

The year 1964 marks the one hundreth anniversary of the Navaho Long Walk into exile. One remembers the return of the Dineh to the land that was their home after four devastating years bereft of all possessions and with the taste of defeat still bitter in their memories as they turned to the task of rebuilding their lives. For a time there was apathy among many who felt frustrated in returning to their old ways and knew not how to adjust to the new, but slowly they did adjust, and now for more than two decades they have marched steadfastly along the road we call modern civilization.

A new day has arrived for the young Navaho as they adapt themselves to the white man's way. Many are absorbing this life with eagerness choosing those occupations sympathetic to their inclinations, ^{some} ~~others~~ simply living a new kind of life, many continuing their traditional way. Many young Navaho face this great change with sureness and confidence.

A short time ago, as I was driving from Gallup to Shiprock, I overtook this young couple walking along the highway. They had been to ^{after} the Window Rock Fair and I picked them up to give them a lift, we dropped into easy conversation. We drove more than thirty miles before the young man asked me to stop. We were in empty desert country ^{the} which extends for miles along ~~along~~ this highway and there was not even one hogan in sight. I watched them walk away finally melting into the landscape, thinking of the tremendous changes that have to such ^{come} young people as these. There are many thousands of young Navahi who are pushing aside the traditional ways taught by their parents, wanting to partake fully in our American Culture. But there are many both young and old who are concerned about this and who are trying to preserve the ways of their people.

Many who know the Navaho think that the great days of ceremonialism are past. Possibly this is true, but I cannot believe that the old ways will really be lost. Another generation will want to

know all those things that their grandparents can tell them and I am sure that there will always be some who can, and a new interest in their traditional past will come, for who can say whether there ~~will~~ any or may not be a great revival? We can but hope that those essential qualities that are the birthright of the Dineh will never be lost. Song and singing are the very essence of Navaho being, and as long as the Navaho keep singing, their tradition will endure.