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ERRATA:

COMMENTS: Notes establishment of a research station for "advanced students in archaeology and all related sciences," and summarizes field season of 1933.

CITATION: 1933 Summer Field Session. Permanent Research Station at Chaco. El Palacio 35 (7-8): 65-70.

El Palacio

VOL. XXXV AUGUST 16-23, 1933 NOS. 7-8

SUMMER FIELD SESSIONS

Permanent Research Station at Chaco.

THE summer field sessions again have passed into history, and plans are being made for the next year.

The School of American Research, in co-operation with the University of New Mexico and Museum of New Mexico, had successful seasons both in the Chaco Canyon and in Jemez Canyon, despite many difficulties. Uncertainty of financial resources and unusually small enrollments of students were only two of many problems which it was necessary to meet, yet both camps reported that this summer was in many ways their most successful.

There were forty-one students at the Battleship Rock camp, in addition to the faculty and staff. The camp this year extended over a period of six weeks instead of four weeks as previously, and the academic work was divided into upper and lower divisions These changes added much to the possibilities of accomplishment.

Part of the work of the students at the Battleship Rock Camp was the continued excavation of Unshagi, which, as in past years, yielded a large amount of material, including as many skeletons as the staff and students were able to care for. The investigation of the refuse heap was carried further than previously, and with most gratifying results.

The Unshagi ruin, upon which many seasons of work have been done, is well summed up in the thesis recently prepared by Dr. Mamie Tanquist, of the faculty of the Archaeology Department of the University of New Mex-

ico. Another paper, dealing with its plan and topographical environment, is being completed by Reginald G. Fisher, of the staff of the School of American Research.

The faculty and staff at the Battleship Rock School this year included Dr. Edgar L. Hewett as director; Reginald G. Fisher, business manager; Dr. Hartley Burr Alexander, of Scripps College; Prof. Clyde Kluckhohn, Dr. Tanquist, and Miss Marjorie Fergusson Tichy, of the University of New Mexico faculty; and Hubert Alexander, of Yale University. Mrs. R. S. Rockwood served as librarian.

A number of trips were made by the Battleship Rock students to pueblos within a few hours' drive of their camp. These trips included visits to Santo Domingo for the annual corn dance; to Zia for the corn dance there; to Chaco canyon and Acoma; and just after the close of the field school, a small group was taken by Dr. Hewett to the pueblo of San Ildefonso.

The list of students who attended the Battleship Rock camp has been published in *Digs*, reprinted in an earlier issue of EL PALACIO.

Nine students enrolled for the work offered at the Chaco Canyon field school adjoining Pueblo Bonito. They were Miss Lillian Peterson and Miss Alice Leinau, of Los Angeles; Miss Margaret Walker, of Chester, Pa.; Miss Gertrude Howe, of Pleasantville, N. Y.; Mrs. Dorothy L. Keur and Walter Lewisohn, of New York City; Frank Dent, of Ramah, N. M.; Charles E. Hutchinson, of Los Angeles,

Published by the School of American Research, the University of New Mexico and the Museum of New Mexico.

PAUL A. F. WALTER, *Editor*

Weekly Review of Arts and Sciences in the Archaeological Southwest. Sent free to Members of the New Mexico Archaeological Society and The Santa Fe and Albuquerque Societies of the Archaeological Institute. Entered as second class matter, July 16, 1918, at the post office at Santa Fe, N. M., under Act of Congress of October 3, 1917.

Calif., and Hurst R. Julian, custodian of the Chaco Canyon National Monument.

The staff of the school included Dr. Edgar L. Hewett, director; Paul Walter, Jr., assistant director; Paul Reiter, in charge of excavations; and Mrs. Reiter, as museum assistant.

The Chaco school was placed upon a new basis this year, as a step in the plan to build up there a permanent research station for advanced students in archaeology and all related sciences. It is a part of this plan to keep the enrollment for the field schools small, and to place the work very largely on an individual project basis, with each student, after some preliminary training, pursuing a study in a line of especial interest and value.

These studies, during the summer just past, centered very largely about the Chetro Ketl ruin, its ground plan, architecture, masonry, and special features. It is hoped in future years to spread the field of investigation into botany, zoology, and geology, as well as into the other social sciences which bear upon the anthropological problems of the region. Seminars were conducted occasionally throughout the summer by Dr. Hewett and Prof. Clyde Kluckhohn, who visited from the Battleship Rock camp.

The field school operated its own commissary and kitchen during the summer, and found them a great convenience. There were few additions to the physical plant except a motor truck and pump. Excavation work, however, proceeded at a rapid rate, and a large section of Chetro Ketl as well as of an adjoining talus unit, were uncovered. The museum material recovered was not so spectacular as the ceremonial finds of 1932, but were nevertheless valuable in reconstructing the ancient life of the place. A great deal of basketry and matting, many implements of bone and stone, sandals, painted wood, and three skeletons, as well as a considerable number of restorable bowls, were taken out and are now being sorted

and studied at the Museum of New Mexico. A field museum was installed at the field school headquarters, and will remain there permanently for the use of students and visitors.

The excavation work started with the uncovering of the plaza level south of the Great Sanctuary to the south wall of the pueblo. On the outside of this wall a tier of late rooms was bared, and just south of this tier, the moat was followed across the entire south side of the pueblo. Finds here were not spectacular but exceedingly interesting, throwing further light upon the possible use of the moat, and revealing a number of very superficial structurs of a very late period of temporary occupation.

Most important work of the summer's excavation was the excavation of the West Tower Kiva, revealing in its top portion a bench and construction which would indicate use as a kiva. The story beneath, however, revealed no kiva features except the circular construction of the walls. A large stone tower in one end remains unexplained. Two doorways were found at this lower level communicating with surrounding rooms. In connection with the excavation of the West Tower Kiva, the corridors and rooms surrounding it were excavated, and much of of the museum material found during the summer was taken from this sector.

Important work was done in the tiers of house rooms just south of the great north wall of the pueblo, and one room was carried down to the first story level. Of great interest was the discovery of a hallway at the second story level, in which the ceiling was intact, and in which very little drift was encountered.

With the excavation of Chetro Ketl at its present advanced stage, it was felt neecssary to begin thorough investigation of the talus units which surround the main pueblo on the north and east sides, and which obviously are a part of the Chetro Ketl community. Accordingly

excavation was begun on a large talus unit immediately north of Chetro Ketl, and with quite interesting results. The excavation, only partially completed, revealed numerous kivas and comparatively few other structures, from which might be implied the religious nature of these adjoining structures. A portion of a moat was found on the side facing Chetro Ketl proper, and all three burials, one infant, one adolescent and one adult, were found at this talus unit.

Closely related to the excavations was special project work carried on by Mr. Julian and Mrs. Keur, who cleaned out a number of cavaties, some of them sealed, in the cliff which is the north wall of Chaco Canyon. From these cavities some of the most interesting finds of the summer were taken, including sandals, arrows, bits of cloth and basketry, corn, beans, squash, seeds and other food stuffs.

An independent project was carried on by Dr. Keur, who excavated under the hanging portion of the cliff which is directly behind Pueblo Bonito, and where terracing and other construction had been done, probably in an ancient effort to prevent erosion from further undermining the rock. Dr. Keur revealed the nature of this construction work, and discovered that the great piece of stone is constantly settling. This he confirmed both by watching the appearance and growth of new cracks in the rock, and by the noise of the settling which can be heard intermittently. He also made measurements of the rock, re-estimated its weight, and set gauges which will show its rate of settling or other movement.

Plans for next year's work at Chaco Canyon have been made only tentatively. The field school will be carried on upon the same plan as this year. Already ten students have enrolled and have been accepted, and unless a change in plan is made, or some of them reconsider, no other students will be accepted. The work as tentatively planned, will include flood control in the Chaco Arroyo to keep

flood water from further undermining ruins located on its banks; the excavation of Yellow House ruin, west of Pueblo Bonito; final capping of walls excavated at Chetro Ketl; and a continuation of excavation both at Chetro Ketl and the talus unit adjoining it.

AMERICAN INDIAN

Fifty Thousand Striken Blind.

THE bite of a little red simulid fly has brought blindness to some 45,000 Indians in Chiapas and 5,000 in Oaxaca, according to the Mexican Health Department. The life history of the parasite which the fly deposits in the blood of man is now known, but no good remedy to combat it has been worked out. Because the Oaxaca region is small, Health Department brigades have chosen it as a field of experiment. The larvae of the flies are found among dead leaves along creek and river banks, and by cleaning these and burning the debris some impression has been made on the blindness epidemic. Tumors appear on the heads of those affected, and these are being operated on by the wholesale by the sanitary brigades. This eventually cures the individual if the disease has not gone too far. The tumors are filled with long, thin, coiling organisms that can be seen by the microscope. Being phototropic, or light-loving, these make their way to the eye. Indians with affected eyes are almost blind in the sun, but see better at night.

NAVAJO SILVER DIES

By D. L. NEUMANN

NO mechanical aid can replace manual skill in the arts. No tool, simple or complex, can supplant feeling for form, eye for color, skill in design, or fertility of conception. Nevertheless, without some kind of tool the naked hand imposes undue limitations of execution on the creative mind. The simplest pottery needs a stone for polishing, the painter lays on his paint with a tool—his brush and so on through the arts the richness of execution of a good conception relys on adjuncts or tools of one sort or another.

The Navajo silversmith has added greatly to the variety and richness of his product through the creation of a group of hand made tools, each of which is a work of considerable skill in itself. Reference is made to the small dies or stamps which form a part of the working equipment of all Navajo silversmiths.

The Indians of the pueblo of Zuni, forty miles south of Gallup, New Mexico, are also silversmiths, and smiths of no mean ability. It is interesting to compare their work with that of the Navajos. The essential difference, and a difference which has greatly influenced the type of work each of these tribes produces, consists in the fact that the Zunis, almost without exception, use no dies with which to stamp designs on their work. The consequence is that the Zuni work relies for its qualities on its turquoise sets, its silverdrop ornaments, and its swirl of differently twisted silver wire or strips of silver ribbon. The Navajo work has an entirely distinct quality and the design relies mainly on a surface arranged to receive its pattern from small hand made dies. It is the purpose of this note to discuss these dies, their use, their possible origin, and the methods employed in making them.