

SHELLS IN NAMING CEREMONY

(What about the shells that they talk about in the naming ceremony?)

The shells? Well, let's see. The shell was tied--the shell was laced with a buckskin and that was tied around the neck--tied around the neck. And then too, the little babies, they have a tiny little shells, you know that they tie in their hair. And that's--that's during all that ceremony you know that they--

(You don't know the exact meaning of it?)

No, that's just the naming of the baby is all. That's when they name--

(Just part of it?)

Or sometimes you know it will be when their birthday, you know, it will be when their birthday is too. They are little bitty things you know, they'll have those right about the top of their head here, you know, tied with buckskin, you know. They wouldn't even bother it, you know, it just be there.

BURIAL CUSTOMS - MOURNING

(I don't want to lead you into this, but you once told me how you used to go with your aunt when she went out and cried at sunrise--could you explain that?) Well, I remember that when my father died, she had, well, the night before she had corn, and she had our bread you know, we call the turnover bread. And she had that ready for the early morning when she'd go out to my father's grave and of course I couldn't sleep unless I was right with her. And we'd go out there and she'd take some of that food with her. And we'd go out there and she'd put it down at the head of the grave and she'd mourn. And I just stood right there by her, you know and just--and she used to tell me what that was for you know, that he would have to eat too. And so when she'd get--when they'd get through, why she just left it there until later on. But she'd go and get her, you know, little bucket and that way why she always thought about him. And sometimes why they'd bake and go out and put something at the head of the grave if they want to, you know.

(This custom is still carried on isn't it Mary?)