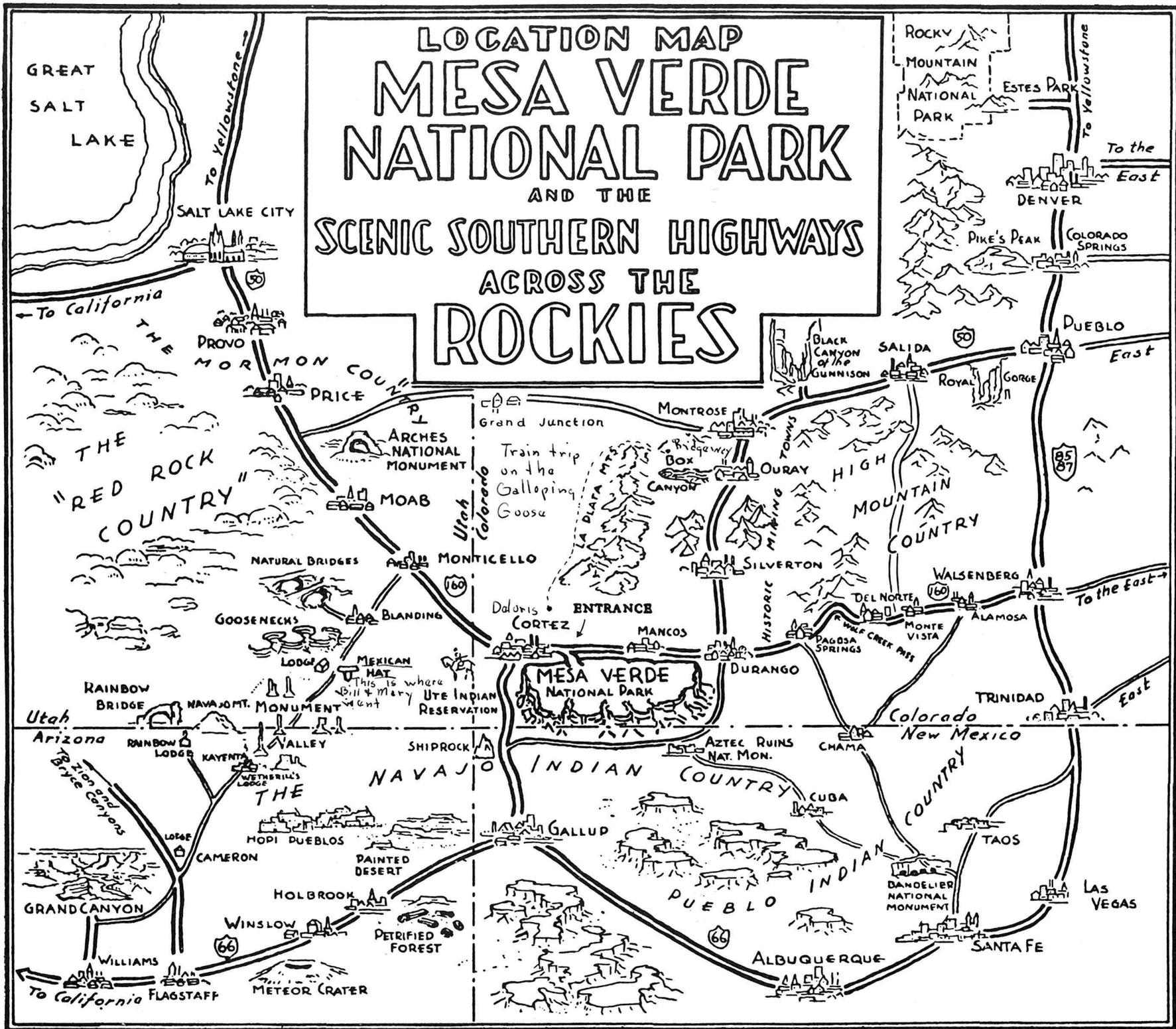


MESA VERDE NATIONAL PARK





LOCATION MAP
MESA VERDE NATIONAL PARK
 AND THE
SCENIC SOUTHERN HIGHWAYS
 ACROSS THE
ROCKIES

Additional copies of this portfolio are obtainable from the publisher (Mesa Verde Company, Mesa Verde National Park, Colorado) at 50¢ per copy in the Park, or 60¢ postpaid to any point in the United States.

MESA VERDE

In the colorful northern Navajo country, overlooking the "four corners" where Arizona, New Mexico, Utah, and Colorado meet, rises a forested flat-topped mountain which early Spanish explorers called *Mesa Verde*—the green tableland.

Deep canyons countersunk into the heart of this wide plateau hide the deserted cliff cities of a remarkable stone age civilization that flourished here a thousand years ago.

When the great ruins of Mesa Verde were discovered in the late 80's and the early 90's, the story of the vanished race that lived in these spectacular ruins was shrouded in mystery. A large part of that mystery still exists—but now, bit by bit, archaeologists are piecing together fragments of information which reconstruct a picture of the ancient people. We know much about their physical appearance, their daily life and culture, and the events that led to abandoning their impregnable strongholds between the years 1276 and 1295 A.D.—but that story will be told in detail by the ranger guides when you visit Mesa Verde National Park.





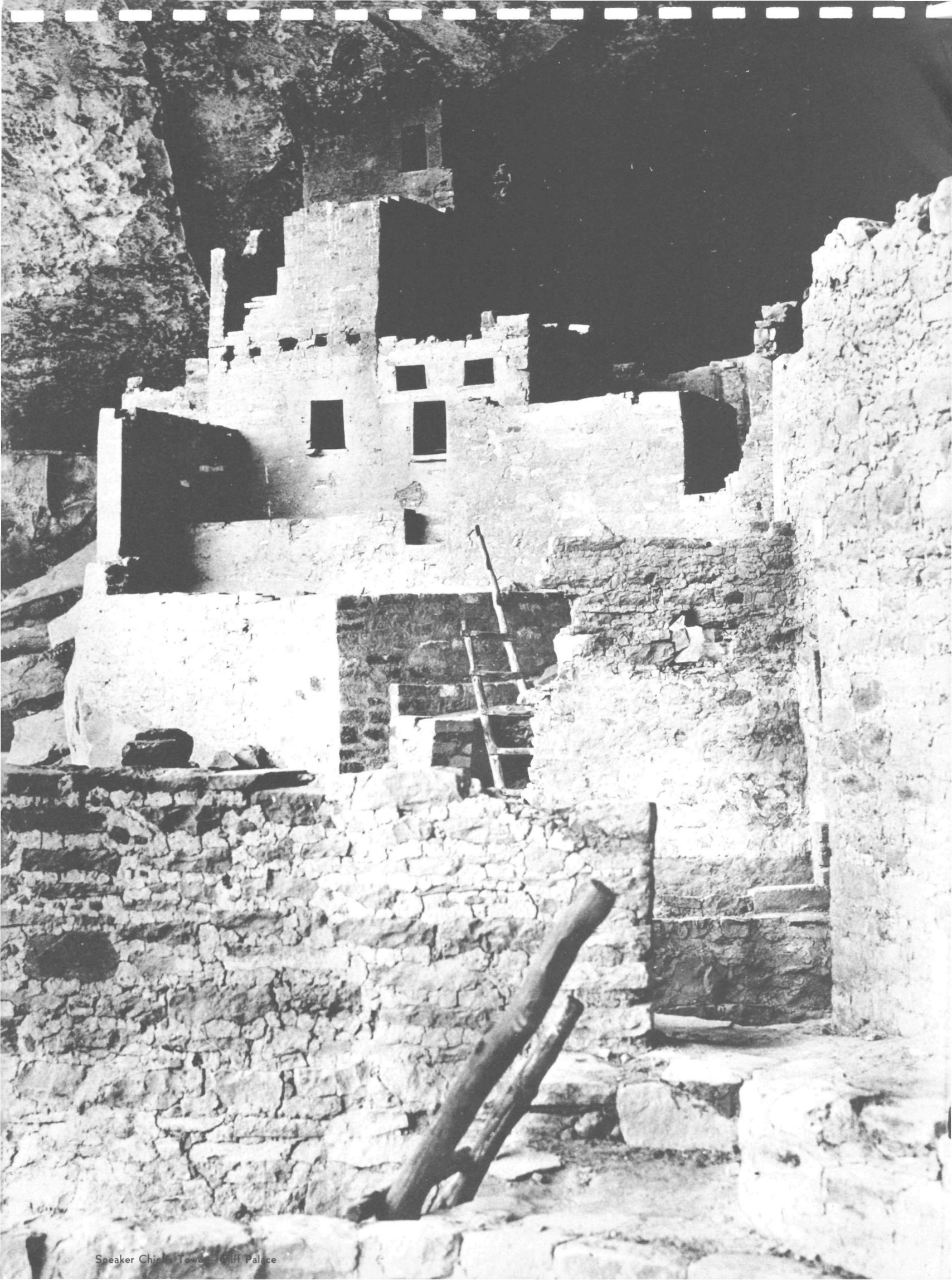
North Rim of Mesa Verde Showing Knife Edge Road; La Plata Mts. in Distance



Cliff Palace—View from Across Canyon



Cliff Palace—Northern Half of the Ruin



Speaker Chimney Tower - Cliff Palace



Sun Temple from Sun Point with Mummy House Beneath



Climbing to Balcony House Ruin



1204 AD

1203 AD

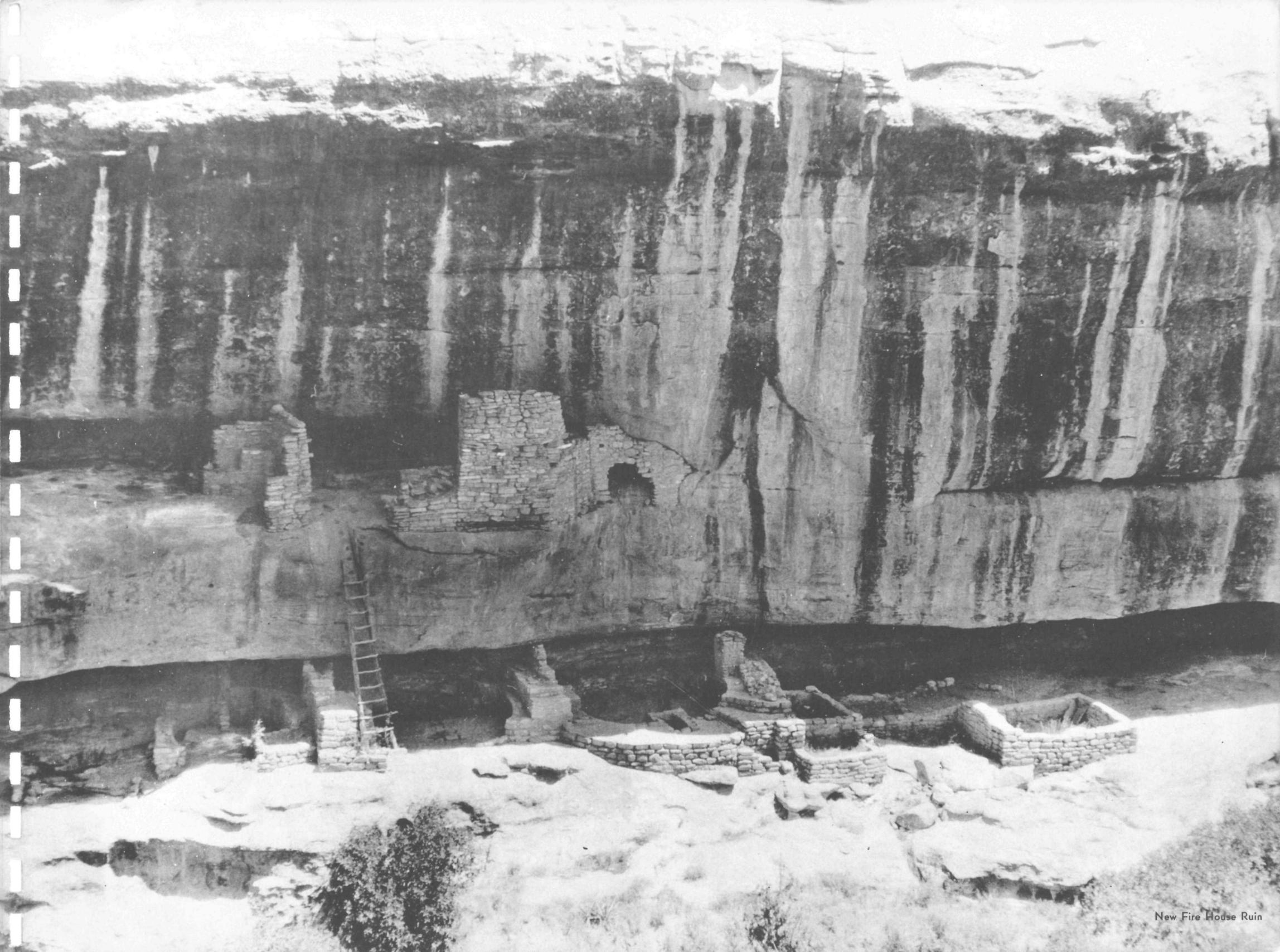
Balcony House Ruin



Cliff Palace—Southern Half of Ruin



Square Tower Ruin



New Fire House Ruin



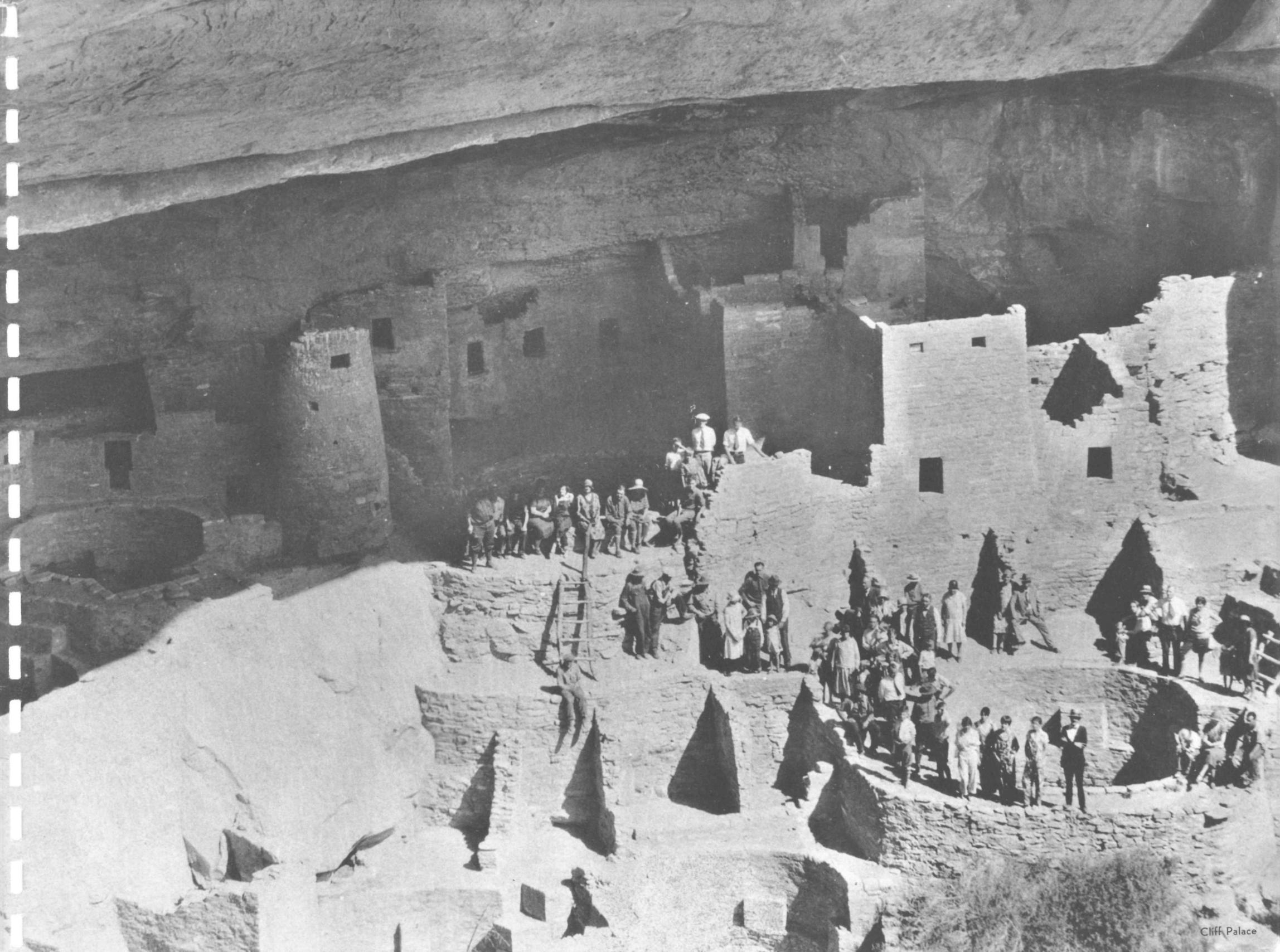
Spruce Tree Ruin



Spruce Tree Ruin—Interior Showing Entrance to Kiva



Cliff Palace





Cliff Palace

DESCRIPTIVE DETAILS

This Mesa Verde portfolio has been prepared with a view to making each individual picture suitable for framing. For this reason the titles have been subordinated; descriptive details are summarized in the following paragraphs:

Spruce Tree Ruin from the Community House (Front Cover)

This view from the balcony of the Community House at Park Headquarters offers visitors a dramatic introduction to Mesa Verde's prehistoric ruins. A trail descends into the canyon from the nearby Museum, inviting leisurely exploration.

Mesa Verde from the Navajo Reservation (Page 1)

From Gallup, Mesa Verde's southern gateway, a paved highway leads across the Navajo Indian Reservation. Here, as we look northward, the precipitous sides of the Mesa Verde are seen rising at the right. In the center is Chimney Butte, while at the left the rounded summit of the Sleeping Ute dominates the landscape.

North Rim of Mesa Verde Showing Knife Edge Road (Page 2)

This panorama from Park Point Lookout (alt. 8575) shows the character of the precipitous walls that surround the Mesa Verde at all sides. As the highway enters the Park it clings to the cliff below the Knife Edge, affording superb vistas of the country below. In the distance toward the northeast the La Plata and other ranges of the Colorado Rockies rise to heights of well over 12,000 feet.

Cliff Palace — View from Across Canyon (Page 3)

Cliff Palace is the largest known cliff dwelling. Here it is seen from a point on the opposite rim of the canyon near Sun Temple, close to the spot from which it was discovered in December, 1888.

Cliff Palace (Page 4)

This view from within the cave shows the north half of the ruin. When at the peak of its development in 1275 A. D. this great communal dwelling housed more than 500 persons.

Speaker Chief's Tower — Cliff Palace (Page 5)

Within the cave the ruins of Cliff Palace rise terrace above terrace. In this one ruin there were originally 200 habitable rooms.

Sun Temple with Mummy House Beneath (Page 6)

Sun Temple stands on the edge of cliff overlooking many of Mesa Verde's largest ruins. Most imposing religious structure on the Mesa, it was apparently built at the time of the great drought of 1276-99. Mummy House Ruins, which occupy inaccessible ledges in the canyon below, are typical of the hundreds of smaller ruins to be found in Mesa Verde canyons.

Climbing to Balcony House Ruin (Page 7)

Ladders add zest to the exploration of many of Mesa Verde's cliff dwellings. National Park Service rangers boast that they "haven't lost a tourist yet."

Balcony House Ruin (Page 8)

Balcony House, with its fortified entrance, precipitous approach, and superb view, is one of the most dramatically located cliff dwellings of the Mesa Verde. Built some time between 1190 and 1272 A. D., the balcony seen at the right is remarkably well preserved.

Cliff Palace — Southern Half of Ruin (Page 9)

The Round Tower and Painted Tower rise above the sacred ceremonial kivas where mystic rituals were practiced in subterranean darkness.

Square Tower Ruin (Page 10)

Square Tower Ruin looks down into Navajo Canyon near Echo Cliff. Approach by way of "The Eye of the Needle" is today quite difficult — for some visitors especially so.

New Fire House Ruin (Page 11)

Located not far from Fire Temple, this small ruin may once have been occupied by members of the fire cult. In the vicinity are some of the most interesting and significant ruins of the Mesa Verde.

Spruce Tree Ruin (Page 12)

This interesting cliff dwelling, which may be visited at any time without a guide, is but a few minutes walk by trail from Spruce Tree Lodge, headquarters for Mesa Verde visitors during the days they explore the Park.

Spruce Tree Ruin — Interior Showing Entrance to Kiva (Page 13)

Each ancient clan had its underground circular ceremonial chamber, or kiva, where the men performed the rites of worship and magic so necessary to their primitive culture.

Cliff Palace (Page 14)

A glimpse of a portion of Cliff Palace from a point near the Speaker Chief's Tower.

Cliff Palace (Page 15)

The National Park Service provides free ranger guide service for all who visit the Mesa Verde.

Cliff Palace (Page 16)

From the Speaker Chief's Tower one looks down on many of the 23 kivas; all were formerly beneath the surface of a "plaza" that extended toward the canyon.

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

The photographs for the cover and pages 6, 13, and 15 are by George Grant and are used through the courtesy of the National Park Service. Others are by Eugene

Kingman (pages 1, 2, and 10), Harvey E. Stork (page 3), Robert Branstead (page 11), and Ansel F. Hall (pages 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 12, 14, and 16).

* * *

Additional copies of this portfolio are obtainable from the publisher (Mesa Verde Company, Mesa Verde National Park, Colorado) at 50¢ per copy in the Park, or 60¢ postpaid to any point in the United States.

