

# Navajo Indians Send 'Thanks' to Torrance for 'Trick' Gifts

Hundreds of Navajo Indians living in the shadows of Monument Valley's towering, red-rock monuments sent their thanks to Torrance yesterday for food and clothing recently collected for them here.

"The people of Torrance probably have little knowledge of the great good this food and clothing will do the Indians of this all-but-forgotten area," said Dr. J. Lloyd Mason, director of the Seventh-day Adventists' Monument Valley Mission and Hospital, as a giant van loaded with 18,000 pounds of food and clothing from Southern California communities

arrived at the southern Utah mission facility.

**THE FOOD** and clothing was collected in Torrance on Halloween eve by members of the local Seventh-day Adventist church's Pathfinder Youth Club as a "treat for Navajos" instead of a trick or treat in the traditional manner.

Rising hundreds of feet into the frigid Utah sky behind Dr. Mason as he conveyed his thanks were the giant, red stone "monuments" of Rock Door Canyon in which the mission and hospital is located. A necklace of recently

fallen snow strung pearly necklaces around the tops of the granite towers.

"Hundreds of these proud, 'original' Americans are in need of this warm clothing," said Dr. Mason. "Although this is the desert the temperature here frequently skids below 20 degrees. One of the reasons for the high number of respiratory difficulties the Indians have is because they do not possess adequate clothing."

AS THE DOCTOR spoke, a pick-up truck, the Navajo replacement for the horse-drawn

wagon which, until a year or two ago was the almost universal method of Monument Valley transportation, drove up to the hospital. From it emerged three men, two women and four small children.

Three of the children were suffering from colds and the other had an acute case of diarrhea. "These children illustrate the problem," explained Dr. Mason. "No sweaters or coats, rubberized shoes without socks, and the cold desert sands and winds as a

house, noted Dr. Mason, is a masterpiece of desert living. Made of heavy logs and covered with mud it is usually kept overheated during the winter by a fire in its very center. The smoke escapes through a small hole in the center of the structure's roof. "The overheating is another part of the problem," said Dr. Mason, "but these warmer clothes given by the good people of Southern California should help to a very great degree."

While he talked the large, yellow-covered van of the Adventists' Southern California

Conference began to be emptied of the scores of clothing and food-filled boxes which had been loaded at the church's central warehouse in Lynwood.

SOON THESE supplies, said Mason, will bring warmth and strength to Navajos in a great, 25-mile area around this Adventist mission station. Another van load of supplies, some of which were also collected in Torrance, had arrived at the Adventists' mission at Holbrook, Ariz., some 175 miles south of Monument Valley, to help Navajos in the

southern part of their vast reservation area.

Altogether more than 19 tons of food and clothing has been collected in Torrance and other Southern California communities for this special Navajo relief effort.

The doctor looked out across the hogan-studded desert that stretches northward from the mission station. "Very few Navajos can speak English," he said. "But if they could they would surely say a very special 'Thanks' to every good person in Torrance who made this very practical person-to-person help possible."

### Armed Forces

Marion L. Veale, aviation machinist's mate third class, son of Mrs. Florence Veale of 31257 Evelyn Ave., is serving with Patrol Squadron 30 at the Naval Air Station, Jacksonville, Fla.

Operating Lockheed "Nep-tune" land-based prop-jet patrol bombers and Martin "Marlin" twin-engine seaplanes, the unit is the only anti-submarine warfare replacement squadron on the East Coast.

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