

Tape #85
SANTA ANA PUEBLO
Porfiero Montoya
May 24, 1968
By Dennis Stanford
Side One, Tape Two

Early history of the Spanish
drinking and land problems

Q. Go on about with the Spanish...

A. Well, I guess that Spanish decided to do something...and do something to him or I don't know they started fighting and they got into it right there, and Indians are always carrying a knife with them, all the time and sometimes a bow and arrow...and he couldn't use a bow and arrow and so he just had to use his knife and probably he just had a chance that he just got his knife out or he just killed him right there...

Q. The Spanish guy did, huh?

A. Oh...no, he killed him...

Q. Oh, he killed the Spanish guy...oh, oh...oh, I thought the Spanish guy killed him...

A. Then he didn't know what to do, and it happened that he looked around and...there was a dried up tree right there...nearby somewhere and he got all the sticks that he could find around...and he was right in the middle of that flag tree right there...and pile that, all that trash on top of him, and he set fire to that Spanish guy, he burned him up...

Q. Well that served him right.

A. And so he left right away and he must have had an apartment right there near somewhere...and he left his horse go and in a few days or so, then he went back.

Q. Did anybody ever wonder what happened to the Spanish guy?

A. No, probably he was alone you see...they didn't miss him, they didn't come looking for him...

Q. Well I would say that that fellow was pretty lucky...I wonder what the Spanish would have done, the Spanish government, had they caught the Indian...?

A. I don't know..

Q. I suppose they would have hung him...did the Spanish ever do things like that, hang the Indian people up?

A. Not that I know of...I think the rule of the Spanish...the rule is if the Indian had a good ruler, then he would probably protest this...but then if he had, if he was good enough he would have had a reprisal and take one Indian and punish him for it...according to that, the way that he helped to get that land, I thought that he was a pretty good government...

Q. Which one is that?

A. The one that got that range for them you see...

Q. Oh year, the one that we talked about two weeks ago...yeah...

A. And that is the man that would protect them at least...

Q. Yeah, they are pretty lucky, because down in Mexico, they really were mean to the Indians...they still are...and when I was in Ceri County last year, the Mexican official came around and the Ceri Indians were helping me to get wood for fire and he wanted me to tell them that they were bothering me...So he could put them in jail, he just wanted some excuse you know to put them in jail, oh he made me awful mad...I had to run him off and not the Indians well...how about the situations of destroying the property...malicious destruction of property...what would the Indians do in a case like this???

A. If the Indians did or...to one another?

Q. Yeah...

A. Well probably they would say, if they knew that they were doing it on purposely, then they would report him and punish him...maybe if he deserved it...

Q. Yeah, probably that or make him replace or fix the property...how about rape?

A. Rape? I don't think that they think about this rape...we never hear anything about this, we, in the 1900, I don't think that they ever thought about it that way...ever since the white man has more against it, fighting it in court probably than white. Indians start to learn to do something like that, too...I haven't heard anything yet so far...

Q. They didn't have any problems with adultery or any things like that?

- A. I don't think so, well if they did, it probably be settled this same way as these other crimes...especially if a man steals another man's wife or something like that...they might give them a whipping to satisfy the other person too..
- Q. Do you think that would satisfy him? I don't think so...
- A. Make him more jealous...but as far as that goes, no they don't, I don't think that they know too much about offenses on that kind... let's see, I think they take it more for another addition to family... look at it that way, see...
- Q. Even though the girl objected?
- A. I don't, maybe, I don't know, that I have ever heard of anything like that before...
- Q. That is strange...
- A. Probably...if the child was too small...that might be but I have never heard anything so far...like that...
- Q. Well I wonder if this means that, well what other types of laws, rules, should we talk about...?
- A. Well, I guess we covered all of it except...well not except, but I don't know what else because it looks like, there are no other offenses that we talk about, that I learned...I don't know, seems like, I guess they got along pretty good...so they don't have any major trouble you see...
- Q. I know one that we should talk about, this is a recent thing, but I think it is probably important, what about drunkenness?
- A. Oh, drunkenness probably they don't, I would say that I have never heard where it came before the court...in the old days when the Spanish started to making wine see, and two Indian got drunk, and they got into a fight maybe...that would be just about what they would do...or they would separate them or else they would, they might put them in jail, that is why the jail was built you see...
- Q. For people that were fighting?
- A. Yeah, for a purpose like that you see...we still got that jail building up for the whole village but it is not in use...

Q. Yeah, well...after the Spanish time and before, when was it 1952 or '54...that they passed a law that Indians could drink... Do you recall when that was?

A. What year was Eisenhower president?

Q. 1952 to 1956...

A. Well somewhere in his administration when they repealed that Indian liquor law...you see, and of course from there on you see, they began to more drunks to community you see, that is the reason that they got the wine then you see...Then we started having trouble like that you see...

Q. But do you think that it was a good idea not to let the people drink?

A. I think so because they seemed to be respectful on that you see, that is their trouble. We never had trouble before that time you see, when the liquor law was in effect. The only one that is really noticeable, just two of them that had sheep herders for a long, long time and they were with the Spanish and they never come home, but they never seemed to bother much...

Q. Yeah...

A. They never got any complaints...but once...from one of them, he is ~~dead~~ now...they had to lock him up one time way back, I don't know what year it was...when I was just a lieutenant.

Q. Well then they were drinking when they shouldn't have been?

A. Yeah, during that time.

Q. Did the white men ever catch them?

A. We never meet no official officer, unless we do, then the government takes them in...

Q. Yeah, well I suppose if they went into Bernalillo drunk, they could do something...but did that ever happen?

A. No, I don't think so, after that yes, well Lyle got into jail...

Q. After '52...?

A. Yeah, in Bernalillo, caught by the police...or state police... some big deal in Albuquerque...

Q. Well, what did you think of the law which wouldn't let the Indians drink? Did you think it was an unfair law that it was a breach of your constitutional rights? Or your personal rights? If a man wanted to drink, would you say that he could drink regardless of the law? That it was his own personal business?

A. To me...I thought that in one sense it was good, of course it kept the trouble out see and things of course, there is trouble all the time. So I thought that if it was in effect like that, maybe it was all right...because they are afraid to come out in the open... that they might maybe live behind somewhere else...and not get caught, which they probably did in the past...but they have got to find out you see...

Q. But still didn't you think that that was discrimination against the Indians?

A. Well I call it that, it is all right if you call it that but it is a voice only know, that they would get into trouble you see...if they only knew that they were given a chance just like the rest of the people to get into the bar, right there, just enough...that would be all right, but to overdo it themselves, it gets them into trouble, causing other people trouble...it's not fair...that is why, that is the place where too many of them are dissatisfied, of course because of the fines and imprisonments that they get.

Q. Are they heavier than the Spanish or the Anglo fines?

A. What?

Q. Do the Anglo judges give worse fines to the Indians do you think?

A. Well...I think that their fines are stiffer...stiffer than we give them, and they don't let them go, just if they find them drunk on the road, in Bernalillo, going out or maybe sitting around drunk...well they put them in jail or fine them for that...and they fine them you see, so long as he behaves he is all right...go home and go to sleep...

Q. Well was there a big celebration when this law was taken off? Or just a few guys?

A. Well just a few guys I think started that...and then it got worse...

it got to where just a few friends got together, more like a gang fight, you know, they jump on several boys maybe...just like purpose of beating them up you know...and we had to do something about it you know, now it seems like it is getting a little better, they don't gang on each other no more...just once in a while if they get into an argument, force them to fight I guess...that is just about the only thing...they are not within our range you see...if they are sleeping outside of the Indian reservation...sleeping it off and that is where they do most of their drinking...you see.

Q. You can't take liquor on the reservation?

A. Yeah, that is still in effect...

Q. Now is this your law or is this an Indian...I mean...

A. It is a government law, it still stands...

Q. A government law?

A. It still stands...It only gives the right for an Indian to go into the bar and drink, but not to take it into the reservation...

Q. Why is this?

A. I don't know.

Q. It seems that if they drink...a man should be able to drink in his own home because it seems to me if you are going to drink, the place to drink is at home...

A. But we don't make an issue of it, it is all unnecessary...it is a behavioral thing...you, I don't know what would happen if the crime was committed...so far there is none yet...they go, we have lost about ten of them already, boys, due to that drunkenness, crazy...

Q. Oh, from being drunk?

A. Yeah...we got, probably three or four of them that are just complete alcoholics...now...all they think is drink...and you try to tell them something well...they say, yes, yes, I believe that...that is all...seems like they can't stay away from it...that is an alcoholic...they just have to have it.

Q. So what do you do with these guys, just ignore them?

A. Well, what else can we do, well there is just no help for them, unless they ask for help, see that Turquoise Lodge is there for to help the people...to get over this thing, but on their own initiative they have to. We have meetings after meetings on that...and the people that work with the Lodge, well they tell us that is about the only place that they can try to help if they want to be helped, I can just recommend, but I can't make them go, unless they are on their own, wish to go and help themselves...we have tried it with one, but that is just as far as we got and so it seems like there is nothing that a person can do to help out the other guy, to get ahold of him on his own...and if they can only see that point...they might be able to get away from it...there is one, oh he was really just like that, day after day, that is all that, if he is able to pick up a quarter or fifty cents by working...and that is all that he thinks about...he has a family but somehow somewhere...probably the advice that he got, he thought about it and he, I thought that he was just completely gone...but now he is turning around, it has been about three years now...this man, maybe he takes beer all right but then he never was drunk no more.

Q. Oh, I'll bet his family was really happy?

A. Oh, yeah...

Q. How did the family live while he was drunk all the time?

A. Welfare...

Q. On Welfare, huh?

A. Yeah...now he is, he works for the lumber company in Bernalillo...

Q. Yeah, he can hold a job now...

A. Yeah, and that, I talked to a guy that runs that lumber there, lumber yard...he said that he really puts the faith in that boy. I leave him here, when I have to go someplace, he does the work what I do, he really a lot of improvement this guy made on himself...

Q. Boy, that is wonderful...

A. He bought himself a pickup and he has got it now...no dents in the car...when drunk...I never heard that he was drunk anymore...

yeah...so I trust everytime that I get picked to go to court... if I have to bring him to court...I always tell them, you can do it too, if I can do it and if this guy can do it, and there are two, three others that did it before they went too far, well I don't see why you can't do it...if you only ask yourself here and here... which is right and which is wrong...I think you will find the answer, I think that there is nothing technically involved that you can't answer that question...it is only on your part that you can do it...see how quick, that is the answer. One answer that I can see, just say to yourself, now I am going to quit and quit and quit and then you are all right...I don't care where the medicine come from, I don't think that you can ever work, because we learn from the Lodge people down there, that here in Albuquerque there is a group down there that is trying to help people the same way, but they are giving them pills, and still that pill is not safe enough, depending on the person that also, I have seen that it is dependent on the person's health and then the drink is part of it see when he takes that pill and he happens to take another drink over it well he might be in just as bad a fix too...So there is nothing that we can medicine...according to the people there, they say that there is no medicine to help them...it is just one thing, to say that you are going to help yourself...and then the rest, work it out yourself... how to help yourself.

Q. Who runs this Turquoise Lodge?

A. I don't know...I never was able to go into that place, I don't know who runs it...

Q. Where is that, in Bernalillo?

A. No, somewhere across the river...

Q. In Albuquerque?

A. Yeah.

Q. And it is for anybody, Indians...or

A. For anyone...yeah.

Q. Maybe the Salvation Army, or somebody like that...

A. Some organization probably...and then I think that the Navajos have got one in their own country too?

Q. Yeah, well they have really bad problems with drinking, boy...

A. Yeah, women and everybody...even kids...

Q. The pueblo women don't drink, huh?

A. Yeah...they were a woman there, I know them, her and her husband, before he died, oh they used to really like to drink... but after the man left, well I guess the woman began to see the light of what they were doing...nobody else to take care and so she had to do something...and then she quit...now I think she is in a better shape than she used to be...a lot of times that some gathering that she looks a lot different now, and dress different, too!

Q. Yeah, I know the young kids do, boy...I saw them over at Gallup or Grants one day...and a young girls, too...how do you folks get along with the Navajos today?

A. Well I think they are friends...

Q. You don't remember all the troubles that you used to have?

A. We have forgotten the trouble that they all used to have I guess... they come to the, they used to come to our big fiestas a lot in the past...but I don't know, probably my father, always say that three or four families, they used to come to our house...and they seem to be very friendly to each other, you know...and you see we don't have no sheep and maybe one family would bring one sheep and then the other ones would give us a rug you know and we in turn give them some flour and things like that you see...

Q. Well that is nice, but you don't do this any more, huh?

A. No...they don't come no more...

Q. I wonder why?

A. At Christmas time they used to come a lot, too, but I don't know, there is too much work or too much drinking that they can't come.

Q. Too much drinking probably...

A. Well, occasionally we see them.

Q. Well this was back when you were a little boy?

A. Yeah...I have one, that used to come to our place all the time...

and boy that guy...

Q. Where was he from?

A. Navajo...Torreon...

Q. Yeah.

A. And I heard, and even he himself told me that he was interpreter for the area there and one time...I told him, if you are an interpreter, how is it that you do more drinking, you ought to be doing a lot more good talking...and he laughed...I can't get away from that...and he used to be mean to his wife...I got fed up with him one time during fiesta...he, we have whites come to visit us, Dr. Aberle and her friends, they come down for fiesta and I hate for him to be in there, drunk...and maybe get into argument with his wife or something like this and I told him you better get out of here, I don't want you no more...I hate to drag you out I said, but I have a lot of respectable people that come here during fiesta, I don't want you to be here like that, if you want to be a friend of mine, you have got to stay sober I said...I don't care what you do after you leave...I said, but not at the time when you come and visit me I said...and then it just happen that the Navajo police was at the pueblo there and so I went after him and I told him, I don't want this guy no more in my house...and they took him to jail...

Q. He hasn't been back since either has he?

A. No, he didn't come back...he comes to the village all right, but I don't know where he sleeps at night...

Q. Yeah...

A. But he never comes into my house any more...

Q. Is he still drunk when he comes?

A. Oh yeah...

Q. Couldn't help at all?

A. No, he couldn't help, and as long as he wasn't doing anything, I don't think that he will bother too much.

Q. Yeah.

- A. Yeah, I met him at Zia one time and he asked me you going to be my friend and I said, I told you already, I am your friend as long as you are sober, you can come to my house and he said, I won't do that to you, I don't go to your house and drink and raise Cain there...and that is the way that I want to be treated, I said.
- Q. Do you go over to Gallup much for their ceremonies?
- A. Oh, Gallup Ceremonials?
- Q. Yeah.
- A. Oh, I don't go there, that is when I am not invited by the dance group that used to go there, they don't go there no more...and sometimes they ask me to help them out and I got nothing to do, I go along...
- Q. I guess that is a pretty wild time?
- A. Oh yeah...you find a lot of Navajos...
- Q. Yeah, I guess Indians come even from out on the plains for that, don't they?
- A. Oh yeah...and we used to go up to Flagstaff...for the fourth...and they don't go no more...well they don't give them no transportation money ...it is hard to get the dance group, it is hard to find transportation...go on the train or something...
- Q. Yeah, and that is pretty expensive?
- A. Oh yeah, before they used to, they used to, the commission that used to run that thing, they used to get busses to haul them up here...there, there is too much.
- Q. When was the last time that you were over there...?
- A. I don't know what year I was there...
- Q. Quite a while ago?
- A. Oh yeah...and also Gallup too...two or three, or four years, I was at Window Rock because I had the time, I had a dance group here and they asked me, the dance group, they asked me to take these boys out there...and I (?)

- Q. Do you folks ever hear about the one at Sheridan? The All Indian Days...
- A. I get letters from there...yeah.
- Q. But you have never gone up there?
- A. No...
- Q. That is pretty nice, I went up there once...
- A. If I had money of my own, I would like to, but you can't do it on pueblo's money...
- Q. Well maybe next summer, if I am not going to be in Alaska, we will go up, how would that be?
- A. Yeah, that would be all right...
- Q. Do you think that Dora would like to go up there?
- A. Oh yeah, sure...
- Q. That is a long trip...It would take us almost a week, do you have that much time? We just might do that...
- A. Yeah, I get those notices, over here at the Durango Boy Scouts... that all Indian boys' club...Director of...or head of the Boy Scouts, whatever they call it...this year it is going to be way up in Oregon... I wrote a letter in there, that I am going up there...
- Q. There is going to be a big dance here...next week, isn't it?
- A. Here??
- Q. Yeah.
- A. What is that?
- Q. I don't know. It is out at the Fair Grounds...it's been in the paper that all Indians are going to come and dance...the 31st and the first, something like that, and the second.
- A. This week?
- Q. Yeah, the end of May and the first of June...

- A. I heard something to that effect, but I think it is suppose to be people from Oklahoma and some other...tribes...I think that is the way it is...I never pay too much attention to it, I don't know where it was going to be...but maybe that is the one...
- Q. So you might be interested to go up there...
- A. Oh yeah...that is not far anyway...
- Q. No, just to the fairgrounds...
- A. Yeah, we always come to the fair anyways...
- Q. I saw in the paper, though, I thought that there was going to be some New Mexico Indians going to be there too?
- A. Well maybe a few got invited, but that Valentino, I guess you heard of him...he is always singing solos you know...he always goes to places like that...and he has never said anything to me...although the only thing he said to me was to be thinking about it, of course, he got an invitation to bring his dance group to Gallup again and he said that if he thought that he had time to go, then he would ask me to take the boys up there again...plane I guess...you ask the questions...
- Q. Okay...Do you recall when you first got electricity? Do you remember when that was?
- A. I think it was in 1950 and 1951...
- Q. Oh, it was that late...and what did you do before then?
- A. Use kerosene lamp...
- Q. Kerosene lamp...and you didn't have no television or anything?
- A. No, no, nothing like that...
- Q. Well...well I thought that it had been quite a bit earlier than that?
- A. No.
- Q. Well tell me, do you recall World War I, how did that affect the pueblo?
- A. Well they didn't take hardly any, I don't think that they took anybody from the village, on draft, but they were already in France...

probably only three volunteers...

Q. Why did these people volunteer?

A. Oh, just wanted to go and see...

Q. See what was going on?

A. Yeah and a little action, the last one, they (?) and he was in school with me and he once, when he was still in school, he and then another one, there were three of us that were in the band, you see this other one, he ran off to join them you see, the superintendent got there first before he got there.

Q. And wouldn't let him join?

A. Yeah, he wanted to join in...

Q. And this was while you were in school?

A. Yeah, when the war started, I was still in school. And so that was the only way that this boy, this other one got in...He didn't go though, he stayed there on the border...(?)...Pancho Villa...

Q. Is that right?

A. Yeah, well...

Q. Tell me about that...

A. I don't know too much, but that is the only thing that he does... he says...once in a while he go over the border and get chased... and they were never able to catch him, you see...

Q. Well what can you tell me about Pancho Villa?

A. I don't know too much about that...just what he said, that is about all, he never told anything more than that they were chasing him...

Q. He was with Pershing then? And where was he stationed?

A. Fort Bliss...

Q. Fort Bliss in El Paso?

A. Yeah.

- Q. Did he ever get over to Fort Knocko?
- A. I don't think so, he has never mentioned any other place except for Bliss...where is this other one?
- Q. Fort Knocko is west of Douglas, Arizona, and that is where they bombed Pershing, the Mexicans did, because they thought Pershing was Pancho Villa and they dropped some bombs from those airplane... they just held them up and dropped them...and so Fort Knocko is the only place that's ever been aerially attacked in the United States...been bombed...
- A. Yeah...oh he has never mentioned that, of course, I don't think that he was there, and never got that far I guess...
- Q. Well what did the Indians think of Pancho Villa?
- A. Oh they didn't talk too much about it...you see they...
- Q. Well when he went up...he raided Lordsburg didn't he... and they killed everybody in town, and burned the town down...
- A. I don't know...he has never gone too far about telling me anything about if there was any destruction there...and so I don't know too much about what he did...anyhow...
- Q. Well that is an interesting point in history...I would like to know more about it, he didn't tell you any stories at all?
- A. He never did...
- Q. What about the other two fellows then?
- A. Nothing...
- Q. They went to Germany?
- A. I never did talk to them...
- Q. Did they go to Germany?
- A. No, the First World War, nobody went from here...and then, no, overseas...of course I don't think anybody was taken from there...
- Q. No, I don't think that they had the draft then, it was all volunteer.

A. I don't know, I was called out for the examination, that is about all...

Q. First World War?

A. Yeah...

Q. Maybe they did have the draft then...they must have...

A. Those two others told me so...I didn't go nowhere, they just examined...

Q. That was our secretary and she was trying to get some information on this deal we were talking about the other day about that legal advice...and the guy that we should see is Professor Fred Hart...and they apparently are setting up something like this...and but he won't be back until the second or third of June...he has gone away someplace...and but she is going to call another fellow that apparently knows something about the situation and call us back...Apparently at the Albuquerque Bar Association we can get a half hour's free advice, for five dollars registration fee...five dollars for half an hour and it is probably would be cheaper to go to another lawyer...but she is going to call Bloomfield and see what he says and if Hart gets back before I go to Alaska, I will go and see him and find out what he has to say..and it kind of looks to me like you are right and it might be a pretty good deal if you are, but I am just wondering about the quality of the legal advice, I doubt seriously that it would be a lawyer, that they would just give you advice, but rather than sending somebody to court, or going to court for you, for land matters and things like that...

A. So advice is what we can do and how to go about it...

Q. That would be a big help...

A. Of course, you never know what to do and you know just what to say...

Q. Has there been anything new come up with the land stuff?

A. Not yet, they haven't said anything yet...and so,

Q. Have you heard anything yet on your repercussions from your trip to Washington?

A. No.

- Q. I haven't either...
- A. (?)
- Q. I wish we could hear more about that before I go to Alaska...
- A. Yeah.
- Q. But I think that I might find out some more stuff up in Alaska because there is an agency there at the town I'm going to be in that might know some stuff about that...and they could at least help me find out anyway...
- A. Of course we can see what they think about it too...
- Q. Yeah, it will be interesting, I will let you know, and you can think about it if you want...
- A. Yeah, I would like to know, because I would like to know what the other Indian population think about it, of course, there is, some say that they are in favor, but I don't think all of them do. (?) are opposing it, but it has effect the organization as to what the rest of them are taking, and these organizations, (?), as one whole group yet, they have not yet, they all thinking the same thing.
- Q. Well it will be interesting to find out, that's for sure...oh dear...well...
- A. One thing I remember now, is what you call that, I think it is suppose to be (?) before Congress, for research, Indian research there, research thing...it goes to research I think on the Indian reservation that is going to be a big item on it...and this way, I don't think the pueblos really go for it yet, because the small pueblos...they can do it in Laguna, and probably Isleta would, I don't know...I know Jemez doesn't think too much about it because they said that there is suppose to be a fund set aside for anybody that wants to start any business...and (?) or as a group, or some...(?) this whole thing is just a talk about getting something, some kind of industrial business developed here, on Indian land see...probably the northern...the other Indians would like to have this thing, but one thing that I don't like about it is that as I understand and as I fought, try to interpret by the terms of the land that you set aside for anything like that, it has got to be under mortgage...not free from that, the United States has got an obligation to protect the Indian lands...you can't sell it and you can't do anything without the consensus of the Congress

to passing a law...to say it is all right. Now right there it seems like that it's given, this bill is going to give the right to the Secretary of the Interior in case of a failure to pay, have to settle up the buildings and all that you know, if the Secretary, if I was to set up a store or something like that, before they finish up the thing, building that is...then if I can't pay, even though if I went halfway and the other half I didn't pay, I can't pay it no more, then the Secretary of the Interior, he steps in, he takes my land...and I suppose that he will, one time I wanted to make up a title...and I set aside the mortgage for this purpose...so I got no protection no way...and I refuse to even think about it as a good deal.

Q. It's not a good deal.

A. Right there it's all ready that some of them express it that right there it's the government is trying to terminate us, give us termination by taking away our land from us. We don't want anything like that you know...Well then they, shock to the Indians now, they are not going to accept that...and then, it is even if it becomes a law if we don't want it, we don't have to take it you see...

Q. No, it is going to be something that the individual is going to do...

A. Let's give the other Indians a right to do something like that, they have got to, you have to make the sacrifices first...see, I was talking to my group...and we were there, I told them that if we got all the area that we needed now...that the area that we lost...now, for instance if we set aside across the railroad...as a commercial site you see and then somebody from the pueblo tried to start up something, maybe a filling station...or a little trading post or something of that nature...from the village and here that certain job that we set aside for him...if we mortgage that and then he goes and (?) and then the Secretary of the Interior takes it away from him that wouldn't be too much, but still, that doesn't look right to me...to be in the middle, see. Maybe if it was to be made to, maybe if it was built out to the boundary, you would cheat that much, of course we still have that whole area to stand on you see, but it is still as small an area as we have got now...I don't think too much about it...

Q. NO.

A. And we haven't got the manpower even to start anything...any commercial people to come in and start up something you see...and yes...

our village is too doggone small and we got more drunks than good people that looking for a good job. We will be thinking, if we got some kind of a factory to come in...Well it might mean good money to us, but it won't serve us any too good on the other hand. Maybe a factory, for some of the outsiders to come in there and work there and unless the pay is quite a bit, good enough, then we would consider it that way...

Q. I don't really understand that, you think that they would want to help you set up something that would work, rather than trying to take it away from you...

A. That is one thing I don't like, I am not satisfied with even if there is a rebellion from here for loans, they wanted to borrow money from the office here...to build a house...you had to put it in a contractor, that ground you are going to build your house on...you have to put it in mortgage, see.

Q. You can't really do that because the ground really doesn't belong to you...

A. It belongs to all the Indians...and I don't see how they figure on trying to make, borrow the money to build a house, I don't see how they can tell them to mortgage this land when it don't belong to them.

Q. I don't know...that is a screwy deal, I hadn't even heard that before...

A. That is why I don't think anything good, anyway even at this point now, we can borrow direct from the funds of the Indian builder that's over here. Of course if you go there they will tell you go down to the bank and see if they can loan you the money and if not...there are various places, and if they don't lend it to you, then we help you!

Q. That's no deal at all. Well what about this saw mill that they have out on the Navajo reservation, do you know about it?

A. No.

Q. The Indian service or somebody, built a big, huge, modern saw mill for the Navajos to cut lumber to sell, to make money, and they have a white guy running it...and then all the Indians work there, and then the Indians that work there get paid...from the profit, and I think the tribe gets profit, it goes to the tribe and then out of the profit, they also have to pay a white guy that runs it...but I don't think they have to pay for the mill. I think it was given to them,

sure sounds like a pretty good deal to me...

A. Yeah...

Q. It seems to me that the Navajos are getting a pretty good deal all around because they have got plenty of money...

A. Well, I don't think too much, I don't think anything about the commercial business coming in because you know, in a way I disagree with the pueblos except in some kind of...something like that...I don't know how they work, the employees whether they really have to be on that day in, day out, week in, week out... Of course here is the thing we got a lot of things to attend to, like be at the ceremonies and the fiesta, we just have enough and then we can't do nothing, we will just throw it away and forget, if we have industry come in and we all go to work...we are suppose to pay attention to these other side no more...

Q. That is true...

A. They are going to forget that...they are going to forget this one quicker than that one you see, they will think more of money, that is what happened to most of our agriculture is laying idle just because of that...thinking about making money, coming in by working out...

Q. Yeah, when you get right down to it, money isn't all, you can get along in the world without it, I think when you have it it just causes trouble.

A. Yeah, so I maybe I don't think too much about those things... because it is just going to disrupt the pueblo life, no more ceremonies, no more dances.

Q. Well that is true...and you don't want that to happen.

A. Then the state will advertise, Santa Ana Pueblo (?)

Q. Well, that is what everybody is doing...yeah...no I think that is a pretty bad deal, unless the whole factory, the whole operation, was run by Indians and they were just plain shut down on the days of the ceremonies and the fiestas and things; just shut the whole thing down, I don't know how that would work...

A. I don't either, for what you run into...money that you borrow to (?) and you think on both sides too...the people that lend the

money, they want the money as fast as they can get it back... So whenever they lend out, especially when it is something like that, they expect the money to come in as fast as it can...

Q. Yeah.

A. Or else, they say, well we are going to have to take your land back...of course, they can't very well tear that thing down...

Q. That's true, they may never get their money back...

A. And so I think the Congress has got that idea too, rather than tearing the building down, they would get everything up, they cut that piece of ground off, and if that, some cooperation again, that is not good, especially if it is in the middle of tribal land...

Q. You get access to all kinds of property...

A. But it results in more trouble here.

Q. I heard you guys had a motorcycle race out there the other day?

A. Yeah, that, I didn't like it...

Q. What was that all about?

A. Well, the guy that I talked to, I think I saw that boy that was riding that up at the University..he didn't recognize me, of course we got into an argument...

Q. In our department?

A. No, he just came by on a motorcycle...at the University, when we were at Dr. Ellis' office...he came by and I think that was him...some little guy like him...

Q. Did he have a little beard?

A. No, not quite a beard but a moustache...kind of a blond fellow, blond hair.

Q. Well what did they do?

A. They, they went to the governor see, and they told them that if they will let them have a race, up through there, through those

sand dunes there and I heard them and I went up there and a whole crowd of them...

Q. Were there only supposed to be a couple of them?

A. Well according to my daughter, she understood that there wouldn't be more than 10 person you see, 10 motorcycle... So well I told her, well that is up to you I said... if you want to, how you understood it, because this guy is not giving up anyway... and (?) let him come in here and do races... but it is always hard to keep a group together you see, they make (?) up there, and people might not like it... they might get (?) one of these days. They try to stop it, if I can't stop it, then those guys that are responsible for getting that thing off, to keep them all together, but they can't do it you see... here, both of those guys that were running that they were both in the race, too. So I tried to tell another fellow there, to tell them to keep a more in the group you know, see, not to take the whole country to themselves... tearing up the grass because those race cars it looks like and they were going up there on the soft side and I said you can't hold guys like that down and they were getting together money, they had a little can, I don't know how much money was in it, that was supposed to go to the pueblo, I don't know, of course I intervened, and whether they turned it over or not cause he hasn't said anything the governor and he used for that, that there were only a few, but there were over 60 or something like that...

Q. Motorcycles...

A. Yeah, a whole bunch of them..and he said that they were coming from all over the state, even as far as Colorado...and that morning they were pouring in...David and his wife were out there too... I don't know if Dave is friends with them, they are not too good to join in, but they thought they would have the fun I guess riding on those sand dunes...

Q. Yeah, well we better get back to some history...

A. Yeah, oh dear...

Q. We have talked just about everything, haven't we?

A. Yeah, the next time that something comes up in the way of bills or something like that...

Q. Well, I think we should try to talk about some of the things, the way of life and the history of the pueblo, when you were a little

boy or even what your father told you about, you know, just things that you think the people should remember and know... I haven't any idea of where to start, do you?

A. Well, I haven't given it too much thought yet...but I know that you did tell me that maybe, well when she said that she was going away, I thought that I would have all that time to gather all that, by the time that you come back...

Q. Yeah, we can do that this summer.

A. But I like to go into these other things that would be more likely to be attended to you see...and that are important too and so that was what I was trying to piece them together...but then on this, on the other hand I will more or less have to work to get it ready by the time that you come back again.

Q. Yeah, that will be next September we can get right on that...Now, this guy hasn't come back yet, so I haven't been able to talk to him about this public law 280 that you wanted me to find out about... do you know anything at all about that?

A. No, but it is very confusing yet, nothing definite coming up yet.

Q. Well what exactly is it all about, so I will know what kind of questions to ask him...

A. You mean this urban renewal bill?

Q. No, about this public law...

A. Oh, public law 280?

Q. Yeah.

A. As far as that, the only way that we know it, that this public law 280 gives the state the right to take over the law and order part on the Indian reservation where a group of Indians, like the pueblos here in New Mexico...they are ready to say, all right, Mr. Cargo, if he was still there, we take over now until we are ready, then that 280 gives on the right track that way see, or if the state finds that we are not trying to enforce the laws that the people. Then that way the state can say, too. They were telling us that we are going to take it over now, because you guys aren't doing nothing, to better the pueblo in way of law and order so that is what 280,

that is the way that I understood it.

Q. This is a separate bill, this is not part of the...

A. No, this is the first bill, that Eisenhower signed into law...

Q. Had they done anything at all on it?

A. No.

Q. They haven't?

A. No, since the pueblos got the right to say so yet, and so that is the reason that I think nothing has been done and I think that once or twice, the state was asked or the governor was asked what he thought about it and whether he thought that we ought to have the right to (?) it was brought to somebody else before...I think it is somebody else, that they had that before...and that they should have more like that...and they said no, not yet we haven't got the funds to take that responsibility yet...So we are still, as far as that 280 goes, here in New Mexico, it is not forceable it seems like...

Q. Yeah, it has been what, 16 years...

A. Yeah.

Q. And so I doubt that they will ever do anything about it, don't you?

A. That is the way that I feel, yeah, unless we ourselves say let's go ahead...and they don't want to say anything anyway...as long as we are carrying on our own law enforcements here and we were getting ready for trying to have it in writing just what the Erman bill wants but according to Anderson's statement at the last meeting, carry on, carry on, never mind because he is trying to put up a bill to amend certain things that we object to so (?) income above like that you know...there is a bill, I think either one of our Congressmen from here or Senators from here...and it wasn't drawn up yet, and it is not clear yet as to how it was drawn up yet...and I think that they should give us at least a look into that and see how we feel about it, but so we thought about that bill I think that was Anderson's idea too.

Q. Now this is an amendment?

A. An amendment, yes...if we accept it according to the way he

wanted it well we have to say so on that, and I hope that we can.

Q. Well this public law 280, if they don't enforce it at all, until the Indians want it, then actually it might be a pretty good deal...

A. Well that is better than this other one...

Q. Yeah.

A. For my part, I see it that way...of course this Erman bill is trying to force it on to us see. 280 has given us still the right to say when, and in another 150 years if we still (?) so I am still hoping that this (?)

Q. I think it will probably will, they like to pass these laws, but they rarely do much about them...Unless it is to somebody's benefit, then they can raise them up in a hurry...

A. Oh yeah...

Q. Well now, what is this Bursom Bill? What was that all about, do you recall?

A. That Bursom Bill is just about what the 280 meant to be and also the Erwin bill...

Q. Then actually the Bursom Bill was in the 1930's right?

A. That's right, yeah.

Q. And so they tried it in the 30's and again in the 50's and now...

A. Yeah...

Q. How about the termination bill? Are you familiar...

A. Termination came about in a...just before '30...before that Willard Howard bill came out...

Q. Willard Howard?

A. Yeah.

Q. I don't know about that...

A. Re-organization act...

Q. Right...

A. That is the one that they call the Willard Howard bill you see... termination, it is suppose to be a day before, I call it (?)

Q. What are these all about?

A. Well, termination, what the government intended to do was to do away with the Indian Bureau and give the right to the Indians to govern...I mean to carry on, like you guys do...probably doing away with everything here that is why I am opposed to that, is that terminations...(?) then we will have to more likely corrupt the whole thing, Indian life as I believe that myself...

Q. Why?

A. Because there is nothing that we can look upon to, for right now the law and order is for the Indian village, they are helping us to maintain that law and order see. If termination did come, then we get no more help you see...

Q. You don't think that you can do it yourself?

A. We tried to do it ourselves, but they are going to be a lot stronger than we are see...because of the provision said, that it gives each person a right to hire a lawyer you see, and I don't believe that there is anything in that thing...to help us, even though if we hire our lawyers to defend ourselves...as a pueblo.

Q. You mean any Indian man cannot hire a lawyer without the permission from the pueblo?

A. No, no, what I mean is that through this Erwin bill, it gives every Indian a right to hire his lawyer, his own lawyer, to fight his own case...

Q. Haven't they had that right before?

A. No, I don't think so, because nobody has hired one yet...we haven't had any unless if it was for any crime that was held by the government you see, for in behalf of the Indians you see, in behalf of an Indian then the Indian service hires a lawyer. Now let me give you an example in '38, '35, no not '35, just lately...what is '68 now...

and it will be '62, no, is much further than that...I don't know what year it was...somewhere in the forties I guess it was or after that, fifties maybe, somewhere in that, I don't keep track of the year happening. Well you see there was an Indian murdered from home, he was murdered that year, and they said that I was a lieutenant at that time, but I don't know if I was an officer then and this man happened, at one night coming from Bernalillo, stop at different places from where he was coming and he was picked up by two Spanish guys, and (?) than anything else and they took him up to (?) Dam you know, conversion and they, I don't know whether they robbed him, or took anything out of his purse or what, anyway they threw him into the canal, first I guess they knocked him out, and then they threw him in right at the head gate but the head gates were closed at that time, it was in February, and they weren't running the water yet and so the body was right in there and another one was from the same village, I told you, they picked him up, those same two guys, they picked him up later, that same night, and they were they were intending to rob him you see... Of course the boy testified in court, said that he offered them the money because he was scared and in his pocket and also I think a watch that he had to turn him loose, but they wouldn't listen... So when they beat him up some the boy was smart enough, he played dead, right on the banks of that same place they kicked him and he was unconscious or dead or something, he just laid there, and tried to hold his breath, every time that one comes near him and so they thought that they had finished him off and they dumped him on that second gate, there is two gates there, no the same gate, but this first one had gone to the bottom see, and this fella he was able to float back, after they threw him in, see, ...Of course he was able to float around in there, and watch them, see what they are going to do next and until they left and he stayed in the water for some time yet...and to make sure that they really left and then he crawled out, and he left that and went around the other gate and walked back around the other gate and crawled back through the fence...and he came down by Bosque, and went to the gate keeper's house...which was about a half a mile down, on the canal, and they crossed that, over the arroyo there, and to the house, where that gate keeper stays, and he knocked on the door and told him about it and he is the one that brought him back to Ranchitos...but he didn't know for sure, just exactly this other one was, but he was feeling around, he happen to be touching something that look like a human body...not until the next day he learned that there was a body right there...somebody had come by, I don't know how the beginning of that is, maybe somebody came by or was looking for somebody, that that Indian was found...and then they reported it to the State Police...and that is what we heard through the radio...and my boy just happened to be

there early that morning and he said, hey, somebody has been found out there, drown...I think it was Domingo Montoya he said, the lady said (?) people had already gone there, and sure enough, that was him...and then somebody came by again from Ranchitos and he said that there was another man, a boy from home, he's alive over there at the house, that is how they were able to find the guys that did it quick. The FBI came out there and he told everything, he told the guy where they live you see, he knew those guys, those two. And so there was a third guy, a Spanish guy connected in with it too, that was drown in that same place, I don't know, I would be kind of scared you know...

Q. And then what did they do about the lawyers now?

A. Then of course, since it's a major crime, then I think being an Indian involved in this crime, then the United States took a hand in that...of course the FBI was brought in...to find, to do the investigating on that...and find the guys that did it you know. Either the state or the county tried to fight to have the trial in Bernalillo but the guys that were assigned to it by the United States, or by the government, anyways, they were I think they were working with the government lawyer anyway...I have forgotten his name...I knew that was very familiar after that...yeah, and then they finally went over it and had the court in Albuquerque...I was brought into the case to testify, George Dixon that is who it belonged to that ground where the Indians were...where he was murdered you see, I testified to that you see...

Q. But they still held it here in Albuquerque...

A. Yeah, that is why they moved it to Albuquerque...they wanted it in Albuquerque...not in Bernalillo.

Q. Why not Bernalillo?

A. Well you can't get any justice there because everybody is Spanish...there would be more Spanish lawyers right there and connected with it and more likely a Spanish jury right there and so I don't believe it, because I seen it already once today, twice.

Q. Do you mean other cases, where the Spanish people...

A. The Jemez and the Spanish when they got into fight.

Q. What was that all about?

- A. Well, I think this Jemez beat up two Spanish guys...of course they were in his way, he was getting ready to cross the bridge at San Isidro that is how come I think the fight started up...and he beat those fellows up...
- Q. And then they had a trial...
- A. Yeah, they had a trial in Bernalillo...
- Q. And they convicted the Indian...
- A. Yeah, that is right...
- Q. What was the other case like?
- A. The other case was my brother-in-law, this Spanish guy, they were must be 76 or something, near sighted fellow, he's more on the old man side, can't see good, can't think too good and according to what I learned later, his brother was with the side driver, what you call a back driver, or a side driver, he was the one that told him what directions to go...
- Q. Back seat driver...
- A. That is how come he hit my brother-in-law's wagon because (?) no, he hit my father first...and then after he got down, he started taking off, and he could run back...
- Q. Well the guy hit the wagon and then what happened?
- A. No, we were talking about this thing, and this was just (?) to tell you why I didn't like Bernalillo's. So, the jurisdiction came up first...before this trial started, before the case and I was supposed to testify that who that land belonged to see and I did make it plain that was still in the land of course the pueblo land board never did say one way or the other, it still laughed because (?) are disputed areas. Between the two Indians that was of course and the San Felipes came over you see, that's the way the Spanish did that I guess I don't know in the past cause I think that covers the same way as north, between the San Felipe and the Santo Domingo. So I testified to them, there were a lot of question in Indian you know, how are you and all that you know, and but I made plans just like why I knew it and there was nothing, no defense attorneys for the two Spanish boys, I think that they were both Spanish boys... They didn't really crossexamine me too much on that you know (?)

yeah because after the trial was over, the judge would have given instructions to the jury the judge said that this is definitely Indian land, on Indian land. So when the jury came back in after they had gone out, they pronounced it guilty to those Spanish guy, why the government attorney wanted to help them direct a treaty you know or something like cause he couldn't get that end of it, see, but they were sentenced to the Federal pen for the rest of their natural life, so that made justice good you know without mercy, he said, the judge said without mercy, as the sentencing was pronounced. So I thought he won that end of it, but that was the thing (?)

Q. Well now this termination thing...

A. Termination thing worked out for; we wouldn't have had it.

Q. You would have had to hire your own...

A. We would have had to hire our own...for that...

Q. And you think that the government attorneys are better?

A. Better, yeah, because they are pretty well versed on it and knew the laws definitely...

Q. And besides that it is free too, or is it?

A. Yeah and you were charged against the person... that is why I didn't like that termination law...

Q. Well have they done anything about it, they haven't have they?

A. Well it goes back when the termination came out

Q. When was this, in the 30's or 40's?

A. Well that was before that Willard Howard bill...and the reorganization acts...and I think that when the Indians testified against it.

END OF TAPE