

stone with his dauntless courage, Rio Bravo carved the Boquillas to the very base. Emerging from this encounter victorious, he discovered more than a hundred miles of mountains behind mountains standing in his way.

He mustered all his forces and charged these enemies, first cutting a canyon forty-eight miles long, which is Patricia. Pausing for a short time, he then set siege to another mountain enemy and won an outstanding victory. He advanced his battle front eighty-nine miles.

While the Rio Grande had been winning all these battles, another important River, the Pecos, had come into being in the mountains of New Mexico. The Pecos had cut a course south until he joined forces with the Rio



SANTA HELENA CANYON

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Grande Canyon of the Rio Grande

Grande at the end of the eighty-nine mile canyon and they went through the coastal plain with little effort.

For more than two thousand miles the Savage Rio Grande had won his way and at last led his water army in triumph to the Gulf of Mexico, Master Spoilsman of them all.

MOUNTAIN TOPS

The principal mountain characters in this story are the Guadalupe. They arrived at this place of importance due to their elevation. The highest point in this range is 9,100 feet. This great break off is on the Texas side of the range, the greater part of the range lying in New Mexico. The Guadalupe are a land of caves and deep canyons, con-

taining the world famous Carlsbad Caverns. It is worth the fatigue of a long drive just to see the mighty Guadalupe Peak in the changing lights of a new born day, or in the glorious lights of the setting sun, as he stands guard over those "Salt Lakes" to the west of him. To make the Guadalupe more fascinating, there is the story of the lost Gold Mine in some of those canyons.

The Davis Mountains have received more publicity than most of the other ranges in the Big Bend. Mount Livermore is the highest point. Its elevation is 8,382 feet; second in elevation is Sawtooth, 7,748 feet. The Chisos range down on the Rio Grande is another important group. The highest peak in this range is Mount Emory, 7,835 feet, and it dominates the greatest quicksilver deposit in the United States. At watering places, and on the faces of cliffs, the Indians painted pictures with cinnabar, which proves the Indians were the first to discover quicksilver. The highest peak in the Eagle Range is 7,515 feet.

The Chinatis have given more silver than any other mountain range in the Trans-Pecos region and their greatest elevation is 7,730 feet. While the Sierra Diablos, Quitman and Franklin ranges possess silver, and some gold and copper, they have never produced in large quantities. Their altitude ranges around 7,100 feet.

The Sierra Viejo range contains coal. Among the miscellaneous minerals reported from the Big Bend region are the following: alum, borax, mica, onyx, agate, turquoise, amethyst, opal and black and white marble.

PRIMITIVE MAN'S FOOD

The land west of the Pecos is mostly semi-desert and the principal vegetation is the cacti. However, this vegetation served primitive man in many ways. Some of the species produced palatable fruits, especially the Prickly Pear (Nopal) and the Pitahaya.

Most prominent among the Spikey family of the west is the Maguey, the generic name for many species which thrive along the Rio Grande. In Mexico this plant is a great source of wealth. In Texas the plant matures but once in a century. Lechuguilla and sotol of this family grows in the greatest profusion along the Rio Grande and was used extensively by the primitive people. It was roasted in pit ovens and became a sweet and nutritious food.

Mescal pits are very plentiful in this section. They are usually circular depressions in the ground, varying in circumference, sloping evenly to the center, a foot to three in depth, and lined with small stones. A fire was built in the pit, raked out after the stones become hot, and the roots of the plants put in and covered with grass. After two days steaming the pile was opened and the mescal