

Zonnie May Lee
NAVAJO Tape # 754
Fort Defiance, Arizona
Patient at U.S.P.H. Indian Sanatorium
Albuquerque, New Mexico
Oct. 31, 1967

This is the story of Zonnie May Lee as told in her own words. She tells a short story of her early childhood memories.

ZONNIE LEE: This story is about myself Mrs. Lee but I'll begin where my mother and father met each other and where I was born. My father said he used to work for a storekeeper at Nazlini and this store is close to a big mountain he said it used to be a little store that time. My father said when my mother weave's my blanket she always brings to the store, he said theirs where we met to each other thats where their met as a boy friends, and started planning to get marry, then my father said this father went to the place where my relative's live's he said he really went in to see my mother's father and mother he ask them to put their children together. I guess it was ok and the plain is fix and set the date. My father said their marry and Indian ways, he said their really good to each other for some years, my father said stay at my mother's place for 2 years, and then he said he build a house for themself close to the store. My father said I was born in May 20, 1898 and so I was born where the place they call Nazlini. My father siad my mother begin getting sick most all the time, he said there were no Hospital near bye this area and Chinle were bare every where no hospital any place no houses, no school any where no nothing just bare places. I guess they hired a medicine man her. I just don't know anything about these things. My father said I was a year old when my mother begin getting sick so I didn't know my mother. You know when anybody sick their still hired a medicine man for them. My father said his sister took care of me when my mother died. This is just my father tells me. I guess that time there don't even take good care of themself. And that's

why they get sick right quick and easy. And here me I was a little girl and don't know how I pullly all through these sickness and every things disease germs and eat any old way and I guess I eat anything that's in front of me and that they gave me. My father said when his sister died again and here his really mother was taking care of me again and I guess there's no body would take care of me, when all the relatives of my father died that's what he said, and he said now just me and my oldest brother, and so I have to take you back where your really realtives live. He said you get really Grandmother and your really mother sisters, he said they live near Chinle, my father said I was three years old and I know he was talking to me. I remember sitting by him he said dearie I'll take you back to more, and I know he said take good care of yourself dear, and started to cried. I remember and said I don't want to my father I don't know these family that you going to take me and I remember he said since your really mother died and there's nobody to take of us. And you see they took care of you for three years dear, and when you are small little girl when your mother died your aunt use to come and visit you. I guess she wanted know how you getting along with us. The Second time she came again and she wanted to take you but you don't want to, if cause you was small. I know and remember what I said and ask my father where are you going to stay. And I know and remember there were some girls and little boys around there were his nieces and uncles lives. Then the next morning we started for my really home where my Grandmother and Aunts lives. And we went on horseback early in the morning and got there in the evening. There was a big hogan and some small hogan. My father said that's where they live there were lots kids playing out side of the hogan and there were smoke coming up from all the hogan's than dogs were just barking at us than we got off the horse we went in the hogan. And their were one old woman sitting on the ground their were some young women cooking supper. Oh I just don't know any of them and that was my relatives. I guess they know my father, than my father got hold of my hand and start cried, he holding my hand's for a while, and my fahter said and those are your really Aunt's and shake hands with me. My father stay there over nite, in the morning he begin to talk to the family, I know he said I brought my

daughter back, he said I like to keep her at my home, but I've got nobody to take care of her she'll get use to the children for not to get lonesome, he said please take good of her, because I was the only one no sister no brother, I know he said she now three years old more. And when their still talking and talking I went out side to look around. The children were playing around and look at me, I just don't know any of them, than my father go out of the hogan and hold my hand then he said well my daughter I'm going home . Now, oh I remember I start crying and crying I said my father I want to go back with you. I know I said I don't want to stay here, I guess I so bited full then he decided again he wanted to stay there for two more day. And there were some boys building a hogan he help the boys instead of going home. My father stay there for a few more days helping around there with the boys. My Grandmother said come with me dear lets go to my hogan and I foll her, she lives near close to her daughters place, and there my Grandmother talk to me, she said I'm your really Grandmother dear, and so now you came back your mother died and you didn't really know her very well, and he was my really daughter this is what she told me. Than the hogan fix build up my father was going home this time I didn't cried he hold my hands and talk to me good and don't cried. I'll see you some time I remember what my father said to me and I told a right father and said I wonder their take care of me and he said I think they will dear. I'll see you off and I kind acquainted with the children their little bigger than me their nice to me for a few days, my Auntie said be nice to her and talk to her nice, in a few days I kind don't like them. They were so ruffer and teasing me and make their mother tell's them to do something they wouldn't do it when thier mother weaving and she tells them to cook dinner or supper, they don't mind their mother and I look at them and think I wish I was big and cook and know everything, and they telling me go inside and build the fire. Oh they were kind getting mean to me and their mother scold all of us and here they chase me to go inside and cook for them and side I don't know how, and I was four years old, they were really mean to me treat

me just like a slave. And herding sheep all by self. They don't even doing anything just running back and forth hogan to hogan, and when I come with the sheep, to cook for yourself. Oh I was so afraid of them, but I just look arunnd and found something to eat, when they kind really maan to me treated me just like a slave and never think of me that I don't even really belong to them. Oh I was so busy every day and have tears in my eyes and they tell me bring some water and gave two buckets. It was a little farther. Oh I just afraid I just have to go, and early in morning they wake me up to build the fire and all these two years been slave for them and herding sheep for them everyday. and made me hurry to take the sheep out, I never did eat right in front of them. Oh I was so tired everyday even the mother I mean my Auntie she don't treat me right, I am the only one their telling me do this and I have to do what they tell me. See how my relative raise me maybe I left with everytings. And they get sick mostly all the time. I don't even get a pain nor sick any where, the way I think about they make me tough and strong. When I was close to six old my aunt begin get sick mostly all the time I never stay home not even a day and don't know what their doing to her. One time when I came back with the sheep I hear s medicine man singing, I remember she was very sick, after two days she died and here I was staying with three girls and 2 boys, Oh I begin to getting worry and worry, then my father came to see me after my aunt died, he just ask me how I'm getting along. He said you getting big my dear, I told him my father I want to go to school, he ask what do the children say, and I said I don't say anything about it, and I said to him going ran to school father. They say thens a school at Fort Defiance, and I don't know what place is that, and then he said again, I'll see about it dear. He said don't away anytime I'll come and see again and I'll take you to Fort Defiance and put you to school. Oh is was alright father. Then he went home, he said I'll come and see you soon, oh I was waiting for father. And here my really Grandpa came to see us it was in the afternoon he came the dog was barking, and I ran outside. Come right in I said, Grandpa came, then he came

begin where my mother and father met each other and where I was born my father said he use to work for a store keeper at ^{WAZLING} ~~WAZLING~~ and this store is close to a big mountain he said it use to be a little store that time. my father said when my mother weaves my blanket she always brings to the store, he said theirs where we met to each other that's where their met as a boy friends, and started planning to get marry, than my father said his father went to the place where my mother's live's he said he really went in to see my mother's mother, and her father, than this man came to see my mother's father & mother he ask them to put their children to gather, I guess it was ok & the plain is fix and set the date. my father said their marry an ordain ways, he said their really good to each other for some years, my father said stay at my mother's place for 2 years, & than he said he build a house for them self close to the store my father said I was born in May 20, 1898 and so I was born where the place they call Wazling's. my father said my mother begin getting sick most all the time, he said there were no Hospital near bye this area and China were bare every where no Hospital any place no houses no school any where no nothing just bare places, I guess they hid'd a medicine man her, I just dont know any thing about these things my father said I was a year old, when my mother begin getting sick so I didn't know my mother, you know when any body sick their still hid and a medicine man for them my father said his sister took care of me when ~~my~~ mother died. this is just my father tells me, I guess that time their

in, he said "ye ah tah" he said how are you getting along my children. The girls said we all ok Grandpa, oh I almost cried when I saw my Grandpa, and I ran out quickly and think about outside the way I think about it I'm going back with my Grandpa, he was a police at Fort Defiance, that time my Grandpa use to say the just a horse, when we go for some one out to the reservation. One girl said you go and take the sheep out. They wer still talking and talking, of I was waiting for my Grandpa herding sheep on the road, and here he's coming and I ran to him, he stop. I start do cried and he said whats the matter Granddaughter and I told him their so mean to me Grandpa and I want to go back with you to Fort Defiance and I want to go to school Grandpa. I cried said please Grandpa, and he said we shall take the sheep back, he said you ready and I said yes, and I said if I go over there myself with sheep they'll say no, He took the sheep back, I guess he told them, so I sure raise like slave, and I didn't see my really mother at all, I don't know if she was alive and don't know if I went to school. And just raise like Cindere11a and she win for be slave and marry rich king. And that's the way I raise and marry a rich man, too.

don't even take good care of them self,
and that's why they get sick right quick and
easy, and here me I was a little girl and
don't know how I pulled get through these
sickness and every things disease germs and
eat any old way and I guess I eat anything
that's in front of me and that they gave me,
my father said when his sister died again and
here his really mother was taking care of me
again and I guess there's no body would take
care of me, when all the relatives of my father
died that's what he said, + he said now just me
and my oldest brother, and so I have to take
you back where your really relatives live he
said you got really Grand mother + your really
mother sisters, he said their live near China,
my father said I was Three years old and I know
he was talking to me, I remember sitting by him
he said dearie I'll take you back to home, + I know
he said take good care of yourself dear, + started
to cry I remember + said I don't want to my
father I don't know these family that you going
to take me + I remember he said since your really
mother died dear ^{he said} and me my mother and my sisters
died and there's no body to take of us, and you see
they took care of you for three years dear, and when
you are small little girl when your mother died your
Aunt use to come and visit you I guess she wanted
know how you getting along with us, the second
time she come again and she wanted to take you
but you don't want to, if course you was small,
I know + remember what I said and ask my
father where are you going to stay, and I know
+ remember their were some girls + little boys
around their were his dress + uncles, lives
than the next morning we started for

my really home where my Grand mother and
Aunties lives, and we went on horse back
early in the morning and got there in the
evening and there was a big hogan and some
small ^{hogan} my father said that's where they live
their were lots kids playing out side of the
hogan and there were smoke coming up from
all the hogan's than dogs were just barking at us
than we got of the horse we went in the hogan
and their were one old woman sitting on the ground
their were some young women cooking supper
oh I just dont know any of them, ^{and that was the relatives} I guess they
know my father, than my father got hold of my
hand + start me to the old woman, he said this
is your really Grand mother she got hold of my
hand + start Cried, she holding my hand's for
a while, and my father said and those are
your really Aunties and shake hands with me
my father stay there over nite, in the morning
he begin to talk to the family, I know he said
I brought my daughter back, he said I like
to keep her at my home, but I've got no body
to take care of her + that's why I brought her
back and let her know all her relatives:
and think of her she'll get use to the children
for not to get lonesome, he said please take
good of her, because I was the only one no sister
no brother, I know he said she ^{was} three years old now,
and when their still talking + talking I went out
side to look around the children were playing
around + look at me, I just dont know any of them
than my father out of the hogan + hold my hand
than he said well my daughter I'm going home
now, oh I remember I start crying + crying I said
my father I want to go back with you + know
I said I dont want to stay here I guess I bited
suee

than he decided again he wanted to stay there
for two more days & their were some boys
building a hogan he help the boys instead of
going ^{home} my father stay there for a few more
days helping around there with the boys
my Grand mother said Come with me dear lets go
to my hogan and I fall her, she lives near close
to her daughter's place, and there my Grand mother
talk to me, she said I'm your really Grand mother dear,
and so now you came back your mother died & you
didn't really know her very well, and he was my
really daughter this is what she told me, than the
hogan fix build up my father was going home
this time I didn't cried he hold my hands and
talk to me good & dont cried, I'll see you some time
I remember what my father said to me & I told
alright father & said I wonder their take care
of me & he said I think they will dear I'll see you
off and I kind acquainted with the children their
little bigger than me their nice to me for a few
days, my Auntie said be nice to her & talk to
^{my} nice, in a few days I kind dont like there
They were so ruff and teasing me & make
me cried, the girls were big & they ^{dont} care to do any
their mother tells them to do something they
wouldnt do it when their mother wearing
and she tells them to cook dinner or supper,
they dont mind their mother, and I look at them
and think I wish I was big & cook & know every
thing, and ^{my} telling me go in side and build the
fire, oh they were kind getting mean to me
and their mother scold all of us and here they
chase me to go in side and cook for them
& side, dont know how, and I was four years old,
they were really mean to me treat me just like
a slave.

and herding sheep all by self. they dont even
doing any thing just running back and forth hogans
to hogans, and when I come with the sheep, to cook for
yourself, oh I was so afraid of them, but I just look
around & found something to eat, when they kind
really mean to me treated me just like a slave
& never think of me that I dont even really belong
to them, oh I was so hungry ^{every day} and have tears in my eyes
and they tell me bring some water and gave two buckets
it was a little farther oh I just afraid I just have
to go, & early in morning they wake me up to build
the fire and all these two years been slave for them
and herding sheep for them every day, and made me
hungry to take the sheep out, I never did eat right
in front of them oh I was so tired every day even the
mother I mean my Auntie she dont treat me right,
I am the only one they telling me do this and I
I have to do what they tell me. see how my reddline
raise me maybe I talk with every thing, and they get
sick mostly all the time, I dont even get a pain nor sick
any where, the way I think about they make me
tame & strong. when I was close to six old my
Aunt begin get sick mostly all the time I never
stay home not even a day and dont know what their
doing to her one time when I come back with the sheep
I hear a medicine man singing I remember she
was very sick, after two days she died and here
I was staying with three girls and 2 boys,
oh I begin to getting worry & worry, than my father
came to see me after my Aunt died, he just ask
me how I am getting along, he you getting big
my dear, I told him my father I want to go to
school, he ask what do the children say, and I said
I dont say any thing about it, & I said to him
going ran to school to school father, they say
there a school at Fort Defiance, and I dont

what place is that, and then he said
again, I'll see about it dear, he said dont
away anytime I'll come & see again and I'll
take you to Fort Defiance and put you
to school. oh is was alright with me
and said alright father, ~~and here Dadpa~~
~~Came to~~ Then he went home, he said
I'll come & see you soon, oh I was waiting
for father, and here my ^{uncle} Dadpa came
to see us it was in the afternoon he came
the dog was barking, & I ran out side, came ^{right}
in I said Dadpa came, then he came in he said
ye ah tah he said how are you getting along
my children the girls said we all ok Dadpa,
oh I almost cried when I saw my Dadpa,
and I ran ^{out} quickly & think about out side
the way I think about it I'm going back
to with my Dadpa, he was a police at Fort
Defiance, that time my Dadpa use to say
the just a horse, when we go for some
one out to the reservation one girl said you
go and take the sheep out, they were still talking
and talking, oh I was waiting for my Dadpa
herding sheep on the road, and here he's coming
and I ran to him, he stop, I start to cried
and he said whats the matter Dad daughter
and I told him then so mean to me Dadpa
and I want to go back with to Fort Defiance
and I want to go to school Dadpa, I said said
please Dadpa, and he said well shall take the
sheep back, he ^{said} you ready & I said yes, & said say
if I go over there myself with sheep they'll ^{said}
me, he took the sheep back, I guess he told them,
so I sure raise slave, and I didn't see my ^{real}
mother ^{at} all, I dont know if she was alive and

7
dont know if I want to school,
and just raise like Cinderella
and she win for be slave and marry
a rich King and that the
way I raise and marry a rich man
too,