

and asked and I did that. Then about two days after that I heard my boy got killed on the job. And I took all them things and I throw them away. I said, "I don't think I have a right to be bothering with blood," I told my old man. I threw them away. And after that--it was during the fall--one man came over. I said, "No, I'm not doing that any more. I don't want to bother with this blood any more. I have no right." But my aunt, she showed it to me.

(What kind of things did you use to do that?)

We cut little willows that long, then crack it over here. And these same things I was telling you (about)--these red dark glass bottles--they used to chip them and the sharpest piece you put it between this willow and tie it with sinew. And then you had a stick about that long. And you know, you didn't have to hit it like this (hard). Just that way (light tap), you know. Hit that little thing and it stuck, and after that put dirt on it. After lot of blood come out put dirt on there and they used to hold it like that. And here nowadays people always say when a sore spot get dirt on it, it's infected. And here they used to put dirt on there and hold their arm (folded). (Vein in arm at elbow was tapped to draw blood--about where blood is drawn for modern medical tests. After blood ran out, dirt was applied to wound and arm was bent.)

(Did they ever get infected back then?)

No. Both sides. I done that and oh, gosh, that blood used to just run all over. And they used to say it made them feel good. Well, it's just like blood tests, I guess. They used to like to do that every spring and fall.

WHY MYRTLE GAVE UP HITTING VEINS

(Why did she think it was a good thing?)

Well, they used to come and ask her at that time. And she showed me how. And I don't know how many of them that I done that to. And this last one, Ira.