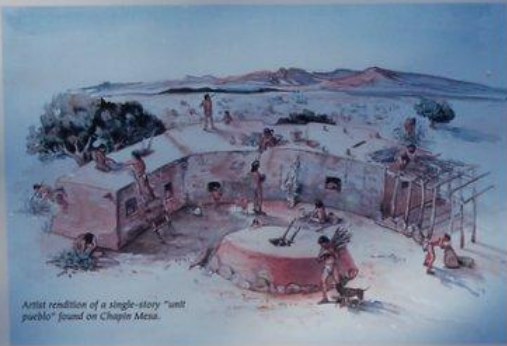


# Western Road Trip Newsletter

## Episode IV: Far View Communities and Dinner

### FAR VIEW COMMUNITIES



Artist's rendition of a single-story "unit pueblo" found on Chapin Mesa.

Pueblo life is centered around the village community. The Far View community is made up of numerous sites, both large "houses" and small "unit pueblos." The six excavated sites show continuous occupation from A.D. 750 through A.D. 1300.

Investigations of the Far View sites from 1911 through the present give clues to social organization, agricultural practices, and everyday family life. A visit to each site allows visitors to "read the architecture" and better understand the community life of the Ancestral Puebloans.



The "collector" for the Far View irrigation ditch system appears to be the area near what is now the Far View Lodge.

TO FAR VIEW VISITOR CENTER

TO CHAPIN MESA ARCHAEOLOGICAL

MEGALITHIC HOUSE

FAR VIEW RESERVOIR

FAR VIEW TOWER

FAR VIEW HOUSE


FAR VIEW LOOP TRAIL

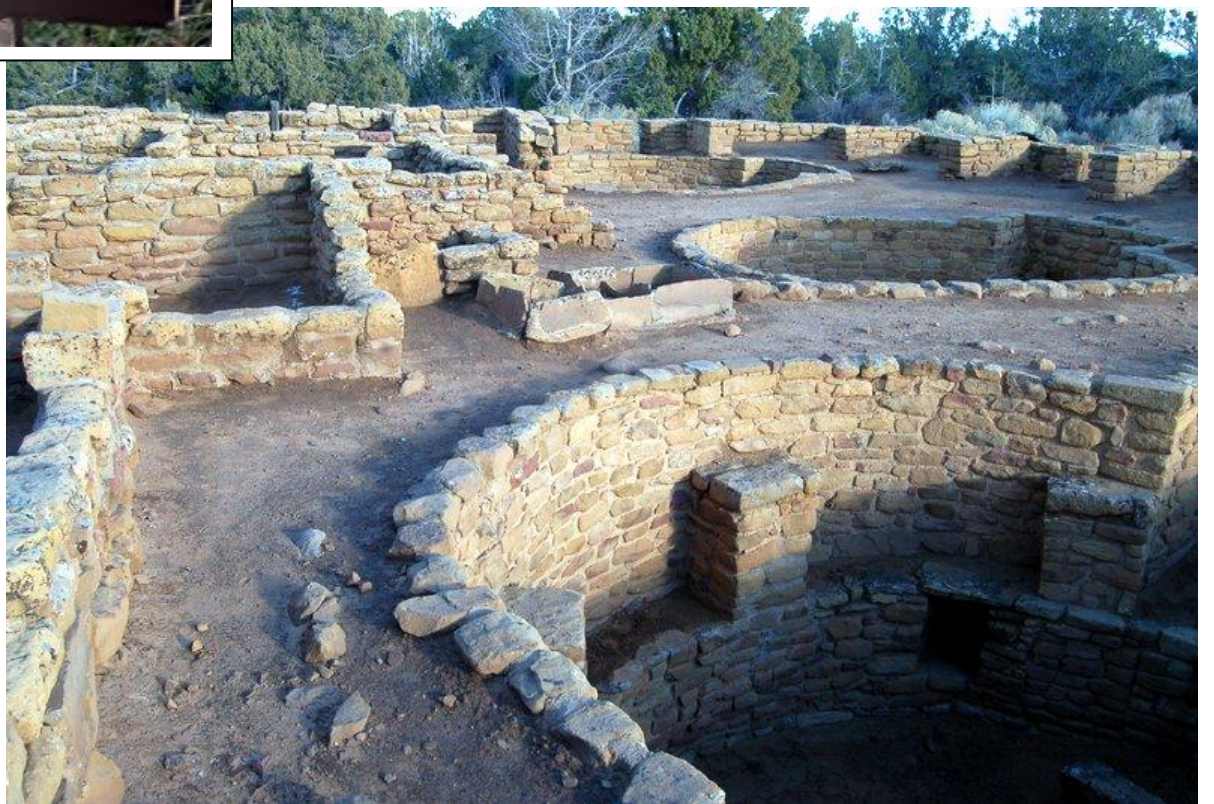
PIPI SHRINE HOUSE

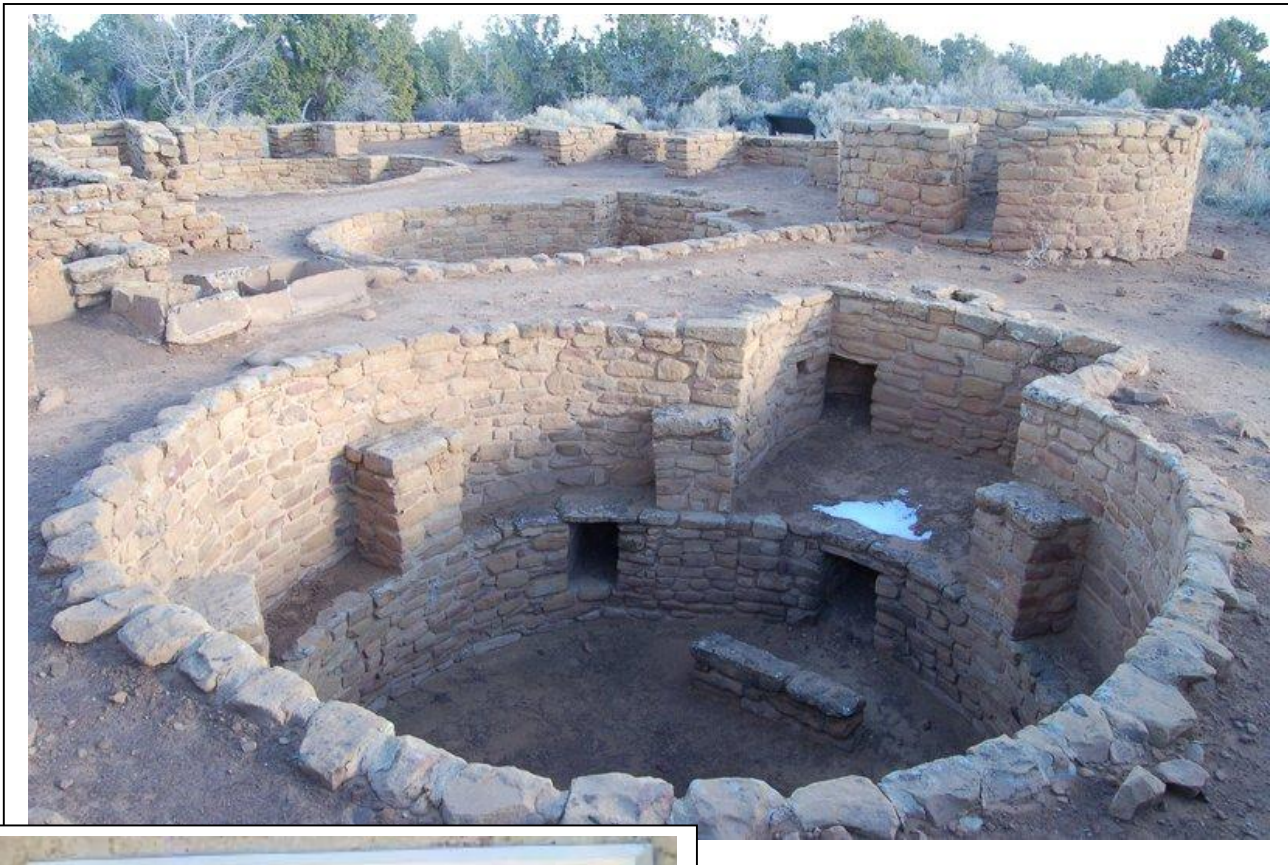
COYOTE VILLAGE

### Let's Speculate

Towers are found scattered across Mesa Verde. Why were they built? Archeologists speculate they were special observation locations or ceremonial sites. Curiously, some towers are connected to ceremonial chambers (kivas) by tunnels. Perhaps some towers, like Cedar Tree Tower, provided a lofty location for significant social events.







The photo below is a little hard to see, but there is a large walled in circle, must be 75 yards across, that was built as a reservoir. The Ancient Puebloans then dug a series of canals to feed water to the reservoir and again to their crops.





Back at the campsite and cooking dinner on the fire. Thanks Bob 3 for the use of your chair, it is working out great. Dinner was a pie iron pizza and pie iron garlic bread. Did you notice the electric cord? I don't think I am supposed to be using the electric, but when I flipped the breaker and plugged the heater in, it worked. So I guess, in a way, I'm stealing from the US Government.

Tomorrow is more hiking. Not as many pictures tho because the number of sites is not as numerous.

This is the end of episode IV: Far View Communities and Dinner

Thanks for your patience.