

# **NEVADA** INDIAN COMMISSION

## **STEWART INDIAN SCHOOL ORAL HISTORY PROJECT**

### **BOXER, SAILOR, GUITAR PLAYER: AN INTERVIEW WITH ROLF BROWN**

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## Boxer, Sailor, Guitar Player: An Interview with Rolf Brown

*Rolf Brown is a Shoshone man from Darwin, California, between Owens and Death Valleys. After his mother died, the Inyo County officials took Rolf and his siblings away from their father. Because the authorities would not allow a single father to raise children, they placed the children in separate foster homes. The Inyo County schools did not enroll local American Indians in junior high or high school, so Rolf and his twin brother Ralph were sent to Stewart Indian School after fifth grade in Bishop.*

*At Stewart, Rolf excelled at sports, competing in the Golden Gloves tournament for boxing in San Francisco in 1947. Immediately after graduating from Stewart, Rolf joined the U.S. Navy and served on the USS Missouri during the Korean War. Rolf currently lives in Lone Pine, California. His niece Katy Diaz was present for the interview.*

*My name is Terri McBride and it is December 21, a Wednesday, in 2016 and we are at the Southern Inyo Healthcare facility in Lone Pine, California in Rolf Brown's room. The interview is with Rolf Brown, a former student at Stewart Indian School. We will be discussing his experiences as a student. This interview is being conducted for the Stewart Indian School Oral History Project for the Nevada Indian Commission and will be archived at the Stewart Indian School Cultural Center, the State Library and Archives, and at the Special Collections at the University of Nevada, Reno.*

*What is your name?*

Rolf Brown.

*When were you born and where were you born?*

1929 in Darwin, California. It's a little town over there going to Death Valley.

*How many people were in your family?*

I remember I had two sisters. Five. Ralph, Warren, and my two sisters.

*So you had two brothers and two sisters?*

Yes.

*Did you grow up around other Indian families when you were little?*

No, not right away I didn't. We were down at Lake Hughes. You know where Lake Hughes is? That's where they took us.

Yes.

We didn't see any Indians 'til we came to Bishop [California].

*Did you have a lot of contact with Anglos, with white families, then?*

Katy Diaz (Rolf's niece): He and his brother were adopted by a white family.

R: No, not a real lot. I don't remember a lot of them now. They'll get together and go up to my foster sister's home in Hamil Valley. Her name's Jeannie.

*I'm sorry, you said what valley?*

Katy: Hamil, H-A-M-I-L. It's north of Bishop. Turn off 395 and go the other way.

*Did you celebrate American Indian ceremonies before you went to Stewart?*

No.

*What language was spoken in your household when you were a child?*

Shoshone. *Were there problems communicating between the parents and the children? Or the older relatives and the children?*

No, we all talked English. I didn't learn any Indian language. Just a little bit of Paiute.

*Were any of your other family members educated at Stewart School?*

No.

Katy: His twin brother, Ralph.

*Did your brother, Ralph, go there?*

Yeah, he went to school too.

*Rolf, what years were you at Stewart Indian School? Do you remember?*

1941 to '47.

*How did you end up going to Stewart in the first place?*

We couldn't function in the public school in Bishop. We started there; I don't remember what year, to the fifth grade and they took us out of there and sent us to Stewart, in 1941.

*So somebody made you go to Stewart?*

I don't know about that part but we couldn't function at the public school, I guess you call it. At first, we went to the West Bishop School, that school out there in West Bishop. That's a Presbyterian Church now. Then they closed that down and we had to go to grammar school in Bishop. I went there about, let's see, a year or so. I remember they took us out of there and sent us to Stewart, me and my brother.

*That first trip, when you went to Stewart for the first time, how did you get there? Did you drive, did somebody take a bus?*

Yeah, the school bus took us up there.

*Were you old enough to understand where you were going when you got on that bus?*

Yeah, we were told that we were going to Nevada, to go to school in Nevada. I didn't know where until we got there.

*Now I'm going to ask you some questions about your time at the school. What was your first impression when you got there?*

To Stewart?

*Yes. When you got off that bus!*

To start with, we were in a gymnasium. There were beds and they were fixing the whole school up. There was a dormitory there and they were working on it. Before we could move to the dormitory, we stayed in the gymnasium.

*This is a general question. Did you enjoy being a student at Stewart?*

Yeah.

*Why? What about it?*

Soon as we started in the fifth grade and I was there until high school started. They moved us from there to the large boy's site. Different dormitories over by the gymnasium. That's where me and Ralph—we were separated then. We were in different dormitories. We got used to that and we got used to standing in line to get dinner or meals at the dining room and stuff. When we'd come back, we'd go to different dormitories. We'd know where we were at during the day. After school, we had a little trouble in school. It was over the names. My name was spelled R-O-L-P-H and his was R-A [l-p-h]. We got our names all mixed up. They did! There were papers and stuff. Later on, I changed mine to R-O-L-F so they could tell who was who. (laughs)

*When you left home to go to Stewart, do you remember what you took with you and how you chose what to take?*

Yeah, we had a suitcase. We both got a suitcase for our birthday. We took our regular clothes, what would make a suit, you know, they matched, pants and shirt or a coat. They were



Rolf Brown and his niece Katy Diaz. Lone Pine, California, December 21, 2016.

like a little suit. We didn't dress in dungarees or nothing 'til we got to Stewart. We started changing and dressed like they did. They had Levi's and coveralls, denim, and a jacket, we went to work. See, we went to school, when we went to high school, we went half a day and worked half a day at the farm or at the shops. We raised our own potatoes and agriculture. They had a school ranch at Jack's Valley. They raised cattle too. Raised beef and raised potatoes up there, which were gathered by the students when it came time to pick them. We had to dig them and put them in sacks and send them to Stewart, to a cellar, there at the farm. The cattle was our main supply. Whenever they needed a beefsteak, whatever, I don't know what, they'd send it to a slaughterhouse in Minden, Nevada. They slaughtered there and cut it up and sent it to Stewart in cold storage. That's just what I remember. We raised most of our beef and potatoes and we picked. Let's see, what else. We had apples and oranges too but we didn't grow them there. They were shipped in. See that train went past Stewart, too. The V & T. It went to Gardnerville and turned around and went back past Stewart to Carson and went up to Reno. It went back and forth. There was a

lot of supplies were shipped in by train. There was a place on the campus where they pushed the trains in and park them and they'd leave them there until we unloaded them. Same way with the coal. They burned coal in a big plant, a power plant, so we had to unload all that coal. I mean it dumped itself . . . get away from the tracks so the trains could pull out. I remember that!

*I have some more questions about the vocational training in a little bit. Did you get packages from home at Stewart? Did they send you care packages?*

Yeah! Like at Christmas. They'd send us packages, our foster folks. They sent a lot of home cooked cookies and cake and stuff to us too, up there. Besides our presents, we'd get our gloves and shirts and pants.

*Did you have any problem sending mail out?*

No.

*Did they censor the letters from the students? Do you know?*

Censor? No. In school, they gave us, well, we had our own tablets but we'd write a letter and

they gave us stamped envelopes and we'd write a letter and the teacher would read it first to correct it to make sure we'd write in English, which we did all the time anyway. Then it was mailed to the [unintelligible, "folks"?] in Bishop. Then they'd write back and they'd send us packages during Christmas.

*Did you purchase things at the student store, Novake?*

Yeah.

*What kinds of things?*

Candy! Candy and Pepsi. I remember that! Bottles of Pepsi. And there were chocolate cupcakes and candy that was sold at the store.

*You talked a little bit about this earlier. What was living in the dorms like? Was that fun? Was that not fun?*

It wasn't bad. We had to sweep our own rooms out and on the weekend, like a Saturday we had to scrub the rooms. They had hardwood floors and we had to scrub out the rooms then. All the details were different—the hallway and the lavatory and the basement. Each one had a different job to do. And the next year you come back and you had different things to do. Not the same every year. We changed around. You worked in the basement then went upstairs, hallways, lavatories and the dining room. No, not the dining room, the sitting room. We had all our meetings in there.

*What was eating in the dining hall like and what was the food like there?*

I worked in the kitchen too. I helped mix salads and peeled potatoes.

*Was the food okay?*

Yeah.

*Did you have a favorite teacher?*

No. I remember the first one we had in the fifth grade. She was an Indian woman. See, all our teachers were white or Indian. She was an Indian woman and her name was Mrs. Harnoer.

*Mrs. what?*

Harnoer. H-A-R-N-O-E-R, or something like that. We got along okay with her, me and my brother. She didn't let others above us push us around or anything. See, there were different tribes there, from different parts of the country. Oregon I remember, Oregon and Nevada were one of them. Main ones and California. We got into fights on the playground and in the dormitories, but it didn't last long because of, oh, he wasn't a teacher. I forget what they call him. Anyway, he was in charge of the boys and the girls had their own. See, they kept us separated. We didn't mix with the girls. The girls stayed on that side of the campus and we had our own side down toward the farm, down that way. The only time we got to visit the girls was after dinner. You'd go to the different parts of the campus or to the store and buy some goodies if you had money, buy little cakes or Pepsi or something and just talk and visit for a short time. Then everybody went back to their own dormitory for night call, for bed call. Make sure everybody was in the right place! (laughs)

*Did you have a favorite class?*

Favorite one? No.

*What about vocational training? What kinds of skills were you taught when you went there?*

I worked in the shoe shop, repairing shoes.

*Shoemaking?*

Yeah. And I went to the mechanic shop, too. Try to learn a little about motors. I didn't get too far in that mechanics. And then I went to the farm and the ranch. That's what I liked the best, was the farm and the ranch in Jack's Valley, the school farm. We stayed up there. We didn't go to school. We stayed there six weeks!

*That's why you liked that the best! (laughs)*

(Laughs) Yeah. And the boss up there, I liked him, had a daughter and a son and they went to school but they went to Gardnerville to school. To high school. They didn't go to Stewart. He was a good guy. He taught us. We learned how to milk cows, for one thing. They had horses to ride, saddle horses, and we stayed in rooms upstairs above the main ranch house. The dining room was downstairs and we lived upstairs. We all got along good. There were four students at a time that went up there and stayed until the time was up and then go back. Then four more would go up there. So, year- round there were students working there.

*So, did you work there in the summers or during the actual school year?*

Oh, no. We came home in the summer, in the spring, in May. We stayed home all summer until fall, 'til school started in September. Then we went back to Stewart. We would spend every summer at home; we wouldn't stay in school. Everybody went home then, if you had a home. I learned later on that some of the students went home and went to another school for the summer. They went to other caretakers. I was just learning about the Indians then. Before that we didn't know any Indians until we went to Stewart. When we got to Bishop the first time we didn't live right in town. We lived in Tungsten City where they milled and mined way up hill near Mt. Dome up in Round Valley. We lived up there because our stepdad, he was a miner in Tungsten. They drove us down to the bus stop from Tungsten City through that road. I forget the name of that road that goes from Red Hill to the Highway 395, and it comes straight across to another road that goes up, Bishop Creek Road, there's two roads that came into town. Not just 395. I remember that we had to catch a bus to school. The first time we had to walk; we were going to walk to school. They took us to school. We had to walk home; they'd come and get us. Sometimes we'd walk a couple of miles, maybe three miles, until they came and picked us up and took us home, back up to Tungsten City. That was a good place. I

liked that place because there was a lot of places to go hiking and went into some of those old mines. We were told not to play in the mines but we did anyway. (laughs) I remember we had an old ore car that we played with. We pushed it back in as far as we could on the tracks. We'd start pushing, pushing, and we'd jump on it and ride it out of the cave back to the ore bin where they dumped the ore. It would coast across the road, there was a big post there, and it'd stop there. They dump that and then they'd push it back into the mine. Those old timers. Those cars were still rolling. That's what we played on. We were told not to do that but we did, because nobody was with us when we were hiking. One time they bought us a saddle horse to ride to school when we went to West Bishop. We didn't ride it all the way to school. We rode it to the [older?] school there, to the little store in West Bishop. We knew the man that ran this store and we'd leave our horses in his pasture until after school when we'd walk back to the store, get our horse, and ride back to the mines. (laughs) One time we didn't even go to school. We rode around all day until they saw on our report card that we missed school. We didn't know that they wrote us down on the report card. We couldn't lie out of that one. So, they took the horse away from us! (laughs) That's when we started riding the bus after that. We started riding the school bus to school.

*Did you graduate from Stewart?*

Yeah, in 1948.

*I know you're going to love this topic. Describe what the athletics at Stewart meant to you. Did you play sports?*

Yeah!

*What sports did you play?*

Football, to start with. After that they had basketball and boxing. I tried to play basketball but I wasn't very tall so I got into boxing. I liked that better so I stayed with the boxing every year I went back.

*Were you in some championships in boxing?*

Yeah! In flyweight. The lightest weight was flyweight, 112 [lbs]. In 1944. I remember that because I still have that trophy.

*So, you won that year in that weight class?*

Yeah! Then the next year I went up to 118, which was a bantam weight.

*What is it?*

Bantam.

*So, after 1944 you bumped up to the bantam weight class?*

Yeah.

*And how'd you do?*

Well, I didn't win much in that one. Then I mowed up, the next year I was 135 [lbs]. That's a lightweight. That's the heaviest I got and that's where I stayed. I didn't get any heavier than that. I stayed in lightweight class. 135 pounds. I boxed in the weight classes and I won one in Reno and we went to San Francisco. We didn't do very good down there. Them guys were tough guys, they're fast! We were excluded but we stayed there through the tournament. Then we came back to Stewart. We didn't go down there very much because when they did, they had to get different cars to take us. We didn't go on a bus. When they did they had to get two different cars or a panel truck we had to travel in. We'd all stop to eat lunch or something and we'd all go into the restaurant and sit down and eat. Of course, they had a hotel rented for the team. I remember that because it was on Market Street right across the main road there to the Civic Auditorium. We walked from the hotel over to the Civic Auditorium when the fights started. When that was all over, we all piled in the cars and we came back to Stewart.

*You also played football. How many years did you play football?*

Three.

*Can I ask, what kind of events or activities did you go to at the auditorium on campus? What kinds of things did you go do at the auditorium?*

Oh, that's where we had some movies on Saturday or Sunday, whenever they had a projector. It was one of those with the great big wheel, like that, in the aisle, way at the back. There was a screen on the stage that they let down. That's where we seen the movies from. There'd be an instructor that had to change the reels and stuff when it ended and had to put another reel on the storyteller. We seen a lot of western movies and Tarzan movies and stuff like that. And Frankenstein! (laughs) I remember those movies!

*Did the boys and girls get to sit together in there?*

No.

*So girls on one side and boys on the other.*

Yeah.

*What about social events on campus. Were there dances? Did you do things like that?*

Oh, yeah, they had school dances in the gymnasium! They didn't have a band, but a juke box that played the music. They changed records, whichever they wanted to hear. But that was all, they didn't have a band or anything like that. They had a carnival there too, a school carnival. The students, we didn't handle any money. We had big rolls of tickets. A dime or twenty-five cents and you bought whatever you could, depending on your money. You'd take your tickets and use them for different things around the gym like pitching balls, or darts, or basketball, and they'd take your ticket

away. They didn't let us have any money in there. They thought we'd lose all of it or somebody would take more than we wanted them to, so we had those tickets. I remember that because I saved money when I worked in the summer at Bishop. I worked in a dairy, I





Stewart Braves football team, 1945. Rolf is #57 at front left. His brother Ralph is #51, also in front row.

worked baling hay, hauling hay. Mostly farm work. That's why I liked the farm.

*You liked being outside. Were you in any clubs or groups like the marching band or social clubs like that on campus?*

Oh, yeah!

*What were those?*

I wasn't in any band; I wasn't in the band. I didn't do any dancing either. I didn't know how to dance or I never learned how to dance so I didn't go very much to the dances. I couldn't [congregate?] with the girls and stuff and doing that so I just left it alone and did everything with the boys in there.

*For the buildings on campus: Do you have experiences in any particular building on campus that stands out to you? You did just talk about the gym and the school carnival. Like the gym or the dorms or the infirmary.*

The dining room!

*The dining hall, yeah. The shops, the workshops or just the campus grounds themselves. Do you have any particular memory of any of those buildings that you'd like to share? You told me about the school carnival that was in the gym.*

Katy: He used to work in the bakery.

I told you I used to work in the shoe shop, and the mechanic shop, and the paint shop. I did painting. You know, on a house, painting with a roller and brushes, doing a wall and sheathing.

*Did you go to church at Stewart?*

Oh, yeah.

*Which one?*

It was called a mission and they were Presbyterian. They had a Catholic—at the auditorium, that was a Catholic class. We weren't Catholic so we didn't do any of those. We went to the mission. They had all kind of

religions. You could be any kind other than Catholic. I didn't do anything—I didn't play an instrument. I never learned how to play a guitar until real late, way at the end of school. Some guys brought a guitar to school and I'd go and listen to them and watch 'em. I started learning from them, how to hold chords. Next summer when I went home, I bought a guitar, a little cheap guitar in the store and [unintelligible] on that. But I did learn, I still play a guitar. I have one, it's at home.

Katy: I have your guitar.

It's a Martin guitar. One of the . . . it cost about eighty-some dollars.

*That's nice! Are there any classmates you have memories of from Stewart?*

Oh, yeah! You mean my buddies? Sure!

*Who were they?*

You want to know their names? There were some from Bishop for one thing. There was Ryan Williams, Bill Turner.

*You went to Stewart with these guys?*

Yeah. They were from Bishop too.

Katy: He's talking about his friends from Bishop. Do you remember any friends from Stewart School, Uncle Rolf?

Yeah! I don't know if they're alive or not. I haven't seen them in years. Of course, they're as old as I am now too. I'm 86 or 87.

Katy: I think you're 87 now. You had your birthday a little while back.

*Were there any friends from home, from Bishop when you were at school? Did you know any other kids from Bishop that were at Stewart when you were there?*

Yeah!

*Were you friends with them at school?*

Yeah.

*And then you were friends with them in the summer when you all came back to Bishop?*

Yeah.

*Did you ever get sick at Stewart?*

Yeah!

*Did you have to go to the infirmary?*

Sure! I had the measles one time and the mumps. I remember that! A lot of the school kids were getting the mumps and we'd end up in the hospital. You know they had a hospital there too.

*Right! What was that like?*

It was good. There was doctors and nurses. A lot of Indian girls were being trained as a nurse too, to be nurses. So, I knew some of them in the hospital.

*This is more personal. As a student, were you shy, were you mischievous, were you happy, were you quiet, were you sad? What kind of kid were you?*

Well shy, for one thing. I couldn't . . . I didn't learn how to dance! I couldn't communicate with a girl like that. In school during a play when we done, learn our parts, say them.

*You were in a play?*

Yeah! All the grades had a play, something they did in the auditorium. You know, what they learned in class and get up in front and say poems or read something that you did in school. Oh, we was playing drums too, with about four other kids, boys. We went to the music teacher who was teaching us how to play a drum, the little drums, those snares. It was a drumming class. I don't remember . . . today I couldn't play a drum!

*When you were at Stewart, can you remember back, what were your future plans? What were you thinking you were going to do when you got done with school?*

As far as I knew, I was gonna be a rancher.

*Did you think there was a sense of camaraderie between the students? Like they felt they were the Stewart student community? Or was everyone kind of off doing their own thing and when they went home in the summers, they didn't think about school. Is there a connection with other Stewart students?*

Oh, yeah!

*When you find out somebody also went to Stewart when you meet them?*

Yeah!

Katy: When we used to take him up to the pow wows, a few years back, he'd run into somebody, you know, and spend time with them.

*This gets to the whole student population: What was it like for so many people from different places and different tribes to be all together there on one campus? Think it was okay?*

No, they didn't all get along because, I remember some of them would talk their Indian language and they weren't supposed to talk Indian. If you were heard talking your language, you'd be punished. They're supposed to talk English. You were there to learn English! You don't talk the language here, any place or any time, they told us. I couldn't talk Indian anyway. I didn't know because I wasn't raised with the Indians. I started learning though.

K: What did they do to them? How did they punish them?

They put them to work on weekends doing different things, like picking up trash on the lawns. Another thing they had—but everybody did that—was a pickup gang, they called it, in grammar school. We had one instructor with us and they'd march us all around the campus and we'd pick up paper and anything, cups and stuff that was thrown out of cars that would come in. There were a lot of cars that came in there on the weekend to visit their own kids. I remember

that because we never had anybody come to visit us. Just one time.

[Interview paused, nurse enters]

*There questions are about after you left Stewart. Where did you go after you finished Stewart?*

Well, I came home.

*When you graduated.*

I didn't come home then.

*Where'd you go?*

I enlisted in the Navy about two weeks before school was out. A group of us went up to Reno. Some went in the Marines, some picked the Army, I picked the Navy. We got registered up there before we went home. I didn't go home then. After school I went to Reno. The coach gave us a ride up there and we were put on trains. First thing I remember is they took us to Oakland [California]. But we didn't stay there. We went south. I joined the Navy so I was headed for San Diego. That's where I ended up, in San Diego, when I graduated, '47.

*'47 or '48?*

1948 in May.

*Were you drafted or you enlisted? Because it was after the war.*

I enlisted. It was after World War II. I enlisted.

*You served in Korea?*

Yeah, way at the end. Right out of the boot training, in boot camp, they sent me to a Naval Air Station in Memphis, Tennessee. I was no airman or anything like that or going to school, I was a ship's company, a seaman guard, an athletic field, and we'd go to parade rest. I mean the parade. It wasn't like a parade in town. Everybody would line up and did their calisthenics, and semaphore flag signals.

Katy: Boot camp or muster?



Shipping out with U.S. Navy in San Diego, to Korea, 1948. Rolf is one row up, and two men to the left of officer in white.

It was in Memphis . . . Memphis, Tennessee. From there I got a three-day leave so I came home to Bishop and I went back to Tennessee. I went out on another draft from there. I went to Norfolk, Virginia. That's when I went aboard a ship over there, the [USS] *Missouri*. A lot of different ships were in the harbor there. We were on a bus and they'd let so many off—that's yours, and that's yours, and that's yours. (laughs) So, we had to learn a number and a name of them. That's going to be your new home.

*Right! So they all look alike.*

So I learned mine. The *Missouri* of all things! I didn't know nothing about it until I got aboard and got out in the Sixth Division, which is a gunnery deployment. I was on an anti-aircraft gun. We'd grab them shells and jam them down

in there. We had a lot of practice firing on the beaches. Virginia Beach and other beaches, you know, on the Atlantic coast. They had a firing range over there and stuff. We fired at planes, at drones flying over. It's hard to hit one of those; they're small, you know, and they're fast. All we had to do was to learn to load and to fire. When I got onboard ship, I went aboard, and I got on an anti-aircraft gun. We didn't have to fire at any enemy planes, though. The big guns did all the firing, the five inch, the six inch did the slow bomb bombardments. We had to stand by and watch out for the enemy aircraft. At dawn or at dusk and general quarters every once in a while, 'cuz they might pull another attack like they did at Pearl Harbor. We had a replenishing point in Japan—Sasebo, Japan. The Japs are our friends now, they're not our enemies anymore. So, we had a replenishing

station there; we'd load ammunition and the big guns would load powder, and get all loaded up and go back over to Korea again, and start bombarding wherever the ship went to. Mostly over in North Korea . . . [unintelligible] Pyongyang, Hamhung, and mostly other names. But we never got shot at or attacked. They were always on the watch for submarines and aircraft on the bombards, night or day, you know. I didn't get afraid or anything, you know? I felt safe. I wasn't gonna get killed, as far as I know. We were all one group and we'd all hang together. We don't get separated, which is why I liked the Navy. We were all one group, or division, and we'd hang together even going ashore. We were going on the quay way . . . [unintelligible] . . . everybody on the ship, there were too many. There were twenty-four hundred men on it, different jobs, and all kinds of . . . So, we hung with our own group when we go on the shore. (laughs)

*After your service in the military, what did you do for work?*

When I came out?

*Yeah, when you were done with the Navy. Did you come back to Bishop?*

Yeah.

*What'd you do?*

Oh, I remember now. I got a job with a sawmill.

*In a sawmill?*

Yeah, it was up in the woods where they cut the trees and loaded the trucks. I was a loader. They called it a hooker.

*A hooker?*

Yeah, they had big hooks on them cables, hooking into the logs and they'd swing over and load it on the truck.

*Do you think that going to Stewart Indian School affected your life afterwards? Would you have signed up for the Navy? For instance, would you have signed up for the Navy if you*

*weren't at Stewart Indian School? Or do you think you would have?*

I probably would later on. I mean when I was old enough. I was 17 when I finished school in 1948. I was 17 so I was ready to join already when the coaches took us up there to Reno. What we had to do was wait for the train and get on the train that took us away to our boot camp. I never thought I'd be back but I'd go home again on a leave. We were told we were going to get a leave, boot leave, right after boot camp was over, which was only about a week. You don't get very long. When you get back to your station, then you ship out. You don't know where you're going, you don't even know until they tell you.

*What about your worst memory of Stewart? Do you have a particularly bad memory of Stewart? Getting in trouble or anything?*

In trouble. No, I didn't get in a lot of trouble because I never was a troublemaker even when I was staying with my foster parents. We didn't do anything out of the law or join any gangs at nighttime. Well, we weren't old enough then, but we went to church every Sunday. Bible school too. We were sent to a Bible school.

*What about your best memory of Stewart? What's one of the best memories you have of going there?*

Oh! Boxing! Winning! Winning in a tournament, a boxing tournament. I won three of them. Flyweight, bantam weight and featherweight. It took a lot of training. I didn't drink or smoke so I didn't have to put up with that anymore. Well, not anymore, I never did! Till I got in the Navy, then I started smoking. During school, I didn't.

*Well, you were an athlete! So, you were taking care of yourself.*

Yeah.

*Do you share your memories of the Stewart Indian School with your kids or your family?*

*Do you talk about your time at Stewart with them?*

Yeah.

*You have visited the campus since you left as a student, right?*

Yeah.

*When was the most recent visit? A couple of years ago?*

Yeah! On Father's Day. They have a big, it's like a pow wow, they call it, on Father's Day. They still have that every year. I didn't go back this last year, on account of my shoulder. I can't sit up very long.

[interview interrupted, recording paused]

*I've just got one more question. Any other thoughts, any other stories you want to tell me about Stewart? Or are you pretty talked out?*

No, I think that's about all.

*Thank you very much for sharing your memories with me! I really appreciate it.*

Okay! (laughs) Thank you.