

Tape #278

Ray Blanco Yazzie

Navajo

Interviewer - Michael Husband

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Side 1

- Q. What were you saying about the tourists?
- A. Oh they are alright, they are always talking, what is the name of this place and if they ask I tell them, and they told me what is my name and what kind of Indian I am, what am I suppose to do here, where I trade, what we are talking about, medicine men and I tell them about that and they say, oh, you are a great man.
- Q. That is what they tell you?
- A. And he buy me a quart of wine.
- Q. Where was this?
- A. Cuba.
- Q. There a lot of tourists?
- A. Yeah, a lot of them, one time about a year ago, they never seen any Indian.
- Q. What did you think of that?
- A. Good, they say here is \$1, buy what you want, here I'll buy you a drink too.
- Q. Do they tourist ever come out here?
- A. No, not over here. I told them where I live and sometime maybe I will see you again.
- Q. Where was he from?
- A. He is from the east.
- Q. Oh yeah.
- A. He talks fancy.
- Q. Oh he did?
- A. Yeah.

Q. What is going to happen to the chapter house out here?

A. Maybe they are going to.....

Q. You are going to have better government, is that what you want?

A. Yeah, I don't want those guys who get the money out, steal it and all of that. Right Bob?

Q. You don't like the people that are in it now huh?

A. No good.

Q. What is his name?

A. Charlie.

Q. Charlie?

A. Toledo.

Q. Toledo.....and the vice president?

A. Augustine Sandoval.

Q. Augustine Sandoval, and the secretary is....

A. James Sandoval....

Q. Are they brotners?

A. No.

Q. Do they get money from the tribe?

A. Yeah, they have money from the tribe.

Q. And they are suppose to fix the road?

A. Yeah, they are suppose to do a lot of things, for the NavaJo people, right Bob?

Q. Why don't they do it?

A. Oh they can't because they just want the money, money.....

Q. What do they do with the money, it has to go somewhere doesn't it?

A. Maybe someday they are going to catch them. Where they put all the money. Somebody said that they just waste it. Instead of helping the Indians.

- Q. Do they ever help you?
- A. No. I don't like them. I vote for them because, I thought that they were good people; and now I know that they are bad, I won't vote for them no more.
- Q. How long are they suppose to stay, when do you get new people?
- A. Oh, another year, that is all.
- Q. How long are they for, two years?
- A. Four years.
- Q. Four years huh?
- A. It is already about three years.
- Q. They haven't done much huh?
- A. Oh, they are full of shit!
- Q. Are a lot of people mad at them?
- A. Yeah.
- Q. When were you secretary?
- A. Oh a while back Bob.
- Q. A long time? Was there a pretty good president and a vice president then?
- A. Yeah, I was a pretty good secretary too myself. You know, to the needy people that is the only people that we help them, we help everybody. Fix the road or jobs or anything.
- Q. What kind of jobs are they suppose to give the people?
- A. Oh, just like the road where just like dirt road or something, where there is a bump or something, they are suppose to fix that road, or the women weave.
- Q. You are suppose to pay them for that huh? They take the rug?
- A. How about these guys, they are way over here, I don't know where the blanket goes, they just stole it, that is too bad, right Bob?
- Q. They don't pay the weavers anymore? What do they do take the rug and they are suppose to sell it then?
- A. Yeah, they give it all the blanket they finish and they give it to Charlie and they take, it, I don't know where he goes.

Q. What about these jobs are they full time jobs or are they just for a few days?

A. Oh they are 10 day jobs that is all.....

Q. And they pay them with tribal money?

A. Yeah.

Q. They are not doing that anymore? What do you do at the meetings?

A. Nothing.

Q. What do you do at the meetings? Chapter meetings?

A. Oh, those people they hold their meetings and then we have to put everything on a paper, write it down....

Q. Do a lot of people come to the meetings?

A. Yeah....can we go straight Bob?

Q. Do a lot of people go to the meetings?

A. Yeah.

Q. Quite a few huh?

A. No, when I was secretary we had a lot of them.

Q. A lot of people huh?

A. And some of them, I have to make my reports see, minutes of the last meeting, and the meeting might have been about roads or 10 days or somebody come out from Window Rock even chairman he come out from Window Rock. You see, I had to send my message to Farmington, if I catch it from there, ask for Raymond Nakai, he is a good man!

Q. Do you know him?

A. Yeah.

Q. What do you think of him?

A. Boy, he is alright! These guys right now, no good.

Q. They don't like him?

A. They don't like him.

Q. Why don't they?

Q. You don't think that Nakai uses Peyote huh?

A. No, he is a good man.

Q. Lot of people say that though don't they?

A. Yeah.

Q. But Nakai came down to the chapter house one time huh? Whad did he do, talk?

A. He talk see and I give him a good report, I know what he says and all that. About school and work, he say something about the army, veterans, the army, he says that they are suppose to get a good school, and suppose to get our VI money or something like that. He said, disabled they can go to the hospital, you know, just when he is disabled, he get some pension.

Q. That is what he said huh?

A. You know, I sure like that guy.

Q. Yeah, Nakai huh?

A. But these guys we ask them anything and they are dumb, they don't know any better, I don't know....right Bob?

Q. Well when you were secretary a lot of people came to the meetings huh?

A. Yeah.

Q. What did you do did you work on the roads?

A. We let them work on the roads, and you know they are out of their food, or they want to buy clothes for their children, we give them jobs and we give them clothes and food and you know, stuff like that....

Q. How much do you pay them for working on the roads?

A. \$1.50.....no \$1.25.....

Q. An hour?

A. Yeah, they get about, some of them get around, oh, let me see....they take out for their social security.....

Q. Yeah.

A. See they usually get \$96 or something like that, and so much cents, but if he is the foreman, he gets \$120.00.

Q. \$120.00?

A. Yeah, they take some out, I don't know how much.

Q. \$120.00 what a week?

A. For ten days.....

Q. Ten days?

A. And you know some of the guys who can't get any assistance or something, one time these guys done something good, that time when they had a lot of snow? You know those guys called Raymond Nakai and they said that they want surplus food, what do you call that? Commodity?

Q. Yeah, commodities, yeah....

A. Finally they bring some over here, chapter house, everybody get theirs over here free. That is the only time that they were good though. After that they just put the money, in their pocket.....They said, we owe the government some money....and I said, oh, i don't believe it, I don't know what they done with it? You know this is Sandoval right?

Q. Yeah.

A. Torreion, over there from Tinian from McKinley in Gallup they get their Surplus food, commodity, they say that they want to buy stamps, they would like to buy stamps, at Torreón, like Charlie does....

Q. Charlie?

A. Toledo, the president.

Q. Oh yeah. So you get food stamps instead of commodities? You can't get both?

A. You know Bob, if I was still secretary, and my presidents name was George Toledo and the vice president was Jeffy Toledo.

Q. Who is vice president?

A. Jeffie, Toledo. We fight for stamps see, we want them, we want to buy food instead of that surplus food commodities. That is when we call, you know Mr. Brown?

Q. Yeah.

A. In Bernalillo?

Q. Yeah.

A. In Santa Fe somebody come, we had a meeting right there one day and then we ask question all of that and finally we agree, we all agree that we are going to buy stamps, instead of commodities right?

Q. Yeah.

- A. And then we finally, see we did this.
- Q. Are stamps better?
- A. Yeah.
- Q. How come, do you get more?
- A. Yeah.
- Q. You get more food that way huh?
- A. Yeah, how about in Albuquerque do they do that too?
- Q. I don't know, they have food stamps there I think.
- A. You mean some guys get them?
- Q. Yeah.
- A. Spanish?
- Q. Yeah, everybody that needs them
- A. How about you?
- Q. No, I don't need them. How much do you get a month now?
- A. Oh, just \$30 that is all.....
- Q. Is it enough?
- A. Yeah, we have enough, yeah....but sometimes our boys come from Whitehorse or Gallup and oh, we buy enough food for, extra in case they come, we give it to them.
- Q. Yeah, yeah...
- A. Because they help us. They have got their kids maybe th-ir kids, they want this they want that.....oh! That is alright, I get along with them alright/
- Q. Your grand children huh?
- A. Yeah, we have boys, Whitehorse, we have one that died, passed away about a month ago down in Grants, I think he was working, I think he got hurt over there, what do you call that, Uranum.....?
- Q. Uranium mine?
- A. Uranium yeah.....I think his wife get pay every month. He has got a lot of children.

- Q. Do you buy fresh meat with your food stamps? Or do you buy canned meat?
Do you have any way to keep fresh meat huh?
- A. You know one time I buy fresh meat in Freeloove, I think Freeloove is kind of high.....
- Q. Cuba?
- A. Yeah, I buy leg and rib same together, it was \$5.10..... I don't know about the beef, I could buy the beef. I could buy can of food but, you know Cosmos he is pretty cheap.
- Q. That is Freelooves right?
- A. No, I mean Cosmos, Spanish, Safeway....Spanish store, where Henry got in jail. Maybe he took some food right?
- Q. Could be. Yeah. He has got pretty good prices huh?
- A. Country and store too, I think that it is pretty good too. That is a Spanish store too.
- Q. Then you buy a lot of canned food huh?
- A. Yeah sometimes.
- Q. Potatoes and thing like that?
- A. Onions....
- Q. But if you buy fresh meat, where do you keep it? You have to keep it cold?
- A. We have to eat it right away.
- Q. Use it right away huh?
- A. Other wise, we dry it outside. There are too many flies.
- Q. You just hang it up and dry it?
- A. Yeah.
- Q. Are the people interested in the chapter meetings? You said a lot of them went when you were secretary, do they now?
- A. Now they don't go anymore.
- Q. Don't care?
- A. Because they don't give them any notice on it.

Q. Oh, they don't? They just meet huh?

A. Yeah, just meet. That is all. That is too bad right?

Q. Well how is it going to get better? New people?

A. I don't know, they just don't get along.

Q. What about police, do you have your own local police?

A. Yeah, sometimes but.....

Q. Cuba police?

A. Yeah.

Q. You don't have any police at the chapter house though?

A. No.

Q. If you were on the reservation you would have tribal police, not here?

A. No.

END OF TAPE