

sink, but he'd come back up. So they caught him like that. He run right towards the river. They knew he would--to the creek or whatever it was. Boy, he dove in that water. He went under, all right, but this thing pulled him back up, like a balloon or raft or lifeboat--whatever they were, you know. It just brought him back to the top and they caught him again. And then this man talked to him. He told him, "Well, you're the one that you throw me in there. You threw that afterbirth in the water." See, they're not supposed to throw it in the water. They're supposed to hang it up in the tree, the afterbirth. That's what Cheyennes believe. They're supposed to hang it up. But him, he went and throw it in the water. They say that thing grows again. Another person grows, but I don't think it's so, but it's fiction, I guess. Fable, or whatever you call it. Anyway, they caught him. And they wanted to kind of tame him, you know. He was kind of wild-like. He couldn't get used to it. But they let him go back in the water. And then finally he told them people, the turtles and fishes and all that, that he was going to go back to his people. And live something like they lived. He wasn't going to live in the water any more. So they told him he could go back to his people. And he did. And they always call him Hista' in Indian. It means "navel". He come from the afterbirth. That's all. They say you're not supposed to burn that (afterbirth). Whatever you do to the afterbirth, the child is going to meet their death the same way. Like if you burn it, or if you throw it in the water, he'll drown. You're supposed to hang it in a tree. That's a Cheyenne belief.

(Birdie says something in Cheyenne--not a story.)

CHEYENNE CUSTOMS RELATING TO AFTERBIRTH AND NAVEL CORD

Laura: And then this afterbirth, you know--they cut it off and there always be a little cord, like. And then it comes off after