



# Edith & Adele Fisk

*Great Basin Indian Archive*

GBIA 028



**Oral History Interview by**

**Norm Cavanaugh  
March 27, 2012  
Battle Mountain, NV**



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Interviewee: Edith and Adele Fisk

Interviewer: Norm Cavanaugh

Date: March 27, 2012

EF: My name is Edith Louise Revere Fisk. I was born in Battle Mountain, Nevada, and I was raised in Battle Mountain, Nevada. And haven't been back for a lot of years! [Laughter]

AF: My name is Adele Ina Crum **Jooste** Fisk, and I was also born in Battle Mountain, Nevada, in 1925. And I came a long way since then, I'm going on my eighty-seventh year, and I spent until I was nineteen years old, I left Battle Mountain for good; I only went back there to visit my mother in later years. And for some reason, the Battle Mountain, after I once left, it was never home any more. After Grandma passed away, and all my relation all left, it wasn't like it was going home anymore. But I, the few trips that I did go back, I enjoyed myself, and like I say, everyone is gone now.

EF: Now, the only time we go back to Battle Mountain is Memorial Day. We still have all of our old, old graves there. And we need to find the *old*, old cemetery, because we have family buried there, and it's over by the airport someplace, but I can't remember where it's at, and Adele can't either. We need to find someone who knows where that's at, because we do have family there, and we're the only ones who goes to the graves in our family, anymore. When—and I don't know about Adele, but I was born in Grandma's house—our Grandma, Emma—at her house, and she delivered me. And Grandpa was hoping for a boy, and I was a girl, and when she said—"Oh," she said, "Oh, we've got a girl!" And Grandma went, "Aw, heck!" [Laughter] She didn't want a girl! But Grandma was neat. And you know, there were a lot more Native people there when I was little. And we—and Grandma was also a midwife, you know. She delivered quite a few babies in Battle Mountain. And then in later years, the town expanded, and they moved her to the Colony. When I was little, she lived at the edge of, let's see—it would be the south

edge of Battle Mountain. She had a little house, there. I guess that's where the Indians lived before. I'm not sure. Adele, do you know?

AF: Mm-mm.

EF: But then, when she moved to the Colony—bless her heart—she lived by Minnie Leach and Minnie Tybo. And those three ladies would go shopping, walk to town—about a mile from the Colony to town—and do their shopping. And they'd sit in front of the Lemaire Store and rest before they took the long walk with their groceries back home. And I never learned the language, because my father was a white man. However, he spoke better Shoshone than I do. [Laughter] But you know, we didn't talk it in our home. And Mother used to tell me, "Now, Grandma and Minnie and Minnie are over there, sitting in front of Lemaire's store. Now, you be polite, and go over and say hello to them. And be sure and say hello and talk to them in Shoshone!" Which I tried. And I did. [Laughter] You got anything?

AF: Yeah, it's a little, talking about where Grandma lived. That belonged to the **Altenbergs**, that was their property. And when Grandma went to work at the washhouse for them, they told her she could live there as long as *she* lived. Which she had planned on living there. Then when Mrs. **Altenberg** passed away, her heirs asked Grandma to move. They told her she didn't have a deed to the property, and she had to move. So that's when she moved to the Colony. And the old cemetery you're talking about, I don't know where it's at, either. Charles Lemaire was going to take me there, but we never got around to finding it. He knew where it was at. But my great-grandpa is buried, my great-great grandfather's buried there, and also my father Jim's brother. He was killed by a white man when he was a young man, going across to the bridge at the river there. He was

going on a horseback, apparently on a stolen horse, and he was shot there and killed. Well, he's buried at the old cemetery. And I attended the little one-room Indian school. At the time I was growing up, we still had prejudice, and we weren't allowed to go play with the white children. We weren't allowed to associate with them. And I had a white stepfather, so that the Indian children ignored me, and then the white children wouldn't play with me on account of my Indian mother. So I was sort of in betwixt and between, and I grew up more a loner. I learned how to read, and I spent all my time with my nose in a book, which I still do today. I still read a lot. And, so we, I didn't, I always was alone. And yes, Grandma was a midwife, and she was the last child—Louise's last child, she delivered. And she said, "This is the last time I'm going to deliver. I'm not delivering any more! From now on, you'll have to go to the white hospital, have someone else deliver your children." And then, she never delivered any more children. Louise was the last one. And they asked her to. [Laughter] Because Grandma, she could take care of her animals, see if they need taking care of. Why, she used to doctor people's animals, and she doctored the people along with it. So she was quite learned in a lot of things. She knew a lot. And I was always so fascinated with all the things, and I was a nosy kid. I asked everything! Always want to know this and that. "Tell me this!" "Tell me that!" And Grandma said to me, "When you come to my house, you speak Shoshone! You don't speak English!" I'd go home, my stepfather said, "Now, we're you're in the house, you're not going to be little Indian. You're going to talk English!" So I'd have to sink or swim. I'd have to learn how to speak both—and do it properly, too! [Laughter]

EF: When I was in grammar school in the [19]40s, there was *still* prejudice. Even though we were in the white school—the Indian school had been closed before. But the restrooms,

they had one stall that was marked “Indian.” And that’s what the Indian kids had to use. And so... But we were treated pretty good, by the white kids, by the time *we* were in grade school. Not like when they were in the Indian school, you know. They were isolated from the white people. But...

C: How big was the school there?

EF: Oh, gosh! We probably had, maybe, ten or twelve kids in each class, and it was first grade through eighth. Uh-huh.

AF: Yeah, Everett **Buford** was the only one in the eighth grade, and we started out in the first grade. And Mrs. **Estes** taught all the grades. Everything. We learned everything.

EF: She cooked, and—

AF: She taught us to sing, she taught us our math, she really—and she could handle them, too, where a lot of the substitute teachers come in, they couldn’t handle the Indian kids. But Mrs. **Estes** made us study! Now, I mean, she had the ruler, too, and she used it!

[Laughter]

EF: And she fixed lunch, too.

AF: Yes, she also prepared our lunch. And Everett would be our teacher, he’s at the teacher’s desk while she’s preparing lunch. And someone was chose to go and put paper towels on the desks, and pour our drinks, and we all had to line up and wash up before we’re allowed to eat. And she was, she taught us a lot of hygiene, too. We had to—and she did everything for us. And then, when the doctor came to give us our shots, she made sure we were held down so we wouldn’t move! [Laughter] That way, the doctor give us our shot in our arms. And then, also, we had to go to Winnemucca, to the dentist. And all the Indian children had to go there. I couldn’t remember who took us. I guess it was the

health nurse, we had a county health nurse. And she would go out into the different Indian homes and visit, and if they had new babies, she'd make sure they had a birth certificate.

EF: That was Miss Kelso. Was that Miss Kelso?

AF: Yeah, that was Mrs. Kelso. And she made sure that the children had their birth certificates, and she weighed them and took all the vitals down. And she was really, really good. She was good with everyone. And she would tell the mothers how to carry themselves after childbirth. I remember, like I said, I was a nosy little kid, and I'd hide and listen to everything that was going on. [Laughter] And I'm not nosy like that anymore, but I still like to know what's going on. But Grandma, I'd say, "Grandma, tell me this, tell me that! Oh, tell me what happened years ago!" But she'd get started sometimes, and she'd get sidetracked and forget all about me. But she was good about telling me things. And she never got impatient. Very seldom got impatient with me. But, and Grandmom had given birth—Myrtle was her stepchild, when Myrtle's mother died in childbirth.

EF: Now say, tell who Myrtle was. Say who was Myrtle. Norm's—

AF: Myrtle Dick Cavanaugh. She was Grandpa's oldest daughter. He was married to a Shoshone girl, and she was quite young, and she died in childbirth when she gave birth to Myrtle. And Grandma was living with Grandpa's two sisters, Suzie and Annie. I remember them very well. And Annie married *Kuttsaahwene* [11:24]. They called him Frying Pan Johnny, but his real name was Johnny Jones. And the other sister married *Piasappeh* [11:31]. Bill **Cheaney** was his name. And neither sister had any children, because as young girls they were raped by white men, which left them sterile. Well

anyway, Grandma lived with them. She was an orphan. And after Myrtle's mother died—I don't know her name, if she, whatever her name was, I don't remember. If they did tell her name, I don't remember. But after, when she was still a baby, Grandpa married my Grandma, and she took Myrtle and raised her as her own, and then she and Grandpa had ten children. And of the ten children, only three survived to adulthood and had children. Jimmy—I remember him, he was her youngest child, I think he was born in 1918. And he died in Stewart of appendicitis attack. And he was her last child. I believe he was born in 1918 or 1916. I have a picture of your mother holding him in her arms when he was a baby. And, all of her children died young. And all the names are written down, what they died of. But they didn't survive very long. But the oldest daughter next to Myrtle was Lizzie. She was the one that married Charlie **McKee**. And that's where the **McKees** and the **Charles** came in, on that side. And then, Charlie and Lizzie had five daughters. All they had was five daughters. And that's where the daughters come, Virginia Jones, that's where all the descendants of them. And then, the other sister was Ina, she had four children. She had three daughters and a son. And Mom had three sons and a daughter with my father, and then Louise with her second husband. And then Louise was born ten years after me. So there's that much difference in our age, though. But she was a baby, and I remember her real well and how spoiled she was as a child.

EF: Who, *me*? [Laughter]

AF: Just real spoiled. [Laughter]

EF: Yeah, those were good years. I remember, like she said, Frying Pan Johnny, and Susie, and *Kuttsaahwene* [13:58], and... Annie and Susie used to make baskets, and where we lived in Battle Mountain, there was an artesian well, and lots of willows grew back there.

So they didn't have to go to the river to gather willows. And they used to stop by when they were cutting willows for their baskets and stuff. And they were little, tiny women. They were so tiny, really short. When I was just a child, I was as tall as they were. They were really tiny. I remember that of them, that they were so short and small.

AF: Yeah, they were. Uh-huh. And Susie was a laundress for what's-her-name, the King is—what's her first name? Anyway, the Kings, she was doing laundry for them, and at that time they had those old clotheslines that were twined, you know? Those old-time clotheslines? And she was hanging clothes one day, and the clothesline broke and hit the ground, hit her in the eye, and blinded her in one eye. And several years later, she became blind in the other eye. So she remained blind until her death. And, after her husband passed away—someone murdered him. He had a rope tied from her cabin to the outhouse, so she could throw on the rope and find her way. And after her husband passed away, one February, someone cut her rope and she couldn't find her way. She got lost out in the sagebrush, and they found her frozen to death the next day. That happened probably in the [19]40s. And then, Annie, the other sister, she passed away at home, at the home of her stepdaughter who was—what was her name, now? **Alma Joaquin. Alma Joaquin** was her stepdaughter. Like I say, they never had children. And she, they found her dead one morning. She had died in her sleep. And that's how both sisters left. And then, Grandpa—I think Grandma said he died of pneumonia. Grandma said he went out to work, and he came home ill, and they couldn't save him. That was Grandpa Dick. And then she married John Hanks, who was from here. And he passed away sometime in the [19]40s, the middle [19]40s.

EF: He's buried in Elko here.



AF: Yeah, he's in Elko here. And Grandma lived on and on until they figured she was a hundred and two. But I remember when she passed away in Elko, when we went to see her, your grandma was sitting there at the head of her casket. She was rubbing her head. And I said to Mother, I said, "Who's that lady sitting there rubbing Grandma's head?" She said, "That's my sister Myrt." I said, "Oh!" Then it kind of all fell into place, and then I realized how the relationship was at that time. And then, Lida, your mother used to write to me *all* the time. I used to—I had whole pile of letters from her. I guess they got lost somewhere. But she used to write me the most interesting letters! [Laughter] Yeah, and we were quite close, because we used to play together as children when we were small. She was younger than me. We used to play. We we came to Battle Mountain to visit, **but we always [17:18]**—

EF: They split our families up when they moved so many of them to Owyhee. So most of our relation went to the reservation then. And so, I didn't know a lot of them when I was real little. And when I got older, my mother and I used to come to Elko and catch the stage. That first stage was like an Army truck with the canvas on the back. And we'd drive that to Mountain City. And then, there was another stage that took us from Mountain City to Owyhee—or sometimes relatives would come and pick us up. Forrest Shaw would come and pick us up. And, when Grandma got real old, and needed care, our mother was working—she was alone then. She and my father were divorced, and she was supporting herself and me, because I was little, still. And so, Edith Shaw and Forrest came and got Grandma. And they took care of her in Owyhee for the rest of her life. Yeah. And see, I never knew my brothers, because her dad took the boys, and they moved to Owyhee—

AF: I didn't either! I didn't know I *had* brothers! Anyway, they had grown up into young men. And they went into the service. And Earl was the first one that Aunt Jessie, who was my father's sister, took him aside and says, "You have a mother. She lives in Battle Mountain. She's very much alive." Because their father always told the boys their mother was deceased. So anyway, "So you go and see her." So, our mother said one day, she saw this young Marine coming across, and she said, "I wonder who that young man is. He must be lost." He come knocking on her door, and she *still* didn't know who he was. And he said, "Are you my mother?" And she said, "Well, who are you?" "I'm Earl." So I guess there was an emotional reunion then. And then, Charles was the next one to come and see her. And Charles was just a little bit upset with his father about not telling him about Mom. And for a while there, he didn't have much to do with his father. And he spent all his time with Mother, learning all the things that he missed out on when he was growing up. But I do remember Ray. Ray was the oldest one. I remember when I was small, he used to come from the Colony. He'd come over and pick me up and carry me home. I just, I must have been about—I was only about three years old. He'd carry me home, and I'd play all day there at my Grandma Annie's place. And then when it was getting dark, toward evening, he'd carry me home. And that went on until they moved to Owyhee, and then I never saw them again! And then, I never met my father until I was already married and had a family. And so, I went to Owyhee to visit. And I thought, "I wonder how things are going to be." And it was just a wonderful reunion! He came right over, and he shook hands with mother, and he was giving the kids presents, and giving them arrowheads, and digging out things that he had, and he gave them. And he gave me a diamond ring. And he was just digging out all kinds of treasures. [Laughter] And

anyway, that was my first reunion. And before I got to know him, he passed away. Before I really got to know him. So we were kind of split-up, mixed-up family. But I had a good stepfather.

C: So what was your father's name?

AF: He was good to me.

EF: Tell him your father's name.

AF: Oh, Jim Crum. Jim Crum was my father's name. And he had a brother by the name of Jim Crum. They called him "Big Jim." He was the one that was killed by the white man when he was a young man.

EF: I was kind of split between two worlds, because Mother was Native and my father was white. And, it's really funny, but the white kids treated me better than the Indian kids did. Of course, I can see why. Because we lived in town, and we had, probably had more than the kids on the Colony. And I never knew—Mother would say, "What happened to you at school today?" And I'd say, "Well, So-and-so and I had a fight." And she'd say, "You're not supposed to fight with her, she's your relative!" And I'd say, "I didn't know she was my relative!" [Laughter] And, yeah. And I found out that we were related to a lot of people. Nearly everybody on the Colony, there was some kind of tie. And then of course, like I said, when I was about eight years old, that's when I met a lot of relatives from Owyhee. That's when I found out that her father lived there, and he was a policeman then. And that I had brothers, but I'd never seen them. And Edith and Forrest, that's usually where we stayed. Because they had more room. Then, I didn't know Cinnabar was my cousin, Raymond Cinnabar was my cousin, and then you guys are relatives, and Dan—what's his name?

AF: Blossom.

EF: Dan Blossom was—because he and the McDades, one of their boys. He used to play with their boys. And they just lived down the road from us, because they had a white father, too. Gracie and Clarence and them. And anyway, Dan and Gracie's oldest brother, they were kind of close to my age. So we kind of played together when we were kids. Because we all played out in the sagebrush in those days! [Laughter] And that's about the extent of it, I guess.

AF: Now, I found out that my daughter-in-law, her grandma's name was Rosie **Winnop**. And they were Paiute. And there's a relationship between the Cinnabars and the **Winnops**. Which made my daughter-in-law and my son distant relation. [Laughter] So, that was interesting! So, we were doing our genealogy, and she said, "Frank! Are you related to me?" And we looked around and, "Oh, yeah! There's a relationship." And then, when Vivian did the genealogy for me on her part, we found where the relationship came in. And that was interesting. Yeah! And from that time on, she thought, "There's no one like Anita." And Anita hasn't written her lately, so she wanted to try to get down and see her. But that was interesting. And then, *her* grandfather, they call him Indian Ike. He was murdered by the whites for his gold. He found a gold mine out of Imlay. And as the white people, the white men, they followed him, and they found where his gold was, and they killed him. And so anyway, Louise and I, we looked up the newspapers and found out about what happened to him. But they didn't refer to him by name. They referred to him as "the Indian." "The Indian did this," "the Indian did that." "The Indian" was blamed. But he was shot in the back, though! So anyway, it was really interesting to me, because I was so interested in family history. And like on the other side, I did their family history

clear back to where they started from in England. And I think possibly they went back to Scandinavia. I think that was where they originated, was in a Scandinavian country. And then, I did my Indian side, I found out through my husband, that his mother was almost half Choctaw. And I have a picture of her, and she shows it very much. And then, this writer of the Cherokee alphabet, there's a relationship there through marriage. Through the Fisk side. So, that was interesting. So, and I started with my Indian side, then I let **Alan** take over because of his, that little bit—I didn't have time for the research, or else I was too lazy to do it anymore. But took me thirty years to do the other side! And all that's genealogy. All of that is genealogy. And there's more that I've collected over the years.

C: So, what do you remember about Raymond Cinnabar's dad and his family?

AF: I don't remember much about Raymond except for what little bit he told me. Now, see, like I say, I didn't meet my family until years later. And when I went to Owyhee, then all this relationship fell in. But I do have all that Vivian gave me on the relationship there. I do have all that written down. I have it all in my little filing cabinet. I have the Indian thing separate from the other. And I do have all that. There is relationship, and there is a grave in Winnemucca under a tree. And that would be the relationship on Anita's side, and on Raymond's side. I think he said that was—was that his mother, did he say? I can't remember. Well, anyway, and that was also related to Anita. And so, it was through the **Winnops**. They were **Winnops**. And I do have all that written down, was when Vivian was—oh, this has been twenty years ago or more that she wrote all this down for me. And I still have it. And then we have the family group she's made up where they all came together on my side, and on their side. So, it's really interesting. Then I have, starting out

with the Dicks on down on that side, then I have the other side where the **Winnops** and on down on their side; where they all meet together.

EF: Where they connect, yeah.

AF: Well, that's quite interesting history.

C: So did you both graduate from Battle Mountain, then, or was there a high school there, or—?

EF: Yeah, there was a high school there. I went to high school there. Uh-huh.

AF: Did you grad—where'd you graduate?

EF: Oh, I got a C.E.D.

AF: Oh, you did, huh? Uh-huh.

EF: Yeah, because I got married, and then—but they still, I'm still in that class, you know. When they have reunions.

AF: I completed the eleventh grade, but I never finished. I could have got a G.E.D., because my daughter-in-law was a high school teacher. Kept saying, "Grandma, get your G.E.D.!" "Oh, I will, I will!" She went and mailed the books, and I studied it for a while. Said, "You can do it! You'll graduate with your granddaughter." I thought, "Well, I don't want to graduate with my"—*hepitsoo* up there on the stage with all those young kids! I wouldn't do it! [Laughter]

EF: Everybody does it now.

AF: Up there in a cap and a gown there in my old age! Because I was in my sixties then, I went back to school. And she was my teacher. So I took up Spanish, and I took up literature. I took up genealogy, and what else did I take? Nevada history. I took

something else. And I enjoyed it, I had lots of fun! But I never went on. Oh, I took piano lessons, too. [Laughter] I learned to read music, I never learned to play the piano!

EF: Well, back what—

AF: Oh, I can play a *little* bit, or on the organ, but I never—I lost interest. There's just too many things I wanted to do, and I couldn't do them all!

EF: See, back when we left school, back in the [19]50s, we could go to—like, I went to business college. And we could go on even without a diploma, because it was different then. But then, later on, when I went and got my...

C: So, where did you go to business college?

EF: I went to Henager's, in Utah. In Ogden, Utah. Because we lived in Utah. I was married before, and my first husband worked for the railroad. He worked in there, and his family was in Utah. And so, I just went and signed up, and went to school! [Laughter]

AF: It was so strange. I was getting ready to go to school. This old man came over to visit my husband at the time. And he said, "Where are you barging off to?" I said, "I'm on my way to school." He said, "What are you learning?" I said, "I'm learning English." He said, "Well, you seem to speak English pretty well." So I left it go at that, and went on to school. [Laughter] It was fun. I enjoyed school second time around. It was too bad I didn't go ahead and go a little further. But then, I'm busy with the kids and grandkids and everything, so I just didn't. Yeah, I just thought that I didn't lose interest. I enjoyed it. Because like I say, I do a lot of reading, and lot of studying on books and stuff, and I've always got my dictionary handy. And then, I still like to read, and I still like to play with my dictionary. And I still like to do word games.

EF: Well, you know, I did a lot of other things, too. When we lived in Wendover, my husband, Walt, was in the fire department. And at that time, the EMTs, they were starting to get EMTs to go on the ambulance. Well, they had all these firemen signed up, and paid them money, and two of them didn't go on the day they were supposed to go. So, another fireman's wife and myself, we went and took that course. So, I was an EMT for, like, 18 years. I worked in Wendover and in Wells. And so, I got a lot of, you know—I've done a lot of things without a good education!

AF: I did too. I took a home nursing and care of the sick. I took that and got a certificate in that. But I never took care of the sick unless I took anyone home or something, but I never pursued that either. Oh, and I also worked in a shipyard. I went to welding school, and did some welding. That was fun. And I enjoyed that. I worked in the marine shipyards over in California. And I went to join the boilermakers' union. Welding way is cool, finally I got enough burns on my chest I got mad and quit! [Laughter]

EF: Well, those things happen! Yep.

C: So, when you guys were with your—is it Grandma Emma?

EF: Yeah.

C: What—did she share any of our Shoshone cultural stories, or anything along our customs and ways of lifestyle, I guess?

EF: Not really. She worked all the time when I was growing up. She did when you was little, too.

AF: Yeah, she did when I was growing up. But I used to ask her things, and she would tell me. She'd sit down and tell me. And, it was mostly about her own family, and some of the things that she did, and how she was afraid of the white people. And she was telling



me one time, she was doing laundry for this person, or these people, rather, and she said they put a tub of water on to heat for the wash water. And she said their child, who was about two or three years old, ran and tripped and fell in that tub of boiling water.

Grandma said she just knew that she was going to go to jail. So she said she ran and hid. So she hid for two days. And they searched for her, and searched for her, and they finally found her. So the mother of the child said, “Emma, it was not your fault. It was an accident. You didn’t do it.” So Grandma said she quit her job. And she had to—she said she had nightmares over it that worried her. And I know she was always deathly afraid of that, having her water boil outside, but she always did, because it was the only way she had to heat water. She always made sure I didn’t go near that tub of water. Because, being nosy, I had to go poke it with a stick to see how hot it was! [Laughter] And then, I know she used to tell me, and we used to go getting ‘zips’ [*tsippi*], you know, and pour the water in there, and Grandma would hit ‘em in the head. I never cared to eat them, though. But I remember her cooking the rabbits. And making her bread. She used to make the best bread in the ashes, without any pan she would make them! And it had to be a certain kind of ash that she used. And that ash would burn down, and she’d take her dough and throw it right on the ashes, cover it up. And when it was done, she’d take her apron, she’d clean all the ashes off, and break it in pieces. Oh, it was delicious! And the ashes didn’t penetrate the bread. It was just on the outside. But she said it had to be a certain ash. I don’t know what. Then we used to dig *yuteka*. And they were little roots about this long.

EF: Yes, I remember that.

AF: And we had to dig and dig and dig, and they had a brown bark on them. They would peel that bark off, they'd eat them. They had kind of a sweet taste to it. They were good. But remember? We used to dig *yuteka*, too. What else we used to dig?

EF: We don't know where it grows, now. We've never found it for years.

AF: No, we've never found it!

C: Oh, man!

AF: I knew it had a flat leaf, and it grew about this long. [Indicates 4-5 inches.] And I was wondering if that's what they call *yampa*, if that's the same thing.

EF: I don't know!

AF: I don't either. But I do remember they called it *yuteka*, and we used to dig them all the time. I remember we'd dig quite deep. And of course, the wild onions. And we used to go fishing all the time. We used to gather all our gear.

EF: Oh, Grandma was a great fisherman!

AF: [Laughter] And we'd go a *long* way! Seemed like we were *miaking* and *miaking* for ages! Then we'd finally get to the river. And Susie was blind at that time, but she always filtered that river water. She always dug a little hole there just about so far from the river. And the water would seep in there, and that was drinking water. And then she would boil it until we had drinking water. But, I remember little blind Susie doing all those things. She used to make bread and stuff like that. But if it wasn't for *Kuttsaahwene*, she wouldn't have got by. Because he watched her, and took her to town, until he passed away and there was no one to look after her. Grandma did. Grandma check on her every day. And Minnie Leach, also. Until, like I say, someone cut her rope, and she froze to death.

C: So, who were some of the families, the old families in Battle Mountain, besides the Leach?

AF: Let's see. There was *Kuttsaahwene*, who was Jones. And that Leach was his sister. Minnie Leach was his sister. And then there was—now, let's see. I don't know who. Frying Pan Johnny was from, what's this place out here? Palisade. He was from Palisade. I don't know how the two met, but he had family in Palisade, she said. But I've never met them. And then, Grandma of course. She had her family, and her granddaughters married men in Owyhee. That's how they all settled in Owyhee. And Dad never married until he was an old man, and he married this, I don't know who she was. But I met her once. And he married her in his old age. And to this day, I don't know *who* she was. And Charles, my brother, had married, but he never had a family. Of course, Earl married Beverly. What's her last name? Beverly, Beverly.

EF: Premo.

AF: Premo. And on the Shaws. And let's see. Edith married Forrest Shaw. And her mother, of course, was Grandma's oldest daughter, Lizzie's daughter. Like I say, they had the five daughters. And they were all people in Owyhee. Of course, I have lots of relations there, that I don't know who they are. When we had our family reunion, I didn't know *any* of them!

EF: I didn't know *half* of them.

AF: Gosh, there were a lot of people there! And I didn't—I just knew those immediate ones, like my brother's family. But the rest of them—but there were, oh, a *lot* of people there. And they were all related. And I've got pictures of mine, not too long ago, one of my—let's see, he would be my cousin's son. He came over and identified a lot of them for me.

I didn't know who they were, so he wrote the names all down for me. And they were all on—they were the Shaw side. And, but I had all the pictures taken at this reunion, and I didn't know them!

EF: Yeah, we didn't know a lot of people.

AF: Just our immediate family, we knew. And in Battle Mountain, we really didn't—

EF: Ina was our only family.

AF: We had a lot of relation there, but we didn't really know how close they were. And then after they were all gone, Mother said, "Well, that was So-and-so, that was my so-and-so," you know, and everybody had it written down because didn't know who they were, you know?

EF: I think one reason why was because Mother married a white man. And a lot of them were kind of afraid of him. They didn't come around.

AF: Uh-huh, yeah. And Grandmother's always busy working, she didn't have time. The only time she had time to visit was when they came to the washhouse to visit with her. And I do have a lot of pictures that my dad gave me. There's a few I can't identify, but most of them have been identified. And then, there's the **Cerlene Mosh** who lives across the street. Now, she is related to me through my grandma Annie Crum. Her brother—

EF: —there was a Paradise.

AF: See, their daughter married a Paradise. That's where all the Paradises come in. And I have most of their names written down, but anything else, I don't know them. And then, I used to hear from the one that lived in McDermitt, what was his name? He was related to you. He was... I guess he was, to you he would be your uncle?

C: Art.

EF: Art.

AF: And he wrote stories, and... What was his name?

C: Art.

AF: Yeah, Art. He used to write to me, too. Yeah. He wanted to know if I'd share some of Mother's tapes with him, but then we never did get together, and then he passed away before we ever got the things together that we were wanting to get together. And we never did that.

EF: Yeah, Mother was the storyteller.

AF: Yeah, she was a storyteller. And then we had, I had a shoebox full of tapes. I gave them to **Alan**. That was when they were, a lot of them were so brittle because I had them for years and years. And then Earl had a bunch made up. So anyway, Earl was the one to get all these stories out of Mother. Like I say, sometimes she told us when she felt like. And we were children when she told us the little story that we liked, our favorite stories. She told us. And I, in turn, told them to my grandchildren. And then I wrote some down for them, and they were delighted with them! [Laughter] And in fact, my grandson, not too long ago, said, "Oh, Grandma! I want you to write me the story about the Porcupine and the Coyote. Oh, that's my most favorite story!" "Okay!" So I wrote him the story and sent it to him. [Laughter] And the other one, her favorite was the Deer and the Bear, her favorite story. And the *Tsoappittseh*.

EF: Oh, of course *Tsoappittseh*. *Itsappe*. Yeah, my dad worked nights. And Mother used to tell me—because I was the only one. She and I were alone when my dad was at work. And she'd tell me stories at night, you know. Of course, a lot of them she had to tell in English because I'm not very fluent in Shoshone. [Laughter]

AF: Well, I know when we listened to stories at Grandma's house, they were always—we had to repeat it. She'd tell us such-and-such thing happened, and then—and pretty soon, there'd be no more repeating because we'd all be asleep! [Laughter] Oh, that was fun. But Grandma was a good storyteller, Grandma was.

C: Well, that shoebox that you talk about—you know, we were able to convert them over to CDs. Yeah. So, now they're preserved. And, is there anything you guys would like to—have you had a chance to listen to some of those at this point?

AF: Yeah, see, I'm hearing impaired. Both ears. So, I put those ear things in my ear. It's the only way I can hear them. So I listened to them, I listened to songs. And I just turned them back to her. And those that Mother sent me—when I was living in Kansas, she'd send me a tape instead of a letter. And then I'd send *her* a tape instead of a letter in answer. So that's how *we* kept in touch. So then, I had some of her tapes, and then I said, “Oh no, Momma didn't have something good to say about people! I don't want So-and-so to hear this!” [Laughter] And Mother'd get carried away on her tapes sometimes and she'd tell me things. But the ones that I sent to *her* in Shoshone, I don't know what happened to them.

EF: Hm. Maybe she threw them away.

AF: Or maybe she, they accidentally got thrown away or something.

EF: Yeah, I'm so grateful that we got those, and that you were able to help us get those on CDs. Because they would have just been lost. And you know, out of all my grandchildren, Wally and **Alan** especially I think, they're the ones that really are interested in it. Yeah. That's one thing that I've said about **Alan**'s wife: she's really good about our—

C: Culture.

AF: Mmhm.

EF: Yeah.

C: So, with those CDs that we've transferred over from cassette, are you guys okay with us sharing those?

AF: Oh, yeah!

EF: The storage, that's fine.

AF: That's fine, yeah. Except for the personal letters—those are, well, know—

EF: No, he didn't do those. He did, yeah—

AF: Oh, those were two separate ones, yeah. Oh, those are fine. But I noticed there were a couple of them, they were *very* dim. Of course, it could have been it's my hearing, too, but the rest of them came loud and clear. But there were a couple of them that were hard for me to hear.

C: Yeah, there were some of them that were hard to—

AF: Yeah, they were pretty brittle, I would imagine.

C: Yeah, they were very brittle. Yeah, we had to be very careful with them.

AF: Oh, well, they were done in the early [19]80s, you know. And being in the sun, and...

EF: Oh, yeah. And yeah, we do want to share them, because not everybody has these stories now, probably.

C: No, they don't.

AF: Yeah. Well, there's a story goes that when your grandmother was born, like I say, her mother died in childbirth. She was this new baby, and there's nothing they could do with her. And one of the sisters says, "We can't raise this child, because we have no milk, we

have nothing to feed her. She's going to die." So then, anyway, they said, "[**Shoshone at 45:23**]." So, they got the baby all prepared—this was your grandma—to put her in the grave with her mother. And so, Grandpa **Louis** said no. So, he grabbed this child, and he ran. And he ran over to his sister's house, and he said, "I want you to take care of her and save her." So Annie, Annie fashioned a buckskin—made a nipple out of buckskin. And she did with flour and water, and she fed the baby that for the first meal, to be able to find milk for her. And the girls raised her. And then, when Grandma married him, then she took over raising the baby. And then, that was a story about Myrt Cavanaugh.

C: Huh.

AF: Yeah. I remember there were times when Myrt and Grandma were really close, and Myrt would hug her, and say, "Oh, my Momma!" And then there were times when they weren't as close.

EF: Oh, that's not—[Laughter] That's normal!

AF: But when Grandma died, I remember your Grandma sitting there rubbing her head. And I didn't know who she was, until Mother told me she was "my sister, Myrt." Then it all fell into place! And then I started asking *more* questions. And then I get all my answers there. And then I did ask Momma how her brothers and sisters died, the little ones. And she told me what happened to them. And one was kicked by a horse. And couple of them died that had that flu epidemic. And one was stuck by pin, got an infection when he was just a tiny baby. And all these things that happened over there happened to them. I have all that written down. And **Jim Beak**, he was—I remember him real well. I was going to Stewart at the time *he* went to Stewart. And he was already, I think it was his last year of school when he died. He had appendicitis attack in Stewart, and it took his life there.



EF: A lot of our family died from appendicitis.

AF: Yeah, that was one of our afflictions, it seem like.

EF: Yeah. Our mother nearly died, too, from that.

AF: Yeah, we almost lost her.

EF: But they were able to bring her to Elko and operate and save her.

AF: Yeah, that happened when you were about two years old, I think, when she had that bad bed.

EF: A lot of her brothers and sisters, she said, died from appendicitis.

C: So in closing—we have about five minutes left—what would you guys like to say, or would you like to, I guess—in closing, what would you like to say to anybody that's going to be watching this recording? Some things that you may recommend, or some things that you want to leave people with. What's important in our culture, and so forth.

AF: My grandmother always said when I was a child, she said, "Always respect your elders. Always talk nice to them, because you're going to go down that same path some day." How true! I'm walking down that same path that she walked down.

EF: Well, I'm so grateful that Mother made these tapes, and that we can share them with other people of our culture, you know. Because we're a dying breed. Because of the white people, we're just being watered down every generation, you might say, and we need this to hang onto to keep our heritage, so that we know where we came from, and what it was like, and what kind of stories they told. Just like the white people wrote books. And ours went from mouth to mouth. Now, if we put them on tapes, then we'll be able to preserve those old stories, too.

AF: Well, I have written down where some of these atrocities that were committed against our people by the white soldiers. And that's why **Tono** Jake, our great-great-grandfather, that's why he hid his family up in Lewis Canyon. Because he was told that the Indians were being slaughtered, and he said, "Hide your family, because they're going to kill them." So he hid. Grandma said he would not come down off the mountain until almost the 1920s. He stayed up there hidden. And he hid his family really well, and they only would come down to where Argenta is, and Dunphy and that area, and they would fish and get their willows, and go back to the mountains and hide. And she used to tell us about what they did to the Indians. The mean things—they were *mean*! And you just can't believe the things that they did! You know? Grandma said that they would rape babies, little girls! And that just doesn't seem like a thing that a person would do that. But I guess they did. They were trying to wipe us out!

EF: That's right!

AF: They didn't succeed. But I mean, all of this horrible thing that she told me, I wrote them all down, and I hate to have anybody read them. It's too awful to print, and to have people read those. But then, they're true! And then, I have a couple that Carrie Dann had written down, what happened to *her* people. And I thought, "Oh, gosh! I guess we weren't alone. They did that to *all* of us!" You know, things that were atrocities.

EF: From the time they came over here, they did to all of the Tribes. All of us.

[End of recording]