

ROSITA ISAAC'S MISS NAVAJO EXPERIENCE

I was one of the candidates for the title Miss Navajo at Tuba City [the regional pageant]. I competed against 13 girls and to my surprise I got the title of Miss Navajo. We competed for, I mean for the competition of Miss Navajo, we had two categories, tradition and modern. For my traditional I carded wool and spun-wove a rug. And did a demonstration and named the parts of the loom. And I told some jokes and sang some songs. And for the modern category I sewed and demonstrated some skills that I knew of. And they made some molds that I made. Brought some molds that I made back in my high school and demonstrated that. And told . . . I told how it was made and showed them and showed the people some of the dresses that I have made. . . . And at this show I had the experience of getting the title Miss Navajo . . . I competed against four other girls from four other different agencies and we all competed against each other at Window Rock [the tribal nation pageant] . . . I didn't feel real bad about it, even though I lost. But I still feel I can do better, because some of the experiences that I have had, places that I have traveled and toured. It was really something that I will never forget.

Rosita Isaac, interview by Gary Shumway, May 15, 1968, no. 476, Doris Duke Indian History Project, J. Willard Marriott Library, The University of Utah, Salt Lake City.