

ANNIE WAUNKA

Large in stature, vigorous and strong in both mind and body, Annie Wauneka is a most dynamic personality. Daughter of Chee Dodge, the first Chairman of the Tribal Council, Annie was born April 10th, 1916, receiving her early education in the reservation schools. In 1951 Annie was elected to the Tribal Council, the first woman to serve in this capacity, and she was shortly named Chairman of the Committee on Health and Welfare, a position she still holds.

On July 1st, 1955, the U.S. Public Health Service assumed the work of the Department of Health of the Bureau of Indian Affairs, and soon thereafter expanded both its facilities and services. Annie Wauneka's role became, almost immediately, one of interpretation and communication. Her achievement has been tremendous in helping to carry out this increased program for Navaho health, fulfilling her part with great determination. One of the first problems to be undertaken was in the field of tuberculosis, for there were many Navho afflicted with this disease. Contagion and germs were two totally unknown concepts, and had no meaning to most of the Navaho People, so Annie undertook an educational program instructing her people in antisepsis, and to win not only their cooperation in combating the further spread of the disease, but also to have faith in the white doctors.

The Public Health Service arranged with a number of sanatoriums in several of the western states to include Navaho patients. Annie persuaded many ill Navaho to accept this offer, and during those early years of this program, she visited every hospital, talked to all the Navaho patients, urging them to learn how to prevent contagion, how to accept the rest cure, and to listen to the instructions of the doctors. A number of these patients, finding themselves in such totally strange surroundings and among people they did not know nor to whom they could talk, became homesick and ran away. Annie brought them back, teaching

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Her achievement has been tremendous in ^{helping to} carrying out the program for Navaho health, planned in collaboration with the U.S. Public Health Service, fulfilling her part with great determination and purpose. The first problem ~~to be~~ undertaken was in the field of tuberculosis, for there were many Navaho afflicted with this dread disease. Contagion and germs were two totally unknown words and had no meaning to the Navaho People, so Annie undertook an educational program to instruct the majority of her people ⁱⁿ antisepticism, and to win their cooperation in combatting the further spread of this disease, *and faith in the white doctors.*

The Public Health Service arranged with Sanitariums in many of the western states to include Navaho Navaho patients. Annie persuaded many ill Navaho to accept this offer, and during those early years of this program, she visited every hospital, talked to all the Navaho patients, urging them to learn how to prevent contagion, how to accept the rest cure, and to listen to the instructions of the white doctors. (She helped produce a motion picture illustrating the cure and prevention of tuberculosis, and acted as interpreter for the doctors and as a liaison personage when ever one was needed.) Many Navaho patients, finding themselves in such totally strange surroundings among people they did not know, nor to whom they could talk, became homesick and ran away. Annie brought them back, teaching them to understand the necessity for their convalescence. ^{So} All this was an heroic task which Annie pursued

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vigorously, using her ~~own~~ knowledge and determination to win these many Navaho into acceptance of their condition and the necessity for its cure.

Wauneka
Annie ^{has} received numerous awards for ~~her~~ ^{her} achievement. From the Arizona Public Health Association, an award as "out standing worker in public health"; the Josephine B. Hughes Memorial Award given by the Arizona Press Women's Association; the Indian Achievement Award, and others. To crown them all she was one of three women named by President Kennedy on July 4th 1963, to receive the Medal of Freedom which was presented to her by President Johnson in the White House ceremony on December 6th of that year.

As Annie herself has said, "Now I must work harder than ever", and indeed that is what she is doing. With tuberculosis now well under control and diminishing, other problems are also occupying her attention, such as dysentery among Navaho children, and Alcoholic Anonymous groups. She has her own radio program, broadcasting regularly in the Navaho language from a station in Gallup, reaching the many Navaho who today, have radios, ~~another example of adaptability in utilizing modern methods of communication.~~

One of those rare personalities having complete singleness of purpose and the determination and strength to carry it through, Annie Wauneka has won the respect and admiration not only of her own people, but ^{also} ~~also~~ that of the many doctors, officials, and all those with whom she has come in contact during her years of service in the Tribal Council