

II. MID STREAM - The portion of the Rio Grande lying within the bounds of New Mexico, traverses the land containing America's oldest history. Scientists have determined that the knowledge and ideas of community-living Indians had gradually penetrated north from the Valley of Mexico to the country where, countless years before, primitive cave-dwelling people had lived. From this civilization to that of the Pueblo Indians as found by the Spanish explorers, a constant upward trend of development had taken place. While most explorers usually follow a river either up or down, a strange exception took place on the Rio Grande, for the first two Europeans to know this river came to its banks, one from the east, the other from the west. The first was Cabeza de Vaca, who crossed the Rio Grande somewhere above the present Mexican city of Reynosa. He had been shipwrecked in 1582 near the site of Galveston. In the course of eight year's wanderings he traveled west crossing the river at several widely different locations. Francisco Vasquez Coronado left Culiacan and journeyed eastward and reached the Rio Grande in the vicinity of Socorro, New Mexico, and followed the river up to the Tiguex pueblos near Albuquerque where he rested during the winter of 1540-41.

In 1598, Don Juan de Onate, the newly appointed colonizer, took formal possession of this territory in the name of the King of Spain. It was not until 1610 that Santa Fe was founded as the capital by the third governor of the new province, Don Pedro de Peralta. For seventy years the Spanish rule lasted, either by persuasion or by force as the need arose; then in 1680 the Pueblo Indians revolted, killing or driving out of the country all of the Spanish invaders. In 1692 a new governor, Don Diego de Vargas returned to Santa Fe, making a peaceful reconquest.

So the Spanish rule continued for over two hundred years, directed from Spain, until the Mexican revolution in 1821, when New Mexico became a province of Old Mexico. Soon thereafter followed the breaking of the Santa Fe trail from Independence, Missouri, bringing merchandise from the United States. Mexican rule, however, was of short duration, for the Texas war followed in 1836 and, after the defeat of Santa Ana in the Battle of San Jacinto, all territory as far west as the Rio Grande was claimed as part of the independent Texas Republic. The annexation of Texas to the United States ten years later precipitated a war with Mexico, as both countries struggled for possession of the Southwest and California. With the signing of the treaty of Guadalupe-Hidalgo, the Rio Grande from El Paso to the Gulf of Mexico was established as the eastern half of the international boundary.

Region of the Gorge - Between Taos and Santa Fe, the Rio Grande Gorge widens as it nears its end. In the lower part of the canyon are a few Spanish-American settlements, or rather groups of small farms, using all available tillable land.

8X10 page 70 ALONG THE SLOPE OF THE SANGRE DE CRISTO MOUNTAINS, ABOUT THIRTY MILES BELOW THE SAN LUIS VALLEY, LIE THREE SMALL BUT IMPORTANT CLOSELY RELATED COMMUNITIES, THE INDIAN PUEBLO OF SAN GERONIMO DE TAOS, DON FERNANDO DE TAOS, AND RANCHOS DE TAOS.

11X14 page 71 THE RIVER CUTS ITS WAY DEEPLY THROUGH THE MASS OF LAVA WHICH DAMMED THE SOUTHERN END OF THE SAN LUIS VALLEY, AND FORMS THE RIO GRANDE GORGE.

16x20 page 75 TO THE WEST OF TAOS STRETCHES A DESERT LAND OF GREAT CONTRAST AND BEAUTY. IN THE DISTANCE ARE THE SMALL VOLCANOES FROM WHICH CAME THE GREAT LAVA FLOW OF THIS REGION. LIGHT SUMMER SHOWERS FLIT ACROSS THE DISTANCE, SPRINKLING THE DESERT WITH A SUDDEN TASTE OF MOISTURE.

8x10 page 78 THE RIO GRANDE GORGE MAY BEST BE SEEN LOOKING NORTH TOWARD THE LOW HILLS WHICH MARK THE SOUTHERN BOUNDARY OF THE SAN LUIS VALLEY. ATTAINING A DEPTH OF OVER ONE THOUSAND FEET, ITS WALLS ARE PRECIPITOUS, AS THOUGH THE EARTH HAD SPLIT OPEN. THE GREAT PLAIN THROUGH WHICH IT WINDS IS COVERED WITH LOW SAGEBRUSH, AND THE BORDERING HILLS ARE STUDDED WITH PINON AND CEDAR.

16x20 page 79 BETWEEN TAOS AND SANTA FE, THE RIO GRANDE GORGE WIDENS AS IT NEARS ITS END.

Indian Pueblos and Rites - On the high mesas which constitute the Pajarito Plateau to the west, lie the ruins of many prehistoric Indian communities. Of the eighty Indian pueblos existing at the time of the Conquistadores, sixty-six were in the valley of the Rio Grande, between Taos and Socorro.

11x14 page 88 TUNYO--THE BLACK MESA--SACRED MOUNTAIN OF THE SAN ILDEFONSO INDIANS WHOSE VILLAGE LIES AT THE FOOT OF THE SOUTHERN SLOPE

8 11x14 2 8x10 page 103 DESCENDING FROM THE TWENTY-MILE-WIDE CRATER OF THE VALLE GRANDE IS A BROAD SLOPING MESA, THE PAJARITO PLATEAU, COMPOSED OF HARDENED VOLCANIC ASH AND IGNEOUS ROCK

11x14 2 8x10 page 104 CARVING ITS WAY THROUGH THE VAST PLATEAU, BISECTING IT, THE RIO GRANDE ~~N~~ TWISTS AND TURNS THROUGH WHITE ROCK CANYON

Heritage from Spain - On the East side of the Rio Grande, opposite the Pajarito Plateau, are a country and life unbelievably different. Several small streams enter the river from the Sangre de Cristo Mountains, and in their valleys are the scattered villages and little farms of people of Spanish origin. These are the descendants of the members of the colony founded by Onate. Don Juan de Onate was himself a member of the Third Order of Saint Francis, and with him came the padres who planted Christian crosses on the crests of barren hills. For nearly three and one half centuries, the ~~R~~ Franciscans ~~ah~~ have guided the spiritual life of the Spanish people along the Rio Grande. The rugged life which was theirs for many years has modified as new methods of transportation have replaced the long foot marches, but much of that early zeal and spirit lives vigorously today as it did so long ago.

Jack Art-Sunday page 112 NEAR THE TINY VILLAGE OF RIO CHIQUITO, IRRIGATION OF A FEW SMALL FIELDS BRINGS A NOTE OF VERDURE AMID THE CASTLE-LIKE EROSIONS OF BARREN LAND

8x10 page 125 SANTA FE, CAPITAL OF NUEVO MEJICO, THE TERRITORY OF NEW MEXICO, AND NOW OF THE STATE, HAS THE MOST RESOUNDING HISTORY OF ANY CITY IN OUR COUNTRY. TEN YEARS BEFORE THE PILGRIMS SAILED FROM ENGLAND, SANTA FE, THE FARTHEST OUTPOST OF THE SPANISH CROWN, WAS THE ONE IMPORTANT ~~xx~~ POINT IN ALL THE WEST, WHERE FOR TWO HUNDRED AND FIFTY YEARS IT HELD ITS DOMINATION.

16X20 page 128-29 FROM THE CREST OF LA BAJADA, OVERLOOKING THE KERES PUEBLOS, THE RIVER FLOWING AT THE FOOT OF THE DISTANT MESA IS DWARFED TO INVISIBILITY BY THE IMMENSITY OF THE VIEW. DURING THE SUMMER, THUNDERSTORMS, OFTEN OF GIGANTIC PROPORTIONS, SWEEP ACROSS THIS ARID LAND, DRENCHING MOMENTARILY THE MOUNTAINS, DESERT, AND RIVER VALLEY.

11X14 page 132 THE THIRD OF THE KERES PUEBLOS IN THIS VALLEY, SAN FELIPE, IS SITUATED ON THE RIVER'S EDGE BENEATH THE BASALTIC TABLELAND WHICH EXTENDS DOWN THE RIVER TO ALBUQUERQUE AND BEYOND.

8X10 page 134 BELOW SAN FELIPE, THE RIO GRANDE WASHES THE BANKS OF AN OLD RUIN OF THE TIGUEX PROVINCE, THE PREHISTORIC PUEBLO OF KUUAU. ✓

16X20 page 136 FROM THE CREST OF THE SANDIA MOUNTAINS, THE LANDSCAPE SPREADS TO MAGNIFICENT DISTANCES DOWN THE VALLEY OF THE RIO GRANDE UNTO THE BROAD HORIZON.

Middle Valley - Paralleling the Rio Grande, from El Paso to Santa Fe, ran the Camino Real, the highway over which has passed more than three centuries of traffic. Beginning at Chihuahua, Mexico, the old ~~xxx~~ road covered a distance of six hundred and sixty miles, much of it over scorching desert. This was a highway so imbued with adventure, battle, historic episode, and all the possible actions of the human race, that few roads can compare with it in its continuous and colorful use. Over this route came many of the earliest explorers, and over it came the long caravan of Onate with his colonists, soldiers, livestock, and goods. Down it passed the early covered-wagon trains, taking merchandise to Mexico, bringing back other items in exchange.

8X10 page 139 THE RIO GRANDE FLOWS THROUGH ALBUQUERQUE, BORDERED BY MAGNIFICENT COTTONWOOD TREES FOR MANY MILES BOTH ABOVE THE CITY AND BELOW. IN THE AUTUMN, THE RIVER'S WINDING COURSE MAY BE TRACED BY THE GOLDEN RIBBON OF FOLIAGE AGAINST THE FAWN-COLORED MESAS BORDERING THE VALLEY AND THE GREEN OF ALFALFA WHICH CARPETS THE FIELDS THROUGHOUT THE REGION.

16X20 page 142 THE RIO GRANDE IN FLOOD NEAR SAN ANTONIO

8X10 page 143 TRAVELING THROUGH MILES OF SEMI-DESERT COUNTRY, WHERE TRIBUTARIES ARE DRY WASHES EXCEPT FOR FLASH FLOODS FOLLOWING THUNDERSTORMS, THE RIO GRANDE MOVES TOWARD ITS LARGEST (1949) DAM.

16X20 page 144 AFTER THE RIO GRANDE LEAVES THE GREAT SAN LUIS VALLEY IN COLORADO, IT PASSES THROUGH A WHOLE SUCCESSION OF SMALLER VALLEYS IN ITS STEADFAST PURPOSE TO REACH THE SEA.

11X14 page 146 BELOW THE GREAT DAM AT ELEPHANT BUTTE THE RIO GRANDE SLOWS ITS PACE AS IT WANDERS BETWEEN SAND HILLS NOT UNLIKE THOSE IN THE VALLEY OF THE NILE.

8X10 page 148 BEYOND THE VALLEYS MADE GREEN BY THE RIO GRANDE, THE NEW MEXICO DESERT RECEDES TO THE FAR-DISTANT HORIZON.

~~149~~ page 149 AS THE RIVER ENTERS THE MESSILA VALLEY, THE ORGAN
8x10 MOUNTAINS COME INTO VIEW. THROUGH THE PRESENT CONTROLLED USE
OF THE RIVER'S WATER BY RETENTION IN THE RESERVOIRS ABOVE, THE
DROUGHT SEASON OF 1945 FOUND THE RIVER BED PARCHED AND DRY AFTER
THE NEED FOR IRRIGATION WAS OVER.