***Archaeology and History in Your BackYard - Apache Chief Manuelito***

Hello Everyone, this is **Archaeology and History in Your BackYard** and my name is -------. KXNM 88.7 FM and the Torrance County Archaeological Society are pleased to bring you a series of programs designed to acquaint you, our listening audience, with little known people, places and events that took place in the past, right here in your own back yard. For the most part, we will be covering interesting facts, stories and legends about the past, and people that lived right here in the Estancia Valley and surrounding areas here in Central New Mexico. Our goal is to inform, educate, and possibly enlist your help in preserving and protecting the past.

Our show today will focus on the Mescalero Apache chief Manuelito, a friend of the early residents of Manzano. The information presented here was gathered by Sharon Hanna of TCAS from military archives “Letters Received” files and the book Manzano A Study of Community Disorganization by Wesley R. Hurt in his Masters Degree thesis prepared for the University of New Mexico in 1941. The thesis investigated the declining condition of the village at the end of the 1930s.

Manzano was settled sometime before 1829, when the inhabitants petitioned to the Mexican government for a land grant. From the beginning until about 1880 the village was frequently attacked by raiders. Most of the time the raiders were Navajo; the Mescalero and Jicarilla Apaches were on friendly terms with the Manzanenos. For protection from the raiders there was a militia (vigilantes) of about twenty men constantly prepared to fight. Manzano was so isolated that when the supplies of rifles and bullets ran low, the men fought with short bows and arrows, lances and sling shots.

Much of the Manzano folklore consists of stories of warfare and other types of contact with Navajos, Apaches and Pueblos. Hurt divided this contact into five types:

1. Joint Manzano and Apache punitive expeditions against the Navajos.
2. Warfare but differing from that above in that the captives were not killed.
3. Raids and reprisals for obtaining captives for slavery.
4. Raids to obtain livestock.
5. Friendly contacts.

For many years Manzano was a center of contact with the Apaches, Navajos and Puebloans, and the contact wasn’t always hostile. The Pueblo people, especially those from the north, who were traveling to the salt lakes for salt traveled through Manzano. Many of the people of Manzano and surrounding communities had close friends among the different bands of Indians, including Mescalero chiefs Manuelito and El Cadete, Victorio of the Ojo Caliente Apaches, and Jicarilla Apaches.

In official correspondence of James B. Calhoun in 1850 he states, “The Jicarilla Apaches remain yet in the neighborhood of Manzano... They visit Manzano whenever they choose, and buy and sell without hindrance.” On March 31, 1851 he reported,

“A few days since, the Navajos drove off stock from near Manzano. The Apaches, who have...been in that neighborhood for months past, ascertained the fact, pursued the Navajos, recovered and returned the stock and brought in a scalp. Four were wounded and three have died since...”

During the early period of American contact the friendship between the Apaches and the Manzanenos continued. According to Hurt, a Manzano resident named Timio Luna told the following story. “A large band of Apache under the famous chief Manuelito approached Punta de Agua by the acequia on the east side of the village. They frightened the local people and the women and children fled to the fortress in Manzano. Seeing this flight the Apache Indians displayed a large white banner, indicating the peaceful nature of their visit. The women and children came out of the fortress and everyone conversed. Manuelito and his band went on their way. ...On their return trip to the Gallinas Mountains Manuelito was killed by American soldiers...”

This event would have occurred in the fall of 1862. Manuelito was making a trip to Santa Fe where he surrendered his family and members of his band to Colonel Kit Carson for relocation to the Bosque Redondo at Fort Sumner. Carson asked Manuelito to return to the Mescalero people and try to convince more of them to surrender, giving Manuelito a pass for safe travel. Manuelito did as Carson asked, and was returning to Santa Fe with Apaches planning to surrender to Carson when he encountered Captain James Graydon and his men at the west Gallinas Spring on their way to Fort Stanton. Graydon felt recruited Apaches would be good scouts for capturing more Apaches, so gave Manuelito and his companions food before moving on to look for deserters. After leaving the spring he met another company of soldiers also enroute to reoccupy Fort Stanton. From their commanding officer Graydon learned of General Carleton’s new orders to kill all Apache and Navajo men and capture all the women and children. Upon his return to the spring, Graydon, being a professional soldier in New Mexico since 1853, obeyed the orders.

Graydon’s official report of the so called battle states that he shot Manuelito in the head at close range with one barrel of his shotgun. Another military report, written by another officer, indicates that Graydon and his men gave the Apaches whiskey, took their weapons before killing them, then rode on to Fort Stanton. The next soldiers to arrive found only four Apache bodies--three old men and one woman. Reports vary but it is estimated that nineteen Apaches died as a result of the incident; no soldiers were killed. Along the trail of the Apaches toward the Sacramento Mountains, soldiers found Manuelito’s dead horse, leading them to believe Manuelito had died and his horse was killed according to Apache tradition.

To commemorate the event of Manuelito’s death, the people of Manzano used to sing a song written by Sancho Chavez of Torreon called the “Indita de Manuelito” (Ballad of Manuelito). In the ballad, it says Manuelito fought back with an arrow in his hand, and died later along the Rio Bonito.

Colonel Carson was irate over Graydon’s actions, and unexpected turmoil caused by the public reaction, which included letters published in the Santa Fe newspaper, led to a gun battle at Fort Stanton a month later between Graydon and Dr. Whitlock, a friend of Carson. Whitlock was killed in the fight and Graydon died a few days later.

The Torrance County Archaeological Society meets at 7 PM the first Tuesday of every month from March through November. We meet at the East Torrance Soil and Water Education Building at 700 S. 10th St. in Estancia. Please come and join us.

You can listen to Archaeology in Your Back Yard Monday at 1 PM, Tuesday at 7 PM, Friday at 10 AM and Saturday at 4 PM. Thanks for listening.