

was three white oak trees. Right there I was camping. That's where he was a baby. I always say that's my boy's birthplace.

CHILDBIRTH AND ARAPAHO PRACTICES

(Did this old lady, Mrs. Bighead, wait on you then?)

Yeah, she waited on all my kids. All of them. Even up to Carrie.

(What kind of things would she do for you?)

She feed us medicine. Oh! (making an exclamation) You might tell some other people! You know these minnow they get in the water? They used to dry them and grind them and they give us that when we're going to have our birth. Yeah, they said that water makes them sleep. That's what they used to do. That's what they used to give us. And we didn't lay like these doctors--we had to stand on our knees and hold on to stick up this way, and put our knees right on our tail, you know. And they used to come. But Carrie Lee and Cordelia-- I laid when they were born. I was kind of feisty, that time. I told her, "I'm not going to stand and hang on to this pole!" I told that woman. "I'm going to lay here until my baby comes," I told her. They said, "You're just going to delay it!" "I don't care if I delay it," I told her. I wouldn't get up. And they come.

(Was it any easier?)

I think the other way was easier.

(When you were on your knees?)

Yeah, when you're holding on, you know. But anyhow you have to grab something over here and hold on, you know, when the pain starts. And they don't allow no noise or anything. They say if you make a noise, that will make it stop, they used to say. And not a sound in there until after the baby comes.

(You mean even if it hurts you're not supposed to make a sound?)

Even if it hurts you just have to put something--handkerchief--in your mouth, to keep from, you know, groaning too loud.