

Hippies and Drugs

School Experiences (band and
parades)

Council Work

~~483~~ 592

Porfiero Montoya
Santa Ana Pueblo
Interviewer - Dennis J. Stanford
December 5, 1967
Tape 2

- Q. Well getting back to those hippies fellows, what do you think of LSD?
- A. LSD, I haven't read too much about it yet. I know that we get, my boy is getting Life magazine where that comes out you know. But I never get a chance to read too much about that. But, from what I gather just glancing, I don't believe it is anything good. It is just somebody, whoever takes it, is just unlucky that is all. He hurts himself and his brain, is living a happy life, his life is gone you know. Just like if you take marijuana or whatever that is, or an alcoholic you see. I figure it is just that way. I don't care how the dream is, if it is, if he sees a nice happy dream, I don't even believe in it because he is not dreaming it normal, he is getting that drug till it give him that kind of a dream.
- Q. Yes, that is a good point.
- A. I think a person enjoys a really nice, happy dream, while he is normal and he thinks about it next day as a happy thing. Maybe he feels alot better cause he dreams it that way. Or if he does dream a bad dream, but if it gives him something to think about, he might find a solution to some of that bad mishaps that he had in his dream. How he came out of that, out of that, maybe if it was an accident. But this one, I don't believe in anything good. I think it is just a drug, call it a drug to hurt a person. What do you know about it? I have never discussed it with anybody.
- Q. That is about what I think. You couldn't get me to take it if you gave me \$10,000.00. And it can't help, and it can't be all that good. And again I think they are just taking it to be different, get an extra bugy, but, if you want that I suppose you could.
- A. Yeah and some for experimental, you see.
- Q. Yeah, just to try it out.
- A. But, if they get that drug and it is habit forming he can't get away from it and if he have a weak mind to it you see.

- Q. Well not only that, it ruins your body, and apparently if you take it, then your children will be deformed and probably will not even live. And it destroys certain organs in the body that will eventually kill you, and miss arrange your thinking apparatus. And not only that, you can't even, you can't control it because it is re-occurring. The effect can happen again, say in 2 or 3 years. And you never even have to take the drug again, it just comes back.
- A. Well that is the same thing as the alcoholics, even if it doesn't take today or tomorrow or the next day, but he looks and the way he acts, it is just like he is drunk that day, see. His natural way of movement or talk or looks is not in that no more, you see, in that person, that alcoholic has taken all of that thing away from him, you see. So they are missing. Andy drug that is harmful to a person or to people, yes, say you call it people you see, well his nice looks will disappear. He is not having that natural looks that he has got. His act, even his act, even his language won't be clear either. And the movement in his hand or his eyes in the worst way that all goes away. Because that is what the alcoholic is like, and I figure that, that marijuana is just about that way too. It is habit-forming and once you take it if you are weak minded that you can't say that it did me good, well you can't stay away from it, he is going to go back to it again.
- Q. Marijuana grows wild here in the Rio Grande Valley. Do you know of people that grow it and take it, I mean do people do this around here?
- A. I don't, I have never, the people I know, I mean don't take it. I don't think that my Indian people don't know what they are.
- Q. It is just probably the Mexicans that know about it from Mexico. I am sure that somebody is using it. I mean it is obvious that the stuff is there, so, kids or somebody is probably using it. And how would you compare say, LSD to peyote? Do you know peyote?
- A. No, that is one thing that I don't know what it is.. Well, maybe, that is one thing that I don't know too much about it and where they have it seems like it is not, it is not habit, it is not habit-forming or not taking the looks away from it you see. As these other things are, I don't know.
- Q. Well peyote is supposed to give you dreams and things, I don't know. But I have heard that the Navajos use it quite a bit. I don't know, maybe that isn't true. I do know though that the Sioux Indians up in Wyoming do use it. I went to a party one night where we all sat around and had some peyote and all I did was get sick.

- A. Well you more or less don't know then how these people are acting, whether they are acting normally or are under that influence of that whether they had it or not, you see.
- Q. Well the people that it affected, they looked to me about the same as people that I have seen with LSD. You know they just weren't there and whether it is good or bad, I don't know. They apparently had dreams and they have the same effect cause they had visions and dreams and the same thing I guess when they are taking the peyote. But, then I didn't get any visions and dreams at all, I just got sick.
- A. You are too strong for that drug then, or maybe you didn't take enough.
- Q. I guess kids, and some people as you say take it just to want to know, to have a new feeling to see what it is like. And it is too bad that some of these things like LSD comes back and is habit-forming.
- A. I class it as a harmful thing that should be a law against using it.
- Q. I agree with you. Enough of that junk.
- A. Opium is like that too.
- Q. I have never seen anyone take that or use it, I don't even know how it effects.
- A. Maybe it was started in the east somewhere wasn't it? Some college.
- Q. Yes, I think so. Do you smoke that or I guess you do?
- A. I don't know how they take it.
- Q. I don't either. I saw some once, oh it smelled terrible. Oh well! Say, did you find out anything about those leaves that we gave you, those tobacco leaves?
- A. Oh, I didn't have them long enough, so I am still.....
- Q. Still waiting.....
- A. But, I am waiting for another guy. If I am lucky I might get him. I think that he might know, because..... I was up at McMurry one time and I brought some of that, some of that same thing back. And I showed it to, not this friend but another fellow and he said no, that was not the tobacco. This one that grows if you was lucky and know the plant, you might find it down on the, where he lives you see. A certain fellows place, in the bosque there. There is just a few of them there, what they call the real tobacco.

- Q. I think he is probably right, cause I tried smoking it and oh it tasted like burning weeds, it wasn't very good at all. So we will try to find some more for you.
- A. And then I asked him if that was the name that some call Tamaya. No, he says that is a different, that is another one. Yeah, so I wish I had him when we would have all the time to talk about it and that is the time that you get the good information, yeah.
- Q. I wish we could go talk to this other guy some day maybe, I would like to pick one and try to smoke it and see how it tastes.
- A. There are some that know, know the real tobacco. Real tobacco, I think that is the Indian name, I think that is the way they call it. Real tobacco.
- Q. When did you go to the Indian School? Do you remember what year that was?
- A. Nope, I don't know what year I went there. Until I began to know in 1905, I think. I began to know that year that I was in school.
- Q. Were you pretty old then?
- A. Yes.
- Q. You were what, about 10 year's old, 12?
- A. Wait, if it is 1905, it is 5 from 100, maybe about 7 or 8 year's.
- Q. Did the government make you go or did your parents want you to go?
- A. Sort of both ways, they want me, they have a school up at Upper Ranchito you know, run by according to what later I found out was I think it was a Presbyterian Mission. You know they had some children going to school there, and some were worried that the first ones that were here say that it was still a mission school, you see. It wasn't a government school then, I guess then I believe then when the government took over, then I think that is time that they closed that school up there you see. They got the kids to come here. The ones that were going there, I know, a few of them are still alive, they came, but, well I didn't go to school there. I just know the teacher cause the school was 2 or 3 doors from my house, down hill from the village, where I was, yeah when my folks live, yeah. And the teacher like me very much you know, sometimes I go in, just to go in and look and then when, no when they close the school down, some say cause of money, cause I guess that was what it was to anyway. Cause they were building a, the set aside the ground, they were building it with adobes. And they had to building ready for the roof you know when everything stopped, it just stopped. And then they send us all here, to

Albuquerque Indian School. One year I hated it, that is when I came. And then this lady, the following year, I guess she was still there and she came up to my house and talked to my folks. We were just about ready for another year of school see, this was in August or September, yeah. I guess then they let me come, see, so one of the boys, men now, went there, he didn't come back to school with the rest of us. He stayed behind and he was the one that was supposed to bring me down. And at night when we were supposed to come in on the train you see I was brought down to the Court House in Bernalillo, the old Court House, and the woman was staying there, I guess that is where she lived during the time she was up there you see. And me and this guy, we slept out on the porch until nearly about 12 o'clock or 11 o'clock or some time and then about that time. And then she woke us up and we went over to, well it is not too far, maybe about a block distance from the Court House to the Railroad tracks and then from there I think it is only about 2 blocks, two city blocks this is two. And we walked down there to wait for the train to come in. Finally came and we got in. I don't know what time we got into Albuquerque, but when we got there, the Indian School buggy or whatever they call it was there, picked us up and took us out to school. And that building, that old building was there, we came up from the west side, steps, second floor, and what room I forgotten where they put us. That was one big building that housed the children's dormitory, boys dormitory and play room and it is shaped like this, long shaped. Here is the dining room, the first floor, second floor is the dormitory. And then along the building this way across like that and then the like that on the ends. On that east end was the first floor is a sewing room for the girl's. And then that long one this way are the employee's quarters, all up and down like that, you see along hall way, room like that, employee's quarters. And then on this west end, which is this way, that is the large boy's play room, in here in the back is the small boy's play room, see. From this long building this way. Second floor of course the whole area took the boy's dormitory, yeah. And the office of the advisor, way on the north end. And on the north end of the building is this way you see, here is the first floor is the mess quarters for the employee's, where they eat, see. All in this area here and then the other one, this way there is another one that goes out this way. And this one is the kitchen and then here is a big butcher house, that is where they have the meat, yeah. That is one big building where they house all of that, and here see like that long building, right here is another building, right here is another building, a frame building, first a two-story, not a big one, a small one like that. Under here is a wash room for boys, and on top is a shoe shop.

Q. They had about everything there, didn't they?

A. Yeah, and they only made and the school ground is not a big as today, just narrower, yeah. Oh! then here, over here is the old building here and here is the other row of office Right here is the school building. Half of it is still there, it has got an addition to it. And then right here is a new mess hall, now I think now and then the dormitory here, but at that time there was one house here, frame building that they moved way back over here, that is the one that is still standing. That was some of the employee's living there. And the mess hall was right in here and the Administration Building was right over here, adobe, a little one. And the shop building was right about here, the long frame building that burnt down. And the Commissary was back of the kitchen, I mean the mess, the student's mess, it was all back here, that was frame too. That burnt down one Christmas Eve.....

Q. Oh really?

A. Yeah, Gee-e-e-e-e big fire.....

Q. While you were going to school there?

A. I was there then, yeah.

Q. What some boys set it on fire?

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

Q. Nobody found out.....

A. Nobody found out, they tried to I guess. One night after that, or two nights after that, I guess it was, they marched all the boys and girls into the school building. When you come in from the front they have a board along the wall, a sharp piece of board along the wall and also on that side too, both sides of the wall. And fresh paint on it. And every student that came by, boys and girls, they had to stick their thumbs there and then we go on through into one of the rooms. One this way and and one that way see. So they won't crowd too much. And then we stamped our fingerprints on a piece of paper and I don't know what they do, I guess they were trying to find out if, if they did find any fingerprints over there, I don't know. That is the way they try it. And everybody was talking, they thought that they were going to let us go home cause everything burnt in there. Cause next day is Christmas, we didn't, we just had an ordianry dinner the next day. Of course, they had all the stuff in there, but the following day then I guess they got some stuff from the city. Then we had our Christmas dinner then.

Q. Well they didn't want you go home at all after you got to school?

- A. No, when it the fire died down of course, students were allowed to dig into and they found alot of toys, in those days they were heavy made you know. Fire engines with the horses on and I don't know, wagons and like that, barbules and the tops of course they burnt. We found alot of them, we dug into the ashes you know. One place there, there were barrels of syrup, and they were hot, I guess and it happened that one of the Navajo boys picked it up, I don't know how full it was, a full one. And he dropped it and when he dropped it, that thing popped open and it spread all over hes head, and it pulled all his hair off, they took him to the hospital. He had a boiled head!
- Q. Did it ever grow back?
- A. I don't know, I was to small yet to know whether it grew back or not. And then in the pile of, in one corner, where that sack of flour was piled up you know, well what we did, we uncovered all of the other trash, you know that had burnt up and we dug into it, way in we got the clean burnt flour and they opened the molasses barrel. And we got some pans from the kitchen they lend us some pans and we put that syrup in the flour and then we stir it up and make a taffy out of it. You know those things are really.....
- Q. Oh, boy I bet that was fun.....
- A. That is how they made candy out of it.
- Q. I didn't know that was how it was done.....
- A. Well I forget that night when the house was burning, they got everybody out of the bed. We had to roll our clothing up in the roll and marched us out there in the yard to watch that fire. Just with our nightgowns on.....
- Q. Oh, I bet it was cold in December.
- A. Well that heat was really strong, so we turned around this way to keep warm and I don't know. The Fire company from Albuquerque, the Fire Chief, he came on the pinto horse, a nice pretty horse, he got there first and pretty soon the Fire wagon came up pulled by horses. At that time they didn't have automobiles yet.
- Q. Did they have buckets and things instead of hoses?
- A. I don't know how they did, they had to running water there, a big tank there. So I think they were getting the water there, but it was too far gone by then. And then another time, they had a fire in the morning, just when we went out to breakfast, the shop building caught on fire, it is just a long frame building. And they had

the fire company come out there too. With those big horses and the guys that were driving those horses, after they unloaded the hoses and all of that, we were watching those horses, gee they were sure big and pretty.

Q. What do they call those clydsdale or Morgans or something like that?

A. Yeah! I think they were those clydsdale cause they had those white feet. And he was giving candy to the horses.

Q. Is that right.....

A. That burnt down too, cause that thing burned back.

Q. I bet, I suppose that was a problem boy. Probably a good thing that the Indians had their pueblos made out of adobes cause they didn't have a fire department at all and I suppose they had fires though.

A. Maybe they did, once in a great while, maybe. We didn't have any yet.

Q. You don't recall anybody telling about one?

A. No!

Q. I don't see how they would very much unless the 'vegas' would burn. And I don't think.....

A. Well I don't think, and in those days they didn't have no furniture. I don't know about now, it hasn't happened yet.....

Q. How long did you stay at school, but if you were going to say something more about fires.....?

A. No, what I was going to, what I was getting out to saying that I think I was up here till 1916, I left.

Q. Boy, 11 year's!

A. Yeah, somewhere maybe after I came here about 3 or some year's, I began to learn to talk English see. And then they picked me, as one of the boy's to start learning the band, they had a band already and there was a Spanish guy that was teaching and way up in the attic of this school building, that is where they used to keep their instruments, they used to have to go up there. They didn't have no lights in the hall ways or stairways, no nothing. I hated to go up there, I hated to go up there.....

Q. What instrument did you play then?

- A. I started out with the clarinet and then just about the time when I was getting good, getting ready to join the regulars why then they put me on the coronet section so I could get those..... I learned that one too. And then I was ready to join the regular, I think I was in about a month or two with the trumpet or coronet or whatever they used to call it. They used to call it coronet and then they got short on the alto section so they put me on that, the second coronet. I forgot their names and then I stayed with it for some time, yeah. Maybe two year's then one year again they got short on the trombone section. Yeah, then they shift me on to it. I stayed there the rest of the year then, the rest of the year.
- Q. Boy you can sure play alot of instruments then.
- A. Yeah, I had a really good time cause we helped alot here in Albuquerque. The Superintendent that cooperated alot with the city was a fellow by the name of Reuben Perry (?) and he is the one that set the school up to date. Because when I first went there and when I began to realize and learn the English language, well sometimes we were short of teachers, maybe two or three days, maybe a teacher quit or something went wrong and they had to find another one, it seems that they couldn't keep the teachers that they like you know. So they can stay with them, until this man came in and he was the Superintendent. Then things began to, seems like to turn for the better. It is the time they built that new mess hall and the new dormitories for the small boy's and then also seperate dormitories for the larger boys, see. And one part of the addition to the school and also addition to the girl's dormitory. The front end of it is still the old one that I saw when I first went there.
- Q. Gee whiz!
- A. And when the dormitories were built then, and the mess hall then the, when they put it into operation the following fall, when all the children were back then they had the fair then, the State Fair. I guess they call them the State Fair in the old days. And we used to, they used to take the band down there.
- Q. And you would play in the square?
- A. Yes, we gave concerts there, and played in the parade. There was no cars at that time, horsedrawn floats you know. We rememeber, I remember one time when we were gathering for the start of the Fair, ther was one of the west Central where they call Robertson Park, I don't know if there is a park yet or not. I don't think there is a park there. And that is where we were, 10 band boys from school. And all of a sudden there comes down the street, two horses, oh boy galloping. Well that platform wagon was without no place for the driver to rest, the driver was at the mercy of those

horses, cause he could not hold them, there was no way to pull them. He was almost sitting down on the tongue..... or on the double tree there with his foot was on there and just the rear on the edge of that, his rear and those little girls there crying, jumping up and down, jumping up and down. Yeah, some of those that were able to jump off, well I don't know whether they got hurt or not. What happened was that there were some cowboys that taking the parade and they were coming the west and when they found out that those horses were running they saw what they did was turn right around and two of them on the sides caught those horses by the bridle and stopped those horses there. That is one mishap that I saw there, yeah, but few stayed on top of that; I guess they were sure however they started from where, I was not ever able to learn where.....

Q. I bet they were some pretty scared girls?

A. Oh yeah! Those horses were pretty scared too, they just couldn't stand still.

Q. I wonder what scared them?

A. I don't know they must be fresh horses that never were on the, too much on the street with alot of people you know. Yeah and well parade it went on like that and this man, he was really a good man, he helped the city. Whenever they needed a band for boosting anything or for concerts why he will have us down there.....

Q. Well, boy I bet that was fun too!

A. Oh yeah.

Q. You got to see alot of.....

A. Oh yeah, especially during the Christmas time, we gave concerts to the little tots that were given parties out there at that park. And then in turn, I guess they gathered up oranges and necktier and socks like that, and we got them too; presents from the young people from the city. And we did alot of concerts to that building, that burned down, to the Masonic Lodge there, we did alot of concerts there. All in one room, closed in, here inside there the laughter going on, I don't know what it was down there. Yeah, that is their way of doing it, I guess.

Q. Well they are kind of silly I think, sometimes. Maybe.....

A. Maybe they were necking over there. Yeah..... And we also help to boast to build that YMCA that is there on First Street now. And when we were trying to raise the money, oh we would come down for whole week, half a day, we would march the street, give concerts there. Oh we took alot of part and the first time that the movie

celebrities came through we, they had us meet them at the Alvarado.....

Q. Who was that, do you remember?

A. No, I never paid no attention as to who they were.

Q. That is too bad.....
Ladies and men of that.....

A. Maybe Charlie Chaplin was there.....

Q. Yeah, maybe Tom Mix, somebody.

A. Tom Nix and Hoot Gibson and what is that guy's name, Hopalong Cassidy, maybe they were the ones. And ladies I used to remember in that, by seeing those silent pictures you know. I went to alot of them.

Q. You did?

A. Yeah!

Q. Did they give you money to go at the school?

A. When those people came and they were about ready to go, a man he had a big hat on, and he was one cowboy actor, he passed it around. Silver dollars, half dollars, and paper money. We had a Drum Major that led the band, he was from Isleta, a little boy, about 7 or 8 year's old, but with that fancy hat on. And he looked nice. And he carried a bag, a music bag, all of us did carry, but he carried the spare ones, others that couldn't fit in ours you see. He took all of that music out, and he gave it to others to put in their bag. And his bag was bulging like that.....

Q. With money.....?

A. With money that was given to us.....

Q. Oh, he didn't get to keep it though?

A. Yes, we did get to keep it.

Q. That boy didn't, but it was passed out to the rest of you too.

A. So we came back at the beginning of school. And then we went out to lunch and they told us to come back about around 2 o'clock to the band room. And when we got there, money was spread like that. I forgotten how much we raised, that they gave to us. Cause we were only allowed \$1 a week. Unless some special occasion came up, where you needed some more, so that stretched long and we were gland we got it. Alot of times we did get money like that

from the city too, like say the boy's, groups, different kind of boy's groups that they give concert too.....

Q. But the school itself gave you a \$1 a week to spend?

A. No, nothing.....

Q. Your parents gave you \$1 a week to spend? But, they couldn't give you anymore than that?

A. No, my parents come there to see. But, this was the money that came from the celebrities that we got \$1 a week for spending money. As long as it lasted.

Q. Oh, I see.

A. At that time our band leader was named Edwin Scenedor or something like that. He used to be in the United States Marine Band, for 18 years he was there. He was pretty well grown, Black Feet Indian. Boy, he make us learn how to play, teach us you know, how to read music, yeah. And he, whenever he feel like, when he hears another march music that he likes, well he orders it. Let the government pay for it, or concert music, like we played that William Tale.

Q. The overture.....?

A. El Trobador too. I guess you know music. And it is sort of a waltz type, like you know. And Faust, Faust march music, we really play alot of them, yeah. Yeah we played I think real good music that time. Cause most of them were written by Faust, I noticed yeah.....

Q. Marches?

A. Marches, yea and also what do you call those long concert music, I call it concert music cause you know they are like El Trobador and Faust and they are like this William Tale. We played William Tale too.

Q. That is an overture.....

A. Yes, I know that it is an overture, but music of that type we had alot of it, we played alot of it.

Q. I don't know what else you would call it, other than a concert.

A. That is the reason I call it that way.

Q. I don't know what else you would call it cause....

A. Cause we don't use them when we are marching, we use them when we give concerts, so I call it that, concert music, yeah.....

Q. And operas, you didn't play any operas, did you?

A. I don't know, maybe we did.

Q. You didn't have anybody singing though, did you?

A. No, we didn't have.....

Q. I doubt if you did.

A. Well there was only one, one was something like the type that we are talking about concert, it was a two page music, Indian War Dance. That is where the singing came in.

Q. I bet that was fun.....

A. That was really fun.

Q. Everybody like a good War Dance.

A. Two of the children, and I can't remember, there were alot of..... Yeah and when we had, when he buys new music he has us look over for 5 minutes, to see if you can read it. He sit down or maybe do something or maybe he goes out somewhere and then comes back in. All right kids, come on, get ready and then.... If you read it right, why the music goes on. But if one of us make a mistake he stop us and then he make us to go over it again, until we get it right. Sometimes we are lucky, we just go right on. Yeah, I guess all of us read that music the way we should so it went right on. And sometimes it is a little hard. Yeah, he done, I think he imoroved that band alot. That is why we were given alot of times to come to the city to help out and give concerts and things like that. Even some churches like the, there were two churches that were raising funds to repair their church, and we did concerts yeah. Of course they gave us alot of good dinner too.

Q. Yeah, I bet you had alot of good times.

A. We were able to get into alot of, like for instance Fair we never had to pay, as long as we had our uniforms, our band uniforms, our band uniforms on, we never had to pay. After the parade is over, then we bring our music back, if some other band for that day give concert there see. And if it was our turn, well then we keep our instruments down there, otherwise we bring them back and then go back. But we are always told to keep our uniform on so that you can get free passes. Yeah, that is what we did. And the school, well it was more like a military school. They had one secretary,

I think it was an office secretary that was once a soldier himself, yeah. And he drilled the boys before breakfast out in the ball field. Drilled for soumogu and all.

Q. Did you like that?

A. Yeah, cause we watch them, we watch them. The band didn't take part.

Q. Oh, I see!

A. Only in the morning before they march outside to the parade grounds. The, they have a flag raising and we play the Star Spangled Banner and then after that we take the boy's that work in the kitchen and in the bakery, we take their places so they can go out there and march and learn the art of marching and parade dress and all of that. They were given some guns there, two company, A and B. And oh they became, they got very good, yeah. They competed with the Roswell Military School, and the Company B beat them.

Q. Good!

A. Yeah, and we are usually most of the time we take the lead in the parades, I think there was,, I think it was really good, thought to us, you know. Yeah, we lead the parade alot of times, I think once of twice we got second place, yeah.

Q. But Albuquerque wasn't very big then, was it?

A. No, it wasn't. But just the beginning of getting better. See at that time I was there.

Q. What at that time they had only one high school....?

A. They didn't know what high school was, they used to graduate the students at the eighth grade.

Q. Is that right?

A. Yeah, I was never able to, I didn't get up that far.

Q. You didn't? After 11 year's of school they didn't let you graduate?

A. Most of those year's, I kind of blame for insufficient management see. As I said, everytime, I don't know what the school look like you see and I was in kindergarden for maybe 2 year's or maybe 3 year's, but I didn't advance, you see. They didn't take care of the advancement as good as I, as they should, as I thought. Some of course that showed more apt to learn they promoted them around Christmas time, around New Year's, see. Give them 2 grades, start them out in the fall, I never got that. I got two year's thrown

back, just for foolishness. One of my classmates, she was from Laguna, I think it was, she is the type, you know, the I don't care type, and when the final exam came on time year and then he said, oh, I, you know I guess I was smart that year, I used to be the head of my class. Whenever there is a competition, I mean compete, the teacher puts up you see, splits the students in half, maybe spelling, maybe reading, arithmetic and when there were two persons, a boy and a girl, and they were nominated to choose their partners, they used to grab me first, which ever one seemed to get me first, you know.

Q. Good!

A. That is why I though I was against you see, because quite a number of times I won prizes in nuts or candy, I don't eat it myself, the class gets it. After going against them. That Patrick Henry speech, we were given one week to learn, the whole thing, that was written in the book, And I never touched that book since I took it out. A whole week, I like books, I read lots in school, when they started the library in school that was my place. I read lots, about the Civil War and then about overseas, like Napoleon and then the Romans and those people that started the European and all the Greeks and all.... I sure like those books, I read alot of them.

Q. But you didn't like Patrick Henry?

A. No, I didn't like to learn it. So when Monday came, they didn't gather the book, we just stick them under the desk. But I was lucky all the time, the teacher never got me up. I repeat after everyone of them, and I follow on the book too. I look down on the book and I follow when the last person that was made to stand up, I guess in that short time I learned the whole thing. Four pages of it, I think it was 4 or 5 pages of it. I won that box of candy. I tell my boy like that and oh he sure laughs over it you know.

Q. Well what happened to the chap from Laguna, he said he didn't care?

A. Well he said, when final exams came, he said, oh forget about it, just put down anything. And I know the answer, so I just did that. I don't know what I put down, but I think it was geography examination on geography, yeah, I guess that was what it was. And I just put anything down the way he want it. That following year, come time for promotion that teacher was still there she said, we were foolish and we were going back two grades....

Q. Oh no!

A. That is what they did to me, the guy didn't come back. He quite school.

Q. I don't blame him, two year's back.....

A. Sure got that money back.

Q. That is a long hard punishment.

A. That is right. And yet I know.... with the New Year's, they did alot of them, advance the another year, yeah.

Q. Did you stay in school there, all year, or was it 9 month's like now and then 3 month's off?

A. Yes on vacation I come home.

Q. How long was your vacation?

A. Sometimes, most of the time the vacation we get back around the 21st of June and go back about maybe the last week of August.

Q. Well that isn't very long of a vacation?

A. That is what my father told me, he said learn, learn, learn, we need your help. So that is why I pass at that school. Oh, I enjoyed being there and then the team we had there was very exciting, football and basketball teams. I think they compare with the teams of today if they were still there. Great big Navajos and the pueblo boy, they played at the University at Los Cruces and.....

Q. Really?

A. Yeah, they played those guys and they were really good.

Q. I hope the University was better than what it was now.

A. I hope too. Baseball we had two pitchers, especially one, one he is Oliver Patero, a Navajo. When he strikes out two men and one more to make three strike out, he call all his fielders in. If one of them don't obey then he lets the next batter hit it, maybe it might be a homerun. But, if they obey, he really puts them away. This other one, he is a Navajo too. But he is both hander, right and left hander both.

Q. Yeah, that could be nice.....

A. I don't know how far this Clark went cause he got a job with oh, Sioux City team, or where that was I don't know.....

Q. Iowa.....

A. Iowa, yeah. He went somewhere like there.

Q. That is pretty good.

A. And this Patero guy, I don't know how far he went after he left school. Because they used to bring after, what they did, as I said they, the school was more on a military basis that time and on Sundays they used to have parades you know. Both the boys and the girls, at 2 o'clock in the afternoon.

Q. So you went to school 6 days's a week or 5 day's a week?

A. Five days a week.

Q. And then you had Saturday off and Sunday?

A. Yes, Saturday and Sunday of course after the parade we were off. And then right after the parade they used to take the boy's into Albuquerque, Ball Club and help them win or play with them or against them, I don't know which one. Oh we had nice company of boys on parade you know. And I like to see them march that field. I like the way it looks when you are at a distance you know, seems just like that gun, just going one way. Yeah, and we then of course, we march a head of them. But, we give concert before the parade. Alot of people used come out from Albuquerque, buggies and there were some taxi services, horse-drawn, at that time yet. I don't know what year, when I first start to see those old 'cu-carachas'.

Q. Is that what you call them?

A. Yes, that is the Spanish, call it, them, yeah, those old cars.

Q. They call them 'cucarachas'? Cause they were black..... I suppose? Well I don't know what year that was when they came out, in 1908 I guess?

A. No, I don't think 1908 cause I wouldn't know any too much then, yet maybe it was around there, but.....

Q. Yes, in the cities yes.....

A. In the cities and it didn't come out till oh maybe around in the '07, I mean '10 or '11 or a little earlier. Then those taxi, horsedrawn began to disappear you see. Yeah, those guys that ran a taxi well they bought their cars. And the city was paved just by bricks and stone you know se down. And then that was the time when to take pictures with the machine came out I guess, cause they had a movie here in Albuquerque one time. It said somewhere on Central or across Fourth Street maybe, I think it was the end of the parade line, and we were in it you know. And we were ahead and after we had clear to our times, somewhere down the line then the Fire Department came in horsedrawn, just about that time when they passed the Fourth street one of them fell, one of the horses fell. Golly it was a mess in there. Well those horses couldn't stand on that.....

Q. Yeah, those bricks would be too slick for them I suppose.

A. Yeah, and I think that was sometime around in there, but sometime later the World's Fair was held in San Francisco I think it was. Of course our Superintendent went there, when he came back on Sunday services we have, we go to services on Sundays, he told us about the experiences that he had down there and how he was really glad to see my band come take a lead down the Central Avenue and he said, I cried there, cause I wasn't ashamed. Too proud I guess. It was my band. Yeah, that was the way I saw Albuquerque too, just a little bit, yeah.

Q. I bet it was a nice town to live in then?

A. Yeah! Well I guess I tell something funny that I did when I was there. There used to be alot of Spanish at that time going to school yet, I think it was the second year that I went and there was a bunch of them that work in the bakery. And I got acquainted with them. And one fall when they didn't used to plant gardens as school then, so they decided that they wanted to go steal some canteloupes from in back of Old Town, back of the saw mill, there used to be a saw mill there. And one Saturday I went down to the Bakery Shop there where those boys were and one of them he gave me his shirt, a great big shirt, and they tied the chair and then we went down. We found a patch where they had alot of canteloupes, gee, nice and ready to eat you know cause, it was fall. They were all getting ripe you know. And they stuff me up with a small amount like that, and they eat themselves too. All of a sudden we heard somebody hollar, "hey, get the hell out of here." We started running, I couldn't run cause I was loaded with canteloupe. But some of those big Spanish guys caught me from under my arms and helped along. I was going to start throwing them out, cause I thought sure enough he was going to catch us, but he didn't catch us. He said "I will get you fellows at the school" he said. Then this fellow said, don't throw them out he said. He is not coming after us, he won't come into the Bakery Shop to look for them. That is a funny thing. I did then.

Q. Yeah, and a good story. And then you got to eat all of the canteloupes? And then cookies and canteloupe?

A. The meals, especially at that old building, it wasn't too good, not enough of anything. Yeah, it was very simple. We had meat once in a while, but more beans and potatoes all the time. Not much bread too, but it happened that this fellow that I came to Albuquerque with, he was working at the employee's mess and there was a colored lady that did the cooking there. And he made me get acquainted there you see so I was eating, I never went hungry then. Of course, she used to bring me out, he used to bring me out something left over.

Q. Cake, cookies.....

A. Yes, and then when I got acquainted with those Spanish guys working in the bakery well that is another one, the other year's, I guess the other's most of them were hungry cause they used to take bread away from the smaller guys you know and eat it.

Q. Well that is no good!

A. And then the Zuni boys came in, they didn't used to have any Zuni's there. The Spanish were all taken out, well the Zuni's came in. And as I got acquainted with some of the boys that worked in the Bakery again, so I was there, to help them eat.

Q. Very sly!

A. That is where I began to know details about the Shalako, there you see.

Q. Did the boys go home for Shalako then?

A. No, they didn't, but they were already grown for it.

Q. I see, they just came to work.

A. Some Saturday one of the fellows got married in San Felipe, he know of the prayer of that. And Saturday we went way back in the bar pits, I mean the gravel pits, he used to go up there and sing that. I used to like to listen to that. One time he was much longer ones and I got tired. I left school in 1916 cause my father was sick at that time and my older brother was in Gallup. Herding sheep somewhere out there. The other brothers were too small and I had to stay home to help work on the farm. The following fall they came after me cause they were short on band. I went back for one fall cause they ask me to come, you see and then after the Fair was over I was allowed to come back home. And then I never went back again.

Q. That is too bad.

A. Yeah.

Q. What sort of subjects did you learn there, did you take, what courses did you take?

A. You mean in the classroom?

Q. Yeah!

- A. Oh it was just arithmetic, adding and subtracting and long division and that is all I know by name. And of course English, is the regular reading text that they have. And then they have the geography, yeah, that is the world. What is printed in there. History, yeah we have history too, I think then it was just about our history teacher. I don't know about the higher ones, what they teach when they graduate from the 8th grade. Then when, I think it was Reuben that took it up to the 10th grade and just as I left, the year that I left, the following year, well they took it up to the 12th grade. From there on they start.....
- Q. Being a high school, yeah.
- A. So I never got anywhere near anyone.
- Q. Well did you change like in a high school from one teacher to another subject to another teacher?
- A. No, I think maybe in two year's before I left, or three they used to still stay in one room all the time for all the subjects there. And then finally a fellow named, let me see what was his name, a principal by the name of _____ came in and I think he was the one that started every period. From one group to the other, yeah. I think that he started that. Yeah, the other....
- Q. Was it Blair I think?
- A. Let me see, I think it was Clyde Blair or something like that.
- Q. Yes, I think I recall that name in high school.
- A. Even May or March or April, all of this was a surprise to me, I got a letter from him.....
- Q. This year?
- A. Yeah.
- Q. I will be darned!
- A. Back in one of the eastern states, New Jersey or Maryland or where I have forgotten, yeah. He asked me if I was still around, I lost, misplaced the letter and never answered it.
- Q. Oh, that is too bad.
- A. I am still looking around for the letter, if I do I am going to, he remember me very well. And he also remembered some of the San Felipe's and from home too.

Q. That would be nice if you could see him again, and talk over old times.

A. He said, that he came by here one year, him and his wife, but they were unable to stay too long, here in Albuquerque, unable to go anywhere, if he wanted to visit some of the friends that he knew, see, he called us friends. And he said, if I do get another chance, this time I hope that I will have plenty of time to spend of time to spend around well I will look you up he said. I thought that was very nice of him, cause all of those years like a fellow can forget anybody and forget for good. Especially in a school like that you know. Unless if you have, unless if you were really close friends you know. Like Rueben, he was I think my closest friends, of course he became part time Superintendent of the 3 pueblos, when there was a vacancy at the other agencies you know. And whenever he went to meet with the pueblo, probably he send them a notice by mail. And then on the day that he was supposed to be up there, well he would ask me to go up there with him. And I used to drive the mules, while he would sit and read all the way. Come back in the evening. Alot of times, I took him in up there, a team of mules, no cars at that time yet. And then also when the Governor came in and wanted an interpreter you see, they would ask at the office if they would let me go, go down with me. He done that lots of times, so I thought that it was really a good Superintendent, at least give help to us, by letting me go down, that is how I began to know a little about my pueblo. Before I thought Indian life was just a a life, lazy life, the way the books put it you know. But know that there is alot of work that is to be done in the summer time and I was never home during the Christmas time or the school year, so I don't know what happened.

Q. You didn't go to any of the ceremonies during the fall and winter?

A. No, not during the winter time, just the summer.

Q. That is the big time for ceremonies, stories, and all kind of things.

A. Yeah, I missed out on alot of that.....

Q. Oh well!

A. Then when I left school of course, then I stayed home. Well he tried to get me, the agency tried to get me a job but my father wouldn't let me go. One was as an assistant gardner at the Mescalero School, but my father said, "no, I need you." And I used to read because I wanted to improve my English you see. I read alot of newspapers or anything that I get a hold of. And my mother she used to get mad, and I stay up and burning that

coal oil for light. "You go to bed, turn that, blow that light off." But my father, he feels the other way. "No, let him read, that is why he went to school, for cause we need his help, the people need his help." That is the way that my father talks. So then after when she understood it, she never bothered me at night, we would stay up at night and read. I read loud enough, talk enough to keep my voice clear, but it seems like it don't do no good when I began to talk to some people, if I knew what to say. If I just kept my mouth shut reading, I have to teach my voice, I have to say to myself. That is what I did.

Q. Yeah, you have to learn how to pronounce words, you can read them but not learn to pronounce them.

A. After maybe 2 year's after he left he had the carpenters make me bookcase maybe about so big, like that and he told me to come down and get it and I went down there and he had a dictionary, geography, history, and arithmetic and some other books. Oh, some of the books that I used to read in the library, about Napoleon and the Roman's and like that you know. He had them in the bookcase and he said, "these are all yours, maybe some day they will help you." And he told me, I think you know how to use the dictionary from your teacher. So there is the dictionary to help you to understand more.

Q. Yeah, that is sure enough.

A. I don't know. None of them are there anymore, the next door neighbor kids, I guess they got them. But I learned alot then. Especially after 1908 then when they needed an interpreter, yeah. They asked me to interpret off and on at the meeting. The man that was doing the interpreting he went to school, here but that was during the mission times you see. And a short time in..... He came to me one time and he said, "Sonny," he said, "you are going to take my place, maybe pretty soon, maybe a little later, and I think you got better English and I think you understand alot better than I hope you will help your people. I have done the best I can, but not as good with English as you have." And he gave me some advice. You are going to run into trouble alot he said. People some of them are going to jump on you, give you all kinds of, especially if you become a Governor. You can't please everybody, so you have to make it hard like this, don't get weak. Cause if you do you will bent your head, don't care what people think of you. So I found that out after I began the regular interpreter and then after that I became a councilman. I think I was made a councilman way back in '20, '22, '26 and '22. Before that I just had the name of an interpreter and sometimes agency personnel don't let me to give my opinion cause I am an interpreter, you see. The law man, one of the law man finally got into an arguement on account of that. I told him, I am an Indian and I know what to say and what I don't like and I have

the right to say cause I am an Indian here in the village. And I have a right to say cause I am an Indian here in the village and I don't care if I am interpreter but if I understand better well, he didn't like it you know. And the people, I guess they understood it then too, that is what I came up against you know. And one time in the Spring, they had a problem, they couldn't get no help, they did everything and so, I guess they thought it would be better if they put me as a councilman with another guy. His name was Dan Otero. He is really good in Spanish, good in English too, but not good enough to get along with. But in Spanish you can't beat that guy, he has really got Spanish you know. And he knows how to express things.

Q. Well that sure helps!

A. Yeah, and he was the only one that was doing the work there and so that was the reason for having to get another one. I guess they thought about me and when they were having a meeting they asked my father if they could let me come in you see. And then if he agreed to it, well next night, next evening he said to me, don't go anywhere, he says. They will come after you from the council, the officers will come after you and they want you to be one of, they want your help, and we want your help too. That is why you went to school for he said. So I said, all right, I was trying to do my best. So sure enough next evening maybe about 8 o'clock two officers came in, they told my father their and they came after me. That they are ready to take me over to the council room and so my father said, "let's go." We went, when I got in there, all those people sitting here, smoking, corn husk tobacco. When I went with the Governor he got up and said, come in, come in and sit. I was given a chair to sit down. Give him a cigarette, and that is the first time that I started smoking, corn husk cigarette, yeah.

Q. I have never had one of those, I bet they are pretty strong, aren't they?

A. Yeah, sure. Then finally after I finished smoking it and then the Governor started talking he told, he went through again, he went through the council and told that he thought that it was time that somebody with a better understanding would sit in the council to help in their problem. If it is all agreed with you people well see if he can agree with us. Council agreed with him. And they asked my father again, they questioned him if he could give me up, see, he wanted to. And he said, "yes." And then they asked me if I agreed because my father had already asked me cause he had already asked me to do so. And I couldn't make a speech, I was still dumb on that, so I said, "yes," that was all. Everything is over. And the people elect me and they started talking about the problems that they had. They wanted to recover the boxes in their main ditches in their canals, see.

One, 3 owned by the Day School today and then another one up at the Santa Fe, they worked as the Santa Fe Railroad to extend their culvert. They had one in there but it was small and the arroyo was getting wider all the time you see. They wanted that to ask if they could put in a bigger one. And then another one way up there, it is a little arroyo that comes by, that electric plant there. That is the time that they used to get their water up above you see. So they talk about it and then they told me, told this man that I was supposed to work with. He came over, congratulated me for accepting the help and he sat down by me and told me, he gave me information and just what they wanted and what he thought about it and what I thought about it and whenever the Governor gets ready, well if he is willing to go down with me help out. So we, I agreed, yeah, then the following week the Governor decided that we should go down. And so we went down, the following week. A fellow by the name of P. T. I think it was him.....

Q. P. T.

A. Yeah, but I never work too much with crane, cause crane is the one that corrupted the pueblo government. For the 19 just because of our trouble here with Acoma men.

Q. What trouble was that.....?

A. Well let me get through with this.... Then we went down to one of these agencies and talked to him and he was very nice about it and we slept there one night at the office and next day we were ready to talk and told them just exactly where they would be. And finally they got assurance that they would do all in his power to help us out. Three months later sure enough, we got the word if the governor, if the pueblo can put up the men to do the work then there will be enough material to do it at two places. And the Santa Fe railroad well of course they talked to them and they agreed you know. Oh there used to be alot of work. I worked in all three of those arroyos one time, one time, during the summer when the floods come. And they fill up those ditches way up, sometime they get that high, and sometimes they have to dig down. And sometimes they have to call up that area from maybe 1, 2, 3, 4, steps along, each person. They don't get through with that area for noon, they have to have..... Sometimes they work double and they want her to throw the dirt. They work alot. All of these things we had to do for the agency that I am just telling you. And they got it in their report. I guess we have done a good job of it, we got that word. The people did the work putting the culverts down. And then the Santa Fe extended their's, enlarged their culverts. So we had, so now everything is all right, and we moved along by the day school, of course that was small at the time. And then finally

when the new shipment that came in, we reported it and then we saw what happened you know. And then he went into the too and then finally until we got this new culvert in, steel. And they put those in and build concretes around it to hold it in place and build up side walls all the way down. So I guess that was my first help that I gave.

Q. This was in 1920?

A. 1922, '23 or something around in there. From there I never missed no more.

Q. All the councils? Boy that is alot of work..... That was needed and appreciated I am sure.

A. And then when I knew that the pueblo land claims was coming up why no, I know that they are going to depend on me. So I made alot harder study, I study all the letters that the Governor get, they come to me. I read them over and then if words that I don't understand and I write them down and that dictionary that I get out and put all the definitions of this word down. Then I read it over again and then I pick the word that would fit in that one. And then I make notations on that one. So when time to explain it, I know more or less what to explain, how to explain on that subject. And also I have to study Indian too, of courses I know just how to talk ordianry conversation, but to be in the council to present my views well, it is another different thing.

Q. Do they use more formal talk?

A. Oh yeah!

Q. I will be darned!

A. Yeah, yeah.

Q. Is it much different from.....

A. Just an ordinary.....

Q. That is interesting, we should talk about that some day and linguists or something.

A. That is the way that I learned that, and then of course talking with people too. My people, the old fellows and also talking to the white man to get the language. To get my language anyway, yeah. That is the way I improved my language. All these year's that I work with and whenever there is people that come to the village to talk about something, I don't know what. Maybe the or something. They ask me if I went through college, and I say no. The constuction firm or the contract that build that along that other pueblo up

