

"Well Armstrong," I said (Armstrong is another name for Saul Birdshead), "Get a pasteboard," I said. "And go get some earth." So he went out and brought it. And I started. I start on the kids first. Start painting them. Armstrong and all of them, after I got through praying. And then I pick out somebody to bless the food, you know. And I told him, "All right, Armstrong," I said. "I want you to bless this food," I told him. He said, "Well, if you show me, I'll do it." "All right," I said. I told him to get five pieces of meat and put it in his hand and then go to that door and hold it up and put it down. And then over there in that corner, and then come around and over here. Then right over here in the center and then that corner and that corner--five places--put it in there. Then we start eating. I told him, "You have to eat with me," I told him. So we all ate together. And they gave me a blanket and a quilt and dress goods. One of that kind--basins--and a coffee pot and a bowl and pot and ten dollars. And then they--well, these dishes they give me, I put that food in there. We brought it home. That's the way it is.

(Gee, that's really interesting.)

Yeah. That man showed me that.

(Did he tell you how to pray, too?)

Yeah. He told me first what to say. And then pray to the Lord up there. That, you know. And they went back. And Verna May (Hamilton)--last Thanksgiving--you know her boy got killed. And she come after me. Well, we were going to eat Thanksgiving. We was just about ready to eat dinner and she came. She said, "Come after you. I want you to cleanse us," she said. Oh, then I went in and told Imogene. "Well, Mama," she said, "You better ask the blessing for this food so the kids could go on ahead and eat and you could go," she said. So then I went and ask the blessing for what she had put out, you know. And then after that I went. Louis, he went with me again.