

## Parents, Grandparents & Education - Delores Taken Alive - OSEU 3

My name is Dolores Taken Alive. I grew up southwest of Little Eagle way out in a country home. I grew up with my parents, Wallace Halper and Julia Halper, and my grandparents are Amos Dog Eagle and Margaret Dog Eagle, whom I have learned so much from. That's how I grew up. I ride the bus to Little Eagle Day School which is twelve miles from our home to the school. So I ride the bus every day with my brother. When I had finished eight years at Little Eagle School, then I went to a high school at Wakpala and I stayed in a dormitory called St. Elizabeth's Mission...and where just the church still stands. And that's where I...I was there for four years...and in the summertime I am home with my parents. So when I graduated from high school, my grandfather had a lot of questions for me...what I had learned, how I have gotten along in that home, what are the things they taught us, is it like a home life situation in the dormitory...these are all asked of my grandpa. He said, "Don't ever lose your Lakota language. Always remember it and speak your Lakota language. That is your language. And then the white man's language will be your second language." And then he said to me, "No matter how educated you are...in order for you to translate our Lakota language...which is ours...but if I speak my truest Lakota language, you won't be able to translate that." So I really...he didn't really explain it to me...about that old language that he talked about. And he went on to tell me a lot of stuff about our way of life. And I think up to this now, that's how my living style is...what he told us...what he taught us growing up. And we always honor what Sunday is because after we had been Christianized, our belief is in the Sunday of what Christianity really taught us. So we really honor that. My father especially always says, "When you hear that church bell, that means you have to go to church now." So on Saturday before Sunday, we always have to get ready for church. And everybody goes to church. So when the bell rings, it echoes through that valley where I grew up. And my father used to say, "You hear the bell? Hiyú po! Come now! Come now!" So that's how I grew up in a country home.