

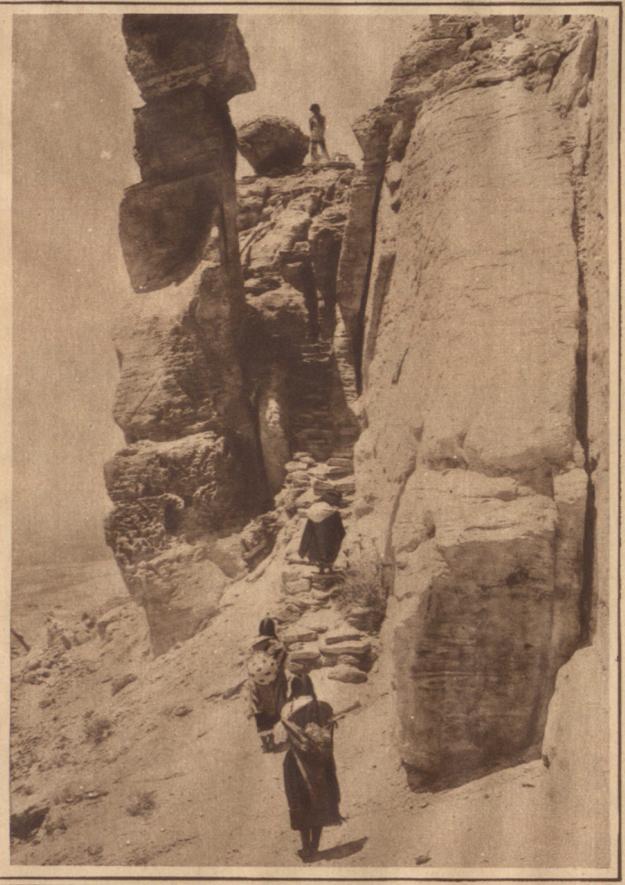


Oldest City in America
 We are not so young a country after all, with the Indian town of Acoma, in New Mexico, continuously inhabited since the 16th century

Publishers' Photo Service

A section of the village on the crest of the barren plateau, with the desert sands stretching away below. The people live in the past, clinging to their ancient customs and religious rituals. Many of the latter are so barbaric that they have been forbidden by the government.

An avenue in Acoma. Many of the queer adobe houses cling to the very edge of the precipice. Houses are built in tiers, and the lodgers in the upper dwellings mount to their front doors by steep ladders. It is the original walk-up apartment house.



The uneven flight of stairs leading to the stronghold of the Acoma Indians on the top of the plateau—a race of people rapidly becoming extinct. Legends dating from the days of the Spaniards of old cling to this fantastic village.

The rolled braids are the insignia of a married woman. The Acoma woman is the prototype of the American suffragist; she is the master of the house, the owner of the property. Her husband takes her name, and if he displeases her she places his saddle outside the door, by which simple token he knows he may no longer enter.



An Acoma belle, whose extraordinary coiffure proclaims her a marriageable girl. To enhance her charms she is embellished with a girl's finery—strings of gaudy beads and a shawl of gayest pattern.

Right—The Indian women carry their burdens in sacks slung over their heads. They do all the work of the town. The rock formation is a monument of the ages, dating from the day when the desert was the bottom of an ocean.

Left—The gentleman in the pajama-like suit is detailed to watch the children. In peace times this duty falls upon the warriors, and for all their proud dignity they make excellent nursemaids.

