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Mesa Verde National Park

Colorado National Parks

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July 2024

### Denver Women Acquire: Report on the Cliff Dwellers Association

Colorado Springs Gazette and Telegraph

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### New Trail on Mesa Verde.

Telluride Journal: Sterl Thomas, the guide, Indian interpreter and outfitter at Cortez, will early this spring build a new trail onto Mesa Verde and across to the Mancos cliff dwellings of a far easier grade and much shorter than the old Indian trail heretofore used. Mr. Thomas' route from Dolores to the cliff dwellings and other points of interest in that section is much the shorter. He has complete driving and saddle outfits, pack animals and camp equipage, knows every foot of the country, talks fluently with Mexicans, Utes and Navajos, and, all in all, is the ideal guide for tourists and sightseers.

Times 3-3-01

### TO PROTECT THE CLIFF DWELLERS' RELICS

Max Pracht, special agent of the department of the interior at Washington, is at the Brown hotel. Since his arrival in Colorado he has visited the territory of the Cliff-dwellers and recommended that nineteen townships be reserved by the national government.

It is not improbable that guards will be placed on this reserve and that the affairs will be as closely watched and cared for as the Yellowstone National Park. Mr. Pracht says that the section has not been robbed of relics as many believe, but on the contrary is in splendid condition. His visit is the result of the agitation by the women's clubs, which incorporated a company for the preservation of the ruins this week.

### Back From Mesa Verde.

S. W. Matteson has just returned from a seventeen days' trip to the Mesa Verde, near Mancos, Colo. Mr. Matteson has 600 views of the cliff dwellings.

John Hays Hammond and Mrs. Hammond were with Mr. Matteson, and Mrs. Hammond will use the views lecturing on the cliff dwellings in Europe. She has also been engaged by several magazines to write a series of articles. Miss Wolcott will use Mr. Matteson's slides in delivering a lecture before Wellesley college very shortly.

Times 6-26-02 p. 5 c. 1

### DENVER WOMEN ACQUIRE CLIFF DWELLING LEASES

The women of the executive board of the Cliff Dwelling association met yesterday afternoon at the home of Mrs. James D. Whitmore, recording secretary of the organization.

Mrs. Gilbert McClurg of Colorado Springs, regent of the association; Mrs. W. S. Peabody, vice regent; Mrs. C. A. Eldredge of Colorado Springs, corresponding secretary; Mrs. M. D. Thatcher of Pueblo, treasurer; Mrs. George T. Sumner, auditor, and Mrs. Lewis of Pueblo, historian, were present. The women were entertained at luncheon by Mrs. Whitmore and afterwards transacted the business of the association. It was reported that the five chiefs of the Mesa Verde, with whom the association has had some trouble to get their signatures to the agreement, had at last signed the document granting the lease, and that therefore the Mesa Verde was absolutely in the hands of the Cliff Dwelling association.

It was decided to set about building the wagon road to the cliff dwellings immediately. Hitherto the difficulties of reaching the Mesa Verde have been so great, and the trip so expensive, that many people who would otherwise have visited them have been kept from doing it. The wagon road will both facilitate travel and decrease the expense of the trip.

The association also decided to put up signs along the way prohibiting trespassing and tearing down the masonry of the dwellings and carrying away pottery and implements.

Plans were discussed for the entertainment of the anthropological section of the Society for the Advancement of American Science. It was decided that the association should decorate the room at the high school, which this section will occupy, with cliff dwelling pictures, pottery and Indian blankets. The annual meeting of the Cliff Dwelling association will be held in Colorado Springs on Saturday, August 17, at the house of the regent, Mrs. Gilbert McClurg.

The Woman's club has arranged to give a Cliff Dwellings afternoon for the American Society for the Advancement of Science, and Mrs. John Hayes Hammond is to be the speaker. The afternoon will be given at 4 o'clock on Tuesday, August 27, at the Woman's club rooms in Unity church. Mrs. Hammond, who has been spending almost the entire summer in scientific research among the Cliff palaces of the southwest, and who is one of the most thoroughly informed scientists in the world on the subject of cliff dwellings, has prepared an exhaustive paper on the subject in which she will describe the wonderful archaeological treasures which exist in Colorado, for the benefit of the visiting scientists.

Her talk will be illustrated with the Matteson slides, the most famous set of colored stereopticon views of the Cliff Dwellings in existence.

### NEW SUMMER RESORT.

The Rio Grande Southern management is planning to make the 'cliff dwellers' district in Mancos canon an important feature next season. Plans are making to have the district patrolled to prevent vandalism. A regular stage line will be kept up and possibly a hotel will be built in the vicinity of the main attraction.

Times 10-26-99 p. 6-1

## Will Add Strip 1931 to Mesa Verde

WASHINGTON, Jan. 7 (AP)—Representative Taylor, democrat, Colorado, introduced a bill today under which the secretary of interior would be authorized to add to the Mesa Verde National park, Colorado, a strip of land 260 feet wide along the Point Lookout road to protect the beauty of the scenery.

The addition would be made by proclamation, the secretary exchanging public lands in other regions for that attained.

6 22-06  
Times

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Great rejoicing prevails among the members of the Cliff Dwellers association, who have been interested in the passage of the bill placing the dwellings under federal control. This week it was announced that the bill which had previously passed the senate had passed the house and that only the president's signature was required to bring about the conditions for which the club women have been working. Some of those who have been especially interested are Mrs. Sarah Platt Decker, Mrs. J. D. Whitmore, Mrs. W. S. Peabody Mrs. George Sumner, Mrs. John L. McNeil, Mrs. Alva Adams and Mrs. Mahlon Hatcher.

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### SAVING THE RUINS.

In a letter to Governor Thomas, which has been turned over to Curator Ferril of the Historical society, Congressman Shafroth says that everything possible is being done toward securing congressional action favorable to preserving the cliff dwellers' ruins in southern Colorado. The attention of the bureau of ethnology and also of the geological survey has been enlisted in the cause. Mr. Shafroth feels that enough will be accomplished to prevent further wanton destruction of these relics of antiquity.

*Mesa Verde*  
Times 2-1-00

### WANT TO PRESERVE THE CLIFF DWELLINGS.

Mrs. Gilbert McClurg yesterday made an eloquent plea before the State Federation of Women's clubs for the preservation of the cliff dwellings in southwestern Colorado, which are being demolished by vandals. The paper was very thorough and among other things asked that the Federation take up the matter and attempt to get the right to punish such vandalism. Senators Wolcott and Teller have promised to bring their influence to bear on the proper authorities in Washington to permit the Federation to act.

Times 10-13-98 p 8 c. 3

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Times 12-25-99 p. 3 c 1  
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United States Deputy Surveyor Deane has sent to the commissioner of the general land office a report on the cliff dwellings of southern Colorado, as asked for some time ago. He describes the ruins visited by him at length and closes a rather elaborate report by saying:

I found no evidence that the cliff dwellers lived north of 37 degrees and 37 minutes north latitude, and reference herewith made to localities south of that line relates to their most northward and probably isolated settlements, yet in no essential respect differing as to their mode of living from those who built the great communal houses farther south and whose evidence of great numbers and long-continued occupation are found along every water course and now sterile valley in southwestern Colorado, New Mexico and Arizona.

