



**Smithsonian Institution**

*Ralph Rinzler Folklife Archives and Collections*

## **Legends of the Deaf Community: B. Ennis, Sonnenstrahl, Gannon, Tom Fields JUL 02 1981**

Extracted on Mar-28-2024 06:05:32

**The Smithsonian Institution thanks all digital volunteers that transcribed and reviewed this material. Your work enriches Smithsonian collections, making them available to anyone with an interest in using them.**

The Smithsonian Institution (the "Smithsonian") provides the content on this website ([transcription.si.edu](https://transcription.si.edu)), other Smithsonian websites, and third-party sites on which it maintains a presence ("SI Websites") in support of its mission for the "increase and diffusion of knowledge." The Smithsonian invites visitors to use its online content for personal, educational and other non-commercial purposes. By using this website, you accept and agree to abide by the [following terms](#).

- If sharing the material in personal and educational contexts, please cite the Ralph Rinzler Folklife Archives and Collections as source of the content and the project title as provided at the top of the document. Include the accession number or collection name; when possible, link to the Ralph Rinzler Folklife Archives and Collections website.
- If you wish to use this material in a for-profit publication, exhibition, or online project, please contact Ralph Rinzler Folklife Archives and Collections or [transcribe@si.edu](mailto:transcribe@si.edu)

For more information on this project and related material, contact the Ralph Rinzler Folklife Archives and Collections. [See this project](#) and other collections in the Smithsonian Transcription Center.

WEBVTT

00:09:54.000 --> 00:10:00.000

[[CLAPPING]]

<i>Debbie Sonnenstrahl/Shirley Schultz (interpreter)</i>: Thank you.

00:10:00.000 --> 00:10:20.000

<i>Jo Radner</i>: We're talking about legends in the deaf community for those of you who've just come in. And for those of you who are here, do you have any questions you'd like to ask? The floor is open for questions. Or for stories. Questions? Yes.

00:10:20.000 --> 00:10:29.000

<i>Audience Member</i>: How many years did it take for you to write the book on deaf heritage?

00:10:29.000 --> 00:10:44.000

<i>Jack Gannon</i>: It took about four years [[inaudible]]

00:10:44.000 --> 00:10:49.000

<i>Shirley Schultz</i>: One about Deaf Smith? [[background talking]]

00:10:49.000 --> 00:11:08.000

<i>William Ennis/Shirley Schultz (interpreter)</i>: Okay. A woman, we're picking on character well really, this, he was a deaf man who lived in Texas. I don't want to go through the whole history, it might be boring but I'm trying to make it look exciting.

00:11:08.000 --> 00:11:31.000

I remember when I was a little kid growing up in Texas and at the residential school, teacher took us to Texas legislator, legislature, the Senate. It's very nice, almost the same design as our capital. United States capital. And went into Senate's office and saw Sam Houston.

00:11:31.000 --> 00:11:54.000

One leg in a cast under a huge oak tree. And all the soldiers assistants were watching Santa Ana who defeated, who was the defeated Mexican General who lost the Mex—the war against Texas in the independence.

00:11:54.000 --> 00:12:14.000

We saw one man in the picture in the tree listening and he did it like that. He was acting like that and of course, we really identify ourselves as there's a deaf man in that picture and his name we found was Deaf Smith and I understand there is a county in Texas named after him.

00:12:14.000 --> 00:12:34.054

We asked what his specialty was and he was assistant to the Captain and also Chief Scout. Chief Scout with a hearing impairment? You know he'd have to know exactly where the places were. Where the enemies were. So that was our hero in Texas. [[CLAPPING]] Thank you.



## Smithsonian Institution

*Ralph Rinzler Folklife Archives and Collections*

The mission of the Smithsonian is the increase and diffusion of knowledge - shaping the future by preserving our heritage, discovering new knowledge, and sharing our resources with the world. Founded in 1846, the Smithsonian is the world's largest museum and research complex, consisting of 19 museums and galleries, the National Zoological Park, and nine research facilities. Become an active part of our mission through the Transcription Center. Together, we are discovering secrets hidden deep inside our collections that illuminate our history and our world.

Join us!

The Transcription Center: <https://transcription.si.edu>

On Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/SmithsonianTranscriptionCenter>

On Twitter: [@TranscribeSI](https://twitter.com/TranscribeSI)

Connect with the Smithsonian

Smithsonian Institution: [www.si.edu](http://www.si.edu)

On Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/Smithsonian>

On Twitter: [@smithsonian](https://twitter.com/smithsonian)