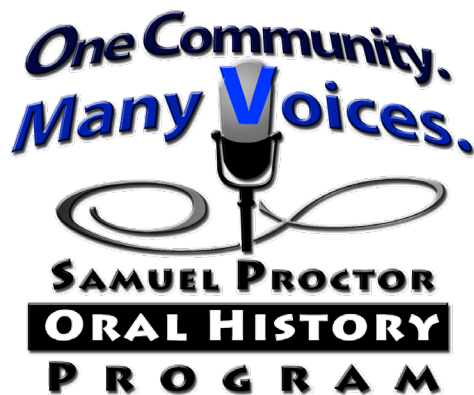


Randall Lyon Blue Jr.

**Southeastern Indian Oral History Project (SIOHP)
CAT-117**

Interview by:

**Edith Frances Canty Wade
August 7, 1975**



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13 minutes | 9 pages

Abstract: Randy Blue, age fifteen, is the great-grandson of the former Chief Samuel Taylor Blue. He's involved with the church as a pre-school teacher and vice-president of the student camp. He is also involved in the youth program, helping the elderly individuals in the community with maintaining their yards and homes. He discusses his chores and his job, as well as his father's work at General Tire. Wade also discusses his opinions on government, the Watergate scandal, and drug usage among youth in the area.

Keywords: [Catawba Nation; Chief Samuel Taylor Blue; South Carolina--Rock Hill; Family histories; Communities]

SAMUEL PROCTOR
ORAL HISTORY
P R O G R A M
University of Florida

CAT 117

Interviewee: Randall Lyon Blue Jr.

Interviewer: Edith Frances Canty Wade

Date of Interview: August 7, 1975

W: This is Frances Wade. I live on Route 3, Box 304, Rock Hill, South Carolina.

Today is August 7, 1975. I'm gathering oral history of the Catawba Indians for the University of Florida. Today I'm talking with Randy Blue. Randy, what is your full name?

B: Randall Lyon Blue, Jr.

W: What is your birthday?

B: August 3, 1960.

W: Who're your parents?

B: My father is Randall Lyon Blue Sr., and my mother is Mildred Norma Blue.

W: Are they Indians?

B: My father is, my mother isn't.

W: What brothers and sisters do you have?

B: I don't have any brothers, I just got three sisters.

W: What're their names and their ages?

B: Well, my oldest sister, her name is Melinda Blue. She's married now to Dennis Croft. My next sister—

W: Did you say Croft?

B: Yes ma'am. And my next sister, Cathy, she's only eleven years old—well, eleven or ten years old, I think. And my youngest sister, Crystal Blue, she's not more than about six years old now.

W: Randy, does your mother work?

B: No, ma'am.

W: What kind of work does your father do?

B: He works at the General Tire, in the plant. He kind of does some odd jobs around the plant and stuff like that.

W: He has also been the head union man up there, too, hasn't he?

B: Yes, he was the last president of the union of General Tire.

W: And he's not working right now, is he?

B: No, he's not working right now. He had an optional layoff, and he took it so he could be with his family.

W: Randy, what kind of duties do you have to perform around your house?

B: Mostly just clean up and keep the house looking good, just cut the grass and that thing is all I have to do.

W: When he's talking about having the house looking good and keeping it clean, it looks exactly like that it's just the lawn is cut close every time I see it and his house is just almost spic-and-span. Randy, what kind of a house do you live in?

B: It's a brick house, and it has power and **running water inside the house**.

W: How many rooms does your house have?

B: Well, it's got a living room, a kitchen, and about three bedrooms and two bathrooms. One's full and one is not full.

W: Do you live on the reservation?

B: Well, we live on—well I say I reckon I could say I could, cause we're right next to the river bottoms and they're somewhere back past some land that where that cuts back [inaudible 3:06]

W: Well now this land that your house is sitting on, it was reservation until it was divided, wasn't it?

B: Yeah, it was.

W: Randy, do you—what, when you hear the word home, what do you think about?

B: Well, mostly I saw like a house kind of, with a family in it, with love and everything that they need, and it's not split up kinda like my family is right now.

W: Well, we hoping things are going to get better for your family. Do you belong to a church Randy?

B: Yes ma'am.

W: What church do you belong to?

B: Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

W: Are you active in church?

B: Every Sunday ma'am.

W: I know that you are. Do you hold any positions in church?

B: Well, I'm a teacher in the pre-school, and I'm vice-president of the student camp.

W: I think that a group of you young people are going off Saturday?

B: Yeah, down to Sliding Rock.

W: This is in North Carolina?

B: Yes, Sliding Rock.

W: And the church, this would be a church program?

B: Yes, it's with the church program.

W: Did you ever go to school on the reservation?

B: No, just a little bit lately.

W: What school did you go to?

B: I went to Lesslie Number One and then when that had a Lesslie Number Two, I went to the other half.

W: Do you have any teachers that you particularly liked?

B: Well, not really, they're all just about the same to me.

W: Do you have any subject that you like better than others?

B: Mostly physical ed, since it has to do with mostly all the sports and everything.

W: Do you like math?

B: It's all right. I just ain't doing too well in it, though.

W: Do you like English?

B: It's all right, you know, I take the subjects that I like.

W: Well, I realize those were two subjects that you had to take, and I wondered if you liked them or not. Are you planning to finish school, Randy?

B: I'm planning to finish and try to go to college if I can.

W: What would you like to become?

B: Well, I haven't really had any thoughts about it, but probably I would like to be a real mechanic and everything. Be able to know about machines and everything.

W: Do you like sports?

B: Yeah, I like all of them.

W: Do you take part in sports at school?

B: I took part in football over at Castle Heights for three years.

W: You also play another game of ball with the church, what kind of ball is that?

B: I play softball with the church, and I also play basketball with the church.

W: Do you like to hunt?

B: I like to hunt around the river bottoms, around the tracks.

W: Do you have your own gun, or do you have to use your daddy's?

B: I have my own .22 now. I've just got done squirrel hunting down at the river.

W: Do you like to fish?

B: I like to fish anytime I can.

W: I know that you do, I'm with you. Randy, I know you're not old enough to go in service, but do you think that you might one day go in service?

B: Well, if I had to, I'd do it for the country. And I know that they've done so far for me, in getting this job and everything.

W: All right now, you're talking about the job that you've got right now. What are you doing now?

B: Just mostly helping elderly people keep their yards looking good and everything around their house.

W: And what kind of job is this? Under what program are you working?

B: Well, I ain't sure what the name is.

W: It's the Summer Youth Program. Randy, how did you get your job?

B: Well, **to confess** you came down to the house and thing and talked to Daddy about the job and you found out he was, he got the layoff and everything.

W: And you work on the reservation?

B: Yeah, I work on the reservation

W: And you usually help the elderly people?

B: Yes, ma'am.

W: Last week, did you go and get clay too?

B: No, I didn't get to go, I had to do something else.

W: Well today some of the young men are at one of the elderly lady's house learning to mix clay together now. But what have you done with the money you've earned?

B: Well, mostly just bought me clothes. The check that I got last week, I ain't even spent it yet.

W: Randy, do you pay your parents any money such as board or rent, since you're working?

B: No, Daddy just says, just help around the house. That's all, that's the work I have to worry about.

W: Do you think it's a good idea Randy, to start making—doing the bead work and keeping the pottery business alive?

B: Yeah, I think it is. It's very important because we want to keep up the things that, you know the old Catawba Indian started a long time ago.

W: I know that in school you come in contact with a lot of people who are handling drugs, or at least I've heard a lot of the young people talk about it. Do you have friends that take drugs?

B: Well, not that I know of.

W: Have you—do you know any of the drugs, if you would see them?

B: Yeah, I reckon I'd notice some of them, but I've never taken any.

W: You've never taken any? I don't think I've asked you, since we've been interrupted, I've forgotten all that we had talked about before, but I don't think I've

asked you about the government and our country, and how our government's run today. Do you approve of the way our government is being run today?

B: Not really. It's not running the way it should be. It's not a perfect government.

W: What are some of the things you see wrong with it?

B: Well, they're letting the politicians get away with too much of this stuff. They take money and everything, but they don't have an account for it, or records are not kept too well **and everything**.

W: If you had the opportunity to change things, what one thing would you change.

B: Well, change the government all around.

W: Did you approve of all the television coverage that was made out of Watergate?

B: Well, I didn't really watch none of it, I wasn't really interested in it then too much.

W: Randy, do you think it's a good idea to leave the old part of the reservation as it is?

B: I kind of do. I think—well, clean it up more than it is cleaned up really. But don't let anybody mess it up or anything.

W: Do you have a lot of friends among the Black people?

B: Not too many.

W: Do you get along well with the people—with the Blacks that you do know?

B: Not too well.

W: Do you think it's your fault or theirs?

B: Well, really, they just don't want to get to know no Indians or anybody like that.

W: Do you have very many White friends?

B: Well, I reckon about as many as anybody would have.

W: Do most of your friends know that you're an Indian?

B: Yeah, I think so.

W: Do you think you get treated as well at school as the other people?

B: I get treated the same as the other ones.

W: Are you proud you're an Indian Randy?

B: Yes ma'am.

W: Do you think the Catawbas have a rich heritage?

B: Well, I kind of think so, I reckon.

W: I would like to describe Randy now. With his help, I might be able to do so.

Randy, how tall are you?

B: I am 5'9" or 5'10".

W: How much do you weigh?

B: About a hundred and forty-five pounds.

W: And you're fifteen?

B: I just turned fifteen.

W: You're fifteen and Randy has blondish-white hair.

B: Yeah, something like that. [Laughter]

W: [Laughter] And greenish blue eyes. He has—he's getting himself ready for the girls to really approve of him. He has braces on his teeth and because he's been working in the sunshine, he's got a real nice tan. But otherwise, you wouldn't know that Randy was an Indian if you were not told that. Randy is the great-grandson of Chief Samuel Blue. I know that he's an Indian, so looks can be deceiving sometimes.

[End of interview]

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