

“You had to work harder, but you had it all there”.

A scene based on a interview with Audrey Flod from 9/22/11 and an article about the life of growing up on a Hopi reservation in the 1960's.

I grew up poor but didn't know it. We had everything we needed.

I got a new dress three times a year.

We had our imaginations, very few toys, we made-up our own. All we'd need is a can.

Change is coming.

1976 was my first visit to Phoenix. On a bus tour. I didnt like the city. I wanted to be in a place closer to the mountains. We decided on Apache Junction because our friend Arlene lived there.

As a kid growing up in the 60's, we didnt have electricity or running water. It was a Hopi Reservation. The closest grovcery store was an hour away. We grew our own food. When I was 10, and enumeratior from the government came to evaluate each family's economic status. When my father found out he was below the poverty line he immediatly went out and got a minimum wage job. We went from eating vegetables to spam in a week.

I like everything about AZ.

Kids are being raised differently. They're on their own too much.

Too much debt. Always trying to build up to what their parents have in too short a time.

The first time I got to AZ, i was busy looking for spiders and snakes. Nice people everywhere we went. We got to know the waitresses in the coffee shops. Nice people, Indians. Because that is what we did, ate breakfast in the same coffee shop every morning. Coffee was 49 cents. The desert surrounds our trailer park. Beautiful hiking in the desert. Changes were already happening. I missed the desert behind our place when it was covered by housing projects, i didnt think it was fair.

It wasnt until 2000 that the Hopi Reservation got its first FCC liscne for a radio station. Our station is run by members of our community. Everyone knows them so everyone listens. Radio is one of the only ways American Indians get information on issues of safety, health education and tribal government.

Natives think all of us snow birds should go home. I suppose we were ruining it compared to what it's supposed to be. Prices went up, it's natural. More people, it's natural to raise prices.

You had to work harder, but you had it all there.

We'll all have to adjust, eventually.

I would just tell them, "learn the new ways but remember the old ones too".