

ARCHAEOLOGY IN TUCSON

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First step toward the restoration of the Valencia Site is mapping of the many potholes. Left to right are Allen Silverman, Bob Conforti, Valerie Conforti, Ruth Reiter, and Sam Reiter.

Volunteerism is Theme of this Special Issue

Volunteers have become increasingly important to the Institute for American Research, to *Archaeology in Tucson*, and to the preservation of Tucson's rich prehistory. This special issue of the *AIT Newsletter* features those projects and people whose volunteerism has made 1988 such a successful year.

DESTRUCTION HALTED, RESTORATION BEGINS

Its listing on the National Register of Historic Places did little to deter pothunters at the Valencia Site, but the barbed wire fence installed in 1988 seems to be doing the job quite well. Now the work of restoring the site surface has been initiated.

For five Saturdays last Fall, volunteers Bob and Valerie Conforti, Sam and Ruth Reiter, Don Reser, Rosemary Silverman, and Allen Stevens spent their mornings helping Bill Doelle map the holes left in the Valencia Site by many years of pothunting. We concentrated in the areas of heaviest damage, and when we had finished we had shot-in 203 holes. Some were small, the results of animal burrowing, but most had diameters from 1 to 4 feet and were dug by pothunters. (See Page 2.)

EXPLORING HONEY BEE VILLAGE

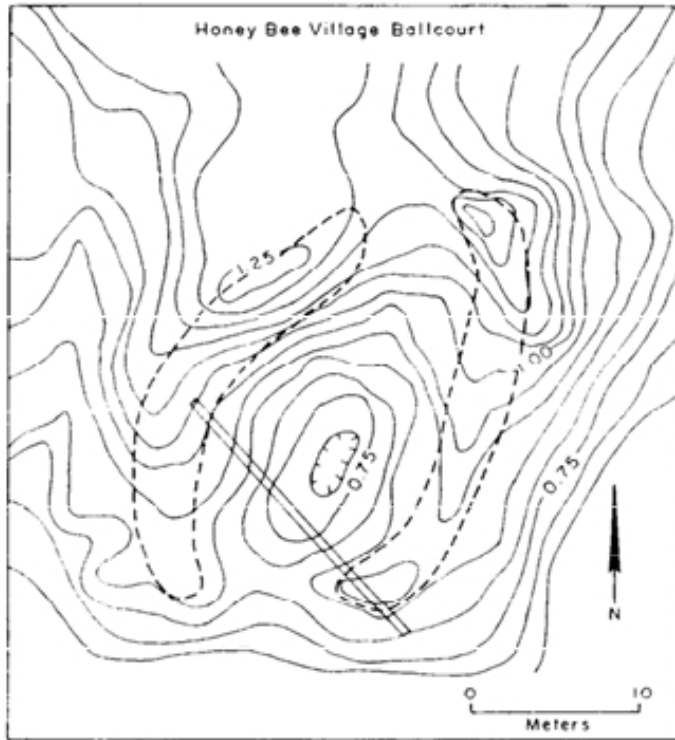
The months of October and November saw archaeologists from the Institute working at another large Hohokam village in the northern Tucson Basin. The setting this time was a site named Honey Bee Village, located on the southeastern flanks of the Tortolita Mountains. Sponsored by the Wolfswinkel Group of Mesa, the project provided a systematic test of the site in order to find out where buried features were located and how many of them there might be. In addition, we hoped to more precisely date the occupation of the site based on a collection of decorated ceramics from stratigraphic test units.

The testing was done in two stages. First, 43 backhoe trenches (almost a mile in total length) were excavated, and Institute archaeologists recorded features exposed in the walls of the trenches. Eighty-one features were identified, including 53 pithouses, seven cremations, and a variety of pits.

For two weeks, volunteers from the Foundation for Field Research, a nonprofit, research-assistance organization based near San Diego, came in and excavated 1 m x 2 m test units in a sample of the trash mounds and houses. Additional volunteer effort was provided by *AIT* members Harry Ashby, Valerie Conforti, John Murray, and Frances Slusher.

The volunteers excavated and screened nearly 26 cubic meters of dirt from test units in six trash mounds and ten pithouses. Also, a narrow hand trench was excavated across a feature that we suspected was a ballcourt. A prepared surface (a floor!?) was exposed in the middle of the trench and low-lying beams were found near the edge. We are now almost certain that the feature is a ballcourt. The ballcourt was also mapped by Jim Holmlund and his crew at Geo-Map, Inc., who have assisted the Institute on numerous projects.

Approximately 10,000 artifacts were recovered from the excavated test units. The majority of these were plainware pottery sherds and pieces of chipped stone debitage. Numerous exotic artifacts were also found, including shell jewelry and ceramics imported from the Phoenix area. (See Page 2.)



The most noteworthy find was a portion of a copper bell found near the bottom of one of the trash mounds. Copper bells are thought to have been manufactured in northern Mexico and are only rarely found on Hohokam sites. The presence of one at Honey Bee adds further support for the idea that the site's inhabitants were active in regional exchange networks.

Although artifact analyses are just now getting underway, it is already clear that the testing program was a resounding success. The site appears to have been first occupied during the late Pioneer or early Colonial period (roughly A.D. 800), and achieved its greatest size and population during the late Colonial and early Sedentary periods (A.D. 900-1000). Current evidence suggests that only a small residual group was left by the early Classic period (A.D. 1150-1300).

The testing also provided much useful information on the organization of features at the site. For example, houses and house groups appear to be arranged around an open area, or plaza, in the central portion of the site. The ballcourt is located on the margin of the central plaza. At least one cemetery also appears to have been located there.

The habitation area is bounded by a series of large trash mounds that are arranged in a roughly circular pattern around the houses. We now estimate there are somewhere between 200 and 300 houses within a roughly 12 acre area.

Interestingly, there are indications that the village was subdivided into smaller segments, or precincts, consisting of 30 to 50 associated houses, but a final say on this must await further analysis.

RESTORING THE VALENCIA SITE

About half of these holes have now been refilled, helping to return the site to a more natural appearance. However, the areas of the most severe pothunting will be left untouched, as a reminder of the destruction that selfish and uncaring persons can inflict so quickly on an archaeological site.

On the positive side, our regular visits to the site confirmed that the fence placed around the site last March really is working to stop new pothunting. The fencing was accomplished through a joint effort, by the City of Tucson, the Arizona State Land Department, *Archaeology in Tucson*, and most importantly Fairfield Communities. The constant monitoring of the site by volunteer Barry Perron has been a critical element to ensure the effectiveness of the barbed wire.

The Valencia Site has been a particular focus of the Institute for American Research since 1982, and it is truly gratifying to see that the site is receiving some of the protection and recognition that it deserves. This work will continue to be a priority for us in the future.



Three-quarter grooved axe from the surface of the Valencia Site.

One of the exciting side lights of our mapping work was the discovery of a complete threequarter grooved stone axe within one of the potholes. This handsome grooved tool provides evidence of the craftsmanship of the Hohokam. It also reminds us of the large amounts of human energy required not only to use tools made from stone, but also to manufacture them.

VOLUNTEER OF THE YEAR

The name Valerie Conforti appears in three other locations in this Newsletter, under three separate projects. She also worked on the Los Morteros testing project, which was featured in our last Newsletter. There was also the one day she worked in the lab—quickly finding that there are some aspects of archaeology that she does not like. Given her choice, Valerie would rather be surveying. Despite the intense summer heat she was a regular on the Gunsight Mountain survey this past year.

Valerie is originally from England, having spent the past 23 years in the United States. She shares her love of archaeology with her husband Bob, who has also been a regular volunteer over the past year.

Even with the hundreds of hours that Valerie has spent in the field with us, archaeology fills only a portion of Valerie's busy schedule. She paints in watercolor, has taken a number of archaeology classes at Pima Community College, and is currently learning Chinese. Jennifer, the Institute's Bookkeeper and Office Manager, is a native speaker of Chinese. She says that Valerie's Chinese is coming along very well, and that her accent is "remarkable."

The research program at the Institute for American Research has certainly benefited from the untiring contributions of this remarkable woman. We extend to her our sincere thanks. Naming Valerie our Volunteer of the Year only just begins to recognize the magnitude of her contributions. A search of our files yielded this photo of Valerie in her standard mode—working hard!



FAIRFIELD WINS PRESIDENTIAL AWARD FOR ARCHAEOLOGY PROJECT AT CAMP COOPER

Fairfield's Arizona Division has worked with the Tucson archaeological community in a variety of ways over the past five years. Activities include public and school tours when the Institute excavated the Tanque Verde Wash Site in 1984-85, a lead role in funding the fencing of the Valencia Site last spring, and significant aid in the development on an archaeological education program within the Tucson Unified School District. Fairfield recently received some well-deserved recognition for their efforts.



Ten-year-old Luis Encinas, a fifth grader at Blenman Elementary School, is given an assist with the C-Flag by Fairfield's Dennis Wilkins.

On Monday, November 28, at 10 a.m., the red, white, and blue C-Flag, symbol of the President's Citation Program for Private Sector Initiatives, was raised over Camp Cooper, the Tucson Unified School District's environmental learning center on Trail's End Road in the Tucson Mountains. It is the only C-Flag awarded this year in Tucson and one of only six bestowed in the entire State.

Dr. Paul Houston, superintendent of TUSD, accepted the flag from Dennis Wilkins, vice president of Fairfield Homes Arizona Division and president of Fairfield's three Tucson area communities.

The flag was awarded to Fairfield Homes Arizona Division for donating the archaeology museum and funding the "Archaeology Is More Than a Dig" project at Camp Cooper.

Houston, other officials, and the Tucson tradespeople who donated their time and expertise to the flag-winning improvement program at Camp Cooper were among the 300 invited guests. After the brief ceremonies, which were covered by KGUN TV (Channel 9), archaeology classes resumed at Camp Cooper.

NEW DIRECTIONS FOR AIT

Archaeology in Tucson is already well into its third year. We have achieved many of our original goals, but improvement of our program is a constant goal. In a recent survey of persons who were renewing their memberships, two areas were emphasized consistently. First, an expansion of the Newsletter was ranked highly, and second, opportunities to visit more sites were requested.

Given the limited staff availability at the Institute, we find it difficult to offer regular site tours. Furthermore, the Archaeological and Historical Society already does a very good job of offering lectures and site tours each month. We try to ensure that our activities do not simply duplicate what is already available, and our site tours to date have featured sites where we have special expertise.

We have come up with two new offerings. First, the present issue is a step toward an expanded Newsletter. Future issues will also follow an expanded format. Second, we plan to offer special classes for interested members. Some classes will provide a more thorough understanding of Tucson's archaeology, while others will teach archaeological field methods (see next article).



*Stone Bowl—
Valencia Site
Excavations,
1983.*

LEARN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SKILLS!

Professional archaeologists combine long years of work in the classroom with multiple seasons of field training in order to gain the skills required in this complex discipline. For the avocational archaeologist, reading, lectures, and field trips are important forms of self-education, but the opportunities for field experience are rather limited.

In order to provide such opportunities, and to better integrate volunteers into our research program, the staff of the Institute for American Research will begin offering classes in basic field methods. The first class will focus on the use of small-scale hand-excavation techniques to obtain controlled samples from archaeological sites. In the future, survey and advanced excavation techniques will also be taught.

The Spring 1989 class will be taught by Doug Craig and Mary Bernard-Shaw, both Research Archaeologists with the Institute. The following schedule is planned, but minor changes may be made to fit the schedules of class participants.

1. *The Research Design.* An outline of how this class fits into the overall research goals of the Institute for American Research. 2 hour lecture/discussion.
2. *An Overview of Field Methods.* Overview of the variety of field methods available to archaeologists and discussion of how to choose the appropriate techniques to meet specific goals. 2 hour lecture/discussion.
3. *The Joy of Paperwork.* Introduction to the specific forms and procedures used by the Institute in the field and lab. Focus is on why so much paperwork is necessary and how to do it right. 2 hour lecture/discussion.
4. *On the Job Training.* Six 8-hour days will be spent conducting small-scale test excavations at three different archaeological sites in the Tucson area. Each of these sites is threatened with damage or destruction by Tucson's growth.
5. *Review and Discussion.* An informal review of what has been covered in the class, followed by a discussion of preliminary results and future research plans. 2 hours.

Laboratory processing will be carried out during the week by Institute volunteers and staff during this course. It is hoped that class participants can arrange to spend some time in the laboratory to gain familiarity with this aspect of fieldwork.

This class is limited to 10 participants, and a fee of \$60 (a mere \$10 per field day) is required. This fee covers a portion of the Instructor's wages. Other wages and the costs of artifact processing, analysis, and curation are covered by the Archaeology Fund of the Institute for American Research.

This class is open only to *Archaeology in Tucson* members, and preference will be given to members who have volunteered on previous Institute projects. Please call Jennifer at 622-6663 to request an application form. All applications must be in by January 31. Applications will be evaluated and participants will be notified by February 7. The class will begin in mid-February, with fieldwork occurring every second Saturday until early May.

GUNSIGHT MOUNTAIN SURVEY WINDING UP

Fieldwork on the Institute's Gunsight Mountain National Register survey is expected to draw to a close in January or early February 1989. With the help of cash grants and volunteer labor contributions, Research Archaeologist Allen Dart has completely inventoried approximately six square miles near the north end of the Sierrita Mountains for archaeological material and has identified and recorded 130 archaeological sites.



Gunsight volunteers Harry Ashby, Barbara Snyder, Russ Wilde, Betty Wall, Karen Brownlee, and Patty Whitley.

A future issue of *Archaeology in Tucson* will report on the discoveries made during the survey, after fieldwork is completed and a preliminary analysis can be done. In this issue we acknowledge those who have helped to make this project a success.

The primary sponsor of the survey is the Arizona State Historic Preservation Office. They awarded the Institute a federal matching grant of \$10,000 to do the survey and prepare a nomination of the sites in the Gunsight Mountain area to the National Register of Historic Places.

To help match this amount, cash donations were provided to the Institute by the Tucson Community Foundation, Citibank, Holmes Tuttle Ford, Pima Savings, Van's Exxon Service, and directly to Allen Dart by the Arizona Archaeological and Historical Society. The remainder of the matching contribution was provided in the form of labor by numerous *Archaeology in Tucson* volunteers.

As of New Year's Day 1989, the Top Five amateur archaeologists who contributed field time have been Valerie Conforti, a Pima Community College student who has worked 334 hours in the field; Harry Ashby (210 field hours), a retired labor relations manager; Russ Wilde (156 hours), a retired

financial officer; John Murray (129 hours), a retired U.S. Foreign Service official; and Patty Whitley (85.5 hours), who has also contributed over 200 hours in the Institute's lab and on our other field projects.

Altogether, our Top Five have contributed over one-third of the total field hours volunteered on the Gunsight Mountain survey. Our sincere thanks to the Top Five and to the 60 other amateur, professional, and student archaeologists who have contributed their time on the Gunsight Mountain project:

Contributed More Than 50 Hours in Field:

Mary Bernard-Shaw	Bill Morris
Allen Dart	Don Reser
Ken Fordyce	Barbara Snyder
Agnes Holladay	Betty Wall
Joan Lloyd	

Contributed More Than 25 Hours in Field:

Dave Anderson	Tom Kimmel
Karen Brownlee	Guy Pinkerton
Dave Clutter	Shirley Pinkerton
Cindy Gibbs	Doris Rickard
Mary Josephs	

Also Contributed Field Hours:

Connie Allen	Steve Malangone
Patti Bell	Nancy Marschner
Brenda Benavente	Betsy Marshall
Jerry Bolt	Mari Martin
Barbara Buchanan	Sue Mathes
Jean Carlin	Linda Mayro
Mona Chaaban	Woody McGinnis
Janet Chumbley	Cindy Mendelson
Debbie Clutter	Bruce Mettey
Bob Conforti	Bruce Nix
Bill Doelle	Vince O'Callaghan
Saul Elasowich	Rudy Piñon
Tom Euler	Kay Rosenow
Lee Frau	KaY Rowland
Edie Griffith	Craig Stout
Marilyn Hodges	Chris Szuter
Wendy Jones	Ed Tuttle
Bobbie Lee	Sarah Tuttle
Martina Mahone	Bert Whitley
Jeff Maish	

Contributed Lab/Office Hours

Connie Bennett	Henry Wallace
Shirley Rivers	

JANUARY LECTURE AND SITE TOUR

On Monday night, January 16, at 7:30 P.M., William Doelle will speak at the monthly meeting of the Arizona Archaeological and Historical Society on the topic "Tucson and Phoenix: Evidence for Prehistoric Rivalry?" Paul Fish, Archaeologist at the Arizona State Museum, will present an alternative point of view on the issue of prehistoric warfare in southern Arizona. All *AIT* members are invited to this lecture, which is held at the Biological Sciences West Building on the University of Arizona Campus in Room 301.

On the following Saturday, January 21, there will be a tour of two large sites in the northern Tucson Basin. Arrangements for the tour must be made at the Monday night meeting. There is a small charge for the tour.

LOS MORTEROS: THE FINAL PUSH

Throughout the Fall, Jim Holmlund and Henry Wallace have continued to excavate at the site of Los Morteros whenever they could find a spare moment from their busy schedules. This postproject effort will very soon draw to a close when American Continental backfills all of the trenches in late January.

An important last-minute contribution to this effort was provided by Dan Armit, of Innovative Excavating, who gave us a full day of backhoe and operator time. This wasn't just any day, it was Christmas Eve Day! Dan's effort exposed a number of features that can resolve questions that arose after the end of fieldwork in August. Other volunteers that day were Mark Elson, Cathy Smith, Deborah Swartz, and Henry Wallace.



Foundation for Field Research volunteers Evelyn Mallory and Annetta Green at Honey Bee Village.

ARCHAEOLOGY WEEK PREVIEW

Arizona Archaeology Week 1989 is scheduled for March 12-18. The theme is "Tour the Past." For more detailed information than is presently available, feel free to call the Institute at 622-6663 in early March. The following are some of the key events that we are aware of in the Tucson area.

March 14, Valencia Site Tour. Bill Doelle and Allen Dart will lead multiple tours of this Hohokam Ballcourt Village throughout the day. By reservation only, no charge. Call Jennifer at 622-6663 after March 1 to make an appointment and to receive directions to the site.

March 15, Arizona State Museum Open House. This is the day the Museum opens up its basement storage rooms to the public. There are primitive technology demonstrations and lots more. This happens in the late afternoon and early evening. Don't miss this opportunity.

March 15, Lecture on the Archaeology of the Tucson Basin. By William Doelle, Director of the Institute for American Research. To be held at the Arizona Historical Society from 7-9 P.M. There is an admission charge.

SCIENCE CAMP FEATURES ARCHAEOLOGY

Those of you with children from 12 to 17 years of age may be interested to hear more about the Cottonwood Gulch Foundation of New Mexico. The Foundation was established in 1935, and their brochure states:

"The Prairie Trek (for boys 12 - 17) and Turquoise Trail (for girls 13-17) provide young men and women with a unique opportunity to explore places of cultural, scenic, and natural interest throughout the Four Corners states...discovering the prehistoric and modern life of the Pueblo Indian cultures, hiking among the 14,000 foot peaks of the Rockies, and investigating the physical structure of the land and its plant and animal life."

For those with special interests in archaeology, there are opportunities to work in a pueblo ruin as well as visit many of the most famous archaeological sites in the Southwest. For more information write or call: The Cottonwood Gulch Foundation, P.O. Box 14957, Albuquerque, New Mexico 87191. Telephone: (505)-293-3865.

RYE CREEK PROJECT TAKES US OUT OF THE TUCSON BASIN

Last Fall the Institute was awarded a contract by the Arizona Department of Transportation to test and eventually excavate 19 archaeological sites that will be impacted by the widening of a five mile stretch of State Route 87 (the Beeline Highway) just south of Payson. The pine and juniper trees of the mountains of Central Arizona make this a very different setting than the saguaro covered deserts of the Tucson Basin.

This area has traditionally been called by archaeologists the heartland of the "Salado" culture. The Salado were a pueblo building people who lived in the mountains of Central Arizona between A.D. 1200 and 1450. Very little is known about these people and their origins (where they came from, who they are) are a subject of heated debate within Southwest archaeology.

Mark Elson and Deborah Swartz are heading up this project for the Institute. They spent ten weeks this Fall with a crew of eight making maps, surface collecting, and conducting test excavations at the 19 sites.

The sites are a mixture of both small masonry pueblos and pithouse villages. The decorated ceramics suggest that the pithouse sites were occupied slightly earlier than the pueblo sites.

Most of the sites with masonry architecture appear to be small field houses that were probably only briefly occupied. These sites are generally located near land suitable for farming and they are believed to be temporary or seasonal habitations for planting, protecting and harvesting the crops. The one larger site with masonry architecture, which may have contained as many as 10-20 rooms, was unfortunately found to have been heavily damaged by vegetation clearing activities conducted by the Forest Service in the mid-1960s. The pueblo sites appear to date between A.D. 1100 to 1300.

The majority of the sites with intact remains were found to contain pithouses and are believed to date to the time interval between roughly A.D. 750 and 1100. This is a very important period in the Tonto Basin area, for it is very poorly known. New information about this period should help greatly in placing in context the questions about the origin and ethnic affiliation of the Salado culture.

The testing report is now being written and the excavation phase of this project is expected to get underway by March. Future Newsletters will provide more detailed reports on the results of this exciting project.

ARCHAEOLOGY WEEK 1989: "TOUR THE PAST"
March 12-18

The *Institute for American Research* is a private, nonprofit, research and educational organization that specializes in the preservation of the American past. The Institute was founded in 1968, and its headquarters are located at 300 North Los Carneros Road, Goleta, CA 93117. Telephone: 805-964-3549.

In Arizona, the Institute specializes in the archaeology of the Tucson Basin and southern Arizona. *Archaeology in Tucson (AIT)* is a membership program of the Institute for American Research, and the AIT Newsletter is published quarterly. The Institute's Arizona offices are located at 245 South Plumer, Suite 14, Tucson, AZ 85719. Telephone: 602-622-6663.

Annual Membership Rates. Individual (\$10), Family (\$15), Supporting (\$25), Sustaining (\$100), Patron (\$500). Corporate Rates: Active (\$100), Supporting (\$200), Sustaining (\$500).

To Join Archaeology in Tucson: Memberships in *Archaeology in Tucson* run for one year from the time they are received. Send your name, street address, city, state, and zipcode along with a check made out to the Institute for American Research to:

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