

Tape #472  
Navajo  
Anonymous  
Interviewer - Michael Husband  
February 12, 1970  
Side 0He

Reaction to recent charges versus  
white traders.  
Chapter meetings and area notes.  
Miscellaneous

QH. Who is John Smith?

AR. My brother, too. Yeah, he lives down there.

QH. You have talked to some people and they say that it is good to record this history?

AR. Yeah, and I was down at my older brothers, he said he is getting a check now too. He is old, only \$60 dollars a month. He has been working on the railroad ever since.

QH. Someone said that it was good to do what we are doing.

AR. Yeah, yeah it is a good idea, they don't want the missionaries to know.

QH. Why the missionaries don't like it?

AR. Well, I know that it is none of their business, but they don't like it because the Navajo they have a church that is better. That is why I don't believe. Just like when they talk to you that time, they just sight seeing, just like that.

QH. Yeah, sight seeing?

AR. Around here, around there, that is what you tell them, huh? I don't care for them to know the history. Then they turn around and get me.

QH. There is nothing wrong with history, all we are doing is talking about the history that can't hurt anything. We are not talking about them so that doesn't matter.

AR. Maybe they are against it, right? They are against Peyote already.

QH. Well yeah, did you tell them that I am from the University, and that I am a historian and we are talking about Navajo history? And we just ride around and talk to different people about history, that is all. We don't talk about the dances or missionaries or anything.

AR. I'm afraid they might yell at me.

QH. What is the matter? Oh, they won't yell at you, will they?

AR. Well sometimes they come to me and talk bad, right?

QH. We are not doing anything wrong.

AR. We are helping somebody, right?

QH. Well that is what the people say.

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QH. Is Tanner the trader at Torreon?

AR. Yes, and he has got one at Pueblo Alto, Tinian.

QH. I read an article, there is an article in the newspaper here and it said that Tanner scared a woman with a knife, did you hear about that?

AR. No.....

QH. Her name is Lucille Ignacio, do you know her? Do you know any Ignacio?

AR. No, it might be living some other place.

QH. The other trading post?

AR. No, this lady might be from some other place.

QH. But you didn't hear about that?

AR. What are they going to do here?

QH. I don't know. Did you hear that the DNA is going to do something?

AR. Usually if you report it. If you don't report, I don't know.....

QH. Have you heard stories like that about him?

AR. I have heard alot of stories about his taking someone's checks and something like that.

QH. And do what with it?

AR. You know, like woman get that check, he opens the check....I know I have seen that woman check, old people, you know.....I don't think that is a good idea. He don't get no money back.

QH. What does he do, take the whole check?

AR. No, but he owes some money in the store, before he pays for anything else, he ask for the money where is the money.....Winston.....I don't know about that. Morris, I think there is a law.....I don't think there is a law.

QH. What about Winston? Heard any stories about him?

AR. No. You see I owe some money, and then one time he took my check, and I only got \$30 for income tax, he just give it to me right there and said, if you want to pay, you have got a bill, if you want to pay it, he is a good man.....that is all right, I just sign my check.

QH. He takes the whole thing?

AR. Yeah, I want to, he erase my bill, I owed him some money.

QH. Do the missionaries cash your checks?

AR. You pay them.....

QH. How you mean?

AR. If you get a check you can cash it down at the bank, it is a long way to get down there though.

QH. Where does she get her checks from? Government check?

AR. They want her money, that is all they want. Unless the old lady gets a big check, she can hitch hike or something like that.

QH. Where does she get her check from?

AR. Unless you go to Crownpoint and apply for welfare.....They let you have about 200 or 300, missionaries will help you get some stuff.

QH. Why don't you do that sometimes?

AR. Well Bob, you know I don't have no way to go. I don't hardly go because if you ask the missionaries, they say, how about this one, he always go, don't let him..... you know the one that we had before. Davis, he could help me, he is going to come back in June.....

QH. Is this the Torreon Mission?

AR. He is the boss.

QH. Oh he is. Well, I thought this other one was the boss, what is his name?

AR. Yeah, he is the boss now, but just Davis, he is on vacation. But this other Navajo lady, James, he is going back home, and you know this other man, you see Gordon.....

QH. Yeah, young boy?

AR. Yeah, he is going back tomorrow.....to Kansas.

QH. Does he live there?

AR. Yeah, he is suppose to live there, but he is going to stay there for 30 days and then come back in and work, this month, he is going to work till February or March.  
No more.

QH. Did you go to this welfare for a check ever month to see if you can get a check every month? Or just if you need it?

AR. Just if you need it, just one time. If I want to take my discharge papers to Veteran Administration, I could get welfare, and they told me that I have to bring my discharge paper and bring it into the office. Because of the man in there that take charge about my business, if I want to borrow money or something like that. They get pension now, that is what I heard. Freelove told me to trade here, it is better. I don't know.

QH. In Cuba.....well maybe you can get electricity in your house, do you want that?

AR. That is what I want and, but then I have to pay a whole bunch over the months and I need the money, right Bob?

QH. But you would like to have electricity?

AR. Yeah, I just like it.

QH. She doesn't like it, huh?

AR. I got alot of kids yet, I have two boys left. His wife is sick, he has got alot of grandchildren, and they live here with us.....They can do all that, go to school from there, Cuba. Kids, no. That maybe alright. Tell the rest about it and they think about it.

QH. You can't get a members pension?

AR. Not yet. I didn't ask for one yet.

QH. But if you did ask you would get it?

AR. I don't know. They told me that I loan, there they would loan me the money, just

to fix the house.

QH. What do you want to do to the house?

AR. Oh I want buy front doors. I want to buy inside you know, I need buy some a rug, and you know something like this to lie down on. I don't know how much it cost, I need some curtain or anything like that, and oh, just like cabinet, where you put your clothes and everything.

QH. Do you like your house better than your hogan?

AR. That is what I figured out. I want to buy a wood stove, too. I don't care how much it cost.

QH. You don't have a stove in the house now?

AR. Old one but.....

QH. No good?

AR. I need some electric, I have to pay for my wood, I have to go get some water. My uncles said, oh, you know I was in the army my mother, you know Henry's mother, that is when I was in the army and my mother she gets about \$52 a month, while I was in the army.

QH. Really? Your wife or your mother?

AR. Henry's mother.

QH. Is that your step-mother or what?

AR. No, that is my mother's sister.

QH. Oh, your mother's sister.....

AR. I don't know how you call that.....

QH. Your aunt.....

AR. Oh, aunt.....

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AR. You don't know him, no?

QH. Do the Navajo police come from Crownpoint?

AR. A while back we had an accident over here, I show you where we are going that way. What do you mean?

QH. Do the Crownpoint police come here alot?

AR. Yeah, Nambe, they watch the place and the highway. These drunkards around here.....  
they just get in their car.

QH. This isn't the reservation though, do they have any power, any authority?

AR. Yeah, see if they want to, that is the way that it is. They don't want no drunkard  
that is what they say. They are suppose to take care of that alcohol they said.

QH. You have never lived on the reservation?

AR. No, never did.

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QH. How is this var down here at Petishti?

AR. Pretty bad place.....

QH. They have alot of trouble there, huh?

AR. Yeah, fight, fight, fight.....just bad.

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AR. That's old people just like Henry's mother and father, they usually always have  
trouble everytime with something, drunk.....people coming here and going to hogans  
without no permission.....

QH. Are the policeman's going to live there?

AR. Sure, they are going to watch all over.

QH. He's going to stay at the Chapter House?

AR. Yeah, all over the place.....highway.....

QH. Everyday from Crownpoint or.....?

AR. Yeah, until people get better..... I see them last week too, last week we was  
in Cuba I see them. They go over here and they go over there too, back  
and forth. Right Bob?

QH. Did they ask for the policeman at the chapter meetings?

AR. Yes, I think they didn

Q. Have you been to a chapter meeting lately?

AR. Sunday..... last Sunday.....

QH. What did they talk about?

AR. Oh, they talked about works, and all that government land.....

QH. What did they say about that?

AR. Oh, I think that the tribe is going to buy all that back, you know if some Navajo got land, and they fenced like this, over here they have got their land in their, they are going to get it back.....

QH. What else did they talk about?

AR. Oh, 10 days job, we are still waiting for them.....you know, bad weather and all of this....

QH. What kind of job?

AR. Ten day.

Q. Doing what? Working on the road?

AR. Something like that....build house, hogan....

QH. You get a job for 10 days huh?

AR. Yeah, and we don't get very much....

QH. How much do they pay?

AR. About 90 dollars that is all.....

QH. \$90.00?

AR. It is no good right?

QH. It is pretty hard work huh? Did they talk about anything else at the chapter meeting?

AR. They talk about....oh let me see what they were talking about, about these guys that got sheep you know when you have to pay so much for using government land, they pay so much and they can have all they want, if they got 300 sheep, 400, 500 they have to pay to use government land or something like that. But if they got a lot of land, they use somebody elses land, they got to pay them, that is what he said. Somebody told me I didn't tell missionaries see, I don't know this councilman his name is Joe Domingo, he asked me, but I don't know anything about what he did, see, missionaries trying to buy the place over there see..... only 7 acres, but they say that they are going to buy some more. That is not right he says.... you ought to just lease them. I don't know, they are kind of mad about it....

QH. Who owns the land that you live on? Is that your land?

AR. Alloted land.

QH. It's just alloted, isn't it?

AR. It belongs to my mother.

QH. You don't own it? Is it your land?

AR. My mother, she let me use it.

QH. What else did they talk about at the chapter meeting?

AR. Oh, I forgot a lot of it.....Oh, I wish that I had wrote, put it down here, on paper....

QH. How often does this chapter meet? Twice a month?

AR. Oh, we are meeting this coming Sunday. That is why I am going to get some writing paper so.....

QH. Why don't you, and we will talk about that.....do they care if you write it down?

AR. No, they don't care I was secretary there before, they don't care.

QH. Well why don't you get some paper and write down everything that they say okay and then we will talk about it next time, will you do that? That is a good idea....

AR. More better, right? I'll remember....

QH. Yeah, write down and tell me about what....

AR. Oh yeah, about the stamps too...

QH. What did they say about the stamp?

AR. They are happy about that stamps because you know they raise them, get more stamps and I guess that is pretty good.

QH. Do they ever talk about the traders or about the DNA?

AR. No, they didn't mention about the DNA and traders.... Nobody reports nothing yet, unless somebody reports something and then they talk about it.

QH. Has anybody around Torreon ever reported Tanner or Winston?

AR. I don't know, maybe.... I don't know, maybe they would but I don't know. The Navajos are always talking about Old Winston, he don't give us no money....and the welfare gives you some money and then you have to pay your bill there. Trade over here in Cuba.



QH. Do most people trade in Cuba?

AR. Yeah, mostly where you know the post office is there at FreeLove and of course, that's a good store, right.

QH. So you think that maybe the trading post is losing business?

AR. Yeah, they haven't talk about it yet, but this Winston told me one time, how come Charlie has a lot of money and they could buy from this store over here. He doesn't even buy, why does he buy someplace else, is what he said.... I think that they made a little profit.....They say you have to pay 10¢ whenever you buy something, they put it down so much, so much.....

QH. Is FeeLove a pretty good man?

AR. Yeah, I think so. But Cosmos is better.

QH. Where is he? Is he next to the post office?

AR. No he's got Safeway.

QH. He has got a Safeway store?

AR. He has got a big garage, big garage..... One time I talk to him about getting stamps can we trade with you my friend and told him and he shook his head and a sign said over here pop, soda pop.....

QH. Well you buy things at the trading post sometimes don't you? What do you buy at the other store, meat?

AR. Yeah, I used to buy a lot of stuff but now I can't afford it. You know they used to have two stores that have got wood. By the post office, do you know where this Mexican store and Sista and FreeLoves and one time I look in there and I walk in there, I got stamps too, boy fresh meat, pretty good.

QH. What kind of meat did you buy today at the trading post?

AR. Pork chops.....

QH. Pork chops, are they pretty good?

AR. I like beef better.....Doris really like oranges...and hot dogs.

QH. I will bring some of those up.

AR. That's all we really need. They get a lot of clothes, I don't know where they get them, they have to buy them from them.

QH. What like that coat?

AR. No, that one I got it from Albuquerque, missionary gave it to me. They guy that comes out every two weeks from Albuquerque, he just give it to us. No money.... Maybe he's short on money.

QH. Could be. Well how much do you have to pay for the clothes from the missionaries.

AR. \$1.....

QH. A dollar for a coat?

AR. No, like pants or shirt, this is good fit you know, it well....right size. He brought it from Albuquerque....

QH. Is he the one from the all tribe school in Bernalillo?

AR. Yeah, he used to be, but he lives in Albuquerque now....

QH. What is his name.....?

AR. Phillips.....big man.....maybe you know him.

QH. Father Phillips? Brother Phillips?

AR. Yeah, he is not old, big fellow.....big man.

QH. What's his first name?

AR. Phillip.....

QH. Phillip? Oh, you don't know his last name?

AR. No, his wife is not old, she has got two boys....

QH. Isn't he with the Indian School anymore?

AR. No, he said that he was sick for quite a while so that he had to stay in Albuquerque. Taking a rest. He drives a volkswagon like this, kind of like this, Volkswagon.

QH. Does he come up pretty often?

AR. Oh, about once every two weeks.

QH. Is he a friend of the missionaries here?

AR. No.

QH. He doesn't stop there, huh?

AR. Some of these that come over from a different place, they said that their belong to another religion. That.... I don't know....there are a lot of religions aren't there Bob? They called theirs Duncan Brothers. Have you ever heard of them Bob?

QH. Over at the Torreon Mission, Duncan Brothers?

AR. Somebdoy call them you know when those guys get drunk, they call them "Drunken Brothers"..... oh they make a guy sick. They call anybody that. It is not right. How about Catholic, got pretty good church?

QH. Are there any Catholic missionaries?

AR. There used to be..... I used to work for one once, long time ago. When we was over there, they have got trailers, rich, oh boy.

QH. When was that?

AR. Oh, a long time ago.

QH. How many years ago?

AR. Oh, we went to the mission, these Catholics, they smoke, they pray to idols, don't they?

QH. Yeah.

AR. Well why don't they?

QH. Didn't they tell you?

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QH. What about other missionaries? Mormons, do you have any mormon missionaries?

AR. Oh, they.... you know what they say, those Mormons they got different bible, they give me, they show me the bible, that it is different. And then he talk to me and they said, that they sure would like to see the Indian picture. So.... they said to me, this is your grandfather right here. We will tell you all old time, just like we are going to..... Oh, I don't think so.

QH. Do they still come around?

AR. No.

QH. Why do they stop?

AR. I don't know.

QH. But they stopped anyway.

AR. They would help us those guys when we go to store.....

QH. Who the Mormons?

AR. Are they alright or bad?

END OF TAPE