

made a shield according to the vision she had received and designed it with those feathers tied on it and buffalo hair and tail feathers on there. And this man went to war. And he was shot and they say the lead bullet that hit the shield just flattened out. It didn't go through the hide. The hide seemed too tough for the bullet, or the lead too soft. That was the power of the gift. And even being shot with pointed arrows, and they didn't pierce that shield. And another was shot and bleeding from the mouth, and this young man used that buffalo tail and rattled it over him and sang songs, like his mother told him, and stopped the blood. And he restored this person back to health. Now, after he restored him back to health, he come back home. When anybody gets shot or sick, they send for this old lady or this young man, and they're the ones that doctor. They possess buffalo medicine. And that's the beginning of the buffalo medicine. And after years it began to be bestowed on the next generation as a gift and anyone that wants to get it had to pay so many horses and gifts to receive it.

(Could you explain that a little bit more?)

What?

(About paying to receive the gift?)

Well, supposing you wanted the gift, and you come to me. And I have to see that you're worthy to receive those gifts. And I say you have to bring so many robes or so many ponies to satisfy me to receive those gifts. Then I show you--go through the ceremonies, and teach you and pray over you that you'll receive those gifts. And you're supposed to receive those gifts and practice it. When I go to doctor somebody, you go along with me.