

I was too little.

(How old were you then?)

Four, four years old, she says.

(This is real interesting to me, because a lot of people probably would have died back in the old days of the Seminole Nation if the doctors had not been good and knowing what type of medicine to use--for these particular ailments; for fever and things.)

We used to use to go out and gather bunch of herbs, like grape vine twigs, you know, that real tender shoots. We'd go out and pick all kinds of tender shoots off of different not anything like cockleburrs--but you know, something like grape vines and first one thing and another. Mint--and they'd put it in a pot of Indian medicine. Would brew in there, make black draught. And they used to drink that and vomit--cleaning the evil spirit and poison outta your system. They used to do that quite often. You don't see that; you don't hear that anymore.

(Was that like the black drink they take at the stomp dances?)

Uh-huh.

(I've tasted that, not at stomp dances, but when I was a kid. Somebody had some and it's the bitterest, strongest stuff!)

That's right. And they're common medicine now in--it's hard to find anymore, but it's sort of gradually going away from the Indians, because it's getting so that it's hard to find the willow roots. They're little bush about so tall (about four feet), gray you know. They don't grow in clusters or clumps, but they used to just grow individually. And they used to take that and scrape the roots off and dry them and put 'em up, put 'em away. But even those are hard to find.

(Does your mother think of anymore stories she'd like to tell?)

She said when she got married and started having a family of her own, she said she always resorted to the Indian medicine, because that was the only thing in those days.

(Who was the first white doctor in Seminole county--in the Seminole Nation?)