

CARL JAKE AND ROY TOM DISCUSS THE RESERVATION AND TERMINATION PERIODS

KF: So you say the reservation has been sold, then?

CJ: Yes, it's been sold.

KF: And it's no longer . . . was everyone paid for that land?

CJ: Yes.

KF: Who owns it now, then?

CJ: Fish and Game.

KF: Fish and Game. How long ago was it sold?

CJ: I don't know how long ago. . .

RT: It was in '57.

...

KF: In those days before 1956, how was the medical or doctor situation handled? Did you pay your own?

...

RT: The government paid while we was under government all the time. They paid for like, we went in hospital or something like that. They paid until we were terminated.

...

CJ: I went over there [the former Indian Peaks Reservation] about two years ago. It was all knocked down, those pinenut trees. Those trees . . . they shouldn't knock down like that. . . . George Morris, I think he's the one that sold it. . . .

KF: George Morris? He's the one who sold it or handled the selling?

CJ: Sold it for us, yes.

KF: Do you know whether that was the same time they tried to sell the Shivwits Reservation? The government suggested that they sell that one, too.

CJ: Yes, that about the same time.

KF: . . . I gather that they didn't succeed, though. Those Paiutes still have that one.

CJ: Well, the reason we sold that [Indian Peaks] . . . they terminate that, see, but we didn't have no money to pay for tax on it. Terminated, well, we decided "Well, go ahead, sell it." The government partner tried to sell it. He said, "Go ahead, sell it if you want to." That's when we get out of there, see?

KF: Well, how did people feel about that? Did they really want to sell it or would they rather have kept it if they could?

CJ: Rather have kept it but we couldn't afford to pay for tax, that's one thing.

KF: I guess the one at Shivwits . . . their lease just pays for the tax.

CJ: That's all, the lease.

KF: Yes, but I guess if the taxes go up in another few years, they'll have to pay extra on it.

CJ: That Indian Peaks wasn't a reservation a long time ago.

KF: It wasn't?

CJ: No, just was them old people that claim that

little place there . . . long time . . . had water, lots of water. Claimed it clear back to here. The other side of the mountain, had all the mountain over on this side clear on down here about twenty miles. The Indians used to be scattered clear down through that mountain. Camp and camp and camp and camp, that's the way they lived long time ago, before these white people came. Even after they came but it was still there. Not real long ago he was surveying this country, you know. He says, "We going to put you guys in a reservation." Then they cut it down that much, sixteen sections, four miles each way. That's small now, you see.

KF: Yes, that's not very large.

CJ: No, just keep cutting it down so that portion went, right there. We used to have a lot of water and we used to lease it ourselves, the old people, to sheep men, to cattle men. That's the way those people used to live. They give 'um money . . . leasing it out. All the Indians had plenty to eat then. Wasn't no government doing that at that time.

KF: You were doing it on your own? Leasing on your own?

CJ: Yes, they were raising potatoes, everything, onions down there. . . . Nobody would help. Wasn't no government then.

KF: And no agent out there?

CJ: No agent or nothing. I remember that. . . . That's the way it used to be out here a long time ago before they put in any reservations. Those sheep men, I used to see those fellows often. . . . They used to lease that country from the old people used to live there. . . . [T]here's no government bothering us then. . . . They [the sheep ranchers] go out and bring the food in for us. During fall when the time was up, they would take the sheep out then they'd bring the food . . . give money too, during winter.

CJ: Yes, and after government reservation . . . After the government comes, we can't do nothing. Depend on the government, then. The government get all of it. Can't do nothing no more.

KF: And in '56 then, it went on the tax roll so that means it would be taxed.

CJ: After that, the government never show. Even the agents, even those workers, they'd never go here. Too far for them, I guess.