

Box 892
Gallup, New Mexico
June 19, 1965

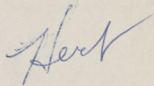
Dear Laura:

I seems that a little time has slipped away since I received your letter and the manuscript for your book. At the time I received your materials, we had just gotten word from Washington that there was a dead-line on submitting applications for the Economic Opportunity Act....So we are just now coming from under that.

I hope that this delay does not in any way hold you up in the work, and that all goes well with you.

I have made the necessary corrections in the two pages of manuscript that you sent. It may be that these corrections will raise new questions; though I tried to stay within the context of you're intent as best I could try to understand it.

I know you've worked hard and long at this, and we do hope that your goal is a satisfying one.



One of the most worthwhile acts of the Tribal Council, has been the establishment of an educational/^{Scholarship}~~endowment~~ fund for higher learning.

In 1953 a sum was set aside, accrued from oil and uranium earnings, for the special purpose of giving aid to honor students who have been selected for these grants. One of these students is Herbert

Blatchford who went to the University of New Mexico majoring in

education. Following his graduation in 1956 his first work for the McKinley County Public Schools Attendance Counselor

~~Edgar~~ was as an ~~Attendance Counselor~~ in Gallup checking on Navaho children

who were absent from the ~~Gallup~~ public schools where they were being

^{accepted}~~integrated~~ with the regular school body. Herbert was making trips

into the area surrounding Gallup to find the reason for these absentee

students. I went out with him, one day, to see just what his field

work was in this capacity. At one hogan there was an eleven year

old girl who had been absent from school for several weeks. Herbert

went direct to the child, not to the parents, We went into the

hogan where Herbert commenced talking to her. Seeing that she was

very shy, I thought my presence there might be disturbing to her, so

I went outside to wait. Soon I heard voices in conversation as

Herbert was getting answers to his questions. Then there was a long

quiet talk from Herbert as he told the child of the great importance

of her going to school and all that it could mean to her in later

life. When they joined me outside the child was smiling happily,

seeming pleased indeed over all she had learned from her counselor.

As we drove off, I asked Herbert what had been the trouble. His

answer "Oh, teacher trouble". Then I learned that there were a number

of new teachers in the Gallup Schools who were new to New Mexico and

Indian children. In the course of our conversation I learned that

Herbert had organized an evening class with these teachers to help

them to understand the Navaho Children. This he did on his own ~~initiative~~

initiative, showing unusual judgement and practical method to help solve some of the problems of absentee children.

Herbert is a scholar of considerable attainments. Finding that he needed some knowledge of law in his work, he took a year off to go back to the University for this purpose.

In 1963 Herbert was appointed by the Tribal Council ~~to be the~~ members along with city and county representatives to be the Manager ~~of the Gallup Indian Center.~~ There has long been a great

need in Gallup for some place where visiting Indians could get a night's lodging for a nominal cost, have a place where they could

meet, have some form of recreation, a cafeteria, and other facilities. ^{through the Navajo-Hopi Rehabilitation Act} This building was erected in 1952/ ~~by the Navajo-Hopi Rehabilitation Act~~ ^{the Unitarian Service Committee} ~~and operated by the~~ ^{GICC Board of Directors} ~~for a number of years.~~ Now, the ~~building~~

has taken it over and is operating it jointly with the Navaho Tribe, and the city of Gallup.

In addition to all the work in managing this Center, Herbert is also acting as a counselor to any young Navaho who are seeking employment off the reservation, or are having difficulties in their present jobs.

He sponsors good educational programs for the Center, and supervises various recreational activities for all ages as they come to use the facilities of the Center. At present he is also working with

some Alcoholic Anonymous groups in the big effort to overcome alcoholism in this area. He gave me encouraging figures, that more than fifty percent of those treated are remaining in good health.

Certainly on my last visit to Gallup in 1964, I saw very little evidence of alcoholism, a great improvement over previous years. It is to be hoped that this will continue, for this has been a serious problem ever since the Indian prohibition law was repealed.

With his clear thinking, scholarly mind, Herbert will continue his good work and might some day prove to be an able writer.