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Ralph Rinzler Folklife Archives and Collections

Deaf Folklore: What is Deaf Folklore? JUN 26 1981

Extracted on Mar-29-2024 04:17:57

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WEBVTT

00:14:22.000 --> 00:14:25.000

<i>Dick Moore/Sheila Grinell (interpreter)</i>: There's so many I can't even think of one. You tell the one about the New York trip.

00:14:25.000 --> 00:14:39.000

<i>Steve Jones</i>: Oh. The first time I went to New York City, I grew up in Baltimore, as I said, I never had any desire to go to New York City but, a Deaf friend of mine named Bob asked me to drive up there with him one day to meet his parents at the airport.

00:14:39.000 --> 00:14:46.000

They were on their way to Europe and were stopping over. I said ok. And it was my first experience with New York traffic.

00:14:46.000 --> 00:15:00.000

And as we got into New York with whatever expressway we were entering or exiting on or freeways or streets, there were people constantly yelling, cussing, tires screeching, brakes slamming on, horns blowing.

00:15:00.000 --> 00:15:10.000

Just a general racket that hearing people are used to especially in heavy traffic. And it didn't bother Bob a bit. He was just laid back driving, just as cool as could be.

00:15:10.000 --> 00:15:20.000

Because he couldn't hear all of this. I'm expecting a collision any minute and nothing bothered him at all.

00:15:20.000 --> 00:15:31.000

<i>Jo Radner</i>: Sometimes people are surprised, I think it's a common misconception that Deaf people don't drive. Have you ever encountered that response?

00:15:31.000 --> 00:15:40.000

In fact I think that Deaf people have a far better record driving than hearing people do.

00:15:40.000 --> 00:15:50.000

<i>Jan DeLap/Sheila Grinell (interpreter)</i>: That's right. My answer to that is. Do you need ears to drive?

00:15:50.000 --> 00:16:06.000

I have another story to share with you. People often ask me if I can lip-read. Very often they ask me that question.

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If you know that it's a fact that about 25 to 30 percent of the English language, spoken English, it's, well wait a minute, let me, let me start again.

00:16:17.000 --> 00:16:27.000

25 to 30 percent is easily understood on the lips, 75 percent you can't understand. So you have to do a lot of guess work.

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And I remember one experience that I really misunderstood lipreading someone. A friend of mine was working in the kitchen, and I think she was making some meatloaf or something.

00:16:39.000 --> 00:16:47.090

And there was this meat and she was working with it, and her hands were all full of this meat and she looked at me and she said



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