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August 1999

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# Faces of the Native Spirit

The striking photographs on these pages are from the recent book "Glass Plates & Wagon Ruts – Images of the Southwest" by Lisle Updike and William Pennington (University Press of Colorado).

Early this century, Updike and Pennington traveled the Southwest by horseback, narrow-gauge rail, wagon and Model T Ford. Their mission: to capture the beauty, dignity and spirit of Zuni, Ute, Navajo, Hopi, and other tribes.

A book of their photographs was collected and written by H. Jackson

Clark shortly before he died in 1997. Clark, a scholar and folklorist, knew them both.

The Indians of the Southwest are famed for their knowledge and beautiful design of fabric. And Clark was an expert on their rugs and the people who crafted them. He helped Lands' End immensely some years ago when we were working on a furnishings catalog.

When Clark told us he was compiling a book of photos by the renowned Updike and Pennington, we could hardly

wait. It is with great pride that we here pass them on to you.

Clark and author Tony Hillerman were close friends for years and shared their love of the so-called Four Corners: Colorado, Utah, Arizona, New Mexico.

Hillerman, of course, is the popular writer of mysteries that are infused with lore about Southwest Indians. We asked him for a few thoughts on the spirituality of the people in these turn-of-the-century photos.



Opposite: Jicarilla Apache with eagle feather headdress. Above, from left: Navajo portrait, one of Pennington's most popular images; Navajo grandmother with traditional cradle board; and Jicarilla Apache. The tribes' homes were in America's high desert, and that may have helped them survive the "manifest destiny" of European-Americans.





By Tony Hillerman

Why did the people you see in these turn-of-the-century photos choose to live in America's high desert? As the first comers, the fertile valleys were theirs for the taking. And how did their cultures survive when the "manifest destiny" of European-Americans swept over them? Consider their religions. The people Lisle Updike and William Pennington photographed almost a century ago in this remarkable collection of photographs from "Glass Plates and Wagon Ruts" are Navajos, Hopis or Zunis — all people with strong relationships with their creator.

The Hopi came first. Oraibi dates to the 12th century, the oldest village in America. Its settlers were farmers, but no farmer can look across the stony mesa behind the village and the immensity of desert spread below without wondering why they left the fertile places their migrations had taken them to stop here. The answer lies in their version of Genesis.

When Hopis entered the present world, they encountered Masauwu, the guardian spirit of this existence. He warned that this high desert offered little water, wood or food needed for an easy life. But this was Tuwanasavi, the Center Place, where God's plan of life destined them to live. Here they must stay to carry out God's life plan for them. And here they have endured since the 13th century.

The story is similar for the Zunis and other "Pueblo" tribes. They, too, located their villages after epic migrations in search of the holy places where God wished them to live. Like the Hopis, they left the "foot prints" of their migrations — ruined cliff houses scattered in canyons throughout the Southwest — to find the place their creator wished them to live.

For the Navajos, their sacred Center Place is Dinétah, the land between the four sacred mountains. Their Moses was Changing

Woman who taught a system which recalls the teachings of Buddha (as do the ethics of the Pueblo Indians). Their first value was harmony with all others and with nature. They must care for their clan family and be ruled by taboos — most of which require respecting others and avoiding greedy acquisitiveness. They were also given an arsenal of curing ceremonies to return them to harmony and warned that these would be effective only if performed with Mountain Taylor on the southeast, the San Francisco Peaks to the southwest, Bianca Peak to the northwest and Mount Hesperus to the northwest — mythic corner posts enclosing an area of Arizona, New Mexico, Colorado and Utah, and about the size of West Virginia.

Large as it is, this arid plateau contained little to trigger the greed of colonists from Europe. Thus, the religions which drew them to the high desert saved them from the western rush which engulfed and often exterminated the tribes which occupied more fertile homelands.

Updike and Pennington's cameras caught these people still little changed by the onset of American materialism. Today, almost a century later, pickups have replaced the wagons and many Navajos, Zunis and Hopis are as urbane as their fellow Americans. But among those I have known, the traditional unselfish religious values remain strong.

Tony Hillerman is the author of many best-selling mysteries set in the Southwest. His latest is "The First Eagle." He is a winner of the Navajo Tribe's Special Friend Award.

**Buy the book.**  
"Glass Plates & Wagon Ruts — Images of the Southwest" by Lisle Updike and William Pennington, written by H. Jackson Clark. Hardcover, 208 pages.  
6177-4127 29.95



Top row: Four Jicarilla Apaches.  
Middle row: Yuma; Jicarilla Apache; Judge Klah or justice of the peace; Buckskin Charlie, 1930.  
Bottom row: Jicarilla Apache with headdress; Navajo mother and child; and five Jicarilla Apaches.