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Visit to Most remarkable Ruins of Ancient Race

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VISIT TO THE MOST REMARKABLE RUINS
OF AN ANCIENT RACE.

Rep

5-28-93

C. E. Hooper of the Rio Grande Southern Tells of the Longest Citadel, With Its 147 Rooms, Its Watch Towers and Estufas - Built on a Shelf Beneath a Great Mass of Overhanging Rock - Its Inaccessibility Has Preserved It From Vandalism.

Three and one-half miles up Cliff canon is located the largest and best preserved structure of the ancient cliff-dwellers. It covers an extensive area, has 147 rooms and several watch towers are standing in nearly as good condition as when erected centuries ago.

A party of Denver people has just returned from a visit to the monuments of a prehistoric race in the region of the Mancos. The party included W. F. and Mrs. Crosby, E. C. and Miss Braman, W. H. Jackson, the photographer; C. E. Hooper of the Rio Grande Southern and H. S. Bunting, a correspondent of the Atlanta Constitution.

C. E. Hooper related something of the experience of the party and told of the wonderful ruins which exist in Southwestern Colorado, yesterday.

THE TRIP TO THE PALACE.

"We left Mancos at 11 o'clock one morning," said he, "took the trail and climbed the mesa to Point Lookout. Then we followed down the Moccasin canon until about 4 o'clock in the afternoon, when we camped.

"Close to our camp were the remains of a dozen or more of the ruins of the valley dwellers, who, unlike the cliff dwellers, built their homes out in the open. We found many crumbling mounds of earth and stone, and came upon the remains of what had once been a reservoir. It was circular in form and, choked up as it was with the

alluvial wash and debris, was still about ten feet in depth in the center.

"In the mounds we dug up quite a number of fragments of skeletons, and scattered over a space of several acres was a great amount of broken pottery. Arrow-heads of various sizes were plentiful, and we found quite a number of mortars, used to grind corn.

UP CLIFF CANON.

"On the following morning we broke up our party, and Mr. Jackson, myself and a guide started for the Cliff palace. It was quite a tiresome journey, but our efforts were well repaid. We went down the Moccasin canon to its junction with the Mancos, and followed along the latter until we came to Cliff canon, which we followed up to a point three and a half miles above its union with the Mancos. Here we took the trail to the Cliff palace.

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National Parks.

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"This was discovered about six years ago. It has always been a disputed point whether the Cliff palace was discovered by Platt Kelly or the Wetherilla. It is built on the east side of the canon, 750 feet above the stream, and the climb to reach it is a tiresome and long one, as the sides of the canon are so precipitous.

"The cliff palace is located on a shelf beneath an overhanging rock. It lies about fifty feet back from the edge of the shelf and is about 600 feet long by fifty feet wide. We counted 147 rooms in the first story. How many may have been in the upper stories is mere conjecture. There are quite a number of round towers and ten large estufas, circular rooms, probably used for council meetings.

"In the center of each estufa was a large circular hole. We probed some of them to a depth of six feet. They were filled with ashes, and I am inclined to believe that fire formed some part of the religious service of these cliff dwellers, and that it was kept constantly burning in these estufas. These estufas were flanked with immense buttresses.

EVIDENCES OF A ROOF.

"The building had no roof, but from indications remaining it was probable that cedar rafters were placed above the stonework and covered with some sort of grass matting.

"There are no doors, but quite a number of open windows, which served the purpose of both door and window, and were built at various elevations above the floor.

"The rooms are all small. There are not more than four or five ones twelve feet square. The towers were probably reached by ladders. This is the largest ruin of the cliff dwellers ever discovered. Just above this there is another shelf with other ruins visible, but it has not been visited, as it is absolutely inaccessible without long ladders.

"A great deal of art was shown in building this structure," continued Mr. Hooper. "In some places the rocks used are rough-hewn, in others smooth. Three systems of masonry were used in construction. In one dressed stone were laid just as brick masons lay brick. A second way was the use of square stone with a rubble composed of mud or mortar and smaller rocks between. In another part of the building rough rock was used and the interstices filled with little broken bits of rock."

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RELICS WHICH WERE FOUND.

"We found a number of bones and arrow-
heads and a piece of matting, which seems
to have been made out of willow twigs and
may have been used either as a carpet or as
a shade to the open windows.

"We made a second trip to the Cliff palace

and Mr. Jackson took a great many ph
graphs at various points of vantage. Aft
wards we climbed the divide between th
Cliff and Mancos canons and found a six-
room house with buttresses in a good stage
of preservation. Eighteen miles down
Mancos canon we came to the Landal
house. This contains twenty-seven rooms,
and, owing to its location, is the most fre-
quently visited. Names from every section
of the country are carved in the cliffs here.
They present a peculiar appearance, for
everywhere a scratch is made the alkali
seems to come to the surface and reforms
the letters in white relief."

WERE A PASTORAL PEOPLE.

Mr. Hooper is quite confident from his
servations that the cliff-dwellers
herdsmen and kept domestic animals, as
goats or sheep.

The country in which these ruins are
found extends over an area of 25,000 miles
in Colorado, Utah, Arizona and New Mex-
ico, but it is only in a limited area in the
Mancos canon and its tributaries that the
best preserved monuments are found.



The City Palace in Southwestern Colorado.