

# The Healers Project

## Decolonizing Knowledge Within Afro-Indigenous Traditions

### Clip of Interview Gwen, Black Loggers in Oregon (Transcript)

Recorded by Dr. Ana-Maurine Lara and Dr. Alai Reyes-Santos

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So my name is Gwendolyn Trice and I'm speaking to you today from the Maxville Heritage Interpretive Center, located in the heart of Joseph, Oregon.

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So I was born and raised in the town of La Grande, Oregon, which is just about an hour and 15 minutes away from Enterprise. That's where my home is located today. But

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my family has been in this region, next year it will be 100 years that my family, my dad, his father brought--my dad's father brought him,

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my grandmother, to Wallowa County from Pine Bluff, Arkansas. My dad's brothers came. They all lived in a logging camp outside of Pine Bluff, Arkansas.

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They were recruited as experienced loggers and my grandfather and my dad also were experienced in working with mechanics,

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and so they worked on the engines, the steam engines. And they were recruited along with multiple Southern Black and White loggers

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from the industry there to Eastern Oregon. And so that's how my family came to migrate from the South to Eastern Oregon.

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And my family still resides in the town of La Grande. My mom is now 96 years old and living in the house that I grew up in. So when people ask me about my culture, it shifted over the years.

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This is when I first went to Seattle. I was 18, I think, when I left La Grande. And so when people say, you know, what's your culture? I'm like, my culture is rural culture.

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I came from a family that my dad was a hunter-gatherer, so we had a walk-in meat locker built on the side of the house, and all the implement for processing wild game, wild birds,

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all the fish of every type. My dad was on the marine board, the head of the Steelheaders and Sportsmen Fishermen Association. He really brought a lot home. And even in grade school I remember

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coming home and going to the bathroom as a grade schooler, and peering over into the tub and seeing it half-full with Dungeness crab and it's like, dad's at it again, you know?

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I mean it's always something. Or flats of berries. It was always bringing that knowing who in our community needed food, and feeding his family at the same time.

[ END ]

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