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Bent's Old Fort

Colorado National Parks

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The Comanche Indians, Arapahoes, Cheyennes, Pawnees, Utes, Sioux, Crows and Snakes, as well as hundreds of French and Indian trappers, made the fort their trading headquarters.

In the summer hundreds of Indians of all tribes could be found encamped about the fort, trading their beaver pelts for supplies.

The Bent brothers started to build this trading post on the north bank of the Arkansas near the present Otero county line in 1829.

For four years they labored in erecting the adobe buildings, which were surrounded by a high fortified adobe wall in which rifle slots were cut. At two corners of the fort, towers were built from which riflemen could