



NPS Women Cartes de Visite Collection



Jean Pinkley, c. 1960s. NPS Photo.

Jean M. Pinkley
Mesa Verde National Park & Pecos
National Monument
Archeologist, 1939-1969

- Born Jean McWhirt on August 6, 1910 in Miami, Arizona.
- Lived with her family near the San Carlos Apache Reservation before moving to Prescott, AZ where she went to high school.
- Earned B.A. in Anthropology and Archaeology (1933) and an M.A. in Archaeology (1936) from the University of Arizona.
- Selected from the junior park archaeologist civil service register as a permanent (subject to furlough) museum assistant at Mesa Verde National Park in 1939.
- Married Addison Boyd Pinkley, son of NPS superintendent Frank "Boss" Pinkley, in 1940.
- From 1939-1942, worked 5-6 months per year at Mesa Verde.
- In 1943 she declined to return, but came back in 1944 and 1945 under a war service appointment.
- Her husband was killed in action during WWII when his submarine sank on January 15, 1946.
- Reinstated to a permanent museum assistant at Mesa Verde on April 12, 1946.
- Promoted to archeologist in 1948 and supervisory archeologist in 1960.
- In 1961, became Mesa Verde's chief of interpretation, and was instrumental in growing Mesa Verde's interpretive programs.
- Was a major contributor to the Wetherill Mesa Archaeological Project from 1959-1965.
- In April 1966, transferred to the NPS Southwest Region and was duty stationed at Pecos NM.
- In September 1966, was reassigned to the Washington Office but remained at Pecos.
- Suffered a ruptured aorta while working in her lab at Pecos on February 7, 1969.
- Died on February 18, 1969, aged 58, in Houston, Texas.

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