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Bent's Old Fort

Colorado National Parks

Looking Back Down the River of Time

N/A

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LOOKING BACK

DOWN THE RIVER OF TIME . . .

DO YOU KNOW

That the first settlers in the Lower Arkansas Valley of Colorado was a firm of trappers known as Bent, St. Vrain & Company, composed of William, Charles, George and Robert Bent (all brothers) and Cerean St. Vrain, who came from St. Louis in 1812. On their arrival they constructed a picket fort containing several rooms as a place of defense and headquarters, preparatory to opening trade with the Indians on the site of old Bent's Fort, just east of La Junta. It was not long until it began to look as though business with the men of the west would be profitable and two years later they began construction of a large adobe fort, which, was completed in 1832. These were the first improvements made by white men and for 10 years this firm and its employes were the only white traders in the country.