

MARISCAL
CANYON

was ready for consumption. Mescal was a valuable food source among the Indians. So far as is known the mescal was not fermented by the Indians until after the coming of the Spaniards.

PRIMITIVE MAN'S INSPIRATION

Peyote, a species of small cacti, found in the arid hills along the Rio Grande and southward in Mexico, was formerly and still is much used for ceremonial and medicinal purposes by all the Indians from the Rocky Mountains to the Gulf of Mexico. Among different tribes it is known under different names, as seni (Kiowa), wokowi (Comanche), kikori or kikuli (Tarahumare). In appearance the peyote plant resembles a radish in size and shape, the top only appearing above the ground. From the center springs a beautiful white blossom, which is later displaced by a tuft of white fuzz, which contains the potent "button." North of the Rio Grande this "button" only is used. In Mexico the whole plant is cut into slices, dried, and used in decoction, while the ceremonial also is essentially different from that of the northern tribes.

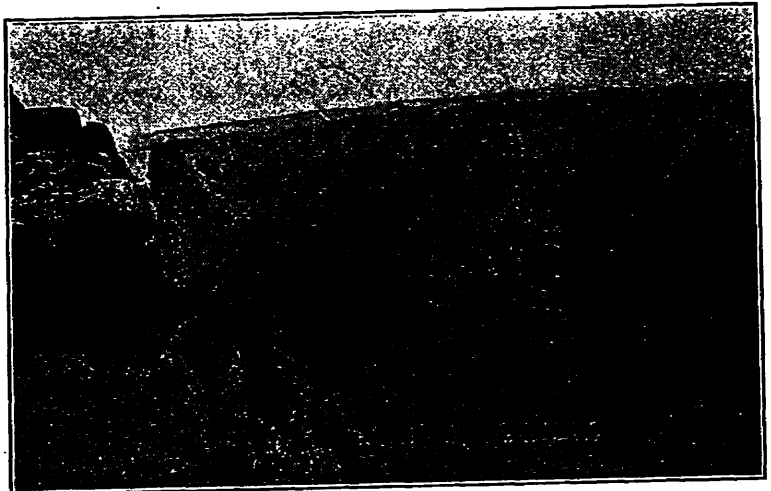
IMPORTANCE OF SALT

"Salt" played an important part in the lives of the first inhabitants of our country, as it does in our affairs today. Of the many persons who daily lift the lowly salt shaker, few have any

conception of the important part which common salt has had in the history of the development of west Texas. It caused the making of the first trail across the Big Bend.

Salt is to most people but a simple condiment. Yet wars have been waged for the possession of salt deposits, and the trend of great trails have been bent for easy access to the regions of salt.

There are two large deposits in this section; one north of Van Horn, west of the famous Guadalupe Peak, and another east of the Pecos River, north east of Castle Gap in the Castle Mountains. The Indians had well worn trails leading to these lakes when the first civilized men arrived west of the Pecos four centuries ago. Just as the mighty Rio Grande rises among those lofty peaks of Colorado, and is argued by rills, brooks,



MOUNTAINS NEAR BOQUILLAS