

ARCHAEOLOGY IN TUCSON

Vol. 2, No.2

Newsletter of the Institute for American Research

Winter 1988

THE INSTITUTE CELEBRATES ITS 20 YEAR

This year marks the 20th birthday of the Institute for American Research, which was founded as a nonprofit research organization in 1968. The Institute's research in the fields of history, archaeology, and cultural anthropology has been concentrated in the western United States, but has ranged as widely as Labrador, Nicaragua, and the Aleutian Islands.

The Institute's main office is located in Santa Barbara, California, within the Goleta Depot Railroad Museum. The institute played a key role in saving the Depot from demolition. They helped raise funds and local support, and ultimately they arranged the move of the entire building to its present location in the beautiful Los Carneros County Park in November of 1981. After the move, the Depot building was restored and rehabilitated and it is now a Railroad Museum that each year expands its exhibits, public events, and membership involvement. If you visit the Santa Barbara area, be sure to visit the Museum at 300 N. Los Carneros Road in Goleta.



The rehabilitated Goleta Depot Railroad Museum.

In 1982 the Arizona Division of the Institute for American Research was opened in Tucson. Beginning slowly with a single project that involved excavations at the early twentieth century village of Nolie on the Tohono O'odham (formerly Papago) Reservation, the Institute developed a focus on the archaeology of the Tucson Basin area. We have now completed nearly 100 projects.

Most Institute projects are funded by contracts, but we have been successful in obtaining a number of grants for field survey. We have found that by focusing on the Tucson Basin as the primary location of our research, it has been possible to make the most of the variety of projects, both large and small, excavation and survey, that we have completed.

As a nonprofit research and educational organization, both divisions of the Institute place strong emphasis on public education. In Tucson, the *Archaeology in Tucson* newsletter and membership program is a key element in our educational program. We have also conducted a variety of site tours, school lectures, and media presentations in order to share the exciting results of our research with Tucson's residents and visitors.

This year's Archaeology Week, March 20-26, will be an opportunity for members to participate in a variety of local activities. *AIT* has a site tour planned, and other activities are in preparation.

The next Newsletter will come out early in March, so that you can be well-informed about the events of Archaeology Week.

PETROGLYPH STUDY NEAR GILA BEND

The Institute for American Research has begun a study of petroglyph sites at Painted Rocks Reservoir, just north of Gila Bend. Henry Wallace and Jim Holmlund, who completed a large-scale study of the petroglyphs of the Picacho Mountains in 1986 are conducting the field research.

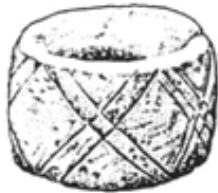
Over 1000 elements have already been recorded during the first phase of the study, and the next phases of the work will involve a regional reconnaissance and recording of additional petroglyph sites in the Gila Bend area.

This is an important opportunity to expand on the regional data base that was obtained during the Picacho study, and it helps to further the Institute's long-term goals of using rock art to better understand the prehistory of the Hohokam culture area.

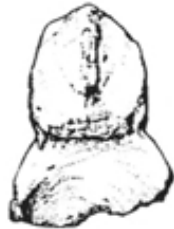
MEMBERSHIP NEWS

ARCHAEOLOGY WEEK THEME: VOLUNTEERS

The theme of the sixth annual Arizona Archaeology Week is: "Volunteers in Archaeology: Protecting Our Heritage." To celebrate this week the Institute is offering a special program this Spring of training and experience in field excavation and laboratory methods. There will be an opportunity for all interested persons to be trained in archaeological field techniques and to participate in excavations at a large Hohokam village site in the northern Tucson Basin. If you are interested in a less strenuous involvement in archaeology, there are limited openings in the Institute's laboratory processing artifacts. Anyone interested in making a commitment to at least one weekend per month for the months of February, March, and April, please call Jennifer at 622-6663 and leave your name.



Stone Bowl



Ceramic Figurine

FAIRFIELD AIDS VALENCIA SITE PROTECTION

The Valencia site, a large Hohokam village located along the Santa Cruz River in the southern Tucson Basin, has been an ongoing research and preservation interest of the Institute for American Research. The site has been the target of vandals who focus on Hohokam cremations, damaging the site and desecrating the graves of prehistoric peoples. The volunteer monitoring program that the Institute has maintained over the years simply has not been sufficient to stop the work of these pothunters. Marty and Jackie Breheny have been particularly faithful in their monitoring, for example, but the result have been that we have documented the destruction but have not stopped it.

Fairfield Communities Vice President, Dennis Wilkins, has committed to organize various Tucson contractors to donate time and materials to get the site fenced. Fairfield will make a cash contribution as well. We are also seeking limited funds from both public and private sources. Furthermore, the Tucson Police Department has agreed to help monitor the site. Our thanks to all of these people and organizations, particularly Dennis Wilkins of Fairfield, who has shown a strong commitment to archaeological research and preservation in the Tucson area.

WHY IS VALENCIA IMPORTANT?

The Valencia site has already revealed evidence for over 10,000 years of Tucson's prehistory. A Clovis point, peoples that hunted mammoths and other large animals that went extinct over 10,000 years ago was found on the surface of the site. Also three pithouses from late Archaic times, about 2000 years ago, have provided evidence of early farming activities in the Tucson area prior to the Hohokam. For the most part, though, Valencia is a Hohokam village. A large ballcourt, presumably where persons from different villages met to compete in a public game, is present along with houses and other remains of life in a village that endured for nearly 1000 years. This site has been spared by Tucson's rapid development, and its preservation now can ensure that it is available to reveal new insights into Tucson's past for centuries to come.

That's why we think the Valencia site is important. If you agree, then read on to see how you can help preserve this site.

CAN AIT MEMBERS RAISE \$150???

We would like to have the *Archaeology in Tucson* program contribute \$250 to the effort to fence the Valencia Site. Because the membership dues only serve to cover the Newsletter and regular membership activities, this means that we are asking you to dig into your pockets. But you don't have to dig very deep. If 50 persons would contribute just \$5.00 apiece, we could reach our goal painlessly. Please, act now, for the goal is to initiate the fencing activities during Archaeology Week, only two months away. We try not to go to our members for extra money, but this is a very small contribution toward an important site preservation effort.

Please address contributions to:

Valencia Site Fencing
Institute for American Research
245 South Plumer #14
Tucson, AZ 85719

VALENCIA VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Once the Valencia site has been fenced, it will be important to maintain a regular monitoring program to ensure that all vandalism has stopped and that the fence is maintained. If you are willing to assist in this effort, please call Jennifer at the Institute 622-6663.



MEMBERSHIP NEWS

VOLUNTEER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY GETS GRANTS TO CONTINUE!

Allen Dart, a research archaeologist with the Institute for American Research, began conducting an all-volunteer archaeological site survey in the northeastern part of the Altar Valley (southwest of Tucson) in May 1987. He was soon joined by a number of volunteers, including *Archaeology in Tucson* members, in a continuing effort to discover and record archaeological and historical sites near Gunsight Mountain on the northwest side of the Sierrita Mountains. By the end of 1987,

- * 42 volunteers had participated in the field survey and helped to process artifacts and field records in the laboratory.
- * 874 volunteer hours had been spent on the field and lab work; an uncounted number of hours had been devoted to preparing archaeological site record forms for the Arizona State Museum, University of Arizona.
- * 1,143 acres (1.8 square miles) of State and Private land had been intensively searched to find and record archaeological sites.
- * 40 archaeological sites had been identified; analysis shows that people have occupied the area for at least 3000 years.

The unusually high site density—over 22 sites per square mile—and the 3000 years or more of human occupation attest to the potential of the Gunsight Mountain area to be listed on the National Register of Historic Places as an Archaeological District. Because of this potential, which was recognized directly as a result of the volunteer survey, the Institute for American Research has requested, and received, a grant of \$10,000 from the Arizona State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) to identify the boundaries of this Archaeological District and to nominate the district to the National Register in 1988. The SHPO grant will pay up to 50% of the cost of the effort to intensify this archaeological survey, so corporations and foundations with interests in southern Arizona are being asked to provide matching funds. So far Holmes Tuttle Broadway Ford and Pima Savings have made cash contributions. The intensified survey, beginning early this year, can and will continue to use our volunteers because the SHPO counts volunteer labor as a source of matching funds!

The theme for Arizona Archaeology Week in 1988 is *Volunteers in Archaeology*. Allen Dart, and the Institute, would like to thank the volunteers who have donated their time on this project so far. Their contributions are a tremendous boost to archaeology in southern Arizona,

and their support undoubtedly influenced the decisions by the SHPO, Holmes Tuttle, and Pima Savings to provide survey grants to the Institute. The following people contributed to the survey effort in 1987:

David Anderson
Harry Ashby
Patti Bell
Brenda Benavente
Connie Bennett
Mary Bernard-Shaw
Karen Brownlee
Barbara Buchanan
Mona Chaaban
Janet Chumbley
Dave Clutter
Debby Clutter
Valerie Conforti
Bill Doelle
Saul Elasowich
Tom Euler
Ken Fordyce
Lee Fratt
Edie Griffith Wendy
Jones Mary Josephs
Henry Wallace

Tom Kimmel
Joan Lloyd
Jeff Maish
Nancy Marschner
Mari Martin
Woody McGinnis
Cindy Mendelson
Bruce Mettey
Bruce Nix
Guy Pinkerton
Shirley Pinkerton
Don Reser
Doris Rickard
Shirley Rivers
Kathy Rowland
Craig Stout
Chris Szuter
Ed Tuttle
Sarah Tuttle
Betty Wall

POTTERY REPLICAS FOR SALE

Those of you who attended the tour of the Romero Ruin in November had the opportunity to see the replicas of Hohokam painted pottery made by Paul and Laurel Thornburg. Anyone interested in purchasing an example of the Thornburg's handiwork can now do so by stopping in at the Institute at 245 South Plumer #14. We will be stocking mostly smaller pieces, so there is no reason that you can't afford to add the beauty of a replicated prehistoric pot to your home or to give one as a gift. During the hours of 10 AM to noon, and 1-3 PM please feel free to drop by to browse and buy. If those times are not convenient, please call Jennifer at 622-6663 to make special arrangements.



MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Our thanks to all of you who were quick to mail in their renewals. We now display your membership renewal date on the top of your mailing label. If your mailing label says "9/87", then this is the last newsletter that you will receive unless we hear from you. To encourage renewals and new memberships at any time, all memberships will run for a year from the time they are received, and renewal notices will go out each quarter to a portion of the total membership. So for a full year's benefits, join right now!

INSTITUTE FOR AMERICAN RESEARCH



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Archaeology in Tucson

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