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## DERIC IN MESA VERDE

“The American people possess an irreplaceable heritage in their national parks,” says Dr. Hubert Work, Secretary of the Interior, in a little booklet entitled, “Then and Now,” the same be-

ing a review of his department during the three years that he has been in control. Continuing the secretary says of the national parks: "They are super-universities in which nature is the supreme teacher. Protected from private and commercial exploitation by Federal statute, they are the only remaining areas of large and scenic extent in Continental United States untouched and unmarred by the hand of man."

"Superuniversities!"

"Nature the supreme teacher!"

Dr. Work seems to have coined a new word and given expression to a new thought. Just how correctly he has sized the situation and interpreted the real mission of the national parks is exemplified in a remarkable little book entitled, "Deric in Mesa Verde," which has but recently come from the press of G. P. Putnam's Sons. The book, which is one of a boys' series written by boys for boys, a companion to "David Goes Voyaging," issued some time ago and "David Goes to Greeland," which is to be published in November, was written by Deric Nusbaum, the 12-year-old son of Mr. and Mrs. Jesse L. Nusbaum of Mesa Verde National Park. Mr. Nusbaum, is the superintendent of the park and is also an archaeologist of note. The boy's mother, Aileen Nusbaum, is the unusual woman whom Congress recently honored by appropri-

ating a fund to build a hospital on the mesa to be designated as "The Aileen Nusbaum Hospital" in recognition of her unselfish service among the Indians to whom she ministered winter and summer when they were sick.

#### STEPHEN MATHER'S FOREWORD

In a foreword contributed by the director of national parks himself, Stephen T. Mather, special attention is called to Deric Nusbaum's achievement as a boy author as demonstrating the value of being brought up in a home within a park, one of those "superuniversities," as Secretary Work terms it. "I do not believe," says Mr. Mather, "that anything that has previously been published so clearly demonstrates the exceptional educational facilities of the national parks as does this little volume, 'Deric in Mesa Verde,' showing as it does the effect that living in a national park and, unconsciously at first, absorbing its wonders, has had on the boy. For the past six years—perhaps the most formative period of his life—Deric has lived in the park and has been steeped in the spirit of service to others that is such an outstanding characteristic of park administration. Gradually as he became old enough to explore for himself the interesting cliff-dweller ruins, he began to feel the haunting memories of the past that hang over these dwellings of a long-vanished

race. The Indians of a neighboring reservation sensing these memories, always declared the ruins haunted by a race of Little People who must not be disturbed, and carefully avoided them. But Deric, with the love of exploring and adventure that is the birthright of every normal American boy, wanted to know more about the ruins, the people that once inhabited them, and their habits of life. 'Deric in Mesa Verde' is the result of his own explorations and studies.

"Surely this book, telling in his own language of the adventures of a 12-year-old boy in a land filled with the romance and mystery of the past, will make a big appeal to the 12-year-old boys and girls too, throughout our country.

"As director of the National Park Service, which administers Mesa Verde and the other national parks, I am very proud both of the park whose beauty and relics of the past served as the inspiration for this book, and of the little boy who was so sensitive to these influences that he was moved to put his thoughts about them on paper. I have read the book with real pleasure, and I know that others will do the same."

Undoubtedly American boys and girls will read "Deric in Mesa Verde" with just as much zest as they ever displayed when poring over Alger or Henty or when reading "Robinson Crusoe" or "Swiss Family Robinson." The book poss-

esses fine educational value to the youth of America for its stimulates interest in American antiquities and conveys a real picture of Mesa Verde, "The Great Green Table" of southwestern Mesa Verde, and its remarkable and intensely interesting cliff dweller ruins, the largest in extent that have yet engaged the attention of scientists in this country. Aided by accurate information gathered through association with his father and mother, the park employes and the Indians into several of whose tribes he has been adopted. Deric describes the kivas and various other features of the cliff dweller villages and explains their purposes and significance. One cannot read "Deric" without coming to know the park quite well.

Some idea of the unusual opportunity that has been Deric's can be gained from the following paragraph from the first chapter:

"Best of all, after the season closes, Dad has time to take me to some of the unexcavated ruins and we do some exploring. As I am planning to be an archaeologist, this interests me very much. It beats 'Treasure Island.' You never know what you are going to dig up. It certainly is fun to find out what the Indians that lived here a thousand years ago used and wore and how they lived."

The lad also displays splendid knowledge of

the wild life of the park and a sympathetic interest in its preservation. He shares his knowledge and interest with the reader. The book is profusely illustrated with pictures of cliff dweller ruins and scenes showing a boy's exploits. It's a fine book for a Boy Scout to read and, by the way, Deric is a Scout.

#### ENTERS HIGH SCHOOL AT SANTA FE

In a letter to the Out o'Door editor of the Record, Mrs. Nusbaum, the boy's mother, says that Deric has gone from Mesa Verde to Santa Fe, in New Mexico, where the lad will spend the winter with his grandmother while attending high school. He is in the second year and is taking special lessons in Spanish. The boy writes his mother that he has located several ruins about ten miles out of Santa Fe and intends to excavate one. It is located on private land and he has obtained the permission of the owner to do so. He is quite wrapped up in the archaeology and has made a wonderful beginning toward a career. —Fresno Record.