

# glyphs

The Monthly Newsletter of the  
Arizona Archaeological and Historical Society

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Next General Meeting: September 21, 2015  
7:30 p.m.  
University Medical Center  
[www.az-arch-and-hist.org](http://www.az-arch-and-hist.org)

#### In This Issue

- 2 President's Message
- 7 The Cornerstone

## President's Message

by Jesse Ballenger

Somewhere around the year Y2K, I relocated to Tucson weeks in advance of my family and immediately misplaced our newly leased duplex – it is a long story. I eventually resorted to phoning a cab, whereupon the guy asked me where I was located. I replied that there was an enormous Paul Bunyan in front of me. The dispatcher then engaged me in a brief conversation about the 1969 film, *Easy Rider*, which he said featured that colossal figure. I said the film traced Route 66 and did not include Tucson, and then we argued about the origin of the statue until he got another call. I have wanted to argue my case for 15 years.

Paul Bunyan is an early twentieth century icon representing vitality, animal domestication, deforestation, and other noble traits like being enormous. He was popularized by the Red River Lumber Company located in Minnesota. His origin story apparently converges on a French-Canadian fellow, but it quickly blurs. Four states within the United States claim to be his birthplace: Michigan, Minnesota, Maine, and California. Today, Paul Bunyan statues are a famous example of historic roadside culture, especially along Route 66. They are a fantastic topic of conversation, according to me. A couple of examples are even listed in the National Register of Historic Places, so I feel justified to write about them.

There is a cottage industry for statues in the Paul Bunyan homeland of the upper Midwest, but the first mass-produced model was created in 1962, by Prewitt Fiberglass, located in Venice, California, for the Paul Bunyan Café (later named the Lumberjack Café) in Flagstaff. The company was sold in 1963, and was renamed International Fiberglass, which used the original 20-foot-tall Paul Bunyan mold to create hundreds of other characters, such as cowboys, Indians, astronauts, and an Alfred E. Neuman. The axe could be replaced by all manners of things, such as mufflers, tires, rifles, food, or the American flag. One piece, located in Hatch, New Mexico, holds a tiny RV.

The statues (sometimes called “Muffler Men”) are reported in nearly every state, except South Carolina, Vermont, and New Hampshire. They probably have one in South Carolina, but nobody goes there to report on them, or they bartered it.

Together, a 1967 family photograph and a popular Route 66 postcard show two identical 20-foot-tall Paul Bunyan statues located at the Lumberjack Café. Both are now relocated. One can be found outside the stadium entrance at Northern Arizona University. Based on photographs, what appears to be a smaller model with slightly different features, is located inside the stadium (the company later made a 14-foot-tall model). I am not aware of the whereabouts of the second 20-foot-tall statue that I think is shown in the 1967 photograph if I am correct, but it is not located in Tucson.

Based on a recent interview by Brian Pederson of the *Arizona Daily Star*, the iconic Paul Bunyan permanently located at the corner of Glenn Street and Stone Avenue in Tucson was purchased at a San Francisco trade show in 1964, years before filming of the original Paul Bunyan in *Easy Rider* in 1968 Flagstaff. Likewise, the Tucson specimen cannot lay claim to being the first one cast, as suspected by some Muffler Man enthusiasts, without some evidence that it came from Flagstaff. Unfortunately, there is no known number to trace.

Having that off my chest, I am pleased to report that you have re-elected a group of misers, and that the Society is in the best of shape. We look forward to awarding this year's Byron Cummings and Victor Stoner recognitions (see page 6) at the Pecos Conference, as well as future proposals for scholarship in the U.S. Southwest and Northern Mexico. As a reminder, the Society offers a special award for minorities in archaeology, which I do not think has been applied for since its creation.



Paul Bunyan statue located in Tucson, Arizona.

## AAHS Lecture Series

All meetings are held at the Duval Auditorium, University Medical Center  
Third Monday of the month, 7:30-9:00 p.m.

- August, 2015: No Lecture (Pecos Conference)
- Sept. 21, 2015: Michelle Hegmon, *The Archaeology of the Human Experience*
- Oct. 19, 2015: Chuck LaRue and Laurie Webster, *Ancient Woodworking, Animal Use, and Hunting Practices in Southeastern Utah: New Insights from the Study of Early Perishable Collections*
- Nov. 16, 2015: Deni Seymour, *The Earliest Apache in Arizona: Evidence and Arguments*

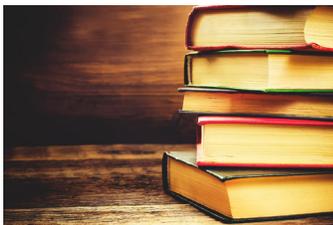


## Library Benefit Book Sale

**Saturday, September 26, 2015**

**10:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m.**

**ASM Lobby, Free Admission**



This very popular USED book sale is hosted by the Arizona Archaeological and Historical Society. Books start at \$2.00, journals as low as \$0.50. Huge selections in anthropology with emphasis on U.S. Southwest and northern Mexico; non-academic

materials, too! Proceeds benefit the ASM Library, AAHS, ASM, and AAC members admitted one hour early (9:00 a.m.) for exclusive shopping!

Follow AAHS on Facebook at [www.facebook.com/pages/Tucson-AZ/Arizona-Archaeological-and-Historical-Society](http://www.facebook.com/pages/Tucson-AZ/Arizona-Archaeological-and-Historical-Society)

## Upcoming AAHS Field Trips

*Participation in field trips is limited to members of AAHS.  
There is generally a 20-person limit on field trips, so sign up early.*

### Laboratory of Tree-Ring Research

**September 12, 2015; 9:00 a.m.-12:00 p.m.**

Join us for a tour of the world famous Laboratory of Tree-Ring Research at the University of Arizona. This tour, led by



Dr. Ron Towner, will showcase the new Bryant Bannister Tree-Ring Building – a state-of-the-art facility containing outstanding laboratories for exploring all aspects of dendrochronology, as well as the only federally recognized archive for all tree-ring samples from federal

lands. The equally famous UA Radiocarbon Lab, headed by Dr. Greg Hodgins, will also be visited during the tour.

To register for the trip, contact Cannon Daughtrey at [cannondaughtrey@gmail.com](mailto:cannondaughtrey@gmail.com).

### Pima Canyon, South Mountains, Phoenix

**October 24, 2015**

The South Mountains of Phoenix contain an enormous amount of rock art. Join Hohokam petroglyph scholar, Aaron Wright, for an off-trail tour of the Pima Canyon area in the South Mountains of Phoenix. Given time and energy, we may take in



a second canyon in the afternoon. The tour is limited to 20 people, and AAHS membership is required. Carpooling will be organized for those coming from Tucson. To register, contact Katherine Cerino at [kcerino@gmail.com](mailto:kcerino@gmail.com).

## Cummings and Stoner Awards Announced

Each year for the past 28 years, the Arizona Archaeological and Historical Society has recognized contributions to southwestern archaeology with two awards. The Byron Cummings Award, named in honor of Dean Cummings, founder of AAHS, first head of the University of Arizona's Department of Archaeology, and first Director of the Arizona State Museum, is given for outstanding contributions to knowledge in anthropology, history, or a related field of study pertaining to the southwestern United States or northwestern Mexico. The Victor R. Stoner Award, named in honor of Reverend Stoner, a strong avocational historian, supporter of the Society, and one of the founders of *Kiva*, is given for outstanding contributions in leadership or participation in the Society, fostering historic preservation, or bringing anthropology, history, or a related discipline to the public.

The Board is pleased to accept the recommendations of the AAHS Awards committee for this year's awardees who join a long list of people who have made outstanding contributions to our field.



### AAHS Byron Cummings Awards for 2015

**Jim Ayres (deceased):** Historical archaeologist, former Arizona State Historic Preservation Officer

**Alan Ferg:** Arizona State Museum registrar and archivist, expert in Mormon archaeology and all things Apache

### AAHS Victor R. Stoner Awards for 2015

**Ann Howard:** Deputy Arizona State Historic Preservation Officer for Archaeology, Arizona Archaeology Month coordinator

**John Ware:** former director of Laboratory of Anthropology and Museum of Indian Arts and Culture, Santa Fe; former director of the Amerind Foundation, Dragoon, Arizona

## Cornerstone

*Darlene Lizarraga, Director of Marketing  
Arizona State Museum*

### Space: The Ultimate Frontier Making Room for the Ever-Growing State-mandated Collection

*By Darlene Lizarraga and Arthur Vokes*

We all know what it's like to outgrow a space, perhaps a closet or office, because we acquire too much stuff over the years. Imagine 122 years of daily acquisition and not a single item can be eliminated. For the curators at the Arizona State Museum, space is a frontier against which they are constantly pushing.

"Storage—it's not the sexiest part of museum work, but it's extremely important," says Arthur Vokes, the museum's archaeological repository curator. "It's essential, actually. It's hard to make shelving sound interesting but it's the absolute foundation for what we do and for our success at doing it."

Vokes oversees the largest and busiest state-run archaeological intake facility in the nation. On average, the Arizona State Museum takes in about 800 cubic feet of "bulk collections" and about 1,300 items for individual cataloguing per year, along with associated photographs, field notes and analysis materials.

"We hold every single item in trust and in perpetuity for the people of the state of Arizona. This is our mandated purpose. In perpetuity is a long time and it's expensive," Vokes says. "We are happy to perform it and committed to doing it to the best of our ability; it would just be better if we had space that expanded with us."

### *Making Room for the Past*

When you can't expand out, you have to go up. Vokes and his curatorial team are currently in the process of preparing space in

*(continued on page 8)*

(continued from page 7)



Arthur Vokes at one of the repository's many storage cabinets. (Photo by ASM staff)

the museum's south building for the installation of compactor shelving—mobile shelves and cabinets that use precious floor space more efficiently than regular shelving.

It's a big job that includes moving boxed material, transferring the contents of the cabinets to new storage space, and rehusing collections as needed. Equally important is accurately tracking and recording each object's new storage location in the museum's collections database.

This is about the third major move Vokes has overseen in the past decade.

In past years, the museum expanded to include off-site storage in a warehouse near downtown Tucson, but during the

economic downturn of 2008, the space was closed by the university as a cost savings measure. A new facility on 34th Street is pending, to be shared with other UA departments that have their own storage issues.

"While we are grateful for these cost-sharing opportunities, the environmental-control requirements for storing archaeological materials are not always the same as those suitable for other activities," Vokes says. And so, for now, the museum's south building, across the street from its main location, is serving as the headquarters for the archaeological repository and is being retrofitted with state-of-the-art shelving.

### The Cost

The expenses associated with storage includes the costs for the containers—plastic bags, acid-free boxes, etc.—in addition to the shelving and the physical space. At a cost of nearly \$60,000, the shelving project Vokes and his team are working on now is designed to hold more than 2,000 ft<sup>3</sup> of material. In addition to the upfront

expenses for the physical storage (which included environmental controls, security, computer databases), there are support staff costs and costs associated with daily maintenance of, and access to, the collections. While it is difficult to quantify these expenses, Vokes estimates that the overall long-term storage costs can average around \$30.00 per ft<sup>3</sup> per year. The south building currently holds about 8,000 ft<sup>3</sup>; the north building about 23,000. Based on Vokes' estimation, the annual cost comes to just about \$900,000 per year. Although this is a legislatively mandated responsibility the museum performs on behalf of the state of Arizona, the legislature pays nothing toward it. Never has.

### Southwestern Collection a Global Resource

The Arizona State Museum's collections are some of the largest, most comprehensive and most significant resources in the world for the study of southwestern indigenous peoples—more than 3 million objects and growing daily.

The individually cataloged and bulk materials, including pottery sherds, chipped stone debris, shells, animal bones and environmental samples, are used by a wide variety of people. The average museum visitor interacts with only a small portion of a museum's permanent collection, generally through exhibits and special events. These are often limited to the catalogued items.

The bulk material has a more utilitarian function and a broader scope and is frequently accessed by professional archaeologists, academic researchers and students. While most researchers who



Top: Top view of the existing fixed shelving in the main gallery of the south building (that's Alan Ferg way down there). Bottom: Mobile Compactor shelving in process of installation. (Photos by ASM staff)

(continued on page 10)

(continued from page 9)

access these materials are archaeologists, some are ecologists who are looking to the archaeological record to provide a time-depth unavailable through other resources. For example, ecologists have examined rabbit bones from a number of archaeological sites to obtain the isotopic signatures of various grasses, thereby gaining insight on the region's changing environment. In addition, recent geological studies of the museum's turquoise artifacts have revealed a previously unknown turquoise source that was active in the ninth century in the Silverbell Mountains northwest of Tucson.

Students from the UA School of Anthropology and other departments, as well as from institutions across the country and around the world, use these collections to analyze and draw samples for master's theses and doctoral dissertations.

#### *An eye toward the future*

Museums constantly have to think of the future and how future generations of researchers and their work will be affected by curatorial decisions made today. The Arizona State Museum is still affected by decisions made by its first director Byron Cummings in the early 20th century. So too will people be affected by decisions made by today's curators.

"We are working on behalf of future generations of researchers," Vokes says. "We never know what their needs or wants will be so we have to do as little harm to the collections, have as little impact on them, as is possible. Again, it's not the most attractive stuff – pollen samples, soil samples, botanical samples – but the point is not exhibition.

"We are first and foremost a curatorial and research facility, and it is our job to ensure that everything is properly curated, well-documented and available so that future researchers have these resources in the same condition they are in now, if not better. Every bit is important because you never know what information could be extracted. You never know what the questions are going to be. We can only imagine the new analytical technologies that will be available in 200 years."

## AAHS Membership Application

Membership is open to anyone interested in the prehistory and history of Arizona and the Southwest and who support the aims of the Society. Membership runs for a full year from the date of receipt, and covers all individuals living in the same household.

Monthly meetings are free and open to the public. Society field trips require membership. Members may purchase an annual JSTOR subscription to *Kiva* back issues for \$20 through the AAHS website.

### Membership Categories

- \$50 **Kiva members** receive four issues of the Society's quarterly journal *Kiva* and 12 issues of *Glyphs*
- \$40 **Glyphs members** receive *Glyphs*
- \$35 **Student Kiva members** receive both *Kiva* and *Glyphs*
- \$75 **Contributing members** receive *Kiva*, *Glyphs*, and all current benefits
- \$120 **Supporting members** receive *Kiva*, *Glyphs*, and all current benefits
- \$300 **Sponsoring members** receive *Kiva*, *Glyphs*, and all current benefits
- \$1,000 **Lifetime members** receive *Kiva*, *Glyphs*, and all current benefits

Note: For memberships outside the U.S., please add \$20. AAHS does not release membership information to other organizations.

### Institutional Subscriptions

For institutional subscriptions to *Kiva*, contact Maney Publishing at subscriptions@maneypublishing.com or <http://maneypublishing.com/index.php/journals/kiv>. For institutional subscriptions to *Glyphs* (\$100), contact AAHS VP for Membership at the address below.

You can join online at [www.az-arch-and-hist.org](http://www.az-arch-and-hist.org), or by mailing the form below to:  
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The objectives of the Arizona Archaeological and Historical Society are to encourage scholarly pursuits in areas of history and anthropology of the southwestern United States and northern Mexico; to encourage the preservation of archaeological and historical sites; to encourage the scientific and legal gathering of cultural information and materials; to publish the results of archaeological, historical, and ethnographic investigations; to aid in the functions and programs of the Arizona State Museum, University of Arizona; and to provide educational opportunities through lectures, field trips, and other activities. See inside back cover for information about the Society's programs and membership and subscription requirements.