

by Chief Special Officers Louis Mueller. One of the body's first services was the capture of three suspected murderers.

ADMINISTRATION: At present five separate though contiguous reservations (covering 25,000 square miles and with an Indian population of 45,000) are administered as distinct units under as many superintendents. These arbitrary divisions are about to be abolished, and the consolidated area will be placed under one principal administrator, not yet selected as we go to press.

Ground has been broken for the capital of the Navajo nation, seven miles south of Fort Defiance, Arizona. Its name was chosen by the Navajos: Nee Alneeng, meaning, "Center of the Navajo World." Almost a million dollars will be spent in constructing fifty buildings on this site. All work for and by the tribe will be concentrated there; and from it administration will be decentralized to twenty-five sub-agencies and numerous neighborhoods within the reservation, making possible, as Commissioner Collier hopes, ". . . a close union between the government's administration and the political and cultural organization of the Navajo people." It is hoped that in this new Navajo set-up the advantage of transferring reservation administration from Washington to the Superintendent and the Indians can be successfully demonstrated.

Construction of the first of the administration buildings—the Navajo Council House—is now under way. It is polygonal, of rock and stone. It will resemble two great hogans, the smaller superimposed upon the larger, and will seat five hundred. From it will stem twin hogans which will accommodate committee meetings.

Politically, the organization of the Navajos now centers in their tribal council. Before that body, the Administration places all policies for approval. Commissioner Collier has removed every inhibition and offered every inducement to a steady growth of tribal initiative and control.

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The most ambitious cultural experiment ever conducted by our Indian Bureau is now well on its way. In forthcoming issues of *American Indian Life*, we will deal more critically of these plans, many of which are as yet only projections of a solemn determination to save the Navajos.