

up. He put this red paint on her--on her face. And comb her hair. And she'd look real nice. And the same evening he'd come home and all that paint would be off of her. And he said, "I wonder what does she do? Does she go down to the pond and bathe all day? Every time I come home she'd so gray-looking." He said, "I'm going to find out what she does." So he went to this pond and stayed quite a ways from the bank. And there she'd come again toward this pond or lake--whatever you call it--it was a big body of water. And she, maybe, got her clothes off and she walked toward the edge of it. And she sat down. Pretty soon this water began to move. This whole water was moving. And there come this great big water monster. It crawled out. It was a big snake. It was coming toward her. And when it come to her, this snake began to lick her body. Then pretty soon he crawled around her, just licking her all over. You couldn't hardly see her head. He said, "So! This is what she's been doing," this man said to himself. "So this is what she's been doing! No wonder her paint is always gone and she's always so gray!" And he must have carried his gun with him. He shot this snake. Shot this snake and maybe he shot her, too. And this snake got away some way. And he went over there and he got her, and he was so mad at her, he cut her neck off. And cut off the thick part of her flesh and carried it home. He said, "I'm going to make her children eat her." He didn't have to do that. And so he took it to his daughters, and he said, "Cook this meat." He told her that he was going to go somewhere for a little while. So he must have left them there--his children. Left them for good. And they thought their father was going to come back. And she had her supper ready, or dinner--whatever it was. And she fed it to her little brother and she ate some of it. And her little brother said, "Sister, it tastes