



ANCIENT ECHOES ANCIENT ECHOES ANCIENT ECHOES

Volume No. 20 Issue No. 3

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SWAT MEMBERSHIP MEETING

October 7, 7:00 PM In The Theater
Of The Arizona Museum Of Natural History

Archaeology In The Path Of The Light Rail

Wally Punzmann, an archaeologist with ACS, will be giving a presentation about the final data from the Light Rail Project. He will detail the archaeology program that resulted when the light rail system from Phoenix to Mesa was installed. The final report has been written so this should provide interesting insight about the prehistoric past. We will send out a reminder in September.

Looking Ahead:

Holiday Membership Meeting, December 2:

Guest Speaker will be Matthew Guebard, Park Archeologist for Tuzigoot National Monument and Montezuma Castle National Monument.

Matt will discuss cliff dwelling and cavate architecture located in the Montezuma Castle National Monument boundary and throughout the Verde Valley. Matt will present specific case studies from National Park Service projects in the area that highlight new information on the study of the Montezuma Castle cliff dwelling and associated cavates. Additionally, technology designed to document and plan preservation projects at these sites will also be shown and discussed.

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Chair Chatter

Donna Bengé
Chairperson



This is sort of our “take it easy” season at least for field work, but we are still active in other pursuits. For example, the lab crew continues to meet each week and the museum exhibition group has been busy working each Monday including holidays. Preliminary work has been done at the Milk Barn at the Park of the Canals, but we are waiting for a cooler day to fix the roof.

The Board of Directors voted to assist SWAT member Dick Myers and the Santa Cruz Valley Historic Museum with sprucing up a schoolhouse at Toltec, which is south of Casa Grande. This was a one-room building adjacent to a larger school that was used by black students who were segregated so unable to attend classes with others. However, the children did play together on the playground. By September and October, we will be working on that project as well as at Pueblo Grande and at the Milk Barn.

We hope that a number of you will join us to help with the various projects.



Lab Takes A Break

This summer, we are continuing to meet on Tuesday evenings working on putting artifacts in archival bags. However, we will not be meeting from August 10th through the 24th as Donna will be on a cruise in the Baltic Sea. We'll meet again on the 31st, but then will resume the Wednesday meetings on September 8.

Museum Exhibits

A number of SWAT members work on Mondays to help in the museum workshop and maintain the exhibits. Presently, some are working outdoors (and sweating a lot) as they complete various aspects of a paleontology dig site that will be on the back north patio. Others are helping to make sure that the exhibits which are presently in the museum are kept in tip top shape. Some are creating games and making hands-on toys for preschoolers.



Bill Becker's historic Cape Cod style home.

Where Are They Now?

By Dr. Jerry Howard

Working closely together in the field over the years, many of the members of SWAT feel much like family members. Sadly, every now and again the obligations of life require that a member move away from Arizona and our SWAT family. On one such sad occasion, Bill Becker, a long-time and very dedicated SWAT member, moved from Arizona back to his native New Jersey. Bill and I were close friends and have, happily, kept in touch through the years. Since many of you were also close friends of Bill, and often ask how he is doing, we thought that a short “where are they now” article would be in order.

Bill moved from our brown state to a green state to take a job that fit his unique background and training – he graduated college as an electrical engineer and later returned to college and completed a master's degree in marketing. He has a great and steady job in New Jersey and things are going well.

Keeping his interest in archaeology alive, Bill has worked with the local archaeological groups. He is currently living near a river that once was a prominent hunting and fishing area for the Lenape, the historic Native American group there. So, have no fear, Bill's trowels will not rust!

The biggest news from Bill is that, true to the hearts of SWAT members he bought an historic house! Not too old mind you but a really cool Cape Cod style house that is over the 50 year mark to get the coveted “historic” designation. He is now learning the joys and demands of home-ownership and the ways of a DIY warrior! Like many of us, Bill will now be a substantial part of America's effort to save historic homes while simultaneously working diligently to keep Home Depot, Lowes and Ace Hardware in business.

Retirement, while in the somewhat distant future, may just find Bill headed home to Arizona and SWAT.

S.W.A.T. Members Vote To Help Restore Historic Toltec School Building In Eloy

By Dick Myers

The little school building we will be working on is located in the Toltec School District #22 which was established May 6, 1913 (Recorded Pinal County Board of Supervisors minutes - Volume 5 page 279.) Frank W. Shedd & Co. donated the 1.73 acre original school site to the Toltec school district July 13, 1926. The Sunland Visitor Center/Santa Cruz Valley Historic Museum signed a 99 year lease June 10, 2003 and took possession of the property July 01, 2003.

Comprised entirely of rural farming areas south and west of Eloy, the school district was never part of any city until the late 1960's. Arizona City, built in 1960 to present day, and Toltec subdivision, annexed by the City of Eloy in the late sixties, increased the tax base significantly. From the beginning area farmers employed many multi-cultural workers from all over the valley, including the Tohono O'odham nation. Farmers like Shedd, Pretzer, Isom, Pearce, Alsdorf, Phillips and others too numerous to name, provided housing as a perk to keep the best and most dependable employees. Children living on the area farms attended the old school.

During the fall and winter the attendance of the lower grades (1, 2, 3, 4) would jump from 10 to 15 students per class to 50+ per class as many multi-ethnic migrant workers moved into the district to harvest the cotton crops. The upper classes also increased but not as much, this age student usually had to stay home and tend siblings or work in the fields, even though Arizona had a law that children must attend school until they turned 16 years old or graduated from 8th grade.

The building we will be working on is of wood construction, was built on the Toltec School site after 1926 and before 1930. The building was used as the "Colored School" for the district until 1951. Arizona eliminated the requirement that they be separated in 1951 (1951 Ariz. Sess. Laws Ch. 74, §1, HB 86). The principal, school board and teacher Mary McCullam Martin were



Toltec Schoolhouse Project Site.

Dick Myers Photo

all instrumental in desegregating the Toltec school. In 1953 the US Supreme Court ruled on Brown vs. the Topeka, Kansas School system that segregation was unconstitutional. In 1981 the AZ legislature passed a law ending segregation in all of Arizona. (1981 Ariz. Sess. Laws Ch. 1 §2, HB2005).

After 1951 the building served as an overflow primary grade school when needed. The classes increased in size during the fall and winter months when the migrant workers came into the district to harvest the cotton crops. The schoolroom was used for 3rd grade in 1953 with 75 students attending during October, November and December. The building served as a bus maintenance shop and for storage of lawn equipment and miscellaneous school items from 1956 to 2003.

The building has the original chalk boards, wainscoting and some cursive alphabet letters around the room on the walls. There are several (11) of the original hand-made wooden chairs left in the building.

A new metal roof was installed September, 2006 on both school houses but both buildings still need extensive renovation. The building was last painted in the 1950's and contains exterior lead based paint that is scheduled for remediation this summer along with electrical up-

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Milk Barn at the "Park of the Canals"

Photo by Jim Britton

Milk Barn Project

By Jim Britton

The Milk Barn is a two room structure located near the west end of the "Park Of The Canals," a Mesa City Park. The park is located on Horne Rd. between Brown and McKellips Roads.

The original portion of the building was one room constructed with a river cobbles exterior wall face held in place with cement. A cement block add-on was later constructed to form the second room. It has a corrugated metal roof. We will try to get the history of the site for a future article in the newsletter.

In May, several SWAT members began cleaning out the interior of the structure. Usable items were hauled to the Federal Building for storage. The other stuff was hauled to a city dumpster. The mesquite tree was trimmed and the weeds inside the fence were removed. The interior of the structure is now empty and clean. The exterior, where the cows were fed, and surrounding area inside the outer fence, still have a lot of stuff to remove.

In June, Donna, Carla, Bert and Jim visited the site to determine what repairs were needed. Jim and Donna

arrived at about the same time. They both noticed some hikers watching their arrival. Soon, Carla entered the gate right behind a Mesa Police car. Much to her surprise and delight she thought she was being escorted to the Barn by a police officer. But then her delight changed to concern as she looked into her rear view mirror and saw another police car behind her. The hikers had called police and reported us driving in the park. It was obvious to the first police officer that we were there to benefit the structure and not to vandalize it. We were all pleased that the site has some security and that the police responded to the call.

Some of the lumber and metal roofing needed to repair the building has been purchased. We are waiting for cooler weather to begin work. If you would like to help, call Donna (480)969-0578 or Jim at (480)827-8070.



2010 Awards in Public Archaeology

During the Historic Preservation Conference in Flagstaff on May 13 and 14, SWAT member Marie Britton received the volunteer 2010 Award in Public Archaeology. Ann Howard, who was in charge of the Archaeology Expo for many years, also received the coveted award.

Toltec School

Continued from Page 3

grades. Prior to repainting the exterior portion of the building, the wooden doors, windows, vent frames and moldings will need to be evaluated for possible replacement. The moveable window frames will have to be reglued, refinished and several panes of glass replaced.

The interior wainscoting needs striped and refinished. Interior sheetrock, Celetex ceiling and wood lathe holding the fiberboard Celetex to the ceiling will have to be replaced.

The goal of Santa Cruz Valley Historic Museum Board President Dick Myers is to have both buildings at least available for open house tours during the Bi-Centennial celebration in February 2012. This of course will all depend on the three M's - money, material, and manpower donations!



SWAT members inspecting Toltec Schoolhouse.

Donna Benge Photo

Please Become A Part Of SWAT!

Join Or Renew Today!

If you have not joined the Southwest Archaeology Team yet,
we invite you to do so now.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail: _____

Date Sent: _____

This is a: New Membership Renewal Membership

\$20 - Family Membership

\$15 - Single or Individual Membership

\$10 - Student Membership

Return to: Southwest Archaeology Team
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Pecos Conference

The conference will be held in Silverton, Colorado this year from August 12 to 15. That's a beautiful cool setting so think about attending.

The Pecos Conference is an annual conference of archaeologists which is held in the southwestern United States or northwestern Mexico.

Open to all, the Pecos Conference remains an important and superlative opportunity for students of prehistory to meet with professional archaeologists on a one-on-one informal basis to learn about the profession, gain access to resources and to new research opportunities, and to test new methods and theories related to archaeology.

Registration forms, schedules and more information can be found at <http://www.swanet.org>

Coins, Coins, Coins

SWAT members continue to collect the coins that people throw on the museum dinosaur mountain and in the ponds. If any of you would like to help the next time we do collecting, let us know by contacting Donna Benge (480)969-0578 or Jim Britton at (480)827-8070



E.B. Mack

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