The Santa Fe and BNSF Railways

After World War II ended, the Santa Fe considered expanding Winslow’s diesel shops. But town leaders resisted growth, so the railroad moved the shops to Barstow, California. Meanwhile, technological advances continued to reduce jobs throughout the industry. Also facing competition from the airlines, the Santa Fe shed its less-profitable passenger service and focused on hauling freight. Though Congress authorized Amtrak to provide national passenger service in 1971, the railroads are still critical to hauling freight around the nation. In 1995, the Santa Fe merged with the Burlington Northern Railroad. Though divisional headquarters were transferred to Belen, New Mexico, in 2001, the BNSF Railway is one of the largest employers in Winslow.

The Winslow-Lindbergh Regional Airport

TWA resumed commercial flights after World War II and became Trans World Airways in 1950. It was joined by Frontier Airlines as a Winslow carrier, but both discontinued service in the 1980s due to high costs and lack of passengers. The city-owned airport remains active for private aviation, medical transport helicopters, and as a fire suppression base for the US Forest Service. In a nod to its historical significance, it was renamed the Winslow-Lindbergh Regional Airport in 1998.

Winslow Today: Commerce and Services

Hopi and Navajo people have continually migrated between their tribal lands and Winslow for trade, employment, education, public services, and entertainment. Nonnative Winslow residents have also migrated to Hopi and Navajo communities while working as traders, teachers, and medical workers.

Winslow hosted Indian Day for many years, seen here in 1955. That year it was attended by almost 4,000 Hopis and Navajos on the west grounds of La Posada Hotel. The Winslow Women’s Club served hot dogs and soda pop, and Santa Claus handed out toys to over 2,000 children. Many Route 66 travelers stopped to enjoy the bands,定向， and speakers.

In 1996, Patricia Egan poses with her second-grade students at Dilton School, 40 miles northwest of Winslow. She remembered leaving Chicago in 1989 at age 55 to start a new career:

"I thought how many people of this age here in a whole other world opening up to them. It starts in New Mexico, and you see the landscape change and you can hardly concentrate on driving. It was tremendously exciting to pull off the interstate and move on up into the reservation and find the school, and find my apartment, and get going... I think it was one of the most satisfying experiences in my life... something about being in a totally new setting where you are the minority... and you've been the great treat... I have all this influence over these beautiful little kids. I felt like everything in my life leading up to that time prepared me for that, and I feel a real kinship with the people, especially the grandparents, many of whom were taking care of the kids... and I felt very honored by that."