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TUSAYAN: THE HOPI INDIAN COUNTRY OF ARIZONA

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THE Hopi¹ Indians are a minority group in the great area of Indian country in northeastern Arizona overlapping into three neighboring states and known as "the Navajo country." It includes a block of contiguous Indian reservations of 22,400 square miles, with about 35,000 Indians, of whom the majority are Navajos, and less than 600 whites, who are government employees, traders, or missionaries. The Hopis number only 2800; but, in spite of their small numbers, they perhaps challenge more popular interest than any other Indian group. The interest in the Hopis centers largely about the snake dance, which has attracted more attention than any other Indian dance or ceremonial, and is reinforced by their picturesque pueblo houses perched high on steep-walled mesas rising hundreds of feet above the valley floors and reached only by steep trails or more lately by difficult and precarious roadways.

THE HOPI VILLAGES

The Hopi Indian Reservation, as established in 1882, contains 3920 square miles; but even on this, their own reservation, of which they occupy a minor portion, the Hopis are outnumbered by the Navajos. The Hopi villages are situated about 65 miles north of Holbrook and Winslow, the nearest railway stations. If we except the village of Moenkopi in the Tuba Oasis in the Western Navajo Reservation, the greatest air line distance between villages (Walpi and Hotevilla) is only about 18 miles, and nearly all of them can be seen from certain vantage points. The country occupied and utilized by the Hopis was known to the Spaniards as the "Province of Tusayan." Tusayan may be defined as extending east and west across the mesas between the Jadito and Dinnebito Washes, a distance of less than 40 miles with a width hardly half as great—a small area, yet with hardly a rival in the United States as a distinctive geographic unit. The Hopi mesas with their scalloped sinuous contours project "like withered fingers" southward toward the desert from the great Black or Zih-li-jini Mesa, which is centrally located in the Arizona

¹ The name "Moqui," formerly more commonly used, is the name given the Hopis by surrounding Indians, particularly the Navajos. It means "the dead ones" and is resented by the Hopis, whose own name for themselves is "Hopi," meaning "the peaceful people."

one on the southwest side, which is the chief supply for the village; and the other on the east side at the base of the cliffs, where the school is located. The Indians call this place Masepa. At Oraibi on the Third Mesa there is a good well on the east side at the foot of the mesa, where a secondary village has grown up similar to Polacca at the First Mesa. The spring upon which the pueblo formerly depended is on the other side. Hotevilla and Bacabi have the most convenient springs, located just under the capping layer of sandstone, and the villages were located with reference to them. Their flow is slow but sufficient for all domestic needs and for the animals; and in addition there is sufficient overflow to irrigate beautifully terraced gardens, constructed with great labor below the springs.

The landscapes about the Hopi mesas are comparatively desolate, in large measure because of the concentration of population within an area of meager resources easily stripped. The valleys were grazed out long ago by flocks that were held too close to the pueblos; and, as the land became barren, the sands were stirred and drifted with the wind. No wood is now available within miles of any of the villages except the two recently built ones, Hotevilla and Bacabi, though all the mesas were formerly at least sparsely timbered. The Awatobi Mesa, similar in elevation and structure to the others but long unoccupied, has a profuse cover of sage, grass, and scattered juniper. Now fuel must be carefully conserved. Fortunately coal is available; the Indians of the First and Second Mesas have their own mines, and a government mine at Keams Canyon supplies the agency and Indian school located there.¹⁰ At the First Mesa especially, dried sheep manure is systematically piled along the edge of the mesa for the purpose of firing pottery, as it retains the heat much better than wood or coal.

FIELDS AND CROPS

The fields of the Hopis are located on the drifting sands in the valley bottoms near the washes, or wherever there is sufficient moisture from some gulch or spring, and are at considerable distances from the pueblos. Before the government came in, it is said that some of the Indians used to go as far as 45 miles to the fields every day. No wonder they are notable runners. Latterly the most distant fields are not more than 15 miles from the villages. Some one goes out to the fields every day, or some go and stay for a number of weeks but return to the villages for dances and for the winter. Temporary shelters are built for those who tend the crop. Sheep herders also go out with their flocks, remaining for some time in one locality and returning each night to a corral and hogan.

¹⁰ For description of coal in the formations of the Black Mesa, see Gregory, *Geology of the Navajo Country*, pp. 142-144.