

Gram- Audrey Flod-Interview from 9/15/11

Megan: Tell me about a story you have from AZ

G:Mountain hike: Group from my park got split up on weak part of mountain.
met old mountaineer in mountains asked him to show us how to get down
the whole time we were 1/2 mile off from cars
no one was worried
3 hours we were lost
it was beautiful we were enjoying it

M: What is something you like about AZ

G: I like everything about az
if we have to spend money we enjoy it no matter what

M: Tell me about your first impressions of AZ

G:First time: looking for spiders, snakes
60's went there for 17 years
Apache junction
Bus tour first, spent month down in Phoenix: hotel and went out on own, played cards,
downtown Phoenix, walked around
People: nice people, many snowbirds
Crafts: T-shirts, needlework- Brazilian embroidery, necklaces- people went from park to
park

M: Did you have many interactions with local people here, especially Native Americans?

G:local indians: at flea market and in stores and got to know waitresses, went to same
breakfast place- little coffee shop 49 cents, one of the older ones

M: Tell me about what AZ was like when you first got there.

G:First went down, desert all around our park, could go walk the desert- whole park was
trailers, then park models, CHANGE. "I missed the desert that was covered by housing
projects, I didn't think it was fair"

M: What does AZ's future look like?

G:Future of Arizona: "Its not gonna be like the old days" "Its getting more modern and
more alike all over"
"Kids are being raised differently"-
cant help it if both parents work, kids raise themselves, kids on own too much
older people always lived with the kids, took care of each other
get out own now, have to build up to get what their parents have

so many people in debt
whole US, whole world is changing”
“You had to work harder, but you had it all there”
“i grew up poor but didn’t know it”
got a new dress 3 times a year
we had everything we needed
“we had our imaginations, very few toys, we made up our own toys
all we’d need was a can”
its been changing gradually, the thinking of the older people are changing

M: How had AZ changed over the years you were there?

G:i could see AZ gradually changing those 17 years
desert: every morning we’d see a coyote, theyd come in our park, wild pigs too, their
homes were now housing projects

Natives think snow birds should go home, “i suppose they are ruining it compared to
what its supposed to be, prices went up, its natural, more people, its natural to raise
prices.”

“I knew we were part of the change. Traffic increased, there were a lot of older people,
causing car accidents”.

M: What is your least favorite thing about AZ?

G:Least favorite: hot weather, we’d head for home the first day it turned 90,

ML Was it hard to leave MN each winter?

G:hard to leave MN?- if i had my say we wouldn’t have gone, Erick’s say
Erick liked it all, never complained

I love AZ when: it is wintertime

I hate AZ when: it gets real hot

I see AZ’s past as:a western state going more modern

I taste AZ’s present as: a plate of deep-fried rattle snake

I hear AZ’s future as: being successful with all those resorts bringing in money in the
wintertime

I wonder why people in AZ: would be there in the summertime, they’ve gotta do what
they’ve gotta do

I wonder when people in AZ: take time to sit in the mnts to sit in awe of what god made

I wonder how people in AZ: younger people can handle change. older people find it
hard to really enjoy life like they used to- desert into housing, they have to adjust,
eventually

M: What do you think about recent immigration laws?

G:Mexicans?Too many. New rule is a good thing. Not going to be an english speaking country for much longer. they don't learn english. (MN has more mung than vietnam) if up to me: they would have to support themselves like in my day, they come over and they are completely supported, when my folks came they didn't give them a penny now such a drain on the government- it should be more fair.

M:What about guns down here?

G:Guns: when we were out there, people were starting to carry guns, they'd be sitting there with their backpacks and guns
i didn't think that was right, id have a talk with them
"too lenient allowing guns to be shown"
People are afraid of other people, don't know if others have one, so they think they need one
i don't think people should carry guns

M: Any advice you have for the next generation of AZ?

G:"Adjust to the new ways but remember the old ways"
continue to teach the young people the way AZ was along with the way AZ is now, because they will remember

some people have too much money and too much power: like head's of government, they don't really know how lower class people live
so many poor people but we're supporting too many other countries, the leaders take our money and poor don't get the help they should
young people don't want to support themselves