

been having trouble recently with one of her legs.)

(Are there any other ladies, like yourself, that do that any more?)

No. There was just my aunt that used to do that. I don't know where she got it. But she give it to me and I used to do that. And it got so they come regular. I just--I was afraid of it. But after my boy got killed I just throw my things away.

HOW MYRTLE LEARNED TO HIT VEINS

(How old were you when she gave it to you?)

I was about sixteen. She used to teach me. She done that to my uncle and I was the one that went and hit that thing. Yeah. And she said, "You done all right." And then another old man came and I went and hit it. Four of them I had and she thought I was good at that, then. And then I used to do that too.

(Did she ever tell you then that it was all right for you to go on and do it on your own?)

Yeah. She said, "You go ahead and do it on your own." But she fixed me them-- I had about twelve of them (the equipment). And I had a little box where I used to keep them. And after I used one I used to put them in soap water and let them soak. And then take them out and pour clean water on them and when they get dry I put them back in there.

(So you could use the same ones over?)

Yeah.

(Did you use the same stick to tap it with?)

Yeah. I had the same stick. It was just shiny.

(What kind of wood was it?)

Willow.

(And these shorter little sticks were willow too?)

Yeah. And this (stick) they used to hold on to was a willow.