

gone. So don't go in there, grandma's going to whip you. He d dn't come back.

(Annie when you cut, how deep a cut do you make?)

Just as deep as my hand goes. I'll do it (on you.) I'll cut your gums.

((That day the interviewer was suffering with teeth abscesses.))

(Can you think of any other kind of medicines the Old Lady used?)

No. I'm slow thinking. I got some way, and from there, my memory's no good.

When I went to surgery there, I was under, I was out for three days, I was insane.

I didn't know anything. I just stayed asleep, just like I'm dead, they say.

For three days. When night comes, that's when I wake up, like I wake up.

People all around. Like one night when I wake up, my boy was standing there.

(Annie's son has been dead for many years.) He had a stick in his hands, and

he woke me up, punching me with the stick. Wake up, wake up. It was him.

Sonny, what you doing up here, I said. You woke me up. I want you to wake up,

wake up, ...wake up Mama, don't sleep. Wake up. I'm all right, I said.

I know, he touching my cut. I say, don't do that. You went through the

operation. Yes, well wake up, you don't have to sleep like that. Night time,

I suppose to rest. You been sleeping daytime, too, all the time. You been

sleeping too long. You better wake up, wake up and stay awake. You can get

well. Sometimes, I...it's funny... I look them boys. I know they been dead

a long time. They were in the room, fooling with them ladies. Pulling their

hair, just teasing them. It was my dream. I didn't know what to do. I can't

get up. Look Sonny I want you all to go out. Dirty the way you all doing to

these patients. They sick. And one of my nephews was just pulling that

colored ladies hair. Pull her hair, she move her head. Like that, just keep. (sic)

Don't do that, get on out. You boys get out. I meant all of you all go out.

They all go out. Finally Sonny come back in. He said, Mama, you better go with

me. He put my shoes on the bed. If I go with you how you going to take me. I

get you up there where I'm at, good place. It's a beautiful place. You never

be sick. You'll never go hungry. Happy...he said, all your folks are up there.