

Catherine _ Pine Ridge

But anyway that's how I met Kevin Hancock. And there was something about him that, I don't know. I just, I had a feeling, like a real strong feeling that he was a really good person. It was like a relative. Like a relative that came back into my life. I really wanted to protect him. I wanted to make sure whenever he came, if he came again, wanted to make sure that he was comfortable. I didn't want nobody to take advantage of him and always look forward to seeing him, hearing from him. And I was, in my heart, I considered him to be my friend, but more than a friend, and more like a relative to me. And he's very important to me today. And I always looked forward to him and I think of him every now and then, and I'll text him a message or I'll read something that I think that he could apply it to in his lifetime or whatever, and so I'll send that to him. He's always in my prayers every day. Every day. I am so happy that he's in my life. I always look forward to seeing him. And I'm glad he's here again. (23:48-26:25)

But anyway, the book, *The Seventh Power and the Age of Shared Leadership*. I was reading just that part there about the medicine wheel. When I was reading this, I wondered if this is when he went to visit Nick. Anyway, he asked them what the seventh power is. And then the person he was talking to said, "The seventh power is you". And the seventh power is you, all of us, because the great spirit is everywhere. (27:10-28:25)

Then I was reading this one part here. There's a part in here that I didn't understand. Kevin has a voice disorder. I didn't really understand what it was. I did research on, it helped me to understand his disorder a little bit better. And my mind always said he may not have that voice, that physical voice. I always said that I was thinking about him, and I think about he doesn't have, that disorder has left him without sometimes a physical voice. But it brought him a voice that it was more powerful. For your book that he shared, and many, many people read that book. His voice was there. And I thought that was really awesome. (28:58-30:25)

Kevin: So could you, Catherine, could you just maybe tell me a little bit about where you're from and what you remember about growing up, where you're from?

Catherine: Oh my goodness. That question will take the rest of the evening. And then you'll all starve.

I was born in a little community, a little village called Porcupine, North Dakota. The town closest to us was across the river about three miles and it was called Shields, North Dakota. And that's where we got our mail.

I was born on April 25, 1947. I was delivered by a midwife named Flora Takes the Shield. And I don't know what happened to my umbilical cord because I'm still looking for it. And they say, when you don't keep your umbilical cord, you're constantly looking for it. You're going to constantly be looking around, digging around in everything, pulling open drawers, and you don't even know what you're looking for. And I used to do that when I was growing up. My da, I'd open up his desk drawers and stuff, and looking around his desk to find stuff. He had questions later, but anyway, that's where I was born. Porcupine, North Dakota delivered by Flora Takes the Shield at home, in my home.

And I'm from the Dakotah Nakotah. I'm from the Poboxa band of the Mdewakanton. And I want to be Oglala Lakota. I'm just kidding. I ended up down here. Oh, I'm getting ahead of myself. I'm getting ahead of myself. So I was raised there and I don't remember much about my younger days. All I know I was breastfed by my mom. I know that I was a fluent speaker because my brother, one of my half-

brothers from my father's previous marriage, would come home and said he really admired that about me, or about me and my younger brother because we really spoke that language and he didn't grow up that way.

My dad was a baseball player, professional baseball player. He was a pitcher and they called him "Smoking Joe". And so he met this Wichita woman from Minnesota, and she just totally fell in love with him. And she came on a train, they got married, and they had five children. So from that marriage, I had two brothers and three sisters. So anyway, that's where I grew up.

Kevin: So you grew up on, what reservation did you grow up?

Catherine: The Standing Rock reservation.

Kevin: How was it that you got to Pine Ridge? What brought you here?

Catherine: Oh, another long story. My first marriage was really an abusive marriage, and I had two children from that marriage. I escaped that marriage. I ended up down in, because prior to that I was living in Denver, Colorado. So I ended up running away, going down into hiding. I thought back down to Denver, because I had relatives down there.

At that time, I got really heavily into drinking a lot. And then one day you had a big powwow out at the golf course. Anyway, this drum group from Pine Ridge came, they were called the Red Cloud Singers. And my older brother, he did a hookah with Oliver, chief Oliver Red Cloud. So they were brothers. So it was that drum group that came to the powwow, so we were all there sitting, supporting the drum group. So I was standing behind a drum. I knew all the boys that sang with the drum group, Oliver's boys. But there was one guy sitting there, I didn't know him. then what they introduced him, I shook hands with him. When they introduced him, that kind of rang a bell, because I heard that name so many times in American Indian movement, that name would always come up. They called him G Bear. "G Bear did this", G Bear, did you hear G Bear did this?" Some of the American Indian movements bring that word up a little, I was curious. I wanted to know who this G Bear was. Kinda intrigued me, kinda got interested.

So anyway, that night we all ended up at the bar, and we were all drinking and sitting around. And G Bear was sitting there. So we got to visiting and talking and laughing. And of course that's when I first met him. And couple of weeks later, my brother asked me to help them drive. He had a big family, and they were going to go to a powwow at [inaudible]. And the whole family danced, and they all would camp out, and they always had to take two cars because it was a huge family. All his children danced so he asked me if I could drive them. So I said, "Yeah". He said, "Can you drive that second car?" So I took the older girls. So all of us drove and we were driving, coming on Highway 18 or going by [inaudible]. And I knew that was where G Bear lived, but I didn't say anything then. But the girls, all the girls that were in the car with me said, "Ewww, who would want to live here? You blink your eye and you already went by", and they were making fun being from that little town.

We get there, we set up camp and everything. And first night we get to the powwow grounds and we're sitting under the arbor, and my sister-in-law wanted coffee. So I said okay, I'll go get coffee for you. So I got up and went to the concession stand, but there was a gate there and you had to go out of the gate to the concession stand. And there was a group of people standing there when I walked out, it was people I went to school with at a Catholic boarding school. Anyway, we're standing there shaking hands, that girl I graduated with was married to a Tuttle from Porcupine here, North Dakota. So we got to visiting and then I hear G Bear was standing there. "Oh, did you know G Bear?" they said. "I met him", I said, I met him a few weeks ago in Denver." Oh yeah. And then anyway, they're all related, Tuttle and all, so they're all talking. And so then I went and I said, "I've got to get some

coffee.” So I went and got coffee, got my coffee, brought the coffee back, took it over. They said, “Come back and visit us.” I went back over there and here it, they said, “We'll have to get together later.” They said, because there's always a big party after ,big drinking party after the powwow, or they'll have a 49. Yeah, 49.

Kevin: Can I ask you a question? You mentioned the Marty Indian School, right? You went there? Can you tell me a bit about your boarding school experience? And was it good or not good for you? What was it like for you?

Catherine: Okay. Do you want me to finish how I ended up at... okay. Now that'll be the next question. Yeah. Okay. So that night, one of the things my brother said, “The one thing I'm going to ask of you, you drive these girls who are going to the powwow, nobody's going to drink. You're going to stay sober.” That's what he said. And he was real strict.

So after the powwow ended, we will go back to our camp. One family was camped over here in this tent, and the next tent over was me and the girls. And here we were all day, they were already getting in their camp, and they were already going to bed. And the girls had already got to bed in here. But when I was walking to the tent, I heard somebody from this pick up next to me say, “psst”. So I turned around, I look in here, it was Nancy Red Coat, Big Nance. And so I turned around and I walked over there, and she rolled the window down. I got [inaudible]. I have [inaudible]. So I said, “Oh, good.” And so anyway, they got the girls all settled, they all went to bed, and I snuck out of that tent. I went and got in the truck with her and we were really drinking our [inaudible]. And then we ran out of drinks, “Gee, where can we go?” I'm wondering where we could get more. Yeah. I said, I just barely got started. I don't know. So I said, “Oh, you know G Bear?” She said, “Yeah.” I said, he said earlier that he had a case, “Let's go look for him.” So me and her got off the truck. We were sneaking around going from camp to camp. We're knocking on tents. I said, “He's got to be camped with the Porcupine singers. Yeah. They're camped right up there.” She said, “Let's go up there.” So we walked up there and was really knocking on all the tents. I shouldn't say every tent. We went point you've got to the last tent, “G Bear?” GPS. “Huh?” He really answered us. She said in Lakota to him that she was looking for [inaudible]. He said he had a case. So he got up and went to his trunk and he got his case. But that time with Porcupine singers, if any their singers would drink, because they were not allowing drinking, because a long time ago they used to just drink right there and at powwows and everything. And so anyway, after the movement, it became a no-no, really a push for no alcohol at powwows and stuff. So anyway, we got that case and went down to the lake. So we went down to the lake and then we partied for two days. We partied already for two days. I never went back to the powwow.

The third day, we were all hanging over and didn't have any more money, no way to get any more beer. So we headed back to camp, we headed back to the powwow. So I said, take me back to the camp. He drove me back to the camp, no camp. They pulled up stakes and they left. “They left me, oh my God.” I said, “What am I going to do now? Where am I going to go?” I was really thinking like that. And I said, “Take me over to the housing.” I said, “I'm going to see if there over there.” Because my sister and I had a cousin that lived there. And so we went over there and the cousin came out and said, “Your brother's all mad because you're drinking. He said he does not want to be around you to be coming around and drinking like that.” So he said they just went home back to Denver. Whoever you're with can bring you back to Denver. That's how I ended up with Marvin Ghost Bear, G Bear. There was no love, you know what I mean? It was just because I was so intrigued with that name and because of the movement, too.

So I ended up going back to Baseline, of all places, when you blink your eye, it's gone. I remember those girls saying that and I said, “Oh my God, I'm going to be living in Baseline. I just ended up living with him.

Kevin: How old were you, would you say, roughly?

Catherine: Let's see, I had to be, because Jan was born in 77. I had to be 28, 27 or 28. That was in 1975.

Kevin: So where did you go to boarding school and what was that like?

Catherine: Oh, so anyway, end of the story, how I ended up in Oglala country and became I don't know. I just got along with the people. I just, he was a real powerful person, was on tribal counsel and all that. And, the people really looked up to him. So I got to know a lot of the people and I got along with everybody. I just really loved the people. So that's how it ended up.

Kevin: Let me ask you more about that. So you, I've always felt this about you. You really love Pine Ridge. You have a big place in your heart for this community here. How would you describe this community to someone who has never heard of Pine Ridge or been here before?

Catherine: The community where I was, where I lived most of the time was [inaudible]. And it was like back home, like how I grew up in North Dakota, same thing, reservation, I didn't expect anything, any different. And the same kind of people as back home. So it wasn't, it was just like another home. Just coming off my reservation and coming down here to this reservation wasn't any different.

Kevin: Okay. Let me leave the boarding school for just a second. For this question, pretend I'm not Kevin. How do you know Kevin Hancock, and how did you meet him? How did the two of you meet?

Catherine: Oh my God. Singing Horse Trading Post. In 2010 I retired, and Rosie was my friend for many years. We were very close. And I was visiting with her one day and I said to Rosie, "I'm retired now." And I said and then I was having a hard time. I took my social security out early, so I wasn't getting the full amount. I was struggling up there. And so she told me, she said, come live with me. That'll be your retirement home. And she said, come on down. Because I used to come down here and stay with her every now and then. So she said you could live in a trailer house. So I packed up all my stuff, put it in storage, and headed down here. By myself, I was by myself then before I had my grandson. So I came down here. I thought I really enjoyed living down here. I mean, it was something that I dreamt about, I always wanted to live like that out in the country.

So anyways I was here. And so every time she had a guest or something, I would get to meet the guests and stuff. And then some of them, I got along with everybody. I enjoyed everybody. I welcomed everybody. And then anyway, one day this gentleman showed up. And we're sitting at the table eating breakfast and I was asking him questions, what is he doing here? And I didn't want anybody to take advantage of him because he seemed like really a nice guy, and I always caution the people. I just could tell ahead of time, don't get scammed, because there are people that can do that. Because, I mean, it's a poverty level, it's a poverty that's here. And I said, they'll think of all kinds of ways to scheme and scam you if they know you're not from around here.

So anyway, I always caution people like that. So anyway, so Kevin, I introduced myself, he introduced himself. So I knew his name was Kevin. So I started asking him what he was doing here. And he told me that he was going over to see... oh my God, my memory. The process of aging is, oh my God. My memory is going, my ears are going. Nick. He was going over there to see Nick. "Oh", I said "That's my nephew." I said, "I'll make it easier for you." I said, I'll write a little note to him and tell him you're my friend, treat him good." I did that. Yeah. Yeah. So anyway, off he went to over there, I guess. And I didn't know if he gave him that note or not or whatever, but anyway that's how I met Kevin Hancock. And there was something about him that, I don't know. I just, I had a feeling, like a real strong feeling that he was a really good person. It was like a relative. Like a relative that came

back into my life. I really wanted to protect him. I wanted to make sure whenever he came, if he came again, wanted to make sure that he was comfortable. I didn't want nobody to take advantage of him and always look forward to seeing him, hearing from him. And I was, in my heart, I considered him to be my friend, but more than a friend, and more like a relative to me. And he's very important to me today. And I always looked forward to him and I think of him every now and then, and I'll text him a message or I'll read something that I think that he could apply it to in his lifetime or whatever, and so I'll send that to him. He's always in my prayers every day. Every day. I am so happy that he's in my life. I always look forward to seeing him. And I'm glad he's here again.

And then when he wrote a book, I didn't know what kind of book he was going to write. But I read that book and I really liked it. I really liked that book. And then he said he wrote a second book, and so I opened up the book and there was no pictures. The other book had pictures, and that's the first place I go to. So I opened this one up, there's no pictures. And I get to the bottom back of it, oh, there's the pictures. Oh, now I could read it. So I read that, the first thing I've read with the pictures. But anyway, the book, *The Seventh Power and Age of Shared Leadership*. I was reading just that part there about the medicine wheel. When I was reading this, I wondered if this is when he went to visit Nick. Anyway, he asked them what the seventh power is. And then the person he was talking to said, "The seventh power is you". And the seventh power is you, all of us, because the great spirit is everywhere.

28:30 Then I read the two piece. The first piece, which is most important, is that which comes through within the souls of people when they realize their relationship, their oneness with the universe and all its powers. That's that seventh power right there. All in one.

Then I was reading this one part here. There's a part in here that I didn't understand. Kevin has a voice disorder. I didn't really understand what it was. I did research on, it helped me to understand his disorder a little bit better. And my mind always said he may not have that voice, that physical voice. I always said that I was thinking about him, and I think about he doesn't have, that disorder has left him without sometimes a physical voice. But it brought him a voice that it was more powerful. For your book that he shared, and many, many people read that book. His voice was there. And I thought that was really awesome.

And then I read this part right here. "My voice disorder", and I said, "Oh, that's my friend. He doesn't need to be owning that. He's got to quit owning that, and then he could have that physical voice again. So I tell my friend, "Kevin don't own that disorder. It's not a disorder. There's no such thing as a disorder." So Kevin, wherever you are, you quit that. I get to say that to you because I'm the older sister. I'm your relative. I'm your older sister. I can boss you around. Kevin, wherever you are, listen up.

Kevin: I'm sitting here crying with you. I don't have anything more to ask you. It was so lovely.

Catherine: So my Marty school days?

Kevin: Yes. Can you tell us about that? What that was like.

Catherine: Oh, first we need to be still in that place where that feeling you have, the feeling I have for you as my relative. How important you are to me. How much you mean to me.

Kevin: I'm so glad you said what you said. Because I feel the same way. I feel the same way. I feel exactly the same way about you. You're one of the most important people in my life. And I just think about how easily I could never have met you, or how easily you could not have met me. Or how

usually I could have from away judged who you are or you could have judged who I was, and how we just became friends. Just really close friends, and somewhat like family. I don't know what the right word is, but it's like you said too, but like I think about you almost every day. And you think about me, and you think about me at times when I need someone to think about me. And you'll text me and I'll be like, how did she know to text me today? Or you'll say something to me by text then. And you're just one of the very, very best people I've ever met, and one of the people I feel closest to of anybody I've ever met.

And it goes back to what you talked about, what you were reading about getting out of your lane. If I stayed in my lane, if I just stayed in Maine and done my job, we never ever would have met. And yet today you're like family to me. And no matter how busy I am, if you text me, I stop and I read it and I text you right back. And if I need something, you pray for me. And if you need something, I pray for you. Or if I can help you, I'll do that. And I don't even think twice about it. It's just like family. And there's an energy there that's hard to describe, except you described it so well, that it made me so happy to hear that. And I'm just so blessed for you and the connection that we have with each other that we'll always have.

Catherine: That's that seventh power, that great mystery brought us all together. The great mystery works in mysterious ways. I just want to say, I do not want to discount you are very important to me. My sister over there, Verola, very important to me. My sister Kate, I met her over at Singing Horse and we've become very close. I know always when she's important to me.

Kate: And if you could cut or if you delete that's okay. I always give people I photograph delete privileges. But as I was saying to someone, I think the question you asked is very important, but I need to ask her permission to help her be able to answer it.

He wants to know about the boarding school. And I know from what little you've told me, that is a painful memory. But these are people that have open hearts. That have open hearts that want to hear the real story. And Verola shared a very wonderful part of the real story and how her parents were blessed and trained in ways that help them come back and be healthy family and prosperous family. But as you said, not everyone had that experience. And I know just from a couple of the things you've told me that there was pain there. So if you want to try to tell some of that part. And you were very wise, what you said, she's taking care of herself when she says, "I need to come back to that place of peace, connection" before she couldn't even share that.

So we need to ask her permission if she wants to share that. And if you do, I want to be here with you, but I don't really want to be filmed, but I can just be holding your hand from a distance. All right.

Catherine: Yeah, I'll be okay. I can share it. I feel strong enough to do it.

Kate: Because it's an important story. Because you know, she and I have learned and shared a lot about our own experiences with post-trauma distress. And we're not going to call it disorder, because the creator created us in ways that when we've experienced extreme trauma, that some of us react with the post-trauma distress. The creator also created ways to intended for us to heal. And so we have learned a lot and shared a lot with each other. And one of the most important parts is connecting. It's being heard and believed, being validated, being in a safe place to tell the story. And I believe you, you feel right now, you're in a safe place. And we will be praying for you as you share. Because there will be more healing that will come, not only for you, but for others who hear the story. And that need to hear the story and learn about the ways to not only forgive, but to heal. Because we don't forget what happened. Because the creator created us with ways that the creator doesn't want us to walk back into abuse. So not forgetting is important, though, forgiving to let giving to let go. As you already

know. So are you ready? All right. I'll get out of the way. Because she's my elder sister and I may get a few words about this. Yeah. I'm getting bossy now. So I'll get out of the way.

Catherine: Yeah, I know. I said, I hope I don't become a curmudgeon. I wouldn't let go. I said, I don't want to get in, when it comes time to go to that nursing home, I said I want to be able to let go of all my resentments, all my all the painful things that happened. Because Verola was telling me about her niece who was working at a nursing home, and she was tying this older woman's shoes or something. And in that nursing home, she's tying her shoes and that woman reaches down and grabs her by the head and starts shaking her. And she said, "You're the B that stole my husband."

I said, gee, I bet her let go of everything before I go to the nursing home so I'm not saying things to be mean to people. Because I remember my sister's mother. My dad never said nothing. He painted this picture for me that she wasn't a good woman. And when I met her, she was so loving and so kind. I was so impressed with her, who treated me just like I was her own. But I was just telling him that story about you. Remember when your niece worked at that nursing home and that woman grabbed her by the hair? What did she say to her?

Verola: She's she my cousin, she worked at the nursing home, and she loved her job. She worked like eight years or something. But one day she kneels in front of this old grandma and she's tying her shoestring. All of a sudden, the old grandma grabs her by the hair and won't let go. She's hanging on tight and she's hollering, "Someone called the cops! I caught the bitch that ran off with my husband."

She wouldn't let go.

Catherine: I told him that story. I said, I wanna be able to go to a nursing home, not have no resentments, have no rage inside of me. I said, I just want to go there so I could be at peace, and I'll just go there peacefully and not be mean like that old woman that attacked her cousin. She never did want to go work at a nursing home again. She was so scared.

Okay. Marty Indian School. I got to Marty Indian School because prior to that, I went to St. Joseph's Indian school, which is in Chamberlain. And I went there from my fifth grade to the eighth grade, and I graduated there and only went to eighth grade. I went there because my dad wanted me to. Oh, no. I went there because my mom died when I was, I think I was five, from she was a chronic alcoholic. She got killed in a car accident, alcohol related car accident. So my dad raised me. He did an awesome job. I'm so proud of my dad. And there was a time in my life when I was growing up. I trusted men more than I trusted women. I have no trust for women because I was raised by my dad. My dad showed me all the love and nurturing the best. I'm always proud of my dad for doing what he did. He was a single parent.

But that little school I was going to is called Baker Day School. I think it's run by the county. But the whole community, all the kids had gone from a one room schoolhouse to like all the kids in that community would go to school there. But I always wonder how come my dad, we lived way out in the country. And about two miles south of us, there was railroad tracks and that's where the village was. And they called it 'Sub', because it was a substation agency, substation. And they didn't call it Porcupine, they called it 'Sub'.

But my dad would never let, he was so protective of us, he would never let us go across. He told us never to go across the railroad track because he said a lot of things happen over here in that village. They drink, they fight, they beat each other up, and they do terrible things over there. So I don't want you to ever go across the railroad track. Not all of them are like that, but a lot of them are. And in them days, we didn't live in houses like that. Like Donna Lynn's house, those are nice houses

compared to what the people lived in. We lived in a nice house because my dad was married to a woman, the white woman. So I didn't know they were more affluent, probably because he was married to that white woman, and she's the one that probably made them step to it or something. I dunno. He made progressive rancher, they had a nice frame house. But that's the house I grew up in after him and his first wife divorced.

But anyway, the one I was going to Baker day school, there were some kids in there that if they were really mean to us. And the bus driver and cook, there were a married couple that lived the right there at the school. There was a house right next to the school and they got to live there because they were the bus driver and the cook. The cook was always really good to me because she knew that I didn't have a mom. And so she really took me under her wing, and she would nurture me and give me perms, or braid my hair, or and stuff like that. My dad couldn't use his right arm because of that car accident. He had no use of his right arm, so he couldn't really do stuff like braid my hair or whatever.

So anyway I used to get picked on. All the other kids I think it was jealousy. Because later in life, I found out that from my sister-in-law - that they would feed us - because you and your little brother had everything that none of us had. You were first ones to have a bike. You were free. You had real sleds, we didn't have real sleds. You had sheets on your bed, we didn't have sheets on our bed. Stuff like that. I found this out way later from my sister-in-law. I said, "You guys felt like that about us?" And she said, "Yeah. You guys lived good compared to us." Which is probably true, because - and this is where my generosity kicked in - my dad told me, "Catherine", they called me Catherine, "People are going to come here. They're gonna send notes with their kids and say they need sugar or they need salt, or they need flour. When they bring a note like that and if I'm not here, you fix up a box for them and send it home with them. Or they'll need coffee, or they'll need tea. Whatever we have, we share it, we give it to them." So that was, he put me in charge of that. And then he always told me, we have to help each other out and all that. And so I think that's where I got my generosity, teaching. So anyway, so I think the kids were a little bit put it all together later. And they used to really pick on me and my little brother.

So anyway he said, "I think I'm going to send you to St. Joseph's, I put in your application, and they told me that you're accepted. So that's where you're going to be going next year." And it was all new to me. He said that your older brothers and sisters went to school there, you'll be okay there.

Well wouldn't, you know it, they must have all found out I was going there. All these kids, they all ended up going to St Joe's anyway. But there was more discipline there. So it was okay. And it was good for me to be with them because then it was somebody I knew.

So we went there, and here comes the bus. We had to go to Mulbridge to the park, and then St. Joe's bus came. And all the Standing Rock kids that were going to St Joe's would get on that bus. And we all from the different districts, from Standing Rock, from Kennel, from Fort Yates, from Cannon Ball, from a Porcupine, Little Eagle, Bullhead, those are the districts up there.

And so anyway, when we got there my dad went to the grocery store, he packed a little box for me. There was all these little goodies, cookies, crackers. We still like those little cans of Vienna sausage, he'd buy those. He packed a little box, it was probably about this big, about this high. He thought it was a long ways. I thought it was a long way to. And so I had that big box and I got on a bus. I got on a bus with my picnic box and sat down. And anyway, they were loading up our luggage and stuff.

There was a girl sitting next to me and I didn't know who she was, but I sat down next to her. And I look down at her, like just kinda checking her out. And back then, she didn't have regular kid's shoes on. She had, they're probably popular now, but these they're like wedge shoes? They had the heel comes real high like this, and they come down like this, and it had like straps, multicolored straps.

Those were the kind of shoes you had on, and I'm looking at her shoes thinking, how come she don't have kids shoes on? I was thinking in my mind. I wonder, I bet she comes from a family that's really poor. I was really thinking like that, that was my first impression. Anyway, we got to visiting and she became my best friend. Up to this day, she's a good friend of mine. When I go home to Standing Rock, I'll run into her someplace and it's just like yesterday, we're hugging, just happy to see each other.

But so anyway, I got to St. Joe's in fifth grade. And sister, I can't remember my teacher's name but she was really good, Sister Janet. She was really good to me, really treated me good. I was the smartest in the class. But anyway, it was it was a different experience because it was run like military or something. Anyway. We're all in this great big dorm. All these beds are lined up, like in rows. Beside each bed is a footlocker. And then in the bathroom, there's a big bathroom, and then there's like trays and it's got each bed is marked with a number. That's your number. And everything in the bathroom, there was a tray and it has like toothbrush, toothpaste, and stuff has that number on her. That's your tray.

And so anyway, we'd get up really early in the morning, go to church, come back, eat bread. Oh, we'd get up really early, we'd have to make our beds, brush our teeth. Did we shower, I can't remember if we showered in the morning or before going to bed. It was a really a different kind of lifestyle. But as time went on, I grew to like it.

A lot of them had bad experiences, they were punished severely. They ran away. It never happened to me. I think I was in denial of it for a long time that those things really happened. I saw it happen. Where if the girls ran away, they would cut their hair bald. Or they would get strapped. And when they got strapped, it was a razor strap, and this great big husky guy from the boys' dorm would come over and he'd be the one that strapped him. I saw that. And I'd hear the kids crying, and girls crying, screaming. But it taught me, you don't run away. That's what that lesson was. So I never tried it. I went back to school there until I graduated from eighth grade.

But the kids I went to school, oh. And then we had, us older girls had to take a little kindergarten girl, we had to be like her big sister and we had to help them wash up and get ready for school and all that. So I had some little sisters, and I see them today. "Oh, there's my big sister." And it's still like back then when we see each other today. I'll run into them at Walmart in Rapid City. Oh, we're just hugging each other. We're just all happy. So it was like we became family, we became real close. That was my family.

And I dreaded going home in the summertime. Because my dad was so generous, he'd taken a lot of our relatives that were homeless and stuff. And some of them really have bad drinking problems and stuff. And I didn't like that part. I was, "Who's staying with us this summer?" "The Sea Walkers are staying with us." And the Sea Walkers are on my mom's side, and they were all chronic alcoholics. Not all of them, but my uncles and my aunties. So anyway, the Sea Walkers are staying with us this summer. Oh, I don't want to come home.

But anyway, I go home anyway and tough it out, make it through the summer. So then I was off to Marty. Yeah. I was happy to go to Marty. But when I first was going to go to Marty, my dad said, "You're going to Marty next year. I might as well tell you." I didn't know I had a sister. He said, "You have a sister that's a junior there this year." "I do?" "Yeah." He said her name is Loretta. "She was the last child from my first marriage. She lived with her mom. She grew up with her mom.

When I got to Marty, I didn't look forward to meeting her. It didn't mean nothing to me because I didn't know her, I never knew her or anything. So I got to Marty and a lot of my friends that graduated at St. Joe's went to Marty. So of course we're all happy to see each other again. And one of my friends

knew my sister eventually. Maybe a few weeks down the road I said, "My dad told me I have a sister here. Her name was Loretta." We went by 'Day' then, our last name was D A Y because my dad shortened it when he was playing professional baseball, he shortened it from 'Gray Day' to 'Day'. So anyway, we went by 'Day'. So I said, "I have a sister here named Loretta". She said, "Oh, I know your sister. Do you know her?" I said, "I don't know her. Never met her." "You want to meet her?" I don't know. It didn't really want to. "Maybe another day." "Oh, come on, go over there".

And she was a junior and I was a freshman. And I thought, gee those junior girls act out. I was embarrassed to meet her. And so anyway, my friend took me over and she introduced me. So we just said "hi" to each other and stuff like that. It was just like meeting a stranger. But I was curious deep down inside. I was curious, I wanted to get to know her. So as time went on, in that year we got to know each other better and at least were visiting and talking and stuff. Her senior year she graduated, and I think I was a junior then. And she was going to nursing school at Aberdeen, and she came and got me for Christmas. So I got to spend time with her for Christmas.

Kevin: Do you still see her? Are you still in touch with her today?

Catherine: Yeah. Yeah.

Kevin: Where does she live now? Where does she live?

Catherine: She was living in Aberdeen at the nursing school. She lives now back up at Standing Rock. She graduated with her master's in their nursing program, and she did some really wonderful things that I'm really proud of her. Really proud of her. And she lived in Rapid City when I first moved back to Rapid City in 1999. Started working for Sacred Circle as the advocate for... what was my title? I can't remember now. But anyway, I moved back over there and she lived there. She was married. They had a nice big home, and she was worked at [inaudible].

I would come down here to Rosie's and I picked choke cherries. Me and Rosie picked choke cherries. Oh no. How it was when I was living over there, I had my own apartment. So I used to go, there was a park across the road. So I used to go over there with my little bucket, my ice cream bucket, and pick choke cherries. I'd come back and I fill up this other bucket, and pretty soon I'd have a five-gallon bucket filled up and I take it over to my sisters. She'd wash it up and she'll process it. We'd can them and make choke cherry cans. And we're doing stuff like that together.

Upstairs, there was this cop that lived upstairs. He worked for a Sheriff's department. "Where do you go every morning? I see you going with that little bucket." And I said, "Oh, I go to pick choke cherries." "What's that?" "Oh, I'll show you." So I showed him, taste it. And then I see eight whole bunch of them. I said, "Pretty soon you'll feel like you're choking." So I introduced him to choke cherries. Well he was a liaison at the central high school. And every year that central high school would put on a big dinner for the Lakota people. So we'd go to it. There he was. I was going to the line and he's standing there all smiles. And he says, "Guess what I'm serving?" He's pointing down. He was serving wóžapi, choke cherry wóžapi. All proud of himself.

Kevin: Let me just jump in for a second. I could listen to you all night. I love it. But I want to take you guys to dinner, too. So what time, we should probably head over there, don't you think, to the restaurant? And then we can keep visiting. Yeah. I don't want to miss that, and I want to take you guys to dinner. So let's pause this here. It was lovely. So lovely. To be continued. Thank you.

Catherine: You're welcome. Yeah, I was a little bit apprehensive because I said, "I ain't got nothing to share". I said I hope for all it takes the whole afternoon.