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Artifacts Recovered from Excavations at Tucson's New Ronstadt Transit Center. See Inside.

Digging Downtown at the Ronstadt Transit Center Site

by Jonathan B. Mabry Desert Archaeology, Inc.

During late January and early February of 1990, archaeologists from the Arizona State Museum, University of Arizona, conducted archaeological testing with a backhoe at the site where the Ronstadt Transit Center, the City of Tucson's new downtown bus terminal, was being constructed. The Museum identified 29 archaeological features, leading to a recommendation for further archaeological investigations. Thus, between May 8 and 18, archaeologists from Desert Archaeology, Inc. exposed, mapped, and excavated house foundations, trash piles, well shafts, and privy pits dating between ca. 1880 and 1920. Bounded by Sixth and Arizona avenues, and Pennington and Tenth streets, the block held several important historic structures. From 1882 till when it burned down in 1884, Tucson's house with stone, brick, and timber like the houses he knew back East. Side by side, in the same year, traditional Sonoran and Anglo houses rose near the new Southern Pacific Depot.

On the north side of the block, at 648 East Pennington, scraping exposed part of the brick foundations of a house built by Lorenzo Chillson in 1882-83. Chillson was a mining engineer and surveyor who worked throughout the Southwest, and he operated his business from this house. Scraping in an area near the corner of Sixth Avenue and Pennington Street exposed the basaltstone foundations of a house built by the wealthy merchant Luke Radulovich in 1893, which is described by files at the Arizona Historical Society as "one of the

first opera house stood at the corner of Sixth and Congress. The Lexington Stables were built on the ashes between 1884 and 1886, and its remnants were incorporated into buildings demolished only last winter. City directories and records of deed transfers, fire insurance maps, and family photos dating to the late 19th century allow structures to be related to some of Tucson's important pioneer families.

Description of Artifacts Shown on Page 1

A = Toothbrush of bone, marked no.350; b = toothbrush of bone marked 305-FRANCE/FRED FLEISHMAN/[arm with flag, wreath]/LAWERENCE TUCSON, ARIZ.; c = comb of celluloid, unmarked; d = pipe-stem fragment of clay, unmarked; e = button made of bone; f = buttons made of shell; g = buttons of milk glass (upper right is a calico button); h = collar-button of milk glass; i = domino of bone and wood; j = rubber ball; k = marbles made of "common" clay; l = "Bennington" marble of glazed ceramic; m = marbles of stone (upper left), whiteware clay (upper right), decorate porcelain (lower); n = Mexican toy pitcher of redware with clear glaze, 1½ inches tall; o = doll's head of porcelain (body would have been of cloth).

largest and most prestigious private residences in Tucson" at the turn of the century. Despite the ethnic and socioeconomic differences between these families, they all had backyard privies and used communal wells.

A wide variety of household debris from these known residences was found preserved in trash piles, privy pits, and abandoned well shafts. The kinds of artifacts one would expect to find

With a special wide backhoe blade, the foundations of several of the earliest residences on the block were exposed and mapped. In this way, the adobe foundations of a house constructed by Adolpho Vasquez in 1880 on the corner of Arizona Avenue and Tenth Street were fully exposed. Vasquez, a blacksmith and carriagemaker, built this large home in a traditional Sonoran architectural style, with a large front room and a long, central passage leading to a rear courtyard, with three small rooms on each side. Next door, at what was then No. 4 East 10th Street, the stone foundations of a house built by W. H. Reed in the same year were found. Reed, a Civil War veteran and carpenter who arrived in town With the Southern Pacific Railroad in 1880, built his in a frontier town of the Old West were common, including beer and whiskey bottles, bullets, horseshoes, fragments of leather harnesses, chamberpots, and spittoons. Patent medicine bottles were also common, including one labeled "Dr. Kilmer's Swamproot Kidney, Liver, and Bladder Cure," and another which claimed to cure "all diseases of the lung." Large quantities of beef and chicken bones were found in all of the deep features, but oyster and abalone shells were frequent only in the garbage of the wealthy Radulovich home, alongside fine porcelain and glassware, still-sealed French perfume bottles, and porcelain dolls' heads (see accompanying illustration). Unexpected finds included a man's pocketwatch, charred pages of a ledger

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or journal, and an unbroken, hand-blown lightbulb with filament intact (it could still work!).

A well was also excavated, yielding Tohono O'odham Indian pottery, Anglo china, Chinese porcelain, and a variety of bottles. The well is only 15 feet deep, indicating that the water table was quite near the surface during the early 1880s. All of the wells went out of use by 1889, after ill-fated irrigation schemes of Anglo entrepreneurs triggered a rapid entrenchment of the Santa Cruz River and a dramatic drop in the water table.

The recovered artifacts and faunal remains have been analyzed by specialists and a report is being prepared for the City of Tucson. Among the thousands of artifacts collected during the excavations, there were (get ready for this!) 16,135 animal bone fragments, 271 whole bottles and 5,169 bottle fragments, 623 Tohono O'odham pottery sherds, 1,666 other pieces of pottery, 155 buttons, 108 bullets, and 18 marbles. This is not a complete listing by any means—for instance, it doesn't include nails, rusty scraps of cans, or other unidentifiable metal objects that were recovered.

A particularly satisfying part of this historicalarchaeological project is the connection with real people. On the second day of work, Louis Vasquez and his wife showed up at the site to see the remains of his grandfather's house and to share useful details of family history. A few days later, three generations of the Vasquez family stood in the living room of their ancestral home for a family portrait. Together, oral history, archaeological remains, and historical records will be used to reconstruct life in this part of Tucson from the arrival of the railroad to just after the turn of the century.

Open House Memories

The Center for Desert Archaeology's April 12th Open House was a smashing success. An estimated 200 people visited with the staff and each other, partook of food and beverages, and admired displays of exceptional artifacts recovered during previous archaeological projects by Desert Archaeology, Inc. and its predecessor organization the Institute for American Research. Visitors included Archaeology in Tucson members, professional archaeologists, students, neighbors, and a host of others. We sincerely thank all of you who came-you made all the preparations worthwhile for us! Also, the Center for Desert Archaeology gives special thanks to the Arizona State Museum (University of Arizona) and to Huntington Trading Company for their loans of artifacts and exhibit cases that were used to set up the artifact displays!

Desert Archaeology T-Shirts Available at Center for Desert Archaeology

Did you miss out on getting one of the bright, new *Desert Archaeology* T-Shirts when they were first offered for sale at the Center for Desert Archaeology's Open House in April? Well, you're in luck! Most sizes, and



colors-peach 5 ,aqua, yellow, silver, and white---are still available! We have no smallsize shirts, but Archaeology in *Tucson* members can get medium & large-size shirts for \$10 apiece, extralarge for \$11 each. (Price for nonmembers is \$1 more per shirt.) Feel free to come by the Center for Desert Archae-

ology between 8 and 5, Mondays through Fridays, and pick out the T-shirt that's just right for you or for a friend. Or, you can order your T-shirts by mail: Please include name, mailing address, and the sizes and colors you want, and be sure to include \$1.00 extra per shirt for fourth-class postage.

AIT Membership Cards

A number of *Archaeology in Tucson* members have asked about their membership cards. We ran out of the blank cards earlier this year, but due to popular demand we will be having new ones printed soon. Please bear with us!

The Lower San Pedro Survey

The spring season of the Center for Desert Archaeology's Lower San Pedro river valley survey project came to an end in May. During this spring's phase of this archaeological reconnaissance survey, volunteer crews surveyed north to Aravaipa Creek, approximately nine miles north of Mammoth. So far, since the survey began near Redington, Arizona in early 1990, volunteers have covered a total valley length of over 32 miles, looking for archaeological sites on broad terraces and other prominent geographical landforms on both sides of the river. During this time, over 180 archaeological sites have been recorded for the first time. We're taking a break this summer, but survey will begin again this fall, probably in October.

The Archaeology Scene

News on What's Happening in Southern Arizona

This issue of *Archaeology in Tucson* features a summary of some of the archaeological and historical projects currently being conducted in southern Arizona. We thank Jim MacDonald (Coronado National Forest), Barbara Roth and David Stephen (Pima Community College), Linda Mayro (Pima County Department of Transportation), Jeff Altschul, Richard Ciolek-Torrello, and Stephanie Whittlesey (Statistical Research, Inc.), Richard Ahlstrom (SWCA, Inc.), and George Teague and Adrianne Rankin (Western Archeological and Conservation Center) for contributing the information that appears in the pages below.

So that we can make "The Archaeology Scene" a regular feature in coming *Archaeology in Tucson* newsletters, we are requesting input from archaeological contracting firms, government agencies, and other organizations regarding current archaeological projects in southern Arizona. If you have news for the *Archaeology in Tucson* audience please call Allen Dart, the newsletter editor, at 881-2244, or mail your information to the Center for Desert Archaeology.

Coronado National Forest. The U.S. Forest Service recently conducted a project to stabilize adobe ruins at Kentucky Camp, a historic-period mining camp in the Greaterville area of the Coronado National Forest, on the east slope of the Santa Rita Mountains. Four standing adobe buildings and a collapsed adobe barn were the focus of this year's work. Although fire crews were employed to reroof the buildings and repair damage to adobe walls, Coronado Forest archaeologist Jim MacDonald reports that there may be money in the future for additional stabilization and rehabilitation, in which volunteers could help with archaeological studies, adobe brick-making, carpentry, and other duties.

Desert Archaeology, Inc. Three separate phases of field work are slated for the recently initiated Roosevelt Community Development study in the Tonto Basin. The initial excavation phase began on June 10th and is expected to last till August 9th. There will be a brief period of in-house analysis after the initial excavation, then more extensive excavations will be carried out over a three- to four-month period beginning around October of this year; the first site tours are planned for the Fall 1991 excavation phase. A third and final phase of excavations will be carried out in the spring of 1992. Thirty-one sites are scheduled for investigation, including two platform mound communities (at Meddler Point and Pyramid Point) and a large 100-plus room pueblo at Griffin Wash. Occupations of the ruins spanned the Gila Butte through Sacaton phases



Black-on-white bowl recovered from the Boone Moore site, Tonto Basin, during Desert Archaeology's Rye Creek project. See "Slide Show to Be Presented," page 5.

(Preclassic period, ca. AD.750-1100), and the Roosevelt and Gila phases (Classic period, AD. 1100-1450). The Meddler Point site is perhaps the most complex, containing a Classic period platform mound with at least 12 associated masonry compounds. A large, Preclassicperiod pithouse component, perhaps dating as early as the Gila Butte phase, is also believed to be present based on the kinds of pottery seen at the site. [For more details on this project see the April 1991 *AIT* newsletter. The Arizona Archaeological and Historical Society is sponsoring a public lecture on Tonto Basin archaeology on July 15, see next page.]

Desert Archaeology recently finished a 300-acre survey on the Buenos Aires National Wildlife Refuge in the southern Altar Valley. The survey area is a half-mile north of the international boundary and 1-2 miles west of Arizona. Three apparently prehistoric Sasabe, archaeological sites were recorded. Two of the sites are undated scatters of plainware and redware sherds, chipped stone, and ground stone not associated with any visible third cultural features. The and largest site apparently was occupied between AD. 750 and 1000 judging from the Trincheras Purple-on-red pottery recovered from it. This site also contained redware and plainware pottery, ground stone, and chipped stone artifacts, including two Archaic period projectile points. A small cluster of rocks and an area of dark soil associated with a high density of

artifacts on this third site suggests that buried archaeological features are present.

Desert Archaeology is currently preparing reports on the archaeological excavations conducted on the Schuk Toak District of the Tohono O'odham Reservation last year (initial results were reported in the October 1990 *AIT* newsletter) and on several small archaeological projects that have been conducted recently for the City of Tucson.

Pima Community College. From May 15 through June 28 of this year, archaeologist Barbara Roth directed test excavations at three upper-bajada archaeological sites located near Owl Head Butte in the northern foothills of the Tortolita Mountains. Purpose of the project is to identify patterns of Archaic period land use. The sites chosen for study all contained surface rock features and stone artifacts, but few ceramics. Projectile point styles indicate that the locations were occupied mainly during the Middle Archaic and Late Archaic periods (ca. 5000 B.C. to A.D. 200 or later). The preliminary excavations yielded several chipped stone bifaces and projectile points, suggesting that hunting was quite important; but one site located next to a spring also contained bedrock mortars and lots of ground stone tools, suggesting greater reliance on gathered wild resources there.

Registration is now in progress for field archaeology classes at the Pima Community College west campus. For further information contact David Stephen or Helen O'Brien at 884-6022. **Pima County.** In addition to sponsoring several of the transportation-related archaeological projects being conducted by Statistical Research (see below), Pima County is providing input on a concept plan for a cultural park, and is sponsoring an archaeological-historical site signing program, and inventories of two historic districts. A draft concept plan has been submitted to the City of Tucson for the proposed San Agustin Cultural Park on the west side of the Santa Cruz River, from 22nd Street north almost to Congress Street. The proposed park would include the historic San Agustin Mission.

The Pima County site-signing program will involve placing signs to mark the locations of historic sites and events along all Pima County river parks and possibly also along scenic routes such as Silverbell, Redington, and River roads. The first signs to be installed will be in the Santa Cruz River Park, from Mission Lane south to where Silverlake Road crosses the Santa Cruz River.

A National Register nomination now in the works is for the Colossal Cave historic district. This proposed district would include the famous cave itself plus several structures associated with the historic Mountain Springs Ranch (known more recently as Posta Quemada) and with activities of the Civilian Conservation Corps in the 1930s. In preparation for this nomination, Statistical Research, Inc., conducted an archaeological survey of approximately 2,880 acres in the vicinity of Colossal Cave. The SRI survey resulted in the identification of some other small caves as well as

Slide Show to Be Presented on Tonto Basin Archaeology

Mark D. Elson, one of Desert Archaeology's project directors for the Roosevelt Community Development study being conducted in the Roosevelt Lake area, will present a free public lecture on Tonto Basin prehistory. Mark's talk, entitled "The Who, What, and Where of the Tonto Basin: Results of the Rye Creek Project" will be presented on Monday, July 15th. During this program Mark will delve into how the Tonto Basin for so long has been an area of archaeological controversy due to its large, spectacular ruins and its intriguing mixture of seemingly different cultural traditions. He will also summarize the research conducted during the Rye Creek excavation project by Desert Archaeology in the northern part of the Tonto Basin. That project has provided tantalizing clues as to the nature of the initial occupation in the region. A brief question-and-answer session will follow Mark's talk, then refreshments will be served.

Date: July 15, 1991

Time: 7:30 P.M.

Place: The Harvill Auditorium, University of Arizona

The Harvill Building is on the University of Arizona Campus on the northeast corner of Olive Road and East Second Street. To reach the auditorium, go to the northwest corner of the building, descend the concrete ramp that takes you to the downstairs level, then enter the first set of double-doors on your right.

> Sponsored by the Arizona Archaeological and Historical Society (An affiliate of the Arizona State Museum, University of Arizona)

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some prehistoric stone quarries, bedrock mortars, and ephemeral Hohokam settlements that were occupied during the Colonial through early Classic periods (AD. 750-1300).

Pima County is also conducting an inventory of Joessler Murphy structures still standing in Tucson and the county, through a federal survey and planning grant. Pima County and its co-participants in this project (the City of Tucson and the University of Arizona College of Architecture) will attempt to put together a thematic nomination for these structures, and are currently seeking public input in the form of historic building plans, photos, and other archival materials as well as oral histories and anecdotes about the structures.



Composite drawing from 12 paper labels found on bottles dating to ca. 1890. Recovered from AZ BB:13:9 (ASM) in City of Tucson Block 180 by Statistical Research, Inc.

Statistical Research, Inc. In excavations completed last November, AIT volunteers helped archaeologists from Statistical Research, Inc., investigate about 75 percent of the square block where the Pima County Public Works Center and a YMCA center are now nearing completion in downtown Tucson. This project resulted in the discovery of over 100 features, mostly of the American Territorial period (1870-1920). Historic features excavated included house foundations, three large trashfilled borrow pits, several smaller trash pits, nearly a dozen privies, two wells, several septic tanks, and two human burials that probably dated to the Mexican period of occupation. The skeletons were those of a young adult male and an older man, both of mixed Indian and European descent. The men were probably shot to death, judging from the stone arrow point found with one of the skeletons. This downtown excavation project also uncovered four Hohokam pithouses that were inhabited between the late Pioneer period (pre-AD. 750) and the early Classic period (AD. 1150-1350).

Statistical Research, Inc. also excavated the Houghton Road archaeological site that several *Archaeology in Tucson* members worked on last year. Excavations revealed ruins of seven prehistoric houses ranging from small structures whose functions are unknown to a deep, kidney-shaped pithouse whose floor covered 30 square meters. Also excavated were a large number of roasting pits, bellshaped pits, and mortuary features that included both flexed inhumations and primary cremations. In addition to plainware and a few redware ceramics, the site yielded Late Archaic period projectile points and a grinding assemblage characterized largely by milling stones used for wild resources. However, there was also evidence for corn agriculture. Despite its unusual location in the flood plain of the Tanque Verde and Caliente washes, the Houghton site is now believed to have been a fully sedentary hamlet that was inhabited during the early ceramic period, before the Hohokam culture became fully established in the Tucson area.

In the town of Arivaca, some 48 miles southwest of Tucson, Statistical Research, Inc. archaeologists conducted excavations at a small habitation site dated to approximately AD. 900. The site contained a surface structure, two roasting pits, and a trash midden. The architecture differed from that normally seen in Hohokam pithouses in that there were no house-pit walls, although there was a nicely plastered floor and a well-prepared hearth in the Arivaca house. Evidence of corn agriculture was recovered, suggesting that the site functioned as a farmstead, but there was also abundant evidence that oak trees were important for subsistence in this upland area. Processing of acorns is suggested by the many pestles and poorly modified tools in the site's ground stone assemblage, and flotation samples yielded lots of burned acorn fragments and oak charcoal. Pottery recovered from the site included Trincheras Purple-on-red and Nogales Polychrome, two hallmarks of the Trincheras cultural tradition of Sonora, as well as Red-on-brown and Red-on-buff pottery from the Tucson and Phoenix areas, respectively; the Tucson and Phoenix wares each accounted for approximately one-third of the decorated pottery assemblage, indicating fairly extensive interaction with the Hohokam who lived north of Arivaca. However, a petrographic study of the site's pottery, in which sands embedded in pottery were examined and compared to locally available wash-sands, indicated that Trincheras Purple-on-red pottery was manufactured at or near the Arivaca site. This discovery suggests that the site's inhabitants were more strongly affiliated with the Trincheras cultural tradition than with the Hohokam.

Statistical Research, Inc. recently installed an archaeology exhibit for the Civil Engineering Squadron's Environmental Quality Branch at Davis-Monthan Air Force Base. The exhibit illustrates archaeological excavations at three small Hohokam plant-processing sites investigated on the base last fall. People interested in viewing the exhibit should check in first at the Base Visitor Center just inside the Craycroft gate. The exhibit is in Building 4300, Room 207. Viewing hours are 7 AM to 3:30 PM.

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In July, Statistical Research, Inc. will begin excavation of two rockshelters at Fort Huachuca in southeastern Arizona. The shelters both appear to have been used by Apaches and each includes several large pictograph panels.

SWCA, Inc. This Tucson archaeological consulting company is currently involved in cultural studies in three areas of southern Arizona. One of their projects is a study of historical ethnoecology along Bonita Creek, a tributary of the Gila River near Safford. Although this project is concentrating on identifying the effects people have had on the land during the past century, information on the region's prehistory is being incorporated to provide additional background.

Another SWCA project in the Bonita Creek area is the restoration of a stone cabin built early in the 20th century, to be used by the Bureau of Land Management as an

interpretive site.

SWCA has been doing an archaeological survey for the City of Nogales in the vicinity of the Guevavi Mission ruins (see related article under Western Archeological and Conservation Center, below). This survey has revealed that the Guevavi area was occupied as early as the Late Archaic period, and that intensity occupational increased after ceramics were introduced to southern Arizona around the time of Christ or later. Most of the archaeological sites identified in the survey were occupied between A.D. 500 and 1450 by the Hohokam and during

Thousands of Sites

As of the end of June, 1991, the number of archaeological sites that had been recorded at the Arizona State Museum, University of Arizona, totaled a whopping 20,640.

Of this total, 675 sites were reported to the Museum as of January 1st of this year.

Exactly 1500 sites were reported to the Museum during the full preceding year.

Information courtesy Sharon F. Urban, Public Archaeologist, Arizona State Museum, University of Arizona.

the Protohistoric period (AD. 1450-1700) by early O'odham (Upper Piman) people. Some of the archaeological features discovered appear to be related to use of the Spanish Colonial period Guevavi Mission. Some postmission use of area by Hispanic farmers and ranchers is suggested by the discovery of relatively recent archaeological water-control features.

SWCA recently conducted archaeological testing for the Arizona Department of Transportation at Los Homos, a major Hohokam village on the south edge of Phoenix. The testing revealed evidence of occupations spanning the late Pioneer through Classic periods (pre-AD. 750 to AD. 1100-1450). SWCA is hoping to conduct more extensive excavations at Los Homos this fall.

Western Archeological and Conservation Center (National Park Service). In June, National Park Service archaeologists assisted by volunteers completed a ruinsstabilization project at the site of Guevavi, a Spanish Colonial period mission established by Father Eusebio Kino. This project was prompted by the recent addition of Guevavi and the nearby Calabasas mission ruins to the Tumacacori National Monument, creating the new Tumacacori National Historic Park. During the 1990 project at Guevavi, severe erosion was noted at the bases of the only two church walls still standing. Archaeological testing revealed that undercutting of the adobe walls was confined mostly to the present ground-surface level, but that archaeological deposits extend nearly 2 m deep. Intact architectural features discovered during the Park Service tests include two pilasters, fragments of painted plaster on the church walls, some floor fragments, and steps leading up to the altar.

> Artifacts recovered from the excavations included mostly pottery and stone tools made by the native O'odham (Upper Piman) Indians who lived near the mission, but some majolica pottery sherds and approximately 50 nails of European manufacture were also found.

> The National Park Service's archaeological survey of Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument continues into a third year. So far during this project around 7,000 acres (2% of the monument area) have been surveyed, resulting in documentation of 263 archaeological sites. The 1990 Organ Pipe

project is focusing on survey of about 900 acres around a Hohokam village that itself covers 200-250 acres. This site includes a 35 by 25 m feature with embankments over 1 m high, suggesting a functions as either a ballcourt or reservoir. Survey in this area this year has identified another 17 field-designated sites.

In another aspect of the Organ Pipe survey project conducted in the Monument's Pictograph Canyon area, Park Service archaeologists recorded 16 archaeological sites, including three rockshelters. Two of the shelters contained remnants of Prohibition-era stills overlying prehistoric materials. Other Pictograph Canyon sites associated with a 7000-year-old trail through the Bates Mountains were found to contain roasting pits and Archaic period projectile points.

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Membership Application

Archaeology in Tucson Membership Application		
Name		
Address		
City	State	
Zipcode	Telephone	
Annual Membership Dues Enclosed		
Annual Membership Rates		
Individual \$10 Family \$15	Corporate Rates:	MAIL TO:
Supporting \$25	Active \$100	Center for Desert Archaeology
Contributing \$50	Supporting \$200	245 South Plumer, Suite 14
Sustaining \$100 Patron \$500	Sustaining \$500	Tucson, AZ 85719 602-622-6663

Center for Desert Archaeology 300 E. University Blvd., Ste. 230 Tucson, AZ 85705

DATED MATERIAL - PLEASE DO NOT DELAY

The Center for Desert Archaeology

The Center for Desert Archaeology is a nonprofit, research and educational organization that specializes in the study of the archaeology and history of desert regions. Our Primary research focus has been southern Arizona.

Archaeology in Tucson is the membership program of the Center for Desert Archaeology. The Archaeology in Tucson Newsletter is published quarterly, and is one of the benefits that members receive. Lectures, site tours, discounts on publications, and participation in archaeological field projects are additional membership benefits. Memberships run for a full year from the time they are received.

Annual Membership Rates

Individual \$10, Family \$15, Supporting \$25, Contributing \$50, Sustaining \$100, Patron \$500.

Corporate Rates: Active \$100, Supporting \$200, Sustaining \$500.

