Q-Ranch: A Historical and Archaeological Treasure

by Stephen H. Buck, Ph.D.
Old Pueblo Archaeology Center Tour Guide

An intact plain-brown and red-slipped pot found at Q-Ranch Pueblo.
Photograph courtesy of Arizona Archaeological Society.

Q-Ranch is located at 5700 feet elevation deep in the Tonto National Forest 10 miles southeast of Young, Arizona, along the base of the spectacular Mogollon Rim. It was founded as a cattle ranch in 1893 by veteran Civil War Confederate Colonel Jesse W. Ellison and other Texas cattlemen who fled that state due to severe overgrazing by cattle. Ellison ran up to 7500 head of cattle on Q-Ranch land and leased grazing land until he sold the ranch in 1910 when it became part of cowboy Pecos McFadden’s Flying V Ranch, one of the largest cattle operations in Arizona.

While in Arizona, Jesse Ellison and his wife Isabella Stuart raised four daughters and one son, most of whom became seasoned ranch hands, horse riders, and big-game hunters. One of the daughters, Susan Helena “Lena” Ellison [1], produced a well-known photographic chronicle of life on an early twentieth century Gila County cattle ranch [2]. Another daughter, Helen Duette, married George Wiley Paul Hunt, the first governor of the State of Arizona and who went on to serve six additional early gubernatorial terms in the state [3].

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Q-Ranch lies in the White Mountains in Pleasant Valley, the setting of the infamous Pleasant Valley War, a bloody cowboy feud between a cattle-raising family and a sheep-raising family that raged between 1886 and 1892 [4]. As many as 25 men were killed in this conflict, and it is said that the lawless and brutal aspects of the Pleasant Valley War were key issues in delaying statehood for Arizona. Jesse Ellison may have been part of a secret local rancher-businessman vigilante group that helped to end the economy-ravaging turmoil by lynching some of the last holdout participants.

In 1956, Q-Ranch was acquired by Jefferson Jackson “Jack” Rogers of Phoenix. Jack’s son Jonathan was 5 years old at the time. The ranch ceased cattle operations in 1980, and parts were sold off to other members of the Rogers family for various uses. Today Jonathan operates 350-acre Q-Ranch as a bed and breakfast lodge catering to archaeologists, archaeology buffs, group retreats and vacations, hikers, and birders. It is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places.

And if the modern history of Q-Ranch isn’t enough, the property also contains the Q-Ranch Pueblo ruin, one of the largest and most important Mogollon/Western Puebloan Indian culture sites in north-central Arizona. The pueblo was occupied between A.D. 1265 and 1380 by up to 1000 residents and consists of two separate room blocks on either side of a large wash that was likely once a perennial stream. The smaller south pueblo block consists of about 60 rooms, while the larger north pueblo block is comprised of about 260 rooms, some three stories high, and surrounds a 75-foot by 75-foot open courtyard. The entire site was heavily vandalized by pothunters in past years. Ancient burial pits were found about 50 feet from the smaller pueblo during construction of the Q-Ranch/Ellison family cemetery in the late 1890s. The fenced commemorative cemetery still exists and contains about a dozen graves, including Ellison daughter Mattie Ellison Nail, who married a son of the owners of the nearby Nail Ranch.

The Arizona Archaeological Society (AAS) began excavating the Q-Ranch Pueblo in 1989 and continues to conduct work on weekends and in a summer field school every summer at the site [5].

Under the direction of AAS Q-Ranch Principal Investigator John Hohmann, Ph.D., of Louis Berger & Associates in Phoenix, volunteers and college students can dig and learn archaeological techniques under the tutelage of assorted experts, who also present educational seminars during the summer sessions. Allen Dart and Old Pueblo Archaeology supervised the summer sessions at Q-Ranch Pueblo in 1997 [6].

Many of the rooms at the site have interior walls covered with a smooth mud plaster still in place in pristine condition.
The Ward Homestead

by Jennifer Levstik

In March 2004, I coauthored an article for this bulletin with Mary Charlotte Thurtle about two homesteads Tierra Right of Way Services had excavated in the Avra Valley, west of Tucson: The Valencia Homestead and the Ward Homestead (March 2004, No. 36). In that article we compared two homesteads; one was a homestead patented by a Mexican-American woman (Valencia Homestead), and the other a homestead that we believed was patented by a Caucasian man (Ward Homestead). Since the publication of that article, additional documentary research has revealed a very different picture of the Ward Homestead and revealed the sometimes false assumptions that we as archaeologists make.

When we first began to piece together the archaeological and documentary evidence we knew that the Ward homestead was occupied during the Great Depression of the 1930s. In 1934, John Alfred Ward, a veteran of World War I, patented 160 acres just south of what today is West Valencia Road. John Ward contracted builders to construct a $4,000, 1,400-square-foot main house with indoor plumbing and electricity, a guesthouse, two wells, and a stable. The Ward homestead contained a number of expensive goods, such as monogrammed china plates, a radio, and a camera. In addition, evidence of his literacy was identified during the excavation of the main house: a charred and half-burnt book which had been sitting on a table that had been reduced to a layer of charcoal and finish nails when the house catastrophically burned. These material remains suggest an uncommon affluence for a homestead occupied in the 1930s.

Based on this information and the vague physical description provided by his military discharge papers, we believed that John Ward was Caucasian. However, with further investigation into his military records, everything we thought we knew about John Ward changed.

His military records indicated that he was a corporal with the 351st Field Artillery in France during World War I (WWI). Military regiments during WWI were segregated by color and the 351st Artillery was one of these. The 351st was an African-American artillery unit led by white officers. At the time that he was enlisted in the military he was a 24-year-old student. It was during this same time that the military was unable to fill their artillery regiments with qualified men using the draft alone. Better educated men who knew fractions and could read scales were specifically recruited from African-American educational institutions, such as Booker T. Washington’s Tuskegee Institute. The realization that John Ward was African-American now meant our documentary research had to begin again.

Cover of a reunion pamphlet for the 351st Field Artillery Division (1918), Pittsburgh, circa 1942 (Between the Covers, Rare Books, Pernell Printing Shop, Pittsburgh, 1942). Courtesy of Tierra Right of Way Services, Ltd.

The buffalo was used as the insignia for the 92nd Division. Image courtesy of http://www.366th.org/units/92-div.htm.
John Alfred Ward was born in Eufaula, Alabama, to Sara and John Ward, Sr. on February 11, 1894. He had three sisters and two brothers. At the age of 15 he ran away from home over a disagreement with his father regarding his desire to attend college. He worked in Georgia at a saw mill before moving back to Alabama to attend Tuskegee Institute. Upon arrival at Tuskegee he had no money to pay for his education, and as such worked to pay for his schooling. At Tuskegee Institute Ward became personally acquainted with George Washington Carver and worked as a chauffeur for Booker T. Washington.

He was only at Tuskegee a few years before he went to Knoxville College in Tennessee, also an African-American educational institution. It was during this time that he became interested in theology and where he was recruited by the U.S. military in 1918.

The 351st Field Artillery regiment was one of many African-American regiments that were active in both World War I and World War II. The division Ward served with was known as the “Buffalos,” named after the Buffalo Soldiers.

Ward served with the 351st Field Artillery Division in France during World War I from June 19th, 1918, until February 16th, 1919, and was honorably discharged in 1919. His discharge papers state that at the time of discharge he was of excellent character and had no known illnesses or injuries.

Although his discharge papers state that he was not wounded and was in excellent health, based on his letters and an oral history interview with Ward, he was suffering from tuberculosis. Many soldiers who served during WWI were exposed to mustard gas and/or contracted tuberculosis. It was not uncommon for physicians to recommend to tubercular patients that they should move to Arizona’s dry climate for their health.

Many soldiers were known to file homestead claims in Arizona upon discharge. When he arrived in Tucson in the 1920s, he stayed at a government hospital until he was well enough to leave. Sometime between 1920 and 1930 he met and married his wife Catherine in Phoenix and together they established their 160-acre homestead in the Avra Valley. The years during the occupation of the homestead and those following are unclear. We know based on the artifacts and documentary research that the Ward Homestead was occupied between 1930 and 1950 before it catastrophically burned.

The Ward Homestead. This map is a drawing of the main structure at the Ward Homestead. The map shows the improvements made by the Ward family.

Drawing courtesy of Tierra Right of Way Services, Ltd.
December 2005

Dear archaeological education and research supporter:

Please save the date of Saturday, April 8, 2006, to join us at Old Pueblo Archaeology Center’s annual “Hands Across the Ages” fundraiser and bid on the many fine items that will be included in our silent auction! Items to be auctioned during our fundraiser, and as well as prizes that will be given away in our annual “Old Pueblo - Young People” fundraising raffle to be held at that night’s event, include some really great tour, golf, and other entertainment packages, fine works of art and southwestern crafts, and gift certificates for free food, items, and services. Our 2006 auction and raffle fundraiser will be held at the Radisson Suites Hotel, 6555 E. Speedway Blvd., in Tucson. Invitations and more information will be sent out in a separate mailing coming up soon.

With this letter I’d like to ask you to purchase the accompanying tickets for our annual “Old Pueblo - Young People” raffle. Our annual raffle makes it possible for Old Pueblo to provide classroom scholarships to pay archaeology education program fees for children whose parents and schools are too poor to afford what we normally charge for our OPEN2 simulated archaeological dig and in-classroom education programs for kids. In accordance with U.S. postal regulations, no donation is required to enter Old Pueblo’s raffle, so if you wish to participate in the raffle without making a donation you may check the box on the ticket stub where it says “Please enter my name in the drawing. I do not wish to make a donation at this time.”

Twelve raffle tickets accompany this letter, and if you would like to purchase more you can obtain extra tickets by calling Old Pueblo at 520-798-1201 or emailing a request for more tickets to us at info@oldpueblo.org.

Old Pueblo Archaeology Center also needs your donations and membership fees to help pay down debts that have mounted up for us recently because of unanticipated revenue losses and the expenses of constructing and moving into our new Ina Road facility. Enclosed with this letter are information about our membership rates, and an application form. If you are not already an Old Pueblo member please consider joining, and if you are a member please think about renewing your membership early, or upgrading it to a higher level. The membership application form also includes a blank line on which you can indicate the amount of any donation offered. Old Pueblo can accept Visa, Mastercard, checks, and cash for donations as well as membership fees.

We really need your assistance as soon as possible. If you would like to discuss supporting us or have any questions please feel free to contact me at 520-798-1201 or adart@oldpueblo.org.

Please help,

[Signature]
Allen Dart, RPA
Executive Director

Enclosures
Old Pueblo Archaeology Center Tours

! Saturday Jan 7, 2006: “Fort Bowie, the Amerind Foundation Museum, and the Historic Cochise Hotel” with Dr. Stephen H. Buck, departing from Old Pueblo Archaeology Center, 5100 W. Ina Road Bldg. 7, Tucson-Marana 8 a.m.-8 p.m. $89 ($71.20 members) + $20 carpooling fuel share for those not driving

Ancestral Hopi Indian pottery jar

! Saturday Jan. 21, 2006: "Tombs tone: A Historian-Guided Walking Tour” with Dr. Stephen H. Buck, departing from Tucson International Airport Park & Save lot (near TIA entrance, SE corner of Tucson Blvd & Corona Dr.) 8 a.m-6 p.m. $89 ($71.20 members)

! Saturday Feb. 11, 2006: "Pueblo Grande Museum & Archaeological Park, Desert Botanical Garden, and Casa Grande Ruins National Monument” with Dr. Stephen H. Buck, departing from Old Pueblo Archaeology Center, 5100 W Ina Road Bldg. 7, Tucson-Marana 8 a.m.-7 p.m. $89 ($72.20 members)

! Saturday Feb 18, 2006: "San Xavier, Tumacacori, and Tubac History” with Dr. Stephen H. Buck, departing from Old Pueblo Archaeology Center, 5100 W. Ina Road, Building 7, Tucson-Marana 9 a.m.-7 p.m. $89 ($71.20 members)

! Saturday Feb. 25, 2006: "Boycy Thompson Arboretum and Piccher Post house” with Dr. Stephen H. Buck, departing from Old Pueblo Archaeology Center, 5100 W Ina Road, Building 7, Tucson-Marana 9 a.m.-5 p.m. $89 ($71.20 members)

! Saturday Mar. 11, 2006: "Gila Pueblo and Beshbogawah Ruins” with Marc Severson, departing from Old Pueblo Archaeology Center, 5100 W. Ina Road Bldg. 7, Tucson-Marana 7:30 a.m.-6 p.m. $89 ($71.20 members)

! Saturday Mar. 11, 2006: "Hohokam and Historic Ruins and Rock Art: Romero Ruin and Baby Jesus Ridge” with Dr. Stephen H. Buck, meets at Old Pueblo Archaeology Center, 5100 W Ina Road Bldg. 7, Tucson-Marana, and carpools to sites 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Saturday $69 ($55 members)

! Wednesday Mar 15 – Sunday Mar. 19, 2006: "Southeast Utah Ruins, Rock Art, and Rivers” with Dr. Stephen H. Buck, departing from Tucson International Airport Park & Save lot (near TIA entrance, SE corner of Tucson Blvd & Corona Dr.) 7 a.m. Wednesday-6 p.m. Sunday $695 ($670 members)

Pueblo Pintado, a still-standing ancestral Puebloan ruin of the Chaco Canyon Culture

! Saturday Apr. 22, 2006: "Tombs tone: A Historian-Guided Walking Tour” with Dr. Stephen H. Buck, departing from Tucson International Airport Park & Save lot (near TIA entrance, SE corner of Tucson Blvd & Corona Dr.) 8 a.m.-6 p.m. $89 ($71.20 members)

Pueblo Pintado cliff dwellings in Canyon de Chelly

! Apr. 27 through May 1, 2006: "Chaco Canyon, Pueblo Pintado, Aztec, & Salmon Ruins with Jim Trimboll via passenger van departing from Tucson International Airport Park & Save lot (near TIA entrance, SE corner of Tucson Blvd & Corona Dr.) 8 a.m. Thursday-6 p.m. Monday $695 ($670 members)

! Saturday Apr 29, 2006: "San Xavier, Tumacacori, and Tubac History” with Dr. Stephen H. Buck, departing from Old Pueblo Archaeology Center, 5100 W. Ina Road, Building 7, Tucson-Marana 9 a.m.-7 p.m. $89 ($71.20 members)

! Saturday May 13, 2006: "Historic High links Mine and Ranch” with Dr. Stephen H. Buck 9 a.m. - 6 p.m. $89 ($71.20 members)

! Wednesday May 17-Sunday May 21, 2006: "Traditional and Modern Hopi Culture” of Hopi villages with Hopi tribal elder Emory Sekaquaptewa starting at Hopi Cultural Center, Second Mesa, Arizona 6 p.m. Wednesday - 9 a.m Sunday $795

! Wednesday June 7-Saturday June 10, 2006: "Zuñi Pueblo, Rock Art, and Ruins” with Marc Severson, departing from Tucson International Airport Park & Save lot (near TIA entrance, SE corner of Tucson Blvd & Corona Dr.) 8 a.m. Wednesday-5 p.m. Saturday $795 ($770 members)

! Thursday June 8-Sunday June 11, 2006: "Pueblo Country Children and Parents Tour,” a children’s cultural learning trip to Mesa Verde National Park & Crow Canyon Archaeological Center, Colorado, starting at Old Pueblo Archaeology Center, 5100 W. Ina Road Bldg. 8, Tucson 8 a.m. Thursday-6 p.m. Sunday Fee TBA

! Saturday June 10, 2006: "Tombs tone: A Historian-Guided Walking Tour” with Dr. Stephen H. Buck, departing from Tucson International Airport Park & Save lot (near TIA entrance, SE corner of Tucson Blvd. & Corona Dr.) 8 a.m-6 p.m. $89 ($71.20 members)

! Wednesday June 21-Sunday June 25, 2006: "Mogollon Rim Ruins and Rock Art” with Dr. Stephen H. Buck via passenger van departing from Tucson International Airport Park & Save lot (near TIA entrance, SE corner of Tucson Blvd. & Corona Dr.) 8 a.m. Wednesday - 5:30 p.m Sunday $795

! Tuesday June 27-Thursday June 29, 2006: "Kinshba, Grasshopper Point of Pines, and Forestdale Ruins” with Marc Severson, departing from Tucson International Airport Park & Save lot (near TIA entrance, SE corner of Tucson Blvd. & Corona Dr.) 8 a.m. Tuesday-6 p.m. Thursday $695 ($670 members)

! Thursday July 13-Sunday July 16, 2006: "Wupatki National Monument and the Sinagua Culture” with Marc Severson, departing from Tucson International Airport Park & Save lot (near TIA entrance, SE corner of Tucson Blvd. & Corona Dr.) 8 a.m. Thursday-6 p.m. Sunday $795 ($770 members)

For information call Old Pueblo Archaeology Center at 520-798-1201 or visit us at www.oldpueblo.org!

Old Pueblo Archaeology is located at 5100 W. Ina Road Bldg. 7 (northwest Tucson area)
We also know that John was sick and had run out of money, and his wife worked in Tucson to support them. In addition, at some point the Wards adopted two children, however not legally, which may help explain why Ward states in his patent documents that he has no children, while his neighbor recalls seeing children on his homestead. Alternatively, he and his wife may have adopted the children after they left the homestead, which is supported by the paucity of child-related artifacts at the homestead site.

Information from an oral history interview conducted with Ward in 1991 was used to piece together his life after he left the homestead. Unfortunately at the time of the interview, as the interviewer states, Ward was 104 years of age and because of his age he was unable to provide reliable dates for when events in his life occurred.

Ward states that he and his wife moved to Tucson where they established a car washing business and were members of the Prince Chapel African-Methodist Episcopal Church, where Ward became the pastor (this cannot be confirmed as the church has no record of the Wards). He also states that he helped establish African-American chapters of the Masons and Elks in Tucson.

Although some of the dates and statements made by Ward in the 1991 oral history interview are somewhat problematic, one thing is abundantly clear, John Ward had a long remarkable life, and his story adds not only to the Arizona homesteading experience, but to the historiography of African-Americans in the Southwest. Because African-Americans make up such a small percentage of the Arizona population, the history of African-Americans in the southwest has largely focused on Buffalo Soldiers while ignoring the contributions of other African-Americans. The Ward Homestead provides a unique opportunity to study the African-American homesteading experience.

Jennifer Levstik is currently an archaeologist at SWCA, Environmental Consultants, where she specializes in historical archaeology and research.

**Old Pueblo’s Childrens’ Education Programs**

**Holiday Wish List**

Old Pueblo’s nonprofit status means that we are able to run our children’s educational programs using donations, scholarships, and grants from generous contributors and supporters of Old Pueblo. The education staff has made a wish list of items that would improve the quality of the children’s programs in the upcoming year. We are looking for donations of the following items:

- artifact replicas, animal bones, seashells, raw cotton, saguaro spines, chipped stone cores, overhead projector, retractable projection screen that mounts on the wall, a digital camera, and medium-sized (approx. 3x1ft) plastic containers.

If you can donate any of the following items, please contact Christine Jerla at 520-798-1201.
Q-Ranch, Continued from page 2

- A room with a potsherd containing a painted macaw head, a projectile point with a curved tip similar to a macaw's beak or bear claw, a bone whistle, and loaves of potter's clay that have converging surface ridges from being stored in tight cloth or bags to keep them moist
- A room containing an intact Gila Polychrome bowl 30 cm in diameter and a polished redware jar broken in half
- A south block room containing a complete polychrome seed pot and a stone arrow shaft straightener
- Another south block room with a large rectangular stone button made of highly polished limestone

One of the most interesting artifacts ever found at Q-Ranch Pueblo is a small smooth stone panel with an intricate face painted on it with a mineral pigment stain. This was found by the Rogers family in the 1970s and is now on loan to the Museum of Northern Arizona in Flagstaff. Most of the numerous artifacts unearthed by the Rogers family during their 50 years on the ranch are on loan to the major natural history museums in Arizona.

Jonathan Rogers operates his B&B lodge from May through October for a minimum of 4 and a maximum of 10 people at a time. The ranch house has 7 guest bedrooms sharing 4 bathrooms on two floor levels. Lodging at Q-Ranch includes 3 meals a day, one of which is a gourmet candlelight dinner each night as elk graze in the pasture behind the house. Jonathan can be contacted at 602-222-9796 in Phoenix or by e-mail to q ranch@cy ber trails .com.

Old Pueblo Archaeology Center will sponsor a fund raising tour to the Q-Ranch/Mogollon Rim area June 21- June 25, 2006. On this tour, we may be able to spend a day during the AAS 2-week, Q-Ranch Pueblo field school watching and learning about the excavation of this major archaeological

The 12-inch-thick walls are constructed in kind of a mini-flagstone style, primarily of thin, flat, tightly stacked square and rectangular stones that were apparently quarried from nearby cliff areas and transported to the pueblo. The mortar seams of walls facing the exterior are sealed with mud plaster, perhaps to insulate against weather elements, while many walls not facing the exterior are only shimmed with many layers of smaller rock slivers in linear symmetrical patterns tightly wedged between the larger rocks.

Excavations at Q-Ranch have revealed that many of the rooms in the larger north block suffered a catastrophic fire in 1380 that may have led to the abandonment of the entire site. In this departure, a wealth of artifacts was left behind for future archaeologists. Examples include painted ceramics; items made of stone, bone, and seashell; and painted, plainware, and corrugated-finish pots. Some of the more significant artifact findings in recent years include [6]:

- A storeroom containing dozens of reconstructible pottery including stacked bowls and also containing stone manos, deer bones, polishing stones, flaked stone knives, a sparkly mica-clay unfinished vessel, and a puki (mould) for forming the bottoms of new clay vessels

Lena Ellison, age 29, 1898.
Photo courtesy of www.azhistoricalimages.org.

Jonathan Rogers describes one of the pueblo rooms of the ruins - note the tightly stacked thin flat stones of the walls. Photo courtesy of Stephen Buck.
site. Watch for more information on the Old Pueblo Archaeology web site, www.oldpueblo.org, or call 520-798-1201 to request a tour flyer providing details.

Footnotes:

Stephen H. Buck, Ph.D., M.S., M.B.A., is the founder, leader, and chief chef of the Tucson Pathfinders, a local private outdoor gourmet activity group of about 250 members. He has a Ph.D. in Pharmacology from the University of Arizona and is employed as a senior business analyst for a local health care software company. Steve has 10 years experience in outdoor adventuring in the Southwest.

See insert for more exciting archaeological, cultural and historical tours offered by Old Pueblo!

Did you know that Old Pueblo offers internships and community service opportunities for high school and college students? Call 520-798-1201

Volunteer Spotlight:
Alexis and Maren Jansen

Alexis ("Lexi") and Maren Jansen make a good team. These two sisters have been volunteering together for Old Pueblo Archaeology Center over this past year. While working in the lab with Old Pueblo’s Laboratory Director, Darla Pettit, they have concentrated their volunteer work on helping to wash and inventory artifacts.

Lexi, the elder of the two, is a junior at the University of Arizona. She is majoring in Anthropology with a focus on Egyptology, Classics, and Near Eastern Studies, but is also fascinated by such subjects as forensic anthropology and modern facial reconstruction. In what little spare time her studies and volunteer work allow her, she also works at a local bookstore.

Lexi has been interested in archaeology for as long as she can remember and is confident in her dedication to the field. In the near future, she would like to attend an archaeological field school in Egypt. After college she would like to attend graduate school and continue to study Anthropology and Archaeology.

Lexi’s younger sister, Maren Jansen, is enjoying her first volunteering experience in Old Pueblo’s lab. This very articulate 15-year-old young woman attends Mountain View High School. Although she is not planning on continuing to study Anthropology in the future, she enjoys the unique educational experience in the lab. Some of her favorite pastimes are studying history, writing short stories, and even hanging out with her older sister. Maren plans to major in journalism in college, learn to speak French fluently, travel, and would eventually like to be a fashion editor.

Lexi and Maren are learning about all the laboratory processes artifacts go through when they come in from the field. Their favorite aspects of volunteering are that they get to look at the artifacts that come in from the field, learning about the Hobokam, while at the same time getting an educational experience they would not normally get in school.

Although they lead busy lives as students, Lexi and Maren take the time to volunteer and are good examples of how volunteering at Old Pueblo can offer enriching experiences for people of different ages, interests, and goals. Both will continue to volunteer at Old Pueblo while attending school.

Thank you Lexi and Maren and good luck with your studies! Photograph by C. Rose
Thank you Old Pueblo Volunteers and Members for Helping to Contribute to the Yuma Wash Site Public Research and Excavation

Paul Virgin, Jenny DeJongh, Jim Trimbell, and Al Christensen excavating at the Yuma Wash site.

Karen Russo sharing one of her finds.

Wendell “Zip” Zipse getting into the dirt.

Sam Greenleaf and Kristina Daberry checking the screen for artifacts.

Robert Baker and Tom Robinson on the screens.

Thank you Old Pueblo volunteers

Sarah Boyle, Sam Greenleaf, Alexis Jansen, Maren Jansen, Karen Russo, Jim Trimbell, and Wendell Zipse for all their efforts volunteering at the Yuma Wash site, in the office, and in the laboratory

Gratitude also goes out to all members, participants, and supporters of Old Pueblo Archaeology Center

Photographs by C. Rose
Public-Assisted Excavation & Research Project at the Yuma Wash Site

The Yuma Wash site is a Hohokam Classic period (A.D. 1100-1450) residential settlement. Very few Hohokam Classic period sites have been investigated in the Tucson Basin, so this research lends the perfect opportunity to begin to understand the Hohokam of the Tucson Basin during that late prehistoric era.

Experience the excitement of archaeological excavation and research yourself by participating in this unique, educational, public-assisted excavation program: Call ahead and reserve your place in the excavations on one or more of the dates listed here.

Public-Assisted Research and Excavation Program at the Yuma Wash Site Dates and Details

Old Pueblo’s public archaeology program at the Yuma Wash site continues this spring 2006. This experience is free to members and costs $38/day for non-members. Minimum age:14. Space allows for 15 participants each day. Excavation dates are Feb. 23-26 & Mar. 17-19, 2006. Advance registration required.

The Prefieldwork Orientation is highly recommended for public-assisted excavation participants. Pre-fieldwork Orientation is on Feb. 19, 2006, from 9 a.m.-12 p.m. at Old Pueblo Archaeology Center. Call 520-798-1201 for details and to register.

Dear Darla...

Dear Darla,

I came across this star-shaped, clay artifact during the archaeological excavation of a Classic Period (ca. A.D. 1100 - 1350) Hohokam site in Sabino Canyon in the Tucson Basin. It is about 1½ cm thick and has a hole through the center. It reminds me of the holiday ornaments I hang up every year. Is this artifact decorative, or did it have a specific function for the people who made it?

-Seeing Stars in Tucson

Photograph by J. DeJongh

Dear Stars,

Thanks so much for asking. Although the artifact in question is certainly pleasing to the eye, it was probably more than ornamental. In fact, it appears to be a clay spindle whorl. Spindle whorls are often unearthed by archaeologists at Hohokam sites. They are found in a variety of shapes and sizes, ranging from flat, circular disks fashioned from pieces of broken pottery to fat ellipses made of polished clay to rounded cones or simple bell shapes ground from stone. Spindle whorls can also be shaped like stars, flowers, or flattened hourglasses.

Spindle whorls were used as weights attached to shafts to spin native plant fibers into usable thread or cordage. The Hohokam made cordage from cotton and milkweed, as well as yucca and agave, whose leaves were first scraped to free their tough fibers from the more tender plant flesh. Cordage was woven on looms into fabric, which could then be turned into shirts, belts, ponchos, and blankets. Cordage could be dyed or painted, and the weave of the fabric varied to create unique designs.

Speaking of cordage, the holidays are coming and it’s time to start warming up the old vocal cords for all the lovely carols that accompany the season. If only I could find sheet music for “Joy to the Whorl...”

Happy Holidays!

by Jenny DeJongh

Old Pueblo mother and son members, Mark and Sherry Paris, participating in excavations at the Yuma Wash site. Photograph by C. Rose
Traditional Technology Workshops

Traditional Pottery Making (Level I)

Experienced Southwestern potter and artisan John Guerin teaches Old Pueblo’s pottery workshops. Learn how to make traditional Indian pottery the way it has been made in the Southwest for over two thousand years. Dig your own clay, then hand-make your own pots and other wares. All equipment is provided. Children under 16 may enroll if a parent enrolls with them. The workshop runs on Sundays from March 19-April 30, 2006. Each session is held from 2-5 p.m. at Old Pueblo Archaeology Center, 5100 W. Ina Rd., Bldg. 8, Tucson. This multisession workshop costs only $69 ($55.20 for Advance registrations required: 520-798-1201.

Old Pueblo’s Calendar

Ancient Discovery Tours

Hopi Culture

Join distinguished scholar, teacher, and Hopi tribe member, Emory Sekaquaptewa, on an exclusive guided tour of the Hopi villages on the First, Second, and Third Mesas. The tour usually offers one traditional Hopi dinner at a private home, a viewing of traditional community dances (depending on tour date), and visits to a petroglyph site and the villages of Walpi, Hano, Sichomovi, Sipaulovi, Oraibi, and Ho-tevilla as well as to modern Hopi establishments.


Chaco Canyon, Pueblo Pintado, Aztec, & Salmon Ruins

Join Old Pueblo board member and former Chaco excavation participant, Jim Trimbell on this exciting tour to visit the A.D. 850-1250 archaeological ruins of Pueblo Bonito, Chetro Ketl, the Casa Rinconada Great Kiva, Pueblo del Arroyo, Kin Kletso, the mesa-top Pueblo Alto, and ancient Puebloan stairways carved out of bedrock in Chaco Culture National Historic Park.

Tour dates: April 27-May 1, 2006. Fee: $695 for nonmembers or $670 for members. (Fee includes transportation, lodging, and entry fees).

Contact editor Courtney Rose at crose@oldpueblo.org if you or someone you know would like to submit an article for publication in Old Pueblo Archaeology.

The Old Pueblo Archaeology Center Membership Program

Archaeology Opportunities

Annual Membership & Subscription Rates

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Membership categories above provide annual subscription to Old Pueblo Archaeology and opportunities to excavate in Old Pueblo’s public research programs at no additional cost plus 20% discount on publications and classes.

Or you may choose:

Friend $25: receives Old Pueblo Archaeology and discounts on publications and classes but not free participation in excavation opportunities.

Subscriber $10: receives one year (4 issues) of Old Pueblo Archaeology but no other discounts or excavation opportunities.

More importantly, your membership fees support Old Pueblo Archaeology Center’s educational programs.
In January 2006, Old Pueblo Archaeology Center’s “First Mondays” Will Become “Third Thursdays”

Each Third Thursday Program will be from 7:30 to 9:00 p.m. in the Old Pueblo auditorium, 5100 W. Ina Road, Building 8, in the Marana Town Limits, Arizona. Each program is free, with no advance reservations required. Contact Old Pueblo at 520-798-1201 or info@oldpueblo.org for more information. Check out the following scheduled presentations.

Thursday, January 19, 2006

Dr. Arthur C. MacWilliams, project director for Old Pueblo Archaeology Center, will present “Hohokam Ruins, Reservoir, & Canals along Silverbell Road in Marana.” Dr. MacWilliams will discuss recent discoveries including new evidence for Hohokam irrigation along the Santa Cruz River.

Thursday, February 16, 2006

Dr. Jay Cravath, writer, performer, and student of Native American songs and lore will present “Singing for Power.” Dr. Cravath will discuss the rich traditions associated with music in sacred contexts among Arizona’s Native music with traditional instruments, diverse voices, myths and stories.

Thursday, March 16, 2006

Dr. Paul Fish and Dr. Suzanne Fish, Arizona State Museum, University of Arizona archaeologists, will present “The Arizona State Museum’s Excavations at the Marana Mound Hohokam Site.” Drs. Paul and Suzanne Fish will discuss the most recent excavations in the Lower Santa Cruz Valley, at a major Hohokam center that focused on a platform mound public building surrounded by a community of smaller settlements occupied from A.D. 1200-1300. These recent studies have led to new interpretations of Hohokam settlement, population density, social complexity, and centralization of power.

Old Pueblo’s Calendar

Pueblo Grande Museum and Archaeological Park

The following events are sponsored by Pueblo Grande Museum and Archaeological Park, 4619 E. Washington St., Phoenix (SE corner of 44th St. and Washington). Call 602-495-0901 or visit Pueblo Grande’s website at www.pueblogrande.com for more details on these and other events.


Mr. Robert Serocki, Jr., Assistant City of Phoenix Archaeologist, will present on the archaeological monitoring and data recovery for improvements at the Pueblo Grande Museum.

Time: 7:30-9:00 p.m. Free & open to public.

Feather Decorating Workshop and Demonstration: Sun., January 22 and Sat., January 28, 2006

Join artist Cano Ramirez as he demonstrates the art of feather decorating.

Participants will create their own decorated feather.

Time: Sun., 1:00-3:00 p.m. & Sat., 9:00 a.m.-2:00 p.m.

Fee: $25 for nonmembers and $20 for members.

Archeology for Kids: Sat., January 7 (ages 7-10) & Sat., Jan 21 (ages 11-14), 2006

Become a Junior Archaeologist at Pueblo Grande Museum while discovering the science of archaeology by excavating in a simulated Hohokam pithouse.

Time: 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.

Fee: $12 for nonmembers and $10 for members.


Join Pueblo Grande Museum on a petroglyph discovery hike and explore rock art created hundreds of years ago by Hohokam people.

Time: 8:00-11:00 a.m. Free for members and $5 for nonmembers.

Pueblo Grande members also receive Old Pueblo member discounts Call Old Pueblo at 520-798-1201 for details.

Old Pueblo Archaeology is the quarterly bulletin of Old Pueblo Archaeology Center, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit corporation. Questions, comments, and news items can be addressed to editor Dr. Courtney Rose by calling 520-798-1201 or by email (crose@oldpueblo.org).

Hands Across the Ages

Fundraiser for Old Pueblo Archaeology Center at the Radisson Suites Tucson, 6555 E. Speedway Blvd. on April 8, 2006, from 5-11 p.m. Celebrate Old Pueblo’s 12th anniversary with a dinner and silent auction to benefit Old Pueblo’s Children’s Archaeology Education Programs. Advance reservations required: 520-798-1201.

Time to renew?

If you received this issue in one of our mass-mailings, the 8-digit number on the top line of your address label indicates the year, month, and day your Old Pueblo Archaeology subscription will expire. If your label month is the same as or earlier than the month of this bulletin issue you need to renew your subscription or membership in order to receive more issues.
Old Pueblo Archaeology

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Old Pueblo members Sherry Paris and Al Christensen volunteering for the Yuma Wash Site
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