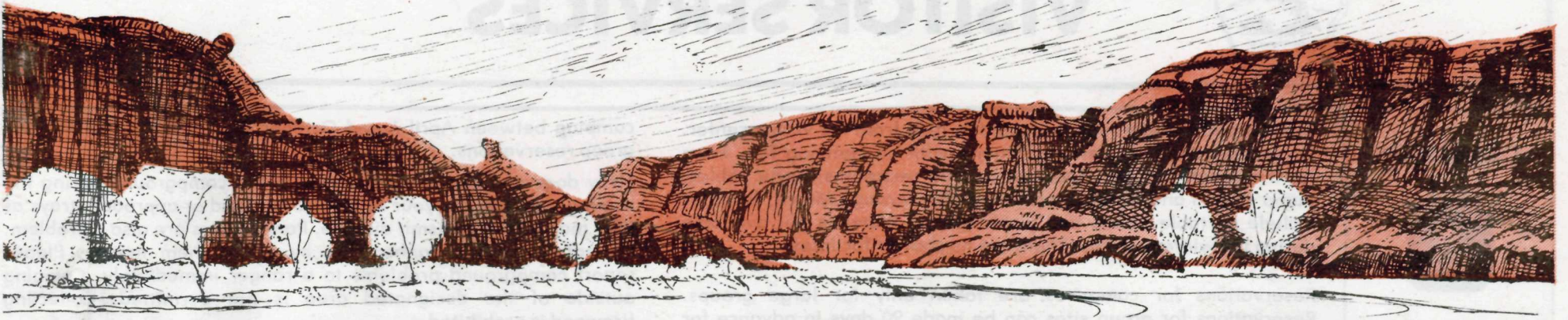


# CANYON OVERLOOK



## A VISITOR'S GUIDE TO CANYON DE CHELLY NATIONAL MONUMENT 1987

### "NAHASDZAAN SHIMA" EARTH MY MOTHER

It is a solitary landscape bounded by sacred mountains, deserts and canyons that extend from the east, Sis Naajini (Blanca Peak), to the south, Tsoodzil (Mount Taylor) and from the west, Dook'loosliid (San Francisco Peak), to the north, Dibé Nitsaa (Hesperus Peak). Within these sacred mountains is a land of beauty and a living culture. This is the Land of the People.

We can all identify with the beauty and grace this land has to offer and Canyon de Chelly is no exception. To perceive and experience the beauty, one has to relate to the land personally. The Dine' (The People) refer to this land as Nahasdzaan Shima Earth My Mother. They relate to her as a real female giving life and nurturing her children, plants, animals and people. The Dine' come from the Earth The Mother and are part of the land and take their beauty, grace and harmony from her. She herself is clothed with beauty and exhibits grace as any mother. These are gifts from Father Sky that reside with the mother. Life to all her children comes from her. They are tied to her and will return to her.

Navajos of other generations have recognized their responsibility to the land. One Navajo Code Talker from the Canyon de Chelly area expressed these thoughts when asked why he had been so willing to serve in World War II.

\* "My reason for going to war was to protect my land and my people because my elderly people said that the earth was our mother. We went to war for the land, its people, the living things and things that are sacred. Also, the sacred mountains which surround our land. The Navajo people get their blessings from these Four Sacred Mountains, our Mother The Earth, and Father The Sky. The anglos say "Democracy" which means they have pride in the American Flag, we Navajos respect things the same way they do."

\* Navajos and World War II, B.H. Johnson, Editor. Navajo Community College Press. 1977.

As a mother gives to her child, the land gives. It provides the necessities for life: food, shelter and containers for food and water, plus the new necessities such as mineral deposits, oil and gas. In the past, the Anasazi (The Ancient Ones) and the Navajos have made use of the resources the land provided, like food to gather, herbs for medicine, shelters for homes, water and fuel for fire. The harmony with their land and their Gods was maintained in balance. By 1300 AD, the Anasazi vanished from this land and left many questions unanswered. Why did they leave so suddenly and seemingly without hesitation? The Navajos today believe the Anasazi brought their loss of the land upon themselves. The change in their environment put them in a vulnerable position because they lost harmony and balance with their gods and their land.

Continued on Page 4

### WHAT TIME IS IT?

#### Mountain Daylight Time

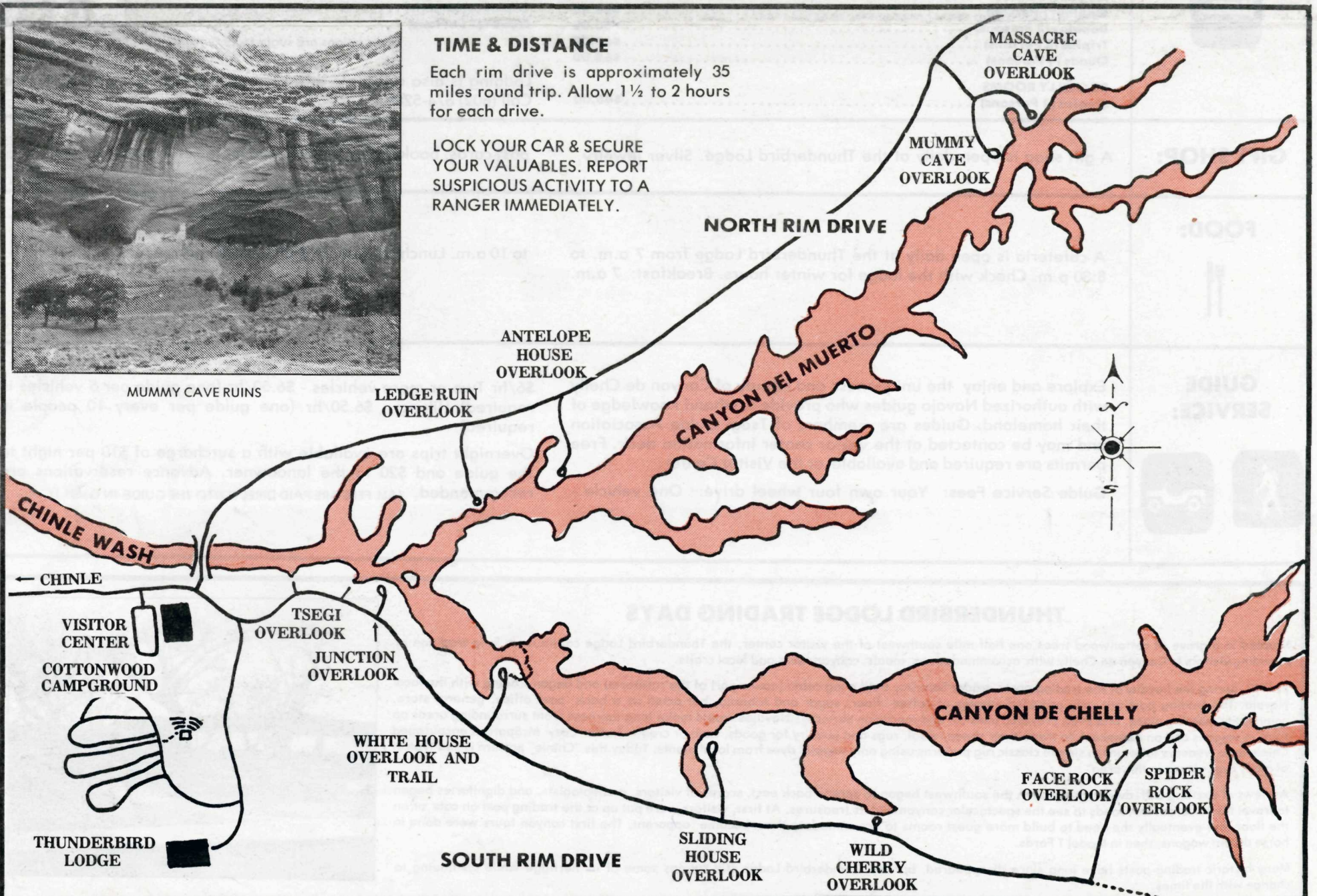
The Navajo Nation, although in Arizona, observes Daylight Saving Time, April 5 thru October 25. The rest of Arizona and the Hopi Reservation remain on Mountain Standard Time.

#### Pour Visiteur Francais

On peut se procurer des renseignements en Francais au bureau du centre touristique.

#### Für Deutsche Besucher

Information auf Deutsch ist am Auskunftsschalter des Besucherzentrums erhältlich.



### TIME & DISTANCE

Each rim drive is approximately 35 miles round trip. Allow 1 1/2 to 2 hours for each drive.

LOCK YOUR CAR & SECURE YOUR VALUABLES. REPORT SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY TO A RANGER IMMEDIATELY.





# VISITOR SERVICES

## CAMPING:



Cottonwood Campground is located ½ mile from the visitor center. The campground is open year round with no camping fee. From April through October, facilities include restrooms, picnic tables, dump station and water. From November through March, facilities include portable toilets and picnic tables. Water is not available during the winter months. There are no shower facilities.

Reservations for campsites are taken only for large groups. Reservations for group sites can be made 90 days in advance for

camping between April 1 and October 31. Call (602) 674-5436 for group reservations.

Stray dogs and cats are a problem in the campground during the summer months. For your safety, do not feed or approach strays as they may bite or transmit disease. Panhandlers are also a problem. Do not encourage panhandlers by giving them money. Please report campground problems to a ranger immediately. Camping outside of the designated area is not permitted. Collecting firewood is prohibited.

## HORSEBACK RIDING:



Twin Trail Tours offers day and overnight horseback riding trips in the canyon from May 11 to November 1. Twin Trail Tours is located 8 miles (12.9 km) north of the visitor center along the north rim drive. Call (602) 871-4663 for information and reservations.

One day trip to Mummy Cave or Antelope House ..... \$40.00

Pack Trips ..... (5 days) ..... \$450.00  
 #1 ..... May 11-15  
 #2 ..... June 22-26

#3 ..... July 13-17  
 #4 ..... Aug 24-28  
 #5 ..... Sept 7-11  
 #6 ..... Oct 19-23

Includes meals and camps, you provide your own sleeping bag.

Justin's Horse Rental

Open daily, year around. Located on the South Rim Drive. For information and reservations, call (602)674-5678. A free permit is required and available at the Visitor Center information desk.

## CANYON TOURS:



The Thunderbird Lodge offers tours into the canyon with 4 and 6 wheel drive vehicles. The tours are led by Navajo guides. Canyon sights include ancient ruins, rock art, plants and their uses, and farms and homes of the resident Navajos.

All day tour: Departs 9 a.m. Daily (returns at approximately 5:30 p.m.)  
 \$39 per person (includes lunch)

Half day tour: Departs 9 a.m. and 2 p.m. Daily (approximately 3½ hours)  
 \$23 per adult \$17 children under 12

## LODGING:



Lodging is available at the Thunderbird Lodge located ½ mile from the visitor center. The lodge is open year around and offers reduced rates from Nov. 15 through Feb. 28.

SUITE (1 or 2 Persons) \$100.00

King size bed with queen size sofa bed, T.V. in living room and bedroom, central heating and cooling. LUXURIOUS

### ADOBE ROOMS

Singles (1 Person) ..... \$56.00  
 Doubles (2 Persons) ..... \$60.00  
 Triples (3 Persons) ..... \$64.00  
 Quads (4 Persons) ..... \$68.00

### DE CHELLY ROOMS

Singles (1 Persons) ..... \$48.00

Doubles (2 Persons) ..... \$52.00  
 Triples (3 Persons) ..... \$56.00  
 Quads (4 Persons) ..... \$60.00  
 the above rooms are deluxe rooms with two double beds, color television, air conditioning and full bath.

### LODGE ROOMS

Singles (1 Person) ..... \$36.00  
 Doubles (2 Persons) ..... \$40.00  
 Triples (3 Persons) ..... \$44.00  
 Quads (4 Persons) ..... \$48.00

Reservations are suggested. Call (602)674-5841.

Lodging is also available at the Canyon de Chelly Motel in Chinle. Call (602) 674-5288.

## GIFT SHOP:

A gift shop is open daily at the Thunderbird Lodge. Silver jewelry,

post cards, books, film, T-shirts and Indian crafts are for sale.

## FOOD:



A cafeteria is open daily at the Thunderbird Lodge from 7 a.m. to 8:30 p.m. Check with the lodge for winter hours. Breakfast: 7 a.m.

to 10 a.m. Lunch: 11 a.m. to 2:30 p.m. Dinner: 4 p.m. to 8:30 p.m.

## GUIDE SERVICE:



Explore and enjoy the uniqueness and beauty of Canyon de Chelly with authorized Navajo guides who provide firsthand knowledge of their homeland. Guides are members of Tsegi Guide Association and may be contacted at the visitor center information desk. Free permits are required and available at the Visitor Center.

Guide Service Fees: Your own four wheel drive: One vehicle -

\$6/hr Two or more vehicles - \$6.50/hr (one guide per 5 vehicles is required) Hiking: \$6.50/hr (one guide per every 10 people is required)

Overnight trips are available with a surcharge of \$10 per night to the guide and \$20 to the landowner. Advance reservations are recommended. (ALL FEES ARE PAID DIRECTLY TO THE GUIDE IN CASH.)

## THUNDERBIRD LODGE TRADING DAYS

Situated in a grove of cottonwood trees one half mile southwest of the visitor center, the Thunderbird Lodge continues a long tradition of providing visitors to Canyon de Chelly with accommodations, meals, canyon tours and local crafts.

In 1902, during the heyday of the trading posts, trader Sam Day built a log cabin (now a part of the cafeteria) and began trading with the local Navajo. The trading post not only provided staples of coffee, flour, sugar and tobacco, but acted as a bank, post office, general store, community meeting place, and even provided medical and mortician services! Navajos would make long journeys from surrounding areas on foot, in wagons and on horseback to trade their sheep, wool, rugs and jewelry for goods, cash or credit. Trader Cozy McSparron encouraged Chinle area weavers to return to simple classic rug patterns using only vegetal dyes from local plants. Today this "Chinle" pattern is still typical of many rugs woven in this area.

As news of exciting cliff dwellings found in the southwest began to spread back east, scores of visitors, archeologists, and dignitaries began to travel the torturous dirt roads to see the spectacular canyon and its treasures. At first, visitors were put up at the trading post on cots or on the floor, but eventually the need to build more guest rooms to accommodate them became apparent. The first canyon tours were done in horse drawn wagons, then in Model T Fords.

Many historic trading posts have long since disappeared, but the Thunderbird Lodge still retains some of its heritage while continuing to change with the times.








# VISITOR ACTIVITIES: (May 23 thru Sept. 7)

	MEET AT	SUNDAY	MONDAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
<b>CANYON HIKE</b>	Visitor Center Flagpole	8am-Noon					8am-Noon	8am-Noon
<b>VISITOR CENTER PROGRAM</b>	Visitor Center Lobby	12:30-1pm	12:30-1pm	12:30-1pm	12:30-1pm	12:30-1pm	12:30-1pm	12:30-1pm
<b>ARCHAEOLOGY WALK</b>	Visitor Center Flagpole		4:30-6:30pm	4:30-6:30pm	4:30-6:30pm	4:30-6:30pm		
<b>SUNSET GEOLOGY TALK</b>	Tsegi Overlook (South Rim)		7:30-8:15pm		7:30-8:15pm		7:30-8:15pm	
<b>THUNDERBIRD LODGE TALK</b>	Thunderbird Lodge Gift Shop	7:30-8:15pm		7:30-8:15pm		7:30-8:15pm		7:30-8:15pm
<b>CAMPFIRE PROGRAM</b>	Campground Amphitheater	9-9:45pm	9-9:45pm	9-9:45pm	9-9:45pm	9-9:45pm	9-9:45pm	9-9:45pm

<b>VISITOR CENTER</b> OPEN DAILY 8 AM-7PM (May-Sept) 8 AM-5 PM (Oct-Apr)	Information desk, Exhibits, Book Sales, Hiking Permits, Silversmithing Demonstrations. Self-guided PLANT WALK starts behind the visitor center, booklets available at the information desk. A WILDLIFE CHECKLIST and WILDLIFE OBSERVATION CARDS are also available at the information desk. 
<b>CANYON HIKE</b> 8 AM - Noon Fri, Sat, Sun	Put on your hiking shoes and join a ranger for this guided hike into the canyon. This is a special opportunity to experience first hand the canyon - its geology, plants and animals, ancient ruins and rock art, and the present day lifestyle of the resident Navajos. Bring water, a snack, binoculars and camera, and insect repellent. Be prepared to walk through ankle-deep water.
<b>VISITOR CENTER PROGRAM</b> 12:30 Daily	Join a ranger for this half hour program which might include a basket weaving demonstration, a visit to the hogan, a plant walk, a lesson on flintknapping or some tips on Navajo rugs.
<b>ARCHAEOLOGY WALK</b> 4:30 Mon, Tues, Wed, Thurs	Join a ranger for a short walk to Sleeping Duck Ruin. Discover the ancient ruins of the Anasazi Indians and what the National Park Service is doing today to preserve and protect these remnants of the past.
<b>THUNDERBIRD LODGE TALK</b> 7:30 PM Sat, Sun, Tues, Thurs	Join a ranger for this 45 minute evening program. Topics include the history of the Thunderbird Lodge as an early trading post and other topics related to the Navajo Culture. Program topics are posted at the Visitor Center and the Thunderbird Lodge Gift Shop.
<b>SUNSET GEOLOGY TALK</b> 7:30 PM Mon, Wed, Fri	Join a ranger for this 45 minute talk about Canyon de Chelly's geologic history. Spectacular scenery and sunsets highlight this evening activity.
<b>CAMPFIRE PROGRAM</b> 9 PM Nightly	Gather around the campfire for this traditional National Park Service program. Park Rangers present a different program nightly. Topics are posted at the visitor center, Thunderbird Lodge Gift Shop, and the campground bulletin board.

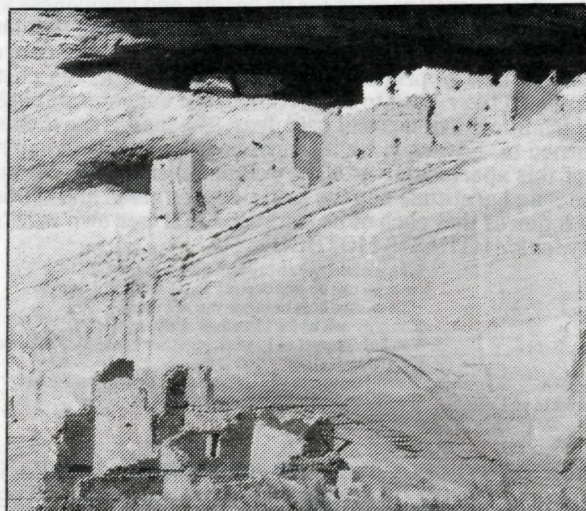
PROGRAMS AND TIMES ARE SUBJECT TO CHANGE AFTER LABOR DAY. CHECK AT THE VISITOR CENTER FOR SEPTEMBER'S SCHEDULE.

## SELF-GUIDED YEAR AROUND ACTIVITIES



### RIM DRIVES

Enjoy the sights of Canyon de Chelly and Canyon del Muerto by driving the north and south rim drives. Allow approximately 2 hours for each rim drive. Guide books are available at the visitor center.



### WHITE HOUSE RUINS TRAIL

An excellent way to experience Canyon de Chelly is to hike the White House Ruins trail. This scenic trail descends 600 feet to the canyon floor on a well maintained, moderately easy trail. Be prepared to wade across the Chinle Wash and carry drinking water with you. Do not wander off the trail and respect the privacy of canyon residents. A trail guide is available at the visitor center. Approximately 2 hours - 2 1/2 miles round trip.

PETS ARE NOT ALLOWED ON THIS TRAIL.



# CANYON DE CHELLY NATIONAL MONUMENT 1987

## CULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT AT CANYON DE CHELLY

"Are there any archaeological digs going on here?"

This is a question frequently asked by visitors to Canyon de Chelly. These twisting canyons contain well over 700 ruin sites representing Anasazi and Navajo periods of occupation. The high, dry rock shelters of the sandstone cliffs, a favorable climate, and farmable bottomlands supported an intensive prehistoric population. The physical remains of these cultures represents one of the richest cultural resources in the Southwest and a resource which has attracted the interest of archaeologists for over 100 years.

A few of the larger ruins such as Mummy Cave, Antelope House, and White House Ruins have been excavated in the past, but there are no excavations currently being conducted at Canyon de Chelly. While full scale site excavations yield a wealth of information about the people and the culture of a particular site, they are time consuming and very expensive. The resources which can be devoted to excavation work are limited, and so the majority of excavations in the Southwest are conducted on sites threatened by development or destruction.

The archaeological history of Canyon de Chelly has gone through periods where the primary goal was to collect artifacts, to a time where the non-destructive collection of information is the goal. Though there are no excavations currently planned, the National Park Service is actively involved with protecting and managing the cultural resources. To protect the sites, access to the canyons and the ruin sites is restricted and the canyons are patrolled by rangers to prevent illegal entry. To manage the sites, the Park Service has developed a cultural resource monitoring program at Canyon de Chelly. Archaeological sites are routinely surveyed for signs of illegal entry, the elements of disturbance assessed, stabilization needs are noted, and the overall site conditions are recorded on survey forms. Each site feature is then mapped in detail and photographed. If necessary, stabilization plans are developed to prevent further deterioration of surface features. Both the methods and the materials used in stabilization are similar to those used in the original construction.

Even protected cultural resources, like those at Canyon de Chelly, are threatened by the activities of man, the effects of wind and water, and the passage of time. The information recorded on sites today will assist rangers and archaeologists in the future to evaluate changes in site condition, document threats to the sites, and develop management plans for the continual protection of these irreplaceable resources.

## HUBBELL TRADING POST

Hubbell Trading Post National Historic Site is the oldest continuously operated trading post on the Navajo Reservation. The original buildings still stand and you may roam the grounds at your own pace.

Hubbell's home, which was occupied until 1967, is open daily for Ranger guided tours.

Traditional Navajo crafts, weaving and silversmithing are demonstrated at the National Park Service Visitor Center.

The Post is open 8:00 a.m. to 6:00 p.m. May thru September and 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. the remainder of the year. Remember Daylight Saving Time takes effect in the summer months.

Hubbell Trading Post is located 35 miles south of Canyon de Chelly in Ganado, AZ.

## PARK REGULATIONS

The Rangers at Canyon de Chelly want you to enjoy your visit, however, the Code of Federal Regulations and Navajo Tribal Codes prohibit the following:



Entering the canyons of Canyon de Chelly National Monument without a Park Ranger or an authorized guide with a permit. Travel to and from White House Ruins on the hiking trail is the only exception to this rule.

Possessing or consuming alcoholic beverages on the Navajo Reservation

Entering any ruin or other archaeological site

Disturbing, destroying, injuring, defacing, or removing any natural feature or prehistoric object.

Allowing pets to run at large

## BE SAFE, NOT SORRY

Theft from motor vehicles is a common problem. Thieves can open even locked doors in seconds. When leaving your vehicle, LOCK IT and secure valuables in the trunk. Purses, wallets, cameras and binoculars should be carried with you. CASH currency is most commonly removed from purses during break-ins.

Watch your step! The Rim Drive Overlooks provide excellent views of the canyons below. They also present the potential for a serious fall if you are not cautious around the canyon edges. Remain behind retaining walls and control your children and pets.

Watch for stock on the highway. The Navajo Reservation has an open range policy. Livestock are not fenced in and are frequently encountered on the roads. Obey the speed limits and remain alert, especially after dark.

## SCHOOL PROGRAMS



Park Rangers are available year around to present talks and tours to school and community groups. To schedule a talk or tour, call (602) 674-5436, or write to the Superintendent, P.O. Box 588, Chinle, Arizona 86503.



WON'T YOU  
PLEASE GIVE  
GENEROUSLY?



Take PRIDE in Canyon de Chelly - Put litter in its place!

## INFORMATION STATION AT CANYON MOUTH

Canyon de Chelly National Monument land is owned by the Navajo people. In the spring of 1985, joint management planning meetings were initiated between the Navajo Tribe and the National Park Service.

In response to public meetings in the local community, the National Park Service established a kiosk station at the mouth of the canyon. The purpose of the kiosk station is to reduce illegal canyon entry, prevent local parties, reduce litter, and provide greater protection for canyon residents and archeological sites. In 1986, illegal activity was reduced by about 65%. The station serves as an information booth and a check point to enforce regulations and monitor canyon entry. The kiosk will benefit the canyon's residents as well as the National Park Service in their efforts to preserve and protect the natural and cultural resources found within Canyon de Chelly National Monument.

**CANYON OVERLOOK** is a publication of the Canyon de Chelly National Monument staff. Edited by N.G. Pierce. Cover article by W. Hunter. Other articles by E.F. Patton and C. Bahe. Title page art work by R. Draper. Funds were donated by the Thunderbird Lodge and the Southwest Parks and Monuments Assn.

**ADMINISTRATION:** The National Park Service, Department of the Interior, administers the Monument. Address comments and requests for information to: Superintendent, Canyon de Chelly National Monument, P.O. Box 588, Chinle, Arizona, 86503.

## IMPORTANT NUMBERS

**Emergency:** Park Ranger 674-5436 or 5213  
Navajo Police 674-5291  
Ambulance 674-5464

**Information:** Visitor Center (602)674-5436

## "NAHASDZAAN SHIMA" EARTH MY MOTHER

Continued from Page 1

Today, the Navajo Medicinemen (Hataa'ii) are concerned that this same loss of harmony and loss of the land could happen to the people of the present, unless we reevaluate our situation and take steps to preserve and respect the land. A balance with Earth Our Mother and Father The Sky must be regained and maintained. The Navajos' ability to adapt must be utilized for this new age to protect and nurture Earth Our Mother. Modern man has more ability through knowledge to shape his environment. Therefore, a chance to return the gifts to Earth Our Mother and return the sacred respect due the land as due any parent.

Canyon de Chelly can be seen as a microcosm of the reservation at large and the world in general. The need for land management and an overall respect for its beauty and uniqueness are no different than those needed for the whole planet earth. More and more, we are realizing that humanity is tied to the land and is responsible for it, just as a child is bound to its mother. The canyon is still used today by the Navajos. This pattern has its origin in antiquity. Navajos in the past have always respected the land and have enjoined their lives to its rhythms. The canyon established a link with the past. It is a reaffirmation of traditional values still held dear. The land is the mother and must be respected, preserved, and returned to. However, we all must become aware of our responsibilities for assuring the preservation of this spectacular area as well as other areas. We must accept the challenge of providing the respect and gratitude due the land that was given and continues to give so much to us. This responsibility requires that each of us works in his or her own way to maintain the balance and harmony necessary for EARTH OUR MOTHER.

Earth My Mother,  
We are but one, of beauty and grace.  
You provide things for all life.  
You provide things of beauty.  
We give you little in return.  
Earth My Mother,  
We see you dressed in beautiful colors.  
Father Sky provides beautiful things to you.

Like a man gives beautiful things to his wife.  
Now we use up and destroy these beautiful things.  
Now we are hurt because you are hurt.  
You only ask us for blessings and respect;  
You only expect us to work together in balance and harmony.  
Earth My Mother,  
We will return to you these gifts of beauty and grace.  
We will return with beauty and grace.

THIS ARTICLE WAS WRITTEN IN SUPPORT OF THE TAKE PRIDE IN AMERICA CAMPAIGN. FOR MORE INFORMATION ON THIS PROGRAM, CONTACT: TAKE PRIDE IN AMERICA CAMPAIGN, (202)343-1726.



DATE SUNRISE SUNSET

(MOUNTAIN STANDARD TIME)

JAN 1	7:29	5:14
JAN 15	7:28	5:27
FEB 1	7:19	5:44
FEB 15	7:06	5:59
MAR 1	6:49	6:12
MAR 15	6:28	6:25
APR 1	6:05	6:39

(MOUNTAIN DAYLIGHT TIME)

APR 15	6:45	7:51
MAY 1	6:26	8:05
MAY 15	6:12	8:17
JUN 1	6:02	8:29
JUN 15	6:00	8:37
JUL 1	6:04	8:40
JUL 15	6:12	8:36
AUG 1	6:25	8:24
AUG 15	6:36	8:10
SEP 1	6:49	7:47
SEP 15	7:00	7:27
OCT 1	7:13	7:03
OCT 15	7:24	6:44

(MOUNTAIN STANDARD TIME)

NOV 1	6:40	5:23
NOV 15	6:54	5:11
DEC 1	7:10	5:04
DEC 15	7:21	5:05

Canyon de Chelly El. 5540 ft.  
Lat. 36 9N Long. 109 32W