

DONE TYPOS NEED DONE BLANKS FILLED IN

The following interview was conducted with Alberta Camby for the Star City Treasure, AmeriCorps oral history project. project. It took place in Alberta Camby's home on the day of May twenty-ninth. The interviewer's name is Rose Springer and could you tell me a little bit about um where you grew up?

A I grew up on the reservation (throat clearing) I went to school there til , til the ninth grade then I had to quit and help Mom, because it was so many of us kids that , that we had to,, I had to quit and her along with the kids and to do her laundry, and try to keep the house clean and stuff like that. And my mom was you know she'd be sickly, but she'd still get up and do things she shouldn't be doing, so that's how come I just stayed home , with her with the children. So I kinda raised my younger brothers and sisters(sm laugh) (Throat clearing)

R. Were you the oldest?

A Yeah , Dan and Matthew were older than me and then I was the oldest girl, so I had to help around as much as I could . Ane then if she wanted to go to town ,and put a harness of horses and hitch em to the wagon and take her, get what she wanted and go home . I said ,I used to harness horses now I can't even do that . I said I don't think I can even lift a, oh one of them halters.(laughs) that they wear around the neck

R um-hum

A I say those things used to be heavy I said , I said , I use to make it . Hot water to do our laundry and I said the kids nowadays have it easy, I said I lived a hardlife (throat clearing) I said that's why I can't give up now.

R um-hum

A I just keep myself goin' Every way I can, I said , sometimes I feel like I can't go on and on , but I still make myself get up and do ,(do things for myself.

R um-hum

A I can't ,(sigh) I don't like to depend on my children . (pause)

R You said you hauled water.

A uh-huh

R Did you have water, a well?

A We had a well, but it went bad. So we had to haul water from? place. You know where they lived?

R um-hum

A and then Ray
Baxter's place up on a hill.

R umm--

A We'd get water from there. Their water was good. (throat clearing) We had to fill cream cans up and I took em? some horses and Because there was no one around to harness horses for us so I kinda had to learn watching my dad ...? he done that. When I first , when I first started harnesssing horses I had those halter on backwards I guess, and he said "You done alright Sis" he said ,but it's a wonder they didn't run away with you." I said 'why' ' cause you have tese' he showed me, you know what mistake I done "you didn't have em on right he said (sm Laugh) Well we made it up ther and back ok I said ,but I said I didn't realize you had to put em a certain way I said, so. He showed me how.

R umhum

A so After that it got easier. (laugh)

R um-hum

A And then uh we had to go out in timbers and get wood. That's how come Chubby and I, Chubby and I and Norvel? used to go down , Norvel was sickly himself 'cause he was a preemie baby. He didn't he wasn't as? as Chubby was. We used to go down and get wood. I kinda had to have to learn to do things, you know. I said , that how come I said we things at home to do. When we got home the boys would cut wood, we'd haul it in, ouand the anderson's our neighbors used to give us corn cobs to start fire with it in the mornings. And then those were helpful, Warm up the place right away, cause they burned like paper. (laughs)

R um-hum

A Those cobs.

R Explain what was?is

A That means your tough.? Tough and that you can handle anything take care of anything.

R um-hum Tell me a little abit about when you came here.

A When I came here I came back with a during fair time , they had that county fair in? Hill.

R um-hum

A That's when I met Bill? I met him and they were leaving and they told me they would come back after me during fair time they'd be home (throat clearing) .but you know thought never nothin of it, I didn't ask , he didn't say anything he said we'll be back to see you. came home with Frank and Evelyn and they just had Dave at that time,, and RuthAnn . RuthAnn was older than all of them sbe was eighteen months old I think when? And uh he aske to bring me back We went down th the house (throat clearing) he told Mom he was goin' bring me back an she said' well take caere of her,that's all I asked. I need her around here too,' but she said 'if that's what you want she said just' I'm only asking is that you take care of her,' she said.

R um-hum

A so I acame back with him. That was in ninteen- fifty and I moved , n' came back with hime I stayed with Frank and Evelyn for awhile . Then he he said for us to come and stay with them. so we went out there . but they you know it was hard they had a lot of kids. it was hard ivin with families.

R um-hum

A So I told Bill I'm not used to this, I said you better find a place I said I'm goin go home? find a place. he said OK. So him and Dan , Dan was aready up here, they went to look for an apartment I guess so they found one . They came back and told me? We had our own place on H Street, twelveth and H .

R um-hum

A I had to climb stairs and share bathroom. We used to fight over bathrooms (laughs) heh heh heh heh But we survived . and a I was work, (pause) I went to work too? home Dan had supper ready. I said I cooked the meal he said go ahead set the table so I? He had he bought some steak and those real thick fries I said Geez I never did eat nothin like this before (laughs) I said we always have to make our own ya know, homegrown potatowes, I said you have to dig em up He said? potatoes I siad Mom just fixed em all kinds of ways, but she never had (throat clearing) she never just threw em on a pan and heat em in the oven . I had to fry em or bake it. I said? eat nothing like this? I really ate supper, he said , no wonder Sis is gettin mad he said, she must of been hungry(laughs) they were just teasin me . (continues to laugh, becomes choked , coughs)? here uh (pause) we all worked at the time , Dan , Bill and I? it used to be hot upstairs we never had control of the heat wee lived upstairs and it seemed like all the heat came up there.

R um-hum

A She would just snowing one time Dan had that window open, his head was just full of snow . (laughs) He said,, (still laughing) did you even know it , it was cool and I really went to sleep., he said. I did too you know after it cooled off seemed like it just knocked us out. It was hot and you can;t sleep, I'm still like that if it's hot I can't sleep.

R um-hum

A And the kids are like that too. (coughs several times) Then that(hard time talking) that winter Bill got laid off . Dan went back to Macy. We were kinda having our time. Then his aunt they? I said for us to come stay with them(Coughs) He got unemployment (cough, cough)

R Want some water?

A It's okay I'll (coughs) pause So we lived on that thru the winter, helped em with groceries, couldn't help em with rent, but we bought em groceries. It was hard (coughs) I said even now I said living your own family it's hard to live with us , especially when you're used to livin by yourself . (pause) And when I lost Bill, well they wanted me to come home, give this house up . And come hhome , and find me a place down here. I couldn"t ya know. Theystill want me come home, but even the weekends I'd go home I can't stand any longer than I have to stay(laughs)?Clark said she told phyliss you should keep your sister here, we'll find a job for her around here. I'm trying to, but she won't stay, shes ready to go home Sunday mornings (laughs) shes all packed and half her stuff at the door. (sm laugh) I said I can;t stand that now, ya know I said before I just used to want to go home, and hate to come back. I said must just got used to being here I can;t (pause) I can't see myself being down there and my kids didn't wanna go and I couldn't just leave em here So I stayed , stayed around.

R What was it like when you first got down here? How big was it ?

A Well it has grown quite a bit (clears throat) and theres houses built on the south side ,north side, west side, all around its different houses . even out that way . (clear throat) and now even the roads are , theyre changing the roads and lot of old places? out here cross the street kattercorner the lumber yard they tore that down. lot of changes since I been here. Whole lot of changes since I been here, whole lot different , old buildings coming sown (becomes chokes and coughs)? came and he said (coughs) I asked him I said you see the difference from the time you were here and now. Hw said yeah he said a lot of changes . lot of new places going up too he said,pretty soon Lincoln and Omahas gonna meet one another . (laughs) Cause Omahas coming this way too .

R. um-hum

A (pause) yeah went a lot of changes . different new houses built here and there (lots of coughing) I (cough) Ihave (cough) always (pause)

R um-hum

A (continues to pause) And Opal was an only child ya know they had, and she wanted this and she wanted that. They never said no you can;t have it they'd get it for her. She was a spoiled child, you had to do whatever she said . So then uh (pause) I went back to Macy with when Elaine was small when she was a baby, because he was laid off . ya know that was in um Feb. I think I went home . he said I should be going back to work ty he first of April . Well i said we'll stay down there till you get a job and find a places. (clears throat) Took care of &? . he lay at home and? went to school done there . and they didn't like it , it very very anxious to get back here. So we lived on Tenth Street they went to school up North here , that

R Belmont?

A Belmont . (clears throat) It was too cold, over the bridge .

R.....?

A Elaine ahh Wilma said Mom she said some boy was was fighting Gary and he was chasing that boy and that boy was really running. (quiet laugh) Ya know those great big? that you use to fasten big sacks.

R oh yeah

A he had one of those I guess he showed that boy that, he opened it up and showed that boy and he said that boy started running. Gary was chasing him with that boy got away. I said don't you start using them things. I said They'll expell you from you from school I said if you do that . Well he said, I'll tell em that he started it. He started it and he said and thats why I forgot IHad that. He said he had it in his pocket . and I didn't realize ya know he picked up things like that . Here he had? so I took it away from him and he come, he came home I said What can you use this for? to ah If I need to use a a pillowcase I SAID I can use that too., . but it was hard gettin em. They weren't sharp enough.(clears throat) (pause) But they liked that school there.

R um-hum

A Then we moved and they went to a? and they lived on the South side and they lived on the NO! We lived uh over here on Y st and they went to school at uh Clinton.(pause) They weren't there? They stayed, we stayed in this area for a long time and they went to Whittier, I said kids grew so fast. And that's what I told them now I said Your're kids are going to grow fast I said, before you know it I said they'll be graduating.

R um-hum

A She's got one , her oldest one, he's a on the boderline for the diabetes, and she's worried about him.

R um-hum

A she said I just knew one of my kids would get it , she said , because you and my mom had it she said. (clears throat) So the oldest ones got it I guess.

R Is he young?

A uh-huh He's only I think he's sixteen now. yeah he just turned sixteen. Feb. he turned sixteen. I said Gee it don't seem that way. seemed like he wass just a baby and he marked that up too.(Laughs) And she just, she just hit his hand with one of them brushes that I used to clean with the window shades, and uh they were wired ya know and? where you stick those things in (clears throat) she hit him in the hand with it he just went like that. It just swelled up . I said you didn't have to that, I said he's just a baby he don't know any better. (clears throat) YOU coud have just slapped his hand, I said, you didn't have to hit him like that. coughs twice) (hard to understand) and he was Grandma's boy , so he had his way with her. He's done everything for? he even bought em teeth . I said maybe she was trying tell us something, she bought him TV and she bought him a bed , just everything you know that a child wants she'd buy. She bought it for him.

R um-hum

(screen door opens)

A (long pause) And last night or night before I checked my blood sugar it was ninety-five. I was wondering why I was kinda feeling weak . I said I better check my blood sugar so I wnt in there before I ate. And it was ninety-five. And yesterday mornin it was only one twenty-eight. So i'm not, I'm sont supposed to take insulin when it's taht low. Oh I said, I hope it helps because I said a I was telling Hermine, I said I must just be hungry for meat n when I have It I can't eat it? brought some deer meat over he fried it and maqde it kinda chunks like. Whoo...when I smelled it I really wanted it, when I try to eat it I couldn't . I had coupla peices, and I said you know what I really get hungry for meat, but when I got it I can't eat it. (small throat)clearing) The other day I fried a I made breaded pork chops, cause I was hungry for that? finish it. Mom you better eat, you just eat like a bird (laughs) I know I said I can't help it you know, I just don't have that appetite like I used to. I said before I used to just sit and eat, have two pieces of meat before I was satisfied I said now I can't even finish one.

R um-hum

A It's terrible to be diabetic, I said Mom always ssaid that only the big? got sick . Tha's from the? she said. I get? it is true. (clears throat)

R What's that mean?

A Whatever you want to pray for, you can't eat she said you can't have it. And I have to. And I always bake my meat if I want ya know. Even hamburger I just throw it in the oven. laughs But they always tates good better than you know afrying it on top.

R um-hum So was your parents, were they diabetic?

A Yeah. Both of em

R did they know it back then/

A Yeah they
(.....? can't tell who's speaking)

A They? Dad just atre too much grease, he had a long fried potatoes and he;d put more grease on that bacon, ?

R um-hum

A And he really liked bacon, and that changed his uh the way to eat you know. He had to eat lettuce, tomatoes, cucumbers and stuff like that

R um-hum

A Well he liked the cucumber, but he liked em in vinegar(coughs) and uh tomatoes((coughs several times) he poured (coughs a lot) in a dish coughs)slice em up, geez you see that salt it'd be just white on top . and that what he wasn't supposed to have either too much salt. but he didn't listen to em. Besides all that they said he had cirrosis they said, cause all them ya know taking those Anacins uh and Tylenol they said. everytime you take tylenol you just take ya know what they tell you. Don't take anymore than you have to. Because I guess that causes cirrosis uh . I said Gee I said here I said I always tried to live without pills I said I didn't what pills were just aspirin when I have a headache. Sometimes I'ss take that and sometimes it's gone. I said. But now I said I'm living on pills . (laughs) I told that nurse I said I get full on my pills. Here comes E.....? (clears Throat) I get full on my? Taking everything.....?

R When you traveled down to Lincoln did you drive a car? or...

A um-hum We had our own car. But one time we didn't have any so we rode back with a (pause) Grandpa Clyde, he used to take us. God it took foever to get there. because je never went over the speed limit. He got a ticket for not driving fast enough(laughs) . usually you get ticket for driving fast here he They said he was driving too slow. He got a ticket for that.

R What was the speed limit?

A it was a fifty the speed limit . forty-five - fifty. He never went over forty-five . just like crawling (laughs) Oh I used to get just impatient.you know , but thats the way he drove so we couldn't say anything. Then we got pregnant with wilma one time he stopped by to buy his kids ice cream at that corn popper on N sT. He said What do you kids want he was asking em his kids.I said oh I'll take chocolate (laughs) I just made myself laughs I said Geez he talking to his kids and I'm sitting here saying I'll take chocolate. He just laughed at me because Water running) Is Rory coming.? Excuse me .

Oh gosh.

R how much was gas?

A I think we only paid a used to be quarter, then went up to fufy cents. it stayed on fifty a long time.We used to think that was too much . Gosh now days now it cost you an arm an a leg to get where you want.

UnkM We used to think they were gouging us then.

R about three dollars now.

A um-hum long long pause.

R So the city, was it very big, back then.

A. At that time it wasn't as big as it is now. Like I said there haouses building all around us .some going that a way and South.

R How far North and how far South did it go.?

A Oh quite a bit Huh? Up North it used to be noting but, cornfield.

Unk male Where Cornhusker Hwy is now ? On the Northside there was nothing.

A Nothing

UM along the South side Cornhusker thers farms even sparse there was still farms people with cattle and horeses , acreages like.

A AND THEY GOT TIRED TOO , THEY WANTED THE FARMERS TO MOVE OUT, BECAUSE THEY DIdn't they didn't smell and uh-

R Did they leave?

A um hum They had to move

R Or they bought em out more or less.

A Um-hum Because they made a that road, never used to be there huh, going that way.

R um-hum

A but they got, they had a gravel road, but it's all paved now,

R So what was it like?

A the n the interstate came, it never used to be there. I can't remember what year though what the year the interstate came.

UM probably not very long

R So what did you do? What kind of job did you, Where did you work?

A Mostly I worked at the laundry, ata in the cleaners. I worked at St. Elizabeth's Hosp. Bryan the laundry at the cleaners I worked at a both of em are gone now. Evans cleaneres and as a presser . And I was working as a presser at the laundry too. Pressing the uniforms the nurses's cap s that they wear . They had to work in that starch. Ooooooooooooo that was a alot of work, you had to sit and yuse your hand you know , to get that starch in . Loosen that up, you had to do that. I had my sister work there? for awhile. She didn't last Long. Then i wWorkded at Russell Stover's candy, until they quit. They wanted me to uh, take me along when they tranfererd to Denver. But I didn't go, I didn't . Isaid I'm too far away from home now. (laughs) So , so I didn't go.

R So what was the wages like back then?

A There were two barely two dollars, maybe not even that . Lately they went up to three I was makin four somthing when I quit at AParamount Laundry.. So I had preey good paychecks every two weeks..

R So did they have benefits? Any kind?

A Well uh (pause) a Paramount didn't have no kind of benifits. Russell ,Stover had benefits. You had to pay so much out of your paycheck from there .(clears throat) And a lll they had was that four-o-one K at Paramount And when i quit I got nineteen hundred dollars.,but you know I don;t even know what happened , where it went to .(laughs) Moey went so fast. Pause)

R So what kinda um things were around here for Native Americans ? I mean what kind of , was the Indian Center there?

A Indian center wasn't here till late in the fifties huh? Or was it later? Sixties?

UM Sixties

A yeah Coughs Late in sixties it was here on Ninth St. Ninth and O huh?

UM em-hum

A coughs And never went there, either. They called us one time and uh and we had to pay to be members of that. Two dollars was it? We had to pay. Long Pause) But now its just you know. coughs Lloyd Painter donated that money for that building there, so that made it kinda easy for the Indians didn't have to pay. You know, like they did when they first started it, had to pay two dollars for membership and whole lot different now,. They had Sr. Diners, and child care a d everything at the center, but thats all gone to.(long pause) And that youth programs the only thing thats still going.(long pause) And didn't come til late to. Huh.

UM The Lincoln Indian Club is older than the Center.

A. um-hum um-hum (long pause) Yeah , Lincoln Indian Club started before the Center (doorbell rings) Rory..

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The following interview was conducted with Alberta Camby for the Star City Treasures AmeriCorps oral history project. It took place in her home on the date of May twenty, May thirtieth at Eight-thirty P.M. The interviewer is Rose Springer. The interview was completed from yesterday. Alberta can you tell me about your family as you were growing. How many in your family?

A there was a nine of us. there was nine of us kids and I'm must be the only one that got the diabetes from my parents, cause they both had it. Otherwise none them that I know of had it. uhh. Sister Gladys died of cancer, Ben and ...? were in a car accident. And there's just three of us left. just wishing I? stayed alive you know. I wanted him to be with me when I go, but he couldn't make it, he was feeling bad.. And I went to see him Labor Day. Sis he said I wanted to be with my grandchildren for a long time, but it don't like it seem like I'm going to make it. He started crying, I cried with him. I said, don't think that way I said try to be strong and I want you to be with me. I don't think I'm going to be able to, he said. so he know he wasn't going to make it. that really bothered me. (throat clearing) And I really got sick, an uh Phyllis said, I think my sister felt like giving up. I said I did, I said I couldn't get any better I said I just want a die with him. Like my daughter she got sick em I wanted her to be well and she couldn't make it. The diabetes got to her too. She had hard time swallowing. And Bill was like that. He used to have hard time swallowing. I said eat slow, you know you can't eat like you used to. And that's the way she was you know her food. She had enough, but I think it was just to taste it, she couldn't get enough eating. (throat clearing) And I notice that ahh her uh first grandchild was on the border line so it was kinda worried about him. But his Mom says she really watching his diet. And I guess he said I don't want to be taking them shots. She said you have to watch what you're eating and exercise. But he's doing real good. He was really heavy, but, he lost weight. I don't know how much he lost, but I noticed he lost weight. I said his grandma used to just do everything, I said for him, she just spoiled him. (Long pause)

R How many kids do you have?

A I had five, I lost one. I mean I lost two girls now (throat clearing) and uh got two boys alive and one girl. And I got Greg with me, but he really helps me. I depended on Elaine, but like you know she didn't care. So I just told em to go find their own. Ya know. If they can't help me they don't need to be around here. Making it hard for me. I told Greg I'm comfortable now. And he said Well I think that's what was making you sick to Mom, he said you were depressed all the time. I said maybe, I don't know what it was, but everytime they came around I just felt sick I said. But now I'm beginning to feel better and a little stronger I said.

R How about grandchildren? How many grandchildren?

A I've got nine grand children I don't know haow many great grand children I have now. Last I counted there was thirteen and I think there was tweo more born after that . then Michell gonna have another one so

R That's what she was tellin me

A um-hum And I told her you better quit havin em, I said Isaid your'e gbecause your man can't work.. I said , I don't know if, he said he got heart problem but great big sscar here. Then he had clots in his leg I guess, he couldn't walk. (clears throat) And he said oh she wants one more. I said what you kids , what are you guys want to have any more. I said you can't work help support hert, I said but you weant to sit and tell her how to use her money. And he does too. unentelligable He makes me, I get so disgusted with him.
*sm Laugh)

R Tell me about some of family traditions.

A (clears throat) Well when we were growing up I necver you know hung around the pow wows or anything. Only when Mom and em went, we went along , but we had to sit down . Kids nowadays just run around, and Isaid we couldn't do that . (clears throat) I said you never used to see too many kids runnig around , but parents made em sit down and look on. I said maybe that was a good thing because I said some of enm know their traditions. And some of em were taught good. With the tradition wasy and and a? Ninteen seventy and Greg was eighteen months old he was out in the arena dancing Rufus..? pick him up and danced with him. He he never did leave the arena, he just cried to be out there. So they fixed him a little outfit yuou something that he can just [put on and be out there dancing. It seemed like him and Elaine were the only one that was intered=sted in our ways. Wilma and Gary wasn't. Didn't have no interest in it. But That was alright you know my two younger ones

Rum-hum

A And then when Mom and them died they left me that staff, Mom wanted me to take it after she was gone she said she wanted me to ah. You have a home, you have a good home she said. I wnat you to take it and take care of it and I said you dad wanted it . she said. And dad used to say that. Youre probably the one to take care of this he always said.(clears throat)

R What's the staff? Whats the meaning of the staff?

A Ah the peyote staff, uh,uh, The person is the they call em

R Road men

A Road men . emhum,. But I couldn't use it myself ,but it was alrights, Mom said it was okay as long as I had a man who could use it. But his people didn't want him to . To do that. His aunt got up and said he wasn't entitled to it. Because he didn't have

anything. Brother Clifford Wolf said, said a My sister has a staff, shes got her dad's staff. And he said if she says he can use he's entitled to it. (sm laugh) You know that kinda you know made me feel bad when she was saying that. (clezars throat) I says sto be a charge in Omaha the? they didn't let him. So he told our Grandpa Oliver? told him as long as she i SAY IT WAS ALRIGHT HE COULD USE IT. He says you're her husband and he says ,if she says go ahead and help me, you have to help her. You're entitled to that . Told him not to listen to what other people say, you he said go ask aomebody that you can get advice from . So he asked Grandpa Oliver, an,so thats what he told him. (clears throat) And then uh, after he passed away I didn't hold a turn to. So I told Greg to help me., you know. So he helped with uh, me carrying the tobacco for me We got Richard to pray for him. So all the four four dinners we had Richard done it and he took the tobacco to him. And Richard told him then as long as I was alive that he could use it. They gave him good encouraging words, him and Angie. So that made me feel good, so when I want, when we had Wilmas funeral too, he took the to uh Ty cause the girls wanted Ty to bury her because he was there to pray for her when she got sick. I told Danielle I said you know what? I think your just Mom's gone already but its just that machine? breathing I said, Becuse she didn't last long after they took that machine off. Mothers Day after midnight she had em diconnect her . She said we want her here for MOthers Day . They had flowers and cards and stuyff like that . at the in the hallway for her. Yeah she just , I said uh, I told Danielle I said I think she;s gone already I said she just lifeless. I said If she was breathing on her own I said she'd hold her arm up like put her arm up. I said she'd hold it there I said it would jsut drop when we put it up.

R How old was she?

A She was fifty-one . When she died. I said so young , I said she had so much to live for . (long pause) But I guess when uh, When God wants you back , they take you no matter if they're going to hurt you or not (tearful voice) That what they done. Greg said Don't cry Mom you better worry about yourself. But she was my oldest and I couldn'[t help it. Afterward Ty would say? your'e a tough woman Take all that, you're hurting yet youre trying to make things go he said. Trying to keep that home going he said because of your kids. And they used to all be around here ,but? they kinda stay away now , they don;t come around, just when I call em and ask em to go take me somewhere. Then if they;re busy they can't take me.(laugh) I always have to sit and wait for a ride and I said when Grandpa was alive I said I didn;tr have to sit and wait. I said he made it possible for me to get where I wanted to go. (long pause) I said

R?

A um-hum um-hum? I said I thoutg I couldn;t make it without him. But i;m trying I said, and I told him I said anything happens I said I hope I go first, because I said you don;t let me do nothing for myself. I said and after you die I said I'm going to have a hard time, or if I die I said it isn;t gonna bother you because you've been

around , around here for a long time , before I came. (whispers) Only four years, he said . Well that;s more than you know a lot of people I said and I don;t.(clears throat) I didn;t I said. And they ask me how it was for me to go out and find a job if it was hard ? And if people you know, kinda stuck their nose up at me? And I said I never had that problem, I said, wherever I went to apply for a job, I said they tell me to come for and interview, n I said, they hire me. One time I said I just I didn;t even feel like working I said I called, they had opening at Bryan Memorial Hospital in the laundry. I said I;m going to call this I said ,see if they'll hire me . I didn't think they would , but (small laugh)they told me to come out and put in application ah and that for interview. They told me to come to work that Monday . I just saw em Thursday I went out there and you come in Monday (laughs) Shoot I didn't even wanna work I said (big laugh) (coughs several times) But I never had no problem you know be cause he took me in the mornings, come after me in the evenings. Because he was working uh uh he'd have to go to work at four o'clock in the morning and he'd be home by you know before I get off frome work.

R Where did he work?

A In ah those ah roofing. They, he had to go to Omaha early in the morning . Because they had uh one of them big projects I don;t know what it was. Put the roofing on over there . And monring he said he was going, he said I start singing and he said I had my lunch beside me , he said he got to that cemetary . he said, theres a cemetary going towards Fremont , on one o nine highway . (sm laugh) He said I came , I came to there, and he said, any other time it never did bother me he said . I say Whoof I know its there, but that morning he said it really bothered him. and he said I felt like throwing my lunch out too he said. I said, Isaid no I said you shouldn't have , should start praying I said, it's the only thing I said will help you. I did he said ,he said I remember that. Your dad always say.....? always tell him to pray, so I thought of that , I start praying I said. Before he got to Fremont he said he felt real good. And after athat he said I didn't , I didn't feel like I did before. I saod. well thats good I said because of your prying, sking God to help you, take you there safely and bring you back. I siad that what I do when we go home I said, I pray that we make it homeokay and make it back okay. (long pause) Every we done a lot of travelin him and I I said now I don't even can't even go out of the house. (laughs) It seem like theres nobody here to take me.

R. um-hum How many years will you married?

A Forty-eight.

R. Forty-eight?

A um-hum He said we'll make it to fifty Mom he said , I said you better? I said try to be strong . But when he got sick he really went down too. And I called Abel , and I told him he's not doing too good. I said I said I put a phone in my , in his room so if you guys wanta call I said I'll have it in my room otherwise I'm

gonna have a hard time keeping in touch with you guys,? So they put a phone in
ah his room for me. (long, long pause) And I uh think Urban Health paid for uh, paid for
me that time. Cause I was working there (sniff clears throat) It wasn't for them either I
I'd have a hard time but seemed like everybody just brought things. You know what ?
We never spent nothing. All that food that was there, was donated by people . Breakfast
and lunch and supper. Somebody brought something all the time. Even when we went
home, I took him home because he said thats where he wanted to go. He said , my l...
Were grandma and them are it's all full he said. He said, find a place to put me he said.
that way you guys will have a place to be too he said. Geez I had to look around and
went to all them cemetary lots, had I had to go up on a hill,.to walk on a hill .(clears
throat) (long lnoq pause) His uh

R He's buried in Lincoln?

A No. In Macy. Took him back down ther to bury him. Thats where I wanted to take
my daughter too but, the kids didn;t want to take her. N I don't even know if they
went and see her. They did nt come after me or didn;t even say Grandma you want to go
and see Mom's grave? Or go visit her grave? I just feeling bad. And she said we can't
go back to Macy she said it;s too far and too many kids, and uh and uh we don;t have no
place to go. She said, they said if Phillip and I wanted to take her back ,but they didn't let
us get by. And I told Danielle well what ever you do I said that's your Mom I said, but I
said I'll be there with you . (long pause) Yeah they kinda got mad at me I guess and I
never know that. I didn;t know that they were kinda mad at me. All I , I said you have to
go back to Macy, get the money so Phyllis went with em. And uh, they told her that
they were going to bring her home. So Phylliss called the kids and told em to clean
up you know. Put things over to uh Snake's place . All my stuff over there I guess, I
said, She said(clears throat) (pause) And before they left she said Oh Grandma must be
all happy now she;s probably jumping for joy cause she had her way of him. I said she
din't have to talk like that I said , (claeer throat) I told her it was up to them to do what
they wanted cause that was their mother. I said .But all I wanted to do was take her
home . But they didn't let me I said I didn't argue with em I said, just let her go . I said
.....? take her home to lay by her dad I said. They didn;t want that I said , now I
said I don;t know if they even go see her, I said, visit her grave. I didn't want to have
any hard feelings over that. Because she was my oldest daughter, They always say
don;t make a fuss, my dad especially. Don't make a fuss over . Things like that. Work
together, if any thing happens work together . He always said. (pause) And thats what I
told them girls. (pause) I said I just feel sorry for them , because they were all Mama;s
kids I said . I said Michelle and a? he nursed til he was about five years old.
(laughs) and Michelle nursed til she was aabout three, and she said Danielle won't listen
to me because of you she said to me. I said no, I said Danelle just didn't want to be you I
said thats why she's with me. I said because of the way you're going . I said you have to
look at those things too I said . You got girls you gotta settle down or stay home with
em. Then she started going with uh Francine's kids, and thought she could just stay
away. I said if youre going with Alice you go back to your Mom I said I don't want to be
responsible for your mistakes I said . I said I sit and talk to you, you got your periods you
got to stay home, til you're well (clears throat) And uh I got after Francine's daughter ,

Francine, yeah Francine's daughter, I said your Mother don't care what you guys do I said, but I do I said. And I don't want you to be calling my girls and leading them on, out like you have been. I said. I don;t like that I told her, you do that again I said, I'm calling the cops (whispers) I told her. She never did and she used to call over there, maybe she did, while I wasn't home maybe they called her I don't know. But while I was home she never called, cause I told her that. (sm laugh) Yeah it was hard bringing them girls up. I said when you was going to school I said, I washed every other day because I said you girls didn't have too much too much clothes I said. I said every payday then I had to work then I had to try be home. I went to work at seven o'clock and I'd wake em up before I went. But they were good they'd get up and get ready. They said long as you're home to be with em at night, she said you can work during the day. So that;s what I done I said I'll get em up before I go to work and um and when it's time to go I said they all go together. (clears throat) I said and uh when they came home, I said I was home to be there with em I said. (pause) They wanted snacks, sometimes I'd have, sometimes I didn't. I had to carry in Gary's two girls, Danielle and Michelle. I said here after I said you guys have any kids you take care of em yourself.(laughs) I'm I'm done babysitten'. Here Andrea had kids and here I start watchin them too. Til I couldn't, because I had a surgery on my arm (clears throat) I couldn't hold em. An even Vanessa's baby, always just sit and look at me when I picked him he ...? just all smiles. I said I;m sorry baby I said, I can;t hold you too long. And he is so heavy. (clears throat) (Longpause) yup I had to ah hard time with my girls, but I brought up ya know, like the way. A mother should. They went to doing something I made em sit still and they said you've well behaved girls. I said, well I don;t let em just go whenever they want to, I said, they have to sit still. Unless they want something I said, I'll let em go and get it and come back and have em sit down. That lady from Oklahoma, can't remember her name(long pause) I can;t, can't remember her name. She said you've got nice looking girls. And they all had long hair Winnie used to admire em, because they all had long hair. Oh don't let em cut their hair she used to say.(clears throat) Those look purty when they dance, it looks just nice, she'll say. (pause) But after they went to live on their own and cut their hair, made it short (small laugh) (long pause)

Rdid they dance?

A uh-huh. They danced, they danced and uh Danielle was called on to be head girl dancer a few times. And then I have to scramble, It was a good thing I was working especially when Marcella was the Powwow Princess. Yes I did. And we had to pay hundred and fifty dollare for her medallion and em uh (.....)

R?

A um hum. (clears throat) (long pause) But Donna Ray said her that daughter had those, she gave em to auh, that girl gave em to one of the Massey girls and thats that crown she's got now she said. That;s what my daughter had. I said, you? look new Yeah she said I paid some money. Sewed a different cloth over it, that old one I guess..

R um hum

A I said well I glad she got it I said I really like it. And she had ta. The mocossins, I don;t know what happened to. No she didn't get the mocossins just got the madallion and the belt . But thats when they used that uh belt when they have Southern style . But I said you were here Omaha you have to wear Omaha dresses. So we made dresses for her. (pause) And ..? Lovejoy .

R um-hum

A (long pause) Yeah she . And then that one ribbon work one she made that for her too. She called ,she called, charge her two hundred an fifty dollars. For that.. Ribbon work dress.

R ummm...

A Yep she,

R After they crown Princess do they have to give their crown up to the next one?

A No thats theirs .

R They keep it?

A um-hum . They keep it. (clears throat) And thats one The Indian Club wanted to, do to ah. Who was that girl was Pow wow Princess and they wanted that crown back ? I said you don't take the crowns back , its theirs to let their kids see, if they have any kids , I said let them see that they were a Powwow Princess at one time. In their younger days. You don;t take the crowns back I said every Powwow Princess got to have new ones, different ones. (pause) I said they probably get mad at me because I sit and say things like (Laughs) What does she know ? Then they always come and ask me how you do this and that and what youre supposed to do.. I said what I know I'll let you guys know I said I don't know everything I said and I sai d

uh Powwow time last, two years ago. Carol and Denita, Denita. Carol an uh Adele was going to have a dance for that little boy they brought up. (clears throat) And uh and then we were going to give tobacco to Chiefy? And Harriet said they shouldn't cross two tobaccos. she said.

And We went back and asked uh Brother Rufas and he said they're both going to pray for you know the ground . But uh we went back and asked. I talked to the Purity People I said.....Native language. I said. I;m an IndianNative language(clears throat)? Cause she didn't know what to do when her son died. I said..... Native language , I said anno they should always be the one to say, tell em these things,but I said They always come to me, And I said, if I can help em I'll let em know I said. But this, I said I don't know anything about it . Haveing two baccoos? around the same arena, I said. that's what they wanted to know and that's were asking me

and I didn't know what to tell em., I said, Native language? Thats why I cem back with them I said. Be thankful for bringing em back and asking. Native language. And (laughs) Maxine said well everybodys gona get use of the prayer she said. They're both gonna pray. But they didn't , they said just one.(pause) But that was all right. Cause uh I think they had Rufus in charge . Maxine an,, not Maxine. Adele and Carol in it.

R hum

A And Maxine said, Rufas don't take his tobacco. He keaves at home. He Leaves his uh tobacco at home. So that turned out alright. (pause) I was thankful

R Who praye for the.....?

A Chiefy.

R Chiefy?

A um-hum. Chiefy prayed for it. ...;? Because uh we went to him because Ty always came and prayed for the arena for us . But sin ce he was gone seemed like Chiefy took over all Tys doings. Now then that hes just busy all the time, Because he has to take care of those kind of things. (long pause) We even asked him because he passed away that day he supposed to be here that. NO they buried him that day he was supposed to be here. And uh them girls really cried. And she said what are we going to do ? So I asked uh Chiefy I said I don't want that tobacco to just lay , I said. I said,,maybe he accepted that tobacco already maybe you can take care of it for him. (pause) And he said he could . (long pause) Yeah,he said there was other, he accepted tobacco for another person too I guess . And he passed away. (small laugh) And? When was that Thursday or Wednesday? Anyway , Uhh. I'm windy. Anyway his funeral was on a Friday, Or Saturday, it was on a Saturday "cause he was supposed to been here. been here. I can't remember who the other person was and , he, they came to me too and asked me to take care of it for them. He said I don't want to turn em done he said. Because that already, yeah I said he accepted that tobacco and thats why I said I don't want it to lay too long. I said, he said it was alright. That he would ..? Tobacco home to Chiefy, but he said no. I told him I didn't have a ride or didn't have a way of getting there. (clears throat) So he said I;ll accept that when I get there. He knew my prayer. When I get there, he said. So don't worry about coming home he said. I'll be there he said. So he came early I;ll be down there where they had to do the talkin. and. And this last one we made (pause) he said we gotta teach Phillip. I said , teach him how to talk to them. To people for these girls, I said ,hes the only man and he .And I told him that. (clears throat) I said you better straightne yourself up, I said because you're the one who has to carry the tobacco for these girls I said. You have to help em out , because its your place to ah present the tobbaoco I told him. (pause) So he was really thinkin about it, and Greg talked to him . When he said he would. And he done alright you know talkin to Cheifey asking him to pray for his Mom (pause) and the family. And he said especially my Grandma, he said , she's not well and she can't do a lot of things like she used to he said. So Jeremy . He did alright. (pause) I tell him hes

got to be doing that, (pause) And then uh (pause) their Dad promised em chicken, he never did bring it . (long pause) I said don;t ask him anything anymore I said I thought maybe he had a heart enough to help you guys, but I guess not. Don't bother him anymore I said no more asking for anything. Phillip said I never did, he said, because he promised me money so many times and I never did get it he said. Thats why he said, I don't claim him as my dad? He;s mad at me. I told Uncle Freddy when Uncle Freddy was alive he asked for the, he asked for the? on him I never told him that. I said (Native language) I said / Cause I want to talk to him because his dad promises him money an never give him nothing.? I just mad.

R um-hum

A (long pause) I'll talk to him again he said Been telling him that he has to take care of em . (long pause) But he was, Freddie was good to the kids.Now we asked for uh, Wilma asked for a name for Phillips daughter. And uh Lawrence and Pierre came, an uh they said they were waiting for Mark an Mark never did come . And I said can't one of you name her I said , I said Lawrence you're the grandfather, you're the one that supposed to do it . No uh they told us that it was up to Mark to name the kids(Sound of disgust) I said he;s your child she part of you I sdaid . Native? I said Welma just spent a lot of money I said. Why don't you have the babys name I said. India name. She still don't have no Indian name.

R How old is she?

She's uh shes gonna be five. She was born the day before Gary. Before.....

R?

A She was born November twentyseventh, Gary's was twenty eighths .

R. So the Indian name has to come from the father then. The Grandfather?

A um-hum The Grandfather. Um-hum.? Has to come from the Grandfather, if he's, if hes still alive, if he's gone you can ask somebody in that, (long pause) uh ask somebody about their names you know their Indian names. If you want to the husband can name the child (clears throat) (pause) or you can ask somebody to name em. To give em the names ..

R Back then when a child was born?Indian name and thats just what they used. For the rest of their life.

A um-hum . um-hum They give it to them when they're four days old . Native language. Four days old they give em their Indian name and they always tell em to repeat you know they're Indian names . So they can hear it while they're small. And they

grow up they'll continue hearing it and they'll know what their Indian name is. (clears throat) And I believe that..My Dad used to say .Native language. He always would call em by their Indian names . And he said if you live somewhere and you got to move another place . Call em before you go. Because he said , they made a lot of tracks where you lived before and they were.....youdon't want em. And don't take your broom he said. Like that was supposed to keep the house clean I guess. The broom.don't take it . Always buy a different one he said . And uh

R.....?

A uh-huh After you move so, I told Bill, I said you have to call them kids I said Native language. Call em by their Indian names. So he did. Even when they were growing up when they leaving L Street , to move here he was calling them. (laong pause) so ,so uh that way they forget about where they were before. If you don't they always want to go back there. so we did. You know seemed that did'nt bother em after we moved to here. (long Pause) Just me, I miss that basement an. Maybe that's why I got sick. Because they used to be mold, and I used to start coughin never quit. I said thats what it was, all that mold , you're not supposed to uh And then when we moved here it was it was , it rained hard for two days and uh it was wet. And they still built a house over it. And a all that dampnesss came out and made molds her and there in the corners, in the closets. And I told em about it, an when you come in you cand just smell it. And I told em about it and they brought some humidifiers . Gee that two of those things would fill up in little while. Cause all that water down there. They said, we're sorry .