

A Deer Tells Something

**By Nora Thompson Dean
recorded by David Oestreicher**

There used to be hunting parties among the Delaware people every fall and maybe they'd be gone for a month getting in supplies of deer meat and animals. They would render the animals and bring the grease home to use in the homes. There were parties of the Delawares. They would go in a wagon or on horseback. They would have a man to be the cook and keep the tent while they were on their excursions looking for animals.

My father told of the strange incident that took place on one of his hunting trips. He said he and some old man went out in the early morning to look for deer and they found one. This deer stopped and looked at them and they raised their rifles to see if they can hit this deer. He said they just had their guns loaded and ready to take aim on this deer. Suddenly this deer stared at them and turned toward them and the hair on his back stood up and he was pointed toward them.

He said he was surprised but he didn't know what to do about it and the old man pushed his gun barrel down and said, "Not for a while, Not for a while," and they let the deer go. He said he did as the old man told him and they went back to the camp. When they were all back at the camp the old man wanted to explain to the hunters why he said that. He said, "That deer is delivering us a message. It's something we should pay attention to because he's trying to tell us something. Let's all load up our wagons and go back home," which they did. They got just a few yards away from the home and someone told this old man that his daughter died last night and they didn't know where to find him up the those hills. So that's what that deer was trying to tell them.