

This & That

(Continued from 3-A)

Forest and the Painted Desert are fitting points on one's itinerary through the wonderful State of Arizona.

NEW MEXICO ALSO beckons the tourist to include its variety of historic shrines, its most interesting concentration of Indians and their as-yet-primitive environments... not to overlook the rugged and the beautiful topography in its northern, high-altitude half of the State.

In a previous story in this column I narrated the visit to famous Carlsbad Caverns. After stopping at New Albuquerque and Santa Fe, I was impressed with the Rio Grande Gorge, through which one motor when en route from Santa Fe to that small village of Taos, famed for its art colony and the pueblo that houses its Taos Indians.

This gorge traverses rolling hills and some fairly high mountains, and to add to the beauty of the scenery the winding upper portions of the Rio Grande River courses through the picturesque bottomlands.

An occasional lonely settler's cabin appears in clearing adjacent to the trout-filled water, and now and then a slight rapids calls for the motor. I was advised to take this gorge, itself, was deserving of the hundred mile drive from Santa Fe to Taos.

TAOS (PRONOUNCED "Touse") is located at an altitude of 7,000 feet. It is in an area that offers good hunting and fishing, plus the extra bonus of challenging ski runs during the winter months.

Yes, they do have snow in the Taos vicinity—the night before Herb Gardner and I started back to Albuquerque, homemade bread, six inches of soft snow fell. But the usual warmth of the sun melted the snow within the next 24 hours.

Taos, first settled by white men 300 years ago, played an important part in the early development of the far west. It was there that Kit Carson, famed "mountain man," lived for a number of years. He is buried in Kit Carson Park.

A well-kept museum in Carson's old home at Taos displays many of his mementos, together with a wide assortment of Indian artifacts and many photographs of the day when Carson was an Indian scout who led not only citizen caravans through the west, but also U.S. Army troops.

TAOS, I WAS TOLD, is the year-round home of about 50 artists, with many more who spend part of the year in that region. Mountains, rivers, forests and Indian peoples offer a variety of subjects that lure the artists' paints and brushes. Several galleries are maintained there, where the work (mostly contemporary "abstract") is presented for public view and sale.

One day we visited the Taos Indian pueblo an enclosure at the edge of the village where by their ancestors 1,000 years ago, live several hundred Taos men and women, boys and girls... and numerous dogs.

Their shelter consists of from one to five-story adobe "apartments"—those for the practical aspects of a dwelling are concerned, they are the forerunner of today's apartment houses, though lacking about every convenience today's families require.

Running through their pueblo area is Pueblo Creek, its mountain runoff water; the Indians use this for drinking, bathing, and laundry washing. When I drove my car into the pueblo I was greeted by "the chief," who requested 50 cents; to take pictures, an extra dollar. (Flow quickly the Indian learns some of the white man's customs.)

TAOS, WHOSE population consists of Taos Indians, Spanish and Anglo-Americans, boasts of its unique "away-ness" from the hurried tempo of modern living. Its mixture of people "produces Taoseno, a happy people untroubled in this era of jet propulsion," state its citizens.

"We enjoy a liberal philosophy of live-and-let-live, without too much worry about tomorrow. In our day, when prejudice and bigotry run rampant in some sections of our fair land, Taos offers a refreshing example of human cultural relations at their most harmonious."

Yes, the Taos country is well worth visiting. Santa Fe, as you may know, is New Mexico's Capital City. It abounds in historic legend, for it played an important part in the western trek of our nation's early adventurers who blazed original trails through dangerous and dangerous not only because of the earth's mountain and river barriers, but also because of the Indians' defense of their own home-lands.

ALBUQUERQUE, OF course, is another evidence of the south-west's "population explosion." Situated in an expansive flat area contiguous to a mountain range, this city of slightly over 200,000 people is very active in meeting the challenges created by an invasion of newcomers.

Its streets are straight and clean and its generous offerings of sunshine and clean air, plus its nearness to "the call of the out-of-doors," assure its future.

Our return from Taos and Santa Fe brought us back to Albuquerque for the second time, with our car registering 3,850 miles thus far. Because we had visited just about every part of Arizona and New Mexico on our itinerary, Herb and I decided that we might as well start for Birmingham.

That's what we did... by way of Amarillo, Tex., Oklahoma City, Okla., St. Louis, Mo., Springfield, Ill.,... and, as we reached U.S. 112 at New Buffalo, and observed a large overhead sign that included: "Welcome to Michigan! I said to Herb Gardner: 'Join me as we doff our hats to the best State in the Union'—for, after all, isn't one's "home state" deserving of such appreciation?"

SUMMING UP OUR 5,255 mile motor trip to Arizona and New Mexico, I'd certainly urge all who haven't visited these wonderful areas to do so—drive if you want to get closer views on a route; fly or use a train if you don't want the long drive to get there, but get a car when you do leave the train or airplane.

The roads are better than you might expect. The people are friendly. The accommodations everywhere are good, and not too expensive.

...and when you return home, you'll have rich memories, plus a stimulated appreciation of the expanse and the beauty and the po-

Reduction

(Continued from 1-A)

moving at such a pace," Gullmet observed, "that the number of taxpayers added has made the reduction possible."

The proposed budget will be studied by council and the hearing will be held on May 22, tential security of these blessed United States! And may each of us renew our dedication to the cause of the liberties and freedoms still a part (though vanishing too rapidly) of our heritage.

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