

He's always travelling east. Now why that is, I don't know. But the old story says that, "It has been--that's the way the story starts--that the Spider was travelling east like that, you know, and he came to a river." He saw some beautiful Indian girls and he wanted to get acquainted with them. They saw him and got scared of him. They all ran to the bank. They watched him. And he didn't come across. He went on back and lay down in the shade. Something like that. And anyhow, along that part there, there is some place either where he went back to and laid down in the shade and fell asleep. They happened to be cockleburs,-- you know what these cockleburs are, you know? And he rolled around, asleep. He had his hair all messed up with cockleburs, you know. They get so thick that they just seem like they pull your hair, you know. And he cried out, "Come help me. Help me." Said, "Let's go see what that man is making that noise for." And they stood quite a ways from him. Anyway, his head is full of these cockleburs, pulling his eyes wide open, pulling his hair off, wrinkling it and tangling it up. Beyond that, why that's when I mistrack my story. But I thought that I'd refresh my mind on that. But it's a funny story all the way through. But where that white man came from, and why he was always travelling east when it's supposed to be a white man coming up on the east--west. That's the general story of this white man. nih'wə.θw. -- "spider", we call him. That's "spider". That's a name we give to white man.

(Do you know where he came from?)

No, we don't know where he came from. But that's the old night stories that our grandmothers used to tell us--on winter nights. Called "winter night stories." And all the answer that we had to make periodically during those stories was "Haa." h'wə That means that we're still awake, listening to grandma. There'd be three or four of us--maybe two sleep together and two on this side. And the fewer responses she got indicated that we almost were asleep. So when only one responded to indicate that they were still awake, well, she know that that one is going to go asleep and she can quit my story. That's the way they used to run them.