

The first day school was established at Ft Defiance in 1870. It consisted of a dirty one room adobe building and resulted in complete failure. Children ~~would come for a few days until they were given some new clothes & then disappear.~~

In 1883 a boarding school was established also at Ft. Defiance, that was scarcely more successful. With ^{practically} no educational appropriation, the Government encouraged missionaries of several denominations to undertake an educational program.

Early Mission Schools.

1. Methodist School at Farmington ^{at Ft Hopkock (1891) moved to Farmington 1912.} Mission ^{elementary}
2. Ganado Presbyterian established in 1901 - School in 1902
Hospital opened in 1911.
School for Navaho and Hopi
3. St. Michaels Mission established by Franciscan Order.
1st Roman Catholic Mission School opened in 1902 by sisters of the Blessed Sacrament. To-day about 300 students
4. Reheboth Mission School (near Gallup) established in 1898 by Christian Reformed Church.

And others

~~Good Shepherd Mission Hospital at Ft Defiance (Episcopal)~~
founded 1894 Fort Hospital to serve tribe.

It was not until 1934 when legislation (The Johnson - O'Malley Act) authorized the Secy of Interior to enter into contracts with States, Counties & other political subdivisions for educational, medical & other services to Indians. The initial program had its difficulties due to great distances & lack of roads, required the continuance of boarding schools in many areas.

First public school on Reservation with funds appropriated under Public Law 815 was located at Ft. Defiance. Completed & opened January 1954.

(Look up Sanchez Report.)

Health

First hospital to serve Navaho was the Good Shepherd Mission at Ft. Defiance (Episcopalian) 1894. Continued to 1929 after 1911 concentrated efforts on Trachoma & became widely known for work in health. Orphanage established & school in this connection. Hospital closed in 1929 when expansion of Federal health facilities. Orphanage school was closed when sufficient local schools had been developed.

Ganado hospital opened in 1911.

3 The Franciscan Order established a mission in 1888 at Saint Michaels (near Window Rock), and 2 years later the Sisters of the Blessed Sacrament opened a school for Navaho children from 8 to 12 years of age. This school has continued to grow, ^{a new high school being added in 1946} and to-day there are some 300 students annually attending Saint Michaels.

4. Another ^{Mission} ~~School~~ was also established in 1895, by the Christian Reformed Church at Rehoboth, just east of Gallup, when a school was opened in 1903, and an added High School in 1946.

Other denominations followed these four early ones, establishing mission and schools, in ~~the~~ widely scattered parts of the reservation. ~~The first educational policy for many of these schools~~

Education

The first school for Navaho Children was opened at Ft. Defiance in 1870. It consisted of a one room adobe building with poor light and practically no facilities of any kind. A few children came for a few days, some were issued new clothing, whereupon they left and were not seen again. It was a dismal failure. In 1883 the first boarding school was opened, again at Ft. Defiance. It fared a little better, but the students were few, and eventually closed. Following these pitiful attempts at Ft. Defiance, the Government officials, ^(having no educational appropriations) encouraged ^{both} missionaries of several denominations to establish school programs, and hospital facilities.

1. The Navaho Methodist Mission School, first established as a Mission at Hogback, 20 miles west of Farmington, New Mexico in 1891. It was later reestablished at another location and in 1912 moved to its permanent site at Farmington where; since its beginning, more than 1200 Navaho Children have received one or more years of instruction.
2. The first Presbyterian Mission was founded at Ganado, Arizona in 1901. By 1906 regular classes were in operation, which increased steadily until the opening ^{took on} of the Ganado Public School in 1954 where the lower grades ~~were taken over~~. The upper grades and High School still continue with both Navaho and Hopi Children attending.

1st day school at Ft Defiance 1870

1st boarding school at Ft. Defiance 1883

1st ^{policy} ~~concept~~ of education for Navaho was to ^{prepare} ~~fit~~
them ~~for~~ ^{into} ~~enter~~ our own social structure, therefore
it seemed wise to those in charge to remove
children from home influences. There was
little if any effort on the part of the early educators
to understand the ^{Navaho} social organization, & every effort
was made to separate the children from this influence.
In those early times, although it was given to preparing
children to deal satisfactorily with Reservation
conditions. Those who were sent away to
schools, some to California, & ^{some to} the ~~Atlantic~~
schools in the East, more than 95% eventually
went home, where they found themselves greatly
handicapped in taking part in reservation
life due to their lack of knowledge of Navaho traditional
ways.

It is a matter of record that in the early days of
the reservation schools, both Missionary & Government that
much brutality was meted out for even slight cause.
Most of these early teachers, in trying to impose "white"
ways to take the place of Navaho methods, forced children to

speaks hawaii either in or out of school.

Following the failure of the early school at Ft Defiance
the Gov. officials encouraged missionaries of numerous ^{denominations} ^{educational} ^{the establishment of} ~~in~~ as well as ~~as~~ ^{as} ~~down~~ ^{as} hospitals.

~~The first two to do so were~~

The Presbyterian School & Hospital (founded in 1877)
and the Catholic School at St. Michaels, were the first ~~to~~
to establish permanent sites, others followed, until today ~~the~~
many denominations are represented on the Reservation. The policy,
however, of most of these early missionaries was to impose
the particular faith, and to try to enforce "white" ways & replace
^{more of} ~~the traditional~~ Navaho traditions. It is even a matter of

record that there was much ^{physical} brutality inflicted on
Navaho children in those early years, more often by employees
than staff members. Children were forbidden to speak
Navaho, and speed of the early missionaries ^{had} ~~made~~ the slightest
intent in understanding Navaho ^{traditional} ways, and customs. The
whole