

left out, then this one would add to it. And that's the way they keep their stories. You know they didn't write. And if any young person is in there, well, he gets to learn what was way back there. (Was this in the tipis or--?)

Well, it was over here after they had houses where I started hearing them. But way back then they must have had tipis. They say that before they tell these stories they gather in one home first. And who's home they're meeting in, this old lady would what we say now, she had to serve refreshments. And that time she cooked berries, kind of an Indian pudding. And coffee and maybe fry bread or something like that, and then they'd start telling these stories. That's the way they kept up these old stories.

(Would the older people sitting around be members of one family?)

Well, friends and neighbors, too. Yeah. But here it was just relatives what this old great-grandmother talked about. We were just all cousins sitting around listening to her. We'd ask her to tell stories. Well, her daughter was there. She was maybe just about sixteen or seventeen years old--younger than her mother. And my father and uncle and their wives and my mother. Just the family. They'd ask her something about a certain thing--the way it happened. Because she was old and she knew, well, she'd start telling that way. And she'd say, "It happened at that time--"

And that's where I listened. Many times I'd go to sleep listening to her. And maybe I'd hear it again somewhere and that way what I lost out on, maybe I'd have sense to hear it (somewhere else). But I didn't have sense enough to know that I should learn all I could back there. It was just like hearing about "The Three Bears" way back there. You're not interested in what you learn when you're