



Zacarías working at his loom.

preparing the colors and dyes. It is the mixture of the vegetable dyes that makes the colors, and each family has their special mixture.

About 1968 we started to use some modern designs taken from Escher and Miró in our weaving. People who wanted rugs showed us books and asked for special designs for a rug. There are others in my family and three more families who make these designs and other unique and personal designs. Almost everyone in Teotitlan weaves. It supports us fairly well. We don't have to take other jobs.

We have been using Navajo designs since 1978. We first saw these designs in a book. It was easy for us to make them because Navajo work is very straightforward, very geometric, like ours. So it was easy. At first we were not really interested in who the Navajo are. We didn't pay much attention to where the designs came from. But whatever design we use, we are conscious to do good quality weaving. We now do three Navajo designs. They sell very well. Now I see this as a kind of interchange with the Navajo. Someday I would like to go to New Mexico and live with them for a while. We should teach one another what we know best.

Zacarías also spoke of topil.

Topil is helping the community. There are five levels or *cargos* of the *topil*. One takes on more responsible *topiles* each time, depending on the conduct of each person. Maybe some day I will become president of the community. This is not for any salary. Everyone knows that we do the *cargo* in order to give our service to the people, the community. We were married for two years when they named me for a *topil*. The service is for one year. Then I rested and then they named me president of pre-school education, which I served for one year. Now I am serving again in the central committee of the church. There are two altars that I take care of. We work all day on the weekends. We leave flowers at the altar where we have our Gods, to worship our saints. We have responsibility for the whole community.

Announcements

The National Indian Social Workers Association held its annual convention October 14-17, 1986, in Buffalo, New York. Among the topics discussed was a commission of inquiry on the status of Guatemalan children (see *SAIIC Newsletter*, Spring, 1986, p. 7). NISWA, in cooperation with Defense for Children International, USA, proposes the establishment of a three-member panel to review the status of Indian children in Guatemala. For further information, contact Angela Russell, Box 333, Lodge Grass, MT 59050.

An English-language edition of the *CISA News Bulletin*, published in Lima, Peru, by the South American Indian Council, is now available. The introductory issue includes articles on "Brazil: A Development Program of Death and Destruction," "Bolivia: Andean Community Memory, an Alternative Oral Archive," and "Chile: Mapuches in the City." A subscription for three issues costs \$7.00, which should be sent to CISA, Apartado 2054, Lima 100 Peru.