

COLLECTION: El Palacio Collection

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COMMENTS: Brief note from Hewett noting tree ring date.

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NEW DATES FROM CHACO CANYON

ON RETURN from Chaco Canyon, where the excavations by the University and School of American Research are resumed this week, Director Hewett gives out the following findings from the work of last year:

"Professor Florence Hawley, of the University of Arizona, assistant for the past three years in the Chaco Canyon excavations, especially in charge of the tree ring studies, reports that from a beam taken from the crudest masonry of Una Vida (a ruin owned by the School of American Research, two miles above Pueblo Bonito) there is obtained the earliest building date so far known in the Southwest, i. e., 861 A. D. The earliest date heretofore is one from Pueblo Bonito, 919 A. D.

"It will be recalled that in a previous report by Miss Hawley (*El Palacio*, February 24, 1932) a pilaster beam from the east tower kiva at Chetro Keti, yielded a beginning date of 634 A. D., its cutting date not determinable, thus carrying Dr. Douglass' tree ring calendar back 90 years earlier than heretofore. For comparison with the Chaco Canyon dates, the following chronological table may be found convenient:

622 A. D. The Hegira; beginning of Mahommedan calendar.

632 A. D. Death of Mahomet.

634 A. D. *Beginning date of Chetro Keti log.*

711 A. D. Moors under Tarik invaded Spain.

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- 732 A. D. Battle of Tours saved Europe to Christianity.
 742 A. D. Birth of Charlemagne.
 762 A. D. Founding of Bagdad.
 786 A. D. Haroun-al-Raschid became Caliph of Bagdad.
 814 A. D. Death of Charlemagne.
 849 A. D. Birth of Alfred the Great.
 860 A. D. Iceland discovered by the Northmen.
 861 A. D. *Una Vida date, Chaco Canyon.*
 871 A. D. Alfred the Great became King of England.
 901 A. D. Death of Alfred the Great.

ANCIENT AMERICA

More Treasure from Monte Alban.

FAMOUS "Tomb Number Seven," of Monte Alban, Mexico, in which great prehistoric wealth was recently found, still yields treasure. Piles of dust and dirt from the floor of the tomb which had not heretofore been completely sifted, have yielded another quarter of a pound or so of tiny beads of gold, turquoise, and other precious substances. There are tiny beads with holes so small that the finest needles do not pass through them. Little gadgets of bone, with two or more holes, show how the multiple strands of the ancient necklaces were kept together. Ancient Mixtec codices, picture records in colors, that have survived to the present day, show how strands of

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gold, turquoise, or red shell beads were combined. One necklace has been reconstructed after a codex design, out of the large amount of loose beads from the floor of the tomb. In a special room in the National Museum of Mexico City, the Monte Alban treasure is now on exhibit. It is surprising in its quantity and beauty. Tourists and the public are paying a small contribution to view these ancient relics. The funds thus gathered, go toward next season's excavations which will begin on October 15. Sr. Caso says there are hundreds of tombs not yet touched. Monte Alban appears to have been an especially propitious burial ground for the ancient inhabitants of that city.—*Science Service.*

Unearthing Calixtlahuaca.

The grandeur and extent of a Mexican-Indian city of pre-conquest days is being revealed by Mexican archaeologists who are unearthing Calixtlahuaca, translated "Prairieville." This city, which spread over mountain slopes and valleys, had an area of 16 square miles, according to latest estimates of the excavators. Twenty-three of the ancient public buildings have been located. First ruins of the ancient city were found last year, near Toluca, by Jose Garcia Payon, who is now excavating the site for the department of archaeology of the State of Mexico. Debris has now been almost entirely cleared away from the round temple base where the shrine to the Wind God, Quetzalcoatl, stood. This rare style of Mexican architecture consisted of conical and cylindrical sections superimposed to make a tall round pedestal for the temple. Sr. Payon has identified, in the building, five distinct periods of construction. In some of these an entirely new shell covered a small earlier building. The cleared site shows that the temple base stands upon a series of super-imposed