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FROM MEXICO

**Ancient
Apartments**

**New find dates
to 1000 A.D.**

Archaeologists of the National Institute of Anthropology and History have discovered an "apartment house" settlement in Arcelia (state of Guerrero), about 100 miles northwest of the market town of Iguala.

"This is the first discovery in Mexico of something similar to the multiple-staged cliff dwellings of New Mexico and Colorado," said Dr. Manuel del Castillo Negrete, head of the Institute.

"However, these living quarters are not built against cliffs or mountain slopes, but in the open. The apartments, of three stories, rise slightly less than 23 feet, with separate levels reached by stone steps.

"In our meso-American area, where we have been conducting researches for years, heretofore we came across only pyramids. The ruins at Arcelia represent a notable advance in construction techniques by past races, and our first tests indicate they date back at least 500 years before the coming of the Spaniards to the New World, or about 1000 A.D."

Work in the area is in charge of Miss Noemi Castillo Tejero, normally a reticent scientist, who could not control her excitement at having made the discovery.

"There's still a lot to be done," Miss Tejero said, "but we already know that the apartments represent architectural sound construction principles.

"Foundations are perfect, of smooth flat stones, with walls made from river stones, round and polished, mortared with mud and covered with a layer of lime.

"Each floor of the construction was covered with reed or palm, supported by wooden beams. Walls dividing the living quarters are of adobe. Fortunately we found one of the apartments intact, complete with niches for religious shrines.

"We also found domestic utensils although, in general, in this particular area, there has been no trace of a highly refined ceramic industry in past explorations.

This latest find was a result of "salvage archaeology." Teams were sent into the area by the Institute prior to flooding of the region by the Palos Altos Dam.

Emil Zubryn

