

even tell us, "When your period stop, you got baby " That's what they used to tell us.

(Would the girls be told before they ever had their periods for the very first time? Would they have heard about it before then?)

Oh yeah. They used to tell them, "It's gonna come to you. Don't get scared." And they used to say that. It's just like maybe these white people, they advise their kids about things like that. It was just like that. There wasn't any difference in it.. They told them that they had to come through that.

(What age would girls be usually, when they had their first period?)

I don't know. I never had mine till I was nineteen. But these over here--ten and twelve, they have it. I seen little girls, just twelve years old, they have their periods. And oh, I tell you the funniest thing! Over here my daughter was going to join the WACS...

(story, not caught in full, about one of Myrtle's daughter's discovering she had begun to menstruate when she climbed a tree and a sister, looking up, saw that her pants were bloody. She went to her sister to ask what was wrong. She thought she hurt herself some way climbing up the tree. Her sister showed her how to take care of herself. The girl was fifteen years old.)

(You know, back when you were a girl, when a girl would have her first period, would they ever treat her any certain way?)

No.

(Were there any rules that she had to follow or things she couldn't do?)

No. Just the way it comes, they just took it. They didn't have no medicine or anything for it. They just show them how to fix herself