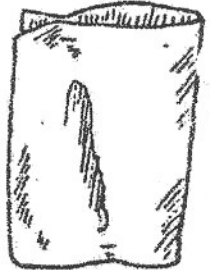


SIMPLE LEGGIN MAKING PROCEDURE- this is the easiest way to make leggin's and many variations can be gotten.

1) Lay out material loosely around girth. leave about 4 inches of extra material beyond foot.



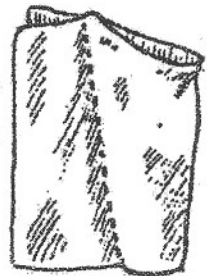
2) Pin or tie material together at thigh & ankle, there should be enough room to slip the foot in and out easily.



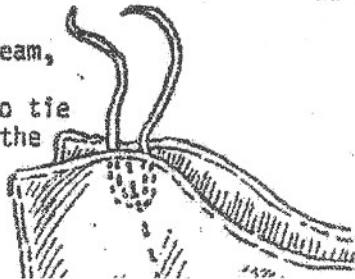
3) Measure 4 inches down the waist and cut at an angle towards the thigh, if the leggin is now snugged up to the crotch then the outer flaps should reach up to the hip bone.



4) Sew or tie at an angle from hip to foot, if there is some extra length then it can be trimmed.

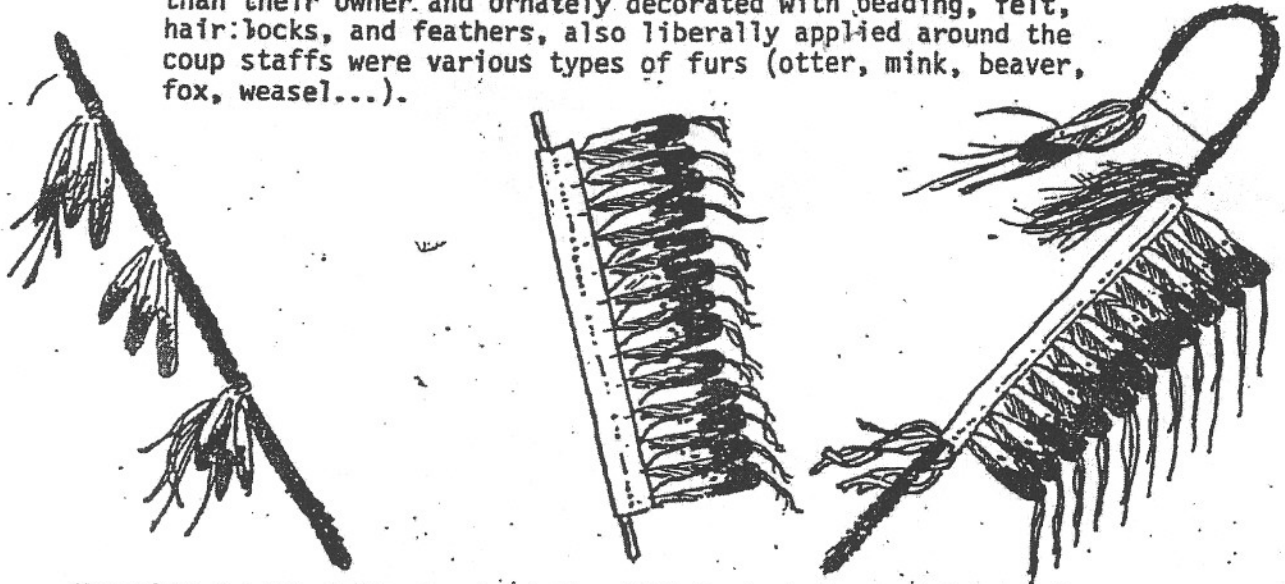


5) "tie cord" through seam, make sure the seam is reinforced, (the cord to tie around a belt to keep the leggin's up)



THE FOLLOWING PAGE SHOWS SOME OF THE OPTIONS THAT CAN BE DONE WITH DIFFERENT VARIATIONS.....

COUP STICKS- coup sticks were used by warriors to test bravery and to display their war honors (coups). they were very similar to lance, but they had no flint or steel head and were used only to touch an enemy not harm him. they were made from slender staves of wood about a foot taller than their owner and ornately decorated with beading, felt, hair:locks, and feathers, also liberally applied around the coup staffs were various types of furs (otter, mink, beaver, fox, weasel...).



Now that I have told you about the different styles and dress of the plains indians I believe it would be in order to tell you about some places where you can get more information and order some kits from: so in complying with my ever increasing public i've listed below some trading posts that would be able to handle your questions and expense account.

CRAZY CROW
p.o. box 314
DENISON, TX.
75020
(214)463-1366

GREY OWL
p.o. box 507
QUEENS VILLAGE, N.Y.
11429
(212)464-9300

PLUME TRADING & SALES
p.o. box 585
MONROE, N.Y.
10950

SPOTTED EAGLE
p.o. box 25644
OKLAHOMA CITY, OK
73125

SUPERNAWS
p.o. box 216
SKIATOOK, OK

TANDY LEATHER INC.
check for local listings
in the yellow pages.

WAKE'DA TRADING POST
p.o. box 19146
SACRAMENTO, CA
95819
(916)485-9838

WAPENISH TRADING POST
YAKIMA INDIAN RESERVATION
702 west 9th st.
WAPATA, WASH.
98951
(509)877-4554

WESTERN TRADING POST
p.o. box 9070
DENVER CO.
80209-0070
(303)777-7752

WINONA TRADING POST
p.o. box 324 dept. WW
SANTA FE, N.M.

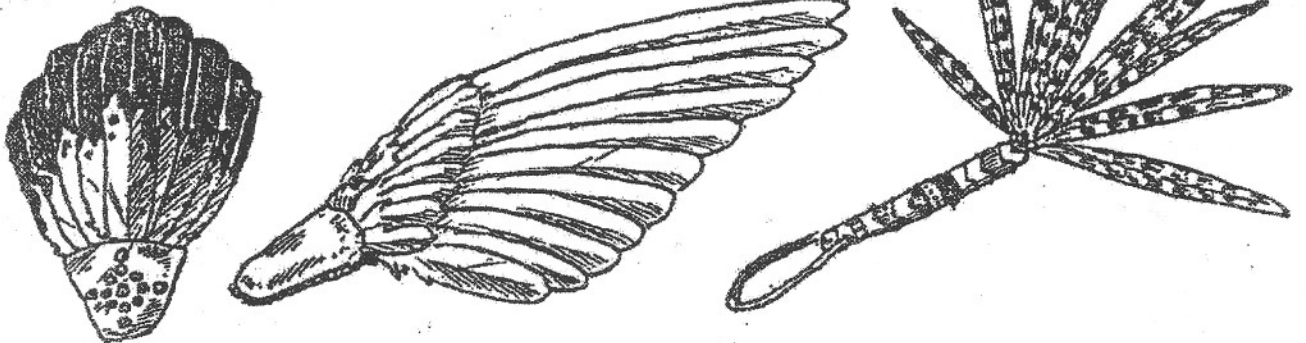
2.00

No Answer

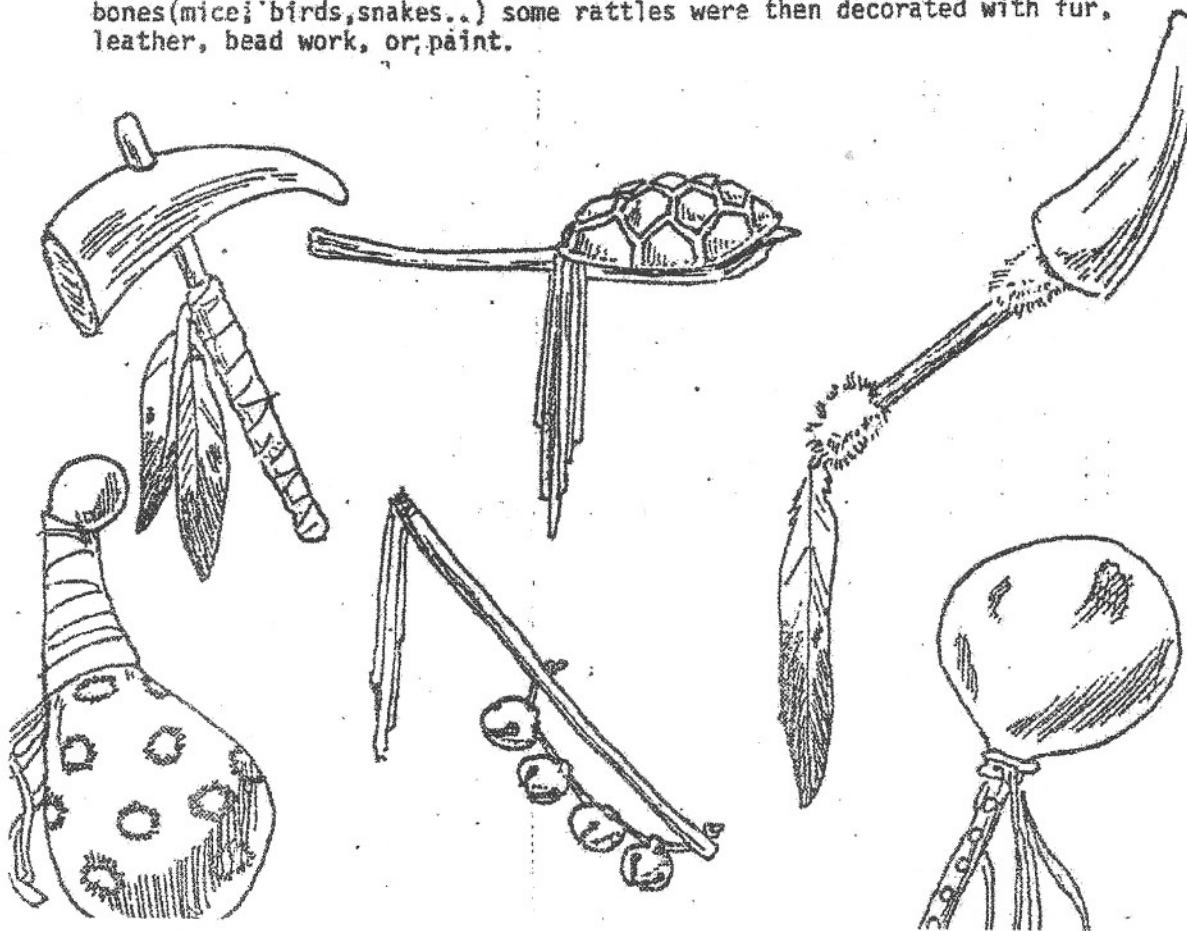
1.00
not a monk
7-11-79

ACCESSORIES- These are little (or large) items that were important to the Indians and they'll do wonders for your Indian image:

FANS- Every Indian had a fan made from the wing or tail feathers from a bird, the reason for possession of a fan was ; it enhanced the splendor of a dancer, it conveyed emotion or "moods" to those near-by, finally the fan was used to create a breeze, to keep himself cool, stoke up a fire, or to shoo



RATTLES- rattles were a very important part of music, prayer, and medicine for the plains Indians. they were made from horns, gourds, turtle shells, leather, or rawhide. the rattles were filled with an assortment of objects; such as beads, seeds, pebbles, gravel, bones (mice, birds, snakes...) some rattles were then decorated with fur, leather, bead work, or paint.



CHEST DECORATIONS- almost all indians wore some sort of ornamentation about their chest, these included breastplates, necklaces, and medallions; either cast metal or beaded.

BREASTPLATES- the most common of torso adornments, it was made of bone hair pipes lying horizontally across the chest, with harness leather spacers and either brass, tile, glass, or ceramic beads.

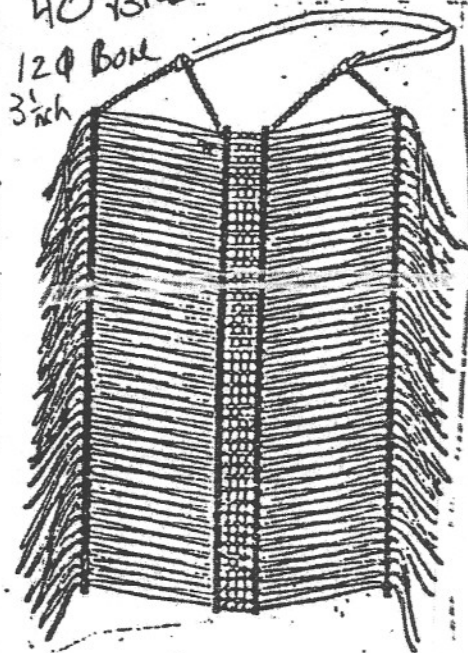
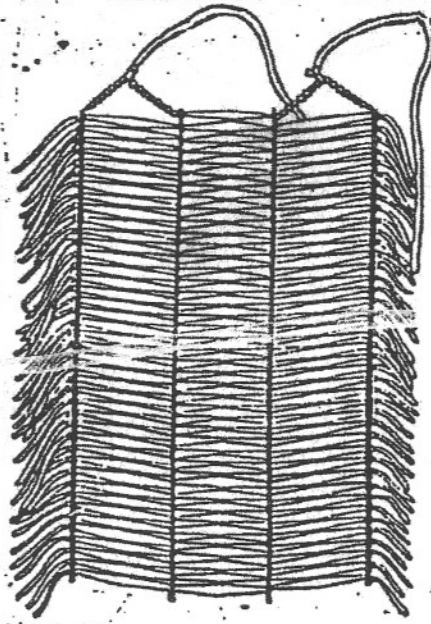
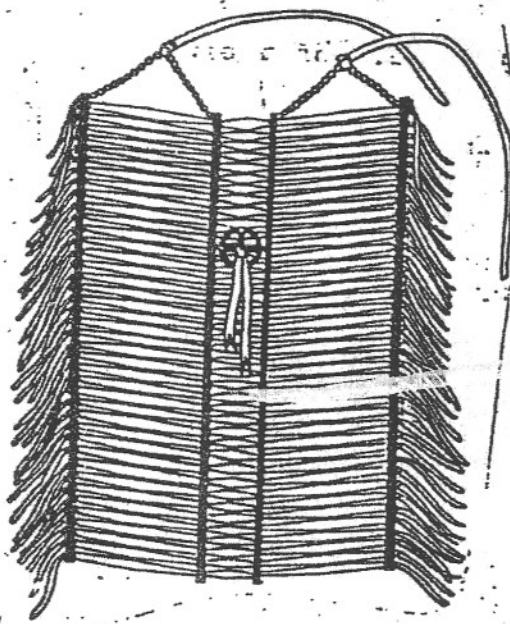
4 Strips Leather

320

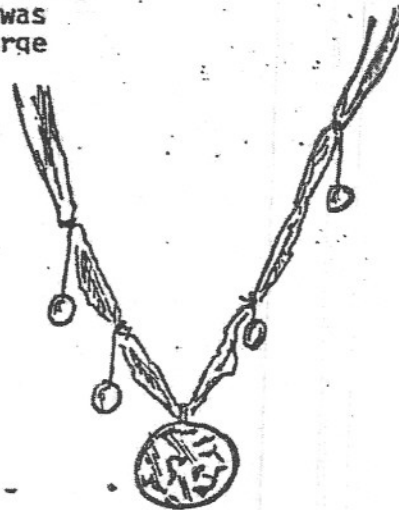
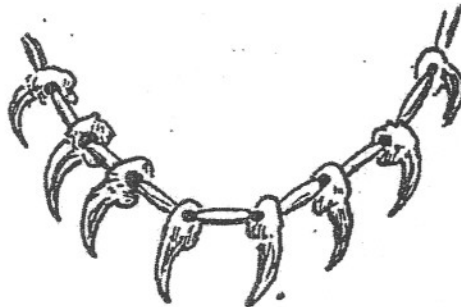
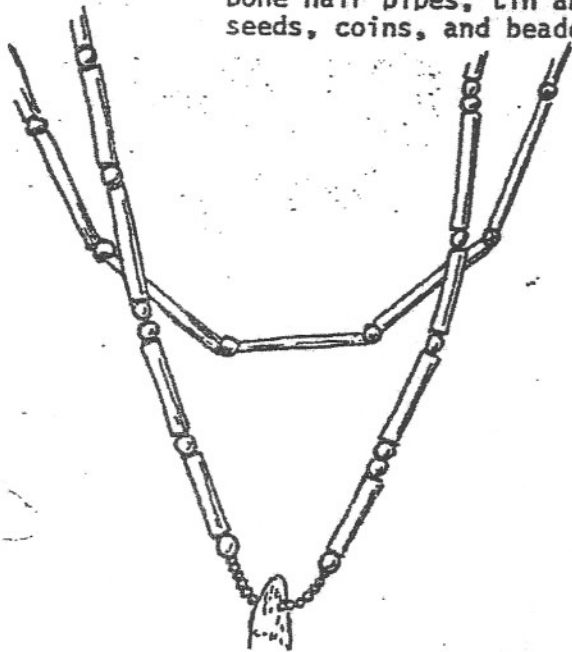
40 Brass

120 Bone

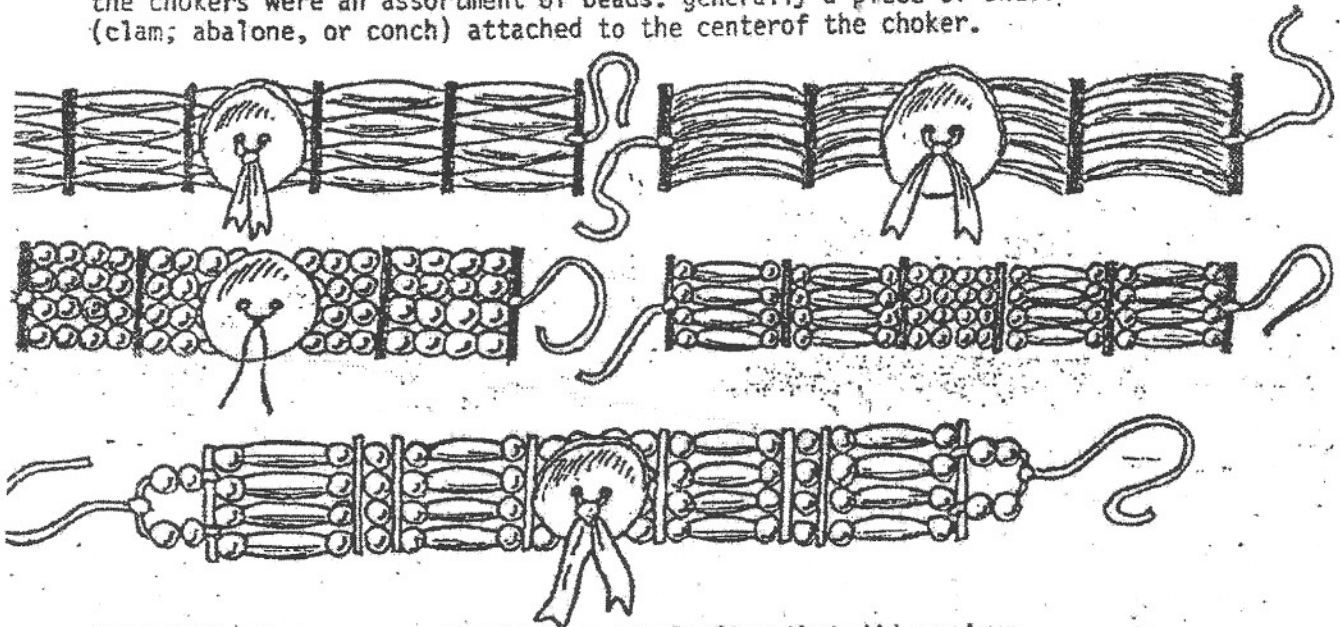
3 inch



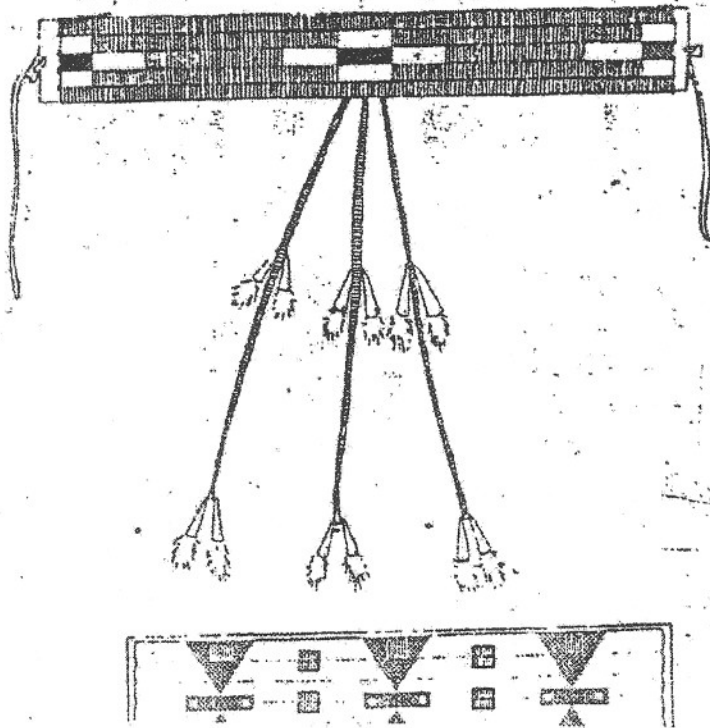
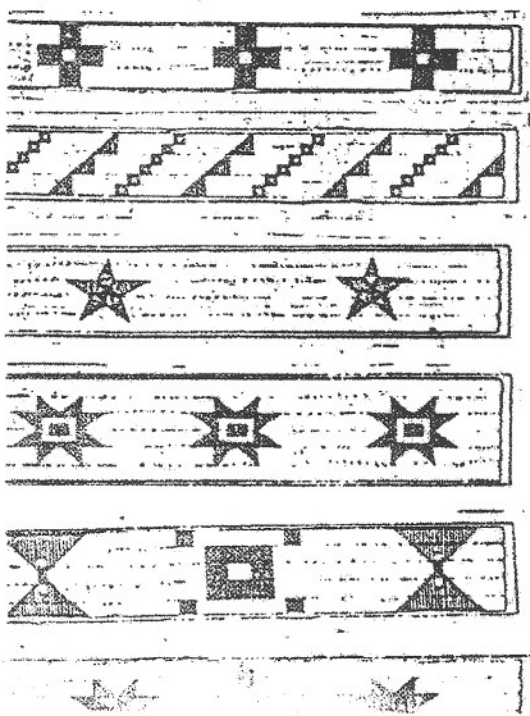
NECKLACES- the indians strung different sizes of beads on various lengths of cord or string, and worn either singularly or up to six at a time. other items used for necklaces was bone hair pipes, tin and brass tubing, teeth, claws, large seeds, coins, and beaded medallions.

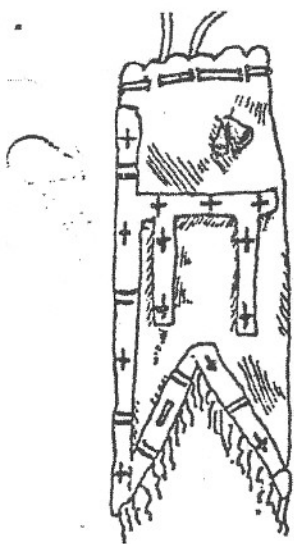


CHOKERS- served a definite purpose, and that was to help prevent getting their throats cut. they were made from bone hair pipes or dentillium shells, with leather spacers, also quite common on the chokers were an assortment of beads. generally a piece of shell (clam; abalone, or conch) attached to the center of the choker.

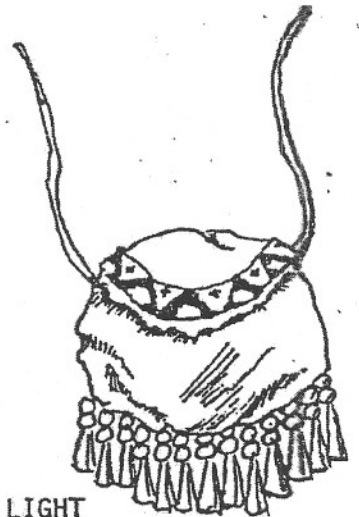


ARM BANDS- these were a distinctive little item that did wonders for otherwise drab indian clothing, they were usually between 1½ to 3 inches wide and were either beaded (loom or lazy stitched), formed from metal (brass, copper, or german silver.), made from leather, or quilled.



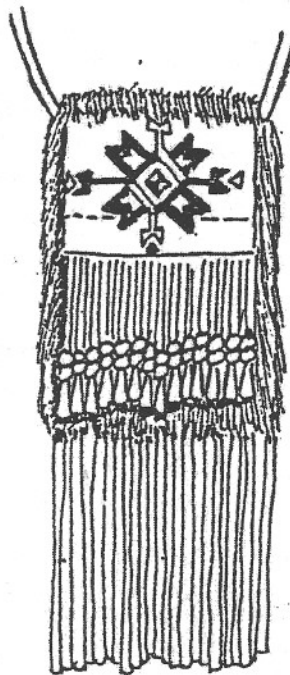
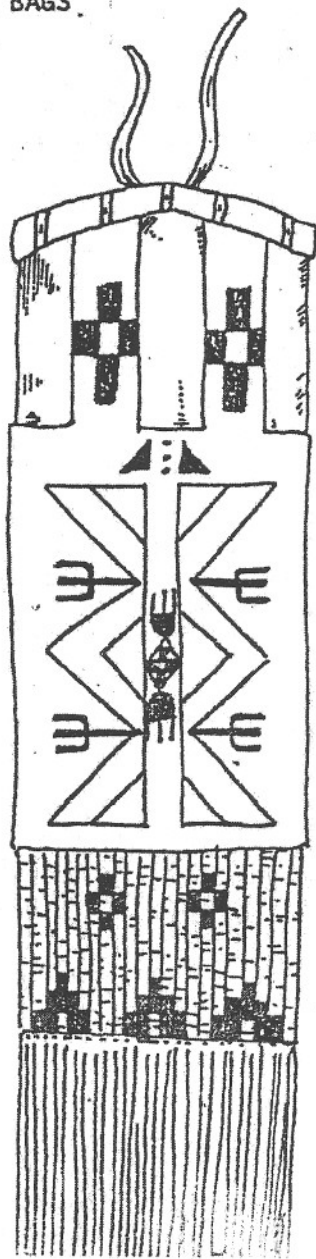
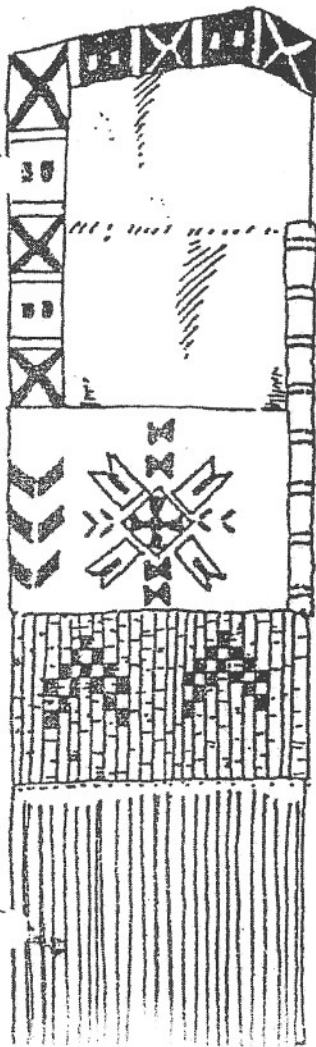


MEDICINE BAGS

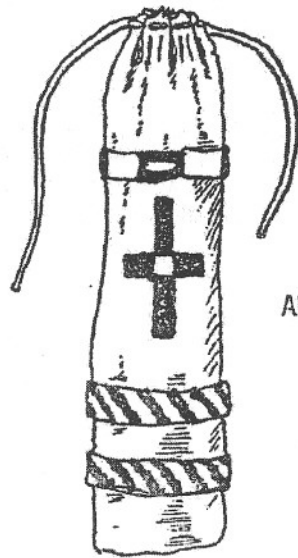


STRIKE A LIGHT BAGS

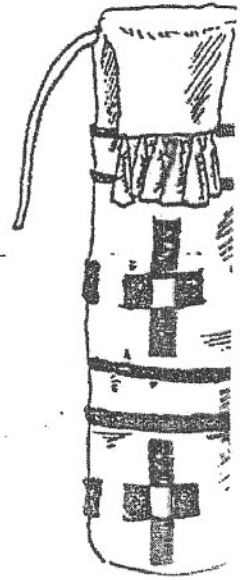
PIPE BAGS



POSSIBLES BAGS



AWL CASES



BAGS- since indians didnt have pockets they incorporated the use of bags of various sizes for different purposes; some were for definite reasons and some served a certain purpose, others were used for whatever nick-nack that they needed to carry at the moment, bags were usually either beaded or quilted, and then they were decorated with whatever the indian wanted to signify the use of that bag for.

MEDICINE BAGS- there were two sizes of the medicine bags one was small enough to attach around the neck with a cord of some sort: the other had a long strap, and was hung from the shoulders and left dangling at the waist, or it was hung in the lodge to give 'power' to the home.
- The medicine bags were normally denoted by their 'legs' the top edge was mostly scalloped and beaded.

PIPE BAGS- again these had a certain purpose; These carried the tobacco and pipe of the american indian, both of which meant a great deal to the indian religion.

pipe bags are easily recognized by the 4 section construction utilized, there was the top; about 7 inches with beading up the side, it was folded over the belt for carrying, the second section was about 10 inches long with a totally beaded front, the third section was 10 inches long and was quilted, the last section was 10 inches of dangling fringe.

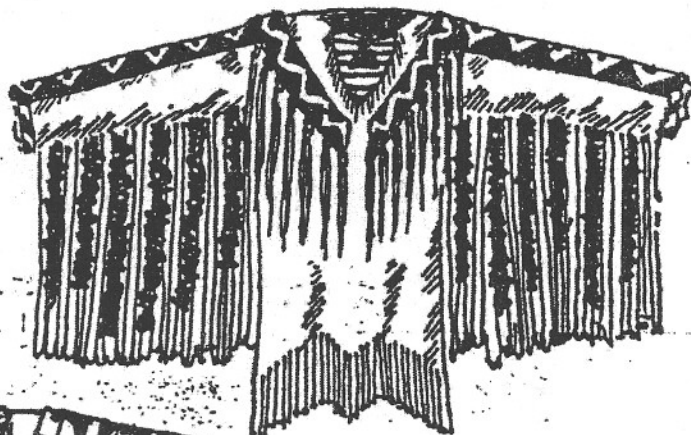
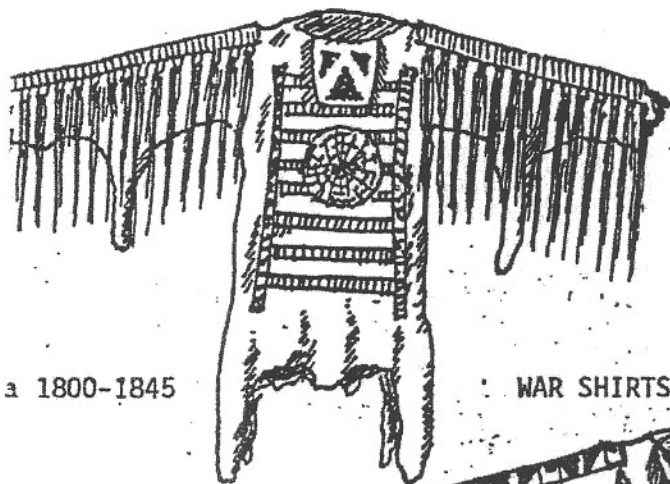
pipe bags had two inside sections, one housed the pipe bowl and tobacco, the other contained the pipe stem.

STRIKE A LIGHT- these were small bags that could be tied to the belt, or could be stored in a possibles bag, the bags were used to transport flint & steel used to start fires.

this particular type of bag was easily identified by its flap and the strike a light usually decorated along the bottom with tin bells or cones.

POSSIBLES BAG- this particular bag always had a shoulder strap some times the bag could be tied to the belt, the bags themselves were either a draw string type or it had a flap, these bags carried just about anything the indian wanted in them that would fit, some of the items that did go in were flint chips for arrow heads, knives, feathers, herbs & roots, awls, stones, bones, tinder, salt, flash lights with extra batteries, (just kidding)

AWL CASE- with the awl being the second most popular trade item on the plains the indians sometimes made a bag or case just to house that item, since it was used around camp it simply tied to the belt, the case was usually a draw string type bag.



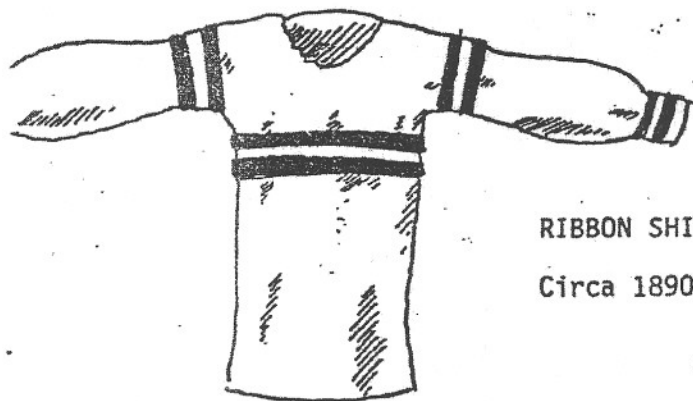
a 1800-1845

WAR SHIRTS

Circa 1830-1880

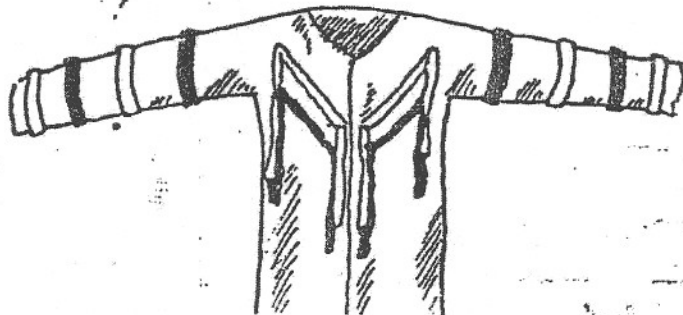
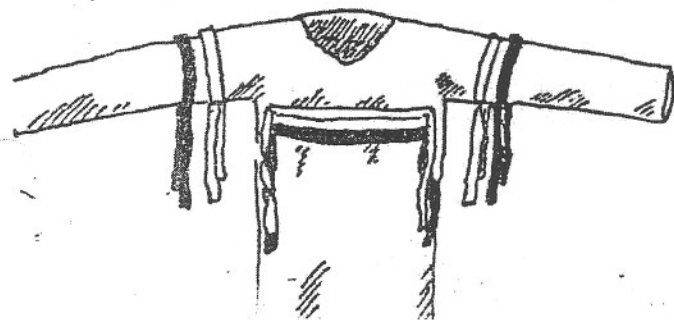
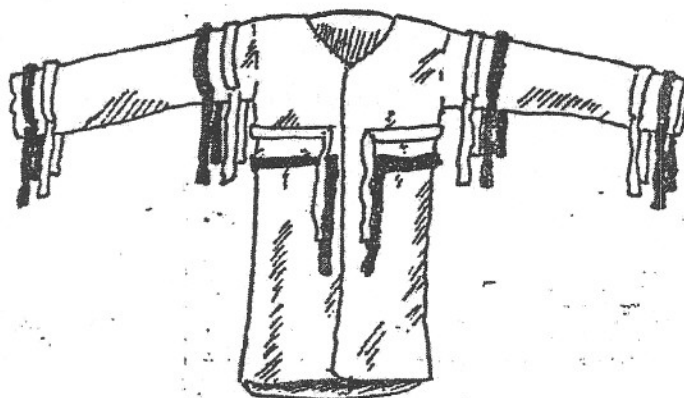


Circa 1875-1912



RIBBON SHIRTS

Circa 1890-on



SHIRTS- The earliest plains indian shirt seen was about 1820 with the western migration of american settlers, the shirts were elaborate garments made of full animal hides and decorated with broad quill work & horsehair locks (used to show their honors).

As the white man continued his trek west the war shirt style changed, the indians began to pattern their clothing after the settlers clothing, about 1860 the war shirt had been modified totally the "legs" disappeared, fringe was added, bead work replaced the quill work, and war honors were now worn on the chest as opposed to the arms, even though the style changed the indian war shirt was still an impressive sight.

Around 1890 with the slaughter of the buffalo and the confining of the indians on reservations the war shirts became more conservative due to lack of available leather, finally about 1910 the near extinction of buffalo and the presence of the white man on the plains the indians resorted to using the shirts that they obtained from the settlers,

Since no bead work could be easily applied to the cloth indians put colorful lengths of satin ribbon on the shirts instead, and so the ribbon shirt was born and became quite fashionable on the reservation.

Later on when the indians made their own shirts they were modeled after the pioneers shirts; they had a square cut bottom that went down to the crotch, and a V-neck that was without any collar.

LEATHER- these were ornate and impressive shirts made from brain-tanned deer or elk hides and decorated with either quill or bead work, horsehair locks, and fur drops.

CLOTH- usually made from an old calico print, but a white cotton material could be used instead, or even an old western type of shirt can be used if the collar is removed. ribbons can be attached across the chest, and back, around the cuffs and upper arms, or lengthwise up & down the arms, and even at angles across the chest.

MEASUREMENTS FOR SHIRT-

