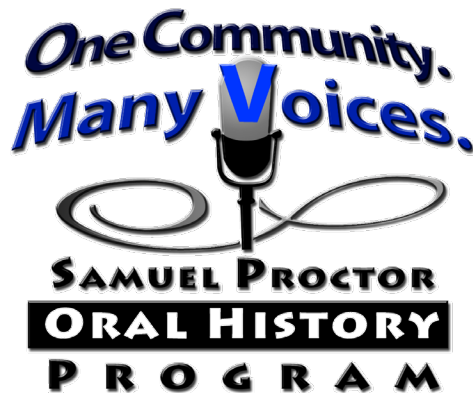


Henry Leroy Blue

**Southeastern Indian Oral History Project (SIOHP)
CAT-199**

Interview by:

**Emma Reid Echols
March 5, 1993**



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CAT 199 Henry Leroy Blue
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Interviewed by Emma Reid Echols on March 5, 1993
3 minutes | 2 pages

Abstract: Henry Leroy Blue, son of Chief Sam Blue, recounts what he remembers of Eleanor Roosevelt's visit to Winthrop College in 1940, where his father met the First Lady, gave her a gift, and danced and sang for the audience there. He also briefly describes what his father sang about, appearing to say a short Catawba phrase, and afterwards explains that the song is about a possum.

Keywords: [Catawba Nation; Eleanor Roosevelt; Chief Samuel Taylor Blue; South Carolina--Rock Hill; History]

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University of Florida

CAT 199

Interviewee: Henry Leroy Blue

Interviewer: Emma Reid Echols

Date of Interview: March 5, 1993

E: This is Emma Reid Echols, 5150 Sharon Road, Charlotte, North Carolina. This is March 5. I'm visiting the home of Mr. and Mrs. Leroy Blue, and I've got a grandson here to talk with in a minute too. But Leroy Blue is a remarkable person. He remembers so many, many things of his father, and I'm particularly interested in what he remembers about Mrs. Roosevelt being here in 1940. She came to Winthrop College. They were going to put her on the second floor, but the security office said that could not be done. So, they had to add to the president's home a bathroom and a bedroom down below where they could protect her better. She spoke at the big Burns auditorium, Winthrop, and Chief Blue was there and Leroy, his son, was there too. I want Leroy to put his name on my tape and tell us what he remembers. Leroy, put your name on first.

B: My name is Henry Leroy Blue. I was born 1907, Rock Hill, at Catawba Reservation. I've been living in Rock Hill, just about two-and-a-half hours out of city limit, and I am eighty-five years old. I remember my daddy and Mrs. Roosevelt when they come to Winthrop College, 1940. As she got on the stand, and that stand wasn't doin' it so they put on another stand, and that's where he met her. He wore a bracelet—she gave it and she put it around his neck—and he wore his costume, his head piece. He danced and sung with Mrs. Roosevelt on that day, and he lived to be eighty-six years old.

E: Do you remember anything about his speech that day?

B: Yeah. He sung a song, said [Catawba language 2:12] He said that was a name of a possum, up a tree, jumped off in the river, and he called it—when he hit the water—he called it “Chikoo.”

E: Do you remember what she said when she received it? She was a tall, gracious-looking woman.

B: She really enjoyed Chief Blue and she loved the history he gave her. She put it down in her [inaudible 2:43] book and I don't know where the book's at, but, my daddy, he lost his house. It burnt down and lost a lotta his records. From then on, I don't know what become of the rest of his records.

E: Thank you, sir.

[End of Interview]

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