

Tape #82
SANTA ANA PUEBLO
Porferio Montoya
May 6, 1968
By Dennis Stanford
Tape 3, Side one

1. Indian Adoption
2. Acceptance into Council
3. Personal information on Montoya dealing with his role in the council and as a guardian
4. Laws pertaining to pueblo land

Q. Okay...

A. What were we talking about?

Q. What exactly are the responsibilities...no wait, what we were talking about was how they made it public that the child was going to be adopted...

A. Well, suggest that they call it next of kin from the father on up and then they announce it and again from there, it goes up into the Spanish probably the next of the other kins they talk about it and tell about it and suggest what (?)

Q. Now you say that the head of the society talks to the woman's mother... now, does this mean that the woman had the child out of wedlock?

A. Either way.

Q. Either way? Now does the father have anything to say about the adoption?

A. They both have.

Q. But they talk to her mother, not to the father's mother?

A. Both.

Q. Oh, they talk to both.

A. Both again, so suppose a child is born in marriage and probably was some kind of a, maybe not physically, not strong, maybe he had some kind of a sickness that they can't help the child...too well.

Q. The child is sick or the mother is sick?

A. I mean the child.

Q. The child is sick.

- A. Then she starts to think in, probably she came up with one answer and she looked at the other people whose children who were probably much healthier and in those days of course they depend more on the religious sides. Maybe they thought that they were more blessed by the spirit...but that they were able to raise their children in good health you see, and maybe that might help them to raise, for them to raise their child you see, rather than get in the way of improving health of their child, by having it adopted by the person that they look at it you see, that they see that it is growing healthy because of probably better care you see...or more food maybe that would help the child's health...and that is where it is all taken care of by, they are not to interfere no more...that the child was given up to have and to hold you see, to raise until death you see and so that way they look at it, so then if it is that way, that is why the question would be three or four times asked by the parents of the child... I mean by the child's mother...and father...for approval you see, before they approve. If they are satisfied then you see, then they will speak in the truth and for good reason, that the child adoption then, they will accept it you see...and that same way with this person that is going to make it legal. He does the same, he has got to know the truth...so one time is not satisfactory answer. Three, four time, maybe at the same time, at the same meeting, or at different times... then if they are satisfied that they are telling the truth about that, they are ready for adoption then.
- Q. What if the child is born out of wedlock?
- A. Same way, of course they don't consider a child born out of wedlock any difference because they say, well after all, a girl or a lady, she will have to have a baby someday. That is the way that they look at it, they don't think that it is out of place.
- Q. Whether she is married or not?
- A. Yes, whether she is married or not...
- Q. Well if she wasn't married and wanted to keep the child?
- A. She can...
- Q. And what if she is a real young girl though, 12 or 13?
- A. Well the mother will help her...

- Q. And the mother's sisters will probably help too?
- A. Yeah, in the family. As I said, of course they don't look at it as anything out of place.
- Q. So this is common...
- A. The child is just as much welcome as he came from the married couple... that is the way, in Indian way.
- Q. That is a real good way...
- A. Yeah, yeah.
- Q. Now then the child is adopted...what are the responsibilities of the new parents?
- A. The new parents will have to be asked first that if they will be willing to help the child you see.
- Q. Well who would ask them?
- A. Well the father of the girl of the baby.
- Q. Oh, I see...
- A. Of course there is much more experience to this thing, that the child that is just grown up, the younger ones newly married, so they are the ones that take all that responsibility to answer and to accept and then transfer again. They will go to the couple that is looked upon to take the child, that they would adopt the child and they will tell the reason too, all the way through you see. They would, they will say if you adopt the child, will you take it as your son, or a girl as your daughter from now on till the end? And if they are willing to, again, I don't think that they will refuse, then they would certainly say it three or four times you see, that is the way that they put it, that they would take care of it as their own...and they will do their best to raise it in the proper way.
- Q. Now, let me get this straight...when we talked about squash and turquoise...the village is divided into the two...Now would the child have to be adopted by someone that is on the same side?
- A. No.
- Q. If the parents were turquoise the child could go to the squash?

- A. Yeah, once the child is adopted into that family that belongs to the squash, well naturally then, it is accepted into Squash...Kiva... and...
- Q. Yeah...now what if then the head of the society would then go to the new parents too, as well as the girl's father?
- A. They will call them together, they would all get together...Yeah, when it is time to place the child in the hands of the new parents... They will all come together and then that takes place right there, before the child's mother and father, if he has one...if the child has a father you see...married. And then the parents and then the next of kin, right close to the parents, and then also the couple accepting the child you see, they too, will call in their next of kin...they will all get together...and then there, the adoption takes place...After all of this agreements are all accepted and ready for adoption, then the person that is going to make it legal, he is the one that takes the child from the mother. Are you willing to (?) there again, and she says yes...and then he takes the child off and of course, the new parents, come forward...here I place it in...they have something like a ceremony speech that they go through and he places that child into the hands of the new couple, both the father and the mother will have to bring their hand together and accept the child...from the mother...the father will be right there with his hands too...so they can accept him...
- Q. And then they would raise the child just exactly as if it were their own?
- A. Oh yeah.
- Q. They would arrange for its marriage and things like that...
- A. Oh yeah, after that...
- Q. For its initiation into the societies?
- A. Yeah.
- Q. I see.
- A. The new parents will take care of all of that.
- Q. Now when this child grows older and gets married and has children of his own, does these children consider the adopted parents their grandparents?

- A. No...their real parents...
- Q. No...now say you have adopted a son...and he gets married and has some little kids...
- A. Oh, I see...well naturally his offspring would be my grandchildren see, and they look upon me as grandparents you see...
- Q. And they have no relationship with the boy's parents...
- A. No more, no more...they will never be expressed to him...
- Q. He probably wouldn't even know...
- A. He wouldn't even know...
- Q. I see, would the boy that was adopted or the girl, would they know?
- A. Oh no...
- Q. Unless...
- A. But, all that they would allow for them to know, just to respect that family as though distant relatives.
- Q. Yeah.
- A. Unless by chance that the child, after he has grown has found out, but still he will be advised not to make any effort to go back, because those are your parents now. They are no more, but whatever Indian relations would be, he would be related that...way, distant maybe aunt or cousin or uncle you see, they still respect that...
- Q. Now what would happen if the girl, after she gave up her baby for adoption, and after a few years she wanted it back...
- A. Can't do it...
- Q. She can't do it...
- A. She can't do it...she gave it up on her free will you see...of course out of necessity or something...you see...

- Q. So no matter what?
- A. No matter what, that's why they bring in that legal person into this one...
- Q. What if the ...go ahead...
- A. Make it legal you see.
- Q. What if the new parents, what if they weren't good parents, then what would happen?
- A. Well if the mother or the child's former parents, or the mother of the parents find out that they weren't taking good care of the child...probably me or somebody, then they can make a report... and then they will straighten those parents out....they won't take the child back...
- Q. They wouldn't take the child back?
- A. No.
- Q. Could they get the parents...if the parents were really mean parents, could they make the foster parents...could the head of the society, that governs this, could he take the children away from them?
- A. That is part I never was never able to get my informant to say, because it seems like it never happens, this way I question, but of course, nothing happened that would bring up the legal part of it, but it seems like it is just that way. But then after that, will be left up to the, turn over to the government you see...If they have to have the ruling on that, well, they will discuss it...
- Q. Yeah, well if you ever get around to writing this down...you will have to take these facts into consideration and have the council meet on that...and there is probably a thousand things...
- A. Yeah, well let's say that we left out the council, good thing that you mention it...Well as time went on from the white house this way, then the war chief say we have got some wise people in the village who are old in years, and they form, what you would call council. That is where they form a council too, and their duties are to talk things that would happen in the village, lies there, that is where the council is formed...not the white house, but as time went on, they saw the need, the necessity, then they add, just that

much more again, you see...So that is really improving the government there, it isn't lost...it gets stronger...

Q. Who sits in on the council?

A. According to another man, he said that each family head or the officials that were once officers...if they were once served on the war chiefs...or as a war chief...either of the two, if they were still alive and not serving no more, well they are considered the top of the council...and then of course, the old heads of the pueblo, they have one from the family...

Q. Now we will have to clarify a family...Who would be the head of the family?

A. Well if there is for instance this house here...you are the head... your children are, even though, if there is a grown boy there he is not considered yet. As long as he is still under your roof, he is not considered...

Q. But if he moves away...and gets married...

A. If he gets married and makes himself a home, well then he will be considered, unless a change is made in the council, who...

Q. Then as each boy gets married and forms his own family, he has a right to sit in in the council...

A. Yeah, that is right.

Q. Oh, I see...but say you and your brothers...and your father is still alive...your father wouldn't be the only one in your family that sits in the council. You and your brothers in your family...

A. Yeah, and still like me now, if I am unable to attend the meetings as a councilman, then tell my boy, if he is old enough, or that grandson, he is old enough now to go and attend that meeting and I will give him instructions you see, like for instance, anything that the council decides...he will go along with them, everything that is good and if he's questioned by the officials, what does your father think about it, does he know about it...well I am here representing him...and so I will go along with what the council decides...

- Q. Is the council a formal body, or is it informal? I mean, does the council have rules on the way that it conducts its business, or does it just sort of make them up as it goes?
- A. Well, I guess the way that I would put it is, it has no real laws, but before the session opens for discussion on anything, the governor or whoever, that was the past chief, the war chief, will set down something like a rule you see, to talk peacefully and prayerfully and bring our ideas and ask questions if you have got any questions.. Those things are given to the council, the way to conduct the meetings you see...and yeah...
- Q. Well now when you get married and you want to go to council, can you just walk in and sit down at the meetings, or do you have to be invited?
- A. No, if you are interested in it...I don't know...but in the past you might have to get a permission...of course they were more serious to who the councils are you see...
- Q. So then everybody just can't be in the councils then?
- A. No, that is as I see it, the way he put it, the old man...the old man of the household I think, as a, if you suppose you go on beyond fifty, then you might be considered then.
- Q. I see...just because you got married and had kids, doesn't allow you to go...
- A. Yeah.
- Q. And then somebody would come and ask you to be on the council?
- A. Yeah, unless if you are one of the official members, the officers members...
- Q. Could you ask to join the council, or would that be impertinent?
- A. No.
- Q. A man wouldn't dare to do that, huh?
- A. No, he would be looked upon...well nowadays, as I gather the information, that when the council is getting to think you see, the old people, then they look around to see who would best fit, and then

they select them from the village group...you see...

Q. Yeah.

A. Of course, they consider the old people much wiser than the young, but as they grow up of course, well they become wiser too...the... of course, I think the parents are more like teachers, they seem to hand down what they see and what they hear in the way of the government...Of course they are asked to learn what they hear and to learn the right, and so they can still remember, I don't care how many years past...to give it a thought as time goes, so they won't forget...And I know when I first, not even before then, my father always stressed that kind to me, of course he realized that someday I am going to be a member or either an official...So I was to be able to remember very clearly...that is why, some time back I still remember clearly what happens. But now, just getting too thin headed...

Q. Would a man join a council, did they have a ceremony for him?

A. I don't think so, well maybe a few speeches, if he has, but of course, that is the way that I join. If I was asked, by the council members... you see, I am still under my father. I was just a boy then. They asked my father permission first and then if he accepted and willing for me to be a council member, then the next meeting, then if the governor said so I get in. Then the governor, he asks the councilman if they could give him permission for a new council member...as an interpreter, they needed one...and they look towards others that have been in school in the past. They judge who did the best to take... and I think as I learned it, of course just recently out of school and maybe had better schooling than the others, I would fit in, I would be qualified for the job...and so...

Q. You were a lot younger than most council members?

A. Oh yeah, a lot younger, 19, 18...

Q. That is a pretty high honor, isn't it?

A. Yeah...they needed that time, that is...so at that time came, and it was approved. My father was in the council then and they told him that, that...even though he was in the council yet, that then

they would tell him as though he wasn't there, that the permission was granted by the governor to ask me to come into the council and then he would in turn tell the governor and the council group there that he accept the commission that they wanted me in the council. But I would have to go and inform my son first. But he already knew at the first previous meeting that they were going to see, and so he when that meeting was coming up, he knew that that was the governor's meeting...and so he told me don't go out tonight, wait here, because I have already, he told me already that they needed an interpreter and permission was granted by my father for me to serve in that position and so I was waiting...Then I guess he left the council room then and came back to the house and he told me that the ushers are going to come after us...And in a short time, then two of them came, two of the governor's aides...They just came right in, because that is a custom, they are welcome, have a seat...Then when they sat down then one of them said to my father, well we are sent here by the governor to take you and your son to the council. The permission is granted for him to come. But it is more formal in Indian than in English...you can't tell it...I can't do it because it is different in that...and so...then my father said, all right, let's go then. They take the lead and we follow...When we get to the door of course there is, they make it known that we are coming and everyone said welcome, come in...And then we walked in, give him a seat, here is a seat and then they gave us a stool for us to sit on...and then another officer came with a corn husk cigarette...gave it to my father and also to me, that was my first cigarette, in the council...

- Q. He gave one to your father and one to you?
- A. Yeah and we smoked it.
- Q. Just one cigarette for both of you?
- A. No, two cigarettes, separate...and then they waited until we finished the cigarette of course, because they are not that long for purpose like that...
- Q. What does the cigarette symbolize?
- A. It symbolizes...an honor you see, it is an honor when you are given it by an official officer of the council to smoke, in the council...
- Q. Yeah, I recall that you said that they gave Kaiawa a cigarette...

- A. Huh?
- Q. I recall that you said that they gave Kaiawa a cigarette to come to tell them...
- A. Oh yeah, that is right...so then after we finish smoking, then the governor starts to make an announcement that we are in, then now that, if it is approved, that they will tell me why I was called into the council. It was approved by everybody, everybody approved and they said yes, then the governor he get off and he said to me, he said to my father first that the council has now decided that it is okay for me to be a member of the council...and my father accepted too and then the governor told me, he said that, in a formal way, he said, now you are before the council, by permission of the governor, by his asking you...
- Q. Do you recall what his name was?
- A. Who was the governor that time? I don't know his English name. He was one of the old fellows, but...oh, it is not him...
- Q. Go ahead, I just thought...
- A. Then he told me why I was chosen for another council member for an interpreter. We have a problem, we are unable to get help from the agency, and he thought with your help and your education that you have, that you might help us to get what we want...There were three arroyos that are always causing trouble you see, no culverts under, and every time that it rains the flood water...and it just breaks into that ditch and fills the ditch with rocks and all almost a half mile on each side and it takes a long time...I know one time when I first left school, they had a flood right there by the day school. There is a big arroyo. On both sides were filled with rocks like that, makes it hard to dig...and then they had two teams of men working...one from the bottom throwing up and to the second one and he in turn throws up to the top and they had others up there spreading it out...yeah...hard work...man power, we didn't have no scrapers then...that was really rough work...same way with the other two arroyos...And so then my father, after he finished, then my father asked me what I would say because even though I knew my own language, but to come before a council like that...it is a different experience. I just couldn't find no words to express...yeah, that was my first time meeting all the people even though I know them...but I couldn't find nothing how to express my approval...

and so all I told my father, that I will help them the best that I know how...And he done the rest of it...yeah...You see that is more respect for the way of bringing in new ones. They have more respectful ways in those old days, I know they consider it respect...And then when this was all cleared up, then right then, he started to tell me just what I would be required to do and they gave me another man that was pretty well experienced in the governor's side, and that really good in Spanish but not quite in English. He has got a good schooling but then he needed another one to go along with him. I considered him pretty good in English too, so this is the man that you are going to work with and I accepted and the one that used to be the interpreter before, the governor told him that he was unable to go much further because not enough education. He had done his best up to this time, when he thought that he could not carry on any more because he is getting too much for him to interpret...This man, he asked permission if he could say something and he came to me and sat down by me and gave me his permission and all his wishes for a good interpreter and he told me how hard it was and how people would feel against me, Some would appreciate and others wouldn't that is the outside people. The council will accept whatever the decision you make or whatever you bring back in the way of information or well they will accept it, but it is the outside that will be dissatisfied...or will resent. Don't take it for granted, make your heart strong and meet all kinds of criticism...that they have to be, just like I know, I had that experience...But of course I cannot carry on anymore and so I ask that you would take my place and he gave me his best wishes and all that and his blessings and from the great spirit that carries his life, as he calls it, and so I accepted it and I told him that I will do my best.

Q. So he wasn't on the council any more after that?

A. Yeah, he was, he was a councilman and an interpreter too...

Q. I see, okay...

A. But for me, I was just supposed to be an interpreter...I was given an official name as (?)...I had that title from that time on, until 1930... something, for about 10 years...cause if I didn't attend the council meeting for any reason I don't attend...I was criticized because whenever it is not needed, there is an excuse, but to me it wasn't but I would rather know what was talked about you know, so I can study it and so that is how come I was accepted as a member, but I had a good friend, the superintendent of the Indian school at that

time...Ruben (?) he furnished me with some books and a little book-case, and also a dictionary...I was taught how to use a dictionary in school, and that was really a good thing to have, was a dictionary, because it teaches...if not, he offered his service to me, to help with that one and so I took it and I really made use of it..and I studied my Indian language not only from my father but from some of the old people I knew, by just talking to them, and asking questions and things like that you know...and so I thought that I learned a lot from them...And I really was thankful for the help of those people...and there was two of them, one had been governor another time and he by his own willingness, he gave me some information on governorship. I thought that that was a really good thing for me you know...and but I was sorry that I didn't go too often to his house, I think he would have given me more. And this other one, he was an officer of the governor...and but he was at top, almost like a police chief you see, because his governor's aide, they had a police too and that time they had one that was higher than the rest of them you see. So he gave me some of the information himself, you see, on his own will. I didn't ask him, but he thought that I would be governor one day...and he thought that I needed it as an interpreter or (?) and one day considered as a member of the council you see? So he gave me this and I was really glad of it and also some that I didn't go for you know, as I should have, but being just a young boy yet, I didn't realize just how much value it is, the information that you get...some legal things from the standpoint of the governor's side and then after that I carried on, and that was my first assignment a week after...we came to Albuquerque, from a meeting of the (?) I think it was, he was the superintendent then...

Q. Lungæ?

A. Lunger...something like that...

Q. Lannigan?

A. I don't know whether he is still alive, but ten years ago, someone said that he was in New York somewhere...I don't know (?) So, we had meeting, and we couldn't come to no decision or finally, until the next day and so we slept at the office building and they furnish us mattress...

Q. What was the meeting about?

A. It was on this getting help on Indian's service in Washington...

Q. On the...

A. On the culverts...and so the next day I think that they understood just the necessity of that and he assured us that he is going to by all means, that was his words...write to the commissioner in Washington and tell him all about what you said and how much stuff you needed, and he assured us of help, and I was glad, of course that was what I expected from him and assurance of help. And we went hom...and I think that the council will be glad to hear at least the assurance of help. And so we waited all summer, at least I did, and finally in about along in the end of August we got the word from him, the help was coming, that they will let us know when to start that work... and you know, we didn't go too far, just to the first part of September and he told us that there is money available to buy your lumber to make two culverts, but the one that the Santa Fe railroad has that responsibility, they were assuring us that they are going to bring the lumber and so it all came about and I thought that that was a success on my part, telling me what to do, that was my first victory help, and to get the timber and they put them in the culverts...

Q. No more problem..

A. No more problem, I sure was glad, I worked on that and I know how hard it was, digging into those rocks, took two days sometimes to clear just part of it...

Q. Well, you said that when you went in that there was more respect. Nowadays...

A. Nowadays, there is that respect of showing, I think it is all fading away...On my part it is not, of course when I open a meeting, I really show respect to the people that come into the council... and I mean to attend the meetings...

Q. How do you do it now?

A. Well, we have a, say like (?) by approval of the council, or we pass it by the officers that go by house to house, notify them of the meetings...to get the head of the family, for a while we ran it that way, then we thought that it was best that the younger ones should learn by listening and being in the council. And so we they gave them the authority, another governor, a year ago, he is the one that

gave that permission, the permission of the rest of the group that was serving as council, what council was left of the old people you see. That is how that others interested parties come in, they take active part in these things...Now the more younger ones with better schooling and high school graduates are now in, but they for some reason or other are not really like the help we need. A clear discussion rather than arguments or criticisms. Some of them are just that way. It is all right I told them once, it is all right to argue, for of course that is the way that you solve a problem, but the right way arguing to show that you are right, show the other fellow that he is wrong but not quite up to it, but the council or the governor will respect, the officials, but to go beyond, unwanted discussion manner, that is one thing that I don't like. You can't solve no problem that way and to make criticisms of the other person or the council or the officials, that don't go with me...I always tell them that. Discussions should be more of a conversation, that way you solve things. I know of course, I learn it from the old heads what the value of discussion is and the point to bring out your points...

Q. Well...how are you doing?

A. Keep talking...Well if you have got any questions to ask...you can ask me.

Q. Do you want to keep going?

A. Well, it won't be too long before we run out of tape.

Q. Okay...one thing that I wanted to ask before we got off of the council. Is this boy you call grandson, have you adopted him?

A. No, he has direct from his father. Any time he feels like going back to his home, see his family, he is welcome back and we are, me and my wife, we also make that known too and we told him time and again, whenever he thinks that his father needs his help and wants to go back to the family, he is perfectly willing to go back and, but as a relationship, we still keep it that way, if he went back...

Q. How old was he when he came to live with you?

A. Oh, he must be about, I would say about five years old I guess... of course his mother was expecting another baby you see, and this is just because I got two smaller child yet, to take care of him and the baby that was not born yet, and we let him come and live with us...

and of course nothing was said, because our relationship all during this growing up, and we clothe him and taught him to go to school and all that until he got, maybe about 16, 17 years old, when he graduated from Santa Fe High School, that Santa Fe school...And we thought that was long enough time for him to go back...we outright told him that his father needed him, to go back because we are not going to disapprove anything, his folks need him, but I guess he didn't...

Q. You mean he knew up until that time that that other fellow was his father?

A. Huh?

Q. When did you tell him that you weren't his father?

A. Oh, this boy?

Q. Yeah.

A. All the time, of course we call him grandson...

Q. Oh, he always knew...oh I see...

A. When he begins to know, between relationship...and ever since then, he calls us grandparents...and then his two brothers that came after, they all like to be with us you see. But we didn't want to spoil them by making them, you know, by taking them to be with us too much... We sent them back to their homes but they are always welcome... wherever we go if it is possible for them to be with us, they do go, yeah...just because they are almost like that...

Q. Well I was just wondering how this would fit in with this adoption we were talking about a few minutes ago...

A. No, it, we...when he refused to go back, with the asking of his mother, we had a meeting and we told him that the good side that he belongs to that family and the family needs his help, he is grown up now and he is in a position to help, that he really belongs to that family. And his mother said the same thing too and also the father. So in conclusion that if we have got anything that we want to give him that we will give him...you see. That was in the meeting... and then we left the house after the meeting was closed, but no more than five minutes, here he comes back into the house...kind of mad. I don't know why...I guess he thought that we were

chasing him out...So we told him that we are not chasing him out, he is still right nearby where he could come and visit. No, he said, I don't want to stay with them. I told my dad, he said that it was all right, but my mother, she don't want me to leave, she wants me to stay right there, but I told her that I am stay, that I will be willing to help him with any work, not to stay with them in the family. So we told him again, that if his father agrees, it is all right, that we are not taking you to be as a family, as a relative sure yes. We know who you are and you know who we are and any time you feel like going back, just say the word and you can go back with no hard feelings or nothing. Of course, we don't look at it like that... And then we say, if we have something to give you then we will give it to you, sure enough...interest that you have with us... but he didn't want to. So his dad came the next day, right before he told us that well he can stay as long as he wants to, anytime he feels like he wants to go back, he is perfectly welcome to come back... And we told him the same thing too, if it is all right the way he wants it to stay with us, I guess it is all right and if he wants, any time he wants to go back, he is perfectly welcome to go back. So this is the way the father and us we agreed on and he is still there, yeah, he goes and visits, he just can't sleep over there...

- Q. I guess it is pretty hard because he grew up with you folks...
- A. Yeah, that is why...
- Q. He is probably closer to you than his actual parents...
- A. I guess he learned that way, and he is the only one and we had nobody that time yet...until later...then he thought that we treated him more as our child you see...cause we gave him clothes...we were able to furnish a little more clothing than his parents, because of the size of the family you see, and I was able to get a little more because you see I was able to work for the conservancy and the Indian Service, know me just what I can do and they sometimes give me employment, sometimes as a crop surveyor and things like that, when they need one at the village, that is how come I make a little side money off of it. And then my painting pictures, I was able to do things like that...and we were in a pretty good position to help him you see...and so I guess he really liked it that way you see, he is still with us yet...
- Q. How old is he now?

- A. I think he is 27...
- Q. Is he going to get married or...?
- A. Well...
- Q. He doesn't have any girlfriends...huh?
- A. I guess not, well maybe he does have, without us knowing....
- Q. Yeah, well you would probably know, wouldn't you?
- A. Yeah, I sure...if his sister wasn't here in town then we could suspect something like that, but he seems to want, to make excuse, he wants to come and see his sister and stay overnight with her...and yeah, she is living up here on the south side, almost to just the east side of Central, somewhere up here...she has a house there. She works for the Sandia Base as a typist or something like that...She has a pretty good job...Well she had a training on this, what they call a relocation where they sent out people to learn the trade... she was in California learning that...
- Q. Make quite a bit of money...
- A. And she came right back, she didn't stay too much at home right away, she got a job,
- Q. Does she help her parents with the money at all?
- A. Yeah, I think so.
- Q. Well that is nice of her...Well...I better talk about some other laws...laws and rules. How about laws pertaining to ownership of property?
- A. Well there was understanding, not quite a law...we didn't, in the old days, there were more farmers...stayed right close to their land, assigned land...
- Q. The land was assigned to them?
- A. Yeah.

Q. Who would assign the land?

A. The governor...when previous...it would be the...

Q. Cacique?

A. Not the cacique...the war chiefs...they will have to ask for it, but then when the governor was brought in, then they have that authority...assign land...So, from that time on, constantly it was used by the parents and then their offspring...while these generations you see. It looks to these younger generations now, to take out right owner, if they had the title to it. But now, since they lots of land is gone waste, nothing on it, we have the problem of convincing them that they are not the real owners. If they don't want to farm, the best thing to do is to put it back into community. Then the next person that feels like he wants to be a farmer, makes his living by being a farmer, then we will have to make some rules and regulations as to the size of farm, where he could make a good living of course. Now we don't have no surplus, too much...very little...unless the government clears it off the west side for us... and gives us, built ditches, for us, I don't know how good the land will be across the river, there is a good bottom there for some more farming. But that will have to be explored into...the land grant, how good it is...

Q. Well, then, okay a man doesn't own land...

A. That is right.

Q. How about a house?

A. The house yes...

Q. He owns the house?

A. Yes, once he built it from the ground up. But for instance like this person that are left on their own, to be out of the village, out of the pueblo...those people cannot sell their land but they can sell their adobes and the fixtures, the doors and the windows...

Q. But they sell the house...?

A. Inside...say somebody wants to move in see...they can get the permission of the governor and then a price will be set, not the value

of the land, just the improvement on it...improvement is the
only thing that we go on from now on...

END OF TAPE