

# INDIAN NEWS NOTES

## Colorado Tribes Will Accept Animas-La Plata Water as Claims Settlement

Two Colorado tribes, the southern Utes and the Ute Mountain Utes, have agreed to settle tribal water rights claims in exchange for water from the Animas-La Plata Project. Under Secretary of the Interior Ann McLaughlin announced June 30 that the two tribes, the states of Colorado and New Mexico, and the federal government had agreed to a proposal for funding the project and distributing the water. Under this agreement, the tribes would give up their claims in exchange for irrigation service to 1,800 acres plus municipal and industrial water service in the first phase of the project. The tribes also would get irrigation service to 11,980 acres under a second phase. In addition, a tribal development fund of \$61 million would be provided — \$11 million from Colorado and the balance from

the federal government. "Final implementation of the settlement and the cost sharing agreement," McLaughlin said, "will depend on several actions of Congress. For example, authorization of the proposed tribal development fund will be necessary." The Under Secretary noted she was "impressed with the strong coalition that has been formed locally and in Congress on behalf of the project." First phase development will include a total of 42,880 acres at a cost of \$238 million; the second phase will cover 24,580 acres at a cost of \$133 million. The costs for the 13,780 acres of Indian land (most of it in the second phase) is estimated at \$76 million. A *Rocky Mountain News* story June 23 described the present water supply for the Ute Mountain Reservation as "traveling down a ditch to the reservation" after irrigating "uncounted farm fields." The tribe's filtering plant

# Indian News Notes

(Continued from Page Three)

does not remove the pesticides and herbicides. Consequently, most people buy drinking water hauled by truck daily from Cortez, 15 miles off the reservation. The reservation's principal town of Towaoc, the paper reported, has no lawns or playing field "because there's not enough of the recycled irrigation water."

## **Navajo Selected for Multicultural Management Program at Journalism School**

LeNora Begay, assignment editor at the *Navajo Times Today* has been selected by the University of Missouri School of Journalism as a fellow for the school's inaugural session of a Multicultural Management Program. The selection committee announced the names of 14 fellows June 30 at the National Press Club in Washington, D.C. Program executive director Ben Johnson wrote Mark Trahan, editor of the Navajo paper, "Our judges were impressed with the accomplishments and potential of LeNora. But, more than that, the selection committee picked her because of the clear interest you and your newspaper demonstrated in wanting to move her up the management ladder." The intensive four-week program, to begin September 7, is designed to help beginning newsroom managers work with culturally diverse staffs and to make such diversity and organizational asset. Begay, 26, was born and raised on the Navajo reservation. She has an Associate Arts degree from Arizona Central College. She has worked for the paper for two years.

## **Swimmer Issues Statement about Navajo-Hopi Resettlement Demonstrations**

Interior Assistant Secretary Ross Swimmer issued a statement July 2 asking church groups and other organizations concerned about the Navajo-Hopi resettlement issue "to help the tribes and the government achieve a humane and decent resettlement for those required to move to new homelands." Swimmer's statement was a reaction to anti-resettlement demonstrations planned for the July 4 weekend in Washington, D.C. and other parts of the country. Swimmer said that misinformation and distortions of fact, coupled with emotional appeals for support by "mostly non-Indian activist groups" have been denounced by leaders of both tribal groups. Swimmer said he was convinced nearly all the 240 Navajo families now remaining on Hopi land "will agree to move when they are assured that appropriate housing and grazing lands will be available on the 'new' lands purchased and added to the Navajo reservation." He said the original July 6, 1986 deadline for completing the resettlement had been extended by Congress and he now expects to complete the process by the end of 1987. An advertisement for the Washington, D.C. demonstration at the Washington Monument July 6 listed six leaders, four of them non-Indian. The other two are Vernon Bellecourt, described simply as "Indian activist," and Billy Tayac, "Chief, Piscataway Nation."