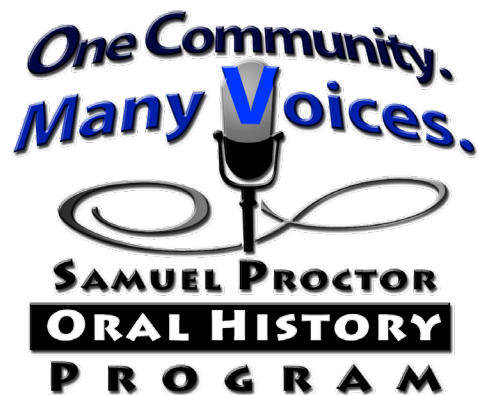


Anthony Scott Canty

**Southeastern Indian Oral History Project (SIOHP)
CAT-134**

Interview by:

**Edith Frances Canty Wade
October 22, 1975**



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18 minutes | 9 pages

Abstract: Anthony Canty discusses his upcoming mission to Calgary, Canada. He will spend two years living as a missionary of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints and will have to live within a set of financial and behavioral constraints in a challenging climate. He is self-funding his mission, through his own personal savings as well as the contributions from some church members in Catawba. He is looking forward to becoming a missionary and is hoping to make a change in the world.

Keywords: [Catawba Nation; South Carolina--Rock Hill; Mormon Church; Religion]

SAMUEL PROCTOR
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CAT 134

Interviewee: Anthony Scott Canty

Interviewer: Edith Frances Canty Wade

Date of interview: October 22, 1975

W: This is Frances Wade. I live on Route 3, Box 304, Rock Hill, South Carolina.

Today is October 22, 1975. I'm gathering oral history of the Catawba Indians for the University of Florida. Today I'm talking with Anthony Canty. Anthony, I've talked to you before, but this time you're getting ready to go on a big journey, one of the biggest journeys of your life. I would like for you to tell me all about the mission you're getting ready to go on, and what made you decide to go, and where you're going, what you have to take with you, who is paying for it, and everything that you can think of.

C: As she says I'm going on a mission. When you say a mission, that means you're going to be a missionary, and I'll be a missionary for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints, or most people call it the Mormon Church. I'm leaving tomorrow morning, which is October 23, and I'll be gone for two years. Won't come home for Christmas or anything—no emergencies. I'll be gone for two years, and this two years is financed by me, and by the people at home: family, friends, or people in the ward—that's the people in our church up here. I will finance myself as far as I can, and when my money runs out, then the people will pick it up and take over from there.

W: Well, maybe I had better ask you a couple of things Anthony, because I'm afraid you're going to leave out some important things. When you say that you'll be leaving in the morning, you're leaving from Catawba, and where are you going?

C: I'm leaving from Catawba, and I'll be going to Salt Lake City, Utah, for one week,

stay in the mission home there. After that week I'll leave Salt Lake City for Calgary, Canada.

W: Now, I don't want you to talk about that right yet. I want to back up, then, back to Catawba again. What made you decide to go on a mission?

C: What made me decide? I don't know what made me decide. A lot of things, really, went into it. It was a really worthwhile thing. You hear people say, "What's this world coming to, what's this world coming to?" Well, now I've got a chance to do something about it, I've got a chance to change the world just a little bit. Maybe, or as much as I can. Maybe not a little bit, it could be a great deal. There's no telling. It's such a great opportunity that if you pass it by, or let it pass you by, then you really missed a lot. Several things tie in, I don't guess they were really reasons for going, but they're—it's really something else, it's good for our ward to have missionaries out. It's good for the people to know that they have somebody out there for them. It's really good for your family to let them know that they have somebody who could do this. These are just some of the reasons.

W: Anthony, was this a spur-of-the-moment thing, or have you been planning for it?

C: Yes, I've been planning for a year and a half at least.

W: All right, what kind of plans have you been making?

C: From the very first, I had to get back in school. I had a half a year to finish, and I had to make sure that I did graduate from high school. That was the first thing I had to do. I might say that my grades weren't too good through all the years. I guess I had an average grade, but in that last senior year I had an A average the whole time I was in school. It never dropped below an A, and that was really

good. The next thing that I had to do was get a job and start saving money. That was probably one of the hardest things there, because I had to work and go to school at the same time. I worked third shift in a bakery in Charlotte, which was really rough. Coming home about seven or seven-thirty in the morning, getting ready, and going right off to school. Getting home about one, two o'clock in the afternoon and going to bed, and then getting up at nine o'clock and getting ready for work. That was really one of the hardest things I've ever done.

W: Anthony, how old were you—

[Break in recording]

W: Anthony, as I was going to say, how old were when you made that decision?

C: As I remember it was just before my eighteenth birthday.

W: And you're nineteen now, aren't you?

C: Right.

W: Right here, I would just like to say: I know that it had to be a real tough decision for Anthony, because he had a Harley Davidson motorcycle, and it was one of the big ones. He made it into a chopper. It was the envy of all the young people around here, plus he had a car. What kind of car did you have?

C: [19]73 Ford Grand Torino.

W: It was new, and I think that it is a real admirable thing that Anthony has chosen to do, because in this day and age, when everybody would just give anything for that type of thing, he gave everything up for the mission that he's about to go on. Anthony, how much money did you save?

C: In the bank I had \$1,500, but in all towards the mission I have put \$2,000 in my

own money. That's buying clothes, and everything else.

W: Did you just up and say, "I'm going on a mission," or how did that come about?

C: Well, that's kind of really the way it was. I didn't decide and just come out and say that's what I'm going to do. It was not my decision. I had to go before a lot of other people, and they decided whether I can go or not. I really didn't have that desire all my life to be a missionary, but when the desire came, that was all I wanted to do. That's what I stuck with 'til today, and that's exactly what I am gonna do.

W: Once it was determined—you talked to your bishop, and this was how it was determined?

C: Right. That's right.

W: After it was determined that you were going, and you began to save your money, and work toward that goal—in the last few weeks especially, it's been really hectic for you. You had to get the things together that you will take. Being a missionary and representing the church, there were certain things you couldn't take, and just a few things that you could take along with you. And also, you had to be set apart by our state president, who is—

C: Byron C. Williams.

W: When you got your call, who signed the call for you to go on a mission?

C: The prophet, Spencer W. Campbell, who is the leader of our church signed the call.

W: And last night, we went, and we heard and saw you being set apart as a missionary, and from that moment forth, for the next two years, you will obey all

rules and regulations, right?

C: That's right.

W: Anthony, what kind of things can you take with you and what did they tell you not to bring?

C: Missionaries are expected to dress conservatively, so we had to bring two dark wool suits for the wintertime and one light one for the summertime. They have to be browns, or blues, or dark colors, and you are expected to wear all-white shirts, conservative ties, conservative shoes. You have to have your hair cut short—not really short, but a good standard. You have to bring certain books that you'll be learning and studying. The things you cannot take are things like a radio, a TV, sporting equipment—

W: Loud clothing.

C: Loud clothes, you cannot take loud clothes, and things like that.

W: Anthony, since you're going to—where did you say you were going?

C: The Canada Calgary mission which is in Alberta, Canada.

W: Would you tell me something about that?

C: The Canada Calgary mission is the largest mission in the world. It covers all of Alberta, Canada, all of Saskatchewan, Canada, and all of the Northwest Territories, plus a small part of British Columbia. It has long winters, very deep snow. Winters get very cold, sometimes forty degrees below zero. A lot of it's in the Rockies, and a lot of it's in the Plains areas, where there are no trees. But from what I have heard and what I have seen its really beautiful country, and I look forward to going there.

- W: Well, now there's a group of people that you will most likely be teaching the gospel to. Who are they?
- C: Probably the Blackfoot Indians.
- W: And you being an Indian, you will feel right at home, probably.
- C: Yes, I will.
- W: Now since, you' re going to that mission, and since it's so cold there you are going to have some type of clothing and some equipment that other missionaries throughout the world wouldn't have. What are some of the things you'll have to have that they do not usually take with them?
- C: We have to have heavy 100% wool, fully fur-lined coats. Plus, our suits have to be 100% wool. And, in certain areas, you have to have high leather boots, probably fur-lined, and you will probably need thermal underwear, cause of the cold. Maybe even snowshoes in some parts.
- W: Didn't they tell you you would have to have earmuffs?
- C: Probably earmuffs or some kind of thing to protect your head from the cold.
- W: What did they tell you about the sleeping bag?
- C: Oh, yes, I have to bring a sleeping bag, in case we are ever stranded out, or maybe when we're working with Indians and have to camp out sometimes. If an emergency comes up, we would have to sleep out. We would always have a warm sleeping bag with us.
- W: What did they tell you about the snacks that you should always have?
- C: We should always keep in the car some sort of snack—dried fruits, dried meat, or any kind of little thing like candy bars, or something just to keep you alive in

case you ever do get stranded out in the snow somewhere.

W: Anthony, I have a tape of your sermon that you gave at church Sunday night. It's a real touching thing, and along with this tape that I'm doing today, I would like to send that tape to the University of Florida, and let the University of Florida use them, if you have no objections.

C: I don't have any objections. They can use them as long as it is for a good purpose.

W: Well, it is going to be for a good purpose. It'll give them the opportunity to see what some of the young people here in Catawba—the kind of thoughts and the kind of deeds they have in mind toward making the world a better place. Do you have, or have you thought about what you would do when you got back?

C: Not really too much. I mainly want to do the best I can on what I'm doing now. But I have thought about probably going to school when I get back. I don't know what I'll take, or what I'll decide to do, but I know I need some more education.

W: I just don't know all of the things I would like to say to you at this moment. I just can't seem to get them in my mind like I would like to say them to you. But I know that you will be a good missionary. Anthony, there is another thing. There's a certain amount of money that you can use a month, no more than that. Do you know what it is for that mission?

C: It's between \$145 and \$160, and no more than that. That's the average.

W: And what will happen if you run out?

C: I'll just be without money for a while.

W: And if you don't have money, and people don't invite you to eat—

C: Then I'll probably be hungry for a while, too, until my next check gets there.

W: So, it will certainly teach you how to budget, won't it?

C: Yes, it will.

W: I suspect it will also teach you how to be very humble, too.

C: I'm pretty sure it will.

W: Anthony, as I'm talking to you, I think back to how one person's life might affect so many people. As I have been thinking about it today, your grandmother, my mother, is the first woman here in the reservation who has had three grandsons at one time on a mission.

C: That's right.

W: She has a grandson Hal Green, in Japan; she has a grandson, Dean Canty, in Montana, and you, Anthony Canty, will be in Canada. Even though she's not alive to see it, we all feel very proud and honored that you are part of our family.

C: While I'm on my mission, there are certain rules that you have to follow. Missionaries are not allowed to date, they are not allowed to be out after ten-thirty at night, they have to be in bed by a certain time. They have to be up in the morning by five-thirty or six o'clock in the morning, get their bath, their breakfast, study, prepare for the day, and get ready to leave at about nine o'clock.

W: Do you have a certain time that you get back in the evening? Any time before nine?

C: You get back early enough to study some more. That's the big thing you'll be doing is studying, studying, studying.

W: Why do they insist that you study so much?

C: Because if you know what you're talking about, then you'll be able to teach the people a lot better. Someone who doesn't know what he's doing can't very well teach what he doesn't know.

W: I feel very honored and proud to know that Anthony is part of my immediate family, and that he's going to serve on a mission for the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. He's a real credit to the Catawba Indians, and I'm sure that he will represent us well wherever he goes. Now, with Anthony's help, I would like to kind of describe him. Anthony, how tall are you?

C: Six foot, zero inches.

W: His hair is black and it's curly. He's got it cut the missionary way, not long. In fact, he's got it cut kind of short, and I see a couple of silver hairs in that black head. He's got big brown eyes, and he looks like an Indian. He's a very handsome young man. As Anthony goes on his mission, he leaves behind a mother, his father is deceased. He has two sisters and one brother. By the time the two years is up, when he comes home, his family will be already grown, and maybe one of them will be ready to go on a mission.

[End of interview]

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