

Tape #416
NAVAJO
Fred Brown
February 1969
Recorded by Tom Ration
Tape 1

HIS EXPERIENCES DOING RAILROAD
WORK & HIS GRANDPARENTS STORY
IN EARLY DAYS OF FORT SUMNER
AND PROBLEMS WITH NEIGHBORING
TRIBES

This is a man named Fred Brown, age 62, from Tohatchi, New Mexico. The story of his time on the railroad work also his grandma and grandpa story in early days at Fort Sumner. Mr. Fred Brown has told his story at home and his story is that he was born around the other side of the Tohatchi mountain, near Red Rock Mountain. Mr. Brown has been a sheep herder in his early days, he said that during his days that there was school was being started out here and there, all over the Navajo Reservation, and that is the way that he started out. And the first school was started at Fort Defiance, Arizona and then on to Tohatchi and then at Shiprock and Crownpoint and these four places, there was school open for young school children and in these days, the Navajo people that has children some of them they don't want them to go to school and some of them they tie them and the government used to hire some Navajo policemen and they go, they don't travel in cars or on wagons. The policemen used to travel on horseback, mail was carried on horseback, and so time went on and the policemen here and there all over the Navajo country looking for children. Picking out children to go to school and then I wanted to go to school myself, but my parents didn't want me to go. As time come along, I thought I might run away to

school, but I never have a chance to go or everytime my mother and father will be watching me herding sheep and when they hear the policemen near, they would hide me out. For a long time they were doing that and then in about two or three years time, I had made up my mind to run away to one of my relations around Chinle. Chinle was quite a ways off and I never knew where was Chinle. And I was asking mostly all the friends I know, which way is Chinle, because during the early days of our time, my father and mother used to say that I have got a aunt that is married in Chinle and she is living over there and sometimes she comes around and visits us. I have never have a chance to ask her where she lived, but this was the place, Chinle, Navajo name is Chinle and then they pronounce it as Chinle in English way. Finally I found out that Chinle was in the westward of where I was, where we was living and I was trying to do something about it and I ask, I was around about fourteen or fifteen years of age and I kept on trying, that I wanted to, run away to my aunt's home. And so one day, this was in the summer time, and everybody was going to school and I always hang around my neighbor that went to school, they talk English to each other, what they learn and they look kind of nice talking English and so I thought that it would be better if I go and stay at my aunt's place all summer long and then I might go to school with the others. So one day I was herding sheep and then I made up my mind to go over there, and I went and herd sheep westward from where

I live, I was on the sheep herding for a little better than an hour or so, and when the sheep was all rested down and then I thought that I could turn them back towards home. So this is what I did and I turned the sheep back towards home, and if you turn them back home, they will go right back straight home. So that is what I did, from my home was a little better than a mile across and so I turned them facing home and then I started out. I went up right straight up the hill, right straight up the big mountain, and I went clear up on the top of the hill. I was watching the sheep, going towards the home and they kept going and going, and finally they were nearing home. Every time that I look and finally the sheep got back home and I started off on my journey and I was mostly on a rock mountain, everyplace that shows my shoe, I have to walk on a rock so that they couldn't track me. I took, I kept on going and going until I reached the big high mountain on top. I wasn't afraid of nothing and I was way above by the, around between Fort Defiance and what they call the Red Lake. I was going on in a little valley there, going along, I don't show myself in the flat, I always walk along side the mountain, I kept on going until the sun was high. I was passing Fort Defiance going right straight across west and finally one evening the sun was about down and I reached a home there. First I ran across the shepherd, it was a girl and so we got together and we herd the sheep around for a while. And I told her that

you must introduce me that you have found me on the other side of the hill and then when you do, you must tell your mother and father that I will be waiting,..... They came around and tell your father and mother that they didn't say anything And so she went back home with the sheep, I was hiding over in the arroyo. Finally the sun went down and it was kind of getting dark, and I was waiting and then finally here she comes. And she told that she told her father and mother... that she found me and so they both told me to bring me back home. So we both went home to this girl's mother, girl's home and there her folks asked me where I was from and I didn't want to tell them because if I do, they might tell my mother and father. I told them that I just ran away from home and that I was going to my aunt's place, she lives at Chinle, around Chinle somewhere. And so I stayed there that night and her folks told me that Chinle was way further west and they don't know where my aunt lives. They don't even know my aunt but I just told them it was around Chinle and so they told me where Chinle was. And the next morning they gave me some lunch and some water and they, the girl and the mother, they said that they go with me on the highest mesa and show me where Chinle was. The man went herding sheep that next morning we started out horseback, and they took me on top of the mesa and while we were on the mesa the mother told where Chinle was and it was way way down..... and it would take me another day. So I was there until they left

me there and I started on and she told me to have a good luck and find my home. So I had that in mind all the time and I went right straight where she showed me where Chinle, and I keep walking and walking. And finally I went on top of another mesa and start to look where Chinle was. I had my lunch there for noon, dinner. I waited for a little while and I was so tired and start to lay down and I went to sleep. I wake up in about two hours and I find myself that I was sleeping and I started out again and feeling a little better. And so I look at Chinle again, right straight ahead and keep walking, walking and then finally I ran into another bunch of sheep. I waited there, there was nothing of the sheep herder, it might be another girl. So I waited and waited and finally there was a horseman coming right behind me with sheep and it was herding sheep and so I didn't bother just wondering what I would do. I watched until the sheep went over the hill, the sheep herder was following and so I started out. I was trying to follow the sheep where they went and I follow it until I found out where the sheep were. I just waited for a little while and tried to make up my mind on where I was going to go and I made up my mind to go to that hogan. I was nearing the hogan and finally the dogs bark. Finally somebody came out and saw me coming and there was a man and wife and two children, they had two girls and one boy. And they looked something like the same and then finally I found out that all those three were going to school.

I have asked them how was school and every time I run into children, they were always glad that they went and I was wanting to to to school myself cause I like to go to school. I was around fourteen or fifteen years old, but I keep ask them about school, I was a little bit old anyways and I should have started a long time ago. My father kept hiding me out. So I thought that ask them which way was Chinle, want to make sure that I was going the right way, and I like the girls all the time as I go along, that is the reason that I ran away. Then finally there was a boy with one of the brothers, he went around with me and the girls, they didn't like to talk to me and so I thought.... Finally they pointed out in the morning..... jar, with a little tin can, with a lid on it and carry water with me. I fill up my water there and they didn't make up a lunch for me because it wasn't too far. So they told me to follow the big..... you go northward and you get to the top of this big canyon, on the west side it will take you on to Chinle they said. So I just wanted to get to Chinle. In these days, there was no kind of white man was living around Chinle. And then I started to walk northward and I went through the canyon, it was Canyon de Chelley and I got on top of the canyon, I looked down, it was way down. I could see some sheep herders way in the canyon and the man told me to follow the canyon, that will tak you right into Chinle. I was following the rock canyon all the way down to the mouth of the canyon foot of the canyon, and I found some more

hogans there and some sheep herders. I don't even know who she is or her husband is, I just want to look for her, and there was a hogan right on top by the side of the rocks and there on top of Canyon de Chelley. And so I made up my mind that I was going to look for the hogan and I think clear back that my mother and father was looking for me and I went to the hogan. Then they ask me where I was from and then I told them a wrong story, I told them that I live on top of the Canyon de Chelley and they ask me where I was going. And I told them I am looking for my aunt, she lives around here and so they told me, they direct me where the hogans are located and so I started to walk around where all those hogans are and I went to about six or seven hogans and just try to recognize her, I don't find my aunt. It was about sundown by then when I run went around seven hogans and so I started to stay there, in another home and there was another home right across where I stayed that night. I decided to go the next morning to look all over the other side of the, canyon and there were some hogans right on the flat too down in the canyon, so the next morning they told that there were some more hogans right out this way and that way and I don't know my aunt's name but I can recognize her I said. And so I kept walking and I went through seven hogans, but not my aunt's home and so finally I went down to the flat hogan and my aunt used to ride a bay horse with a white stomach one side on the left side. That is the only thing that

I could remember and finally I thought that I could recognize that horse and I came to the left hogan and then they ask alot questions, and I told them that my aunt has a horse has a white spot on stomach and they recognize the horse already. They raid the horse that you was talking about is about another two miles. I was happy that I had thought of that, I kept going on and going and then about another two miles. Sure enough the horse was standing right outside the hogan, I just kept on walking until I found my aunt. I found my aunt, I know where they live now and here they were surprised that I was on my way for two days and two nights and that I would stay two nights. I was a good walker, and sometimes I run. When I was at my aunt's place, they didn't say anything to me, but then they said that my mother and father might be worried about me and I stayed that day. Finally my aunt said that my father and mother might be worrying about me. And then my mother and father came to my aunt's place. They didn't say nothing much about, they didn't scold me, they just talk nice to me. And they said that if you really want to go to school, we will see what we can do when school is open. So they told me that they want me to go back home with them and so I was took home and they took me back home. We stayed that next night and then we started the ride back home and I was behind my father all the way. We were home that same day, not too far, right straight. My father..... get back

before sundown, to Tohatchi and there I waited, I was raring to go to school and I was then about 16 years old. During the time of my sixteen years of age, there was a job open for 16 year old boys at Manuelito. While we lived around Manuelito, I thought that I could do work on the railroad, and start my job on the railroad. And from there I was took to Phoenix and I don't know what part of Phoenix was, but it was along Phoenix area. I was working, getting pretty good money and I was working something around a dollar and fifty cents a day or two dollars a day or something like that, I was fed. I don't buy no groceries or nothing like that. The bed was furnished and the meal was furnished but on top of that, I make so much a day and in the end of that month, while I was working I forgot about my school and so I kept on working, I studied for about a year and a half and school was already started and I came back home again, to my mother. I brought them back some money in these days, there was a big store, a Teller's store in Gallup. I took them there and we bought some clothes and things like that. I was off for about two or three weeks on the job and about two weeks time I went back to the railroad and I got back on the train and I went back to my job again. I liked my railroad job, I forgot about my school, I was around 19, coming to 19 years old. I was a big man now, I kept on working. When I was about 22 years, I was very happy that I was getting into deeper job, I know how to handle tools, the railroad man do

not want me to leave because I was a good worker. I kept on working and working and finally I was working on the railroad for 15 years. During them time they had what they call inspection gangs and I was on the inspection gang again and I was moved to Williams to the other side of Flagstaff. I stayed in Williams for about five years and that was my 20th year. I was married then and had some children. Keep on going on those jobs and I was transported to Manuelito, I had a little section party there and it was in my home country there. We moved there stayed another two years and then I went back to north Chavez. In north Chavez they had some section gangs there and I stayed another two years there and then I moved back to Gallup, I worked in Gallup for about a year and a half again. I was on the job for 30 years and I was just about to retire but I still want to work. Further on..... I didn't know what else to do and I thought that I could be kept working and on. During the job, at Williams, there was a few cars coming out and then finally I decided to buy the used pickup there was a used Ford pickup, I don't know what model it was, but it was running pretty good. I had quite a bit of money then. In these days money was, what a man would say money talks. I paid four hundred for a pickup, a very good pickup. I paid cash and right off the bat. So, I start to drive, and I learned to drive, during this days drivers were already being out and then one day, I got my drivers license and drove around and so I decided to go home

Saturday evening, had to pick up some lumber there. I hauled some lumber back home, I was so happy that I had a thing to travel in. In these days, there were dirt roads, no pavement, if you start from Flagstaff and it takes you all day to get home. And that is that I did. And this time.... it took me one day but I was hauling lumber, and every time I came back on the way in, I always, haul some lumber, kept on doing it until I built a good house at home for my father and mother. My father was getting old and my mother was getting old, but still I like to live with them.... I never thought of leaving them. I was getting older then too.

During the time of my days when I was working around Williams, my grandfather passed away and my grandmother passed away and so, on that time, I used to bring back my grandfather and my grandmother back to Williams, when we was living over there they told me alot of stories about what they have done in earliest days. I remember that all. I start to make me my own house for my children, I bought some more lumber back, a long ways, it was the only place that a man can get the cheaper lumber. Every chance I get, I haul some lumber. For about one year's time I had set up another house near Tohatchi. The house was built with rocks. All I need was the top lumber. I had two houses built and I was very proud of my house, I think that I was the only one that had a good house in that Tohatchi area. So I kept on going back and forth and then finally I had the top of my house fixed it up and I had to

work around until I fix the roofing, the windows, the floor, and everything. I fixed my house very good and then like I say, I was very proud of my house, I had my children living in the house while I was working. Up to date, the house is still good, it is still standing up because it is a rock building not a lumber building. As everybody know, I went thirty years on the railroad job and I had won my social security pension. I won my pension off the railroad. And this is the way that I forgot my school, I didn't even went to school at all, but I learned from my work, while I was working on the railroad job. I learned quite a bit of everything, I know how to pronounce a cup, pan, spoons, and there is alot of things, dogs, burros, horses, cow, cats, and every little thing that is helping me. This is the way that I took up English for myself. I talk English to white people if I want to because I have 30 years experience on the railroad where I picked this all up, the English language, so sometimes I think that if I would have went to school, I would have went through high school, then I would be in one of the Window Rock offices today. Still be a leader, but I never did have a chance to go to school. Today I am one of the CC members which they call the Community Action Committee. And I am old, but they wanted me to be a CAC member and so I am trying for two or three years and see how it goes. If I am getting too old for the CAC, I might get out. This is the way that I came from life, up to my age,

and now I have won, my money for, from my pension and still I don't get very much. I have won enough to support me. I am very grateful, thanks to myself, I went in and took up a job as a way I am not very lazy at all. There is alot of good jobs on the railroad today. Young people have interest, some of the railroad jobs and some of them are sticking to their jobs, some of these days they will make good out of themselves. So that is what I done, even if I didn't get to school, I learned of making a better way of living. This is what I think most of the people are some of them are like me, I don't even drink at all and I don't even smoke, I don't do alot of things that it isn't good for me. I don't want to get in the habit of smoking or drinking. This is the way that my life is today, I am still strong, there is alot of things that you do that you keep yourself up. In the way of alot of things, that you have your body built right and grow strong. There is quite a few things that you can get in your system and that is what wakens you up for your strength of smoking tobacco, chewing tobacco or drinking. That is bad thing for you. But if you keep away from all of that, you can keep your boyhood for many years, up to 70 years old, you will be strong yet, I have about fourteen children today, some of them went through high school and some of them are still in school, some of them are across the ocean fighting for their country, I hope to see them back soon. So I have much of story which I have lived by for so many years. And

sometimes people have asked why I am still strong yet and sometimes people always ask me why I don't grow old, why I am still strong. I always tell them that do good and do right things, I can still run, quite a distance like we usually do in the early days. In early days before sunrise, we get up and have good exercise by running and that is the way that you can build up your body and you are strong in legs and in your muscle and keep on doing that and build. You grow up to 20 and past 20. While I was on the job, on the railroad I used to run early in the morning for so many miles, maybe half a mile, maybe one mile, before the work starts, I have been doing that all the way through my life, in the winter time, I used to bathe in the snow that kept me tough and strong. But now a days the children, the younger generation forgot all of that. That is why that they catch pneumonia so easy in early days, we never heard about pneumonia, we go without coats, clothes and very little thin rags to wear, our hides are so thick that we can not even cut it. It is so hard and tough working around and exercising around in cold days, make you tough. It makes you grow older, stay young all the time, keep away from tobacco, and keep way away from liquor. Keep away from alot of dangerous things that they have in the world that makes you healthy and wise, keep away from, and so my friends, I don't know what else to tell you about. I am telling you all I can and all I know about life. If you come around sometimes around my

home, I might give you more information about life. He told me that my hair is not white yet, it is still black, I am still young yet. And so, as long as I am living I would like to be that way, I would like to keep away from liquor, I would like to keep away from smoking or chewing tobacco. All these things give you bad life. And so today, our young generation have found out better ways of doing things, like things, like they went through school and they went through high school and they did the right thing, most of them and now they are helping their people. In a way of good ways of living. And we do hope that we all keep it up so that we Navajo nation will grow up more bigger and some of these days, there might be a good name for the Navajo people that is what I think today. I always tell my children about a good thing, ways of living most of them have listened to me that when they go off to work they always send me some money and they sent some money. My wife is still living and we are growing in age, I am one year ahead of her. She is one year behind me and but still we live each other, we take care of each other, that is the way that life goes. Whoever is in charge of us that made us, that made us live this long, it is up to him when he says the time comes it is our last day but I am still happy today with my children and with my family and with my wife and so I am not worrying at all but I still have good strength...this is the way that my life is. And I am glad that we have a very good friend and that is the anglo, the white

people they are the ones that gave us the better ways of living. They taught us in the way of better life, they gave us good thinking. Today, they have given us more in the way of economic opportunity, so we ought to learn that, what we can, what we can do all the things that the white people, as I always did think that it is the best way to live in the white man's ways. The white man is our good friends, they all treat us right. Sometimes I can tell my children about that. That the best friend we have is the white man. So today they are giving us a more better mind than ever. So, we ought to follow their words and follow their instruction their law, the white people are the only ones that are keeping us up. They give us better traveling that they make cars for us to ride in, but still I am not telling you to forget your old ways, like your horse, you never ride a horse, but still live in your old ways, I am just telling you the white people has brought us better way of living, better way of life and they feed us good, with better food, better vitamins and they have given us better strength in our bodies. But there is one only one thing that they make a big mistake about and that is they have brought us the wine, the whisky, which it don't fit in our Navajo Reservation because they don't use it the right way and they don't use it like the white people does. We still remember the old days like peddling out and drinking it all in one time and throw the bottle away and that is not the way to be used. The white people use it in

little glass or what they call a shot, and off they go to work, this is the way it is used in life. But we Navajo people, we got a whole pint and swallow it up one time and about no time we will be straddling around and finally we get into habit, this is the way that alot of people use it. And so my friends, whoever is listening I would like to tell you to keep way from wine, it is really a bad thing to have in a habit, I learned myself. Today I am keeping away from wine, whiskey, beer, it don't hurt me, I live in a better way, I think straight, I walk straight and I canssee mountains across..... I can do a lot of things..... if you drink, they say, but I never tried it, some of them say that you don't see far, as I now them they said that they don't walk straight. They are all ready to tumble over this is the way their life is and so that is one of the reasons that I have been talking to my family about it is not good for us. I have some very good children. My children can listen to me and they can believe my talk, so this is the way that my life is today and we have found a lot of good things in our future day of times now. Alot of good things are coming up as I look it up myself, that our younger generation are working together now, as a team and in these Navajo tribe and in the ONEO project and ONEO program, they are all working together. They are pulling one string at a time, as we know that we are moving into a better world. Some of these days our younger generation will know what they

were doing in the way of what I think that we have reached top of our life. We have found a way of better living that we are doing today, by our younger generation that went to school, they are teaching more better way, I sure appreciate that and I don't mind saying a big hello or thanks to them, it is worth it. And sometimes, I just wish that I had a better education, but since I have been on the railroad, I have done good, for my people today I feel that it looks to me that I have good education, good experience of working. So, I am not feeling bad about it because I want my pension and I didn't work, I, if I loaf around so this is the way that life is, if you ever.....Many people has many different ideas and so I think it would be worth doing it. I will tell you this much about my life on my railroad life, and now I want to tell you about the old time days, during the Fort Sumner and this time, which was my grandfather and grandmother told me of what they done. Grandma died, when she was about 82 years old and grandfather lived a little longer than that. He lived pretty near 100 years and he died around 97 years of age and so they had their time during their life and they said that during the time when the day when they were living among other tribes, at the first time that they noticed that there was some people being scared of something. In that day, my grandma said that she was about 14 or 16 years of age. They were not married yet. My grandmother said that they were living across Huskie

Butte. And so even in these days they were all young and they never thought of anything things that would happen. So finally one day all of a sudden my grandma's folks said we have got to hide out someplace or run. We have an enemy coming and so we left there and they were living at Huskie Butte we ran about three or four miles in the canyon in the woods where we were not being seen and people were sneaking around and looking around to see which the way the enemy went. And then we was looking back to the place where we used to live and we saw smoke and they set fire onto our homes. That night we stayed way on top of the mountains all night long without no blankets or nothing but it was warm around sometime in August. So they took all the sheep and what else we had this was the first time that this thing had happen and so from there on they taught me that I feel scared all the time. And that is what grandma said, she feels that somebody was coming all the time. So she always going on top of the mesa to look around, but they were hiding in the mountain and the sheep were all gone, taken away, but then my grandmother, grandfather and some other people that had to fight them up and take back the sheep. They had an awful time until they had won their fight. They said that they catch them up near Tohatchi, Tohali is quite a ways off. So there was a bunch of Ute Indians that attacked us and they took away some sheep of ours and then we got it back they say and then telling each other all the way along

and then we finally gather up enough people to fight the Utes. That night after we stayed on top of the mountains for three night, about another two nights our folks came back, our grandfather came back from their trip and they brought back our sheep and what they had that they took and so we are going back to another place, to a place were we can look out for ourselves, it was kind of a rough canyon, where we wouldn't be seen. During that time man was the only one who can herd sheep, take care of the stock because they know what to do and can run. Everytime that during the time of that year, we never build a big fire, we just build a fire just enough to cook something and so that is the way that we had been going on for quite a number of months. People had come back from the warpath, they had brought the stock back. I don't know what they had done, they kill them off or they just let them go. I was just listening there and that they made some kind of a agreement how they could tell each other. At night, they had to go by the owl, if any kind of a enemy coming, they would somebody hooting out like an owl. The enemy is coming from the east, the owl hoots just one time like, hoo, hoo, hoo. And then they figure that if a enemy is coming from the south, the owl hoots two time. If the enemy is coming from the west, it hoots about 3 times and if the enemy is coming from the north it hoots about four times. This is the way that people has made their signs to tell each other at night. And everybody was watching out for the owl. In the daytime,

there was quite a ways home. There would be a coyote howling and that was the same way the coyote could howl one time from the west. If it is from the south it howl about three times and it is coming from the west it howls about 3 times, from the north it is four times, this is the way times and signals are made. If somebody is on the war path need help, there would be smoke signals from either side. That is the way that people can find out and smoke signals when it is coming from the east. The smoke signals will be about one blow.... and from the south it is two blows and from the west it is 3 blows and from the north it is four blows. This is the way that the signal is made in the earliest days and so I was watching for mostly all things. I was looking for the coyote and I was looking for the smoke. So, that was my idea, I keep on having all these things in my, I learned I was a very early bird then she said time went on. Another attack was made when we were on top of the Tohatchi Mountain and it was near the spring the time when the attack was made. The attack was made about four miles west where we were living and while I was herding my few sheep, said grandma, I saw a smoke signal and it was coming from the south and it was nearing. So I ran back home and told the folks from there we watched it and some people, the warriors I think, they met the enemy. And everybody was in the lookout all the time. Finally, I was learning mostly everything in the war times with other enemies, people was fighting among each other for,

but the close remembers I had was about three years. Summer and winter we have to be chasing all over. There was Mexicans looking for us, there were Utes looking for us, the Cheyennes, the Lagunas, the Jemez and other different pueblos they were looking for us. They claim that they were going to kill off the men and the older folks and keep the young ones but it didn't work. During the time of that time when things were all scarce there..... there was another attack made, but nobody was hurt, but they have just take them away, they didn't kill no enemy just scare them away. Most of the Navajo people were very kind if you don't bother them, if you try to treat them rough, they will do the same. So according to their religious living, they think that they believe that you shouldn't kill a man or you shouldn't bother nobody, that is what they believe in. But if you bother them you will make them mad, so this is the way that it was in the earliest days. Finally time went on grandma said. She was getting up to about 18 years of age. When she was 19 she was sent to Fort Sumner, she was being picked up down around Manuelito area in the canyon. There was soldier that was driving some people in, so they just joined them. They were not being found, they just joined. To be in the bunch before they get killed. Whatever little sheep you have, you give it to the soldiers, I don't know what they do with them, but I think that they carry some way. They went on to Wingate, they stayed about one whole week. At the end of the one

there was some one ready to go to Fort Sumner. About a week time they left there, everybody was walking, the older ones was carried in a wagon. Finally they started from Wingate and they stopped just this side of Blue Water where they stayed at night. From there on the next day they reached Grants, there was another headquarters of another fort at San Fidel. At San Fidel they stayed three days and there was another bunch ready to leave there and from there on they left there we left on to Fort Sumner they said. We didn't went too far, we just reached pretty near McCarty's, just between McCarty's and Laguna. They stayed that night, the next morning they went as far as Suwanee they were taking their time very slow. The first month goes ahead and they had lunch ready.... So we had been going on, most of them were sandwich made and we went on, we stayed one night at Suwanee and we went on to Los Lunas, just this side of Los Lunas. We, it got dark on us we was walking very slow, that evening we was arrived at the Rio Grande River and it took one whole day to cross the river, we cross the river with boat-like made..... that has some strings tied to it. There was some good soldier swimmers that takes the long rope across to the other side and as people get on the little slab boat, they were being pulled across by the rope. Same way with bundles we got and what food we have that it has been moved across this way. They had ropes tied to each side of the log, so that we can pull towards them to send anything across.

They got it on the narrow roller, and where the water runs with that is the way that it was fixed, all the way across, it took one whole day to get across. The next day we started out and we went around Manzano mountains, it took us least about four or five good days, pretty near a week until we would arrive at Fort Sumner. At Fort Sumner there were some Navajo people, families already at Fort Sumner. We catch each other up there and they kept coming and coming until there was over, a little better than four thousand something like that, much Indians. There at Fort Sumner, we cry about each other and it took at least four years, before we were sent back to Fort Defiance. I got married at Fort Sumner, she said. She came back married and finally when we got back from Fort Defiance we were all happy, in the next few weeks we went back to our homeland country. But we did, had been traveling back to Fort Defiance for our rations to be given out. There was a certain day that we can come around and pick up food, we learn how to make bread and we learn how to cook our coffee. Everything that we had learned was at Fort Sumner and then by the time that they had to issue out some sheep to each home I think that some of them were our own sheep, but they had been given by the soldiers and then from there on we start to live right until up to date. Now, we are still thanking our old forefathers for what they have done in the past years and today we are working among ourselves as we are living on right. We do hope that we keep on this, going

for the next generation and I do know quite alot of different other stories but some of these days they might come around and ask me some more stories. How we will be trying to remember what else that we can tell, I have more interesting stories about the Fort Sumner time..... there are more stories that I can think of, even the old ancient people that used to live at Pueblo Bonito and Pueblo Alto and Mesa Verde and different ones that you see around, I got quite a lot of stories in this area and so I think that I will just tell you this much. So I am very thankful to be given a little opportunity to tell you a little story that I have, I thank for the story.....

END OF TAPE