

and set 'em on fire while he was--And you could hear him holler for five miles. Some of the boys outside discovered that somebody was hollerin' for help. By the time we all got up there his clothes was all burnt off. And they carried him in and he lived a week or two. But there'd be big old blisters come on, you know, rise up there that big, you know, puff out there. Them old ladies set there and pick them out with a pin and bust them you know. He finally kicked out. He couldn't stand the pressure.

GRANDMOTHER WAS A MIDWIFE DOCTOR

(They had a lot of their own medicine back in those days, didn't they?)

Oh, yeah. Yeah, my grandmother was a doctor. And she was a midwife--doctor. I often think, now it costs about two or three hundred dollars now to give birth, you know, childbirth. And them days, my grandmother would get up midnight hours, anytime of the night, snow and ice, high water and somebody'd come and get her. Say, "Well, my wife is gonna have baby." And she'd go. Well, sometime she'd get in about this time of day, you know. And she'd have a little old sack of meal about like that, you know. That's what they'd give her. And I've often thought about it now, if they'd paid then like they do now, my grandmother a been a millionaire.

(She had that many, I guess?)

Oh, Man, I tell you, I don't know how many hundreds of kids--well she was the main one. She dug the herbs and she treated the woman--whoever was gonna have the baby. And she didn't--they had funny rulings then--it ain't like it is now, have the baby today and up tomorrow. The made 'em lay there ten days under the cover. They wouldn't let 'em even pull the covers back. And that's the way the thing was done then.

(Your wife was telling us last night that story that when ever someone was going to have a baby they'd tell 'em to drink some sycamore bark tea if they wanted to have a white baby.)