

# Ancient Ruins Found In Navajo Reservation

Keet Seel, Betatakin and Inscription House are magic names in the world of archaeology.

They are comparatively modern names applied to ancient things and places.

Keet Seel, Betatakin and Inscription House are three of the most famed prehistoric dwellings in the whole of the Southwest.

They are grouped together in Navajo National Monument, just south of the Utah border in Arizona's great Navajo Indian reservation.

In these time-buried remains of ancient apartment houses archaeologist and layman alike can see evidences of a great civilization that for some as yet unknown reason ceased to be.

## "Just Went Away"

Even the archaeologists, who look upon Keet Seel, Betatakin and Inscription House as treasure troves of information about folk of a long-gone day, cannot answer the question of what became of them.

These people just went away. They left no written record. Modern conjecture about them is built on the now-crumbling physical things that they left behind.

The tree-ring calendar method of analyzing timbers, developed by Dr. A. E. Douglass of the University of Arizona, applied to ancient remaining wood has established that Keet Seel was occupied from 1116 to 1279 A. D. and Betatakin from 1242 to 1272 A. D.

Inscription House is built from a much more recent substance. Carved in one of its walls is a now almost illegible inscription which includes "Ano Don 1661".

## Identified As Spanish

Archaeologists have identified this inscription as having been placed by one of the Spanish explorers who roamed the Southwest in the 16th and 17th centuries, but who were not supposed, until this was found, to have gone north of Grand Canyon.

The largest of the three structures is Keet Seel, but Betatakin is noted for the fact that it is built in the largest cave so far known to have been utilized for this purpose. The cave arch is 435 feet from floor to top, and it is 370 feet long. And the Betatakin apartment house measures 135 feet from the cliff edge to the back wall.

In the complex arrangement of Betatakin there are 130 rooms, the equivalent of a modern hotel, but what room-service arrangements, if any, there were modern folk do not know.

Betatakin further is noted for the fact that it does not have within it anywhere a kiva or ceremonial chamber, which every other comparable Southwest ruin of prehistoric folk does have.

For this peculiarity, Dr. Raymond Cummings, director emeritus of the Arizona State Museum at Tucson and the world's leading authority on archaeology of the Southwest, has advanced a possible answer. In excavating the ruins, Dr. Cummings found the remains of delicate reed flutes.

The present-day Hopi, who dwell in pueblos atop mesas in Northern Arizona, have a Flute Clan. The rituals of the Hopi today involve the use of the kiva, but 700 years ago the Flute Clan may not have used the kiva, and the builders of Betatakin may have been Flute Clan forefathers of modern Hopi.

## Mural Revealed

Aside from flutes, Dr. Cummings found in Betatakin outstanding black-and-white pottery, and he also found a mural on the east wall, an apparent image of the "slayer god".

Keet Seel crowds a larger man-made structure into a smaller nature-made cave. Except for Cliff Palace in Mesa Verde National Park, it is the largest prehistoric cliff dwelling known.

Betatakin and Inscription House were discovered more than 30 years ago by Dr. Cummings. Keet Seel is first known to have been seen in 1894 by Richard Wetherill, an Indian trader.

for regular summer outings, the latter for short jaunts during the school year.

The Mariopa Girls Scout Camp site which is located near Groom Creek, was purchased only recently from the City of Prescott. Four weeks of fun were enjoyed there the past summer by Scouts.

## Girls Entertain Men In Service

A variety of entertainments ranging from tea dances to swimming parties have filled the calendar of the 86 Club, service organization for young Phoenix girls above the age of 18 and who are unmarried.

Organized to help cope with the problem of making acquaintances in a strange town during a short stay, the members serve as hostesses and dance partners for aviation cadets and servicemen of the valley. Early last spring, the first dance, an informal affair given in the canteen at Thunderbird Field, met with success. And during the weeks that followed similar affairs have been given weekly in hangars at the various fields, and every two weeks the club gives a tea dance on Sunday afternoon in the Adams Hotel Roundup Room.

The group is also planning to offer its services as war bond salesmen during the winter.

has taken the Navajo word, Sani, meaning woman, for its name, pro-

the lodge will house about 30. Each Thursday evening, the YWCA gymnasium will be open to high school age young people for dancing. Sponsored by the Girl Reserves, the dances begin at 8 p. m. Instructions are given from 7:30 p. m. to 8 p. m. Both boys and girls who speak Spanish may belong to the Spanish "Y" Club which meets at the YWCA the second and fourth weeks of each month. This group gives dances twice a month for Spanish-speaking young people. The YWCA board of directors consists of Florence E. Bimson, president; Mrs. L. A. Stapley, first vice-president; Mrs. M. T. Phelps, second vice-president; Mrs. Floyd R. Gessinger, recording secretary; Mrs. Hildley S. Hooper, corresponding secretary; Mrs. E. N. Holgate; and Mesdames Carl Bimson, Terrence Carson, George H. Cavin, Harbridge, Elizabeth D. Hendrix, Norman Hall, Phillip J. Linde, Lindberg, A. G. McAllister, Miller, J. S. Muffless, J. P. Ryan, J. O.

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