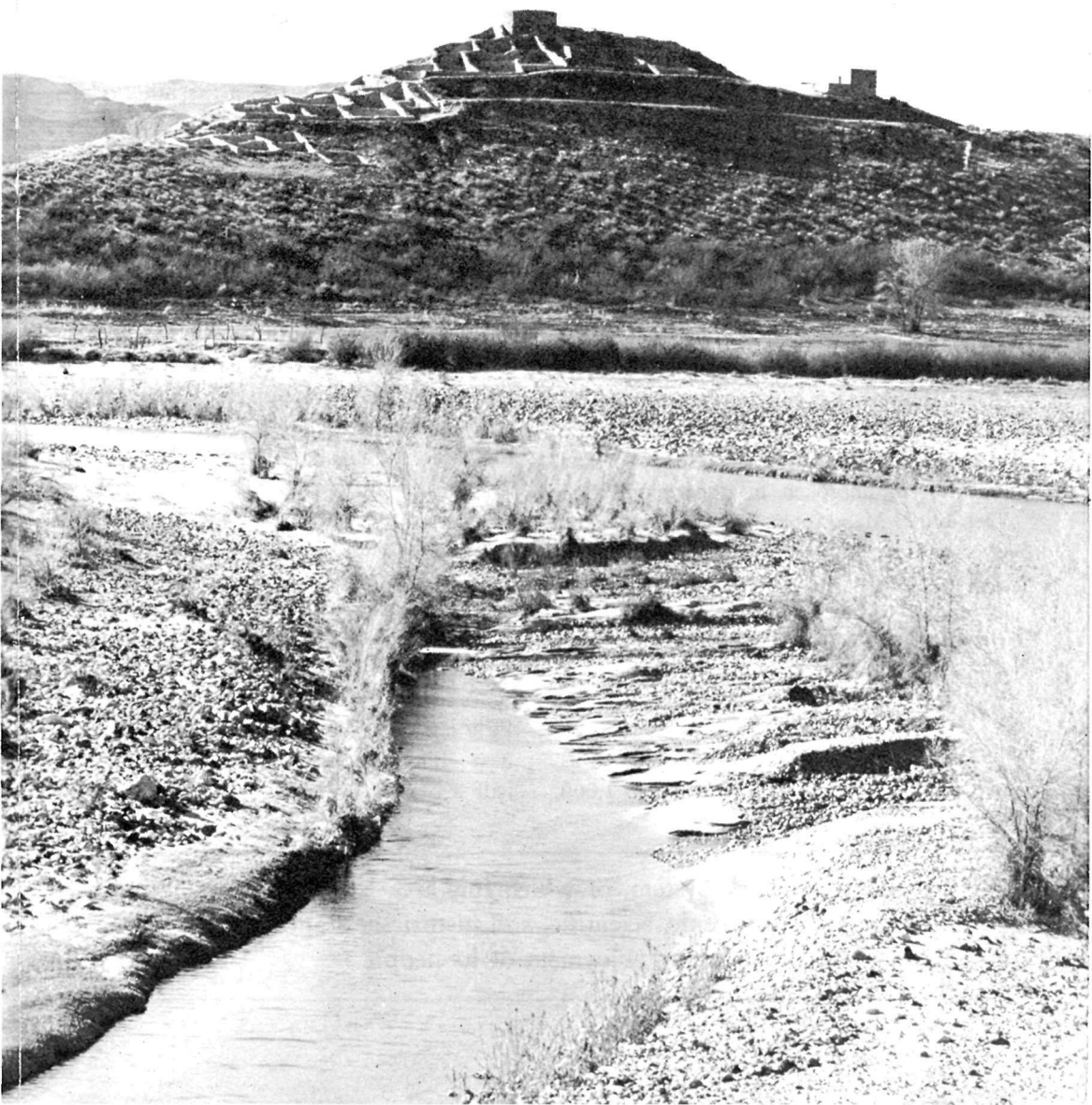


# TUZIGOOT

NATIONAL MONUMENT

ARIZONA



# TUZIGOOT

## NATIONAL MONUMENT

*Remnants of a prehistoric fortified town of Indians who farmed Arizona's colorful Verde Valley for two centuries before A. D. 1300*

Tuzigoot National Monument preserves the excavated ruins of a prehistoric pueblo which flourished between A. D. 1100 and 1450. A Visitor Center houses the entire collection of artifacts recovered from the site during the excavations of 1933-34.

The ruin is strategically located on the end of a long limestone ridge that rises 120 feet above the Verde River near Clarkdale, Ariz.

Tuzigoot is a typical hilltop pueblo of 110 clustered rooms. It covers the summit of the ridge and is terraced part way down the slopes. Two-storied in part, the pueblo is about 500 feet long and 100 feet across at its greatest width. An open plaza separates an outlying unit from the main body of the pueblo—an unbroken mass of rooms 325 feet long. Many rooms are quite large; the average being 12 by 18 feet.

The pueblo was entered by means of ladders to the rooftops and from there into the rooms through roof hatchways.

### *Verde Valley Prehistory*

**THE PEOPLE.** The story of Tuzigoot, as pieced together by archeologists, opens 1,000

years ago. Early in the 10th century, Indians of the Verde Valley were living peacefully in the midst of their cornfields. In nearby patches and between the hillocks of corn they raised beans, pumpkins, and cotton. These pioneer farming Indians lived in pole-and-brush huts and cremated their dead. They were related to the prehistoric people who lived along irrigated farmlands on the river terraces near present-day Phoenix.

Around 1100, people from the north moved down and joined the local natives. They built masonry houses on mesa tops and in caves. These were Pueblo Indians and they soon erected the first small cluster of rooms on the hill at Tuzigoot. For almost 2 centuries this small pueblo of 15 or 20 rooms continued to shelter perhaps half a hundred natives.

Modern excavations indicate that the adult Indians were buried in the great refuse piles on the hillsides below the dwellings. Babies were buried beneath the room floors or sometimes in walls, perhaps in the belief that the little one's soul would be born again in the next child—so the Hopi Indians believed half a century ago.

**THE GREAT DROUGHT.** During the 13th century, the Southwest experienced a disaster which has never since been equaled. Between 1215 and 1299, rainfall was below normal, causing extended drought. During the last 23 years of this period, it was especially dry and crops lay stunted and dying in the parched soil. It seems that the main effects of the drought were felt by those people living in and near the four adjoining corners of present-day Utah, Arizona, New Mexico, and Colorado.

Drought conditions in the Verde Valley made dry farming impossible in the flats away from the streams. As a result, the people concentrated along the permanent spring-fed streams where irrigation ditches were already in use. Tuzigoot doubled and redoubled its population as refugees moved in from the outlying desert in the last quarter of the 1200's. By the drought's end, there were 110 rooms on the hilltop.

Within sight of Tuzigoot, at the beginning of the 14th century, were a half dozen other pueblos. These had either undergone a similar increase in size or had been newly constructed during this period. As the drought abated, the Indians were content and re-

mained for another 100 years at Tuzigoot and at many other large pueblos along the middle and lower Verde River.

**ABANDONMENT.** Archeologists do not know the reason for the abandonment of Tuzigoot and her sister towns in the valley. Enemy invaders may have stormed the hill village or pestilence may have depleted the population, but tangible evidence is lacking. Another theory is that by 1300 too many people had moved off the flats of the desert and concentrated along the streams. Thus, population pressure on the small amounts of arable land could have caused an imbalance. This, in turn, could have led to strife between neighboring villages, and a gradual exodus from the valley.

Any survivors were probably absorbed into other pueblos outside the valley. The modern Hopi and Zuni both hold traditions that some of their clans came from the Verde Valley and other parts of central Arizona.

Whatever the cause and exact time of abandonment, when Spanish soldiers commanded by Antonio Espejo entered the Verde Valley in 1583, they found Yavapai Indians living in thatch huts and the pueblos in ruins.

### *Rediscovery*

For five centuries, Tuzigoot pueblo lay forgotten and undisturbed, its rooms obscured under fallen material from the ruined upper floors and roofs. In 1933 and 1934, complete excavation of the site was carried out by the University of Arizona. Federal relief funds and the cooperation of the Phelps Dodge Corporation, which donated the land, helped to make this project possible.

Through the interest of public-spirited local citizens, the entire hill of Tuzigoot, with museum and complete collection, was donated to the Federal Government, and on July 25, 1939, Tuzigoot National Monument, a tract of 43 acres, was established by Presidential proclamation.

### *About Your Visit*

The ruin and Visitor Center are open between 8 a. m. and 5 p. m. During this time, a ranger is on duty to assist you and provide additional needed information. The museum exhibits include rare turquoise mosaics, delicate beads and bracelets made from shells traded from the Gulf of California, and painted pottery which accompanied the dead as offerings.

A nominal entrance fee is charged all adult visitors. Children under 12 and school groups are admitted free if accompanied by an adult responsible for their orderly conduct.

There are no accommodations in the monument, but nearby are several small towns in which meals and lodging can be obtained.

### *Mission 66*

Mission 66 is a program designed to be completed by 1966 which will assure the maximum protection of the scenic, scientific, wilderness, and historic resources of the National Park System in such ways and by such means as will make them available for the use and enjoyment of present and future generations.

### *Related Points of Interest*

Montezuma Castle National Monument, one of the best-preserved cliff dwellings in the United States, is 27 miles from Tuzigoot. You can reach it by a good road branching from U. S. 89A. The Castle, which was a community dwelling, offers many interesting comparisons with Tuzigoot, as it was inhab-

*Top part of pueblo before excavation.*



*Top part of pueblo after excavation and partial rebuilding.*



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 enjoyment of its people.



A well-preserved burial.

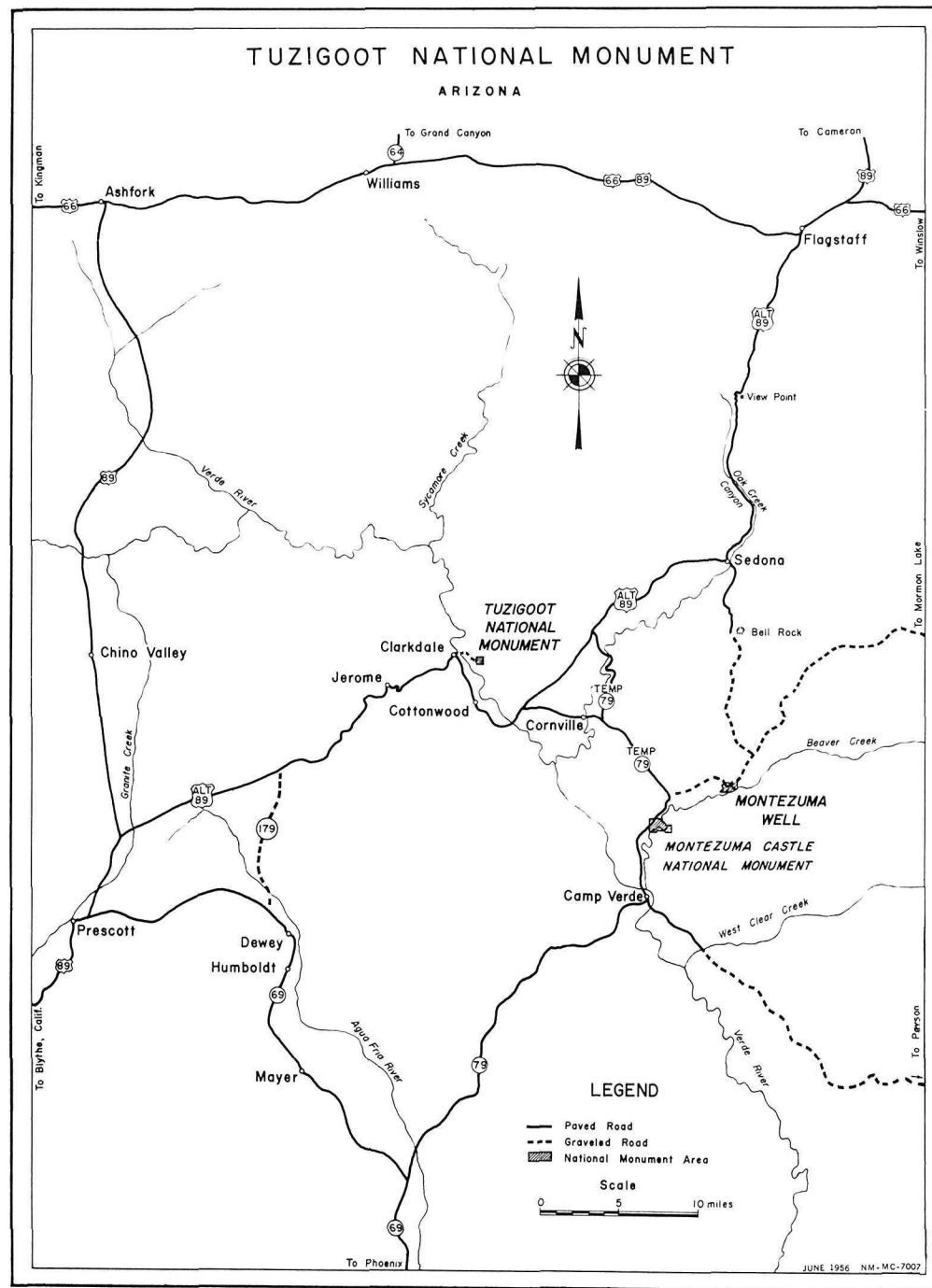
ited at the same time and by people of the same general culture.

If you plan to continue north on U. S. 89A to Flagstaff, Ariz., many related features of interest lie ahead. En route is famous Oak Creek Canyon, with its vividly colored rock formations. Many more attractions can be reached easily from Flagstaff. They include: Walnut Canyon National Monument, a natural area of great beauty featuring cliff dwellings on rock ledges of the canyon walls; Wupatki National Monument, a series of

remarkable pueblo dwellings; and Sunset Crater National Monument, site of the last active volcano in the Southwest. Sunset Crater erupted cinders over many early pit-house dwellings about A. D. 1064.

*Administration*

Tuzigoot National Monument is administered by the National Park Service, U. S. Department of the Interior. A superintendent, whose address is Box 36, Clarkdale, Ariz., is in immediate charge.



REPRINT 1962

\* U. S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE : 1962 O-628376

# TUZIGOOT

NATIONAL MONUMENT

ARIZONA



UNITED STATES  
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

