

Elder Video Catalog			
Name:	Reka I (John) Smith	Accession #:	OHE-29-30
Date:	5/23/1996	Length:	Part 1-30 mins Part2- 8 mins.
Description			
Boarding School ☐ Military ☐ Government ☐ Language ☐ Gaming ☐			
DOB: July 26, 1914 Place of Birth: Oneida Mother: Jenny (Skendaore) John Father: Hutson John Siblings: Isadora, Rena, Jasper, Evering, Malema, Hison, Christian, and Emerson All born in Oneida Grandparents: Henry John and Halda Spouse: Ernest Smith Children: <u>Additional Information</u> Reka's father, John, worked at Larson's Cannery and worked the farm. The cheese factory, 33 store, post office, and train depot are businesses that Reka can recall being around. Transportation was usually by horse and buggy, a car bought in the late 20s. Reka went to school at the Parish Hall until she was 6 or 7 years old. Then she went to school in Wittenburg and an Indian government school. She graduated from the school. When she was 14 she got out of school was sent to Chicago to do housework. She remembers always having a big picnic for the 4th of July. She also recalls beautiful Christmases and New Year's. Her parents spoke Oneida, but did not teach the children because parents were punished for speaking Oneida. Reka worked at the Oneida Golf Riding Club. When she was 17 she married John Stevens. In 1940 she moved to Milwaukee, got a divorce and married Ernest Smith in 1946. She worked at American Motor for 18 years. Reka came back home in 1980. When she came back to her it was all about tradition. Her advice for the youth, it is important to go to church, and learn music. She made quilts by working with Senior Gill.			
Staff Signature:		# of Discs:	2