

Hohokam T-Shaped Stones

by Alan Ferg

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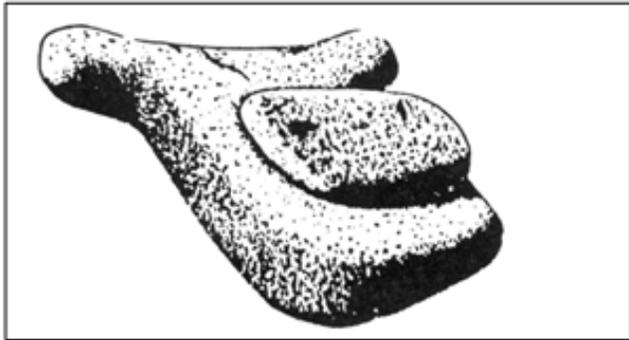


Figure 1. Stone artifacts collected by Carl Lumholtz near San Xavier in 1909-1910 (1912:Figure n, opposite p. 142).

In 1909 and 1910, Carl Lumholtz explored southern Arizona and northern Sonora, recording information about the geography, plants, animals, people, and the archaeological remains to be found in the region. Working for the American Museum of Natural History in New York, he collected numerous prehistoric artifacts as well as the tools and crafts of the Native Americans occupying the area at the time. While in the Tucson area, he collected an oddly shaped stone from near San Xavier Mission (Figure 1). Although it was being used as a metate at the time, he listed the stone as an "antiquity," apparently thinking or knowing it to be of prehistoric origin. Unfortunately, he wrote nothing else about it. This is the earliest known recording of a

Hohokam T-shaped stone by an archaeologist.

In 1929, another explorer and part-time archaeologist, Omar Turney, wrote of evidence for irrigation by the Hohokam in the Phoenix Basin. Talking about the artifacts he found during his mapping of prehistoric canals, Tumey (1929:119) commented on a "...puzzling stone shaped like the conventional escutcheon of a coat of arms; the upper corners forming rounded projections of the right size for a hand-hold, while the bottom edge is usually chisel shaped. We offer the suggestion that these stones were used in crushing or grinding; the weights run from 15 to 40 pounds."

Twenty years later another archaeologist, Charles DiPeso, found some T-shaped stones while excavating Hohokam pit houses along the Babocomari River, near Fort Huachuca. Working for the Amerind Foundation, DiPeso discovered one of these curious stones next to some pestles on the floor of a house (1951:Plates 28 and 53a) and concluded it was probably utilized for grinding, but using a side-to-side rocking motion, since it was so heavy that to use it in a pounding motion like a regular pestle would have been exhausting. He noted that these stones might also have been dropped on foodstuffs to be crushed, and classified them as "crushers" (1951:144).

[Continued on Page 2]



Figure 2. Hohokam T-shaped stones (Photographs by Helga Teiwes, Arizona State Museum, University of Arizona).

Hohokam T-Shaped Stones

(Continued)



Figure 3. Example of asymmetrical Hohokam T-shaped stone with pecked side notches (Photograph by Helga Teiwes, Arizona State Museum, University of Arizona).

A few years later, Julian Hayden's report was published on the 1940 excavations at the University Indian Ruin in Tucson. Hayden excavated part of the impressive platform mound at the site with Civilian Conservation Corps men, in cooperation with the National Park Service and the University of Arizona. He found one broken T-shaped stone and noted (1957:136) that such stones had been found in other ruins, but ". . . they are not at all common. None that the author has examined has been used as a grinding stone. . . nor have any been at all battered, thus refuting the suggestion that the 'ears' were handles of heavy 'muliers'. The use of these stones is problematical."

If these stones were not for crushing food, or perhaps clay for making pottery or adobe, what *would* they have been used for? Nearly 35 years later we have learned more about their geographic distribution (most are from the Tucson area and the adjacent San Pedro Valley) and their age, but their use is still uncertain.

ATTRIBUTES OF HOHOKAM T-SHAPED STONES. In 1983, Arizona State Museum archaeologist Martyn Tagg found two of these stones together at a small Hohokam pithouse village near Catalina (Tagg 1983). At that time, I started collecting data on additional examples. Based on over 60 specimens we can now say that they vary greatly in details of shape and manufacture (Figures 2-3). Some are simply flat river cobbles with notches pecked into their sides and often lopsided in outline (Simpson and Wells 1984:Figure 47). Some have only had natural projections accentuated by pecking to form "ears" or "handles,"

while others' entire surfaces have been carefully pecked and ground to a more formal shape, a task that would have taken a great deal of time and hard work. The carefully shaped ones can be extremely symmetrical (Figure 2). The stones can be made of gneiss or granite but are usually made from dense, heavy quartzites, basalts or rhyolites, and can weigh up to 30 pounds. They average about a foot high and a foot wide, and 2 to 3 inches thick. They should not be confused with much thinner T-shaped tabular stones that were used as knives (as illustrated by Fewkes [1912:No. 251672, Plate 70]; Lumholtz [1912:Figure a, opposite p. 142]; DiPeso [1956:453-455]; Greenleaf [1975:Figure 5.13g]; Rice [1987:Figure 6.2b]).

USE-WEAR VERSUS REUSE. Although battered or abraded areas on stone will be interpreted in different ways by different researchers, I believe that on the 40-plus Hohokam T-shaped stones that I have examined (including the examples from Babocomari Village), all of the pecking and grinding seen is the result of shaping these objects, and is not use-wear. One might argue that processing of vegetal materials might not leave any discernible use-wear on some of the hard stones used. However, I cannot help but think that even using them on a soft material, for example, in pulping cooked agave, would eventually cause a permanent polish of some sort to develop on the working edge. I have seen no evidence of this on either the "bottom" edge of T-shaped stones, or on the "ears" where they would, if used as pestles, have been held. Hayden, as quoted above, was disinclined to believe they were pestles in that he, too, saw no evidence of battering. He does note a specimen found near Casa Grande that archaeologist Charlie Steen felt had polished ears or handles and a "reshaped or freshened" lower edge (Hayden 1957:136-137). I believe this is a specimen now at the Western Archeological and Conservation Center in Tucson. Although its ears are begrimed, I think that the pecking on this specimen, too, was to shape it and is not evidence of its use as a crusher.

The possibility has also been suggested that the substantial weight of some T-shaped stones does not preclude their use as pestles, in that such a stone could have been suspended from a flexible spring-pole by a rope tied about its middle, under the ears. Such an arrangement is illustrated by Moorehead (1905:Figure 76A) for a conventional elongate pestle and is attributed to Schoolcraft (1847). However, I have been unable to find such an illustration in the latter report. Regardless, while such a suspension arrangement is possible for T-shaped stones, use as a pestle should produce some sort of wear on the bottom, and perhaps some polish under the ears, neither

of which seems to be in evidence.

A more definitive answer to questions about use-wear and suspension-polish might be possible with experimental studies of T-shaped stones used for crushing clay and plant materials. One would then still have to explain the extremely variable shape of the "bottom" edge, which can vary from completely flat, to curved and rounded, to pointed or wedge-shaped.

Finally, there is the possibility that T-shaped stones are simply some sort of metate with an elaborate body form. Lumholtz's specimen was apparently being used as a metate when found. Hayden's drawing (1957:Plate XXVI_f) indicates the University Indian Ruin specimen had one ground face. I suggest, however, that these particular artifacts represent either secondary reuses of T-shaped stones or old metates since reworked into T-shaped stones. Lumholtz's artifact may have been in use by the Tohono O'odham as a metate when he collected it. Neither it nor Hayden's are currently available for examination, but another T-shaped stone I have seen in a private collection was clearly pecked from what had once been a trough

metate. Likewise, another

T-shaped stone for sale in a gallery in Scottsdale had shallow mortar worn into one face.

LOCATION AND CONTEXT.

Archaeologists routinely depend on an artifact's provenience and context, specialized analyses, or ethnographic analogies, to help them interpret the artifact's use. Hohokam T-shaped stones have been found in a variety of contexts, including prehistoric fields where agaves are believed to have been grown for use as food or fiber (3 occurrences). They have also been found on the floors of pithouses along with other, more common artifacts including pots, manos, metates and chipped stone tools (3 occurrences). They have been found in extramural pits (1), recycled as building stone in the walls of Hohokam pithouses (1), and apparently discarded in trash deposits (1). Occasionally they are found in pairs (3 occurrences).

Geographically, most T-shaped stones known have been found in the Tucson area and adjacent parts of the San Pedro River Valley as far south as Fort Huachuca. A few examples have been reported from as far east as the Safford area, and north to Marana. Two specimens with poorly documented histories may be from near Casa Grande. A number are known from north of Phoenix, in the Cave Creek, Bloody Basin, Perry Mesa

(Pilles and Katich 1967:18, Plate 18) and Horseshoe Dam area. Curiously, with one exception from Buckeye (Turney 1929: 119), none are known from the Phoenix Basin proper, even though the prehistoric Indians in all of these areas are thought of as Hohokam and probably had numerous beliefs and technologies in common.

Even more clearly defined is the temporal distribution of these stones. A small number may date to the Late Rincon phase (AD. 1100-1150). The vast majority of those found in good association with datable houses or pottery are Tanque Verde phase (AD. 1150-1300) in age. Only three are known from Tucson phase (AD. 1300-1450) contexts. One of the latter is Hayden's broken specimen from University Indian Ruin, and it was being used in a manner probably completely unrelated to its original function--it was one of several stones capping a pit in the floor of a room. There are no known earlier antecedent artifacts, and no historic survivals that appear to have been used in the same manner as the ancient ones.

~~A Name for Hohokam T-Shaped Stones?~~

Editor's note: In 1983, David A. Philips, Jr., noted fellow archaeologist Alan Ferg's unusual interest in Hohokam T-Shaped stones and proposed the following tongue-in-cheek name for these artifacts:

FERGOLITH (Fergh-un-lith) n., large portable artifact of pecked and ground stone, with no known function (either utilitarian or ritual). Fergoliths may represent

examples of prehistoric deviant behavior. [From *Ferg*

(=Geeba [which see]) + *lith* (Gr. *Lithos*, "rock").

SPECIALIZED FUNCTIONAL ANALYSES.

Pollen washes of a T-shaped stone from an outdoor pit at the Abused Ridge site and another stone found on the surface of Indian Town Ruin (both near Catalina) were not enlightening about the uses of these artifacts. Unfortunately,

many T-shaped stones were surface finds, or were washed during analysis, or have

been sitting out-of-doors for many years; pollen analysis on these would be pointless. However, any newly excavated specimens should be immediately bagged for pollen wash.

An approach not yet tried for determining whether T-shaped stones had a plant food-or-fiber-processing function is examination for the presence of plant oxalate crystals, as has been done for Hohokam tabular knives (Bernard-Shaw 1983:439-440). For instance, if the presence of oxalate crystals typically formed by agave plants could be demonstrated, it would bolster the argument that T-shaped stones were somehow utilized in the processing of agave.

SOME SPECULATIONS. So what are Hohokam T-shaped stones? Boat anchors (see Gladwin 1979)? Canal sluice-gates? Counterweights for the dumbwaiters in the Hohokam Big Houses? Catcher's protectors for participants in the Hohokam ball game? Stone bicycle seats? Dog doors for cruel people (hence the development of the Indian Short-Faced breed)? Or are they just Castanets of the Gods?

[Don't miss the exciting conclusion of Alan Ferg's "Hohokam T-Shaped Stones" in the next AIT newsletter!]

Archaeology in Tucson's Volunteer-Surveyed Area Gets National Recognition

Many *Archaeology in Tucson* members participated in a survey to identify archaeological sites around Gunsight Mountain, an outlying peak of the Sierrita Mountains southwest of Tucson, in 1987, 1988, and 1989. The survey covered approximately 3,970 acres (6.2 square miles) and resulted in documentation of 130 archaeological sites. Not only did the *AIT* volunteers get to experience the thrill of discovering archaeological sites, features, and artifacts that had never before been recorded by professional archaeologists, they also got to enjoy wide-open scenery, clean desert-mountain air, and encounters with deer, javelinas, and other wildlife. (There were also occasional minor adversities such as flat tires and worse damage to vehicles, plus encounters with cactus thorns, scorching heat, and freezing cold, but as they say, that's life!) All of their work (or was it play?) also paid off in another way, however. The Gunsight Mountain Archaeological District was listed in the National Register of Historic Places in Washington, D.C., on June 21, 1991.

Twelve of the sites in this archaeological district are believed to have been occupied during the Archaic periods between 7500 B.C. and AD. 200 or so. Occupation of the Gunsight Mountain area appears to have continued with little or no interruption after the end of the Archaic period, because the earliest Hohokam sites date to the Pioneer period (ca. AD. 200 to 750). At least 115 of the Gunsight Mountain archaeological sites are believed to have been occupied by the Hohokam, including settlements with evidence of fairly intensive habitation between A.D. 850 and 1450. Other sites not utilized for habitation were apparently used for farming, gathering and processing the area's natural resources, making petroglyphs, or temporary shelter. The area was virtually abandoned from ca. 1450 until the late 19th century, when ranchers and miners began utilizing the land around Gunsight Mountain and occasionally building houses there.

Within the 130 archaeological sites, over 400 cultural features were visible. The archaeological features include 97 earthen mounds representing both trash heaps and prehistoric above-ground structures, 2 Hohokam pithouses (1 discernible in an erosional exposure, the other in the configuration of a pot-hunters' hole), 176 mortar holes in bedrock and immovable boulders, 9 polished bedrock metates or "slicks," 10 stone check-dams built to control rain-water runoff in farming plots, 27 rock clusters indicating the locations of roasting pits, 4 rock rings, 57 other rock clusters (some are probably Hohokam agricultural features), 3

pits, 23 petroglyph design elements, and recognizably historic-period features including 3 or 4 houses or house ruins, 8 fences and walls, and 9 other masonry features. Also noted were 2 rock shelters containing prehistoric cultural material. The various categories of artifacts and other cultural materials encountered during the survey are typical of archaeological assemblages in the Tucson area.

Besides archaeological sites, 167 other locations recorded during the survey were found to include isolated artifacts (mostly prehistoric) plus various post-1945 features, among them an abandoned habitation site; several recent mine tunnels, shafts, and prospects; over 100 rock piles, rock clusters, and posts interpreted as monuments marking mining claims; and rock cairns on mountain tops.

The National Register is the Nation's official listing of cultural resources worthy of preservation, and the listing formally recognizes the Gunsight Mountain Archaeological District's potential to produce abundant information on life in ancient times in the vicinity of Tucson. *Archaeology in Tucson* members are to be commended for the efforts they contributed toward making this national recognition a reality!

AIT's Lower San Pedro Survey to Start Third All-Volunteer Field Season in October 1991

Archaeology in Tucson volunteers have been helping scout out the terraces overlooking the San Pedro River, northeast of Tucson, for archaeological sites for the past two years (see stories in previous *AIT* newsletters). The third field season of the Lower San Pedro survey will begin in October and run into the spring of 1992. This project is funded solely by the Center for Desert Archaeology and its volunteers. Luckily, almost every volunteer on this project has shared in exciting discoveries. It is extremely rare for any of our crews to finish a day without finding at least one previously unknown archaeological site.

If you are interested in participating in the Lower San Pedro survey project this fall, now's the time to start preparing yourself. Most of our first-time volunteers have been surprised at how hilly the survey areas are. That's because instead of covering the flatter, brush-covered areas close to the river, we're concentrating our efforts on the mesas and terrace-ridges up above the flood plain, where inspections in years past found the largest prehistoric sites in the San Pedro Valley. The best thing you can do to get yourself in shape is to work on building up your legs and breathing capabilities by riding a bicycle, climbing stairs, or just *walking* on a regular basis.

The only requirements for participating in the Lower San Pedro survey are that you be in good physical condition and that you be a current, paid-up member of *Archaeology in Tucson*. Our current plan is to survey the rest of the way north from Aravaipa Creek (where we left off last spring) down to where the

Lower San Pedro Survey Dates

| | |
|-------------|----------|
| October 5 | Saturday |
| October 20 | Sunday |
| November 2 | Saturday |
| November 17 | Sunday |
| December 7 | Saturday |
| December 15 | Sunday |

San Pedro River joins the Gila River at the town of Winkelman. If the weather cooperates we will go out on the first Saturdays and the third Sundays of October, November, and December, beginning October 5th. The survey may continue into the spring of 1992. If you want to sign up to surveyor need more information please call Al Dart at 881-2244.

Benson Bottlehound Busted

A Benson man cited in March for collecting artifacts at the historic townsite of Charleston was found guilty in U.S. District Court on July 16. Fred Trujillo, Jr., pleaded guilty to a misdemeanor violation of the Archaeological Resources Protection Act (ARPA), a law that prohibits collection and destruction of both prehistoric and historic resources located on federal lands. Trujillo was observed digging for old bottles at the historic townsite near Tombstone by personnel from the Bureau of Land Management, the federal agency that manages the San Pedro Riparian National Conservation Area between the Mexican border and St. David. This is the first conviction under the ARPA for the BLM Safford District, and the second for the BLM in the State of Arizona. A fine of \$754.40 levied by the judge will be used for repair and restoration costs at the townsite.

Two Bureau of Land Management officials spoke out after the conviction. "We are beginning to see the results of our increased patrol efforts," said BLM District Manager Ray Brady. "The BLM will continue to pursue convictions of those who violate cultural resource laws." And BLM archaeologist John Herron remarked, "We hope to educate people that collecting cultural materials—no matter how small—from federal lands is not only against the law, it is an irreplaceable loss of history for all of mankind. Each artifact that is taken or destroyed is another missing part to the story of our heritage."

Part of the BLM's cultural resources program is aimed at public education. Through public service announcements, interpretive displays, and presentations at local schools, the Bureau is trying to increase awareness of Arizona's rich cultural legacy and the need for its protection.

School Kids Dig Archaeology

To teach elementary-level school children the difference between archaeology and uncontrolled digging for artifacts, in 1984 the Tucson Unified School District developed a program called *Archaeology is More Than a Dig*. At a make-believe ancient living site reconstructed every year at Camp Cooper (an environmental education center in the Tucson Mountains), TUSD kids participate in day-and-a-half-long sessions where they learn archaeological orientation, excavation, and artifact analysis.

Volunteers are needed to help with Camp Cooper's 7th season this fall. Information on Camp Cooper and the September 20-21 training session can be obtained from Linda Gregonis (323-9338) or Lee Fratt (881-0526).

Free Brochures Available

The Arizona State Historic Preservation Office (SHPO) reports the availability of three free brochures dealing with Arizona archaeology and history. Two of them include brief descriptions, locations, hours of business, and a phone number for more information on each archaeological and historic park in Arizona. "Arizona's Archaeological Parks & Sites" is a colorful 8-page brochure that highlights both the better-known and obscure archaeological resources in most areas of Arizona. Visitors and long-time residents alike will find this handy guide a useful accompaniment to their travels across Arizona in search of our state's prehistoric and historic archaeological resources. "Arizona's Historic Parks and Sites" is a similar publication that highlights historic resources across the state. Each brochure's listings are organized by county and include an overall reference map of the state to assist in locating the parks and sites. These publications reveal that the state offers many opportunities to discover its colorful past through the archaeological and historical parks and sites that are open to the public. Prehistoric cliff dwellings and ancient villages, as well as historic log mansions, Spanish missions, frontier forts, and Victorian homes, and other important features from Arizona's past await your discovery.

Another brochure, produced by the Arizona Archaeological Council, describes two human burial protection laws passed by the Arizona Legislature last year. Titled "Human Burials, Sacred Objects, and You!" it summarizes the new state burial laws and what they mean to individuals and organizations throughout Arizona.

All three brochures can be obtained by calling the SHPO in Phoenix at (602) 542-4009 or 542-4174. The burial law brochure is also available from the Arizona State Museum, University of Arizona (621-4794).

The Archaeology Scene

News on What's Happening in Southern Arizona

Arizona Archaeological and Historical Society.

Tickets are being sold for the annual raffle to raise money for the AAHS scholarship and research grants fund. Upcoming programs include slide-illustrated archaeology lectures (September 16, October 21); weekend archaeology field trips to sites on Fort Huachuca Army base (September 21) and near Roosevelt Lake (October 26-27); courses and workshops on maps and mapping, history of Tucson's Fort Lowell, and primitive pottery-making (September and October); and a book sale to benefit the Arizona State Museum Library (Spring 1992). For the book sale AAHS requests donations of publications on Native Americans and other cultures, archaeology, history, and related fields. For further information on AAHS activities call Al Dart at 327-3509 in Tucson.

Arizona Archaeological Society. AAS will be conducting a 2-week excavation project in Winslow September 9-20 at the Brigham City Fort, one of four Mormon colonies founded on the Little Colorado River in 1876, and possibly the site of Arizona's first Anglo-American pottery kiln. Camping (no facilities!) is available on-site; there are motels and restaurants in Winslow. Participants are wholly responsible for their own meals, housing, transportation; will be assigned to excavate in either the potter's shop or the adjacent dining hall depending on turnout and previous experience; and are asked to commit to at least 2 or 3 days (for continuity to be maintained in excavations). Fees: \$15 annual AAS membership plus one-time \$10 insurance/supplies charge. Time is short! If at all interested call Alan Ferg in Tucson NOW at 670-6576 (weekdays) or 623-1228.

Coronado National Forest. Rucker Camp was an outpost of the 19th century Apache wars that later became the subject of highly acclaimed novels of Arizona ranch life. Volunteers are needed October 6-19 to help Coronado National Forest archaeologists photograph, map, survey, grid, and conduct controlled surface artifact recording at this historic site (and at an associated heliograph station and related historic resources), to prepare sites for more in-depth interpretation. Volunteers are also needed to help with photography, mapping/profiling, and preparing interpretive signs during archaeological testing next spring. For information contact Bill Gillespie (670-5451).

Desert Archaeology, Inc. The first fieldwork phase of the Roosevelt Community Development project (see previous *AIT* newsletters) ended on August 14. Testing of the Pyramid Point platform mound revealed adobe-and-rock walls still standing 1.5 m high, and an earlier adobe wall beneath the upper wall. Prehistoric handprints were found in the Meddler Ruin platform

mound's adobe walls. The next, more intensive field excavation phase starts October 14 and continues into February.

In August an archaeological testing project was conducted for the City of Tucson on a downtown lot just south of where the historic Catalina Hotel stood. Testing revealed foundations of 3 structures, 4 possible privy pits, 1 trash pit, and a historic dog burial (complete with sawed ham bone!) all dating between 1880 and 1944.

Pima County Department of Transportation. Archaeological testing was conducted recently in conjunction with a flood control project along the west bank of the Santa Cruz River, adjacent to Silver Bell golf course. AZ AA:12:95 (ASM), a nearby prehistoric site previously impacted by the golf course and landfill, was first thought to extend into the project area but testing confirmed only landfill deposits within County's 50-foot right-of-way.

Farther downriver, a 7-mile survey was conducted from Point of the Mountain north to Sanders Road in Marana for a flood control project along the east side of the Santa Cruz. Surprisingly, no archaeological sites were encountered there.

The Colossal Cave National Register nomination and draft report mentioned in the last newsletter have been submitted to the State Historic Preservation Office for review.

Statistical Research, Inc. Archaeological excavations were conducted in July at two rockshelters located in Garden Canyon on the Fort Huachuca Army Base. The only buried cultural items found in one rockshelter were some 8-row corncobs, but these were in the upper 10 cm of the deposit and are believed to be modern. Prior to excavations, pictographs in the other shelter had been identified as Apache ceremonial art by a representative of the San Carlos Apache Tribe. Excavations revealed cultural deposits extending about 70 cm deep but no archaeological evidence for Apachean habitation. However, abundant artifacts of the Formative, or early Hohokam period were recovered. This shelter also contained buried, stratified hearths that should provide useful information on subsistence, dating, and Formative period use of the southeastern Arizona uplands at elevations between 6000 and 7000 feet.

At the same time SRI was working in the rockshelters, Fort Huachuca archaeologist Marie Cottrell conducted excavations at the Garden Canyon site, a large Formative period settlement. Buried pithouses and other cultural features were identified during that investigation.

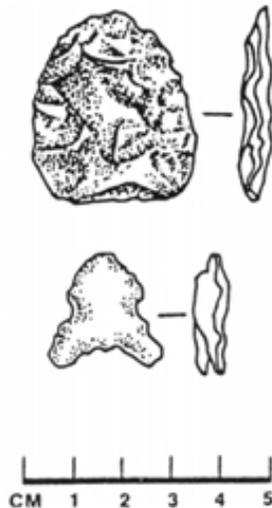
Beginning August 26th, SRI began a project to monitor installation of a small waterline in Catalina. This waterline passes through two known sites, a Hohokam village and a smaller sherd and lithic scatter.

SWCA Environmental Consultants. Under the direction of the Bureau of Land Management, Safford District, SWCA has completed the restoration of the Bonita Creek Stone Cabin near Safford (see June 1991 newsletter). The cabin is located on a sandy terrace west of the confluence of Bonita Creek with the Gila River. Besides the cabin features this site, AZ CC:3:2 (ASM), also was a location where General Kearny camped. The history of the cabin is difficult to trace but the earliest recorded sale of the property was in 1939. Features associated with the cabin are an outbuilding and remnants of a corral (neither was reconstructed). Previous to the cabin restoration only two-and-one-half of its walls were standing and these had been badly damaged by looting of the structure for wood, roof materials, and any belongings inside. The cabin was rebuilt using the original stone found at the site, new lumber, and a new tin roof. Information on visitation and history of the Bonita Creek cabin site can be obtained from the BLM Safford Office at (602) 428-4040.

In another recent project, archaeological survey for US West Communications identified seven sites on State of Arizona-managed lands between southeastern Tucson and Huachuca City. These sites were subsequently mapped, surface-collected, and tested for subsurface density. Preliminary analysis of the artifacts and features suggests a diversity of temporal occupation and site use.

The sites range in age from the Archaic to Historic periods. One Archaic site, AZ EE:3:12 (ASM), was originally reported in Norman Whalen's 1971 dissertation from the University of Arizona. SWCA archaeologists recovered a Chiricahua-style point (Middle Archaic, 4800-1500 B.C.) and unfinished and broken points and bifaces (see illustration), as well as several manos and metates associated with the Archaic *Artifacts from AZ EE:3:12* occupations. One of the *recovered in SWCA project*.

larger habitation sites, AZ EE:2:164 (ASM), is associated with the Sedentary-Classic period Hohokam. This site, located on the Cienega Creek drainage, has yielded various Hohokam ceramics as well as intrusive Winslow Orange and Tuwiuca Black-on-orange types that date



between AD. 1275 and 1350. Analysis of stone artifact data from all of the sites suggests that higher quality rock (chert, chalcedony, etc.) and bifacial reduction method were used by the Archaic peoples, in contrast to the use of locally available rock (basalt, quartzite, etc.) and core-flake reduction method by the later, more sedentary cultures.

The geographic location as well as artifact and cultural feature data from several of these sites suggests that they were used seasonally and only occupied for short durations. A Sedentary-early Classic period Hohokam site, AZ EE:3:37 (ASM), is situated at the bottom of a wide wash and bears evidence of temporary and possibly seasonal occupations; several of its features cluster around a shallow basin where water collects and riparian plants grow, making it an optimal area for prehistoric exploitation during stressful times or during long forays over extensive territory.

Another project recently completed by SWCA archaeologists was a linear survey for Arizona Electric Power Cooperative near San Jose, Arizona, south of the Gila River and just northeast of the San Simon Valley. Fifteen sites were recorded within a narrow and short right-of-way. The sites include checkerboard agricultural terrace features, foundations of rooms, sherd and lithic scatters, and human-made rock/cobble features. The presence of these sites and others previously recorded indicates a diverse use of the general area as well as a great quantity of archaeological materials still to be discovered in the vicinity.

Western Archeological and Conservation Center (National Park Service). In November or December the National Park Service will conduct intensive surface - recording and limited excavations at three archaeological sites in Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument over a period of two weeks. Two of the sites have Archaic and Hohokam materials, and one of these two also has a historic Anglo component. The third site is a lithic scatter of undetermined cultural and temporal affiliation.

WACC participates in the Volunteers in the Parks Program. Opportunities may be available from time to time for volunteers to do laboratory or field work. Call 670-6501 for information.

[The Archaeology Scene is a regular feature of the *Archaeology in Tucson* newsletter. Information for this feature may be submitted to Allen Dart, the editor, at the Center for Desert Archaeology, phone (602) 881-2244.]

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*Hohokam T-shaped stone from southern Arizona.
Arizona State Museum, University of Arizona.
Helga Teiwes, photographer.*

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