

Tuba City, Arizona  
March 8, 1950

Mr. Albert M. Hawley  
Area Principal  
Tuba City, Arizona

Dear Mr. Hawley:

When discussing irrigation problems with Mr. Holmes at the Farm today, he asked when the School Farm would get the water. I made the statement that I thought the Indians should water their fields first this year.

It can probably be arranged to water the rest of the School alfalfa. Forty acres have already been watered because of the heavy flow of water the first few days the Indian ditch could not carry all of it so the School Farm used half.

The first day water was used, the measuring gage recorded 7.33 sec. ft. and one week later it recorded 3.12 sec. ft.

We are sure to have a water shortage this year because of lack of snow and rain last fall and winter in the water shed that supplies the Moencopi-Wash.

My reason for thinking that the Indians should water their corn and melon patches before the School Farm waters any ground for cultivated crop is that the Indians worked 85 man days on main ditch and ditches across the School Farm that the Farm would get as much good from as the Indians will get - yet the School Farm only worked 3 man days.

85 man days at \$6.00 per day \$510.00 - work by Indians

3 man days at \$6.00 per day 18.00 - work by School Farm

The above work was done before March 1st. The Indians still have about 1 1/2 miles of ditch to clean after they pass the School Farm.

Another thought - there are 87 Indians farming the 430 acres below the School Farm with an average of 5 acres per man. When he works 2 days on ditch it is costing him \$2.40 per acre to water his field once and then he only gets about 3/4 of one acre foot of water.

I think we are here to help the Indians to help themselves and I think they should have full benefit for their cooperation in getting the job done.

I put out notices that we would start ditch work February 21st and on March 8th, 80% of all farmers had worked their full 2 days each and are still coming in - other than the Hopis who live in the Moencopi Village. Only six families live on their farms or in the Tuba area, the rest live at Gray Mountain, Bodaway, Gap, Cedar Ridge, Red Mesa and Coalmine Mesa. Some live as far as 40 miles away yet they come in for it is their only chance to get green food, and 90% or more of all they raise is used for human consumption.

By the Indians watering first if there is a water shortage for cultivated crops then it would be the Government's loss who I think can take the loss better than the Indians.

Yours truly,

T. C. 1888

W. J. Dutton

WJD:led