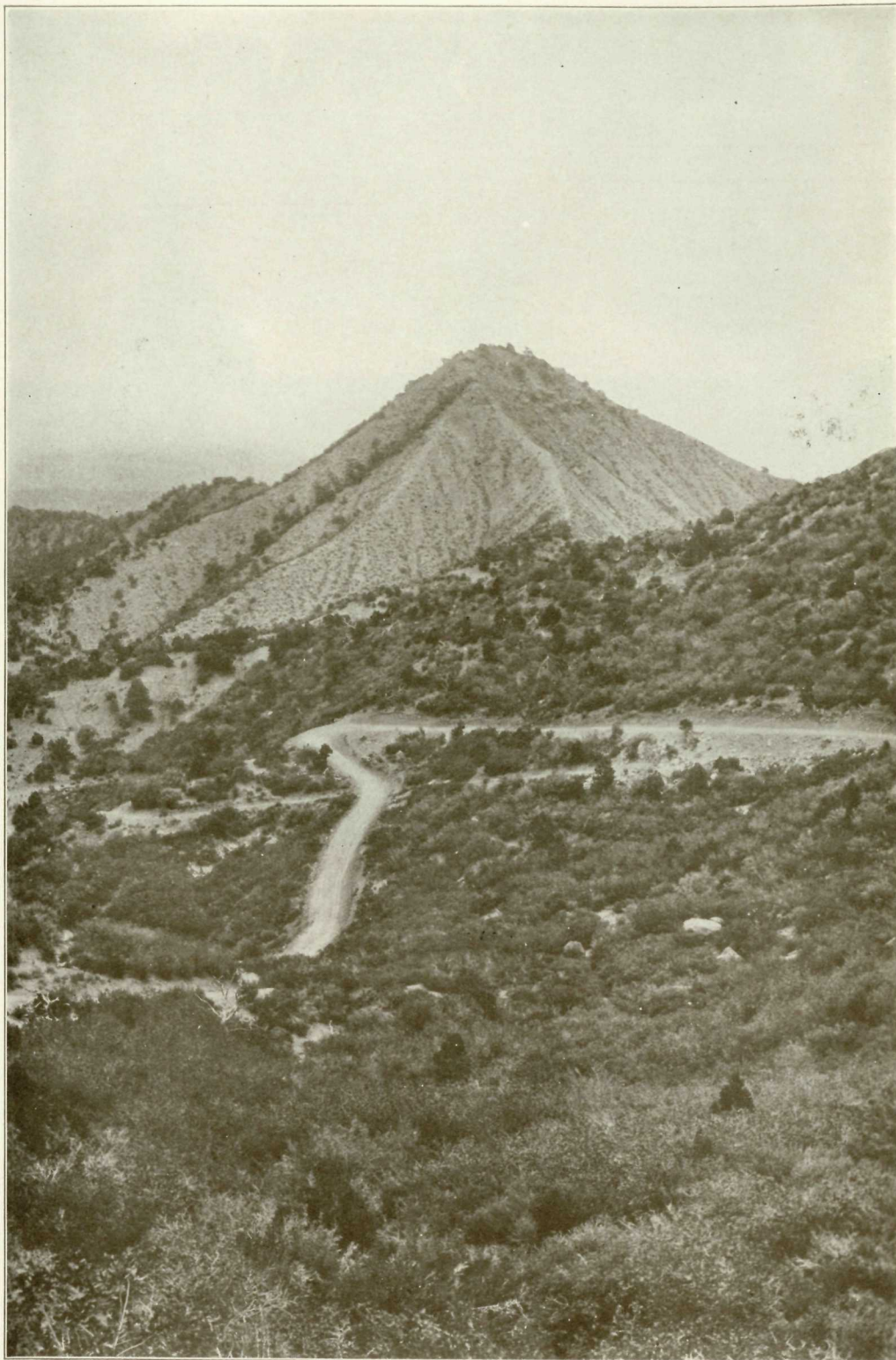


THE
MESA VERDE
NATIONAL PARK

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
FRANKLIN K. LANE, *Secretary*



GOVERNMENT ROAD TO THE CELEBRATED PREHISTORIC RUINS
Showing the woods which justify the title Mesa Verde (Green Mesa)



YESTERDAY AND TO-DAY

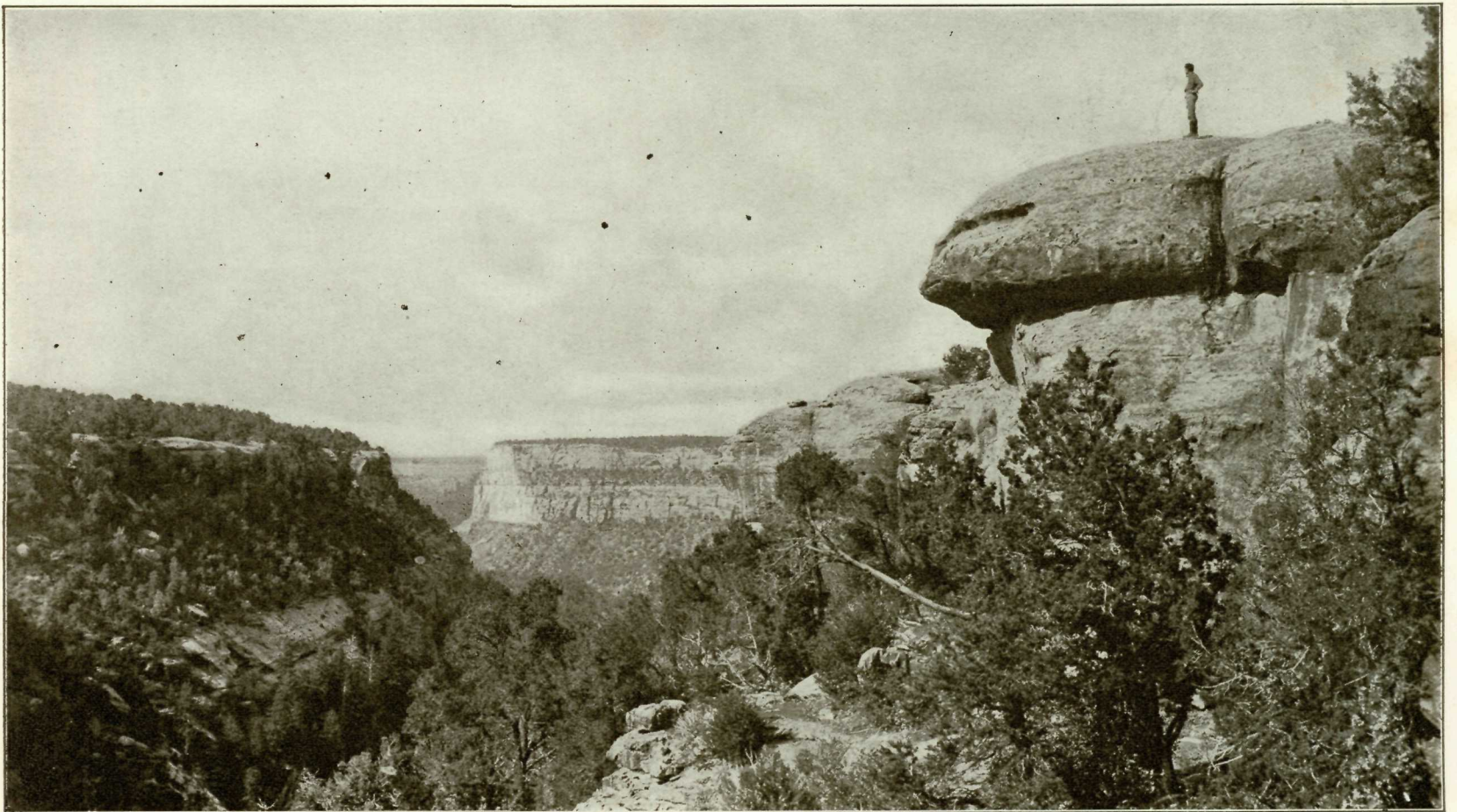
CITIES OF THE PAST

QUONE December day in 1888 Richard and Alfred Wetherell, searching for lost cattle on the Mesa Verde, near their home at Mancos, Colorado, pushed through dense growths on the edge of a deep canyon and shouted aloud in astonishment. Across the canyon, tucked into a shelf under the overhanging edge of the opposite brink, were the walls and towers of what seemed to them a palace. They named it Cliff Palace.

Forgetting the cattle in their excitement, they searched the edge of the mesa in all directions. Near by, under the overhanging edge of another canyon, they found a similar group, no less majestic, which they named Spruce Tree House because a large spruce grew out of the ruins.

Thus was discovered the most elaborate and best-preserved prehistoric ruins in America, if not in the world.

A careful search of the entire Mesa Verde in the years following has resulted in many other finds of interest and importance. In 1906 Congress set aside the region as a national park. Even yet its treasures of antiquity are not all known. A remarkable temple to the sun was unearthed in 1915.



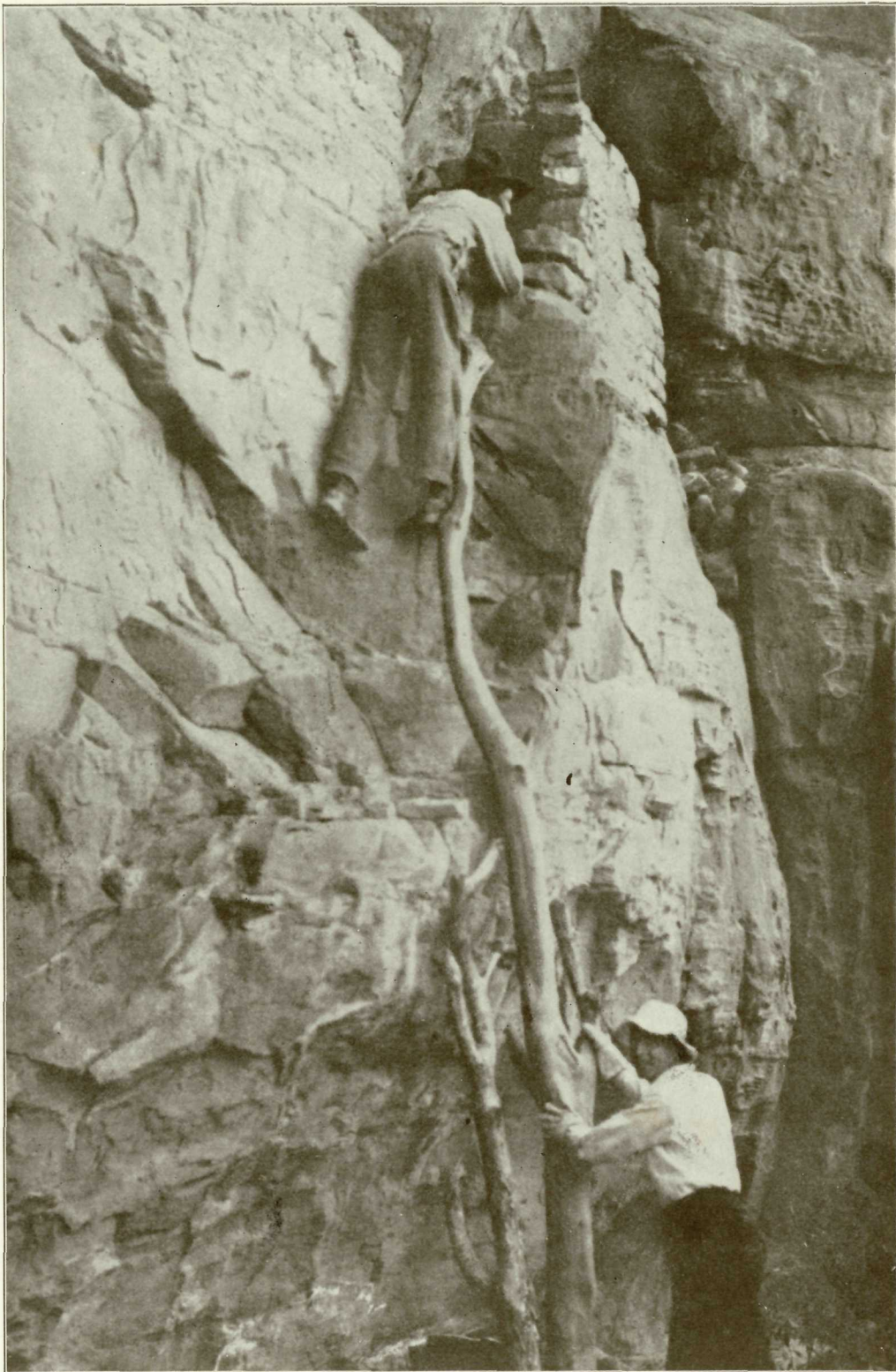
Photograph by J. L. Nusbaum

THE MESA VERDE, OR GREEN MESA, IS SO CALLED BECAUSE COVERED WITH CEDAR AND PINYON TREES IN A LAND WHERE TREES ARE FEW



Photograph by J. L. Nusbaum

ABOVE THE BROKEN ROCKS, OR TALUS, RISE PRECIPITOUSLY THE CLIFFS UNDER WHOSE OVERHANG THE CLIFF DWELLINGS NESTLE



THE EXPLORATION OF NEWLY DISCOVERED RUINS OFTEN REQUIRES MUCH HARD AND EVEN PERILOUS CLIMBING



Photograph by Mrs. C. R. Miller

MANY GATHERED NIGHTLY AROUND THE CAMPFIRE TO HEAR DR. FEWKES TELL THE STORY OF THE ANCIENT PEOPLE

THE STORY OF THE MESAS

THOSE who have travelled through our Southwestern States have seen from the car window innumerable mesas or isolated plateaus rising abruptly for hundreds of feet from the bare and often arid plains. The word mesa is Spanish for table.

Once the level of these mesa tops was the level of all of this vast Southwestern country, but the rains and floods of centuries have washed away the softer earths down to its present level, leaving standing only the rocky spots or those so covered with surface rocks that the rains could not reach the softer gravel underneath.

The Mesa Verde, or green mesa (because it is covered with stunted cedar and pinyon trees in a land where trees are few), is perhaps most widely known.

The Mesa Verde is one of the largest mesas. It is fifteen miles long and eight miles wide. At its foot are masses of broken rocks rising from three hundred to five hundred feet above the bare plains. Above these rise the cliffs.

The cliff dwellings nestle under its overhanging cliffs near the top.



IN THE CLIFF DWELLINGS

LIFE must have been difficult in this dry country when the Mesa Verde communities flourished in the sides of these sandstone cliffs. Game was scarce and hunting arduous. The Mancos River yielded a few fish. The earth contributed berries or nuts. Water was rare and found only in sequestered places near the heads of the canyons. Nevertheless, the inhabitants cultivated their farms and raised their corn, which they ground on flat stones called metates. They baked their bread on flat stone griddles. They boiled their meat in well-made vessels, some of which were artistically decorated.

Their life was difficult, but confidently did they believe that they were dependent upon the gods to make the rain fall and the corn grow. They were a religious people who worshipped the sun as the father of all and the earth as the mother who brought them all their material blessings. They possessed no written language and could only record their thoughts by a few symbols which they painted on their earthenware jars or scratched on the rocks.

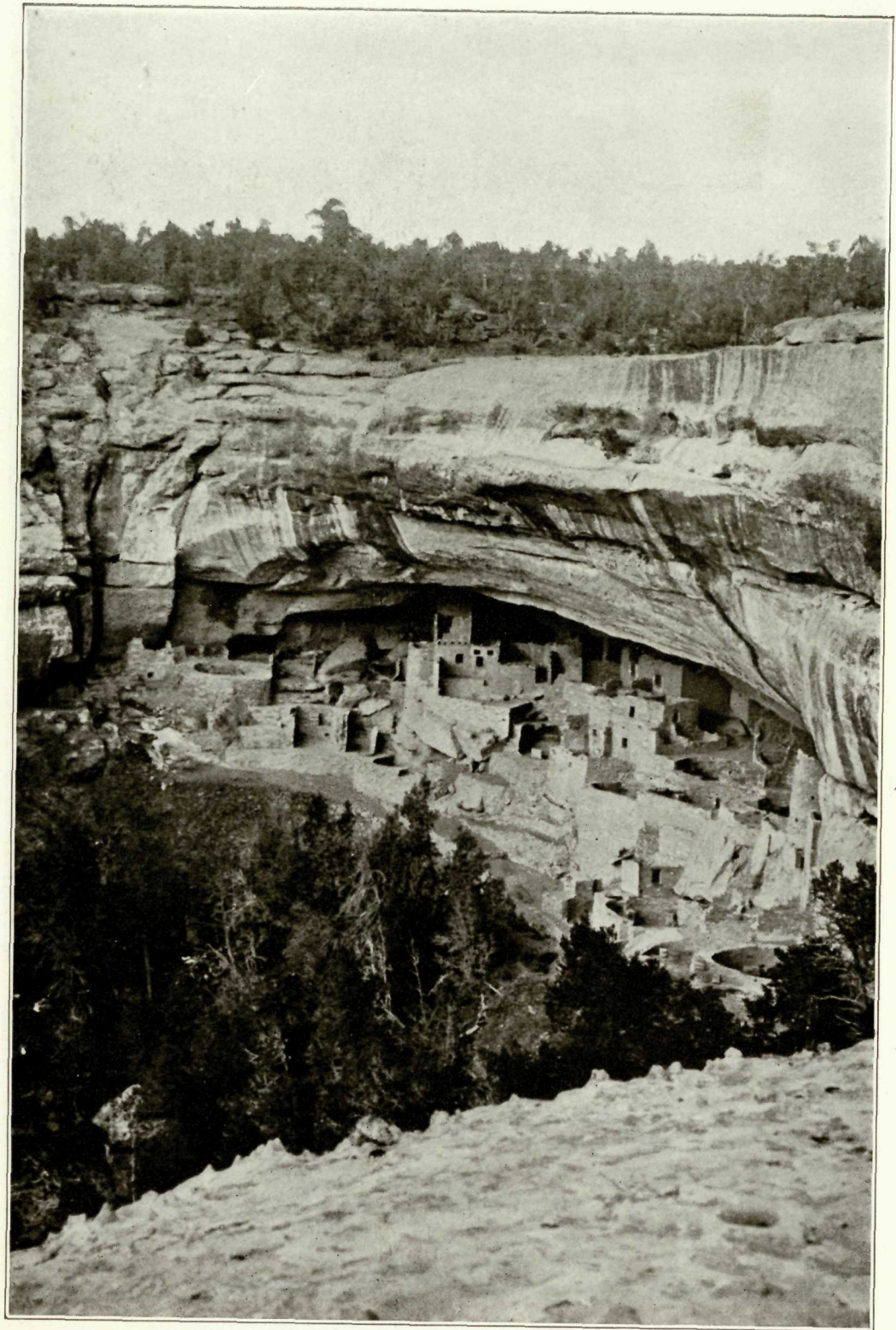
As their sense of beauty was keen, their art, though primitive, was true; rarely realistic, generally symbolic. Their decoration of cotton fabrics and ceramic work might be called beautiful, even when judged by the highly developed taste of to-day. They fashioned axes, spear points, and rude tools of stone; they wove sandals and made attractive basketry.

They were not content with rude buildings and had long outgrown the caves that satisfied less civilized Indians farther north and south of them.

The photographs of Cliff Palace on the following three pages will show not only the protection afforded by the overhanging cliffs but the general scheme of community living.

The population was composed of a series of units, possibly clans, each of which had its own social organization more or less distinct from the others. Each had ceremonial rooms, called kivas. Each also had living-rooms and storerooms. There were twenty-three social units or clans in Cliff Palace.

The kivas were the rooms where the men spent most of the time devoted to ceremonies, councils, and other gatherings. The religious fraternities were limited to the men of a clan.



CLIFF PALACE IS THE MOST CELEBRATED OF THE MESA VERDE RUINS BECAUSE IT IS THE LARGEST AND MOST PROMINENT



TERRACES AT THE SOUTHERN END OF CLIFF PALACE



Photograph by Arthur Chapman

THE SQUARE TOWER OF CLIFF PALACE



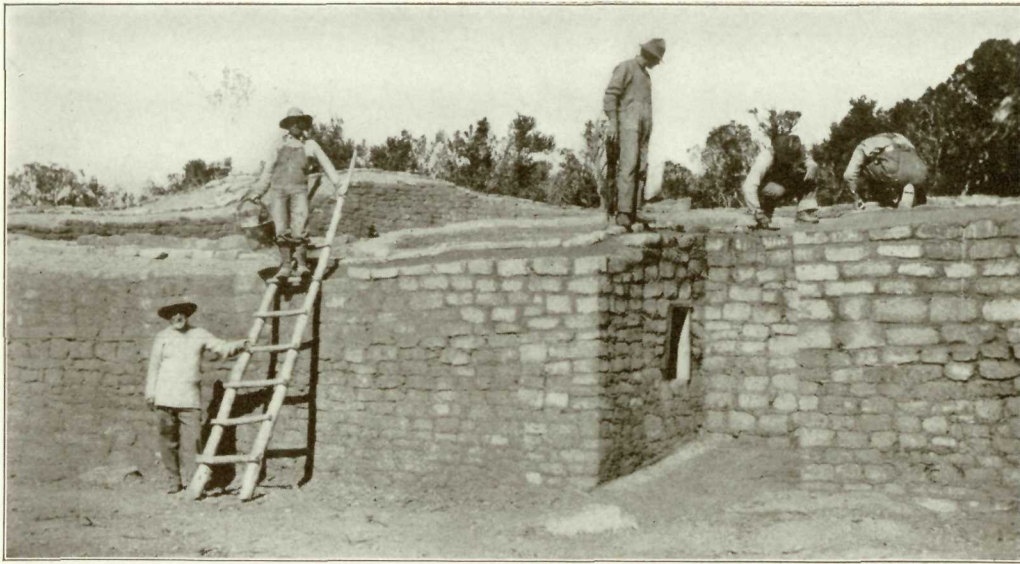
Photograph by Arthur Chapman

THE ROUND TOWER OF CLIFF PALACE



EXCAVATING SUN TEMPLE ON TOP OF THE MESA OPPOSITE CLIFF PALACE

Sun Temple, discovered in the summer of 1915, marks a far advance toward civilization. Its masonry shows growth in constructive principles. Its walls are embellished with carvings. Architecturally it represents Mesa Verde's highest type



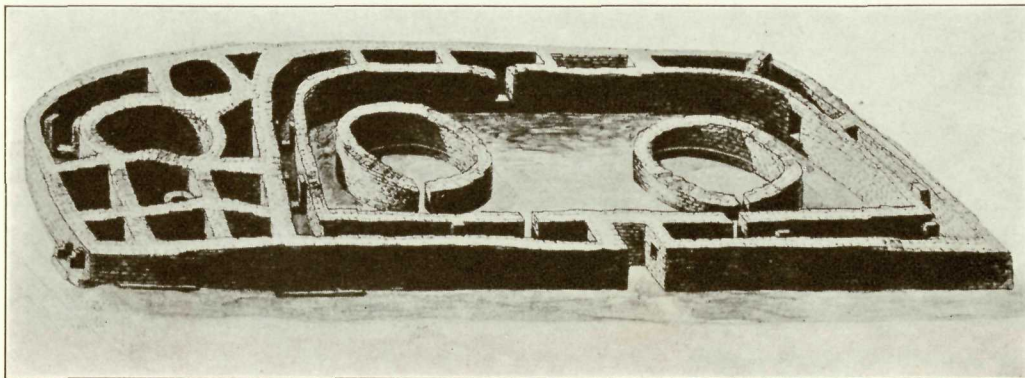
CONSTRUCTIVE DETAIL OF SOUTH WALL, SUN TEMPLE

DISCOVERY OF SUN TEMPLE

UNTIL the summer of 1915 no structures had been discovered in the Mesa Verde except those of the cliff-dwelling type. Then the Department of the Interior explored a mound on the top of the mesa opposite Cliff Palace and unearthed Sun Temple. Dr. J. Walter Fewkes, who conducted the exploration, believes that this was built about 1300 A. D. and marks the final stage in Mesa Verde development.

Sun Temple was a most important discovery. It marked a long advance toward civilization. It occupied a commanding position convenient to many large inhabited cliff dwellings. Its masonry showed growth in the art of construction. Its walls were embellished by geometrical figures carved in rock.

A fossil palm leaf, which the Cliff Dwellers supposed to be a divinely carved image of the sun, is embedded in the temple's walls.



DRAWING SHOWING CONSTRUCTIVE DETAIL OF SUN TEMPLE



STONES FROM SUN TEMPLE COVERED WITH GEOMETRICAL AND EMBLEMATICAL DESIGNS

THE MESA'S LITTLE PEOPLE

INDIANS of to-day shun the ruins of the Mesa Verde. They believe them inhabited by spirits whom they call the Little People. It is vain to tell them that the Little People were their own ancestors; they refuse to believe it.

When the national park telephone line was building in 1915 the Indians were greatly excited. Coming to the Supervisor's office to trade, they shook their heads ominously.

The poles wouldn't stand up, they declared. Why? Because the Little People wouldn't like such an uncanny thing as a telephone.

But poles were standing, the Supervisor pointed out. All right, the Indians replied, but wait. The wires wouldn't talk. Little People wouldn't like it.

The poles were finally all in and the wires strung. What was more, the wires actually did talk and are still talking.

Never mind, say the Indians, with unshaken faith. Never mind. Wait. That's all. It will come. The Little People may stand it—for a while. But wait. The Supervisor is still waiting.



SPRUCE TREE HOUSE HIDES UNDER A HUGE OVERHANGING CLIFF

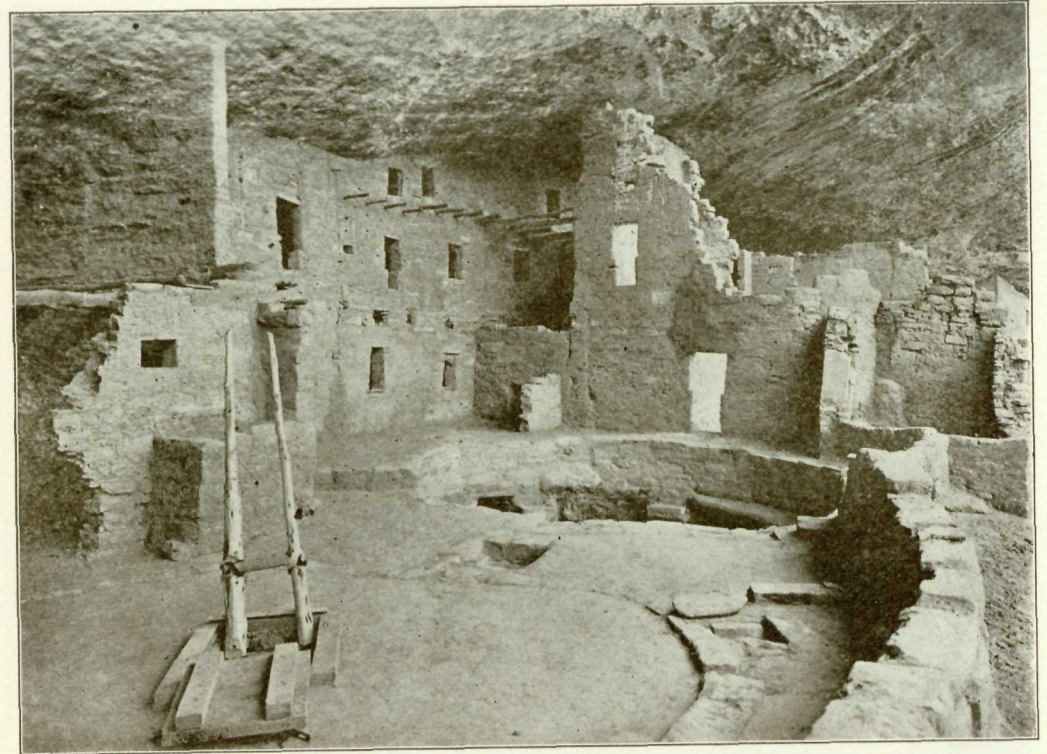
THE PRINCIPAL DWELLINGS

CLIFF PALACE is the most celebrated of the Mesa Verde ruins because it is the largest and most prominent. Others are no less interesting and important. Spruce Tree House is next in size; Balcony House and Peabody House are equally well preserved. There are many others; some which have yet to be thoroughly explored; probably some still undiscovered.

Cliff Palace is three hundred feet long; Spruce Tree House two hundred and sixteen. Cliff Palace contained probably two hundred rooms; Spruce Tree House a hundred and fourteen. Spruce Tree House originally had three stories. Its population was probably three hundred and fifty.

The Round Tower in Cliff Palace is an object of unusual interest, but the ceremonial kivas, or religious rooms, in all the communities are usually round and often were entered from below.

A subterranean entrance to Cliff Palace was recently discovered.



ENTRANCE TO LOWER FLOORS, SPRUCE TREE HOUSE



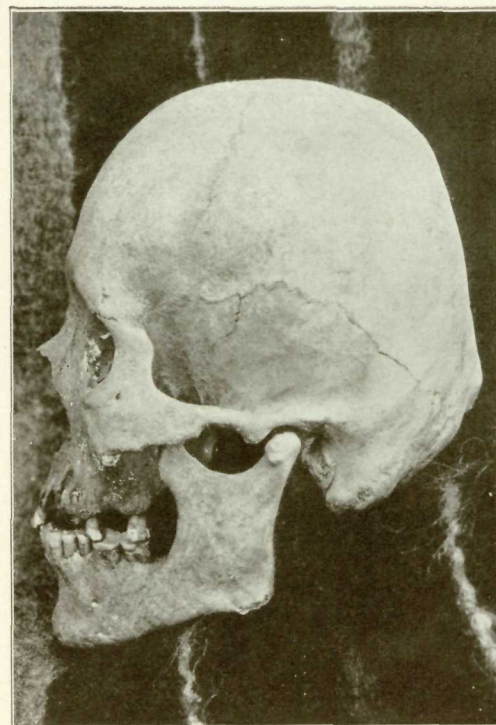
Photograph by Arthur Chapman

SPRUCE TREE HOUSE AFTER RESTORATION BY DR. FEWKES



Photograph by Mrs. C. R. Miller

PHOTOGRAPHING ONE OF THE ROOMS AT BALCONY HOUSE



Photographs by J. L. Nusbaum

TYPICAL SKULLS OF PREHISTORIC MAN FOUND IN THE MESA VERDE

These skulls show an unusual breadth as compared with Indians of to-day, though of the same ethnological type. Nordenskiöld concludes that the race was fairly robust, with heavy skeletons and strong muscular processes. The facial bones are well developed and lower jaw heavy.

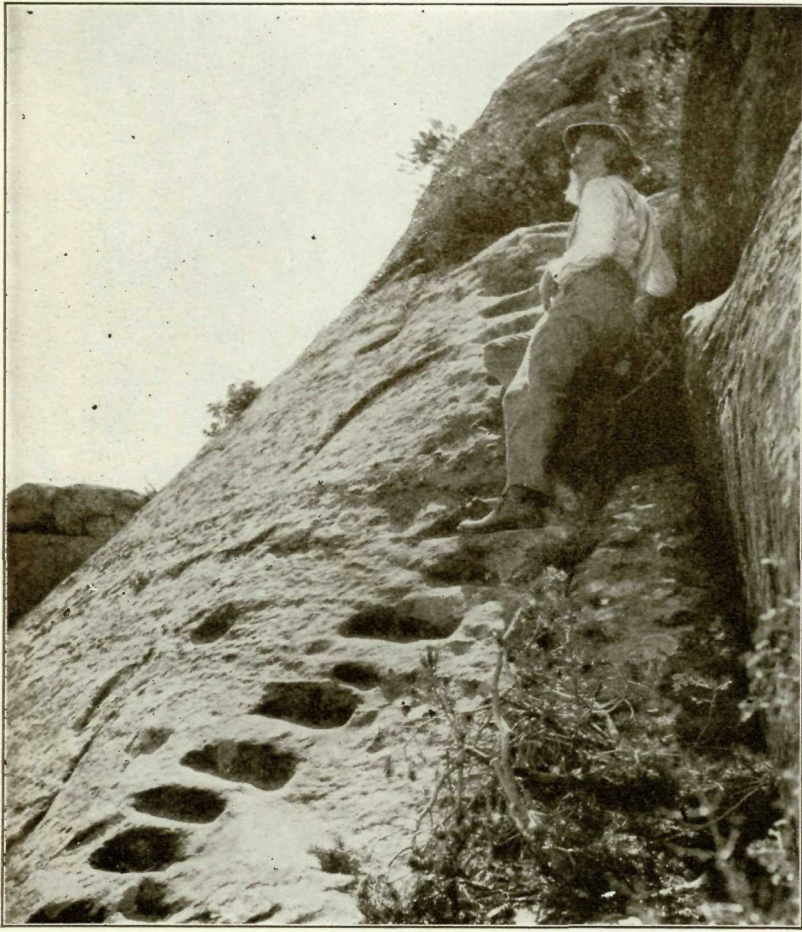
SUMMER UPON MESA VERDE

MESA VERDE NATIONAL PARK is in the extreme southwestern corner of Colorado and is reached by two routes from Denver. A night is usually spent en route, and the ruins are reached by wagon, horseback, or automobile from Mancos.

Apart from the ruins, the country is one of much beauty and interest. The highest spot on the Mesa is Point Lookout, 8,428 feet in altitude. The mesa's western edge is a fine bluff two thousand feet above the Montezuma Valley whose irrigation lakes and brilliantly green fields are set off nobly against the distant Rico Mountains. To the west are the La Salle and Blue Mountains in Utah, with Ute Mountain in the immediate foreground.

The views are inspiring, the entire country "different." In the spring the entire region blooms. It used to be a country of wild animals and at times deer are still plentiful. There is a thoroughly comfortable hotel near Spruce Tree House.

One of the unusual attractions of last summer was the unearthing of the great mound which covered Sun Temple. Dr. Fewkes maintained a camp near the mound and lectured almost nightly to those who gathered around his campfire. The same informal custom will probably be resumed during this and succeeding summers while the exploration of other suggestive mounds is progressing.



THE TRAIL TO BALCONY HOUSE

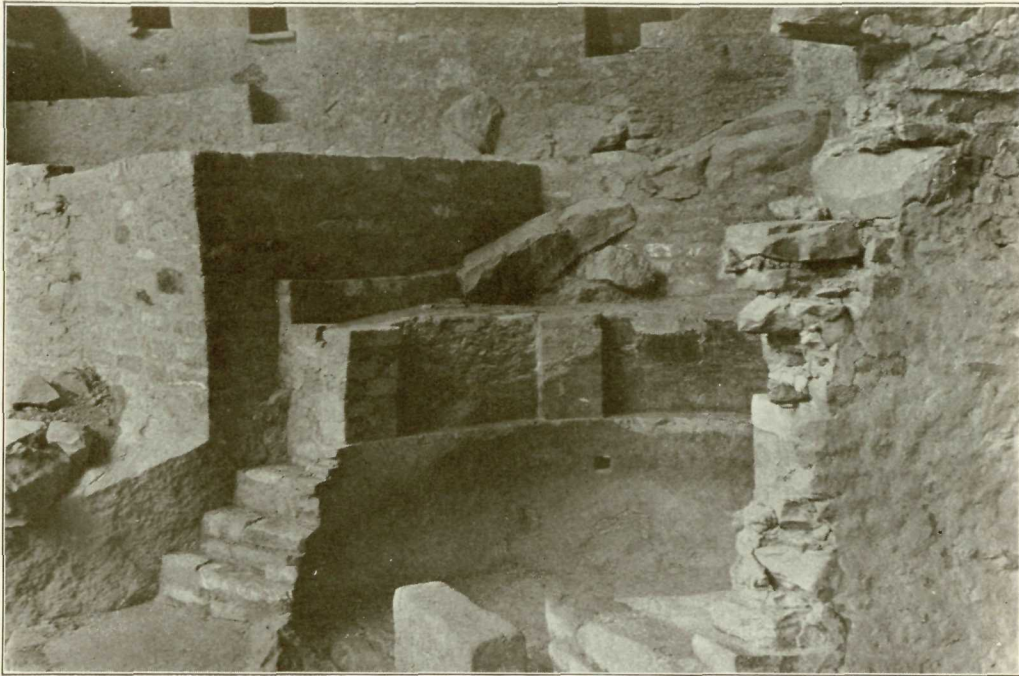


THE ENTRANCE TO BALCONY HOUSE



Photograph by Pen Dike Studio

BALCONY HOUSE IS ONE OF THE MOST INTERESTING AND BEST PRESERVED



THE INTERIOR OF A SACRED KIVA



Photograph by Mrs. C. R. Miller

STONE CHAIRS FOUND AT THE CLIFF PALACE

THE NATIONAL PARKS AT A GLANCE

Arranged chronologically in the order of their creation

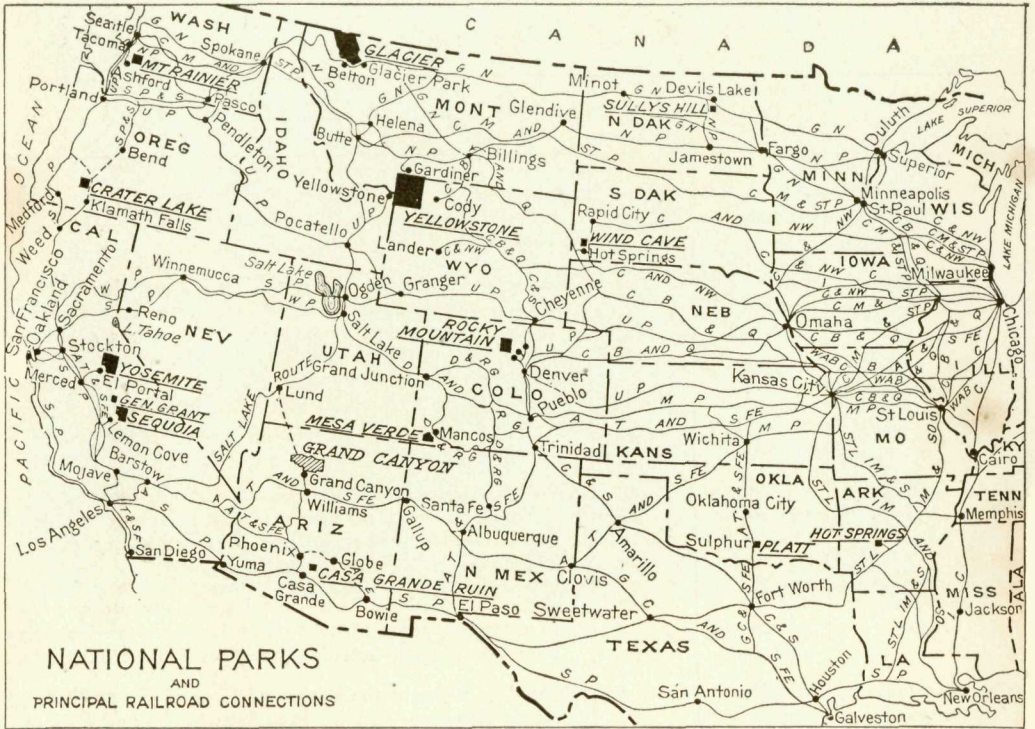
[Number, 14; Total Area, 7,290 Square Miles]

NATIONAL PARK and Date	LOCATION	AREA in square miles	DISTINCTIVE CHARACTERISTICS
HOT SPRINGS RESERVATION 1832	Middle Arkansas	1½	46 hot springs possessing curative properties—Many hotels and boarding-houses in adjacent city of Hot Springs—bath-houses under public control.
YELLOWSTONE 1872	North-western Wyoming	3,348	More geysers than in all rest of world together—Boiling springs—Mud volcanoes—Petrified forests—Grand Canyon of the Yellowstone, remarkable for gorgeous coloring—Large lakes—Many large streams and waterfalls—Vast wilderness inhabited by deer, elk, bison, moose, antelope, bear, mountain sheep, beaver, etc., constituting greatest wild bird and animal preserve in world—Altitude 6,000 to 11,000 feet—Exceptional trout fishing.
YOSEMITE 1890	Middle eastern California	1,125	Valley of world-famed beauty—Lofty cliffs—Romantic vistas—Many waterfalls of extraordinary height—3 groves of big trees—High Sierra—Large areas of snowy peaks—Waterwheel falls—Good trout fishing.
SEQUOIA 1890	Middle eastern California	237	The Big Tree National Park—12,000 sequoia trees over 10 feet in diameter, some 25 to 36 feet in diameter—Towering mountain ranges—Startling precipices—Fine trout fishing.
GENERAL GRANT 1890	Middle eastern California	4	Created to preserve the celebrated General Grant Tree, 35 feet in diameter—six miles from Sequoia National Park and under same management.
MOUNT RAINIER 1899	West central Washington	324	Largest accessible single-peak glacier system—28 glaciers, some of large size—Forty-eight square miles of glacier, fifty to five hundred feet thick—Remarkable sub-alpine wild-flower fields.
CRATER LAKE 1902	South-western Oregon	249	Lake of extraordinary blue in crater of extinct volcano, no inlet, no outlet—Sides 1,000 feet high—Interesting lava formations—Fine trout fishing.
MESA VERDE 1906	South-western Colorado	77	Most notable and best-preserved prehistoric cliff dwellings in United States, if not in the world.
PLATT 1906	Southern Oklahoma	1½	Sulphur and other springs possessing curative properties—Under Government regulations.
GLACIER 1910	North-western Montana	1,534	Rugged mountain region of unsurpassed Alpine character—250 glacier-fed lakes of romantic beauty—60 small glaciers—Peaks of unusual shape—Precipices thousands of feet deep—Almost sensational scenery of marked individuality—Fine trout fishing.
ROCKY MOUNTAIN 1915	North middle Colorado	358	Heart of the Rockies—Snowy range, peaks 11,000 to 14,250 feet altitude—Remarkable records of glacial period.

National Parks of less popular interest are:

- Sully's Hill, 1904, North Dakota Wooded hilly tract on Devil's Lake.
- Wind Cave, 1903, South Dakota Large natural cavern.
- Casa Grande Ruin, 1892, Arizona Prehistoric Indian ruin.

HOW TO REACH THE NATIONAL PARKS



The map shows the location of all of our National Parks and their principal railroad connections. The traveler may work out his routes to suit himself. Low round-trip excursion fares to the American Rocky Mountain region and Pacific Coast may be availed of in visiting the National Parks during their respective seasons, thus materially reducing the cost of the trip. Trans-continental through trains and branch lines make the Parks easy of access from all parts of the United States. For schedules and excursion fares to and between the National Parks write to the Passenger Departments of the railroads which appear on the above map, as follows:

ARIZONA EASTERN RAILROAD	-----	Tucson, Ariz.
ATCHISON, TOPEKA & SANTA FE RAILWAY	-----	1119 Railway Exchange, Chicago, Ill.
CHICAGO & NORTH WESTERN RAILWAY	-----	226 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, Ill.
CHICAGO, BURLINGTON & QUINCY RAILROAD Co.	-----	547 West Jackson Boulevard, Chicago, Ill.
CHICAGO, MILWAUKEE & ST. PAUL RAILWAY	-----	Railway Exchange, Chicago, Ill.
COLORADO AND SOUTHERN RAILWAY	-----	Railway Exchange Building, Denver, Colo.
DENVER & RIO GRANDE RAILROAD Co.	-----	Equitable Building, Denver, Colo.
GREAT NORTHERN RAILWAY	-----	Railroad Building, Fourth and Jackson Streets, St. Paul, Minn.
GULF, COLORADO & SANTA FE RAILWAY	-----	Galveston, Texas.
ILLINOIS CENTRAL RAILROAD	-----	Central Station, Chicago, Ill.
MISSOURI PACIFIC RAILWAY	-----	Railway Exchange Building, St. Louis, Mo.
NORTHERN PACIFIC RAILWAY	-----	Railroad Building, Fifth and Jackson Streets, St. Paul, Minn.
SAN PEDRO, LOS ANGELES & SALT LAKE RAILROAD	-----	Pacific Electric Building, Los Angeles, Calif.
SOUTHERN PACIFIC COMPANY	-----	Flood Building, San Francisco, Calif.
UNION PACIFIC SYSTEM	-----	Garland Building, 58 East Washington Street, Chicago, Ill.
WABASH RAILWAY	-----	Railway Exchange Building, St. Louis, Mo.
WESTERN PACIFIC RAILWAY	-----	Mills Building, San Francisco, Calif.

For information about sojourning and traveling within the National Parks write to the Department of the Interior for the Information circular of the Park or Parks in which you are interested.

REMEMBER THAT

MESA VERDE BELONGS TO YOU

IT IS ONE OF THE GREAT NATIONAL PLAYGROUNDS OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE FOR WHOM IT IS ADMINISTERED BY THE DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR