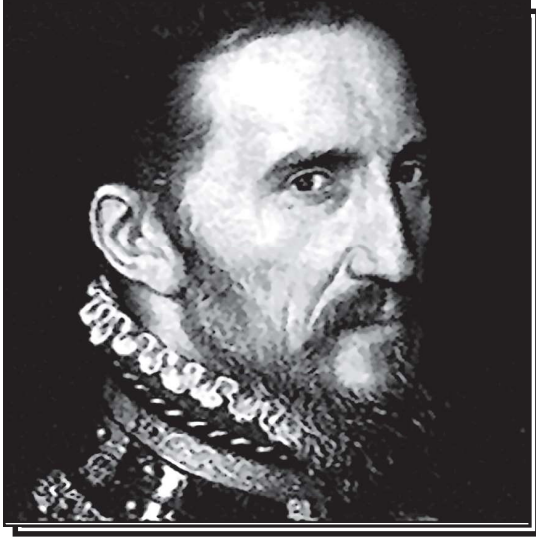


FRANCISCO VÁSQUEZ DE CORONADO



Francisco Vázquez de Coronado was born in Spain in 1510. He left home at an early age because his parents promised the family fortune to his older brother.

Coronado sailed to Mexico in 1535 and became one of the Spanish governors in the New World. He was known as a *conquistador* (one who conquers). Like other Spanish conquistadors he heard of riches and gold. These riches were to be found in the fabled *Seven Golden Cities of Cibola*. In 1540, he led an expedition to find them with 300 men and 1,000

Native Americans. After searching for over two years, he found no riches or gold, nor the seven cities. He found a settlement of Zuni Indians and captured it.

Coronado and his men were the first Europeans to travel up the Rio Grande. They discovered the Grand Canyon. Along the way, they encountered many Indian settlements. They visited the Pueblo Indians of New Mexico. These Indians were peaceful. At first the natives were friendly and gave the Spaniards food. Later, quarrels broke out between them. The Spaniards attacked their villages and captured and killed many of the natives. Later, Coronado and his men tried to make peace with them, but only so that the natives would raise food for them. Up and down the Rio Grande, Coronado and his men were feared.

Coronado's expedition continued south into Texas and north to Kansas. Their search was always for gold and silver. None was ever found.

Coronado and his men returned to the colony of New Galacia in Mexico. He made no settlements during his expeditions. The Spanish king was disappointed because Coronado never found gold and silver. However, he was appointed governor of New Spain because he had worked so hard. He was accused of mistreating and abusing the Native Americans. All of the charges were later dropped.

Coronado's health began to worsen. He died in 1554. His expeditions gave much geographic knowledge of the New World's southwest region.