

**COLLECTION:** El Palacio Collection

**CDI  
ACCESSION  
NUMBER:**

000875

**ERRATA:**

**COMMENTS:**

Subtitle of article is "Chettro Ketl, Scene of Difficult Excavation Activities Begun in June."  
Summary of previous work and the goals of the 1931 field season.

**CITATION:**

1931 Summer Work Under Way. El Palacio 30 (21-22): 274-277.



Even the fire would have gone out, had not the faithful old dog, whom his master, the chief, kicked about, covered the live coals with ashes to save the fire for the girl. Then he, too, left with the "Yellow House People," whom he remembered.

When the two children were alone, the turquoise amulet whispered to the girl, "Get a bow and arrows for your little brother." The girl obeyed and miraculously the baby grew to young manhood. With the bow and arrows he hunted daily, and soon he and his sister were surrounded with food, skins, and pelts of all kinds. They were enjoying wealth which the "Yellow House People" had forsaken for a new land of dearth and want.

One day the brother saw the chief's faithful old dog approaching lean and gaunt. Immediately he ran into the house and found meat with tallow and set it outside for food for the hungry animal. Soon the "Yellow House People" came, following the dog.

"Our dear children," exclaimed the Chief, "we have come to see you!"

"We never had such parents as you," replied the girl without looking up.

The people were so hungry that they drove away the old dog and ate his food. Then they pitched camp and continued to live upon that site, but the girl and her brother never claimed relationship and forever continued to ignore them.

#### SUMMER WORK UNDER WAY

##### *Chetro Ketl, Scene of Difficult Excavation Activities, Begun in June*

ATTENTION of American Archaeologists will be focused this summer, and probably for several summers, on the excavations just being started at Chetro Ketl, one of the important ruins of the Chaco Canyon group.

Here, within a radius of five miles of Pueblo Bonito National Monument, a dozen important prehistoric pueblo sites are clustered—a group of towns in the desert, which at one time may have housed as many as 50,000 persons.

The Chaco Canyon ruins have been known for a long time, but still presents riddles to the archaeologist. New problems constantly are encountered, and now one of the most important problems, with a bearing on the archaeology of the entire San Juan basin, confronts excavators.

Pueblo Bonito was excavated by the National Geographic Magazine expedition years ago. It was found to be the most spectacular ruin yet unearthed in North America. Only recently the School of American Research, in conjunction with the Museum of New Mexico and University of New Mexico, have undertaken excavations at Chetro Ketl, a quarter mile east of Pueblo Bonito.

During the last few years, these institutions have held the advanced field school of archaeology and related sciences at Chetro Ketl, the advanced students, under direction of Dr. Edgar L. Hewett, supervising the excavation work at the ruin.

Two years ago an important discovery was made, when the "sun temple," a great kiva-like structure, was laid bare. The size and several important features of this structure made it different from any other kivas which had been excavated in the Southwest. Last year a discovery of equal importance was made, when excavation revealed that walls of the pueblo had been buried by drifting sand and debris to a depth of fifteen feet, making the walls of Chetro Ketl as high as those of Pueblo Bonito.

Just as the season was closing last year, it was decided to sink a trench below the level of the "sun temple" to be sure that nothing lay beneath. Below the floor level of the superstructure, a series of walls was encountered, in ma-

sonry as good as, or even superior to, the walls of the large kiva structure.

What these walls are remains to be revealed. That is a part of this year's work. It will require elaborate excavating methods, different from any yet used in southwestern America. Some tunneling will be necessary, and walls of the pueblo must be supported so they will not fall when the work is done beneath them to discover what lies below the old pueblo.

Prof. Reginald Fisher has planned engineering features for the summer work. They include an aerial tram from which large buckets can be dropped to workers on the lower levels, for the removal of earth and debris. This tram will carry the earth to dump cars on a small track which already has been installed, and these cars will take the material to the large dump heap.

Railway rails and cement work will be used to brace walls of Chetro Ketl as excavations progress beneath them. Rails for this work have been donated by the G. E. Breece Lumber Company.

The state highway department, through Highway Engineer Eccles, has agreed to co-operate as it can in the work. Plans have been made for improving the state highway from Thoreau to the Pueblo Bonito National Monument, so that visitors may reach the excavations with greater ease and speed, and hauling of materials will be less difficult.

The highway department also will lend a caterpillar tractor and fresno to help clear away large amounts of accumulated debris before the excavation proper can get under way.

There are 20 students in the advanced archaeology division. Later, a similar number will accompany the division to Mexico for six weeks of study among the ruins in the Valley of Mexico.

The general field division is held at Battleship Rock camp, in Jemez Canyon, where work will be resumed on the ruins of the pueblo of Un Shagi.

All of the field schools this year will have excellent faculties. Dr. Hewett is directing them. Dr. Hartley Burr Alexander, of Scripps College, Claremont, Calif., will be instructor in mythology, religion, and symbolism. Fred W. Allen, M.S., will be instructor in biology. Dr. E. F. Castetter will teach the same subject. J. H. Dorroh will be instructor in civil engineering. Prof. Reginald Fisher will be instructor in field surveys. Prof. John P. Harrington will teach ethnology and linguistics. Dr. Aven Nelson, of the University of Wyoming, will be instructor in systematic botany. Dr. Stuart A. Northrop will teach geology and paleontology. Prof. Mamie R. Tanquist will teach archaeology and field methods. William C. Wagner will be instructor in civil engineering.

The calendar for the field schools follows:

- June 10, advanced division began work in Chaco Canyon.
- July 8, work of advanced division closes.
- July 13, division in Mexico begins in Mexico City.
- August 3, registration for general field division.
- August 4, work begins in general field division.
- August 21, division in Mexico closes.
- August 29, general field division closes.
- August 31, engineering division begins.
- September 12, engineering division closes.

#### HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT CO-OPERATES

THE New Mexico Highway Department will look into the possibility of improving the state highway from Thoreau to the Chaco Canyon National Monument, where the School of American Research and University of New