

Elders Spotlight

By Phyllis Lowe

Editor's Note: Each month we will feature four tribal elders in the Elders Spotlight. If you are interested in participating in the Elder Spotlights, you may contact Phyllis Lowe at 1-800-846-8946, ext. 3166.

MARGE TAYLOR

Hi, I am Marge Taylor. I'm from the Danbury Community. My parents were Charles and Sophie Taylor. I am currently employed through the Tribe in the Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) Roads Grant Program.

I love attending the Elder Luncheons sponsored by the St. Croix Tribal Council and the gift of Turtle Bucks. It's a special time to enjoy lunch, friends and visit with the other community elders. Plus the food is very good.

I attended Hayward Grade School. Because we did not have electricity, we did not have all the electronic games that children today own. We attended church-sponsored events, roller skating parties and 4-H events.

My first job was being employed at the BIA in Minneapolis, Minn. I also worked for the IRS for seven years.

My favorite TV shows today are "Law and Order" and "48 Hours."

I love reading books, playing bingo and playing slot machines.

I feel an important lesson learned in



life is to always work hard. The world has changed tremendously in my life time. There are too many drugs available for children and so much violence.

My proudest accomplishment is my education and jobs I have held in my lifetime.

Words of wisdom for children today: Get off the rez. And go to school.

DELORES STAPLES

Hi, I am Delores Staples. I'm from the Danbury Community.

My parents were Charles and Sophie Taylor. My children are Ward Staples Jr. and Jerry Barber. My grandchildren are Haley and Hunter.

My favorite meal is breakfast. I love attending the Elder Luncheons sponsored by the St. Croix Tribal Council and the gift of Turtle Bucks. It's a special time to enjoy friends and visit with the other communities.

I attended Hayward Grade School. Because we did not have electricity, we did not have laptops, PlayStations or iPads. We attended church-sponsored events, roller skating parties, and 4-H events.

My first job was working with my father cleaning cabins. Whatever money I earned went to help with food or household expenses.

My favorite TV shows today are "Law and Order" and "NCIS." I love reading books, doing crossword puzzles and playing bingo.



An important lesson I learned in my lifetime is that not everyone who smiles at you is your friend. One thing I have learned in this world is that the cost of everything is so expensive.

Finally, my greatest achievement is my children, grandchildren and friends. I love helping people.

SHIRLEY JUAREZ

Hi, I am Shirley Juarez. I'm from the Turtle Lake Community.

My parents were Margaret and Thomas Mosay. My children are Michael, David, Joseph and Edwardo (Angel) Juarez. My grandchildren are David Jr., Edwardo Jr., Joey and Amanda Juarez.

I attended Balsam Lake Grade School.

My favorite food is fry bread and hot pork chop in jalapeno sauce.

In my younger days, we spent a lot of time outdoors. In the winter we went sliding and ice skating. In the summer we loved to go swimming in the Balsam Lake River behind our house – and chasing rabbits in the woods.

We did not have all the electronic games that children own today. We attended school events, went to Brownies and went to church events.

After graduation from high school I attended Cosmetology in Minneapolis.

I also started working as a maid in 1974 after my husband passed away.

I worked in that position for 30 years and then came to work for the St. Croix Casino Turtle Lake, cleaning in the administration offices. I love my job.

My favorite TV shows today are "Bonanza," "Wheel of Fortune" and



"Jeopardy."

I love reading books, doing crossword puzzles and playing slot machines.

I feel an important lesson learned in life is to always work hard.

The world has changed tremendously in my lifetime. It is too dangerous. There is too much violence. My proudest accomplishment is my children.

Words of wisdom to the young children of this generation: Hard work pays off.

JEANNE AWONOHOPAY

Hi, I am Jeanne Awonohopay. I'm from the Maple Plain Community.

My parents were Johnny Bearheart Sr. and Grace (Merrill) Bearheart. My children are Aimee, Amanda, Anthony Jr. and Tyrone.

I attended Cumberland Grade School and Cumberland High School.

My favorite food is home cooking.

An important thing I have learned in life is that family is an important priority. Our belief in our Chippewa traditions and culture shape who we are and our lives.

A major world change is that technology has rapidly increased and changed the way we communicate.

My proudest achievements are when I attained my Associate's Degree in Business Administration/Management and raising my children.

My words of wisdom for our young people is to achieve more than you think you can. Complete a degree and be



humble.

My first jobs in life were seasonal work, youth work and being the Casino General Manager's administrative assistant.