

# Lindbergh Discovers Cliff-Dwelling

Archæology

In their flight over the home land of the prehistoric Pueblos, Col. and Mrs. Charles A. Lindbergh this summer discovered and visited ruins invisible from the ground and therefore probably never before examined by white explorers. Details of this airplane survey in the Southwest have just been announced by the Carnegie Institution of Washington, with which Col. Lindbergh has cooperated in his efforts to show the value of the airplane to American archæology.

It was while circling the ruins in the Canyon de Chelly that the fliers noted a number of small ruins in the side of the high cliffs. The plane was landed for the night on a flat place on the mesa near by, and next day the aviators climbed the cliffs and examined the ruins which could not be seen nor reached from the depths of the canyon below.

The airplane may be of great usefulness in the Southwest, the survey has shown. Col. Lindbergh's observations of ruins from the air demonstrated that practically all the ruins are clearly visible from above, and in some cases ruins can be better observed from the air than from the ground.

The airplane views of the Pueblo country obtained by the fliers show clearly the relation between the settlements of the ancient people and their surroundings. The water supply, land suitable for farming, and the question



ARROWS INDICATE THE CAVES containing cliff houses discovered by Col. and Mrs. Charles Lindbergh and visited by them

of defense against enemies all entered into the choice of a home by a Pueblo group. These features, which must be understood in order to explain the lives of these people, can be observed better from the air than in any other way.

Photographs obtained by the Lindbergh survey also show what happens when a region is stripped of its top

layer of plant life, as by overgrazing. When this occurs, heavy floods from the high mesas may sweep down without being held back by the plants. The result is that the land is stripped of its surface soil, roughened by gulleys, and in general is made arid and useless to the people who depend on it for a living.

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## Finds Comet on Photo

Astronomy

Discovery of a new comet, not in the sky, but on a ten-day-old photographic plate that he was filing, was the recent experience of E. R. Carpenter, of the Seward Observatory of the University of Arizona. The photograph was made of the sky in the constellation of Aries, the ram, on November 2.

At the time the plate was exposed, the comet was not noticed. After Mr. Carpenter found its image on the plate, a further search was made for it in the sky, but the glare of the moon prevented its being seen. When discovered, it was very faint, of the 16th magnitude, and was moving to the southeast. However, it had a short tail, which is rather unusual for so faint a comet.

If two more observations are made of it, astronomers will be able to calculate its path.

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## Art Protection May Aid Tropics

Mycology

Strenuous efforts to save five important paintings in Balboa from destruction by mold may, by chance, have the far-reaching result of showing how mildew can be effectively combatted in homes of the Canal Zone. A disadvantage of life in Panama has always been the mold which overnight attacks white shoes, linens, and other articles that offer nourishment to the ubiquitous spores of fungi. Dry closets have been the householders' chief protection against the enemy.

Attention of government chemists, an official of the British Museum, and other experts on molds was directed to the situation, when the disintegration of five mural paintings representing the construction of the Panama Canal was threatened by spreading green and white mold, which had apparently eaten even through to the canvas.

Prof. A. B. Newman, chemical engineer of the Cooper Union, finally solved the problem, with the cooperation of other experts, Mr. Van Ingen has reported. The varnish over the paintings was first removed. Then a liquid fungicide was applied to kill the deep-seated spores of the mold, and the dead fungi were washed away with ammonia. The final step was to spread a thin coat of paraffin containing thymol, a mold antiseptic, over the surface of the paintings.

"Our investigations have indicated that the question of mold can be handled as effectively as the mosquito menace," Mr. Van Ingen stated. "The method we used on paintings should work as well on shoes. It is not improbable that our experience with thymol will encourage the canal engineers to remove the ravages of mold."

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