

A third honor student receiving an Endowment Fund Grant is Shirley Sells. Shirley, now twenty four, was born in Shiprock and received her elementary schooling through the tenth grade in Gallup. Then she spent a year in California with a teacher whom she knew, and going to school there. Returning to the reservation, she graduated from the Window Rock High School, and went on to the University of New Mexico, where she majored in anthropology and speech, receiving her diploma in June 1964.

During the summer months of 1963 and 1964, Shirley held a position as a ranger in the National Park Service stationed at Canyon de Chelly National Monument. In all spare moments she has been working on a thesis in archaeology. Following the summer season of 1964 at the Canyon, Shirley accepted a position with a survey sponsored jointly by the Navaho Tribe and the Bureau of Indian Affairs. She will be working also at the Arizona State University on an award from the Department of Anthropology, as a Graduate Assistant, for two years, and in addition will be studying Genetics and Animal Ecology. It is altogether fitting that there should be a Navaho Anthropologist, and I am sure that Shirley will perform a major service for her people in recording and preserving the traditions and folklore of the Navaho.

These are but three of the honor students who either have been, or are being helped through the Endowment Fund. There are many others, following a variety of occupations such as doctors, dentists, nurses, lawyers, and other professions, all of them bringing back to their own people the benefits of their learning, for a stipulation with each grant is that each student must devote a minimum of two years' service to the Tribe following the completion of his work.

This Educational Fund is one of, if not the most valuable of all the Navaho projects, giving many young people of ability the opport

tunity to receive the highest education and who will doubtless become the leaders of to-morrow. That the Tribal Council had the wisdom to establish such a Fund shows again the ability of these people to make practical decisions for the benefit of the Tribe. Many of these Councilmen were older men who had not had such opportunities themselves and who were willing to plan for the future of their people.

During the past thirty years, it has become more and more necessary for young Navaho men and women to seek employment off the reservation. Those who had learned to speak English were the first to go. For many years now, when the Santa Fe Rail Union Pacific railroads have employed Navaho men for maintenance work along their lines, and occasionally one may see them boarding a train for work at some distant point. Many others go into off reservation parts of New Mexico, Arizona, Utah and Colorado for seasonal crop harvesting. A good many young women find employment of various kinds, such as restaurants, motels etc. in the near by towns. Many also have studied typing and have taken the place of former Indian Service typists at Window Rock, where they have proven to be efficient and skilled secretaries.

The Indian Service has made some effort to re-locate families, which has been partially successful, some Navaho moving to California, Colorado, the larger cities of New Mexico and Arizona, and even farther afield where they have found satisfactory work for their livelihood.

As many of the new projects on the reservation have developed, more work for Navaho people has arisen, such as road building, work in the oil fields, the uranium mines, the saw mill project and other lines of work replacing sheep industry on the over used land. Mechanical ability seems to be natural to all young Navaho boys, and they find work in garages along the border towns of the reservation. And it is interesting to see the skill with which these young men handle big machinery, so far removed from their old life of a generation ago.