HOW IT ALL BEGAN

THE
DESERT FOOTHILLS CHAPTER
ARIZONA ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SOCIETY

BY
AUDREY STEPHENS
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This report makes a best effort at providing the history and background of the Desert Foothills Chapter, Arizona Archaeological Society (AAS). Although significant research effort was expended, information was hard to come by, mostly because of poor record keeping, conflicting reports, and lost records.

The Desert Foothills Chapter evolved as awareness in the archaeology around Cave Creek, Arizona increased. Because the Cave Creek area is so rich in archaeological resources there was a considerable amount of local community interest. Sometime in 1974 Bill Crooks, a local contractor was digging a leach line near the intersection of Cave Creek Road and Carefree Highway as part of a construction project. While digging at this site he came across a Hohokam burial pot containing charred human bones. He called his brother in-law Chad Phinney who was an archaeologist and assistant director at Pueblo Grande Museum in Phoenix.

Chad then visited the site to examine the findings and as a result of this examination he began to think that people in an area so rich with prehistoric resources should have some training in what to look for as well as how to excavate and record their findings. This observation started some discussion in the community and not long after the Cave Creek School approached Chad and asked him to teach an adult community education class in archaeology. A newspaper clipping, provides a description of this event just after the class began (Attachment 1).


A class on field archaeology began in September 1974. The class was held in the Cave Creek School and covered archaeological field methods. Jane Ekrom, who moved to Cave Creek in 1969, enrolled in the class. She had noticed mounds and potsherds on her property and was interested in knowing more about the local archaeology. The first fieldwork consisted of a walking survey. The sites where they did the survey work were given numbers. AZU:1:4 was located on Jane Ekrom’s property. AZU:1:5 were terraces on Bob Mullen’s property. AZU:1:6 was the Sierra Vista Ranch owned by Gene and Sharon Owens. There were no significant findings. I have not been able to find any reports or information on these three sites other than Chad Phinney’s topographic map showing the locations for these sites (see Cave Creek Quadrangle, Topographic Map included with this report).

Jane Ekrom provided some information about her property. There are several mounds. The class dug a trench but nothing of merit was discovered and the trench was backfilled. They also walked the property and did a collection survey finding mostly sherds and lithics. Jane reported that the group also walked the other two properties, AZU:1:5 and AZU:1:6. They also did a collecting survey and all artifacts were given to the property owners.
Local Contractor Finds Hohokam Burial Pot, Prompts Education For Amateur Diggings

by Mary Bonelli

Cave Creek residents who are interested in Indian artifacts should be trained and allowed to do their own excavating, according to a Phoenix archeologist.

Chad Phimeny, assistant at the new Pueblo Grande museum, which opened last Sunday, said professional archeologists in the state are very.remote in their attitude toward amateurs. Instead of discouraging amateur digging, he said, the professionals should "take them under their wing and guide them as long as they're doing good excavations."

Phimeny was prompted in his statement by the discovery of a Hohokam burial pot, containing charred human bones, at a building site near Cave Creek Road and Carefree Highway. The pot was found by Bill Crooks, local contractor, as he was digging a test line. Phimeny is Mrs. Crooks' brother.

The Cave Creek area, he said, "has alignments that denote terraces, dunes and diurnal spaces." It had been previously thought that most of the inhabitants here were Pueblo people from the North. Phimeny said the burial pot is a Hohokam feature from the same area, and other Hohokam sites near Lake Pleasant, indicate the ancient tribe had at least seasonal camps over a very large area, and may have been more horticulturists than agriculturists.

Phimeny said people in an area as rich with prehistoric evidence should have some training in what to look for and how to excavate and record. He said he would be glad to teach at the community school here.

The major problem amateur diggers run into, he said, is that they get involved in the romance of finding things. For archeologists, he said, there is a whole range of valuable information other than "things." The physical materials are not as important as styles and patterns, location and design. This kind of information, he said, helps piece together the real story of the Hohokam and other ancient people.

Phimeny said the Hohokam probably came up in this area from their irrigated fields in the Valley, when mesquite beans and saguaro fruits were ripe. If they had a good harvest in their cultivated fields, they might also come back here for the Fall bean harvest, he said. To locate their camps, map them, measure pollen counts, etc., would help to fill in portions of the mystery of the tribe that disappeared about six centuries ago.

Amateurs, he said, should learn techniques for recording data, in addition to just excavating for acquisition. They could help professionals by taking soil samples and labeling them as they go, by mapping the positions of objects, by learning some of the styles, and by drawing outlines so that pottery can be identified with certain peoples.

Builders could be particularly helpful, he said. "If they're putting footings down a couple of feet, they may go through house floors. In a profile you see an area of dense, concentrated calcite plaster. If you start peeling back on that, you'll find a house floor."

Phimeny said the cremation pot has what is called a Gila Shoulder, a style that appeared in the San Xavier period, between 1200 and 1400. It is possible, utilizing local black slat as a stabilizer in the clay.

Phimeny said the Cave Creek area appears to have been heavily populated between 1200 and 1400, and that there was considerable friction at the time.

A drought and possible extremely cold weather is also indicated, he said, here and to the North. This is determined by measuring pollen taken from the floor of excavated ruins. There is evidence that the Puebloans moved down from the North in large numbers, and that many sites were fertilized.

In Phoenix, Phimeny said, there were 22 known large sites and many less obvious ones that were covered over by the City in less than a hundred years. He referred to the Hohokam canals as evidence of the profit in knowing the past. "It was only after we discovered what the 'sunken roads' in Phoenix really were that the early settlers thought of irrigation," he said.

"The material is also here, in Cave Creek," he said. "All we can hope is that somebody has the foresight to excavate it before development spreads over it."

The burial pot and bones were taken to the Pueblo Grande museum.
Site AZU:1:7

In November of 1974 the same group found an opportunity to dig at an actual prehistoric site in Cave Creek. This site was known as the Ansbaugh site or the Hudson Ranch site. The property was owned by Bob Ansbaugh. The first site on this property was given the number AZU:1:7. Work at this site started in November 1974 and continued through December 1975.

This Ansbaugh site (AZU:1:7) was determined to be a single room block, semi-subterranean slab lined dwelling. The site was probably a temporary field house with a hearth and dated approximately c.a. 1100 AD, Sedentary. The excavation of AZU:1:7 was completed in December 1975. Some lab work was completed and assignments were made for writing final reports but no record of those reports could be found. A few incomplete field notes do remain. All artifacts were cleaned and given to Bob Ansbaugh.

Mr. Ansbaugh still lives in North Scottsdale. He was contacted and indicated that the only remaining artifact was one old pot that was given to the Cave Creek Museum. He did not know where on the property the pot was discovered. He also indicated that he hardly ever visited the site and had little interest in the dig. He did give permission for work on the property but because of how long ago this occurred he does not remember any further details. The Cave Creek Museum does not have any record of the pot. JoAnn Stuckey, the Cave Creek Museum Curator, indicated that many pots were donated to the Museum during its early years but no records of those donations (who gave what and when) were kept.

Site AZU:1:10

Work on another Ansbaugh site (Site AZU:1:10) started in November 1975 and continued off and on until April 1979. This site consisted of a long masonry wall, a possible compound wall running north to south and approximately 60 feet in length. There are a few field notes related to this site but they are incomplete. A lab specimen list is included in this report (Attachment 2). It lists some of the artifacts discovered on this site.

Site AZU:1:11

The third location for site work performed by the Cave Creek area class was on Harry Patterson’s property (Site AZU:1:11) starting in April 1976. Harry Patterson and his wife Mary built their house in Cave Creek in 1975. In early 1976, while working on the house, they began moving a small mound of dirt near the driveway. They use some of the dirt to fill in the patio area and kept unearthing pieces of pottery. Mr. Patterson heard about the group working under Chad Phinney’s guidance at the Ansbaugh site. He called the Pueblo Grande Museum and asked Chad to visit the site on his property. Chad determined that there was a site on the Patterson’s property. The group stopped working on the Ansbaugh site and began working on the Patterson pithouse site. Work at the
Patterson site continued through February 1977. The class did take a break during the summer months.

This site (AZU:1:11) is a single room block and is a pithouse with an ante-room entrance. It appeared to have been a more permanent dwelling than was Site AZU:1:7. This pithouse was burned and charred remains of a roof support post were found. Many artifacts were found on the floor, mostly pottery. It is believed to be a Hohokam agriculture gathering area dating to c.a. 1100 AD Sedentary time. As part of the research for this report a nice drawing of this pithouse was found in the Desert Foothills Chapter archives (Attachment 3).

In the first annual Desert Foothills Chapter report written by the first President Anne Phetteplace she states that the excavation and lab work on the Patterson site had been completed. Mary Patterson, who still lives at the site location, indicated that they went into Pueblo Grande Museum to clean artifacts and put pots together. Then, the artifacts were brought back to the site where they still remain today. However, she was never given a final report.

Claire Steigerwald, a class member and first Secretary / Treasurer of the Desert Foothills Chapter, stated that as far as she knows, all notes and other written documents were handed into Chad Phinney. However, Chad Phinney indicated that no report or other documents can be located today. He believes that with his move from the Pueblo Grande Museum to the Tempe Historical Museum, where he works today, many records were lost.

Harry and Mary Patterson opened the site as an educational site for the Cave Creek area. Included with this report are several newspaper clips that were found in a file at the Cave Creek Museum (Attachments 4 – 6). One clipping describes the tours that were given on the property (Attachment 4). The other two clippings include two articles that describe a few quotes from Chad Phinney (Attachments 5 and 6).

Sites AZU:1:12 and AZU:1:13

In March of 1977 through April of 1979 the group now known as the Desert Foothills Chapter of AAS went back to finish work at the Ansbaugh site (Hudson Ranch). They started work on Site AZU:1:12 and ASU:1:13. Site AZU:1:12 is a Ramada work area and AZU:1:13 appeared to be a single room semi-subterranean pithouse with considerable fall and a burnt post and other charcoal remains. No additional information could be found on these two sites. There are a few field notes for AZU:1:13 but they contain little information. See lab specimen list (Attachment 2). It lists some of the artifacts from this site. There are no field notes for AZU:1:12.

The information related to these two sites was taken from Anne Phetteplace’s second annual report written on January 14, 1978. Information about the AZU:1:13 charcoal findings came from student field notes of 2/4/78 and 2/25/78. The information about the charcoal posts found at this site was contained in the 4/14/78 field notes. The Ansbaugh
property was sold in the fall of 1979. The Chapter discontinued the excavation at that time.

An archived notebook for the Ansbaugh (Hudson Ranch) sites containing the results of some lab analysis, artifact description, and a few general field notes were located as part of the research work for this report. The notebook is incomplete and many of the notes are missing. All of the artifacts listed (Attachment 2) were taken from sites AZU:1:10 and AZU:1:13 lab specimen list.

According to Beth Grindell, PhD, archaeologist for the Arizona State Museum located at the University of Arizona in Tuscon there is no record of these sites being registered. Rober Serocki, assistant archaeologist for the Pueblo Grande Museum in Phoenix reported that there is no record of these sites or reports related to these sites. A few photos of the Patterson Site and the Ansbaugh Sites are included as an attachment (Attachment 7).
## Attachment 2

### Lab Specimen List (Incomplete)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>No.</th>
<th>Artifact Type</th>
<th>Description</th>
<th>Location</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>Sherds</td>
<td>Rim pieces, handle parts, shoulders, a rim from a possible scoop, and other body parts</td>
<td>AZU:1:10 &amp; AZU:1:13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Wingfield: plain ware, smudged and polished</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Gila: plain ware</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Santa Cruz: decorated, red on buff</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Sacaton: geometric designs, red on buff</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2</td>
<td>Lithics</td>
<td>Flakes: one knife flake, one scraper flake</td>
<td>AZU:1:10 &amp; AZU:1:13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Additional lithics made of various stone: white quartz, chert, obsidian, basalt, chalcedony,</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>slate, translucent white chert, green epidosite and schist</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Shell</td>
<td>2 pieces of shell bracelet</td>
<td>AZU:1:10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1 shell bead</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Bone</td>
<td>Small fragments</td>
<td>AZU:1:10 &amp; AZU:1:13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>Charcoal and Pollen</td>
<td></td>
<td>AZU:1:13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>6</td>
<td>Cores</td>
<td>1 core with a fracture, made of green stone</td>
<td>AZU:1:10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>16 other cores made of various stones</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>Projectile Points</td>
<td>3 whole points</td>
<td>AZU:1:10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1 broken point</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1 possible drill</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Manos</td>
<td>6 whole</td>
<td>AZU:1:10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>3 broken</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>9</td>
<td>Metates</td>
<td>6 broken pieces all made of basalt</td>
<td>AZU:1:10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>2 pieces of matate made of basalt</td>
<td>AZU:1:13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10</td>
<td>Gaming Dice (possible ?)</td>
<td>Slate, worn / smooth – 5 x 3 &amp; 1/2 cm</td>
<td>AZU:1:10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>Effigy Head (possible ?)</td>
<td>1 broken piece made of sandstone</td>
<td>AZU:1:10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>12</td>
<td>Spindle Whorls</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>AZU:1:10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>13</td>
<td>Fetishes (possible ?)</td>
<td>1 slate gray fetish of a carved bird</td>
<td>AZU:1:10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Polished Stones</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>AZU:1:10</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>1</td>
<td>AZU:1:13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>15</td>
<td>Clay Bead</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>AZU:1:13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>16</td>
<td>Pots</td>
<td>2 reconstructed Gila plain ware, one was a Gila shoulder and the other a Gila plain ware bowl</td>
<td>AZU:1:13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Photo included as Attachment 8</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Attachment 3
Tour guides to the past

Harry and Mary Patterson are pit house ruins hosts

by Nancy Zeko

You don't know what to expect when you pay your first visit to the pit house ruins in the Yampah Road area of Cave Creek. There's not a single marked sign by the driveway to Harry and Mary Patterson's house.

What you find is a guided tour of an ancient world of an unknown people who lived in this area several hundred years before the arrival of white men. Harry and Mary, the guides, pull out all the stops to teach you about the past.

They don't make a big to-do about the tour, and it's not something you notice in the public to stop in any time between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. A small sign drives up to the pit house only a few feet from their front door. Harry and Mary are usually there to show you around and explain the site. They are guided by a small group of friends, who have been on this project for a few years and are well informed. The ruins are represented by four holes where the current roof used to be, and a shallow depression of hard-packed clay where the hearth was located.

The real treat for visitors is seeing Harry show how the structures were built. He can explain the method of using stones and other objects, and he can demonstrate the use of tools they would have used.

Harry has owned the land for 28 years. He and Mary moved there in 1972, after they retired from Montgomery Ward in Phoenix.

Before they came, there were only a few families living in the area. They were all traditionalists, and they knew that the sites may have been created during the time they were building.

Harry has the land for 28 years. He and Mary moved there in 1972, after they retired from Montgomery Ward in Phoenix.

His great-grandpa told Army how to pacify Indians, but no one listened

Attachment 4

for that test, they noticed some broken pottery, but they didn't know they were camping on an archaeological site.

They learned the true nature of the ruins when they were invited to a tour of the site by someone who had lived in the area for a few years and was well informed. They were able to show her around and explain the site in detail.

Harry Patterson disagrees sharply with Phinizy about the age of the ruins. He feels that the site dates from 1,000 B.C. He feels that the site is still active.

Harry came from Phoenix from his farm in Arizona, Mo. After World War II, he was an agricultural engineer with the United States Department of Agriculture, a position which is still active.

Harry's family has been active in the Civil War. His grandfather, General George Washington, was a Union colonel.

He was married to a woman named Johnson, who was a Union colonel.

At that time, Phinizy was an agronomist in the United States Department of Agriculture, a position which is still active.

Phinizy believes the pit house was excavated around 1,000 B.C. He feels that the site is still active.

Phinizy believes the pit house was excavated around 1,000 B.C. He feels that the site is still active.

MARY PATTSONIS (above) shows how some of the poles which keep the patio roof from collapsing. She also shows how some of the pottery is used. She is an artist and writer who has lived in the area for many years. She is also a blacksmith and woodcarver. She is a member of the Arizona History Society and the Arizona Historical Society.

She keeps the site as a museum for the public. (Photos by Jim Zeko)
An archaeological dig will get back underway Saturday in Cave Creek on the property of Harry and Mary Patterson. The site will be open to the public.

The dig, commenced in the spring, has only been worked about six days (six Saturdays) but has produced a large number of pots and other artifacts which date back 900 to 900 years.

According to Chad Phinney, archeologist on the project, the pit house was occupied at some time around 1100 A.D. when it was burned. Apparently the house, dug slightly into the ground and having a plastered floor, was covered with sticks and mud which collapsed at the time of the fire and left some of the pots and other artifacts protected.

The site was discovered by the Pattersons when some fill was being scraped from the area for use elsewhere on the property. When he began finding more pottery shards than dirt, Patterson decided that he must have hit the site of a dwelling, and he called in Chad Phinney, who was teaching an archeology course for the Community School.

A crew of several individuals, headed by Phinney, began the meticulous, tedious job of excavating the site with small hand tools and whiskbrooms and immediately determined that the dig would be a productive one. One person used a dental tool to carefully remove dirt and others used trowels and table knives.

A plastered indentation in the side of the single-family dwelling has been identified as a primitive fireplace, and around it pots were found which contained remnants of seeds. Corn was among the foodstuffs found, indicating that some cultivation was being undertaken in the area at that time.

Phinney said that he expects that the house will prove to have been an oval shaped and measure approximately 12 by 24 feet. He said that apparently the homes in the area were not in tight clusters but were generally within sight of each other.

According to the archeologist, the construction techniques used for the pottery fit the Hohokam people who inhabited the southern part of Arizona between 900 and 1300 A.D., but the use of phillite as a tempering agent, to harden the pottery, was generally a character of the Senawas culture. The Senawas were contemporaries with the Hohokams but were in the northern part of the state.

Dates have not been firmly established for the artifacts and little work has been done of a scientific nature in the Cave Creek area, according to Phinney. He said a preliminary report on the project should be available around the first part of the year.

The Pattersons are pleased that they have the site on their property. Harry said he had always been interested in Indian culture but never thought he’d be able to have anything like a dig in his front yard. "I’d like to get out there and finish uncovering the pieces which are exposed, but I’d destroy evidence that doesn’t mean a thing to me but would be important to an archeologist," he said.

The Pattersons have been patient, though. They have prepared a place to display most of the pottery which has been found and reconstructed. They have also upgraded the road to their house so that school buses will be able to get to the site if field trips are brought to the dig.

"It’s not worth anything to me unless I can share it with someone who has the same interest in it," Patterson said.

There is no charge for visiting the site, but a receptacle is available for donations to help defray the cost of the dig.

Students in the Community School archeology class will be involved in work on the dig which will be conducted this fall.

Another individual involved in the area is heavily involved in archeology. Grace Schoonover is president of the Phoenix chapter of the Arizona Archeological Society. She told the BMN that a slide lecture will be given at the Heard Museum by ASU professor, Dr. Christy Turner. Her presentation will be on "Biological Asian Origins of the Southwestern American." The lecture will be given at 7:30 p.m. Thursday and will be accompanied by a presentation on the society’s amateur archeological dig.
Attachment 6

A gold mine of history is unearthed at the Pattersons'

by Pat Dodds

Harry Patterson picked up a smooth, round rock. "They used to play a game with this," he said, noting its peculiar shape. "They used to dig a hole in the ground and try to roll these rocks in." Surprise number one: Golf came to the Desert Foothills in 1100 A.D.

The white plywood doors that stand just outside Patterson's house in Cave Creek contain many more surprises for archeologists, even those rock amateurs who might ask where the ancients' air conditioners were located.

The dome houses what were once the living quarters of a group of prehistoric Indians who roamed the Desert Foothills around 1100 A.D. The identity of the tribe has not been isolated, although Chad Pitney, an archeologist from Phoenix, who has speculated that they were Senagues, an offshoot of the Hohokam which inhabited the Phoenix area.

Patterson discovered the site over two years ago when he needed some dirt for fill. "When I started digging up more pottery shards than dirt, I knew there was something here," he recounted.

Excavated in 1976, the site yielded a rich collection of over 50 artifacts including 30 pots, a number of tools, a fireplace, and the outline of an oval stick and mud structure.

In the two years it has been open, Patterson and his wife Mary have explained to hundreds of visitors the ways of life of the ancient Indians. They charge no admission to the site, which is located just off Veermeer Road.

The Pattersons do not claim to be experts, but they have gleaned a considerable amount of knowledge by participating in the excavation and discussing it with anthropologists who've visited it since.

That informal education has helped them get by while they wait for an official report on the excavation, which, complained Patterson, is far too late in coming.

Pitney, who coordinated the excavation by the Desert Foothills Archaeological Society, said that a preliminary report on the excavation will probably be finished in the next six months. Long delays on such reports are not unusual, said Pitney, "The field work is very interesting and exciting," he said, "but once you get down to the lab testing and writing the report, things go much slower."

Nevertheless, Harry can talk an hour straight just about the things he knows about the site. He begins by selecting a few rocks lying about the ruin. One, he said Patterson, displaying a small, heavy, metallic-colored stone. "It would take a diamond to scratch this. We don't know where it came from." The mineral, Patterson said, has not been identified yet.

Why the house was built in the first place is still under speculation. It may not have been a permanent settlement, but a seasonal shelter. The small group who built it may have moved into it only during the months when game was most plentiful in the area.

Patterson wonders, too, whether it might be the grave site for an important member of the clan. Apparently, the hut was burned down after it was inhabited. Patterson thinks it is possible that all the artifacts left in the dwelling may have been left for the deceased.

Would he consider future excavations to find out? No, University will touch the excavation, he said. "They consider it a disturbed site." Besides, he continued, any holes burned beneath the hut would probably be decomposed by now. "I'm not sure future digging would accomplish anything." What would accomplish something, Patterson maintained, is a sign along Cave Creek Road directing visitors to the excavation. He has asked the county for one, but they refused because the site is on private property and access to it is on an undedicated road. The county doesn't want to be held responsible for any mishaps on it, Patterson explained.

So, he has put up a sign along Veermeer Road next to the short turnoff that leads to the excavation. He also put posters up in Cave Creek and Carefree directing visitors to the site.

Even so, Patterson remains a bit peeved because, he says, the Veermeer Road street sign is frequently knocked down and outsiders cannot find the site.

A refires, Patterson says, he and his wife love to have visitors. Some of them stick around after the tour to help feed the birds that nightly roost nearby their doorstep.

The couple spend much of their time catching up on their archeology and further digging the mysteries of the site, which never fails to produce them. "The deeper you go into this you get," says Patterson, "the more fascinating it is."
Attachment 7
Photos of the Hudson Ranch Site and Patterson Site

Hudson Ranch Site (Photos A – E)

- All photos were taken in 1977 at Hudson Ranch Sites AZU:1:10 and AZU:1:13
- Photos A, C, and E are from AZU:1:13 pithouse.
- Photo B is form AZU:1:10, the 60 foot long wall
- Photo D is a reconstructed Gila shoulder, plain ware pot and bowl (AZU:1:13)

Patterson Site (Photos F – Z)

- Photos F - M were taken in 1976 – 1977 at the Patterson Site AZU:1:11
- Photo F, G, and H was a Cave Creek Museum display at the Cave Creek Arts & Craft Festival in December 1976. A significant amount of plain ware is shown.
- Photo I shows Mary Jane Patterson with a whole Gila plain ware pot
- Photos J, K, L and M were taken as the digging continued at the site
- Photos ★, and N – Z taken by Audrey Stephens at the Patterson site in February of 2001
  - Photo ★: Rock alignment shows the entranceway into the pithouse
  - Photo N: The Hearth
  - Photo O: Scoop
  - Photo P: Spindle whorl and mystery stone (Possible meteorite stone used as a polishing stone)
  - Photo Q: Agave knife
  - Photo R: Mano
  - Photo S: Hammerstone
  - Photo T: Two small pots, Gila plain ware
  - Photo U: Gila plain ware bowl
  - Photo V: Petrified bone (possible as per Mary Patterson)
  - Photos W, X, Y, & Z: Gila plain ware pots. Photo W & Y show jars imbedded in the ground marking the location of the postholes.
Artifacts
From the Patterson Site
AZU:1:11

The following pages (photos below {Items 1 – 5}, photos ⭐ and N – Z) were taken by Audrey Stephens at the Patterson site in February, 2001

Artifact Identification
1. Intrusive rock
2. Spindle whorl
3. Scraper
4. Mystery Stone (possible meteorite stone used as a polishing stone)
5. Stone palette
After starting out as an educational class with Chad Phinney as instructor, the first group organized to explore the archaeological prehistory in the Cave Creek area. They decided to start their own chapter of the Arizona Archaeological Society (AAS). They call this new chapter the Desert Foothills Chapter. They worked with Grace Schoonover who was Chairman of the Board for the State AAS organization. Grace provided the guidelines for starting a chapter and organizing a Board of Directors.

### Timeline

**Desert Foothills Chapter**  
**Arizona Archaeological Society**

- **September 1974:** Started as a class in field archaeology.
- **September 1976:** The group began functioning as an organization.
- **Oct. 30, 1976:** The group worked to formalize the organization.

**Board Members:**

- **President:** Anne Phetteplace
- **Vice President:** Dorothy Ausman
- **Secretary & Treasurer:** Claire Steigerwald
- **Director – 1 yr.:** Florence Rourke
- **Director – 2 yr.:** Eleanor Clark
- **Director – 3 yr.:** Bob Patterson
- **Archivist:** Louise McCutcheon
- **Educational Director:** Bob Patterson
- **Publicity:** Kathy Lunsford
- **Professional Advisor:** Chad Phinney

**Membership as of October, 1976:** 17 members

- **Nov. 20, 1976:** The original Board of Directors was presented and the organization was chartered as a new chapter of the Arizona Archaeological Society.

- **Jan. 25, 1977:** The group was presented at the annual AAS State meeting as a new chapter called the Desert Foothills Chapter.
January 1977: Membership increased to 42, meetings held on the third Wednesday of each month. Dues were $5.00 per individual and $8.00 per family.

1979: Meeting date moved to the second Wednesday of each month.

December 2001 25th anniversary. Current membership (December 2001) is 177.
Charter Membership
Desert Foothills Chapter
Arizona Archaeological Society
November 1976

Ausman, Dorothy
Clark, Eleanor and Ted
Clem, Ned
Coats, Sally
Ekrom, Jane & Stacy
Lunsford, Kathy
Mercer, Bill & Phoebe
McCutcheon, Louise
Patterson, Harry & Mary
Patterson, Mary Jane & Robert
Phetteplace, Anne & Thurston
Phinney, Chad T.
Phinney, Jean C.
Rourke, Florence
Steigerwald, Claire
Watson, Janet
25th Anniversary Celebration
January 9, 2002

Charter members that attended the party. Top Row (L to R): Ned Clem, Kathy Lunsford, Chad Phinney, Ted Clark. Second Row: Eleanor Clark, Mary Patterson, Jane Ekrom, Anne Phetteplace.
Additional Early Works of the Desert Foothills Chapter

1. Anne Phetteplace elected as the first President of the Desert Foothills Chapter from October of 1976 until September of 1979.
2. Working with the Phoenix Chapter, the Group conducted a Rock Art Recording Class in Grapevine Canyon. The class was conducted in the spring of 1976. Grace Schoonover taught the class and has a copy of the report for this project.
3. Working with the Phoenix Chapter, the Chapters conducted a Rock Art Recording Class in Horseshoe Mesa. This Rock Art Recording Class project was conducted in the fall of 1976 through winter 1977. Owner: Tonto National Forest. Grace Schoonover taught the class and has a copy of the report for this project.
4. The Chapter worked about six months during 1977 with archaeologist Simon Bruder on her project at Tonto Hills as part of the land exchange. Simon Bruder has published her dissertation on this work.
5. During the fall of 1977 and early 1978 the Chapter worked on the Cave Creek drainage survey.
6. The Chapter worked on the Van Dyke site (AZ:ScD:1), one room block in Unit C-5. They were directed by Chad Phinney. No one is sure of the date when this work occurred. Chad Phinney and Jane Ekrom recalled that this work occurred prior to Franklin Barnett (archaeologist from Sun City AZ) being brought in to work on the Van Dyke Site. According to a report published by Marjorie Van Dyke (Exploration and Excavations At Sitio con Dios Ranch Ruins, an Occasional paper {#1, 1982} published by AAS Inc.) Mr. Barnette work occurred at this site between December 1977 and 1981.
7. In October 1977 Chad Phinney started a certification class on Southwest Archaeology. Grace Schoonover helped establish the requirements for a certification program.
8. In May of 1978 a ceramic workshop was conducted. Virginia White directed the workshop.
9. Working with the Phoenix Chapter, the Chapters worked to record rock art in Rowe Wash. This was also a Rock Art Recording Class project and was conducted in the spring of 1978 through the winter of 1978. Grace Schoonover taught the class and she has a copy of the report for this project.
10. In November of 1978 Chad Phinney conducted a second certification class on Southwest Archaeology
11. In 1979 the Chapter supported the Archaeological Resources Protection Act, also known as the State Antiquities Act (Attachments 8 and 9).
12. In 1980 groundwork was laid for an excavation to begin in 1981 at the Blue Wash Site (AZU:1:14 (PGM)) on property owned by Frank Casanova.
13. Eleanor Clark elected as the second President of the Desert Foothills Chapter from September of 1979 until September of 1980.
14. Ted Clark elected as the third President of the Desert Foothills Chapter from September of 1980 until September of 1981.
15. The Chapter conducted a survey class, taught by Michael Gibson in 1975 – No report.
Attachment 8

If I have proposed a law...
Archaeological protection act passes

The Archaeological Resources Protection Act, a bill written to halt desecration and looting of archaeological sites on federal lands, was passed by the Senate July 6.

The Desert Foothills chapter of the Arizona Archaeological Society has been strongly supporting the act since its inception, according to Eleanor Clark, president of the chapter.

Senator Dennis DeConcini, a co-sponsor of the measure, said the action "will serve notice that our common heritage should be shared openly, and the plundering of our publicly owned archaeological and historic resources will no longer be tolerated."

The bill amends the U.S. Antiquities Act of 1906, which rendered valuable artifacts in nine western states virtually without legal protection when the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals ruled portions of the act "unconstitutionally vague."

In December of 1977, six commercial pot hunters were apprehended for the destruction of an archaeological site near Bloomfield Basin in the Cave Creek district of the Tonto National Forest, but escaped prosecution because the present antiquities act was too vague and there was nothing the men could be officially charged with. Consequently, the case was thrown out of court.

The new bill redefines archaeological resources as material remains of past human life or activities which are of archaeological interest. The definition includes objects such as pottery, baskets and weapons.

The bill prohibits excavating, damaging, selling or transporting artifacts taken illegally from public lands, excluding artifacts already privately owned, unless a permit is obtained from the secretary of the department whose land is involved.

It gives federal land managers "ticket-writing" authority, and provides for civil penalties of up to $1,000 as well as criminal penalties for persons who knowingly violate the law. Violations involving artifacts worth more than $5,000 would be subject to felony prosecution, punishable by up to $20,000 in fines and up to two years in jail.

"This nation's historic artifacts have a great deal of cultural, sociological and monetary value," DeConcini said. "In the west, for example, much of the rich heritage of the American Indian is preserved only in the ground, and much of the ground is federally-owned. This has all too often resulted in wholesale desecration of valuable archaeological sites by profit-minded looters. Even more disturbing is the wanton vandalism that has become commonplace at these sites. I believe it is time for us to take control of this situation before the last vestiges of many rich cultures are collected for private profit, or destroyed altogether."

The Tonto Forest estimates that there are 130,000 archaeological sites on its 2.9 million acres, an average density of 30 sites per square mile. Of those, only 6,000 have been recorded. In some areas, 90 percent of the sites have been damaged by pot hunters, according to Tonto National Forest Archaeologist Martin McAllister.

The Carefree-Cave Creek area is rich with archaeological sites and petroglyphs, according to McAllister. Most of the sites studied are believed to be Hohokam, a group who came here during a time archaeologists know little about. "It is very important that these sites be preserved for future study," McAllister said.

DeConcini stressed that the act will not restrict public access to federal lands, nor will it modify the multiple use activities now permitted under existing laws. The measure also expands the excavation permit process to include more citizens, and expands the exchange program between museums and other institutions.

The bill was modified in the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources to include a "grandfather" provision, which will exempt from the law the selling or exchanging of resources already in private possession. The bill will apply only to those artifacts on public lands on the date the law is enacted. DeConcini explained that this provision will "avoid unjust punishment of private collectors and others who have acted legally in the past."

A companion bill has been passed by the House of Representatives, and the differences between the two bills will now be considered by a House-Senate conference committee. "We hope the conference committee doesn't take its time in resolving the bills' differences," Clark said. "This has been needed too long."
Annual Reports for the first four years of the Desert Foothills Chapter Arizona Archaeological Society

Attachments 10, 11, 12, and 13

Written by Anne Phetteplace, Eleanor Clark and Ted Clark

Spur Cross petroglyphs
FIRST ANNUAL REPORT: OF THE DESERT-FOOTHILLS CHAPTER, ARIZONA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY - March 19, 1977

I. The Desert-Foothills Chapter was chartered on November, 20, 1976 and the charter was presented at the first annual meeting January 25, 1977. Since September of 1976 the group has been functioning as an organization. Prior to that time - since September, 1974 - as a class in Field Archaeology, Desert Foothills Community School - under the instruction of Chad Phinney, Museum Assistant, Pueblo Grande Museum.

Presently we have 42 paid members and, as of January 25, a treasury of $84.40 plus $35.00 donated by Chad Phinney and earmarked for professional materials. Members, for the most part, are from Carefree, Cave Creek, New River and the Scottsdale area.

II. Field Report

The focus of our activity to date has been on excavation and instruction in field methods at four sites in the Cave Creek drainage:

1. U:1:6 Sierra Vista Ranch. No significant findings. Largely used for teaching of field methods. (worked Fall of 1974)

2. U:1:7 Ansbach property. This is a single room, semi-subterranean, slab-lined dwelling, probably a temporary field house. It is not easy to place culturally as not typical Hohokam in nature. Dated approximately 1100 A.D. The excavation of this site has been completed, the lab work done, and assignments made for writing up of the findings (worked Nov. 1974-Dec. 1975) (an educational film strip has been made of our work on this excavation and is being distributed in Junior High Schools)

3. Harry Patterson property, U:1:11. This is a single room, full-fledged pit house with an ante-room entrance. It appears to have been a more permanent dwelling unit than U:1:7. Many artifacts were found, mostly pottery indicating an agric-gathering culture. (worked April 1976-Feb. 1977). The excavation and lab work have been completed on this site. Remaining to be done are drawings, photographs, mapping and write-up. Because of the accessibility and the generosity of Harry and Mary Patterson this site has been used as an educational center for the area. In this way we have been able to share with numerous visitors, including bus loads of school children (as well as having some TV coverage) what we are learning of prehistory in the Desert-Foothills, field methods, restoration and the value of the scientific approach.

4. U:1:10 Ansbach property. This excavation was begun in November of 1975, discontinued temporarily, and is currently in progress. All that has been unearthed to date is a long masonry wall - approximately 30 feet - suggestive of a compound wall. The work party meets at 1:00 P.M. on Saturdays and there is discussion of more frequent meetings in order to expedite completion on what appears to be an extensive site.

III. Other activities:

1. Established a survey committee to map archaeological features of Cave Creek drainage.

2. Instituted monthly open meetings January through April to present programs
on various aspects of archaeological interest to the community. (well attended-
to be continued in the Fall)
3. Newspaper publicity regarding activities and needs of the Society,
4. Involvement of a few of our members in research and lab work (done
presently at Pueblo Grande facilities).

IV. Community activities:
1. Have had and will be having again a booth in conjunction with the Cave Creek
   Museum at annual Arts and Crafts Festival.
2. Surveying for possible Archaeological sites within the projected Regional
   Park at the request of Maricopa County Parks Department.

V. Plans for the future:
1. Establishment of priorities
2. Continued excavation (at present we are focussing on private lands in danger
   of being developed and/or being destroyed)
3. Field trips
4. Summer meetings to be geared largely to laboratory work
5. Continuation of site survey of Cave Creek drainage
6. Acquisition of space for storage, laboratory and exhibits
7. Education and preservation activities
8. Involvement in statewide programs

Anne W. Phetteplace, President
Desert Pothills Chapter
Second Annual Report Desert-Poothills Archaeological Society
January 14, 1978

This is our first complete year in operation as a full-fledged chapter of the Arizona Archaeological Society. When I first took on the presidency I envisioned an ivory tower kind of program where a number of dedicated amateurs would dig, study, learn together, reconstructing the prehistory of our Desert-Poothills area. Unprepared was I for the new and varied challenges which have involved us in an ever widening circle of activities. No ivory tower dwellers, we!

Field Report:
Compilation of material on the U1147 excavation has been completed and all ancillary studies turned over to Eleanor Clark and her committee for editing.

U1110 - our famous masonry "wall" - now measuring approximately 60 feet. Nothing of significance was found on the east side so gridding has been done on west side and excavation there initiated. Work has been curtailed somewhat due to a conflict of use of area with Sheriff's posse and limitation of access to the property. We will excavate on alternate weeks on this site and simultaneously on U1113, more accessible and also on the same property. This latter site appears to be a single room semi-subterranean dwelling with considerable fall in process of being removed from surface. Claire Steigerald remains as our dig supervisor with Ruth McArthur assisting and also serving as official photographer.

Other activities:
Except for the summer, monthly meetings (2nd Wednesday of the month) have continued with excellent and well attended programs. Our first laboratory workshop was held during the summer under the direction of Virginia White and confined itself largely to classification and recording of artifacts from U1110. Those involved learned much which will be of help in setting up future workshops.

The Cave Creek drainage survey has continued, under the direction of Bob Patterson, as has participation on the Parks Committee of the Cave Creek Improvement Association. This is an ad hoc committee established to work with the Maricopa County Parks Department on planning for the Cave Creek Regional Park. As an outgrowth of this project and with the groundwork laid by Charles Harmon and the late Robert Van der Leest we are now immersed in the task of nominating the Cave Creek Archaeological District to the National Register of Historic Places. Dr. Harmon is heading up this committee with both Chad Phinney and Frank Fryman serving as consultants. It is a big job for a small group to tackle (membership - 42) but as the project develops we find we are gaining more community support and enthusiasm as well as expertise.

For approximately six months of this past year a number of our group excavated with Simon Bruder on her project at Tonto Hills, a Forest Service Exchange contract with A.S.U. - gaining some insights.

Attachment 11
into methodology and field techniques from a real pro!

One of the very nice things which has happened to us recently is the loan by the Ansbaugh family of an old ranch building to be used for storage and a laboratory.

In reviewing our goals for the year we seem to be on target. One area which must be neglected at this time, unfortunately, is the recording of petroglyphs of which there are many in the Cave Creek drainage. We have noted the defacement of some of these just in recent months.

Perhaps as much as any of the chapters we are aware of the encroachment of civilization(?) upon prehistory – hence our feeling of urgency in presenting our resolution today.

Slides to be shown by Bill Mercer and commented upon by Claire Steigerwald.
January 19, 1980

ANNUAL REPORT - 1979 Year
Desert Foothills Chapter, Arizona Archaeological Society

Meetings - Regular Chapter meetings were held monthly through November, omitting the 3 summer months. Attendance ranged from 16 to 29, averaging 20. A party on December 12 drew 31 members and guests.

The Executive Committee (5 officers & 3 directors) met monthly through November on the 2nd Monday. At least 2 officers/directors attended each of the Society's 3 statewide meetings, plus the special June 15 meeting in Phoenix to act on the Society's proposed new By-Laws.

Goals - Chapter goals were to strengthen membership and to educate members in archaeology. We began the year with 42 members and ended with 56.

6 members completed a course in Southwestern Archaeology given by Chad Phinney in Fall '78 under the Certification program.

5 members enrolled in the Rock Art Recording course given by the Phoenix Chapter in Spring '79, for Certification.

2 members participated in the Archaeological Field School conducted by ASU at Chavez Pass in mid-July.

As an experiment in "continuing archaeology," a study and discussion group met twice during the summer at a member's home.

A series of educational hikes was begun in October to attract prospective members and to lay groundwork for local surveying efforts. The first hike was attention to desert vegetation, the second to our area's geology, the third to prehistoric ruins atop Elephant Butte overlooking the Cave Creek drainage.

On November 19 our Chapter launched a Dept. of Certification course in Archaeological Survey Techniques with Mickey Gibson as instructor. 22 persons enrolled.

Field Work + Lab - Excavation of the U:1:10 site on private property in Cave Creek, begun in November '78, continued to the end of May on Wednesdays and alternate Saturdays. The number of diggers at any one time ranged from 2 to 6. Lab work continued throughout the year on a nearly weekly basis; all collected artifacts have been documented save for a few lithics. Still outstanding is the need for a permanent lab facility - a matter we hope to resolve, ultimately, with space in a future new Cave Creek Museum.

Other Activities - Our Chapter was represented, usually with 2 members, at the bi-monthly meetings in Phoenix of the Dept. of Certification.

We donated 2 books on archaeology to the Desert Foothills Library.

Members arranged for Rueben Nelson of the Phoenix Chapter to present his lecture/display on amateur archaeology to classes in the Cave Creek and Black Mountain schools on February 20 and April 10.

Members with some survey background in the area cooperated with Lyle Stone of Archaeological Research Services on an archaeological survey of the Cave Creek Recreation Area for Maricopa County, which was published in June '79.

Last spring, as individuals and as a Chapter, we went on record with our U.S. Senators and Representatives as favoring passage of a strong Archaeological Resources Protection Act. Again in September, while differences between the House and Senate versions of the bill were being debated and resolved, we reiterated our concerns in writing. The bill, which updates the U.S. Antiquities Act of 1906, was passed in October.

-- Eleanor Clark, President - 1979
ANNUAL REPORT - 1980 Year

January 17, 1981

Desert Foothills Chapter, Arizona Archaeological Society

Meetings - Regular Chapter meetings were held monthly (2nd Wednesday) through November, omitting the 3 summer months. Attendance ranged from 20 to 35, averaging 25. Our annual Christmas party was held on December 10 with 18 members and guests present.

The Executive Committee (5 officers and 3 directors) met monthly through November (1st Monday).

At least 2 officers/directors attended all but the October 11 meeting of the State Society's Board.

Goals - Chapter goals were to strengthen membership and to encourage continuing archaeological training of the membership. We began the year with 56 members and ended with 55 (includes 9 removals and 8 additions to roll).

16 members participated in the Archaeological Survey Techniques course given by Mickey Gibson of our Chapter. Field work included a survey of the Schoonover and adjacent properties and an initial weekend survey in the Tonto National Forest under the direction of the Forest Rangers.

Four educational hikes were made into areas that contained major archaeological ruins and/or petroglyphs.

Field Work and Lab - No field or lab work was done during the year. Effort was placed on completing the report for the prior excavation and lab analysis of the Ul:17 site.

Other Activities - Our Chapter was represented at all meetings of the Dept. of Certification.

We laid groundwork to begin a major excavation on the Casanova property in Tonto Hills during 1981.

We collated, stapled and bound several hundred copies of the reprinted Archaeologist, issues 2 and 3.

We were host Chapter at the April 12 meeting of the State Society Board.

Chapter members served on the Publications, Budgeting, Publicity and Nominating Committees of the State Society.

-- Ted Clark, President - 1980
REFERENCES


3. Secretarial notes for the Desert Foothills Chapter AAS provided by Claire Steigerwald (October 1976 – October 1978)

4. Interviews with early / charter Members - Conducted during various dates in 2001:
   a. Ted & Eleanor Clark
   b. Ned Clem
   c. Jane Ekrom
   d. Mary Patterson
   e. Anne Phetteplace
   f. Chad Phinney
   g. Florence Rourke
   h. Claire Steigerwald
   i. Grace Schoonover

5. Archaeology File located at the Cave Creek Museum. File title “Archaeology”
   a. Newspaper clippings about the Patterson site
   b. List of the Desert Foothills Chapter charter members
   c. First two annual reports for the Desert Foothills Chapter AAS
   d. A newspaper clipping about the discovery of a burial pot by a local contactor, which came out after the class began – this finding lead to an archaeology class at Cave Creek School, taught by Chad Phinney.
   e. A newspaper clipping about the Archaeological Protection Act

6. Information from the Desert Foothills Chapter AAS archives
   a. Old photographs of several archaeological sites that were part of the early history of the Chapter (some photos were marked with location and date, some were not marked and therefore could not be utilized in this report)
   b. Patterson Site pithouse drawing

Incomplete field notes for sites AZU:1:7, AZU:1:10, AZU:1:13. Incomplete lab specimen list for AZU:1:10 and AZU:1:13. Field notes and specimen list were obtained from Claire Steigerwald and have now been donated to the Desert Foothills Chapters archives.