

**Transcript of** Smoke Signals Radio Archive: A Welcome to the Archive by Dan and Mary Lou Smoke. Video published on Youtube 21 July 2022. Recorded by Greg D'Sousa on 28 April 2022 at the Reflection Circle at King's University College. Produced by Pauline Wakeham.

**MARY LOU SMOKE:** Hey Boozhoo!

**DAN SMOKE:** Boozhoo!

[Greetings in Anishinaabemowin].

**MS:** My spirit name is Shooting Star Woman. I'm Bear Clan. I originally come from Batchewana Bay, Ontario and I'm very honoured to be here.

[Traditional greeting by DS].

**DS:** Dan Smoke is my name. I'm a member of the Seneca Nation, Kildeer Clan.

As one of our elders Art Solomon used to say, it's time for us to tell our own story. And as Indigenous storytellers, Mary Lou and I, we have been telling our story for the past thirty plus years. And we've been using various formats to do it and radio was our biggest—I think most eventful way of telling our story. And we're so grateful for the opportunity that was extended to us by the young host of the Green Waves radio program of CHRW which we accepted. And we started off with a fifteen-minute window on his one-hour show. Now then from that we went to a one-hour program and then to the two-hour program and then we maintained that for many, many years. You know after a while we didn't have any problem filling up the time because there's so many stories that are happening, that were breaking in news each and every week. Finally, it had come to a time when we as Indigenous storytellers got to tell our story from our communities where we lived where the stories were happening.

**MS:** We had this fantastic team who worked together, and they took our cassette tapes and they took our newspaper articles that we wrote and they digitized them and they put them on this format here and now you can go and look something up. You know, you can go and read what we had to go and travel around to find out about.

**DS:** What you're going to be coming upon with this Radio Archive, this Print Archive, is you're going to hear us telling those stories. We had listen to many, many Elders, Knowledge Carriers, Ceremonial Leaders, Traditional Teachers. We went to many conferences, we went to, we interviewed many resource people, many of our artists, many of our Elders, and we got them to tell our story. And they allowed us to record them. And so, you're going to benefit from that and from that relationship.

Thanks to FIMS, the Faculty of Information and Media Studies. One of the persons who helped digitize it, she came on our radio program. She wanted to play us a couple of tracks from a previous show probably done about twenty-five years ago that we recorded it. And I was so surprised to hear one of our Elders, Sugar Bear Shognosh from Walpole Island, giving a teaching on the gathering of nations. And I was just stunned to hear that. And his words are as clear as a bell and the sound was, and the sound quality was just excellent. And now that's going to be made available to anyone who wants to hear those original teachings and who wants to understand, you know, some of the Elders who are no longer with us, those

Knowledge Carriers, those Ceremonial Leaders, you can hear them because it's all been captured on our Radio Archive.

So, you know, not just Mary Lou and I benefitted and those who took part in the radio program with us but future generations of students, both in the Indigenous and non-native world, are going to benefit and I think that's a great thing.

**MS:** We're getting to a point where we're going to be able to change those history books. And so, what Dan and I have learned and shared you know is just a little wee tiny bit of history, a little wee tiny bit of knowledge, but I want you to be able to learn from it.

**DS:** And so, we're passing it on to you, you the listening, viewing public. Have a good viewing, and you get to benefit from it, and you get to absorb it. The same way we have. Okay? Chi-miigwetch. Nya:wëh for tuning in.

[Video closes with drumming by Dan and Mary Lou as Mary Lou sings The Water Song].