

(CAPTIONS.)

A CHAPTER MEETING IN 1934- HELD DURING A SQUAW DANCE ON THE LUKACHUKAI MOUNTAINS.

A TRIBAL COUNCIL MEETING AT WINDOW ROCK WITH SAM AHKEAM IN THE CHAIR.
MANUELITO BEGAY SPEAKING TO THE CHAIRMAN.

VOTING IN THE 1954 CAMPAIGN

THE CORNELL CLINIC AT MANYFARMS

A NAVAHO REGISTERED NURSE

XX

NAVAHO MEN BEING TAKEN TO DISTANT POINTS FOR MAINTENANCE WORK ON
THE SANTA FE RAILROAD.

no other Indian Tribe has a government which can approach the scope and complexity of the Navaho. *Is this OK?*

During these formative years from 1923 to 1938, there were four Chairmen of the Tribal Council; Chee Dodge, Desha Chischillige, Thomas Dodge, (Chee's Son) and Henry Taliman. With the election of Jacob Morgan in 1938, progress was accelerated, and though there have been controversies, the Council had a steady forward movement. Chee Dodge was again elected Chairman in 1942, (with Sam Ahkeah as Vice Chairman) holding this office until his death near the end of his term.

The administration of Sam Ahkeah, 1946-1954, marked a point of great change and development for the Navaho People, for his sound and wise judgment brought many beneficial acts of legislation. He continued the organization of the Tribal Government, bringing capable Navaho into positions held by non-Navaho personnel wherever they met the approval of the Agency, for it has been the policy of the Bureau to help the Navaho develop their own government as individuals came forward with hte ability to serve.

Sam commenced a survey of the mineral resources of the reservation which eventually led to the discovery of uranium and new oil fields. It was Sam who located Tribal funds accumulated from oil revenue between the years 1922 and 1946, ~~fund~~ deposited in the National Treasury to the credit of the Tribe. Realizing that the interest from this money was not coming into the Tribal Treasury, Sam went to Washington where he discovered the sum of \$200,000. in accumulated interest held in the Bureau of Indian affairs. With these funds available, Sam planned other new developments for the benefit of his people.

Following Sam Ahkeah's two terms in office, eight years of steady growth, Paul Jones was elected Chairman in 1954, serving two terms. Continuing Sam's program, many new projects also were commenced including the building of community centers, the development of the Tribal Park system and the establishment of the first Tribal Park at Monument Valley. Large sums of

of money were coming into the treasury from the uranium mines and the new oil fields. Much of this income has been soundly invested, the rest providing many new benefits for the Tribe such as greater water development, new and better roads, new hospital facilities in collaboration with the Public Health Service, the establishment of the Education Scholarship Fund, the Tribal Enterprises, the ten day work program whereby every Navaho in need of work is guaranteed ten days of work a month,--an impressive list of accomplishments.

To the outsider it seems that on the whole the wealth that has come to the Tribe has been wisely used, yet in the 1963 election campaign unproved ~~assuations~~ of misappropriation of funds were made. After sixteen years of comparatively smooth progress, controversy has arisen in the Council following the election of Raymond Nakai, the present Chairman. In his eagerness to bring reforms with his administration, difference of opinion has emerged between the older ^{councilmen, and} ~~members~~ the newly elected younger members, resulting in a division in the Council.

Good may come from this, for the people as a whole have become aware that some Tribal matters have come to a standstill, bringing about the realization of the importance of the individual vote. These troubled times may well lead to a more truly democratic government, even to a two party system. The situation at Window Rock today, may be compared to a President of the United States elected by one party, while the majority of the Congress belongs to the other. Doubtless the 1967 election will resolve many differences.

Aside from this momentary situation, the record of progress and development of the Tribal Government since its inception in 1923, is most remarkable, for the People, who formerly had no governing body other than the leadership of chosen head men in clan groups, now are welding themselves into Tribal unity showing great advancement in consideration for the people as a whole.