

glyphs

The Monthly Newsletter of the
Arizona Archaeological and Historical Society

Vol. 67, No. 10

April 2017



Panorama of La Playa

Next General Meeting:
April 17, 2017; 7:30 p.m.
University Medical Center
www.az-arch-and-hist.org

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President's Message

by John G. Douglass

I've been thinking lately about the February AAHS talk by Dale Brenneman (Arizona State Museum [ASM]), Bernard Siquieros (Tohono O'odham Nation Cultural Center and Museum), and Ronald Geronimo (Tohono O'odham College) on O'odham history in early Spanish written accounts. Their fascinating talk discussed the collaborative research project between the ASM and the Tohono O'odham National Cultural Center and Museum. This project, which included O'odham elders, translated and reinterpreted these early Spanish colonial documents to incorporate an indigenous voice.

In case you missed it, their talk centered on looking at the connections between native place names discussed in these early colonial documents and trying to understand what they mean in the O'odham language. There are a wide variety of names of towns, mountains, places, etc. in our southern Arizona vernacular that derive from O'odham, but that have been transformed with Anglo-American and Spanish vernacular usage. As Ronald Geronimo discussed at the beginning of the talk, many sounds in the O'odham language were not easily pronounced by the early Spanish arrivals, and therefore, these native words were transformed once written down by the Spanish.

I had known, as probably many locals do, that the name Tucson was derived from the O'odham word Cuk Son, but I learned a great deal more about a wide variety of places in the Pimería Alta, which includes both northern Sonora and southern Arizona. Understanding these linguistic and cultural relationships, as Ronald Germonimo has pointed out, further connects and reconnects the O'odham people to these places and the landscape surrounding them.

Jill and I have lived here in Tucson for nine years, and I've grown very fond of it. Coming from California, where I do a fair amount of research on the early colonial era, I've been interested in modern place names and their connections to both past and present Native Californians, who represent many diverse cultures and tribelets.

Much like southern Arizona, many connections exist between modern place names and towns and their indigenous origins. However, in places like ultra-urban Los Angeles, that connection can be very muddled.

The other day, Jill and I were talking with one of our neighbors who is a long-term Tucsonan. I honestly don't know how it came up, but one of us mentioned the street Alvernon, located just a bit east of our neighborhood, and we pronounced it the way we always had. A bit later in the conversation, our neighbor gently corrected our pronunciation and explained that the name derived in the early 1900s, from a local real estate developer whose name was Al Vernon and he had named the street after himself (or something close to that). Ever since I've been here, I've apparently been pronouncing it incorrectly, so I was happy to get some information that placed the name in context.

Clearly, there is little relationship between native O'odham place names and the streets of Tucson beyond the superficial, but I will say that here in Tucson, especially in older neighborhoods, we have the benefit of having at our fingertips the ability to look up the history of why a street is called something or another because it is recent history that is written down by the modern inhabitants. In the case of many towns and places in southern Arizona, it takes a lot more research — and indigenous knowledge based on oral traditions and histories — to understand the deeper meaning and cultural connection to them. Suffice it to say, as I drive through southern Arizona in the future, I'm going to continue to look at maps and think about where the names of these places originated in time and culture and how they have evolved and transformed through time.



Portion of Hurbert Eugene Bolton's "Map of Pimeria Alta, 1687-1711."

April 17: Topic of the General Meeting

Raising Time to the Level of Explication: 13,000 Years of Adaptation in the Sonoran Desert at La Playa, SON F:10:3

*John Philip Carpenter
Centro INAH Sonora*

Our research at the extraordinary La Playa site, SON F:10:3, is now entering its twenty-third year. The site is located in the Boquillas Valley, about 10 kilometers north of Estación Trincheras and some 27 kilometers west of Santa Ana, Sonora. The La Playa site presents an archaeological landscape revealing evidence of more or less continuous human use since the Paleoindian period, circa 13,000 years ago. Its most intensive use was during the Early Agricultural period (3,700–2,050 cal BP, or 2100 BCE–150 CE). After this period, the occupation of the Boquillas Valley greatly diminished, but the site was continuously occupied by the Trincheras tradition people, Piman groups, French goat herders, and even a hotel and restaurant was in operation there during the 1950s.

Countless thousands of hornos (roasting features), several hundred human inhumation and cremation burials, numerous dog burials, shell ornament production and lithic reduction activity areas, caches of manos and tabular “lapstone” slabs, and a schist quarry are the predominant features associated with the Early Agricultural period. To date, we have investigated a total of 620 archaeological features, including 310 mortuary features with 345 individuals (301 inhumations and 44 cremations), 30 canid inhumation burials and 4 canid cremation burials, 1 burned pithouse, and 118 roasting pit features. Maize kernels and cupules are present in 47 percent of the analyzed roasting features. This lecture presents a cultural and historical account of the long duration of these human occupations and their varied adaptations represented in the archaeological record.

Suggested Readings:

The Archaeology of Sonora

2016 *Archaeology Southwest Magazine* 30:3.

Carpenter, John, and Guadalupe Sánchez

2012 Paleoindian and Archaic Traditions in Sonora. In *From the Pleistocene to the Holocene: Human Organization and Cultural Transformations in Prehistoric North America*, edited by B. Vierra and B. Bousman, pp. 125–148. Texas A&M Press, College Station.

Carpenter, John, Guadalupe Sánchez, and Elisa Villalpando

2005 The Late Archaic/Early Agricultural Period in Sonora Mexico. In *New Perspectives on the Late Archaic Across the Borderlands*, edited by B. J. Vierra, pp. 3–40. University of Texas Press, Austin.

2008 Prehispanic Cultural and Environmental Dynamics on the Southern Periphery. In *Fragile Patterns: Perspectives on Western Papaguería Archaeology*, edited by J. Altschul and A. Rankin, pp. 287–308. SRI Press, Tucson.

Carpenter, John, Guadalupe Sánchez, James Watson, and Elisa Villalpando

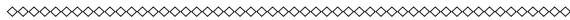
2015 The La Playa Archaeological Project: Binational Interdisciplinary Research on Long-term Human Adaptation in the Sonoran Desert. *Journal of the Southwest* 57(2-3):213–264.

Speaker John Carpenter (B.A., University of Arizona, 1979; M.A., New Mexico State University, 1992; Ph.D., University of Arizona, 1996) is a native Arizonan and currently a Research Professor with the Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia–Centro INAH Sonora, in Hermosillo. Previous research includes projects in Arizona, California, Oregon, New Mexico, Texas, and Utah, as well as in Chiapas, Chihuahua, Sinaloa, Sonora, and Zacatecas, Mexico. His research has concentrated upon the archaeology and ethnohistory of northwestern Mexico, where he has conducted diverse investigations including Paleoindian and Archaic period hunter-gatherers of the Sonoran Desert; the diffusion of maize to the north and the beginnings of agriculture; Pleistocene and early and middle Holocene climatic reconstruction; origin and dispersal of Uto-Aztecs and Cahitan-speakers; Mesoamerica/West Mexico and cultural frontiers; socio-político-economic dimensions in northern Sinaloa; cultural interaction and integration in the Sahuaripa, Sonora region; and long distance exchange routes linking West Mexico and northwestern Mexico/Southwestern U.S., as well as regional (tranverse) exchange systems within northwest Mexico.

AAHS Lecture Series

All meetings are held at the Duval Auditorium, University Medical Center
Third Monday of the month, 7:30–9:00 p.m.

- May 15, 2017: John G. Douglass, *Creating Community in Colonial Alta California*
- June 19, 2017: Saul Hedquist, *Turquoise and Social Identity in the Late Prehispanic Western Pueblo Region, A.D. 1275–1400*
- July 17, 2017: Matthew Guebard, *New Discoveries and Native American Traditional Knowledge at Montezuma Castle National Monument*



Upcoming AAHS Field Trips

*Participation in field trips is limited to members of AAHS.
There is generally a 20-person limit on field trips, so sign up early.*

The Valencia Site, Tucson

April 22, 2017; 8:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.

Join Pima County archaeologist Ian Milliken for a tour of the Valencia site. The Valencia site is a large, very well-preserved Hohokam village with Late Archaic pithouses and the first reported Clovis Paleoindian point from the



Tucson Basin having been documented within the boundaries of the site. It is comprised of two archaeological sites, AZ BB:13:15 (ASM) and AZ BB:13:74 (ASM), with documented occupations from 600 B.C. to A.D. 1200. The Hohokam component of the Valencia site situates its use within the late Pioneer, Colonial, and Sedentary periods. A small amount of early Classic period materials was also noted in the northern site areas.

The Valencia site has a large number of domestic features, such as pithouses, trash mounds, cremations, storage pits, and cooking pits. It also has public features that include a ballcourt and a large, centrally located open space that may be a public plaza.

Prepare for a half-day trip, bring your lunch, or grab some fantastic tacos in South Tucson when the trip ends. To register for the trip, contact Cannon Daughtrey (cannondaughtrey@gmail.com). Participation is limited to 20.

Bones and More Bones: Arizona State Museum **May 16, 2017; 10:00 a.m.–12:00 p.m.**



Jim Watson, Associate Curator of Bioarchaeology, and Nicole Mathwich, Zooarchaeology Curatorial Assistant, will host an engaging two-hour combination seminar and laboratory experience about methods and what we can learn from human and animal remains recovered from archaeological contexts. Participants

will learn some hands-on anatomy basic with favorite desert animals, how bones are deposited, found, and recovered from archaeological sites, and how the subdisciplines of bioarchaeology and zooarchaeology can contribute to answering archaeological research questions.

Registration is limited to 12 people. To register, contact Katherine Cerino at kcerino@gmail.com.

glyphs: Information and articles to be included in *glyphs* must be received by the first of each month for inclusion in the next month's issue. Contact me, Emilee Mead, at emilee@desert.com, or 520.881.2244.

Cornerstone

Darlene Lizarraga, Director of Marketing
Arizona State Museum

Clara Lee Tanner: The Grande Dame of Basket Researchers

Arizona State Museum (ASM) is opening a new and permanent exhibit featuring its extensive collection of basketry and fiber art. *Woven Through Time: American Treasures of Native Basketry and Fiber Art* opens to the public on April 8, 2017.

ASM specializes in the ancient cultures and their modern successors in the southwestern United States and northern Mexico.

Since its founding in 1893, ASM's collections have been available for exhibit, research, and teaching. The vast collections, which grow at a brisk annual pace, are consulted on a regular basis by researchers, educators, and artists who seek new knowledge to broaden the foundation for the understanding and appreciation of the 13,000-year-long cultural continuum in the region.

One shining example of a researcher who contributed to the world's knowledge of southwestern cultures using ASM collections was Clara Lee Tanner (1905–1997). Tanner was a respected and beloved

professor who served in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Arizona(UA) for half a century, from 1928 to 1978. She was, in fact, one of the first two students to earn a B.A. in archaeology from the UA in 1927, and one of the first three students to earn an M.A. in archaeology from the UA in 1928. She is described as having been *the* authority on Southwest Indian arts and crafts during her lifetime, dedicated to sharing her knowledge through university and public lectures, scholarly and popular publications, and involvement



in Native art shows.

Tanner's publications based upon ASM's basketry collections have helped make them known throughout the world of aficionados. Among her 166 published titles is *Indian Baskets of the Southwest* (1983, UA Press). With more than 200 pages and more than 500 photographs and drawings, it was the first comprehensive study of the southwestern Indian basketry, with a focus on materials, technologies, and designs.

Written and presented with equal painstaking care, *Apache Indian Basketry* (1982, UA Press), with its 200 pages and 300 illustrations, goes into greater depth about one of the most widely appreciated and valued cultural arts in our region.

"It is impossible to underestimate the impact that Clara Lee had over her 50-year career on the appreciation of Native arts, especially basketry, on the part of her students and the hundreds of Rotarians, women's club members, and others who were privileged to hear her presentations," said Diane Dittmore, ASM's associate curator of ethnological collections. "I was fortunate to have known her, and to have assisted

Woven Through Time

American Treasures
of Native Basketry and Fiber Art

Open April 8, 2017

This new permanent exhibit celebrates the region's ancient and abiding fiber-weaving traditions by featuring millennia-old objects to modern-day masterpieces. Contemporary Native voices enrich discussions of materials and technologies and bring to life the many functions basketry has served and continues to serve. In 2011, the collection was designated an American Treasure as the largest, most comprehensive, and best-documented collection representing the major indigenous basket-making cultures of North America.

Celebrations Planned

Friday, April 7, 2017

Basket Ball: A gala celebration for *Woven Through Time*
5:00 – 10:00 p.m., Marriott University Park Hotel
\$150 per person, table sponsorships available. Exhibit preview, silent auction, dinner, dancing.

Saturday, April 8, 2017

Community Opening for *Woven Through Time*

10:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m., Free

Meet Native basket weavers from around the state who will be on hand to share their cultural traditions and artistry with you through demonstrations, conversation, and sales. Experience the exhibit through a curator-guided gallery tour. Hands-on basket-weaving activities will challenge and delight every member of the family.



Arizona State Museum
THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA.

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her in selecting the baskets from ASM that were featured in her publications. She has greatly inspired and guided my basketry research over the last decades.”

According to Dr. Raymond H. Thompson, former head of the Department (now School) of Anthropology, it was Tanner’s strong belief that the members of the general public deserved just as much as her students to know about the creativity of Native artists. “She had a sense of responsibility to the public and to the community that gave her an almost missionary zeal to introduce the entire world to the beauty, skill, and creativity of Native artists,” Thompson once wrote of Tanner. “She wrote her scholarly books with the general reader in mind, and she published dozens of articles in newspapers and popular magazines, more than 25 in *Arizona Highways* alone. She gave hundreds of talks to public audiences ranging from the scholarly to the social, and from first graders to senior citizens.”

Tanner’s papers are housed in the ASM archives. They, like almost all of ASM’s collections, are accessible for research and study.

The research contributions of Clara Lee Tanner and others are featured in ASM’s new exhibit, *Woven Through Time: American Treasures of Native Basketry and Fiber Art*, which opens to the public on Saturday, April 8, 2017. The exhibit is dedicated to Tanner’s memory.



AAHS/TMA Navajo Textile Study Group

The Tucson Museum of Art and AAHS have partnered to establish the Navajo Textile Study Group. Members from both organizations gather to examine and discuss regional rug styles and historic trends in style development by studying examples from various collections. Indian Arts dealer Steve Getzwiller has invited the group to see his newest exhibit, *Navajo Textiles as Modern Art*, at his ranch in Sonoita, Saturday, April 1. Textiles from the 1880s to the present will illustrate classic designs and their evolution. For more information, contact Marie Lynn Hunken at NavajoRugInfo@gmail.com.

AAHS Membership Application

Membership is open to anyone interested in the prehistory and history of Arizona and the Southwest and who support the aims of the Society. Membership runs for a full year from the date of receipt, and covers all individuals living in the same household. If you are joining as a household, please list all members of the household. Monthly meetings are free and open to the public. Society field trips require membership.

Membership Categories

- ☐ \$50 **Kiva members** receive four issues of the Society's quarterly journal *Kiva* and 12 issues of *Glyphs*
- ☐ \$40 **Glyphs members** receive *Glyphs*
- ☐ \$35 **Student Kiva members** receive both *Kiva* and *Glyphs*
- ☐ \$75 **Contributing members** receive *Kiva*, *Glyphs*, and all current benefits
- ☐ \$120 **Supporting members** receive *Kiva*, *Glyphs*, and all current benefits
- ☐ \$300 **Sponsoring members** receive *Kiva*, *Glyphs*, and all current benefits
- ☐ \$1,000 **Lifetime members** receive *Kiva*, *Glyphs*, and all current benefits

Note: For memberships outside the U.S., please add \$20. AAHS does not release membership information to other organizations.

I wish to receive *Glyphs* by (circle your choice): Email Mail Both

I am interested in volunteering in AAHS activities: Yes Not at this time

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You can join online at www.az-arch-and-hist.org, or by mailing the form below to:

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