

MARRIAGE:

(You were telling me about that girl that was 28 years old--that good Christian girl--)

Yeah. She's 29 now. But she's a good driver. She got a car, driving around. I had the chance to get a car but I wouldn't take it, I says, It was gonna be bought for me. But I said, . . . But she said, "Let us know," she said. "She's a good girl. All of my sisters be--" "Well," I said, "I'm old. Just look--I'm an old man, all gray and wrinkled, and she might want a family," I said. "No," she said. "She don't care about that. She wants a good mate." "Well," I said, "I'm in good health. I don't know how long I'm gonna live. That part's all right. Then if I get a car,"-- I shouldn't have said that. I'd put it her name. "Good", she said. "Then she knows she owns that car." That's, all the farther we went. Haven't seen 'em since. Then, about two months after my first wife died, in '40, one of her cousins came to me. She'd been married and got three kids. She actually wanted to talk matrimony to me. I didn't feel it and I just change off the subject.

(Did your father ever say anything to you (or give you any advice on how old you ought to be when you get married?)

Well, he said he didn't marry until he was twenty-six. Course, they was on the war-path them days and he was virtually making him tribal standing, you know. Warrior, chief--he became a very outstanding chief. And he said, "Don't marry too young, cause lot of things you got to learn yet. When you get about twenty-five and then on, then you've completed your natural training, and you can provide for your family, your folks, and your wife's folks more properly, more in a way that life requires. And it just fit my case because I want to go to school.

(What about the girls. Was there any particular age when it was thought a good time when they should get married?)

Yeah. After they're eighteen years old, that's a Indian rule. After they're eighteen. Up before that they say they can get into most any kind of trouble, mistakes, something like that--on account of their early life and this and that. But after they're eighteen, they come to realize more possibly just what life means to them. My father used to tell us that.