

On Feb. 17, Thatcher A. Seltzer-Rogers, PhD presented on *The Joyce Well Site*. This site is in the remote boot heel of New Mexico, named for a nearby historic ranch well. The Joyce Well Site, among others, represents a little known culture in the International Four Corners area. The less well known is the International Four Corners Area is where the US States of Arizona and New Mexico along with the Mexican States of Sonora and Chihuahua almost all come together at a common corner. The most well known prehistoric sites in the region are Paquimé Casas Grandes in Chihuahua and the Trincheras sites in Sonora.

The terrain on the US side is Basin and Range, much like much of Central Arizona, with multiple mountain ranges running north and south (with a directional tilt to northwest and southeast) and relatively flat basins or plains in between. Different ecological zones ascended the sides of the mountains making for a wide diversity of resources available to people who lived in the area.

Additionally, these north-south mountain ranges that are obstacles to east-west cultural exchanges thereby creating an area very diverse culturally.

Sites in the “heel” of the State of New Mexico include Pendleton Ruin, Timberlake Site, and Joyce Well Site. The Pendleton Site was excavated in 1933. There were excavations at Joyce Well Site in 1963 and again in 1999-2003. Most of the artifacts and notes were stored away and not analyzed. Thatcher as a PhD student was able to temporarily borrow a truckload of these boxes and organize and analyze the material upon which he based his dissertation. There is much more unanalyzed stored artifacts, notes, and data in various repositories. He suggests that looking into them is part of the future of archaeology.

The Pendleton Site is believed to have dated around 1300. A variety of ceramics were found, including Casas Grandes Macaw pottery. It was an enclosed room block adobe village.

The Joyce Well Site was an open U-shaped adobe single story room block of about 200 rooms. One characteristic of the site is collared platform hearths and also postholes were regularly collared. There was a large obsidian source nearby.

Tabular agave knives and roasting pits were present. Roasted agave cores can be used for food or for making a fermented drink. A several foot deep stack of green corn that had been burned was found.

Pieces of figurines, including Salado style were found along with bird effigy pots. Both Salado and Casas Grandes style pottery was present, and Cloverdale Corrugated pottery and red slipped plain. There was also a cord wrapped pottery where a cord had been wrapped in wet clay. The pottery appeared to be probably all locally produced, nothing to do with Casas Grandes.

There were some six ball courts between Joyce Well Site and Timberlake Site. These were not the same as Hohokam Ball Courts. The ball courts here consisted of a shallow oblong depression with a row of stones paralleling each side.

Radiocarbon dating puts Joyce Well Site beginning at least by 1340 AD and terminated by 1360. No ceramics predating 1320 were found. So, the site was only occupied about 40 years. Who were these people? Speculation is that they were defeated elites who left Casas Grandes area and moved north.