

Minerals found on Pueblo
land.

Tape #5
Santa Ana Pueblo
Porfiero Montoya
December 5, 1967
Interviewer - Dennis Stanford
Side 1, tape 4

A. Just what I heard from one Acoma, he promised to give me some of that....jade he called it, he said that he found a place where he was mining it, I don't know where he got, he didn't want to say. In New Mexico somewhere, near Acoma or somewhere.....he didn't want to say. He said he got them out in slabs.... I think it was about something like that.

Q. What color was it?

A. What?

Q. What color was it, I wonder....?

A. It was black..... I don't know.

Q. That's a good color.

A. He had it cut clear up in pieces...you know....I have never heard, but he said that he has been to Santo Domingo alot of times and he trades it there for blankets and shawls and jewelry you know.

Q. For the jade? I didn't know that they used it but they might...

A. They do.

Q. Cause it would be a pretty rare thing to find.....another thing I was interested in the trading are these round sea shells that look like this.

A. Is that what they call scallops...oh...I see, I see.

Q. It gets real wide.

A. Cone shaped one...

Q. Yeah...like that I guess, more than that.

- A. You know fiesta times they wear things like those things... I don't know maybe the Santo Domingo does... but there is one guy that I think he buys that and then he strings it up for the dancing like that...you know and he sells them, I don't know what he sells them for, you know.....my wife...I know she bought two pair...one for the big boy and one for Sonny, when he was still young.....but those little ones were just that big you know.... He didn't like them, and they weren't big enough and so...my wife I guess she told him that she was going to get him a pair of big ones.
- Q. What....they come from Mexico way down to....on the ocean...way down there south of Mexico and I thought that they would be a pretty valuable item by the time they got this far north.
- A. Yeah, especially in the past when all of this other jewelry is not here yet. I think they were they especially like those.....what do you call those.... those....
- Q. Conch...?
- A. Shiny ones.
- Q. Abalone ones?
- A. Yeah...oh they really were like money when those were made into the jewelry.
- Q. Yeah, they didn't have any silver to begin with..... till the Spanish got here.
- A. Yeah, that's the reason I think that any shell that were made into beads, then they would become a trading item you see...trade with yeah...and I don't know what they call that man, that told me...down at Galisteo arroyo or something...the rocks were, some kind of a shell grows on it...and they....in the sun or light...they shine really red ones...they sure are pretty, I don't know what they call them for....even I wonder if she knows anything about it....because....
- Q. She probably does...
- A. Of course she knows alot of things...that the men... of course is dead now, but, San Felipe man, Dora's grandfather....he promised to take me out there but, before I got ready to go he passed away...same way with the other guy....he said I think the chisel is better

to chip it off...or else some flat sharp thing where he could make a chisel with something...you have to chisel them off the rock...

- Q. I wonder what they were, Abalone's?
- A. Something that maybe might be like a shell, I don't know.
- Q. Might be a fossil shell.
- A. I guess... He said that they grow on those rocks out there, that is the only place they can find some because I have heard that in the village too, nice things....the old guys wear earrings of them and when they are in the sun or even the light from the candle, those things really shine red in that...they get a pretty red shine off of the sparkle.
- Q. Maybe they are rubies or garnets...or something like that.
- A. But this same ones...so I kind of, would they be like, would those things that you mentioned be flat...hey... maybe that is what it is... I don't know.
- Q. Yeah, they are crystals....
- A. Of course I saved a clipping from one of the magazine, I think it was the Journal...not Journal, but Saturday Evening Post...and it says you can find wealth in your back yard.....that is what it tells that red on rocks... Maybe on some rocky cliff....go over there and you might find...oh he mentioned some stones like that you know...and that is in the rocks and you have to chisel them out...maybe that is something like that one side.
- Q. Well what did this San Felipe fellow do with those when he got them?
- A. I suppose he trade it with something maybe...cause sure if it sparkles like that, the way I know...it is really good for necklaces and earrings....for a woman or for a man himself, yeah. But I don't know where they all disappeared to, I never see them anywhere, no more...but here, this San Felipe was the last one to know where to get them...he gave me pieces of them one time....and I don't know what I done with them, I just misplaced... I tried to be a silversmithing one time when I was working at that dam around the pueblo, army engineer that is watching the place, he's

survey or see....and he said to me of course I was making at least pretty good money you know...he said why don't you.....? Oh he knows how to make things you know? He picks up petrified rocks around and you can pick all you want he said, you don't have to pay for anything...and you can make into jewelry and sell them he said...get old....and can't do no more work you could do that and so the following pay day we went up to Raton...way up there east central you know... and he bought me a grind stone and that torch you know... hand torch, and a whole bunch of silver... I don't know where they are now, I lost them, and then he gave me ready cut.....and...what you call tiger eyes on the side that he polished you know..oh pretty you know..and he gave me a whole bunch of those and then again he gave me several pieces of that.... What did he call.... you know those stones when they are cut they sometimes come out like picture like....

Q. Agates?

A. I guess that is what they are called.

Q. Must be kind of an agate I suppose.

A. But they were, he had them cut very thin.... I think he said he cut them from petrified wood or rock something... yeah...so I don't know... I wish I had, I wish I knew... I wish he had taken me to that place...yeah...we would know what it is today, and what grows on the rock, he says it grows there, I don't know, at certain time in the summer or...close to the end of the fall... I mean at the beginning of fall, he said, I think that is the time that he goes up there....and you will find them on the rocks....sticking on the rocks.

Q. Gosh, I wish he could have kept one, so we could have looked at...it...we would know what the heck it was....

A. And we would grind them down and polish them....and they come up pretty he said...and I used to see quite a number of old people wearing those earrings when I was still a kid and I wanted to know what they were wearing and all that you know..as I grew older I found out just what it was, they call it () that is the name of that rock over there....

Q. What does that mean?

- A. I don't know, that is the name of that.... I don't know what it means, but I think...
- Q. It doesn't translate to another...
- A. Yeah.
- Q. That would be interesting to track down and they may be garnets, but I don't see what he means by growing on rocks.
- A. Maybe, she might know something about it.
- Q. Yeah, we will ask her when she comes through next time.
- A. That is what they used to get you know and then they polish it and then of course if it is something really demanded you know, then it should bring in a little more.. just ordinary necklace see...just like when the turquoise came you see...before the sheriff, I think there is another stone that is white you know... I don't know where..... Somewhere west of Zia, they say there is a place where that kind of stone you could chisel out in there...and they used to make necklaces like they do with these shells... I don't know what they call them too.
- Q. I have no idea.
- A. Ambrosio was suppose to take me up there too and I got acquainted with him when I worked with the Pueblo Land Board you know...and never got around to taking me... Yeah, some part of it is kind of red...blue and gray mixed you know..that should make a pretty necklace...
- Q. Yeah I think so.
- A. Yeah.
- Q. Well you lost your art making, your Cabachon making..... equipment.
- A. Yeah.
- Q. Well, that is too bad....did you try and make any silver-work though or did you loose that along the way?
- A. Never got to it....
- Q. Oh well....
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- A. I'd like to know.... I asked this man if he can't just give it to me a piece, I want to buy it.....this is what do you call it, jade...maybe just in certain area there are...
- Q. I haven't heard of any in New Mexico, but it wouldn't surprise me.
- A. That is what I was wondering.... I thought they came from overseas someplace...
- Q. You know you hear of jade images...from China....
- A. From China...and now....all those places and now I see movies where jade images were stolen by some people... and they make up movies you know, so I just figured that is where they come from...but this Acoma Indian said to me that he found the place where they are...
- Q. Well, I know jade in Burma and Indonesia and that area... and New Zealand, there is some in Alaska and some in British Columbia....a little tiny bit in California but not much, and quite a bit in Wyoming.
- A. How do you find it, just on the ground or you have to...
- Q. That is just how I found it, in boulders...laying on the ground, but alot of people have found veins of it and they mine it, so the boulders are from old decayed veins... ..and they have washed down the river...and but I have never found a vein of it....but I have got some nice boulders...pretty nice...some of it is green, most of it...but I have got some nice boulders..pretty nice... some of it is green, most of it is black, but some of it is real pretty green...deep green...
- A. Where they get them I know...alot of them wearing necklace.... They walk on the street...they sure are pretty... I would like to wear them and they polish them too real shiny, I sure like the color of it.
- Q. They are real hard and they take a beautiful polish, they get a shiny green and black... I guess there are some white jade too, creamy whites, but I don't know if I'd like those though.
- A. Let's see, where they come in, where they come from.....

- Q. They can find some of these in Wyoming...alot of agates and stuff up there too that are real pretty...one called angle agate, which sounds like about what you said...this guy from over by Zia Ambrosio found, it is the same color. I know where a little bit of that comes from.
- A. There used to be a sack at Dora's folks place...that tall, and I know that some of them were cut and already to string...they bored holes through them you see...and I don't know what happened to them, some got the blue and this red here mixture.....yeah...I wish I knew that place where they got them,
- Q. Be a nice thing to find, you can find some nice petrified woods on the mesa...
- A. If you watch for it.
- Q. I go out looking for arrowheads and I find some quite a bit....
- A. Arrowheads you almost find without knowing where they are...maybe somebody had dropped it there or somebody had been there for some time and just dropped it there... like way up in the Borrego...the east end of Borrego Grant there, way on the north side there is a sand rock formation, no higher than this house...and a cave is only about so big like that, not too far in days...and I, was just hunting up there one time coming by there.... see I was looking into that cave and wondering just how far that cave goes in...but it was all filled back and there I found an arrowhead about that long and it was a nice shaped one, it was a white one...
- Q. Did you ever tell her about it?
- A. I told her about it that I found one there and then another time, I found one inside the Borrego where that ruins is.....suppose to be. Santa Ana ruins there, I found one there like that...and Harry over here Coronadohe found a much smaller one...a really nice one, and I don't see how, those whoever the craftman was, he sure make it pretty...and then I found another one on the side of the mesa that long....
- Q. Boy, I would like to see that.....
- A. That long...a piece of stick was still attached... I thought that it was an arrow, that's the way I figured. I was a fool to take that thing off and throw it away... and later I said I should have left it on....

Q. Yeah.

A. Yeah, because some people would want to see it....the only broken piece was at the very end, it was just the tip chipped off and also one portion of the shoulder here... I was trapping bobcats up on top, along the mesa there...and I got there that morning I caught four of them...and I was carrying them on my back.... gee everything...and the last one when I was leaving the mesa I caught a half grown one, she sure was pretty one...yeah, of course the wind was blowing it....was up in the morning...cold up there. I thought when I get down to the bottom then I start skinning it....and it just happened I came by down there and looked down, I saw the stick but I didn't think nothing of about the shoulder of where it goes into the wood like that...was sticking up like that....and I looked and looked again and I was just about ready to leave and I said, I might as well see what that.....and I put my foot in through and sure enough that is what it was.....

Q. Does it have little notches on the top?

A. I....see it is this way.

Q. I'll bet that is a nice one.

A. I think for some reason my mother, I don't know what she was doing but she dropped it on the floor and it broke...and I think it is up at the old village, I am going to look for it, if it is there I am going to try and glue it together...

Q. Yeah...

A. A big long one like that...

Q. Elmer's glue will work for that or Duco Cement either one will hold pretty good....well they use, the Indians pick up arrow heads and tie them on fetishes and things don't they?

A. Oh yeah.

Q. I have seen them that they have tried to sell in places like old town....and all kinds of arrow heads that are real, real old that they tie on to carvings and things... yeah...

A. For good luck.

- Q. Yeah.... I don't know some of them are sure beautiful though....
- A. How they make them, I wish I knew...
- Q. Well some day when I have time I will show you, I know how.
- A. Yeah.
- Q. I've made them before...get rocks and break them up.
- A. Imitation Indian...
- Q. No, I just wanted to know how so I played around with the rocks, with other rocks and then with an antler until I figured out how....and I haven't made any for a couple of years...
- A. Yeah, that is what I had heard too, that deer antlers were good.
- Q. Yeah, that is what I had heard too, that deer antlers were good.
- Q. Yeah, deer antlers, elk antlers are even better... I'd like to get an elk antler to make one with....but not many elk around here.
- A. No.
- Q. Yeah, some day, when we have some time and I have some agate we'll sit around and I will show you how....you probably do a better job than I can though...cause I am not much, but I can get them done...
- A. Yeah, as pretty as those little things that you find around the ruins and villages...they are really pretty... yeah...and I say they don't have the tools to make them, look how pretty they make them I said...lot of times we see them.
- Q. It doesn't take much...
- A. Yep.
- Q. I'd like to know what this guy from Acoma had that he called jade...if there is any jade around the Indians ought to go out and mine it...make jewelry to sell, it would be a good source of income.

- A. I'm going to try to find this man again....see what his, see if he has got any....yeah.
- Q. Well I don't know about you, but I am about konked out, how are you feeling?
- A. I just seeing what you want to know again.
- Q. Yeah, I don't know..
- A. I had something on my mind a while ago...maybe I wanted to know but I've forgotten...even what in connection with what...on what were we talking I don't know what we were talking about that came into my mind.
- Q. Was it quite a while ago or...
- A. I think it was either before noon...or earlier... I just can't place myself....
- Q. Oh yeah, we were talking first about the trouble with that Acoma man and....
- A. But I don't think that was what it was...
- Q. Before that.... You were talking about the Indian school.

 Florence Ellis asking questions:

- A. Galisteo arroyo way up close to the ruins.....
- Q. It couldn't grow on rocks and be polishable...it seems to me.... I mean it couldn't be a vegetable material and then be polished. It could be a deposit that could be a thin deposit on the surface of the rock...it would be rock material or something like that, that is all I can think of...
- A. Well I think about the thickness that I saw would be just about like that you know...and then the.....
- Q. You don't have any?
- A. No....he gave me two pieces, a small one like that....he told me to make earring out of it...and I don't know what I did with them and he promised me to take me out there you see.....at the.....I think somewhere in the month of August is the time.

- Q. Well this is curious... I think you ought to do is go and get some....sometimes....
- A. He is suppose to take a hammer and chisel he said.... and then you chip them off the rock...
- Q. And now.....
- A. I have seen the old people still wearing as an earring... in the night time when the candle light or fire hits it... oh it is red, bright shiny one....
- Q. Well that is interesting.....I never heard of that before.
- Q2 Maybe if you see some of those earrings you could borrow it and let us look at it.
- Q. We could take it to somebody in this universities that knows something about plants or rocks and see if they could identify it.
- A. Yeah, if I do find a site for it.....or if I happen to know somebody that has got some....
- Q. Yes do...
- A. And Dora's grandfather knows it too, where that, they get him, he himself promised to take me up.
- Q. He is gone now I suppose...
- A. Yeah, they are both gone.
- Q. Too bad...down at Galisteo....
- A. Yeah, at Galisteo, right....that is the only place that you find it.
- Q2 It might be worth while going up in August and walking the arroyo.
- Q. Yeah, I would think so, see if you can find any.
- A. How do you get to the arroyo?
- Q. Well the Galisteo arroyo is crossed by the road to Santa Fe.
- A. Yeah, I know that...but how close to Galisteo ruins....?

- Q. How close to Galisteo ruins, huh....? Well you would have to drive...down from Santa Fe, or up from the other side of the mountains and go at it from that end...
- A. Somewhere near Lamy?
- Q. Yeah, part Lamy.... Well don't know a thing about it, let's leave it there....
- Q2 What about jade in this country?
- Q. Well there is...
- Q2 I wonder if this Acoma man had gone to Wyoming or somewhere to get it.
- Q. Or trading post.... You ought to remember that most things that the Indians have seen now including their turquoise all come from trading posts.
- A. Yeah, I know, but this man he said that he found it, but he didn't want to tell me where...he said there was a slab about that big and I cut it.
- Q. Well I don't know, I never heard of any...you could look in Minerals in New Mexico by....Northrop and see if they list it and maybe some variety but I don't think that they have ever heard of it...but that would be the source, because that gives all... Incidentally if you want a copy of that, they are on sale now at the, a low price over at....
- Q2 Maybe they would just lend it out....
- Q. Yes, just for only four days, so you would have to take it out today or tomorrow....because it starts Monday.
- Q2 Yeah, I had better get in there tomorrow then.... Okay, I wish we knew what that red stone was....we will have to find that one out...

- Q. Did you think of what it was that you wanted to talk about?
- A. No, it sort of disappeared, but I thought that we might say something about it, but I can't remember about it.

- Q. Yeah, I wish you could....
- A. I might have to write it down.....this way... I used to take notes when I go to council meetings, I used to take notes you know and that way I am not lost coming back.
- Q. Well that might be a good idea, because sometimes you have to think of something that we should ought to know or some area we should talk about....I mean you j]st as well be able to make some comments too....you know because things that I don't know that I think we might be able to know or should know...but I don't know, we've almost seven and a half hours worth of tape now, maybe we ought to quit talking for today... oh well.....
- A. Next time we will get a good.....
- Q. Yeah, I have got to get up to the university yet today, too... I did bring these sheepskins do you want those, can you use them?
- A. Sure.
- Q. I've got two of them and then I have one that the guy cut the skin in two, and he left me oh, about that much of a skin and the head is still on it and maybe you can use that, so we will go out and get those I guess.
- A. Well I don't care what....

END OF TAPE