The Sabino Canyon Ruin is located in northeastern Tucson on the property of the Fenster School of Southern Arizona, about ½-mile south of the Coronado National Forest’s Sabino Canyon Visitor Center. From investigations carried out there since early in this century (see map at right) we know that the ruin was a Hohokam Indian settlement with at least five walled housing compounds built between A.D. 1100 and 1300.

Old Pueblo Archaeology Center began a long-term research program at the Sabino Canyon Ruin this past March. Since then, we have opened up test excavations within two of the Hohokam compounds — Enclosure A and Compound C — revealing remnants of ancient adobe walls still standing more than a foot high. Hundreds of pottery sherds and other prehistoric artifacts have been recovered from these test excavations.

Free Sabino Canyon Ruin Tours Offered!
See page 5

Rather than being built of adobe bricks, the walls exposed by our excavations were constructed in a manner similar to pouring concrete. They might have been molded within wooden or woven panels erected to hold the mud in place as it dried, or may simply have been constructed by laying down layer after layer of mud and allowing each layer to dry before the next was applied to raise the wall height.

The adobe portions of the walls are from 6 to 47 inches (15-120 cm) thick. At the bases of several of them are footing stones that the Indians had set upright into the ground as construction began. These stones may have been placed along wall bases to strengthen them and reduce danger of having walls collapse outward (or inward) from the weight of all the mud.

Old Pueblo’s tests have confirmed that there was a row of pueblo-like rooms along the south side of Enclosure A, and that this compound’s eastern enclosing wall was actually three parallel adobe walls built alongside one another in successive construction events. The northern and eastern sides of Compound C are less substantial, single adobe walls with upright footing stones placed every 1½ to 2 feet. Wall abutment patterns show that Enclosure A was built first, then Compound C was added onto its south and east sides.

All artifacts recovered from Old Pueblo’s excavations so far appear to date to the early Hohokam Classic period, that is, between A.D. 1100 and 1300.

The Sabino Canyon Ruin excavation is Old Pueblo’s primary public outreach program, conducted in cooperation with the Fenster School of Southern Arizona. It is designed to educate people of all ages about the ancient peoples of the southwestern United States and to show how archaeologists study ancient peoples. All artifacts recovered, and all excavation records, will ultimately be curated at the Arizona State Museum except for human remains and items found in direct association with human burials. Human bones and any associated grave objects, if found, will be repatriated to the Tohono O’odham Nation in accordance with state law governing the discovery of burials on private property in Arizona.

Map of the compounds and rooms at the Sabino Canyon Ruin, based on a 1921 map. Reproduced from “Early Investigations at the Sabino Canyon Ruin” by John R. Welch (Archaeology in Tucson, Summer 1989)

Excavations Stated for September.
Excavations at the Sabino Canyon Ruin will resume this fall under direction of archaeologist Sara Chavarria, who is writing her doctoral dissertation on this project. In addition to excavation opportunities, Sabino Canyon program participants get to process and sort archaeological materials and learn about southwestern and Hohokam archaeology.

Continued on page 5
Volunteers Assist Old Pueblo in Green Valley Archaeological Excavation

Tucson Electric Power Company (TEP) recently sponsored an archaeological study by Old Pueblo Archaeology Center at the Continental site, a large Hohokam settlement along the Santa Cruz River in Green Valley. The work was done to recover information about Arizona’s past before TEP begins work to expand its Green Valley electrical substation into the Hohokam site area.

Remnants of an Ancient Village. In Old Pueblo’s excavations, conducted June 16 through August 17, nine ancient structures were excavated. With one exception, these abodes were houses built inside shallow pits, a form common at other Arizona Hohokam sites. Continental site pithouses differ from most other Hohokam houses, however, in having long, narrow, ramped entryways with thick adobe walls, and substantial adobe pilasters buttressing interior wooden doorposts.

The largest house found in the excavations, pictured above, is the only one not of the pithouse type. It was rectangular with massive poured-adobe walls, and measured 25.6 by 15.4 feet (7.8 X 4.7 m) in area. Most of the postholes found in its floor (see photo) supported the walls of a later structure that was built inside the adobe house after it was abandoned, so this feature accounts for 2 of the 9 structures excavated.

Outdoor features excavated during the project included 1 outdoor activity surface that was burned, 2 roasting pits, 1 fire pit, and portions of 4 outdoor middens (accumulations of ancient trash mixed with earth).

Artifacts and Age. The painted pottery from the Continental site is dominated by the Tanque Verde Red-on-brown type pictured on the back page of this bulletin. However, an unusually high percentage of them are colored white, the result of applying a slip (a thin clay wash) before firing the pot. There are also relatively high frequencies of mugs with handles (one is shown in the back page photo) and vessels with lugs protruding from their rims.

Most Hohokam features found in the excavations date to the early Classic period, between A.D. 1150 and 1300. However, certain artifacts, such as handled vessels, suggest some features were occupied as late as 1450.

In our analyses of artifacts and botanical samples (which include many specimens of burned corn, beans, and other seeds) Old Pueblo will try to date the site’s occupations precisely using Carbon-14 and other dating techniques.

Volunteers Assist in Excavations. Old Pueblo thanks TEP for its enthusiastic support of our request that volunteers be allowed to participate in this effort. Volunteers who helped excavate four of the Hohokam houses and also assisted in cleaning artifacts and processing dirt samples were:

Lisa Armstrong
Harry Ashby
Bill Bolder
Valerie Conforti
Josh Edwards
Jessica Evans
Victoria Evans
Karen Fite
Linda Frost
Chester Freeman
Linda Frost
Bercey Green
Stan Hall
Bud Hiscock
Karen Jones
Don Kerstner
John Murray
Jeanne Neal
Patricia Ohmart
Ralph Peotter
Shirley Peotter
Howard Schwab
Barbara Snyder
Jim Trimbell
Betsy Marshall
Treasured Earth
Hattie Cosgrove's Mimbres Archaeology in the American Southwest

A Special 1995 Southwestern Archaeology Volume available from Old Pueblo Archaeology Center

Truly a treasure (and a great gift idea!), Treasured Earth includes 212 vintage photos plus 420 Mimbres Black-on-white bowl drawings personally drawn and inked by Harriet Cosgrove -- many never published previously.

Full-color perfect-bound front and back covers feature Mimbres bowl paintings by artist Jacque Day

Hattie S. Cosgrove was a hardware store heiress who came West in 1907 and fell in love with the vast, wild Gila River country's ruins and traces of the long-vanished Mimbres Indians. Shortly after she began digging in abandoned villages for the beautiful painted Mimbres bowls with their intricate geometric and naturalistic designs, Hattie realized that digging only for treasures would destroy the fast-disappearing remains of the Mimbres culture. Therefore, she quickly developed precise and scientific methods for recording her excavations.

Treasured Earth Order Form

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Hattie Cosgrove's careful work eventually led to a career as an archaeologist for Harvard University. Her efforts in the Southwest and her haunting and beautiful drawings of Mimbres Black-on-white bowls are a remarkable legacy of a vanished culture and an extraordinary woman, archaeologist, and artist.

Hattie's pottery drawings, reproduced for the first time in this volume, represent specimens from sixteen separate Mimbres collections and at least fifteen archaeological sites.

This beautiful book can be purchased at Old Pueblo Archaeology Center's office at 1000 E. Fort Lowell Road in Tucson, or can be ordered for mail delivery by completing and returning the form on this page to PO Box 40577, Tucson AZ 85717-0577, with a check made payable to Old Pueblo Archaeology Center. Mail orders must include the appropriate shipping amount.
Prehistoric Mimbres Pottery

Prehistoric Mimbres Black-on-white pottery bowls often included elaborate depictions of human and animal figures, in addition to extremely fine linework. These figures are some of the 420 Mimbres pottery illustrations included in Treasured Earth: Hattie Cosgrove's Mimbres Archaeology in the American Southwest. © 1995 Carolyn O'Bagy Davis.
SABINO CANYON RUIN OPPORTUNITIES

Training to Become Archaeology Volunteers. Persons who complete at least 24 hours of the field school training sessions described below become eligible to participate in Old Pueblo's other archaeological projects in which we are allowed to use volunteers. See page 2 for news about our most recent program in which volunteers participated.

Programs for All Ages. Field sessions are offered to people of all ages at the Sabino Canyon Ruin. Old Pueblo provides all excavation equipment, and lunches for some programs. Participants must provide own transportation.

All-Age 3-Day & 1-Day Sessions. These sessions are open to adults and children 8 years and up. Besides excavating and handling artifacts, program participants get a brief tour of the ruin and training to recognize artifacts and archaeological features.

Three-day sessions offer a basic introduction to Southwestern archaeology. Each includes approximately 18 hours of excavation time (including daily orientation and equipment check-out/check-in) plus a daily period of processing artifacts for analysis and curation.

Introductory 1-day sessions are offered on the first day of each 3-day session to give people basic instructions in archaeological excavation. Additional 1-day sessions can be scheduled any day after the first day has been completed by calling Old Pueblo 2 days in advance.

Children's Sessions. After-school & weekend excavation sessions are for kids age 8-18. Besides giving students the thrill of discovering centuries old relics these sessions provide first-hand experience in excavating ancient sites and interpreting prehistoric cultures.

Old Pueblo's archaeologists teach kids proper scientific excavation techniques, methods of recording, sketching, and mapping archaeological features, and the importance of critical thinking for making scientific interpretations. Students also get practical exposure to the metric system, which is used for all measurements during the dig.

Students can also arrange to spend time in the archaeology lab to learn how artifacts and other archaeological specimens are processed and cataloged.

Discounts Offered. A 10% tuition discount is offered for recruiting a new person to enroll in an excavation session of the same type as a participant is enrolled in.

To Make Reservations please call Old Pueblo Archaeology Center at (520) 798-1201. Reservations and payment need to be made at least five days before the start of the session.

FREE RUIN TOURS!

Old Pueblo Archaeology Center will offer free archaeologist-guided tours of the Sabino Canyon Ruin (including Old Pueblo's current excavations) to the public on the following dates this fall:

Saturday September 30
Saturday October 28
Saturday November 18
Saturday December 16

Six separate tours will be offered on each of these days, at 9, 10, and 11 a.m., 12 Noon, and 1 and 2 o'clock. Each tour lasts approximately 2 hours.

A $2.00 per person donation is requested to help offset Old Pueblo's costs of staging the tours. Each tour is limited to 32 people, so advance reservations and admission tickets are required. For reservations call 798-1201.

Excavation Session Schedules
Kids afterschool & weekend sessions
Sept. 11, 1995-May 31, 1996
Mondays-Fridays 3:30-5:30 p.m.
Saturdays 8:30 a.m. - 3:00 p.m.
Cost of 2-hour weekday session is $20 for the first afternoon, $12 each additional afternoon. Saturday 6-hour sessions are $50 for the first and $30 for each additional day. Kids need to bring lunch for the Saturday session.

All-age field schools

1-day sessions 3-day sessions
$69/person $189/person

Saturday Sept. 16 Sept. 16-18
Friday Sept. 29 Sept. 29-Oct. 1
Saturday Oct. 14 Oct. 14-16
Friday Oct. 27 Oct. 27-29
Saturday Nov. 11* Nov. 11*-13
* Veterans Day
Friday Nov. 17 Nov. 17-19
Saturday Dec. 2 Dec. 2-4
Friday Dec. 15 Dec. 15-17

Daily hours for the all-age sessions are 7:00-3:30 in September, 8:00-4:30 from October through December. Old Pueblo provides lunch to each paying participant in these sessions.

Volunteer Needed for Office and Other Help

Old Pueblo Archaeology Center is seeking a volunteer to help us with computer data entry or word processing on weekdays. If you have some time to spend please call Al Dart at 798-1201. No computer experience is required (we'll teach you) as long as you can read and type!

Our readers can also help Old Pueblo out in other ways. Donations are always welcome, of course! You can also help Old Pueblo accrue discounts on our office supply purchases by making personal purchases at Office Max and providing Old Pueblo's "MaxPerks" number of 10620112 when you pay. So please write down our number so you'll have it ready when you visit Office Max!
BE AN ARCHAEOLOGY VOLUNTEER!

Besides Old Pueblo Archaeology Center, these other Arizona organizations offer archaeology volunteer opportunities:

Arizona Archaeological Society, chapters statewide  (602) 488-9793
Arizona Archaeological and Historical Society  (520) 621-4609
Arizona State Museum, Tucson  (520) 621-4609
Center for Desert Archaeology, Tucson  (520) 881-2244
Pima Community College (credit courses), Tucson  (520) 884-6022
U.S. Bureau of Land Management, Tucson  (520) 722-4289
U.S. Forest Service Passport in Time program (nat'l)  (202) 293-0922

YOUR RESPONSE IS REQUESTED

To keep our expenses down, Old Pueblo Archaeology Center must limit future mailings of the Bulletin to those interested in receiving information on southern Arizona archaeology programs, volunteer opportunities, and news.

A one-year subscription (4 issues) of Old Pueblo Archaeology Bulletin is only $5.00. To subscribe please complete the form on this page and send it in with your subscription payment. Thanks!

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Archaeologist Jeff Jones displays pottery and stone artifacts from Green Valley dig described on page 2. Photo by Ginny Burginger courtesy of Tucson Electric Power Co.