

mother used to tell me. After my grandmother and father was gone
My uncle, Coal Fire used to talk to me and used to tell me. And he
used to tell me never to depend on anybody. And if you ain't got
nothing to eat when you have company, just get water and give them a
cup of water. That's what my uncle Coal Fire used to tell me. "But
be willing to feed your company when they come to your home. Be glad
that people come to you. And whatever is said to you, don't listen
to it--let it go by." That's the way my Uncle Coal Fire used to talk.
And I try to live it. But sometimes it gets me--I have to answer back.
And I try to be good to everybody. I don't care who it is, whether I
know them or not, I'll speak to anybody. I try to live the way my uncle
used to tell me. He said, "If you don't listen to me, you're going to
be pitiful. You are pitiful enough now, but you're going to always
get something. Somebody's gonna always see that you need help," he
always tell me. "You're pitiful and you got to take my word. That way
you're going to live good. There's going to be somebody say, "Well,
I guess I marry that one and take care of her. Well, you're going to
have a husband. And he's going to tell you what to do, and you got to
listen to him. A man is the head of the family." That's what he used
to tell me. And he's the one made me marry this man I had. And I'm
always thankful that he chose a good man for me. I didn't choose this
man myself. In Indian way they used to, you know, give them. And I
was thankful that he got me this man for me. I had a good man. He work
every day. Work every day and when he come home, "Myrtle, here's your
money. Go ahead. Use it any way. Just so you get a pair of shoes
for the kids." That's what he used to tell me. And when he pass away