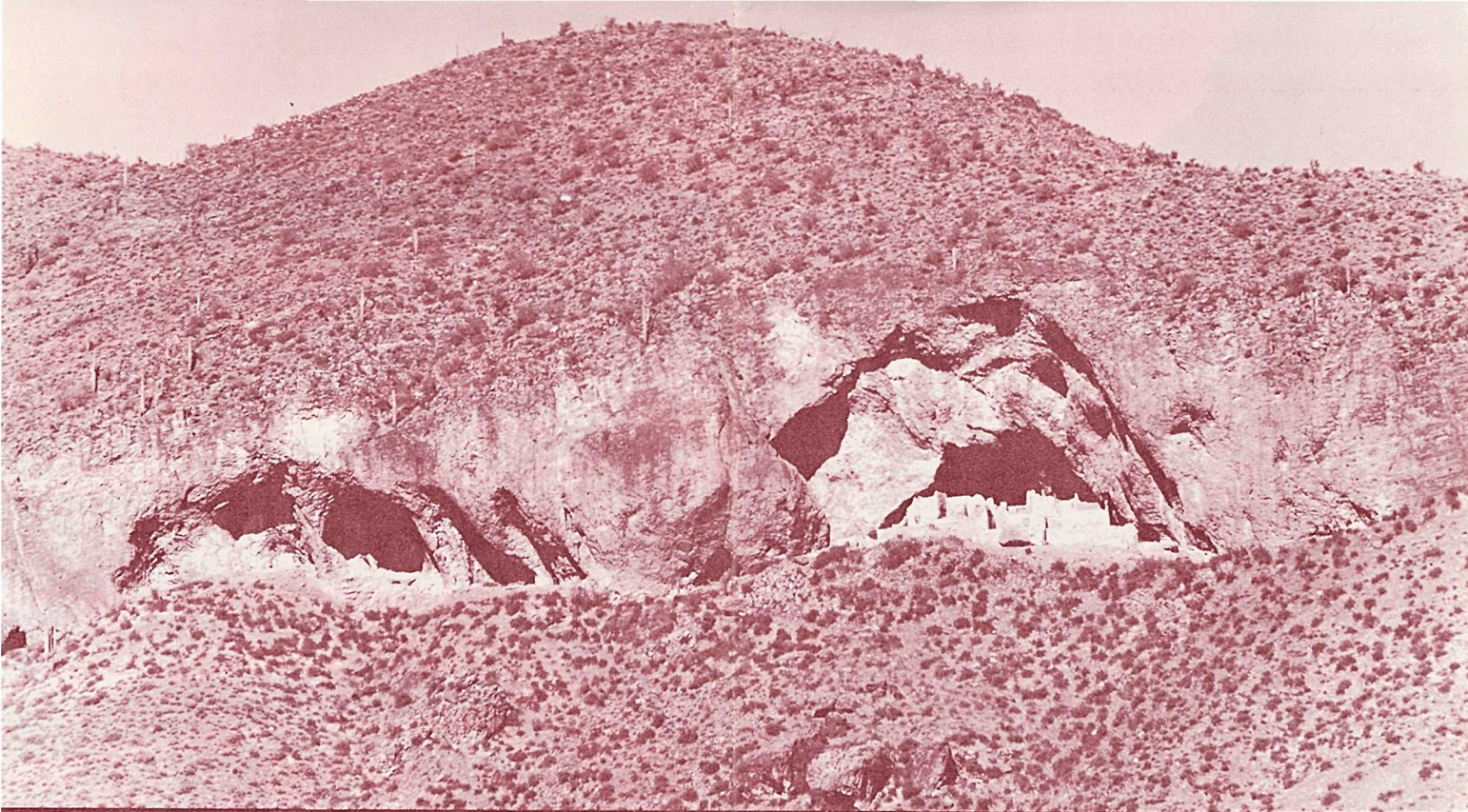
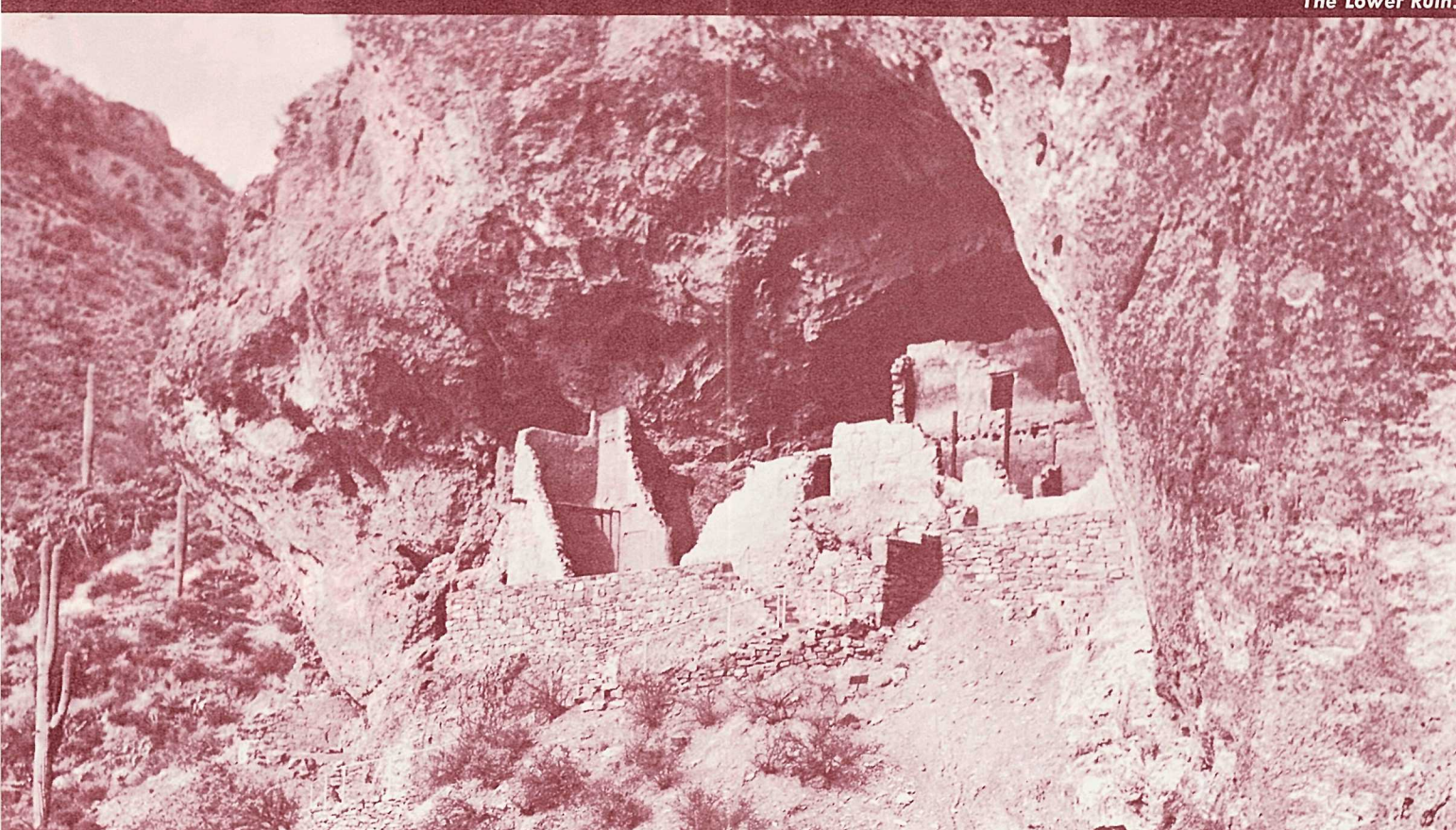


# TONTO

NATIONAL MONUMENT



The Upper Ruin.



The Lower Ruin.

## THE PEOPLE WHO LIVED HERE

The cliff dwellings at Tonto were built and occupied during the 1300's by a southern Arizona group of Pueblo Indians. Pueblo culture developed among the Indians of the Four Corners area of Utah, Arizona, Colorado, and New Mexico soon after A.D. 400 and survived in some areas into historic times. The name "Salado" (Spanish for "salty") has been given to this prehistoric group of Indians because they lived near the Salt River. What were they like? How did they live?

## Their Appearance

The following notation appears in the report of a National Park Service archeologist who conducted studies of the Upper Ruin at Tonto:

One day in the ruin, a shallow indentation was noticed in the wall, and in the hollow was the impression of a piece of cloth. The impression was at the right height and shape to have been made by a short-statured person leaning with his elbow against the damp plaster of a newly made wall. A search was made for other similar depressions, and some were found scattered irregularly throughout the ruin; some held impressions of cloth, most did not. Six elbow, eight shoulder, and three knee prints were found which showed fabric patterns.

And what does this prove? Only that 14th century Indians had propensities for leaning against walls, even damp walls. Also it possibly indicated that they normally wore, even at work, a little more clothing than we usually give them credit for. The coverings at the knee could easily be from a kilt and those at the shoulder from either a shirt or blanket worn as a cape. The cloth at the elbows probably resulted from a cape also, for the only known Salado shirt had such short sleeves that they would hardly have covered the shoulders.

In creating your own image of them, consider these points arrived at after study by many archeologists:

The women averaged slightly under 5 feet in height; the men were a few inches taller. They were slight of build yet muscular, with dark hair and eyes and brown skin.

An anthropologist's description of the well-preserved remains of a woman, found in the Upper Ruin, includes these observations:

A normal Puebloan of Southwest Plateau racial type, female, of advanced age at death; about 4' 9" tall. Scalp hair—cut quite short—coarse, apparently straight, dark brown. Teeth very badly worn (by bits of stone mixed with meal from the corn-grinding metates and manos), all molars except one lost before death. Arm and leg bones rather muscular, especially the upper arm (from corn-grinding on the metate and other housework). Possibly a little arthritis in the lower back. Right leg broken and healed, not straight.

Clothing for the women consisted of small cotton blankets worn around the shoulders, "skirts," or "aprons," of yucca cord, and sandals plaited, usually, of yucca, sotol, and agave leaves, and of bark. The men apparently wore headbands, small cotton blankets draped over their shoulders and probably sometimes tied around their waist as kilts, breechcloths of woven cotton, and the plaited sandals. Both men and women probably wore their sandals only while walking on the rocky hillsides. Few objects of adornment, such as bracelets and beads, have been found at Tonto.

## Their Homes

Relative ease of defense appears to have been foremost in the minds of the leaders of the people when they selected Tonto for homesites. The three natural caves on the face of the cliff were far from their fields. Within these caves, nevertheless, they built cliff dwellings, contiguous rooms that filled the available space. The cliff dwellings are now referred to as the Lower Ruin, Lower Ruin Annex, and Upper Ruin, comprising 19, 11, and 40 rooms respectively.

The buildings were constructed of unshaped native quartzite, laid with adobe mortar. The walls were built in sections one stone in width; that is, they were carried up about 2 feet, plaster was applied, and the walls were allowed to set before the next section was added. Floors were of adobe. Roofs were constructed of poles, overlaid with smaller poles, and topped with a 3- or 4-inch layer of adobe.

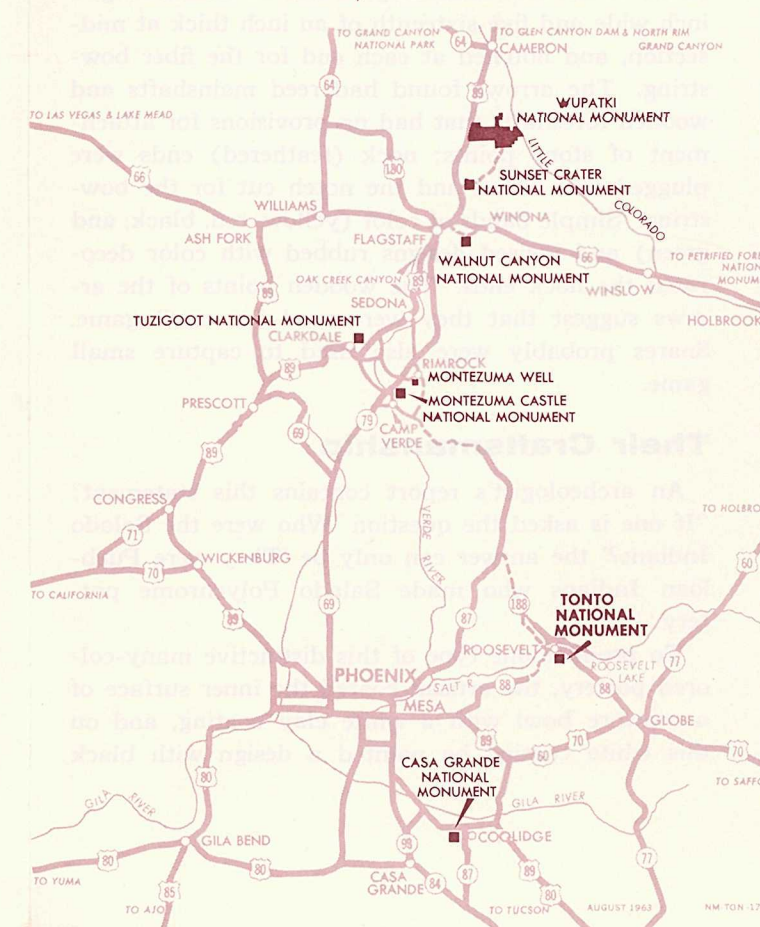
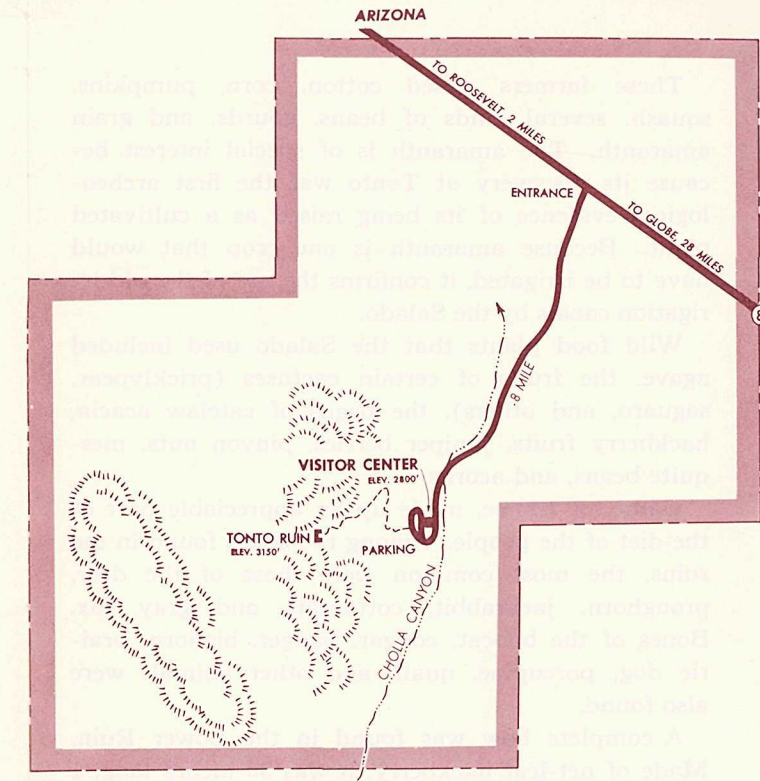
If you could transport yourself back 600 years and could look into one of the rooms while it was being lived in, what furnishings would you see? The following description is from an archeologist's report:

One room, Room 14 (Upper Ruin), seems to have been destroyed while it was still occupied; artifacts on the floor gave the appearance that they had been laid out for use or storage when a fire destroyed the roof and caused the room to be abandoned. The arrangement of artifacts on this floor apparently gives a good picture of a normal dwelling chamber. In a rough arc near the fireplace was a pottery bowl and two jars, a fragment of matting, a charred ring basket, and the base of a large coarse-coiled basket. The charred fragments of a bow, an arrow, and two clubs lay close together but without pattern, as though they had been tied to vigas and fell with the burning roof. Another fragment of matting and other tools were found near the walls as though kept there, out of the way, until needed. Among other household items found at Tonto were firemaking equipment (drill sticks and socketed hearth sticks), pot rests (to support pottery vessels that had rounded bottoms), brushes (bundles of grass stems), torches (bundles of juniper bark), stirring sticks (bundles of grass stems), and spinning and weaving implements (spindle whorl, spindle stick, sword batten, and general loom pieces).

## Their Livelihood

The Salado people were farmers. Their croplands, irrigated by water from the river, were located in the Salt River flood plain, from 2 to 4 miles from their homes and about 1,000 feet lower in elevation. (Until the valley was flooded by Roosevelt Dam, their irrigation canals could still be seen.)

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These farmers raised cotton, corn, pumpkins, squash, several kinds of beans, gourds, and grain amaranth. The amaranth is of special interest because its discovery at Tonto was the first archeological evidence of its being raised as a cultivated plant. Because amaranth is one crop that would have to be irrigated, it confirms the use of the old irrigation canals by the Salado.

Wild food plants that the Salado used included agave, the fruits of certain cactuses (pricklypear, saguaro, and others), the beans of catclaw acacia, hackberry fruits, juniper berries, pinyon nuts, mesquite beans, and acorns.

Game, of course, made up an appreciable part of the diet of the people. Among the bones found in the ruins, the most common were those of the deer, pronghorn, jackrabbit, cottontail, and gray fox. Bones of the bobcat, cougar, badger, bighorn, prairie dog, porcupine, quail, and other animals were also found.

A complete bow was found in the Lower Ruin. Made of net-leaf hackberry, it was 30 inches long, 1 inch wide and five-sixteenth of an inch thick at mid-section, and notched at each end for the fiber bowstring. The arrows found had reed mainshafts and wooden foreshafts that had no provisions for attachment of stone points;nock (feathered) ends were plugged with wood and the notch cut for the bowstring. Simple bands of color (yellow, red, black, and green) and incised designs rubbed with color decorated the nock ends. The wooden points of the arrows suggest that they were used for small game. Snares probably were also used to capture small game.

### Their Craftsmanship

An archeologist's report contains this statement: "If one is asked the question 'Who were the Salado Indians?' the answer can only be 'They were Puebloan Indians who made Salado Polychrome pottery.'"

To produce one type of this distinctive many-colored pottery, the artisan coated the inner surface of a redware bowl with a white clay coating, and on this white coating he painted a design with black

paint; he polished, or burnished, the exterior of the vessel until a good gloss was attained. The potter who added a few simple designs in thin red paint to the interior of the vessel created another "type." Vessels with designs on the exterior surface composed a third variety. The Salado people also made other, less ornate, types of pottery.

And they were expert weavers. Techniques they employed, using cotton fibers, followed today, include the weft-face plain weave, twined- and running-stitch darning, plain weave slit tapestry, twill, braiding, and the combination of colored warp and weft stripes to make patterned cloth. They also did simple embroidery.

Prominent among the dye colors they used were brown, black, yellow, a deep blue, and a dark blue-green or blue-black. The last two colors have not been recorded at other sites.

From stone they fashioned metates, manos, scrapers, arrowheads, hammers, mescal knives, and arrowshaft straighteners. Awls were made from bone. From shell, they made pendants, bracelets, beads, and other ornaments. Their use of shell, from the Gulf of California, indicates a wide trade area.

From beargrass, they wove cradleboards and carrying straps. Loom tools, clubs, and other items were made from wood. From cane, they made arrow shafts, pipes, and gaming sticks.

### Where They Came From

At some time after A.D. 1100, Indians from the area north of the Gila Valley evidently drifted westward to settle in the Tonto Basin, replacing the previous occupants. They lived in small compact pueblos along the valley floors. Pottery types found at these sites indicate that they carried on trade with the people of the puebloan villages of the Little Colorado River drainage to the north. About the middle of the 1300's, some of the people moved from their valley pueblos to the cliff dwellings.

### Where They Went

Tonto Basin was probably abandoned by the Salado not long after 1400. Why did they leave their rich

fields and their strategically placed homes? No one knows. Where did they go? Their leaving seems to have been part of a general exodus of puebloan peoples from the southern mountains of the Southwest. Some apparently moved north to the Zuni villages, others might have gone south and east to be absorbed by other Indian groups.

### About Your Visit

The monument is open all year. The most comfortable weather, however, occurs between late October and early June. Visiting hours are from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m.

If you drive from Phoenix, take U.S. 60-70 to Apache Junction; turn left on Ariz. 88, the Apache Trail, and proceed to Roosevelt. The visitor center is 3 miles beyond Roosevelt. Average driving time from Phoenix: 4 hours.

If you drive from Globe or Miami, take Ariz. 88 to the monument entrance, a distance of 28 miles. Average driving time: 1 hour.

The nominal fee for admission to the monument is waived for children under 12 years of age.

Your first stop at Tonto should be at the visitor center. Here you can see a representative collection of the items made and used by the Salado people: utensils, fabrics, weapons, and other artifacts. Here, too, you will find National Park Service personnel ready to answer your questions and suggest ways that will help make your visit to the monument both meaningful and enjoyable.

A detailed report of scientific investigations at Tonto, written by prominent archeologists, has been published by the Southwestern Monuments Association. The 176-page illustrated report, *Archeological Studies at Tonto National Monument, Arizona*, may be purchased for \$4.50 at the visitor center or ordered from this nonprofit association, Box 1562, Gila Pueblo, Globe, Ariz., 85501.

A trail guide to the Lower Ruin, obtainable at the visitor center, gives explanations of the plants and other features of particular interest. Numbered stakes along the trail and in the ruin correspond to paragraphs in the trail guide.

The desert plants of the monument.

Many of the desert plants that you will see along the trail are the same species as those used by the Salados—plants that have become adapted to the harsh conditions of their desert environment. When you return from your walk on the self-guiding trail, you will be able to call by name the barrel cactus, saguaro, ocotillo, California jojoba, Teddy bear cholla, Wheeler sotol, datil yucca, Sonora jumping cholla, and other plants.

Arrangements for a trip to the Upper Ruin must be made a week in advance. This conducted tour, following a 1½-mile trail, takes about 3 hours. You must be accompanied by a park ranger on the walk to the Upper Ruin. This rule was made to assure your safety and protection of the ruin.

Interior photographs of the cliff dwellings are most easily made in the morning, for the east-facing cliff is in shadow by noon. Among the other subjects that may interest you are the desert plants and birds. If you have a special interest in birds, National Park Service personnel at the visitor center will show you a checklist, compiled by an outstanding ornithologist, of the birds that have been observed at the monument.

Picnic facilities are available within the monument, but overnight use and camping are not permitted. Food, lodging, and camping facilities are available at Roosevelt.

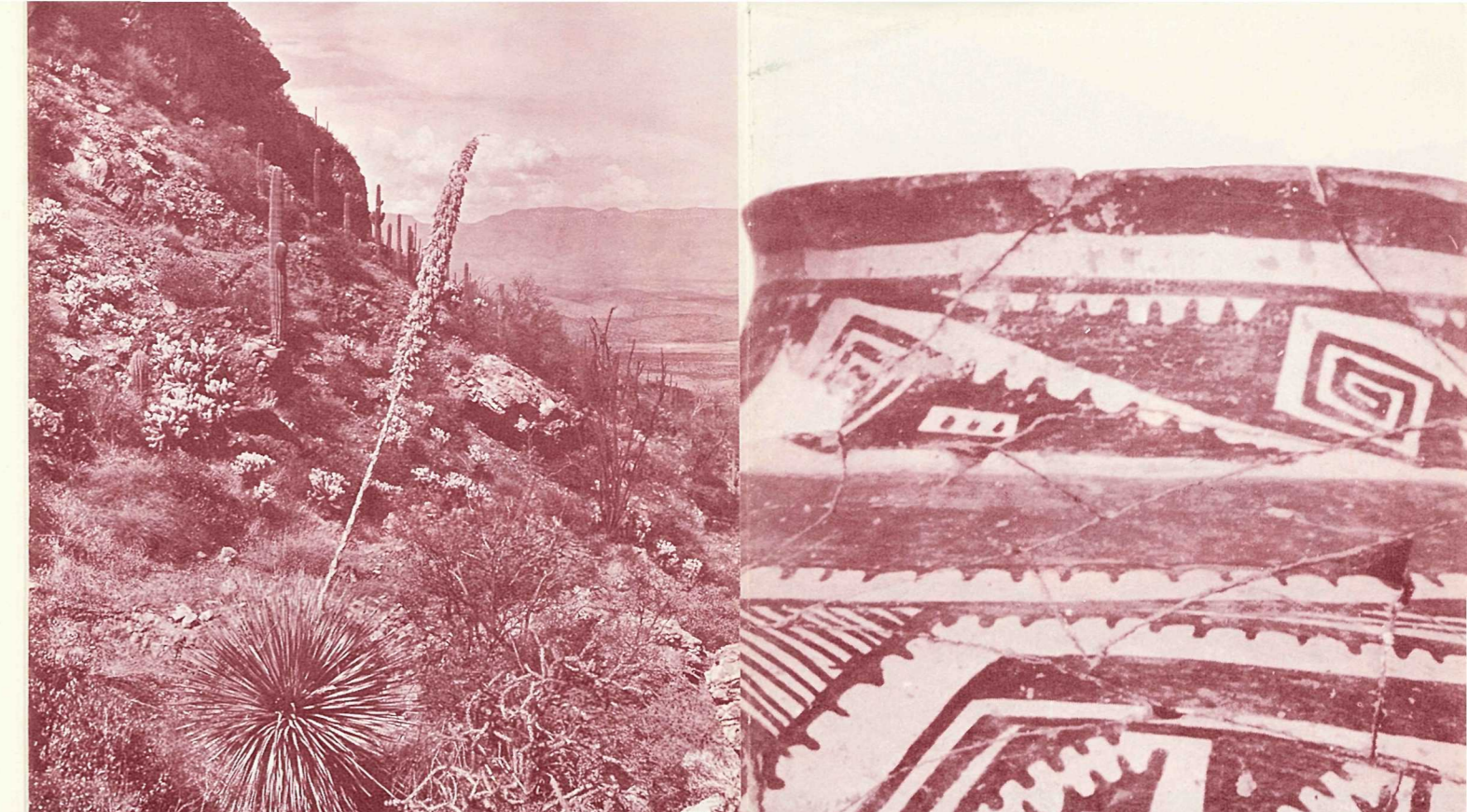
### Administration

Tonto National Monument, containing 1,120 acres, was established on December 19, 1907. It is administered by the National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior.

The National Park System, of which this area is a unit, is dedicated to conserving the scenic, scientific, and historic heritage of the United States for the benefit and inspiration of its people.

The development of this area is a part of MISSION 66, a 10-year program to develop and staff the areas of the National Park System so that they can be used and enjoyed by both present and future generations.

A superintendent, whose address is Roosevelt, Ariz., 85545, is in immediate charge of the area.



### America's Natural Resources

Created in 1849, the Department of the Interior—America's Department of Natural Resources—is concerned with the management, conservation, and development of the Nation's water, wildlife, mineral, forest, and park and recreational resources. It also has major responsibilities for Indian and territorial affairs.

As the Nation's principal conservation agency, the Department works to assure that nonrenewable resources are developed and used wisely, that park and recreational resources are conserved for the future, and that renewable resources make their full contribution to the progress, prosperity, and security of the United States—now and in the future.



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UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE



**TONTO**  
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