



It produced, at a cost of \$156 a house, adequately wired dwellings -- meeting all electrical code requirements except for number of outlets -- and ten Navajos who earned \$1.25 an hour while acquiring the skills to make them qualified electrician's helpers. These men not only have increased employment opportunities in the area but have the skills necessary to maintain an electrical system which operates in ways completely mysterious to most residents of the community. Their first jobs are likely to come in the expansion of the new system to additional Indian homes.

For the future, the immediate impact of electricity at Puertocito is not difficult to comprehend. Electric lights, refrigerators, washing machines, mixers and the many other genies of the kilowatt will move the Alamo Navajos a big step closer to a standard of living approaching the national average.

But much more than convenience and ease of living is involved. Through improved communications, especially television and radio, the aura of isolation that has compounded the difficulties of helping these people toward an understanding of the culture and habits of mid-century Americans will be reduced.

When Puertocito youngsters leave for Magdalena, 35 miles to the south, where they attend public school and stay in a BIA dormitory, they will have a better understanding of what to expect in this new environment. This understanding is expected to cushion the shock of this new experience and result in better school enrollment and attendance.

A similar acquisition of cultural understanding will assist the adults in the community as they press forward with the most difficult task of seeking economic and social equality for themselves and their community. The new ideas and new developments which have resulted from the improved working relationship with Big Navajo organizations should be accelerated as knowledge and understanding open new options for community improvement.

Actual day-to-day communications with the surrounding communities will be greatly improved by a two-way radio the Cooperative plans to install at Puertocito.

Indicative of the spirit of progress now in evidence at Puertocito is the work underway with the Indian Health Division of the Public Health Service to plan a water system for the community.

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