

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR  
NATIONAL PARK SERVICE

Report on the  
PICTOGRAPHS OF DRY FORK

U T A H

to  
Arno B. Cammerer

Director, National Parks, Buildings, and Reservations

by  
Roger W. Toll

December 22, 1933

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*on 35  
muse  
Utah*

December 22, 1933  
515 Custom House  
Denver, Colorado

The Director,  
Office of National Parks,  
Buildings, and Reservations,  
Washington, D. C.

Dear Mr. Director:

On October 24, 1933, in company with Ben H. Thompson, I visited the pictographs of Dry Fork, a tributary of Ashley Creek, some eight to twelve miles northwest of Vernal, Utah.

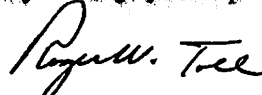
I have not seen the pictographs near the Rio Puerco bridge, in the Petrified Forest National Monument. Probably these are the best now in the national park system. I have visited the pictographs at the Valley of Fire, Nevada; at Johnson Canyon, Utah; some in Yampa Canyon, Colorado; Death Valley, California; the Picture Rocks in Arizona; and a few other locations. The pictographs of Dry Fork are decidedly the best of these, and they are doubtless among the most interesting and valuable pictographs of the Southwest. The figures are large, frequently life size, the workmanship is often good and some of the details have been done with care. They appear to be of a different type and probably more ancient. They have been but little damaged by mutilation.

The best of the pictographs in this area are on private property.

They should be preserved. This can best be accomplished by local sentiment strengthened by enforcement of the "Antiquities Act" when the pictographs are on public domain. Pictographs are widely scattered throughout the southwest, and it would not be practicable to preserve more than one or two of the best groups by the employment of custodians.

Pictographs are of scientific interest and of some popular interest, but it seems that no pictographs are of sufficient popular appeal to induce many visitors to travel considerable distances to see them. I do not know of any pictographs that would justify the establishment of a national monument. It is recommended that the area be disapproved as a national monument.

Very truly yours,



Roger W. Toll

### Inspection

Visited this area on October 24, 1933, in company with Mr. Ben H. Thompson of the National Park Service, and Mr. Leo C. Thorne, a photographer, much interested in archaeological study.

### Location

The pictographs are located about eight to twelve miles northwest of Vernal, Utah. The two principal areas are on Dry Fork, a tributary of Ashley Creek, and in the Uinta Basin region.

Glyph Cliff, named by Mr. Thorne, is nine miles from Vernal. It is probably on the property of Elmer Lind, although there is some uncertainty as to the location of his property line. It is on the south side of Dry Fork, one mile from its mouth.

Pictograph Cliff is about two miles from Glyph Cliff. It is on the property of T. C. Alexander, of Vernal. It is on the north side of Dry Fork.

### History of the Project

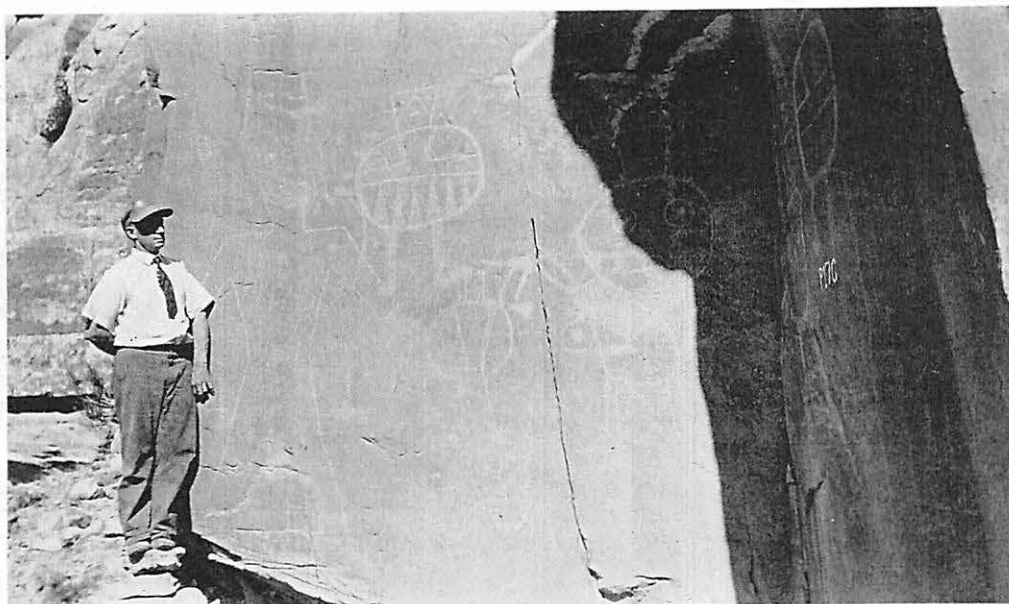
Albert B. Reagan has spent several summers on archaeological work in the Dry Fork, Ashley Creek region, and elsewhere. He wrote to the Department that there are eighty groups of life-size pictographs on Pictograph Cliff and suggested that a national monument be established to include those pictographs on the Alexander ranch and other pictographs extending southward to the Elmer Lind property. Mr. Reagan also proposed that the cliff dwellings in Nine Mile Canyon be made a national monument. Since that is in a different part of the state, it will be referred to in a separate report.

Dr. Reagan has furnished copies of his reports, including photographs and publications, to the Interior Department and to Jesse L. Nusbaum, Director, Laboratory of Anthropology, Santa Fe, New Mexico.

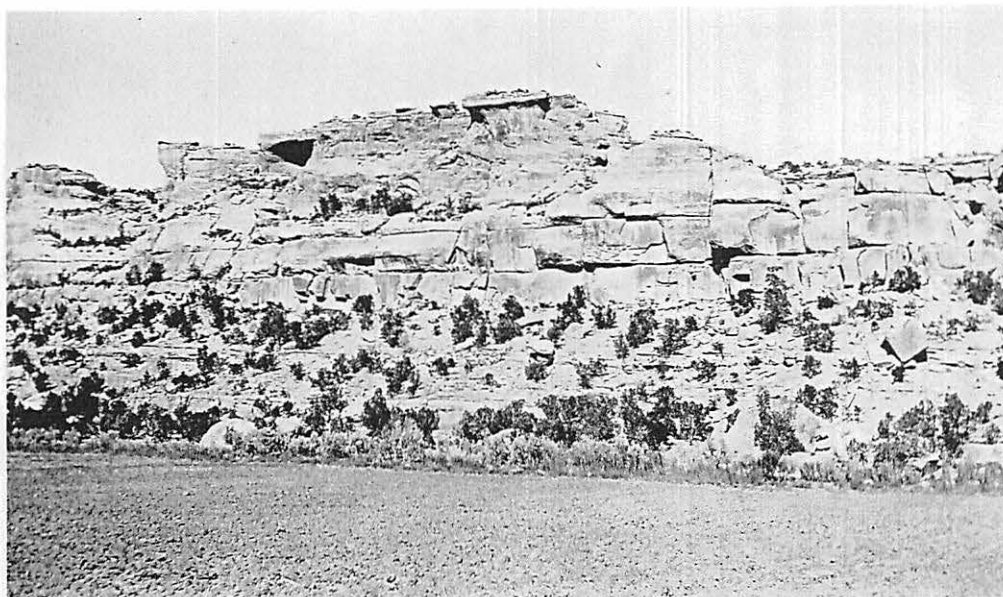
Dr. Reagan is a teacher, with the Indian Service, at Garay, Utah, some thirty miles from Vernal. He has published numerous articles in the Vernal Express and in several archaeological magazines with reference to these pictographs and other archaeological investigations.



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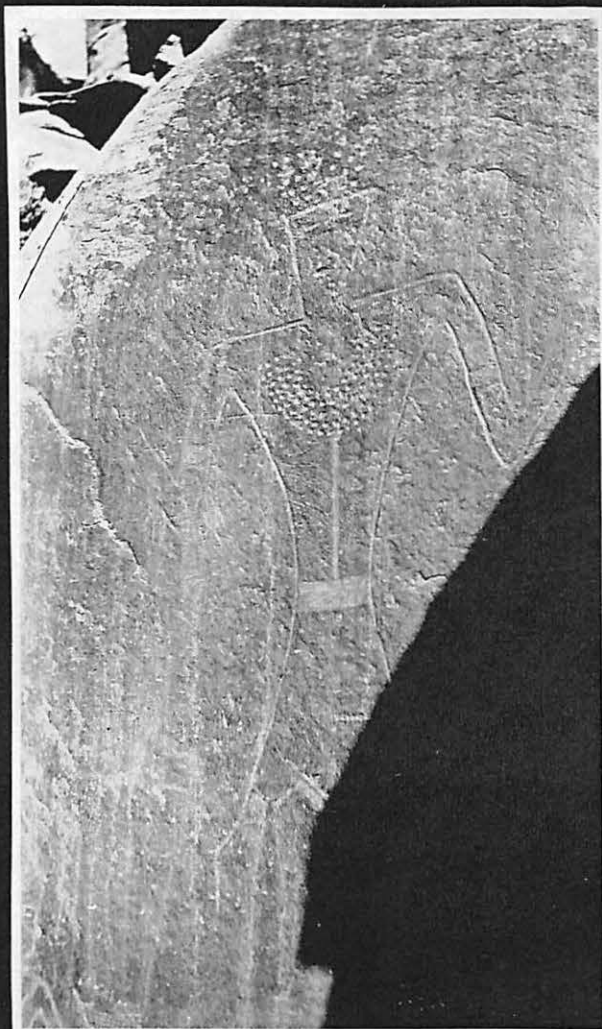
Leo C. Thorne, of Vernal, Utah  
besides a six-foot pictograph.



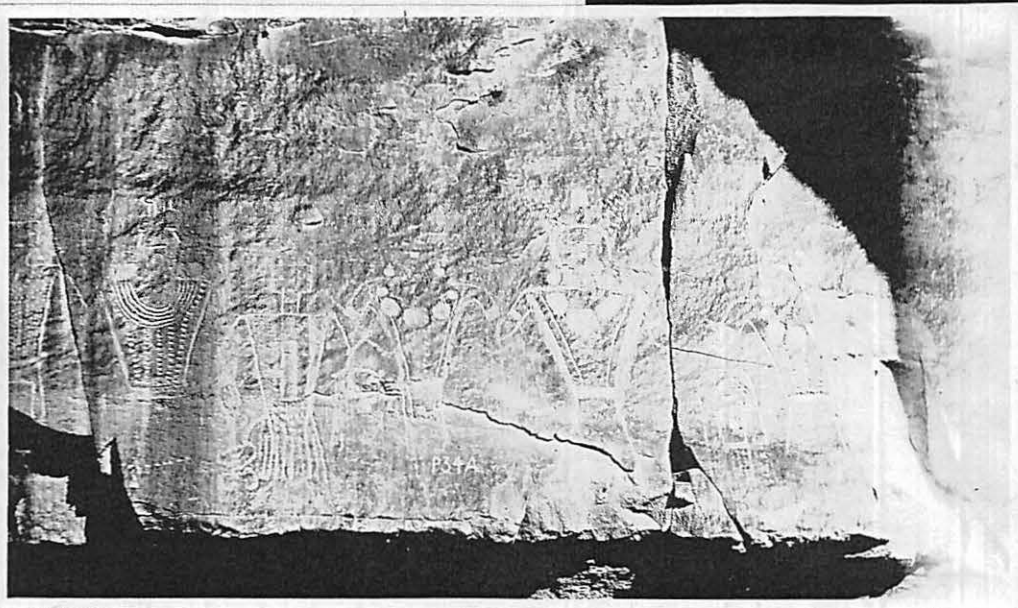
Pictograph Cliff on Alexander  
ranch. The pictographs extend  
for about a mile, and are at the  
bottom of the vertical cliff, and  
above the slope.

*Put*

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Pictograph six feet high, would be more than life size if completed.



Head-hunter pictograph on Alexander ranch about  $4\frac{1}{2}$  feet high. The figure at the right holds a human head with blood dripping from the cut throat into a pool below, while tears drip from the eyes. Necklaces and bark skirts indicated.

PWT





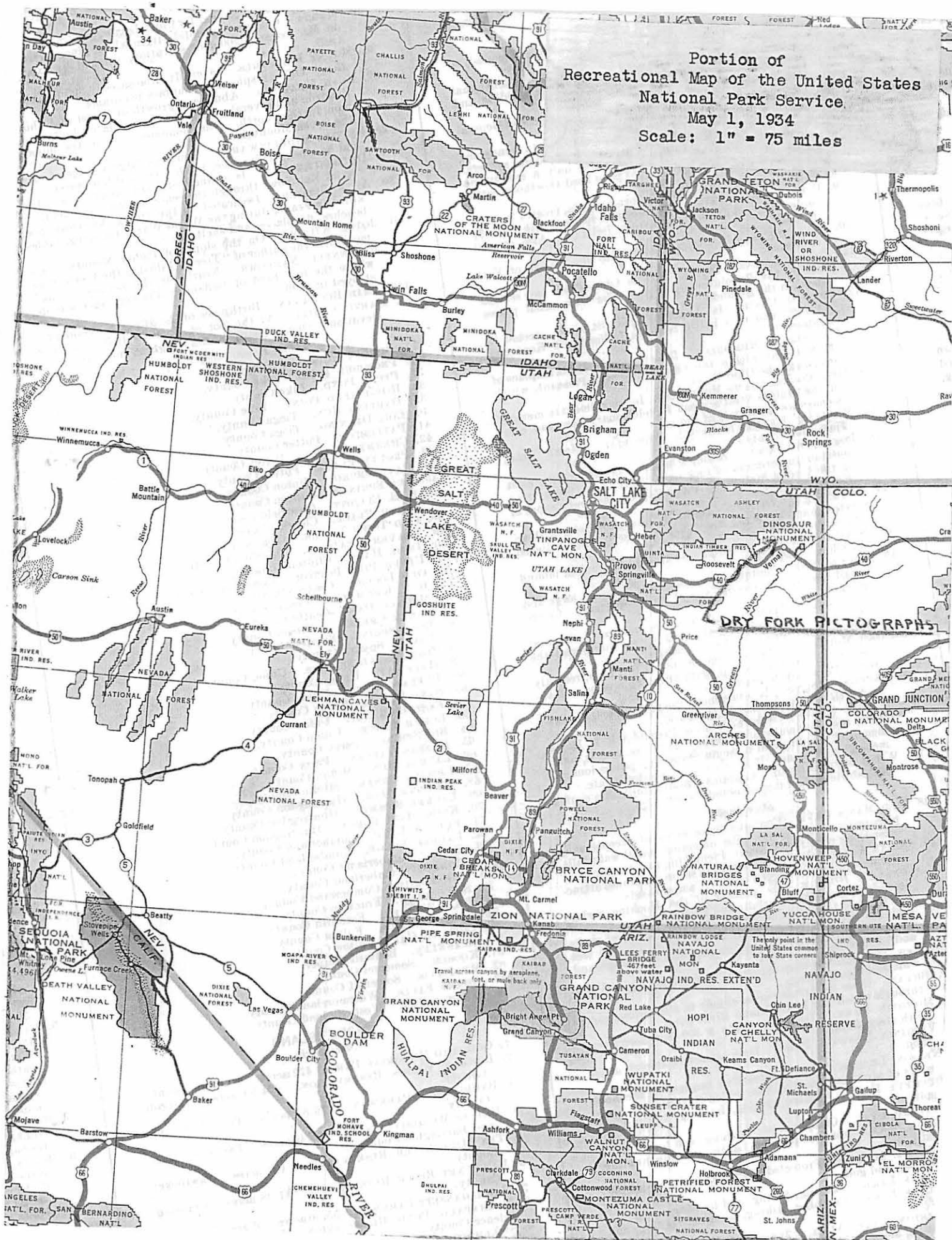
Pictographs of Glyph Cliff.  
The largest figures are about  
four feet high.



Glyph Cliff, on property of Elmer  
Lynn. Pictographs are at base of  
cliff near center of photograph.

PWT

Portion of  
Recreational Map of the United States  
National Park Service  
May 1, 1934  
Scale: 1" = 75 miles



### General Characteristics of Area

At Glyph Cliff the pictographs run to a height of about eighteen feet above the ground. This is one of the largest single groups of pictographs in the area. They are in good shape and have suffered very little mutilation.

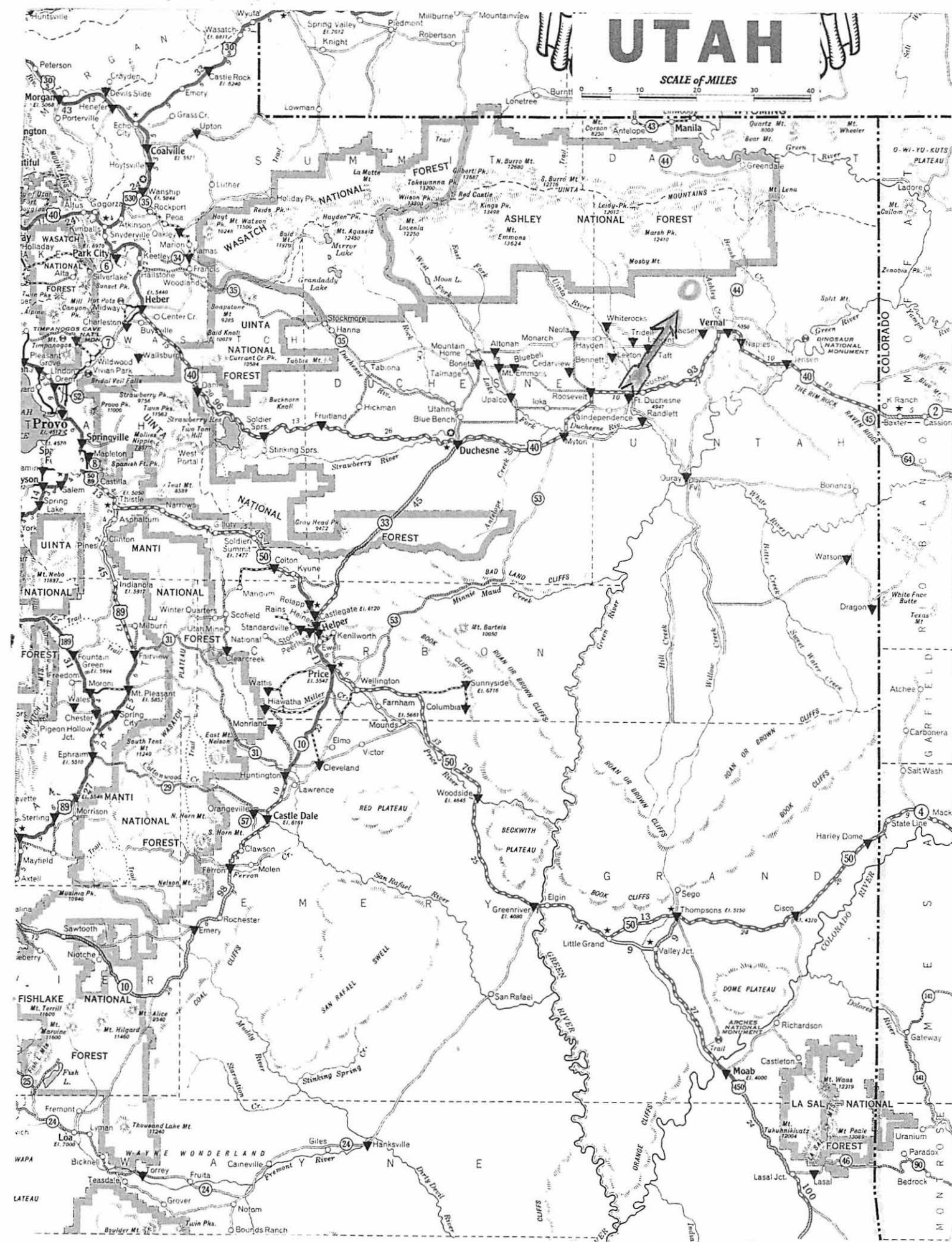
At Pictograph Cliff, the pictographs extend along the cliff for a distance of about a mile or more. These pictographs are of a different type from those of Glyph Cliff and the usual pictograph of the southwest. These are principally of human figures, with square shoulders and heads. The drawing is sometimes suggestive of Egyptian carvings, the figures are large, occasionally life size, and in some cases the costume is represented, and frequently a necklace with several strands of ornaments is carefully shown. Some of the figures are "head hunters" and hold the head of an enemy. Some of these pictographs have peaked outlines, some have grooved outlines, and some have both peaked areas and grooved outlines. There are a few red, painted figures, sometimes combined with the peaked and grooved, or rubbed work.

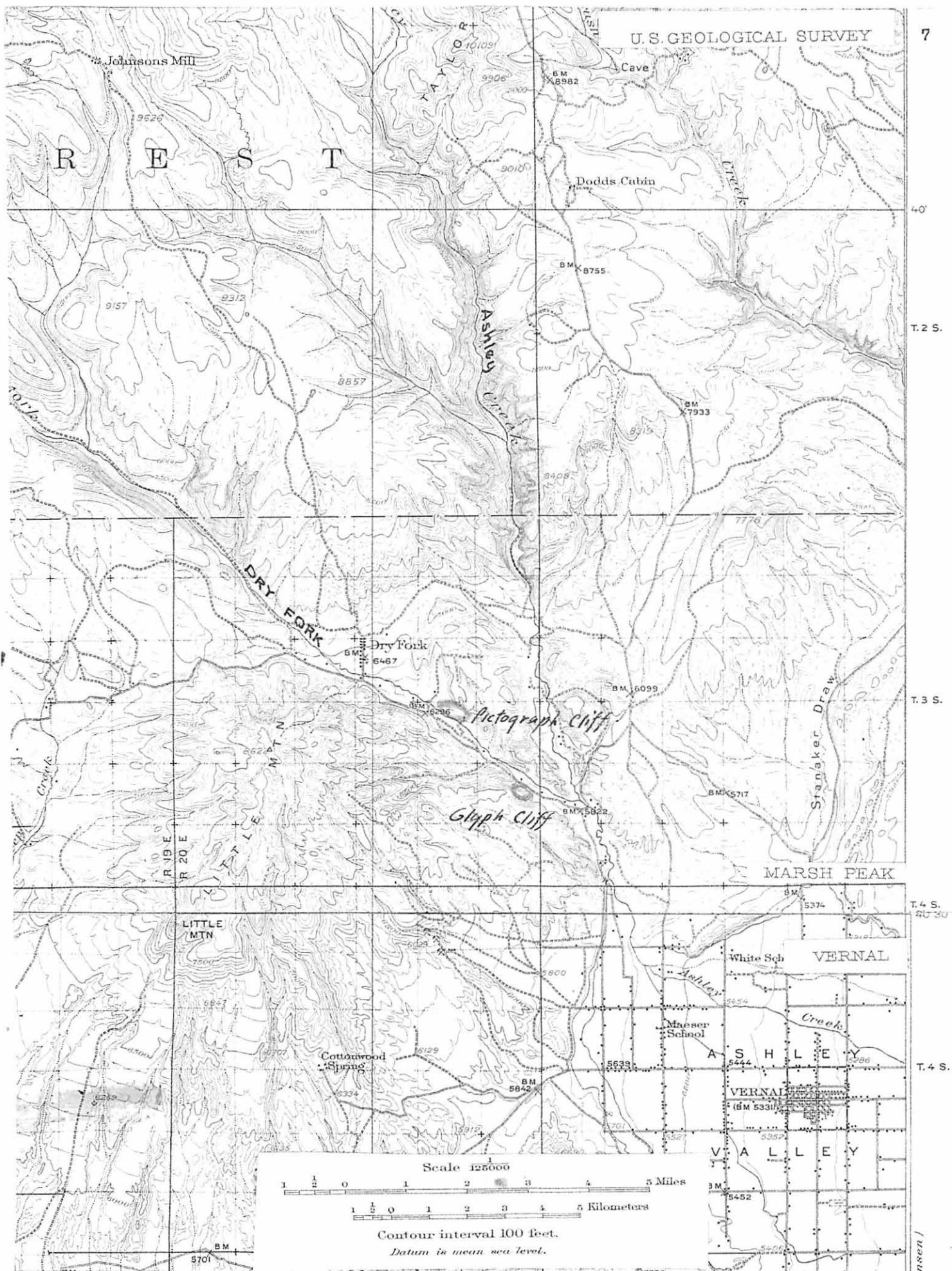
As a rule these pictographs are at a normal height of a few feet above the ground, but some of them are as high as twenty feet, while others are partly buried by the talus at the foot of the cliff.

### Suggested Inter - State National Park

In Vernal, Utah, I talked with Frank P. Wellman of Jensen, Utah, who is on the staff of the Vernal Express. He is one of a group of men in that portion of Utah who are advocating a large national park in northeastern Utah, to include all or most of the Green River from the north boundary of the state to Split Mountain Canyon, and to include the present Dinosaur National Monument, the pictographs of Dry Fork, some Indian cave dwellings, fossil areas, etc. These men also include the Canyon of Lodore in their project and suggest the construction of a road up the Green River, through the successive canyons. The project would be expensive, but highly scenic. They argue that it would offer a spectacular route between Yellowstone and Mesa Verde or Zion, Bryce and Grand Canyon National Parks. Should this project receive popular support and favorable consideration, the area suggested would be readily combined with the Canyon of the Lodore and Yampa Canyon to form a large inter-state national park and one that would be worthy of serious consideration. The possible future need for the development of power along this part of the Green River will probably prevent this project from receiving the approval of the state of Utah.





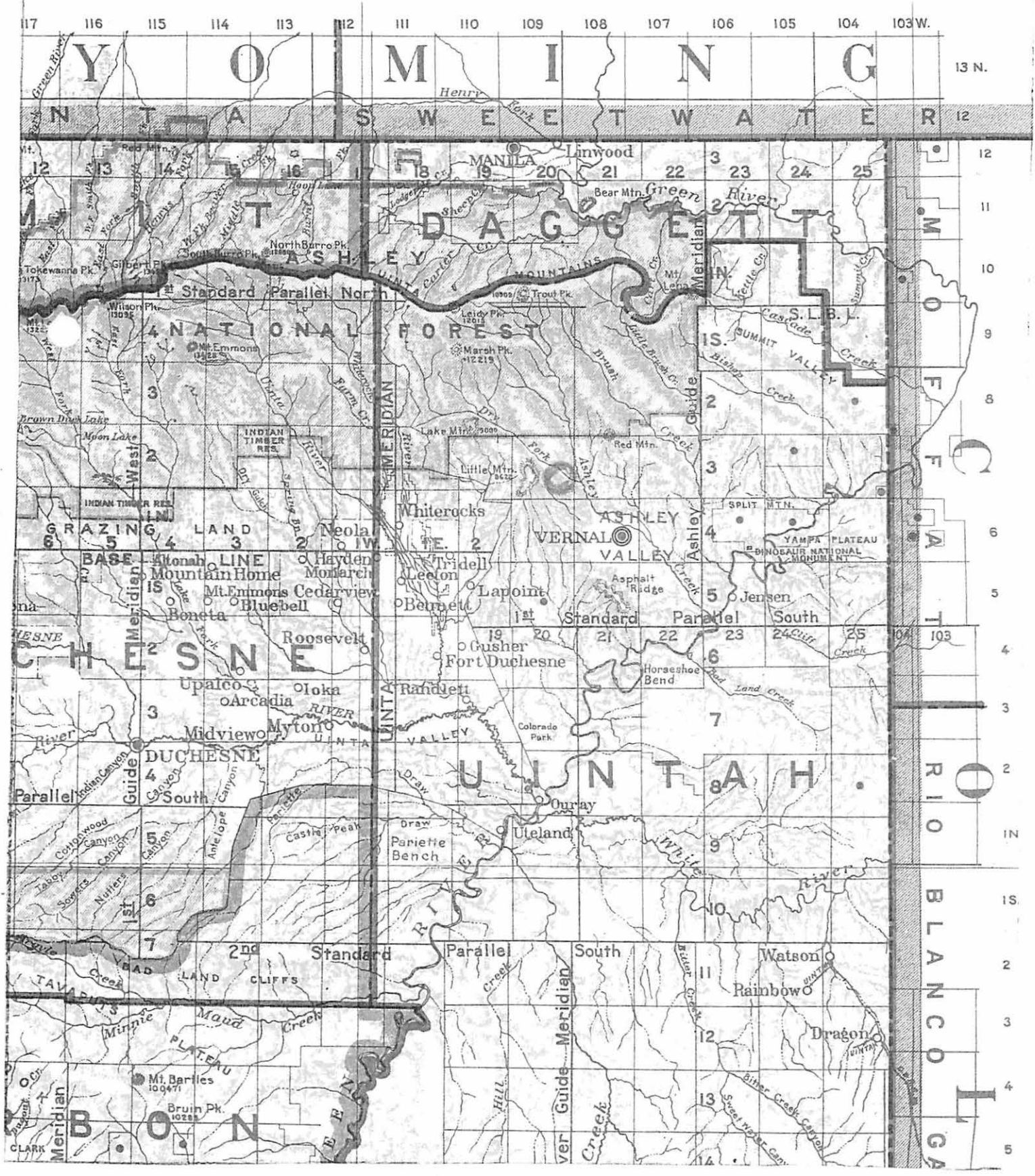




- Public Survey Office (SALT LAKE CITY)
- District Land Offices
- County Seats
- Cities, Towns and Villages
- County Boundaries
- Land District Boundaries

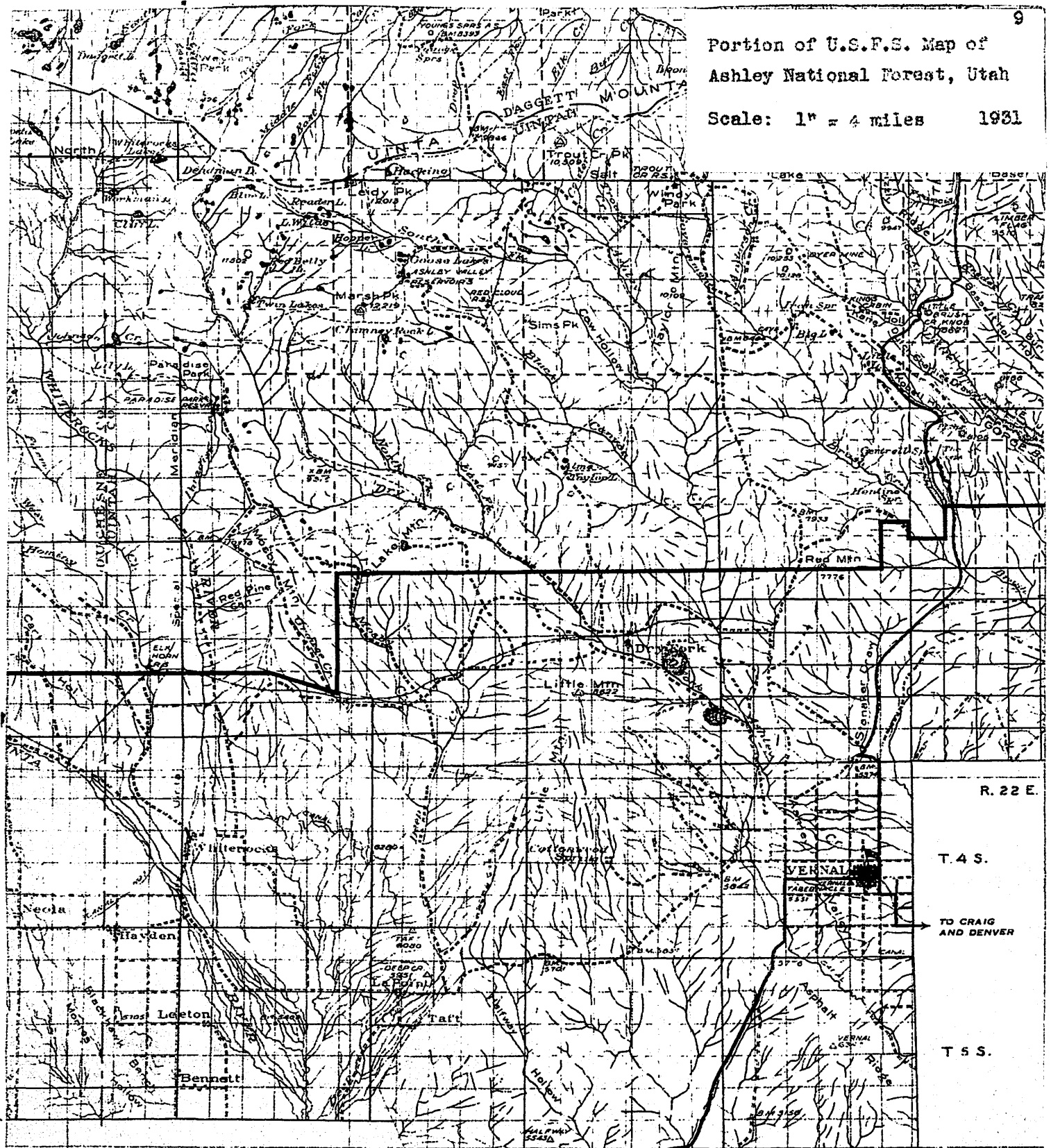
- National Forests
- Indian Reservation
- Bureau of Reclamation
- Military Reservation
- National Monument
- Townships not subdivided

Portion of Map of Utah 8  
General Land Office  
Scale: 1" = 12 miles 1926





Portion of U.S.F.S. Map of  
Ashley National Forest, Utah  
Scale: 1" = 4 miles 1931



R. 22 E.

T. 4 S.

TO CRAIG  
AND DENVER

T. 5 S.

R. 1 W.

R. 1 E.

JUNTA SPECIAL MERIDIAN

R. 2 E.

R. 19 E.

SALT LAKE MERIDIAN

R. 20 E.

TO DUCHESNE AND PRICE  
OR SALT LAKE CITY

R. 21 E.

① Glyph Cliff  
② Photograph Cliff

Itinerary

October 24, 1933, Vernal, Utah. Called on T. C. Alexander, the owner of the ranch on which the Pictograph Cliff is located. He referred me to Lee C. Thorne, who has a photographic studio in Vernal and who is much interested in archaeology. He has in the studio a museum collection of Indian artifacts and had made many photographs of pictographs, and has worked extensively with Mr. Reagan.

Mr. Thorne agreed to take Mr. Thompson and myself to see the principal pictographs. We left Vernal at 10:20 A. M. The first stop was at Glyph Cliff.

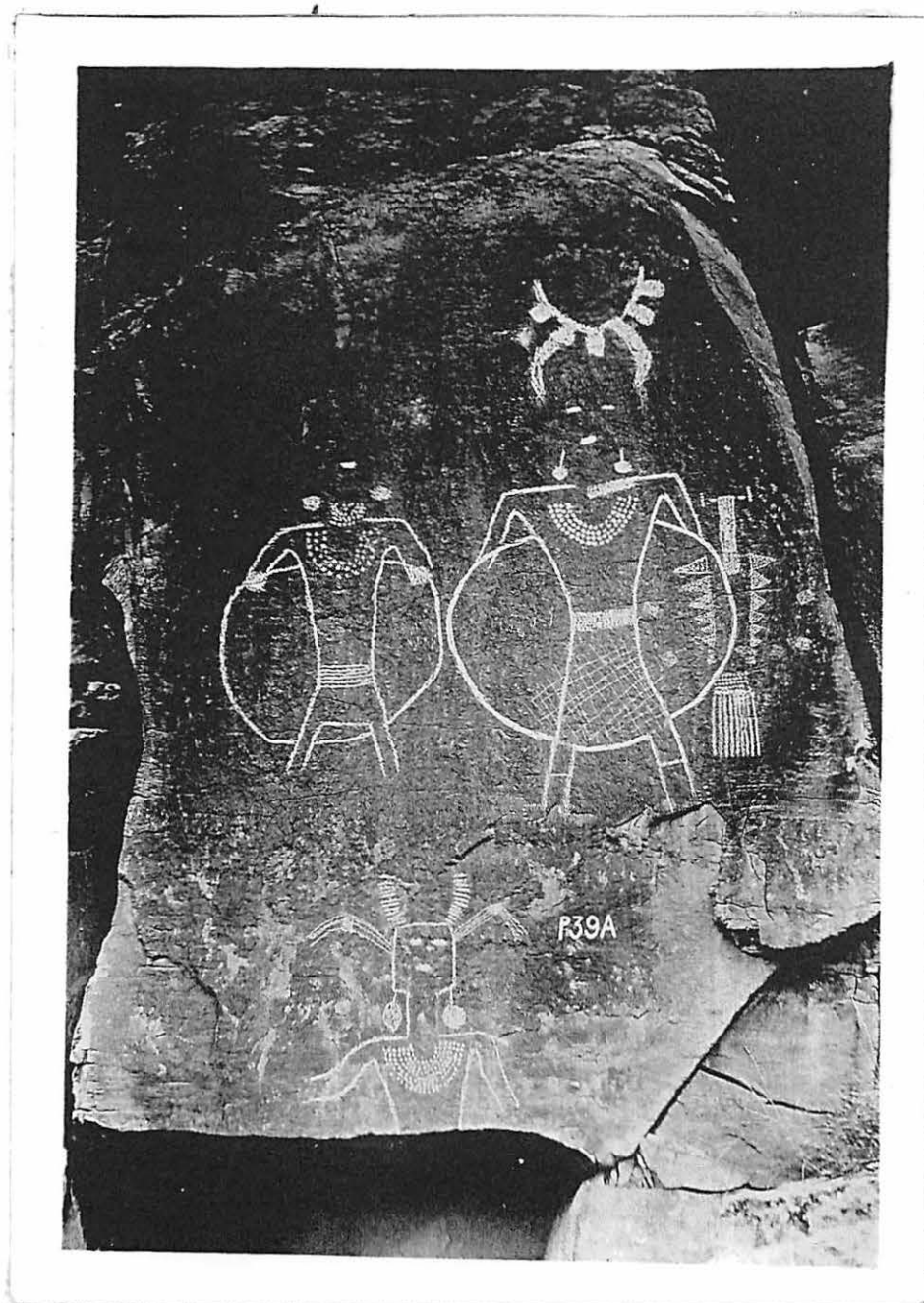
After spending a little while there, we continued to Pictograph Cliff. Here we stayed more than two hours and walked a mile or so along the cliff.

Drove back to Vernal in forty minutes, arriving at 2:10 P. M.



Dry Fork Pictographs  
Photographs by Leo C. Thorne





Dry Fork Pictographs  
Photographs by Leo C. Thorne