Mesa Verde
NATIONAL PARK
Colorado
The Mesa Verde (MAY-sah VER-day), Spanish — in this meaning: for “green tableland,” rises 1,300 to 2,000 feet above the surrounding valleys. For 1,300 years, agriculural Indians occupied the mesa and adjacent regions, and from the thousands of ruins found in the "Four Corners" area of Colorado, Utah, Arizona, and New Mexico, archaeologists have compiled a significant chapter in the history of ancient America. The visitor to Mesa Verde National Park who can momentarily live and think in the past should be able to enjoy a glimpse of life in prehistoric times.

PRESEVATION OF THE CLIFF DWELLINGS

Mesa Verde's ancient and irreplaceable cliff dwellings, abandoned for centuries and dangerously weakened by time, must be afforded maximum protection if they are to be preserved. This regulation, therefore, is rigidly enforced:

Visitors may enter cliff dwellings only when accompanied by park rangers on guided trips, or during the hours a dwelling is scheduled as "open for visitation" with park rangers on duty.

PREHISTORIC INHABITANTS OF THE MESA VERDE

The Mesa Verde was inhabited for hundreds of years by Pueblo Indians. These people, like their descendants living in Arizona and New Mexico today, were farmers. When they came into the area about A.D. 1, their culture was simple. They were intelligent and progressive, however, and by A.D. 1300 they had attained a high cultural level. Their occupation of the region is divided into four periods, each characterized by certain developments. In the following description, the dates are approximate.

**Basketmaker Period** — A.D. 1 to 450

In 1892, Richard Wetherill, an early-day rancher and explorer, excavated some caves in southwestern Utah. Under rooms and trash left by Pueblo Indians in the A.D. 1200's, he found burials and utensils of earlier inhabitants. These earlier people had no pottery but were expert weavers. Impressed by the profusion of baskets he found in their graves, Wetherill called them the "Basketmakers." Years later it was realized that the Basketmakers were Pueblo Indians at an early stage in their cultural development, but the name, so descriptive of Pueblo culture between A.D. 1 and 450, has continued in use.

When the Basketmakers reached Mesa Verde they took shelter in shallow caves which characterize the area. Unfortunately, these caves were used hundreds of years later by their descendants, and little remains to indicate the early
occupation. In areas near Mesa Verde, primitive Basketmaker people probably found ample shelter in the caves. shell. These people hunted with the atlatl (AT-lat-uhl), a people often used these same cists as burial places for members and willingness to borrow ideas from people with progress, and in the late A.D. 400's, significant changes began to take place.

A.D. 450 to 750

"Modified Basketmaker Period — A.D. 450 to 750"

Sometime after A.D. 450, the Basketmakers started making pottery, borrowed the bow and arrow from some other group of people, and began building substantial houses which were clustered in small villages, first in caves and later on the mesa tops. They began cultivating beans and domesticated the turkey. These changes in, and additions to, their culture are reflected in the name "Modified Basketmaker."

Weaving was still an important craft but pottery replaced baskets for many household purposes, such as cooking, storage, and water-carrying. The bow and arrow was a more efficient weapon than the atlatl; however, there is evidence that the people did more trapping and snaring of game than shooting. Beans, a high protein food, added much to the diet now that fire-proof vessels were available for cooking them. Turkeys, during this and the following period, were a most important addition to their diet. The pithouses were dug deeper, and large ventilator tunnels extending under the floors were found. In these later courts to enclose the kivas. It is postulated that nomadic groups may have entered the Four Corners area in numbers, attracted by the fields, stored food supplies, and material possessions of the sedentary Pueblos. Perhaps the people were quarreling among themselves. Whatever the cause, the architectural trends that appeared at the end of this period became pronounced in the period that followed.

Developmental Pueblo Period — A.D. 750 to 1100

In the latter part of the A.D. 700's, the people began to abandon pithouses as living quarters in favor of vertical-walled, flat-roofed houses which were clustered in small villages, first in caves and later on the mesa tops. They began cultivating beans and domesticated the turkey. These changes in, and additions to, their culture are reflected in the name "Developmental Pueblo."

This was a period of experimentation and development, especially in architecture. Many types of walls were constructed early in the period, with posts, poles, stone, and adobe being used in varying combinations. By the middle of the period, coursed stone masonry evolved and was used for most construction from then on. At first the houses were joined together in curved rows, later in straight rows or E- or L-shaped structures. The open area in front of the houses formed a court where most daily activities took place. In these open courts the people continued to build pithouses, which they apparently used largely for ceremonial purposes. These pithouses, by now completely subterranean, became more and more stylized and by A.D. 900 developed into kivas (KEV-uhhs), unique ceremonial rooms which are still constructed and used by Pueblo Indians today. The word "kiva" is a Hopi Indian word for these rooms. Nearly every village had one or more kivas, pointing to the growth of a complex system of religious beliefs and practices.

In the late A.D. 700's, a wooden cradle replaced the soft, padded cradle used by the Basketmakers. The old cradle allowed infants' heads to develop normally, but the new cradle flattened the backs of their skulls. This led to head deformation continued for centuries.

A.D. 1100 to 1300

This was the climax period of Pueblo culture in the Mesa Verde area, and arts, crafts, and architecture reached the peak of development. Material evidence, interpreted in the light of what is known of prehistoric Pueblo culture, points to the people having a rigid social structure. The growing importance of their religion is evidenced by the large number of kivas and the appearance of separate buildings designed solely for ceremonial use. On the basis of cultural developments and village locations, this period is divided into two phases.

The early phase (A.D. 1100 - 1200). In the early phase, the trends that started in the Developmental Period resulted in a new village pattern. Compact pueblos replaced the sprawling open sites, and many earlier villages were abandoned. In these later villages, which were terraced structures from one to four stories high, there were
opened onto enclosed courts. Kivas, which formerly had been built in the open area in front of tillages, were drawn back no doorways into ground-floor rooms unless the rooms often being massive. Throughout the Mesa Verde region connected by tunnels to tower structures, or to rooms in the constructed in walled-in courts. The kivas frequently were was a gradual decline in population as groups moved out Mesa Verde. Shortly after A.D. 1200, the people began people were using the bird for food. Excellent masonry of turkey bone made their appearance, indicating that the was around exposed, rocky canyon heads, as in the Hovenweep by construction of the spectacularly located cliff dwellings, was characterized this phase. Since so much material was in caves or on cliff ledges, as in the Mesa Verde, or was used in construction. Better pottery was made and the decorations were more carefully applied. Fine craftsmanship was exercised in the manufacture of tools and implements. Articles made of color. The walls of some kivas were handsomely deco­

The move to the cliffs is a puzzling one, and archaeolo­gists are far from finding the answer as to whom or what these people may have feared. It is difficult to picture enemy groups being able to penetrate far into the Mesa Verde, yet the evidence would seem to point to the Pueblos being afraid of some threat and taking measures to combat it. From fortified villages on the mesa top, they moved to shallow caves and cliff ledges. These were not desirable places to live. The aged, the crippled, and the very young could not negotiate the toehold trails over the cliffs. Mothers would have had to watch toddlers every minute. The caves were bitterly cold in winter. The mesa-top fields would have been more subject to razing than ever before. It is perhaps significant, in this land of little water, that the springs are located near the caves at the bases of the cliffs. Water was of paramount importance to these people. In the centuries they had farmed the mesa, they had cleared much of the land for garden plots and for timber for fuel and construction, thus increasing the rate of runoff and decreasing the output of the springs. The population was large and all available water was needed by the people. If the springs were entomized in area in numbers, they would constitute a threat to the water supply, a threat these people could ill afford. Abandonment of the Mesa Verde — A.D. 1275 to 1300 The cliff dwellings, the highest architectural achieve­ments of the Mesa Verde people, were not abandoned for long. Late in the A.D. 1200's, they were abandoned, the people leaving the area never to return. They drifted south to join other Pueblo people along the drainages of the Rio Grande and Little Colorado River of New Mexico and Arizona. While the move to the caves is a puzzling one, the abandonment by A.D. 1300 of the widely populated Four Corners area, including the Mesa Verde, is even more difficult to comprehend. Population pressure was one of the factors contributing to the move south. The population dwindled from A.D. 1100 on as groups drifted out, indicative of general unrest and dissatisfaction. As discussed earlier, there were pressing factors of either enemy pressure or intervillage quarrelling to be considered. In this region, the success of dryland farming is largely dependent on winter precipitation. Perhaps this period was marked by light snowfalls, and the moisture content of the soil was severely affected. The soil, farmed for centuries, might have lost its productivity. As the growing season is critically short, a minimal drop in tempera­ture would have been disastrous if it continued for several years. Finally, the last 24 years of the 13th century were characterized by drought. This prolonged drought of A.D. 1276 -99 was not particularly severe and was broken by years of normal precipitation. The people had survived worse droughts in the preceding centuries, so the 24-year drought certainly was not entirely responsible for the abandonment.

Why, then, did they leave? Modern research is con­tributing much to our understanding of these prehistoric times; it will contribute more. Science, however, can never give us the complete answer, because it cannot reconstruct for us the human emotions and reactions that were involved. It is doubtful that we ever really will know why these people, who had struggled so successfully for centuries against a not too favorable environment, gave up all they had achieved to move away from their ancient homeland and settle in a similar environment a short distance to the south.

THE RUINS

Visitors to the park will see ruins of many different types, ranging in style from simple pithouses of the A.D. 500's to cliff dwellings of the A.D. 1200's. While the cliff dwellings are the most spectacular villages because of their setting, the mesa-top ruins are more important, for they show the entire range of architectural development.

Mesa-Top Ruins

Ten surface sites on one loop of the ruins road may be visited in the sequence in which they were constructed. Starting with a Modified Basketmaker pithouse built in the late A.D. 500’s, you go on to deeper pithouses of the late 500’s and early 700’s. These are followed by stops at developmental pueblos dating approximately A.D. 850, 900, 950, 1000, and 1075. Next comes Sun Point Pueblo, a structure of the early phase of the Classic Period. This village is interesting because its inhabitants deliberately tore down the roofs and walls and, taking this salvaged material with them, moved to a nearby canyon and built a cliff dwelling. The last stop is Sun Temple, a great cerem­nial structure of the late phase of the Classic Period.

Cliff Dwellings

Many of these ruins of the late phase of the Classic Period are seen from canyon rims. They range in size from tiny storage rooms tucked away in almost inaccessible cliff niches to large villages containing scores of rooms. The largest and most famous of the cliff dwellings is Cliff Palace, the first major ruin discovered in the Mesa Verde. The Mesa-Top Ruins — the best preserved large cliff dwelling. Other famous cliff dwellings seen along the ruins road are Square Tower House, Sunset House, Many Room House, Oak Tree House, New Fire House, Fire Temple — an unusual ceremonial structure built in a cave — House of Many Windows, Hennerman House, and Balcony House.

HISTORIC EVENTS

Following abandonment of the Mesa Verde by the Pueblo Indians, there is no evidence that the area was occupied again by man until settlement of the surrounding valleys, in the 1870's, when the Ute Indians took refuge in the mesa's many canyons. Anomalous bands probably...
hunted in the area from time to time, but the silent, deserted villages decayed and fell to ruin. History did not bypass the Mesa Verde, however, and the following outline summarizes a few events which had bearing on its history.

1870's. Spanish traders penetrated southwestern Colorado. Possibly one of these men climbed the Mesa Verde and, looking down across its forested top, was inspired to call it the "green tableland."

1765. Don Juan Maria de Rivera led the first official Spanish expedition into the area and explored the mountains to the east and north of the Mesa Verde. They named the mountain range "El Condado," which means "the condado" or "the green tableland." Spanish expedition, which accompanied the mountain-building to the north and east, did, indeed, tilted and cracked the great beds of sandstone and shale. Erosional forces have eaten away at the cliffs throughout the millennium to form the mesa view from its north rim. His report is the first mention in print of the mesa.

1874. W. H. Jackson, famous "Pioneer Photographer," discovered, named, and photographed the first cliff dwelling, the Two Story Cliff House, in the Mancos Canyon.


1911. Gustaf Nordenskiold, Swedish scientist, conducted first scientific excavations in the cliff dwellings.

1900. The Colorado Cliffs Dwellings Association, an organization of women dedicated to securing National Park status for Mesa Verde, was established. Later, Dr. Fewkes was employed by the United States Department of the Interior, under the soil lies the deep-bedded Cliff House sandstone, and west was deposited on the mesa top. This rich soil today supports a varied plantlife, and dryland farming is practicable. Under the soil lies the deep-bedded Cliff House sandstone, and west was deposited on the mesa top. This rich soil today supports a varied plantlife, and dryland farming is practicable. Under the soil lies the deep-bedded Cliff House sandstone, and west was deposited on the mesa top. This rich soil today supports a varied plantlife, and dryland farming is practicable.

From Park Point on the north rim, the highest elevation in the Mesa Verde (8,572 feet), you get an excellent panoramic view of the celebrated Four Corners region. The sands, silts, and clay beds of the sandstone dip low. In these ledges containing the cliff dwellings, the lower canyon talus slope (the Mancos shale) topped by a bold promontory (the Point Lookout sandstone). As you drive west along the north rim of the Mesa Verde, you will see great outcrops of sandstone and shale, with thin layers of shale and beds of coal. At topping the rim and bending south, you glimpse the cliff golden cliffs of the mesa. From this vantage point, you can trace the Mancos River. These are exposures of Cliff House sandstone. Their sizes vary from narrow shallows to wide shallow ponds, or shallow, many lodgings containing the cliff dwellings. The lower canyon walls are the Menefee formation. The mesa dips south and west at such a deep angle that the Point Lookout sandstone is not exposed in any of the canyons.

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In the spring, flowering shrubs dominate the mesa, and a variety of wildflowers bloom from early spring to late autumn. Autumn coloring is at its best the last week in September.

Many plant remains from the ruins have been identified. Other plants which grow on the mesa are used by Indians, and it is presumed the ancient people also utilized them. Yucca, juniper, pinyon, Douglas-fir, grasses, mustards, cactuses, sumac, gooseneck, and currants were valuable plants used by the prehistoric inhabitants.

Mammals. Over 50 species of mammals inhabit the Mesa Verde. Frequently seen along roadways are Rocky Mountain mule deer, the most common large mammal in the park. Rocky Mountain bighorns, once native to the park, have been reintroduced and are doing well. There are a few black bears and, infrequently a mountain lion is reported. Bobcats, coyotes, and gray foxes are common and chipmunks and along cliff walls wherever the sandstone dips low. In these spots, birds such as the Burrowing Owl, Red-tailed Hawk, and Western Marsh are seen hunting. Small mammals include the prairie dog, desert cottontail, and a variety of rodents. Birds include the bald eagle, osprey, and peregrine falcon.
rock squirrels abound, as do many other small rodents. Cottontails are abundant.

The bones, hides, and antlers most commonly found in ruins are those of deer. Bones and hides of other animals which still inhabit the park have been identified. Rodents, the most common small mammals, were prize food items, and their pelts were carefully tanned and fashioned into a variety of bags and other leather goods.

Birds. Over 170 species of birds have been recorded. Resident birds, typical of the Southwest mesa-canyon country, include several species of hawks, owls, woodpeckers, Jays, chickadees, and nuthatches. Also resident are golden eagles, grouse, turkeys (reintroduced), crows, ravens, and magpies. Other species are summer or winter residents, and there are many migrants.

The most numerous birds found in the ruins are those of the turkey, which was domesticated. Delicate snakes found in the cliff ruins probably were used to trap small birds, with brightly colored feathers; if so, these birds' fragile bones have not been preserved.

Reptiles. Lizards are the most common reptiles. The ancient people apparently admired the speed and grace of these little animals, for representations of lizards were frequently painted or molded on pottery or carved on building stones or cliffs.

There are not many species of snakes and only one poisonous reptile, the prairie rattlesnake. The snake most often seen is the common bull snake. Perhaps the prehistoric people regarded snakes in the same light as some Pueblo people do today—as messengers of the gods, ceremonial creatures which are not molested.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS
For more detailed information on this area, you may purchase other publications at the park through the Mesa Verde Museum Association, a nonprofit organization. You may also order publications from the association, whose address is Box 38, Mesa Verde National Park, Colo. The association will send you a list of titles and prices.

PHOTOGRAPHY
The cliff dwellings are best photographed in the afternoon, for most of the afternoon sun is falling southwest. The finest pictures are taken from the canyon rim of Square Tree House, in the canyon back of the museum, and Square Tower House, Sunset House, Cedar Tree House, New Fire House, Fire Temple, and Cliff Palace, on the ruins road, are excellent subjects. A telephoto lens is needed for other cliff dwellings seen on the drives.

Large mesa-top ruins, such as Sun Temple, Cedar Tree Tower, Far View House, and Pipe Shrine House, may be photographed any time during the day.

Excellent scenic views are obtained from the Monac and Montezuma Valley Overlooks and Park Point, on the entrance road. Many fine canyon views are found along the ruins road.

There are few opportunities to photograph wildlife in Mesa Verde. Deers are usually seen early or late in the day when the light is poor, Spruce Canyon, paralleling Campground No. 1, is a good spot for birds and small mammals because there are waterholes in the canyon bottom. You must secure a permit from the chief park ranger for use of the Spruce Canyon Trail.

HOW TO REACH THE PARK
The park entrance is midway between Cortez and Mexico, Colo., on U.S. 160, which connects with a number of major highways that approach the park from all directions. You must drive 21 miles of mountainous road from the entrance to park headquarters, where museums, a lodge, and campgrounds are located.

On arrival at park headquarters, Park Point affords superb views of the entire Montezuma Valley. There are few opportunities to photograph wildlife in Mesa Verde. Deers are usually seen early or late in the day when the light is poor, Spruce Canyon, paralleling Campground No. 1, is a good spot for birds and small mammals because there are waterholes in the canyon bottom. You must secure a permit from the chief park ranger for use of the Spruce Canyon Trail.

Entrance road features. There are five numbered stops at points of interest along the entrance road. To avoid crossing traffic lanes, you are urged to visit Nos. 1 and 2 on your way into the park; Nos. 3, 4, and 5 on your way out.

No. 1. Montezuma Valley Overlook. Outstanding view of the valley and mountains to the north and west.

No. 2. Park Point. Halfway between the entrance and headquarters, Park Point affords superb views of the entire Four Corners area.

No. 3. Cedar Tree Tower. A ceremonial structure of the Classic Pueblo Period, located half a mile off the entrance road just above park headquarters.

No. 4. Far View House and Pipe Shrine House. Beside the road 4 miles above headquarters, these two large mesa-top pueblos date between A.D. 1000 and 1200.

No. 5. Monac Valley Overlook. Located on the side of Point Lookout, the towering promontory you see on entering the park, this overlook affords a view of the valley and mountains to the east and north.

Hiking. A few short trails are available for hiking. Written permits for the use of these must first be obtained at the chief park ranger's office in the park museum and must be returned to this office on completion of a hike.

This ordinarily desirable activity is not compatible with much of the area. Mesa Verde National Park is a museum in itself and must be preserved as such. The fragile and totally irreplaceable ruins and the fragmentary story they now tell of ancient man must be given maximum protection.
so this chapter in American prehistory may be preserved
and into canyons lead to spectacular views of ruins that
cannot be seen from roads. These trips are arranged with
a concessioner.

ACCOMMODATIONS

Lodging. Spruce Tree Lodge (in park headquarters area) offers the only overnight accommodations in the park. Sleeping units range from tent and housekeeping to standard and de luxe cabins. Some cabins are located by the main lodge; others, in Plaza Area one-half mile north of the main lodge.

Season: May 15 to October 15. Reservations: From June 1 through Labor Day, it is well to make reservations in advance. Address: Reservation Manager, The Mesa Verde Co., Mesa Verde National Park, Colo.

Meals. During the lodge season, meals are served at appointed hours. Snack service is also available.

Camp, trailer, and picnic grounds. Free campgrounds are open during non-freezing weather, from approximately May 1 to November 1. Campers and trailer parking is permitted only in the designated campgrounds. Campers are limited to 14 days from June 1 through September 7; the limit may be extended at other times. Reservations are not made for campers. Be sure to ask about available camp sites at the entrance station before driving to headquarters.

Campgrounds are equipped with water, firewood, modern sanitary facilities, tables, and fireplaces. Trailer sites do not include tables, fireplaces, or utility hookups.

Campground No. 1. Park headquarters; main camp sites.

Campground No. 2. Park headquarters; main trailer sites.

Campground No. 5. Entered from the Cedar Tree Tower road, 1 mile above headquarters. Mainly for organized groups.

Campground No. 4. Located 1 mile above park entrance; emergency campground only for use of latecomers.

Picnic sites. One on each loop of the ruins road; equipped with tables and benches; comfort stations are close by. No fires are permitted in the picnic grounds. Picnicning is permitted only at these sites in the campgrounds.

SERVICES

Mail service. You may have your mail sent in care of General Delivery, Mesa Verde National Park, Colo., or, if you are a lodge guest, in care of Spruce Tree Lodge.

Telegaph and telephone. Visitors should use Spruce Tree Lodge, Mesa Verde National Park, Colo., as their telegraphic address and inquire at the lodge reservation desk for the telephone number. Telephone messages may be left in this office. Long distance calls may be placed in Denver or at any pay phones located at the lodge and at the entrance to the museum parking area. Some emergency messages should be sent or called to the chief park ranger's office (telephone: Mancos, Colo., 2861).

Bus transportation. For visitors arriving in the park by bus or for those not planning to drive their own cars, Spruce Tree Lodge furnishes bus transportation to the ruins and a sunset trip to Park Point.

Medical service. A registered nurse is on duty at the First Aid Station by the museum parking area each day during the summer and from Monday through Friday the balance of the year. Hours: 8 a.m. to 12 noon and 1 p.m. to 5 p.m. from May 1 to Labor Day; 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. during the summer.

Religious services. Nondenominational services are conducted each Sunday morning and evening at the Campfire Circle, and Catholic Mass is said in the chief park ranger's office of the museum each Sunday morning throughout the summer.

Kiddie corral is operated by the Mesa Verde Co. Supervised play for children two to six years old. Open from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. during the summer.

Service station is located beside the grocery store. Towing and major repair service may be arranged through Spruce Tree Lodge.

Groceries, canners' supplies, etc. From May 15 to October 15, the Mesa Verde Co. operates a small grocery store near the lodge. Ice may be obtained from a coin-operated machine beside the store. Soft-drink dispensers are located beside the grocery store.

Laundry and dry cleaning. Limited laundry service may be obtained at the Mesa Verde Co. laundry in the Plaza Area. Commercial laundry and dry-cleaning services may be arranged at the grocery store. Hand-laundry tubs are located in the permanent comfort stations in Campground No. 1.

Shower. The Mesa Verde Co. maintains coin-operated showers in the permanent comfort stations in Campground No. 1. Inquire at Spruce Tree Lodge for more information on showers.

Newstand. Newspapers, magazines, film, and other items stocked by the store. Credit cards accepted. Stapler, typewriter, stationery, and post cards are available.

Gift and curio shop. The Spruce Tree Lodge shop carries authentic Indian handicrafts, books, and souvenirs.

Horseback riding. The MV Pack and Saddle Co. operates from approximately Memorial Day to Labor Day. Rates of $1, $2, and $4 are available. All parties may be accompanied by a wrangler-guide. Reservations may be made in advance with the MV Pack and Saddle Co., Mesa Verde National Park, Colo.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

This is your park. It was set aside by Congress for you to enjoy. Congress has charged, however, that it be kept unimpaired for the use and enjoyment of all future generations. Please cooperate with the National Park Service in protecting the ruins which has been designed to protect and preserve all prehistoric and natural features and to provide for your safety and comfort.

Preservation of prehistoric features. Do not disturb, move, or remove from place any antiquity. Do not enter any cliff dwelling except with a park ranger on a guided trip or when a ruin is open for visitation with a park ranger on duty. Severe penalties, including both fine and imprisonment, will be imposed for any violation of these regulations.

Preservation of natural features. Do not disturb, move, or remove from place any rocks, fossils, minerals, or plants, and do not pick wildflowers or strip bark from juniper trees.

Protection of wildlife. The park is a sanctuary for all wildlife. Feeding, pursuing, hunting, or killing any bird or animal is prohibited.

Fires. The use or display of firearms is prohibited, and possession of firearms must be declared on entering the park.

Fires are permitted only in fireplaces in designated campgrounds. Never leave a fire unattended. Be sure your fire is out before you leave camp; extinguish it with water. Report all brush, grass, or forest fires to the nearest park ranger, ranger station, or museum.

Picnicking. Use only the fireweed provided in the campgrounds. Do not use an ax or knife on any tree or shrub or strip the bark from any juniper tree.

Smoking. Do not throw cigarettes, cigars, pipe ashes, or matches from your car, and be sure these are put out before discarding them anywhere in the park. In periods of extreme fire danger, smoking will be prohibited in moving vehicles and along park trails. You will be notified of this at the entrance.

Trash. Do not throw or dump trash anywhere except in trash receptacles that are provided throughout the park. Leave the park clean and beautiful.

Dogs, cats, and other pets are allowed in the park if they are leashed, caged, or otherwise physically restricted at all times. Pets are not allowed in public buildings or on any park trails.

Bathing or rolling of rocks or other objects over the cliffs is prohibited.

Hitchhiking is prohibited in all National Parks.

Camping and picnicking. These activities are permitted only in designated sites. Camping is limited to 14 days from June 1 through September 7; the limit may be extended at other times. Campers may not leave their campsite unattended for more than 24 hours. Dumping refuse from trailers, except at designated receptacles in the campgrounds, is not allowed.

Riuses road. This road may be used only from 7 a.m. to sunset during the summer and from 8 a.m. to sunset the remainder of the year.

Hiking may be done by written permit only. Permits are issued at the chief park ranger's office. (See "What to Do in the Park.")

Accidents. All accidents must be reported to the nearest park ranger station as soon as possible after the occurrence.

Operation of motor vehicles. No wheeled device shall be operated outside constructed roadways or designated parking areas. Motor vehicles shall be operated only with a park permit, which must be carried in the vehicle for which issued and must be exhibited on request to park rangers.

Park roads have numerous curves and grades, and courtesy and caution must be exercised to prevent accidents. Observe speed limits. Put your car in gear, or "park," and set the brake when you leave it.

THE FEDERAL ANTIQUITIES ACT

The Federal Antiquities Act of 1906 specifically prohibits the appropriation, injury, destruction, or removal from place of any object of antiquity, or the excavation or removal of objects or materials of prehistoric origin.

A typical canyon view.
injury, or destruction of any ruin on Federal land under the jurisdiction of the Secretaries of the Interior, Agriculture, and War, except such scientific research or excavation as these Secretaries may authorize. The act provides penalties for any violations.

This act was designated to protect America's priceless heritage of an unrecorded past, and it behooves every citizen to assist in this protection by respecting the terms of the act and by reporting to proper authorities any violations they may observe. Every broken bit of pottery, bone, stone, and shell, every piece of charcoal and trace of ash, every stray building stone, etc., tells a story which, when correlated with other such stories, brings back a chapter from the vanished past. If such articles are disturbed or removed from place, the story is lost forever.

OTHER ARCHEOLOGICAL AREAS

In addition to Mesa Verde National Park, a number of National Monuments in the Four Corners region also preserve outstanding ruins that are evidence of the same prehistoric way of life. The National Monuments are Aztec Ruins and Chaco (Cha-ko) Canyon, in New Mexico; Canyon de Chelly (Shay) and Navajo, in Arizona; and Hovenweep, in Colorado and Utah.

ADMINISTRATION

Mesa Verde National Park was established in 1906 to preserve thousands of structures and other remains which prehistoric Pueblo Indians left on the mesa tops and in the caves of a score of rugged canyons of a great plateau in southwestern Colorado. The park contains 51,334 acres.

A superintendent, representing the National Park Service of the United States Department of the Interior, is the official in charge of the park. All comments and inquiries regarding the management and protection of the area should be addressed to him. His post office address is Mesa Verde National Park, Colo.

MISSION 66

MISSION 66 is a program designed to be completed by 1966, the 50th anniversary of the establishment of the National Park Service, which will assure the maximum protection of the scenic, scientific, wilderness, and historic resources of the National Park System in such ways and by such means as will make them available for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

Mesa Verde National Park and visitors to this area will benefit in many ways from MISSION 66. Under this program, many new ruins which are being excavated will provide additional knowledge of the prehistoric inhabitants of the area. This part of the program, known as the Wetherill Mesa Archaeological Project, will be completed in a few years. Until that time, it is not possible to allow visitors access to the excavation area, which is located in a remote section of the park. MISSION 66 also will provide new campgrounds and overnight accommodations, improved roads and parking areas, and other related facilities.

VISITOR-USE FEES

Vehicle permit fees are collected at the entrance station. If you arrive when the entrance station is unattended, you must obtain a permit before leaving the park. Fees are not listed herein because they are subject to change; but the information may be obtained by writing to the superintendent.

Fee revenues are deposited in the U. S. Treasury; they offset, in part, the cost of operating and maintaining the National Parks.