

...the mouth of side rineons
...it lies some 15 miles south-
west of its junction with the Canyon de Chelly at White Clay in
the Fort Defiance Plateau. Bat Canyon, a scenic canyon with an
important horse trail, enters Monument Canyon from the southwest,
1 mile up canyon from the de Chelly-Monument Canyon juncture.
Called jaa'abani ha'stiin, Bat Trail, by the Navajos. This
spruce lined canyon, some 3 miles in length, is one of the main
stock trails for transferring sheep, goats, and horses from win-
ter range down into the canyons for summer grazing. At the head
of Bat Canyon Trail is found a Navajo rockpile, Putting On Rocks,
or offering pile of stones and wrigs. Halfway down the trail is
a petroglyph of a horse's head, said by the Navajos to have been
pecked in the rock in 1884 by Captain Pfeiffer's men (see CHENLE,
Canyon Across From The Rock Struck By Lightning). Down the trail
and where the canyon starts to flatten out is tsojaa'abani, Bat
Rock, from which the canyon gets its name. Standing north of the
main canyon, this rock is said to be infested with bats, thence
the name. A short distance north of Bat Rock is an old stone
Navajo eagle cage. One mile up the canyon from where it joins
Monument Canyon and on the north wall are located two tanaasuzi
ruins, one fairly good sized.

Upper Canyon de Chelly. The main Canyon de Chelly contin-
ues east from its juncture with Monument Canyon for some 20 miles
where its headwaters, Wheatfields Whiskey, and Coyote Creeks
join to drop into the main canyon. The Navajo tradition of the
origin of the whole canyon system is as follows:

"Before there was the Canyon de Chelly, tsochini, Black Rock
stood above the plain. A great fire started and set the world
blazing. Everything burned and cracked everything. This great
fire was started when Coyote asked for fire and the people did
not want him to have it as he was a mischief maker. He begged
so hard that they finally let him have it. He went ahead and
tried to make fire. Finally he threw a flint rock against another
flint rock and it made a spark and started to blaze. Then he
ran away. It burned so fiercely that the earth cracked and water
started cutting these cracks deeper and deeper until the canyons
reached their present depth. This water was poured on the fire
by t'ohaynilii, the Water Pourer.

"You can see when you look at the tsochini today--you can see
how the both sides of the canyons fit together".

DINE BIKÉYAH

U.S. DEPT. OF THE INTERIOR
OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS
NAYAJO SERVICE

CANYON DE CHELLY

Bat Canyon: Monument Canyon has a number of side rincons entering it from the east and west. It heads some 15 miles southwest of its juncture with the Canyon de Chelly at White Clay in the Fort Defiance Plateau. Bat Canyon, a scenic canyon with an important horse trail, enters Monument Canyon from the southwest, 1 mile up canyon from the de Chelly-Monument Canyon juncture. Called *jaa'abani ha'atiin*, Bat Trail, by the Navajos. This spruce lined canyon, some 3 miles in length, is one of the main stock trails for transferring sheep, goats, and horses from winter range down into the canyons for summer grazing. At the head of Bat Canyon Trail is found a Navajo *tsopiiijih*, Putting On Rocks, or offering pile of stones and twigs. Halfway down the trail is a petroglyph of a horse's head, said by the Navajos to have been pecked in the rock in 1864 by Captain Pfeiffer's men (see CHINLEE, Canyon Across From The Rock Struck By Lightning). Down the trail and where the canyon starts to flatten out is *tsojaa'abani*, Bat Rock, from which the canyon gets its name. Standing north of the main canyon, this rock is said to be infested with bats, thence the name. A short distance north of Bat Rock is an old stone Navajo eagle egg. One mile up the canyon from where it joins Monument Canyon and on the north wall are located two 'anaasazi' ruins, one fairly good sized.

Upper Canyon de Chelly. The main Canyon de Chelly continues east from its juncture with Monument Canyon for some 20 miles where its headwaters, Wheatfields Whiskey, and Coyote Creeks join to drop into the main canyon. The Navajo tradition of the origin of the whole canyon system is as follows:

"Before there was the Canyon de Chelly, *tsézhini*, Black Rock stood above the plain. A great fire started and set the world blazing. Everything burned and cracked everything. This great fire was started when Coyote asked for fire and the people did not want him to have it as he was a mischief maker. He begged so hard that they finally let him have it. He went ahead and tried to make fire. Finally he threw a flint rock against another flint rock and it made a spark and started to blaze. Then he ran away. It burned so fiercely that the earth cracked and water started cutting these cracks deeper and deeper until the canyons reached their present depth. This water was poured on the fire by *tónayailii*, the Water Pourer.

"You can see when you look at the *tséghi* today--you can see how the both sides of the canyons fit together".