



## Fort Davis

UPPER VIEW  
BARRACKS

LOWER LEFT  
Officers Q't's.

LOWER RIGHT  
Ruins of Gov-  
ernment Bldgs.

into Mexican dollars. He was detained there ten days, waiting until the money was coined, and \$180,000.00 (one hundred and eighty thousands dollars) was delivered to him for transportation to the United States. With it and the copper ore which was consigned to parties in Texas, he started home over the same route he had recently traveled.

Santleban's second trip over the Chihuahua Trail was made in 1870, the third in 1871. He states, "When returning from Fort Davis, in 1872, after delivering a lot of government freight, at said Fort, I stopped at the Pecos Salt Lake, and loaded my prairie schooners with salt, free of cost, from the unlimited quantity that is found there, and which was in demand among ranchmen in the vicinity of San Antonio, on account of it's special qualities.

"The lake is situated in a desert region several miles east of the Pecos River and fifteen miles above Horse Head Crossing. The surrounding country in which it is located was naturally a level plain before the wind raised upon it numerous hills, some of them fifty feet in height, that surround the lake on three sides.

"The water of the lake, which covers an area of about fifty acres of land, was about eighteen inches in depth, and it's surface was a glittering sheet of white salt about four inches thick.

"My corral was near the lower end of the lake, where no sand hills obstructed the view in a southerly direction and an open plain extended far in the distance. After adopting every precaution for the security of my camp, I wanted as little delay as possible.

All my men, not otherwise employed, were actively engaged, in the work of scooping up salt near the shore and loading on the wagons.

"As I had no sacks, it was bulked in the bodies of the wagons to the depth of three feet, and three days labor was necessary to fill them.

"The corporal discovered about thirty Indians the second day after our arrival, and the next day they were seen in the distance. Evidently they were watching for an opportunity to dash in and drive off my herd of mules, but my precautions were carefully arranged and never relaxed, and when they saw that it would be an unsafe and difficult undertaking, they did not venture an attack.

"We finished loading the third day, and the following morning, after covering my salt with heavy tarpaulins to protect it from the weather, I got my train under way. But I soon discovered that my prairie schooners were loaded beyond the capacity of my teams to haul them.

"I made slow progress until I reached a point about five miles below the lake where I took about two thousand pounds of salt from each wagon. Afterward, I saw that the remainder was as much as my teams could haul, but they had been greatly relieved, and the same evening we crossed and camped on the West side of the Pecos.

"The next day we proceeded down the river towards Fort Lancaster, and when in camp at noon the corporal reported that he saw Indians on the west side of the Pecos.

"No doubt they were the same party that had sulked in the sand hills near our camp