

JAS OFFICE MEMORANDUM

File Lab Job 1757

DATE: January 23, 1957

TO : Lab Job 1757

FROM : J. A. Sizer

J.A. Sizer Ben Williams

SUBJECT: FIELD INVESTIGATION - MESITA DEL BUEY

SYMBOL : ENG-3

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Dr. Jesse L. Nusbaum, Laboratory of Anthropology, Department of the Interior, visited Los Alamos this date for the purpose of inspecting the Indian Ruins on Mesita del Buey. Accompanying him on the field trip were the following: John Abrahams, U.S. Geological Survey; Fred Worman, Archeologist from Group H-4; Ben Williams and John Sizer of Group ENG-3.

Each of the Indian Ruins on the mesa were inspected, with identification being made through reference to a map prepared by the U. S. Indian Service in 1935. At that time, an official survey was made by archeologists, to determine the location and size of each of the ruins. Dr. Nusbaum offered to supply all of those present with a copy of this map, an offer which was accepted.

Dr. Nusbaum was requested to secure for the Laboratory a "blanket permit", which would allow the disturbance of any or all of the ruins on the mesa, but was assured that if any of the ruins could be avoided during excavation of contaminated burial pits, we would cooperate fully to help preserve them. He is particularly interested in preserving the larger ruins, if at all possible.

Dr. Nusbaum expressed a hope that no debris of any sort would be pushed over the canyon rims during operations on the mesa, because of the danger of disturbing existing cliff dwellings.

In the event any of the ruins have to be removed, the removal will be under the direction of Fred Worman, an authorized archeologist. This procedure will involve trenching of the ruins by hand labor, inspection of contents, photographing of exposed ruins, and securing other pertinent data for the records. It is assumed the Laboratory would bear the cost of such work.

Dr. Nusbaum brought with him some data which he compiled from State Land Office records, which indicated the AEC had failed to acquire one 330 ft. wide strip of land in the county, this strip comprised of partial sections 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, and 30, Township 19 North, Range 6 East. (This error appeared on 1949 records, and a subsequent investigation with AEC legal authorities revealed that a correction was made in a new law of 1956). Copies of the 1949 description will be supplied to the AEC legal branch, and to Ralph Carlisle Smith of LASL.

Mr. Princell of LAAO questioned Dr. Nusbaum while he was here, relative to the possibility of removing an indian ruin situated in the Community Center. It was stated that due to long-standing agreements involving some of the top business executives in the country, (whose sons attended school here), the possibilities of removing this particular ruin are very remote.



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