

The small mountain range bisecting the Navaho reservation from West to East is abrupt on its eastern side. On the western slope, however, it descends in diminishing mesas toward the west. Cut into these mesas is a wide funnel-like area that gathers the descending drainage into the Canyon de Chelly complex. The two major canyons, de Chelly and Del Muerto, join just a short distance of about four miles above the actual entrance to the canyons. The Chinle Wash continues the drainage of the whole area to the junction with the San Juan River.

In 1931, in an agreement with the Navaho, the National Park Service established a monument here to protect the ruined dwellings of the past from the relic hunters and those who seek to destroy rather than preserve. The area is a part of the Navaho Nation and we Americans are the momentary guardians, until the day when the Navaho people themselves have developed this particular knowledge of preservation necessary to keep the area safe for history.

In 1972 I flew over the canyons in a small plane photographing them from various distances and angles. And from the air, of course, one can see the relations of the canyons and their structure as in no other way.

It has been my hope to capture on film the ever changing light - at all times of the 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 sunlight and shadow can reveal unexpected formations

Canyon de Chelly is a place that I had heard about since 1908-1910. My father had been somewhere in the southwest about that time, and brought home a large photograph by Edward S. Curtis, the famous one of Canyon de Chelly with the seven Navaho horsemen in the foreground. When we moved to the ranch near Delta, Colorado in 1911, that picture was on our living room wall. I have an early photograph of my own showing it. Later, in 1915 when we moved to Colorado Springs, the Curtis photograph hung over our fireplace; so I had a long association with the Canyon.

It was not until 1930 that my good friend Elizabeth Forster and I made our first trip there. It was a windy September day, but as it was our only chance, we drove in a Navaho wagon as far up de Chelly as the White House. The wonderful sight of that ruin in the wall of the Canyon made me make almost the same photograph that all the early photographers had made. Since 1930 I had longed to go back to the Canyon to explore it further, but it 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 Canyon. So here is a book full of pictures and only a few words.

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It is hard to decide which is the best way to receive our first impressions, because it differs so greatly from the Grand Canyon. It is a series of retracting mesas and is a mile deep and five miles wide giving a great feeling of space. De Chelly, on the other hand, is only one thousand feet deep at its greatest depth and its walls are sheer + perpendicular.

The small mountain range bisecting the Navaho reservation from west to east, is abrupt on its eastern side. On the western slope, however, it descends in diminishing mesas toward the west. Cut into these mesas is a wide funnel-like area that gathers the descending drainage into the Canyon de Chelly complex. The two major canyons, de Chelly & Del Muerto, join at first a short distance of about 4 miles above the actual entrance to the canyon, with the Chinle Wash continuing the drainage of the whole area to the junction with the San Juan River.

On the western slope of the Chuska Mountains in northeastern Arizona, exist a maze of related canyons deeply eroded by water and wind during the past years known as the Canyon de Chelly complex. The head waters of this great drainage system commences near the top of ~~the~~ Washington Pass in the Chuska Mountains and adjoining areas where the natural drainage gathers in a gentle sloping funnel like formation heading westward as it gains momentum to the heads of the two major canyons, de Chelly and adjoining de Muerto.

Here during the past nineteen centuries have lived Indian People of many strains. The first were the Basket Makers whose primitive dwellings have been found by archaeologists during the past century. Then came the Cliff Dwellers - the Anasazi; the Old People - as the modern Indians call them. These were the ancestors of possibly of the Hopi, the Zuni, or others. Lastly, came the Navaho sometime during the seventeenth century, as they gradually moved westward from Dinétah, Old Navaho Land, near the junction of the San Juan and Pine Rivers in Southern Colorado and North Central New Mexico. We first know of these Athabascan speaking people as living here about A.D. 1550 as they appeared in the Southwest following a slow migration from the northwest, British Columbia, and in more ancient times (no one

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Yet, during the quiet times the Indians settled here some nineteen centuries ago, Indians of many strains. The first were the Basket Makers, whose primitive ~~hous~~ dwellings have been found by archaeologists during the past century. They built in cans opening to the south and Southwest where the sun warmed them in winter and when they found shelter for storms. Then came the Cliff Dwellers - the Anasazi, the Old People as the modern Indians call them. These were the ancestors possibly of the Hopi - the Zuni or others. Lastly came the Navaho early in the eighteenth century as they gradually moved westward from Denétah, Old Navaho Land, near the junction of the San Juan and Pina Rivers in South Central Colorado and North Central New Mexico. We first know of these Athabascan speaking people as living here about A.D. 1550, as they appeared in the Southwest following a slow migration from the Northwest, British Columbia, and in more ancient times (no one knows when - yet -) from Mongolia via Behring Straights. There are Athabascan linguistic groups still living to the north of us.

Earl Harris excavated Manning Cave 1926-27 for American
History Museum

Tide Narrows - Old Muro

Standing Geo Ruin - largest in monument

All above quotes from Arizona Highways Jan 1946
article by Joseph Walker

Arizona Highways May 1946

O' Sullivan photo of White House 1873 - Col. Benson of Good
Article by Beaumont Newhall

Article by Nancy Newhall - Arizona Highways June 1952

picture and word so that each compliments ^{just have} the other. This book
was the product of fifteen years of intermittent work. The ex-
perience gained in producing ^{it, and the knowledge gained in the writing of it.} this book, should make it possible
to produce this new ~~book~~ ^{book} within a period of two years if I were
financially free to concentrate on the work.

Chuska
Water & Led.
de Chelly Area
hona land
jump - position

culturally marked
with hand character

historic sites

Notes for D. Jones
Canyon de Chelly

Washington Pass
Seen & Mason Symbols

On the western slope of the Chuoka Mountains in Northeastern Arizona, exist a maze of related canyons deeply eroded by wind and water during the past years known as the Canyon de Chelly complex.

The headwaters of this great drainage system commence near the top of Washington Pass in the Chuoka Mountains and adjoining areas where the natural ^{or Tashia and} drainage formation ~~gather~~ is a gently sloping funnel-like formation heading westward, ^{the drainage} gaining momentum as it reaches the heads of the two major Canyons, de Chelly and adjoining del Muerto. In all of this area above the canyons, consisting of some ^{Square miles}, the snow lies deep in some winters, and summer thunderstorms drop volumes of water which during the centuries have gradually eroded this canyon area. These floods of rain ~~water~~ and ^{the} melted snow at times send flashes of turbulent water over the rims and down the ever deepening beds of the canyons, tearing up trees ^{off} moving great boulders. The residue of this water continues down the Chino wash emptying finally into the San Juan River just above the Goose Neck, ^{near the Rainbow Bridge} some 75 miles before that river joins the Colorado above the Grand Canyon. In the de Chelly area, some of the water sinks into the deep sand of the Canyon beds, later to rise in places creating areas of treacherous quicksand and hazzardo to men, animals and moving vehicles.

Get on logs for Chino to
end of wash.
Also mileage
to Colorado
junction

add. P. Petal
formation

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The first time I was ^{my father + I} there, was in 1930 when Elizabeth ~~went there~~^{were there} on a vacation trip. We drove up de Chelly as far as the White House in a wagon and, of course, 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~~^{it 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 Canyon. So here is a book ^{with only} full of pictures and a few words to speak of the way I am putting this all together. ~~It~~ It's hard to say what is the ~~most~~ best way to receive one's first impression. De Chelly, ~~is~~ the Grand Canyon which is a series of retreating mesas + is a mile deep and 5 miles wide. ~~The~~ 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 Rinkham
44-2131

has taken place creating the rippled 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 one's first view. There is a Rim Drive on the South side of De Chelly 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 almost no canyon walls at all. ^{Much of the time} the canyon floor may be dry, or almost so. The sand is deep and ^{(one near the surface and} there are areas where quicksands ~~are~~ ^{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~~ ^{is} in no other way.

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On the western slope of the Chuska Mountains in North Eastern Arizona, exist a maze of related canyons deeply eroded by water and wind during the past 100,000 years, known to us as the Canyon de Chelly complex. Here during the past 1900 years have lived Indian Peoples of many strains. First the Basket Makers, whose primitive dwellings have been found by archaeologists ^{during} the past century. Then the cliff dwellers - the Anasazi - the early Pueblo People - the ancestors of possibly of the Hopi - Zuni - or others. Lastly came the Navaho - sometime during the ~~last of the~~ ^{seventeenth} century as they gradually moved westward from Dine'tah, Old Navaho Land, near the junction of the San Juan and the Pina Rivers of northern New Mexico & Southern Colorado - ~~the~~ we first know of them at the Navajo speaking people sometime about AD 1550 as they appeared in the Southwest of the United States, following a slow migration from the North West and even in more ancient times, (no one knows yet -) from Mongolia via Behring Straights.

more

Here also exists to-day some of the
greatest beauty to be found anywhere
on this planet Earth.

The Headwaters of this great drainage
system commences near the top of
Washington Pass and adjoining areas
where the natural drainage gathers
in a ^{in the mountains} ~~valley flat~~ ^{but} formation, heading
westerly as it gains momentum to
the Leads of Canyons & Del Monte
In all of this area, consisting of
some square miles, the
snow, in some winters lies deep, and
summer thunderstorms drop great
volumes of water which during the
thousands of years have gradually
eroded these canyons. These ^{fast} ~~fast~~ floods
of rain water of melted snow send
flashes of turbulent water over the
rims and down the heads of the canyons
tearing up trees moving great boulders
sinking deep into the sandy beds,
later to rise ^{in places} ~~in places~~ ^{to} creating areas of ^{hard} ~~hard~~
quicksand.

Yet during the quiet times
the Indians settled here - growing the
crops of corn, beans & squash on the ^{new} ~~new~~
talus slopes left by receded floods,

which over the years, now exist above flood level.

Until the advent of the automobile, these canyons were reached only by foot, on horseback or in wagons. This was an arduous life during that period. Then within ~~the~~ the past 50 (?) years, came the motor driven vehicle and since 1945 - the four wheel drive variety of car which has now given greater access to the canyons, though there are times when it is still dangerous to use even this mode of access.

^{with an agreement with the Tribe}
In 1931, the National Park Service established a Monument here to protect the ruined dwellings of the past from the relic hunters, and those who seek to destroy rather than preserve. The area is a part of the Navaho Nation and we Americans are the momentary guardians, until the day when the Navaho people themselves have developed this particular knowledge of preservation necessary to keep the entire area safe for history.

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.

Spanish map of 1776 - indicates location
1805 Expedition to try to suppress Navaho raids
Number of expeditions during Mexican rule period 1847-46

Late 15th to early 18th Century - Navaho

Mummy Cave photographed by Ben W. Stick 1882

In 1849 New Mexico Territorial Govt. requested Army to send expedition to subdue Navaho. Lt. J. H. Simpson of the Topographical Engineers accompanied Troops under Washington. His journal of 1850 contains first detailed acct of some of the ruins.

In 1882 James Stevenson surveyed the area for the Smithsonian making sketches, ground plans + photographs of 46 ruins in the two big main canyons. He found 2 mummies in the ruin now known as Mummy Cave and he gave this northern canyon the name of Canyon de los muertos.

Following the Stevenson expedition ~~another~~ Cosmos Mundeloff who had accompanied Stevenson retired later in 1882 to make a more complete survey of the ruins in Canyon de Chelly. His report published in 1896 following 2 more visits.

Then in 1920's ^{The} Earl Morris excavated several of the

are also giving us the first knowledge of material objects used by these ancient Cliff Dwellers.

The Canyons and their environs were made a National Monument

6 miles to mouth of canyon

The White House. Upper ruin contains 10 rooms and a large room in the center of the cave. One side wall of this room is 12 ft high. It still has the white gypsum coating. While the cave is 35 ft above the canyon floor and the lower ruin at one time was several stories high with its roof coming to within 4 ft of the cave floor. The entire structure contains about 30 rooms & 4 Kivas. Tree ring study indicates that the lower ruin was built after 1070 A.D.

Antelope House, 5 miles above junction
Badly eroded because of location

Ask about cotton find with burial near Antelope House
Is this a date? Is the spindle a Navajo one or Pueblo?
2 miles in skins of ~~Spain~~ cotton Has the white Colima
Basket been dated?

Big Cave yielding Basket maker material A.D. 331-835
Basket maker Times.

Unusual burial of a pair of arms + hands. Silver necklaces of
Avalon shell pendants were wrapped around the wrists and a
basket ^{half} full of white shell beads. Another basket 2 feet in diameter
covered the burial. (Where is it now?)

Quarry Cave 21 miles up Del Muerto - Two adjacent caves
55 rooms 2 Kivas. Tower built in A.D. 1284

The Anasazi, Navaho word meaning Old People.

They were the ancestors of modern Pueblo Indians.

living in the Four Corners General Area / - probably the
beginning of Christian Era to the end of the 13th Century.

first pottery about A.D. 500

in 1972

When I first commenced on this project to photograph Anaya de Chelly, I thought of the Navaho woman whose name I did not know, and who had performed a hand trembling ceremony over me Ten years before. At that time, 1962, I had with me a young Navaho woman who was working in Santa Fe & who had never been to the Canyon. We had arrived in the afternoon & put up our tent in the camp grounds. The following morning we drove up to the community of many Farms where I wanted to photograph a children's clinic established by Cornell University. We worked there all morning making pictures of the ^{Navaho} children. This was one of the last pictures for my book The Enduring Navaho. I was using a hand camera and flash equipment involving the use of a case containing all the additional equipment I use with this particular camera. On our way back to the de Chelly campground. That evening I got out my changing bag to prepare to re-load exposed film which I had used during the day. I could not find this ^{particular} case. We took everything of the case, but there was no case. Thinking I must have left it in my car, we returned there the next morning, but there was no case. Then remembering that I had stopped at another post along the way, where I had photographed a man filling water barrels, we stopped again to talk to the trader. He knew nothing of my missing case. We returned to the Canyon and the following morning took a previously arranged jeep

Jeep trip up Canyon del Muerto. Near the site of
Mummy Cave some 20 miles up the canyon which
merges into de Chelly some 4 or 5 miles above the
entrance to the Canyons. We stopped to give some
children some candy who came to greet us. Two
~~old~~ women appeared and one of the said to us
"Did you girls find the case you lost yesterday?"
I was dumfounded. I was carrying my hand camera
& my large one was in its case in the floor of