

# ANCIENT QUARAI RUINS TAKEN OVER BY MUSEUM

With ceremonies simple and yet unique and impressive, the mission and Pueblo ruins of Quarai were formally transferred to the Regents of the Museum of New Mexico on Wednesday, August 21. State Senator William M. McCoy, who with J. P. Dunlavy and J. W. Corbett deeded the ruins and 40 acres of land to the school, made the presentation and Director Edgar L. Hewett delivered the speech of acceptance. The old Spanish custom of throwing earth, stones and grass into the air by the parties to the transfer was observed.

The Archaeological Institute of America and the School of American Archaeology were represented by Prof. Mitchell Carroll, general secretary of the Institute; Dr. Charles F. Lummis of Los Angeles; Dr. H. W. Corwin of Pueblo, Colo.; Prof. L. B.

Peterson of Hartford Theological Seminary of the managing board, and Dr. E. L. Hewett, director of the school.

Quarai mission was founded among the Tiguas, at the base of the Manzano mountains, not far from the present Mountainair, Torrance County, by the Franciscans in 1629. It was abandoned in less than 50 years because of Comanche and Apache raids. The ruin is an especially fine one and is 150 years older than the oldest California mission.

Excavations were begun immediately by the School of American Archaeology and every step will be taken to preserve the splendid ruin. Out of the burial mound fine specimens of pottery and other utensils and relics have been taken, besides a number of

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skeletons. The ruin is one of a number in the Manzano region, including Abo and Quivira.

Bandelier, who conducted his extensive investigations in the Southwest in the early eighties, says of Quarai:

"I saw Quarai several times, always in winter and under the most unfavorable circumstances, and yet carried away with me a vivid impression of its singular beauty. The red sandstone formation of the rocks that crop out in the neighborhood is in pleasant contrast with the somber green of the trees and shrubbery covering the hills. Above the low mounds of the former pueblo rises the stately ruin of the old church, a massive edifice of stone, the walls of which are at least fifteen feet high and four feet thick. It measures 50x104 feet. The walls have the usual thickness of ten to twelve inches. The pueblo formed at least three squares, surrounded by the usual large buildings.

I am not sure as to the existence of estufas, as deep snow filled every depression and covered the mounds with a layer at least a foot deep. But on a second visit, when there was less snow on the ground, I think I noticed traces of a circular estufa.

"Possibly, the apple grove at Manzano was the orchard of the former mission at Quarai. Gardens, fruit trees and vineyards in New Mexico in the seventeenth century were mostly connected with missions, except at Santa Fe and perhaps in the Rio Grande Valley, where were the largest haciendas of the Spanish colonists. There stands at Manzano a grove of tall apple trees surrounded in 1812 by a wall of adobe. The trees are manifestly very old and entirely neglected. It is probable that they were planted by some of the missionaries during the seventeenth century. If there was no mission at Manzano, then the old fruit trees must have belonged to the mission at Quarai."