

plus his zeal for the project. He was a good choice for the Director position, according to Katharine Bartlett, as all the others involved in the early organization had other full-time pursuits. She added that Dr. Colton was fascinated with the whole MNA idea, and it became his career, his hobby, and his life.

It took only one year to move the reorganized Museum from concept to reality. The first issue of *Museum Notes* (the beginning of a prolific publications program) was published in July, 1928, and the Museum opened in two rooms of the Flagstaff Woman's Club on September 6, 1928, with a lecture by University of Arizona archaeologist Byron Cummings about his summer's work of excavation at Turkey Hills Pueblo east of Flagstaff. The written records say "a large crowd" attended the opening.

Initial exhibits included the geologic story of the San Francisco Peaks; the vegetation zones from the bottom of the Grand Canyon to the top of the Peaks; contemporary Hopi and Navajo wares; a wildflower display; fossil tracks on slabs of rock;



HAROLD AND MARY-RUSSELL FERRELL COLTON AT THEIR SEDONA HOME. (MNA COLLECTIONS MS 207-211-3(49-1))

and an archaeological display of material from the Wupatki ruins. Within the first year, Museum events included public lectures, traveling exhibits from the American Federation of Arts, an art class, and the first Arizona Artists Exhibition. These events defined MNA's mission to tell the world about northern Arizona and the Colorado Plateau.

Dr. Colton retired as Director on December 31, 1958, thirty years after he had helped create MNA. He continued his research and served as president of NASSA

until his death on December 29, 1970, at age 89. Mrs. Colton served as Curator of Ethnology and Art until 1948. She suffered failing health for many years until she passed away in 1971. In addition to their lifetime gifts, both Coltons left substantial endowments to ensure that the Museum would carry on after their deaths. The Coltons' dream evolved into a regional institution that introduces, studies, and preserves northern Arizona and the Colorado Plateau and its diverse attributes.

ORIGINAL MISSION STATEMENT, 1928

"To increase and diffuse knowledge and appreciation of science and art and to maintain in the city of Flagstaff a museum; to collect and preserve objects of art and scientific interests; to protect historic and prehistoric sites, works of art, scenic places and wildlife from needless destruction; to provide facilities for research and to offer opportunities for aesthetic enjoyment."

REVISED MISSION STATEMENT, 1994

"The purpose of the Museum of Northern Arizona is to provide leadership in advancing new and multidisciplinary knowledge through research; fostering social development, equality and change; protecting the heritage and environment of the Colorado Plateau; and providing a forum for the free exchange and exploration of multicultural societal issues for all people."