

for the country, and I thought to myself, "Well, I ought to be at school. I'm a young man, just past seventeen years old." My father died when I was eighteen years old. Left me and my mother and my two brothers. And the way--the sense it affected me that night was this, there was my poor mother, getting along in years. And there was a storm brooding way in the northwest, coming towards our way. That's the way this peyote had its effect on me. And I thought, "How am I going to take care of my mother? Which means life--Out in the open--No father. Youngest brother of the three brothers." I thought to myself, "The only way I can take care of my poor mother in my life is to get an education." And I made up my mind that night. We came out the next morning and some older man came to me and said, "How do you feel?" "I feel all right." He said, "Well, we prayed for you and your folks." I told him, "I'm going off to school. The sense that I got last night was this--just like somebody told me, 'You're a young man. You should go and get an education. But cling to this Native American Church. And cling to the Bible.'" Same thing--all said as one thing. I accepted it that night and that fall I went off to school. I cut my hair off and went to school.

(Was this meeting being held for your mother?)

Yeah. And so I loved my mother--naturally we all do--and I wanted to protect her. That sensation of that storm meant to me that there was a life. That I should take care of my mother. And I did until she died. I always had room for her, and I raised a family of five--my wife and my kids, and my mother. And I went as far as Oklahoma City to get her nice house slippers, nice comb and brush, towels, dress goods. And if I went to town for ice cream for the kids my mother had a share. She always had a nice room. I took care of my mother.

(Was the purpose of that meeting you attended that night for your mother?)

Well, they invited me to come there, but the purpose of that meeting was to doctor an old man. There were peyote doctors there. They pray for them. It was for that person but they