

Mr. Tall:-

*Frank Watson cut this out,
would be interested in it.*

Thought you

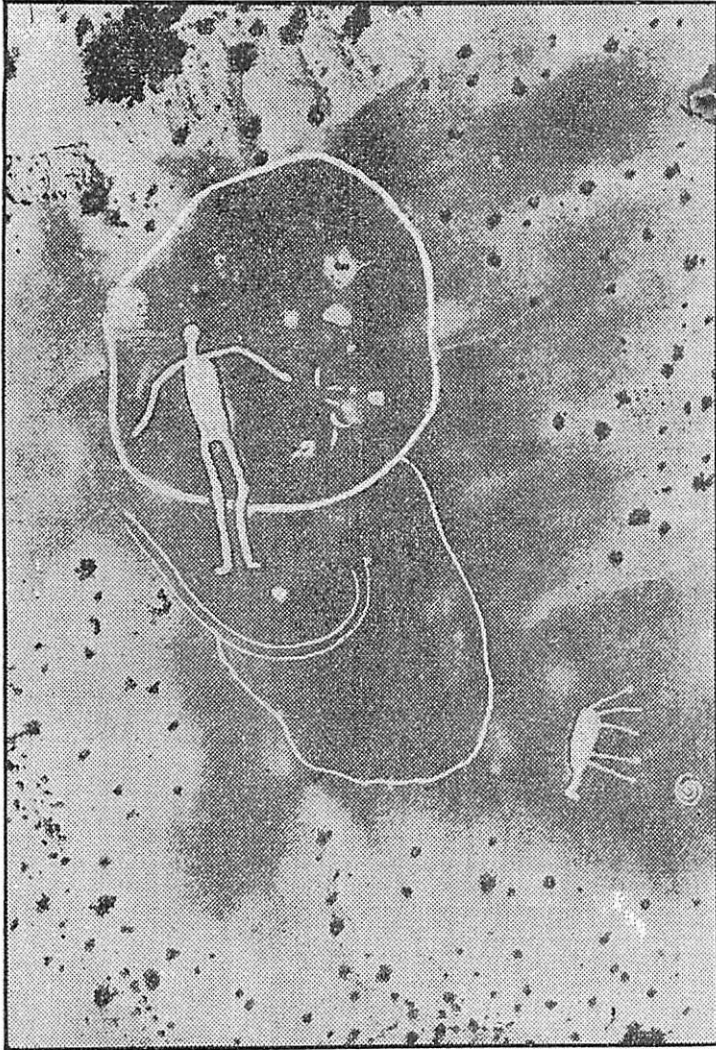
D. C., WEDNESDAY, OCTOBER 5, 1932.

See.

Desert Figures Mystify

DISCOVERED BY FLYER NEAR BLYTHE, CALIF.

HEADING

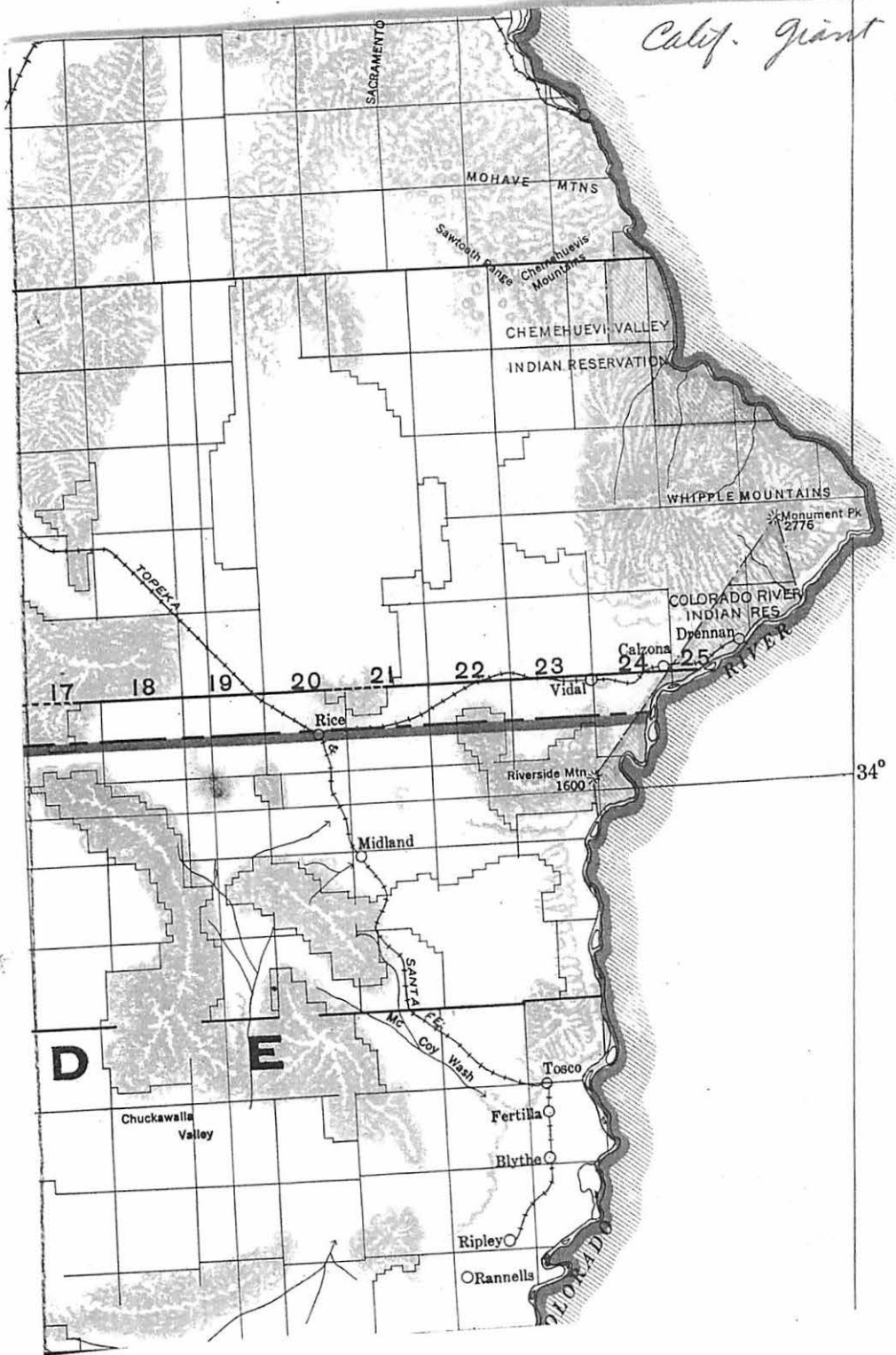


ONE of the three strange figures found on the desert near Blythe, Calif., as it appears in a photograph taken by the Army Air Service, enlisted by scientists to help solve the mystery of the great human shapes. They might have escaped discovery years longer but for George Palmer, flying business man, who came upon them as he searched for an emergency landing place en route from Hoover Dam. The figures were made by scraping away the thick ground covering of brown pebbles to the alkali soil beneath. The human figure above, supposedly that of a giant, or god, is 95 feet long and appears to have stepped out of a large dance ring. Near it is the figure of a four-legged animal with a long tail.

—A. P. Photo.

Calif. giant

Pictographs





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OBJECTS

1. To rescue from destruction representative areas of our primeval forests.
2. To co-operate with the California State Park Commission, and other agencies, in establishing Redwood parks and other parks and reservations.
3. To purchase Redwood groves by private subscription.
4. To co-operate with the California State Highway Commission, and other agencies, in assuring the preservation of the trees and of the roadside beauty along highways in California.
5. To support reforestation and conservation of our forest areas.

Save-the-Redwoods League

219 CALIFORNIA HALL :: UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA :: BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA

OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY · 114 SANSOME STREET, SAN FRANCISCO · TELEPHONE DOUGLAS 2353

January 19, 1933.

Major Roger W. Toll,
c/o National Park Service,
Underwood Building,
San Francisco, California.

My dear Major Toll:

I am very sorry indeed that I did not see your letter of January 9th until I returned to San Francisco on Tuesday, January 17th. A copy of your letter with the enclosure was mailed me at the Cuyamaca Rancho, San Diego, where I was examining some property for the State Park Commission, but it missed me there. I, myself, was at the U. S. Grant Hotel, San Diego on the night of Saturday, January 14th, and am afraid that we must have passed each other enroute. I should have been very glad to have the opportunity of visiting some of the projects you were examining, particularly the Giant Pictographs near Blythe. I hope that you have found out all about the ownership of the lands involved, which I imagine are unappropriated government land. The palm canyon in San Diego County, I imagine is the Borego Palm Canyon, which we are acquiring in a State Park, or one of the small groups of palms in the Vallecitos region. I have seen some of the other areas you speak of, but feel that it would be most advantageous for us to discuss them when you return from the trip to the Channel Islands.

I received a letter from Captain Rhodes while I was down south, and since it was not possible for me to make the trip, arranged for Mr. W. A. S. Foster, Assistant Chief of the Division of Parks, to accompany you. Mr. Foster was eager to make this examination, and I was glad to have him have the opportunity to do it. I know that you will enjoy meeting him, and I hope that you have a most pleasant and profitable trip.

Let me repeat that before you leave California I hope that I can have a chance to talk with you about the various matters you have gone over. I am to be in Monterey County next week, but believe that the following week I shall be in San Francisco.

With best regards, I am

Very sincerely yours,

Newton B. Drury
Newton B. Drury.

NBD:RA

Giant Ticks
x Indian Maze

Dr. M. R. Harrington,
Curator, Southwest Museum,
Los Angeles, California.

515 Custom House,
Denver, Colorado,
March 22, 1933.

Dear Dr. Harrington:

In January I had an opportunity of seeing the rock maze or Indian maze south of Needles, California, close to the western end of the bridge over the Colorado River.

This area had been suggested as a possible national monument, but it seemed to me more suitable for a state reservation than a national one.

Touring Topics for December, 1932, carried an article by Mr. H. W. Dennis of Los Angeles, which quoted the transactions of the American Society of Civil Engineers to the effect that, in the construction of the concrete for the bridge piers, the volcanic rock with which the nearby mesas are strewn was collected by raking into windrows and then hauling them away. The article states that Indian labor was used in gathering this rock. From what I could see of the rock maze, I did not believe that it was made by a construction crew. It certainly was done by hand work and not by machine work. It seems quite possible that the railroad construction crew utilized some of the rock that had previously been gathered into windrows, but I am inclined to think that most of the work antedates the construction of the railroad bridge. At one point I noticed a design that certainly looked like Indian work.

In case you have visited this area, I would appreciate it if you would let me know what your conclusion is regarding its origin and purpose and whether or not there is any similar work elsewhere in the United States.

In February I visited the Giant^tPictographs on the west bank of the Colorado River near Blythe, California. These are certainly very interesting and should be given all possible protection, but there again it seemed to me that it was rather a matter for the state than for the Federal Government to assume. These pictographs need the protection of a custodian in order to prevent damage by motorists.

If you can refer me to any published accounts of either of these two areas (aside from the accounts published in Touring Topics), I would greatly appreciate it.

Sincerely yours,

RWT/MPS

Roger W. Toll

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

The Director,
National Park Service,
Washington, D. C.

615 Custom House,
Denver, Colorado,
April 21, 1933.

Dear Mr. Director:

On February 1, 1933, I visited the proposed Giant Pictographs National Monument, California.

These pictographs, representing three human figures, two animals and two spirals, are located in three separate localities near the west bank of the Colorado River, some eighteen or twenty miles northerly from Blythe, California. They are formed by raking or scraping away the surface layer of pebbles, which have been blackened by long exposure to the hot desert sun, and leaving exposed a lighter colored layer of material, outlined by the ridge of black pebbles that have been scraped away from the body of the figures.

These pictographs have great archaeological value and, with the exception of one similar figure reported from the Gila Valley, Arizona, they are believed to be the only pictographs of this type in the United States. Dr. Arthur Woodward, Curator of History, Los Angeles Museum, refers to them as "probably the most unique series of archaeological remains anywhere in the United States."

It seems highly desirable that these pictographs should be protected and preserved from injury by visitors. If not protected, they may easily be damaged by thoughtless persons and much of their value would be lost.

As archaeological specimens they have great value. They are not sufficiently spectacular to be of outstanding interest to the average visitor, and it is therefore doubtful if they can be said to have general national interest. If established as a national monument, it would be imperative to give them adequate protection by providing a resident custodian. If that were not done, the pictographs might soon be so damaged that their value as a national monument would cease to exist.

It is believed that these pictographs should become the property of the State of California rather than to be made a national monument, but it is recommended that, if the State wishes to acquire and protect them, that the Federal Government should extend all possible aid to the project.

Your file on the Giant Pictographs is returned herewith.

Very truly yours,

Regar W. Toll

RWT/MSB

Executive Order

WITHDRAWAL OF PUBLIC LANDS FOR CLASSIFICATION

CALIFORNIA

Under authority of the act of Congress approved June 25, 1910 (36 Stat. 847-848), as amended by the act of August 24, 1912 (37 Stat. 497), it is hereby ordered that the surveyed and unsurveyed public lands within the following-described township, in the State of California, be, and the same are hereby, temporarily withdrawn for classification and pending determination as to the advisability of including such lands in a national monument, subject to the conditions of the aforesaid acts and to valid existing claims and also subject to the withdrawal dated October 16, 1931, by the Secretary of the Interior under the act of June 17, 1902 (32 Stat. 388-390), in connection with the Colorado River Storage Project:

SAN BERNARDINO MERIDIAN

T. 4 S., R. 23 E.

This order shall continue in full force and effect unless and until revoked by the President or by act of Congress.

FRANKLIN D. ROOSEVELT.

THE WHITE HOUSE,

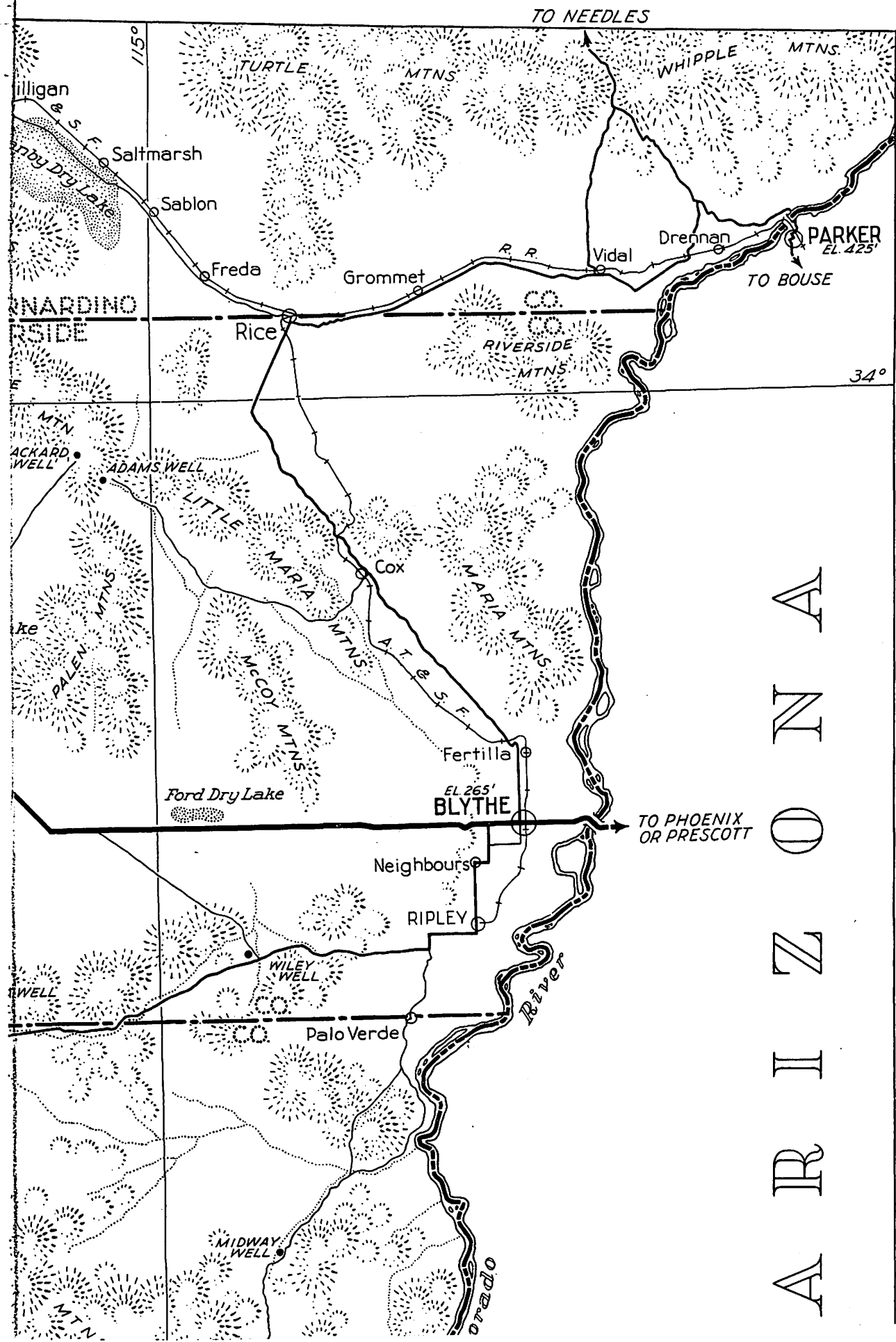
July 25, 1933.

[No. 6212]

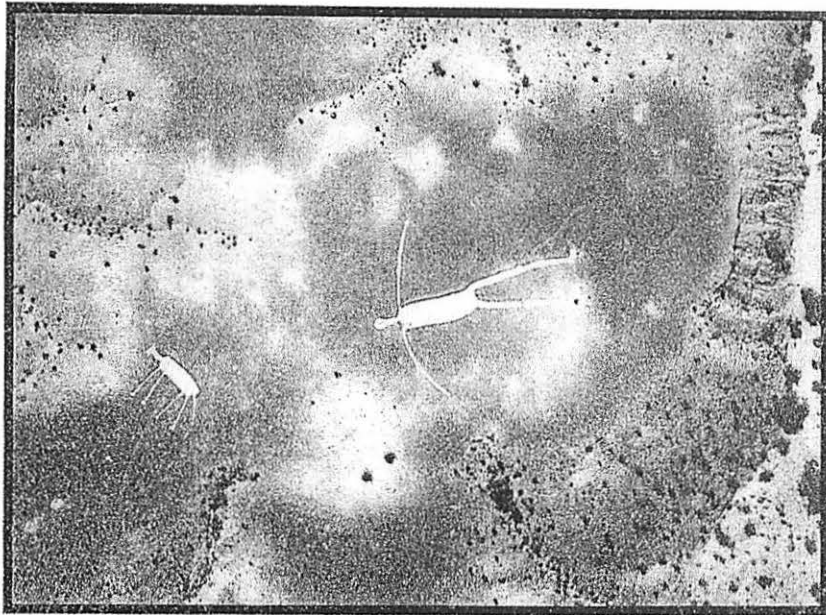
SEE PAGE 99
1912 29012 / 21111111 1 1111 11
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Portion of map of
Southern Section of California
Automobile Club of Southern Calif.
Scale 1" = 8 miles.

TO NEEDLES

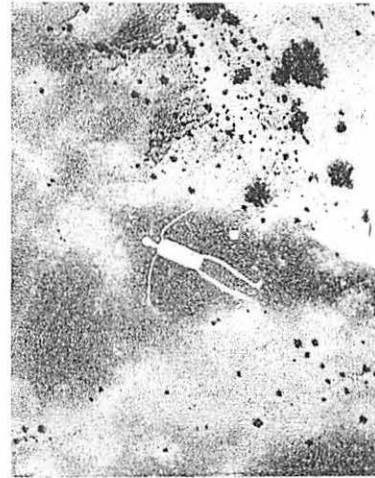


ARIZONA



Left—As in all three pictographs discovered, there are a man, a snake and a horse depicted. The man measures some 180 feet. These curious symbols are found along the Colorado River about thirty miles north of Blythe. The photograph was taken from an elevation of about 1500 feet

Below—The total absence of automobile tracks in this photo indicate that this huge pictograph of a man has not yet been seen and recognized from the ground



Who Drew These Giants ALONG THE COLORADO?

MAMMOTH FIGURES OF MEN AND BEASTS
RECENTLY DISCOVERED ON DESERT
PLAIN PERPLEX SCIENTISTS

By H. H. Arnold

A STATEMENT has been made that the architect of the Coliseum at Rome, was unknown until an airplane flew over it. Prior to that flight thousands of people had seen the different colored stones arranged apparently without rhyme or reason. The observers were too close to get the significance of what they were looking at. The colors had no meaning to them for they couldn't see the whole picture. Then came an airplane and from his lofty perch, the aviator saw the entire floor of the Coliseum at a glance. Then it was that the varied colored stones took form, made letters and spelled the name of the man who planned and built the structure.

As in Rome, so in the United States. For many years, pioneers, prospectors, early settlers and common ordinary travelers have seen things in our Southwest without realizing that they were looking at figures created long before Columbus discovered America. They saw perhaps a narrow strip of white stone cropping out of the brown desert land or a patch of vegetation different in color from that which surrounded it and, because their view was limited, they did not know that it was the leg or arm of some gigantic figure created by Indians hundreds of years ago.

Thousands of visitors to California have seen the enormous arrowhead on the mountains to the north of San Bernardino. Then too there are just as many people, in all probability, who have not seen it even though it was in plain sight, and yet this mark is so distinct and contrasts so vividly with the surrounding terrain that it is visible for miles. Aviators have seen it from their planes when twenty-five miles away.

mottled colored hillside. Accordingly it is not surprising that they were not identified as the figures of a man, child and an animal until a comparatively few years ago. Apparently these figures were made by clearing away the vegetation and top soil. Today they stand out quite clearly.

It was but a few weeks ago that while an airplane was flying down the Colorado River, one of the aviators saw a gigantic figure standing out on the mesa which borders the river. Fortunately he had a camera along and made a picture. These figures have been there for hundreds of years, thousands of hunters, trappers, prospectors have probably walked right over them; the town of Blythe is but thirty miles away and yet their existence was not even suspected until the airman happened along.

Following their discovery, an airplane expedition and a land party were sent out to make further explorations. The figures of three men, two goats, deer or donkeys, two snakes, some markings of unknown purport and a large design which might well have been made by a gigantic rake were located. As these figures are very large, those of the men being about 180 feet high, it seems incredible that they could have been there for so many long years without some one being aware of their existence.

One of the accompanying photographs shows one of the small figures with a circle around the upper part of his body. Note the elbow and knee joints. A short distance from the man is an animal. Were it not for its long tail, it might well be a deer. Below the animal is a coiled snake. Note the automobile tracks made by investigating archeologists and by visitors from asphere of the

This landmark was not discovered by white men until the Mission Fathers began to deviate from the beaten path connecting the chain of missions in California. The Indians knew of its existence and took advantage of the medicinal properties of the hot mineral waters at its point, hundreds of years before.

Not far from Warner Hot Springs near the small settlement of Aguanga, there are some gigantic figures on the sides of a mountain. From certain directions these figures seem to be merely part of the

These visitors hurried out as soon as they heard of the discovery. The figures, it developed, were made by scraping away the soil. Thus a white stone was uncovered which has assumed a glazed surface as a result of years of exposure to rain, wind and sun. The small spots near the figures show where souvenir hunters have torn up small mounds and have been rewarded by finding pieces of pottery and beads. What is the significance of this group? Why was the circle made and why circumscribed around the upper part of the man's body?

One of the photographs was taken from an altitude of 1500 feet and yet the man still shows up as an enormous figure in the picture. The ever present snake is noted lying just above and in the rear of the animal. All of these figures are located within an area of three square miles.

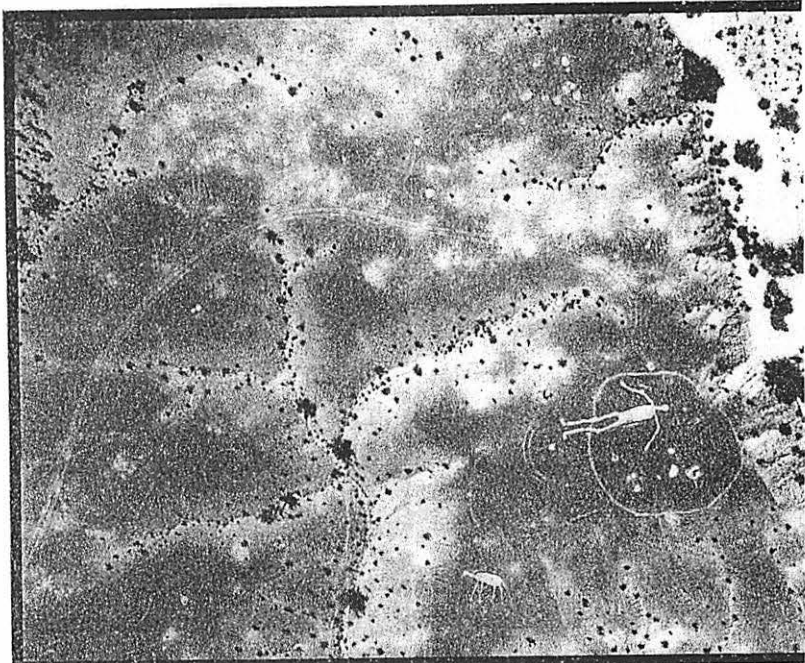
While these pictographs undoubtedly have or had a meaning to the Indians they are as yet quite meaningless to us. More incomprehensible even than the figures of snake, animal and man, are the long cross marks located some distance to the north. Were they created to bar evil spirits from the dwellings of the Indians? Do they simply show snakes in motion or have they some other meaning? Equally as perplexing is the so-called Indian maze which was photographed several miles northward along the river. It looks as though some giant had worked on the ground with an enormous rake. The furrows may have been made in connection with an irrigation or agricultural project although they do not conform with our theories on this. It is interesting and amusing

to speculate upon these and other prehistoric pictographs and petroglyphs which are found in abundance throughout the Southwest. Still, scientists agree that the only hope of arriving at a logically accurate explanation of their purpose and meaning lies in tediously collecting data about them as they are discovered. By subjective reasoning, perhaps centuries hence, archeologists may then have sufficient material to warrant induction of an explanation. Today modern scientists are collecting and correlating such data.



Above—This map shows the location of the giant pictographs and the automobile routes by which they can most advantageously be approached

Right—The best of the pictographs have already been visited frequently since the discovery a short time ago, as attested by the automobile tracks. The circle around the upper portion of the man's body causes much conjecture among scientists



WHERE DID THESE WORDS
Come From? Do You Know,
CAN YOU GUESS?

THE Southwesterner, from the Rio Grande to the Gulf of California, freely uses the bulk of the following words, them almost daily. Some of them, indeed, are in usage among English-speaking people everywhere to be found in English dictionaries. They had their origin, from one primitive people. Do you know their origin, from one primitive people. Do you know where these names came from?

METATE	CHILE	TAMALE
TOMATO	CHOCOLATE	TEMESCAL
CHIRIMOYA	TULE	AVOCA
MESQUITE	COYOTE	

These words, with a note as to their derivation, original spelling, and their meaning, will be found on page 41 of this issue.

A careful study of their exposed surfaces indicates that Indian markings along the Colorado River have been there for hundreds of years. The glazed surfaces of the rock have resulted from an extremely long period of exposure to the elements. Undoubtedly many people have been walking over these figures without knowing their origin. Then too, as with the terrestrial traveler so with the aviator, he does not always see the pictures unfolded on the ground. Is it not quite possible then that there may be some extremely interesting and unusual Indian markings still covered? We do know that almost daily relics of the past are gone days in the shape of pottery, in many cases still unbroken, are found in the numerous canyons near the river. Most attractive features of all these Indian markings are their unusual designs and forms and more so, their accessibility by auto and air.

Calif - Giant Pictographs

IN ANSWERING REFER TO

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE
WASHINGTON

[Handwritten mark]

AUG - 8 1933

RECEIVED
AUG 13 1933
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Mr. Frank Pinkley,
Superintendent, Southwestern Monuments,
Coolidge, Arizona.

Dear Mr. Pinkley:

Herewith enclosed are a few copies of executive order with-
drawing the lands described therein covering the proposed Giant
Pictograph National Monument.

Sincerely yours,
(SGD.) G. A. MOSKEY

Assistant Director.

Inclosure 297115

CC Supt. Toll with copy of order.

HLB:LOM