

AN ANCIENT TRADE ROUTE OF INDIANS TRACED

By THOMAS P. ALDER

MEMBER OF SOUTHWEST ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXPEDITION

WHAT WAS ONCE an important communication route for Indians of the Southwest is now a desolate and almost inaccessible river valley that poses difficulties for members of the Museum's Southwest Archaeological Expedition who seek to learn more about the prehistoric Indians of the

because its remote location was insurance against the effects of over-zealous amateur diggers.

Although the site is difficult of access today even with modern automobiles, excavations have unearthed evidence indicating that the area was heavily traveled about 1,000 years ago. Indians from as far as 125 miles to the north, south, and west apparently traded along the river that flows below the cave. What they brought has remained, until now, beneath the cave soil. From this material the archaeologists draw evidence to reconstruct as far as possible the story of the Mogollon Indians who lived there.

In this particular cave dwelling, finding pottery fragments of the type used by contemporary but distant civilizations led to the belief that the valley was a trade route. This conclusion is an additional piece in the unfinished puzzle of prehistoric Mogollon civilization. To arrive at such a conclusion, archaeologists must relate the inert, speechless objects they find to those that they themselves have previously found and to those found by others. By interrelating object with object, conjecture with conclusion, the archaeologist hopes ultimately to have enough of the right pieces in enough of the right places. Then we will have an understandable picture of these people

who are now known to us only by fragmentary remains of some of their works.

Change in Visiting Hours

On September 2, the day after Labor Day, autumn visiting hours, 9 A.M. to 5 P.M., go into effect at the Museum, continuing until October 31.

The extensive research collections of the Museum may be examined by qualified students, specialists, and Members of the Museum upon application to the Director.

Museum Appraisal by an 'Expert'

Allan Sillyphant, Director of the Glendale (California) Museum of Arts and Sciences was a recent guest of Chicago Natural History Museum. John R. Millar, Deputy Director, was host on a tour of the building.

Reflecting natural pride in his California institution, Director Sillyphant said: "We are making great progress in exhibition techniques in Glendale—but Chicago Natural History Museum is good, too."

Director Sillyphant is 11 years old. The Glendale museum is supported and operated by some 40 boys. They have assembled their museum, which is housed in a four-car garage, by pooling their personal collections and constantly seeking additions. The Glendale museum now has about 7,000 specimens relating to natural science, the arts, and American history.

Paleozoic Fishes Received

Dr. Robert H. Denison, Curator of Fossil Fishes, has returned from the maritime provinces of Canada with collections of fossil fishes from a number of localities. This work was a continuation of his research on the Silurian and Devonian vertebrates that lived about 350 million years ago.

FIFTY YEARS AGO AT THE MUSEUM

Compiled by MARGARET J. BAUER

From the *Annual Report of the Director* for the year 1902:

"Expeditions and Field Work.—In the interests of the Department of Geology, Assistant Curator [Henry W.] Nichols, during the months of October and November, made an extended trip through the mining districts of the southern Appalachians, principally in the mountainous parts of North Carolina and Georgia. The well-known copper mines of Ducktown, Tennessee, were visited, and a full series of the copper ores, rocks, and accessory minerals there occurring were collected. . . . Some fossils were obtained in southern Tennessee and Mississippi. In all, the expedition yielded six hundred and eighty-two (682) specimens of minerals, one hundred and thirty-two (132) specimens of ores and associated rocks, twelve (12) specimens of fossils, and twelve (12) miscellaneous geological specimens. A deposit of Permian batrachian fossils in Oklahoma was investigated by Mr. [H. William] Menke in November, with a view to determining its richness in Museum material. Some fragmentary specimens of scientific importance were secured, but the investigation showed that material for exhibition purposes was not likely to be afforded by the locality."



PART OF SOUTHWEST EXPEDITION'S 1952 'DIG'

Over-all view of Cospo Cave, near Reserve, New Mexico, showing two entrances, and the Blue River below, looking east northeast. Here the party of archaeologists and assistants, working under the direction of Dr. Paul S. Martin, Chief Curator of Anthropology, is making some of the most important excavations of the current season.

area. This year's expedition is the Museum's eighteenth. The current operation is the ninth season of excavating ruins in this part of New Mexico.

By uncovering remains of the Mogollon civilization (about 850 B.C. to A.D. 1250), Dr. Paul S. Martin, Chief Curator of Anthropology and leader of the expedition, and his associates hope to reconstruct the extinct culture and relate it to contemporary cultures. A cave dwelling, thirty-three mountainous miles and two driving hours from the camp near Reserve, New Mexico, was chosen as the site for this season's excavation



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