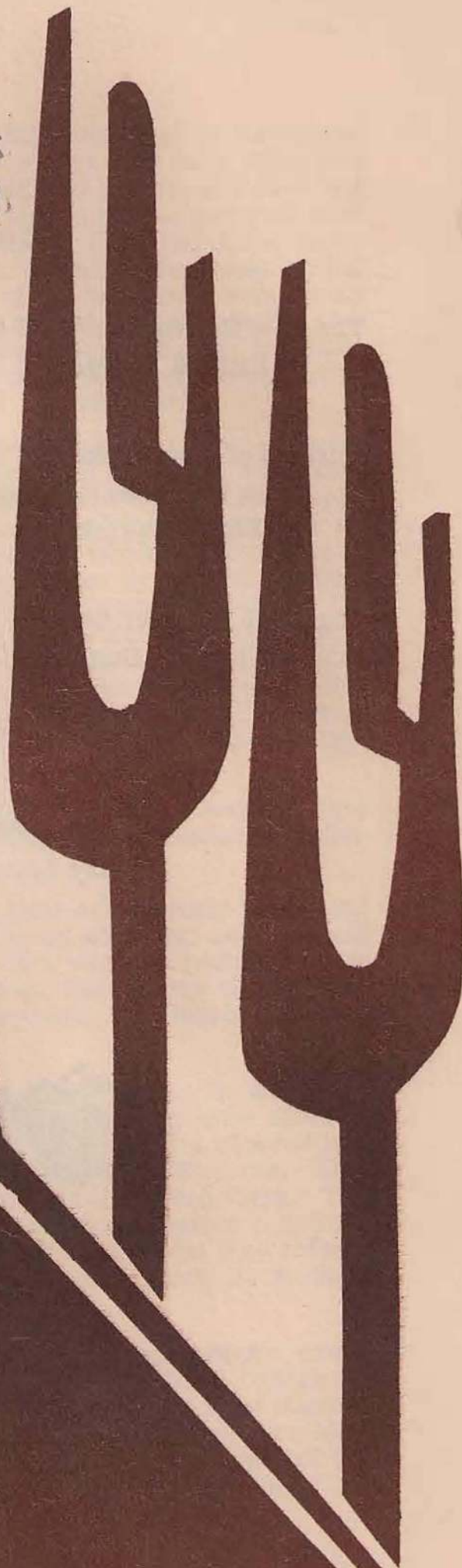
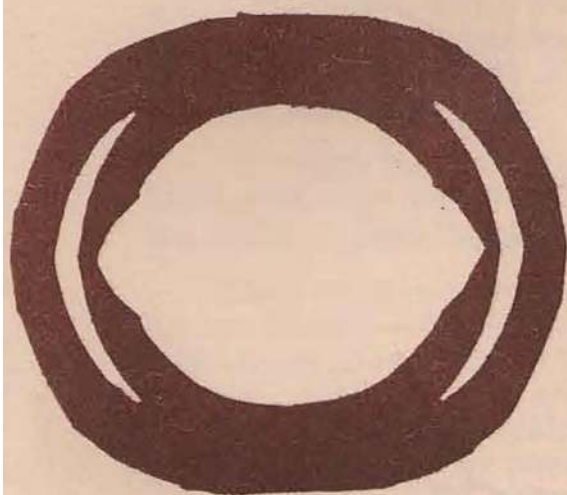


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THE NEW MEXICO TERRITORIAL MOUNTED POLICE

By Richard D. Myers

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The "Wild West" was evident in the New Mexico Territory for some years after the turn of the century. Men still wore their six shooters and the nearest law was most likely a long ways off. There were so many "wanted men" drifting through the Territory that many blamed the Texas Rangers for chasing them into New Mexico. The same was said for the Arizona Rangers. (*Albuquerque Morning Journal*, January 14, 1905, p. 2).

Rustling was a big problem in the territory so the cattlemen organized a force of rangers under Thomas F. Tucker to protect their interests (Fred Lambert, Ute Park, New Mexico, to the author, March 15, 1963). Tucker was a former "gunman" and United States Marshal (Hening, 1958:9-41).

Colonel W. H. Greer, manager of the Victoria Land and Cattle Company, saw the need for stopping the lawlessness in the remote areas of the territory and introduced a Mounted Police bill into the Territorial Legislature in 1905 (*Albuquerque Morning Journal*, January 14, 1905, p. 2). Colonel Greer received backing for his bill from the New Mexico Cattle Sanitary Board who called a special meeting in Santa Fe to discuss the bill. Members at the meeting knew there would be opposition to the Mounted Police force (*Albuquerque Morning Journal*, January 19, 1905, p. 2). Many of the territorial legislators believed the ranger force would benefit only the cattle interests. Furthermore, they knew that the people of the territory did not care to foot the bill for such a small interest group (*Albuquerque Morning Journal*, January 20, 1905, p. 1).

The stockmen, however, convinced Governor Miguel A. Otero. He urged the formation of a ranger force with the provision that it be established at the expense of the special interests to be served and that the formation of the force would not impose any additional burden upon the general tax payer (*Albuquerque Morning Journal*, January 18, 1905, p. 6). Finally, by early February, 1905, the cattlemen convinced the opposition that sheepmen, farmers and other livestock owners would be benefited by a ranger force and only slight opposition remained (*Albuquerque Morning Journal*, February 11, 1905, p. 1). Towards the end of the month, the Greer Bill was accepted. Governor Otero then organized a company of Mounted Police consisting of one captain, one lieutenant, one sergeant and not more than eight privates. Terms of enlistment were for twelve months. The men would be paid monthly from funds obtained by a tax of one half mill on taxable property in the territory. The captain received two thousand dollars per year; the lieutenant, one thousand and five hundred dollars; the sergeant, one thousand and two hundred dollars; the privates all received nine hundred dollars per year.

Each man was furnished with the most effective and approved breech-loading rifle. The cost of the rifle was deducted from the first month's pay. A mounted policeman had to furnish his own horse, six shooter (army size), and all the necessary accoutrements and camp equipment before enlisting (Fred Lambert, "New Mexico Mounted Police," unpublished manuscript, p. 4).

Horses killed in action were replaced by the territory, but other articles had to be paid for by the individual. Disposal of or exchange of property had to have the approval of the captain.

The total yearly cost for the force was not to exceed thirteen thousand dollars (Organization Act, No. 26, Mounted Police Records, Albuquerque). In addition, there was a sum of one thousand and two hundred dollars appropriated for "contingent expenses." These expenses covered the cost of telegrams, horse feed, feeding of prisoners and expenses incurred during arrests (George W. Prichard, Attorney General to Governor Otero, August 18, 1905. M.P. Records, Santa Fe).

The objectives of the Mounted Police were to protect the frontier of the territory, preserve the peace and capture persons charged with crime. The captain was told to pick as his base the most unprotected and exposed settlement of the territory. The entire force was governed by the rules and regulations of the United States Army "as far as applicable," but always subject to the authority of the territory. Members of the force were exempt from all military, jury and "other service," and they had the power to make arrests of criminals in any part of the territory. Upon making an arrest, the Mounted Policeman was to hand over his man to a county Peace Officer (Organization Act, No. 26, M.R. Records, Albuquerque).

A former Socorro County Assessor, John F. Fullerton, was the first captain of the force. He served only a few months. Fred Fornoff was appointed captain in April of 1906 and he remained the head of the Mounted Police force throughout its existence (M.P. Records, Albuquerque and Santa Fe). Fornoff had been a Rough Rider under Teddy Roosevelt. At the time of his appointment to the Mounted Police, he was a city marshal in Albuquerque. He had investigated the killing of Pat Garrett and his investigation differed materially from that of a local sheriff and the controversy had earned Fornoff notoriety (Hening 1958: 128, 216-17).

Although appointments to the Mounted Police were made by the governors, the selection of the men was largely left up to the captain. Many of the members were experienced lawmen (Hening 1958:235).

From time to time additional men were appointed to the Mounted Police. These men were given special commissions and served only temporarily. They received no salary from the territory. It was the custom of the department to issue such commissions to law officers whose duties required them to operate in more than one county (Fornoff's Annual Report, December 1, 1909. M.P. Records, Santa Fe).

Fullerton had established Mounted Police headquarters at Socorro in 1905. The next year headquarters were moved to Santa Fe while the duty stations of the various policemen shifted as events warranted throughout the counties of New Mexico. However, with only eleven men to serve twenty-five counties, it was impossible to police the entire territory (Fornoff's Report to Governor Hagerman, June 2, 1907. M.P. Records, Santa Fe). Fornoff was against having his men stationed in the same town where the sheriffs had the duty of enforcing the law (Fornoff's Report to Governor Hagerman, January 2, 1907. M.P. Records, Santa Fe). In this way he hoped to avoid trouble over jurisdiction. By 1909, Fornoff and his men generally worked out of Santa Fe (Governor Curry to Fornoff, M.P. Records, Albuquerque, January 14, 1909).

The very nature of the Mounted Police brought them upon the scene of varied crimes. Although the majority of arrests were for crimes connected with rustling, hundreds of arrests were made for offenses such as assault, burglary, murder, vagrancy, forgery, and breaches of the peace which included drunkenness, fighting, and destruction of property (Fornoff to Governor Curry, December 1, 1909. M.P. Records, Santa Fe). Under law the Mounted Police did not serve papers in civil cases (Fornoff to Hickey and Moore, Attorney, July 30, 1909. M.P. Records, Albuquerque).

Captain Fornoff would not permit the work of the Mounted Police to be exploited in the newspapers. As a result, a great deal of the work done by the force was never known to the people of the territory (Fornoff to H. B. Henning, August 1, 1907. M.P. Records, Albuquerque). This may have been a mistake that haunted Fornoff in the ensuing years. Additional duties of the Mounties included detective work, watching for bootleggers to the Indians and acting as parole officers (Letters to Fornoff) from Grimshaw, Johnson, and Curry. M.P. Records, Albuquerque).

Traveling in rough country, on horseback, often hindered the policemen from maintaining efficient enforcement of the law. The men had to pay their own fares when traveling by train and all efforts to obtain railroad passes were turned down. (Fornoff correspondence to railroad officials. M.P. Records, Albuquerque).

The legislature of 1909 presented a gloomy outlook for the Mounted Police. The opposition to the force had grown and several legislators were determined to have the force abolished (**Albuquerque Morning Journal**, March 19, 1909, p. 6). To add to the force's woes, Governor Curry aimed to reduce taxes which blocked any chances of increasing the organization (Fornoff to G. H. Webster, January 16, 1909. M.P. Records, Albuquerque). By February, things were so mixed up that the disposition of the organization appeared to be problematical and Fornoff feared that the opposition would win (Fornoff to P. B. Estes, February 24, 1909, M.P. Records, Albuquerque). Belately, Fornoff contacted influential people and asked them to write to members of the legislature and urge favorable action for the Mounted Police (Fornoff to Fred Dodge, January 16, 1909. M.P. Records, Albuquerque). By this time, Captain Fornoff became dis-

allusioned because of the opposition. He said he did not feel like making a fight for the organization as he believed it was entitled to much more credit and consideration than some members of the legislature were disposed to give it (Fornoff to J. Corbett, February 13, 1909 M.P. Records, Albuquerque).

After a great deal of debate in the legislature, the Governor was authorized to appoint additional members to the Mounted Police to serve without pay. The opposition did succeed in cutting the permanent force (unsigned letter to J. H., April 29, 1909. M.P. Records, Albuquerque). It was understood that the men let out were competent and faithful to the force and any future vacancies would be reserved for them. For those remaining on the force, it was made clear that intoxication would be sufficient cause for dismissal.

Under the new law Captain Fornoff and three men would be stationed at Santa Fe and two men would be stationed at Deming because of so much rustling on the Mexican border. The men were allowed one dollar and fifty cents per diem when away from their official stations. This law, in reducing the strength of the force, also abolished the rank of lieutenant (Governor Curry's Executive Order, December 1, 1909. M.P. Records, Santa Fe).

The failure of the opposition to abolish the Mounted Police seemed to bolster Captain Fornoff's hopes. He became optimistic about increasing the force and felt this expectation would be realized after statehood, especially since the stockmen were in favor of additive measures (Fornoff to A. C. Ash, January 11, 1911. M.P. Records, Albuquerque).

The Cattle Sanitary Board pointed out in its report to the Governor in 1912 the importance of the force. The inspectors continually relied upon the Mounted Police to make arrests for violations of the inspector law. The report stressed the fact that where complaints came into the office about the larceny of cattle, the requests were for Mounted Policemen. The feeling prevailed that they were the only officers who could cope with the situation. So convinced was Governor W. C. McDonald that he recommended increasing the force in his message to the legislature (Governor's Papers, February 1, 1912. State Record Center and Archives, Santa Fe).

Despite this recommendation and the cattlemen's efforts, the bill which the latter presented to the legislature did not pass. The permanent company of Mounted Police remained with the complement of six men throughout the remainder of its existence (Fornoff to S. A. Birchfield and J. Brackett, May and June 1912. M.P. Records, Albuquerque). During 1912 the situation in the legislature grew worse for the territorial Mounted Police. The opposition became determined to annihilate the organization once and for all.

During the 1913 session of the State Legislature, Bill No. 112, to abolish the Mounted Police, was introduced. No action, however, was taken upon it for several weeks. By March 11 the bill was re-read because it had been on the calendar for so long that everyone had forgotten what it was about. In the debate that followed, Sena-

tor McCoy called the Mounted Police one of the best investments in the state, declaring that they attained great results in proportion to their cost. He argued that abolishing it was partisan and that the peculiar nature of the state, its long distances and isolated districts made it necessary to have an effective Mounted Police force to suppress crime (*Albuquerque Morning Journal*, March 11, 1913, p. 2).

Senators Barth and Mabry also defended the Mounted Police. They claimed the force was non-political and that the officers would run down criminals when local officials had failed to do so. These senators argued that passage of the bill was aimed at the Governor in order to wrest more power from him and it was, therefore, a political move on the part of the opposition. (*Santa Fe New Mexican*, March 11, 1913, p. 2).

Senator Gallegos, representing the opposition, claimed the Mounted Policemen stationed at Clayton, New Mexico, had done little more work than tie his horse in front of a saloon door. He stated that one member of the force had been in league with a gang of cattle thieves and that the organization was useless. Senator Hinkle said Chaves County was opposed to the force. Senator Holt told of a killing in Las Cruces, New Mexico, which he declared was felt to be entirely due to the existence of the Mounted Police and the actions of one of their members. According to him, the people of Dona Ana County were strongly opposed to the organization. Peace officers of the various counties could handle the situation without interference from outsiders, Senator Holt argued.

And so the pros and cons went. On March 11, 1913, by a vote of seventeen to seven, the Mounted Police force was abolished (*Albuquerque Morning Journal* and *Santa Fe New Mexican*, March 11, 1913, p. 2).

The controversial Territorial Mounted Police are now but a part of New Mexico's history. Just one more of a number of law enforcement groups who made their mark on the Southwest and disappeared into the proverbial "fading sunset."

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ANALYSIS OF HUMAN SKELETAL REMAINS FROM TWO SITES IN ARIZONA

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EDITOR'S NOTE:

The human skeletal material reported by T.M.J. Mulinski is from three different locations in Cochise County. The Price Canyon material is from the archaeological site excavated by Cochise College in 1968 and 1969, and to date unpublished. The Pursley skull was discovered eroding out of a sandy slope near the S. T. Pursley home in Sulphur Springs Valley. The find was reported to Cochise College. Upon investigation it was found that any other skeletal material had, apparently, eroded away and no cultural evidence was found associated with the skull. There are several archaeological sites known in the vicinity. The Kambitch remains were donated to Cochise College and reported as coming from a site on the Kambitch Ranch east of Douglas, Arizona. No archaeological information was submitted with the skeletal material.

The reporting of such finds by our local people, even though other information is lacking, is a valuable contribution to the knowledge of Cochise County prehistory. Contemplate what you, the reader, would know of this material had it not been reported! We are also fortunate that the Human Identification Laboratory, under the direction of Dr. Walter H. Birkby, is interested enough to take the time to study this material and pass the information along to us.

Human skeletal material from two sites in Arizona was submitted by Richard D. Myers of Cochise College, Douglas, Arizona, to the Arizona State Museum Human Identification Laboratory for analysis on November 6, 1970. One part of the material was from Price Canyon, while the other portion was from another site divided into material labelled "P" (Pursley) and "K" (Kambitch).

The osseous material was separated in the Laboratory into the

least possible number of individuals from each site. Where more than one individual could be discerned in the site debris, the letters A, B, etc. were used to designate the separate individual. Bone fragments from both of the sites were reconstructed wherever possible in order to facilitate metrical and non-metrical observations and to help delineate the number of individuals present.

In all, there were at least six individuals present. They were distributed as follows:

SITES	
Price Canyon	Unnamed Site
1-A child, 3-5 yrs.	1-A ♂ , 25-35 yrs. (Pursley)
1-B child, 5-7 yrs.	1-B ♀ , 50+ yrs. (Kambitch)
1-C child, 7-9 yrs.	
1-D ♂ (?), adult	

I. Price Canyon

There are four individuals represented in this material, plus miscellaneous sub-adult human bone fragments unassignable to any one individual. Parts of non-human animal bones were also recovered but not identified.

None of the individuals were well represented as a result of the friable condition of the bone; two, for example, consisted only of mandibular fragments. As a result, no metrical observations were possible. It was possible, however, to estimate the age of the three sub-adults based on a morphological comparison with other South-western Indian material. This was necessitated by the lack of any observable sequence of tooth eruption. It was also possible to suggest the sex of the adult on the basis of mandibular morphology.

The following is a description of the skeletal remains from Price Canyon:

Burial 1-A: The only remains of this 3-5 year old child were two fragmentary mandibular rami, both of which were charred to some extent (the left more so than the right).

It might be suspected that in as much as this individual was represented only by two fragmentary pieces of bone and since the only other charred human bone was that of a 7-9 year old child, the remains designated 1-A might be part of Burial 1-C. However, on comparison with mandibles from other skeletons aged 7-9 years, it was observed that the mandibular fragments were too small to have been an individual any older than 3-5 years.

Burial 1-B: This 5-7 year old child was represented only by post-cranial remains. The osseous material included diaphysial fragments of a left humerus, femur, tibia, and fibula, and a left calcaneal fragment.

It is interesting to note that only the left side of this child was present.

Burial 1-C: This individual was the most complete of the four. Fragments of the cranial vault were, for the most part, reconstructable. A single left mandibular M1 and fragments of the right ilium, both scapulae, the right clavicle, and the right femur made up the post-cranial remains.

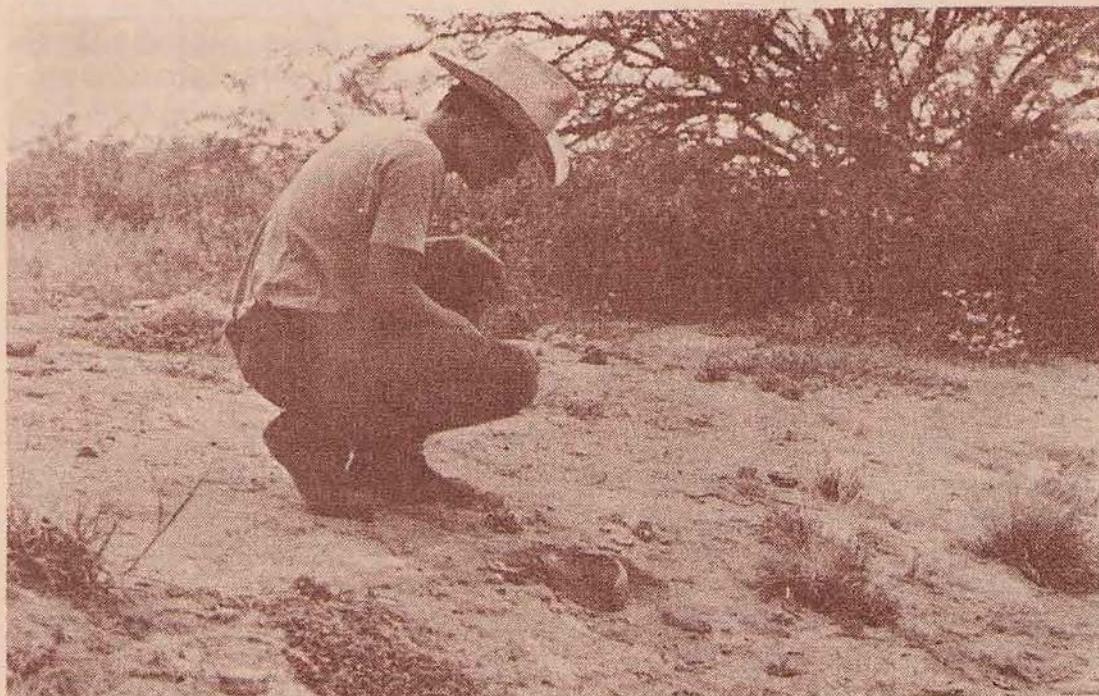
Burning of the bones, as mentioned above, occurred mainly on the right side. Most of the frontal was charred, as were the right malar, fragments from the right half of the sphenoid, part of the right temporal, and a right humeral fragment.

It should be noted that all the non-human fragments, except for one piece, were also at least partially charred.

Burial 1-D: The skeletal remains consisted of a mandible with much of the mandibular body missing. The right M2, with almost third degree attrition (Hrdlicka, 1952), was intact. No other fragments were assignable to this burial.

It was observed that this adult lost a right mandibular M1 possibly six months to one year before death (Van Leeuwen, 1948).

Unassignable: The remainder of the material included osseous sub-adult fragments of vertebrae, metacarpals, metatarsals, and phalanges. Also present were one non-erupted permanent molar crown and a fragmentary permanent molar with incompletely formed apices. All other miscellaneous unidentifiable fragments, some of which were charred, appear to be sub-adult material.



Bill Pursley observing the skull which he reported to Cochise College. During the interim of finding the skull and reporting it portions of the skull were damaged or lost.

No pathologies or signs of trauma were evident on any of the remains. The only anomalous condition observed was a lambdoidal ossicle that would have been present on the left side of the cranial vault of the 7-9 year old child (Burial 1-C).

II. Unnamed Site

Two individuals were discernible from this site and were separately labelled when submitted to the Laboratory.

Burial 1-A (Pursley): This burial was represented by a fairly complete skull but only a very few postcranial fragments.

Sex. Male. Supraorbital ridges were well developed. Orbital rims were quite blunt. Nasal root area was more pinched than rounded. Forehead was sloping. Mastoid processes were missing, however. With respect to the mandible, the mandibular angle was almost perpendicular, while the chin was rather square.

Age. 25-35. This estimate was based solely on dentition since the pubic symphyses were missing. Long bones and clavicles were likewise absent, as was the area of the basilar synchondrosis in the skull.

All four third molars had already erupted, which would indicate a minimum age of at least 18 (Diamond, 1952). The first and second molars were worn to such a degree that at least some dentine was showing, although this attrition was differential with respect to number and side. The same was also true for the premolars. In addition, the twelve incisors and canines had dentine exposed.

The wear on the teeth and the presence of the third molars suggest an age range of 25-35 years.

Cranial Deformation. Due to the fragmentary nature of the occipital region it was impossible to say conclusively whether there was any cranial deformation. It does seem possible, however, that there may have been a lambdoidal type of deformation.

Stature. No estimate of stature could be made because of the absence of the long bones.

Cranial Morphology. The skull was in generally good shape but was missing most of the occipital area, the greater part of the sphenoid, parts of the maxillae, and the entire left malar.

The sagittal suture was completely obliterated, while there were only external remnants of the coronal suture laterally. A noticeable keel was present sagittally that was divided by a shallow groove into two definite ridges that extended posteriorly from 12.8 cm. from about the apex of the cranium. There were Pacchionian depressions on either side of the sagittal sulcus. No tori or ossicles were observed. Supraorbital notches were present on both of the supraorbital borders with the right side marked by a bifurcated notch. The right malar had double zygo-facial foramina. Henle's spine was present on the posterior walls of both external auditory meati.

The mandible was quite rugged. The chin was square. There

was only one mentalforamen present on the right side; this area was missing on the left side.

Both the mandibular condyles and the glenoid fossae exhibited degenerative changes suggestive of an arthritic condition. Destruction and remodeling of bone was evident. This was very noticeable in the right glenoid fossa where a transverse ledge of bone had developed.

A few measurements were possible; but, with the exception of the height of the mandibular symphysis, these should be considered estimates, due to the extent of reconstruction. The maximum breadth of the skull was 151 mm. The minimum frontal breadth was 91 mm. It was not possible to estimate the length of the skull since a large part of the occipital was missing. The right orbit had a height of 33 mm. and a breadth (from ectoconchion to maxillofrontale) of 44 mm., which gave an orbital index of 75.0. The interorbital breadth was 21 mm. The mandible had a symphyseal height of 39 mm. Its bigonial and bicondylar diameters were, respectively, 105 mm. and 127 mm. The left ascending ramus had a height of 50 mm. and a minimum width of 34 mm. The corporal length was 89 mm.

Dentition. All but one of the normal complement of adult teeth were present at the time of death. The left mandibular third molar was missing postmortem, and that portion of the left maxilla containing the sockets for the upper incisors, canine, and premolars was missing. The crown of the left mandibular first molar was broken off. The one tooth last antemortem was the left maxillary M1.

Dental attrition was advanced and quite varied with respect to the premolars and molars. The lower premolars had exposed dentine visible on the buccal halves of their biting surfaces. The upper right PM1 had only an enamel ring remaining occlusally. The same was true for the other three premolars which in addition had a mesio-distal ridge of enamel dividing the exposed dentine. The lingual two-thirds of the first and second right mandibular molars had dentine exposed. Dentine was not exposed on the third molar of the lower right side although its cusps, except for the mesio-lingual one, were worn flat. The left second mandibular molar had dentine exposed in the shape of a crescent with enamel still present on the mesio-lingual quarter of its occlusal surface. The upper left second and third molars and the right second molar had slight dentine exposure lingually. The right maxillary M1 was worn down to such a degree that the enamel was completely absent from the mesio-lingual border of the tooth. There was only slight wear on the upper right third molar. Antemortem chipping was evident on the mesio-lingual crown area of the lower right M2.

All of the incisors and canines were worn to such a degree that most of their occlusal surfaces were composed of exposed dentine.

Occlusal caries were present but not extensive on three maxillary teeth—the right first premolar, the right third molar, and the left third molar. Enamel hypoplasia was present on three other teeth—the maxillary left central incisor and the lower right canine

and first premolar. There was evidence of a slight degree of periodontal disease in the maxillae and the mandible.

The upper lateral incisors exhibited a moderate degree of shoveling. The central incisors were too worn to determine whether shoveling was present. A small pig-shaped supernumerary tooth was present at the distobuccal corner of the right maxillary M3. This tooth was well below the occlusal line of the molars and, thus, exhibited no wear.

Post-Cranial Morphology. The post-cranial remains were few in number and consisted of a part of the atlas, a left lesser multangular, the left first metacarpal, plus fragments of two other metacarpals and five hand phalanges.

Osseous Pathology. Other than the possible arthritic involvement of the temporo-mandibular joint and the presence of periodontal disease, no pathologies were observed. There was no evidence of the cause of death.

Burial 1-B (Kambitch): The separate bones of this individual, except for the hands and feet, were well represented but very fragmentary and in most cases extremely friable. This necessitated a fair amount of reconstruction. As with the material from Price Canyon, non-human bone was observed with the human remains and was separated in the Laboratory.

Sex. Female. The skull was too poorly preserved to provide any evidence of the sex of this individual, but the innominates had quite distinguishable female characteristics. The right sciatic notch was shallow and wide, the pubis was quite wide, and the sub-pubic angle was large. The presence of birth scars was conclusive evidence of the sex.

Age. 50+. Based on McKern and Stewart's (1957) system, the pubes exhibited changes in their symphyseal faces which suggested an individual of advanced age. The estimated age of 50+ years was based on Todd's (1920) phases which may be more applicable to age determinations on individuals of advanced years.

Stature. Stature was calculated from a range of possible lengths of the left femur, due to the absence of the distal condyles. The estimated living stature of four feet ten inches, then, was based on a projected femoral length of 38.8 cm. to 39.3 cm. and was derived from the formulae and tables of Genoves (1967).

Cranial Deformation. The fragmentary nature of the cranial remains precluded observations for this trait.

Cranial Morphology. Observations in this area were severely limited by the small number of cranial remains. It seems probable that if supraorbital ridges were present, they would not have been very well developed. The mastoid processes, however, were not small. A tympanic dehiscence was present in the anterior wall of the right external auditory meatus, and there was a divided hypoglossal canal medially under the left occipital condyle.

Dentition. Only ten teeth were present. These were: the up-

per right second molar and the left first premolar, M1, and M2; the lower right second molar, PM1, PM2, and canine and the left lateral incisor and second molar. The upper left second premolar and the mandibular right M1, both incisors, and the left central incisor were missing postmortem. The lower left first molar was missing antemortem. It could not be determined if the other teeth were lost before or after death.

The enamel was almost completely missing from the mandibular right canine and first and second premolars. The apices of the three roots on the maxillary right M2 were broken off, as was the distal root on the mandibular right M2.

Dental attrition was marked, with second to third degree wear (Hrdlicka, 1952) on most of the teeth. Antemortem chipping was evident on the left mandibular second molar and the maxillary first and second molars.

No indications of any gingival pathology were observed, but this may be due to the absence of most of the bony sockets for the teeth.

Post-Cranial Morphology. The post-cranial remains were well represented but very fragmentary. Only the scapulae, the sternum, and the tarsals were completely missing. Many long bone fragments could not be specifically identified. Warpage was also extant in some of the long bones. A fair amount of reconstruction was necessary.

In general, the bones were gracile in appearance. The only noteworthy point of interest was the presence of rudimentary hypotrochanteric fossae on both femora.

A few measurements were obtained from the left femur and tibia. The maximum diameter of the femoral head was 39.0 mm. The subtrochanteric transverse and antero-posteriordiameters were 27.5 mm. and 22.5 mm., respectively, with a meric index of 81.8 which indicates platymeria. The antero-posterior diameter for the tibia was 30.0 mm., while the transverse diameter was 18.0 mm. This would result in a cnemic index of 60.0 and would indicate platycnemia.

Osseous Pathology. No pathologies were evident in either the cranial or post-cranial skeleton. The cause of death was not discernible.

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THE JACOB SCHEERER STORY

The following story of the activities of Jacob Scheerer in Arizona was first written by Mr. Scheerer himself with pencil on a tablet. He kindly gave permission for a copy to be made. Here it is, just as he recorded it.

Glenn G. Dunham

Jacob Scheerer

Jacob Scheerer left Chico, California, in November, 1880, and arrived in Tombstone, Arizona, in November, 1880. Tombstone was a lively town then, gambling and dance halls was running day and night, and if you was in a hurry you had to take the street to get through. I was not a miner nor a prospector, so it was hard for me to get a job. I spent some time trying to get a job. During this time, an old friend of mine came to town. His name was Otto Eckart. Eckart and I had left Osage County, Kansas, in 1875, and went to Chico, California. We went to work there. I worked five years and Eckart worked four years. So Eckart came here one year ahead of me, and Eckart had bought one half interest in two nine yoke ox teams. So I bought out his partner for nine hundred dollars. I had eight hundred and fifty dollars. I was then in debt fifty dollars. So I had a half interest in four wagons and one horse and so the next morning we started out for the sawmill which was 55 miles. The first 15 miles was a hilly country and there was plenty of deer along this part of the road. Then we crossed the Sulphur Springs Valley about twenty miles wide, and it was a sight to see, the herds of antelope in sight, and they seemed to be rather tame, but we had no time to hunt them, and the rest of the road was hills and mountains. We finally landed at Morris Sawmill in the Chiricahua Mountains and

THE JACOB SCHEERER STORY

The following story of the activities of Jacob Scheerer in Arizona was first written by Mr. Scheerer himself with pencil on a tablet. He kindly gave permission for a copy to be made. Here it is, just as he recorded it.

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so we loaded our wagons with lumber, 4,000 feet on the lead wagon and 2,000 feet on the second wagon, and so we started back for Tombstone, and everything went well. It took about two weeks to make a trip. We would lay off one day each trip to make repairs, and shoe these oxen. We had to keep them shod in good shape or their feet would get so tender they could not make any headway. We got twenty dollars per thousand feet to haul this lumber. This country was a paradise for feed in early days. We worked these oxen on the wild grass. They gathered mostly after they was turned from their day's work. There was some trouble with Indians those days. They would leave the reservation near Saint Carlos and travel through Arizona into Mexico and rob on their way. One time there was a man camped out at Antelope Springs, ten miles east of Tombstone. His name was Handell and he had only one arm. He was hauling lumber with two horses. The next morning he started out and went about two miles and the Indians shot him and took his horses and what else they wanted and went on their way, and another time we came from Tombstone on our way to the sawmill for a load of lumber and they told us at Antelope Spring the Indians had killed a man about three miles from there in a hay camp and robbed the camp and left for Mexico. Them days this was a wild and woolly country. The outlaws run the country. They were called the rustlers and you could not get any officers to come out and arrest any of them. One time at night time we had been to the sawmill and had loaded with lumber and there was two other teams with us, two brothers by the name of Laws. We came to a camping place called the Cienega where water is shallow, and camped and unyoked the oxen and turned them loose to graze and got supper and about sundown two men came along on horseback and told us that the Mexicans had crossed the line and was coming up the valley and was killing everybody they came to and the best thing for us to do was to go to Fort Bowie to save our lives, which was about 30 miles. Them days the rustlers had been stealing from the Mexicans and that made it look bad. We could not make up our minds what to do, at first, so finally these men went on and we watched them very close. They went up the road towards Bowie, and we saw them leave the road and go into the brush, so that looked suspicious, so about dark we drove in all the oxen and yoked them all up and got all of our guns and loaded them and stood guard all night over them. They had lied to us. Their game was to get us to go to Bowie and they would have driven these oxen off and we could not have followed them. If we did they would have waylaid us. There was one time the rustlers stole 50 head of oxen from the Mexicans and they was afraid to follow them and they could not get any officers to follow them, so they lost their oxen. We had very good luck. We bought more oxen and more wagons till we had 4 teams. So one day I said to my partner, "I think we had better divide up our outfit and run separate." So we agreed to throw up heads and tails. I got first choice for the first yoke of oxen. We divided them up and agreed on the wagons so everything was o.k. Then I increased my outfit till I had 7 nine yoke teams. I run 3 in one outfit and four in the other. Those teams had a herder with each outfit, of a night, and the herder would bring

in the oxen after breakfast and we would yoke them up to the wagons and go on our way.

In 1883 Dan Rose and I purchased a sawmill that was located in John Long Canyon, the next canyon north of Rucker Canyon. One time we were going to this sawmill with the teams and saw a band of Indians camped near White River which looked a little dangerous. We were all well armed. We all had rifles and six shooters. We moved on slow and finally we saw soldiers with them. Then everything looked o.k. We found out they were Geronimo's old men and all of the families. They had left Saint Carlos on May 17, 1885, and on September 5, 1886, Geronimo surrendered to General Nelson, and Geronimo and his braves would not be disarmed until they got to Fort Bowie and there they had plenty of soldiers to disarm them and they took them to Bowie Station and shipped them to Florida and then they were transferred to Fort Sill, Oklahoma. Geronimo died in 1908.

Well, we went on to the sawmill and loaded the teams with lumber. Some of this lumber was 18 inches square and 20 feet long. These large timbers was too heavy to lift on the wagons so we laid skids against the wagons and rolled them on with canthooks. In a few years I sold my interest in the sawmill to Dan Rose, my partner. He moved the sawmill in to Rock Creek in the Chiricahua Mountains and I kept on hauling with my teams. Well, in 1899 the country had gotten overstocked with range cattle. So the oxen had seen their day for working on the grass so I sold them and rigged an 18 mule team which took one man to drive and one man to help to take care of the team, but I did not like this one team system. This one team hauled three wagons and hauled 6 thousand feet of lumber, so I bought more mules and rigged up two 12 mule teams and two wagons to each team and hauled 2 thousand feet of lumber to each team. These mule teams we had to feed grain and turn them out in the grass of a night except in town. There we fed them hay. We made a trip in one week on the 55 mile road and it took two weeks with the oxtams. These mules were driven with one line. The driver put a saddle on to the near wheeler and rode him and run the one line along the team to the near leader. These leaders were trained so when the driver would jerk the line the leaders would turn to the right and when the driver would pull slow and steady the leaders would turn to the left. We drove the oxen with a goad stick which was about five feet long and had a steel brad in one end and was filed very sharp, about $\frac{5}{8}$ of an inch long. This goad stick would make them mind better and pull harder than all the whips a driver could carry. We hauled lumber to Tombstone and Bisbee both. In 1886 I bought 150 head of stock cattle and hired a man to look after them and I kept on freighting with the teams. Everything went well. I kept on buying more stock cattle, as time went on. In 1903 I sold the mule teams and bought more stock cattle and run the cattle ranch and nothing else. It was a fine business, lots of excitement. I raised quite a few wild horses myself and they ran on the open range and got very wild. There were many wild horses and mules in the valley then which made it very hard to handle horses. We finally had to build pastures to put saddle horses in, to have them

handy for quick use and also pastures for cattle that we would gather to ship. These pastures was fenced with barb wire which made it bad for wild horses. They did not understand those wire fences. We would get after a bunch of wild horses and they would come to one of those fences. They would get right through and it was a sight to see those horses cut up by the barb wire. Some had their throats cut up by the barb wire and died but they learned what was best to do. The time soon came when the cowboys could not run the wild horses into the fences. They could dodge the fences better than the cowboys. Well, as time rolled along the country got more stocked up with stock cattle and stock range was getting shorter. We had gone through some drouths. The country appeared to be getting overstocked. Rains seemed to be getting lighter. It is hard to say how many cattle I had. I kept a book account of all I bought and all I branded and all I sold. This was the fairest way I had to keep track of them. I had one thousand acres of deeded land and sixty head of saddle horses. JS was the horse brand and the cattle brand was called Double Rod, on left side two diagonal rods. This ranch is 25 miles north of Douglas in the center of the valley. Well, in December, 1906, I sold the Double Rod ranch for one hundred thousand dollars for a lump price without counting anything to Ed Moore. He formed a company to handle this ranch. They run it a few years and sold all the cattle out. I figured there was about six thousand head in all. There is a small dairy on the ranch now. I don't think they have 50 head of cattle on the ranch now. It looks very sad for cattle now. This is August the first, 1937, and not enough rain yet to start the grass in Cochise County. It has rained in some places to start the grass a little. Now in 1919, I think there was 20 head of cattle on the ranch where there is only one now. While I was in the cattle business for 20 years Uncle Sam furnished the grass land which cost nothing. Now the cattle men own most of their pasture land either by deed or lease which makes it very expensive. Cattle are worth more now but it costs more to raise them.

Jacob Scheerer
Douglas, Arizona
August 1, 1937

Editor's Note: The following account was originally used as a radio script in the 1930's. Mr. Dunham has rewritten the script into the story as it is presented here.

THE CIRCUS COMES TO TOWN

Jacob Scheerer came to Arizona in November, 1880, and landed in Tombstone when that town was at its wildest and woolliest. Since the Tombstone mines needed lumber and timbers, and there was none to be had in the immediate area, Jake Scheerer went into business hauling lumber from the Chiricahuas to Tombstone by ox teams. Later he owned a sawmill in John Long Canyon, and sometime in the '80's he took up a ranch in the Sulphur Springs Valley, twenty-five miles north of Douglas, which he named the Double Rod Ranch,

so called from his cattle brand. In 1886, in Tombstone, he was married to Virginia May Smith, who lived on a ranch in Turkey Creek. Mr. Scheerer had stopped at the ranch many times in his lumber hauling trips from the Chiricahuas.

At the time of this story, the late '90's, the Scheerers were living on the Double Rod Ranch and had two children, Pearl and George. Now, as you all know, times were hard in those days, and good times, in town, or with other neighbors, were few and far between. I reckon the children grew up as well off as other children of those times, and enjoyed life on their fine ranch, but Mrs. Scheerer didn't want them to miss out on any opportunities, either.

One day Mr. Scheerer came home from one of his grain hauling trips to Bisbee with a Willcox circus poster. Right then and there she made up her mind that the children were to see that circus. Now, if any of you had known Mrs. Scheerer, (or Gram, as she was affectionately known by us, her nearest friends and relatives in later years,) you'd know that when she started anything she planned to finish it, or else. She brought up the subject, privately, with Mr. Scheerer, because she didn't want the children to be disappointed if the trip didn't pan out, but the damage had been done, because the children had found the circus poster, and were wild with excitement over the bright-colored pictures of all the animals and performers.

Pearl came running to her mother with the poster and asked, "Mama, can we go to the circus, Mamma? An' can we see the elephants? An' the kangroo? Can we, Mamma?"

George was looking over her shoulder at the poster and stated, "Aw, that's not a kangroo—that's an antelope!"

"'Tis not—it's a kangroo! It says so right here on the paper, doesn't it, Mamma? I guess I can read and you can't, so there!"

"Now, now, children, don't quarrel about it. We'll see what Dad says about it. But remember, don't plan on it too strong, because he may have to go get grain that day, and can't take us, and you don't want to be too disappointed if we can't go. Papa, what do you think about it?"

"Aw, I think they are too young to enjoy a circus. This is an awful busy time, and besides, we can't all leave the ranch. There'll be other circuses. Maybe next year they can go."

"Aw, don't be a crybaby! Girls are always crybabies!" scoffed George.

Mrs. Scheerer, in an attempt to soothe the injured feelings, said, "Well, we'll have to wait and see when the time comes. If Dad isn't too busy."

And the time went on, but on the day before the circus day, sure enough, Mr. Scheerer had to make a trip for grain and then to Willcox, and there wasn't room in the wagons for Mrs. Scheerer and the children to ride along too. At that time the Apaches were still pretty rambunctious, and it wasn't safe for women and children to stay alone on ranches at night, or even in the daytime, for a very long

spell. So, since Mr. Scheerer and all the hired men and most of the horses were to be gone this time, little Ernie Hill, a ten year old boy from a neighboring ranch, was asked to come down and stay with Mrs. Scheerer and the children. Mr. Scheerer said he wouldn't be much protection, but at least he would be company, and so he came. Poor little Ernie wanted to go to the circus, too, for all the rest of his family were going, but somebody had to stay with Mrs. Scheerer, so he was brave and tried to hide his disappointment.

The men all left very early, and during the morning, the more Mrs. Scheerer thought about her children missing that circus just because of a trip for grain, the more provoked she got. Finally she determined she would make this trip to Willcox if it was the last thing she did, and well it might be. She went out to the corral to see what horses had been left. There were only two—one, a grass-fed mare who wouldn't have the strength to make the trip, and the other, a small pony, who, although he was grain fed, wouldn't be able to pull the spring wagon all alone.

John Lyall, one of the hired men who lived on the place, came home unexpectedly, and came out to the corral to see what she wanted.

"Did you want to go someplace, Mrs. Scheerer?"

"Yes, I have decided that I am going to take the children to that circus in Willcox. Are these all the horses that are left on the place?"

"That's all there are, Mrs. Scheerer, and you couldn't make it to Willcox with either of them."

"I know I can't, but I'm going to go, just the same. It's just one disappointment after another on this ranch, and I'm not going to have the children disappointed this time. Maybe I can get to Jacklins' and get a good horse there. That's what I'll do. Hitch both of them up for me, John, and we'll get started before it gets any later. Fifty miles is a long way to have to drive in one day."

"All right, Mrs. Scheerer, if you say so, I will, but I don't think you ought to go."

But Mrs. Scheerer went, along with the three delighted children, the poor old mare, and the little pony, headed for the Jacklin Ranch, six miles away, expecting to leave her team and borrow a good one. But when they got to the Jacklin place, not a single horse was to be found, and not a soul was within earshot. Well, she didn't know what to do then, for there wasn't another ranch until just before Willcox, but she wouldn't turn back now, so on they went. The poor old mare began to lag more and more as the trip progressed. Several times she absolutely refused to go another step, so they would stop and wait for her to rest, and Mrs. Scheerer would get out and pull mesquite beans for her to eat. Finally, they got to a place just outside of Willcox, where they had to stop for another rest for the mare. You can imagine how they felt when they looked up to a cliff at one side of the road and saw two horsemen, who seemed to be watching them. The horsemen started down toward them, and

Mrs. Scheerer got out the pistol which she always carried under the seat of the spring wagon. When the two men came close enough to be seen, however, they turned out to be white men, who were out hunting stray cattle. One of the men rode up to the wagon and spoke to Mrs. Scheerer.

"Lady, you sure hadn't ought to be out here with them children this time o' night. Don't you know the Apaches is loose again?"

"Yes, I know I shouldn't, now, but I'm this far and I don't dare go back. I **have** to make it to Willcox tonight."

"You can't do it, lady, tonight for sure, nor any other night, from the looks of that there mare you're drivin'."

"But I have to. I can't stay out here on the prairie all night, and Mr. Scheerer will take care of the mare when I get to town."

"Are you Mrs. Jake Scheerer? I saw him back in town just a while back."

"Yes, I'm Mrs. Scheerer, and I'm taking the children to the circus in Willcox tomorrow."

"Well, you'd ought to at least water that mare."

"I have watered her, every time we passed a ranch or a water hole. I just have to go on and hope she'll hold out."

"Well, we'll sort of look out for you, lady, while we look for cattle, and you'd better get goin' as soon as you can before dark sets in."

They went on, racing against the dark, but the men rode across country and went on into Willcox and told Mr. Scheerer she was coming. At first he didn't believe it.

"Why, it can't be. It must be somebody else. I didn't leave any horses that she could drive into town."

"That's who she said she was, though, and she had three little kids with her, a little boy about five or six, a little girl about eight, and a boy around ten."

"Well, I guess it must be, but how she got there, I don't know. I'll have to take some mules out and meet her. She'll never make it with that mare, if that's what she's drivin'."

"That's what she's drivin', and that's what I told her, too, but she's still a-comin'."

Mr. Scheerer took two mules and went out to meet her, and just in time, too, for the mare wouldn't have gone any farther. The next day they all went to the circus, and the children enjoyed it a lot, but Mrs. Scheerer said she couldn't enjoy it for thinking of that poor old mare and how hard she had worked to get them there.

After the circus they started back. Mr. Scheerer hitched the pony and a mule to the spring wagon, and tied the mare to the back of one of his grain wagons. He had to go on with the grain, so Mrs. Scheerer stopped at the Riggs' Ranch, about twenty-five miles from

Willcox, and visited there in the afternoon, and then went on to Turkey Creek to spend a day with her mother. The third day they started home, for she was getting worried about the ranch and felt they had been away long enough. Grandmother Smith had fixed a nice lunch for them to take with them on their way home. As they passed the Dan Ross Ranch, well into the valley, it became time to eat. There was an old time lime kiln off to the side of the road, which people had been using as a picnic spot recently, and the children wanted to stop off there to eat and stretch their legs, but Mrs. Scheerer said, "No, children, we'll have to stay in the wagon and keep on driving. We can eat our lunch as we go, and you can drive, if you want to, Ernie. We've spent too much time on this trip already."

So they went on, reaching home the evening of the third day. All was well at the ranch, and the poor old mare managed to get home, tied behind the grain wagon, but died a few days later as a result of the trip.

The climax of the trip came two days later when Mr. Scheerer got home. He told them that at the Forrest Ranch, just across a little valley from the lime kiln, Billy Daniels, a cowpuncher, had been killed by the Apaches just an hour or so before Mrs. Scheerer and the children had passed there, and that the Indians had been in ambush at the lime kiln for several hours after the killing.

Mrs. Scheerer said she never forgot that trip, and neither did the children, but it was some time before they went to another circus.

THE APACHE OF THE 1870's

Howard N. Monnett

Cochise College

Apache, which probably means "Enemy," is the name most commonly applied to that fierce and cruel equestrian people who once ranged the territory of southeastern Arizona and southwestern New Mexico. Ethnologically they are classed with the Tirineh tribes living close to the Yukon and McKenzie rivers within the Arctic Circle.

The tribe was divided within itself into seven principal clans, acknowledging no common chief or chiefs, and having very little in common. Membership in a particular clan does not seem to have been determined wholly by the accident of birth, but the Indians grouped themselves roughly according to dispositions. Thus a bad Tonto would leave the Tontos and go to the Chiricahuas, and a timid Chiricahuan would go to the Tontos. It was the Chiricahua boast up to 1882 that they had never been conquered by any civilized power, and it is from this small fraction of the Apache nation that most of the trouble came in the 1870's and 1880's.

The Apache people were by no means a nation and despite their

apparent consanguinity and the fact that they lived in contiguous territory, most bands were continually at war with each other and lived in constant fear of savage reprisals. Of government they had little or none. Born and bred with the idea of perfect personal freedom, they found all restraint unendurable. Each individual was a sovereign in his own right as a warrior. Chiefs were chosen on the basis of their ability and courage, the office being only very rarely hereditary, and then only as a mark of special honor, as in the case of the sons of the great Cochise. In peace time the chief had little authority—although chiefs and old men were usually deferred to in the council—but on the warpath he was absolute.

Physically the average Apache was small, averaging no more than five feet four or five inches in height, but well built with excellent muscular development, especially as become a mountain people, with respect to the foot, leg and thigh. Their lung power was remarkable and they were swift and tireless at climbing mountains or making long marches. To make ninety miles by trail in thirteen hours was nothing unusual for the Apache runner. Dressed in the uniform issued by his creator, with perhaps a dangling necklace or armlet, a breech clout and calf-high moccasins, with fists clenched across his breast, and a mouth full of pebbles, he could keep up this pace—a seven-mile-per-hour clip—hour after hour, and this across cactus carpeted valleys and mountains beset with flinty footings, often in withering heat.

Although far from handsome, according to our standards, they habitually wore a pleasant, open expression of countenance, exhibiting uniform good nature.

Their women were even more vigorous and strongly built—and no less homely—than the men, having broad shoulders and hips and a tendency to corpulency in old age. They were not particularly respected, although it is universally agreed that among the Apache, alone of all the Southwestern tribes, they were, both before and after marriage, remarkably pure.

In common with all primitive humanity, the Apache were very filthy, never bathing except in summer and having little sense of decency or morality. They seem to have had almost a superstitious dread of water, and this in a country where it is most scarce. They never ate fish, although they could easily have secured them. This would seem to indicate a superstition. They manifested a definite superstitious regard for the hawk and the bear, while they refused to kill the golden eagle, although they would pluck its feathers which they greatly prized.

Like most Indians they would never speak their own names nor on any account mention a dead member of the tribe, though unlike most Indians they were lively and talkative about most matters. Their system of enumeration had a regularity and diffuseness seldom met with among wild tribes and their language contained all the terms for counting up to ten thousand. They even made use of the decimal sequences.