

# ARCHAEOLOGY IN TUCSON

Vol. 3, No. 2

Newsletter of the Institute for American Research

Spring 1989

## RETURN TO HONEY BEE VILLAGE

Honey Bee Village is slowly yielding its secrets. After two weeks of digging by volunteers from the Foundation for Field Research, we better understand the compound wall and one of the rock wall foundations at this ancient settlement.



*Joe Karuger cleans up around the rocks of the Honey Bee compound. Photo by Sly Emanuel.*

Usually cool, the first two weeks of April were scorches this year, except for the light rain shower that fell on the next to the last day of the dig. But the 17 volunteers held up to the heat and they moved lots of dirt as well.

Last Fall testing at Honey Bee provided information about the general layout of trash mounds, pithouses, and open spaces at this Hohokam village. A test trench confirmed that a shallow depression visible on the surface was likely a Hohokam ballcourt, but there was no time to explore the large, stone enclosure near the center of the site. It was thought to be a compound wall, but parts of it were incomplete. Its nearly oval shape was also novel. Finally, there were almost no Classic period pottery fragments on the surface, even though the common belief is that in the Tucson Basin compounds date to the Classic period, after A.D. 1150.

This time the stone enclosure was the focus of the field effort. It was soon established that many of

the rocks were indeed buried, and that the compound was very likely a complete oval. No rooms were found to be attached to the wall, but it is suspected that one or more surface rooms or pithouses may have been located within the enclosure. However, resolution of that issue will have to await future excavation.

An important goal of this work was to date the compound. While digging, the latest painted pottery observed was Late Rincon Red-on-brown (A.D. 1100-1150), so it seemed that the compound might be slightly earlier than other known compounds. The pottery analysis after all sherds were washed has cast doubt on this however. Even though only nine sherds of the Classic period type Tanque Verde Red-on-brown have been found during all of the work at Honey Bee, that is enough to indicate that a Classic period date for the compound is a possibility. It is possible, for example, that Classic period painted pottery simply was not reaching this small site in later times as the site's importance declined.

Intensive surface collection and two phases of testing are firming up our understanding of this important village. Honey Bee was settled by about A.D. 800, and it reached its peak occupation during A.D. 900-1050. After that the site declined sharply, for the Late Rincon and Tanque Verde phase occupation was found only in the southeast half of the site.

We extend our thanks to the Wolfswinkel Group of Mesa, Arizona, and the Foundation for Field Research of San Diego for their support of this work. Special thanks go to the many volunteers who gave so much and hopefully had some fun at the same time.

### ON THE INSIDE

<i>Archaeology Week Report</i>	2
<i>Volunteer Profile</i>	3
<i>New Books</i>	3
<i>Miscellany</i>	4
<i>How Hot is Gila Bend?</i>	5
<i>Join Us</i>	5

## ARCHAEOLOGY WEEK 1989: A REVIEW



*The artifact display brought out to the site was the Initial focus of attention at the Valencia Site. Photo by Sly Emanuel.*

Arizona Archaeology Week 1989 was busy and highly successful throughout the state. This year's theme was "Tour the Past." A weekend-long "Archaeology Fair" in Phoenix featured the current excavations at Pueblo Grande and an open house at the adjacent Museum. Offerings over the rest of the state were numerous and diverse.

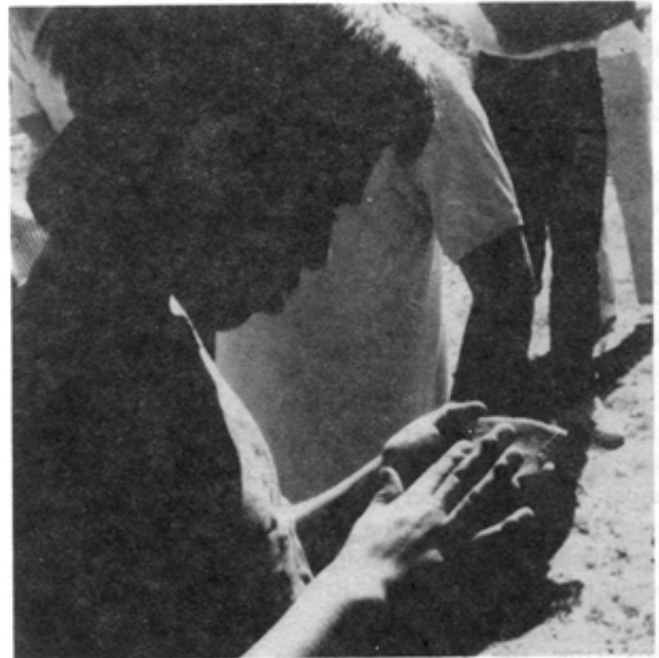
Archaeologists from the Institute participated in a variety of activities. Our major effort was a series of tours of the Valencia Site. There are no current excavations at the site, but the abundance of surface artifacts and features makes it possible for visitors to learn a great deal about this important Hohokam ballcourt village.

Forty students from Elgin School visited the Valencia Site. Institute archaeologists Allen Dart, Bill Doelle, and Lisa Eppley used aerial photos, a variety of artifacts, and a walking tour to introduce the students to a fuller understanding of life in the desert more than 1000 years ago.

Ginell Hathaway needed very little instruction. Within minutes after stepping off the school bus she spotted a turquoise bead. This was only the fourth item of turquoise recovered from the Valencia Site, though many thousands of artifacts have been collected during previous Institute studies. The artifact has now been catalogued into the surface collections from the site. A young archaeologist may have made the first in a long series of discoveries!

Students from Grijalva School, which is located just across the river from the Valencia Site, could not make it for the Archaeology Week tour. But in early May they will brave the early morning heat to visit the site. Carol Ellick will assist on that tour.

Other Archaeology Week activities were a miscellany. First there was a tour of the Romero Ruin and the Sun City Vistoso pithouse for the Brownie troop from Sam Hughes School. Then, Bill Doelle gave a pair of talks to the Ochoa Elementary School and he gave a two-hour presentation on Tucson Basin archaeology in a lecture series sponsored by the Arizona Historical Society. Finally, we assembled a display on the archaeology of the Rye Creek Project (see the last Newsletter for details) in cooperation with the Forest Service and the Arizona Department of Transportation. It was on view at the Pyle Adult Recreation Center in Tempe all of March.



*Artifacts discovered on the surface of the site were the real attention getters once the student's eyes were trained. Photo by Sly Emanuel.*

## PROFILE OF AN INSTITUTE VOLUNTEER

Patty Whitley has been an active volunteer at the Institute for American Research for a little over a year. She has donated countless hours of her time in the field, in the office, and in the lab. Her almost unheard of enjoyment of lab work and willingness to help out at a moment's notice have been real lifesavers at times.

Patty first became interested in archaeology as a child by reading her parents' National Geographics. Since then she has combined her interest in archaeology with her skill as a photographer, capturing many sites throughout the southwest in beautiful photographs.

Her specialty is petroglyphs. Patty and her husband, Bert, try to get in one trip a year to southeastern Utah to enjoy the magnificent scenery, ruins, and petroglyphs. They often spend their weekends "four-wheeling" around the countryside looking for petroglyph sites. Their most recent excursion took them to Tonto National Monument.

It is nearly impossible to emphasize enough the contribution Patty has made. Her willingness to give and her unflagging enthusiasm are greatly appreciated and are never to be taken for granted. Like Patty often says after a day of washing sherds: "You couldn't pay me enough to do this!"



*Patty and Bert on a desert trek.*

---

## TUCSON BASIN CONFERENCE REPORT AVAILABLE

In November of 1986, 43 archaeologists gathered in Tucson to present papers on recent advances in Tucson Basin archaeology. Twenty-one of those papers have recently been published in a book titled *Recent Research on Tucson Basin Prehistory: Proceedings of the Second Tucson Basin Conference* by the Institute for American Research. The book was edited by William Doelle of the Institute and Paul Fish of the Arizona State Museum.

The focus of the book is on Hohokam archaeology, but there are two papers about the Late Archaic predecessors of the Hohokam. These papers establish that corn was an important crop for Tucson Basin residents by soon after 1000 B.C. The beginnings of pottery making did not occur until around A.D. 200, or even slightly later, based on current evidence. It is the manufacture of pottery that allows archaeologists to identify the Hohokam as a distinctive prehistoric culture. The Hohokam are the topic of 19 papers in this book.

Of constant concern to archaeologists is the refinement of the Hohokam chronology, and the availability of 75 absolute dates allows this topic to be addressed in some detail in this

volume. Other topics deal with changes in subsistence practices, changes in organization in Hohokam communities, evidence for trade, discussion of pottery from particular time periods, and a number of individual reports on sites or projects.

This book is available at the Institute office at 245 South Plumer, Suite 14, from 9 A.M. to 5 P.M. Monday through Friday. The cost is \$10, though *Archaeology in Tucson* members get a 10 percent discount, dropping the price to \$9. If you can't stop in to pick up a copy, please add \$1.75 to the price for shipping and handling.

Also newly released is the first in a series of reports on recent excavations by the Institute at the sites of Los Morteros, Lonetree, and Redtail. The sites are located near the north end of the Tucson Mountains within American Continental's Continental Ranch. This volume is titled, *Archaeological Investigations at Los Morteros, AZ AA:12:57 (ASM), Locus 1, in the Northern Tucson Basin*. The author is Mary Bernard-Shaw and the book sells for \$8.00 (\$7.20 for members).

### NEW VOLUNTEER POLICY

Volunteers have made invaluable contributions to many Institute projects. In the future, it may even be possible to expand the opportunities for volunteer participation in Tucson area archaeology. But one requirement for future volunteers will be active membership in *Archaeology in Tucson*.

These changes are intended to ensure a larger, better-trained corps of volunteers. Also, they help ensure the fiscal soundness of *Archaeology in Tucson*.

### PREHISTORIC IRRIGATION STUDY

Allen Dart has been conducting a synthesis study of prehistoric irrigation in Arizona under a contract to the Institute by the State Historic Preservation Office. The report is being written for a general audience, and it contains a great deal of information on how prehistoric irrigation systems worked, how archaeologists study ancient agricultural practices, and where such features have been documented so far.

The first draft of this report is being reviewed, and current plans call for publication of this report by the State Historic Preservation Office. When the report is available, a newsletter announcement will explain how to obtain it. The report should be of interest to many *AIT* members.

### SNAKETOWN T-SHIRTS

Some of you may have noticed Allen Dart as one of the smiling faces among a group of local designers of Southwestern t-shirts featured in an article in the *Arizona Daily Star*. That article stimulated the reprinting of AI's famous "Is this the way to Snaketown?" t-shirt, which is now available in S, M, L, or XL for \$8.00 at the Institute. Add \$1.00, and we will mail it to you.

### CORRECTION!!

In the last Newsletter, the first name of Alan Stevens was misspelled twice. And once we changed his last name to Silverman. Many apologies, Alan.

### WELCOME TRISH CASTALIA

The position of Projects Manager at the Institute has recently been filled by Patricia Castalia. Trish earned a Master's degree in Anthropology from Arizona State University in 1975. She combines a strong interest in desert archaeology with extensive experience in project management.

Trish was delayed slightly in starting work by the birth of her second son, Ryan, but she is now on the job on a regular basis. She will be working mornings for the near term, but will gradually increase to full time. We extend to both of them a warm welcome.

### JOB OPPORTUNITY

Fenster School of Southern Arizona is seeking applicants for the position of "Archaeologist in Residence" for the 1989-90 academic year. Preference will be given to a graduate student who proposes research on the Fenster Campus archaeological resources. Duties will include living on campus (room and board provided), investigating some aspect of northeastern Tucson Basin archaeology, developing a program of field trips and lectures, and some regular student supervision. For more information, contact Richard Goddard (749-2696) or John Welch (6212846).



*Rio Rico Polychrome bowl. This vessel, drawn by Ron Beckwith, is the cover illustration on the new book "Recent Research on Tucson Basin Prehistory" (see page 3 for details about the book).*

## GILA BEND: AN INSTITUTE HOT SPOT

National high temperature honors are regularly claimed by the town of Gila Bend in southwestern Arizona, and Institute staff have been basking in those high temperatures on many occasions recently. We have conducted a series of studies for the Corps of Engineers, the agency that manages the Painted Rock Dam west of Gila Bend.

The dam was built in the 1960s to regulate floodwaters that sometimes threaten agricultural land on the lower Gila River. The first large-scale contract archaeology study of the Hohokam was carried out in the reservoir area by the Arizona State Museum in the early 1960s. Since then there have been many changes in laws protecting archaeological sites as well as advances in our knowledge of the Hohokam. Our recent studies are the result of both of these developments.

Three separate projects have been undertaken. First, Henry Wallace and Jim Holmlund completed a series of petroglyph studies. At the two largest sites nearly 1,000 prehistoric petroglyph designs were recorded. In addition, a reconnaissance resulted in the discovery or revisiting of 46 additional glyph sites, though most of these were not recorded in detail.

The second project was to develop a long-term archaeological management plan for the Painted Rock reservoir area. This effort was led by Allen Dart, with assistance from Steve Lekson and Henry Wallace. It involved a thorough review of previous research in the reservoir area as well as preparation of a plan for future work. This project will be completed soon.

The third project involves the survey of just over 4,000 acres in the northwestern portion of the reservoir area. Mark Elson and Mary Bernard-Shaw led survey teams during Arizona's early spring heat wave this year and managed to complete the survey on time despite the heat, vehicle problems, and assorted minor ill-turns of fate. The perseverance of our survey teams has been commendable.

The results of this survey proved interesting. Extensive networks of trails were noted over the desert pavement; numerous intentional arrangements of boulders, called geoglyphs, were found; many small petroglyph sites were discovered; and new Hohokam sites were documented.

For the Hohokam sites it is particularly interesting that three late Pioneer and Early Colonial period sites are now known in this northwestern portion of the reservoir. All but one of these sites were abandoned early in the Hohokam sequence, at times when settlement in the eastern and southern portion of the reservoir was flourishing. This raises numerous questions that will be explored further as the survey report is prepared over the next several months.

The report on the Wallace and Holmlund petroglyph studies is titled: *Archaeological Investigations at Petroglyph Sites in the Painted Rock Reservoir Area*. It is available from the Institute for \$10 (\$9 for members). Henry and Jim are back in the field as this goes to press, recording five more small petroglyph sites.

---

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 N. 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:

ARCHAEOLOGY IN TUCSON 245  
South Plumer, Suite 14 Tucson,  
Arizona 85719

INSTITUTE FOR AMERICAN RESEARCH  
*Archaeology in Tucson*  
245 South Plumer, Suite 14  
Tucson, Arizona 85719



C  
e  
n  
t  
e  
r  
f  
o  
r  
D  
e  
s  
e  
r  
t  
A  
r