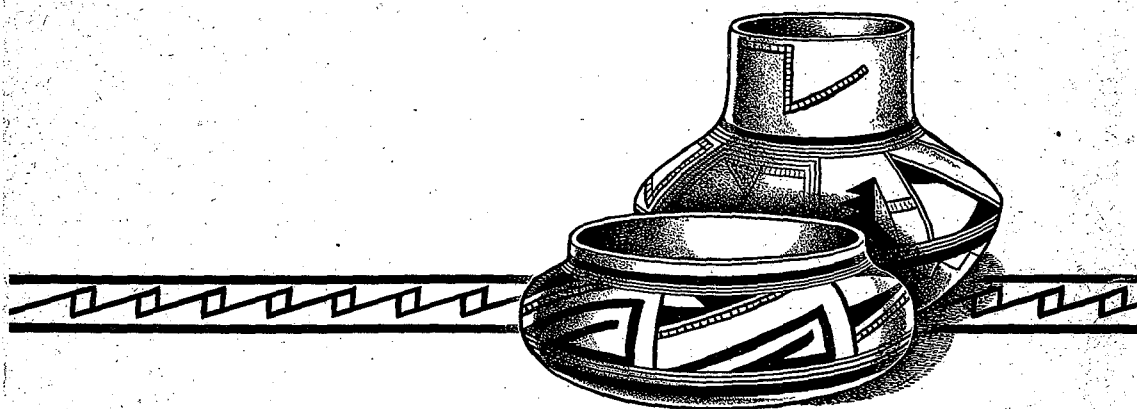




# Bandelier

NATIONAL

MONUMENT

*New Mexico*



United States Department of the Interior

J. A. Krug, *Secretary*

National Park Service

Newton B. Drury, *Director*

## Bandelier NATIONAL MONUMENT

The disastrous drought of the late 1200's broke up the ancient Pueblo Indian centers in the Southwest and forced the harried and worn survivors to move to locations where water supply was more constant.

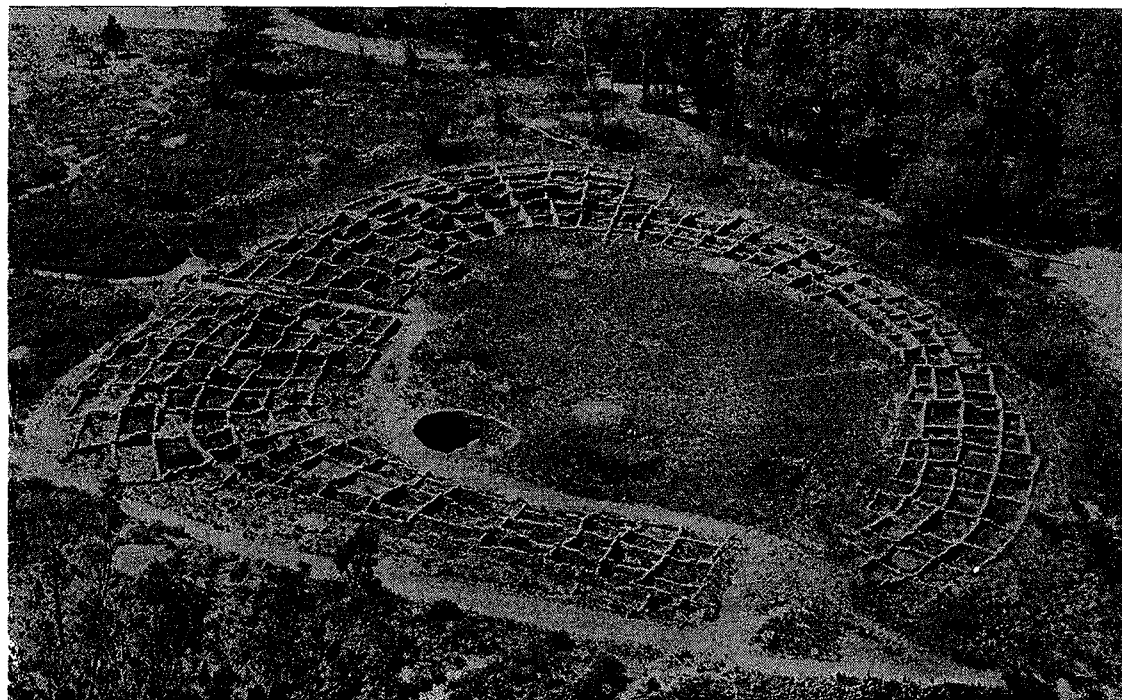
A favorable area which received an influx of population was the upper Rio Grande Valley, in New Mexico. Here occurred one of the later flowerings of Pueblo culture, and it is this phase which the numerous ruins of Bandelier National Monument typify.

Several groups settled on the canyon-slashed slopes of the Pajarito Plateau.

Their habitat was unusual, with its tan cliffs of tuff, forested mesas, deep gorges, and general volcanic character. The story of their adaptation to their environment and their relationships with other groups adds a significant contribution to Southwestern prehistory as it is slowly brought to light through research by archeologists.

The Pajarito Plateau is of interest geologically as well as archeologically. It is constituted largely of tuff, or consolidated volcanic ash, and basaltic lava ejected thousands of years ago from the great volcanic crater—perhaps the largest in the world—

Tyonyi Ruin



whose rim today forms the Jemez Mountains. Through this large plateau of volcanic material, running water has cut many steep-walled canyons down to the Rio Grande.

South of Frijoles Canyon is an undeveloped area of some 25,000 acres of wilderness, traversed only by trails.

The monument is named in honor of Adolph F. A. Bandelier, distinguished Swiss-American scholar, who carried on an extensive survey of prehistoric ruins in the region, and studied the Pueblo Indians around Santa Fe, between the years 1880 and 1886. Part of his time was spent in Frijoles Canyon. The plot of his ethnohistorical novel "The Delight Makers" is laid in Frijoles Canyon in prehistoric times.

### The Ruins

The most accessible features of Bandelier National Monument are the ruins in Frijoles Canyon. The ancients chose well the location for their dwellings. A deep gorge, cut by the stream rising high in the mountains, it is a veritable oasis in the dry coun-

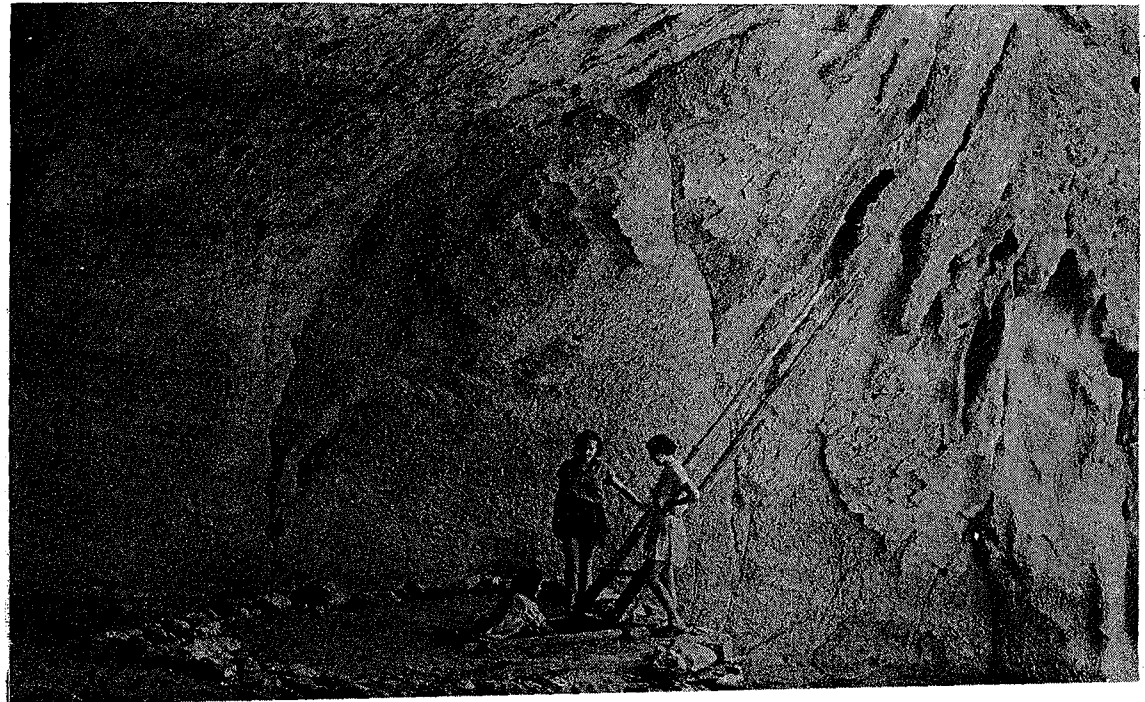
try of New Mexico. Translated, the name "Rito de los Frijoles" means simply Bean Creek.

Cliff ruins, or talus villages, extend along the base of the northern wall of the canyon for approximately 2 miles. These houses of masonry were irregularly terraced, from one to three stories in height, and had many cave rooms, gouged out of the solid cliff. The cliff is of compressed volcanic ash, or tuff, worked with tools of harder stone.

In front of the caves is the ruined pueblo of Tyuonyi, on the floor of Frijoles Canyon. It is a large structure of nearly circular plan with three kivas in an enclosed plaza. This large community house was excavated in 1908, 1909, and 1910 by the University of New Mexico and the School of American Research.

Tree-ring chronology and correlations of pottery types indicate that most of Bandelier's ruins belong to the late prehistoric period, although a few small ruins date back to the twelfth century. The large pueblos of Tyuonyi, Sankawi, and Otowi evidently were occupied until near 1600

High in a cliff is the Ceremonial Cave



A. D., although their decline had probably set in by the time Coronado visited the country in 1540. No direct mention of Pajarito villages is made in chronicles of the expedition.

Like other ancient pueblos and cliff dwellers, the Frijoles inhabitants were farmers. They grew corn, beans, and pumpkins. Cotton cloth is found in the caves, indicating they probably had cotton and understood the use of the loom, but, since the growing season on the plateau is short, cotton may have been obtained by trade. Pottery with decorations in glaze was made.

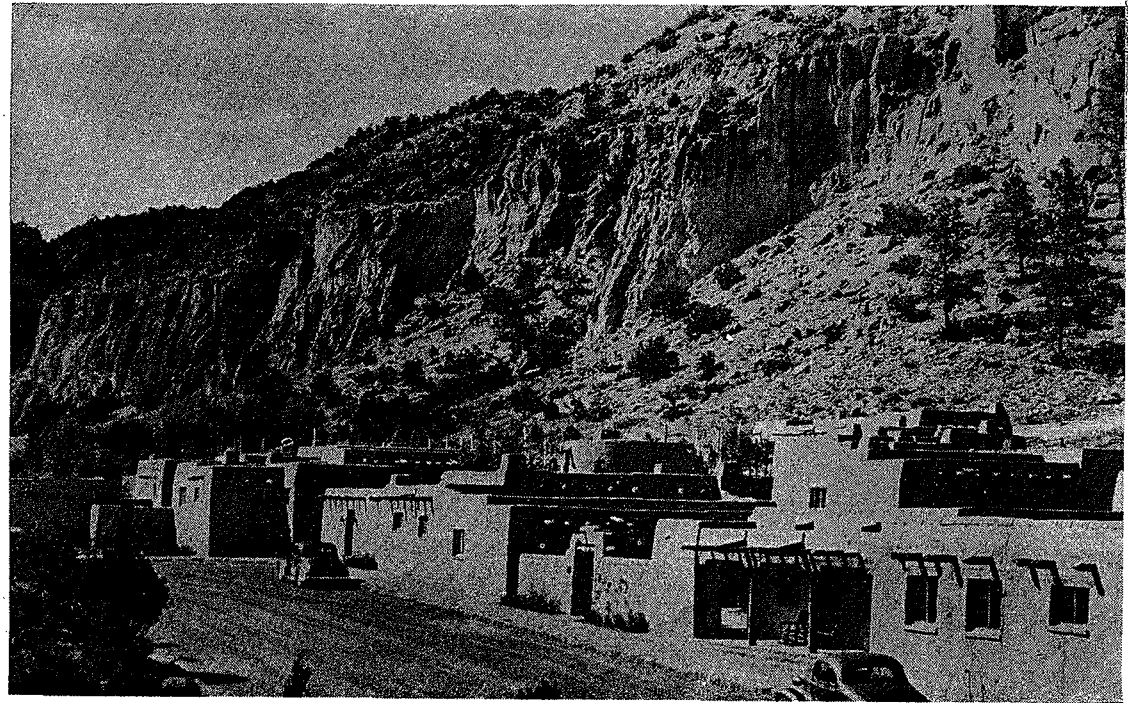
Exact cause of abandonment of the dwellings is unknown. For centuries the pioneer Indian farmers lived in the Rito, built villages, honeycombed the cliffs with artificial caves, and tilled the soil in the valley and on the uplands. After several centuries drought, flood, famine, savage foes, disease, or the depletion of the soil forced the dwellers in the canyon again to seek new homes.

### Establishment

Bandelier National Monument, established in 1916, is part of the National Park System, 169 areas in all, owned by the people of the United States and administered for them by the National Park Service of the Department of the Interior. In these the scenery and the objects of historic, prehistoric, and scientific interest are carefully preserved and displayed for public enjoyment.

Consisting of 27,049 acres, Bandelier National Monument is located 46 miles west of Santa Fe, N. Mex. It is one of a number of southwestern areas in the National Park System which have been established to provide special protection for prehistoric structures. These include Mesa Verde National Park, in southwestern Colorado, and the following national monuments: Aztec Ruins, Chaco Canyon, and Gila Cliff Dwellings, in New Mexico; Canyon de Chelly, Casa Grande, Montezuma Castle, Navajo, Tonto, Tuzigoot, Walnut Canyon, and Wupatki, in Arizona; Yucca

Frijoles Canyon Lodge



House, in Colorado; and Hovenweep, in Utah and Colorado.

Bandelier can be reached by automobile from Santa Fe north on United States Highway No. 285 to Pojoaque, thence on State Highway No. 4 to the monument. Approach may also be made through the beautiful Jemez country from Albuquerque. Inquiry should be made during bad weather before attempting the latter trip.

### Facilities

The monument is closed to the public during the months of December, January, and February each year, but is open to travel the other nine months. Lodgings and meals can be obtained only during May through September. During the season the traveler may stay for a day, or remain for weeks making excursions to the scores of nearby points of interest. Modern pueblos, ancient Mexican settlements, cattle and sheep ranches, mountains, canyons, trout streams, and the largest extinct volcano in the world provide objectives for many days of exploring.

The Frijoles Canyon Lodge, privately operated under franchise from the Department of the Interior, furnishes excellent meals and comfortable modern overnight accommodations, and sells gasoline and campers' supplies.

The National Park Service maintains a large public campground near the headquarters area. Fifty free camp sites are provided, each with tent space, tables and seats, and fireplaces. There are also water taps and a number of trailer sites. Free toilet, shower, and laundry facilities are available in centrally located buildings.

The monument is administered through a full-time custodian. During the period of heavy summer travel, temporary rangers and fire guards are stationed at the monument. Requests for further information should be sent to the Custodian, Bandelier National Monument, P. O. Box 1321, Santa Fe, N. Mex.

### Interpretive Program

Interpretive service is carefully planned to aid the visitor in understanding and

appreciating more fully the features of Bandelier National Monument.

**Guided Ruins Trips.** Throughout the year visitors are accompanied from the museum lobby to the various ruins by trained and competent ranger archeologists. Parties leave the museum lobby on the hour, each hour from 8 a. m. to 5 p. m. The loop trail is laid out to exhibit a complete sample of the ruins of the Pajaritan Culture and takes about 2 hours.

In order to protect the archeological features, no one is allowed to enter the ruins area unless accompanied by a ranger archeologist.

**Museum.** Cases are arranged to tell a logical story of modern and prehistoric Indians. They are numbered, and proper sequence is obtained by keeping to the right as the visitor goes through, entering from the lobby. The first group of cases explains what is known of the prehistoric Indians of the area, and the second group shows the present day Indians of the Rio Grande Valley. The last six cases deal with natural history features of the monument. A museum attendant is present to explain cases and answer questions.

**Campfire Lectures.** Informal lectures are given in the museum lobby each evening at 8 o'clock. The park archeologist or another member of the staff talks on the archeology and ethnology of the region.

**The Gorge and other Trail Trips.** Ninety percent of Bandelier National Monument is primitive area, through which no roads have been or will be built. The gorge of the Alamo, the Stone Lions, the Painted Cave, the pueblo ruins of Haatse and Yapashi, and White Rock Canyon of the Rio Grande are among the more remote attractions.

A hike to the beautiful "Falls of the Frijoles" may be taken at leisure.

The Stone Lions and Painted Cave can be reached only by 10 miles of trails across the canyons. For the more hardy visitor, a trip by horseback or on foot to this section is well worth while.

**Library.** A modest library of publications on the Southwest is available to those interested. No books may be loaned or taken from the library.

### Suggested Reading

**Prehistory of El Rito de los Frijoles**, by J. W. Hendron. An accurate, readable account of recent archeological findings in Bandelier National Monument with a summary of earlier work. Well illustrated with photographs and drawings, including conjectural restorations of some of the ruins.

**The Delight Makers**, by Adolph F. A. Bandelier. An interesting and instructive story, particularly for persons who have seen the ruins about which the plot is built.

**The Pajarito Plateau and Its Ancient People**, by Edgar L. Hewitt. A very readable popular book.

