



This second number of the MCAR Newsletter marks the end of a successful second year of the Center. The Center has continued to support research by museum staff and affiliated faculty scholars, and has grown through the addition of new researchers. We are pleased to welcome Drs. Michael Adler, Robert Dello-Russo, and Dr. Nan Rothschild to the ranks of affiliated scholars. Since 1999, Dr. Adler has been actively conducting research at Chavez-Hummingbird Pueblo, an impressive early P IV pueblo located on a tributary of the Rio Puerco a short distance north of Interstate 40. Dr. Dello-Russo has completed a second season of excavations at Lemitar Shelter, a large rockshelter northwest of Socorro that features a record of human habitation extending at least 9000 years into the past. Reports by both are featured in this number of the newsletter. In addition, we are pleased to welcome two graduate student research affiliates to MCAR. Marcel Harmon, University of New Mexico, is conducting dissertation research on Casa Grandes culture ballcourts in Chihuahua and southern New Mexico. Heather Atherton, who is working with Dr. Nan Rothschild of Columbia University, has just finished her third season of field work at the Spanish Colonial site of Las Huertas, quite close to the modern community of Placitas at the north end of the Sandia Mountains. Each has contributed a brief account of their work, and we are pleased to include them as the first student affiliates of MCAR. Dr. Mark Lycett, one of our first affiliated scholars, has completed another season, his seventh, investigating the Spanish Colonial occupation at Paako.

The final two pieces in the newsletter present recent developments in research projects being conducted by members of the Maxwell Museum staff. The first updates my own efforts to understand Folsom land use in the Middle Rio Grande Valley, and the second highlights developments in Catherine Baudoin's work with Native Alaskans and the Manser photo collection.

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## Preface

We initiated the Maxwell Center for Anthropological Research in 2001 in response to steadily growing research activity sponsored by the museum in the areas of collections use and field investigation. This trend was broad-based and involved students and faculty of the University of New Mexico, Maxwell Museum personnel, and researchers from around the country and beyond. As we envisioned it, the center would provide a formal research affiliation with the university for scholars investigating topics relating to the museum's mission of material culture-based investigation in anthropology.

Almost two years on, this vision is well on the way to becoming reality with a growing body of research associates representing universities across the United States engaged in Southwestern Studies, both in the field and working with Maxwell Museum collections. Two significant innovations for this year take us into even wider arenas of education. First, the Center was able to support Marcel Harmon our first student associate, currently completing his PhD at the University of New Mexico, in conducting field research in southern New Mexico. Second, we welcome our first international research associate, Dr. H el ene Wallaert, from the Universit e Libre de Bruxelles, Belgium. Dr. Wallaert, who has worked extensively in Cameroon with traditional female potters, will continue this work with Pueblo and

Plains potters in her year-long residence at UNM. Clearly MCAR is steadily moving toward its goal of furthering all aspects of anthropological study in areas that are most appropriate to the Maxwell Museum's strengths in material culture.

Assisting us to realize our research potential, we welcome two significant additions to the Maxwell Museum curatorial staff. Dr. Heather Edgar with a PhD from Ohio State University in Biological Anthropology commenced work in July as Curator of Human Osteology. In this position she oversees the extensive archaeological holdings and the active body donation program and the research and teaching activities associates with them. A second curatorial appointment, Dr. David Phillips, brings a senior scholar to the Maxwell Museum as head of the archaeology division. Dr. Phillips has been prominent in Southwestern archaeology for many years and has a wealth of experience as museum administrator, academic researcher, and public archaeologist. The presence of these two accomplished anthropologists will greatly enhance the ability of MCAR to serve its further its research mission.

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## **New Findings at Lemitar Shelter, Socorro County, New Mexico: Results of the 2003 Field Season**

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During the spring of 2003, a program of archaeological field research was completed at Lemitar Shelter (LA18139). This rockshelter site is on the Sevilleta National Wildlife Refuge in Socorro County, New Mexico (Figure 1), which is managed by the US Fish & Wildlife Service. The Argonaut Archaeological Research Fund, administered by Vance T. Holliday, PhD, Departments of Anthropology and Geosciences at the University of Arizona, generously provided funding for the project.



The 2003 Lemitar Shelter project sought to investigate the lowest levels of the site, in an attempt to 1) characterize the geological deposits found in levels below those excavated during earlier archaeological efforts (1952, 1953, 1972, 2001) and 2) test the potential for the presence of Late Pleistocene – Early Holocene cultural deposits. While it was expected that more recent cultural deposits would be encountered (eg. Late Archaic, Middle Archaic), the main thrust of the project was to recover either temporally diagnostic artifacts (i.e. projectile points or point fragments) or dateable charcoal samples deposited during occupations of the site between 8,000 and 11,500 years BP.

Figure 1 Lemitar Shelter in San Lorenzo Canyon

Lemitar Shelter has had a long history of archaeological work, beginning with the Haynes-Shelton effort in 1952, where an exploratory trench was excavated. This was followed by Weinrod's University of New Mexico graduate project in 1953. Anzalone, a graduate student at Eastern New Mexico University in Portales, completed more extensive excavations in 1972 and documented his findings in a Master's thesis (Anzalone 1973). Finally, Dello-Russo completed

limited test excavations in 2001 to assess the integrity of remaining deposits at the site and the status of the previous collections. Findings from that project (Dello-Russo 2002) served as a foundation for the current effort.

For the 2003 research, an excavation grid measuring 3 m north-south by 3 m east-west was constructed (Figure 2). At their deepest point, hand excavations were completed to a depth of 4.29 meters (m) below the original surface of the shelter deposits. All excavated sediments were screened using 1/8" hardware mesh. Most three-dimensional provenience information in the study unit excavations was obtained with a Nikon total station. A total volume of 16.26 m<sup>3</sup> was removed from Lemitar Shelter during the 2003 field season.

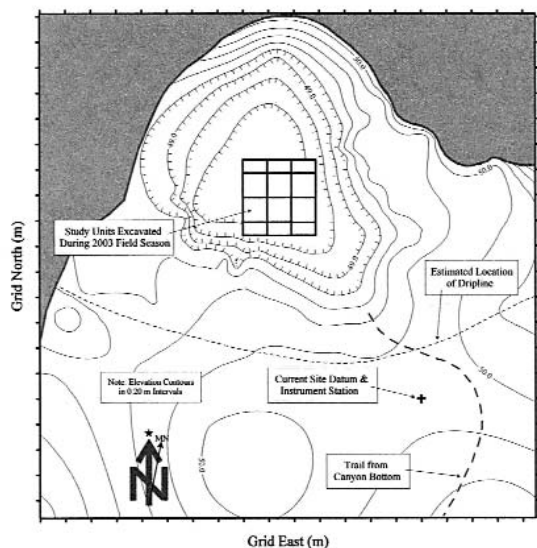


Figure 2 Locations of Excavation Study Units for 2003 Field Season

were recovered. Of the suite of flaked stone artifacts, 34 are made of obsidian and are amenable to XRF source analysis. Of particular interest in that vein is the Pinto projectile point base made of obsidian and associated with thermal Feature 6. Ground stone artifacts include two fragments of slab metates. Three utility grayware sherds from ceramic vessels were recovered as well.

The bulk of bones noted during excavation and in the screen were from rodents and were not collected. Rabbit bones and those of larger body-size mammals were collected. Among the latter was a single shaped and incised long-bone fragment that may be the remains of composite weapon socket. No human bones were encountered.

Thus far, five charcoal samples have been analyzed for radiocarbon dating purposes and the results of four are reported here. Charcoal from Feature 2 (the large, deep, clay-lined basin in Stratum IV/V) returned a radiocarbon date of cal BP 3330-3065 (Armijo phase, Late Archaic period), while charcoal from thermal Feature 6 in Stratum V returned radiocarbon dates of cal BP 4405-4140 and cal BP 4115-4100 (San Jose phase, Middle Archaic period). A charcoal sample retrieved from thermal Feature 7 in Stratum VI returned a date of cal BP 5300-4875 (Bajada phase, Early Archaic period), and a charcoal sample recovered at 0.45 m below Feature 7 returned a date of cal BP 9020-8665 (Late Paleoindian period). An additional sample recovered from a deeper context in Stratum VII provided a date of cal BP 8965-8600.

The 2003 Lemitar Shelter project was successful because our understanding of site stratigraphy has been greatly refined. We now know that use of the site began at least as early as the Late Paleoindian period, and continued through the Early, Middle and Late Archaic periods, through the Ancestral Puebloan period and the Historic period, and into the present. Continued research will help us expand our understanding of the formation processes at work in this significant rockshelter site and augment our knowledge of the prehistory of west-central New Mexico.

Our findings suggest that the sediments in Lemitar Shelter were laid down in seven geological strata. The delineation of these strata was very challenging in the field, as the upper deposits had been heavily impacted by previous excavations (primarily Anzalone 1972), by slumping of previously intact deposits into open (unbackfilled) excavation units, and by numerous rodents or other, larger burrowing mammals (eg. badger, coyote).

Nine probable thermal features and one clay-lined basin feature were documented during the recent field effort. Samples collected in the field are grouped into the following classes: flaked stone; ground stone; ceramics; bone; charcoal; wood identification; soil for CaCO<sub>3</sub> analysis; bulk sediment; feature fill; and pollen. Flaked stone artifacts include lithic debitage (flakes and cores) and tools (scrapers, utilized flakes, bifaces and projectile point fragments). Fragments of En Medio style corner-notch points and Pinto style stemmed indented-base points

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## The Newest Archaeology

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Archaeology, like the time it charts, continues to change. During the age of the “New Archaeology” of the 1960's and 1970's, the major players were academicians striving for a scientific grasp on past human adaptations. The 1980s and 90s, the “Newer Archaeology,” provided a platform for the debates between process and agency, habitus and habitat. We are now poised for a new change, and I'm going to go out on a limb here and describe ongoing research that might typify the “Newest Archaeology.” The newest archaeology is the coagulation of traditional, scientific, and oral historical perspectives to better describe and explain the past. This perspective is encapsulated in exciting research collaboration between Southern Methodist University, the Maxwell Museum, and the Pueblo nations of Zuni, Hopi, Laguna, and Acoma.

The primary goal of this research is to integrate archaeology, oral history, and other ways of knowing the past to better understand the concept of cultural affiliation, those conceptual and material ties connecting extant tribal nations and ancestral sites in the Southwest. Our research focus is Chaves-Hummingbird Pueblo (LA578, also known also as Hummingbird Ruin), located 23 miles west of Albuquerque on private land owned by the Chaves Family Trust. Research at the site is directed by Dr. Michael Adler (SMU) and has involved collaborative research with the University of Colorado, Arizona State University, and the Center for Field Research's Earthwatch program. The primary goal is to consider the ongoing archaeological investigations of the settlement along side the oral historical, ritual, and traditional knowledge of the Native communities in the region. Our preliminary findings hint at the likelihood that both indigenous and migrant populations co-resided at the settlement during the 14th and 15th centuries. We are currently pursuing several lines of inquiry at the site to assess the question of “who is the past?”

### **Who Are the Ancestral Pueblo Peoples of the Middle Rio Grande?**

Chaves-Hummingbird Pueblo was occupied during the regional abandonments and migrations of 13th-15th centuries A.D., a period of difficult challenges for puebloan communities across the Southwest. During this time, communities endured prolonged droughts, weathered increasing levels of conflict, and saw regional population relocations on scales never before experienced. Chaves-Hummingbird Pueblo is distinctive in being one of only two large villages, the other being Pottery Mound, located along the lower Rio Puerco during this unique period. The Puerco drainage is most well known for research into preagricultural Archaic groups by Cynthia Irwin-Williams and others, yet comparatively little is known about the ancestral Pueblo occupation in the area.

## **Past Research at Chaves-Hummingbird Pueblo: What We Know**

Two primary lines of evidence, namely decorated ceramics and associated site architecture (enclosed plaza layout), have been used to assign the primary site occupation at Chaves-Hummingbird Pueblo to the Pueblo IV period, approximately A.D. 1325-1450. The majority of the surface and excavated decorated ceramics are Glaze A (Glaze 1) red-slipped pottery with glaze and glaze-polychrome paint. Ceramic evidence of an earlier occupation at the site includes 12th and 13th-century whitewares decorated with mineral and organic black paints.

Absolute dates for the site were not available until relatively recently. A small number of radiocarbon dates support the ceramic dating of the settlement to A.D. 1300-1430. Interestingly, a set of wood beams recovered during testing in the 1980s by the late Dr. Frank Hibben yielded cutting or near cutting dates ranging from A.D. 1385-1465, indicating a later occupation of the site that is not well represented in the ceramic data.

## **Architecture and Settlement Layout**

Chaves-Hummingbird is an imposing site. The main feature of the site is a rubble mound of fallen masonry architecture standing 6 meters (20 feet) above the surrounding landscape. Test excavations in 2001 extend the cultural deposits at the site to over 8.5 meters (28+ feet). Deposits of this depth reflect intensive occupation by large populations, particularly if the primary occupation lasted only a century or so.

Archaeological clearance work at the site has uncovered and mapped approximately over 170 adobe surface rooms in the northern and eastern parts of the site, most of which appear to have been single story. One set of rooms, referred to as the Northern room block, comprises a large L-shaped set of adobe rooms and one smaller, less linear room block. These structures define a large plaza area, with a probable opening on the northeast corner of the room complex. The eastern room block, with 90 or more rooms, covers a smaller area and surrounds a much smaller plaza space. Room sizes are significantly different, with average room size in the northern room block nearly 15% larger than the rooms to the east. Preliminary radiocarbon dating and ceramic seriation data indicate that these two architectural features are contemporaneous, raising the question of why they are so different in overall layout and room size. Are these features the work of different immigrant groups? Or might the variations be due to changes in architecture and site occupation by indigenous groups?

## **Collaborative Research with Pueblo Communities to Know the Past**

To better understand the relevance of Chaves-Hummingbird Pueblo to the questions of culture change in the region, we will be collaborating with several Pueblo communities over the next two years. Funded by the National Science Foundation, we will work with experts from Zuni, Acoma, Laguna and Hopi Pueblos to integrate oral historical and archaeological information into our common understandings of the site's history. Through visits to the site, surrounding rock art sites, shrines, and other features, we hope to integrate oral historical and traditional knowledge into a broader understanding of the settlement. Scholars including T.J. Ferguson, Peter Whiteley, Ed Dittert, Jr., and James Brooks will work with each of the tribal experts to enhance our understanding of how the past and present are intertwined in the concept of cultural affiliation. The Maxwell Museum will play a central role in this research. Experts from each pueblo will have the opportunity to study artifact collections from Chaves-Hummingbird Pueblo that are part of the Maxwell's permanent collection. Our hope is that collaborative views of artifacts, landscapes, features and site location will yield important information regarding the links between this place and the history of each of the Pueblo communities in the region.

Following the site visits and artifact studies, we will work with each of the tribes included in this project to fashion a set of reports regarding past cultural affiliations to groups in the Rio Puerco region. The research will culminate in a working conference in 2005. The conference will bring together the tribal experts, archaeologists, and other interested parties to discuss both the unique as well as common understandings of affiliations linking the site to each of the participating tribal nations. In the end, we hope to expand the traditional roles that archaeology, oral histories, and traditional knowledge have played with respect to cultural affiliation questions in the Southwest.

# Battling Cholla in the Southwest: Conducting Remote Sensing Surveys of Ballcourts in the Bootheel of New Mexico

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In June of 2003, I led a small team of researchers to the picturesque southern portion of the New Mexico booteel to further my dissertation research. Our mission was to conduct several remote sensing surveys of three prehistoric ballcourts at the Joyce Well, Timberlake, and Culberson sites. These sites are located on the Gray Ranch, a vast 502 mi<sup>2</sup> landscape run by the Animas Foundation and set aside for ranching, research, and preserving native wildlands and wildlife.

Ballcourts were the architectural playground of a Native American ballgame played in its various forms from perhaps as early as 1600 B.C. to the present. At its height, the game extended from northern South America to the American Southwest. The ballgame, played with rubber balls of varying sizes, was intricately linked to political, economic, and religious aspects of pre-Hispanic societies. One such society was the Casas Grandes region (A.D. 1150/1200 – 1450/1500) of Northern Mexico, primarily known from the large ritual site of Paquimé. Over 1 km in diameter, Paquimé contained massive roomblocks and ceremonial architecture, including at least three ballcourts.

Other regional sites known to have ballcourts are located primarily west and northwest of Paquimé, and stretch up into the booteel of New Mexico (see Figure 1).

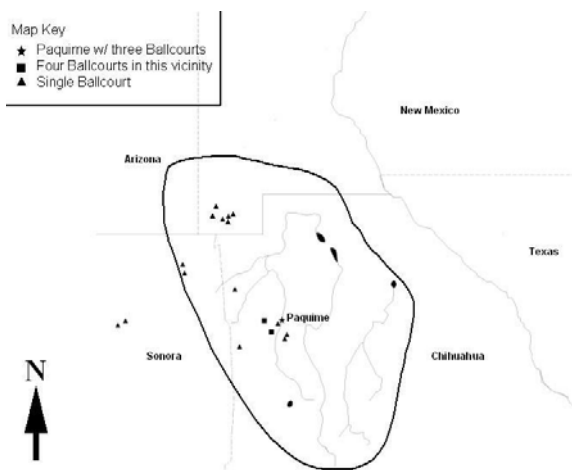


Figure 1 Distribution of ballcourts within the core area of the Casas Grandes region

Currently there is much disagreement as to the nature of the region's political, economic, and religious organization centered on the site of Paquimé. Because of the wide-ranging importance of the ballgame in pre-Hispanic societies of the Americas, the regional distribution of ballcourts should reflect regional organization. This is the focus of my dissertation research, and in a general sense, I am seeking to determine how cultural transmission, as measured by the distribution of artifact characters in the archaeological record, reflects social interaction and organization.

In order to do this, I am gathering as much data as possible on the physical characteristics of the ballcourts. My fieldwork has consisted of close-range photogrammetry surveys of the courts to record data above-ground and electromagnetic induction and magnetic susceptibility surveys to record data below ground. This information will supplement the data I have obtained from previous surveys and excavations of some of region's courts.

Close-range photogrammetry is the process of constructing a three-dimensional model of an object or surface from photographs of that object or surface. The resulting models of the ballcourts allow me to extract a great deal of above-ground information on the ballcourts, including various dimensional attributes. Electromagnetic induction surveys measure the potential conductivity of materials below ground; magnetic susceptibility surveys measure the strength of the earth's magnetic field over some area of interest. Cultural features, such as ballcourt playing field markers or sub-floor caches and burials, affect the potential conductivity readings and alter the earth's magnetic field strength in various ways, and therefore will potentially be detected using these survey methods.



Figure 2 Garth Hayden carries an EM-31 electromagnetic induction instrument over the Culberson ballcourt. In order to conduct the surveys, the instrument must be held level and carried at a steady pace. Photo by Marcel Harmon

and Culberson courts, and the Joyce Well court's two parallel walls composed of rock and earthen berms, are classic Casas Grandes style court features. Figure 3 shows a plan and perspective rendering of the 3D CAD model of the Joyce Well ballcourt. Though difficult to see here, there is a slight slope to the southwest corner. Assuming that the court floor roughly follows this slope, one would expect to find a drain in this corner. If one is present, it should show up in the below ground surveys.

Though the analysis of the remote sensing surveys is not complete, a preliminary map of the magnetic susceptibility survey at the Joyce Well court is shown in Figure 3. The two rows of rocks (from a map produced by William Walker and James Skibo) are overlain on top of the magnetometer map. An anomaly of low magnetic field strength (blue area) flanked by two spots of high strength (pink areas) is apparent in the center of the court. This potentially indicates some type of cultural disturbance related to a court marker or dedicatory burial or cache. However, this court was partially excavated several years ago, and the anomaly may be related to that excavation. I am awaiting copies of the original field notes and maps to verify this. At the southwest corner, there is a smaller anomaly of low magnetic field strength with an adjacent area of higher strength that might indicate a drain.

Christine VanPool performed a cursory analysis of the ceramics at the Culberson and Timberlake sites. We found a sherd with a portion of a horned/plumed serpent as well as a sherd possessing a diamond with ticking design at the Timberlake site. Both designs are common in the Casas Grandes region, and the latter is only found on Casas Grandes human effigy vessels. These designs along with the ballcourts indicate ties with the broader Casas Grandes symbolic/ritual system.

Todd VanPool performed an analysis of the flaked stone at the Timberlake ruin and found distinct differences between the flaked stone on the roomblock versus the ballcourt. The tasks performed at the ballcourt required more durable materials and likely resulted in the increased breakage of flakes used as expedient tools. In contrast, the activities performed at the roomblock could more easily be accomplished with sharper, yet more fragile tools. This difference might be related to the ballgame's often days-long duration documented by Europeans. The expedient nature of the stone tools associated with the court could be the result of spectators performing odd tasks on and off as they watched games over the course of several days. Future comparisons of the flaked stone assemblages of other ballcourt sites could provide an indicator of regional variation in game length, amount of court use, and the relative number of spectators. The complete analysis of the region's ballcourts and their physical characteristics will assist in determining the nature of the Casas Grandes regional organization.

As with any research endeavor, this project was made possible through the assistance of many organizations and individuals. Funding was provided by the Maxwell Center for Anthropological Research and the University of New Mexico Graduate Research Development Fund. Robert Leonard assisted in obtaining funding. The Animas

Figure 2 shows Garth Hayden valiantly lugging an electromagnetic induction instrument across the Culberson ballcourt. For areas further south in Mesoamerica, the ballgame played on these courts has been labeled "The Game of Life and Death." For the first three days of the project, we were involved in our own struggle of "life and death," engaging a fearless enemy in hand-to-spine/thorn combat. To conduct the surveys, we had to clear each of the courts of densely packed cholla cacti and scrub mesquite, some of which can be seen behind Garth. Our foe was merciless, but in the end a combination of bow saws, loppers, machetes, and a chain saw overcame the unholy alliance of cholla spine and mesquite thorn. Though we all ended up with battle scars, it was a small price to pay for the progress of science.

We are still in the process of analyzing the collected data, but it is very apparent that these three courts are Casas Grandes style courts. Their sizes fit within the range of court sizes south of the border. The two parallel rock alignments that form the border walls of the Timberlake

Foundation – Ben Brown, program director – provided logistical support. Sam Smith showed a few of us the three sites on an earlier reconnaissance trip. William Walker (New Mexico State University) and James Skibo (Illinois State University) previously mapped these three courts and partially excavated the Joyce Well court; Bill in particular strongly encouraged this project and provided the information he had previously gathered. David Hyndman, of Sunbelt Geophysics, donated his time and energy to conduct the below ground remote sensing surveys. Finally, there were eight individuals who volunteered their sweat and blood to accomplish this project – Christine, Todd, and Basil VanPool, Judith and Ezra van der Elst, Garth Hayden, Nicole Ramirez, and Candace Sall. I could not have completed this project without their help.

## Current Research at San José de las Huertas, New Mexico

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We first began our research at the archaeological site of San José de las Huertas five years ago. The remains of this small Hispanic village, occupied between 1785 and 1826, are located about 1.6 km (1 mile) north of the present town of Placitas. It was a multi-ethnic village and a buffer community, one of a series of settlements established during the mid-18th century to deter raiding by nomadic Indians on major towns such as Santa Fe, Albuquerque, and Santa Cruz de la Cañada.



Area 2 Overview of Structure

Additionally, the site of San José de las Huertas, as one of a handful of intact and historically documented colonial period sites, is important as it can contribute to the understanding of many issues of archaeological and historical interest in the Southwest. One such interest of ours is the large-scale theoretical problem concerning the workings of empires and colonialism, as seen in this remote settlement on the edge of an extended empire. However, our main research interests focus at a smaller scale, on the community's self-sufficiency and on the ways in which material culture was used in daily life to demonstrate identity. We know that the village was occupied by a diverse group, people with mixed Spanish and Indian heritage. The artifacts and architecture represent that diversity. We are interested in whether specific identities (Hispanic, Genizaro, Pueblo or other native American) were expressed or masked. We

are using historic records and archaeological research to address these questions.

Thus, with the permission of the Archaeological Conservancy (the non-profit organization that owns and protects the site), work began on the remains of the old village in 1999. We generated a working map of San José de las Huertas consisting of visible site features, and conducted a non-collecting survey in order to sample the material



Area 8 Overview of Structure

culture assemblage associated with the occupation of the settlement of Las Huertas. In 2000 and 2001, we returned to San José de las Huertas to try to gain an understanding of the remains visible on the surface and view those underground as discernible through geophysical survey, using soil resistivity. To meet this goal we created: 1) a feature map showing all visible surface remains as well as more current features such as roads, the fence line, etc.; 2) a topographic map of the site; and 3) a map displaying the soil resistivity results of our geophysical survey. The field season of 2002 marked the conclusion of our geophysical surveys and the beginning of archaeological excavations. Prior to the start of our excavations, we conducted a third year of soil resistivity research and a magnetometry survey of a large portion of the village site. Both geophysical survey techniques furnished valuable data about the site's below-

ground archaeological features and provided us with a guide as to where to excavate. Targeted excavations were carried out with the help of Earthwatch volunteers and graduate students during the summers of 2002 and 2003.

Ten different areas were excavated at San José de las Huertas. The exploration of these areas revealed the remains of four structures, a corral, a plaza surface, a road, two burned pits filled with refuse, and two walls that structured space within the village. Three of the four structures that have been uncovered appear to utilize similar building techniques: the use of large adobe bricks placed on top of a cobble stone foundation. The fourth structure looks as if it was constructed of poured adobe walls placed on top of a narrower stone foundation. Despite these apparent differences in construction technique, there seems to be little variation in the kinds of artifacts associated with various structures or other features. However, once analysis of all the materials has been completed, we will be more certain as to the degree of variability across the site. Artifactual remains found during our research at the site have included chipped stone implements, fragments of ground stone, a few metal objects, bottle glass, bone, slag from metal-working, ceramics, buttons, a ceramic gaming piece, and selenite for either the manufacture of plaster or as a substitute for window glass. By far our most abundant artifact category (both in terms of quantity and variation) has been ceramics. We have found porcelain, 19th-century British whitewares, majolicas, what Charles Carrillo describes as Hispanic pottery, Carnué Plain wares, Casitas Red-on-Brown wares, Ranchitos Polychrome wares, and other late Pueblo types.



Excavating at Area 2

The mapping, surface collections and archaeological excavations undertaken by the various crews confirmed the location of the 18th-century Hispanic village of San José de las Huertas (some of the descendant community suggested that where we were working was not the original village site). Earthwatch volunteers, with graduate students, uncovered and recorded houses, features, and artifacts across the village that yielded information on settlement layout, village economy, and community social structure.

We plan to integrate this data with oral histories and archival research to understand how Hispanic identities (or *casta* designations, a Spanish category that combined both ethnicity and social status) in the Borderlands were expressed and manipulated in the late Spanish Colonial Period. The historical records suggest that the *casta* into which a villager in New Spain was born could change throughout his or her life depending on the social, political, and economic circumstances of that villager. The archaeological record at San José de las Huertas has revealed some subtle differences among domestic structures, although we are not yet sure whether those differences are sufficiently clear to reflect status or identity. More generally, the villagers at Las Huertas utilized both Pueblo ceramics and European imports; they engaged in some informal metal working while maintaining the use of expedient stone tools; and actively remodeled their domestic constructions to suit their current situation.

Thus, it appears that in order to persist in this difficult landscape, the Las Huertans and their ancestors adopted traits from both Hispanic and Indian cultures. They relied upon kin networks to move with ease among other land grant communities in times of hardship, and they continually modified and reused their own village lands and structures as needed. The flexibility displayed by the villagers in adapting to their surroundings may have been essential in facilitating survival within the hostile borderlands of the Spanish Empire.

## The 2003 Field Season at Paa-ko

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LA 162, or Paa-ko, is the largest prehispanic community in East Mountains. It includes some 26 roomblocks arranged in eight plaza groups, divided into two major spatial divisions. Between the late 13th and early 15th centuries, Paa-ko was a densely settled community. Like many other Ancestral Pueblo villages in the Rio Grande Valley, Paa-ko was abandoned as a residence in the 15th century as population shifted to the well-watered flood plains of the Rio Grande and its tributaries. A much smaller and more spatially restricted occupation began in the late 16th or early 17th century when four single story masonry roomblocks were superimposed over older structures in a single plaza group. This re-settlement of the site became Mission San Pedro during the Spanish colonial period. Features associated with this colonial period occupation include soil and water control facilities, corral enclosures, and metal working facilities. Despite these material investments and accomplishments, the occupation of Paa-ko was short-lived, lasting only to the 1660s.

Over the past 87 years, there have been several large-scale research projects at the site, including the work of Nels Nelson in 1914, the Museum of New Mexico in the 1930s, and University of New Mexico in the late 1940s and 1950s.

2003 marked the eighth season of our research at LA 162. This work continues and builds on a program of research begun in 1996 and designed to investigate the consequences of Spanish colonial incorporation on the inhabitants of the Middle Rio Grande Valley. Our research at LA 162 began in 1996 with a program of mapping, surface documentation, and test excavations. Over the last few years, our focus has shifted to horizontal exposure of colonial period features and plaza surfaces. Two sets of excavations have been particularly useful in understanding changes in spatial organization, technology, and the organization of production: exposure of 17th century plaza surfaces and their associated features, and exposure of facilities associated with colonial metalworking at the site.

In recent excavations, we have exposed a series of well-defined features used in or ancillary to copper smelting and other metal working activities at Paa-ko. These features are radiocarbon dated to the 17th century. The same area of the site was repeatedly used for metal production, with superimposed and interdigitated features created by periodic episodes of use, maintenance, and reconstruction. The specific functions of these facilities may have included copper smelting, copper ore roasting, charcoal preparation, and iron forging. Preliminary analysis of ores, slags, and finished copper from these excavations suggests the high temperature reduction of locally available malachite ores to produce copper and copper-iron metals. In 2003, we continued our investigation of these features, defining several episodes of construction and use, and uncovering our first evidence of lead smelting at the site. Whether this lead was being produced for ceramic paints, metal tools, or as a by-product of some other process remains a topic for future

research.

Six seasons of excavation on seventeenth century plaza surfaces reveal a complex history of occupation, reoccupation, and construction including several successive, superimposed plaza surfaces, overlain by a small mission chapel and, finally, an extensive corral system. Recent excavations have partially exposed the foundation walls of a large adobe structure superimposed over a filled kiva in the southwest quarter of the historic plaza. We believe that this structure is a small chapel associated with the visita of San Pedro. The 2003 excavations indicate that the east facing structure is apsidal in plan with a continuous nave. It appears to have been built on the latest documented 17th century plaza surface and to have burned and collapsed sometime during the colonial period. In future work, we hope to further investigate this structure and its relationship to nearby roomblocks and corral systems.

The corral and enclosure systems that dominate the southern third of the plaza may have initially been built in association with this chapel; however, they were expanded and used long after the chapel fell into ruins. Later reconstructions and additions to the corrals were built on a more recent surface than the chapel. These walls may represent the final stage of Paa-ko's occupation, as it shifted from a year-round village to a periodically visited sheep camp.

LA 162 offers a unique opportunity to extend our understanding of colonial period transformation in the Middle Rio Grande. We expect our continued research to greatly expand our understanding of 17th century mission settings. Our studies of metallurgy, plant and animal use, and material culture will contribute directly to our knowledge of colonial technologies and practices, as well as their organization and impact at Paa-ko and in the Rio Grande Valley more generally.

## **Continuing Research at Middle Rio Grande Valley Folsom Sites**

**Bruce B. Huckell**  
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In the fall of 2002 and the summer of 2003, investigations moved forward at two Folsom sites. The Boca Negra Wash site saw a third consecutive 6-week field season from the end of May through early July, 2003. In addition, test investigations were pursued at in late 2002 and 2003 at Deann's site, a locality a short distance west of Boca Negra Wash.

### **Boca Negra Wash**

The third season of excavations at Boca Negra Wash continued with the generous financial support of the Argonaut Archaeological Research Fund (AARF), which is housed at the University of Arizona and directed by Vance Holliday. This was the first season of what we hope will be a long-term program of collaborative research focused on investigation of the Paleoindian record in west-central New Mexico as well as reconstruction of late Pleistocene-early Holocene paleoenvironments.

Our crew consisted of seven UNM graduate students, joined by another four volunteers on an intermittent basis, and two UA graduate students. Although we did excavate an additional three 1 m units in Locus A, our excavation efforts were focused on Locus B, the more westerly of the two loci that comprise the site. In the main part of the locus, we excavated 30 1 m units, which included 13 units chosen as part of a systematic sampling strategy and an additional 18 units judgmentally selected to explore areas where higher densities of artifacts had been encountered in past seasons. The goal of the systematic sampling was to determine the spatial limits of the locus, and results from the

2003 season suggest that we have probably identified limits on the east, south, and west. The northern limits, however, remain to be pinned down. It appears that the main part of Locus B measures approximately 15-20 east-west by at least 15 m north-south. Another four 1 m units were excavated in what we are designating Locus B West, which is a somewhat smaller area of Folsom activity on the slope of a low ridge some 35 m farther west. The discovery of a Folsom point tip and point base, a channel flake fragment, and a few pieces of debitage prompted us to begin exploration of this area in 2002.

Results of the work continue to support the picture that we have developed over the last two years. Locus B appears to represent a processing area and camp occupied after a bison kill that must have taken place quite close at hand. Further evidence for a kill/processing area came in the form of more than 100 fragments of tooth enamel that are morphologically consistent with bison, as well as more than a dozen occurrences of very tiny fragments of large mammal bone. We suspect that these represent the weathered remains of at least one bison and more probably several. In addition, we recovered considerably more debitage, most of it very small flakes and flake fragments that appear to have been derived from bifaces and unifaces. A portion of an impact flute from a Folsom point, one Folsom preform fragment, seven channel flake fragments, half a dozen edge fragments of unifacially retouched tools, and a large utilized flake tool were also found.

The Locus B West units were also part of a systematic sample, and all produced artifacts. We also reopened and deepened the two contiguous units dug there in 2002. The stratigraphic record suggests that this area was probably deflated to the top of a well-developed carbonate horizon subsequent to Folsom occupation, and then reburied with sand to depths of as much as .65 m. The distal end of a preform and two channel flake fragments were recovered here, along with a few pieces of debitage; no tooth enamel or bone fragments were found. Whether this area is coeval with the main part of Locus B is difficult to ascertain, but the same suite of lithic raw materials has been recovered from both.

### **Deann's Site**

Discovered in the summer of 2001 during a State of New Mexico Historic Preservation Division-sponsored survey project conducted by the Maxwell Museum, this site is on the west side of the Albuquerque Volcanoes approximately 4 km (2.5 miles) west of Boca Negra Wash. The site was named for Deann Muller, the survey crew member who found this scatter of two to three dozen pieces of debitage at the base of a basalt hill with a playa to the north. With permits from the City of Albuquerque (owner of the land) and the State of New Mexico, a testing program of surface collection, excavation of test pits, mapping, and coring of the playa began in the summer of 2002. Preliminary results from the testing have revealed that the site is most likely a single component Folsom occupation; a Folsom point fragment and four channel flake fragments have been recovered. Most of the surface artifacts occur in an area that is a small deflation basin; test pits have shown that subsurface artifacts are abundant around the margins of the basin. In addition, numerous fragments of tooth enamel, morphologically consistent with bison, have been recovered from surface and buried contexts. It thus appears that Deann's site is another bison kill/processing area and short-term camp. However, unlike Boca Negra Wash, the predominant lithic raw materials at the site are a local light brown chert and a nonlocal, opaque, lustrous white chert. No artifacts of obsidian, Pedernal chert, or Chuska chert—the dominant materials at Boca Negra Wash—have been identified. This suggests that the group that created Deann's site reached the area by a route of travel that did not include passing through the Jemez Mountains, where the obsidian and Pedernal chert can be obtained. Coring of the playa has shown that it contains a 1.2-1.8 m-thick record of lacustrine and eolian sediments that may provide an excellent paleoenvironmental record.

In late 2002, we learned that Deann's site was recorded by Jim Judge in 1967 during his extensive investigation of Paleoindian occupation in the Middle Rio Grande Valley. He had collected a half dozen specimens from the site, including two channel flakes and four other pieces of debitage, all of the same few raw materials that we have recognized at the site. He also found a complete San Jose point of basalt, missing only its extreme tip; this is likely to be a later addition to the site rather than an indication that the site is multicomponent.

Interested persons can obtain further information about the Maxwell Center for Anthropological Research from the museum's web site <http://www.unm.edu/~maxwell>. In addition we invite anyone who wishes to learn more about our projects to contact Dr. Bruce Huckell at (505) 277-4405 or (505) 277-4491 or e-mail him at [bhuckell@unm.edu](mailto:bhuckell@unm.edu). In future issues of this newsletter we will be introducing a MCAR membership program to enable interested persons to participate in our research projects and to provide support for the Center's work.