

Navajos Intelligent.

We have 3000 Navajos in San Juan county alone, and about 30,000 in the territory that they cover in Utah, Colorado, New Mexico and Arizona. I have lived among them for more than thirty years and know their language, habits and customs. The making of a Navajo blanket is no small task. On one of ordinary size a squaw will work steadily for from four to six weeks, and some of elaborate designs take much longer. What is probably the largest blanket of its kind was woven for Lorenzo Hubble, a rich Arizona merchant and trader. It is 18 by 22 feet, and in the weaving six squaws worked for six weeks. Mr. Hubble fed them, furnished all the material and then paid \$250 for the finished product; but I am sure that he would not part with it for a much larger sum.

In many ways the Navajos are unusually intelligent. While their language has never been reduced to writing, they have quite an extended literature of poetry and legend that has been handed down, for, they say, something like 2000 years. They do not believe in damnation, but are confident that a "happy hunting ground" awaits them after they "go over," for so they call death. The passage to this land is held to be through a "Twelve-mile Canyon." It may take 100 or 1000 years to get through. In early days before the government had a hold upon them, when a big chief died his horses, dogs and servants were slain and buried with him that he might have help in going through the dark canyon.

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3/15/1914-Salt Lake City