

## Caring for Parents & Grandparents with Irene Eagle Thunder-Skunk - OSEU 4

A lot of people, a lot of kids got sent to boarding school, but none of us went because our dad had bad heart trouble. And then our mom wasn't well either, so we just stayed with her. I'm just glad though. I'm just thankful that I stayed with my sister and I, and lived with them until they all passed on. Because my older sister got married and moved to White River. My sister, Katherine, and I stayed at the old, we just stayed there until our dad passed away. A lot of kids went to boarding school.

I don't know about boarding school, people talk about boarding school, but I'm... You probably wouldn't know your language if you went to boarding school because they wouldn't allow us to... I know they used to always say that, but I don't know anything about that because I didn't go to boarding school. I'm just thankful that we had a hard time, there was no, we didn't have no car or anything like that, but we took care of our parents. Grandpa died first and then grandma, and then our dad, and then we had our mom, but she passed away.

But I'm glad they didn't have to go home. We just stayed right there and we took care of them. Now when somebody wants to go to a nursing home, but grandma was 90-some years old and I'm 87 and I said, I can't even lift up the ax. And my grandma was 90-some years old. We didn't want her to, but she does anyway. She goes outside and she splits those woods. I think the real Indian people are stronger than others. And then she always wants to put up her tent and sleep outside in the tent.

I have a picture, I still have my picture, she's standing by the tent. She always had a dog, her dog was laying outside the tent, a big old shepherd dog. A lot of people got sent off to boarding school, some didn't live with their parents, some got adopted off. I said, I'm glad there's only four of us kids, but we all grew up together. Myself, I have nine kids, but I lost three now. I raised all my kids. I got married and then I have kids, I have a lot of grandkids, grandkids and great-grandkids.

And I still have some babies and there's another one still going to have a baby. But I raised all my kids, plus I took three kids in because their mom had to go to treatment so I kept those kids. Three years I had them, Caroline, Stricker's kids, Dana, Georgia, and Phillip. And then, plus I raised two of my daughter's kids, she put them in a foster home, but like now I feel bad because my granddaughter wants to get her kids back, but she didn't know how to go about it. We didn't even have to ask anybody.

My daughter and I just got in the car and went to that place. That man, they didn't want to give them up, we just took them and brought them back. My granddaughter's gone now, my grandson's in jail, but at least I took them and raised them so I said they know

who their auntie and her are, but I didn't give up on my kids. I had a hard time, but I raised all my kids.