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OFFICE OF
INDIAN AFFAIRS.
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Navajo Agency, N. M., July 26/89

C. E. Vandever - - - Agent

In regard to sending Navajo
children to Carlisle school.

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File

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21112
United States Indian Service

Navajo Agency, N. M., July 26, 1889.

Hon. Commissioner of Indian Affairs
Washington
D. C.

Sir

Replying to your letter of the 16th instanc, "Education 18804-1889". I believe it will be a difficult matter to induce the Navajos to send their children away from the reservation to school, and I am informed that none have been sent away for that purpose during the past seven years. The cause of this is that of those who went away to school four died shortly after returning home, two of whom were the only children of Manuelito, one of the most popular chiefs of the tribe. These deaths, coupled with the superstitions of the tribe make it a difficult matter to obtain pupils for schools, away from the reservation. I have been doing all I can to overcome the prejudice, and hope to succeed in time.

In this connection I wish to impress upon the department, as I have tried to do before, the importance of establishing one or more industrial schools for the Navajos at home, where the population is large enough to justify it, and where the boys could be taught useful trades in the presence of their relatives and all other members of the tribe, who by seeing could soon learn to appreciate the benefits to be derived from such an education.

Respectfully your obt. servant

G. E. Vandener

U. S. Indian Agent.

