

people, their style of feasts was a little different from my folks. We always cooked our food the day before; before we had the feast and we took it outside and covered this food where nothing could get to this food and the next day we call different ones to come to eat this food. And anything that remained was to be taken by the people that came to eat this food.

## **SPECIAL DELAWARE WEDDING PROCEDURE**

Long years ago before many Europeans were here in this country; the Delaware people had a special ceremony for weddings. The prospective groom's folks would go and take presents to the prospective bride and if these presents were received that meant that the bride was willing to marry the young man. But if the prospective bride's parents refused the presents that meant that he was being refused.

**Katherine:** (Now what were the presents? Do you know?)

**Nora:** The presents could be, oh, deer meat, bear meat or kekok which is called wampum beads, something like that. Or in later years they brought materials, goods, for presents. And this ceremony was held in a big congregation of all the Delaware people. And one old man was called upon to tell the congregation what was going on, and after they used the white kekok, white wampum beads to put around the bride and the groom. And after they were--these beads were put around the bride and groom they were considered to be married. Then they went away to their own dwelling.

**Katherine:** (Did they ever live long with the parents?)

**Nora:** Sometimes they would live with the husband's folks until they could make their own dwelling place.

## **CUSTOMS WHEN A GIRL REACHES PUBERTY**

There are a lot of things that a Delaware young woman must go through when she reaches the age of puberty. I, myself, for instance, went through these old time customs. I was hidden in a room. I was not permitted to see anyone, nor was anyone permitted to see me. My food was brought in to me and my wash basin, soap and wash rags was brought in to me, and I was given something to work on. In my case it was sewing. My mother said, "Whatever you do then that will be what you will like to do for the rest of your time." So she brought me lots of things to sew on. And I spent most of my time sewing. If a girl was hidden then, and after the required period of time was up, the girl was brought out of hiding and again we used the cedar. She was smoked with cedar and an entire new wardrobe was given to her by her mother. Even to