

# BIA Gray Hill Hi-schoolers to Become Environmentalists

Indian students at the Bureau of Indian Affairs new Gray Hill High School will have the opportunity to become environmentalists, homemakers, and carpenters, all under the same roof. The school is now under construction on the Navajo Indian Reservation just outside of Tuba City, Arizona.

The \$7.7 million federal installation is expected to be ready for youngsters from the 9th through the 12th grade by September 1972. Completion of an adjoining public school building is expected to follow.

The Bureau school will draw pupils from six elementary schools under the Tuba City Agency. It will serve 600 boarding school students. The public expects to enroll about 600 day students.

A boarding school rather than a day school was designed because federal funds are not available to build a high school onto each elementary school. Distances in the land of the Navajo and Hopi are so great and the roads too few to bus all the youngsters to a single consolidated high school.

## TAILORED TO EDUCATE NAVAJOS, HOPIS

Gray Hill High School is being built to serve youngsters of the Navajo-Hopi community in the Southwest. There will be no long walks through blowing reservation sand between school buildings because the new structure will have "all under one roof" architecture.

The school will offer courses in Indian history and culture and attempt to build a concept of the Indian heritage to reinforce the students' sense of their

Indian identities.

Vocational courses will follow the thrust of job openings, on and near the Navajo and Hopi Reservations and throughout the nation.

Leaders of the Indian community the school serves say that the area is very short of skilled people—those who can successfully repair an automobile, build a house, install plumbing and electric wiring. In an effort to fill this need, Gray Hill High School will have two multi-purpose shops in which enrollees

of the school can learn both basic wood and metal working.

In keeping with the Indians' typical reverence for his natural environment, the school will have a greenhouse in which plants can be started to landscape the school grounds. Through this project the school can learn the "why" of soil erosion and overgrazing, both problems of the Navajo and Hopi land base.

The school will also offer enriched academic studies for those who elect a college preparatory curriculum.