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Hovenweep National Monument

Colorado National Parks

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### Hovenweep: The West's Fabulous Deserted Valley

National Park Service of the United States

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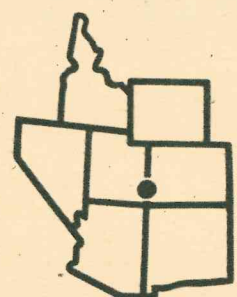
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# HOVENWEEP

The West's  
Fabulous  
"Deserted  
Valley"



By RICHARD KLINCK  
Photos by George T. Henry



**C**RAVE the unusual? Then wend your way south in Utah across the empty miles of sand and rock until you have reached the place the Ute Indians call the "Deserted Valley" . . . Hovenweep National Monument. There, out in the loneliness of Sage Plain, deep within San Juan County are held some of the West's closest secrets. And to penetrate the veil of mystery that covers them is an adventure long to be remembered.

As a more or less forgotten member of the National Park System, Hovenweep boasts of a temporary ranger in residence during the summer, but is left to its slumbering nine months of the year. Perhaps an average of one hundred visitors a month go there. They represent a hardy group of adventurers who have searched for, and found, something different. To join that group you'll have to scan a map of southeastern Utah most carefully to find the road that eventually leads to Hovenweep. Even then you may miss it. It's that elusive. And it requires a somewhat adventurous spirit to tackle the kind of roads that allow the only entrance onto