



JOE KELLWOOD
1921 - 2016

Honored as a Historymaker 2005
Navajo Code Talker



The following is an oral history interview with Joe Kellwood (**JK**) conducted by Pam Stevenson (**PS**), Agave Productions Inc., for Historical League, Inc., on March 6, 2004, at the Heard Museum in Phoenix.

Original tapes are in the collection of the Arizona Historical Society Museum Library at Papago Park, Tempe, Arizona.

PS My name is Pam Stevenson And I'm doing this interview on Saturday, March 6, 2004... and we're here at the Heard Museum and I'd like you to give me your name, so we'll have that on tape.

JK Joe Hosteen Kellwood, that's my name.

PS And tell me, when and where were you born?

JK Steamboat Canyon, care of Ganado. It's about maybe 30, 40 some miles northwest of Window Rock; that's the location. Yeah, that's where I was born.

PS And when were you born?

JK 1921- I have two birthdays - on the paper it's July 15 and the other one is August 20. You see, my mother and father passed away before they told me what my birthday is. You know, being my father and my mother didn't go to school in their days, so my father used to have a lot of racehorses in his young days and he goes to a lot of rodeos, you know, like Gallup ceremonial, they have horse race. That's the only one I know that the rodeo, you know - he said minus - minus five days.

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PS You were telling me about you were born in Steamboat Canyon?

JK Yes

PS And did you grow up there?

JK Same area, about until I got to be ten years old on the Reservation. Herd sheep, haul wood, chop wood, haul water and take care of the horse, and sheep herding - all that was my job. All of us, you know, at the Indian Reservation; that's the work - every day same. That's what you do. Herd the sheep and water the horse and chop wood, yeah, daily work.

PS You spoke Navajo, right?

JK Yeah.

PS So what happened when you were ten?

JK They sent me off to school, to Ft. Apache. You know, it's on Apache Reservation, Ft. Apache; I went to school there, at that time, 1931, there was a military school, and there we have to speak English once the school start. And I don't know how to speak English, you know, so I got lot of spanks now and then because I blare out my own language - get myself in trouble. So, I got a lot of strap for that, you know, at night, at the ready to go to bed. And anyhow, military school is where we wear uniforms just like regular soldiers, you know? And parade early morning and put up the flag in the morning; everybody in formation - there's older boys and the medium and then the little group is where I'm at. So, all three group they operate early morning and in the evening to bring back the flag down. So, we all salute. All the persons that represent must salute for us so everybody's good shape. So that's many groups, just like regular parade, you know? In the evening and early morning - very strict, very strict and you have to be clean and have to be on time - everything like that, that put you in trouble. But, to stay out of trouble, you have to be there on the time, you supposed to be there; then you don't get any kind of trouble. And they closed that school about 1933, I think.

And they closed that school and from there I went to Keams Canyon. It's on the Hopi Reservation. I go to school there and by that time they have lot of day schools, start going on the Reservation, you know? So, after I went to Keams Canyon, then the next year I went to one of those day schools - closer, you know? And you go home every day instead of being away nine months, like to Ft. Apache. Yeah, there you stay a whole nine months before you just go back for the summer, two and a half months, something like that, then you start heading back to school.

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Yeah, so that's the way it was on the – that the old days, you know? But I learn a lot, you know, this way and that way. I pick up start, the English pretty good, especially when I got to Keams Canyon. We have good teachers and very easy to learn and very good teacher, you know? They show you how to say things and how to pronounce all these things – what the letters put together, you know, so that was real nice to me. I learn that way and it kinda stays in your head once you start doing that. That's about it, yeah.

PS Where did you go to high school?

JK Wingate Vocational High School. Why you go to school half a day and work half a day, you know, vocational learning the trade. In my line, I was learning to be a carpenter, you know, so I had a lot of free time there going to vocational high school. My instructor give me the keys at night in the evening, so I go out to carpenter shop, open up and work with the machines. Saw and I was making a lot of things for my sister and my mother, like things for weaving. Yeah, spin, you know, all those things had to cut 'em out with long straight stick, a board and it has to be hardwood. So, you know, I had to have that about a little more than half an inch square and then you have to round it off. And you have to cut some about a foot long, you know, and make little teeth of the comb where they at the other end just pointed where they weave the yarn down like that with it. So, I make all those long sticks where you can divide it weaving, you know, to divide and then you flip it over to widen up a little more and shove the yarn through the open area. And then take the stick out and pound it down. All those things like that, that's what I work on at night. And cabinet, make kitchen cabinets and different things like that; just what you want to do and you're free to do it.

PS Where were you when the war started?

JK Let me see, remember I told you my mother passed away in 1937, and my father passed away in 1939. And I don't know what my birthday is, that I told you. So in the same thing, when my father passed away, he was a medicine man, you know? And provided a lot of good thing, material and food and things like that. When he passed away, we have nothing. So, about 1940, I drop out of school, and I start working. They had kind of light ward job starting in Wingate Ordnance Depot where they have a lot of igloos stored with the ammunition. When they stopped building that, a lot of the students, you know, because they short on labor, and they sent the whole group of us down there to get jobs. So we stay there, work at that, building up the military ammo supply base. And have worked the cement, you know, when they pouring the igloos and also this metal, the igloos, all those we work on. And we all just there students from Wingate. We had a storekeeper make arrange for us when we can, kinda more or less get a tent, you know, on credit. And then we pay for as it goes and they also have our grocery list, what we need, and they supplied us with food and what you need. And a tent. And we even had those gas, uh, kerosene stove, you know, where we cook our supper and breakfast. At lunchtime we just make

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a paper sack of fried bread with the fried potatoes. And you hang those things up in the tree. They had a lot of trees in the area. You just hang those in the sunshine, by noontime, you have a nice hot lunch. Yeah *[laughs]*! I still remember that, yeah. And it's good that they had the fried potatoes and the frybread nice in the warm. So that's the way our lunch is and other supper and breakfast we cook. And not just one tent - we had a tent line of like the military ... *[laughs]*

PS When did you actually get enlisted in the real military?

MS Well, not yet. When I was working there, we work from the start to the finish of that job. They had the operating engine there, so they had to make that pass. We work on that and then we work on those igloos and by that time they start loading up ammunition in those igloos, and that's the time I went into that job. When they start hiring for, let's say, storing the ammunition. And we all got on civil service job. And Joe Kellwood got the job with the bomb. We store a lot of bombs; some 2,000-pound bomb, about 8 foot long, about almost three feet diameter; yeah, heavy. But easy to roll them around on conveyors. And all kind of bombs. Some of them probably 300 pound, some of them 500, so if we had a whole big load of those bombs stored. And I was the king pusher on that job; so, I got a good pay, and everything works fine. And by that time, my sister, she's married. I don't have to worry no more. So, I worked there from '41. I was working there when the war started. Yeah. And the war start, I was working at that ammunition depot. Drop outta school, I was in the 8th grade when I drop out and that is just going a half a day, enlist reading and things like that. The rest is trade school. So, I worked there till 1942, and I get good pay and a job a lotta times Saturday and Sunday, work. So we get a lot of good pay.

So, I know I'm getting – getting close to 21, once you 21, you get a draft. And I didn't want that. And I hear so much about the Marine hittin' Guadalcanal, you know, there in '42. That just my whole life, they come, I want to be one! The best fightin' man United States have. So that's how I make up my mind that, as the time goes by, you know, Japanese took all that Asiatic, and Singapore, India, those area there and took the, Philippines. We have Navajos on the Philippines that went to school, same place I did, and they went ahead of me, probably couple years ahead of me. And they all got prisoner. And they there. And I decide it's probably – it's time to go. So, I decide to ask the person that run the depot. He's a captain. He's a Army captain. I asked them, I gonna be 21 before long, I like to enlist into Marine Corps, be like a good fightin' man like the people on Guadalcanal. He said, hey, congratulation, I feel like good for you. *[laughs]* So, he said to go into enlist, you had to go to Albuquerque to get enlist. And I pay my way. He told me when I enlist, make sure I'm in there for sure, and then let 'em know, they'll send my last check. And I left Gallup on the Greyhound. Went to Albuquerque, New Mexico; I enlist, take my tests and they gave me two weeks to put my affair and last squared away. So, I took everything what I have, tent and what the gas stove that I have back to Reservation, and I told my sister that I'm going into training to be a Marine. And she just turn away from me, you know? And I notice her

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tears right *[laughs]* her tears runnin. It was not funny; you know I mean? Make you sick when you have a nice sister that takes care of you when you little. Now, they kinda scared after these wars comin,' so I just told her, you know, I gonna go meet the enemy. Yeah, that I did, yeah.

PS Where did the military send you? Where'd the Marines send you then?

MS Well, two weeks up and I went back to Albuquerque. I went on the bus, a big load of Navajos, you know, all young, going into service to get exam. Those that make it goes to the Army, you know, Ft Bliss. And myself, take another test at enlistment in Albuquerque - Marine Corps and they sent me in the evening, they put me on a train with some paperwork that I had to take with me. They sent me to Phoenix. On the way from Albuquerque, we coming through Gallup, New Mexico. We stop in Gallup, New Mexico in the evening, just when it start gettin' dark. Here all these Navajos - some of them I went to school with and some of them I know. Here and there from other schools all comin' aboard, about 29 of them. And I asked them where they going, they said they was going to Marine Corps, San Diego. I told them I'm heading that way; I have to make a curve to go through Phoenix, yeah. So, we travel together to Ash Fork. They went on through and they sent me down this way. It was starting in the evening in Albuquerque, and I was coming through Wickenburg about 10:00 o'clock, 10:30 in the morning, heading to Phoenix.

And we pull into Union Station here. My instruction when I get out of the station, go four block north and go east four block and third floor. That's a security building on Central and Van Buren and that's where I had to go and took another exam – took another exam and I stay overnight. I remember they gave me food – to get food, the money. And first thing really hit me was that nice vegetable plate *[laughs]*. So, I had a vegetable plate for supper and then stayed overnight. Oh, before I went to bed, I went down to Washington, about three blocks down and saw all those sailors on the street, and I look around a little bit. And I had a movie camera with me. They told me to send it back, that I don't need it *[laughs]*. And other things that I have, you know, that they told me I don't need, so I had to send that back. I was gonna be the first one to be a movie *[laughs]*. But, you know, you have it, you know, so, *[laughs]*, but they didn't let me. And I stay overnight, and the next day we stay all day until in the evening. Then they put us on a train. There was one Apache going into the Navy and two white boys going into Marine Corps and one Navajo. So, four of us, we travel from here to San Diego. And on the way between here and Yuma, we stopped for about an hour in what all those freight train going by heading this way. And next morning when the sun come up, we traveling by Yuma. So, from there we hit the mountains, some of those tunnels we went through with another extra motor, diesel. And we went through some of those tunnels and then finally pulled into San Diego in the afternoon. And we were hungry, we didn't get no meal.

So, when we got to San Diego and they took me to a place, big building, and I walk in there,

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here are all these Navajo that was on the train with me. They all in there sittin' around always here and there. And they kinda scare me, you know? Hey, I'm a government man now, you know? I can't do what I want to do like on Reservation; go to some of those dances on the weekend. Now I can't do it [*laughs*]. Kinda scary feeling, you know?

PS When did you find out about the code – that you were gonna have to learn the code?

MS We heading to that.

PS Okay.

MS So, we waited quite a few days and then another group come in from the east. All these groups from the east; they all good, educated people, football players and college, university, and some farmers. So, we went half and half; well, the first group, the first 30 is just 30. This one is half and half, half Navajo, half white And we did pretty good job. Our platoon was 920 and 921, 22, 23, something like that, about three battalion, you know, graduate all together. And we went through boot camp together and got transferred – oh yeah, while we there the 2nd Marine Division is moving out and the group, some of the code talkers from the first group is with that 2nd Marine Division. And the others are already on Guadalcanal, the first group, part of the first group with the 1st Marine Division. Second group moving out with the 2nd Marine Division.

We got to meet and give us some idea how to remember the words. Morse code like brigadier general is F and come to chow, K, and things like that. And all dark did it and how to remember that Morse code 'cause you have to go through that. So, it was all a lot of things that helped our group. And we didn't know we gonna be Code Talkers. Myself, I just put in for scout, anything, you know, when I enlist. So now we know what we gonna do And just one time we – they visit us and then said they shoving off. And this is about October 4, 5, somewhere like that. And from there we went to school, and our day half and half and we did pretty doggone good at the rifle range. See boot camp day, you go to rifle range and Navajo did really good job on those because they good hunters on the prairie dogs on Reservation. Yeah. And another thing that really help us is the Sioux is the instructor at the rifle range, so he make sure we hit what we aim. Some of the good medicine. And a lotta times people ask me why – why I join Marine Corps? It's our teacher give us all the information, the time the war started and going through Poland and then the rest of the little country and into France, Germany taking all those. And Japanese taking all that field in the Asiatic. So, that's what I think make us all mad, all of us. Build up, you know. So, we're not afraid no more. You know, we willing to do what we had to do. And that's the way we feel, and we did a good job at rifle range.

And the graduation and we finished the graduation, all these group that they went 30 days vacation back to their home. The rest of us, we got shoved to Camp Elliott and start the school

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right away - Navajo language school, Morse code, semaphore and the blinkers, and anything to do with the communication. Wired up the switchboard. Yeah. All these, you had to learn hard. And I tell you, with my 8th grade at vocational school, I had to learn a lot more words. You know how I mean? And the name to remember. Some of the thing that on my side at night, I stay up many nights waking, I study. And I made it through that boot camp. Code school, yeah, about three didn't make it. One not enough education, the other one not talk loud enough, and another one had a spot on the lungs So three we lost.

PS So once you made it through code school, where did they send you?

MS When we finish code school about February, towards the last of February. And we ready to get transferred out of the school, our paperwork come back from 1st Marine Division. They need more alphabet names for words, a whole list of that. And because Guadalcanal have four A's, one A is not enough. Enemy's gonna pick it up like that; they smart. So, we had to make three more alphabet down the line. And a lot of those says I'm with the group that did that, you know, on the second list of it. And a lot more words we make name for. We just sit in the room, you know, a person mention one name, the rest don't agree. We had to go pick up another word. All these – anything small words, something that you remember. Something that grabs right away, you know? And this is what the code is. Something short, something you are familiar with; anything that you familiar with – how to get out of your head things. And some pretty names, some little dirty names, you know, so it's all work. But it's the things that you can remember.

And we finally graduate again, let's see, about February and transfer to a group that is ready to shove off. It's all infantry that we got transferred to. Three of us - one fellow from Tuba City - his name Dennis Cattlechaser and one fellow from New Mexico, his name Andrew Caldido and one named Joe Kellwood from Steamboat. You know how I mean? *[laughs]* Three of us got transferred into that, and one week, and leave. And Monday everything has to be destroyed and anything that you like, all the pictures and letters that you have, have to be trashed, all those pretty pictures. I see them pile up in the garbage *[laughs]*. Something maybe you like to keep, but they won't let us keep anything. So, sent things home that you want to keep. And the next day, all the pack, bed rolls and the double pack, and the seabag and the rifle, load us up on the truck and from Camp Elliott to San Diego.

And we aboard ship; they call our name, and we go by, just loading up, loading up. And we have a big load of Navy nurses' way up on top and we got the paratrooper. And also, this infantry unit that we got transferred to. We all got aboard ship in one morning and towards the afternoon, we start sailing out. We don't know where we going, you know? We know we going southwest, just keep going southwest. All we done until we down close to the equator the hurricane hit us and, I tell you, that is something else to remember. You sliding around because everybody's pukin,' and trying to eat; your coffee and food just slide back and forth in that little tray tables. And then

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you see the water splash down, you don't see the front of the boat no more and pretty soon come back up. And big waves of ocean, just like that. You going downhill and you're going uphill next. Everybody pukin' I'll tell you like that.

And finally, a whole day like that and then finally we hit the equator and the Navy for the first time they always have the ceremony for the young ones. And oh my, they had the programs where they have the young people, let been punched, in the old days, like that. But it's all enjoyable, you know? That's all the rest of us, we just watch. They get chained down on the hatch, on top the hatch, the big – got the board over that top They all got chained down like they slave *[laughs]*. But that's their program. And they give you a card that you crossed the equator. And we went maybe a couple more days, maybe a day and a half, we got to New Caledonia and the Navy nurses got unloaded and the paratrooper. And the rest of us, maybe a couple days and we start heading south again. We are stopped by the area where Australian capitol and some paperwork probably and let them know that we coming in. And we sail south onto another little island, Tachi or something like that. I remember that it's a little island about 50 miles south of Melbourne, Australia. Then pull into the port and all these Aussie kids, they want us to throw some quarters in the water so they can dive down there and find it. We aboard ship like that in the afternoon. Finally, they unload us and put us on a truck, an Aussie driver and we become Aussies. You bloody bloke, You bloody you, everything is bloody ... *[laughs]*

PS When did you finally see some military action?

JK Well, that is where the 1st Marine Division is stationed, after they pullout from Guadalcanal. And we stayed there seven months raising kids there in Australia, probably another reservation down there. Yeah, there's probably a lot of Navajos down there *[laughs]*. And stationed there seven months, about September or October, we moved back out into Pacific. We got into the area, New Guinea Mellon Bay where we station, the rest of the group ____ Island down below us. At that time, the war is just across the street kinda like, on the other side of the New Guinea. Like the Port Morrisby, I think is where the Australian group fighting over the mountain, chasing the Japanese back over the mountain; they coming through over the mountain. That's where all the big wars and all the – there's a lot of rains going on. So, we group with the Australian and Army. We under MacArthur, General MacArthur. One division he need with his group that was 1st Marine Division. And one 1st Marine Division and rest of the Army and the Australians - three groups, different group follow that New Guinea edge. Hit the beach here and there and we hit the first one I hit is Cape Gloucester, New Britain on Christmas Day 1943. And I stayed on that lotta rain, lotta trees falling down because they strafed that whole force during the landing. A lot of those trees are damaged. So one, one night a storm hit us We lost couple Code Talker, a tree falls on them, yeah. And the rest of us, we all had these sleeping bags that you tied to the trees, you know, hammock And I woke up, my bed swinging back and forth, and I stick my foot out of the hammock and I got my foot in the water. And my shoes were down below; I couldn't find my

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shoes. It's already washed away. So, I ended up no shoes and they guess they have to find some dead Marines to get me shoes. Yeah, because it's war that, we lost some casualty. Not as bad as, you know, Guadalcanal and the other place.

PS You had a lot of accidents, though?

MS But still, we lost Division, probably around close to 300. And one evening in afternoon, late in the afternoon, we got the paperwork where we had to go on patrol, not patrol but follow the last organized Japanese that went into the valley. Joe Kellwood was one on the list to go with the group because I'm the younger one than the first group. The first group is – his name is John Chee. So, he stayed, and I went. I was supposed to go on that patrol. But I was thinking to myself, doggone, you know, it's going into valley into a jungle in late afternoon; it's not a good time, you know? But they canceled that. I guess they was readin' my mind [*laughs*]. So we didn't go into that patrol It was good.

PS Did you see some other combat experience?

MS Oh well, that's a combat. Through that, all of that Japanese on top the hill, hill 660, there are Japanese all over the place. That's why I got the, what do you call that thing, all the Marines gets, you know, that – can't think of it. When I get to it, I'll let you know what it is. The one you take yellow tablets for...

PS Oh, malaria?

MS Yeah Uh-huh, I got malaria on that little hill, the hill 660. And didn't know nothing for two weeks, you know, so finally they told me I had the malaria. And we move ...

PS Were you using the code all the time when you were out there?

MS Not always, um, because the access not all that many, just when it has to be used for different things like that, you know? And not very much. And we move up the island all the way to peninsula, it's called Talasea, halfway up – halfway up New Britain.

Yeah New Britain and – and Army relieve us; Army relieve us in May and we come back to Guadalcanal and train some more. And the next one is in September – September 15, we hit Palau Island group called Peleliu. Yeah. There we lost a lotta Marines because Japanese is inside the mountain with their equipment We all on outside hot, 118 degrees, yeah Lot of Marines run out of water, got their mouths swollen and, you know, sun stroke. And all those things happened there and down there, we did a lot of code talking for ammunition. I knew I order artillery.

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There's a big door on the front of the mountain that they tried to hit. A lotta those big rock on top to come close the – close the big door. But even the Navy, they shootin' at that door. They couldn't do nothing with that. They just, you know, maybe a little hole, but that's about it. But nothing really destroyed. And the Japanese, 10,000 Japanese inside that mountain. Outside got holes all over the place. And got all kind of gun emplacement, all on that mountain there. They almost clean us out quick, I tell you that. But we stayed there until March – until November 9 and then we got relieved by the Army, and we went back to Guadalcanal, a place called Pavuvu, Russell Island. Trained some more and the next last one is Okinawa and that's where you see a lot of those pictures of me. Ernie Powell [Pyle, famous WWII correspondent killed during the Battle of Okinawa] interview us on the way, on the ship. He know there's Navajos on Italy doing the same kind of work. He wants to know how we do ours being we well trained. So, he was gonna listen to our voice on the radio. So, we all – they got radios on the different ship. We start talking to each other, so we start talking to each other, condition red. Put everything away. The Navy don't know us. Yeah, that's what happened. But that's the one, the last one Operation Okinawa. That's 1945, uh, 1945, April 1st, April Fool's Day and also Easter Sunday, yeah.

PS But when you look back on all of those experiences, how do you feel about having been a code talker?

JK I used to think why we take all those island? We had to give it back to the people over there. We should keep all those island. That's what's I used to think. But now, you know, it's their land, you know? That been used by Japanese, you know, it's not their choice. So, it don't bother me at all. The only thing I always remember is I should go back to Australia be bloody Aussie one more time. *[laughs]*

PS Did you how important your code was at the time?

JK Yes, I know, uh, when we train they told us any person asking us about the code, anything like that to report--report the – to our officer. We never did because the people we were with are good friends, you know how I mean? Just like relative. You get that way. You know, you not in there no more. You know, just like when I was over there in Australia I'm not like – and then I'm just one of the Yank. *[laughs]*. Bloody Yank.

PS What do you tell young people today that – about your experiences or, you know, what advice do you give young people?

JK Oh well, I do a lot I--whole group of people. I, uh, in Phoenix. I travel all the time. I travel about three times to ASU, Tempe, and I got about three times to the west. Now I got one line up on the east in Williams Field for the 31 of this month. Yeah, so I'm busy all the time. Yeah, well, we'll let that go by this time. *[laughs]*. So, my outfit went to China, and they sent me back to United

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States. And I got the message people with 200 and some points transfer to anti-aircraft outfit battalion. We got transferred to that battalion. My outfit went to China occupation. Myself, I ended up with typhoon on that unit. And I'll tell you that – that 60 some – some close to 100 miles an hour typhoon dragged that thing back and forth. The tent, you know, start leaning over We fightin' that to keep it together.

PS You must be really proud of those – those years that you were a code talker.

JK: Well, it is, you know, and uh, I know, the radioman, you know, towards the end, you know, and he asked me one time, what is nussbuss mean? You know, which means zero You know, and if it's a number you have to cross that O so it don't confuse with the O, letter O So that's the way you were. You had to be trained good, you know? And when you go through all this you memorize the whole thing It's just like your own language. You know, if you ever go to a square dance or a round dance You know? They use words, you know, ocean away, you know, and box and that Same – same thing The words build – build words together, but you all have to agree together to use it that way. That way it works.

PS Well thank you for taking the time to talk to us.

JK Well, yeah, huh.

PS Yeah Okay.

JK Big mouth, huh? *[laughs]*

PS It was a lot of stories.

JK So from there I went back to Reservation.

PS Yeah?

JK One month. And then come back I been down here since 1946, February 3rd yeah.

PS So you never went and lived back at the Reservation, huh?

JK Oh I learned my trade at ASU at the time was a college and, you know, there was a lot of job here and, you know...

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PS So you worked at ASU?

JK No.

PS Oh.

JK Carpenter.

PS Oh, carpenter?

JK Yeah, all in Phoenix here and even in Palo Verde and Sun City. You name it, I been here driving there for about 47 years and finally retired. One good thing, nobody shooting at you, you know how I mean? That's the different.

PS My brother was a carpenter in California.

JK I know, that's we have – I work with one carpenter, female, too You know? But there's always good job and a lotta things, uh, you do with the opposite sex always fun, you know how I mean?

PS You just need a good carpenter. *[laughs]*

JK Yeah.

PS You always need a good carpenter.

JK Yes, I know. That's for sure, yeah.

PS He's just getting a couple more shots and then we'll be done.

JK All right.

PS Yeah.

JK Take it away Leon. *[laughs]*

PS What does that mean?

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JK: Yeah in my name, in my name when they call me to radio, they call me Geronimo and some call me Wahoo and then some of them Tommy Hawk and, uh, you know, names like that, these they call you by first thing they think of. It's just like another thing that grabs, you know how I mean? So those are a lot of my names, you know, and Geronimo I don't – I didn't mind at all I know that he's a good...

PS You still use the Navajo language much today?

JK What?

PS Do you speak Navajo very much today?

JK Yes, uh-huh, uh, to myself I'm alone. You know, all those years. But I still can talk with these people just as good as the, uh, you know, the time I was on the Reservation. You don't forget.

PS Your children or grandchildren, they speak Navajo?

JK No, uh-uh, no.

[The rest of this tape includes about 3 minutes of footage showing all three code talkers signing autographs for the public – not transcribed.]

From Joe Kellwood 2004 Video Interview