

Box 892
Gallup, New Mexico 87301
July 29, 1967

Dear Laura:

I am returning the sheet of words for a glossary on which I have worked-up a pronunciation scheme to help a reader pronounce the Navajo words. I have not attempted to do anything about the Spanish words, largely because I am not sure I would be pronouncing them correctly. I think that if a Spanish speaking person would do this it would be much nearer the right pronunciation. I have underlined those Navajo words which I am not sure of, or of which I cannot deduct a meaning. If I knew the context in which they are being used, I might be better able to come up with a pronunciation.

There were two questions on the sheet which I suppose generated some curiosity. One was about the meaning of Betatakin: this word means-"House in a crevice"...It refers to the ruins that were built into a cravass of rock in the western end of the reservation. The other question refers to the word 'Nadene'. The meaning here refers to another Navajo people. I don't know I don't know whether it refers to another lineage of Navajo or to the sequential groups in Navajo history and I have heard it used in other contexts as well. The word says: "Another Dineh".

I am sorry I took so long in doing this work, but it is rather difficult to piece sounds together from non-Indian spelling when you have a tendency to sound the words from Navajo speech. Another reason is that I don't seem to have the strength to stick out long hours of work since I had a gall bladder operation last spring. My strength is coming back, but it sure is taking its time.

Stan Steiner has written a book about Indians under the title of "The New Indians" and he expects it to be published next February and he had the same difficulty you are having in Window Rock. I am not sure what it is all about as the leadership seems a little too clannish to divulge information...Perhaps its the suspicion or lack of confidence...Who knows.

It is good to hear that the book will be published as you have put it together. I know this must be a great satisfaction to you, especially in terms of the color plates. I do hope it turns out as you intended it to be.

The boys are growing out of everything, and eating all they can get their hands on, and Christine is back teaching...She is working at the Red Rock Chapter Pre School, and I am still serving as the Chapter President, as well as the Manager of the Center.

Our best wishes are with you.

Kurt Blatchford