

HELEN "NELLIE" TOULOU SPEAKS NSYLXCN SALISH



Helen "Nellie" Toulou

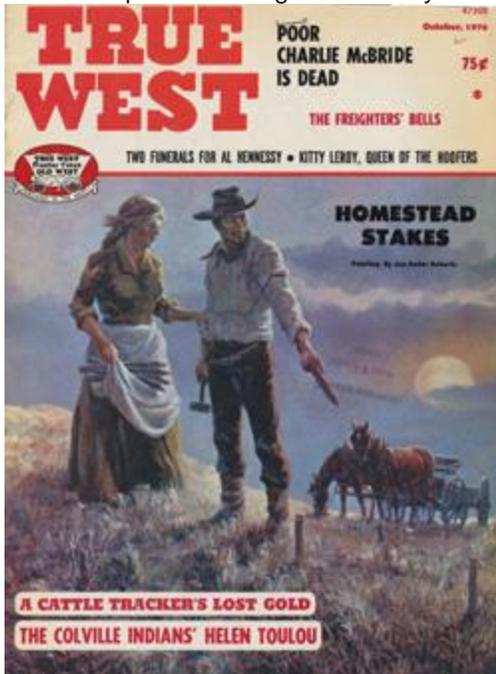
Helen "Nellie" Toulou was a member of the Colville Confederated Tribes Arrow Lakes Band. She grew up in the Kelly Hill area but was later relocated to Kewa, Wa. near Inchelium. She was a fluent speaker of salish and knowledge keeping as well as community leader. She began her work in language presentation when introduced to a then young graduate student from Italy named Tony "Anthony" Mattina. Her direct descendants still reside in the Inchelium area and continue to keep her teachings alive through a non profit dedicated to language revitalization.

The Inchelium Language and Culture Association (ILCA) was founded by her Great Granddaughters Shelly Boyd, Trudy Tonasket and Wendy Phillips in partnership with Salish School of Spokane, currently her Great Great Granddaughter Stevey Seymour is the Executive Director. ILCA is housed within the Inchelium Language House which ILCA started in 2012 as a "home" for language learners and language itself.

From 1968 to 1970 Helen Toulou recorded with Tony Mattina, who later earned his doctorate and has been an instrumental linguist for the nselxcin / nsylxcn dialect also known as the Colville/Okanogan language. Dr. Mattina began his linguistic work with nselxcin in the 1960s where he affectionately refers to Helen as his "first teacher." Dr. Mattina went on to record and transcribing fluent nselxcin elders such as, Pete Seymour, Madeline Desautel, Dora Desautel Of Inchelium and continues to this day to work with various Language Programs in both the United States and Canada to ensure our language and history are available to tribal members. Dr. Mattina helped establish the phonetic alphabet for nselxcin, and created the Okanogan Dictionary with fluent elders which he continues to update as an elder himself. The Inchelium Language Association and the descendants of Helen Toulou are very grateful for his life's work and vision as a young man in doing this work. [To hear the recordings click here.](#)

Helen Perkins Toulou Documentation

Helen Perkins Toulou (1892-1972), sister of Nancy Perkins Wynecoop (1875-1939), was featured in True West magazine in October 1976. It is a wonderful and revelatory article that I first learned about on Facebook from Shelly Boyd's brother, Brian Phillips. He did a great favor by letting everyone know about the article.



Brian purchased the last available hard copy of that issue of the publication on the Internet, and, because of its value, and the fragility of the magazine, he wasn't sure he would want to make copies. Being a librarian, I was pretty sure I could obtain a copy of the article through inter-library loan from Spokane County Library. I picked up the copy (and have scanned the four pages) to share with any of the many descendants of siblings Helen and Nancy and Peter and James and Christine Perkins (Christine, or Cassie as she was called, died after bearing three children with John Curtis Wynecoop). Curt, as he was known, later married Cassie's younger sister, Nancy, who helped raise Cassie's three children: Francis Wynecoop (LeBret), and Joseph and William Wynecoop - all three had been placed in the Indian school at Fort Spokane in the interim. John Curtis Wynecoop fathered ten more children with Nancy, one of whom was Clair Wynecoop. Clair and Phoebe Galbraith Wynecoop had seven sons. David Wynecoop, one of the sons, also interviewed Helen (Nellie) Toulou, in the summer of 1967. Peter Perkins typed a transcript of the taped interview in 1990.

The True West article and Dave's interview are special, to say the least.

Tina Wynecoop
wife of Dave's brother, Judge

Colbert, WA
2015



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[Dave Wynecoop Interview of Helen \(Nellie\) Toulou, Summer of 1967](#)

[True West magazine article featuring Helen Perkins Toulou, October 1976](#)

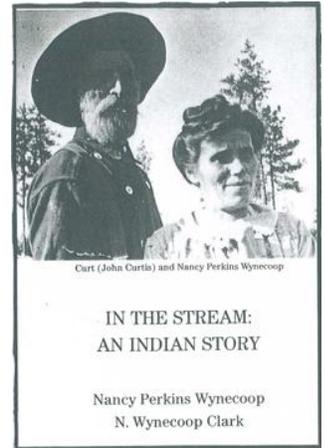
Nancy Perkins Wynecoop Documentation

William Welcome Elmendorf, a graduate of the University of Washington, visited the Spokane Reservation at Wellpinit, WA., in the summers of 1935 and 1936 to put on record the cultural and linguistical information of two informants, Sam Boyd and Delia Lot. He discovered that Delia's interpreter (and close friend) Nancy Perkins Wynecoop (Sinixt) was fluent in Spokane Salish as well as the Sinixt dialect of her grandmother, Seepetza or Able One. Not only did Nancy serve as interpreter, she proved to be a rich and unexpected resource about her culture and that of her forebears who inhabited the Columbia River watershed from Kettle Falls to Interior British Columbia. Thanks to these three informants, Elmendorf

recorded so much in his four field notebooks.*

The field notebooks were microfilmed and digitized in 2011 for the Internet by Nancy's granddaughter-in-law who received permission from Elmendorf's sons, Anthony and William, and from the Bancroft Library at the University of California, Berkeley, where the original notebooks are archived. As the reader will see, every effort was made to include all details in each hand-written notebook, from the cover to closure.

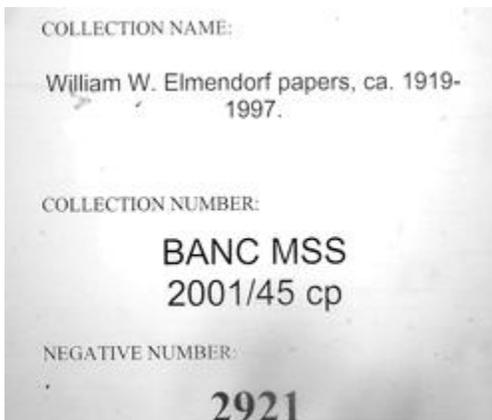
Tina Granmo Wynecoop
Colbert, WA
2012



***William W. Elmendorf papers, circa 1919-1997.**

Contributing Institution: UC Berkeley::Bancroft Library

Description: The collection contains materials related to the professional career of anthropologist William W. Elmendorf. It includes correspondence, manuscripts, research material and ethnographic notes, card files, course materials, subject files, conference materials and audiotapes and sound disks related to his work with Indians of North America, especially the Twana, Salish, Yukian and Nez Perce.



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[In The Stream Lakes stories in English by Nancy Perkins Wynecoop.](#)

[Elmendorf Notebook #1 - Including Nancy Wynecoop 1935 interview](#)

Notes taken during an interview of Elder Nancy Wynecoop at Wellpinit, WA in September 1935 by William W. Elmendorf, contained in his Field Notebook 1. Also contains interviews with Sam Boyd and Delia Lot.

[Elmendorf Notebook #2](#)

[Elmendorf Notebook #3](#)

[Elmendorf Notebook #4](#)