

When the Navaho returned from Fort Sumner to that portion of their old land allotted to them by the Treaty of 1868, trading posts were soon to play an important ~~xxxx~~ role in their lives. Mormon traders were coming south from Utah establishing contacts with the Navaho when they crossed the San Juan and Colorado rivers. John D. Lee, ~~who may have had a small post on the west bank of the Colorado at the point where he initiated~~ ^{the} ~~a~~ ferry which bears his name. ^{across the Colorado river above the Grand Canyon} ~~This~~ ~~crossing~~; Lee's Ferry, was in use from the early 1870's to the building of the Navaho Bridge in 19___. Other posts were built in eastern parts of reservation, and as the Navaho population increased ^{did} so the trading posts to serve them. Operated by anglos of pioneer stock, there are several famous ones, ~~xxxxxxxxxx~~, the Hubbell Post ^{at Newcomb} at Ganado, Arizona, the Wetherill Post at Kayenta, posts named for pioneers now gone, Keams, Leupp, Coolidge, to name but a few: then ofcourse are many still ~~xx~~ operated ~~by~~ families of these early settlers.

Each post is a center of Navaho life, like the hub of a wheel, the outer circumference being perhaps 25 or more miles away. To these posts the Navaho have been coming ~~for~~ a hundred years to trade- to bring their ~~xxxx~~ produce to exchange for goods they need; food staples, drygoods, hardware and the sundry items of their desire. They brought wool after sheering time, sheep at fall round up time, hides, handicrafts of blankets rugs, jewelry. The old barter system was replaced by advances in credit established through the pawn system by the deposit of jewelry and other items of value in exchange for ~~xxxxxxx~~ credit at the store until salable crops or crafts could be delivered.

The trading post is a place of meeting, the place for gathering news, the local post office, a place from which to obtain water, for posts are all established where there is a natural spring or a good well.