

KAYENTA TODAY

THE NEWSPAPER OF THE KAYENTA TOWNSHIP AND COMMUNITY

November 2005

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THE HEFLIN FAMILY

**By Richard Mike
Kayenta Township Commissioner**
Farmington and Aztec) - Reuben Heflin, in the little chapel, the Episcopal Mission built on land donated to the church by her father, Stokes Carson.

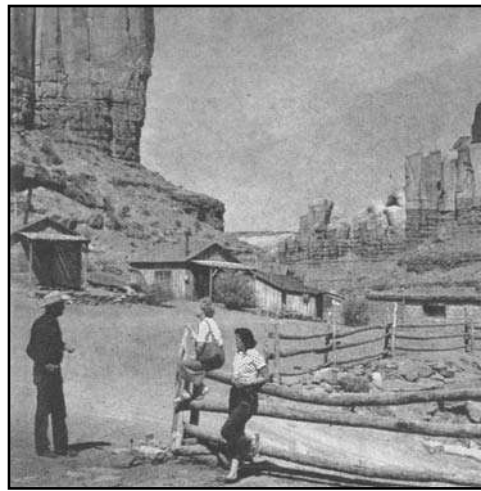
Mildred (Carson) Heflin was born in 1913 to Stokes and Jessie (Smith) Carson at Farmington, New Mexico. Two of her uncles, (her mother's brothers), Bob and Merritt Smith built Toadlena Trading Post in 1909 in the foothills of the Chuska Mountains. Her father, Stokes Carson built Carson Trading Post, 10 miles east of Huerfano Butte along the sloping banks of Gallegos Wash in 1918.

Mildred (Carson) Heflin eventually had three other sisters all of whom went into the Navajo Trading Post business. Josephine and Sam Drolet - Carson Trading Post; Marie Leighton - Shonto Trading Post and Two Grey Hills; Virginia and Edward Smith - Oljato Trading Post; Mildred and Reuben Heflin - Kayenta Trading Post; and back to her parents Stokes and Jessie Carson, who operated Inscription House Trading Post until their deaths in 1974.

Mildred (Carson) Heflin grew up at Huerfano and became a teacher at Huerfano Day School. In December 1937, she married another school teacher from Flora Vista (between

After the marriage of Mildred and Reuben Heflin, they decided to purchase Oljato Trading Post and moved there in 1938. They operated Oljato Trading Post for eight years and had three daughters there - Edie Yogerst of Phoenix, Arizona; Nina Heflin of Kayenta, Arizona; and, Sharon Johnson of Albuquerque, New Mexico.

The Heflin's purchased a battery-operated radio when they went to Oljato and it became an immediate and major attraction at Oljato. The Indian Agency (Now called BIA) at Shiprock would broadcast a Navajo program in the Navajo language every Saturday morning about the latest happenings with the Navajo Tribal Council in Window Rock and about the war in Europe and Japan. At Oljato, there was no plumbing or electricity. Water came out from a raised tank and ran out into the sand immediately behind the store.



Gouldings Lodge - Monument Valley, Utah



Kayenta Lodge- Kayenta, Arizona



**Carson children at Huerfano 1926
L to R Marie Leighton (Scottie); Virginia Smith (Chin); Mildred Heflin; and Josephine Drolet (Jo).**

An electric generator wasn't installed until 1944, a year before the Heflin's moved.

After World War II, many soldiers were returning from the war and America became the new land of opportunity. So the Heflins decided to move and they had to make a decision. First of all, the Wetherills of Kayenta had just passed away as did Clyde Colville. They were offered the Wetherill and Colville Trading Post (Kayenta Trading Post) in 1945 as well as Shonto Trading Post.

Kayenta had a post office, a government sanitarium for tubercular patients and two stores: Kayenta Trading Post and Warren Trading Post. Kayenta also had a Presbyterian Mission whereas Shonto didn't have any of these local services.

However, the Navajos at Shonto had more sheep and the area harvested more pinions than Kayenta. Remember also that the Navajos were still reeling from the Navajo Stock Reduction Program where they were forced by the BIA to reduce their herds. To the Navajo mind, reduc-

ing their herds rather than increasing them was against nature and meant imminent starvation to their families. Without the learned skills to live in a wage economy and having dwindling numbers of sheep, the Navajo people had no livelihood.

The Stock Reduction Program changed the Navajo people from a hard working industrious people, to having little or no income, then down to subsistence. Some areas were hit harder than others and because Shonto didn't have a graded road, it was largely bypassed by John Collier and the Indian Service.

Reuben and Mildred operated Shonto Trading Post from 1945 until 1955. Because there were no public schools at Shonto, Mildred basically bordered her children in Flagstaff for nine months each year. She would help her husband on the week-ends but inclement weather would sometimes stop her visits as the roads were clay and sand and invariably washed out during a rain or snow-storm.



Reuben Heflin, 1965



Reuben and Mildred's wedding day, 1937

Continued on page 10

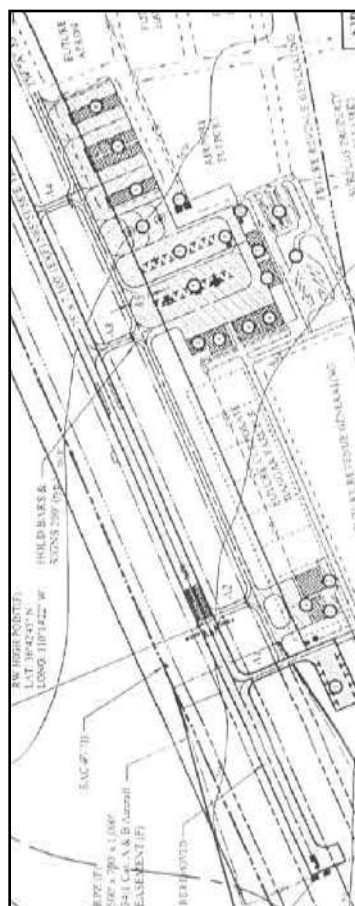
KAYENTA'S AIRPORT SOON TO BECOME A REALITY

On October 27, 2005 the Kayenta Township held a Pre Design conference for the Kayenta Airport with Armstrong and Associates at Kayenta Town Hall. Among the attendees of the conference were representatives from IHS, NTUA, NDOT, Kayenta Chapter, and Red Skies Surveying and Mapping.

First on the agenda, was the airport access road and a discussion on how it will play a key role in the (overall) planning of the airport itself. The planned access road will be alligned with another access point located on the south side of Highway 160 from the airport. This additional access point will be the main access point for the future Kayenta hospital scheduled for construction in 2007.

During the discussion, many concerns were brought up by the attendees about the safety of the future intersection. Representatives from Armstrong and Associates said that they would have to work closely with ADOT and NDOT on the design of Highway 160 so it will include turning and deceleration lanes in the proposed area of the access road. Adding the additional turning and deceleration lanes will add an estimated \$500,000.00 to the project. IHS will be responsible for the south side of Highway 160. The Kayenta Township is looking into other possible grants to help fund the additional cost. Also discussed with ADOT was adding signage to Highway 160, and changing the speed limit, making the new intersection safe and efficient for the public.

Estimated construction costs for the airport access road itself, is \$540,000.00, much of this cost is covered by a grant from the FAA, and the remaining cost will be covered by the Kayenta Township.



Planners and Designers from Armstrong and Associates met with representatives from IHS, ADOT, NDOT, NTUA, Kayenta Chapter, and Kayenta Township in the Kayenta Town Hall on October 27, 2005.

Continued on page 5



Second on the agenda was the Kayenta airport runway reconstruction. The reconstruction of the runway will shift the runway 1,190 feet northeast of its current position to make room for the addition of future taxiways and aprons at the new airport. The old runway will be ground up, crushed and used as a base foundation for the new asphalt. Currently the existing runway is able to accommodate a 12,000 lbs weight limit, but has been deteriorating at a rapid rate due to wear and tear by aviation and weather conditions. The new runway will be able to accommodate 45,000 lbs, making the new runway more than three times as strong as the old runway.



An area of concern to Armstrong and Associates was the question of a near by source of gravel and crushed rock for the runway project. They stated that the further away the source for gravel and crushed rock is, the higher the construction cost will be. Fortunately there are a number of reliable sources for gravel and crushed rock around the Kayenta area such as Mexican Hat and Bluff, Utah to help keep the costs for construction down.

NTUA also posed a concern about the weight limits of the existing power lines buried at the north end of the runway. Currently the lines are buried six feet underground and the planned new runway will lie over the lines. NTUA said that the cabled will need to be re-sleeved to accommodate the additional weight and weight limits of the runway. The existing power lines, also known as “transmission lines”, provides 69Kv

(69,000 volts) of electrical power to Black Mesa. In order to re-sleeve and terminate the cables, power to the cables will need to be shut off. NTUA stated that they will need to give Black Mesa at least a thirty day notice prior to the shut off of power.

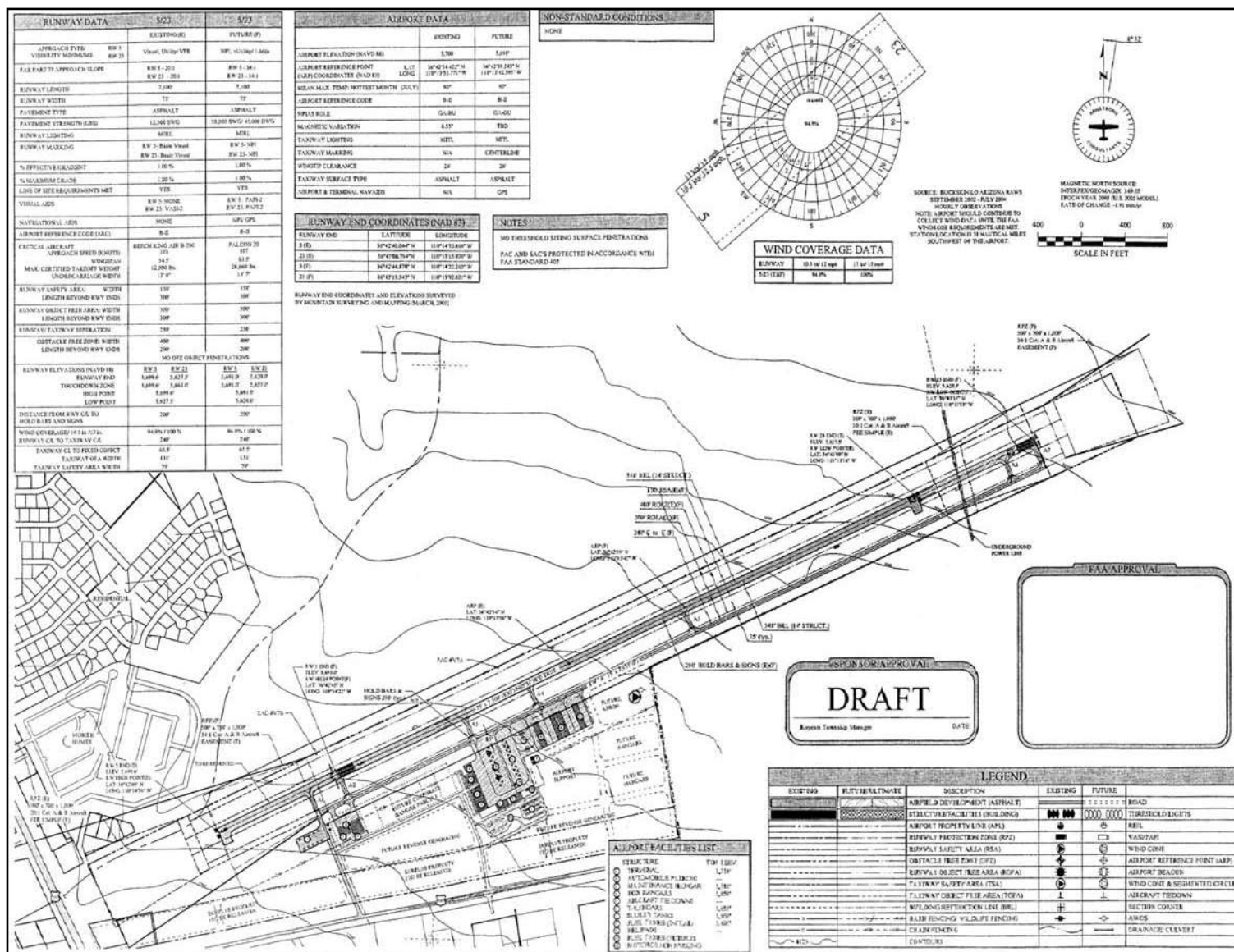
NTUA also said that this would have to be a special job and will provide a cost estimate for the project. The Kayenta Township stated that they would collaborate with NTUA on the cable project, but if the estimate from NTUA is too high, the project will have to go out for bid to help keep costs down.

IHS also posed concern about the closure of the airport during the construction of the new airport. They stated that they would have to be given ample time in order to renegotiate a contract with EMS and work out an agreement with Black Mesa airport in order to reroute patients for emergency air-evacuation.

Although the Kayenta airport is in its pre-design phase and has full archeological clearance from the Navajo Nation, planners and designers still

need environmental clearances before construction can begin.

Many of the entities involved in the planning and design of the airport, such as IHS, NTUA, ADOT, NDOT, Kayenta Chapter, and the Kayenta Township, play a vital role in the planning and design process. Every aspect of the new airport is critical in order to provide the community of Kayenta with a safe and efficient airport that everyone can benefit from. For more information on the Kayenta Airport, please contact the Kayenta Township at (928) 697-8451.



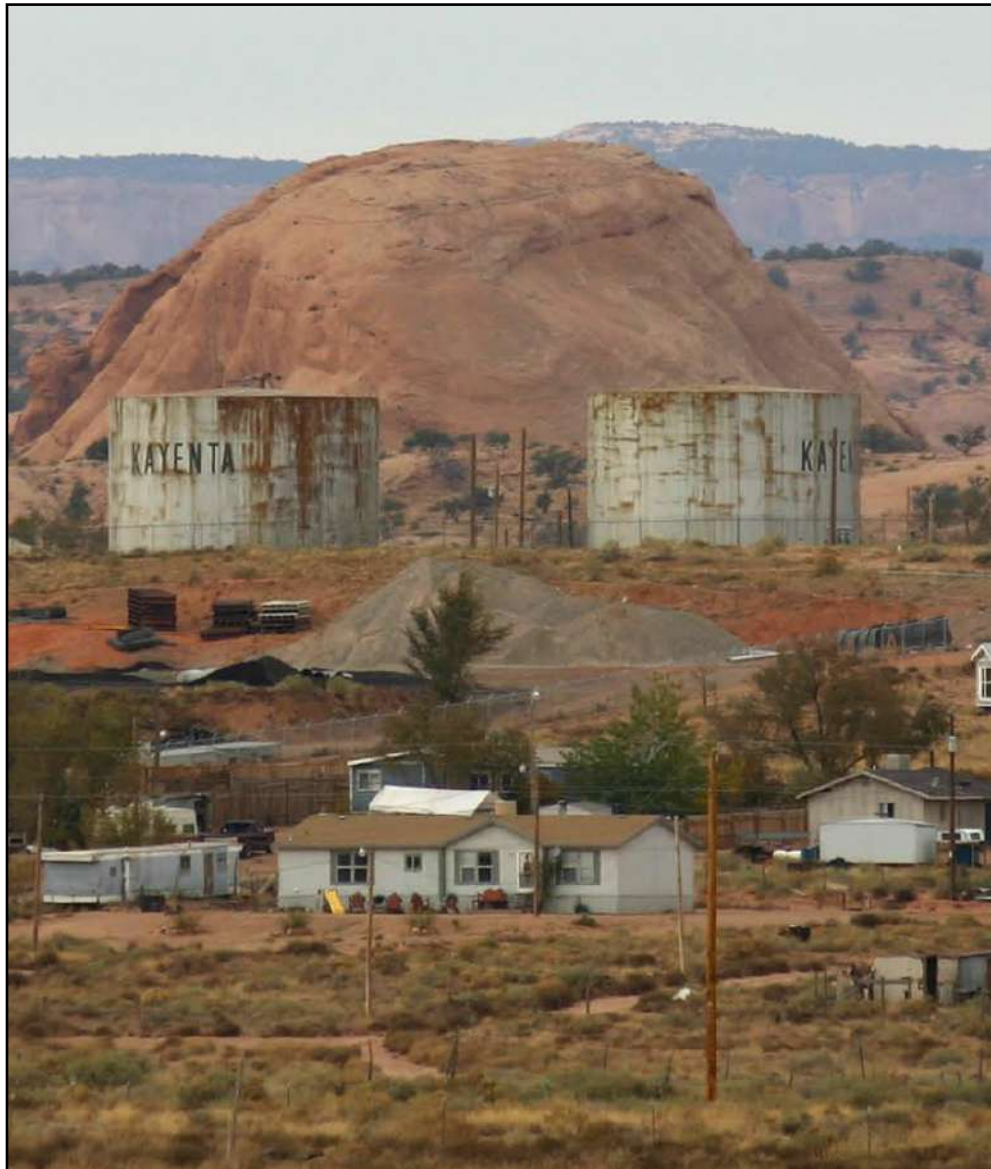
CELLULAR ONE PROPOSES A NEW CELL TOWER TO THE KAYENTA TOWNSHIP

Telecommunications play a vital role in our everyday lives here on the Navajo Nation, many of us utilize some form of telecommunication whether it is the Internet, the telephone, or a cell phone to keep in contact with family, friends, or work related communication. Telecommunications on the Navajo Nation has come a long way in the past few years. Hundreds of miles of fiber optic communication cable has been laid across the Navajo Nation to greatly improve telecommunications; these cables are what link our isolated communities to each other and the world.

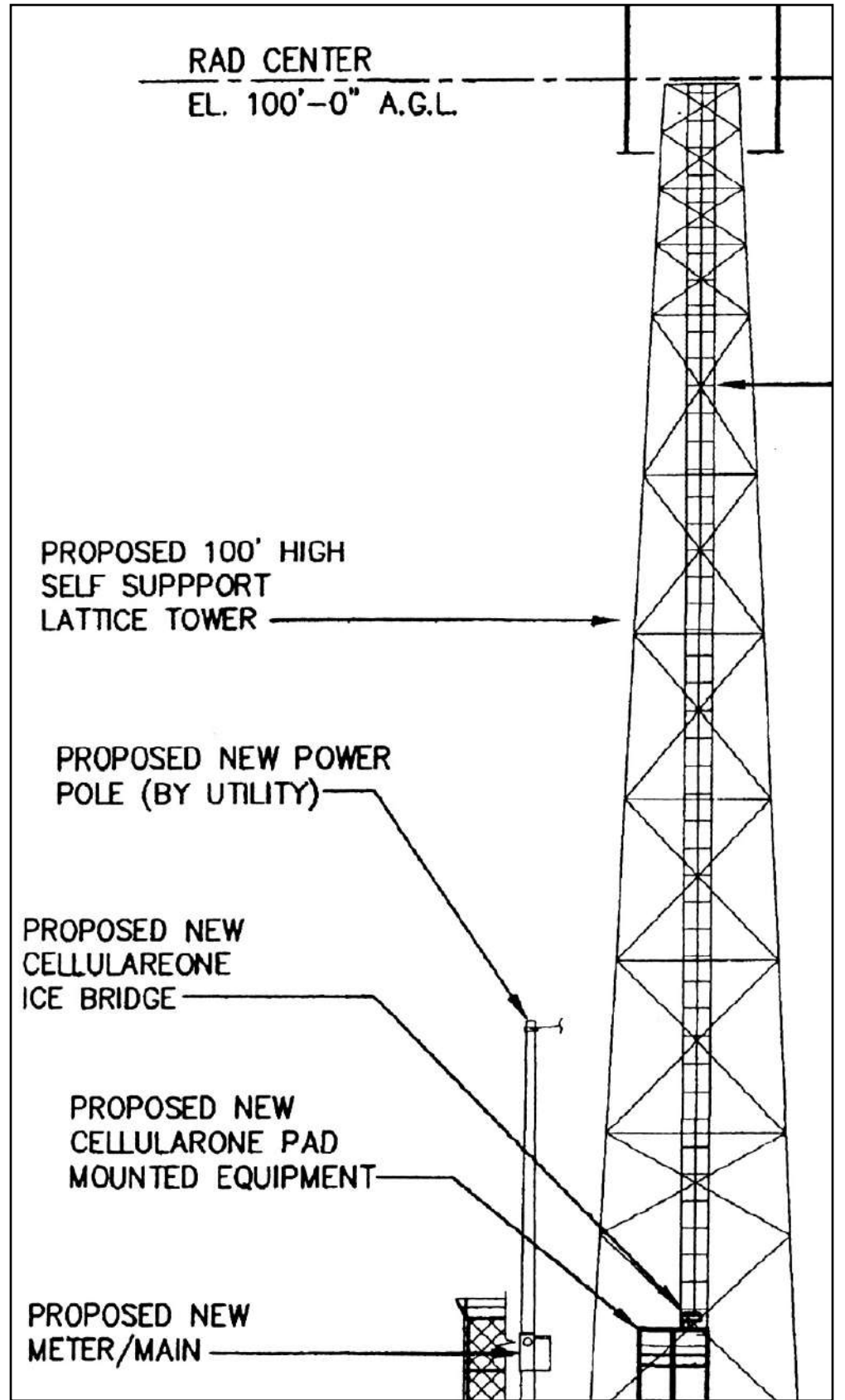
services across the Navajo Nation due to the financial investments wireless companies have to invest, as well as the bureaucratic red tape every business has to fight through in order to start a business on the Navajo Nation. Many companies have tried, only to become frustrated with the bureaucratic red tape, and gave up. One company did not give up. They toughed it out and in the end, developed an excellent working relationship with the Navajo Nation and its communities. That company is Cellular One from Show Low, Arizona.

Wireless services such as cell phones are fast becoming an integral part of our daily communication needs. Few wireless service providers have been able to provide reliable wireless

Cellular One has been providing wireless services for the people Navajo Nation for many years. Many rely on Cellular One's service because local phone companies are



Cellular One proposes to construct an 80-100 foot cell tower near the water towers in the northwest area of Kayenta to improve service.



unable to provide any type of service in many rural areas of the Navajo Nation.

Presently, people on the Navajo Nation have been demanding better and more reliable wireless services. Many have strongly voiced that the people of the Navajo Nation should have the right to choose their wireless service provider, some have even called Cellular One a monopoly. Unfortunately there are only a few other wireless service providers on the Navajo Nation, but they do not provide the service coverage that Cellular One provides.

The lack of additional wireless service providers on the Navajo Nation not only affects those that live here, but it greatly affects many others that come to the Navajo Nation to visit or conduct business. Many of these people are used to having some sort of wireless service, but are unable to use their cell phones in many areas when they are on the Navajo Nation. Many have resorted to pay phones and calling cards for their communication needs. Although this may be good business for those providing the pay phones and phone cards, it proves a major inconvenience for those that have to utilize these services.

In a recent press release from Cellular One, the Navajo Nation Natural Resources Committee passed legislation to allow a minimum of 47 Right of Way locations for CellularOne.

“This is a tremendous step to cover our entire area”, said George Arthur, Chairman of the Navajo Natural Resources Committee. “Other cell phone carriers had the same opportunity to attempt this, but CellularOne was the only company to step up to the plate.”

Once the main tower infrastructure is in place, other providers such as Verizon Wireless and Alltel will be allowed to co-locate on CellularOne’s structures, increasing competition and service provider options for customers.

Since the recent press release, Cellular One recently approached the Kayenta Township and proposed to construct an 80 -100 foot communications tower in the community. Cellular One has stated that customers within the Kayenta area are in dire need of better cell phone reception and service. The proposed tower would be located in the northwest area of Kayenta, very near the dual water towers Kayenta locals refer to as “The Hill”.

Construction of the tower would begin only after receiving approval from the Kayenta Township and its commissioners. In a recent meeting between the Kayenta Township and Cellular One, the Kayenta Township stated that the need for wireless communications is necessary for the citizens and visitors of the community.



A Cellular One representative helps customers at its Bashas location at the Kayenta Shopping Center. Cellular One operates many customer service centers such as this one in Kayenta, all across the Navajo Nation.

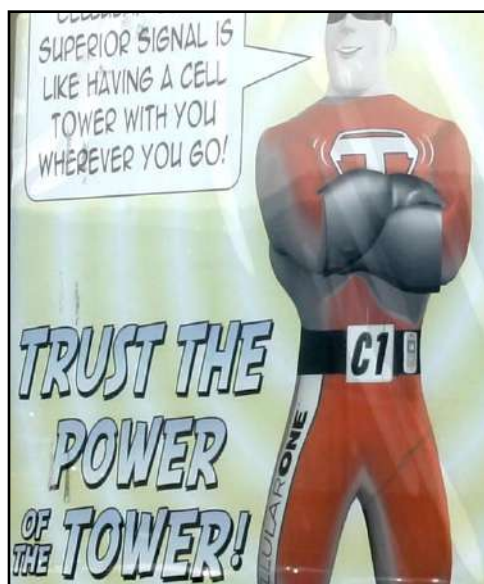


Ed Adakai (Kayenta), a loyal Cellular One customer relies on Cellular One’s service to run his business as well as keeping in contact with his family.

The Kayenta Township realizes that Cellular One will allow other wireless service providers to co-locate on the tower, but it should be financially feasible for them to do so. Co-location of different wireless service provider’s equipment on the proposed communication tower would give the citizens of Kayenta, it’s visitors, and the surrounding areas a choice of various different wireless service providers such as, Alltel and Verizon Wireless to name a few.

The Kayenta Township’s vision is to promote economic growth and business opportunities within the community of Kayenta to provide a better way of life for its citizens and visitors. Co-location of various wireless service providers within the community of Kayenta would produce competition between wireless service providers, therefore driving down the costs wireless communication and making it more affordable and convenient for customers to utilize wireless technology.

Currently the Kayenta Township and Cellular One are working on an agreement that both parties can agree on. The Kayenta Township realizes that wireless communication plays a vital role in any community. Without a reliable form of wireless communication, it would only hold back economic growth and hinder reliable communication for the people of Kayenta and its visitors. For more information, please contact the Kayenta Township @ (928) 697-8451.



ANNOUNCEMENTS

Honoring the Elder's Day on November 23 from 9-12 at the Boys and Girls Club building, there will be booths focusing on Elder's care/issues. 100 Pre-selected elders will receive food boxes with necessities. A luncheon will be served for the attendees. NHS is co-sponsor of the event with Indigenous Advocacy Inc.

Soup Kitchen is open every Saturday at the Catholic Church from 11am-1pm. Open until March 11. If there are any clubs/organizations that is interested in hosting a Saturday; there are still some available dates. Current host organizations: KMS Multicultural Club, Kayenta

Education Association, MVHS National Honor Society, and 1st Baptist Church.

Contact cbilly@kayenta.k12.az.us for more information.

Kayenta Public Health Nursing will be giving flu shots at the Kayenta Basha's on Thursday, December 1, 2005 from 10am to 8pm. We will also be giving flu shots at the "Honoring the Elders" event scheduled for Wednesday, November 23, 2005 at the Kayenta Field House (formerly the Boy's & Girls' Club) from 9:30 am to 12 noon. For any questions regarding the flu vaccine, please call our office at 697-4033.

JAMES AND ERNIE VISIT KAYENTA



Comedians James Junes and Ernest Tsosie III entertained Kayenta Community School Students and Faculty at the KCS auditorium on October 28, during Red Ribbon Week.

Participate in the Literacy is Empowering Book Drive, by donating new or like-new books, or a monetary donation (\$10.00 will purchase one book). After last year's successful book drive by gathering over 800 books for children on the Navajo Nation, we decided to continue the Literacy is Empowering Project because of the continuing need for books in the home. The purpose of the Literacy is Empowering Book Drive is to bring more books into the homes of children. Accordingly, to scientifically-based reading research, access to print-awareness enhances reading skills and language development. The project was created in November 2004 by Rozanna Benally as she held the title Miss Utah Navajo 2004-05 and her platform was "the importance of education."

New or like-new, preschool-8th grade level books are being collected. The books will be distributed during Family Literacy Night events sponsored by Even Start- Reading to Harmony Program, to children throughout various communities on the Navajo Nation. Donated books can be dropped off at Montezuma Creek Elementary School or arranged site, by December 22, 2005. Your donation is tax-deductible. Also, as an appreciation for your donation, your business will be advertised throughout a variety of Literacy is Empowering events. If you have questions, feel free to contact, Rozanna at (435) 459-3615 or benallyr@aol.com or Rebecca at (435) 651-3425.



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JOE SHIRLEY JR. MAKES A STAND FOR NATIVE AMERICANS AND FIGHTS FOR WHAT IS SACRED

"It is very important that we are all here today to let the world know that we will fight for what we hold sacred. I encourage everyone here to stay together and be united.

When ever we Navajo make an appearance in court, because of the rules that govern court procedures, we are never given the opportunity to really tell our story to where it is understood by individuals that need to understand. I was unable to do this because of the strict court procedures, but I did the best I could as President of our Nation.

Through Navajo legislation by the Council, we do not want any more expansion to what is already there, we also do not want the use of reclaimed waste water to make snow. The structures that are there shouldn't have been built, even that should be erased. The Navajo Nation and thirteen other tribes were in opposition to it.

It is very unfortunate that we are even talking about protecting the San Francisco Peaks in this country of ours. We go to war to protect other religions and other ways of life. Why isn't our way of life here protected? Why is it desecrated? That is what I'd like to know. This story needs to be told.

I see a lot of veterans here, our soldiers are at war today, even as I speak, protecting not only the United States of America, religious freedom, but also protecting Native American way of life, our way of believing. Many have given the ultimate sacrifice to protect our way of life, Native Americans, Dineh way of life.

Why are we even talking about protecting, pleading, begging, not to do an expansion of the ski resort already there on the Peaks? It's very unfortunate that I see this, it should be a given that our way of life should be protected, the way we believe should be protected.

I also stated using an analogy, the bible is what makes the Christian as I understand, and the words of God are living and alive. Native Americans are coming forward to say, "Our Mountain is alive, she's our mother, she's our guide."

We receive guidance through the songs that we sing surrounding our home, the Mountain. It is very much alive to us. Why can't they believe that? "

**Navajo Nation President, Joe Shirley Jr.
Press Conference - Prescott, AZ - November 2, 2005**



In 1954, Reuben and Mildred went into a partnership with Reuben's brother Glenwood Heflin. Glenwood Heflin had just retired from the US Navy therefore he was back seeking another means of living. Glenwood brought back his bride from Norway – Lydia Heflin.

This partnership purchased Kayenta Trading Post in 1954 and Glenwood operated the store. A year later, Glenwood Heflin desired to purchase Chilchinbeto Trading Post so he talked about his plans with his brother Reuben. Another year passed and Glenwood moved to Chilchinbeto and Reuben and Mildred Heflin sold the Shonto Trading Post and moved to Kayenta in 1956. The Heflin's immediately began construction of a new post right in front of the old Kayenta Trading Post built by the Wetherill's.

After the new Kayenta Trading Post opened its doors for business, the old Wetherill and Colville store became the Kayenta Public School while a new public school construction program commenced. The public school

in the trading post still had only one teacher for all 1st to 8th graders in one room. High School students had to go elsewhere.

During the latter part of the 50's, the uranium boom started all over the Navajo Nation. In addition, Monument Valley was becoming a popular site for movie makers and television commercials. Tourist and visitors would often come into the Kayenta Trading Post disillusioned and frustrated because they couldn't find a motel room. Both area hotels, the Kayenta Lodge and Gouldings Lodge were built in the early twenties and had no modern conveniences.

In 1958, Reuben Heflin decided to build the Wetherill Inn of Kayenta. The hotel grew with increasing demand and after only two years in 1960, a new highway was completed two miles outside of Kayenta. Reuben was in a dilemma as he only started paying off the Wetherill Inn. He sought a financial partner which he found in Bud Gibson and they constructed the Monument Valley



The Carson women at Lake City, Colorado, hours before the tragedy. L to R, Mildred Heflin, Virginia Smith, Josephine Drolet, and Marie Leighton. May 5, 1985



Top photo: 1961; L to R, Edie Jo, Richard Mike, Sharon Heflin, Reuben Heflin, Nina Heflin. Bottom photo: 1992, L to R, Sharon Johnson, Nina Heflin, Mildred Heflin, Richard Mike, and Edie Yogerst.

Holiday Inn. Reuben and Mildred Heflin then sold the Kayenta Trading Post and the Wetherill Inn to Bradley and Carolyn Blair in the year 1966.

Reuben had a heart attack in August of 1967 and died in Kayenta. His widow, Mildred Heflin worked at the Holiday Inn with her daughter Nina until she sold it to Ocean Properties Inc. in 1972.

A large tragedy beset the Heflin's on the Labor Day week-end in 1985 when they went out on an outing to Lake City, Colorado. Mildred Heflin's grandfather, John Christopher Carson (no relation to Kit Carson) staked a claim in a silver mine near Lake City and all four Carson women decided to visit their grandfather's mine. On the return trip from the mine, their SUV hit a ravine and plummeted down the mountainside. Sam Drolet was driving and Mildred Heflin was in the passenger seat. Nothing happened to Sam or Mildred.

The passengers in the rear however were Virginia Smith, Marie Leighton in the middle and Josephine Drolet.

Virginia Smith (Chin) and Josephine Drolet (Jo) were dead while Marie Leighton (Scottie) lay unconscious and had crushed ribs. Scottie was flown to Pueblo, Colorado. It took several months for her to recuperate.

Two months later, Edward Smith died from a broken heart at Oljato. A year later during the spring of '87, Sam Drolet died of a heart attack. Then Marie Leighton (Scottie) got breast cancer and died in January of 1988.

Mildred Heflin was the only Carson left. When she sold the Holiday Inn in 1972, she moved back to Flagstaff, Arizona where she remained active in business. She purchased several apartments in Camp Verde, Arizona and one in Phoenix. She also loaned the money to both Richard Mike and Nina Heflin so that they could begin their business careers with a new Kayenta Burger King restaurant.

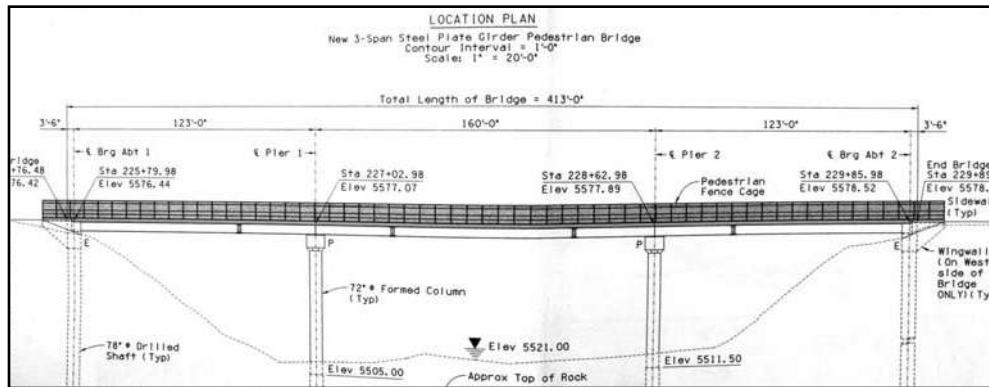
Often, she gave freely of her advice to Richard Mike and Nina Heflin on many technical issues facing their business and was actively engaged in two Flagstaff social organizations until her discovery that she had contacted pancreatic cancer and died within three weeks of finding out. She passed away on March 14, 2002 surrounded by her children and grandchildren.

CONSTRUCTION BEGINS ON LAGUNA CREEK PEDESTRIAN BRIDGE

ADOT began construction on a new pedestrian bridge this month on highway 163. The new pedestrian bridge will run parallel with the existing bridge crossing Laguna Creek northeast of Kayenta.

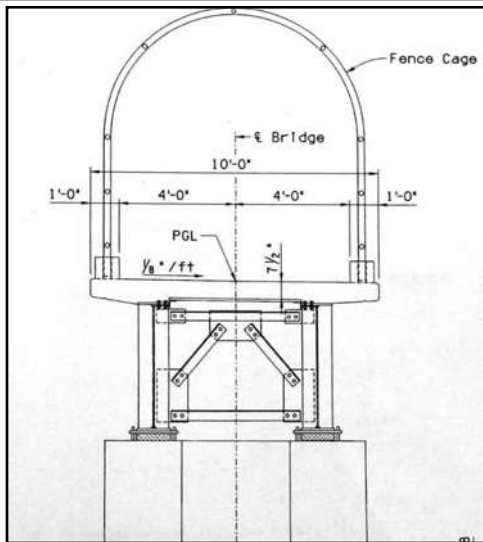


The new pedestrian bridge will be fenced caged for safety, ten feet wide and span over four hundred feet across Laguna Creek. A new sidewalk will also be added and connect to the existing sidewalk along highway 163, approximately half a mile



west of Laguna Creek bridge.

Currently the existing bridge accommodates two-way traffic and does not have a walkway for pedestrians to cross. The addition of a pedestrian bridge will make crossing Laguna Creek much safer for the public.



Completion of the pedestrian bridge is estimated in June or July of 2006. For more information, please contact ADOT or the Kayenta Township at (928) 697-8451.



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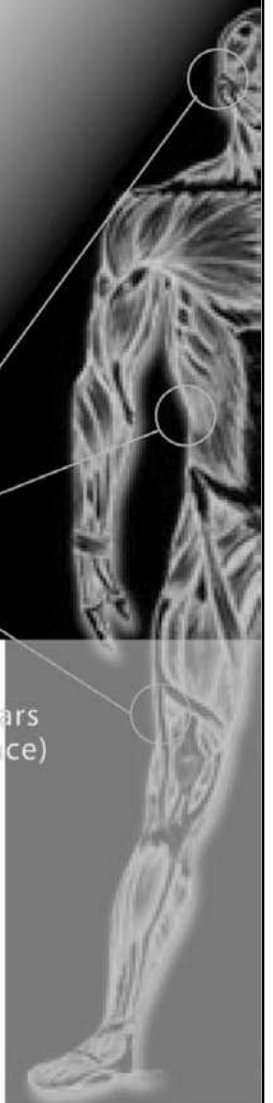
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