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Canyon de Chelly is a place that I have heard about since about 1908-10. My father had been somewhere in the Southwest about that time and brought home a large ~~photo~~^{photograph} made by Edward S. Curtis, the ^{famous} one he made in the Canyon with the seven Navaho horsemen in the foreground. When we moved to the ranch near Delta, Colo in ^{at home, any early photo family own.} 1911, ^{Shang} that picture was on our living room wall. Later it hung over the fireplace in Colo. Springs, so I have had that long association with the place.

The first time I was near there, was in 1930 when Elizabeth ^{father + I were there} ~~went there~~ on a vacation trip. We drove up de Chelly as far as the White House in a wagon and, of course, I made the same photograph that had been done by all the early photographers. Since 1930 I had wanted to go back to this incredibly beautiful place to explore it further but ~~it~~^{didn't make} was not until 1972 that the School of American Research under the direction of Dr. Douglas Schwartz, gave me a grant to produce a book on the Canyons. So here is a book full of pictures ^{with only} and a few words to speak of the way I am putting this all together. It is hard to say what is the ~~most~~ best way to receive one's first impression. De Chelly, ~~is~~ differs from the Grand Canyon which is a series of retreating mesas + is a mile deep and 5 miles wide. De Chelly, on the other hand is only 1000 ft deep at its greatest depth and its walls are sheer + perpendicular. There are areas whose erosion

George Richardson
#41-2131

has taken place creating the superb vistas
in many parts of the canyons. De Chelly
is the overall name ~~for~~ this canyon complex
~~including~~ Canyon Del Muerto, Monument canyon
Cross Canyon & other smaller offshoots.

There are many ways to have our first view. There is a Rim Drive on the South side of DeChelly Proper, and only recently the new Rim Drive up the north ^{west} side of Del Muerto with overlook points and at a number of exceptionally ⁺ beautiful areas.

To ascend the Canyons, one enters the mouth at Chink where there are about 100 canyon walls at all. ^{much of the time} At ~~times~~ the Canyon floor may be dry, or almost so. The sand is deep and ^{(the near the surface and} there are areas where quicksands ~~are~~ dangerous.

The Restrictions imposed by the National Park Service ^{require} ~~that~~ accredited guides ^{to} ~~must~~ accompany visitors, in licensed vehicles or occasionally in private cars of adequate design. The Navaho People who live in the Canyons use either horse drawn wagons, or their own trucks, and of course their own knowledge of safe & unsafe areas over which to travel.

In 1993 I flew over the canyons in a small plane photographing them from various distances and ~~several~~ angles. And from the ~~air~~, of course, one sees the relationship of the canyons and their structure as ~~they~~ in no other way.

It has been my hope to capture on film the ever changing light, at all times of year, in sunshine and in rain, even in a fog. One can stand at a given spot and make a series of exposures finding that there are no two alike. In the summer when light clouds move across the sky, the play of sun light and shadow can reveal ^{unexplored} formations. The ~~very~~ geological structure is amazing in its variety and detail.