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Mesa Verde: Fuerher Durch Den Nationalpark, Gian Mercurio, Maxymilian L. Peschel, Lonewolf Publishing, 1991, 0962737704, 9780962737701, . .

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_____. The Navajo, Sales Catalogue. Crystal, NM: Crystal Trading Post, 1911. Reprinted by Avanyu Publishing, Albuquerque, N.M. in 1986 under the title, The Navajo: a reprint in its entirety of a catalogue published by J.B. Moore, Indian trader, of the Crystal Trading Post, New Mexico, in 1911.

Porter, Burr Wilson. Papers, 1895-1950. (Financial ledgers and legal records relating to the operation of a general merchandise store and trading station at Navajo, Ariz. as well as activities in real estate and the sheep industry: Personal materials-1895-1950, Property records-1906-1947, Financial records-1914-1943, Notary's record-1924-1945)

The first Navajo trading post was awarded to George Richardson at the despised Bosque Redondo reservation in Fort Sumner, New Mexico. In 1868, when the Navajo were allowed to return to their country in the Four Corners area, trading posts sprouted across Navajo country, often located near water, and far from any commercial centers, Gian Mercurio and Maxymilian L. Peschel write in The Guide to Trading Posts and Pueblos.

Hubbell became a National Historic Site in 1967. "About that time, a lot of trading posts were going out of business," Bahe says. "Supermarkets were coming in, and regulations by the government—the BIA [Bureau of Indian Affairs] and the tribes—found a lot of the posts being abandoned or closed out."

Yet you can still find posts, some of them quite historic, on and off the rez. Even though the Federal Trading Commission has outlawed "pawn shops" on the reservation "you'll still find them in Gallup, however—you can even, if you're lucky, find a good deal on a rug, jewelry or maybe a can of pop.

John Lorenzo Hubbell began trading at Ganado in 1876, and his post "established two years later—is the oldest, continuously-operated post in the Navajo Nation. Hubbell is a good place to see how a post would have looked in the 19th century (i.e. no gas pumps, though you will find a cooler for soft drinks).

It's not really a trading post; you won't find trading posts on the Hopi Reservation. But since shops and galleries specialize in what each community is noted for, I figured we should give the Hopi their due and include them on this journey. Besides, the Hopi Cultural Center, complete with an inn and restaurant, is a good place to learn about Hopi traditions and art.

Second Mesa is known for coiled baskets and katsina dolls. FYI: No known historic tradition is

behind Navajo kachinas, which were created purely to sell to tourists. Hopi katsinas (there's no "ch" in the Hopi language) are carved from cottonwood roots. Hopis are also known for silverwork, pottery and baskets.

Established in 1916 by Hubert Richardson, these old stone buildings were the second shop on the site. "The first," Gladwell Richardson recalled in his memoir *Indian Trader*, "was just a tin shack put up during construction of the bridge over the Little Colorado River in 1910-1911." I wonder what those old traders would think of all the tourists in Cameron's market, restaurant and gallery today. I'm not sure you'll find any great deals, but the fry bread I ate was excellent.

It's easy to see what the Gouldings' Harry and his wife "Mike" saw when they first established this post in 1924: the same thing director John Ford saw when he turned Monument Valley into his own Western movie set. Goulding took credit for luring Hollywood to this picturesque country, helping to make John Wayne and Monument Valley into American icons with films such as 1939's *Stagecoach*, 1949's *She Wore a Yellow Ribbon* (step inside Capt. Nathan Brittles' quarters) and 1956's *The Searchers*.

If you're a Navajo rug aficionado, you know the name already. Teec Nos Pos weavers have been producing often large, bold and intricately designed rugs with an H-like symbol on the sides. These rugs are "every collectible," says Larry Fulbright, rug buyer at Richardson's Trading Company in Gallup. And quite expensive.

Stepping into this Main Street trading post "which originated the beaded basket," Mercurio and Peschel write "is like entering a museum. In fact, the downstairs is a museum, which opened in 1994 (the trading post dates only to 1961), housing a wide array of Indian artifacts and historic firearms.

"A good Navajo blanket is better than having money in the bank," Lorenzo Hubbell Jr. often said. At Notah Dineh, you'll find the largest known Two Grey Hills rug "a 12-by-18-foot masterpiece (a five-by-seven is often considered large) that Rachel Curley began in 1957 and finished three years later.

Justin and Savannah Higgins are fourth-generation traders, and Blanco has been dealing and trading with Navajos and tourists since the 1920s, when Wilfred "Tabby" and Jim Brimhall established the post. It's near Chaco Culture National Historical Park (well, nothing's really near Chaco), about 25 miles south of Bloomfield, and the Indian room in the back of the post is must-see.

"Most of your Navajo people kinda live hand-to-mouth," he explains. "If they need \$200, they can't go to the bank and borrow it. The banks are gonna need two weeks just to check out your credit. So they'll end up pawning something of value "a saddle or jewelry or even a rug" something they don't want to sell. It's kind of a quick shot to them if they're short on cash."

Richardson (remember the Cameron Trading Post's founders?) was established in 1913, and the trading post is a lot like Cortez's Notah Dineh. Walking inside is a visceral, museum-like experience. Mercurio and Peschel call this fantastic old post, located on historic Route 66, "one of the centerpieces of trade in Gallup."

Shush Yaz had its beginnings five generations and more than 120 years ago when Seth Benjamin Tanner led settlers from Utah to Tuba City, Arizona. The Navajo admired Tanner's strength and called him Hosteen Shush, or Mr. Bear. His grandchildren were called Shush Yazzie, or "Little Bears." These days, Shush Yaz prides itself as the "best source for old pawn jewelry." You'll find a lot more than pawn jewelry here; the post also offers Hopi katsinas, pottery, baskets and plenty of rugs and saddles.

A Navajo rug from the 1920s hangs from the ceiling (I don't dare ask the price, especially after admiring a Ganado Red priced at \$10,725). Perry Null sells plenty of silver and turquoise jewelry, saddles, pipes, flutes and firearms. Yet the Indian crafts are not just Navajo, but also Zuni, Hopi, Acoma, Laguna and even some Apache.

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Follow along on my travels. This summer I'll be spending a month in Spain studying Antoni Gaudí's architecture, the artworks and lives of Pablo Picasso, Joan Miró³, and Salvador Dalí- while improving my Spanish and learning some Catalan. A Fund for Teachers' Fellowship has made this trip possible. I'll be bringing back what I learn to my classroom. Follow me and I think we'll all have a real good time! Thank you, Fund for Teachers!

In the Boqueria it overwhelms. Although the light is limited it's as though the odors grew large to take the lights place. Each stall I pass sends out scented tendrils to lure me in - luscious white Spanish cheeses here, ham still in the form of a leg there - suddenly strawberries - then fresh fish overwhelms it all - spices - chocolate - gelato - crepes cooking - the mouth waters and the mind is bogged

Monday night was spent in Chinle, Arizona. In the morning Brandy and I took a tour of Canyon de Chelly. Access to the canyon is only in company of a Navajo guide. We took a half day tour that included portions of both the North and South Canyons. We saw petroglyphs and ruins. Any time the truck we were travelling in went into the shadows of the canyon walls it was at least 10 degrees cooler.

Your authorship never ceases to amaze me, Jean. I love your descriptive observations. Most of the territory you are covering is familiar to me from another time and 'season'. There were no rours or guides back in the early fifties. I recall climbing all over Mesa Verde without a guide and only a very small park fee. Christine was about five years old and stayed in the car!!

The sites were awesome then as they must be now. There was a native trading post on our route through Indian country--a real one--selling food and needed items to the Native folk. We didn't visit Hubble Trading Post. There was a small supply of earrings, I bought a pair--lost in time now. But no tourist stuff. We were really off the beaten path. I have enjoyed reading your blogs--I have many memories down those lanes.

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