

STORY ABOUT JOHNSON SMITH'S MOTHER'S MEDICINE:

(Fred, do you want to tell me again about Johnson's medicine?)

It was his mother's medicine. Well, I don't know where she got that, but probably from a way back, somewheres originally from way back generation after generation I guess. So, she has treated people for things like that trouble, you know..heart. I don't know, I got sick here, some time ago. Way back, isn't it, 19 and 32 I think that was. And she come to our house and she treated me with that medicine. She never boil it or anything. She just had it tied in a little cloth or buckskin, put it around my neck. So I took a whiff of it every now and then. She just told me, do like this (motioning to his nose). Smell of it and I did. So I had it around me all night. I don't know what was my heart that time giving me trouble. Anyway, she let me give it that way tied it around my neck. I took a whiff of it now and then. I had it around my neck about a couple of days, I think. Got to feeling pretty good. Ever since then I was alright, till up till two years ago. Kind of..at that dance down there last day. I went after wood, went up the road, way up there. I was hacking on it, that evening for supper to cook. Then it seem like I was hacking on that wood, kind of hard. I kept moving around like that finally that just hit me, dropped my axe weak. My wife say what's the matter. I say, I don't know, I just went to that tent there, sat down. Pretty soon she brought that cot out, you know, where I was lying. Rest there. I got pretty weak. I just wondered what happened, I didn't know I finally got over it though.

(What was in that medicine?)

There was them big butterfly. It ain't really a butterfly, it's something similar to that. And she they get it live, you know, and they dry