

Meanwhile, Granny was living in Marion and had me come stay with her and relearn the things that she had taught me as a child. She told me about our family, our Clan, our heritage and culture, and our history. She reminded of many of the stories and legends she used to tell me as a child. It was really great to be in balance once again. She spoke of the warrior ranks, the old Chiefs, and the Trail Where They Cried. I began going to pow wows again and learned of all of the native brothers and sisters in Indiana.

On August 12, 1989, I got married to Sherry Rigsby (she is part Cherokee and Blackfoot). On February 14, 1990 (Valentine's Day), I rolled a new Chevy S-10 out in the middle of nowhere. My life came falling right out of the sky and hit me hard. I am still dealing with results of this accident. I still go to physical therapy for this. But, it was the lesson that I needed to learn to slow me down, pay attention, and talk to Granny more. I began going to college last year and I am majoring in Social Work. My minor is Native American Affairs. I intend to be a drug and alcohol abuse counselor specializing in cases with mental illness. The University that I am attending is Ball State University in Muncie, Indiana. I believe that you visited there this Spring. I attended my first two semesters at Indiana Wesleyan University but I transferred to BSU because IWU was not equipped to accommodate my disability and cultural needs adequately. I was the only registered Native American of three to survive fall and spring semesters. The "Indian" labelling scared other students and I was segregated by them. They told the dean that they "feared" me and did not know how to act around me. I told him that that was foolish. I look as white as they do, how did they even know I was Indian unless the faculty told them. That's when I decided to get the hell out. Especially, by then, I was the only one of three left. The Lakota from Pine Ridge left after fall semester and the Eastern Cherokee was kicked out two weeks into spring semester for violent behavior and for making dream catchers in the student center (they said that IWU is a Christian School and that dream catchers are religious paraphernalia, not permitted).

This is basically where I am now. I am moving to Muncie this coming July 15. My wife and I intend to stay there until I get my BSW. When this accomplished I plan to move to Oklahoma to finish the rest of my plans of becoming a Social Worker and get my Master's Degree there. This was also affirmed by Robin McBride Scott. She said that I would be much appreciated by a great deal of people there. She said that I probably would feel more comfortable there than here. I do not know. It has been so long since I have been there, I do not remember much about Oklahoma. I have recently met a great deal of other Natives who intend to return to Oklahoma once their degree is