

At Lummis Home

19th century glass photos restored; now on display

Thirty-five 19th century photographs taken by the legendary Charles Lummis during his travels through the southwest, Mexico and South America, have been restored to their original glass transparency condition and are now on display at the Lummis home at 200 E. Ave. 43.

The photographs have been returned to the same window frame layout designed by Lummis in the south wall of his concrete and boulder home that he started building with his own hands in 1897. About 5 by 7 inches in size, the pictures are illuminated by the daylight.

El Alisal (the Sycamores) as Lummis called the home, is a state landmark private museum housing a number of artifacts collected by Don Carlos during his lifetime.

Writer, editor, historian, archeologist, Lummis was founder of the Southwest Museum, one of the nation's finest center's of Indian lore. He was knighted by the King of Spain in 1915 for his research on Spanish America, was credited with saving four California missions from ex-



WAR CAPTAIN — Charles Lummis took picture of war captain Desiderio Peralta in his travels through New Mexico in 1890. Photo is one of restored glass plates on display at Lummis Home.

tingtion, was first city editor of the Los Angeles Times, and an innovative Los Angeles City Librarian.

Lummis, memorialized in a number of articles and most recently in 1972 biography, "Crusader in Corduroy" by the late Dudley Gordon, died in El Alisal from cancer on Nov. 25, 1928, at age 69. Cremated, his ashes are interred in a wall of the home.

The transparency pictures now on display were originally taken by Lummis in the 1880s and 90s with bulky five by

eight and eight by ten view cameras that he lugged along with heavy glass plates through Mexico, Panama, Central and South America.

One of the photographs, on display is the Verrugas bridge in Peru, still considered one of the marvels in the world of railway engineering. At the time of Lummis' visit thousands of workers on the bridge had died of a mysterious disease from drinking nearby water. Lummis, who wanted to check out the

"curse", wrote in "Awakening of a Nation":

"Just as I set down the camera to stoop for a drink, an Indian came toiling up from below and I started — for he seemed to have two heads on his shoulders. The other head was a goiter nearly as large as a real head. Later I visited the (village) above where the poisoned water comes in, and there I found that about half the adult inhabitants had goiters all the way from walnut size to coconut size or even larger."

Other photographs are scenes in Mexico; including an 18th century aqueduct near Zacatecas, the Mixtec mosaic work at Mitla, people in the silver mining town of Guanajuato, and portraits of the natives.

The Lummis Home is open to the public Wednesday through Sunday from 1 to 4 p.m.

Resortation of the pictures is credited to Walter Judson of Judson

Stained Glass Studios and to the city of Los Angeles.

Ron Kinsey of Santa Monica spent several years researching caption information for the photographs, which are expected to be reproduced in booklet form.

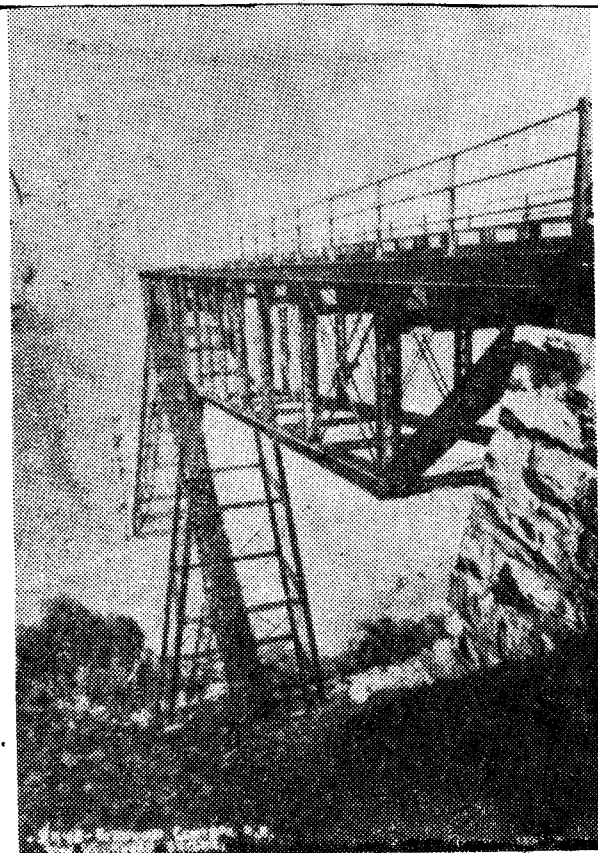
—Fred Allen



MAN WITH HOE — Lummis took this picture of Faustino, the war captain of Acoma, shown here irrigating a field of wheat. Pueblo Indians were both farmers and hunters.



LUMMIS AND DAUGHTER — Photograph of Charles Lummis and one of his children, daughter Turbese, is on display in Lummis Home at 200 East Ave. 43. Lummis made the wood frame.

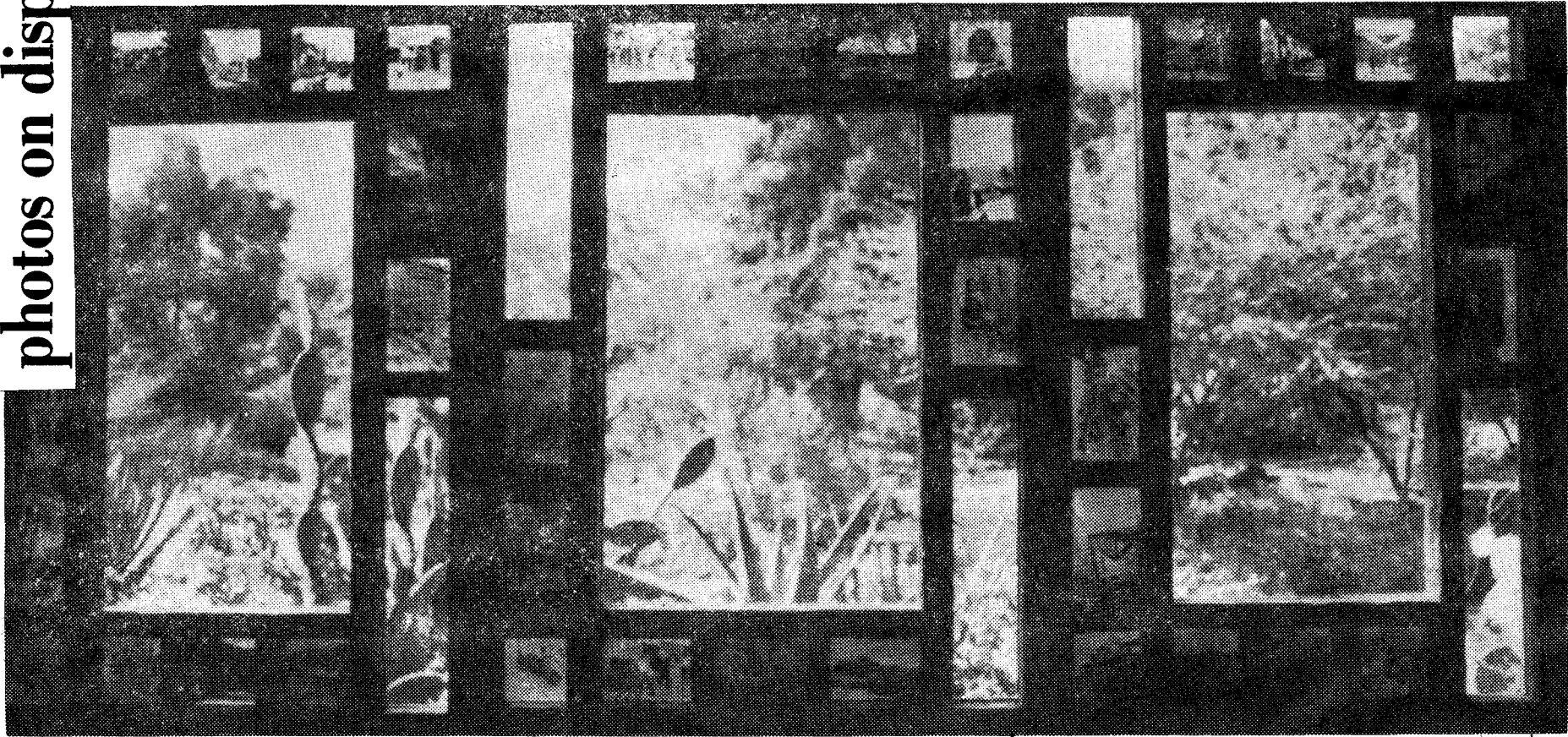


VERRUGAS BRIDGE high in the Peruvian mountains was photographed by Lummis in 1893. The railroad bridge is still considered an engineering marvel.



WOMAN AT MITLA — Lummis, a renowned archeologist among his other talents, took this picture of Zapoteca woman at ancient mosaic structures at Mitla in southern Mexico in 1896.

Lummis early-day photos on display



Lummis Home picture windows

GLASS TRANSPARENCIES of photographs taken in 1880s and 90s by Charles Lummis, founder of the Southwest Museum, have been restored and replaced in original location above the window seat where Lummis once rested in his historic home that he built from stones that he hauled up from

the Arroyo Seco. View today (above) is much the same as it was when Lummis lived there, with native cactus visible through windows. Lummis took the pictures during travels through southwest Mexico, central and South America.

Henk Friezer and Fred Allen / Northeast Newsmaners