

Sarah Natani

How did you feel about your ancestors who made the long walk, the way they were treated, how did that make you feel?

I think both sides suffered when they went on the long walk. The one that went there had suffered from hunger. They had a hard time and my husband's father used to tell about it.

Well, these people who were herded to Hweeldi really suffered and when they were herded there they died of hunger and illness, some of them died on the way. On the way, they were so hungry that they ate the grains that the horses ate. It went as far as some of the people ate the horse droppings because food was so scarce. Some children used to dig for corn that was fed to horses so the people could grind it up to make food to eat. It was an awful sight even the ones who were not herded there all of them had suffered badly from hunger and illness. Some of the people started eating (hizaalieh) and (gloshin) they gathered those to survive. Foods like chilchin (berries) and wenishidii (locust). But our voices were heard that is why we are here today. The people who were captured prayed some of them are our beloved grandparents and their prayers were answered and that is why to this day we are here. We are very appreciative that they made it back to our land and now our children don't live like that.

Well, the people who gathered them maybe they are the white people or maybe Mexican people. They suffered from everything, some of the girls who were captured were pretty and maybe those are the reasons why so they could rape them. These are just the stories that were told to us. My grandmother was also captured so she could be a slave to the capturers she was taken to Colorado.