

The lake and surrounding lands, a total area of approximately 50,000 acres in northwestern New Mexico was designated national forest by President Theodore Roosevelt in 1906 and is now in the care of the United States Forest Service.

The Claims Commission held that the Taos are entitled to be paid for some 37,000 acres for which they received no compensation when the area was taken by the Government in 1933. The award recommended is for \$297,684.47, less the value of the use permit granted earlier to the Pueblo and less existing offsets.

The Taos Pueblo Indians are known to have lived near Blue Lake as long ago as 1300 A.D. and later received specific land grants from the Spanish. Every August the adult population of the tribe has carried out ancient and secret religious ceremonies at Blue Lake, excluding non-Indians from the area. The shrine is also used daily by individual Indians for private religious meditation.

DURANT STARTS PRODUCTION

Durant Electronics Corporation, at Durant, Oklahoma, has announced the start of production of electronic parts for the parent company, Strombecker Corporation of Chicago. At least one-third of the present force of thirty workers are Choctaw and Chickasaw Indians.

The Company expects to begin parts assembly operations soon, hiring an additional 30 to 40 Indian workers. It then plans to negotiate an on-the-job training contract with the Bureau of Indian Affairs, to provide training for about 95 Indian employees when full-scale assembly operations commence.

SCENIC ROADS SPECIALIST FOR BIA

A specialist in scenic roads recently joined the staff of the Bureau of Indian Affairs. The Bureau, which carried out a \$23 million road construction and maintenance program on Indian reservations during fiscal year 1965, is mapping policy on scenic roads, overlooks, and other features to beautify reservation roadways.

PER CAPITA DISTRIBUTION FOR EASTERN SHAWNEES

Members of the Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Indians in Oklahoma will share this month in a judgment of more than \$110,000, awarded them by the Indian Claims Commission and authorized for distribution by Congress on August 20, 1964. The 813 Eastern Shawnee members whose names appeared on the approved tribal membership roll on that date will each receive about \$135. Shares of deceased eligible members will go to their legal heirs.

The sum represents additional payment for lands ceded to the United States during the last century.

REA PROJECT SUCCESSFUL AT METLAKATLA

At Metlakatla, on Annette Island in southeastern Alaska, the Indian community has successfully operated a hydroelectric power system since 1957. Financed with \$1.8 million from the Rural Electrification Administration, the system supplies light and power to the members of the Metlakatla Indian Community, and to Island residents and businesses. A primary user of power is the Metlakatla commercial airport, which is owned by the Community and leased to commercial airlines and Government agencies.

The 1965 annual audit of the power system recently indicated total assets of more than \$2.1 million and net profits of more than \$100,000 annually for the past three years. The Indians have reduced the original REA loan to about \$1.4 million and have prepaid nearly \$150,000.

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