

In addition to the blessing of every new hogan, this ceremony is also conducted whenever a new building is completed on the reservation. At the time of the opening of the large new school at Crown Point, I went over for the occasion. There were many visitors, both white and Navaho gathering for the dedication ceremonies and there was much preparation of food.

As the scheduled hour approached, the school children marched into the new building, joining the visitors to form a large semi-circle just inside the western door of the main entrance hall. Then as rugs were placed on the floor, the medicine man (Manuelito Begay) and three singers took their places on the rugs, the ceremonial basket containing sacred corn pollen and a special pouch holding stones from the four sacred mountains, was placed before them as their chanting began. There are no special features to this ceremony, only the reverent, simple prayers of benediction for the use of the building and the blessing of those who partake in its purpose.

In most ceremonies one must leave by the eastern exit (if there is one at any other direction. At this ceremony, Herbert Blatchford was present, and when it was over, I saw Herbert step quickly behind the chanter to lock the western door. Then all went out to the courtyard where chairs and benches had been placed for the dedication ceremony to be conducted by the school officials. The school band played, the children took their places, parents and visitors found theirs, and the usual ceremony for such occasions took place.

When this was over, the Navaho lingered to talk before going to have their feast. It was here that I watched women making fry bread in the most enormous skillet I have ever seen. A spirit of gaiety was present with everyone having a wonderful time.

These are but three of the honor students who either have been or are being helped through this 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 understanding and benefits of their learning. This Endowment Fund is one of the most valuable of all the Navaho Projects, giving many young people of ability the opportunity 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 and who were willing to plan for the future of their people.

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As the scheduled hour approached, the school children marched into the new building, the many Navaho and white visitors formed in a large semi-circle just inside the western door of the main entrance hall. Then rugs were placed on the floor, the medicine man and three singers took their places on the rugs, the ceremonial basket containing sacred corn pollen, and a special pouch containing stones from the four sacred mountains, was placed before them, and their chanting began. There are no special features in this ceremony, only the reverent, simple prayers of benediction for the use of the building and the blessing of those who partake in its purpose.

In ^{most} ~~all~~ ceremonies one must leave by ^{the} ~~an~~ eastern exit, ^{or the same exit usually the only one.} Herbert Blatchford was present at this ceremony, and when it was finished, I saw him step quickly behind the chanters and lock the door leading to the west. Then all went out of the east door to the courtyard where chairs had been placed for the dedication ceremony to be conducted by the school officials. The school band played, the children took their places, parents and all visitors found theirs, and the usual ceremony for such occasions took place. When this was over, the Navaho lingered to talk before going to have their feast.