

new earrings, new moccasins, new dress, everything new was put on the girl and then she was told, "You are a young lady now and from this day on you will act like one." All of her toys that she played with in childhood were put away. Dolls, toys, and everything. My mother said in the old days when she went through this custom she was taken down into the timber and there was a bark house made for her and they appointed an elderly lady of the tribe to stay with her all during this time of hiding. But that was years and years ago.

**Katherine:** How many days would that be?

**Nora:** Oh, about ten days. A girl was not permitted to even touch her hair or her face. My hands in my case were wrapped, except for the time when I sewed and when I washed, of course, and to eat my meals. But during the sleeping time the hands were tied in order that you would not touch your face or your hair. And my mother combed my hair every morning. She said the reason for all that as because when I got to be an old lady, real old lady, she said that my hair would still be black if I went through all these customs that the old people went through.

### **CUSTOMS CONCERNING THE BIRTH AND NAMING OF THE BABY**

I will talk a little bit on the birth of children. Years and years ago when a Delaware woman was to give birth to her child a bark house was made for her and a pit inside this bark house was dug, a shallow pit, and the mother then gave birth to the baby in a kneeling position. And this baby was not given a name right away, because they said the evil spirits might know this baby's name. They waited until this baby became stronger, then it was given a name by some old person who had received a vision. The people who received a vision are considered to be qualified name givers. My family, I had two brothers and have one living now. There were three of us. My mother named all three of her children because she was considered to be a qualified name giver since she had received her vision and was able to Atehumwi in the Big House services, therefore she was considered to be a qualified name giver.

At this time I will explain about this vision. My mother received her vision through a frightening experience. It seems she was riding horseback with her mother, and her mother must have had a heart attack. But during those times years ago no one knew what a heart attack really was. So, while they were riding along it seems that her mother, my grandmother, had a heart attack and was just about to fall from the horse. My mother then tried to hold her mother on the horse and finally she slipped out of her grasp and fell to the ground and my mother along with her. So my mother became so frightened, it must have been in the timber, she said that some of these trees around her turned into people. And these people, then, told her to not be afraid, that we