Forbidden City

Uncle Sam’s Mystery Town Directed by “2d Einstein”

Jack Hepner, Press columnist, returned to Cleveland following a vacation in New Mexico, where he found the following interesting story.

By J. W. HEPNER

SANTA FE, N. M. — New Mexico has a mystery city, one with an area of from eight to 12 square miles, according to rumors. It has a population of between 5000 and 4000 persons, not more than probably half a dozen of whom can stop outside of the city except by special permission of the city boss. He grants permission casually, on occasion, under unusual circumstances and under most rigid conditions. And it is even more difficult for a non-resident to enter than for a resident to leave.

This city is known as Los Alamos, the place is thoroughly modern city. It has fine streets, an electric light plant and water works, a hospital, a school for boys, a police station, a fire department, an enormous grocery, refrigeration plant, and so on.

If you like mysteries and have been to Los Alamos, you have a brand new mystery to do a little sifting through. If you are interested in something new and different this public will satisfy the inexplicable, the unknown, and New Mexico.

But you might as well be informed that Los Alamos will not tell you and that the chances are thousands to one that you will be able to find the location of the city.

If you have any ideas that you can express in the form of a letter to the editorial board of the Pacific and go into court and bring an action against the city for damages, you will find that the city has no intention of paying any sort of damages.

Free Country, But—

Of course, this is a free country, and you can say whatever you please, but you must know that the city will not pay any damages for your publications unless you can prove that the city is to blame.

Tell of Huge Explosions

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The most interesting story is that Prof. Oppenheimer is working on a bomb that will cause the motors to stop so that the German planes will drop from the skies as they were when the war began.

Names of the drivers are free, but when I asked, "Did any of them tell you, or did you hear anything?" the answer invariably was, "Well, he didn’t tell me. A friend of mine told me about it."

And if you say, "Did you ask your friend?" the answer is, "I didn’t ask my friend."

One of these days Prof. Oppenheimer may tell the newspapers about his work at Los Alamos, there may be another new-look book or a secret that is to be made known to the public. And who knows that the eminent physicist may be made public, City Club or the Rotary Club.

"Followed by Cyclist, halted by soldiers with rifles"

When you enter Los Alamos the road to the mystery city of Los Alamos reaches the level on which it is built. As you proceed west, you will see a number of mud huts on the side of the road and you will be in the same position when the city is reached. The streets are wide and there is a man directly in front of it and a man on either side. The three men are in military uniform and each has a rifle.

Then you realize that the owner of this strange city is Uncle Sam and you make no protest and answer questions politely. If you have been through all the preliminary red tape previously and have been notified that you will not be admitted, the men at the gate will know all about you and there will be no delay after you show the necessary papers.

Escorted by 2 Jeeps

You will be escorted to the office of the man whom you are to meet, escorted by two jeeps, one in front and one behind your car, men in each jeep armed with rifles. En route you will notice that the city is not in and that mounted soldiers patrol it and you will see scores of buildings.

When you transect your business you will be carefully escorted out of the city, taking the same route as when you entered. If you are in New Mexico and on your return to your home town it becomes known that you were in Los Alamos everyone will ask, "What did you see? The answer will be, "Nothing." And if anybody asks, "Did you learn what is going on there?" the answer will be, "I don’t know what is going on there, but I have learned something that I didn’t know before.

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