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Kentucky Camp: Big Dreams, Small Prospects

By Mary Farrell

Coronado National Forest, Tucson



This adobe-brick building at southeastern Arizona's "Kentucky Camp" was originally the office of the Santa Rita Water & Mining Company. It was used later as a ranch house. This photo, courtesy of the Coronado National Forest office in Tucson, was taken in 1989 before the U.S. Forest Service began stabilization work.

Once the scene of grandiose engineering schemes and optimistic mining activities, Kentucky Camp - a small gold mining camp in southeastern Arizona had been abandoned for decades. But recently this locale on the Coronado National Forest has come alive again, thanks to "Passport in Time" volunteers, "Friends of Kentucky Camp," and others. These partners are joining with the United States Forest Service to preserve the site for the future.

The story of Kentucky Camp, Arizona, really begins about 55 million years ago at the end of the Laramide orogeny, a time of great earth movement and mountain building. Hot solutions bearing gold and other minerals worked their way into the faults and fissures of folded and compressed rock that would eventually become known as the Santa Rita Mountains. Later, between 40 and 24 million years ago, these mineral-laden veins eroded along with the host rock, freeing the gold.

Long before anybody arrived on the scene,

water and gravity began the gold-milling process better than any human invention, carrying and concentrating the small particles of gold along the bottoms of streams and gulches. These are "placer" deposits: stream-laid sands and gravels that contain eroded particles of valuable minerals. Miners finish the concentrating process begun by nature, using gold pans or rockers or other devices to help settle the heavy gold, and to wash away the other, lighter minerals and rocks.

Early Prospects. The placer gold in the Greaterville Mining District, in the Santa Rita Mountains of southeastern Arizona, was discovered in 1874. For a few years following the discovery the Greaterville District was alive with placer mining activity. In 1875 an *Arizona Citizen* article reported that one "Horace Arden, not noted for working imprudently hard" was recovering an ounce of gold a day, even though he had to pack

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Calabasas Park Archaeology

Heidi Roberts

SWCA, Inc.,

Tucson

Archaeological studies by SWCA, Inc.

Environmental Consultants, in Santa Cruz County's new Calabasas Park have reopened an old chapter in Arizona's history: Spanish land grants and the ensuing ownership disputes. The park, including loop road, picnic facilities, and parking lot, is located in the lush riparian environment along the Santa Cruz River about five miles north of Nogales, Arizona. Positioned between the ruins of two Spanish missions, Calabasas and Guevavi, the park is in an area steeped in history.

In September 1992, under contract to Santa Cruz County, SWCA conducted archival and field studies of the six archaeological sites within Calabasas Park to preserve information that might be destroyed or degraded through impacts from park development and to serve as a baseline record for long-term monitoring of archaeological site condition. Although information recovery

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Kentucky Camp: Big Dreams, Small Prospects

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the pay dirt to water for washing. Such success stories brought between 200 and 500 miners to the district in the 1870s. Productive gulches, from the one called Boston on the south to Empire on the north, proved to be the largest and richest placer ground in southern Arizona. A quarter-million dollars worth of gold was recovered from 1873 to 1875 in the Greaterville placers. One nugget weighed 37 ounces.

The main camp of the district was Greaterville. At its peak in the late 1870s it had three stores, a saloon, a school, and a post office. In one miner's memory, "most of the business was done by Americans, but most of the placer digging and washing of the gold was done by Mexicans, Yaqui, and Opata people." Miners Pablo Chavez, Candelario Gonzales, and others staked claims along Kentucky Gulch, one of several productive gulches in the district. Some of the first claims were later sold to others, including J. W. Steele, Ross and Mabel Wemple, and the Mineral Park Mining Company.

The following description of the smaller-scale workings at the turn of the century by J. M. Hill, a geologist with the U.S. Geological Survey, is probably illustrative of the earliest mining in the district:

Water is extremely rare in the Greaterville Placer district, so the means of working the gravels are limited. Dry washing has not provided great success, as considerable clay is found in the pay dirt. Rocking has been the chief method employed for the recovery of values.

Small shafts, usually 1-1/2 by 5 feet in cross section, are sunk through the overburden, where it exceeds 3 or 4 feet in depth, to the bedrock. The gravels next to bedrock and for 2 feet above it are gouged out and hoisted to the surface by crude hand windlasses. In some of the pits seen the gravels for a radius of 20 feet were excavated from one small shaft. No lagging was used and there was apparently a constant menace of caving.

When there was a sufficient accumulation of the bed-rock gravels to supply the rockers for a few days, water was purchased and the extraction of the gold commenced. Usually two men worked together, but often one man would break down, hoist, and rock his gravels alone.

This sort of one- or two-person operation left the piles of dirt and gravel that form the hummocky landscape you can still see today in many gulches of the Greaterville District. But by the end of the 1880s the Greaterville placers were "worked out": all the easily obtainable gold had been recovered.

The major difficulty in mining the Greaterville placers was the lack of water. Although some large nuggets were discovered, much of the gold occurred in small flecks and flakes bound and hidden by clay, so water was needed to separate the precious mineral from the unwanted dirt that hid it. But the

gulches of the Greaterville District were usually dry, leaving

miners with two choices: they could haul their pay dirt to the few running streams, or haul water to their diggings. Some entrepreneurs carried water to the placer deposits in canvas and goatskin bags packed on the backs of burros, selling their water for \$3 per gallon. Still, such mining required intensive labor. The rich deposits that could repay these efforts were worked out by 1886, and all but a few miners gave up and moved on.



Entrepreneurs sold bags of water to miners working placer deposits near Greaterville. Photo courtesy of the Arizona Historical Society/Tucson, # 46089.

The Santa Rita Water and Mining Company. At the turn of the century, engineer James B. Stetson and millionaire George McAvery teamed up to solve the area's continuing water shortage, forming the Santa Rita Water and Mining Company. Their plan was to construct a water system to bring water from streams farther south in the Santa Ritas to the dry gulches near Kentucky Camp.

From 1902 to 1905 Stetson's and McAvery's company built 8½ miles of ditches, pipelines, and tunnels to transport water to the placer fields. On January 17, 1903, *The Arizona Daily Star* reported:

| | | |
|---|-----------------|---|
| The Arizona Daily Star | Tucson, Arizona | January 17, 1903 |
| James B. Stetson, who represents a California company, has 40 men employed in the preliminary work of opening a | ditch | Fully \$200,000 will be expended before actual work in working the ground is begun. |

Kentucky Camp, the company headquarters, was built about 1904. It included five one-story adobe buildings, built in an "American vernacular" style—Mexican construction techniques were married to Anglo floor plans and facades, and locally produced adobe bricks were combined with milled lumber and ready-made doors and windows. A room in the largest building, the "office," was said to be full of maps and deeds to the many mining claims that the company purchased. The company owned over 1000 acres of patented land and held rights to 2000 more. Two small three-room cabins may have housed Stetson and other high-ranking company personnel. One building was designed for processing the anticipated gold.

At the heart of the operation was the water system. Water was diverted from three permanent streams, collected in a small reservoir, and transported in low-gradient open ditches and closed steel pipes. Ditches contoured across hill slopes, and pipelines 15 and 24 inches in diameter were used to traverse narrow canyons and valleys. Small wooden and rock trestles were built to cross lesser drainages, and different kinds of gates regulated water flow along the route. There were even two tunnels within the ditch system to cross drainage divides before

the water was eventually delivered to a ridge top near Kentucky Camp. From there, smaller pipes and hoses ran down hill slopes to blast away gravel deposits with a stream of water under very high pressure.

This sort of hydraulic mining was very successful in California, where portions of rivers could be diverted and whole hillsides were washed away. Although rivers are scarcer in southeastern Arizona, the Santa Rita Water and Mining Company figured that the year-round streams in canyons to the south could supply enough water to make the Greaterville placer deposits quite profitable again. Unfortunately, the weather was initially uncooperative. In 1904, *The Arizona Daily Star* reported "During the last year there has been scarcely enough water coming down the canyon to furnish sufficient quantity for making cement."

But the summer rains did finally arrive later that same year. Reporting on a test run by the Santa Rita Water and Mining Company in August 1904, *The Arizona Daily Star* included the much more optimistic report reproduced on the right.

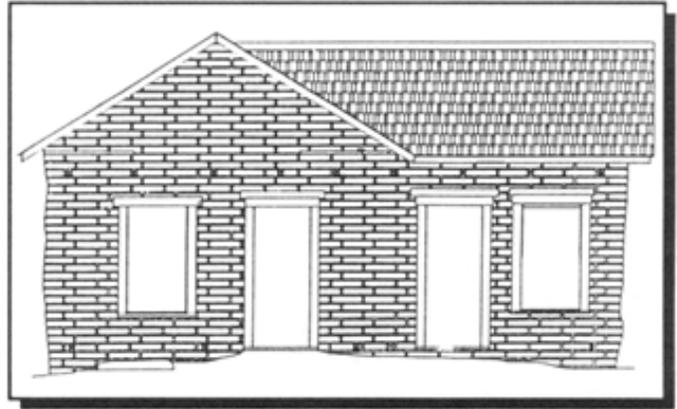
The Arizona Daily Star
Tucson, Arizona
During the last few weeks the rainfall has been sufficient to enable them to operate their placer plants. They have an abundance of water to wash over 1,500 cubic yards in each 24 hours. They employ three giant nozzles, which throw the water 100 feet and tear up the ground with splendid results.

The Fall. Yet despite the optimistic reports on their preliminary work, the Santa Rita Water and Mining Company failed. In May 1905 James Stetson, the engineer, died when he fell from a third-story hotel window in Tucson, and the company was sold at a sheriff's auction in 1906. *The Arizona Daily Star* described the property to be sold as including many patented placer mines, water rights, water tunnels, buildings, mining equipment, a telephone line, and virtually everything else connected with the mining operation. An attorney bought the property, and his family used Kentucky Camp as a base for cattle ranching until the 1960s.

Thanks to the care bestowed on the buildings by the ranchers, the site was in much better condition than most turn-of-the-century mining camps in the area, with standing adobe buildings and pieces of the water system in place. Because many old mining ghost towns have been completely obliterated or are inaccessible to the public, Kentucky Camp appeared to offer an excellent opportunity for interpreting some of Arizona's mining history.

But decades of abandonment and weathering, vandals, and misguided recyclers had taken their toll on the site by the time it was acquired by the Coronado National Forest in 1989. One structure had collapsed, and leaky roofs threatened the remaining four buildings. Broken glass, rusty nails, and crumbling walls seemed to invite lawsuits as much as inquisitive visitors.

Kentucky Camp Today. Soon after acquiring the property the Coronado National Forest contracted with the Phoenix architectural firm of Ryden and Associates to prepare a historic building analysis. The basis of a site stabilization plan, the historic building analysis describes and ranks the steps needed to preserve the buildings and to restore them for future use. Most critical was keeping rain out. The MGM-United



Architectural drawing of one of the small 3-room cabins at Kentucky Camp, produced by Ken Polley, Joe Schmalzel, Lynne D'Ascenzo, and Susan Wells.

Artists film company, which shot episodes of the television series "Young Riders" in the vicinity, contributed money for wooden shingles to match the original roof covering. The Nogales Ranger District fire crew reroofed the standing buildings. The fire crew, supervised by an archaeologist who specializes in historic buildings, also made adobe bricks to rebuild a collapsed wall and replaced wooden beams that had been "salvaged" during Kentucky Camp's abandonment.

In the spring of 1992, Forest Service archaeologists from all over the Southwest came to Kentucky Camp to learn adobe stabilization techniques, rebuilding walls, patching adobe, and repairing wood. Ruin walls were capped with "sacrificial" mud, which would bear the brunt of rain and wind while protecting the original adobe beneath. Experts from New Mexico State Parks, Tumacacori National Monument, and the private consulting firm Conservation Services discussed stabilization and preservation options, and refined plans for future work. There is so little Federal money for this work, however, that future stabilization is heavily dependent upon volunteers and partnerships with the public.

Fortunately, volunteers have contributed talents and time through two programs, *Passport in Time* and *Friends of Kentucky Camp*.

Passport in Time. *Passport in Time*, or *PIT*, is a new National Forest program in which Forests provide opportunities for the public to volunteer at archaeological and historical sites as a recreational or educational experience. *Passport in Time* was generated by the public demand for more sophisticated recreation experiences, but it is conceived as hands-on environmental education. Volunteers and visitors can experience first-hand how the Forest Service cares for archaeological and historical resources. More importantly, volunteers contribute to our understanding of these heritage resources by donating labor, skills, and ideas, and facilitating research that otherwise couldn't happen. In the spring of 1990, five volunteers in one of the Nation's first *Passport in Time* projects helped document architectural and archaeological features at the site. One volunteer contributed not only his photographic expertise but also the use of his own



June Dipilato makes adobe bricks during a volunteer program at Kentucky Camp. Photo courtesy of the Coronado National Forest.

large-format camera to help record the existing condition of the buildings and details of construction. Other volunteers sketched architectural features and drew room plans to aid in preservation efforts. With patience and care, scattered trash and fragments of lumber were transformed into clues about the doors, windows, porches, and other features that once graced the buildings.

At the second *Passport in Time* project at Kentucky Camp, in June 1992, twenty-one volunteers contributed over 600 hours to help preserve the site. They mixed up batches of adobe mortar, to patch walls and repoint foundations. Volunteers erected scaffolding to re nail loose tongue-in-groove ceiling boards. Taking innumerable measurements, some volunteers produced architectural drawings that will be used to monitor the condition of the buildings, and to illustrate future brochures and a formal nomination of Kentucky Camp to the National Register of Historic Places, the nation's foremost listing of properties worthy of preservation. Other volunteers walked along miles of the water system to record the ditches, tunnels, and pipelines.

The next Kentucky Camp *PIT* project is scheduled for next spring. Some of the tasks are physically challenging, others require careful attention to detail. From May 23 to 27, 1994, volunteers will conduct archaeological excavations to expose a partially buried cabin wall and to investigate other features. We'll also do intensive survey of the surrounding area for historic artifacts and features. Adobe and wood stabilization work and detailed recording of pipeline features and architecture will continue.

Friends of Kentucky Camp. Some of the *Passport in Time* volunteers and others interested in the preservation of Kentucky Camp came together to start a *Friends of Kentucky Camp* group. The *Friends of Kentucky Camp* will be able to do many things the government cannot do, like collect tax

deductible donations. The *Friends* will help coordinate special volunteer projects at Kentucky Camp, including preservation work, research, and interpretation. This winter they will join with the Coronado National Forest to build a barbed-wire fence around Kentucky Camp to keep cattle a safer distance from the site. Currently cows make themselves at home in the cool buildings, to the detriment of the already stressed floorboards. The small founding board of the *Friends* will need a lot more help to accomplish their goals, and they welcome new members.

Arizona Trail. The Arizona Trail, which eventually will cross the state from Mexico to Utah, will pass right through Kentucky Camp. The trail will also follow parts of the Santa Rita Water and Mining Company's water system, so the hiker can see ditches, trestles, tunnels, and other features that were so carefully engineered at the turn of the century. Interpretive signs, scheduled for installation along the trail next year, will explain some of the history.

Visiting Kentucky Camp. The public is welcome to visit Kentucky Camp, but certain things need to be kept in mind. The buildings are old and deteriorated, so they should not be entered. Floorboards may give way, and rattlesnakes have been spotted hiding in corners. The ground surface is uneven, and during the summer rainy season chiggers are abundant. As of yet there are no visitor facilities or water available. And, of course, please do not remove anything from Kentucky Camp. Although they may appear old, broken, and abandoned, all the artifacts will be useful to historians and archaeologists for reconstructing life at the camp.

The site is about 90 minutes from Tucson, with much of the drive along an Arizona scenic highway. However, the last five miles are unpaved and can be rutted and rough. A high clearance vehicle and dry-weather travel are recommended. From Tucson, take Interstate 10 east to State Route 83, and go south about 21 miles to the Gardner Canyon Road. Go west on Gardner Canyon road (Forest Service Road 92) about 0.9 mile to FS Road 163, and turn right. Follow FS Road 163 (NOT 163A, 163B, or 4060) a little over 3 miles to its intersection with FS Road 4113, which is marked with a small brown plastic post. Here take a right, onto 4113. In less than 0.2 mile you will pass through a fence gate. (Please close it behind you). Stay on 4113, which follows the ridgetop, for another mile to an unmarked road that bears left. A locked gate will be visible; park here and walk down the road about ¼-mile to Kentucky Camp.

For More Information. For more information about *Passport in Time* or *Friends of Kentucky Camp*, contact U.S. Forest Service archaeologist Mary Farrell at 670-4564, or write the Coronado National Forest, 300 West Congress, Tucson AZ 85701.

Is your *Archaeology in Tucson* membership current? Please check the expiration date on your mailing label (page 8). If your membership has expired or is about to expire, please send in your renewal fee so you will continue to receive the *Archaeology in Tucson* newsletter and be eligible for the other *AIT* benefits!

Calabasas Park Archaeology

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methods varied slightly for each of the six sites, in general they included surface collection, mapping, and photography. We hoped these measures would make the sites less vulnerable to impacts from increased visitation and use of the area. Experience in similar situations has shown that "vacuuming" of surface artifacts by professional archaeologists can make archaeological sites invisible to hikers and casual visitors like those who may soon frequent Calabasas Park. At the same time, this collection procedure provides a wealth of new information on prehistory.

To the untrained eye the sites in Calabasas Park are pretty uninspiring: three prehistoric scatters of waste flakes and bits of pottery, two historical sites, and one location with both historical and prehistoric artifacts. The historical sites contained a bit more visible evidence to fire the imagination: one contained a low dirt mound, probably the remnant of an adobe structure. At the other, concealed in a thick understory of brush, hid the fragmentary remains of a sandstone masonry wall forming the structure shown on the map (right). Only a scatter of artifacts representing a fringe of the third historical site lay in the project area.

Following fieldwork, artifacts were examined in a laboratory by specialists. Fragments of decorated and undecorated pottery showed that the occupants of the prehistoric sites were affiliated with the ancient Hohokam of southern Arizona. The Hohokam lived in the region between A.D. 200 and 1450, dwelling in houses built inside shallow pits. They shared ideological and ceremonial conventions with the people of southern Mexico and Central America, and practiced irrigation agriculture to grow



Plan view of Calabasas Park site AZ EE:9:134 (ASM) showing stone structure.

maize, beans, squash, and cotton. Because artifacts at one of the sites are so diverse and plentiful, habitation structures may be present there, concealed under layers of earth that accumulated over the centuries. An unusual finding was that all the sites occupied by the Hohokam also contained potsherds dating to the subsequent Protohistoric period, ca. A.D. 1450-1700. The artifacts collected from the historical site with the low dirt mound/adobe structure provided important clues about whoever lived there. A fragment of lamp chimney glass and the many other personal items and food containers at this site argue for the adobe building being a dwelling, not a barn or other kind of

Archaeology Month Poster Photograph Contest

The Arizona Archaeological Council and State Historic Preservation Office announce that four prizes are being given in this year's photo competition for the 1994 Arizona Archaeology Month Poster. First prize is \$100 cash and a framed poster. The Second Place winner will be awarded \$75 and there will be two Honorable Mention prizes of \$50 each.

Individuals may submit as many as three 35mm color slides or prints that have been taken in the past year. Judging will be by professional Southwestern photographers Jerry Jacka and Gene Balzar. The criteria for judging include:

- Presentation of a historic or prehistoric archaeological site in Arizona
- Outstanding photographic qualities
- Communication of the Arizona Archaeology Month theme: "Explore the Past!"

Photographs should also consider stewardship and a preservation ethic for Arizona's cultural heritage. Photos showing burials or human remains are not eligible.

All entries submitted must be duplicates. Do not send originals because entries will not be returned. Label each entry with your name and address, the date the photo was taken and the name and locational information about the archaeological resource that is represented.

Deadline for entry postmark is November 5, 1993. Entries should be sent to the Arizona Archaeological Council c/o Ann Valdo Howard, State Historic Preservation Office, Arizona State Parks, 1300 W. Washington, Phoenix, AZ 85007. For an official entry form and more information contact either Ann Valdo Howard (602-542-7138) or Michael Sullivan (602-255-5233).

outbuilding. Approximately 16 percent of the glass can be associated with alcoholic beverages, and the lack of toys, women's apparel, or other artifacts associated with women and children hint that a man lived there. Animal bone fragments show he ate deer, antelope, and beef, and may have owned a dog. Though surface artifacts provide an outline for interpretation, a complete excavation would be needed to verify these ideas and fill in the details.

Our archival research led to another important discovery. Although land ownership could not be traced for the historical sites, the complex history of contested land titles must have resulted in heartbreak and hardship for some of the settlers. Artifacts indicate

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Southern Arizona Archaeology

Current Events on the Archaeology Scene

In the Tucson vicinity, **Desert Archaeology, Inc.** has conducted excavations at the Milagro site, AZ BB:I0:46 (ASM), for an exchange of land between 49er Country Club Estates and Pima County. This investigation, where a sewer trench was to be placed later, revealed 10 bell-shaped pits, 3 simple hearths, 3 straight-sided, flat-bottomed pits, and 1 rock-filled roasting pit. Previous archaeological excavations at this Late Archaic period settlement in 1984 and 1988 revealed pithouses and other pits containing rich assemblages of stone tools typical of the Late Archaic period San Pedro stage plus shell jewelry and fired-clay human figurines not previously known to be part of the Late Archaic repertoire. Burned corn from Milagro has been radiocarbon-dated to 850-1000 B.C., making it among the oldest known maize from the Southwestern U.S. and the first recovered from a village context.

Near Interstate 10's Miracle Mile interchange in Tucson, Desert Archaeology excavated two parts of an ancient settlement for the Arizona Department of Transportation (ADOT). Two pithouses and several pits found in one area may date to the Hohokam Rincon phase (A.D. 950-1100). The other part of the settlement, a little farther north of the interchange, appears to be much earlier, dating to the early ceramic period before the appearance of decorated pottery—perhaps before A.D. 500. Most of the ceramics from this earlier area are from plain brownware seed jars; house forms are either circular or rectangular with rectangular plastered hearths and plastered or adobe pillars flanking the entries. The rectangular hearths are particularly interesting, as this form is virtually unknown within the prehistoric Tucson Basin culture sequence.

Also along Interstate 10, near Grant Road, **The University of Arizona Department of Anthropology** conducted archaeological testing at site AZ BB: 13: 110 (ASM), a historical refuse dump. This work, done as a subcontract with Desert Archaeology for the ADOT's I-10 frontage improvements, revealed that

Red Cave: A Prehistoric Cave Shrine

The Arizona Archaeological Society, a statewide organization based in Phoenix has just published *Red Cave: A Prehistoric Cave Shrine in Southeastern Arizona*, by Alan Ferg and Jim I. Meade (The Arizona Archaeologist No. 26, 82 pp., 14 b/w photos). This volume describes a cavern in southeastern Arizona's Whetstone Mountains found in 1973 still containing undisturbed Hohokam artifacts of the A.D. 1050-1100 era. Artifacts included whole and fragmentary pots, beads, pendants, an arrow, cane tubes still holding saltpeter and native tobacco, and many sherd disks. Most of these materials appear to have been offerings associated with a water-filled basin in one room of the multichambered cave.

Analogies with shrines of historically known Native American cultures suggest Red cave was a hunting shrine and perhaps also an emergence shrine. For a copy of the report send a check for \$12 + \$2 mailing to Arizona Archaeological Society, c/o Grace Schoonover, PO Box 1643, Cave Creek AZ 85331.

the bulk of the trash is in a mound that accumulated from the late 1930s through World War II. A deeply buried layer of early 1920s trash outside the mound area contained Papago Red sherds and ethnic Chinese artifacts, below which was a buried channel containing scattered artifacts of the late 19th century.

Desert Archaeology is currently excavating several archaeological sites along State Route 188 north of Roosevelt Lake for the Arizona Department of Transportation in the vicinity of Sycamore Creek, Slate Creek, and Punkin Center.

The **Maricopa County Department of Transportation** is sponsoring an extensive excavation of a Hohokam site by **Archaeological Consulting Services Ltd.**, of Tempe, on the Salt River Indian Reservation along Alma School Road between McDowell and McKellips roads. MCDOT is also working with two on-call consultants to assist with other archaeological projects and is training the Department's environmental services personnel to assist in the field and with other County agencies.

In the past few months, **Archaeological Research Services, Inc.** (ARS) of Tempe completed data recovery studies in the Tempe, Miami, and Yuma areas. In Tempe, limited excavations were done within the large Hohokam ruin called Los Homos, AZ U:9:48 (ASM), for the ADOT. Hohokam features excavated included several pits, 3 cremations, 2 hornos (large pit-ovens), 1 canal segment, 1 post-reinforced adobe structure, and parts of 2 other structures identified during construction along the Superstition Freeway (U.S. 60) near Priest Road.

Just west of Miami, ARS conducted archaeological data recovery work for the ADOT at sites AR-03-12-02-1075, -1076, and -1077 on the Tonto National Forest near the intersection of Pinto Valley Road and U.S. 60. These Historic period sites include a series of checkdams, 2 artifact scatters, 4 mining prospects, 1 capped well, and 2 segments of the abandoned U.S. 60 roadbed.

The ARS excavations in Yuma were partly within the Yuma Crossing National Historic Landmark, at the City of Yuma Main Street Water Treatment Plant. Structural remnants at the location of the earliest Yuma power plant, initially erected in 1893, were documented as part of this project. Three turn-of-the-century house foundations, a possible privy, 2 mid- to late 19th century trash-filled pits, and several other pits relate to Yuma residences of the 1870-1940 era, before the water plant was built. Also, two extensive layers of sediment found underlying much of the water plant were identified with the flood of 1916 and a prior occupation of the 1860s-1900s.

ARS recently completed archaeological surveys in two parts of Arizona where little previous archaeological research has been done. A survey for the AOOT along U.S. Highway 93 south of Wikieup documented 19 archaeological sites. These include probable Cerbat/Pai or Prescott Culture base camps in upper bajada and foothill-canyon areas, where subsistence resources would have been abundant in spring and summer and where some

farming could have been done. Quarried outcrops, secondary rock-collection areas in alluvial fans, and lithic scatters of varying size, composition, and density indicate stone artifacts were being made from the silicified mudstones of the Big Sandy Formation in this region. Historical sites recorded during the U.S. 93 survey include a small 1890s cemetery, a 1914-1929 ranch, and a segment of the Hillside-Kingman highway built in the early 1920s.

On the opposite side of the state, along the upper margin of the Gila Valley north of Safford, ARS recorded 26 archaeological sites during a 3140-acre survey on Bureau of Land Management and private properties. The sites include Gila-style (Hohokam) petroglyphs, large and small artifact scatters, roasting pits, enigmatic cobble structures on ridge summits and steep slopes, cleared areas that may represent wickiup rings, and locations of early 20th century ranching and mining activities. All are within an area proposed for land-exchange and mining by the Phelps Dodge Corporation.

In another project near Safford, **SWCA, Inc.** Environmental Consultants of Tucson is currently conducting an archaeological data recovery project on Pleistocene terraces along the north side of the Gila River for AZCO Mining, Inc. SWCA's "Sanchez project" includes 38 archaeological sites, mostly artifact scatters and clusters of ancient agricultural features. Encompassed among the latter are numerous rock piles, linear rock borders, and "waffle gardens," or garden plots set off by low, intersecting ridges of earth or gravels.

The original archaeological surveys for the Sanchez project area recovered a Clovis-like projectile point that probably dates back more than 9000 years ago to the Paleoindian era, plus some Archaic period materials dating from about 7500 B.C. into the early Christian era. However, most of the archaeological materials now being investigated in the Sanchez project are believed to relate to early Pueblo/Salado occupations of the A.D. 1150-1450 period because that was the time of greatest prehistoric population in the Safford Valley. There are no permanent habitation sites in the project area, so the archaeological features and artifacts found were probably tethered to the pueblo settlements nearby in the Safford Valley, including AZ CC:2:3 (ASM), a large ruin known as the Curtis or Buena Vista site.

The **Center for Spanish Colonial Archaeology** (CSCA) of Mesa continues investigating the Spanish settlement of Tubac. Founded during the early 18th century as a mission outpost, Tubac was transformed into a presidio, or fort, in 1752 and later became a combined military post and civilian town under Spain and Mexico. While clearing a segment of an 18th century *acequia*, or aqueduct, CSCA disclosed portions of a ca. 1730-1760 structure made from upright poles. This building, which was buried by materials from later occupations, contained pottery types not found previously at Tubac (including Abó Polychrome)

The July issue of *Archaeology in Tucson* was mailed by Jean Reid, Carol Richardson, and Bess Puryear. Information in this issue was contributed by Rick Ahlstrom, Jim Bayman, Jeff Clark, Joan Clark, Bruce Huckell, Brian Kenny, Jack Williams, and Tom Wright. *Archaeology in Tucson* is printed by the AlphaGraphics Superstore, 7306 N. Oracle Rd in Tucson

as well as a small ceramic mold for a delightful cherub-like face similar to those found in other examples of Baroque period art. An additional find was an *acequia* junction box shown on the 1766 Josef de Urrutia map.

CSCA's recent excavations in Casa Escondida, a Tubac house ruin first tested in 1987, have come up with artifacts from the late 1700s through the U.S. Civil War period. Pre-1850s artifacts recovered there include native plainware, majolica, Spanish and Mexican Republic coins, firearm parts, munitions, horse gear, fragments of copper cooking utensils, and a brass spoon. A third building investigated in August just south of Tubac Presidio State Historic Park has been identified as the Luís Lim mercantile building of 1900-1920. It produced evidence of several earlier structures including a Spanish period house not shown on the 1766 Urrutia plan. The picture of daily life that is emerging from Tubac points to the fact that Arizona's Spanish frontier experienced both the elegant and the rustic.

Archaeology Projects for Volunteers

Weekend Archaeological Site Survey. The Center for Desert Archaeology continues its volunteer archaeological survey of the lower San Pedro River valley this fall. The Lower San Pedro project is an effort to search out and record archaeological sites; no digging is involved. Several hundred ancient settlements and thousands of archaeological features have been identified since the project began in 1990.

| Lower San Pedro Fall Survey Schedule | |
|---|----------|
| October 16 | Saturday |
| November 7 | Sunday |
| November 27 | Saturday |
| December 5 | Sunday |
| December 19 | Saturday |

No previous archaeology experience is necessary to qualify for this volunteer project but you must be a member of the *Archaeology in Tucson* program (see back cover for details); bring your own lunch, water, and weather protection; be able to walk several miles in a day; arrange for your own ride to the project area (think carpools!); and—**ABSOLUTELY ESSENTIAL**—*make advance reservations at least 3 days before any date you wish to join in the search* because the total number of volunteers for each day is limited to 25. For reservations call Jim Bayman at the Center for Desert Archaeology, 881-2244.

Weekday Archaeological Excavation. Besides the Lower San Pedro survey, Jim Bayman is conducting his own fieldwork this fall as part of his dissertation research on Hohokam craft production and trade. He can use a limited number of volunteers to help excavate prehistoric mounds at a Classic period Hohokam site in the greater Tucson area. If you'd like to help and are available one or more weekdays in October or November you can leave a message for Jim at 881-2244.

Archaeology Lecture & Excavation Program. The Center for Spanish Colonial Archaeology is sponsoring a series of three archaeology lecture/workshop sessions at the Presidio of Tubac, Arizona from November through April. Each session includes three lectures in Tubac plus six consecutive weekends of excavations. Cost is \$50 for each session. Contact Dr. Jack Williams at 602-820-5492 or write him at the Center for Spanish Colonial Archaeology, 1743 S. Standage, Mesa AZ 85202.

Center for Desert Archaeology
Archaeology in Tucson
 3975 North Tucson Blvd.
 Tucson, AZ 85716

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Ancient rock clusters on the Gila River terrace northeast of Safford, Arizona, are assumed to have had an agricultural function. This one was recorded by Ashley Rather during the Sanchez archaeological data recovery project (see page 7). Photo courtesy of SWCA, Inc.

Calabasas Park Archaeology

Continued from Page 5

all the historical sites were occupied between 1870 and 1920, a period when settlers flocked to the area following the cessation of Apache raids. During this period, ownership of what is now Calabasas Park was claimed under two land grants: the Calabazas Land Grant and the Baca Float No.3. In 1898, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the Calabazas Grant was invalid and void, and the lands were opened to homesteaders for several years. With the resolution in 1914 of the Baca Float No.3 claim by the U.S. Supreme Court, these same legal homesteaders were evicted from their lands. Many others who were evicted were squatters or people who had purchased illegal titles in good faith. Over 50 legal homesteaders and countless illegal settlers in the lands of the Baca Float No.3 claim were forcibly removed from their homes. It wasn't until 1921 that Congress came to the aid of the legal homesteaders,

allowing them to select in-lieu land elsewhere in Arizona. But in-lieu land could not exceed twice the area in the original homestead, so in many cases compensation was inadequate for 30 years of land improvements, and bitter feelings lasted for generations. For countless illegal settlers, perhaps including users of sites we studied, there was no legal redress.

Public interpretation of one or more of the prehistoric and historical sites in Calabasas Park is being discussed but no specific plan has yet been formulated. SWCA's research raised numerous questions about site function and history that only excavations can answer. Because of the interpretive and research potential of the sites their long-term preservation is a priority for the park's managers. For this reason the portions of the park where the archaeological sites are located are currently closed to visitors.

The Center for Desert Archaeology

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

Archaeology in Tucson

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 a full year from the time they are received.

For further information about the Center for Desert Archaeology or about *Archaeology in Tucson* call us at (602) 881-2244. For information on the *Archaeology in Tucson* Newsletter specifically please contact the editor Allen Dart.

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