

Tape 411
Tribal Leaders Workshop
Kaibeto, Arizona
Recorded by Tom Ration
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Willard Frazier: Praising Peter MacDonald
& his work with ONEO

Joe B. Tanner (Trader)
Helping Navajo Indians
Navajo Tribes Accomplishments
Water & Irrigation Problems

This is Tape 5 on Kaibeto, Arizona meeting from all over the Navajo Reseravtion, the CAC and the Chapter Officers meeting. This is on the same record that we are now still on. And our next problem of guest talking is Mr. ... our next Chairman will be Willard Frazier from Shiprock Agency Director. Mr. Will Frazier was been there on Shiprock Agency Director of quite a numbers of years, so he will be the Chairman of todays' meeting. And the Workshop Plans of Operation is still going on on our discussion containings of the Plan of Operations. We go on further on until we will reach Mr. Peter MacDonald, the Executive Director of ONEO to be our guest speaker for the days of May the 27th. So here is Mr. Frazier, as a Chairman. As the Chairman, Mr. William Frazier will have the first chance for our speaker and we will be on the speaker until either coffee break or further on. He will give us Workshop Plans of Operation, discussion containing of Plan of Operation. So this will be quite a long time, it might take it up to the noon, so here is Mr. Frazier, the Chairman today, who going to tell us about himself and what he thinks about the problem of we are having this week.

Mr. Frazier: Hello Joe, the Community, and the Memberships, and the Leadership Members, and all Communities, and the visitors, I have now saying a very hello to you all. I want to introduce myself first before I say more. The name is Mr. Willard Frazier, I am from the Shiprock Agency Director. I am over about 67 years of age now. I have been in the Government service for more than 28 years. I have just about served a 38 years period. My job was first started from Fort

Defiance, Arizona. I went to school at Fort Defiance school to Las Vegas. I came back and I went and took the office at Window Rock. From there on, I have learned lot of things and I have a very good experience and finally they have transferred me to the Shiprock Area, now I'm living with my family at Shiprock. My Clan is "Bitterwater". My Father is the modern side of the family. We been living around Tohatchi Mountain for quite a numbers of years and I was raised on Tohatchi Mountain. I was born on the other side of Tohatchi near Redwater. My Mother came from Canyon De Chelly. My Father was raised around Fort Defiance, Arizona. We been living there mostly all my life. My Father was working for the Government first. He first worked for the Missionary at St. Michaels, there's where we started out in a family. I have learned lot of things in my Government job, so far as, I know that I'm very well acquainted with my Government job. And while I was working, I heard about Mr. MacDonald, our ONEO Director, that he was working with the OEO from the start. He has pulled his way through from the earliest part of the year in 1965. This OEO Program has came out from Washington, D.C., not only for the Navajo people and Indians, but it's being open for all public, colored people, white people, all the low class of people. So they have been in all over the United States, as I know of, and Mr. MacDonald has took up this Economic Opportunity Program for the Navajo people. So I think he has done the right thing for his people. Mr. Peter MacDonald has a very good education. He finished his school up to the 12th grade and went to higher school in college, university. He served about 4 years in college, that's where he learned more about good ways of living and then he started to work for the Tribe and then he was too good for the Tribe, so he worked through Washington, D.C. He worked his way into ONEO Program. During the time of 1965 and 1966, the programs was agreed by the Government from Washington, D.C.

to the Tribe. In 1966 he opened up the program to the Navajo people. In the first place, the Washington, D.C. thought that the Navajo people wouldn't do anything of a kind. They think that the Navajo people would not do right with the program. They had talked about, but Mr. MacDonald has kept working on it, saying that the Navajo people can do it themselves. They can lead the way through themselves. They think that the white people was the only one that can do the job of the Economic Opportunity, but Mr. MacDonald keep on working hard until he has brought the OEO Program into the Navajo Tribe. Mr. Chairman, Nakai, has helped Mr. MacDonald, so Mr. Nakai has gaved the ONEO Program to Peter MacDonald. So Peter MacDonald has started his program with the Navajo people. They have served the first 3 month and the Washington was very satisfied that Mr. MacDonald was running it like the way OEO want, want to be done, so he opened it up more deeper than it was before. Mr. MacDonald has sure helped his people out and it sure helped the Tribe too. The Tribe was trying his best to satisfied these people, but there were too many Navajos in the country to support and to look over. So the Economic Opportunity job has helped the Tribe to put in more younger generation, student that are out of jobs and are graduated, to handle all these problems that the ONEO has. So Mr. MacDonald has gather up some best leaders to the office. Today, they are pulling it through more better than it was from the start. The most part of it that bother it is the Pre-school, Headstart and then the next, the second program was the Home Improvement. These are the two best program that we have among the Navajo Reservation. We have Pre-school, Headstart all over the Navajo Reservation, which will help our younger generation in the coming year. This is all what we are looking up to, for our younger generation to have more education in their future time. A Headstart is what we needed and that's what we have.

We are now doing the promise that has took up in 1868, during the treaty of the Navajo people and the United States Government at Fort Summers. Our people has promise, our Forefather has promise the Government that we will educate all people from the birth up to the old age, so that's what we're doing. We're trying to educate our younger generation, as much as possible.

This is one story I like to tell you about and on further, further things that we are talking about is other more better ways. So I'm glad that Mr. MacDonald has set up this program for us, to gather up from all parts of the Navajo Reservation, including us, the Agency part, so he is not forgetting us. We are all working together with the Navajo Tribe, and the BIA, and the ONEO. We are now working all over the reservation to teach our younger generation how to live in better ways of life. As we all know, that we was trying our very best for the last past year, even we were educated and we have worked it our way out to a better way of life of living. And our younger generation has learned part of the Economic Opportunity way and that's what we are here for today. And I'm sure thankful and very glad to be here with you all to talk about such a things as Economic Opportunity.

Mr. MacDonald will be here sometime today, before noon or afternoon. So I am trying to say a few things in a way or in a line of living, how Mr. MacDonald has done for our people. And like we all know that in the past year, we have the Navajo people was only living by livestock. The livestock is a good thing to have, because it was our first money to start with.

During the time of the Fort Summers, some people has told you about what came about during the time of their arrive back to Fort Defiance. The first thing was issue food. The Navajo people has most of them went back to their home, homeland and during in a periods of days, they were called back to talk about lot of things

in their new coming way, which we all knew that was a very good thing for our people to have, and we are still working on and this is what we are doing. During the Treaty of 1868, our Navajo people have made agreement with the Government that all children shall be educated, shall be sent to school. So we are still working on our promise, which we had made that there's year, that we have promise the Government to sent our children to school. That is why we were sent back to our homeland, our home sweet home. Now we are still keeping our promise to sent our children to school, so that is why we having our Headstart, Pre-school, so's that our younger generation will do more better in the coming year. This is what we're after. There are lot of other things that we have to talk about in a way of life.

There are lot of jobs in our own Navajo Reservation that Economic Opportunity has for use, besides we got the Tribe job, on the other hand we got the BIA workers. I don't know how long the BIA will be holding us. And so my people, I am very thankful that Mr. Peter MacDonald has set this up for us, as I say. Mr. MacDonald is a young man yet. Awhile back, I have heard him talking at Shiprock Area; at a meeting. He seems to be very happy about the program, the way he has been talking among his people. So there are more other things that we helped discuss about, in the future time. We are having quite a few programs on hand in the BIA line in the Government world. There are lot of people been asking about better roads to school throughout the Navajo Reservation. They have Pre-school around their own Chapter and they been coming around and ask to have the Road Department through Government to help us build better roads to our homes, to pick-up our little ones and take them to school. This is some problems that they are asking, so that is a very good problem among our family. For all this time I have think about what we should be doing and now we have came to the point of mostly every good points that we have

discussed about, and then living in a good house, living in a place where we be all clean. In a year, about 1957, people didn't talk about anything of a kind. The poor old Navajo Tribe has been working his head off to help its people. During the winter time, the Navajo Nation has been having a hard time feeding their livestock, because of the bad season, it snows. They have lost quite a number of livestock in the past two years, so I don't blame them to talk about their livestock, because livestock is their money, it's their bank.

There has been just a very few white people that has been helping the Navajo people. There is one that started to help the Navajo people, when they have hardship, they let them pawn their jewelry and their beads and he buys livestock off of them. This give us a great help to us. Mr. Littlebear, Joe Tanner, has started this first thing at Navajo Shopping Center in 1957. He sure worked it out his plan in a way of helping the Navajo people. The Navajo people was getting hard-up, having hard times to sell their stock to the Traders. I think the Traders were stuck too, trying to sell their stock to the buyers, but Mr. Tanner, Joe B. Tanner, I think he knew what he was doing, so nobody has never did say nothing against him. He just went on and work on until he finished part of his good ways of doing things for the Navajo people. He took in pawns that is not worth the money, that's the way Mr. Tanner went on until finally he has made very good trade, as to pawn their jeweleries and buy their livestock and then finally he took over another place. He keep turning around here and there to help the Navajo people. Mr. Tanner's Father was known as a name of Littlebear. Today his name is still Littlebear (Navajo pronunciation) in the Navajo language. The Tanner boys, the Tanner family has sure worked together, side by side, to help the Navajo people around Gallup area. As we talk about them that they were one of the first White-Traders that ever help the

people to pawn their jewelry in cash. There was nobody else in Gallup town has done that for the Navajo people. They just rob the people for hardly for nothing of a cost. Most of the Gallup Traders were pretty rough on the Navajo people. During the past year, poor Mr. Tanner has put up the store. The Tanner family has about three big stores and that sure helped the Navajo people. He let them pawn anything that they wish, so I never did think of a white man could do that. Mr. Tanner has found a market for big wools, big wool market, big sheep market, big cattle market, big horse market and now there is two or three Supermarket are working together. One is Alkins family, they are helping the Navajo people to get along as much as they can. So this is the way our Navajo people are living today. We are working with the white people, as in a way of life. We never don't want to talk against them, because they are our friends. There is just a very few white people doesn't trust Indians. Very few white people don't talk against Indians. I have learned lot of things from these boys that are brothers. And I think, it looks to me they are half-breed to the Navajo people. Today, they are still helping our Navajo generation. This is the way that we know Mr. Tanner today, is the Tanner family. And I think you are now working together here, as a CAC member, as everyone else has been talking about CAC members. It looks like it is a very good idea for having the Economic Opportunity in our reservation and the Navajo Economic Opportunity. Now they are planning for the CAC, Community Action Committee, in throughout the Navajo Reservation. So as I told you, that we are very glad with our white friends, which we have today in different places. We are very thankful to have these good friends among us. And we are all looking up to the Supermarkets that are being established around Gallup area. So the new Indian Traders that just recently started, they are doing fine, because the Navajo people has been working and helping them to

do so. I don't have a various pointed yet, which I think that is just for our Navajo people in a way of talking about the CAC Committees and the Leadership members, I think it sounds pretty good as it is for all the Navajo people. I have heard that the...lot of discussion made by the Navajo people was worth it. We have with us today that some people might wanted to ask questions about different things, but later on we'll give them a chance to say so, when Mr. MacDonald comes. So I wouldn't mind telling you what I think about Mr. MacDonald. While he is coming, I am giving you a little talk about different things. We are also working hard for you younger generation, as we are putting up roads for you people to have better traveling way. And I have noticed there are lot of poor Traders that we have among our Navajo Reservation, as what I call the poor Traders, is the white people that always want to get ahold of more of your things for hardly for nothing. But I am going to have the....ask any questions they wish to ask, because I'm very glad to answer such questions. So we will now have an open for different questions that I have just told you about. So I'm going to rest for awhile, if there isn't anybody to ask any such questions. I will be continue on til I have my time is over. It looks like there's no question has been answer, so I'll be keep continuing on with my speech.

I have heard Mr. Long from the outside reservation that had talked about lot of things in a way of better life. I have learned different, the Navajo Economic Opportunity has a very far deep ideas and plans for the Navajo people. I have read about lot of things, which the Economic Opportunity Program has. In the first place, they have started the Pre-school throughout the Navajo Reservation, that's number one problem. The second is the Home Improvement for the Navajo people, which is a good thing too, that's the numbers two problem. We'll go on, we find the alcohol, but

it is hard to reach, hard to get to the point. It is a very good thing for us that we wouldn't say that the people are doing wrong, we are saying that the people are doing right in a way of better living way. All these things ought to be brought out to our people so they could know about whats going on. This is what we do in the Navajo Agency. We been working among our own people from years after years, trying to show them what a better life means, better living way. And so today, in the Government way I have lot of friends for my people, all through in my area, which is most irrigation discussion and program, so the people can plant good crops, so the people can plant alfalfa for the winter program, or else they can be sold to our own people, which they usually have a very bad weather in the winter time. So this is some problem that I have worked among them. During the summer time, I'd have a Dam working job throughout different area for the people to use in the winter time, some places there are good places to hold water, some places the water just wash away. So we are looking for, looking into every canyon on our reservation. So everybody is well satisfied by setting up water dam in through the area, and besides that, we are working on roads, which is in the various need for our people. In the past year, we have build 30 or 40 different roads in through the Navajo territory. So I'm very glad to tell you that much about my job and besides that, we have some more bigger problems that we are running some long distant roads from Gallup to ~~H~~uerfano. The people are talking about putting in better roads, so that's what we are doing anytime. So that is what you are here for today, discussing such problems to the ONEO, but it is for your own use, it is for the Navajo people.

The Community Action Committee is a good problem for our people. They talk about things, which Navajo needs in their Navajo Reservation. So I think that we

are now getting to the point in our education job. Our younger generation has went through high school and are learning, learned the various things to help their people with. So that's what Mr. MacDonald had done for its people. He has worked his head off to make a better way of living for his people. And he is still keep climbing higher and higher. So some of these days, we might have some of our younger generation at the office of Washington. So we must all work together and do the best discussion among our group. This is what we're here for to learn about more better ways of living and to learn about the more better...we looking forward for all these things, that is why we are having the Community Action Committee.

So, I don't know what else to tell you about, but I'll keep on trying my best to remember things what is good for you. We have lost quite a number of good weavers in the past few years and we also talking about teaching our younger generation to learn how to weave good rugs. This is one thing we are loosing, that I think it would be best to teach them in school how to weave rugs and like I say that Mr. J.B. Tanner has helped us in a way of pawning our jewelries. We need some jewelry workers. All of this is life, we must talk about weaving rugs and making jewelrsmith. So let us work together, which we know of, I think its right for our people. There will be more things to add later on, keep on discussing things, we will get into better problems later on. So that's what Mr. MacDonald has have in mind, so that we Navajo people can be up to the level of our people. What I mean about level is, we can bring out...up poor people to catch up the people that are living in a better way of life. As I been telling you that, I have been working with my people, as to have a good irrigation, so's that they can get the water from the San Juan River that is going through the...as I say, we need alfalfa

through the winter, so that's what I'm working on, that we are building irrigation, arroyos from way off the both San Juan River and Farmington on along side, on top of the river. We are following all the way down to where most of the people are living. So we need them acres of land, which they can use, that we are calling on to the Navajo people that are living on the Navajo Reservation to apply for a little place where they can plant their alfalfa and corn. In the earliest days, corn was a very good thing to have for food. And so we are now having a good irrigation problems through the year round. Some people have been done good with their farming, raising good alfalfa feed and raising good corn, watermelon, during the summer time and chili and alfalfa. They have a very good season for alfalfa. This year they made quite a few money on it, on alfalfa, because of the bad weather they had. This is working around and around through the Traders and through the Navajo Traders throughout the Navajo Reservation, the same way with corn. Some of them have apple fields, orchard, so I am working among my people in that area to help them, as much as I can, so's that they can make better way of living. And this is what my job is at Shiprock, as working with the Agency in that area. As a Director Area, I have served about a little better than five years now and I'm doing pretty good so far, helping my people. And as I know, we sure need it. There are over thousands of other Navajo needs good ways of living. So that is why I am saying that we are pulling, as hard as we can, in every way that we can pull. That's what Mr. MacDonald wants me to tell you people here, what my job is, as working with the Government Agency. Peter is working with the Government also, but he's working, as a Economic Opportunity Leader, among his people. So we are still working together as brothers and sisters and other relations. We are working very fine among ourself. There is lot of things to be known in a life of better

way of living.

We have also have a Electric Power Plant. The Navajo has a Electric Power Plant, which run through the Navajo Reservation, throughout the area. We also know that we have another Dam at Page, Arizona, that is belong to the Navajo Tribe, which is pulling through all over the Western part of the state. Later on, we'll have it through this part of Arizona. Now we are trying to go as far as we can, that we can make some money back for our people. So we have over eight or nine-thousand more students that are graduated from the high school. This we have to talk about, where can they make a living, and what can they do to make a living. That is why I say that I am working up a problem for irrigation plans, garden plans. We are calling more Navajos to come and pick out some acres of land to use to plant on. It is open 1968-1969, we are open till we are all distribute out what land we have, but if there are more land all the way down, as far as another 150 mile, down towards Page, along side the river. We might have more bigger irrigation later on. We are still talking about it, discussing about what other plans that we might take up.

So let us work together and find the way for our people to live. We have some very good white people that have helped our people to live the right way in life in the earliest days. As we know, the white people, in the earliest days has helped our people to sent them to Fort Summers. As I have been telling you all the time, that during the Fort Summers time, people had learned their lesson about good living way, what they have done in the past year. So the Government people has done a great deal for us. They taught us. They have worked hard to bring us this far. They have builded Boarding Schools for us. And from the beginning of start; they have educated mostly half of the Nation of the Navajo people. So I

think the white people is one of the good friend we have in the world. They are still helping us. The reason why, sometime I think, the white people is helping us is that we gave them our land, the American, the Indian had this land before, before the white people ever came. So I think that's one thing why the Government people has think that they have helped us through the past year and they have builtd school houses, down towards throughout the Navajo country. And they have taughted half of the Nation already. Mostly everywhere you go, you find younger generation are talking in English. There is just a very few people, the Navajo people, that are living in the Western part of the state, are not very well educated, especially around Low Mountain and Black Mountain that they didn't civilize for quite a numbers of years until a man, name by Dr. Russell came from Phoenix, from Arizona, worked among them, as Father to the people. So he has worked hard among the Navajo people and then finally he married a Navajo woman. He is a very kind man today, that he now is running a Public School for the Navajo people, and at the same time, he has established a Navajo College in the Indian Navajo Reservation. So here is another whiteman that is for the Navajo people, because that he is married to the Navajo Nation. As I know that most of the white people are trying to help us. Now most of our people are being connected with the different tribes, like colored people, Mexicans, white people and other Indian Nations. We are all mixed, we are helping each other in a way of better way of living. So that is the way we Navajo people are living today. We have another problem, which we are now working on is that our Navajo Ceremonial in Gallup. We have it, part of it at Window Rock Indian Center, which we all know that we gather there mostly every year with our old culture ideas, which we display among the ground of the Ceremonial, like sheep, cattle, horses, every moving animals we gather there together, potteries,

rugs, bow and arrows that are our old Forefather use to have. There are lot of thousands of white people come to see that from all parts of the United States, same way with the Gallup Indian Ceremonial. We all take part in it from all parts of the United States. Indians from all parts comes to join the Indian Ceremonial. Today we are having the last program, because of they are building a highway through the Fairground in Gallup. They are building a highway 66 to the West and East, so we don't, we can't say nothing about it. I think it's going to be moved down close to Church Rock, sometime next year. We do hope that we'll have another Ceremonial next year. I never did have a...have had asked any questions about where it is going to be, but it's going to be along side the Redcliff, around Church Rock. So my friend, we are growing into a big Nation. Everyone else says that the Navajo people are getting to be one of the biggest Indian Nation in the United States. There is over a hundred-thousand Navajo people that is now through the Navajo Reservation and throughout the United States country, even then, we have that much Nation. We are fighting hard to get along, as in a good way of living, and at the same time, we are trying to work a good education, besides that we are working together, side by side, to build our own homes, and build our own garden to raise different kinds of things, around Shiprock area. So this is what I have, a good story about my people, and at the same time we are building good homes among our people and we are working with the ONEO to get more children in school in the coming year of 1970, so we are building a Pre-school, Headstart through all over the Navajo Reservation. So this is what I have in mind to tell you about my story and through my district. And I might tell you more story about that we have more plan in the future. We are planning to build more houses for our people and that's what we need. And we have a very good leaders today to build good houses,

so I don't think we don't worry much about building good houses. So I think of today that we Navajo people are getting to realize what is ahead of us. We learn from our school. We learned from a good education, what the Government has gave us. He was one of the greatest brother in the past year, that is why our great Forefather had made a Treaty with the Government people. So I don't know what else to tell you more that is good for our people, but we, as I say that we are still continue on with such problem and program and discussion that would work together among our people. We are not very poor yet. The Navajo Tribe has build a big "saw-mill" and has built a big place where they can bring out more good lumber. We have our own timber on our own reservation, which we can saw timbers and fall it down and have it cut. Today, we are still working on more such better problem as all of these we had, good timber land. So we are not worried too much, but we are all working together throughout the Navajo Reservation. I have learned some good problems and ideas from you people, even I am the East Agency of your Tribe. I got it from you people, you were the one who taught it here how to run things, so you are my teachers. That is the only way we have to learn is by studying you people, what you needed and how you live about in through the Navajo Reservation. I think you have a very well understanding of what I have told you, that if we all work together everything wouldn't be so hard. Don't try to pull aways from other, while you are discussing, handle everything you need in the line of good ways of living, keep it on hand, so that it would not go away.

There's another good big problem that we have to talk about is our "rug weaving" problem. They are dying off, because our younger generation don't want to learn how to weave rug. We ought to put up a place where they can learn how to weave rug, how to spin year, how to carve and how to dye wool. If we just keep this

secretly, we will never get ahead. We will just forget all things that we use to do. This we use to have in the earliest part of our generation. We knew where all this weaving came from, but most of us people don't want to tell about how if there was originated to our country. Today, we are famous in a rug weaving. There is nobody else without weave us in a rug weaving line. Same way with jewelry making. Today we have thousands and thousands of dollars in around Gallup area that its going throughout the world, so the rug is use the same way. Lot of people wanted to have a good rug, which is pretty in their room. They have a great deal of good ways of having them. So I say that we Navajo people are still famous about rugs and jeweleries. I have told you lot of things about my ways in my Supervisor area. So, I think you have a very well understanding so far, that I think you'll never forget all these good ideas that we are now working on. So I think throughout our meeting up to the finish, we will have a better more ideas of doing things in a way of better living way. And there is lot of other more to teach about, but we will have this all on hand later on. I hope so. So let's keep trying work it together, as we go along. I know you will be more better, when you get back to your home land and have more better problem, when you get back. This is a good reason you came here. So I think this will be enough of my speech today, so I thank you all.

END OF TAPE