

The mean ring-width is .50 mm for MV-421 and .62 mm for MV-427.

Conclusion. No final dating of the construction of an entire ruin or site can be based on two specimens, of course, but dates on two such sensitive specimens as those of this report perhaps offer a good beginning for such a dating.

The problem of relationship in time between the cliff-dwellings and the surface pueblos has always confronted Mesa Verde Park personnel. It is hoped that more material will be available soon to carry on the study of this problem.

NOTE ON THE DATING OF PIPE SHRINE HOUSE

DON WATSON

The dates just obtained for Pipe Shrine House mark a most important step in the dating of Mesa Verde ruins for they are the first tree-ring dates that have been obtained from surface pueblos. These dates, however, present a question that will no doubt be encountered more and more as additional dates are obtained from similar ruins. The span between the two dates, 898+ and 1214+, seems too long for a single occupation. Pipe Shrine House is a small pueblo of about 20 rooms and a single kiva, and a 300-year occupation is debatable.

The charcoal that yielded the dates was found in the horizontal tunnel of a ventilator which Fewkes missed during his excavation in 1922.* In his report Fewkes stated, "The stones and plastering of the inner walls of the kiva indicate everywhere a great conflagration." The ventilator tunnel, when excavated during repair work in 1938, was found to contain a large amount of burned roof clay and charcoal, undoubtedly from the burned kiva roof.

There is ample evidence that the Pipe Shrine House area was occupied over a long period of time. Surface sherds range from Modified Basket Maker to Classic Pueblo, and Fewkes pictures early pottery which he states came from the Pipe Shrine cemetery. In 1938 a small portion of the kiva wall collapsed, revealing an earlier wall behind it, and there are other evidences of earlier ruins underlying the entire Pipe Shrine area.

The walls of the south and east portions of Pipe Shrine House, as Fewkes stated, "compare very well with the best on the Mesa." The date of 1214+ is evidently from the late occupation. The date of 898+ should perhaps be considered to represent a reused beam from an earlier ruin in the area.

* Archeological Field-Work on the Mesa Verde National Park, Colorado, Field Season of 1922. (From Explorations and Field-Work of the Smithsonian Institution in 1922).