

Tape # 282  
NAVAJO  
Ray Blanco Yazzie  
September 12, 1969  
Interviewer- Michael Husband  
Side One

MISCELLANEOUS PERSONAL AND AREA  
HISTORY

AR. - Ray Yazzie

QH. - Michael Husband

QH. You are going to talk to them and see if they can talk??

AR. Yeah, we already to talk to Woody.

QH. Yeah we talk to Woody.

AR. He is a good boy.

QH. Yeah.

AR. Good man!!!

QH. Yeah, a good man.

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AR. You going to go down and take me to the Safeway and then go back on highway.

QH. Jose Sandoval, where does he live now?

AR. Who???

QH. Jose Sandoval??

AR. He lives down at Pueblo Cantada about 30 miles, but sometimes he might visit me again.

QH. THat is your brother??

AR. Yeah.

QH. You can write me a letter and tell me when he is going to visit you.

AR. Yeah.

QH. And then we can just sit in your house and talk.

AR. Yeah, and this one too, but he always come to my place.

QH. Permanuel Castillo, where is he from?? Is he from Pueblo Cantada too??

AR. No, from Torreon.

QH. Close to you huh?? How close, near your house??

AR. Oh, it is about a mile from there, North of there, and this Apache, he is all around.

QH. Where does he live though, where is his hogan??

AR. He lives over there, but he is a medicine man and he knows something about it and he always somebody get him everytime.....

QH. Does he speak English??

AR. No, he don't speak English. This one is old man but he lives way....

QH. Juanito Sandoval.....

AR. The last time he was sick, but this guy.....he can talk good English.

QH. Where does he live??

AR. Down there at the Pipe Line...

QH. By the pipeline, that is pretty close to the mission then??

AR. Yeah, about three miles west. I'll tell him too if I see him.

QH. Okay.

AR. So they can stay here that day.

QH. Okay.

AR. When you come out.

QH. Maybe I will come up Friday, or maybe you can.....

AR. Locate him right?

QH. Maybe you can tell me when the best day will be??

AR. I want to try and get Mary too.....

QH. Who is Mary???

AR. Henry's mother. I am going to try and speak to her.

QH. Is she deaf??

AR. Yeah, but I can holler at her????

QH. You have to yell right in her ear to talk to her.

AR. She don't mind it.

QH. That is the only way that she can hear. Henry he probably wouldn't want to talk huh???

AR. Henry sure he talk too.....You know one time you help us down to Cuba right??

QH. Yes.

AR. The old lady Henry, this other guy in the back.....

QH. Who was that??

AR. His name was Ben Sandoval.

QH. Ben Sandoval.

AR. He has got a good looking wife but he drinks.....

QH. Does he still drink??

AR. Oh, gee.....

QH. Does Henry drink alot still or??

AR. Well now not so much, he gets sick. That is what he said.

QH. Does he work, does he have a job??

AR. Who??

QH. Henry??

AR. Yeah, he works for this guy sometimes. You know that just him and me. He said that he going to bring me some wood for my mother. Sometimes I help him chop wood you know. Sometimes I bring water, and I think he has nothing to do today, he said he is going to get some water, or wood.

QH. He doesn't have to work today huh???

AR. Yeah, his mother is named May Mary and she gets assistance.

QH. Who is that other woman that lives with them up here??

AR. Where?

QH. Those two women that live up there with Henry, his mother and.....?

AR. The other is kind of sick, they are both related.

QH. They are??

AR. They are his sisters. One is Mary and one is Mae.

QH. Mary and Mae.

AR. Her husband used to be named Geronimo Castillo. Long time ago he died.

QH. They are pretty old those women??

AR. Yeah.

QH. How old is Mary??

AR. 77

QH. And Mae??

AR. Oh about, something like around 69 or something like that. Pretty good right??

QH. How long have they lived there?

AR. Long times, ever since we moved to here, long time ago. Something like Woody said, fifteen year ago.

QH. How long have you lived there in your hogan??

AR. You mean down at Cantada??

QH. No, here. At Torreon, how long have you lived there??

AR. Oh, about 15 years. You have never been here have you?? That way is Ojo Encino.

QH. I would get lost without you here. Ray, I wouldn't know where to go.

AR. Hey, somebody is coming Bob.....

QH. I better back up, it has been raining alot up here??

AR. Did you ever see Zia Pueblo??

QH. Yeah, you have been down there haven't you??

AR. They are bad people aren't they??

QH. I don't know, is that what they say??

AR. I don't know

QH. DON't the Navajo get along with the Zia??

AR. Yeah, I have got a buddy over there.

QH. Good friends??

AR. I think that I get along with the ZIA alright.

QH. Get along pretty good with the Jemez.

AR. Pueblo.....

QH. Have you ever been.....

AR. Let's see you have to go this way, this corner.

QH. You have been to Taos, haven't you???

AR. Ah.....No.....

QH. Just Jemez???

AR. Just Jemez and Zia, that is all.....Isleta....

QH. You have been to Isleta.

AR. They are good people those Isleta's. They come out here, one guys name is Lucero, he comes to visit the old lady, bring something for them.

QH. Tony Lucera??

AR. No, another guy, he is kind of old.

QH. Do you know any others down at Isleta?

AR. I know alot but I forgot their names, went to school in Albuquerque with them.

QH. OH yes, that is right.

AR. Godd buddies, You know I have got buddies in Zia, they told me to come dance but I never do go.

QH. Never went down there??

AR. Good friends, went to school with them. Isleta too, some Zia, all mix up, right Pueblo Indian??

QH. Yeah, do you know any people from Laguna??

AR. Yeah, Laguna, they are pretty good.

QH. Do you remember anybody, their names there??

AR. Oh, let's see, I know one guy his name is Harry Pratt.....start with F, his first name, he was in the Army.

QH. His name is What???

AR. Harry.

QH. And his name, his last name??

AR. One guys name is Harry Poncho, too.....

QH. Harry Poncho and who is the other one?

AR. Pratt.

QH. Tradd??

AR. I don't know how they call him??

QH. It wouldn't be Pratt would it, Harry Pratt??

AR. Yeah, that is it, Pratt.....

QH. Pradt??? what about Zuni?? Do you know any Zuni Pueblo people??

AR. Oh, just a few, but I forget their names. Maybe they still are living, I don't know. I know some Hopi Indians too.....

QH. Do you????

AR. I went to school with them, and alot of Navajos from there,....down at Arizona, maybe they are still living, I don't know, maybe they passed away.

QH. Have you ever been to Hopi???

AR. No, I have never been there to their country, but I just know them, cause some of them are still living cause I've been in Gallup and they know me right away. CAUSE I went to school with them Some of those guys are getting old.

QH Pretty old huh??

AR. Yeah, from Jemez, what are they doing right there?? Cabello?? I never told you that in Crownpoint, they had some pears on the trees, little apples, you know, know wonder we get whipped when we go and take what we want in the night time. Oh boy, if they see us, somebody stole this and some bodies tracks are here. They get mad.

QH. Oh do they?

AR. Yeah.

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QH. They steal fruit at Crownpoint huh??

AR. Oh yeah, they give you a good licking.

QH. Oh do they??

AR. Yeah.

QH. Hurts huh??

AR. Yeah, Cherries, too we steal, we fight each other too, lot of us guys, oh boy, one time two girls jump on me, they were big girls and I was not very big and some of them you know this way, hit me right in there, and one girl kicked me too, oh boy, I cry and then some boys come in there and he start fighting too, they lick those girls, I got knocked out.

QH. Lots of fighting at the school then??

AR. Yeah, no good. I used to wrestle when I was in Albuquerque.

QH. Did you??

AR. Yeah, I tried to be a boxer but I can't make it.

QH. Why??

AR. Well lot of guys is too big for me, you know I weigh 115 pounds and I was in school, when I got into the army, oh boy.....200 lbs. Gee, I was skinny, one guy call me skinny guy, but I don't mind it. No good right??

QH. Apache Pinto is a medicine man hub??

AR. Yeah, big man right??

QH. Is he old??

AR. Yeah, kind of old. Woody is 61??

QH. Yeah 61 I think.

AR. Do you still have to go to school in the university??

QH. Missionaries are teachers?? Aren't they, don't they go and study or something??

AR. Oh, they open the Bible and they have to tell alot of things, right??

QH. When, just on Sunday??

AR. Mostly on Wednesday and Sunday.

QH. Wednesday??

AR. They go from hogan to hogan in some places, like in some places, they don't open the door for them.

QH. Oh really, make them mad??

AR. Yeah, medicine men they don't open the door.

QH. They can't force them though to come can they?

AR. Oh.....

QH. If you don't want to go you don't have to go, right????

AR. Yeah, How about Spanish people.....

- AR. We used to have some colored, you know every morning they come in and give us a blood test....  
.....I think that they have some Russian doctores too..... Spanish and White all together...
- QH. When were you in the hospital there in Albuquerque??
- AR. Oh, a long time ago.
- QH. Oh, I have some trouble with you??
- AR. Oh, I have some trouble with my legs, they were getting, this doctor said, his name was....I forgot his name, he was a pretty good doctor. He gave me a shot every time, oh boy.....
- QH. You go to the mission on Wednesday you say??
- AR. In the evening.
- QH. Every Wednesday huh???
- AR. Yeah, we just sing, we don't they ask too many questions.
- QH. You don't know the answer. Who teaches the classes there?
- AR. You know they don't like medicine men and yeibichai.....
- QH. Do they tell you not to go to the dances??
- AR. Yeah, but I go by myself, I don't tell them, it is over there someplace, one I don't know why they don't have dances anymore much??
- AR. Why don't they not say anything??? Let the people what they want right??
- QH. I don't know.....that would be better wouldn't it??
- AR. Yeah, instead, I told you about that thing, if a guy wants some shoes or clothes like this or sirts or whatever you want, hat or, you have to pay one dollar, that is what he said, if you want one shirt.....oh my.....
- QH. Is that where you got your shoes?
- AR. NO, this guy from Albuquerque give them to me.....
- QH. Oh, you.....
- AR. You know this missionaries from there, they come in every two weeks, too, they don't say give me money, come on pay, pay.....they.....
- QH. Do they give it to you??
- AR. Yeah, just for nothing.
- QH. What kind of missionaries are they????



AR. They are protestant, I think.

QH. Are they the ones from the all tribes school there??

AR. Yeah, he is a big fellow, good man.....

QH. What is his name??

AR. Phillips, I think. I call him Bob, and he call me Bob too.

QH. But you have to pay for your clothes over there at the Torreon Mission huh??

AR. Yeah, but he said, give the Lord some money, that is what he said.

QH. Is that what he said?? Give the Lord Some money??

AR. Yeah, some guy just pitch in two dimes or something or three dimes, oh boy....even women they have to get their clothes, and oh boy, they pay.

QH. WHO teaches the calsses there on Wednesday, the missionary or his wife, or who?

AR. No, the boys, there are two boys working over there. And woman and a man, and one Navajo he is married to a white man I know what he is talking about, he is a good interpreter. He knows the Bible right away, he has been there for long time. And he talk Navajo too. He got a lot of kids. Boy.....'

QH. Who lives there in that big house over there??

AR. He is the one.

QH. What is his name??

AR. Lillian is his name.

QH. Lillian???

AR. He is from Shiprock.

QH. And he is married to a Navajo girl??

AR. No, this girl's name is Lillian, he is married to a white boy. Moustache right??

QH. What is the name of the missionary that runs it then, what is his name??

AR. Lloyd.....Holloman.

QH. Lloyd Hollaman.....yeah....

AR. German name right??

QH. He has got a wife there too.....

AR. Yeah, he has got a wife, his wife is kind of afraid.

QH. What is she afraid of??

AR. Drunkard.

QH. Oh really??

AR. They are from Kansas some of them.

QH. Kansas.

AR. Some of them are from Iowa.

QH. How long have they been here, how long have they lived here.

AR. Oh, he was here before, you know, before they start the church, and then somebody take over. Roger Reed is his name, he is from the same place, in Kansas, I mean, he is Al Senter, then another guy took his place.

QH. How long has he been here this time, Holloman??

AR. Oh about a few months.

QH. Is that all??

AR. Yeah.

QH. And then did they build that mission??

AR. Oh, let's see, I think they build it close to two or three years, looks like.

QH. Oh really??

AR. Yeah, I don't think that much, let's see, maybe ten years ago,.....

QH. Ten years ???? Did the Indians build them.....

AR. Yeah, we did.

QH. Did they pay you or???

AR. No, they just give us clothes or.....after we help them build the laundry they used to pay us, one dollar an hour, now they don't give us no money, no more.

QH. You give them money??

AR. Yeah, and they say you guys drink it all. Waste of money. Trying to be good, but.....You know one time you took me way over to the other place too. This guy took me over there, and he didn't pay me nothing. He said you help the lord, that is what he said.

QH. How many Navajo go to church there on Sunday???

AR. Oh.....

QH. Alot of them???

AR. No, just a few.

QH. Not too many huh???

AR. Sometimes 10, 15, 20 that is all,.....no good right??????

QH. They want everybody to go huh??

AR. Yeah, but they can't do it anyway.

QH. What do you do on Sunday, do you go all day on Sunday??

AR. Just in the morning, 10 o'clock we finish, about 11:30 we go to church.

QH. Sings songs??

AR. Yeah, they sing songs and ask questions. They talk about God and Jesus, I don't know which one  
oh, some of them don't understand that.

QH. Does your wife go to church??

AR. Yeah, sometimes, she said that she would rather have her own religion she said. than going to  
church.

QH. What does A $\frac{1}{2}$ ache Pinto say about the missionaries, he is medicine man??

AR. He don't go, his wife don't go, she is afraid.

QH. Afraid of it huh?? Doesn't like them too well huh??

AR. I don't think that those missionaries are white, maybe they are half breed. Mixed-up.

QH. I don't know.....

AR. They talk a little bit German. And French, I don't know why they don't straighten up....

QH. Maybe I will go and talk to them.

AR. Yeah.

QH. Maybe I'll go and talk to them.

AR. Yeah.

QH. Maybe they will talk to me.....

AR. Don't mention what we are doing, boy they holler and yell and everything like that.

QH. Did you tell them that I wanted to talk with them??

AR. I told them yes, and they said that that was all right.

QH. Who did you talk to, who did you tell that to??

AR. Lloyd.....

QH. Lloyd Holloman??

AR. Yeah, old man right??

QH. Yeah, did you tell him about this, the tape recorder?

AR. No.....

QH. Maybe he wouldn't talk because of that?? I'll go and talk to him and ask him and what would he said.....

AR. How about he, then he say, how about he ask you questions, like what is your work or something like that??

QH. Well I will just tell him that I work for the university, that is okay right??

AR. Yeah.

QH. That is the truth.

AR. They won't holler right??

QH. I don't think so.....I will talk to Lloyd and find out. Call him what Father Holloman, or Brother Holloman??

AR. Brother yeah, and he might call you Bob right??

QH. That is alright.

AR. No different, right?

QH. No.....

AR. You know onw time, one guy came to me and I was in Cuba right, and they told me what, you don't mind what I call you, what is your name he told me and I just said, call me any kind of name, don't call me snake I told him.

QH. Snake is a bad name??

AR. Yeah, the Indians are afraid of it.

QH. Oh really?

AR. Yeah, I told me just to call me Bob, Charlie or Joe, or you know, but Gitch or something, like that, but don't call me dragon or snake or like that.....I don't like it.

QH. Afriad of snakes huh???

AR. Medicine man, he don't like it.

QH. Well you must have rattlesnake out here don't you??

AR. Yeah, boy,.....One time I see in the road and I got scared, boy....what kind of snake is that that got fast right.....?

QH. Yeah.

AR. You see, that water was just like this and I see something in Front of me and it just went fast in the water.....

QH. It was a snake?

AR. Yeah a water snake, I think. Did you ever see a water dog?? ARE they good to eat or what??

QH. I don't know have you ever eaten one??

AR. How about fish??

QH. Oh yeah.

AR. Do you like them or what??

QH. Oh yeah, good.

AR. You mean red kind or what??

QH. Yeah any kind.....you eat fish don't you?? Buy fish at the stores in the cans?

AR. I like these other kind you know that, kind of red or what do you call them???

QH. You mean they come in a can??

AR. Yeah, a big can.

QH. Salmon.....

AR. Yeah, I like that.....

QH. It costs alot of money though doesn't it??

AR. Yeah, those Navajos they say that they are afraid of them some of them.....they might be snake, .....what do they do with those horses.....

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AR. That guy he don't cook beans don't you???

QH. Yeah, you eat alot of beans right??

AR. Put some pork in it.....

QH. Pork??

AR. Yeah. Eat more chili boy....

QH. Yeah, but how do you keep your meat fresh, you dnn't have an ice box?

AR. I just put it on to dry.

QH. Let it dry huh?

AR. Yeah.

QH. And then boil it??

AR. I like potatoe more too

QH. Do you??

AR. Yeah and eggs, boil the eggs, and why do these colored people say one time that I was in the army with alot of colored people we were in a kitchen in there in the morning, and for breakfast he said, sunny side, what did he mean by that??

QH. You mean for eggs??

AR. Yeah.

QH. He means fried. With the yolk up.

AR. You mean upside down??

QH. Yeah.

AR. Not boiled, but he mean not to fry it?

QH. Yeah, to fry it,.....Do you eat eggs?

AR. Yeah, some guys they say they want.....

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QH. Do you eat tortillas at all?

AR. Yeah.

QH. Does your wife make tortillas??

AR. Yeah, I make fried bread. Tortillas.....

QH. You eat alot of fried bread though??

AR. Yeah. A guy gets sick once in a while right??

QH. Eat too much of it huh??

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AR. See the animal, in the zoo, and you know by that time we see Carlsbad Cavern too. Now it is changed, that time we just go way down there.....now they say that they have everything down there.

QH. Oh really??

AR. Carlsbad.....

QH. Was that when you were going to school in Albuquerque.

AR. Yeah, now they say that everything is changed.

QH. Yeah, it has been a long time since I have been there.

AR. Have you ever seen penitentiary, what they look like??

QH. No.

AR. AFraid huh??

QH. No, I don't want to....

AR. No good right?? Penitentiary....they get mad or what?? Those people??

QH. Well I guess....

AR. They won't let anybody see huh??

QH. I don't think so no!.....Any of these people have electricity in their house??

AR. Yeah, some of them do.

QH. You don't have it though do you??

AR. No, I don't if I get some money if I get paid, some assistance or something, that is alright, I will pay for it.

QH. How much is it to have it.....?

AR. I know one lady say that she pay \$5.25 or something like that.

QH. To have it hooked up you mean??

AR. No, she use it every night.

QH. Oh...

AR. First you have to give them \$100 for them.

Q. To put it in huh?? Alot of money huh??

A. Yeah.

Q. BUt you would like to have that though??

A. Yeah.

Q. BUt you would like to have that though??

A. Yeah.

Q. Good for your radio huh??

A. Yeah.

Q. EVer watch TV. Do they have TV at the mission??

A. No, they are against that.

Q. They don't like that?

A. No.

Q. Why??

A. They don't like even music. You know those.....

Q. No radios??

A. They have got radio but they don't like somebody else to play this.....

Q. Music.....Piano.....

A. They don't like this trumpet or anything like that.

Q. Why don't they like that?

A. They don't let us play this what do you call it, harmanicord????

Q. Harmonica??

A. Yeah.

Q. Why don't they like TV.....do they say??

A. No, they don't like that, and they won't let us tell a joke or anything.

Q. REally??

A. Lord see us all the time.

Q. They are pretty strict then??

A. Yeah.



QH. Do you have to do what they tell you to do??

AR. Oh, we don't mind it.

QH. Yeah, yeah.

AR. In the army they wern't very strict. The only thing is they make us drill and all sorts and can go to beer joint and come out as long as you stand up , that is what they say.

QH. Is that what they say?? As long as you don't fall down huh??

AR. Me and the colored boy, this buddy was in gail one time, while I was in Texas, boy, oh boy, they lock up the same place at the guard house. And oh boy, the colored people they were yelling,not so good.....

QH. I guess not.

AR. Like making noise more noise, than you have to. I don't know after the next day they turn them loose and the next day, they will be in town again.

QH. Do you like the army???

AR. Yeah

QH. Did you??

AR. All we do is get our good clothes and shoes.

QH. ANd did they pay you money too?

AR. Yeah, but I was supporting that lady too. I didn't have any wife at that time, I just....I was going to stay down there for a long time, but.....

QH. Where??

AR. AT the Army, and because they give me PAFC, PFC right...??? They told me to stay right there in the army but when everything was over, I came back from overseas, I was re-enlisted, either way yeah.....gee this guy has horse, right??

QH. You didn't re-enlist though??

AR. Yeah, I did/

QH. You did??

AR. Yeah, after everything was all right.

QH. AFter the war??

AR. They told us to get discharge, I have two discharge papers, one from Fort Bliss.....

QH. Fort Bliss, Texas.....???

AR. That is a big place, right?? Big camp.....

END OF TAPE