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Early Man and Extinct Fauna of the Carlsbad Region

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EARLY MAN AND EXTINCT FAUNA OF THE CARLSBAD REGION

For the past ten years, Dr. Edgar B. Howard and his associates have been working the little known shelter caves of the Guadalupe Mountains. Results of the 1936 season's work under C. T. H. Bohannon and R. M. P. Burnet were not published as it was felt that the information would be more or less a pot hunter's guide, but a report was worked up and copies were deposited at the National Museum, The Academy of Science, and the Carlsbad Museum, for the information of interested investigators.

During the 1937 season, the University of Nebraska sent C. Bertrand Schultz and the Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia sent Dr. Howard to excavate Burnet Cave in the Three Forks region of Eddy County, New Mexico. This location is regarded as important and has produced unquestionable evidence of association of Man and an Ice Age fauna which might be older than the Pluvial Folsom fauna. The cave was excavated from the mouth to the interior through the thick talus toward the rock floors exposed in 1935. A depth of sixteen feet was reached in the talus and no rock floor was encountered. More than fifteen thousand specimens of small mammals, for the most part insectivores, were recovered. These animals were most numerous below the nine foot level. Large bones, possibly of Bovidae and Cervidae, were found crushed in the roof fall in direct association with charcoal and the bones of Geomyidae, Heteromyidae, Muridae, and other small mammals. Some of the bones had been charred.

It appears, without question, that these bones were left in their positions by Man. The material recovered this year should go far towards giving us an adequate conception of the exact age of the bone-bearing and possibly culture-bearing deposits.

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REPORT OF AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF COAHUILA, MEXICO

During the first part of last summer, thanks to the kind assistance of Dr. Dudley Jackson and Dudley Jackson, Jr., of San Antonio, Texas, I was able to make a short archaeological reconnaissance north of the city of Monclova, Coahuila, Mexico. While the survey was necessarily of the most cursory sort, nevertheless it gave abundant proof that, with time and under closer scrutiny, Coahuila should yield significant data on the nature and distribution of the cave culture which finds expression in the already well known caves of the Big Bend of Texas.

In all, eleven sites were visited and described; and in addition, some six more were seen and recorded but not visited.¹ Not many data on the material culture were obtained, due to the fact that we did not excavate; the only artifacts discovered were a small fragment of coiled basketry and a sotol (?) fiber sandal, both of which came from the sides of a pothole sunk by a native. The sandal was of the double type found quite commonly in the Texas material; but it was interesting in that instead of having the hinge at the toe, as is usual,

1. All of the sites were either caves or shelters. No surface sites were located.