

FIELDWORK AT GRAN QUIVIRA. 1926

Because of the heavy demands made upon the museum staff by the Fiesta and Indian Fair, the season's work at Gran Quivira was delayed about three weeks and brought the field expedition in camp just as the local farmers started their bean harvest. This fact, or, rather, the fact that this was the first year the Gran Quivira farmers had a crop to harvest since the institution began excavations of the ruins, caused some inconvenience in getting labor, but the main project of the season was carried as far as time and money allowed.

Camp was established on September 7, and work was begun the next day and continued till September 21.

In co-operation with the Department of Interior the Museum is planning to establish a local field-museum in one of the rooms of the old monastery and for this purpose has been chosen the long room immediately south of the mission proper. After this room had been excavated, it was found that much of the outside walls was so weak at the foundation that it would be necessary to tear them down and re-lay the rocks in concrete. Vigas for the roof and frames for the

doors and windows had to be cut and made and properly seasoned and as this work required more time, money, and expert help than were available, it was postponed until next season and the time was devoted to cleaning out the museum-room and further excavation of the southside of the main plaza in front of the mission. Arrangements were also made to have all of the material needed for final construction on the ground for next year's work. Vigas have to be hauled from the forest reserve in the Gallinas Mountains, about 25 miles away .

Aside from the work on the mission ruins, which is financed by an annual government appropriation, some exploration work was carried on with museum funds. This work was confined to some trenching for undisturbed refuse piles and investigation of ruins reported on the Chupadero Mesa, about 14 miles southwest of the Gran Quivira ruins.

For this work three Indians were brought from the Pueblo of Zia. In the first two trenches, on the north and the west sides of the mission, old walls were struck at the depth of 18 inches. No stratified refuse appeared, so the south side of the Pueblo ruins, near the mission, was dug into. A trench running east and west about 15 feet, with another trench running into it from the south slope, revealed a deposit of loose rocks

with an occasional pot-herd clear to the bed-rock, 5 feet below the surface, but no ashes or other house-hold refuse to mark occupational strata. The next trench was sunk into the north side of the main building of the old Pueblo and here well stratified deposits were found causing hopes to run high for the finding of a key to the sequence of Gran Quivira occupations, until the workmen struck the fireplace of an old abandoned kiva about 4 feet below the surface, marking the place as filled in with material from, probably, the last occupation.

The fireplace was found on the last work-day and the kiva was not cleared out, but next season's work will show how it compares in type and size with the other kivas already excavated.

The farmers around Gran Quivira have long told of a place on the Chupadero Mesa which they describe as "The Indian Burial Ground," because of the many rocks standing out of the ground like tomb-stones. During a reconnaissance trip to this region thousands of these stones were found to mark the foundations of small community buildings of from two to five and more rooms, extending over an area of several acres, the rooms being from twenty square feet to over a hundred square feet in dimensions. No signs were found of adobe bricks, but the ground around the stones was of an adobe nature, so it

might be possible the walls were built of puddled adobe which has all been washed away.

Excavation of similiar ruins further to the north, near the Montezuma Spring, has revealed flag-stoned floors a few feet under the present surface with burials under the floor. The place investigated this year was, due to the lack of any known name, called Pueblo Viejo and as the place was very inaccessible for an automobile, no tools were brought for digging. A good collection of surface sherds was secured, however, and proved to consist of less than one percent of any other ware but Black-on-White. This sherd collection, as well as the Gran Quivira material, has not been worked over in the laboratory yet, so a final report must await the time that can be spared from routine work.

ODD S. HALSETH,

Associate in Ethnology.

Santa Fe, October, 1926.



Mission of Tabira (Gran Quivira) from Northeast



Mission and Convent of Tabira (Gran Quivira)



Trench in Abandoned Kiva on North Side of Gran Quivira Ruins.
Fire Place in Foreground.



Mission of Tabira (Gran Quivira) from Northwest



Clearing away Fallen Walls on South Side of Plaza of Tabira Ruins