

AMERICAN INDIAN HISTORICAL RESEARCH PROJECT

University of New Mexico

Tape Number: 9 # 760 Side 2 <sup>1 7/8</sup> ips. Speed.

Tribe: Navajo.

Informant: 2.

Informant's home address: Tuba City, ARIZ

Band or Clan: Red Bottom

Date and location of interview: Dec 31, 1970.

Field Worker: Martin D. Topper

Date of transcription: February 12, 1971

Contents:

Side 1. A. Avg Day Navajo Man after dinner.

~~B.~~ B. Irrigation day (Nov 5<sup>th</sup> version).

Sealed A " " " " "

B. Planting Day

C. Hoeing without horses.

Evaluation of Interview:

good

Future Prospects:

Good. Verbal plans going well.

Tape #760

Navajo  
Informant #2  
Tuba City Arizona  
Interviewer - Martin Topper  
December 31, 1970  
Side 2

This is still December 31, 1970, this is Side 2, we are beginning now with the irrigation day and so we are talking about the irrigation day, okay. Let's test.....okay so there is kicking the horse is the first part right?

A. Yeah.

Q. How would you say kick the horse?

A.

Q. Okay now guide the horse to the fields....

A.

Q. Well it looks like I blew that one.....

A.

Q. I got it.

A. You put down here.....

Q. That is the way you say it.....

A. No, it is

Q.

A. No, you put a on it, it is

Q. Oh..... alright  
and then the next one is

A.

Q. Oh.....okay.....alright, that is the part for riding a horse to the field.....and then we had an, to eat lunch thing in there, but you said that he usually doesn't eat lunch.....

A. Yeah.

Q. You usually skip lunch right?

A. Yeah.

Q. You do the two meal a day thing.....and then there is hobbling the horse and we have that right?

A. Yeah.

Q. And then there is another one, clean out the irrigation ditch.....how would you say that?

A.

Q. Okay, once more....

A.

Q. Alright.....

A.

Q. Okay, now.....the first step here is if there are weeds get the hoe, right?

A. Yeah..... If there are weeds hoe it out.

Q. Well this says, if there are weeds get the hoe and the next step is to get them out....

A.

Q. Okay once more.....

A.

Q. Okay, then the next one would be to hoe them out..... okay how would you say hoe them out.....

A.

Q. Okay.....and the third one is get the pitch fork.....  
he didn't even say anything about getting the pitchfork.....

A. What does it say.....hoe them out.....?

Q. Get the pitchfork.....

A. Oh.

Q. And he didn't say anything about the pitchfork when  
he said get the hoe.....and the other.....

A. Oh yeah.....

Q. And the shovel, and so it is actually the.....pick up  
the hoe, shovel and the pitchfork.....right.....?

A. He has got two of them.....

Q. Nothing like a smart ass Navajo.....

A. Coolain't it?

Q. Go ahead, get the pitchfork....

A. Get the pitchfork.....

Q. Alright and then what is the next one?

A.

Q. Is it.....

A. Because is four fingers and right  
there there is a fork..... that means  
we haul hay with.....

Q.

A.

Q. Okay.....alright December 31, 1970.....this is the last  
day of the year....isn't it? Alright, the next one  
is throw out the trash.....how would you say that.

A. Throw out the trash..... like the  
opposite trash, throw out.....

Q. Okay, now the next one is get the shovel.....

A.

Q. Okay, say it once more....

A.

Q. Okay, wait a minute....okay, now the seventh step is to throw out the sand.....wait a minute, how did I get seven? 3, 4, 5, 6. The sixth step is to throw out the sand.....how do you say that.....?

A. Sixth step.....

Q. Yeah, how would you say that in Navajo?

A. Throw out sand....

Q. Yeah, you know like pitching it out with the shovel.....

A.

Q. Okay seventh step would be to repeat it for all the rows.....how would you say that?

A. For all the rows.....

Q. Yeah.

A.

Q. Alright it is.....time to quit....so this is it for December 31st and this year.....

-----Testing

It is January 1st, 1971.....informant number two. Today we are going to be going through and translating into Navajo, some of the smaller plans, mostly translating deep analysis, and so we started yesterday.....work on an irrigation day at the beginning of this tape.....we are going to go through the irrigation day on this tape....and hopefully get to other sequences on this tape.....

- Q. Okay then the next step that I have after cleaning up the irrigation ditches is eating.....do they eat dinner on the irrigation days then, is that when they would eat dinner after the ditches are clean and before they turn the water on?
- A. I think so, that is what he said.....that is what he does....
- Q. And so that is, they don't turn the water on until about sunset huh? When it is cooled off.
- A. Yeah.
- Q. Is that it....
- A. Yeah, sometimes after sunset and then I guess he eats, walks around all night.....
- Q. Oh, I see.....he eats dinner.....do you want to give me that term in Navajo, to eat dinner, can you translate that into Navajo.
- A.
- Q. Okay, do you remember anything like.....we don't have those other tapes back, I wish that we could play them back to you. Do you remember how exactly he went about eating dinner in the field, this is the dinner that he would bring with him right?
- A. Yeah, it is a ready-made dinner.
- Q. Alright, do you want to....
- A. He would put on the coffee first.....and build a fire, put some coffee on.....
- Q. Put coffee on...alright....what is next.....
- A. Eat, probably after he gets through, he would probably take some spam or cheese, or lunch meat, or shit like that.....
- Q. Takes it out of his saddle bag huh?
- A. Or he might have meat there and he will make a stew out of it.....

- Q. Does he keep pots and pans and dinner ware and things like that down at the house by the fields during this time of the year, you know.....?
- A. No.
- Q. No, he wouldn't.....
- A. Not unless he took some meat that is already cooked.... wrap it up....
- Q. And eat it when he got there huh?
- A. Yeah.
- Q. And he would eat it, that is the fourth step right?
- A. Yeah.
- Q. Okay....let's talk for a minute about building the fire okay.....? We haven't got a description of that yet, okay.....?
- A. It's alright with me.
- Q. You are sounding like Juliet, it is alright with him if it is alright with you if it is alright with me....and so it is alright with him and so it is alright with you isn't it.....what Juliet? Well he can't herd sheep today....so how do you build a fire.....in Navajo?
- A.
- Q. Alright so that is an easy one....
- A. You know the, when we were talking about this at the time back....we were quite boring then..... now I like translating here on paper.....like just talking to the mike.....
- Q. It's alot easier than working with grandpa huh?
- A. Yeah.....
- Q. Yeah, I am trying to pick his mind....
- A. You don't want grandpa to get pissed though.....

- Q. No, but I want to pick his brain, do you know what I mean.....he is going to be the one that is going to be the most valuable historically.....because he is the one who remembers back 65 odd years.....ago, you know?
- A. Yeah.
- Q. And I am sure that his grandfather has told him alot of things you know in the middle 1800's and I imagine that he probably knows alot of stories about Kit Carson.
- A. Kit Carson.....
- Q. Anyway you want to tell me how to build a fire....? How he would build a fire out there.....
- A. Well you would get some sticks.....dried up sticks..... or twigs, he'll find out there..... and then you would just put them up in a pile.....and the skinny ones on the bottom they would start burning faster..... and the big ones on top.....
- Q. What kind of a pile is it? Is it a pile how the logs are layed or something likethat.....? You know like in a square.....?
- A. No, it is in a teepee shape.....
- Q. Okay that is good....
- A. And you keep on adding sticks.....and it should start around first and then you pile it up like that.....
- Q. And the bigger onesaround it huh?
- A. As it gradually gets burning....
- Q. Okay and three....you would light the fire huh?
- A. Yeah.
- Q. How do you light it?
- A. Oh, just strike the match....a match on a rock or whatever you could strike it on, the bottome your shoe.... or zipper.
- Q. And so the second part would be what, you strike a match?



- A. Blow I guess.....
- Q. Well you have to do something with the match after you strike it don't you?
- A. You strike it and then you put it to the sticks....
- Q. Okay....
- A. And then your twigs start burning.....
- Q. And then you would start blowing on the fire right...?
- A. Sometimes it lights right up.....
- Q. If necessary?
- A. Yeah.
- Q. I can't believe that it is 1971.
- A. Why?
- Q. I think of where I was last year....
- A. Where were you?
- Q. Oh about 2000 miles away from here.....
- A. That's not bad.... I live about a mile away from here....
- Q. You have come a long ways..... Okay, now how do you say gather sticks and twigs....? How would you say that in Navajo?
- A. (Navajo language)
- Q. Okay, how would you say, pile them up? Make a pile you know....?
- A. (Navajo language)
- Q. Alright, now how would you say put the skinny logs at the base.....?
- A. (Navajo language)
- Q. Alright once more....
- A. (Navajo language)

- Q. Okay.....how would you say put the bigger logs around over the skinny ones.....?
- A. (Navajo language)
- Q. Okay, once more.....
- A. (Navajo language)
- Q. Okay how do you say light the fire?
- A. (Navajo language)
- Q. Alright.....it will pick up.....
- A. This thing over here will pick up.
- Q. Yeah, it will pick up, unless you shut off the speaker, it will come through....now go ahead and shut the speaker.... no, shut the speaker off....you see....
- A. Oh.
- Q. That is used on the earphone....strike a match, how would you say that.....?
- A. (Navajo language)
- Q. Oh boy that is really something.....I even spelled it right..... Now how would you say put the match to the twig.....?
- A. (Navajo language)
- Q. Okay, now how would you say blow on the fire.....?
- A. (Navajo language)
- Q. Okay....now we can go back and get the words for putting coffee on..... How would you describe that.... how it would be to put coffee on.....?
- A. Coffee huh?
- Q. Yeah.
- A. (Navajo language)
- Q. I am going to learn a few more words in Navajo. Your grandpa always picks the time to give me a lesson when there are people around, have you noticed that?

- A. Yeah.
- Q. He takes great pleasure in showing me off....
- A. Why don't you like it?
- Q. Oh, it is okay, but it is a little game he plays....okay, how do you say take the food out of the saddle bags?
- A. I just said it.....
- Q. This....
- A. (Navajo language)
- Q. Okay, and how do you say eat it?
- A. (Navajo language)
- Q. Well Charlie has been staying over on his side today.....
- A. This afternoon.
- Q. The fear of the lord must be in Charlie.....
- A. Shall we throw Charlie outside?
- Q. He would cry like hell....
- A. Throw Charlie out side when you go to Page.
- Q. I don't know, he is not very much sensible to take Charlie all the way to Page.....
- A. I know.....
- Q. Because there will be five people in the car. Okay, let's talk about turning the water on, okay? That is the next step right?
- A. Yeah.
- Q. Well se get most of that, we have a description for making the coffee already....in the other part you know.... and we will turn the water on, so how would you say that to begin with in Navajo, in Navajo first....
- A. (Navajo language)

Q. Okay.... now can you describe how it would be done if you were there, if you had been there to see him do it?

A. What?

Q. Have you been there to see him do it.....?

A. No....

Q. Alright the next one is letting it into the ditches....

A. The water into.....

Q. The water, let the, into ditches.....

A. ain't it?

Q. Yeah...shows you how awake I am.

A. Let the water into ditches.....

Q. What is the Navajo for that?

A. I don't know...

Q. You don't.....?

A.

Q. Okay....now, the next step is to walk around the ditches so that, to make sure the land won't erode, okay.....?

A. Yeah.

Q. You can turn the machine off if you want.....

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Q. Okay, so what we want to say is walk around the ditches and make sure that the land doesn't erode away, okay?

A. Yeah.

Q. How would you say that?

A. It goes something like.....

Q. Yeah.....

A. (Navajo language)

Q. Once more.

A. (Navajo language)

Q. Alright.....here we go.....the next one is turn the water off at dawn, alright? How does the water get there, I don't really know....into the ditches, is it pumped? By a pwer pump?

A. There is a natural springs up in the rocks....and the water comes down through there in a pipe like thing... and they have this place dammed off....so that the water is kept back in there and it is in back of the road and then it comes off and then before they need it they put a rock there from under that pond you know, down through the dam, they have a dirt dam].... down through there and then on the bottom down at the bottom then they have ditches....different ways.....

Q. Is that where the Mormons do their baptism....?

A. No. Mormons do their baptism in the bathroom I think.... in a bathtub....

Q. They do, huh?

A. I think so.....

Q. But you don't know huh....alright.... I heard tales that they do it above Moenavi at the springs. And is this the same place that you have been talking about? So anyway how would you say turn the water off....he goes up there and turns it off at dawn...where is the valve, you know?

A. They cut it off where the water comes out....

Q. At the dam.....?

A. Yeah.

Q. And so how would you say turn the water.....well there would be two steps right? One would be go....but first you have to tell me how to turn the water off at dawn, and then you.....so how is that in Navajo, turn the water off at dawn...?

A. (Navajo language)

Q. Now the first step in turning the water off would be walk up to the dam right?

- A. Yeah.
- Q. So it would be walk up to the dam....that sounds like a religious song doesn't it? Anyway walk up to the dam....and....it just sounds like one of those songs that Tennessee Ernie used to sing doesn't it?
- A. Tennessee Ernie Ford.....he has been around for a long time.....I don't like him; I seen him once....
- Q. One time he was down at Champagne and he bought us all drinks..... drinks for a whole damn bar....boy he is great guy...he had everybody drunk....he just had himself a time like nobody had ever had....there is a place called Kam's in Champaign..... Well anyway walk up to the dam and turn the valve right?
- A. Yeah.
- Q. Turn the valve off....okay, now walk up to the dam, how would you say that in Navajo?
- A. No, it is right underneath the dam.....
- Q. Oh, so you would say walk up towards the dam..... wouldn't you?
- A. Walk up to the....
- Q. To the vlave, alright?
- A. Alright....
- Q. Now how do you say turn the valve off?
- A. (Nav ajo language)
- Q. Okay...now....the next one is go back to the field until the water recedes....until the water is soaked up.....
- A. What?
- Q. Go back to the fields until the water recedes right?
- A. Yeah...
- Q. Is that go back until the water is soaked up.....?

- A. Oh no.....
- Q. What does he mean when he says that do you remember?
- A. What.....?
- Q. When the water recedes....does that just mean that the water would just soak up? Or start to soak in, is that it?
- A. Till the water sinks in.
- Q. Oh, water sinks in....okay.....
- A. When is that at, after.....?
- Q. After he shuts the valves off.....he goes back to the fields and kind of makes sure that you know.....
- A. That it settles down and doesn't run off.....
- Q. Okay....how would you say it in Navajo?
- A. (Navajo language)
- Q. Is that how you say it?
- A. (Navajo language)
- Q. Okay, now the next step is to get the horse right?
- A. Yeah.
- Q. Now how would you say that in Navajo?
- A. You mean bring the horse back?
- Q. He is just going to go and get him and then he is going to saddle him.....
- A. (Navajo language)
- Q. Now to saddle the horse..... Well we have already got that, but you might as well give it to me again.....
- A. You got it already....don't you?
- Q. Well we are not going to do the whole sequence, I just want saddle the horse.....
- A. (Navajo language)

Q. Alright so the last one is ride home.

A. (Navajo language)

Q. Okay, so we will stop for a minutes and then we will catch up on the next parts.....

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Much to my surprise I went through and I found an irrigation days supper and lunch sequence plan so we are going go back and fill in some of this.....first going to gell the whole plan so that you will have an idea of what parts that we are going to be working on....

Q. Alright the first one, this is the irrigation day, it is a supper-lunch sequence, it is November 6th, 1970.... it is on that tape....okay, you start out at noon, well this is, we have talked this over and there really isn't any lunch here and so you are not starting at noon, you are starting at sunset because they are not eating lunch, you start out and you build a fire, which we have talked about, previously on this tape, and you get hot coals and you make coffee, and you remember the coffee and you remember the coffee making sequence is on an other tape and it is in Navajo and it is the same sequence as that of an average day....then you cut up the meat you brought. And then you either fry it or make soup, okay..... Doanld and I are going to talk about particular parts of this sequence....okay, let's start this on a fresh page, page four.....January 1, 1971.... it is hard to believe.... I mean, I'am still used to iriting 1961.....

A. 1961?

Q. Well I started high school in 1960 you know....

A. Yeah?

Q. Yeah, and I am still thinking that is is 10 years ago since I started high school.....a little more than ten years ago. Wow, that is a long time....

A. About three years ago when I started school.....-

Q. I am eight years ahead of you....so....let me see, the first one is to get hot coals right?



A. Yeah.

Q. So the one that I wanted first is to get coals, how would we say that....? Lunch November 6th.....so get hot coals....how would you say that?

A. Hot coals...you don't get them.....

Q. Oh, you let the fire die and then you, alright...

A. And then when the fire dies down, then you have hot coals....you don't get hot coals.....

Q. Alright how do you say that?

A. (Navajo language)

Q. Okay...alright now we know about how to make coffee.... how about cutting up the meat you brought, that is the next part that we want to talk about.

A. What?

Q. Then next part is cut up the meat which you brought.

A. (Navajo language)

Q. Once more....

A. (Navajo language)

Q. Alright....okay, now is the meat right?

A. Means you bring...meat you bring cut up....

Q. Alright now we have a little decision point here, at one point he would fry it, why would he fry it....? I know to cook it but why would he fry it rather than to make soup? Do you have any idea why he would make that decision?

A. Maybe he wanted to have fried meat.....

Q. Well that is very logical.... if you want fried meat you have to fry it...why would he want to have fried meat more than he would want to have soup? You don't know, huh? Okay.

A. Cause stew is...well when you have soup...well you eat that almost everyday...and you get tired of soup and you might fry it and when it is fried, it is great.....

- Q. Okay, so how would you say fry it.....?
- A. (Navajo language)
- Q. Alright, now would you like to describe how he would fry it, the steps would be.....now you cut it, it up right?
- A. And then you would get a....what is it called....you know you have just, you would get something like this....
- Q. A grill huh?
- A. A grill is what he uses.
- Q. Would he carry it with him or would he probably leave one down here.....
- A. Leave one down there.
- Q. Alright so he would get the grill right?
- A. Yeah.....and then he, after it is fried....and then he set the grill, first he would spread the coals out.....
- Q. First he would spread the coals out right?
- A. And then he would put the grill over it and then he will put the meat that is cut up over the grill.....so that it will cook by the hot coals....and then barbecue it.....
- Q. And that is it right?
- A. Yeah.
- Q. And then to spread the coals out, how do you say that?
- A. Spread the coals out?
- Q. Yeah....
- A. (Navajo language)
- Q. Okay then the next one is put the grill over them.... the coals....
- A. Put the grill over the coals....coals....?
- Q. Hod do you say coals?

- A. (Navajo language)
- Q. Okay.....Okay how would we say that then, put the grill over the coals.....
- A. What?
- Q. You know, how would you say it in Navajo.....?
- A. (Navajo language)
- Q. Okay, so finally lay the meat on the grill....
- A. (Navajo language)
- Q. Okay, so the next one is to make soup right?
- A. Uh hum.....
- Q. Now, do you know any reason why he would make soup?
- A. It is easier....
- Q. It is easier?
- A. Yeah, just cut them up and throw them in the pan and put water in them and boil it.....
- Q. First of all let's translate....okay....how would you say make soup?
- A. (Navajo language)
- Q. Okay, now what are the steps in making soup?
- A. First you get a pan.....
- Q. Do you spread the coals out first, like you did.....
- A. No.....
- Q. Okay, you get a pot right?
- A. Yeah, a pot and just put over the fire.....
- Q. Put it over the fire.....do you just put it right on the fire?
- A. No, you get a grill first....then you.....

- Q. Okay, you put out the grill....right....? Okay then you put the pot on the grill right?
- A. Yeah....first you should have put the cut up meat in the pot.....
- Q. In the pot....well he can do that.
- A. Put the meat in the pot...and pour water in it.
- Q. Put the meat in the pot....and then it would be, four, put the grill on the fire, right?
- A. And then the pot on the grill.....
- Q. Five, put the pot on the grill.....
- A. Yeah....
- Q. Alright what is next....that is it right?
- A. You wait....to see that this thing doesn't boil over....
- Q. Wait until it boils.....
- A. and then you feast.....
- Q. And then you heast huh?
- A. Charlie is beginning to know where he is suppose to lay at now....
- Q. He is doing pretty good.....he is learning his place in this household..... Now.... I don't know if he is really happy about it....you know...but....
- A. You have got him trained pretty good now though....
- Q. At least I have got him trained now that he knows where he can lay and all that..... cause otherwise he would....he is every good.... I had him locked up in here last night because it was so very cold out....and he didn't mess up in here at all.
- A. In other words it is good for him huh?
- Q. Yeah, he knows that he will get nailed if he does....he is doing okay....good dog..... Okay, get a pot, give it to me in Navajo.

- A. (Navajo language)
- Q. Okay, put the meat in the pot....
- A. (Navajo language)
- Q. Put the meat in the pot.....
- A. I told you the wrong way.
- Q. Well take a look at it.....
- A. I thought that we had put the pot in the meat in Navajo.
- Q. Put the pot in the meat.....Well.....what was that, put the meat in the pot?
- A. Yeah, I thought that I told you it wrong.
- Q. That was put the meat in the pot, I have got it twice, now put the grill on the fire.....
- A. Oh, right here we were supposed to have put the water in the pot.
- Q. Oh, that is what I forgot....put water in the pot..... that would be kind of hard if it burned wouldn't it..... they wouldn't like that would they....? How do you say put water in the pot?

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- A. I thought that it was grandpa all that time.....
- Q. No.....now put the water in the pot, how do we say that.....?
- A. (Navajo language)
- Q. Now put the grill on the fire.....
- A. you have it on another page...  
already.....
- Q. Yeah.....I know.... I gotcha....now put the pot on the grill.....

A. (Navajo language)

Q. Once more.....

A. (Navajo language)

Q. Okay, wait until it boils, how do you say that.....?

A. (Navajo language)

Q. Once more.

A. (Navajo language)

Q. Okay, so that is it for that, irrigation day....the next one is eat it which we've got..... Now we get further into the November 6th interview and this is planting day.....you want to stop the tape for a minute, okay, so in the planting day....well I don't know whether I want to call it a planting day or not yet. But we can finally get to the final level of analysis but let's just call it the planting sequence for awhile.... So in the beginning of the sequence, the man gets up and eats, you know like in a regular thing.... this is the first two steps and then in the next note is go to the fields.....that is the next one you said, isn't it? So how would you say go to the..... I am going to put this November 6th....1970..... now go to the fields, how would you say that?

A. (Navajo language)

Q. Okay, you didn't say anything else about going to the fields.....did you.....? Shall we just fill that in? This is important, this is the one person, planting sequence.....the one person planting sequence and the different ways to plant, can you describe how he would do the fields in different steps..... Can you describe the different steps in going to the field... all he did was go to the field you know.....

A. First you have to take a step, and another one and another one until he gets there.....

Q. No, he is going to go to the fields...how is he going to go there...riding down to the fields... I guess.....

A. Let me see, where are you at now.....

- Q. Right here, now he is going to go to the field....
- A. Oh yeah, he would be right over there at the little shed next to the fields.....
- Q. Oh yeah, then he would probably be sleeping there wouldn't he?
- A. Yeah.
- Q. So he would go to the fields, but he would probably be walking over.....
- A. Does this go here now.....
- Q. Over here, this and this and this.....
- A. You mean this over there....
- Q. Which one?
- A. The number fifth or sixth....
- Q. That is it....this is the beginning of the day..... that is dawn....yeah....we are starting a different day sequence now....so he has gotten up and he has eaten right.....? As in the regular day, as in this other plan, right?
- A. Yeah, and what is MMD?
- Q. That just stands for an average day.....
- A. And then he goes to the fields.....
- Q. Yeah.
- A. Oh, this is, that is when he is living right on the field....
- Q. Okay.... okay, he is living right on the field.... and how would he go to the fields then would it be just to walk over then?
- A. Yeah, to walk over. He will carry then whatever he is going to use then.
- Q. Okay.... would there be any steps in picking up his tools for the field, would that be.....

A: Yeah.

Q. Alright....walk to the fields....alright how would you say pick up the tools....in Navajo?

A. (Navajo language)

Q. Now walk to the fields...what tools would he be taking with him.....? Would be planting in rows, just a stick to dig holes?

A. Yeah, to dig the holes.....yeah that would be about it....

Q. And then how would he pick up the tools and the seeds? I know, he would be picking up the seeds then too. How would you say pick up the tools and the seeds.....?

A. That is pick up the tools.....

Q. Okay, how would he say pick up the seeds.....?

A. (Navajo language)

Q. Okay, how would you say walk to the fields?

A. (Navajo language)

Q. That is going to the fields, now the next one is planting right, so how would you say that?

A. Plant..... what do you mean by plant?

Q. Plant the seeds.....

A. Plant means a plant....or .....

Q. No, the verb, to plant the seeds in the ground.

A. Oh.....

Q. Okay.....now the first step in this.....is to sit on the ground...alright....

A. Yeah.....

Q. How do you say that?

A. (Navajo language)



- Q. Okay.
- A. Do you really think you are going to have all that finished by May.....?
- Q. May.....? I don't know.
- A. I don't think so.....
- Q. Let's see what's today? This is January 1st..... I forgot.....okay, now this next step is to dig a hole, right.....
- A. Yeah.
- Q. Do dig a hole, how would you say that.....?
- A. (Navajo language)
- Q. Okay, can you describe a little bit more detail, how you can dig the hole?
- A. Well..... I don't know!
- Q. You know, like the different steps, like you grabe the stick..... I don't want to tell you what the steps are, you know, just sort of think about what the steps would be.....
- A. You would take your tools, whatever you are going to dig the hole with.....and then start sticking it into the ground and pulling out the dirt....
- Q. Alright.....then "C" would be stick it in the ground and pull out the dirt, right?
- A. Yeah.
- Q. And then would it be repeated until the hole is big enough?
- A. Yes.
- Q. Alright.....
- A. And then I would put it once and then you put it here.
- Q. And it depends upon how hard the ground is right?
- A. Yeah.....

- Q. How hard the ground is.....okay, how do you say pick up the stick again.....?
- A. (Navajo language)
- A. That was....when my grandfather kid days, when they work in the fields and they didn't have any modern tools..... and they used to use that.....
- Q. Well that is alright....you know....we are interested.... you know this is a project in history and they may be interested in that....okay, stick it in the ground..... alright, stick it in the ground, how would you say it....
- A. (Navajo language)
- Q. Okay, pull out the dirt.....
- A. (Navajo language)
- Q. Alright, now repeat it until the hole is deep enough.....
- A. (Navajo language)
- Q. Once more.
- A. (Navajo language)
- Q. Here we go.....good.....okay, now drop in the seed..... drop in the seed.....okay, how do you say that.....?
- A. man this tape is really cool.....
- Q. Okay, describe for me step by step how one would drop in the seed.....
- A. I just put it in.....
- Q. You pick up the seed.....
- A. Yeah.
- Q. Well you would get it from the seed sack wouldn't you?
- A. Yeah.
- Q. Let me take a little swig of cough medicine.....and then you drop it in right?

A. Yeah.

Q. Alright....you can turn the thing off.....

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Q. Don't you sit there and think that we are saying dirty things about you Charlie....alright, pick up the seeds from the seed sack.....

A. Pick up the seeds from the seed sack huh?

Q. Yeah.....

A. In Navajo?

Q. Yeah, in Navajo.

A. (Navajo language)

Q. Alright what is next....

A. You have it.....

Q. That is drop in the seeds.....

A. Oh.

Q. How do you pick it up from the seed sack....

A. (Navajo language)

Q. Yeah, this is it.....

A. Yeah.

Q. No, I want pick it up from the seed sack.....

A. (Navajo language)

Q. Alright now drop it in....would that be the same as above.....?

A. Yeah.

Q. Okay.....now, we move to the next location, that would be the next step.....next location..... alright how would you say that in Navajo .....

- A. ....move to the next location.....
- Q. And that is two words...or is that one word.....
- A. One.
- Q. Alright....one thing about Navajos, it is what they call an agglutennative language.....one word means almost everything, you know.....
- A. Yeah.
- Q. Okay, now how would you describe moving to a next location, are there any steps involved there getting to the next place.....
- A. You get up and pack up all your tools.....
- Q. Stand up.....
- A. Yeah, you get up.
- Q. Pick up all your tools.....and seeds.....
- A. And seeds....
- Q. Alright.
- A. And move to the next location....
- Q. What would you be doing? Would he just be walking forward and then sitting down again?
- A. He would take alot of stuff with him? You don't have to stand up you could crawl.....
- Q. Oh, you think that he would crawl instead?
- A. There is no need of standing up you know, just to walk a little ways....
- Q. So he would probably kneel then?
- A. Yeah.
- Q. Then he would pick up his tools and then he would crawl.....
- A. Yeah, he would walk on his knees.....like this.....

- Q. Walk on the knees....
- A. Yeah, and sit down....he wouldn't actually have to stand all the way up....
- Q. And sit down again.
- A. Yeah.
- Q. Okay, so kneel, how do you spell kneel....how do you say kneel in Navajo? ..... that you get up on your knees?
- A. Anyway.....get up on your knees?
- Q. Yeah.....
- A.
- Q. I tell you what we will do when we finish this tape, we will take the 22 out and shoot around and hit some batteries.....
- A. Alright.
- Q. Pick up the tools and seeds, how would you say that?
- A. Pick up the tools and seeds.....
- Q. Alright, once more.....
- A. (Navajo language)
- Q. alright sit down again....how would you say that?
- A. (Navajo language)
- Q. Okay, the next thing, would be to look back to check your spacing right? Step five..... Look back and check.
- A. Check spacing.....
- Q. Okay, how would you say that?
- A. Look back.....
- Q. How would you say that in Navajo?
- A. What?
- Q. How would say that in Navajo?

A. (Navajo language)

Q. Okay, and then finally, I am not going to ask for any more detail on that..... I am going to say, repeat the process....how would you say do it again, you know, repeat the planting process actually, who's outside.....? Is that a car....alright so how would you say repeat the planting process?

A. (Navajo language)

Q. Once more.

A. (Navajo language)

Q. Okay, now the next step.....the planting step....of the planting sequence....now he wouldn't eat lunch though would he? He wouldn't have a lunch and then he would resume planting, out on this one?

A. Yeah, he could....but sometimes he wants to get the job done.

Q. So the next thing would be eat dinner right?

A. Yeah.

Q. Okay, we have that and then the next one is talk..... how do you say talk.....?

A. Talk?

Q. You know, he would sit around in the evening, maybe after he had eaten dinner and talk ..... with people, how would you say that?

A. (Navajo language)

Q. Okay, and then the next one is go to bed.... Now the planting day insert for two people..... that is November 6th again.....now....okay.....again we have the word, plant the seeds and that is on the other page isn't it.....?

A. Yeah.

Q. And so he plants the seeds....let me put two person, insert and the insert is actually in the planting node itself...this is a different node.... let's say flip it in and flip it out..... Alright, one person.....

the first part is, one person walks ahead....how would you say that? Walks in front....okay? How would you say that in Navajo.....? Okay, so one person walks ahead, how would I say that in Navajo?

A. Where is that?

Q. Right here....see what we are doing is just inserting a different thing for plant, you see..... We're removing one and sticking another one in.

A. Yeah.

Q. We are taking one out and sticking the other one in...you see.....so to plant, that would be one person walks ahead, how would you say that.....?

A. (Navajo language)

Q. Alright now then the next step, the next thing is he digs holes, alright?

A. Yeah....

Q. Alright how would you say that in Navajo?

A. You mean the one that is first?

Q. Yeah the one that is walking ahead is digging holes.....

A. (Navajo language)

Q. Okay, now the third part.....and this would be the other person follows, okay....how would you say that?

A. (Navajo language)

Q. Alright, now how do you say it?

A. (Navajo language)

Q. Alright now and four would be , he then puts in the seeds.... do they cover the seeds up?

A. Yeah.

Q. We don't have that....alright he then puts in the seeds... how do you say that.....

- A. Four, he puts in the seeds.....
- Q. Alright, okay.....and then five, he covers up the seeds... we can just put that one in right?
- A. He covers up the seeds.....?
- Q. How do you say that?
- A. Let's see....he covers up the seeds....
- Q. Okay, so that finishes up the activities of planting then, let's see what is next on here, we might as well do the whole tape..... Hoeing day..... okay we are still on this November 6th interview and the next thing is he gave us two kinds of hoeing..... do you want to cut that off for a minute.

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- Q. Alright now we will start the hoeing sequence, and then .....-we will continue that on tape 10, probably 2 days from now....okay now the first one is getting up and again you are starting you know like a usual day..... in which you are getting up and you are building his fire and you are eating and then he finds his horse....and this is when he is up at his summer camp here.....and he decides that he is going to ride out to hoe, instead of sleeping over there. And so he will find his horse... okay this is an average day, and then he does the saddling of the horse, which is something that we have got already, and then after he finds it and then he gets the hoe and he picks it up and that is the same way that he picks up the other tools, remember.... the sequence.....
- A. Uh huh.....
- Q. Okay, so he picks them up and he is riding out to the fields, that is the same.....so he is not going to eat lunch....no, so then he would be hoeing the fields....and this is very interesting, we have almost got this....and we are just getting a little bit of insert here..... we may finish hoeing.....that is when we would then hoe the fields....and so Don, give me that in Navajo.....



A. Hoe the fields....?

Q. Yeah, hoe the fields...yeah, how would you say that in Navajo....?

A. Hoe the fields....

Q. Alright, now...give me some steps on how you use the hoe, he wasn't really very clear on that.....and I need some of that, how you hold the hoe....you know.... how do you work the hoe, that would be very important....

A. A-h-h-h-h, well....first you would grab the hoe and hoe....

Q. Grab the hoe and hoe...?

A. Yeah...

Q. Ho-ho-ho-ho! No....you grab the hoe and hoe, huh?

A. Uh huh.... you hold the hoe....

Q. Hold the hoe....alright and now....describe how you would stroke, how you would use it.....?

A. I don't know....you just start hoeing and start chopping the roots off of the weeds....

Q. Oh, alright.....well....

A. Just lift it up and slice it down....

Q. slright.....

A. st is just a matter of two feet up....

Q. Lift the hoe about two feet off the ground.....?

A. About a foot, less than that....not more than two feet...

Q. Swing it down....?

A. Uh huh....

Q. Swing it down and hit the weeds at the roots, right?

A. Yeah.

Q. And then what happens then after the weeds are laying there chopped?

- A. Nothing....
- Q. You just leave them lay?
- A. Yeah.
- Q. You just leave them lay in the fields?
- A. Yeah, leave them lay in the fields?
- Q. You don't even bury them?
- A. No.
- Q. Now heathen, you don't give them a good Christian burial for all they did for you?
- A. After that it rots away and then you have a decent soil.....
- Q. Rots away and the weeds shall wither away...okay, hold the hoe, how would you say that? Pick up the hoe....?
- A. (Navajo language)
- Q. Alright now, lift the hoe about a foot off the ground....
- A. Your fifty...?
- Q. We have got a long ways to go yet... Lift the hoe off the ground....
- A.
- Q. That is with the hoe off the ground.
- A. Yeah, lift it up...
- Q. Can you say a little ways or a foot....or that wouldn't matter would it?
- A. No.
- Q. Okay, swing it down...how do you say swing it down.....?
- A. (Navajo language)
- Q. Alright, now hit the weeds at their roots.....
- A. Huh?

- Q. Hit the weeds at their roots....
- A. (Navajo language)
- Q. Well okay, we are just about off that tape aren't we?
- A. About a minute.....
- Q. We will leave it at this on tape 9 and we will, I guess this just about finishes the hoeing....doesn't it?
- A. Yeah.
- Q. It finishes the hoeing sequence, without horses, and then we will have to talk about the hoeing sequence with 2 horses... beginning on tape 10.

END OF TAPE