



# Smithsonian

*National Museum of Natural History*

## Guide to the John F. Beck Film of Navajo Reservation, 1953

Cataloging supported by Smithsonian Institution Women's Committee

Human Studies Film Archives  
Museum Support Center  
4210 Silver Hill Road  
Suitland 20746  
hsfa@si.edu  
<http://www.anthropology.si.edu/naa>

## Table of Contents

Collection Overview .....	1
Administrative Information .....	1
General.....	2
Scope and Contents.....	1
Names and Subjects .....	2
Container Listing .....	

---

## Collection Overview

<b>Repository:</b>	Human Studies Film Archives
<b>Title:</b>	John F. Beck Film of Navajo Reservation
<b>Date:</b>	1953
<b>Identifier:</b>	HSFA.1992.03
<b>Creator:</b>	Beck, John F.
<b>Extent:</b>	Film reels (black-and-white sound; 1,144 feet; 16mm)
<b>Language:</b>	English .

---

## Administrative Information

### Acquisition Information

Received from John F. Beck in 1992.

### Provenance

Previously titled "Navajo Reservation 1953."

### Preferred Citation

John F. Beck Film of Navajo Reservation, Human Studies Film Archives, Smithsonian Institution

### Restrictions

The collection is open for research. Please contact the archives for information on availability of access copies of audiovisual recordings. Original audiovisual material in the Human Studies Film Archives may not be played.

### Conditions Governing Use

Contact the repository for terms of use.

---

## Scope and Contents

Roughly edited film shot on the Navajo Reservation in 1953 for CBS' See It Now. The show was never completed and thus never aired.

Assembled footage intended for television broadcast was shot in the northwest region of the Navajo reservation near Chilchinbito, Arizona. Footage documents aspects of early implementation of the Navajo-Hopi Improvement Act (1950) and its impact on health care, education, improved roads and communications, and the upgrading and expansion of local industries. Scenes include a local radio station, women visiting clinics and dispensaries, work in tribal industries (including lumber, coal, and uranium mining), and domestic life in and around hogans. Also included is silver smithing at the only site where this work was conducted as a collective tribal effort. Sound records dialogue of the Navajo tribal council at Window Rock, Arizona, on issues such as mandated universal education.

Please note that the contents of the collection and the language and terminology used reflect the context and culture of the time of its creation. As an historical document, its contents may be at odds with contemporary

views and terminology and considered offensive today. The information within this collection does not reflect the views of the Smithsonian Institution or Anthropology Archives, but is available in its original form to facilitate research.

---

## General

HSFA 1992.3.1

---

## Names and Subject Terms

This collection is indexed in the online catalog of the Smithsonian Institution under the following terms:

Subjects:

Diné (Navajo)  
tribal government

Cultures:

Diné (Navajo)

Types of Materials:

Sound films

Places:

Arizona  
North America