

MYRTLE'S CHILDHOOD AND MARRIAGE

(Could you tell anymore about how it used to be when you were a little girl?)

Well, I was born here at Cantonment where stone building is. That's where I was a baby. That was 1888, And my mother was living. And after I was a baby, well, she went and died. And she never did come out of it. She died. My sister was in school here in Cantonment. And I just had a grandmother that was taking care of me. And I done all I could to help her. Like, she goes after wood or water and everything like that. Then she put me in school and I went to school. I was in school about six months till she passed away. I didn't have no home. I used to stay at the school when school was out. There would be three or four girls or boys who would stay there. Finally this Coal Fire, he come up there and he said, "We gonna take you. We going take care of you." And I had a brother. And I told him, "Well, there's two of us." "Well, we'll take your brother." So they went and asked the Agent. The Agent's name was Mr. White. He said he was glad they wanted to take us. So they took me and my brother down to their house and we stayed with them. And he was good to us.

(Imogene: What about your sister?)

My sister was married. She was married already, but her husband was like these men that don't like company or anything. When we'd go over there he'd say, "When are you going back home?" Just that way. And we used to have to go. And we used to walk. It was about from Eagle City two miles north-- that's where my sister was living. And we used to walk a mile and half east of Eagle City to get back home. So finally they were having a camp. They were gonna have what they call War Dance. My brother, he got killed there. I guess he climbed the tree and he fell and broke his neck. And I was left alone. So my uncle asked me if I was ready to get married. And I told him