

Tape #272
Navajo
Ray Yazzie
October 8, 1968
Interviewer - Michael Husband
Side 1

Area Trading History Notes
Miscellaneous Area History
Current Affairs and Problems

Q. I wanted to ask you about some more of these traders, do you.....could I.....? Do
Do you know something about some more of these traders?

A. Yeah.

Q. We talked about the trader over at Torreon.....

A. I know.....

Q. And he was killed up here?

A. Oh yeah, you mean.....

Q. What was his name?

A. Gib Grand.....

Q. Yeah, he was killed.....

A. No, he didn't get killed, his boy got killed.....Hootch Grand.

Q. Oh, his boy.....

A. But this Gib Grand I heard that he is somewhere in California.....

Q. Oh, he left then after that.....?

A. He went to Mexico and then he came back, he said that he got rich over there.....

Q. Too much money over here huh?

A. Down at Mexico. Well, over here, and I don't know what he did, maybe he found something.
He took something or.....too much money.....He got no trade slip, trade slip, what do
you call it.....the one that you put it on.....he don't got it. He just put it down on
the books.....

Q. Oh, no receipts.....Well how old was.....what was his boy's name now?

A. Hootch Grand.....he was not very old, I think he was 23, he got a wife too, and when he
die, maybe his wife left.....the way I heard it, after that, one of his sisters, I think
that he is married too. I think he is a trader down at Fort Defiance.....

Q. At Fort Defiance.....

A. You know I was over sea, I was in the Army, he write to me, old man, because I don't give no trouble with him.....he write to me too when I was over seas, and his wife, I don't know what happened.....maybe she is part something, she is not white. She talk kind of Spanish, maybe he is down there.....

Q. But he is not white though?

A. No, Gib Grand is a White. I think he got a brother too, but I don't see him.

Q. Not around here.....

A. Maybe he is someplace, I don't know.....

Q. Do you know any other traders around here, or did you when you were you were young?

A. I think before that everything burn, it and they fix it again, you know this store over here and after that I think one of a guy I think he still got a bar down at San Isidro.....

Q. Oh.....

A. I forgot his name.....Bronson.....he took that, after he buy this place at Torreon. Then I don't know after that, I don't know this Johnson, Shelby Johnson he buy this again, and this guy he went to San Isidro, you know that big place, over there, I think he is still over there, that fellow over there, he is kind of short.....cripple, I don't know what happened to him. I think his wife had an accident down close to Albuquerque, someplace, yeah, he died there. And he has a boy, too. Got married, this boy got married someplace. I didn't see him after that he was alright he was around but he was over here.....

Q. He was pretty good?

A. Yeah, and then Shelby took over here.

Q. He is there now?

A. No, he left.....he got the Penistaja, you know where that bar is over there.

Q. Oh between here and Cuba.....

A. Yeah, he buy that, his brother is living just a little ways from there, got another house there, you know he runs the place like the bus driver.....if you he owns a bus....

Q. What do you call this place where Johnson is now?

A. Penistaja Bar.....

Q. Right.....

A. I think I don't think he is there, somebody told me that he went to Albuquerque to the hospital.....I don't know.....got into an accident.

Q. Sick?

A. Yeah, I heard that he is going to have an operation or something, that is what a girl told me over there.....

Q. What about the traders in Crown Point?

A. When I was at Crown Point I know we had two stores, one in the West and one in the East on the road.....they are both pretty good, and you know at that time we had lots of pinion down at, on the mountain, you know Crown Point right there, we pick pinion and we bring it to the store and you know.....

Q. Trade?

A. Yeah, what we want, they give us and this guy talks Navajo, too.

Q. What were their names, do you remember?

A. Oh I forgot all of that, it was a

Q. Long time ago, huh?

A. After that this Pueblo Alto, I know they had the first trading post, too. This man, he is kind of an old man too, white, his name is Sacho. I don't know what his first name is.....

Q. Sacho?

A. Yeah. He got store right there.....trade wool there and.....

Q. He is at Pueblo Alto, huh?

A. Yeah, he used to be.....

Q. Used to be.....

A. Yeah, until he passed away. After that Morris take over. Down there.

Q. At Crownpoint?

A. No, at Pueblo Alto.....

Q. That was where you were born, wasn't it?

A. Yeah, after that they took that Tinian here too. I think one of his brothers his name is Tanner too.....he was a boy but I don't know where he went, he was a flier.....

Q. Oh really?

A. Yeah, he went over seas.....and after that this man he took this trading post over.....

Q. Over here?

A. Over here at Torreon.....

Q. Oh at Torreon.

A. I see him yesterday, he is not married no more, I think, what is his name, the trader that do alot of wrong things.....something like that people report him? They come out, they are stationed at Crown Point they said.....

Q. Lawyers or what are they?

A. I don't know what they are, legal aid, or.....

Q. Would that be the Legal Aid Society? Do they check on the trader if he does something wrong?

A. Yeah, a boy and an Navajo boy.....

Q. Yeah, yeah.....that still happens here some doesn't it? Not very often but.....

A. I don't know one woman, they took them in there and when Jack was over there and he told this woman, what is wrong, and she said this trader took my stamps and they said how much and she said, \$60, and she said that she paid \$26 for the gas. I think they are still going to have a court for him, I don't know.

Q. Take it to court then?

A. They don't do anything yesterday.....to me.....they let me trade over there, I told them that it is alright, give me a ticket.....

Q. Oh, you take your stamps down there? For food or what.....?

A. For food only, no money.....the same way over here in Cuba.....

Q. Just food?

A. Yeah, they let us just for the food, like Coffee, and flour and.....

Q. But you can't get money for it though?

A. No, we don't get the dry cloths.....

Q. Just the food.....

A. That is what they let us have, and the Legal Aid, they said, I don't know why these traders trade with them pretty good. They shouldn't take it away, that is what he said.

Q. That is too bad when that happens.

A. I don't know, how he can get away with it, maybe he still have it there, but they don't ask him.

Q. In the olden days they didn't get away with that did they? Or did they.....

A. They get away with it, but now it is different.....

Q. Nobody to punish them, nobody caught them in the olden days.

A. No, not even somebody sell in the road like this, like Mexican, they trade....

Q. Nobody knows about it.....

A. Nowadays there are alot of people....

Q. Were the traders down at Crown Point and down around there when you were young? They get along pretty well with the Navajo?

A. Yeah.

Q. Did they seem to be pretty good traders.

A. Yeah, they seem to be alright. I don't know about Arizona, I heard that they are getting bad sometimes.....they get away with it.....

Q. Cheat a little.....?

A. Yeah, especially those Navajo people that can't talk English.....

Q. That is bad for them isn't it?

A. I don't know, the main thing is everybody, a guy trade in the store, does he have to pay tax or what? I don't know what he mean.....had to pay here.....

Q. I don't know, do you have to pay a tax in the trading post, too?

A. Yeah, that is what he said, I don't know sometimes.....I don't understand that.....

Q. That is confusing isn't it? Especially if you can't talk English, more.....

A. Yeah, they announce in there, when we were having stamp day yesterday, that if any of you people have any trouble with the trader you just come over here and we will

put it down.....

Q. Oh, oh, tell the police, huh?

A. Oh, the Legal Aid said that we will put it down, so.....

Q. Then they will check on it, huh?

A. That is right.....

Q. That is good.

A. That is what they said.

Q. That is good.

A. Do you think when this guy was in the Army for a long time, do you think, they don't bury him over here? They usually take him to Fort Defiance.

Q. Oh, when somebody dies here, they don't bury them here?

A. When he is a veteran, they take him down to Fort Defiance and bury him.....

Q. They probably do.....

A. Either this way or, I know one guy was buried in Santa Fe.

Q. Yeah, this is the fellow that died yesterday, over here?

A. They can't take him over here.....I don't know why.....then unless the people say, unless his mother say, take him over here.....

Q. Over to the mission?

A. Down at Fort Defiance they bury him just like he was in the army, don't they?

Q. Probably, if he was a veteran.

A. They take him over there.....

Q. How do they bury people in the old days?

A. Oh they....I told you before, we have to take our clothes.....

Q. Oh yeah, that is right.

A. One, two, three of them, put them on the horse.....

Q. Kill the horse? Put in jewelry and things.....

A. Yeah everything.....you know the book that you gave it to me, you know, I read something about, oh.....something like somebody is stealing the jewelry from the grave. You know

take it away.....Maybe they open the casket right?

Q. Yeah.

A. I don't know how they can do it.

Q. White people do that.....?

A. No, I don't know.....

Q. Do you like that book? That is a pretty good book.

A. I was reading about this Squaw Dance and Yeibichai Dance, they just finished the fair, didn't they.....?

Q. Yeah, the State Fair.....

A. Down at Ship Rock....

Q. Oh, at Ship Rock.....it is over now.....do you ever go up there?

A. No, I don't go. They said that they finish my brother went over there. They say he takes part in the dancing.....

Q. Oh, he is dancing.

A. Yeibichai Dance, you know they have to pick everything, you know when somebody dances, they covered themselves with plaster, you know.....what do you call it, mud or what?

Q. Mud?

A. White one.....

Q. I don't know.....they put white mud all over their bodies?

A. Yeah, paint it over here or.....

Q. That is for the Yeibichai dance?

A. Yeah.....they dance all night.....

Q. Did you ever know any of the traders at Cabezon....? Used to be a pretty big town...?

A. I just know his first name, Heller was his name....

Q. Heller, huh?

A. Yeah, this guy said that he is from Austria.....

Q. Dick Heller or.....Heller.....H E L L E R, wasn't it?

A. Yeah.

Q. That is what I thought it was.....There is a man named Dave or Dick Heller. That was

it anyway and his partner was named Pflieger.....P F L E U G E R or John Pflieger, do you remember him at all?

A. I don't know, I just know this.....he was old.

Q. Oh yeah, pretty good man?

A. Yeah, he said that he was from Cabezon, I mean Austria.....his wife is a Mexican.

Q. Oh he married a Mexican, huh?

A. He is alright....

Q. He just died recently, didn't he?

A. Oh, he died just about a few years ago.....

Q. In the forties, I think.

A. I think he left some money for his wife and kids.....that is what I heard. Lots of people there buried....cemetary.....

Q. Nothing there now, huh?

A. Nobody.....one guy's ranch he said.....but I don't know where.....

Q. It is a ghost town now.....Did you used to go there to trade?

A. Yeah, I was in the Army about that time.....my mother was trade with Heller, he don't take away nothing.....

Q. He is a pretty good man, huh?

A. Yeah, he used to bring what they want.....

Q. Well, Heller owned alot of land and cattle didn't he? And sheep?

A. Yeah, that is what I heard.

Q. Made alot of money?

A. I think he left about \$10,000 or I don't know how much he left to his kids, they keep the money. I think he made alot of money, cause I think he used to come around and I think that he was the only trader, about that time, people trade with him from here here to Pueblo Alto, that is what I heard.

Q. Oh, so they came from all around to Cabezon and trade.....

A. He had a little you know.

Q. How about the traders in Counselor, do you know?

A. Somebody said, I know I was talking to one guy he said, he was the same like this man, over here, Morris, they fight with the people there, and I think they report him and then he had to move out.....

Q. What was his name? Do your remember....?

A. I don't know.

Q. I don't know what his name was either.....

A. He was the trader there, now I think they are getting along alright. We used to have a trader over here at La Ventana, you know down the highway.....

Q. Yeah, that is a ghost town too.....? Yeah I see it, it is right by the road....

A. Make bar now, this guy he said he wanted to make store there.....

Q. Oh.....?

A. That is what I heard. But you know I just was over there, used to be man, just you know this other side, right over here. I know this one man used to be a trader over here at Tinian, and then he went over there, he talks Navajo too.

Q. And he was a trader over at.....

A. Yeah and people from here trade with him.

Q. At La Ventana.....

A. He was over there, but oh.....I forgot his name.....

Q. I think that I have heard the name, but I can't think of it now.....

A. His wife left him already, I don't know.....where he went, he took the money.

Q. She left and he took the money huh?

A. Yeah....

Q. That is the way, huh?

A. I know this guy told me that he got a sister at Farmington, I think he is over there now, his sister and his brother-in-law.....and I think that he has got another store there.

Q. In Farmington?

A. Yeah, that is what he told me one time.....Last time I see, him he was over there....

he had a bar right here, and that store right there. This bar belong to Joe.....
he is Lewis.....

Q. Lewis.....?

A. Yeah, he is a Mexican.

Q. Do the people trade in Gallup too? That is far away though, I suppose they went to Gallup alot of trade didn't they?

A. You know long, long, long time ago I know we were living at Pueblo Ventada and lot of people, Navajo people, they had to bring flour and coffee, they had to take them for the trader at Pueblo Alto, no car, no nothing.....just a wagon.

Q. Just horse and wagon.....?

A. Lot of horses, you had to hitch.....mules and all that. I know that I was still going to school in Crown Point, bring stuff for them.....

Q. That is a long way. Long ways to go.

A. Yeah, you have to sleep over night. Maybe three days right?

Q. Yeah. Sure it is a long trip.

A. I know I was in Gallup you know, we just hang around there, I know lot of people trade right there. They are good traders too, they talk Navajo but you know I see some colored people too. You know all they want is to buy wine for Indian make money, too..

Q. This Heller over at Cabezon, they had a nickname for him, they.....I don't know if this is true or not of the Navajos, but they called him Goldtooth, ever heard that story?

A. Yeah.

Q. How do you say it?

A. () Navajo word.

Q. How do you say it again?

A. () Navajo word. Yeah he got that way.....I don't know, he must have some money.

Q. Yeah, I think so.....

A. You know I heard it, maybe you have never heard it, you know the people, just like in

Germany somebody get killed or something, they take all their gold.

Q. Save them, use them.....

A. Hair too.....I don't know what they use for hair.

Q. To make rope out of hair, huh?

A. I don't know.....

Q. Another place where they probably did some trading was Seven Lakes, right? Did you ever go to Seven Lakes? Isn't that down by.....?

A. I just know that there used to be some Navajo people living there.....that place, I never heard it. I know White Horse, 20 miles east of that place, Star Lake, and I know that there was a trader too, he was a woman.....Mrs. Cups?

Q. Mrs. Cups?

A. Something like that, they call her, a man maybe his name, but a tall man.....

Q. Her name was what?

A. Bop.....

Q. Bop.....? B O P.....maybe.

A. In Navajo they call her () small woman.....

Q. Small woman?

A. Somebody told me he has been there a long time, he is a good trader, but he became a millionaire that is what I heard.....California.....

Q. Missionary?

A. No, millionaire.....got rich.....I don't know how he got rich.....

Q. Got enough money trading.....? Well what did they used to use to pay the Indians with? I mean did they just trade, or did they give them any money in the old days too or....

A. No, they let them trade, and they would give them some kind of money, black money....

Q. But it wasn't real money, huh? Did they call it tokens or....?

A. Just like you know one dollar right here, some of them fifty cents, ten, 20, thirty....

Q. But this token was only good there?

A. Yeah.

Q. You couldn't spend it anywhere else?

A. No, same way with that store at White Horse, too....they always same, over here at Star Lake, they used to have a store, at Star Lake too. This man's name is Bob Smith..

Q. Bob Smith?

A. Yeah, he talks Navajo too.....

Q. Was this a long time ago?

A. Yeah, long time ago, they used to have a store right there and they call him big ear...

Q. That is what they call him, huh.....big ears....?

A. Yeah.

Q. Is he a pretty good trader?

A. Yeah, pretty good man.....

Q. Of course, he could talk Navajo, that helps.....

A. Yeah.....

Q. A trader has to talk Navajo doesn't he....?

A. Just like these two over here.....at the trading post.....Winston and Morris I wonder why Morris has got two airplanes?

Q. He does?

A. Yeah, that is what I heard.....one is over there right now....

Q. I have seen one over there, right in front of Torreon Post, but I didn't know that it was his.....it is his airplane, huh?

A. Yeah.....

Q. Got rich here? Well he owns another post doesn't he....?

A. Yeah Tinian and Pueblo Alto.....

Q. So he has three posts?

A. Somebody told me he has got another one at Farmington....you see, I don't think that he owns that thing because maybe he has got one man, I think, the boss, he is the one, maybe he is the one that works....right.....

Q. Could be.....

A. Making money.....

Q. In the old days what did the trader have, he had clothes, food, he had everything in

there didn't he, he had clothes.....

A. Yeah, he had coffee, he had everything.....lard.....

Q. Clothes.

A. About that time, everything was kind of cheap. Not enough money.....And then when you have a job, they let you have like 50¢ a day, that is all.....by that time.....

Q. That was enough money then wasn't it?

A. No.....

Q. Not enough even back then huh?

A. No, that is the way that we were working.....50¢ a day.....

Q. Not too much money?

A. No.....all day.....even herding the sheep.

Q. Doesn't buy much?

A. No. People scared every time, too. They don't I heard I was asking somebody you know the hogan, they don't used to be like that, they use logs.

Q. Oh the old hogans, the logs.....came up to a point in the middle huh?

A. Yeah, and then no door too.....they just only put what they want for the door open and put blanket right there. I don't know what they call it.....

Q. Well what did they start making them out of stone then?

A. I don't know why, maybe they just.....

Q. Just changed, huh?

A. And that is the way that we heard it.

Q. They are stronger.....this way though.....

A. Yeah, I think so.....

Q. Would be warmer, too, in the winter.....

A. I don't know why they put cement floor.....too cold....in the winter.

Q. Is there one in that hogan?

A. We got one.....

Q. Oh, in your house?.....

A. I wonder why they put, I think the ground is pretty good, I don't know about adobe...

- Q. Adobe is good insulation, isn't it?
- A. I don't know, those Mexican they have theirs like that.....right.....how about down at Jemez, they have adobe.....they have got their lights too.....
- Q. I don't know.....if they do or not.....I think they do.
- A. The government pay them or what?
- Q. Sure, the government put it in.
- A. How about, where do they take them when somebody dies.....
- Q. They just bury them there I think.....
- A. Any place or.....?
- Q. Probably.....out somewhere.....
- A. Maybe churchyard or.....?
- Q. Probably.....they got a church in each pueblo.....so they probably do it that way.
You used to trade with Jemez, right?
- A. Somebody told me yesterday that there are some Jemez over there.....Over here at the Chapter house.....
- Q. Oh yeah? Do they live over here or?
- A. Yeah.....No they were just trading.
- Q. They come over here to trade?
- A. They want meat, meat, meat.....
- Q. That is what they are after huh?
- A. Yeah.
- Q. What about Taos, did you ever trade with Taos?
- A. No, I never seen them, I just see them in town. That is all....I don't know maybe when they dance, I come around.....
- Q. Well I heard that the Navajo used to fight with the Taos people, do you know about that?
- A. No.
- Q. Used to have war with them once, I don't know if that is true or not.....Could be....

A. They usually those Jemez, they usually dance for rain.....

Q. Rain Dance.....?

A. Yeah, I don't know how they do it, I have never seen them.....Just once, one time I was up there at Jemez.....I mean Zia.....they dance just like the deer dance they call it too. Gee, they got bear skin and everything, they have up there.

Q. Good dance, huh?

A. Uh huh.....

Q. Do the Navajo have a rain dance?

A. No.

Q. They don't do a rain dance. What did.....I want to ask you something else now..... what did the Navajo get their sheep and their horses a long time ago? Did they always have them....?

A. No, the government I think. I think down at Fort Sumner.....I think there were just a few Navajo there, they start from there too.....take them to down there at Fort Defiance.....they give them little bit and then from there they start something.

Q. What about the Spanish when they came in? A long time ago? About 1700 back there, did they bring sheep and horses?

A. I don't know where they got theirs, maybe from Mexico, huh? Either that way or I don't know.....where they got it.....

Q. Lot of Navajo people still have horses, pretty important, huh? Would you like to have horses?

A. But you know this, BLM, what do you call it?

Q. BLM.....Land.....Bureau of Land Management.....

A. They are after them, suppose to be just four horses.....to anybody, but.....

Q. Because there is not enough land? Not enough grass to feed them or what?

A. I, that is the way I heard it, and the people suppose to stay on their own land... Everytime they have to count their sheep. If they pay so much maybe they let them have whatever they want, if they want to go through the government land, what do you call it.....?

Q. Grazing land.....yeah.....

A. They can pay, that is what I heard.

Q. Did you homestead here, did everybody homestead here?

A. Just this one and down there.....Just a few, I don't know how many.....from here I don't know. The same way with the white cowboys, did they have to pay too? Or what, so much?

Q. Well they homestead too you know.....

A. I mean, they have to pay so much for.....?

Q. You mean today?

A. Yeah.

Q. For permits.....?

A. For cows or something, so much.....you have to pay people.....?

Q. Yeah, I think so.....for grazing permits, up in the mountains....

A. I don't know about Jemez, they don't do that do they?

Q. I don't know, they don't have much livestock do they?

A. No. I don't know, they only got a farm.....I don't know maybe they pay for this, I don't know, or the government had to pay.....

Q. The government probably.....they don't grow much out here do they? Little corn?

A. Yeah, I was reading about that, book, about the Apaches right? I think the Navajo maybe they come from this way or that way, I think they come this way or that way, I don't know.....

Q. From the north.....?

A. Apache I don't know....somebody said that Apache and the Navajo are the same but I don't know they are separated. That is the way that I heard it, I don't know....

Q. Long time ago they were the same.....they probably came from the north somewhere.

A. Yeah, I think so.

A. And then they must have separated....the language is different but in some ways it is the same.

A. Yeah and you know when I don't know why these Jemez Indians you know if the lightning kills the cows or something like that, they don't care they just butcher them right there.....

Q. Oh yeah, eat it huh?

A. But Navajo, they are scared.....

Q. Scared of the lightning, or scared of the cow....after.....

A. Yeah, when lightning.....

Q. So am I.....

A. Do the government put lights in the houses around here or not?

Q. No, not yet.....

A. You don't have them yet?

Q. Not yet....I.....

A. I don't know when they are.....

Q. Do the people want them or what....?

A. They are scared of the lights....I don't know maybe they are still afraid.

Q. Don't need them, huh?

A. That is the way that I heard it....And then some of the Navajos trying to be a missionary.....

Q. Oh really? Navajo missionaries, huh?

A. I heard that everytime, down in Arizona....

Q. Oh?

A. Yeah, there are some over there....

Q. Lot of Navajos are becoming missionaries....

A. Over here we used to have one over here, but he is over there at the chapter house. I don't know what he is doing over there.....

Q. But he is a missionary....

A. Yeah, he baptizes....but I don't know why, I guess maybe he doesn't like it right? Change his mind....?

Q. Yeah, that could happen....

A. What is there just one missionary over at Torreon mission?

Q. Yeah, just one missionary.....

A. One way down there, but I don't know, it is too far.....I don't know if they still have it over there, it is a big building.....right there.....meet alot of those people right there.....

Q. What does the missionary do up here, does he help the people?

A. Oh, he goes to church on Sunday and once in awhile, if they want to go to Cuba or something we tell him that is okay.....

Q. Oh, he takes you down...?

A. Yeah, he takes us down.....give us a way back.....

Q. Gives you a ride, huh?

A. And we don't pay him nothing.....

Q. Does he teach the children too? Do the children go to Sunday school here?

A. Wednesday they go.....

Q. He teaches them school?

A. Yeah, and we go on every Sunday.....I know we have two church, every Sunday we have over here. Where my brother live in the house right there.....he comes every Sunday. This guy his name is.....big fellow, I don't know, people just call him big fellow, but I don't know his name.....

Q. The missionary here?

A. Yeah.

Q. From Torreon?

A. Big man.....Navajo interpreter.....

Q. Oh does he speak Navajo.

A. Who?

Q. Big man?

A. No, this missionary he just read in the Bible and this boy he explain.....

Q. Yeah, read it to you.....

A. He is from here, I think, Tinian.....the interpreter.....

Q. Yeah.

A. But he goes to school over there. All tribes.....

Q. Oh, at Bernalillio,.....

A. Somebody told me that this Joe Sanchez his name is.....

Q. Right.

A. This other man, what, they fire him or what?

Q. I don't know.....

A. He don't work no more.....Maybe he told me that he was getting sick all the time.

Q. Could be.

A. Joe works for the state though.

Q. Yeah, but this John, he used to work for the state I was with him one time. He stop
he have to take pills.....

Q. What do they do, they give you the stamps.....? Food stamps?

A. Who.

Q. The state?

A. Yeah.

Q. The state people give you the food stamps.

A. Yeah, and you know these people that get their welfare checks from this assistance
from Bernalillio, they have to pay more.

Q. Oh?

A. Yeah, people that, if they work someplace, they have to pay more, this is what they
say, no work, little bit.....that is the way that they are running that. I wonder
who is the head boss over there.....I don't know.....

Q. At Bernalillio?

A. Yeah.

Q. I don't know a name, but she is in charge of what the stamps and the welfare.

A. Do you have to go to Albuquerque or what?

Q. I don't know, I don't know that much about it. Except, I see them driving around
out here and they stop and talk to people and.....give them the food stamps and that

- A. This guy you know I was with him every time.....we get things about how much you make and how much sheep got you horses, pigs, children.....and you know, and this guy said my husband went to work on the railroad and her husband have to come back and then she will get her stamps. That is the way that they do it. Her right there and it is alright.....too much trouble right?
- Q. To get them? They want a.....
- A. Yeah. I know Morris just give the money to the ones that trade with him, if they won't trade with him, he won't give it to them.....he gets all he wants right there.
- Q. Yeah, he is in a good place isn't he.....lot of trade.....
- A. He talks Navajo just like we are talking.
- Q. Hetaalks good....?
- A. Yeah, just like I was talking to him, he said yes, and he talks English and then he talks Navajo to me.....
- Q. I wonder where he learned it, picked it up you suppose?
- A. I don't know where he learned it, you know.....
- Q. Can't learn it in school can you?
- A. He is a Mormon, but I don't know where he went to school, maybe he just learned it, I know this we have a trader down at Star Lake, he didn't go to school, he just learn it, he talk just like.....
- Q. Taught himself, just picked it up huh?
- A. Here and there, just by talking.....
- Q. It is hard to learn.
- A. Especially those Jemez Indian language, it is sure hard to learn.....
- Q. Did you, was it hard for you to learn English? When you were going to school?
- A. Yeah, give me a bad time you know.....oh boy, that is the same way with I don't know there was one guy, when we were going to, I mean we were overseas, I don't know where this one colored man, he was talking French.....I don't know how he learned it quick.....
- Q. But English is hard?

- A. And Spanish is easy?
- Q. Yeah, it is easier than English I hear, do you think so?
- A. Yeah, and the same way with do you think Russian and German, they are mixed up or..?
- Q. I don't know.....
- A. Looks like.....
- Q. You mean the language....?
- A. Yeah, I think German is just like some kind of English right? Little bit.
- Q. Yeah, Russians have different alphabet, different letters....so it is very hard....
- A. How about Chinese?
- Q. A little signs and symbols, it is hard too....not many Navajos speak Chinese?
- A. How about Jap's?
- Q. Same....way....They make you learn English when you went to school didn't they?
- A. Yeah, they make us learn, we had to spell out the words....I know I went to school with some guys from White Horse.....I know a girl from close to Crown Point and I don't know why they are pretty smart, and I don't know I went to school with them... we were in sixth grade....and these guys they make 100, 100 we were way behind....
- Q. Government schools?
- A. Yeah, and some guys they just give them two chance....that.....
- Q. Is that what they gave you?
- A. Yeah, some guys had to go back to fifth grade.....
- Q. Really? What kind of teachers did they have when you were there, wererthey, were they women or men?
- A. Women and men, this, we have superintendent. He was an old man.....and I don't know where he was from, but he was pretty good....and we had some good teachers too. In Albuquerque we had some men teachers and some women, and Algebra was pretty hard....
- Q. Yeah.....
- A. I didn't learn nothing in there.....
- Q. I didn't either.....I never made it.....I flunked it.

A. But some guys did.....I know them.....I never tried it.....

Q. I didn't like it..

A. The only thing I read about this arithmetic was dividing and subtraction. I think that it is all right, but the other kind, divide, pretty hard. And they are going to start application for adult school, today over here, I don't know when they are going to start.....they say that they just need the men or the....few women.....

Q. To go to school? And where are the classes going to meet, where are they going to have them?

A. Up there in the chapter house. That is what I heard.

Q. Oh that is good, if people want it.

A. You know they might go to school, and they try and learn something, they get paid, that is why they go there.....

Q. They get paid for going to school?

A. Yeah, but not very much but.....it is pretty good, some, I think all these Navajo that have never been to school, maybe they ought to try.....

Q. Do you think so, do you think it is good for the people to go.....?

A. Yeah, I think it is pretty good, they could learn to write their name.....

Q. Yeah, that is good, but they still want to be Navajos too don't they, I mean they don't.....

A. Maybe some of them.....I know one woman they told her why don't you learn something in school over here. No, I am too old, let the children go to school, more better.....They are going to have a meeting over there on Sunday again. I don't know what they are going to do.....

Q. Maybe that is good, I don't know....they go to school down here in Conselor.

A. They start already?

Q. Down at that, they call it help.....

A. Help school, yeah, that is the one.....how about this, who is the teacher there? Frazier or.....?

Q. Frazier, that might be it.

- A. I don't know, he used to be a teacher over there, I don't know, he go over there back and forth.....
- Q. Do they teach them how to read and write I guess.....English, and then they teach them training, carpentry.....or things like that.....
- A. Welding.....
- Q. Yeah, things like that.....Mechanics work on cars and that sort of thing.
- A. They let you go in there or what?
- Q. I have just been in there once.....
- A. How about that mission, pretty good?
- Q. I don't know anything about that, I don't know.....How long has that been there?
- A. Long time.....
- Q. At Counselor.....?
- A. You know this Counselor right here, store, and right over there across the road....
- Q. Yeah, it has been there a long time I know.....
- A. I know it has been there, because I was in the hospital and this missionary come from Counselor, broken leg.....and he told me that I was asking him how much did he get when you were a missionary, and he told me I get \$300 a month.
- Q. For being a missionary?
- A. Not bad.....these guys over here they say that they only get \$15 a month.
- Q. Fifteen a month, that is not too much....is it, and then they get their house.
- A. Their house and food.....
- Q. Did the Navajo people always get along around here? Like the Counselor Navajo get along with the Torreon Navajo?
- A. No.
- Q. Trouble, I read once that there was some trouble.....I didn't know just what it was.
- A. I know one guy a boy, he is I think they got squaw dance going on someplace, down at Ojo Encino, and they come from Counselor and he told the legal aid about somebody cut him right in the back.
- Q. Oh really? This was just during this Squaw Dance.....?

A. Yeah, somebody jump on him....in Counselor, and I think they take him to the hospital, he told police over there, and nothing doing so.....they had to talk to the county sheriff, and they said, go over there, and try to catch that man...

Q. Did they catch him?

A. I don't know.....I don't know what he did, he work for me, the missionary said.

Q. But they don't get along all the time then?

A. No, we don't get along with them, I know we been there one night, way over there and we come from that way, and I don't know where their place is, down to the, we were going to Counselor, you know where, the bar right there.....I don't know where the place is.

Q. Between Cuba and Counselor?

A. No, close to the highway.....44 highway.....close to the.....

Q. Close to Counselor?

A. Yeah, about two miles from there.....

Q. This side?

A. I think they got a good place right there....where they eat and where that bar is... we got in there and some women....me and George, Toledo and me and a girl and a boy, got in there, one girl, one woman and got out, and she asked George buy me a pint of wine, oh boy. I got scared.....trouble maker, and there are alot outside too.....If you don't start right away, maybe jump.....too much trouble.....

Q. Yeah, well I heard that there was some trouble long time ago too, in Counselor...

A. Yeah, I know a man, one time he start from here he went to Cuba and then he went to that place right there.....lots of boys jump on him, he said, then he start, I think he pick up some rock or something, hit him only once.....

Q. But not any reason for it huh?

A. Just fighting....they don't know how to fight, they just drunk too much or....

Q. Is that a pretty good trader up in Counsleor now? McDonald, huh?

A. Yeah, that is what I heard, I don't think that they have any trouble with him...

Q. I don't think so, they control it now like you said.

A. This bar, this one place, that they have a bar, right there....I think it was burned.....

Q. Where?

A. Up close to Counselor.....

Q. Is it a town that you are talking about or.....?

A. Just a bar.....

Q. Lybrook is it?

A. Lybrook I think....

Q. Is it Lybrook, could it be that close? Could be.....they have a mission there too don't they?

A. Yeah.

Q. Mission all over the place.....

A. I know I have been to the Squaw Dance, one place, down about twenty miles from Pueblo Alto, down to that way.....they had a Squaw Dance and there was a lot of people, and one night I thought that they were going to fight, and some of them drinking but I don't see why they don't fight over there.....Maybe once in awhile they do that, I don't know.....they were drinking but they don't fight..... I don't know why they do that.....Do you think this guy that was in the army, do you think that he is going to get his wife, or some of his children are going to get money.....?

Q. This one that died yesterday? Over here?

A. Yeah, cause he die for it.....

Q. I think so, probably.....if he was a veteran, if he was in the war.....

A. He was not very old.....

Q. Really?

A. I think he was a flyer too.

Q. Really?

A. That is what I heard.....during the war, World War Two.....

Q. World War II.....yeah.....when you were in the service in World War II were there

a lot of other Navajos too?

A. No, not very much, me and this other guy I know this one guy he said that he was an MP or something like that....

Q. Yeah, military police.

A. Oh yeah, other people.....they said Germans are pretty bad people....in the night time.....boy I can't stand in that place....had the guard on the highway. And another man.....

Q. Did they know anything about the Indian over there, did they know who the Navajo were?

A. The colored people they say that they are Indians....

Q. Oh they called the colored people Indians?

A. No, I know the colored people used to tell those people that they are Indians.

Q. Oh yeah, they did?

A. That is what I heard, I didn't talk to them, but that is what I heard. They were fighting there, they were way behind, they didn't go in the front lines that is what I heard.....

Q. Who is that?

A. Colored, because they just carry supplies, back and forth, maybe some of them, maybe now they are fighting.....

Q. I think so.

A. I wonder what they do now a days, they are going to end the war, or keep on going?

Q. I don't know, what do you think they should do? Think that they should end it, huh?

A. Yeah, who is it Humphrey or what?

Q. Yeah, Humphrey....

A. He want to quit, on account of business right?

Q. Yeah.

A. Is he a good man? Vote for him?

Q. I don't know, haven't made up my mind yet....

A. What about Nixon? Pretty bad, huh?

Q. How do the Indian people usually vote, do they vote usually one party or....?

A. No, some of them Republican or some of them Democrat that way, the ones that don't understand they have to explain it to them.....Somebody told me that they like Eisenhower too.....

Q. The Indians did, huh?

A. During the war, he was over in Germany wasn't he?

Q. General Eisenhower?

A. Who is that General that just died? A while back, you know he went over to the South Pacific....? He is from over here from the states....

Q. Yeah.....

A. Macmarther or something....?

Q. MacArthur.....

A. Yeah.....poor man right?

Q. Did you ever see him when you were in?

A. No, I was never in the South Pacific.....

Q. You were in Europe.....

A. I don't know what they done in there. Maybe more trouble.....

Q. Could be.....yeah.....

A. How about these teachers they are teaching school, do they just walk off once in awhile or what?

Q. In Albuquerque?

A. Yeah.

Q. Sometimes, they say that they don't pay them enough.....they got good teachers in the Indian's school now? Government school?

A. Yeah, that is the way that I heard it.

Q. Pretty good teachers.....

A. I don't know about Cuba, maybe they are pretty good.....They just don't want to work or what, the teachers.....?

Q. They want some more money, I guess and more better working conditions....they say...

maybe they are right.....

A. How about down South....?

Q. I think Kennedy, I think.....well alot of the Indians that I have talked to say that they would have voted for Robert Kennedy.....I don't know.

A. Is that his brother the one that.....got killed too....?

Q. Yeah.....

END OF TAPE