

INDIAN LAND

Most Indian land is in trust status, or another term for this is "restricted." Nearly all land owned by Indians is in trust status. Only a few Indians own land which is not held in trust. However, they can still sell their land with the approval of the government. If the Agency staff thinks it's in the best interests of individuals to sell, we'll approve the sale. We have an Appraisal Staff, and they go out and appraise the land that is put up for sale. They have to compare any particular tract with four farms close by, that have sold recently. When it's put up for sale, they will only accept a bid for the maximum value. If no bid is high enough, the sale is not approved, and the land may be advertised six months or a year later. When the land is fractionated as most is, we must have the approval of all of the heirs in order to put it up for sale. Sometimes this is very difficult to do. In extreme cases we may apply to Washington for approval to sell the land over the objections of the dissident. But approval to do this must come from the Washington office.

In 1950 the Indians were mostly living on their allotments out in the country. Now they are all living in town. And since they have moved to town they have started drinking and getting wild. There are various reasons for moving to town. Many times it's because of difficulties at home--heirs losing out. For example let's say there's a 160 acre allotment with one house and a