

BOOK REVIEW



Field Man: Life as a Desert Archaeologist, by Julian D. Hayden; edited by Bill Broyles and Diane E. Boyer. 280 pp., 114 halftones and illustrations, 1 map, 1 table, foreword, epilogue, appendices, bibliography, index. University of Arizona Press, 2011. \$45 (Cloth). ISBN 978-0-8165-2905-6.

Reviewed by Todd W. Bostwick, Verde Valley Archaeology Center, Camp Verde, and PaleoWest Archaeology, Phoenix.



Julian Hayden was a remarkable person, and this fascinating book is his autobiography. He was a man of high integrity, humble yet supremely confident in his own abilities, an outstanding storyteller, a skilled archaeologist, and a great friend to many people. He helped excavate a number of famous archaeological sites in Arizona, including Keet Seel, Snaketown, Pueblo Grande, Ventana Cave, and University Indian Ruins. He also was one of the founders of North American desert archaeology, especially for his pioneering work in the Sierra Pinacate of Mexico. Although his father, Irwin, was a Harvard educated archaeologist, Julian only attended junior college and never took a single course in archaeology. Nonetheless, he was a keen observer, he took excellent field notes, was a fine photographer, and a concise writer. He was also an avid reader (since the age of three) and had a sharp intellect. As the editors of his autobiography note, Julian was a blue-collar scholar who published more than 55 articles, reports, and book reviews.

Raymond Thompson (1998:292) has described Julian as "a rugged individual, tall, wiry, tough, almost formidable, and strong from years of hard work and field research in a forbidding desert environment" as well as a "gentle, gracious, generous, and caring person with a tremendous sense of humor. . . ." In the foreword to Julian's autobiography, J. Jefferson Reid characterizes him as "a complex and complicated man who played many parts in his time" (p. ix). All of these attributes are clearly evident in the many stories told by Julian in his autobiography, stories rich in detail because of his lucid memories of the people, places, and events of his life. Julian also was a devoted family man, fathering four children with his beloved wife, Helen. His youngest son, Steve, wrote an epilogue for the book.

This book contains 15 chapters that are based on 23 oral interviews conducted between April 1981 and November 1995 by his friends Bill Broyles and

Diane Boyer. A manuscript of those interviews has been available since at least 1998, when an entire issue of *Kiva: The Journal of Southwestern Anthropology and History* (vol. 64, no. 2) was devoted to Julian and his impact on Sonoran Desert archaeology. We are fortunate that the manuscript has finally been published by a major press so that Julian's own words can be read and pondered by a wide audience. Broyles and Boyer have greatly enhanced those words with numerous black and white photographs provided by Julian's family, many of them taken by Julian himself, and with excerpts from letters written to and by Julian. Broyles and Boyer also include a People and Places appendix that provides further information about individuals, geographic locations, and archaeological sites discussed in the book.

Chapter 1, *Heritage*, discusses Julian's early life on a Montana ranch and then in Riverside, California. Julian talks about his early experience in the construction business and the influence on him by his talented but temperamental father, Irwin, and his beautiful mother, Mary, a highly skilled artist.

In Chapter 2, *Early Field Work*, Julian recounts how he became employed by M. R. Harrington of the Southwest Museum to assist his father in the 1929 excavation of Mesa House in southern Nevada. Julian's first experience as an archaeologist almost didn't happen, however, as his father found out that he had been driving his Harley motorcycle on a suspended license and was about to send Julian to reform school for three years before Harrington interceded! In this chapter, we also learn that Julian took a correspondence course from the National Art Institute, which fine-tuned his ability to sketch, a skill that served him well throughout his archaeology career and allowed him, at the age of 18, to prepare the illustrations for the Mesa House report.

Julian's experience excavating the Pueblo cliff dwelling of Keet Seel in northeastern Arizona in 1933 is told in chapter 3, *Sandstone Country*. It was during this excavation that Julian met the legendary John Wetherill. Julian explains why he never wanted to work on a Pueblo site again after that dig was completed.

In *Pima and Papago*, chapter 4, Julian discusses his involvement in the excavations for the Los Angeles County Museum at Casa Grande and the adjacent Grewe site near Florence, in addition to Ventana Cave for Emil Haury of the University of Arizona. Julian never forgave Art Woodward for not writing a report on the important Grewe site excavations because Julian felt very strongly that publishing the results of field work was an essential part of being a professional archaeologist. A man true to his word, Julian later spent his own money to have his 1940 excavations at University Indian Ruin published, even if it took him 17 years to do so (Hayden 1957). That report is now a classic.

Chapter 5, *The Right Woman*, describes Julian's love affair with his wife, Helen. Julian met Helen, who was from Pennsylvania, while working at Snake-town. Because he had spent \$25 for a white Stetson hat, a whole week of wages in 1935, he had limited funds for their honeymoon. Helen then became a cook

at the Snaketown excavations, having been taught how to cook by Julian (her family had servants so she never learned to cook).

Chapter 6, *CCC*, describes Julian's work with the Civilian Conservation Corps in the late 1930s, first as an archaeologist at Pueblo Grande in Phoenix and later as a foreman for CCC construction projects throughout Arizona. While at Pueblo Grande, Julian not only ended up supervising the excavations of the platform mound and surrounding area at the young age of 24, but his crews also made 80,000 adobe blocks for expansion of the museum. Julian's experience with Odd Halseth was not a positive one, and in his autobiography he was reluctant to talk about his contentious relationship with Halseth, noting only that he left after he and Halseth "had their fallings out, as everybody did with him . . ." (p. 76). However, Wilcox (1993) has published a detailed account of why Julian left Pueblo Grande without writing up a report on his important excavations, and Downum (1998b) describes how Julian's incredibly detailed notes and seven hundred black and white photographs were later used to report on his excavations in two thick volumes (Bostwick and Downum 1994; Downum 1998a) and in a chapter in a book on Pueblo Grande (Downum and Bostwick 2003). Julian was thrilled, of course, that the results of his hard work had finally paid off more than 50 years after he worked there (Figure 1).

In chapter 7, *At Home*, Julian talks about the beautiful and unique silver jewelry he created, with his rings identified by his trademark turtle stamp (because he thought he was so slow). His jewelry designs were taken primarily from Mayan and Hohokam motifs. He also discusses how he built his own house in Tucson and how he often fed pieces of cheddar cheese with his fingers to lizards that lived in the mesquite tree in his courtyard, with the lizards thanking him "by pumping" (p. 100). I can verify this story having witnessed it while visiting Julian at his home.

Chapter 8, *Seri*, is about Julian's 1941 trip to Tiburon, Mexico, with ethnographer Gwyneth Harrington Wulsin. Julian spoke very fondly of this adventure among the Seri Indians.

Chapter 9, *War Years*, is primarily about his experience as a safety officer during World War II. Because of his construction background, Julian was hired to oversee safety operations at the Yuma Air Field, Arizona, and at Muroc (Edwards) Air Force Base in southern California.

In chapter 10, "*Hayden Says*," Julian discusses his successful construction business in Tucson, where his backhoe operators built numerous septic tanks and cesspools. He also mentions his weekly advertisements in the newspapers from 1956 to 1978, in which he offered recipes, editorials, and general advice. Julian claims that his backhoe business gave him a keen insight into desert soils, helping him to better understand soil formation processes at archaeological sites.

Chapter 11, *Studies in Desert Archaeology*, is the story of his close friendship with Malcolm Rogers of the Southwest Museum in Los Angeles. Both men loved

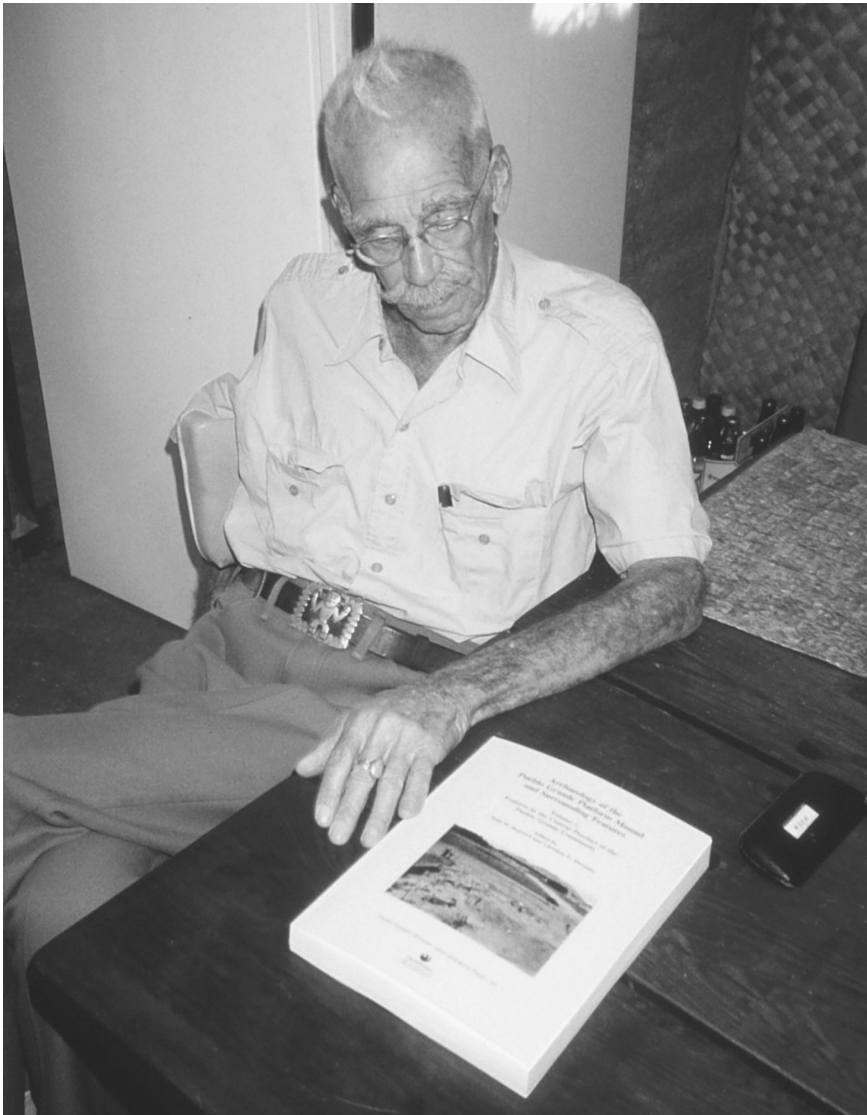


FIGURE 1. Julian Hayden looking at the publication on Pueblo Grande by Bostwick and Downum (1994) based on his field notes and photographs from the late 1930s. Photograph by Todd W. Bostwick, October 1994.

to roam the western deserts and contemplate how prehistoric people lived in these arid regions. In 1938, Rogers invited Julian to help him excavate the San Dieguito Site in southern California and Julian vigorously defends their work at that site, noting that Rogers had figured out the sequence of occupation correctly but underestimated the age of the site. It was because of Rogers that Julian became interested in Early Man studies.

Chapter 12, *El Pinacate*, is a detailed account of Julian's exploration of the Pinacate region of northwestern Sonora, Mexico. Julian made more than 160 trips into this region, typically during a two- or four-day weekend, when he could take time off from his construction business. Archaeologists Paul Ezell and Norman Tindale sometimes assisted Julian in his desert investigations. It was in the Pinacate region that Julian became interested in desert varnish (patina) and developed his ideas about fragile pattern areas, which resulted in an article in *American Antiquity* (Hayden 1965). Julian's pioneering work in the Pinacate led him to propose that humans had lived in this region for a considerably long time, beginning more than 30,000 years ago, well before the famous Clovis big game hunters occupied the American Southwest. Julian's dating remains controversial even today, although his notions of great antiquity for humans in the New World are beginning to gain some support as new data are obtained on early sites located elsewhere in the Americas. A manuscript Julian prepared in 1983 about the Pinacate region was finally accepted for publication 15 years later, accompanied by beautiful color photographs by Jack Dykinga and with a foreword written by Bernard L. Fontana (Hayden 1998).

Tracing Early Man, Chapter 13, continues Julian's discussion on ancient humans of the desert regions. He mentions some prominent archaeologists (e.g., David Meltzer) who vehemently disagree with his idea that humans were present before the Clovis culture and he states that "I am not very fond of some of these Bishop Usshers, these conservatives" (pp. 195–196). Julian also talks about how he believes the Hohokam were migrants from western Mexico who settled in the Gila region and intermixed with local hunter-gatherers, a position he published in another *American Antiquity* article (Hayden 1970).

Chapter 14, *New Trends*, and Chapter 15, *Why Archaeology?*, are the most provocative chapters in Julian's autobiography. He expresses his disdain for the so-called New Archaeology, which he calls a "false and fabricated philosophy" (p. 211). Julian argues that current archaeologists focus too much on statistics, have little understanding of stone tools, and do not get enough field experience. For Julian, field experience is invaluable—"you don't learn how to use a trowel, you don't learn the textures of soils, from a book" (p. 234). Many archaeologists today would agree with this argument. But Julian also believed that an archaeologist should go into the field "with no preconceived ideas, no beliefs, an open mind" (p. 226). Hypotheses, in Julian's view, should be formulated after "you encounter evidence and make certain observations" not before (p. 226). This

later view would not be well received today, certainly not by the academic world, where research designs precede fieldwork and data are collected for the main purpose of supporting or refuting hypotheses. Of course, a lot more data are available today than when Julian was in the field, which enables modern scholars to develop their hypotheses before they go into the field to collect more data. Julian was working at a time when data were scarce and ideas about ancient humans and their environments were in their infancy.

In conclusion, this autobiography provides an honest, firsthand account of the life of a unique individual, a man who dedicated his immense skills and intellect to the study of ancient human adaptations to the Sonoran Desert. In regard to Julian's views on Early Man, he acknowledges that academia may laugh at him, "but that's all right. Time will tell" (p. 226).

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