



Delaine Spilsbury

Great Basin Indian Archive

GBIA 036



Oral History Interview by

**Norm Cavanaugh
May 28, 2014
Duck Creek, NV**



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Interviewee: Delaine Stark Spilsbury

Interviewer: Norm Cavanaugh

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S: Hi. I'm Delaine Spilsbury. I'm Western Shoshone, Great Basin Shoshone as I choose to call it, and I'm from Ely, Nevada. I was born in Ely during the Depression, and it was a different type of life for the native people here in Ely than it was most anywhere else in the West or in Nevada. We had no reservation, we had no place where all the families lived. We had a tiny little colony that—I don't know, what, it was federal, or state, or even county—that some of the people lived, but not—just a very small. We still lived the old ways with our families as we had when... We were hunting and gathering. We had, our families lived separately in a different place, and it was just like we'd been out. Every once in a while we would all get together, just like in the old days. And the primary place that they migrated to for their ceremonies was now called the Shoshone Cedars in Spring Valley. And there were, my mother was from Snake Valley, which is to the east. And my dad, they'd go to Spring Valley, and—I think probably to marry off their people, and to, there was a good place to harvest plants, and animals, and fish. It was a place of bounty, with plenty of water. And then my dad wandered around and migrated. He was from two valleys—three valleys west of where my mother was. And so, they eventually met somewhere down the road, maybe even at Spring Valley at the Cedars, I don't know. But they compromised, and ended up living in Ely, Nevada, along with her sister and my dad's brother. And so they had quite a little family group, and all lived up on Seventh Street Canyon, across the railroad tracks. When we were poor Indians. And I'd like to interject that now that's where all the rich people live! [Laughter] Not at that time. They have four wheel drives and kick it up the hill. We had to walk in the wintertime. It was a pretty hard life. I don't remember a lot of being—I don't remember being miserable or

anything, because it seems like I was always kept warm, and I was pretty well fed. And that's lasted through my lifetime as you can see. [Laughter] We just... We had, dad hunted. Dad and his brothers hunted all the time. And when, especially if they weren't working, during the summertime, the spring and the summer, they seemed to have plenty of work. I went with them to the sheep, up at the sheep camps. And the men—my dad and his brother, and—I'll have to put a little more family information in here, now. My mother's two sisters, my mother and her sister were from Snake Valley. My dad and his brother were from White River. And since my mother and her two sisters were from Snake Valley, their brothers were also. Well, those two brothers married two *other* sisters. [Laughter] So it was quite a small family there. I mean, a small few families for a lot of kids. But—

C: What was your father's name? Of what family did he come from?

S: My father was from, his mother was at Duckwater. And she had married a gentleman who was half—he was from Salt Lake City, probably a white Mormon, I don't know. But I know he wasn't a Mormon because I know he drank. [Laughter] But, and his name was Stark. So we don't have an Indian name. And my mother's name, mother's family name was Joseph. And anyway, we, they always hunted as a group, and worked as a group. And they went sheep-shearing when they could. They had, my dad was a very ambitious and very intelligent man. And he soon became a private, I don't know what you call it, a contractor. Just a one-man kind of organization. And organized for all the brothers and whatever to go to the north to work at logging during the summertimes. And they started here, they started logging just around the corner from where I live now, on the Schell Creek Range. And they expanded upon that for a few summers, and I guess they did quite

well doing that. And my dad had only one eye, so he really didn't work any jobs that were where he could hire on in town. So he also got into prospecting, and mining, and whatever kind of thing that he could make some money at it. He did very well doing that. We, so we had a childhood that wasn't hungry and it wasn't cold. I mentioned that before, but that was quite an accomplishment when we were in abject poverty and really had no place to live. He and his brothers, finally, he and his brother eventually built homes for the families, adjacent to each other so the two sisters could be together. Sometimes that was really good, but after they had kids, they did argue a lot. [Laughter]

C: So were those homes built on the Ely Colony?

S: No, they were not. They purchased some property up that canyon that I mentioned up Seventh Street, and they built on their own property. And that property is now owned by one of the rich people in town who's building a beautiful home up there. We thought it was a long way from town, and it was on the other side of the tracks, but I enjoyed the train as a kid. Putting pennies on the rails, and just, kid things. And when we went sleigh riding, we're not supposed to go across the tracks. And so we'd sled just as fast as we could so we'd think we couldn't make the turn, and if we didn't go over the turn, then we could go over the tracks and down the hill even farther. [Laughter] But... with the wild game they gathered, and harvested, anyway, they had my great-auntie, Lizzie—Lizzie Lee—had a place in White River, which is where my dad was when, where he was born. And she raised potatoes. So the boys would take her a leg from their venison, and she'd give them a sack of potatoes. So we always had meat and potatoes, and even though it was Depression, and it was in a very poverty area—poverty situation, we always managed to have something to eat. And then, when the World War II started, the big

thing for individuals to do, families, was to have a victory garden. So once we dug the victory garden and found out how easy it was—for the kids, anyway! [Laughter] But, we didn't have any running water where my dad built. And eventually, the adults did dig a water line down to the Ely water main, and brought water into the reserv—not the reservation, into our homes. Reservation was not there. And so, we had a much easier life once we had running water, because we had always hauled it prior to that. But the kids got to help with that, too. Because they got to backfill the ditch. So, we worked pretty hard. My dad and I had a—we were kind of a little bit separate from my mom and my sister, because my sister's four years younger than I am. And I used to go out into the hills with him, to go prospecting, and mining. And I got a big thrill out of that when we'd blast. [Laughter] It's just one stick of dynamite, but to me it seemed really exciting. And we've always, I gathered the, got the habit of carrying all the rocks home that I could. And, because that's what my dad did, take all his ore samples home. And at one time, we mined turquoise over by Austin, Nevada. And we took a lot of samples home, but we had investors and whatever that'd come in from LA and look at the rock, and say, "Well, I'm going to take this home and have it analyzed." But we never really sold much of it. But I got in a real love for that turquoise from that period of time when we were mining. And that extended into what I'm doing now, too. My dad and I were pretty much buddies. We were hunting and fishing all the time, because that's what fed us. And the rest of the family fished, too, when it was summertime. But at that time, my younger, my sister was too young to go with us, so they eventually became kind of two partnerships. My sister stayed with my mother, and I went with my dad. And he hunted until, oh, until his death. He took up bow hunting when Nevada determined they would have two hunting

seasons—hunting with permits: one for bow, and one for rifle. And so, dad decided he'd like to—and as did a lot of other guys—like to learn to shoot a bow, too, so we could get more venison for our table. And I eventually took up bow hunting with him, too. That was a lot of fun. And very, very tasty, I'd have to say. So I went to school in—

C: So what kind of animals did you guys hunt—or your dad hunt, or you and your dad?

S: Uh, primarily, we hunted venison. We hunted deer in season. However, there's a little story to tell about that, too. The, a lot of the locals convinced my dad and his cousin—Bill McQueen, and my dad's brother, Elmer Stark—convinced them that Indians could hunt at any time of the year. So, they went out hunting, and ended up in jail. They had an animal, and they went to jail for feeding their family. And found out that they, Indians don't have any special rights to hunt and fish. Not out here. They do on the reservations, but not out here in the non-reservation world. And I guess I probably should say a little bit more about my school life. I've been very fortunate all my life. My dad had a friend who lived up in the canyon behind us—and he was *very* knowledgeable, *very* intelligent. And he took to me, too. And I spent many, many hours with him. He taught me, he was my—he taught me all the necessary things, like math and writing and, oh, just, spelling... My alphabet, to begin with. But by the time that I went to public school, I wasn't old enough to actually go the year that I went. But, this friend of my dad's took me in to school to talk to the principal. And he said, "Okay now, Delaine. Write all this that I tell you to write." And—oh, first, the principal said, "Can she say her ABCs? Does she know her ABCs?" Well, yeah! And he said, "Now write something for him." And he said, "Now, I'm going to ask you, I'm going to have some math questions." And he said, "How about reciting your times tables?" and things like that. So, I was able to get into

school a year early. [Laughter] Which helped a lot later in life. But I just had mentors all along the way. I don't know if it's luck, or what. But, it's been a really good life because of those mentors. Excuse me. [Crying] I forgot all about him until this! [Laughter] But, let's see, to go back to the school, I went to Ely Grade School, which was a really good experience. I had a good friend that lived across the tracks from us, and we'd spend a lot of time out in the hills together. And my cousins were near, and we'd go picnicking up in the hills. And one time, there was a big fire in a bar downtown. And my cousins came home with a lot of whiskey, we didn't know what kind. And since we lived at the railroad, I lived above the railroad cutoff, we went down in those cliffs and cut holes in them and buried all our whiskey. And then we sold it to the drunks for about a year. That was pretty good money! [Laughter] We were just little kids, so it meant a lot to us. The school, Ely Grade School, was a very good school. I had a lot of really good teachers who helped. And I had some who were, actually, probably I'd have to add them to my list of mentors. I only had one school teacher that made life tough for me. I tried to be a grade-A student all the way through grade school, and I was really proud of myself when I had one year of spelling where I only missed one word in the entire year. And I still—now I know how to spell “squirrel”: with *two* “I”s. [Laughter] But, I had some great help along the way. And then, when we had our graduation, there were three of us students. They couldn't decide who was the valedictorian, and who could be the salutatorian. But since these other two people were guys, one of them became the valedictorian, and we had a dual salutarian ceremony, which was pretty exciting for me. And I'd have to mention that just about all my life, all of my friends except for that one girl that was my friend that lived across the street, all my friends were boys. Because that was the kind of interest that

I had. I went to a few birthday parties where I was the only girl there, and I usually had fun with the mom. [Laughter] Along with the guys. So, it was a very special, very different life for me, than the other kids. And I attended high school here in Ely part of the time. By that time, my dad had moved to Vegas and become a building contractor. And so, he would take contracts in Vegas in the wintertime, when the weather was nice, and then when it got too hot he'd take contracts up north. And he built some, a few buildings in Ely. The Armory that is no longer, now I think it's the Jailhouse. There was a grocery store in between, and a motel, and some other things around Ely. And then we took contracts in Wyoming, and did some work for the mine people and their workers. And that was an interesting life, too, because I made friends with the people who lived there, and everything was provided for them. They had a swimming pool, and all sorts of things that we didn't have around here. But that's because the mine did all that, and we could go into the store and get whatever we wanted. All my friend had to do was sign. Because the paychecks from the miners went directly to this company store, and nobody ever had any money. And it was a pretty interesting thing to learn, and to experience. And we did a lot of hunting in Wyoming. We went out every night after rabbits. And they had rabbits and hares, and whatever. And because by that time, we had a really good taste for that. Plus, we were always saving money. And that seemed to be a way of life for us. We were very thrifty, because, when I went to Vegas, and went to high school there, my mom always used to buy my clothes at—I guess they'd be called "flea markets" now, but they would just have the, put their clothes out on Main Street, or whatever they had to sell on the weekends, and we'd buy our clothes there. And they were always out of the style. If it was a short skirt, mom sewed a strip of velvet—two inch or four inch,

depending on what the styles were that year—velvet ribbon on the bottom, to make them acceptable. I wouldn't get slapped in school for having too much showing, I guess!

[Laughter]

C: So where was your experience in going to school? Did you go to school here in Ely, or was it a public school, or...?

S: No, the—just, I went to Ely Grade School, and White Pine High School. Off and on. I would start at White Pine, because we were—that's what I was starting to tell you, and I lost my train of thought there. That was when dad was moving back and forth with the seasons. We would start in White Pine High School, and—wait a minute. I started doing that when I was in third grade. And then we'd move to Vegas, and I'd spend the rest of the year—or, part of the year, and then come back to Ely to finish the year. So, it was a, it was—I think, I didn't like it at the time, but I think I learned a lot more by doing that. So I did that all the way through high school. I finally—I think it was the last two years in high school, I did, stayed in Vegas. And I had an advantage there, also, by going to the school later in the year. One year, I couldn't have, they didn't have any sophomore classes. That was a required class. And so they put me in the junior class. And so it was a little tougher, but I think that was good for me. And the other thing that helped, is when I *was* in Vegas, and I tried to get a drafting class, they wouldn't let me take drafting because I was a girl, and they thought that I would be—I have to back up and say why I wanted to take drafting. My dad by then was a building contractor. And he was having—a lot of his expense was having drawings made for the building so he'd get a building permit. And so he said, "Why don't you learn to do this?" Because I kept working with him in the building industry. And I no longer paint walls, because when I was such a little

kid, and I was working with him, that was all I could do was paint the walls! [Laughter] That and climb up on the roof and lay some sheathing. But I'd had enough painting for the rest of my life. [Laughter] So, it was, I'm losing it again—I was, okay, so I went to, tried to take my drafting classes, and they wouldn't let me into the class because they felt it would be too distracting to have a girl in the class. And so the next fall, when I came back to Ely, I asked for drafting at White Pine High, and they said, "Sure." So when I went back, when I transferred back, and I need to transfer to a class, they, I guess they felt they couldn't refuse me. But they did put me in a back room where I had to work on my own. The teacher had to come back, and then work—when he had everything else done, if he had a little extra time, Mr. **Portinier**. He would come back, and see what, and help me with what I was doing. But I took to it so well, and I did so well at it, that he became a mentor also. And by the time I was a senior, which wasn't—I'd only been in—well, I'd gone to the Las Vegas all four years, but not full four years—I was hired. They had a program that if you had a job, you could get credit for the job. And they gave us the afternoon off. So I became a professional draftsman when I was a senior in high school. [Laughter] And it paid well, too. So, that just kind of, all that kind of thing just carried through, pretty much most of my life. And I attended Nevada Southern in Las Vegas for a few years, but I was, always had such a good job and made so much money, and mentors would take over and teach me all they could, I finally just felt that I was doing well enough on my own—not *my* own, but the results were—that I did quit school. But it didn't seem to hinder anything that I did. They, at that time, they didn't actually require a degree just for an interview. I did get turned down on a lot of jobs because they said, "We don't hire women." And that was it. You know, they wouldn't even give me an interview.

But so I started in, started off with government jobs. I worked for the county, and then I was able to get a job with the city, and I found a really good mentor there. And from then on, I had a reputation, so I didn't need anything more. And that carried through. I eventually—the one thing that did happen that I didn't like so well is, somewhere along that way I got married. And every time they had a layoff, because of a depression or a recession or something, they would, everybody in the industry, I think—or even everywhere else, but that's the only, engineering is the only industry I know—they would, if there were a couple working, the wife always got laid off, because they felt that the man was the breadwinner and all that kind of thing. So I got laid off a couple times. And the last time I got laid off, I said, “You know, I think I'll do something I really want to do.” Which, well—other than get laid off, I loved the work. So, I was kind of set back a little bit, and that's when I got my training in Indian arts and crafts. My mother tried to teach me everything that she knew, and I eventually ended up with an Indian arts and crafts business. And it just, everything has just been—I don't know if kids have those opportunities these days.

C: So in those places you worked, you mentioned, where was it in part of the country?

S: Oh, all my engineering life was around Las Vegas. I worked for the county, I worked for the city, I worked for Nevada Power for a number of years, and long enough to get a few promotions and a few raises and things like that. So each time I changed jobs, it was a step up. And then, my final job was kind of by accident. I got laid off at Nevada Power—or fired, or whatever in the heck it was. I think that time, I think that time was the time I got dumped, and it was all, had a personal beef for—my chief engineer didn't see things the way I saw it, and so I got dumped there—and was collecting unemployment

insurance. And at the time, my dad was alive and well, and very... I can't think of a word for it, he was, he was going fishing all the time, and he had a boat, and we'd go to all the lakes around there—Lake Mead, Lake Mohave, and, depending on what kind of fish we were fishing for. And I said to him, I said, "Dad, I think I'm just going to go fishing with you." And we did that for—it was spring—for quite a long time. And then, at that time, at the end of unemployment, you had to go in and talk to the man, and they would ask you if you had been looking for work. And of course, I always said I was, because I always had applications in places that I didn't think would hire me—right off anyway. And I go in one day, and this employment guy says, "They need someone like you at the telephone company." And he said, "Will you go for an interview?" And I said, "Sure!" Because I had to. [Laughter] And doggone, when I went for that interview, if the supervisor, the minor supervisor, which I was to work for there, was a guy that had worked for me someplace. And when he saw me, he said, "Oh my God, Delaine! We need you! I'm so glad you're available." And that put an end to my fishing. [Laughter] So I stayed with them for a very short time. It was a good company, they had a good company policy, but our senior supervisor was just a picky-picky-picky, and I couldn't handle that. And that's when I went to the Test Site. And I stayed there for quite a number of years. The Nevada Test Site, out of town. So all my engineering career was in the Vegas area.

C: So you were a pioneer, as a woman, in that field, when there wasn't very many women in it.

S: There were *very* few women in that field. I did work with one other woman who was a right-of-way engineer. And she was, she had been at Stanford, and she was quite a bit older, but... She was a good friend of mine. But I think that's, those are—I don't ever

remember having another woman on the job anywhere I worked. Not in that line. We had secretaries, and that sort of thing, but... I don't remember any other women. Once I got into the Indian arts and crafts business, I became really enchanted by all kinds of handmade stuff. And a lot of stuff in my house is handmade, and, this particular chair, the gentleman is still alive. And for one reason I can't remember his name, and he is in Ely. And they had these chairs in an art gallery in Ely, oh, probably 10 or 12, 10—oh, some years ago. I've lived in this house now for over 10 years. And during that time, a friend of mine from Vegas was visiting, and we went to the art gallery. And this chair looked small enough and nice enough that I said, "Gee, that's nice. I'd better try it out." And I *really* loved that chair. But I walked away from it and went on with what I was doing. And on my following visit to Vegas, when I walked in to my friend John's house, there was my chair. Waiting for me. So, but I guess I stopped visiting him enough, because he said the chair was getting lonesome, and he brought it up to here. And it gets used every day up here. [Laughter] The only horse I've ever ridden is, well, the one that my dad had that wasn't very sound, we found out. Because he decided to sell it. And it was "Helldorado," which was a big rodeo time, big Western days in Las Vegas. And he bought all the black, I guess it's called "**surge**." He looked like Roy Rogers all decked out in his black pants and shirt, and black hat. He was showing off his horse. He had advertised it as sound and gentle and all that sort of thing, and the guy was—there where we lived in Vegas, there was, out on the edge of town, as usual, and it was all alkali dust, alkali dirt, which is totally white. And for some reason, that horse stumbled, and my dad rolled in the white alkali. [Laughter] So, we were never permitted to ride that horse again. I think he had a bad back, I think that's what it was. He said it stumbled, but I think it had

a bad back. And a few stable horses or whatever, when I've gone up into the mountains.

I've ridden some really wonderful horses when I've gone on some packing trips for when I'm hunting big game with my bow. And I've loved some of those animals. But that's the extent of my horsemanship.

C: But the saddle—

S: The saddle. Back to the saddle! [Laughter] Would you...?

C: It says, "25th Annual Treaty Days." Was that a rodeo, or...?

S: That's in Oregon. It's a big rodeo. It's an all-Indian rodeo. And my cousin Mel Joseph, who is, was my, one of the uncles that lived in Snake Valley, his son. And he was a real tough little kid. So he really excelled in what he was doing. He got his first job when he was 12 years old, and moved to California. He was a horseman on one of those greenhorn trips that I was mentioning that I took when I went hunting. And so, he became a pretty good rodeo hand. He's been a clown and everything all the way up, and he and his brother just last year won a national championships at the Indian National Finals in Vegas. So he went the full gamut in rodeo, and that ended up at my place. I let him visit it once in a while. [Laughter] I mentioned earlier that I eventually ended up in the Indian arts and crafts industry. And I have a very nice wholesale business going on now. I'll probably work until I can't work anymore. And those items are some of the items that I carried when I was in Vegas, and had a bigger clientele. And I sold pottery rugs. The—I had all kinds of artists that I had access to. And I really enjoyed that. It was nice to really be able to get to know them, and to know them well, and that's been another, really fun part of my life, is... and the beauty of the Indian work, the Indian handcrafts is just, it's still hard for me to believe how they manage to do these things. I did a lot of traveling,

and went to a lot of shows and whatever with these people, and I became, I was on the board of directors for the Indian Arts and Crafts Association, which is a national organization that guarantees quality and authenticity. And the artists were just unbelievably talented. They weren't "talented," they were *inspired*. It has been a great, great experience.

C: And that necklace you have on? What's that?

S: Well, that's actually Shoshone. And it's, it's kind of a, real special, this is made with the old number 13 cuts, which are the ones that the artists, the beadworkers that really like to work with beads, and they're almost impossible to acquire. The supply house that everybody got them from in New York was—they were imported from Italy, the beads themselves—is no longer there, and so, I treasure it. It's got bone, and crystal beads. As I mentioned before, my dad took up bow hunting when he could hunt for two seasons. And when I finally got big enough to shoot a bow, they didn't have all the kinds that they have now. Had to be pretty strong to pull a bow back in those days, they were pretty much longbows. There's one behind me that—this one's a Mongolian bow—that's pretty much along that design. And the new ones have all kinds of wheels and whatever to make them much easier to pull, so now they even have really efficient children's bows. But I had to wait until I was old enough, big enough to actually be able to handle a bow. And we, that ended up being a great, a real fun part of our life, too, because we—when we moved to Vegas, we got into the Archery Club, and competition, and that sort of thing. And my son was, had won a state championship or two. And I won the women's division, the bow hunting division, for a number of years. Dad did, was real pretty good with his bow, too, and we just had a lot of fun in archery. We even had a range, an archery range, on some

of the land that my dad had invested in, in addition—well, when he had, could no longer be a contractor, I guess it just was too much pressure, because his doctor told him to go fishing. [Laughter] And he started investing in land, and he always felt that land was a good thing to have. So he had quite a lot of acreage on the outskirts of Vegas, and we built an archery range on one of his properties, and everybody that was involved had a great time. We organized and built our own targets, and would have our own tournaments, and whatever. So anyway, along the way, of course, you know, dad was always hunting, and I was always hunting with him. But I finally discovered that when I did become pretty good at shooting a bow and hunting, I had to forget everything that he had taught me. [Laughter] And start again! So I've been pretty much hunting, oh, most of my life. I've always, well—small game, of course, is the most available. And a lot of fun. And I love to eat it. Rabbits and that sort of thing. I was able to harvest a couple of birds, too, which isn't that easy with a bow. Especially when you cut their head off, let's not ruin anything—but that was a missed arrow. [Laughter] But I've been hunting around in Nevada for a number of years, and I ended up, one of the guys that—oh, it's, I decided that I wanted to go javelina hunting. And over the years, I became acquainted with, because of my business, I would always work the trade shows that were connected to archery. I met people that—movers and shakers in the archery industries, manufacturers all over the country—and got into some, got invited to some great things. I got invited to go javelina hunting with Doug Walker, who published the National Bowhunter Magazine. And he eventually asked me to write for the magazine. And a part of that, we didn't get paid much, but he took us on hunts. And he took us, I think the one that I had the most fun, and had the most game was at **Chudwayo** [42:09] Ranch in Texas. And

they have a lot of exotic game. It seems like the grandfather, the one that started the whole hunting thing, had an opportunity to buy some game from one of those countries that had a new sultan or whatever. And when they come in and take over the country, they always just kill all of the animals that the prior ruler had. And put in their own. And they had some animals down there that were extinct other than on that ranch. And that was—the only fence it had was on the very out—the perimeter fence, and it was, I don't know. I can't tell you how many square miles it was. It's just a huge, huge ranch. And the only fenced part they had, was inside, he had some really special animals. But they weren't, you couldn't hunt those. There were a couple of giraffes, and all kinds of exotic game. But the ones that were free-roaming, we could hunt. And we did. And we went there for a number of years. And one year, I had a big thrill when rock star Ted Nugent came hunting with us. I think I've been hunting with him about three times now. So that was a highlight. [Laughter] Not that I think he's so—I don't agree with his politics, but I sure like to hunt with him! So, and then, some years ago, I was lucky enough to draw one of the rare elk tags—it was probably about thirteen or fifteen years ago—here in Nevada. It's a tremendous—some people apply all their lives and never get a tag. And I was able to get a tag and hunt it just around the corner from here, for the elk that I have here, that at the time was the largest elk in the record book—for one year. It isn't my bow that does it, it's *me*! [Laughter] Actually, I've been shooting with a bow that probably a lot of people would say doesn't work, because I shoot forty pounds. But a well-placed arrow is a lethal arrow.

C: So is that the bow up there, that you have mounted?

S: Those are some of them that I've shot over the years. Actually, one of those is my dad's, and one's my son's. They're sentimental, so they kept theirs. I sold all mine. Except for the one I'm using now. And eventually, after I got too many years on me, too many miles, years and miles, I did have to go to the compound bow that I shoot now. But I still shoot it the same style that I shot the recurve and the long bow. And that's with no sights, and no mechanical release. Just Indian fashion. Ind'n fashion. [Laughter] And it's, some of these animals here are the animals that I harvested in Texas. There's different kind of deer: fallow deer, sika deer. All very tasty.

C: So can we begin with the white-collared deer above your head, and then just move around the room?

S: Okay, that's a white fallow.

C: And that was harvested in Texas?

S: Yes, the next—all four of these.

C: And the one next to it?

S: That is a sika. I can't really remember what kind of sika it is. But it's different in breed from the other one. And the chocolate is the brown deer that has the moose paddle and has the Ted Nugent signature on the paddle. That doesn't show from here—it shows from *here*. [Laughter] And then, the other, the next one down is also a sika. And that one, I shot with other people present, and it just dropped. But that's because I missed. I hit it in the backbone, instead of the sweet spot. I was shooting uphill, and at a longer range than I normally do. And the next one is a nice mule deer from Black Rock Desert, that my son and I worked on. And the two antelope are from around here, and Spring Valley. Both of them are from Spring Valley. That's out by the Shoshone Cedars. And the little piggy

over there is a javelina. And Ted Nugent was on that hunt. I have a little photo of him in my trophies over there, of Ted and I. And this, the one on the floor, the full-body mount, is an axis deer. First time I saw one, I thought it was the biggest fawn I'd ever seen, because of the spots. [Laughter] And this is probably the tastiest one of all.

C: So where was this deer harvested, in Texas?

S: That one's from Texas also. And all the taxidermy on those was done in Texas.

C: And then, can you tell us about the mountain lion?

S: The mountain lion is from an old friend of mine who's no longer with us. He's passed on. And he was the best gardener in Ely. Had a *huge* garden. And everybody was welcome to come in and take what they wanted, but his son was jealous, because I'm the only one that his dad would harvest the vegetables, and even *wash* them, before I got them.

[Laughter] Everybody else had to dig their own. And the bear, on the floor, is from Alberta, Canada. There's a good picture behind it if you can catch the picture. That was, I had a picture of the group of us who all got bears, and that one was the biggest of all.

C: And you shot it with the bow?

S: Oh, it's all bow, yes.

C: Ah.

S: When I got—Rick, my son, was with me when I got the invitation to go along. And I said, "Yeah, I'll go bear hunting!" And when he got me alone, he said, "Mom! What were you thinking? You're going bear hunting?" [Laughter] And that was an exciting trip, too. I had another bear fall in love with me, but that's another story. That was not fun.

I forgot to tell you that when I was out mining and prospecting with my dad, that I actually worked in those mines with a real shovel. Not like today, with a huge scoop shovel and a big truck, but we actually got in there and dug holes to plant the dynamite, and then we dug the muck out by hand. When I was a kid. And I think dad did it on purpose so I would get an education. [Laughter]

This is a picture taken at Mount Moriah, which is just east of us here. Over—that's by Spring Valley, too. That's why Spring Valley was so sacred to the Shoshone people, because it was so full of, just, game, and fish, and food, and shade. On the bottom, where the Shoshone Cedars are, it's the bottom of the valley. And these cedars had been—they're actually Rocky Mountain junipers, and they'd been pushed in there by an ice age, and it was the only place around where there was really good shade and grass, and all the people that wandered around these valleys here all ended up there for their ceremonies, a number of times a year.

The drum is just a part of my collection, **it had an elk**, and it was a Shoshone artist. And it's signed, but I don't remember who it is. I've had it for so long. And I don't even know if it drums anymore, but it's just something I like, so, that was—and it's something I acquired.

C: And the baskets up on top?

S: The baskets, the ones on each end are Mono baskets that were made by Julia, Julia—boy, I can't remember her name! She's still alive, and I met her somewhere on the powwow trail, and she had baskets for sale, and since my aunties are Mono, I thought that was a great idea. I do have miniatures that my aunties gave me when I was a kid.

Well, there came a time when we lived in Vegas when there were drive-by shootings and that sort of thing, and the only time I could go anywhere was from 10 o'clock in the morning until 2 in the afternoon, because the traffic was so bad that if you did go to the freeway to get across town—which you'd almost have to because it's so huge—there was so much free parking out there in the middle of the summer. Free parking on that freeway, in the 120 degree heat, that I decided it was time to go back home to die, because that's kind of what our people do. We, we're so tied to the land that we want to be back home when it's time. And so I shopped around up here to get some property. And in the interim, I was a partner at the Idaho Heritage Museum on Highway 93 between Hollis—no, it's *at* Hollister, between Jackpot and Twin Falls. And my partner there gave me a call, and he said, "These logs are available." This mill—I guess they're called millers, the guy who owned the log mill, the saw mill, had some logs that he wanted to get rid of. And it was a good price. And probably less than I'd have to pay for material to build a house. But I didn't realize there were so many, because I wasn't intending on a place this big. But when I did find this place, and saw the possibilities of berming into the side of the hill for the insulation value, and the logs combined—because this is cold country, here—that I decided to have a house the way I like to live. And that's why it's all free and open with the kitchen island in the middle. And I was lucky enough to find a contractor here in Ely who could do it. However, my partner, who was also a cement—he was a contractor, also—started the place. He did all the groundwork, and he put in all the foundations and that sort of thing. And he got arrested for supposedly digging one arrowhead—I mean, that's the conviction that they had on him, but I think it was a trumped-up charge. Because the stuff he had, pretty much the museum all had

certificates. But, I don't know. Anyway, I had to hire another contractor along the way, and I was lucky enough to get a local guy who's honest and talented and worked for a decent price. And we're still good friends. Matter of fact, I—if you see the picture of the fishing over here, under the sika deer, and those are salmon on the Kenai Peninsula in Alaska. I've gone fishing with him up there twice now. And the 65-pounder is mine. And the little fish on the end is my buddy's fish. [Laughter] The little silver salmon. But we're—and we're still friends, even after that. Even after that fishing trip.

So, I understand we're going to be closing now, and from all you've heard, I've had just a wonderful time, a great life. Everybody has just been absolutely great to me. If I do have things that are, that I think are wrong for me and bad for me, I just remember all the good things. And how lucky I have been. And I'd kind of like to talk directly to younger people now. And I know it's hard to get out in the outdoors now, when we have all this electronic stuff, and screens, and whatever, that keep you all tied up, and keep you from getting any activity. But I would encourage you, if you have somebody in your family or something that goes for these outdoor things—maybe you can talk them into introducing you to what is, what was our Newe way of life. Being on the land, living *with* the land, and preserving the land. Right now, I'm in a big battle with a bunch of people to try to keep the Great Basin water in the Great Basin, instead of being pumped away for where it will never recycle into the system again, and that, the Great Basin Water Network, I'm on their board of directors. And I would encourage you, our native people, our native kids, to get to know the Earth Mother. She's kind, she's generous, and she needs protection. And we can do it. I know we can. We're having problems with climate change, and it's a good time to be able to extend, do something, learn about what's out there, and always

have faith in yourself, and always look at the bright side. There's always something good in everything. And ignore that other stuff.

[End of recording]