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CHEMAWA AMERICAN



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CHEMAWA, OREGON, MAY 1, 1954

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Mr. Bramlet's Message

Chemawa congratulates you on this issue of the Chemawa American devoted particularly to the special Navajo program. The emphasis in the next issue will be on the regular program.

The training at Chemawa is in four major fields,—academic, vocational, health, and citizenship. Of these, the citizenship objectives are the most important, but without the other three we are greatly handicapped. Chemawa hopes that you have learned your lessons well, and that you will always be a credit to this seventy-four year old school. Best wishes.

—Paul W. Bramlet, superintendent

Mrs. Brannon's Message

We have completed another year at Chemawa and for most of you it has been a happy and fruitful year. We hope that those of you who are going home will have a nice time visiting with your family and friends, and that you will return to Chemawa for school next fall. To those who have completed their school work and are planning to find jobs, we wish the very best of luck and happiness in your future undertakings.

—Nell V. Brannon, principal

McBride Hall Talent

The Winona Hall girls found out that the younger girls can do a good job of acting and singing. A group of McBride Hall girls put on a program for the older Chemawa girls on Sunday evening, March 28. Betty Kennerly was the master of ceremonies. Other girls in the program were Rose Mary Washington, Elsie McJoe, Marcella Punkin, Mavis Tavishee, Mary Ella Wyman, Esther Watah Jewel Sharp, Evelyn Brahman, Clarice Faulkner, Margaret Wyman, and Norma McKenzie. The numbers were singing, skits, and Indian songs sung by the Idaho girls, Mavis and Marcella.

Navajo Students Present Program At Portland Women's Club

A group of second, third, and fourth year students in the special Navajo program, presented numbers for the Portland Women's Club on Friday afternoon, April 9. Mr. Paul Bramlet, superintendent at Chemawa Indian School, and Mrs. Lillian Uentillie, Navajo teacher-interpreter, accompanied the group.

John Paddock performed the eagle dance and George Brown did a hoop dance. Leo Jackson, Jefferson Lee, and Roy Dempsey sang for the dancing.

Ella Albert, a fourth year student, spoke before the club. The text of her speech follows:

Chemawa To Graduate Class On May 14

Eighteen high school seniors and thirty-four students in the special five year Navajo program at Chemawa Indian School will graduate at ceremonies on May 14. The commencement speaker will be Mr. L. P. Towle, assistant director of the Portland area.

Baccalaureate services will be held on Sunday, May 9. Elder Don Landon, Salem, Oregon, missionary of the R.L.D.S. church, will speak.

Valedictorian for the high school graduating class is Beverly Carlson, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edward J. Carlson of Richland, Washington. Salutatorian is Sarah Lewis, who makes her home with her aunt, Mrs. Elsie Seelatsee of White Swan, Washington.

Honor students for the Navajo class are Jane Badoni, valedictorian, and Louise Benally, salutatorian. Jane is the daughter of Mr. Man Badoni of Shiprock, New Mexico. Louise's parents are Mr. and Mrs. Ben C. Benally, also of Shiprock, New Mexico.

My name is Ella Albert, and I am seventeen years old. My home is in the Toadlena area on the Navajo reservation in New Mexico.

This year I am finishing my fourth year in the special Navajo program at Chemawa Indian School. Next year, at the end of my fifth year of training, I will be ready to make my living on my own in home service.

I can wash, iron, keep house, scrub, and take care of children. I will want to find a happy home to work in, with respectable people. I expect to earn my wages. Many of our Navajo young people, like me, are expecting to go out into communities and become a part of those communities.

If you could see some of our reservation, you would understand why some of us must find a life away from it. Our reservation is over-grazed, depleted, and over-populated. Our resources will not maintain the people, and still keep a fair standard of living.

The five-year special Navajo program was started in order to help with this problem. Also, there were thousands of Navajo children between twelve and eighteen years of age, who had never been to school.

Now we have special Navajo program schools at Intermountain, near Brigham City in Utah; at Phoenix Indian School, Phoenix, Arizona; at Sherman, Riverside, California; at Stewart, near Carson City, Nevada; and at our own Chemawa.

Our boys are going out and taking jobs in agriculture, carpentry, shoe repairing, painting, service station attending, and other semi-skilled trades. We are eager to take our place and accept our responsibilities as American citizens.