

While reading the Washington Mathews' Version of the Navaho creation myth, my mind's eye traveled to the four sacred mountains bordering the Navaho ancient world. It was then, I think, that it occurred to me that the best way to ^{illustrate} give the feeling of this beautiful story would be to photograph these mountains from the air. I made two flights, one to obtain the pictures of the Sacred Mountains of the East, which at the present time is not ~~xxxx~~ a part of the Reservation. There has been some controversy ^{now} too, as to which is the East Mountain, as the border of the reservation has been moved somewhat to the west, but the sources on which I most rely, give preference to Mount Blanca, in Southern Colorado in the San Luis valley where the Navaho used to hunt. ^{an early hunting ground of the Navaho.}

After making arrangements for a second flight, with a local pilot, we took off early one morning heading this time for the Sacred Mountain of the South (Tsisnajini) known to the rest of us as Mount Taylor. Perhaps it is my love for landscape and geography that makes me love to fly. From the air, at not too high an elevation, one can best see the great structures of the earth's surface, the different kinds of mountains, the age old erosions. In the air one becomes detached, and the mind goes deep into the past thinking of Time in Depth.

Looking down on this great Southwest country my thoughts first went back to the earliest known existence of man (^{here in the Southwest} in this part of the world, where some twenty thousand years ago primitive Indians lived in a cave high in the Sandia Mountains, rising so abruptly to the south of our plane. One could imagine the slow migrations spreading slowly over this country following their far earlier trek from Mongolia via the Behring Sea and Alaska/ (As we flew west we soon saw two of the ancient Pueblos of the Rio Grande Valley, ~~xxxxxx~~ inhabitants are the descendants of these early Cave dwellers. Below

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and the great pageant of history
that has gone by.

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us on the west bank of the Rio Grande, lay the skeleton ruin of the great Pueblo of the Tiguex who gave Coronado a friendly welcome in 1540. In a matter of seconds almost, we looked down on the present day Pueblos of Santa Ana and Zia, sun baked on the adobe banks of the Jemez river a short distance above its confluence with the Rio Grande. The early morning shadows moulded the old Mission Church of Santa Ana in high relief.

Crossing the hilly divide at the southern end of the Jemez range, we were soon flying over ¹⁰⁰pinion studdedn mesas and Tsotsil ~~xxx~~ (Mr. Jayla) was rising, its snow ~~xx~~ tip ~~xxx~~ terracing to the south and west of us. A sparsely settled country lay beneath us. A few scattered Navaho hogans could be seen, miles apart and far from sources of water. ^{seemingly}

(We circled several times as we reached a point where the mountain ^{directly} ~~xxxx~~ rose to the south of us, as I sought out foregrounds that would reveal this terrai~~n~~ to the best pictorial advantage. In the Navaho legend, turquoise is the color of the Sacred Mountain of the South, and in the early morning light it was indeed a turquoise blue with its snowy crest rising to a height of 12,--- feet. ⁷⁰⁰

Turning north~~ly~~ we headed for ~~Farmington~~ the modern city of Farmington where we would land to refuel and have a second breakfast. We were crossing an open semi~~arid~~ land, and far on the distant horizon, I could see ^{the} ~~a~~ region now known as "Old Navaho Land".

This stretched to the junction of the San Juan and ~~xxxxxx~~ ^{Pine} rivers where at this minute the new Navaho Dam is rising to hold water for dev- ^{new agricultural} elopment of Navaho land. In this ^{area, between the 2 rivers,} ~~region~~ the Salvage Archaeological project of the Museum of New Mexico is finding many new phases of the earliest known life of the Navaho, including the site ~~of~~ the shrine of the Twin War Gods. It was in this region too, where the Spanish Priest, Father Geronimo Zarate-Salmeron, ~~xxxxx~~ told in his chronicle of the "Navahu de Apache" who were very great farmers".

This, our first European contact with the Navaho ~~or the Navaho~~ (and the Apache, who are cousins), comes to us from Benevides when he came to Santa Fe in 1626. ^{according in his chronicle etc} These Indians differed markedly from the village living Pueblos. These Athabascan speaking people were comparatively new comers to this region, the earliest date at this present time is approximately ~~1500~~ ^{1500 -} A.D. ~~1500~~.

The San Juan river is the northern boundry of the present day Navaho reservation, with the exception of a small extension in the four corners ^{new} ~~and Southern Utah area~~. Farmington lies on the north bank of the San Juan. For many years a quiet farming region, it has suddenly burst into quick growth as ~~it~~ first Uranium and now oil have been discovered in the nearby territory. Many Navaho come to Farmington to work, to shop, and some ^{children come here to} ~~go to nearby schools~~.

Leaving Farmington we flew on west, for a while following the course of the San Juan. Angling off from the community of Shiprock, we soon were over the Rock itself with its two great dykes spreading out like the wings of ^{an} ~~the~~ eagle. Rising 1864 feet above the surrounding desert, this beautiful formation may be seen from a hundred miles away. It is the core of an extinct volcano and the formation of the huge dykes ^{seem made of} ~~look like~~ molten lava bricks fashioned by a giant's hand. ~~XXXX~~ ^A ~~XXXX~~ Navaho legend about Shiprock calls it a great eagle with outspread wings. describe accurately
des.

We crossed the northern end of the Lukaichukai Mountain Range, the heavily timbered plateau running north and south separating the eastern from the western sections of the Navaho Reservation. On the western slopes of the Plateau lie the spectacular regions of Canyon de Chelly ^{or its tributaries}, ~~we could see the location as we flew over~~, and Monument Valley. Again Navaho history lay beneath us for in this area of the great canyons Kit Carson finally subdued the Navaho who ^{more than} ~~nearly~~ 200 years had raided and molested the Spanish villages and

