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Ralph Rinzler Folklife Archives and Collections

Deaf Folklore: Deaf Theater: Kaleidoscope; Deaf Folklore Sampler JUN 26 1981

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WEBVTT

00:07:17.000 --> 00:07:25.000

<i>Jo Radner</i>: Thank you for the question. Are there any others? Questions?

00:07:25.000 --> 00:07:42.000

Well, I have one. I'd like to ask about family traditions in families that have deafness for several generations, and in particular about name signs.

00:07:42.000 --> 00:07:56.000

Is there a family tradition of name signs, perhaps, where in a deaf family, the parents will often give a name sign I guess before a child goes to school?

00:07:56.000 --> 00:08:12.000

<i>Jan DeLap/John Ennis (interpreter)</i>: I'll have to use my personal story. My mother is deaf. Her name is Nana, like this: this is the name sign, for an "N".

00:08:12.000 --> 00:08:28.000

And then the oldest daughter, Karen, is like this, with a "K". And then me, I'm Janet, with a "J". The youngest daughter is Doris, with a "D". And all from the chin to the chest.

00:08:28.000 --> 00:08:54.000

That's my mother's family, alright? The oldest sister, Karen, has her own four children. This one is Ernie, with an "E", Judy, "J", Chad, where would the "C" be for Chad? Right. And Keith, right there again. And that's their group.

00:08:54.000 --> 00:09:02.000

My daughter's name sign is Ruth. I suppose if I had more children, it'd be "R", "J", "K", and so forth out there.

00:09:02.000 --> 00:09:15.000

My younger sister has three children of her own. Joann is here with a "J". Jessie--Jessica is like this: "J" into "C", for Jessica.

00:09:15.000 --> 00:09:31.321

Jimier with a "JR", so "J", "JC", "JR", "KC", "JPE", Ruth, Karen, and so on, and so forth, you have to sort of know what family you're in and which way to use the signs.



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