

Transcript of Interviews taken for *D H Lawrence in Taos*, Peter Davis, Villon Films 1969:

Trinidad Archuleta

On original transcript, but not on the audio file:

Q: That was a long, long, time ago wasn't it?

TRINIDAD: Yeah.

Q: And didn't you take the Lawrences in the wagon?

TRINIDAD: Yeah in the wagon.

Q: You used to go shopping for the Lawrences all the way to town.

TRINIDAD: Yeah, did help going down there with the buggy to get some groceries all the time.

Q: And did you like Lawrence?

TRINIDAD: oh yes, always, always we'd been about fifteen years always been working with him.

Q: Yes, you worked fifteen years for him. And Frieda, you liked Frieda?

TRINIDAD: Yes. Going down, coming down, in this, 'cos we'd have to have a go around to see the mountains out there.

Q: You used to ride in the mountains out there?

TRINIDAD: Oh yes. They have uh, nice horses to ride them around. One of the black and one of the, they call him Azul.

Q: Azul?

TRINIDAD: Yeah. Another one it's a sorrel mare.

Q: That was Frieda's horse, wasn't it?

TRINIDAD: Yeah. All them horses just belonged to them. Because we have to take care of them up there at the ranch all the time and...

Q: What was Lawrence's horse's name?

TRINIDAD: Uh, his horse's name, Azul. That big horse is kind of white and blue, you know. Is very big.

Q: Lawrence was very funny when he rode.

TRINIDAD: Yeah, and that Lawrence, is gonna be have to that, uh, they called them Aaron's the horses.

Q: oh, they did, huh?

TRINIDAD: And then he's riding that horses, all the time.

Q: And The Brett?

TRINIDAD: Brett is going be have to have horses that is Prince.

Q: Prince.

TRINIDAD: And the one of them they have to, uh, they name it Pop Julie. The horses.

Q: How did you come to be employed up at there?

TRINIDAD: Um, I don't even remember all that, you know, because it's been long.

Q: Maybe Tony got you the job?

TRINIDAD: Yeah. Well now, he was, when I first came I was working in Mabel. But the time is gonna be have to tell me, to have to. He bought the place and he's told me to have to take him out to work. From there I stay about 15 years, to work with Frieda, to build little houses. Turn all the houses is kind of ruined already. Someplace they have uh, rotting with there. They have log you know. They have uh, cabins.

Q: It was an old ranch.

TRINIDAD: uh huh, and then we gonna have to fix 'em up all that ruins and we doing like that.

Q: Your wife was there too, wasn't she?

TRINIDAD: Yeah and after that we was a started working and we finished the work to build the houses and after that my wife they went up. We stay with him all the time. And that's what he stay up there.

Q: What kind of work did you do there when you were there?

TRINIDAD: Oh cut him up woods and haul 'em all the woods with the waggons and there because they build the fires in the fireplace all the time. That's why we haul him the woods and splitted the woods all the time. That's what we do up there. And sometime it's gonna be have carry 'em all the things and move it around, you know. Take him down someplace to fix him up. And one of us Spanish guy, they went up there to have to fix him up all the doors and everything. They ruin all the doors.

At 3:54

Q: What about Brett, Trinidad – she painted some pictures?

TRINIDAD: Oh yes. When the first time we came with Lawrence. From there he's gonna be have to start the painting all the time. And we was to stay together with him too. When she was gone, Lawrence, and then we'd stay with him. About three years time it's gonna be have to have a move down over here where he place and then it's gonna be have to start it there, paintings all the time. She's working like that.

Q: Did you paint before you went up there?

TRINIDAD: No, I don't started yet at that time. I was uh, when I coming down here and then I started to painting and then there's going to be have to have a uh, one of our friends they come and then they going be have to he bought all my paintings and he had it over there.

Q: Winter was very hard up there wasn't it?

TRINIDAD: Oh, yes. We don't stay in the winter time just in summertime we stay up there, because that's too deep the snow in the winter time. That's why we don't went up.

Q: But Lawrence stayed there one winter.

TRINIDAD: Yeah.

Q: Do you remember the Danes, those two artists?

TRINIDAD: Yeah. See was a lot of people they going up there. They're artists and stay up there once in a while and they painted up there. And we bought down sometimes we carry'em with the buggy, all the people they wanted from in Taos because that time they don't run it anything. The cars we don't see any much car that time. Just a buggy and horses to carry 'em all the peoples up that away. That's why we work on they coming down. When somebody they wrote the letters and then we got the letters and coming down Creek in Taos to get them with a buggy. And we take 'em up like that. That's what we do with it.

At 6:33

Q: Can you describe Lawrence, Trinidad, what he looked like?

TRINIDAD: Well, yes good, we have a long beard and see was a use it all the time a big hat. See was doing dress up like a, uh, well anyway he's been a farmer. He's gonna be dress up like that. But he uses all the time the hat, you see, we don't have the, without the hat they don't go around.

Q: Did you do a lot of work around the house when he farmed the ranch?

TRINIDAD: No, not very much, but we have to have a fixing up all the houses, the buildings up there then we have to help fix'em up inside. All the move around. We have a make a cupboards and everything. To work on in there inside.

Q: What about the Lawrences were they good people to work for?

TRINIDAD: Yeah, is very nice man to have a working and they showed me how they do it all the time. I learn it from there, what's it know, and they tell me to work on with him. That's where I learned my work. And they told me to read the really Spanish book, is going

to be have to teach me too. And he was uh, telling me everything and today I learn it from there from him how talk with the Spanish today.

Q: Did he talk to you about any other things at all, Lawrence?

TRINIDAD: No.

Q: You didn't talk together much?

TRINIDAD: No not much.

Q: Sometimes wouldn't he sit by the fire and talk?

TRINIDAD: Well, they few stories they tell me and then there's going be have to not so very all the time we not going to stay because they have a special his house and house is special they have. They parked up there. We have a park we have some rooms down below and his rooms is upstairs , you know. That's why we don't talk much. But, we stay together up there.

Q: Well, you used to eat with him, at the same table, no?

TRINIDAD: Yeah we do.

At 9:24

Q: ...talk about Mabel.

TRINIDAD: Yeah.

Q: Were you a relative of Mabel's? You were a relative of Tony's, no?

TRINIDAD: uh, Tony he's gonna be, uh, my mother his brother.

Q: Oh, your mother's brother.

TRINIDAD: This is my only uncle I have.

Q: Uh, huh.

TRINIDAD: Tony and uh, maybe you know him, that Joe Luhan, too.

TRINIDAD: Yeah, That's only two uncles I have that time. From there is gonna be have to I'll be working with them all the time too.

Q: Yeah, he was a very good uncle, wasn't he?

TRINIDAD: Yeah.

Q: He liked you very much.

TRINIDAD: Yes. He coming up then to get me all the time to work with them because he's have a lot of work to do up there, when she was building or anything like that. Care of all the animals and something like that.

Q: Who taught you to dance, Trinidad?

TRINIDAD: Uh , I learned it when I was uh, eighteen years old.

Q: Yeah.

TRINIDAD: And from there I started and today I've been still dancing today.

Q: Well you could do all kinds of dances, you could...

TRINIDAD: oh, yes, I dance war dance, shield dance, buffalo dance, eagle dance, corn dance.

Q: Did Lawrence ever watch you dancing?

TRINIDAD: No, uh, I don't dancings up there, but I dancings over here in Mabel.

Q: In the studio, no?

TRINIDAD: Yeah. In the studio. I dancings over there. Whenever call me all the time. She's gonna be have to take me over there to dance.

Q: Yeah they all used to dance.

TRINIDAD: Always, always. I like it because our Indian way to have to use a dance, you know, that's why I like it, to dance. And now oh, I been around all over the country because I've been dancing like that. And, uh, even Oklahoma. I went a contest dance over there too.

Q: Did you do the hoop dance?

TRINIDAD: Yeah I do. All the different dance I dancing. All different. All the dancings what we have, I dancings like that.

Q: And you sang too.

TRINIDAD: Yeah. There's gonna be have to have a, that's why it's gonna be have to call me that all the time the people they know me and it's going to be have to call me to dance because sometimes they look for me because I dancing so long. And I had some friends and going be dance together . Maybe you know him Ben Marcus and John Marcus?

Q: Oh, yes, I know him

TRINIDAD: and little Joe Gomez

Q: Did they want you to dance?

TRINIDAD: Yeah, We danced all together. We'd been a travelling all the time and, uh, they have a big going on, you know, ceremonial, to going on. We going out there to dance. Yeah, that's what we doing out here. We dance all together.

Q: Did you ever see Lawrence dance?

TRINIDAD: Yeah, I see them round dance. I see them round dance. Yeah. Yeah, they dance round dance. Yeah.

Q: Well, that's when we all get together and dance around.

TRINIDAD: Yeah, round dance.

Q: Shoulder to shoulder.

TRINIDAD: Yeah, that's what we call them round dance.

Q: Kind of friendship dance.

TRINIDAD: Oh yeah. Friendship dance and round dance they call 'em.

Q: And even Lawrence would get in the circle and dance?

TRINIDAD: Oh yes.

Q: And Frieda?

TRINIDAD: Everybody, they coming in. They dancings. When they had [food] and that, that the last one they started was a round dance and then it's going be everybody they join in and then it's gonna be dancings like that. We have a nice time that time because uh, people they like it. And they don't have a much people to come around in here, the country. That time.

Q: Just friends.

TRINIDAD: Just friends and they come in from you people, they come from now like that. That's only time they have a we know the people. And they have a friends. I make a lot of friends like that.

Q: We were all friends in those days...

TRINIDAD: Yeah, yeah.

Q: ...the Indians and the Americanos were friends .

TRINIDAD: Yeah, yeah, all of them. Nothing but friends. We have to met 'em.

Q: Well , Mabel used to dance too in the round dance.

TRINIDAD: Yeah yeah. We dance, everybody they dancings even the old people. This my uncle sometimes he's coming out to dance. When I dancings you know, he feel like to dance and he coming out and then dancing. And uh, just one thing I don't have any no pictures. That's all I don't have any.

Q: You don't have any pictures.

TRINIDAD: Tony. Yeah. That's all I don't have any.

Q: There's one picture of you, you were very beautiful when you were young. You were the most beautiful dancer.

TRINIDAD: Well, I think that's the time it's gonna be have to – some peoples, they have to wanna copy from my costume.

Q: Yeah.

TRINIDAD: From Los Angeles. And she want to have to have a – I'll send it for them costume and then she's going to be have to take me a picture to show them how they made it, how they gonna be dress up with that costume. That's what I had some pictures. Maybe you see them in a book.

Q: I saw them in the book. Beautiful. You were bending down. It was a hoop dance. You were dancing the hoop dance. That's hard isn't it?

TRINIDAD: Yeah, very hard, but, some way we know how and then we don't have any no tireds or anything because we dancings like that.

Q: You dance all night.

TRINIDAD: (Chuckles) Yeah, all the time.

At 15:44

Q: Did you ever see Lawrence dance with Mabel?

TRINIDAD: Well, he's dancings out there. Everybody they round dance together.

Q: Only the round dance?

TRINIDAD: Yeah.

Q: I think they used to dance - arms around each other too.

TRINIDAD: No, uh, they don't know how, you know. That's why they don't dancings like the Indians. They going be have to dancings, you know. And then when we have started the round dance and that's the only type he dance. But everybody they in there, all the peoples. Who they are, they invited the party and they's gonna be have to come around, and there's gonna be everybody they dancing. And we have a nice time and then we have the shield dance and war dance and everything, and we have eagle dance, hoop dance and everything we have what we have for Indians. We're going to have to show him up.

Q: And Lawrence used to watch.

TRINIDAD: Yeah, all the peoples, they watch. And they like it because the Indian dancing's, you know. We have different costumes. We have eagle dance and eagle wings and uh shield dance and horsetail dance...

Q: A horse tail dance?

TRINIDAD: Yeah, everything what we have, and we show them, you know.

Q: Frieda liked to watch, didn't she?

TRINIDAD: Oh, yeah. she watched all the time. She like it. When they have a party you know, the first one they been in there because, you see, he like it, the dancings all the time.

Q: Where did you dance, Trinidad? Whereabouts, when you danced for Lawrence and the others?

TRINIDAD: They have uh Mabel's studio. They have a dance over there. They have a big studio over there. All the time we're going out there to have a dance.

At 17:34

TRINIDAD: ...have it. They don't know where it's be got. It's gonna be have to, money is going fly – each way. Even you fill your pockets they going up. And before you know it you have gone. And you worried is going be right there. And is going be gone, see. And if you leaving alone those things it's going be have to save your life. It's going be alright and then it's gonna be help your life. That's the way they are. Our Indian is not going be worried because we don't have any electric light. We don't have anything. Something to have to worry about it. Just get some wood and burn it all up or chopping wood and burn it all up. The fires going out. Is alright. But if you people is going to be have to have a lights, waters, everything.

Q: You're happy. You're happy.

TRINIDAD: We happy all the time. We happy all the time because nobody bother us, our place. Keep quiet sleep good. Next morning we get up and we work our fields, we watching the crops and some like that. Care of all the animals. Watching the animals. Go down in the pasture to see them and come back. And there's gonna be something else to do. Or we're going out there in the mountains, being out up there and come back and stay home. And no worry. That's one thing that's going be alright for us. That's why the old folks they don't want it to have to have a put him up the electric light.

Q: I hope you never get electricity.

TRINIDAD: But the young boys they would be have it already outside, outside in Pueblo. But in here in the village we don't want it.

Q: No. Are the young boys gonna win?

TRINIDAD: No, I don't think so, but they, you know how the young kids, it's going to be have to act smart. That's why they want to put him up. But the old folks, they don't want it. Because it's gonna be have to spoil all the pueblos. Too many posts like some other pueblos. I heard about it it's going to be have to have uh, some of the pueblos they have a light, they have a light and they have a television and they have some other

kind of machine and it's going to be have to and today is going to be have to going up the price how much did they use the light? And it's gonna be have to, right there it's going to be have to kick. The first time he's doing and they don't see them because he tells us it's going to be good and easy but today he found it out himself. We don't want it like that over here because it's nice place we have lived. And nobody bother us and nobody say anything of what we have. Or each room is going to be have to have nobody going in. You don't have any these, you don't have any bathrooms. No say like that nobody around here. What we work and we bought it our own stuff. What we bought it, what we like. That's all we have. All the people today is gonna be alright.

Q: That's enough what you have.

TRINIDAD: Yeah.

Q: Well, I hope the young boys don't win. The young boys will be old boys pretty soon and they will think the way you do.

TRINIDAD: Well, uh, you know, they some kids they been to school, you know – high school or college – she's the one that's going be act like uh, she's very smart. But it's not smart! That's what I say. He loses his mind, you know, he loses his mind.

Q: For a little while and then they come back.

TRINIDAD: And then he's gonna be have to find it out himself. By late, by lately he's going be coming. They don't see them but he's coming a front of them, him. Because he's gonna be coming. Before they know it he's gonna be have to right there. And she find it out himself.

Q: Are there many of the young boys who want electricity?

TRINIDAD: Yeah. They outside, though, way outside.

Q: Not here in the pueblo.

TRINIDAD: Not here in the pueblo. We don't want it because, we don't want it. It's alright. That little pot is just broken, that's why. Yeah, that's what they doing but we don't let them do it in here, in the village.

Q: They make a big fight.

TRINIDAD: No, is not fight, but we don't want it. Because it sometime when she have a, our Indian he's gonna be have difference with you people. You people difference. Otherwise it's gonna be belong to you, all them lights and machine and everything. But the Indian is gonna be natural to come because he's gonna be have to use it all a long time ago, what give it to us and God is gonna be have to wood. See?

Q: Oh I understand

TRINIDAD: That's what they have to have, uh, use it. Belong to Indians, see. That's why we got some wood up here in canyons or then we couldn't get the woods out there across the river.

Q: Well, you're happy without 'things'.

TRINIDAD: Oh yeah.

Q: Very happy.

TRINIDAD: Oh yeah. Everything, everything what we see them and we happy. All our families – everybody – they happy.

Q: I think the Indians are happier than the white people.

TRINIDAD: I hope so, yeah. Because it's gonna be have to, we don't worry about it much you know. That's why.

At 24:12

TRINIDAD: Yeah, and we see them over there. Oh, there's a lot of places. We have a million things there, to see how they live up there the people. And, uh, that place is gonna be top, they have a cabin up there and that, uh, the other side is gonna be have to nice place, you know, it's gonna be of rock like that and then ...

At 24:50

Q: Did Lawrence ever come down to the Pueblo?

TRINIDAD: Yeah, he's been visit to us and coming down over here. When their friends come they coming over here all the time. And then is gonna be have to show them all the village his friends, you know. They coming from England and Germany. All his friends coming from there. We have to have a show them all the village over here. And we told him to all the officers, they count all the peoples out there. We told them to our friends not to charge them. When we have a friends they don't charge them. They come around my house or somebody else house and they don't charge them because it's your friend. That's what they have to have a, tell'em the people out there in the government office. All them officers they have to have a talking about over because it's gonna be have to have a, we have a lot of things to tell us like that.

Q: Well Lawrence came to san Geronimo. He watched the pole climb.

TRINIDAD: Oh, yes. They coming round early in the morning because it San Geronimo is gonna be have a foot race in the morning. All the people, I mean, the young boys, they running from there. See, that's why we had some race track over here. Inside our village out there. It's about uh, five hundred and forty what that long is gonna be have to running with that race. All the young boys they run it. We was to run it in that time.

Q: You were a runner too.

TRINIDAD: Yeah, when I was young.

Q: He was fast.

TRINIDAD: And then uh, but now, I got old. I can't run anymore because it's gonna be have the young kids, they running now. That's what they have it now. And in the early spring is

gonna be have them little ones. They running too. Them little ones is run around here. That's when they started first.

Q: Well, Lawrence and Frieda used to watch the races.

TRINIDAD: Oh yeah. She like it because the Indians going on all the time. They like it. Even corn dance. Everything. Deer dance. And Christmas they have a deer dance. And, uh, gonna be have a turtle dance, and buffalo dance,

Q: Matachines.

TRINIDAD: Matachines, all them. All the people they like it. They come around to watch all the time. All the old folks, she not gone, you know. They come around to see all the dancing. Mostly we dance the deer dance in the winter time, in Christmas. Christmas Eve. Christmas Eve they have the little ones, they dancing. And then after that they have a procession to - saints from the church. They have, uh, took him out from there, they've been around all the pueblos in here, in the middle. And they have to make a little, uh, make a little fires over there where the pigeon toes are. Very crazy one. Pine, they come in from in the pine tree. They spread it about that wide and it's gonna be make a like a cross like this. Round, you know. That's gonna be have to, when the Saints come out they burn him up. They burn it all the ways from around.

Q: And it makes lots of smoke.

TRINIDAD: yeah . Lots of smoke. The people, they like it. Mostly they like deer dance and buffalo dance, but those Spanish then they don't like it much. But the Spanish, the Spanish they like it, those. But the Indian, uh, I mean the American people they don't like it the Spanish dance because that come from Montezuma dance, they call it. That's why they don't like it. But Indian dance, even they have a lot of snow, they *come* to see them. All the Indians they have to use all the deer hide. They have a horn on. See, that's why I have some horns over there. I kill him myself that deer. I kill him over here across the river when the seasons open that September, I kill it. Great big buck. She was still living my wife. And then I go make a whole hanger, uh, gun, you know. I make it myself to, to put the guns there. All the time is gonna be happy to do it all myself. That's what I'm doing.

Q: You wear the deer heads in the dance.

TRINIDAD: Yeah

At 30:02

Q: what does this painting represent? Can you tell us?

TRINIDAD: Well, uh, that painting coming from dreaming. I was uh, one morning go to Brett's place. I tell him that dreaming. And the same time she's dreaming this, this picture, she himself too. And she was drawing already. This is first one. He made it. I told him that morning when I went over there and, uh, when she was drawing something I tell him to have to help him out because it's gonna be, he forgot it [some up], you know, and she write and then he's going be make it like that. And she's gonna become a nice painting.

Q: What does it mean, you know?

TRINIDAD: That mean it's gonna be have to have a one side summer and one side is moon.

Q: What was that again?

TRINIDAD: One side is summer and one side is moon, I mean winter. That's why they have one side white and one side is yellow, you know. Summers . See the flowers and they have snow in this side. Fall times. That's what they mean.

Q: It was a dream?

TRINIDAD: Yeah, that's right. That's what the sun and moon.

Q: How about the other one? The one that Brett did of you and your wife.

TRINIDAD: Well, uh, that, uh, when they have a party we have some dancings, you know. That's what they call him some kind of Picuris dance. The man is gonna be have to turn the, taking out the womans and that's gonna be dancing like that. That's why we dance like that...

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