

BAND

THE ATOM

Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory

May, 1964

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Volume 1 Number 5

Published monthly by the University of California,
Los Alamos Scientific Laboratory, Office of Public Relations,
P.O. Box 1663, Los Alamos, New Mexico, 87544.
Second Class Postage paid at Los Alamos, New Mexico.

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Printed by The University of New Mexico Printing Plant, Albuquerque.

ON THE COVER: The Laboratory's
proposed new "Meson Factory" inspired the cover
for this month's magazine. The subject for
Bill Regan's photographic interpretation is a portion
of the model of the physics facility.

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New trails explore a region which has been inaccessible except for determined hikers and fishermen.

Extensive improvements in trails and camping facilities have been completed in Bandelier National Monument in anticipation of a record year for attendance which may reach 130,000, according to Superintendent Albert Henson. The total reached 100,000 for the first time in 1963.

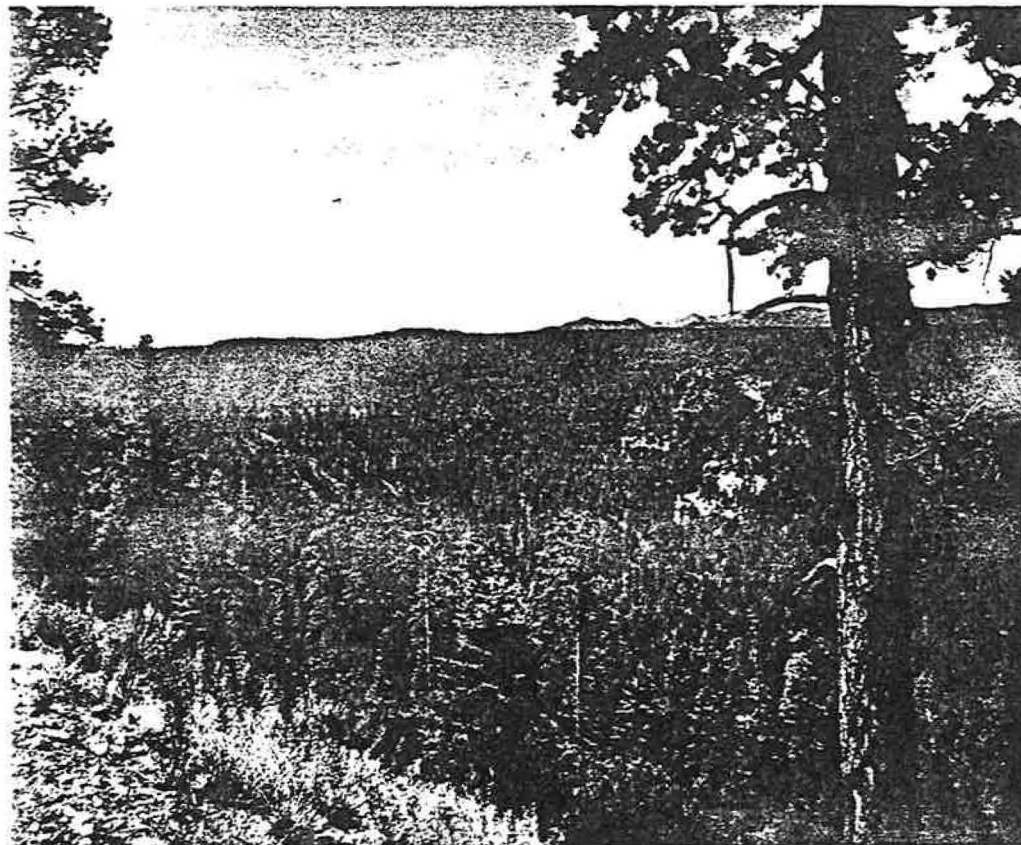
BRING ON BANDELIER

With the completion of the new 100-unit campground on Frijoles Mesa, near the entrance station just off Highway 4, all camping has been stopped in the lower campground which now will be restricted to picnicking.

Individual camp sites in the new mesa-top area are located along three loop roads. Each site consists of a paved parking space, table and fireplace. Garbage containers and water hydrants are nearby. Modern comfort stations are located in each of the three loops. Although no trailer connections are available at any of the sites, there is a trailer sewage disposal station.

Immediately adjacent to the campground, in the old rock quarry, a new campfire circle is scheduled to be built soon and should be ready for use during the latter part of the summer.

An old Indian trail which leads from the new campground to an ancient shrine on the rim of the



The deep canyons, multi-colored cliffs and dense forests of the upper Frijoles region bordering Highway 4 are part of the corridor between Bandelier National Monument and the Valle Grande region proposed as a national park.

THE TOURISTS . . . IS READY

Many Improvements Have Been Completed
At Los Alamos' Neighboring National Monument
In Anticipation of a Record Number of Visitors

canyon has been restored. This trail, which is approximately 1.2 miles in length, provides several spectacular views into Frijoles Canyon. (See *The Atom*, Feb., 1964).

Several other new trails have been added to the Monument's extensive trail system, perhaps the most popular being the Frijolito Ruin Trail. (Frijolito Ruin is on the south rim of the canyon immediately above the headquarters area). The trail starts at the Visitor Center and leads directly up the south side of Frijoles Canyon. Although steep, the trail has numerous resting places which provide outstanding views of the canyon and Tyuonyi Ruin. The round trip to Frijolito Ruin is 1.3 miles and should take about one hour.

Th Frijolito Ruin Trail is actually the beginning of the short-cut trail to the Shrine of the Stone Lions. This is a new trail which reduces the distance to the Shrine of the Stone Lions by three miles. Construction of this trail required making a new crossing of Alamo Canyon approximately 3.5 miles downstream from the older Alamo crossing. Although the trail was constructed mainly in order to provide quicker access into the back-country for the National Park Service's fire fighting crews, it should prove popular with the ever increasing number of visitors who enjoy hik-

ing into the wilderness sections of the Monument.

The restoration of the long forgotten Apache Spring-Beaver Dam trail in the Upper Frijoles section of the Monument should also prove popular to hikers. It is 1.5 miles in length and provides access to the upper limits of Frijoles Canyon, several miles above Upper Crossing.

All of the other trails in the Monument have been reworked and placed in good condition in readiness for expected heavy use. Three trail shelters—at the Upper Crossing, Lower Alamo Crossing and in Capulin Canyon—have also been constructed. Although the shelters were constructed mainly for use by fire fighting crews, hikers and campers are invited and encouraged to use them.

In spite of the many improvements made at Bandelier National Monument during the past year, the parking situation in the headquarters area is still bad. Anyone who has visited Monument Headquarters during the summer months is aware of the problem, Henson said. With a constantly increasing number of visitors, the congestion has become worse and worse each year. The parking area has already been enlarged as much as existing buildings will permit. The only direction for further expansion



Beaver ponds on the Upper Frijoles are now easily accessible over a renovated trail by way of Apache Spring as the result of recent improvement work by the Park service and Bandelier National Monument.

would have been into the picnic area. This would have involved tearing out many of the fine trees which make the canyon so inviting.

The decision to remove camping from the canyon was one step toward solving the problem of congestion. The area upstream from the bridge has been converted to a lunch ground, for visitors who carry a lunch and do not require a fire. The area downstream is being expanded and used for picnics with fires.

Picnicking is encouraged in the new Frijoles Mesa campground, and additional picnic facilities are to be constructed at the old Los Alamos West Gate and in the recently-acquired Upper Frijoles section, according to Henson.