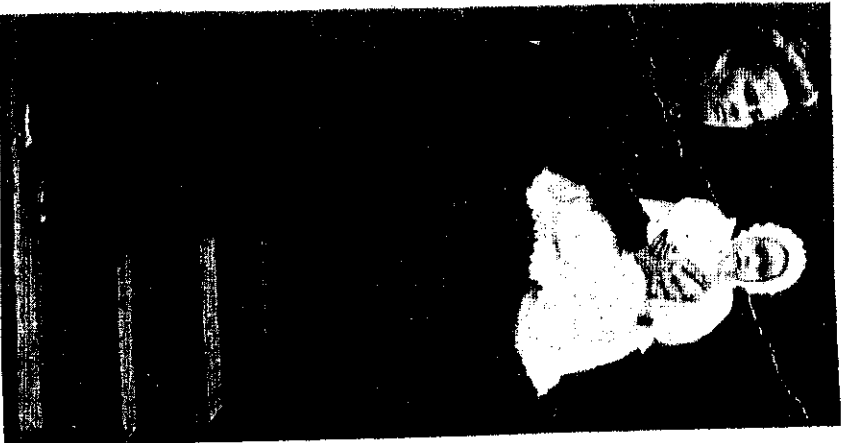
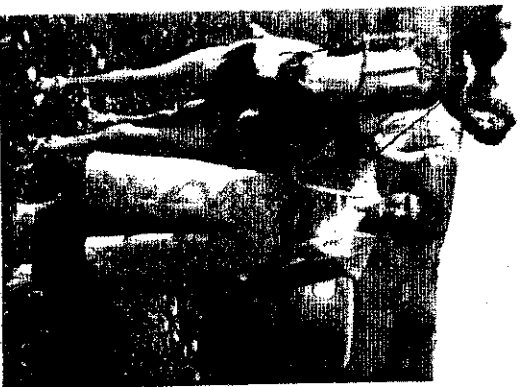


WOMEN OF COAL COUNTRY



Loaned by:
Sharlene Trout

30



Mary Marino
Ed Dospoy



Clara Ebbs
and Joey
Loaned by Anne Ebbs

Clara Ebbs — Midwife

My grandmother, Clara S. Ebbs (1881-1968), was a Cymbria area midwife for many years. She belonged to a midwives' club which held meetings at her home and went to Spangler Hospital for training.

Grandma delivered many babies, including twins and blue babies, without losing any. She put a blue baby into the oven to bring it to life. After she delivered a baby, she visited every day for 10 or 12 days to check the mother, the family, and the baby.

My grandma took care of other sicknesses throughout the neighborhood. In one case, a doctor said there was no hope for a pneumonia patient. Grandma made a poultice of lard, tobacco, seedless raisins, elderberry bark, and turpentine. She put this on the patient's chest, and he recovered. Many times people came to her house to pick up these poultices.

She did most of her work free, moving fearlessly among the boney piles and past scary mine shafts. In some cases, poor mining families paid her what they could afford. Sometimes a needy father with many children and now a new responsibility pressed a coin or a dollar into her hand, but she put it on the baby's pillow for a gift because she loved her work. I'm very proud to be her granddaughter.

Anne Ebbs

31