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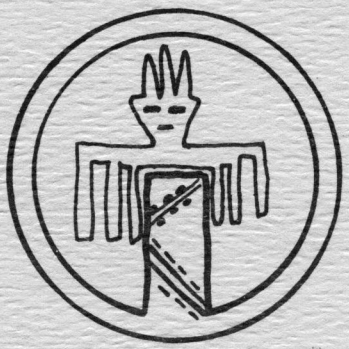

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF NEW MEXICO

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blankets woven between 1805 and 1895. Twenty-five of these textiles were brought to Window Rock for the first of a series of special shows throughout this country and Europe. A gala preview was held on the evening of August 31, and the exhibit was open to the general public September 1 to 4.

In conjunction with the 50th anniversary of the Navajo Tribal Council, the Research Section composed a short history of the Navajo Tribal Government which was printed in the Navajo Times and the Navajo Fair program. The Museum co-sponsored, along with the Arts and Crafts Guild, an Arts and Crafts Festival on April 22-24. The highlight of the 50th anniversary celebration took place on the evening of July 6 when the Museum sponsored an outdoor concert, under the Window Rock, of the Santa Fe Chamber Museum Festival. A reception was held afterwards in the Tribal Council Chambers. Navajo Tribal Museum Twelfth Annual Report, August 27, 1973, pp 1-2.

The University of New Mexico
by W. James Judge
Associate Professor

1973 Season Field Session in Archaeology

The 42nd Annual Session of the University of New Mexico field school was conducted from June 4 to July 20 of this year. Field work continued at Tijeras Pueblo (LA 581), under the direction of Dr. W. James Judge. This was the third season of excavation at Tijeras Pueblo, a P-IV site near Sandia Ranger Station in Tijeras Canyon, east of Albuquerque. A total of 41 students participated in this session, supervised by the director and a staff of seven graduate students. Approximately half of the participants were University of New Mexico students who had attended a class in archaeological field techniques during the spring semester.

The students were divided into three field "groups" each under the direction of an experienced graduate teaching assistant. These groups were further subdivided into three-man excavating crews, each containing at least one student who had attended the field techniques class and thus was qualified to act as field crew chief. We found that this organizational structure worked very well. The excavation progressed very efficiently, and the amount of work completed was virtually double that of previous years. Each field group was assigned laboratory work every third night,

and one field crew stayed in the lab each day to wash and prepare material for analysis at night. In this way, we were able to keep the lab work and initial analysis caught up with the excavation.

The 1971 and 1972 seasons at LA 581 had been largely exploratory, serving to define the nature of the occupation, the time periods represented, room construction and depth, the approximate size of the site, and depth of stratigraphy in the trash areas. During the first two weeks of the present season, we surface stripped the entire site and defined the wall outlines of all the unexcavated rooms. In this fashion, four major room blocks were distinguished on the basis of distinct building periods. A sampling design was devised to impartially sample rooms within each of the defined room blocks. Each room was numbered, and then numbers were randomly selected to establish a sequence of excavation. This gave us an impartial selection of rooms within each block, as well as the flexibility to alter excavation procedure in the field in order to achieve an equal sampling fraction for all room blocks.

As a result of this procedure, approximately 110 rooms were defined, and of these some 62 were excavated to the first floor level. Thus, we now have a 50% sample of the latest occupation of the rooms. Rooms were excavated by first establishing a 3' by 3' test pit area in one corner and then excavating the test pit in arbitrary levels. When the first floor was encountered, a profile of the test pit stratigraphy was made, and the remainder of the room was excavated in natural levels. Recording distinctions were made between surface, general fill, roof fall, floor fill, and floor contact. Any natural stratigraphic levels occuring within any of these categories were also distinguished, and the recovered material was analyzed accordingly.

In addition to room excavation, extensive testing was undertaken to determine the extent of trash areas, and to permit correlation between trash midden stratigraphy and room stratigraphy. Midden testing was taken to sterile in all cases. Five main areas of testing have resulted in an accurate definition of trash midden deposits around the perimeter of the site. In some areas, midden excavations were continued to the edge of, and in one case under, room blocks, thus permitting the interpretation of building phases in terms of natural stratigraphy.

All excavated material was screened through ¼-inch mesh. Soil and pollen samples were taken systematically from all stratigraphic units in rooms and test areas. In addition, flotation samples were collected systematically from all trash deposits, regardless of location. The avail-

ability of running water at the site permitted us to process the flotation samples in the field. Once the excavated material had been recorded in the field, it was transported to the laboratory on the UNM campus at the end of each day. The material was then catalogued and analyzed at night by those students who excavated it. In addition, they coded the material on computer forms, and new data was input to disk storage in the UNM computer center on a daily basis. The average time from excavation to computer storage was about 36 hours. This permitted the supervisory staff to be well-advised as to the nature of the material being excavated, and to alter excavation and recording procedures accordingly. It also gave the students training in the computer processing of archaeological data.

In terms of present interpretations, it is evident that Tijeras Pueblo was occupied during late Coalition-early Classic times in the Rio Grande Valley. Tree-ring dates indicate a general time span of 1300-1400 A.D. The earliest occupation of the site is manifest by deeply buried adobe rooms which contain Santa Fe B/W ceramics plus a small amount of western tradeware. Little is known about the spatial extent of this early part of the pueblo, since extensive subfloor testing has not yet been undertaken. It is manifest in several rooms, however, as well as in the deepest parts of the trash middens excavated, and is almost certainly responsible for the initial construction of the site.

This initial occupation was followed by what seems to be a period of natural population growth, as interpreted from a combination of ceramic and architectural evidence. During this second period, the pueblo achieved its present structural configuration: a rough "U" shape of room blocks of adobe construction. Galisteo B/W gains in frequency, gradually replacing Santa Fe as the dominant grayware. In addition, locally-made glazes begin to appear (Agua Fria, Los Padillas, Arenal, San Clemente), and by the end of this period, the glazes comprise over 50% of the decorated ceramics. This period is ended by an apparent abandonment of the pueblo, as suggested by a qualitatively distinct architectural style in the following phase. At the moment the exact date of abandonment is not known, but a guess of 1360 A.D. would not be unrealistic.

The final phase at Tijeras Pueblo is marked by the introduction of masonry (limestone slab) architecture. Evidently the site was abandoned long enough for a large amount of deterioration to take place, since masonry rooms invariably overlie adobe rooms and are frequently offset from them. Some adobe walls were sufficiently stable to permit incorporation in masonry rooms, but in

(continued on page 47)

general the adobe walls were used only as footings for masonry superstructure. In addition, masonry rooms were frequently built over trash deposits, as well as in outlying areas detached by a few hundred feet from the main pueblo. This evidence gives the impression of a quickly-constructed architectural "veneer." Although very distinctive architecturally, the last phase is less distinct ceramically. It is apparent, though, that during the final occupation the glazes become the most dominant ceramic types, comprising more than 80% of the decorated wares in many of the rooms.

The field sessions at Tijeras have yielded a great deal of data which has been cautiously excavated and very well documented. Further, the data have been collected with specific reference to a general research design which incorporates resource availability as a prime factor controlling the behavior of human populations. Several advanced research projects to be undertaken by graduate students in the Anthropology Ph.D. program at UNM are planned. First, we hope to be able to document the history of the occupation of the site by 10-year intervals, and to accurately monitor the population dynamics, variations in activity loci and habitation units, as well as variations in resource utilization, during these 10-year periods. Given this information, we then hope to be able to offer reasonable explanations for the changes in macro-population dynamics during the occupation of the site, in terms of variations in the environment and consequent variations in resource availability. Hopefully, then, research at this site will yield effective contributions to the study of prehistoric human behavior in the Southwest, as well as an excellent training situation for students wishing to learn archaeological field techniques.

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NEW DIRECTOR FOR THE MUSEUM OF NEW MEXICO

George Ewing (M.A. Colorado 1964), formerly associate director of the Laboratory of Anthropology at the Museum of New Mexico, has assumed the duties of director of the Museum of New Mexico. He succeeds Carlos Nagel who recently resigned.

Ewing's appointment was announced by Mrs. Walter Mayer of Santa Fe, president of the Museum Regents.

The new associate director of the Laboratory of Anthropology is Stewart L. Peckham (B.A. New Mexico) who was formerly curator of archeology at the same institution.