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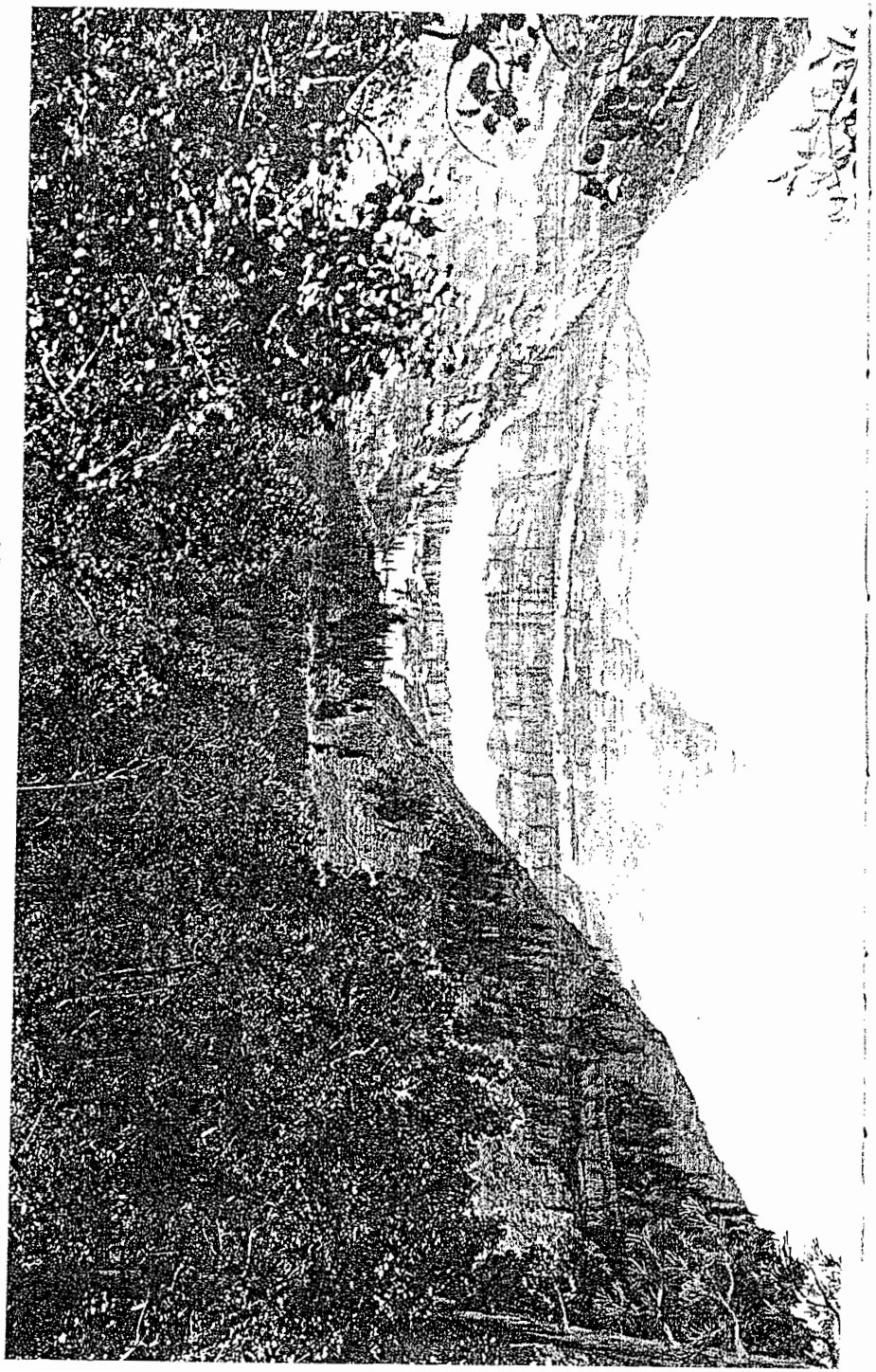

View of Mt. Timpanogos

FATHER ESCALANTE'S JOURNAL

"Journal and itinerary of the Reverend Fathers Fray Francisco Atanasio Dominguez and Fray Silvestre Vélez de Escalante concerning the discovery of the route from Presidio de Santa Fé del Nuevo-México to Monterey, in Northern California." Translation from the Spanish prepared by Herbert S. Auerbach from the original published volume, "*Documentos para la Historia de México*" (Vol. 1 of Series 2), Mexico City, 1854. "Diario y derrotero de los R. R. P. P. Fr. Francisco Atanasio Dominguez y Fr. Silvestre Vélez de Escalante, para descubrir el camino desde el Presidio de Santa Fé del Nuevo-México, al de Monterey, en la California Septentrional."

[Random excerpts were spot checked and found to be in general agreement with a manuscript copy of the diary of Fr. Silvestre Velez de Escalante in the possession of the Ayer Collection of the Newberry Library in Chicago which was acquired from the Ramirez Collection of manuscripts. This manuscript, the letters and maps of Escalante and Miera published herewith, were made available to Mr. Auerbach, and the greatest cooperation extended, by Ruth Lapham Butler, Custodian, the Ayer Collection, Newberry Library, and Librarian Stanley Pargellis, Newberry Library, Chicago, Illinois.]

JOURNAL AND ITINERARY

On July 29, 1776, under the protection of Our Lady, the Virgin Mary, conceived without original sin, and the most holy patriarch Joseph, her saintly spouse: we, Fray Francisco Atanasio Dominguez, actual visiting deputy of this settlement of the Conversión de San Pablo del Nuevo-México, and Fray Francisco Silvestre Vélez de Escalante, of the mission of Nuestra Señora de Guadalupe de Zuñi, accompanied voluntarily by Don Juan Pedro Cisneros, mayor of this town of Zuñi, Don Bernardo Miera y Pacheco, captain of the militia, retired, and living in the town of Santa Fé, Don Joaquin Lain, inhabitant of the same town, Lorenzo Olivares of El Paso, Lucrecio Muñiz, Andrés Muñiz, Juan de Aguilar and Simon Lucero, after having asked for the protection of our most blessed guardian saints and received the Holy Sacrament, started from the town of Santa Fé, capital of this kingdom of Nuevo-México, and after marching for nine hours, arrived at the town of Santa Clara where we spent the night. Today we traveled nine leagues. [Spanish league 2.63 miles.][14]

July 30. We marched again nine leagues, more or less, and

14. Escalante does not tell us in what manner he figured the distance in leagues he traveled each day. It is probable, therefore, that he had no mechanical measuring device, but that from his experiences in travel during a period of many years over roads which had been measured he estimated each day the number of leagues traveled by his party. This is obviously at best but a haphazard method and would account for the fact that in tracing Escalante's journey it is difficult to understand the long distances traveled by him on certain days. His latitude observations would be but a rough check. (It has been claimed that a man on horseback along level country could travel as much as twenty or twenty-five leagues a day.)—H.S.A.

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we arrived at the town of Santa Rosa de Abiquiú, where owing to several incidents we stayed on July 31 without traveling. And in a Solemn Mass we again implored the protection of our patron saints.

August 1. After celebrating Mass we started from Santa Rosa de Abiquiú, going west along the bed of the Chama River, and after marching in this direction for a little less than two leagues we changed our course toward the northwest, and after three and a half leagues of very poor trail, over small rocky hills, we stopped to rest on the northern slope of the valley of Piedra Alumbre [rock alum] near Arroyo Seco, among some hills which are at the east and northeast of this valley, where they say there is alum stone, also transparent gypsum; in the afternoon we started from Arroyo Seco [dry ravine], traveling north; after a short distance we went northeast along a hilly canyon, and after two leagues of very bad road we stopped on the banks of Arroyo Seco. Today we had a heavy shower and we advanced seven leagues.

August 2. We continued along the same canyon going northeast, and after a little more than four leagues we changed our course toward the north. We entered a hilly canyon in which for about one-fourth of a league there is such a dense forest of low [scrub] oaks, that when passing through it, four of our animals got lost and we had to stop and look for them, and we found them shortly afterward. We also lost our trail because it was but little used; we later saw that it passes through the eastern side of the Arroyo, running along the middle of it, and it is the same which farther south they call the Arroyo del Canjilon [Arroyo Seco]. Beyond the forest there is a small plain of abundant pasture, very pleasant to the eyes, because it produces flowers of a shade between purple and white which, if not pinks, are very similar to them in color. Here are also in the valley limita plants, bearing a little red fruit about the size of a wild plum and very much like a lemon in coolness and taste, so that in this land it is used like lemon in the preparation of cooling drinks. In addition, there is a capulin[15] [cherry] much smaller than the Mexican fruit, and another small fruit which they call manzanita[16]; this tree is like the limita [small wild citrus] but the leaves are more like celery. The fruit is about the size of ordinary chickpeas; its color is sometimes white and sometimes black, its taste bittersweet and a little biting, but agreeable. Where the pinks mentioned above grow, the canyon is divided into two by a high hill. On both sides there are roads, one going north and the other west. At the beginning of the latter road and at the foot of the southern end of the hill, there is a little fountain [spring] with a steady flow of good water; but it will be necessary to make troughs that the animals may drink

15. Bird cherry (an astringent fruit).
16. Shrubs of the genus Arctostaphylos.

a little. After rounding up the animals again, we continued our journey through the canyon in a westerly direction after going a league and a quarter toward the north. After marching less than half a league west, we changed our route toward the northwest and after a little more than three leagues over good ground we reached a resting place at a brook [creek] which is called Rio de la Cebolla [onion], and we went a little distance from our road. In its bed we found pools of stagnant water, proving that there is seldom running water. We set out from here in the afternoon, going north about one-fourth of a league to reach the road which we had left before. We traveled northwest and after three leagues or a little more of good road we stopped on a small plain by the banks of another brook which is called the Rio de las Nutrias [otter or beaver river] because though the water appears to flow steadily all or most of the year, there are pools in which they say beavers breed.

We marched eight leagues.

August 3. We started from the Arroyo de las Nutrias toward the northwest and reached a pine-covered slope, and after three leagues or a little less, we went down to the Chama River and went north about a mile through its beautiful valley. We crossed it and stopped to rest on the opposite bank. The ford is very good but near the adjacent banks there are large marshes hidden by a pebbly surface. In one of these marshes Don Juan Pedro Cisneros' mount sank out of sight. The valley runs from north to south for about a league, and it has good soil for planting and is easily irrigated. It produces much flax and there is good and abundant pasture. There are, besides, other conveniences which a settlement needs for its subsistence. Here is a grove of white poplars [cottonwoods]. In the afternoon we continued our trip and after climbing the west bank of the river we entered a little valley, which we named Santo Domingo; going around three large plateaus covered with pine trees, which, starting from three little hills lying almost north, form a curved line from north to south as far as the river. At the west of these plateaus they told us there were two ponds. The first one, and the more southerly, lies to the west of the pass, which from the first plateau can be seen between the first and second plateaus; and the second is located west of the other pass which also can be seen between the second and third plateaus. These ponds and the valley are well suited for the breeding of cattle and sheep. We continued along the valley in a northwest direction, and we entered a little pine forest where we lost a laden mule which did not turn up until sundown; we therefore were forced to stop in a spot covered with brambles, close to the three plateaus, which we named after the Santísima Trinidad [Trinity], having walked from the river only two leagues toward the northwest. In this place there was no continual flow

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of water, but we found a little in a nearby creek a little to the east-southeast. At the point where we crossed today, the Chama River flows from north to south before it joins the Cerro del Pedernal, and west beyond the town of Abiquiú.

We covered five leagues today.

August 4. We started from the Santísima Trinidad toward the north and went two leagues over the same hill which is covered with pines, piñon pines [nutpines] and low oaks. Grass for pasture and tall flax are plentiful here; it is surrounded by two large plateaus, each one of which forms a semi-circle, the northern extremity of the one almost touching the southern extremity of the other, and separated by a narrow pass. We continued our way about a fourth of a league toward the northwest and went through the pass, near which there is another pond which we named Olivares and which is about one-fourth of a league long, and about two hundred yards wide. Its water, though not of very good flavor, is fit to drink. Leaving the pond and the pass, we went north half a league and then northeast, leaving the road which goes near Piedra Parada [rocky, unused?] (a place known to our people who have traveled this route) and the guides led us through a pathless and continuous thicket, telling us that on the road we left, there were three very steep hills, and that it was less direct than the short cut they were following. We went a little more than a league and in the same thicket we changed our course west-northwest and turned to climb the same mountain, and half a league beyond we continued northwest. We walked three and a half leagues through a very fertile and grassy valley and we reached a very wide valley of the stream, which because of the road of Piedra Parada is called the road of Belduque. In this valley we turned west and after walking down the valley for two leagues we stopped in a canyon, which because of an accident we named Cañon del Engaño [Canyon of Deceit]. We covered nine and a quarter leagues today. Here is plenty of stagnant water and pasture.

August 5. We started from the Cañon del Engaño on a southwesterly course and half a league away we reached the Navajó River which rises in the Grulla Mountains, flows from northeast to southwest to this point, and from here it changes its course to the north for a little over three leagues where it joins another river which is called the San Juan. The Navajó River has less water at this point than the Chama River. After crossing the river we continued with difficulty along the same canyon in a southerly direction for about a league and then we altered our course to the southwest for a quarter of a league; and then to the west, for three-quarters of a league, past canyons, hills and mountains—a difficult journey. Moreover, the guides lost the path, showing they had slight knowledge of this land. So, to avoid going down still more, we took a northwest course and walked without a trail for about three leagues, climbing a high, but not very steep mountain and we saw nearby the bed of the above mentioned river. We descended to the river over rather rough but passable hillsides, and after little more than three leagues west-northwest, we crossed it by a good ford, and we stopped on the northern bank. Here the river flows to meet the San Juan. The guides told us that the river junction lay a little higher up, and so we determined to fix the latitude of this place and for this purpose to stop there until the following afternoon. We took our observations from the meridian of the sun and we found that we were in a place which we named Nuestra Señora de las Nieves [snow], at a latitude of 37°51′. Fray Silvestre went to examine the place where both rivers, the Navajó and the San Juan, meet, and found it to be three leagues away as the crow flies, almost to the east of Nieves, and found on their banks, where they join, good conditions for a settlement of ordinary size. The San Juan River carries more water than the Navajó River, and farther north they say it has good wide valleys because it runs over more open ground. Together they form a river as abundant as the one to the north, during the month of July, and they are called the Rio Grande de Navajó, dividing the province of this name from the Yuta country. From the valley and place of Nuestra Señora de las Nieves, going south, there is good land easily watered and all necessary requirements for three or four large towns. This is what we saw: on both banks of the river there are very thick and leafy forests of white poplars, low oaks, cherry trees, apple trees, citron [lemon] trees and cacti. There are also some sarsaparilla trees and a tree which we thought was a walnut. We traveled eight leagues today.

August 6. In the afternoon we left Nuestra Señora de las Nieves, going down river in a westerly direction and we covered about two leagues and a half of poor road and we stopped by the side of the river. Don Bernardo Miera had been troubled by a pain in the stomach for some time and this afternoon he felt much worse; but the Lord willed that before dawn the following day he felt much better so that we were able to continue our journey. We traveled today two and a half leagues.

August 7. We continued along the bank of the river and the slope of the nearby hills, a little over one league to the west; we climbed a somewhat steep slope, then we turned northwest and after another league we arrived at another river which is called the Piedra Parada, close by its junction with the Navajó River. Here is a very large valley which we named the San Antonio Valley, with very good soil for planting, easily watered, with all the essentials a town may require in the way of fire-wood, stone, lumber and pasture lands; and everything is nearby. This river rises north of the San Juan River in the same chain of mountains, named

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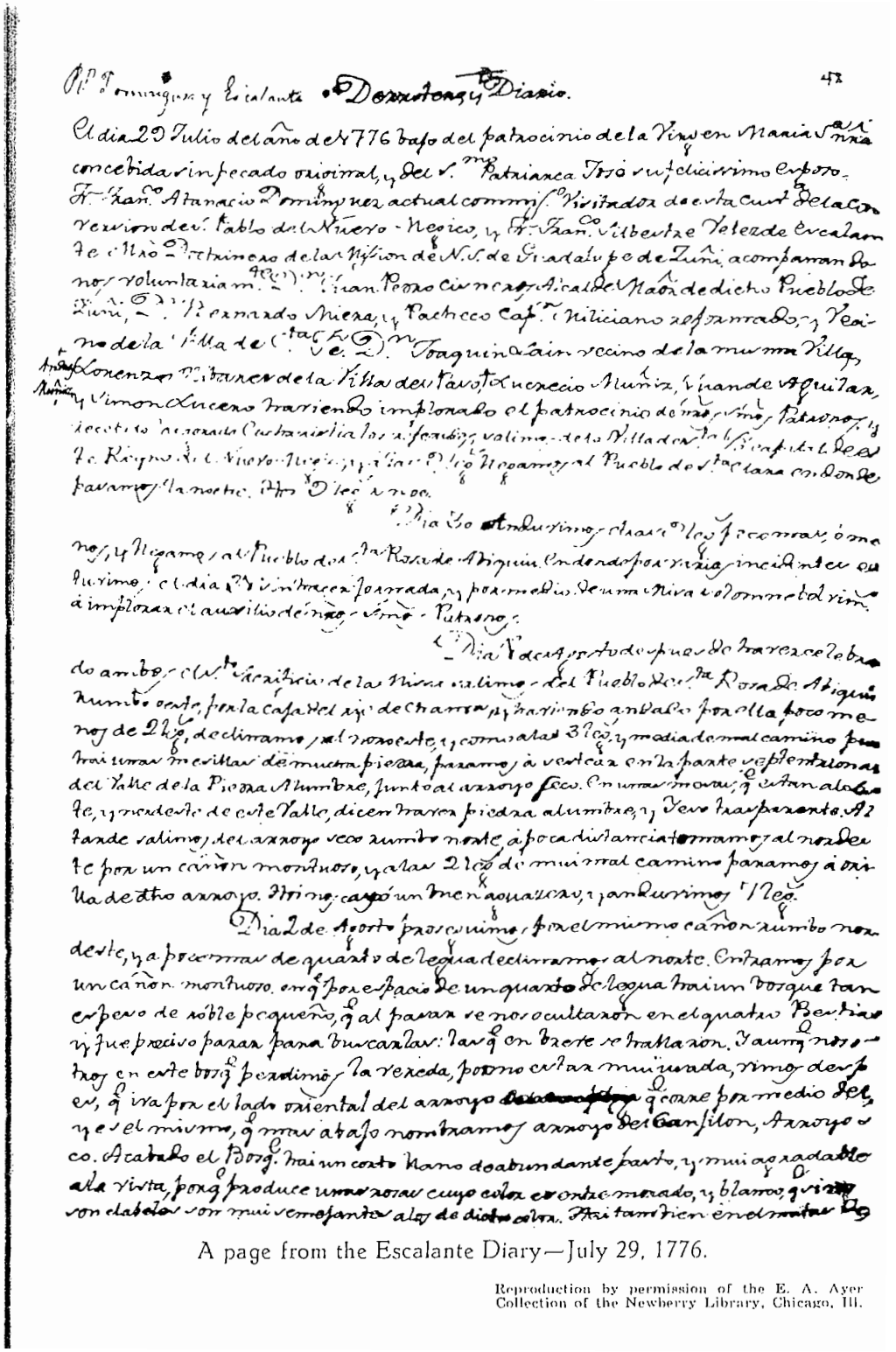
the Grulla [crane] Mountains; it flows from north to south and is less abundant than the Chama River, which passes by the town of Abiquiú. After crossing this river we traveled west two leagues, a little over two more leagues west-northwest and we arrived at the eastern shore of the river which is called the Rio de los Piños, because pine trees are to be found on its banks. The water of this river is sweet, but a little less abundant than the river to the north. It flows here from north to south; it joins the Navajó and has its source in the Grulla Mountains, near the western end, and here the mountains are called La Plata [silver] Range. Here is a large valley with very rich pastures, especially of couch-grass, much good soil for planting and irrigation, and everything desirable for a large settlement; we stopped in this valley and named it the Vega de San Cayetano. We traveled today a little over six leagues.

August 8. We left the Piños River and the San Cayetano Valley, and rode west-northwest, and four leagues away we reached the Florido River, which is medium in size and smaller than the Piños River. It rises in the same chain of mountains a little more to the west. It flows in the same north-south direction and at the place we crossed it there is a large valley and good soil for crops which can be easily irrigated. The pasture lands in the valley were good, but not those in the nearby vicinity, although in rainy years it seems to have good pasture. After crossing the Florido River, we traveled west two leagues, and west-northwest a little over two more leagues, and descended a stony slope, not very broad, and we arrived at Las Animas River, near the western extremity of La Plata Mountains, where the river rises. We crossed it and we stopped on the opposite bank. This river is as large as the one in the north, and now it has more water, and flows more swiftly, because of the more pronounced declivity of its bed, which slopes from north to south; it empties, like the other rivers, into the Navajó: it flows here between canyon walls but they say that farther down there are good valleys. We traveled today a little over eight leagues. There is no good pasture land here, but there is some a little farther on.

August 9. We started from the Animas River; we climbed its west bank, which is not very wide but is very difficult, because it consists of a great deal of stone and in some places it is very steep. We got over the hump of its summit which may be a little over a fourth of a league, and entered a valley with abundant pasture; we walked along the valley about one league west and turned east, a quarter northwest, and after three leagues over a thickly wooded mountain with good pasture we arrived at the San Joaquín River, also called La Plata River, which is small and since it passes by the town of San Gerónimo de los Taos, it takes its source in the same western extremity of La Plata Mountains, and flows



A page from the Escalante Diary—July 29, 1776.

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down through the canyon in which it is said there are seams and outcroppings of metal [ore]; but though some years ago several persons from New Mexico came to inspect them by order of the Governor, who at that time was Don Tomás Vélez Cachupín, and took away with them some rocks with traces of metal, nobody could ascertain what sort of metal it was. The opinion which some persons formed, based on what they heard from various Indians and other persons in the vicinity, that these specimens contained silver, caused the mountains to be called La Plata Mountains. From the slope of the Animas River up to the San Joaquin River the land is very wet, owing to its proximity to the chain of mountains, where it rains frequently, and therefore on the mountains where there are very tall and straight pine trees, small oaks and several kinds of wild fruit trees, as well as in the valleys, there is excellent pasture land. The temperature here is uncomfortably cold, even in July and August. Among the fruits there is a little black one, of a pleasant taste and very similar to the medlar,[17] although not so sweet. We did not travel any farther today, because the animals did not eat well the night before last and they were rather weak, and also because a long and heavy shower compelled us to stop. Today we made four leagues and a quarter, almost all to the west.

August 10. Although Fray Francisco Atanasio awoke a little the worse for his rheumatism, which the day before began to make itself felt in his face and head, and it had been necessary to make a stop-over until his condition improved a little, the constant rains, the rough weather and the great dampness of the place compelled us to leave it and travel north. After little more than a league, we set our course toward the northwest. We continued on for a league and then went west through very pleasant mountain valleys with abundant pastures, roses and other flowers. After traveling about two leagues a very heavy rain came down again. Fray Francisco Atanasio's condition became worse, and the road was impassable. Thus, after covering with great difficulty two leagues toward the west, we were forced to stop by the bank of the first brook of the two which form the San Lázaro River, also called the Mancos River. Pasture lands are here in abundance. We traveled today four leagues and a half.

August 11. In spite of the great cold and the dampness we had endured we could not move on, because Fray Francisco Atanasio awoke in the morning very tired and running a temperature because of his rheumatism, and for that reason we could not go to see the above-mentioned veins and metal-bearing rocks in the mountain, though they were not far away, according to what one of our companions who had seen them on another occasion told us.

August 12. Fray Francisco Atanasio awoke feeling somewhat

17. Similar to a crab apple.

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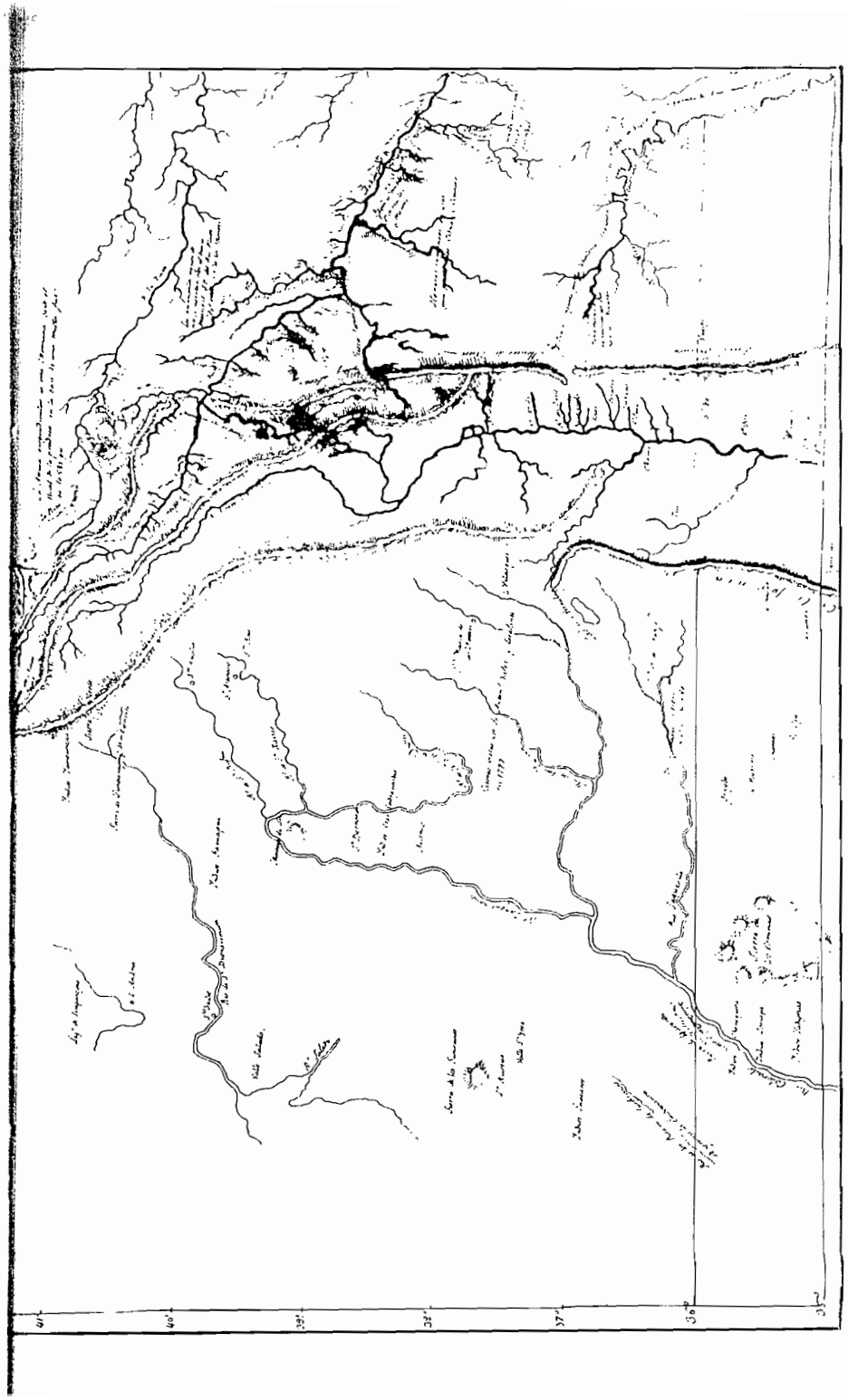
better and, more in order to have a change of place and climate than to advance on our journey, we left the region of the San Lázaro River and followed a northwest course. We traveled a little over a league and directed our course west-northwest and after marching five leagues over a thickly forested hill with good pasture, we went toward the west. We pushed on for two leagues and a half through a chamiso thicket where there was little pasture and after a quarter league north we crossed the River of Nuestra Señora de los Dolores and camped on its northern bank. This river rises in the northern slope of the Sierra de la Plata and flows southwest to this point where it changes its direction. It is a little smaller than the Norte River at this period. We traveled today a little over eight leagues and a half.

August 13. We stopped over, so that Fray Francisco Atanasio might get better before proceeding on our journey and also to observe the height of this location and the valley of the Dolores River where we were at the time. We took our bearings by the sun and saw that we were in the latitude 38°13.5′. There is here everything a medium-sized town might need for its subsistence, products from well watered land, pasture, timber, and fire-wood. On the southern border of the river, on an elevation, there used to be in former times a small town, similar in form to those of the Indians of New Mexico, as evidenced by the ruins which we examined purposely [carefully]. Fray Francisco Atanasio's condition showed some improvement and we decided to continue our journey the following day.

August 14. We left the valley of the Dolores River and took a northerly course; after a quarter-league we went northwest for about a league, through a rather thick chamiso thicket for a quarter of a league, and five leagues west: we entered a high, craggy canyon and after marching two leagues north, we arrived a second time at the Dolores River, which here flows in a northwest course. We crossed it twice in a short time and we stopped on the west bank. We named the place which is a short valley with good pasture, the Valle de la Asunción de Nuestra Señora. This afternoon we were joined by a Coyote Indian and a Genizaro Indian from Abiquiú, whose names were Felipe and Juan Domingo. So that they might be among gentiles, they ran away from the town without the permission of their superiors, giving as a reason that they wanted to accompany us. We did not need them, but to avoid the harm which they might cause through ignorance or malice, going alone for a time among the Yuta Indians, if we insisted on their returning to the town, we took them along as companions. We traveled today eight and a quarter leagues.

August 15. We left the vicinity of Asunción (on the Dolores River) by a rough and stony canyon, through which we traveled



Early Spanish map showing Lake Timpanogos and Rio de San Buenaventura.

Reproduction of the original map in Madrid from a photostat in the E. A. Ayer Collection of the Newberry Library, Chicago, Ill.

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a quarter of a league west-northwest; we followed then to the northwest and after a little less than a league and a half, we turned north-northwest and went through a chamiso thicket of good, almost level ground; we walked a little over three leagues; we changed our course northwest one league, and after going two and a half leagues west, by the trail which we followed from Asunción and which leads away from the river, between the two branches into which it divides, we stopped for a rest by the edge of a brook, which the guides thought contained water, but which we found to be totally dry. We did not know of any other watering place along our course which we might reach today, so we sent a guide to explore the distance we would have to cover in the afternoon. He found a pool, but so small that there was only sufficient water for the men of the party, but none for the animals. It was covered by stones and branches, apparently on purpose. It has a constant flow of water, which is not very pleasant tasting. The Yuta Indians covered it, perhaps, in memory of some misfortune which befell them in this place, as they are accustomed to do in such cases, according to some of the companions who had been among them. In the afternoon we continued our route and after two leagues northwest and a half league north, we arrived at the little pool which we named Agua Topada. We traveled today nine and three-quarter leagues.

August 16. We missed more than half of the animals, which not having had any water, strayed away searching for some, which they found near the road at the midpoint of yesterday's journey. They finally turned up late. For this reason we started from Agua Topada at half past ten in the morning. We followed a little-used trail, which we assumed would take us again to the Dolores River, which we planned to follow; but after traveling this trail northwest for two leagues, and west for a league and a half, it disappeared, because the soil was very loose and the rain had washed it away. From here we went northwest; after a quarter of a league we reached a canyon with a wide entrance in which we found a much traveled road. This we followed and after another quarter of a league north we found a pool which seemed to contain sufficient water for the men and the animals, and because it was situated on the eastern side, hidden in a dark forest of pines and junipers, we named it Agua Escondida. We do not give more details concerning this pool because the road leads straight to it. We made two drinking troughs for the animals; they drank all there was and then were not satisfied. While we explored the place on both sides, so that we might continue our journey that afternoon, Don Bernardo Miera went on alone along the canyon without our seeing him. Because it was necessary to continue our journey we sent one of our companions to bring him back before he got lost, but he was so far ahead that they did not not return

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until after midnight to the place where we were waiting with anxiety because of their slowness. They said they had walked along the canyon up to the Dolores River and that in all this distance there was only a short stretch of bad road which could easily be repaired. So we decided to go this way the following day. Today we covered four leagues.

August 17. We started from Agua Escondida and about half past three we reached the Dolores River for the third time, having traveled the entire length of the canyon with its many turnings for seven leagues to the north; were the canyon straight, this distance would be four or five leagues at the most. We gave the canyon the name of Laberinto de Miera, because of the unusual and beautiful appearance of the large rocks on either side, which being very high and steep at the turns, make the exit seem more difficult the farther we go, and because Don Bernardo Miera was the first one to explore it. The whole of it is passable and not very difficult for the animals, except for a short distance which can easily be remedied. On our arrival at the river we saw very recent traces of the Yuta Indians: from which we inferred that there was a Yuta settlement nearby. Reasoning that if they had seen us and we did not request their services, they might suspect some harm from us, and be afraid, and also that one of them might direct us or give us some indications on how to continue our route with less difficulty and hardship than we were experiencing, because none of our companions was acquainted with the watering places or the land, we decided to seek them out. When we stopped in a cove by the river, which we named the San Bernardo, Fray Francisco Atanasio, accompanied by the interpreter, Andrés Muñiz, and by Don Juan Pedro Cisneros, went to follow the traces [trails] up the river about three leagues. They recognized the traces as being made by the Yutas Tabehuachis, but could not find these men, although they went as far as the junction of the little Paraliticas River and the Dolores River. They say that the Paraliticas River was given its name because the first of our people to see it, found in a village on its bank three Yuta women sick with paralysis. This river separates the Yutas Tabehuachis from the Yutas Muhuachis; the latter dwell on the south bank and the former on the north. We traveled today seven leagues, which might have been four had we gone directly north.

August 18. Two companions left very early to discover how we might leave the bed of the river where it flows between high and very rugged hills, but not go away from it as long as it did not change its course which here is to the north, or get lost without water and pasture. We could not see how we would be able to continue, except by going along the river bed, which was very stony and would have to be crossed many times. We were afraid that the animals' feet would be bruised. We continued down the river, leaving the San Bernardo cove a league to the north and we stopped so that they might explore more ground than had been covered in the morning. About eight o'clock at night they came back saying that only by the bed of the river and with great difficulty, we would be able to leave this most impassable route. So we decided to follow along the bed of the river. We traveled today one league north.

August 19. We continued down the river, and after traveling with no small difficulty one league northeast and one northwest we stopped in another inlet of the river, so that by watering the animals we would be able to leave the river and follow a footpath going northeast, then follow the river here to the north, if the ruggedness of the ground permitted. In the meantime, one of our companions went on to see whether the path was impassable as far as the chain [range] of high and rocky mountains which we were thinking of crossing if the river bed became impracticable. We found that the path did not go through passable land toward the northwest. We found another trail going southwest, but though we explored it for a long distance where there were no obstacles, we did not dare follow it all the way because farther on, beyond the explored part, we could see high mountains and canyons in which we might get locked and be compelled to retrace our steps. Moreover, the great barrenness of the land we could see made us believe that the rain water holes we might find would be completely dry.

We asked the companions who had previously traveled through this land what course we should follow to avoid all these difficulties, and each one was of a different opinion. Finding ourselves therefore in this quandary, without knowing whether we could follow this trail, or if it would be preferable to go back a short way and take the road to the Yutas Sabuaganas, we placed our trust in God and our will in the Virgin Mary and after asking that our patron saints intercede for us so that God might direct us on the most suitable course for His Holy Service, we cast lots for both roads and the one to the Sabaguana Indians was drawn and we determined to follow it until we reached them. In this place which we named the Cañon del Yeso, because there was some gypsum in a nearby hill, we took the altitude of the sun and found it to be 39°6′ latitude. We traveled today two leagues.

August 20. We left the Cañon del Yeso [gypsum], marching back one league southeast; we crossed the river again, and at its east-northeast end, about a quarter of a league away, we saw in some low hills mines of very good transparent gypsum. After crossing the river we came to a wide valley, and by a well beaten trail at the foot of a high hill, we marched three leagues east-northwest. Then at the request of Don Bernardo Miera, who did not like to follow this road, Andrés, the interpreter, took us to a

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very high hill, so steep and rugged that we thought we would be compelled to retrace our steps from the middle of it, because the animals suffered so much on account of the stones that several of them were leaving their traces in blood from their hoofs. Finally we climbed the hill with a prodigious effort, and after a few hours going north, possibly one-fourth of a league up the hill was covered. On the top of the hill we marched a mile northwest, and from here we saw that the trail went along the foot of the hill and over good flat ground. In the descent, which was gradual and not stony, we went over three-fourths of a league north. We continued a little over a league northeast through a chamiso thicket in which there were a great many low prickly-pear cacti, and to avoid the discomfort these plants caused the animals we entered the bed of a creek. After following it for a league eastward we arrived unexpectedly at a watering place of abundant sweet water, consisting of rainwater and the water from a little spring which we named San Bernardo. According to the evidence afforded by the trails and the ruined huts, it is a meeting place for the Yuta Indians, to which leads the road we left when climbing the impassable hill. We stopped here although the pasture is not very abundant, because we marched six leagues today (without counting the distance we retraced).

August 21. We left the San Bernardo watering place, and along the canyon, in the south end of which it is located, we walked four leagues north, over rather bad ground and some difficult sections. At about the middle of the canyon there are some very good pools of water, and at the end, about a fourth of a league away, there is as much water as in a medium sized fountain. Crossing this canyon we went on a league, more or less, northwest through a level chamiso thicket; we entered another canyon where the going was as bad as before, and after traveling a long league north we reached the San Pedro River and stopped in a short valley, which we named the Paraje de San Luis. We traveled today six leagues.

August 22. We started from San Luis, crossed the river. We climbed a very high and steep slope, but not very stony, coming to a wide plateau which is like a remnant of the Tabehuachis Mountains. We traveled over it by a northeast route for two leagues, east-northeast over a half league, east-southeast another half league, and we descended from the plateau by a short, steep hill. This is the hill which Don Juan María de Rivera described in his diary, in an exaggerated fashion, as very unpleasant. Then along the border of the San Pedro River, above the river, we went for a league, toward the northeast. We stopped to rest and some went to explore the land through which we would travel in the afternoon, leaving the river behind, if there was water nearby, otherwise we would go the following day. They came back late

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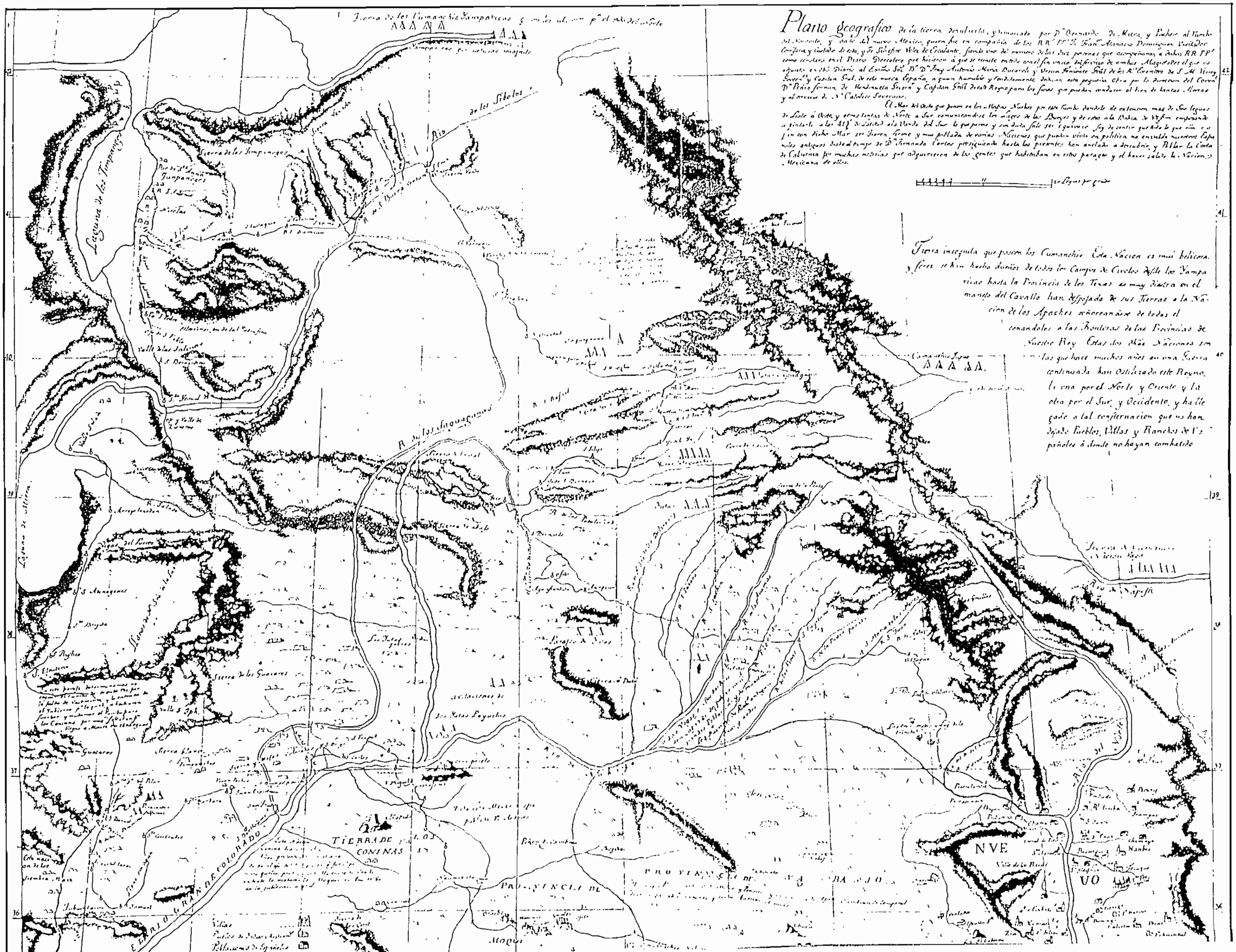
Plano geografico
Tierra incognita que poseen los Cumanchis Esta Nacion es mui belicosa y feroz se han hecho dueños de todos los Campos de Civolos desde los Yamparicas hasta la Provincia de los Texas es muy diestra en el manejo del Cavallo han despojado de sus Tierras a la Nacion de los Apaches señoreandose de todas el conandoles a las fronteras de las Provincias de Nuestro Rey Estas dos dhas Naciones son las que hace muchos años en una Guerra continuada han ostilizado este Reyno, la una por el Norte y Oriente y la otra por el Sur, y Occidente, y ha llegado a tal consternacion que no han dejado Pueblos, Villas y Ranchos de Españoles á donde no hayan combatido
Laguna de los Timpanogos
Sierra de los Timpanogos
Rio de los Sibolos
R. de los Saguaguanas
Laguna de Miera
TIERRA DE CONINAS
EL RIO GRANDE DE COLORADO
Rio del Norte
NUE VO
Moqui
Villas
Pueblos de Indios Christianos
Poblaciones de Españoles

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and we decided to sleep in this same place which we named San Felipe. We traveled four leagues today.

August 23. We started from San Felipe [on the San Pedro River], climbed a hill and along the foot of the Tabehuachis Mountains (so named because they are inhabited by the Yuta Indians of this name) we traveled for four leagues, which, because of the many turnings we took, would be two leagues to the east of San Felipe. We left behind the San Pedro River, which has its source in the Grulla Mountains (in one of the branches), which, with the branch they call the Sierra de la Plata, continues north, changes to northwest and then west until it joins the Dolores River, near the low range called La Sal Mountains, because there are salt mines close by, from which, as we learned, the Yuta Indians living in this territory take their salt. It is a medium sized river. We stopped to rest near a pool with a constant flow of water which comes down from the mountains into a level chamiso thicket with good pasture on its south side, forming a sort of eyebrow. On top there are the ruins of a small old village whose houses appear to have been built with stones with which the Yutas Tabehuachis have made a weak and shoddy [inferior] rampart. We found good pasture here for the animals, which had been scarce since we left Asunción by the Dolores River, up to today, because the land was so burnt up and dry that it showed that it has not rained at all this summer. In the afternoon it started to rain, but stopped after a little more than an hour and a half, and we continued our journey, climbing the Tabehuachis Mountains by a very high hill, craggy here and there. After marching a league northeast and a league east a Yuta Tabehuachi joined us.

This Yuta is the first one we have seen since the first trip we made from Abiquiú in which we met two others. In order to talk leisurely with him we stopped near the source of the pond by which we rested, and gave it the name of Fuenté de le Guia. We gave him food and tobacco and afterward through the interpreter we asked him various questions about the land lying ahead, the rivers and their courses. We also asked him where the Tabehuachis, Muhuachis and the Sabuagana Indians were to be found. In the beginning he seemed not to know anything, even the location of his home; but after his fear and distrust of us had been dispelled he told us that the Sabuaganas were all in their land [country], and that we would meet them soon; that the Tabehuachis were scattered through this chain of mountains and in the adjoining lands; that the rivers from the San Pedro to the San Rafael inclusive, all empty into the Dolores River, and that the latter joins the Navajó River. We asked him to guide us as far as the settlement of a Sabuagana leader, who, according to our interpreter and other persons, was friendly to the Spaniards, and was well acquainted with the land. He accepted on condition that

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we would wait for him until the afternoon of the following day. We agreed to wait for him, so that he might guide us and so that he might not suspect us of some evil design which would harm him and the rest of his people. Today we traveled six leagues.

August 24. Before noon the Yuta arrived at the place where we were waiting for him, accompanied by his family, two other women and five childern, two of these were nursing at the breast and three were between eight and ten years of age, all of them well cared for and courteous. They took us for traders and they brought chamois skins and other things for exchange; among these, they brought preserves made of small black apples, of the kind mentioned in the beginning of this diary, which are very similar to small grapes and very tasty. We convinced the Indians, though they did not believe us altogether, that we were not traders, and, so that they would not take us for explorers who had come with the idea of conquering their land, nor hinder us in our journey, thinking that the Cosnina Indians might have spread the news of the trip of Fray Francisco Garcés[18] to the Yuta Payuchis, and from them to the others, we told them that a friar, a brother of ours, had come to Cosnina and Moqui, that from here he had gone back to Cosnina. With that they became quite calm, pitying us for our trouble, and said that they had not had any news of him. We fed them all and the wife of our new guide gave us a little dry deer meat and two dishes of dried black apple, which we paid for in flour. After midday we gave the Yuta what he asked for guiding us—two cutlasses [knives] and sixteen strings of white beads, which he gave to his wife, who with the other women, went to their camp, while we left the Fuenté de la Guia with him whom we shall begin to call Atanasio, and traveled along the slope of the mountain a half league to the east, again a half league east-southeast, and a quarter league southeast. We turned east, leaving a footpath which goes southeast and getting away from the trail we followed so far, and after three-fourths of a league, a fourth of a league southeast and two leagues east, we stopped in a valley with very high, but not difficult slopes. We therefore named it the Cañada Honda [Deep Valley]. In it there is a fountain of good water, much firewood, and abundant pasture for the animals. Today we covered two leagues.

August 25. We started from the Cañada Honda, going east, and through a thick brush of small oaks we walked a half league; we changed southeast over a more open ground and we followed the same trail three and a half leagues, and after another half league east, we began to cross the chain of mountains following a

18. Escalante refers to Fray Francisco Garcés' diary of the expedition of Captain Don Juan Baptista de Ansa (Governor of New Mexico) from Tubac, Arizona to San Gabriel, California in 1774, for the purpose of opening a road by way of the Gila and Colorado rivers to the new missions of San Diego and Monte Rey—H.S.A.

northeast course, and after a league and a half of good open ground and without any steep slope we reached the summit which is a place of very good pasturage and pleasant appearance, because of the brushwood and the beautiful poplar groves close together. There are three trails here and we followed the one going northeast. After a league and a half we stopped again on the northern slope of the mountain near an excellent spring of good water which we called Ojo de Lain, and which has its source about six paces east of the trail. Before we could prepare some food, of which we were very much in need, a very heavy rain began to fall. We traveled seven and a half leagues today.

August 26. We left Ojo de Lain going northeast and covered one league. The trail we had been following here separated into two: one follows an east-northeast course and the other goes northeast. We followed the second one and after two leagues and a half northeast we finished descending the mountain and we reached the banks and valleys of the San Francisco River, named by the Yutas Ancapagari [Uncompahgre] (which, according to the interpreter, means Laguna Colorado or Red Lake), because they say that there is near its source a spring of red water, warm and foul tasting. In this valley of the river, which is large and very flat, there is a broad and well-traveled road. Down the river we marched a league and a half in a northwest course and we stopped near a large marsh with very abundant pasturage, which we named Ciénaga de San Francisco. Today we covered five leagues.

Description of the Mountains Seen Up to Today

The range of mountains called Grulla and Plata begin near the place named Cobre, near the town of this name which is now deserted. In the beginning it runs almost northwest, and about seventy leagues from Santa Fé, it sends a chain west-southwest and this is called the Sierra de la Plata. From here it follows north-northeast, swinging north a little before reaching the Tabehuachis Mountains, as far as the smaller one called Venado Alazán, where it ends on its northern side. On the east it joins, so they say, the Almagre [red ochre] Mountains and the Sierra Blanca. On the west-southwest, a quarter west of the Plata extremity, about thirty leagues, we can see another low chain named Dátil. This chain sends west all the rivers we have seen so far and others beyond, up to the San Rafael River inclusive. The chain of the Tabehuachis Mountains which we have just crossed runs in a northwest course and may be about thirty leagues long and, where we crossed it, about eight or ten leagues wide. It has abundant good pasture, is very damp and has good soil for crops which require much moisture. It produces many fir trees, piñon, royal pines, small oaks, several kinds of wild fruits and in some places flax. Deer, roe deer and other animals are found here, and hens of the

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