

A STUDENT REFLECTS: MARY HELEN CAGEY

My interview with Mary Helen Cagey was astounding to say the least. I learned many interesting aspects of another person's life, which changed the way I will look at people in the future. I am glad she felt comfortable to share all the personal aspects of her life with us.

During the time given to us to prepare for our interview, I remember all the times my group and I stressed about doing this interview. We wondered what would happen if she did not give us enough information and what would happen if she was unwilling to answer a question or if she would be insulted by any of our questions. The stress increased when we found out Mary Helen Cagey would be the one we were interviewing, as we had learn what a respected Lummi elder she was.

As my group and I piled into Mr. Goldstein's car, I remember panicking while my group and I read our questions and made sure we would have everything just right. The drive felt like it lasted a life time as our long awaited interview was just moments away.

We stepped out of the car and walked up to the door of Mrs. Mary Helen Cagey. No sooner had we walked up to the door, when we were greeted by a very nice and respectable looking woman. We introduced ourselves as she invited us through the door and seated us in her living room. I handed over a fleece blanket we had gotten her as a gift for inviting us for the interview. She seemed very impressed, because this was a widely spread Lummi Indian tradition.

We were all excited that we were all welcomed with such ease. Mrs. Cagey must have truly been connected to us that day as she started right into the interview without us even saying a word. During the interview I felt Ms. Cagey really did appreciate us

coming to do this interview. It seemed she had a lot of information to share with the younger generation about how things used to be, when she was our age.

I feel this interview as changed the way I will look at the older people of my time. The information I learned from Mary Helen Cagey, I feel better helped me understand the point of view and struggles a person went through, in this country better than a history book could ever taught me. It was just fascinating learning about the struggles a person went through in the earlier days compared to how much easier things are in today's world.

As I look back at the process of the interview I still can't understand why I felt so nervous about the whole idea of the interview. We were well prepared and everything went smoothly. I don't think I would have been as comfortable interviewing my own grandmother.