

to lure the army out into the plains in hopes that the men would die of starvation. Thereupon, he was strangled on the spot, and Coronado returned to Tiguex in the autumn of 1541.

The winter of 1541-42 was an uneasy time. The high hopes for fame and fortune were gone. Word was received of the massacre of their supply garrison left at Corazones in northern Mexico. In addition, Coronado was severely injured in a fall from his horse.

These circumstances led to the decision to return to Mexico City. Upon the expedition's arrival in midsummer, Coronado was poorer by far than when he had started for the Golden Cities of Cibola.

#### Results of the Expedition

Immediate effects of the Coronado expedition were few, but the hardships and disillusionment were not in vain. Vast new lands had been explored and knowledge gained about the geography of the territory north of Mexico. These lands had a far greater potential value than the gold and silver Coronado had sought.

The next major Spanish expedition into the Southwest came 40 years later and by a different route, through Chihuahua and up the Rio Grande into what is now New Mexico. This route was followed by others until the 1690's, when Jesuit priests pushed northward by a roughly parallel route

through Sonora, which approximates that taken by Coronado.

The Spanish introduced cattle and horses as well as European crops to the Southwest, in addition to their religion and manner of living. Close relations with the Indians modified the Spanish culture to the extent that it took on a character of its own, which is still evident throughout the Southwest.

#### About Your Visit

Coronado National Memorial is about 22 miles south of Sierra Vista, Ariz., and 30 miles west of Bisbee, Ariz., the nearest places for meals and overnight accommodations. The Montezuma Canyon

road, which leads into the memorial, joins Ariz. 92 about 25 miles west of Bisbee. It is 5 miles from this junction to memorial headquarters.

From the parking area at Montezuma Pass, a foot trail leads to Coronado Peak, where you are afforded a sweeping view of the country through which the Coronado expedition marched. The memorial is near Coronado's point of entry into the United States. Exhibits along this trail present additional information on the Coronado expedition and the interesting natural features of the memorial. A park ranger is on duty daily from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. to give you further information on the area.

Joe's Canyon Trail, offering striking views, leads from Coronado Peak Trail down to the headquarters and picnic area. About 3 miles long, the trail follows Smugglers' Ridge and Joe's Canyon to the junction of the main road and the road to the picnic area.

The picnic area, open during daylight hours only, contains outdoor grills for your convenience. There are no facilities for overnight camping. A U.S. Forest Service campground is located at Parker Lake 18 miles west of the memorial.

The memorial is closed to hunting. Firearms are not permitted in the area unless packed to prevent their use. You are asked to refrain from defacing the natural features and vegetation in any way and to take every precaution against fire in these grasslands and woodlands.

#### For Your Safety

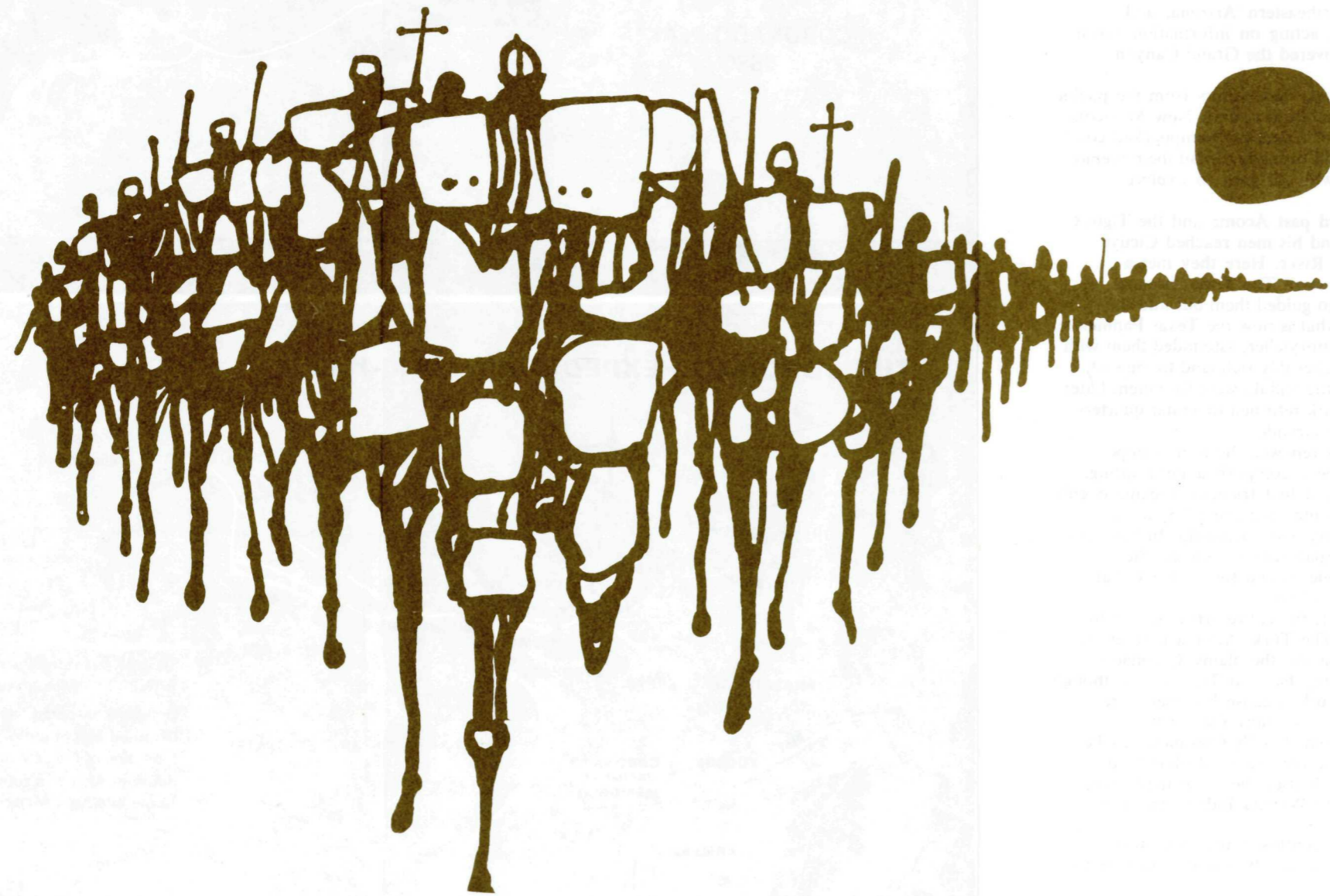
We wish your visit to be a safe one and warn you of the hazards of any unfamiliar area: uneven floors, unexpected steps, low doorways, unknown plants and insects. Please be alert for the safety of yourself and your children.

#### Administration

Coronado National Memorial is administered by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior. A superintendent, whose address is Star Route, Hereford, AZ 85615, is in immediate charge.

As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department of the Interior has basic responsibilities to protect and conserve our land and water, energy and minerals, fish and wildlife, park and recreation areas, and for the wise use of all those resources. The Department also has a major responsibility for American Indian reservation communities and for people who live in Island Territories under U.S. administration.

National Park Service  
U.S. DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR



# Coronado

## National Memorial • Arizona



Coronado National Memorial, commemorating the first major exploration into the American Southwest by Europeans, lies on the U.S.-Mexican boundary within sight of the San Pedro valley through which Coronado first entered the present United States in search of lands and riches.

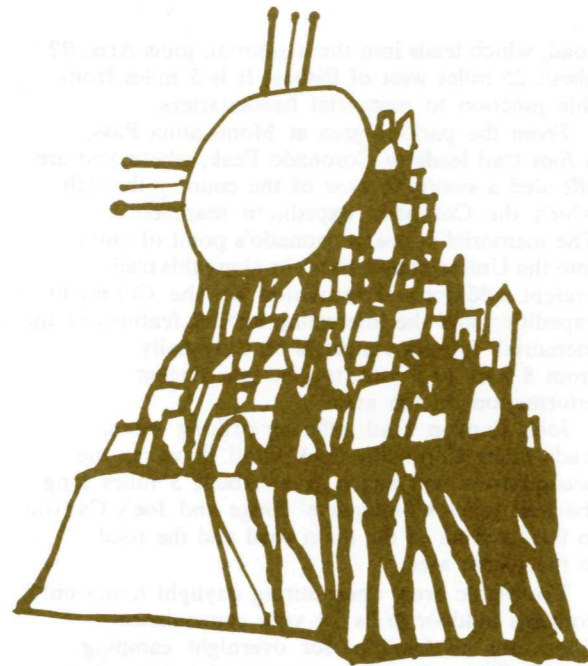
The Coronado expedition made the first extensive European penetration into northwestern Mexico, the American Southwest, and the western plains. Although deemed a failure at the time, for no riches were found, they brought back knowledge of lands and people to the north and opened the way for later Spanish exploration, colonization, and the development of a distinctive southwestern culture.

#### Spain in America

Spain had a rich colonial empire in the New World. From southern Mexico to Peru, gold poured into her coffers, and large areas were opened for settlement. The northern frontier lay a few hundred miles north of Mexico City; beyond was unknown land.

This was the situation in 1536 when Cabeza de Vaca and three tattered companions, sole survivors of the shipwrecked Narváez expedition to Florida, arrived in Mexico City after 8 years of wandering through what is now southeastern United States, Texas, and northern Mexico. They brought tales of a land to the north of Mexico where there were "large cities, with streets lined with goldsmiths' shops, houses of many stories, and doorways studded with emeralds and turquoises!" Was this another Peru?

Antonio de Mendoza, the viceroy of New Spain, was interested, but cautious. In 1539, he sent Fray Marcos de Niza, accompanied by some guides and Estévan, a Negro who had been with Cabeza de Vaca, to check on the story. Fray Marcos returned



within the year with glowing reports of the Seven Cities of Cíbola. Presumably what he saw—and only from a distance—was the Zuñi Indian pueblo of Háwikuh, near what is now Gallup, N. Mex., which he described as being "larger than Mexico City." The friar had not approached too closely because he had received word that Estevan, who was scouting a week in advance, had been killed by the Indians.

Viceroy Mendoza was convinced. He promptly started preparations for an expedition to Cíbola and chose his friend, Francisco Vázquez de Coronado, to command it.

#### The Coronado Expedition

Coronado, the 30-year-old younger son of an aristocrat, was born in Salamanca, Spain, and had come to the New World in 1535 to seek his fortune. Through his friendship with the viceroy and his able execution of several important missions, he soon attained a position of prominence. He served a term on the Mexico City council and in 1538 was appointed governor of the frontier province of New Galicia.

In January 1540 Coronado was commissioned commander of the expedition and captain-general of the lands he was to conquer.

Quickly organized, the expedition passed in review before the viceroy and left Compostela, Mexico, on February 23, 1540, with 300 Spanish soldiers, four priests, and 800 Mexican-Indian allies.

Leaving the main army to follow at a slower pace, Coronado set out from Culiacán with an advance party of 100 Spaniards, the priests, and some

Indians. His small force, weary and weak from hunger, reached the fabled Cíbola on July 7, 1540.

It was a bitter disappointment. Instead of a golden city, they saw only a rock-masonry pueblo building crowded with Indians who were ready to fight. The Spaniards attacked, drove the Indians back, and soon forced them to abandon the village. Well stocked with precious food, the pueblo of Háwikuh was Coronado's headquarters until November 1540.

After the capture, the now unpopular Fray Marcos de Niza, whose tales had raised so many futile hopes of fortune, returned to Mexico City.

While at Háwikuh, Coronado sent his captains out to explore. Don Pedro de Tovar discovered the Hopi villages in northeastern Arizona, and López de Cárdenas, acting on information Tovar had picked up, discovered the Grand Canyon of the Colorado.

Meantime, Coronado had visitors from the pueblo of Cícúye (Pecos Pueblo in eastern New Mexico). They brought hides of a strange "humpbacked cow" (buffalo) and invited Coronado to visit their pueblo. He sent Alvarado with 20 men to explore the new region.

Traveling eastward past Ácoma and the Tiguex pueblos, Alvarado and his men reached Cícúye on the upper Pecos River. Here they met a Plains Indian, nicknamed The Turk "because he looked like one," who guided them out into the buffalo country of what is now the Texas Panhandle. The Turk, a master storyteller, astounded them with tales of such an unbelievably rich land to the east, called Quivira, that the buffalo were forgotten. Later Alvarado and the Turk returned to winter quarters at Tiguex on the Rio Grande.

The Turk's stories renewed the army's hope, but nothing could be accomplished until spring. The Tiguex Indians, at first friendly, became openly hostile during the winter because of Spanish breaches of hospitality and friendship. In the battles that followed, the Spaniards massacred the inhabitants of one pueblo and forced the Indians to abandon several others.

On April 23, 1541, the entire army set out for Quivira, guided by The Turk. After a journey of more than 40 days across the plains, Coronado sent most of the army back to Tiguex and, though suspicious of The Turk because his tales were contradicted by other Indians they met, continued with 30 men. Finally Coronado reached Quivira—and became completely disillusioned. The towns of straw houses they saw there were probably those of the Wichita Indians in what is now Kansas.

The Turk finally confessed that the story of Quivira was a plot hatched by the Pueblo Indians

## CORONADO NATIONAL MEMORIAL



## THE CORONADO EXPEDITION 1540-1542

