

? Box 13

4.26.95

Kathlene -

There is a Restriction
letter dated 1978 in that
file, but request as
I received it was not
"approved." Ok to send?

Thanks -

Judy B

Judy -

I discussed this with the
patron, and approved his request
verbally. Sorry, I didn't receive
the form from him (I don't know
who did) anyway, its OK to
copy. Thanks for checking.

JKF



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DEPARTMENT OF HISTORY
TELEPHONE 505: 277-2841

July 10, 1970

TO: All persons interested in using this manuscript or the
tape from which it was made.

FROM: Mrs. Horace Biggs, Albuquerque, New Mexico.

Subject: Use of manuscripts and tapes.

Because of the family information that was included in these tapes when they were made, I would appreciate the opportunity of meeting EVERYONE who is searching for information in this material. I have no intention of denying to legitimate scholars the opportunity to work with these manuscripts; but I do wish to discuss every researcher's project with him BEFORE he begins work. If I am not available for consultation, any of Tom Allen's children may be contacted for permission to use these materials.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Mrs. Horace Biggs".

Mrs. Horace Biggs
July 10, 1970

Mrs. Bill Palmer (trader)
Crownpoint, New Mexico
February 16, 1969
Side 2
Tape # 616

Jewelry Making
Informants

A.

But anyway they would go to Fort Defiance every day so this one night, I was tired and I was just disgusted anyway and I was coming home, driving that little Saab and I noticed these lights ahead of me and I didn't have sense to slow down a little bit and find out what was going on. It just came to me real fast, and I said to myself, "I bet that is the Navajo Police." And sure enough it was and then so man I just ran through my head, so I figured well he knows how fast I am driving by now. So he turned his little red light on and I pulled over and stopped. And he came over and said, "don't you know that you were driving pretty fast," And I said, yes, I was going pretty fast. And he said, "Oh Mrs. Palmer, I didn't know that it was you, I thought it was one of your boys had your car driving it too fast." I said, "Oh sir, don't you ever let them drive fast like that." And he said "well I thought it was those boys and I know that you didn't want to drive fast like that so I thought I had better stop you." And we went on like that so, for 30 minutes and he said, "are you in a hurry?" And he said, I sure am. And he said, "well I will go first." And he jumped into his car and pulled out ahead of me and turned that red light on and if you think I didn't have help then.

Q. What were you driving then, the Saab?

A. I think I put

And I had an escort all the way into Crownpoint. And you know that I took Mike Simms when he was running for Congress out there, out through that road, that would have been before it was paved too, and that winter we almost a Congressional candidate because you know he thought he had come to the end of the world. And Oh he got out of that little bus that we were driving and he was shaking to pieces. And he shook hands with everybody clear across that reservation and when he got to Lillian's place there at Standing Rock and I noticed him kind of looking at his hands and holding them kind of out from him. And he asked Lillian if he could wash his hands. So she took him inot the kitchen so that he could wash his hands in the kitchen sink and that water she offered him a glass of water and he took a sip of that water and he was really looking for a place to put it out. It was just the most pitiful sight I ever saw. So you could imagine.

Mr. Biggs:

A. That is really good book, I have enjoyed that.....

Q. Does it have a text to it or it is just pictures?

Q. What kind of silver work are you getting now?

A. We are not buying any new, there isn't too much silver work that is being done at home. Most of it is being done in the shops. And I don't.....They have hired people to work for them, like over here at the...Not too much is being done in the homes. I know of one or two families that do it, but not a lot.

Q. Is there one area of the reservation that does more and better work than another?

A. Borrego Pass has probably one of the best silversmiths in the country.

Mrs. Biggs: Now they are doing it at home, aren't they?

A. Yes, they are doing at home. They are doing piece work.....

Q. Borrego Pass?

A. And it is from Prewitt, 20 miles west of Grants. I think that it is. And then Borrego Pass is about 20 miles north of that, northeast of Grants.....

Q. Is that where they market it, at Borrego Pass?

A. Yes, he buys quite a lot there. And they take it around to different people, but he keeps them supplied with silver and turquoise and you should go talk to him.....

Q. Well what do you get mostly at Crownpoint?

A. We just deal with, we don't really buy any of the jewelry, we just deal with pawn.....

Q. Is this a recent change or has it always been this way?

A. It has always been this way.

Mr. Biggs: Crownpoint isn't much with silversmithing.....

Q. What about rugs?

A. Well they are improving them all the time, Crownpoint has never been famous for their good rugs. But we had a few good weavers, not many, that started the rug auction which was four year's ago. Why they have improved greatly their quality of rugs.

Q. Is there a particular pattern that is characteristic of that area?

A. There was, now they are copying everybody.....

Mrs. Biggs: We have some good weavers at WhiteRock and all those folks came from there.

A. There is another one that you could talk to, Herbert Blatchford. This guy right here....

Q. Does he live in Crownpoint?

A. No, he lives in Gallup, and he manages the Gallup Indian Center you know where that... Well he manages that. And this is him with the shirt on. Now he could give you a lot of....he studied this, pretty much as you want, not much from the legend standpoint, but how it happened, where it happened and when it happened. And he would be real good to work with you. I have never known him to turn his back where there was a job to be done. When he thought the job would be beneficial to anybody.

- Q. Well one of things that I wanted to ask you was whether you were aware of the ONEO sending teams into your area for this same purpose? Because they told me that they had, I don't know whether they called it an agent or an agency or a district set up and they mentioned Crownpoint as one of the areas that they were working in.
- A. Yes, Tom Ration is in charge of that. And I don't know how successful it had been, I know that he has been working with it. But I don't know how successful he is, I have don't know, I have no idea.
- Q. Do you know Tom Ration very well?
- A. No, not to well.
- Q. Am I free to speak? Well I will tell you what I know and the reason I ask is because Tom Ration is working with us.
- A. Oh is he really, well good.
- Q. And I didn't know that he was working with the ONEO also and he has been bringing us a lot of material only some of which has been from the Crownpoint area. Most of it comes from someplace else.
- Mr. Biggs: Tom Ration does not live at Crownpoint.
- A. No, he is from Smith Lake.
- Q. Yes, that is where he is getting most of his material.
- Mr. Biggs; I don't know him too well, but I do remember the name. But what I remember of him, I didn't like him.
- A. I wouldn't trade with him.
- Mr. Biggs: I don't trust him.
- A. I wouldn't trade with him for anything. This is just the sort of thing that he would do, is like you say working for both groups. And not letting either group know that.
- Q. Well that doesn't make any difference.
- A. I can see where it would.
- Q. But you know here when Howard faced the same problem when he was trying to decide whether to record for me and Rough Rock at the same time, he wouldn't touch it. And he asked that he would like to do it but he would like to not do it, but he was pretty sure that the Rough Rock people wouldn't like it.
- A. What about Alice Hawthorne, Captain Hawthorne's wife!
-
- Mr. Biggs: I think part of this book was done a long time ago, and he came back later and did it.
- A. That is what it looks like, doesn't it?

Mr. Biggs: Yeah!

A. Was there anything more that I could help you with?

Q. Well I hope that.....

A. I am sort of lost, I don't know if I can help.....

Q. No, I think that the contacts are the most important thing. And just the fact that I have had a little talk with you and being able to talk to you and to say to Vern that I have talked to you will, I am sure, make it a little more.....

A.

Q. Well it is the same thing with Howard and a lot of other people.

END OF TAPE