

AMERICAN INDIAN HISTORICAL RESEARCH PROJECT

University of New Mexico

Tape Number: #459 Side II

Tribe: Indians of all Tribes

Informant: La Rayne Parrish (Navajo)

Informant's home address: Far West Lab. Berkely

Band or Clan: Kayenta

Date and location of interview: 2/5/70

Field Worker: Boyd, Anna, Dennis Stanford

Date of transcription:

Contents: Conditions of the Island, Filming on the Island and work being done by the far west lab.

Alcatraz

Evaluation of Interview:

Future Prospects:

Tape #459
MISCELLANEOUS - ALCATRAZ
La Rayne Parrish
February 5, 1970
STANDARD AND BOYD
Side Two

FAR WEST LABORATORIES

AP. Making a film is really...

QS. They are probably more afraid of you...

AP. I don't know you know...I really want to help...I told this about three weeks ago...up until a month ago that I even offered any kind of assistance...because his approach to the whole film was an entirely different thing of what I would like...to be in it. And you know like reservation flashback, Navajos, Oklahoma...perhaps the Iroquoise and see what they...things like that...

QS. (?)

AP. It has to be...

QS. Yeah, (?) that is more money and time than he would ever get out of (?)

QL. Getting paid on some of these...

QS. Well you would think that he would be perceptive enough to see that...you know when...

QL. Like in the background...

AP. Well you know it is like my going to Laftland you know... getting involved in a movement there...and trying to make a documentary...I don't know a damn thing about those people except that they live up there...and ...I can see...regardless if the guy was perceptive enough

for films like this...The guy would say, or anybody would say...all right, I am very interested in this I know the techniques in making the film...and I can give technical assistance...but I think that if a film...of course this is what I would like to see...he should say...(?) I'll produce the film and you direct it...but he wants to be director...

QS. Have you been thinking what I have been thinking.?

QL. What have you been thinking? Yeah, that is what I am beginning to think...I think we have got one tired Irene...I don't know about Anna...is Anna still mad at us...

AP. What?

QS. Anna...is she still mad at us?

AP. I don't know...she was upset, but

QS. I don't know what she is upset about...

AP. Well she...would you like to smoke the peace pipe?

QS. Not after last night...

AP. Tell me about last night...tell me what happened...

QS. Oh I...

AP. I really wish that I could go out to the island, cause I would introduce you to everyone...

QS. Yeah I wish that you could...Why don't you take tomorrow off?

AP. I would get fired really for sure...because...all right
...I'll tell you what I will do...well another qualm
I have, working at research lab...my boss is a black-
woman with a PH.D. and who is on an establishment ego
trip...and so you know it is a continual hassle with
her...and there are other administrators with abstract
degrees from the midwest you know...I don't know what
kind of background they have...so they hassle, put her
on a trip because she is black and an administrator and
she in turn because she is on an establishment and
ego trip, a black woman at that...puts it on on us...
but she can't do to with us...She is dealing with a
completely new group of people...I can't go over there
from 3 to 5 and work...I have got to go out to the film
...A couple of the DNA attorneys from Tuba City where
I worked were up here three weeks ago and I took them
out to the island and maybe I can ask and you can all
go out there...I have become friends with just about
everybody...the drunks on the boats...all through the
attorneys you know...

QS. I don't know whether we will have any trouble or not...
but these three won't...

AP. No, I would just like to take you out and introduce you
to all the people and then people have seen me out there
all the time and if I go out every weekend.

QS. Well, one thing they did was they gave me a pass to get on the island, I am awfully impressed. I don't think that they would do that if...I don't know...I just had a feeling that...

AP. I think...

QS. What is it?

AP. This pipe?

QS. What you are putting in it?

AP. Grass...

QS. Is it liquid...

AP. Huh...? Huh, huh...

QS. Last night I thought you poured it in like it was liquid or something...it got me right here, coughing..

AP. John...want some dope...

AJ. Yeah, I guess...this has been one dope day...gosh, breakfast, lunch and dinner...

AP. I hope I get Trudell coughing...he was coughing. He was coughing...this friend of mine was coughing for a long time...and he finally went to the doctor yesterday and he had post bronchitis...

AJ. He hasn't gotten over it?

AP. Well he had just gotten over it and well when I had it and I had this weird cough, you know...and after a while...

- AJ. I was beginning to think all the Indians on Alcatraz had TB...
- AP. I am going to drive to John Trudells office tomorrow and get a copy of that...at the lab.
- AZ. Oh LaRayne, I think that you better go and see a doctor...
- AP. I think so too...drag myself up...
- QS. You want us to call you in the morning...yeah, so cause I am going to leave Friday night for LA...ten dollars midnight flight...
- QS. I spilled my tobacco on the floor...
- AP. Yeah, I think generally the whole Alcatraz movement has been a good thing and is a good thing...you will probably get different interpretations from different people... but I can understand why they feel that way...I have been able to develop a relationship with everybody...of different factions because I don't, because I haven't totally gotten involved I can say that I am political corp...and I am in a fringe, just going in and out of it this is how I feel...you know, because when there was a changing power structure. Naturally I would go from a good mood with the people to another group and this other group would tell me about the other people you know and so I just got both views on it you know and it was just sheer...

QS. Can you tell me something about the internal problems with this political...

AP. Well the only problem that I am fully aware of now... you know...is...these are just, they are very important to these people and they hassle if it is important...but like okay...I will give you one example...some of the problems now, that we are in school...This school is run by, the nursery school for instance is run by a Urok woman and her husband is Central American ...but he is there, he believes that what he wants to do you know, They lived on the reservation and they came and joined the island, and they are across the hall, that Stella Leach is one of the council members...one of the spokesmen. Stella Leach and company I will say...cause they all say that the nursery school is not operating the way that it should be...they are using up more money than is necessary. and things like this...it is really a hassle, but I think that is the only real difficulty going on, they don't communicate..they don't sit down and say...I have heard evenings of one story I mean, I have gone in several evenings to one apartment ...several evenings to the others and I just got both sides of the story and they are all, you know, they aren't anything to get uptight about, but it is all just a misunderstanding..all they have to do from what

I can see...is sit down and talk about it...and just from my, from what I can see...you know...I just try to mention that fact, but questioning them on it, not directly asking...and it is just some simple misunderstanding, but these people really feel all the same way ...it is just some things...and now I think they are just...now that people have secured their positions, things are soothing out...last Saturday, Alcatraz and the Bay Area Indian Organization own that and voted to give Alcatraz priority...of the problem for Indians which is just a fantastic thing...just blew my mind... because just a month ago, like an ad hoc committee was objected to Alcatraz getting funds...and a couple of other organizations...didn't think Alcatraz had priority...but this is all the political organizations ...but well, to have all the Indians organization vote, Alcatraz priority and Alcatraz is being run by the Indian young people. That in itself is an example of saying gee you kids should be doing this and we will give you a chance to do it...but the establishment is against young people now...

END OF INTERVIEW