

## Southwest 'Dig' . . .

## EXPEDITION TO RESUME HUNT FOR TRACES OF EARLY MAN

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THE Southwest Archaeological Expedition of Chicago Natural History Museum will leave for New Mexico early in June to continue research and excavations.

(Dr. Paul S. Martin, the writer, is leader of the expedition, and Dr. John B. Rinaldo, archaeologist on the Museum staff, his assistant. The 1949 project is the fifteenth in the series of Southwest expeditions of this Museum and the twenty-sixth in Dr. Martin's career. Dr. Ernst Antevs, Research Associate in Glacial Geology, will be attached to the expedition part of the time, as in past seasons, and will assist in determining dates for the material excavated. Ten or more local residents will be engaged to assist in digging operations.)

Five of the previous field seasons were spent in the same general area in which this year's party will work—Pine Lawn Valley. In this area, located in west central New Mexico about 100 miles north of Silver City, the earlier expeditions uncovered much information concerning the genesis of the little-known Mogollon culture.

Pine Lawn Valley was chosen for archaeological activity because: (1) no previous archaeological work had been done there; (2) several villages, on the basis of surface indications, were judged to be representative of the earlier Mogollon horizons; (3) no one

had (up to 1939) excavated any "pure" early Mogollon villages; (4) traces existed there of many other villages occupied between A.D. 500 and 1400; (5) the valley seemed to show a rather long occupation, which, if true, would yield a greater sequence of cultural history than ever before obtained for the Mogollon culture or for that area; (6) the valley was somewhat isolated and therefore the towns were less exposed to "foreign" or "outside" influences; and (7) it was provided with an ideal climate, topography, flora, and fauna for the origin and development of small villages. This last point is emphasized because a clearer idea of past sequences of events can be obtained and more satisfying deductions concerning culture changes can be made if small settlements are studied.

## NEW VISTAS OPENED

The five previous seasons have yielded information beyond expectations. We now have a better understanding of the Mogollon culture because of our researches.

Up to 1934, all prehistoric civilizations of the Southwest had been classified as belonging to either the Anasazi (Pueblo) or the Hohokam cultures. In 1934, Dr. Emil Haury, then of Gila Pueblo, Globe, Arizona, and now Chairman of the Department of Anthropology, University of Arizona, excavated two villages that certainly did not fit in with any previous notions concerning Southwestern civilizations. He therefore published his results and called his new find the "Mogollon culture"—named after the near-by Mogollon Mountains. But no one knew at that time anything concerning the origins or growth of this culture.

Nothing more was done toward solving this problem for several years, and Haury's hypotheses concerning a "new culture" were not generally accepted. Many believed that the material he found and described was merely a curious variation of existing cultures.

In 1939, we started our work in Pine Lawn Valley in an effort to

throw more light on Haury's hypotheses. Our researches have verified and strengthened Haury's hypotheses, and further discoveries were made. We now have a growing body of evidence to support the Mogollon hypothesis and feel that the concept of a Mogollon culture is better established.

CULTURAL ORIGIN  
TRACED

As a result of the various attacks made upon the Mogollon problem, we now know that this new culture probably grew out of a very ancient non-pottery culture that is called Cochise. Cochise culture is one of the earliest in the New World.

The history of Pine Lawn Valley, as a result of our excavations, may be briefly summarized as follows:

About 5,000 years ago, during a dry cycle, some Cochise Indians were forced to leave their pleasant Arizona habitat because it was gradually becoming dryer and therefore less desirable. Some of the Cochise people wandered into our Pine Lawn Valley in their search for water. They found and camped on a streamlet fed by a spring that still flows today.

These people stayed in the valley and later (perhaps about A.D. 200) borrowed the idea of constructing pit houses, a house type that was used for several centuries in that area. The excavation of one of these is shown on the cover of this BULLETIN. The type of stone tools used by the Cochise people remained in fashion until A.D. 500 or later. Gradually better pit houses were built and better pottery was made.

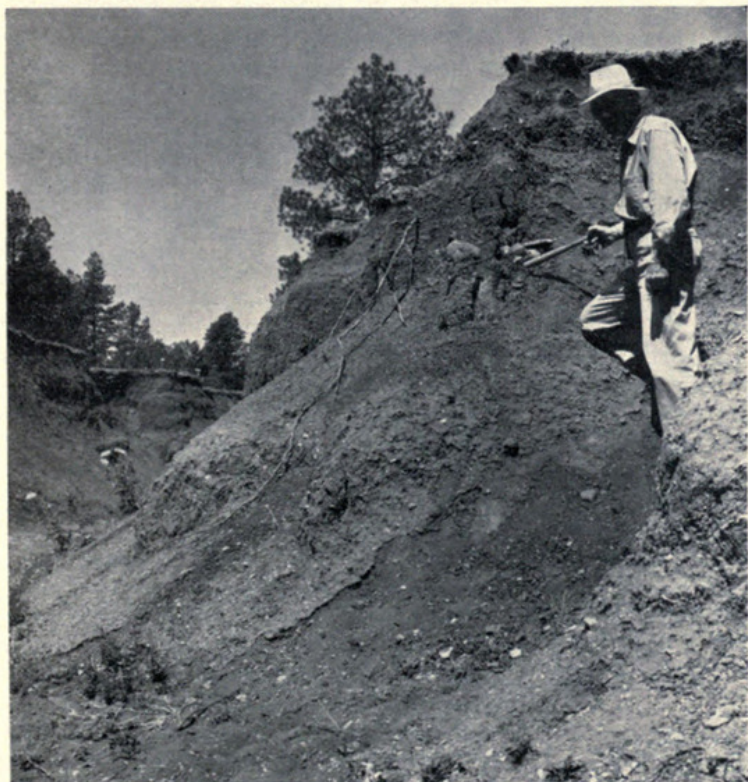
## REMAINING GAPS TO FILL

There are many gaps in our knowledge, but this summer we hope to fill some of these. We are going to try to find out what happened (1) between 3000 B.C. and A.D. 200 and (2) between A.D. 700 and A.D. 1000. We know that at about A.D. 1000 people or culture elements (surface houses with masonry walls, black-and-white pottery) penetrated the area. Why this happened we do not know, nor do we know where these new traits came from.

Finally, we wish to know when the valley was last occupied, why it was abandoned, and where the Mogollon people went. These inquiries are very broad and cannot all be investigated this summer. But if we are aware of the problems and if we have broad, extensive aims, we shall be less likely to miss important information as it is revealed in our excavations.



PAUL S. MARTIN  
Expedition Leader



## ANCIENT HEARTH BARED

The thrill of archaeological discovery is illustrated by this photograph from a past Southwest Archaeological Expedition, showing Dr. Ernst Antevs, glacial expert, pointing to evidence of prehistoric man found five feet below the surface at Wet Leggett Canyon, the oldest site in New Mexico uncovered by Museum archaeologists in recent years.





Martin, Paul S. 1949. "Expedition to Resume Hunt for Traces of Early Man." *Bulletin* 20(6), 3-3.

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