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Interview with Jim Shilling on the Oral History of Texas Canyon*



Jim Shilling photo by Patty Walmann taken August 28, 2008 during his oral history interview.

Mr. Shilling is a grandson of the original settlers of Texas Canyon. Contact the Amerind Foundation for publication permission at amerind@amerind.org.

Jim Shilling speaking about the Texas Canyon Cemetery

(Speaking of his parents, Roxana and Charlie Shilling) They had one child, it was born stillborn. It was buried in Texas Canyon at the cemetery there. So that cemetery in Texas Canyon was a piece of land given by Uncle Will from his homestead to the community for a cemetery. Will Adams donated that site. So now my father, my mother, my uncles, and a whole lot of 'em have all been buried in that cemetery. And no longer is it open unless people have already applied. But the cemetery is still in use, because we do go, with permission from them, take the cremations and bury them on top of known, existing graves. So my mother's grave has some brothers, some grandkids—you know, different people—they're in the record too—but they're just cremations brought back and planted on top. So that cemetery is quite a known historical site in the area there, from the Shillings, Adamses, and all these other people that were living in that canyon.



The Texas Canyon Cemetery, Dragoon, Cochise County, Arizona, dating from the 1880s to the present.

Photo by Carol Charnley, Amerind Foundation, on September 26, 2006.

The cemetery is located on property of the Amerind Foundation Amerind@amerind.org.



Dance Hall on the Rock, 1930s
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Jim Shilling speak on the Dance Hall on the Rock

About 1935, Uncle Will's older boys, and some of Dave's people, they built that, and I think part of it was come out of the old Texas Canyon School, had a hardwood floor. And they built that up there with a hardwood floor, a screen around, and a roof. O.K., if you pull the curtain and have a screen, and the dance hall was as big as these four rooms. [indicating the area in his own home] What happened, the first time they had a dance there, there was no prohibiting drinkin', a guy could throw a beer bottle from up on that stairwell plumb to the parkin' lot. And it'd go through the windshield of a car down there, you know. And also, if a person fell down the steps and rolled under the guard rail.... So about the second time, the sheriff was out there and closed it down and locked it. Well, my dad took Walter and I up, and we climbed around on the back side of the rock, and you could get up on it and go around the house, and looked in there and looked at it, but never was in it, but I could see in it. But they closed it down—closed it **down**. When they did that, Dave Adams, Will Adams, and his boys, salvaged the lumber. There's nothin' up there now but some piers on top of the rock where they had it leveled to set. But that stair went like this! You can imagine, if you fell down that, it'd kill ya'!

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