

Yeah. (Like most older Indians, Myrtle indicates the length of objects with reference to her fingers, hand, and forearm.) So when you go that way, it could swing down. You didn't have to hold it tight. Just like that way--if you go this way--

(You'd have the point sticking down (in the skin) like that and you'd hit it here (hafted end)--?)

Yeah. Hit it there where that point is.

(This stick--the other stick.)

It was about this long (10 or 12 inches) and you hold it just that way (lightly).

Don't hit it too hard. You hit it hard and it won't go through that vein.

(Was it possible to miss the vein--if you didn't hit it just right?)

No, I never did miss. I never did miss. I used to press their backs first and then tie it over here (upper arm, below shoulder) with a cloth. And they used to hold a stick in their hand, that way. (Patient would grasp a stick tightly. Stick was long enough that one end rested on the ground. Patient probably was in kneeling position. Effect of grasping stick would probably be same as "making a fist" for blood test.--jj)

(Would you ever do that at any other time besides just in the spring or fall?)

Oh yes. You know when somebody is sick, and if they want that done, they used to do that to them. And then another thing. There was a woman. She used to have leg ache all the time. Her legs used to ache. And my aunt, she went and opened the veins over here (indicating the instep or top surface of the foot).

(The instep.)

Yeah. Right on top over here. You know them veins that kind of joins--right over here.

(Did that help?)

That helped that woman. She could walk. That's why I say that some time, if my leg don't quit hurting, I'm gonna stab it! Gonna stab my leg! (Myrtle has