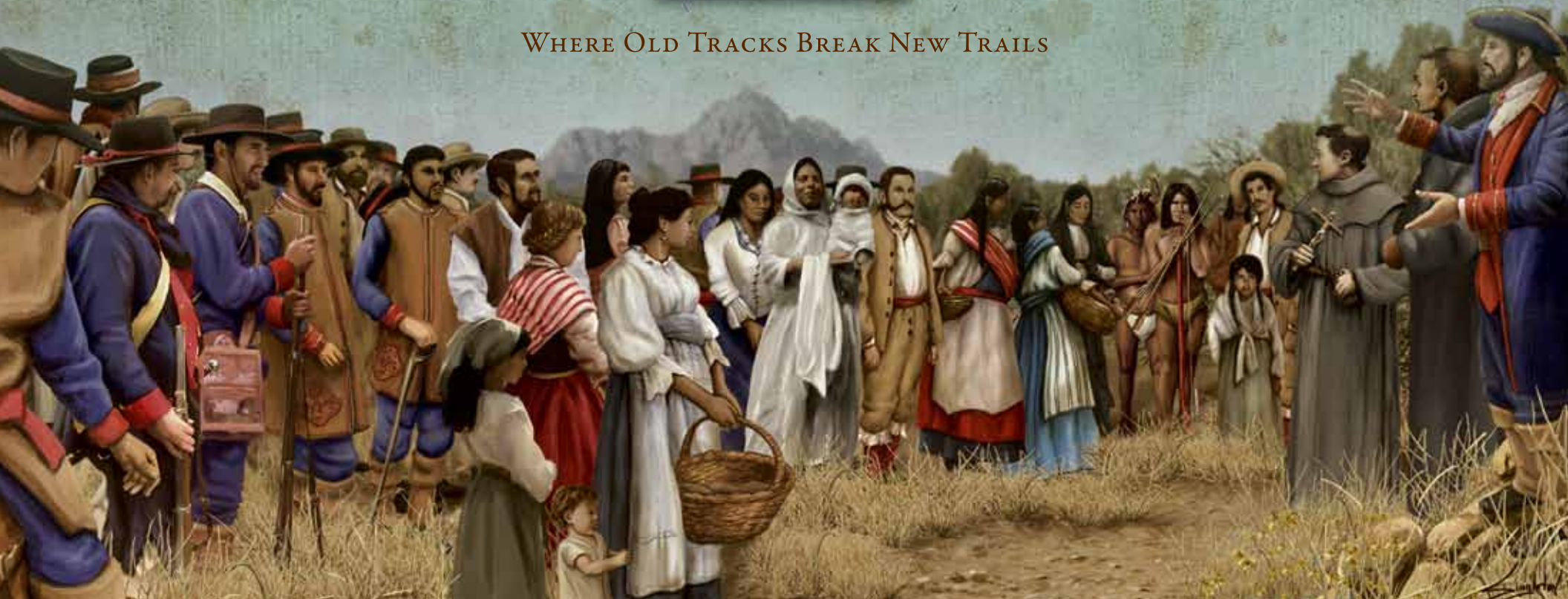


*Pioneering People on a Corridor of Change*  
MARANA'S CULTURAL HERITAGE



WHERE OLD TRACKS BREAK NEW TRAILS



# THE MARANA HERITAGE PROJECT

The Town of Marana dedicates this publication to Ora Mae Harn, a cornerstone of our community. Ora has been instrumental in shaping Marana into what it is today; she has served as councilwoman and mayor of Marana, executive director of the Marana Health Center, director of the Marana Community Food Bank, and much more. We are deeply grateful that she had the vision to recognize the distinctive qualities of our community and the commitment to launch the Marana Heritage Project.

The Marana Heritage Project commemorates this region's importance in Arizona history and celebrates its future as the community continues to innovate in the face of rapid change.

Heritage is our inheritance from the past. It is the story of a culture or a community's beginnings and its successful evolution. Marana's heritage includes cultural and natural elements, as well as defining events that have shaped the town's personality and approach to the future: beliefs, traditions, customs, and legends; livelihoods, landscapes, and geographic sites; natural resources and historic points of interest. All of these contribute to Marana's collective life. Through changing times and tough challenges, it is the unique positive and creative contributions of each culture that are held in esteem and valued by the community.

In this booklet we present Marana's Cultural Heritage—the history and legacy of the landscape and the human cultures it attracted in and around the Town of Marana. Since humankind arrived in this area, the mountain ranges that surround the Town of Marana and, especially, the nutrient rich floodplain of the Santa Cruz River have brought a wealth of natural resources that helped sustain its early inhabitants. In historic times they helped fuel an economic and cultural boom.

Today, significant tracts of protected, open, and public land surround the Town of Marana, including Ironwood Forest National Monument, Picacho Peak State Park, Tortolita Mountain Park, Tortolita Preserve, and Saguaro National Park West. The proximity of these spectacular landscapes now makes the town a better place to live, providing a connection to nature's wonders. They also extend the town's sphere of influence.

*Mayor and Council, Town of Marana Staff*

---

## MARANA HERITAGE PROJECT MISSION

*To showcase the contributions of the many peoples and cultures in the Marana area, particularly as they relate to the evolution of the rural and agricultural landscape, through preservation, education, and promotion.*

The Marana Heritage Project supports the Town of Marana strategic plan's heritage focus area.



*“I issued a proclamation making known the penalties imposed by the Ordinance on anyone who should violate women, especially heathen, or steal their goods. Under the same penalties I forbade anyone to raise arms against the heathen in the country through which we pass, except in a case of necessity for the defense of life, or at my orders, and likewise against anyone who should spread any report which might withdraw these heathen from the true religion and the dominion of his Majesty.”*








—Juan Bautista de Anza journal, October 28, 1775, at Oit Par (translated from Spanish)

Cover artwork and artist rendering on page 12 were created by Bill Singleton and funded by Pima County 2004 General Obligation Bonds. Cover artwork of Juan Bautista de Anza Expedition in 1775 at Oit Par campsite in Marana on their way to found the City of San Francisco.

## Table of Contents:

A River, a Trade Route, and the People Who Thrived on Both . . . . .	2
First Residents Arrive in Season . . . . .	4
Return of Water Brings Community Planners . . . . .	5
Valley Dwellers Make Room for a Foothills People . . . . .	7
The Hohokam People: Masterminds of Desert Urbanization . . . . .	8
Locals Adapt to New Arrivals . . . . .	10
A Wildly Enterprising Era Gallops Ahead . . . . .	13
Miners Unearth Riches and Show Their Mettle . . . . .	17
New Nations Rise from Old . . . . .	18
Ranchers Steward the Land and Preserve Open Spaces . . . . .	19
Farming Yields Diverse Crops and Communities . . . . .	20
Wide Open Spaces Draw Military Presence. . . . .	23
New Town Wisely Taps Water Rights. . . . .	25
Planning Delivers ‘More Miles than People’. . . . .	26
Marana—Where the Corridor of Progress Meets the Heritage of the American West . . . . .	29
A Timeline of Marana’s Cultural Heritage . . . . .	30
Acknowledgments . . . . .	31
Map of Cultural Heritage Sites . . . . .	32

### Symbols Keyed to the Map Guide on page 32:

-  Native American Lifeways (11,000 B.C. to present)
-  Desert Farming (2000 B.C. to present)—includes parts of Native American Lifeways
-  Ranching Traditions (1690 to present)
-  Spanish and Mexican Frontier (1690 to 1854)
-  Mining Booms (1690 to present)
-  U.S. Military Posts on the Mexican Border (1856 to present)
-  U.S. - Mexico Border Culture (1854 to present)

## A River, a Trade Route, and the People Who Thrived on Both

The story of this place and its people as they were shaped by their natural world—Marana’s cultural heritage—covers 13,000 years. Like the Santa Cruz River in Marana, the story resists confinement in distinct channels and, instead, pushes forward in often shallow, loosely-entwined braids. This narrative keeps the river always in mind—even during dry seasons when the water flows below ground, out of sight—for water is and always has been the lifeblood of this town.

Marana’s history is rich with “firsts” and “mosts.” This vicinity boasts some of the oldest documented examples of water control on the North American continent and the first-known use of the bow-and-arrow, the first farmers, pottery makers, ball courts, plazas, and villages of the American Southwest. In fact, the world’s oldest stone tobacco pipes were found on a site within the Town of Marana. The first American flag raised in the region passed through here in 1846—66 years before Arizona became a U.S. state. The westernmost fatal conflict of the Civil War was fought nearby, and thousands of World War II aviators trained here.

In 1957, the Marana Health Center became the first designated community health center in all of Arizona. Today, Marana boasts the only livestock auction house in the Santa Cruz Valley, the Marana Stockyards. The town is also home to unique world-class sports events—from golf’s Accenture Match Play Championship to rodeo’s Marana Calf Roping Invitational.

To a first-time visitor, this land may appear stark, resources spare. But water, along with nutrient-rich soil endowed by a river, gives Marana’s people a story that spans thousands of prolific years.

Marana thrives on a trade route, a vital artery of progress since those ancient cultures lived here. Ever keeping its vantage point on the river, along the trail, for decades Marana has observed the growth of neighboring urban centers. It has gained foresight, carefully selecting successful practices and evolving, always with a plan.

Vast tracts of natural open space in or adjacent to the town are now protected under law, keeping sprawl at bay and opening a portal to untamed lands: Ironwood Forest National Monument (179,000 acres) to the west, Picacho Peak State Park (3,500 acres) to the northwest, Tortolita Preserve (2,500 acres) and Tortolita Mountain Park (4,200 acres) to the northeast, and Saguaro National Park West (24,798 acres) to the south.

Marana’s heritage is multifaceted, embracing Native American lifeways, desert farming practices from prehistory to now, ranching traditions, mining booms, U.S. military outposts, Spanish and Mexican frontier, and U.S.-Mexico border culture. History shows Marana to be a progressive rural community that continues to adapt in the face of rapid change.



## First Residents Arrive in Season

The first residents of what is now Marana came upon the region as an ice age drew to a close. They must have marveled at the clear streams bordered by grass-covered prairies they would have found in the cooler, wetter climates of 11,000 B.C. In all likelihood, they also beheld a backdrop of rugged mountains. Nomads of the Clovis hunting culture, these people hunted large mammals such as mammoths, bison, camels, and ground sloths—oversized animals known as megafauna. The bones of ancient animals found upstream of Marana tell us what was hunted, and a few large, distinctive spear points found elsewhere along the Santa Cruz River tell us how.

*Mortar holes at Los Morteros*



*Bob Shimp*

### Hot Climate Drives People Away

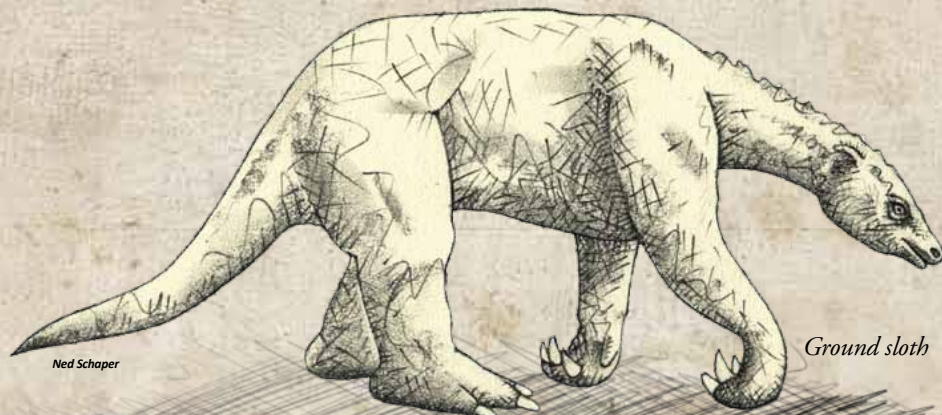
Between 10,000 and 7000 B.C. a gradual climate change brought rising temperatures and a shift from winter-dominant to summer-dominant annual rainfall. Except for bison, the megafauna were gone. Many animals retreated to higher elevations or cooler latitudes. Desert plants were taking hold in the valleys. The small bands of people here gathered seeds, nuts, and the fruit of native plants, moving their campsites seasonally to follow the wild harvests. As the plains gave way to desert, these resourceful people developed stone tools for such tasks as working animal skins, scraping spines, or pounding seeds and nuts.

Just as water drew early people to the area, absence of water drove them away. Beginning about 7000 B.C. and lasting until 4000 B.C., further climate change occurred. Signs indicate that average temperatures were several degrees warmer than they are today; winters were drier, and summers wetter. Reduced winter precipitation and increased evaporation during hotter summers led to the drying up of rivers, streams, springs, and lakes of the Southwest during this time span called the Altithermal (“alti” meaning high, “thermal” pertaining to heat). Animals shifted their ranges. People abandoned desert lowlands altogether, not to return until another climate shift made the land more hospitable again.



*Clovis points and scraping tool*

*Jonathan Mabry*



*Ned Schaper*

*Ground sloth*



*Ned Schaper*

*Giant bison*

# Return of Water Brings Community Planners

Cooler, wetter winters returned around 4000 B.C., refilling lakes, rivers, and streams. Regular floods deposited nutrient-rich sediments across the Santa Cruz River floodplain, stimulating new plant growth, and hunter-gatherer peoples returned with a new way of life based on the new climate.

People remained in their camps for longer periods of time, hunting bison that were smaller than the megafauna of old, more similar in size to bison today. They gathered wild seeds and fruits. And in all probability, they traded with other people who passed their way.

**Las Capas** is a large, early agricultural site that was occupied between 2100 and 500 B.C. The oldest known stone tobacco pipes in North America were found here with tobacco residue inside them in earth layers dating to 1000 B.C. Significantly, some of the oldest irrigation canals in North America were built at Las Capas, the earliest dating to 1250 B.C.—more than 1,000 years earlier than the earliest known canals in the Phoenix area.



Michael Hampshire

The oldest known tobacco pipes and some of the oldest known irrigation canals in North America were found at Marana's Las Capas archaeological site.



Jonathan Mabry

LAS CAPAS RESIDENTS BRING AGRICULTURAL INNOVATIONS **2100 B.C.**

Some of the earliest irrigation canals known in the Southwest are located in Marana; as documented at Las Capas, the Spanish term for “the layers.” This agricultural innovation in the Santa Cruz Valley is one of the oldest examples of water management in North America.



### Corn Brings Food within Reach

Trade among cultures, or perhaps the blending of cultures through intermarriage, is thought to have brought about one very significant new practice that changed life forever. Around 2100 B.C., these former hunter-gatherers planted corn. Its domestication and use as a staple crop has been traced by scientists to southern Mexico, from where it spread northward to reach this area. With the adoption of farming to supplement wild food sources, the people could remain in one place. They could plan based on predictable resources around them. They could store dried foods for the winter months and travel less in search of food.

As it has been for many American cultures, in the Santa Cruz Valley corn was the reliable staple crop. But prehistoric people here also grew squash, tobacco, beans, and cotton. The cotton may have originated from wild native cotton or domesticated cotton acquired through trade. Wild mesquite beans, cactus fruits, and agave were also common food items. Archaeological evidence also tells us that people of the Middle Santa Cruz Valley made the earliest fired ceramic pots and figurines in the Southwest.

### Leisure Time Leads to Cultural Leaps

The unique combination of landscape features in the Marana area made cultural leaps possible for these early farmers: predictable seasonal floods in the Santa Cruz River, a shallow water table, a nutrient-rich floodplain, plenty of sun for farming, surrounding mountains that offered defense and protection, and a location along a major trade route.

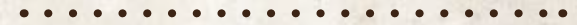
The people who lived here around 1200 B.C. were among the first farmers and first villagers of the American Southwest. With relatively abundant and predictable harvests from domesticated crops watered by canal systems, these native people found more free time for creative and productive pursuits. By giving up a nomadic life, they could invest their energies in activities that increased the complexity and distinctiveness of the local culture. They built pit houses and storage pits. They made an expanding variety of tools, crafts, art, and ritual items.

The villages in what is now Marana shared social and cultural ties with other communities along the Santa Cruz, and trade connections with distant cultures of the Southwest, especially California and northern Mexico. They acquired volcanic glass (obsidian), for making projectile points, and sea shells for making jewelry.

Locally, chert from limestone was used to make projectile points and tools.



The Dairy Site Archaeological Preserve is an important prehistoric site which, as a park in the Cortaro Ranch Housing Development, is easy to visit. Villages dating back to between 1000 B.C. and 775 A.D., and between 1300 and 1450 A.D. cover some 100 acres there. Only five percent of this complex has been excavated, but in that small portion, layers upon layers have shed light on how the people lived. The Dairy Site includes pit houses, hearths and roasting pits, an adobe surface structure, and outlying areas where people lived and buried their dead. There are also traces of canals, the "ak:chin" irrigation system these people used to capture and manage flood water from summer rainstorms.



Jonathan Mabry

Seashell jewelry from between 800 and 400 B.C. Early farmers visited or traded with visitors from near the Sea of Cortez and also traded with those who brought shells from the Pacific coast.



## Three Sisters



Jill Schaper

Corn, squash, and beans are called the “three sisters” and were staple crops for the early desert farmers and later Tohono O’odham farmers. Their O’odham names are huñ (corn), ha:l (squash), and bawi (teparty beans).

*Three Sisters crops grown at the Heritage Garden at historic Steam Pump Ranch in Oro Valley.*

## Farmers Control Water to Improve Harvest

Resourceful and capable, these early farmers developed a complex system of canals to irrigate their crops. In fact, early people along the Santa Cruz River used several crop-watering techniques. They dug irrigation canals along perennial streams. They used flood water from summer rainstorms, called “ak:chin” irrigation, to capture and control rain water in more arid basins. They also practiced dry farming, sowing in keeping with rainy seasons and relying on rainfall to water their crops, as well as planting fields in appropriate soils and areas with naturally high water tables that the roots of their crops could reach. Their only known cultivation tools were a sharp wooden digging stick and a thin, handheld hoe made from a rock slab.

## Bows and Arrows and Atlatls

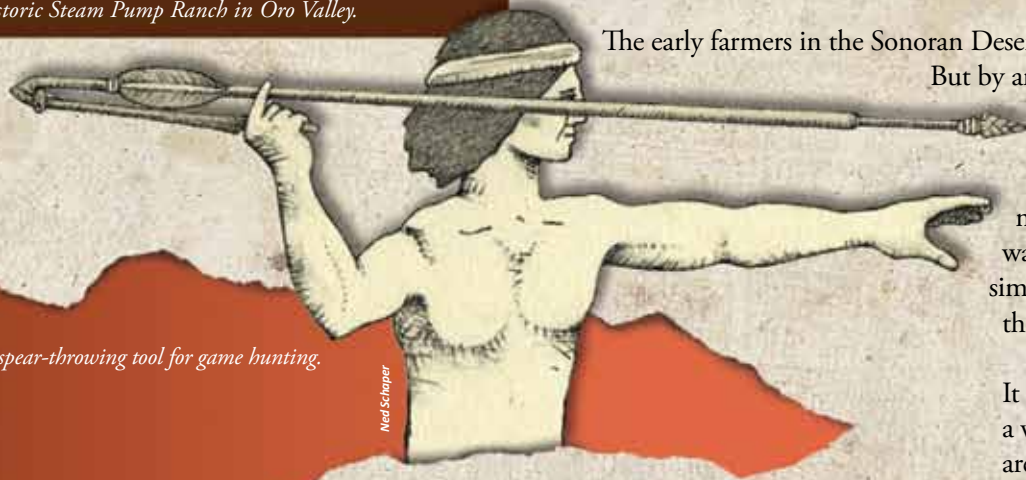
Early hunters in what is now Marana confronted wild game with spear-throwers in hand. Like humans the world over, these prehistoric people were inherently practical and inventive, applying principles of mechanics to produce a revolutionary hunting technology. By about 800 B.C., the people here used the bow-and-arrow as well as the atlatl, a spear-throwing tool, for hunting game. Small stone arrowheads that may indicate the first use of bow and arrow in the American Southwest are documented from the Marana area.

## Valley Dwellers Make Room for a Foothills People

The early farmers in the Sonoran Desert continued their agricultural lifestyle for about 2,000 years.

But by around 50 A.D. the river had cut a deeper channel in the floodplain. About the same time, the water table dropped, making water more difficult to access for both plants and people. Archaeological evidence suggests that people from a mountainous area to the north arrived at about this time. The way the newcomers lived, and the things they left behind, look similar to those of the Mogollon culture, but it is not certain who these people were.

It appears the original valley residents and the newcomers found a way to share the land. For a century or so their residence in the area overlapped, with older villages along the river inhabited by the earlier farmers and new villages inhabited by this group that had come from the uplands. For a while they maintained their distinctive cultures, but eventually their cultural practices merged.



*Atlatl, a spear-throwing tool for game hunting.*

Neil Schaper

In the early centuries A.D. both newcomers to the area and early farmers from the established culture practiced agriculture, while people from each group lived together in the valley basin. Both also gathered wild food and hunted on the bajadas sloping up to the mountain bases.



## Shared Cultures along an Ancient Corridor of Trade



David Doyel

Along the ancient route, traders carried items from Mesoamerica (Central America) and the Pacific Coast, allowing villagers in what is now Marana to trade seashell jewelry, pottery, copper bells, and probably cotton textiles. Later, the Spanish who traveled here from Mexico City called this trade route the Camino Real (Royal Highway). Today, the same route is part of the vital Canamex Corridor that links Mexico, the United States, and Canada.

Hohokam ceramic figurines were found in a cache in Marana in 1937. Black and white image shows original figurines; Color image shows replicas.



Pueblo Grande Museum

## The Hohokam People: Masterminds of Desert Urbanization

### First City Center Brings Community Together

Around 550 A.D. styles and beliefs of the Hohokam culture centered in the Phoenix Basin to the north were adopted by the local people in what is now Marana. At least, that is the commonly held view. The Hohokam are known for pottery decorated with distinctive designs painted in red, for seashell jewelry, extensive canal systems, cotton textiles, cremation burials, and Mesoamerican-style large ball courts. In the late stage of their culture they created walled compounds containing platform mounds and adobe aboveground architecture, in addition to the traditional pit houses partially dug into the ground.

A well-conceived city center—complete with designated areas for people to gather socially, honor their spiritual practices, share news, and sell produce and other wares—existed in Marana’s prehistoric past, as did ball courts and village plazas.

The name “Hohokam” is used by archaeologists to refer to this prehistoric culture in the sense of “those who came before.” An alternate translation of this O’odham word is “all used up.” The word in O’odham is *Huhugam*. These are the probable ancestors of the Tohono O’odham, whose name means “desert people.”

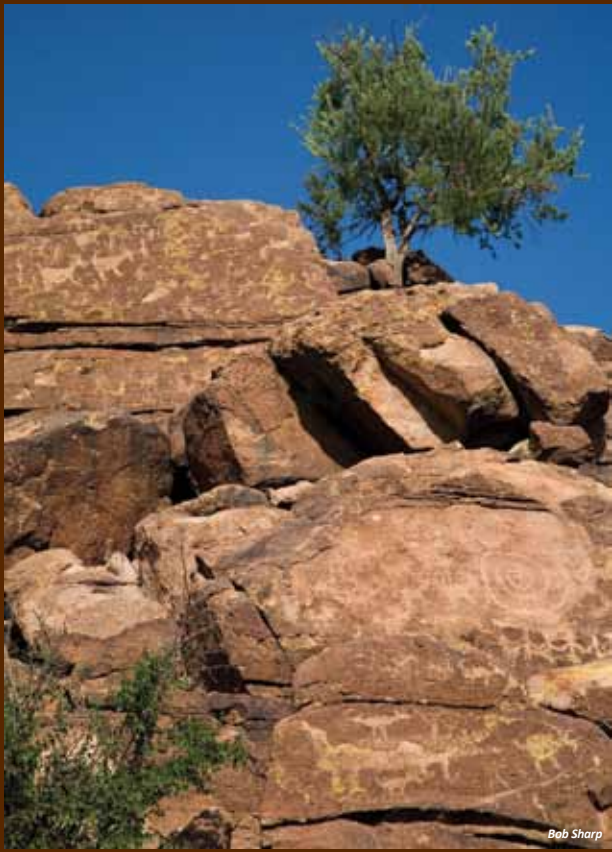
Another word once used to describe the desert people, which you may still encounter in the literature, is “Papago,” meaning “bean eater,” but “Tohono O’odham,” words from their native tongue, is now the broadly accepted name.

### The Canal Builders

.....  
 From 550 to 1450 A.D., long before the arrival of the Spanish, the area was inhabited by a people known as the Hohokam. By the time the Spanish arrived in the Santa Cruz Valley in the 1690s, the Hohokam had vanished; their extensive irrigation canals were still visible, but lay in ruin.  
 .....

HOHOKAM CULTURE BRINGS CITY CENTERS **550 A.D.**

## Glimpse of Prehistoric Life Revealed in Rocks

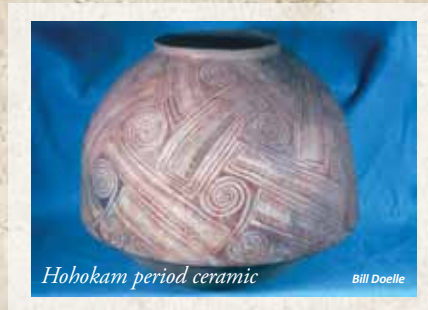


Bob Sharp



The **Picture Rocks** petroglyph site has hundreds of rock etchings called glyphs. The designs from the Hohokam period represent animals (zoomorphic images), people (anthropomorphic images) and other subjects (geomorphic images) important to the daily lives or spiritual lives of the people who created them. This is the most diverse petroglyph site in the Marana area that is accessible to the public.

By about 800 A.D., the central feature of the Hohokam village was its plaza, and the largest villages also had ball courts like those farther south in Mexico. By this time, communities in the upper and middle Santa Cruz Valley were also being influenced by the Trincheras culture that developed to the south. For the next few centuries, the Santa Cruz Valley remained a shared borderland that blended the Trincheras and Hohokam—a cultural intersection created by natural resources and an active trade route.



Hohokam period ceramic

Bill Doelle

### Innovations in Architecture Grow Brick by Adobe Brick

By 1000 A.D., Hohokam villages had grown along expanded canal systems. Two centuries later the Hohokam were building walled compounds with above-ground adobe architecture and platform mounds for ceremonial use.

A large platform built between 1150 and 1300 A.D. was the focal point of a community that lived between the Santa Cruz River and the Tortolita Mountains during the late phase of the Hohokam Culture. An adobe compound wall, along with many living quarters and trash mounds, cover about one square mile surrounding the platform.

### Water-smart Earthworks Make Rocky Hillsides Yield

On the lower slopes of the Tortolita Mountains, early native farmers cultivated extensive **Agave Fields** that covered an area seven miles long and a half-mile wide. They built rock-piles, terraces, and check-dams to slow rain runoff and save every drop of moisture. The rock-piles around the bases of the plants protected the young agave plants from rodents, much as a rock mulch protects sprouting vegetables in a backyard garden. The rocks also conserved moisture by reducing evaporation around plant roots. The main agave species that grew in those ancient fields (*Agave murpheyi*) were plants brought here from Mexico by even earlier prehistoric farmers. More than 100,000 agaves may have been cultivated in these fields around 1300 A.D. These hardy succulent plants were used in many ways—roasted for food, fermented for “spirit” beverage, or cut into strips and scraped for weaving fibers.

About 700 years ago on the lower slopes of the Tortolita Mountains, prehistoric farmers cultivated perhaps as many as 100,000 agave plants.

Bob Sharp

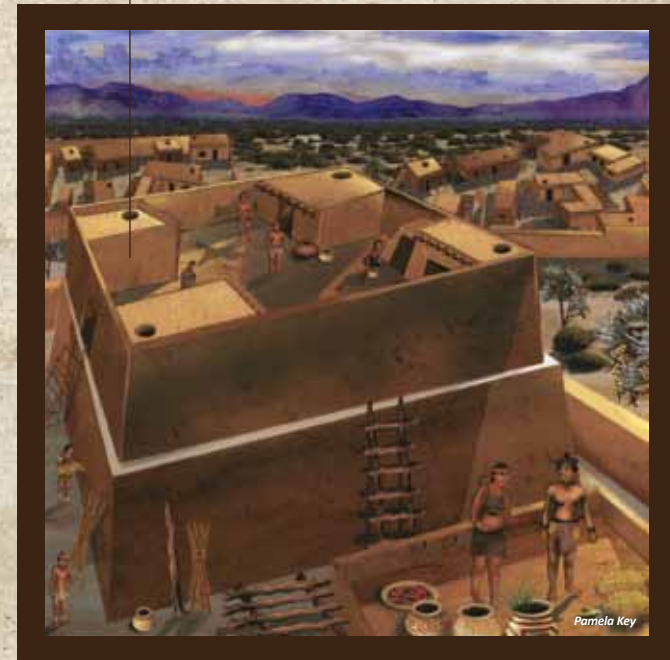
✿ **Los Morteros** is a Hohokam ball court village that was in use from about 850 to 1300 A.D. The site is located on the Santa Cruz River floodplain at the northeast end of the Tucson Mountains. Prehistoric features by the hundreds have been uncovered here, including an adobe-walled compound, houses, and cemeteries. While the site near the Puerta del Norte Trailer Court was being excavated and studied in the 1980s, archaeologists also came upon the foundations of the **Pointer Mountain Butterfield Stage Station**. People were undoubtedly living in this area since before recorded history, because Father Kino, who was virtually the first to arrive and write about the places and people of this area, spoke of a village at a site very near Los Morteros that he called “El Valle de Correa.”

✿ **Yuma Wash** contains what are known as Hohokam Classic Period houses, which were built-above-ground block structures, and cremation and burial sites used between 1100 and 1450 A.D. The Town of Marana plans to use the site as a hands-on, archaeological-education program for the public.

*Artist rendering of Classic Hohokam Period platform mound.*



Platform mounds were built as public ceremonial structures, usually in walled compounds.



## Locals Adapt to New Arrivals

The traditional interpretation of archeological evidence suggests that people from the Trincheras culture centered in Sonora, Mexico, also flourished in the Santa Cruz Valley sometime between 550 and 1450. They lived on terraced hillsides as well as valley settlements, while the contemporaneous Hohokam lived exclusively on valley floors. They had different settlement patterns, architecture, burial practices, styles of pottery, and techniques of shell-jewelry manufacture. Other archeologists suggest that the “Trincheras” people of the Santa Cruz Valley were actually Hohokam. In either case, after 1450, there is no record of either culture.

Sometime in the late 1600s, Apaches advanced from the northeast, and in the early 1690s the Spanish arrived from the south. Caught in the collision of these two forces, the lives of the O’odham people—probable descendants of the Hohokam who lived where Marana is today—would never be the same.

The Apaches were a hunter-gatherer society. Without permanent villages, they raided more established cultures in the region, including O'odham. They were opportunists who stole what they could—basic food items as well as women and children. Using bows-and-arrows and foot-long war clubs, the Apaches attacked then moved on.

At this point in time, as the eighteenth century unfolded, O'odham villagers made permanent contact with Europeans who crafted maps and kept written records in the Santa Cruz Valley. It is at this juncture that “recorded history” begins in the Middle Santa Cruz Valley.

### **Jesuit Priest Promotes Modern Ranching**

In 1694, Father Eusebio Francisco Kino, a Jesuit priest, was among the first Europeans to visit the Marana locale. A devout and pragmatic missionary working for the Spanish government and the Roman Catholic Church, Kino and the Spanish military soon brought much of what is now the Sonoran Desert region, including the Santa Cruz Valley, under the rule of New Spain.

Kino's exploration of the Santa Cruz Valley had begun in 1691 on a journey north from what is now Sonora, Mexico. It was Kino who drew the first maps of the region. Educated in the sciences, his survey tools included a compass, sextant, and telescope. He was an advocate for the indigenous peoples he met, learning their languages and helping some of them come together to resist the fierce Apaches. Along with other missionaries, he introduced new farming techniques and brought seed for winter crops such as wheat, peas, lentils, and garbanzos. Kino is also remembered for driving herds of livestock—Spanish Barb horses, Criollo-Corriente cattle, and Churro sheep—to the mission communities and teaching his converts to raise livestock. His productive ranches across what is now northern Sonora and southern Arizona set the foundation for modern ranching. Kino was a pathfinder, pioneer, and peacemaker, best remembered perhaps for his founding of a series of missions, including the Dove of the Desert, San Xavier del Bac, just south of Tucson.

Early Spanish accounts report a native village or villages called by various names—“El Valle de Correa,” “San Clemente,” and “San Agustín”—between Sentinel Peak and Pointer Mountain. A tribe of people known as Sobaipuris, related to O'odham but with a different dialect, made this village or collection of villages home.



*Flag of Spanish King Carlos III circa 1775*

## How the Santa Cruz River Got Its Name

Father Kino called the Santa Cruz River the Río Santa María. The river was re-named Santa Cruz around 1780 when the presidio (fort) of Santa Cruz de Terrenate was relocated to a spot along the river, in what is now the town of Santa Cruz in northern Sonora, Mexico.



FATHER KINO BRINGS  
NEW LIFESTYLES **1694 A.D.**

## Last Stop for Water Quenches Many a Thirst

### Anza Expedition Cuts a Swath Across History

In late October 1775, Juan Bautista de Anza, captain of the Spanish presidio (fort) in Tubac, led an expedition north along the Santa Cruz River heading toward California. The expedition included 30 soldiers and their families, mostly women and children, making up the 200 colonists. An additional 100 in the group included cowboys, translators, muleteers, guides, priests, and escort soldiers. With them, they drove herds of livestock—horses, mules, burros, and cattle—totaling 1,000 head.

Their first campsite in southern Marana was on a flat called **Llano del Azotado** near Pointer Mountain. *Llano del Azotado* is Spanish for “flat of the criminal publicly whipped,” and that name stems from the punishment meted out to two muleteers who tried to desert the expedition. From this camp the expedition headed northwest through a pass they called **Puerto del Azotado**. Today, it is called Rattlesnake Pass and can be accessed on Silverbell Road.

Their next campsite was at **Oit Par** just west of **Pinal Air Park**. This name means “Old Town” in the language of the O’odham. It is thought to be the site of a village destroyed by Apaches. Further north, they stopped at **Picacho de Tacca** (Tacca being the O’odham name for Picacho Peak) or “the flat of El Aquituni.”



Marana lies in the zone between the Middle and Lower Santa Cruz River—a place where its channel disappears and its waters spread over a flood plain on the way north to the Gila River. Marana is also the spot where three tributaries to the Santa Cruz River join: the Rillito River, Cañada del Oro Wash, and Altar-Brawley Wash. Early travelers counted on Pointer Mountain as the last year-round water source along the Santa Cruz River. It was called the “9-mile water hole,” the last stop before the “90-mile desert” on the way north to the Gila River.

Early travelers counted on Pointer Mountain as the last year-round water source along the Santa Cruz River. It was called the “9-mile water hole,” the last stop before the “90-mile desert” on the way north to the Gila River.

Bill Singleton



Rendering of Juan Bautista de Anza Expedition at *Llano del Azotado* campsite. *Llano del Azotado* is Spanish for “flat of the criminal publicly whipped.” Its use for this location stems from the punishment of two muleteers who tried to desert the Anza expedition of 1775.

ANZA'S EXPEDITION  
SETS UP CAMP

1775 A.D.



The route Anza and his charges took to found San Francisco was designated the “Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail” by the United States Congress in 1990. The National Park Service oversees the trail. A 17-mile segment of this route passes through Marana along the Santa Cruz River, while an Anza auto route has been designated along parts of Silverbell and other roads.

## Creeping Border Leads to War and More United States

.....

The Mexican-American War (1846 to 1848) was an armed conflict between the United States and Mexico spurred by the annexation of Texas by the United States in 1845. Mexico claimed ownership of Texas as a breakaway province, refusing to recognize the secession and subsequent military victory by Texas in 1836. (Remember the Alamo!) The Rio Grande became the boundary between Texas and Mexico, and Mexico never again ruled Texas.

The Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo was signed on February 2, 1848. It ended the war and gave the United States undisputed control of Texas, while Mexico ceded the states of California, Nevada, Utah, and additional territory in Arizona, Colorado, New Mexico, and Wyoming to the United States for a sum of money.

.....

MORMON BATTALION  
BLAZES A TRAIL

1846 A.D.



In 1846 the Mormon Battalion blazed a road north through Picacho Pass and on to San Diego. Later, in 1849, more than 10,000 gold-seekers followed this same route to join the rush to California.

### Old World Gives Way to Mexico in Tussle Over New Spain



*Mexican Flag circa 1823*

In 1810, the people of Mexico went to war to win their independence from Spain, and in 1821 official jurisdiction over what is now Marana passed to the new Republic of Mexico. It remained part of the Mexican state of Sonora until 1854.

## A Wildly Enterprising Era Gallops Ahead

### Gadsden Purchase Paves the Way for a Railroad

In spite of a valiant trek by the Mormon Battalion in 1846, American efforts to secure Mexican territory for the United States by military might did not succeed. All of Arizona south of the Gila River remained in the hands of Mexico when the Mexican-American War ended with the Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo in 1848.

The prize the soldiers had hoped to take came in 1854 with the Gadsden Purchase. The United States made an enterprising deal: 29,640 square miles of New Mexico and Arizona south of the Gila River for \$10 million. For the price of about 33 cents an acre, the United States opened a transcontinental corridor for the Southern Pacific Railroad.

### Forty-niners Stop, Dig for Gold, and Settle for Copper

The California gold rush made the trade corridor hum. In 1849, more than 10,000 adventurers followed the Santa Cruz River north to the Gila River. They continued on to California along the route taken by the Anza Expedition, in all likelihood the same road native traders had used centuries before.

The area we know as Marana, which came under the jurisdiction of the United States five years later, jolted to life. Mexican settlers established large cattle ranches. Prospectors arrived with mineral riches on their minds. They didn't find gold in any abundance, but settle for copper they would. By 1865, high-grade copper ore was being transported by wagon from mines in the Silver Bell Mountains to Yuma, and then shipped on to Baltimore for smelting.

On the western side of Ironwood Forest National Monument lies the site of the Mission Santa Ana de Chiquiburitac, established by a padre from Mission San Xavier del Bac in 1834. It was the last mission to be constructed in the Sonoran Desert during this time.

.....

### Mormons and the U.S. Flag



*United States Flag circa 1846*

About 350 troops of the Mormon Battalion, under the leadership of Lieutenant Colonel Philip St. George Cooke, brought the first American flag into the area in 1846. They carried it to San Diego to fight in the war with Mexico, and blazed the first wagon road north through



**Picacho Pass** on their way.

Part of this route later became a stagecoach and railroad route, as well as the corridor for present-day Interstate Highways 8 and 10.

### Mail and the Money Must Go Through

In 1857, James E. Birch's San Antonio and San Diego Mail Line began using the same foot- and wagon-worn route of the Mormon Battalion. Called "the Jackass Mail," this pioneering mule-driven enterprise wasn't the first to carry mail overland between southern California and the East, but it was the first to provide scheduled mail service under contract from the U.S. Postmaster General.

☞ The Butterfield Overland Stage Company arrived in 1858 and eventually established the **Pointer Mountain**, **Nelson's Desert Ranch** and **Picacho Pass** remount stations. The company carried both transcontinental mail and passengers, but was discontinued in 1861 after the outbreak of the Civil War. The route the stage rumbled over through Marana closely follows Interstate 10.

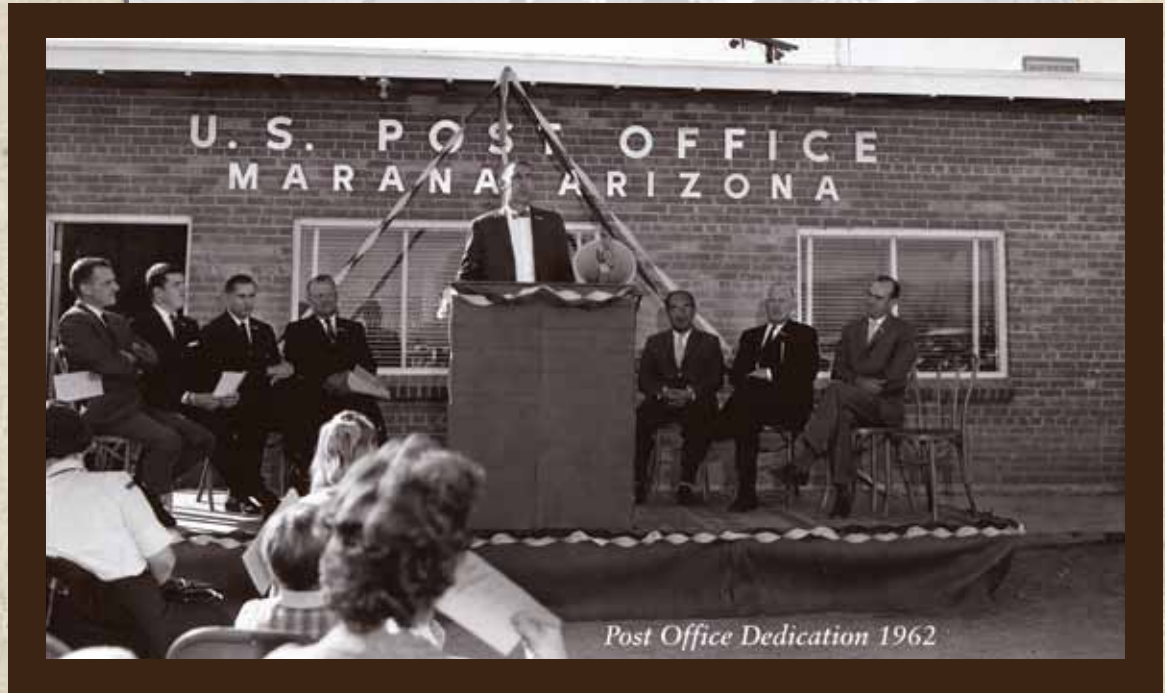


Top row, from left to right: Hal Powers, Lon Adams, postal service representative, Sam Chu; Bottom row, left to right: Bob Honea, U.S. Representative Morris Udall, Mrs. Sam Chu, Mercy Vega, as well as (below) some of the community members and officials present during the Post Office dedication.



Will Barnes, courtesy of Arizona Historical Society/Tucson, #BZ1943

Early stagecoaches carried both U.S. Mail and passengers.



Post Office Dedication 1962

Courtesy of Ora Mae Harn, Town of Marana Historian

The first "Territorial" Post Office in Marana was established in 1887.



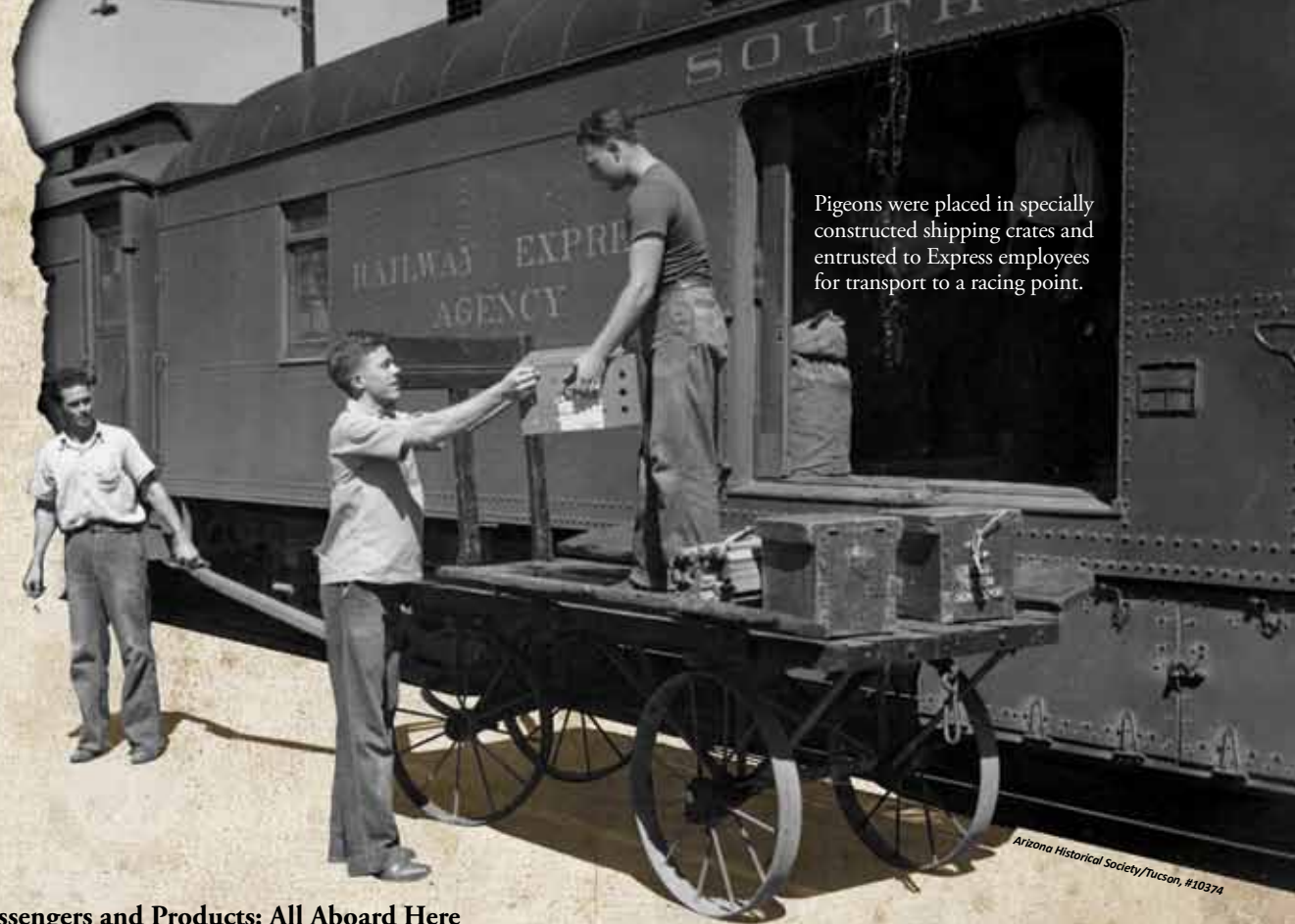


### El Tejano Stashes Cash and Bites the Dust

In 1877, a tall stranger drifted into Tucson. Nicknamed El Tejano (the Texan), this hombre was a broad-shouldered young man with wavy, shoulder-length hair who wore his pants tucked into his brass-spurred boots and a cartridge belt draped over his shoulder.

In the summer of 1878, he robbed two coaches at Pointer Mountain in Marana. Armed with a Spencer rifle and two Colt six-shooters, spurs jangling, he wore a long white sack mask that draped over his shoulders. Eye-holes were cut in it. A puff of mask cloth accommodated his nose, and a swatch of red flannel added a mouth.

Legend has it that he buried the loot nearby, but the stash has never been found. On August 19, 1878, a Tucson sheriff and eight deputies gunned down El Tejano, who had at least nine New Mexico and Arizona stagecoach robberies to his credit by then. Lawmen displayed the dead villain outside the jail, roped to a chair—an example for all to see.



Pigeons were placed in specially constructed shipping crates and entrusted to Express employees for transport to a racing point.

Arizona Historical Society/Tucson, #10374

### Passengers and Products: All Aboard Here

The Southern Pacific Railroad arrived in Marana from the north in 1880. To provide steam power, wood water towers were built every 10 to 15 miles along the track. These were later replaced with steel water tanks. Two water towers remain at **Rillito** and **Red Rock Stations**—the two frequent stops for passengers and shipping goods between Tucson and Picacho. An exhibit celebrating the history of the Southern Pacific is located at the Southern Arizona Transportation Museum in downtown Tucson.



Bob Sharp

SOUTHERN PACIFIC RAILROAD  
ARRIVES FROM NORTH

1880 A.D.



Rick Collins

### Blue and Gray Battle at “Ship of the Desert”

During the Civil War, after Union troops withdrew from southern Arizona to fight in the East, Confederate troops from Texas moved to occupy Tucson. Then, in early 1862, Union troops were sent east from Yuma via **Picacho Pass** to take back southern Arizona. On April 15, an advance party of 14 soldiers engaged a patrol of 10 Confederate Calvary at the Picacho Pass Butterfield Stage Station.

This is the site of the westernmost fatal conflict of the Civil War. During the hour-and-a-half battle, the Union lost three soldiers, but they prevailed. The victorious troops rode south to retake Tucson. The Union troops replanted the American flag in May 1862. Monuments dedicated to this Civil War battle and to the Mormon Battalion are located on the west side of Interstate 10 in Picacho Peak State Park.



Ned Schaper

*Confederate Flag circa 1860*

Picacho Peak State Park sponsors an annual re-enactment of this battle in March. Picacho Peak, on the west side of Picacho Pass, is also known as “the ship of the desert.” Picacho, however, means “peak” in Spanish. The distinctive peak was used as a landmark by early travelers. In 1863, Arizona became an official Territory of the United States.



Rick Collins



*From the Collection of Wells Fargo Historical Services*

Picacho Peak is called “the ship of the desert.” The battle of Picacho Pass was the westernmost fatal encounter of the Civil War.

# Miners Unearth Riches and Show Their Mettle

RAILROAD CONNECTS TO  
SILVER BELL MINE

1904 A.D.



Ned Schaper

Ruins from the SASCO Complex still remain today. World War I brought new prosperity to what was left of a once-thriving Silver Bell Copper Mine.  The **Silver Bell mining camp** quickly burgeoned, with a school and a hospital for more than a 1,000 residents.

Bob Sharp

## Silver Bell Mine Tagged “Hellhole”

The mining camp of Silver Bell was known locally as “the hellhole of Arizona.” Mining booms in the region began in the 1860s and by 1865 high-grade copper ore was being mined in the Silver Bell Mountains as part of larger mining operations. Six miles southeast of the old settlement of Silver Bell, the Silver Mountain Mining District installed a small smelter in 1874 and a larger one in 1900. The underground Silver Bell copper mine, established by the Imperial Copper Company, incorporated in 1903 and closed in the 1920s.

## Mining Booms, Busts, and Booms Again

In 1904, a connection to the Southern Pacific Railroad was built from the **Silver Bell Mine** to Red Rock. From February to September, between 600 and 700 men sweat under the desert sun to lay 22 miles of standard gauge railroad. In 1907, ore production warranted the establishment of **SASCO** (Southern Arizona Smelting Company) for ore reduction along the rail line between Silver Bell and Red Rock. The SASCO complex, now a ghost town with intriguing ruins, smelted ore for mines at Silverbell between 1907 and 1919. The railroad tracks were dismantled in 1933, but mining operations resumed with the new open pit Silver Bell Mine from 1948 to 1984. Silver Bell Mining, LLC, reopened the operation in 1996. Today, it has three open pits named Oxide, El Tiro, and North Silver Bell. In the nineteenth and twentieth centuries, smaller mines in the mountains around Marana produced modest amounts of gold, silver, and lead. Cañada del Oro Wash yielded placer gold.

Opened in 1949, the **Arizona Portland Cement Company** (now called the CalPortland Company Rillito Cement Plant) is the only limestone mine/cement facility in the Santa Cruz Valley. The complex includes a processing plant in Rillito and a mine called **Twin Peaks** or “Picacho de Calera” that excavates 320-million-year-old limestone three miles southwest.

## Wringing Water Out of Stone

Around 1880, **lime kilns**—large brick-lined beehive oven structures—were constructed in southern Marana in the production of mortar and whitewash. High heat in the kiln drove water out of limestone (an abundant rock in the hills surrounding Marana) to produce lime for the production process. About 12 cords of mesquite wood were burned to make each batch of lime, which contributed to the loss of once-prevalent mesquite bosques (woodlands) along the Santa Cruz River.

Courtesy of Silver Bell Mine

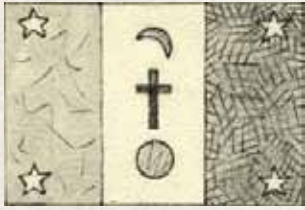


# New Nations Rise from Old

President Grant established what would become the Tohono O’odham Nation by executive order in 1882. It is the second-largest Indian Nation in the United States (the Navajo Nation is largest), covering over 2.8 million acres (about the size of Connecticut), where about 27,000 residents now live. O’odham people and their Sobaipuri relatives were the residents of Marana when the Spanish arrived here in the seventeenth century. Two iconic designs reflect O’odham culture. The first is the Man in the Maze motif. The second is their flag, which has 11 feathers, representing each of their districts, tied to a pole uniting them.

## Yoem People Get Sanctuary

In the 1880s, the Yoem people from the Yaqui River area in northwestern Mexico fled north to the Santa Cruz Valley, leaving their homes to escape persecution and extermination by the Mexican government. ❁ Originally established in 1936, **Yoem Pueblo** in Marana consists of 4.2 acres and, as of 2001, had 100 tribal members. Prior to 1980, the Yoem lived in a cluster of about 20 homes called “Yaqui Camp.” The settlement is not recognized by the U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs, although the settlement of New Pascua, southwest of Tucson, gained official recognition as a United States Indian Tribe in 1978. The people in Yoem Pueblo do, however, receive financial and other assistance from the tribal government of New Pascua.



Yaqui Tribe Flag



Tohono O'odham Nation Flag

War with the Apache ended with the surrender of Geronimo in 1886.

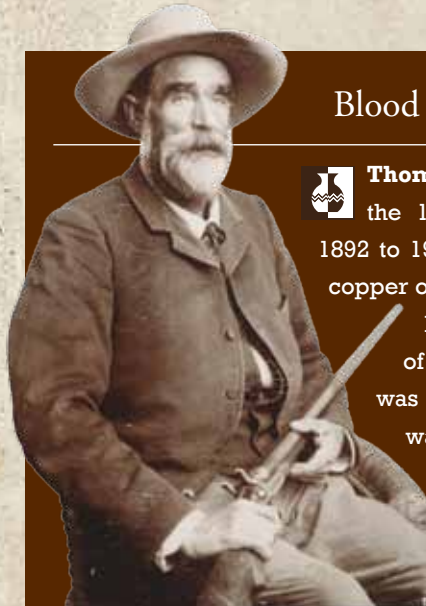
.....

## Life's Journey Reflected by Man in Maze



According to O’odham tradition: The man at the top of the maze, l’ittoi-the O’odham diety, depicts birth. By following the white pattern, beginning at the top, the figure goes through the maze encountering many turns and changes, as in life. As the journey continues, one acquires knowledge, strength, and understanding. Nearing the end of the maze, one retreats to a small corner of the pattern before reaching the dark center of death and eternal life. Here one repents, cleanses and reflects back on all the wisdom gained. Finally, pure and in harmony with the world, death and eternal life are accepted.

## Blood Brother to Cochise Settles in Tortolitas



**Thomas Jonathan Jeffords** spent the last years of his life—from 1892 to 1914—mining gold, silver, and copper on his homestead at Owl Head Buttes on the northwest end of the Tortolita Mountains. He was blood brother to the Chiricahua Apache leader Cochise and was the tribe’s first Indian Agent. In the tribe he was known as Tyazalaton, which means “Sandy Whiskers.” His story is told in the Jimmy Stewart movie and television series “Broken Arrow,” based on the book *Blood Brother* by Elliot Arnold. He is buried in Evergreen Cemetery in northwest Tucson.



Tom Jeffords and his dogs in 1902 at his home in Owl Head Buttes north of Marana.

Huntington Library, photCL 7 (25) "Thomas Jeffords."

# Ranchers Steward the Land and Preserve Open Spaces

📌 The **Bojórquez Ranch** site is one of the area's last remnants of a Territorial Period Mexican ranch. The ranch was founded in 1878 by Juan and Maria Bojórquez. It helped provision U.S. troops to battle renegade Apaches. Sold to Leandro Ruiz and Feliberto Aguirre in 1895, it was abandoned about 1900. Foundations of a stone house and an adobe house, as well as a stone-masonry water tank, still remain.



*Aguirre Cattle Company's  
"K Lazy Y" brand*

The most prominent Mexican ranching family in the area, for that matter in Arizona, is the Aguirre family. They arrived in Arizona Territory in the 1860s and still run cattle in Avra Valley, south of Red Rock. Tracing their roots back to the days of the conquistadors, the Aguirres are descendants of Don Pedro Aguirre, a man of Basque ancestry, as was Juan Bautista de Anza.

Don Pedro established the Buenos Aires Ranch, one of southern Arizona's most famous early ranches. In 1892 one of Don Pedro's sons, Don Yjinio, moved his successful freighting operation from Wilcox to Red Rock and established El Rancho de San Francisco. In those days, the Avra Valley was covered with lush native grasses that grew "stirrup-high."



*Don Carpenter's  
"R Tumbling E" brand*

During the most prosperous days of the Aguirre Cattle Company, Don Yjinio and his son Enrique ran thousands of head of cattle from Red Rock to Oro Valley. At the same time, the Aguirre freight wagons hauled ore from the Silver Bell Mine to the railroad spur at Red Rock. Later, the family built a second ranch, El Rancho Grande, eight miles north of the San Francisco. Other prominent Mexican ranch families in the Marana area during the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries included the Pachecos, Elias, Roblés, Redondos, Otes, Amados, Aroses, and Samaniagos.

## Marana Gets a Name

The name Marana first appeared as a "flag station" on a Southern Pacific Railroad map in 1890. Maraña is a rural Mexican word meaning dense brush, a tangle, or a thicket. Railroad workers dubbed the site "marana" as they hacked their way through thick mesquite stands along the rail line.

In 1917 the settlement of Marana was called Postvale, after the Michigan immigrant Edwin R. Post; but the tag "Postvale" didn't stick. In the 1920s, the town took on the name Marana.



*Mesquite*

*Daron Shade*

The oldest ranching family known in the Marana area, and for that matter in Arizona, has been the Aguirre family, whose ancestors are of Spanish Basque heritage.



*Mary Aguirre*

## Ranchers and Homesteaders Cash in on Open Range

Early ranchers like the Aguirre family used few fences. Land was regarded as "open range," and ranchers ran cattle from Red Rock to Oro Valley, cattle that undoubtedly ranged into the Tortolitas. Later, in the 1930s, several Anglo families took advantage of the revised "Homestead Act" of 1862 to start their own ranching operations. With 640 deeded acres they each received from the government, and some leased state land, the families settled right in the Tortolitas. These homesteaders raised primarily cattle (Brahma cross, whiteface, and longhorn-Corriente cross), but some had Angora goats.

*Photo above of Enrique and Y. F. Aguirre with their old vaquero Jesús Mendez in 1928, provided by Enrique's daughter, Mary Aguirre.*

### Cowboy Life Captures the West and Hollywood

Ranching was the economic backbone of the Marana community. In fact, ranching has a 300-year history in the Santa Cruz Valley, with the oldest cattle ranch in the United States at Guevavi in Nogales, its southern end.

The 3,000-acre **White Stallion Guest Ranch**, established in 1958 on a cattle ranch, continues to celebrate ranching traditions. The ranch has been a popular site for movie-making, including scenes in *Arizona* (1933), *The Last Roundup* (1948), *The Last Outpost* (1951), *Backlash* (1956), and *Confessions of a Dangerous Mind* (2002), as well as scenes for the television series *High Chaparral*, *Geronimo*, and *How the West Was Won*.

The 113-acre **Marana Stockyards** (1996 to present) is the only livestock auction house in the Santa Cruz Valley and currently sells about 30,000 head of cattle a year.



Arizona Historical Society/Tucson, #9122

Down comes the mechanical superintendent, Neil S. Taylor, of the Cortaro Farms, landing anywhere on the area of the farm. Taylor dates back to the good old "seat of the pants" era in flying, needing no paved runways. 1941.



Bob Sharp



Bob Sharp



Daron Shade

White Stallion Guest Ranch celebrates the cowboy way.

The Marana Stockyards is the only livestock auction house in the Santa Cruz Valley.

### Ancient Land Becomes a Political State

The land where Marana developed was claimed as an outpost of Spain for more than a hundred years, until 1821, when it fell under rule of the newly-formed government of Mexico in the state of Sonora. In 1854, the region came under U.S. jurisdiction within the Arizona Territory. Arizona became this country's forty-eighth state on February 14, 1912—the very last of the contiguous states in the nation.



Neil Schaper

Arizona State Flag circa 1912



CORTARO MARANA IRRIGATION DISTRICT ESTABLISHED

1919 A.D.

### Farming Yields Diverse Crops and Communities

When World War I created a need for cotton in the manufacture of cord, airplane fabric, and other war-related materials, Marana reinvigorated its agricultural roots and began growing more cotton and other crops.

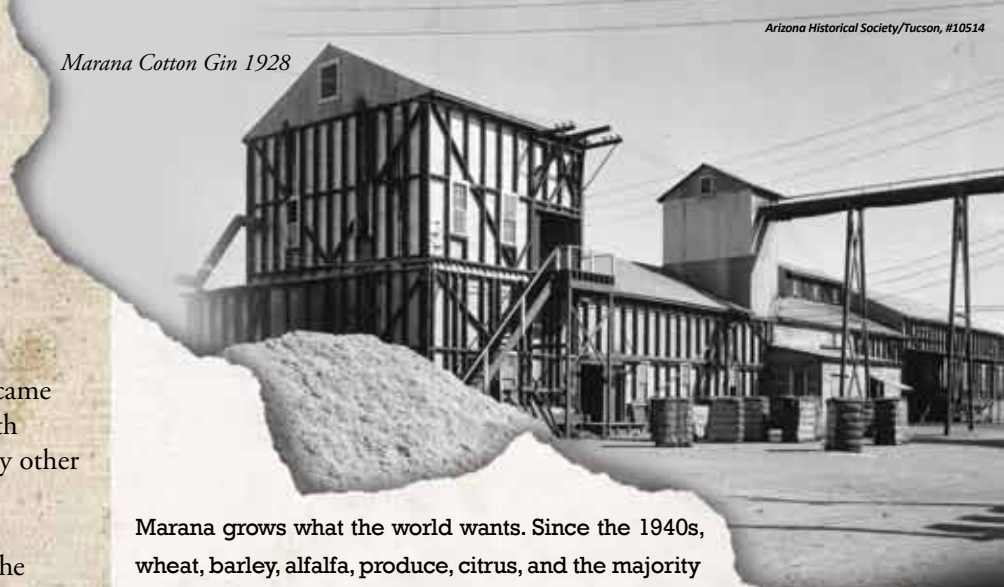
The organization that later became the Cortaro Marana Irrigation District was established in 1919. In 1920 Edwin Post, a newcomer from Michigan, drilled wells, installed a pumping plant, and constructed an extensive irrigation system. Pumps were numbered and commonly used as reference points to locate houses and farms.

Between 1920 and 1924, many families migrated to the area to grow cotton. Wheat, barley, alfalfa, garden produce, and citrus have been cultivated since the 1940s, but the majority of Marana's agricultural fields have always been devoted to cotton, which farmers called "desert snow."

### Cotton is Crowned King

▲ The **Producer Cotton Gin**, built with dried adobe in 1938, included an office and warehouse. These buildings represented the local cotton growing industry and were a magnet in the settlement of Marana. At one time, there were some 12 active gins in the area. The only one operational today is owned by the Kai family at the intersection of Silverbell and Trico roads in the Avra Valley, west of Marana.

Marana Cotton Gin 1928



### Latter Day Saints Come to Marana

The earliest known Mormon residents, the Naegle sisters, arrived in 1924. The elder two came to teach in a school where a cement plant now stands. Their little sister Gertrude lived with them and attended high school, where she was teased for being Mormon. If there were any other Mormons in the community, none made their presence known.

The sisters attended a church in Binghamton Ward, Tucson. Gertrude later married one of the Posts and moved away. There were no other openly Mormon residents in Marana until 1940, when Mark and Inez Gardner arrived to work for the Cortaro Farms Company (which owned most of the land in the area and later sold parcels of land to returning servicemen and employees).

By the 1950s, the Lindsey, Keeler, Napier, Wood, and Adams families were established in Marana, and La Mar Jones directed religious meetings in the recreation hall of the labor camp just east of Marana Air Park. Daniel K. Post was elected the first Branch President of the Marana Chapter of The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints in 1970.

Marana grows what the world wants. Since the 1940s, wheat, barley, alfalfa, produce, citrus, and the majority crop—cotton, or “desert snow”—have been cultivated, with the cultivation of wheat and cotton threading back centuries. Long staple cotton grown in Marana, a long-fibered *Gossypium hirsutum*, finds its way to the eastern United States and European textile mills, where it is made into natural, comfortable clothing that the world enjoys.

By the 1970s, Marana’s schools reflected an integrated community, where Native American children rode the school bus with African-American children; children of Chinese descent attended school with Mexican and Mexican-American youngsters and those of Western European descent.



Courtesy of Ora Mae Harn, Town of Marana Historian

### Farm-Worker Conditions Make Imperfect Progress

In the early nineteenth century, migrant workers labored on the farms in and around Marana. ⬆️ They were provided with bare-bones **migrant worker housing** in a tent city and scant provisions while they attended the fields, and when the harvest was over they moved on. After 1955, migrant workers were largely replaced by farm workers who stayed year-round under somewhat better living conditions, but were paid only when there was work. Today, most field workers here are provided year-round pay and housing with utilities.

### A Chinese Community Leaves Railroad Work Behind

Of the 1,300 workers hired to construct this section of the Southern Pacific Railroad, some 1,100 were Chinese, and many of these laborers settled in Tucson around 1880. Some leased land in the Marana area, along the Santa Cruz, for “truck farming.” They found a niche raising vegetables, which were not grown by other commercial farmers in the region. Other Chinese settlers opened grocery stores and restaurants. Marana’s enterprising Chinese farmers and grocers sold goods to Marana’s enterprising miners and ranchers. As time passed, these former railroad workers bought land and became highly successful farmers and businessmen. By the 1930s, a substantial and influential Chinese community had developed in Marana, including the Chu, Hum, Kai, and Wong families.

### Wide Open Spaces Invite a Name

The name Avra probably derives from the Spanish word *abra*, for open. The Spanish “b” and “v” are pronounced exactly alike—each has two sounds, hard and soft, depending on the vowels or consonants around it, but both are softer than an English “b,” which is the source of many spelling confusions. Avra Valley can be translated as “open valley.”

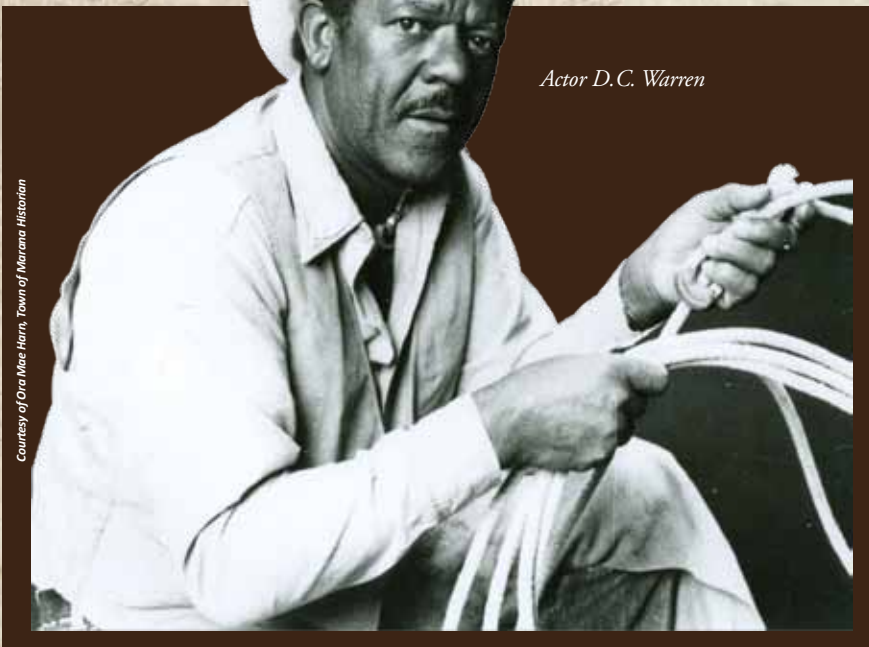


Arizona Historical Society/Tucson, #MS142/71/D

Some 1,100 of the 1,300 workers hired to build the section of the Southern Pacific Railroad passing through southern Arizona were Chinese.

### Rillito, the Little Town that Could Just the Same

⬆️ In the 1940s, men and women of African descent had come to Marana to work the farms and harvest cotton. These laborers lived in **farm worker housing** camps provided by landowners, as was custom at the time, but in the 1950s social and industrial change brewed unrest. New technology had automated the cotton-harvesting industry; controversy raged over desegregation of schools; and Marana’s African-American residents got word to clear out of the camps. Some left the area, but others bought land in what is now the small community of Rillito. Because there was no water delivery system there, members of the makeshift settlement had to get their water from the Southern Pacific Railroad’s metal water tank and bath in irrigation canals. One prominent resident of Rillito was the late actor D. C. Warren, who appeared in the Clint Eastwood movie *The Outlaw Josey Wales*.



Actor D.C. Warren

Courtesy of Ora Mae Harn, Town of Marana Historian





## Wide Open Spaces Draw Military Presence

### Model POWs Work for Coupons

For a few years during World War II, Marana had a prisoner-of-war “side camp.” Satellite internment camps in Arizona were established to facilitate work in seasonal agriculture, and often consisted of a tent city and perimeter fence. The prisoners in the Marana internment camp were mostly Germans and Italians from the Afrika Korps in North Africa and Europe.

❖ The Marana **World War II POW “side camp”** was built in the northwest part of town in 1942 and remained in use until 1945. Throughout Arizona, there were a total of 24 camps housing up to 13,000 prisoners. In the United States, there were about 600 such installations. The two main camps in Arizona were in Florence and in Papago Park, Phoenix.

POWs from Florence and Papago Park were assigned to the Marana site when they were needed as laborers, but only if they were willing to sign an agreement promising they would not try to escape. They were paid eighty cents a day in coupons, which they could trade for goods at the camp store.

The camp’s few permanent buildings were sold to the Queen Creek School District in 1947 and have since been dismantled. To learn more, visit the prisoner-of-war camp exhibits at McFarland State Historic Park in Florence.

### 10,000 WWII Aviators Train in Marana’s Open Skies

Marana’s expansive skies and crystal clear visibility brought significant economic advantage to the town in 1942. The federal government bought three-and-a-half square miles of the old Aguirre Ranch and began construction of an air base and emergency landing fields throughout the area. From 1942 to 1945, the skies above Marana buzzed with the sound of flight training for some 10,000 aviators. At that time, the Marana Army Air Training Base was one of the largest pilot-training centers in the United States.

❖ A **memorial marker** at Marana Regional Airport commemorates 19 U.S. Marines who died on April 8, 2000, when their MV-22 Osprey aircraft crashed nearby.



Arizona Historical Society/Tucson, # PC 176/167/04

World War II pilots trained at Marana Air Park between 1942 and 1945.

The Marana Army Air Training Base was one of the largest World War II pilot-training centers in the United States, producing some 10,000 aviators between 1942 and 1945.

10,000 AVIATORS TRAIN IN OPEN SKIES

1942 A.D.

### Military Activity Brings Super Highways and Super Secrecy

To serve the military, the highway from Tucson to Casa Grande was improved. It became the major road through Marana. But military presence brought not only a spot on-the-highway map, it also brought electric lines, which arrived in 1945. By the end of World War II, Marana had taken a giant leap in accessibility. It would remain a rural community, but the cities of Tucson and Phoenix were getting easier to reach.

🏠 The airfield where World War II aviators trained, known as **Pinal Air Park**, was reopened during the Korean War. Between 1950 and 1976, all CIA air operations were headquartered here, and later, during the Vietnam War, this was the primary headquarters for a wholly CIA-owned “front” company, Intermountain Airlines, also known as Air America. Evergreen Aircraft Maintenance Facility is now located here, along with a “bone yard” for old aircraft and their parts. Flight instruction still goes on in Marana at a training center for Apache attack helicopters.

### Cold War Titans Defend the Country

Features born of the Cold War dotted the area into the late 1980s. 🏠 Between 1959 and 1984, four underground **Titan II intercontinental ballistic missile (ICBM) silo sites** (SAC sites 570-3, 4, 5, and 6) were located in the Marana area as part of a complex of 18 installations around Tucson. These were retaliatory weapons built as deterrence to aggression. Each missile carried one nine-megaton hydrogen bomb. To make these sites more accessible, several rural roads here were paved.



Titan Missile Museum

Between 1959 and 1984 four underground Titan II missile silos were located in the Marana area.

### Off-ramps, not Stop Lights, for Main Street



Courtesy of Judy Horton

In 1961, the Arizona Highway Department and the federal government demolished Marana’s historic downtown in order to widen Interstate 10.



The **Mercantile**, a 1950s version of a one-stop-shopping center, was a casualty of this progress. Since the Southern Pacific Railroad track lay to the east, the interstate route was added to the west side of Highway 84 (old Casa Grande Highway). Sections of the old highway are still used as the east frontage road across from Rillito. The high school and businesses were relocated. This accounts for the absence of historic buildings in downtown. Marana looks to a near future with a contemporary Southwest-design town center that features shopping, entertainment and lodging accessible via Interstate 10.

## New Town Wisely Taps Water Rights

Water always has been a valuable commodity in the arid Southwest. In March 1977, it was so important that the town's civic leaders incorporated all 10-square miles of Marana in order to retain water rights for current and future residents. In August 1977, the 1,500 townspeople elected their first town council. In early 1979, the town began to grow through a very active annexation policy. Marana continues to aggressively pursue opportunities for the rights to own and deliver water.

Since the 1980s, the number of local farms has declined as land has been converted to housing developments. The area, however, still has six large farms operated by the Cortaro Users Co-op and owned by the Clark, Chu/Ong, Kai, Pacheco, and Payson families and The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints. The farms primarily raise long staple cotton, although durum wheat, which is exported to Italy to make pasta, is increasingly important as a primary crop.

### CAP Delivers Abundant Water

In 1992, Marana began receiving Colorado River water from the Central Arizona Project (CAP), a federal program authorized by Congress in 1968. The water is delivered from Lake Havasu on a 336-mile-long route along a series of canals and lift stations.

Prior to the arrival of CAP water, residents of modern Marana were dependent entirely upon groundwater, while earlier people depended on surface water and/or shallow wells. Marana's original CAP entitlement was 47 acre-feet, or about 15 million gallons of water each year (an acre-foot of water is the amount that would cover an acre of ground at one foot deep). In 2009 Marana received an additional 1,481 acre-feet from an excess CAP allocation elsewhere, bringing its total annual allocation to 1,528 acre-feet. The Municipal and Industrial Contract Water Company distributes Marana's CAP waters.

Marana farms primarily grow long staple cotton; however, durum wheat is an increasingly important crop. Durum wheat is exported to Italy to make pasta.

Bob Sharp

### Greene Canal a Total Wash-out

Courtesy of Bob Sharp

In 1908, the Santa Cruz Reservoir Company developed a plan to divert floodwater from the Santa Cruz River. The plan was for water to be channeled to a reservoir and then distributed for the irrigation of farmland in Eloy and Toltec, north of Marana.



Construction of the **Greene reservoir, diversion dam, and canal** began in 1909 under the supervision of "Colonel" William C. Greene. Construction continued after Greene's death in 1911, and all three bear the Greene name. On the east side of Sawtooth Mountains, the reservoir is now abandoned; the diversion dam was destroyed by floods in 1914 and 1915. The project was an absolute failure.

Colonel Greene died in and is buried in Cananea, Mexico, where a 1909 strike in the large copper mine he owned precipitated the Mexican revolution! The story of William Cornell Greene—entrepreneur, miner, rancher, and promoter extraordinaire—is documented in the book *Copper Skyrocket* by Charles Leland Sonnichsen.

Several photos in this booklet were taken by Colonel Greene's grandson, Bob Sharp.

*"Whiskey's for drinking;  
Water's for fighting over"*

- MARK TWAIN

MARANA INCORPORATES  
FOR WATER RIGHTS

1977 A.D.

## Planning Delivers ‘More Miles than People’

Today, Marana is a town in forward motion, focused on controlled, sustainable growth centered on the wellbeing of its townspeople. Thanks to foresight and discretion, Marana has succeeded in expanding its land holdings as its population has increased.

Marana plans for growth and then grows. In the past three decades, Marana has increased its acreage 12 times over. Its population has grown 22 times over in that same time, but its 126 square miles provide more than ample breathing space for its nearly 37,000 residents.

Now, as in its prehistory, Marana benefits by its location on a major trade route. The Union Pacific Railroad and Interstate Highway 10 cut right through it. Goods move by rail from the Atlantic Seaboard and from manufacturing centers in Mexico, and a major transcontinental highway spanning almost 2,500 miles connects it to the East and West Coasts. Marana is also close to international transoceanic markets, with the deep-water harbor in Guaymas, Mexico, slightly closer than San Diego, California. The latest products and developments have always traveled to Marana, but today they arrive at breakneck speed.

As for the flow of Arizona’s two largest Airport just 33 miles

people and goods via air, Marana is between metropolitan areas, with Tucson International southeast and Phoenix Sky Harbor International

Airport about 90 miles north. The Marana Regional Airport, purchased from Pima County in 1999, handles considerable traffic itself, recently logging more than 110,000 takeoffs and landings in one year.

### Marana’s “Tangle” Holds Broad Appeal

Marana celebrates its “tangle” of diversity: residential and farming communities in an expansive valley, resort living amid pristine mountains, and a bustling commercial zone.

The vibrant countryside in northern Marana, where the town put down its Western roots, appeals to long-time residents and newcomers alike. Cotton fields still dot the landscape. Ranchers herd cattle. Horses graze on the horizon not far from pleasant neighborhoods. Northern Marana is also home to Marana’s municipal complex and its dynamic Heritage River Park, which not only tells the story of Marana’s past, but also hosts recreation, arts, and other community events.

📍 Located along the Santa Cruz River in Gladden Farms, it features the **Heritage and Beard Houses**, an operational farm, **grain silos**, and a passenger train.

The mountains extending into northeast Marana are part of the scenic Tortolita Fan. These mountains harbor Marana’s luxury getaway, the Ritz-Carlton’s largest development in the continental United States, including two Jack Nicklaus Signature golf courses, the Dove Mountain resort and spa, and a Ritz-Carlton-branded, low-density community. For fine dining, gallery shopping, and overall indulgence, this corner of high Sonoran Desert is the right place.

The Gallery Golf Course, located at Dove Mountain in Marana, is ranked #1 in southwest Arizona by *Golf Digest* and is acknowledged as one of *Golfweek’s* Top 100 Modern Courses. The largest and most comprehensive Ritz-Carlton branded project in the continental United States is located in Marana.

Some resources are inherent in Marana's location, but Town leaders have also assertively pursued a healthy economy. Not many years ago, they saw a possibility to annex 17 miles near the interstate highway in the Ina-Thornydale commercial district. Marana wasn't the only municipality with an eye on this coveted zone, but in spite of resistance from a strong rival, Marana prevailed, deftly seizing an opportune moment.

Thanks to this annexation, Marana now boasts a thriving and very contemporary commercial zone where the "retail-follows-rooftops" adage more than applies. Wholesale, discount, supermarket, home-improvement, sporting-goods, and a multitude of other shopping opportunities are available here. About 2.3 million square feet of new retail centers in the form of two regional malls, as well as new hotel and golf opportunities, are expected in the near future.

Looking north along the east side of the Tucson Mountains is Sombrero (Safford) Peak, a local landmark. The Santa Cruz River, Juan Bautista de Anza Trail, and the track of the Mormon Battalion lie just to the east, to the right of the photo.

### **Wide Open Spaces Offer Miles of Recreation**

Marana knows the value of pristine, open land. Including the 300-acre Marana Heritage River Park, the Town's Parks and Recreation plan contains more than twice the national average of dedicated public land per thousand residents.

Marana brims with trails, parks, and places to roam. It has six town parks (with others proposed), four neighborhood parks, and the 2,500-acre Tortolita Preserve. About 50 miles of hiking trails lie within or contiguous with town limits—including 17 miles of the Juan Bautista de Anza National Historic Trail along the Santa Cruz River and 32 miles of recreation trails in the Tortolita Preserve and in Cochie and Wild Burro Canyons in the Tortolita Mountains.

Marana's Parks and Recreation Department continues to anticipate and respond to the needs of the community, offering residents ample opportunity to stay active with more than 100 programs and classes for children, adults, seniors, and those with special needs.



Daron Shade



Marana High School in 1939 served the fertile agricultural district northwest of Tucson.

### “Blue Ribbon” Education Opportunities

Marana takes great pride in its Marana Unified School District (MUSD). One of Arizona’s largest, it is also rated one of its highest-achieving K-12 school districts. To date, nine MUSD schools have attained state A+ recognition from the State of Arizona. Three were named “National Blue Ribbon” award winners by the U.S. Department of Education.

MUSD has more than 13,000 students and 1,800 employees on staff. The 550-square-mile Marana Unified School District contains 11 elementary schools, two middle schools, two high schools, and two alternative schools.

### Toward Living Long and Well

#### Health Care

Marana offers world-class healthcare for residents and visitors. Northwest Medical Center provides the Town’s principal medical care, with a full-service hospital and urgent care facility. Marana Health Center also serves a variety of health care concerns. In 1957, when the Health Center opened, it served migrant farm workers almost exclusively. Now it is a multi-service healthcare clinic and community-services center with branches across southern Arizona.

Marana Health Center was the first community health center in all of Arizona. It was the first, and for decades the only, provider of clinic-based primary medical-, dental-, behavioral-health, and low-cost drug services in the greater Marana area.

### Safety

The Town’s police department boasts a community-friendly ratio of roughly one officer to 400 residents, and Northwest Fire Department provides outstanding fire protection, responding to 85 percent of its calls within six-and-a-half minutes. Both departments are active in the community, educating residents on safety issues and raising funds for charities.

### One of the Best Small Cities

In 2003, Marana was named one of America’s “Best Managed Small Cities” by Pat Summerall Production’s Champion of Industry program, a nationally broadcast television series. The same year, Marana adopted a design for the town seal. In 2005, the town dedicated its 110,000-square-foot Municipal Complex, which hosts the Town’s administrative, law enforcement, and judicial offices.

The National League of Cities has recognized the Marana Community Farm, citing “municipal excellence” for its partnership with the Community Food Bank. This 25-acre produce farm is a cooperative effort of the Community Food Bank Community Food Resource Center, the Town of Marana Parks and Recreation Department, and many community members. Rotation of crops and organic growing methods sustain healthy soil and provide healthy vegetables that are sold at the Food Bank’s stands and farmers markets. The Food Bank also distributes the produce directly. The Farm’s youth apprenticeship program pays teenagers to help and learn on the farm. This Farm partnership illustrates just one of many outstanding programs Marana offers its citizens.



“BEST MANAGED SMALL CITIES” AWARDED

2003 A.D.

In the Marana Municipal Complex, beauty of design and construction team with state-of-the-art technology to make the practical performance of day-to-day town business efficient.

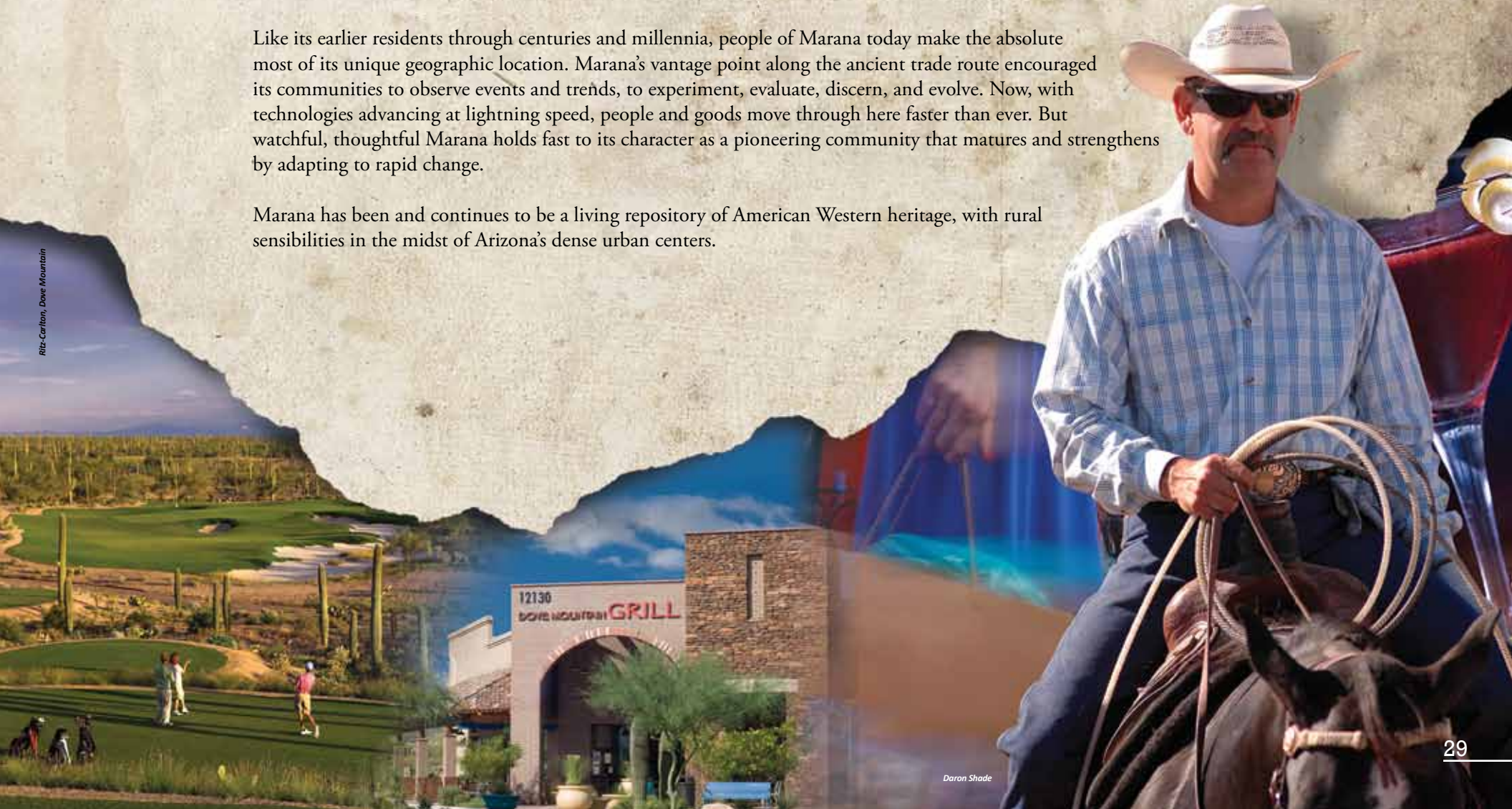
## Marana—Where the Corridor of Progress Meets the Heritage of the American West

While Marana thrives along a bustling trade corridor, its significant tracts of protected, open, and public land shield and buffer the town. Here, town limits dissolve into magnificent untamed spaces that both make Marana more attractive and help it to retain its distinctive rural character.

In Marana, you can golf where champions compete, indulge at a luxury spa, dine at a four-star restaurant, bid on a prize steer, explore a 4,000-year-old archaeological site, hike back-country trails, or take in a world-class rodeo. Best of all, you can do much of this in a single day.

Like its earlier residents through centuries and millennia, people of Marana today make the absolute most of its unique geographic location. Marana's vantage point along the ancient trade route encouraged its communities to observe events and trends, to experiment, evaluate, discern, and evolve. Now, with technologies advancing at lightning speed, people and goods move through here faster than ever. But watchful, thoughtful Marana holds fast to its character as a pioneering community that matures and strengthens by adapting to rapid change.

Marana has been and continues to be a living repository of American Western heritage, with rural sensibilities in the midst of Arizona's dense urban centers.



# A Timeline of Marana's Cultural Heritage

## PREHISTORY PERIOD

---

- 11,000 B.C.** Arrival of big game hunters.
- 7000 to 4000 B.C.** Altithermal.
- 4000 B.C.** Humans resettle area.
- 2100 B.C.** Arrival of corn from Mexico.
- 1250 B.C.** Appearance of first irrigation canals in North America; cultivation of corn, squash, beans, cotton and tobacco.
- 800 B.C.** Appearance of bow-and-arrow.
- 400 B.C.** Pithouses shift from round to rectangular.
- 550 to 850 A.D.** Hohokum Culture begins. First ballcourts and village plazas appear.
- 1150 to 1300** Platform mounds appear as public ceremonial structures, usually in walled compounds.
- 1450** Hohokam Culture vanishes.

## TURNING POINT

---

- Late 1600s** Spanish arrive from south and Apache from northeast.

## SPANISH PERIOD

---

- 1694** Father Kino is first known European to visit area.
- 1775** Juan Bautista de Anza Expedition passes through to found the city of San Francisco.
- 1810** War breaks out between Spain and Mexico.

## MEXICAN PERIOD

---

- 1821** Republic of Mexico founded.
- 1846** Mexican-American War begins; ends in 1848.
- 1846** Mormon Battalion passes through on way to San Diego.
- 1849** Some 10,000 49ers pass through on way to California.

## TERRITORIAL PERIOD

---

- 1854** Gadsden Purchase ratified; area becomes part of United States.
- 1856** American troops replace Mexican troops at Tucson Presidio.
- 1858** Butterfield Overland Stage Company arrives.
- 1860s** Beginning of mining booms.
- 1862** Westernmost fatal battle of Civil War at Picacho Pass.
- 1863** Arizona Territory established.
- 1865** High grade copper ore mined in Silver Bell Mountains.
- 1878** Bojórquez Ranch established.
- 1880** Southern Pacific Railroad arrives from north.

- 1882** Tohono O'odham Nation established.
- 1886** War with Apache ends.
- 1887** First "Territorial" Post Office established.
- 1890** Name Marana first appears on Southern Pacific Railroad map.
- 1904** Silver Bell Copper Mine opens.
- 1907** SASCO smelter opens; closes in 1919.
- 1909** Construction begins on Greene Canal, Dam, and Reservoir.

## STATEHOOD

---

- 1912** Arizona becomes 48th state on February 14, 1912.
- 1917** Community called Postvale; cotton-growing industry thrives.
- 1919** Shift from ranching to agricultural economy; organization that later became Cortaro Marana Irrigation District established.
- 1924** First Mormon settlers arrive.
- 1930** Chinese farming community develops.
- 1936** Yoem Pueblo established.
- 1938** Producer Cotton Gin built.
- 1942** Marana airfield founded; today called Pinal Air Park.
- 1942-1945** Prisoner-of-war "side camp" in Marana.
- 1940s** African-Americans arrive to pick cotton; settle in Rillito in 1950s.
- 1948** Silver Bell Mine reopens; closes in 1984.
- 1949** Arizona Portland Cement Company's Twin Peaks mine opens (now called CalPortland Rillito Cement Plant).
- 1955** Migrant workers camps change to Farm workers camps.
- 1957** Marana Health Center opens.
- 1958** White Stallion Guest Ranch established.
- 1959** Four Titan II missile sites installed; disassembled in 1984.
- 1961** Historic business district known as Mercantile demolished.
- 1968** Congress authorizes Central Arizona Project (CAP).
- 1977** Town of Marana incorporated.
- 1979** Beginning of aggressive annexation and growth.
- 1996** Marana Stockyards auction house opens; Silver Bell mine reopens.
- 1999** First Mayor elected by residents at Town Council.
- 2003** Town of Marana named one of America's "Best Managed Small Cities"; design for Town Seal adopted.
- 2005** Municipal Complex dedicated.
- Today** Marana is largest farming community in Middle Santa Cruz River Valley.





Courtesy of Marana Health Center

### Cotton Blossoms Carpet the Town with Charity

*In the 1950s, the Cotton Blossoms, a group of farmers' wives, recognized a need for health care in the Marana area, especially for migrant farm workers and their families. These women commandeered a tiny one-room shed in a cotton field. They got a low-paid nurse and volunteer doctor to treat the overflow of waiting patients. Later, with funds raised by the Marana Community Christian Church, they built a red-brick, seven-room clinic, Arizona's first community health center. Today, the Cotton Blossom Thrift Store, non-profit affiliate of the Marana Health Center, operates as a tribute to the women who brought health care services to Marana.*

### Baby Cradle Cemetery Still Haunts

✦ Most traces of the old Silver Bell Mine have disappeared. Rock pile graves are still visible in the cemetery west of the town, known as the **"baby cradle" cemetery** for a metal cradle that marks the grave of an unidentified infant. The only marked grave memorializes "Mary Ann O'Toole, Apr. 28, 1867–Jan. 18, 1930."



Bob Sharp

### Numbered Wells Guide Maranans Home

✦ Numbered pump wells, like **Well #9**, were part of an extensive irrigation system originally constructed by Edwin Post in the 1920s. Many of these numbered wells still exist today in Marana. Now as then, the numbers on these wells are often used as reference points for locals to find houses and farms around the community.



Courtesy of Ora Mae Harn, Town of Marana Historian

# Acknowledgments

The Town of Marana appreciates the time spent by Mary Aguirre, Roger Anyon, Don Carpenter, Rick Collins, Alan Dart, Paul Fish, Ora Mae Harn, Rebecca Kunsberg, Jonathan Mabry, Larry G. Marshall, Joe Myers, Joyce Rychener, John Scheuring, Bob Sharp, and Harry Winters in researching the information presented in this booklet or in identifying sites on the map. The map was created by Chris Mack, Technology Services Department of the Town of Marana. Ground Sloth and Giant Bison illustrations based on artist renderings courtesy of Arizona Geological Survey. Content was prepared by Larry G. Marshall. The WestWordVision team, under the direction of Paula Schaper, developed this publication's concept, storyline, and graphics. Copywriting for this publication was provided by WestWordVision in partnership with Mary Schultz of Riverview Communications. Text was edited by Linda M. Brewer/Bailiwick, Ink.

For text sources, image credits, acknowledgements, and to download this publication, go to the Town of Marana website at [www.marana.com](http://www.marana.com). Archaeological sites noted in the text and shown on the map are monitored by the Arizona Archaeological Site Steward Program.

## General Sources Consulted

Anonymous. 2008. Marana History. Marana Chamber of Commerce Publication.

Banks, L. W. 2006. El Tejano. Arizona Highways, July 2006.

Fish, Suzanne, Paul R. Fish, and John H. Madsen. 1992. The Marana Community in the Hohokam World. Anthropological Papers, No. 56. University of Arizona Press, Tucson.

Kaldahl, Eric J., and Allen Dart. 2002. The Cultures and History of Marana, Arizona. Old Pueblo Archaeology Center, Special Publication, Tucson, Arizona.

Lawson, Jan. 2005. Marana History. Marana Chamber of Commerce Publication.

Mabry, Jonathan (compiler and ed.). 2005. Feasibility Study for the Santa Cruz Valley National Heritage Area. Center for Desert Archaeology, July 2005. (Available on line at [www.santacruzheritage.org](http://www.santacruzheritage.org).)

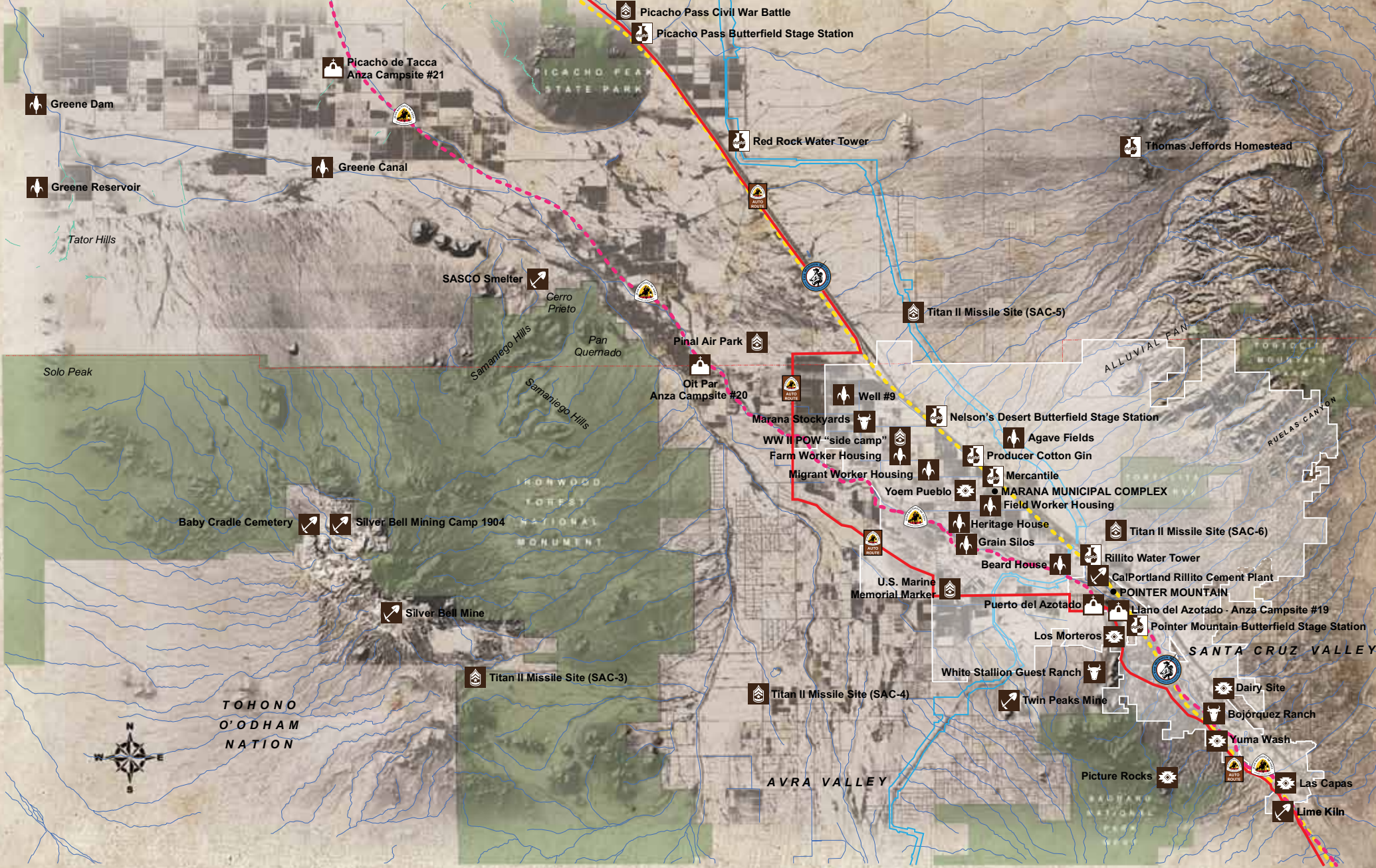
Mabry, Jonathan. 1998 Late Quaternary Environmental Periods. In: Paleoindian and Archaic Sites in Arizona, edited by J.B. Mabry. Arizona State Historic Preservation Office.

Phillips, Steven J. (ed.). 2003. Santa Cruz River. Sonorensis, 23 (1):1–30.

Trimble, Marshall. 1986. Roadside History of Arizona. Mountain Press Publishing, Missoula, Montana.

Town of Marana Economic Profile 2008, Town of Marana.

Official Guide to Marana 2008, Marana Chamber of Commerce.



**DESERT FARMING**  
(2000 B.C. TO PRESENT)



**SPANISH AND MEXICAN FRONTIER**  
(1690 TO 1854)



**NATIVE AMERICAN LIFEWAYS**  
(11,000 B.C. TO PRESENT)

MARANA TOWN LIMITS



**JUAN BAUTISTA DE ANZA NATIONAL HISTORIC TRAIL**



**MINING BOOMS**  
(1690 TO PRESENT)



**U.S. - MEXICO BORDER CULTURE**  
(1854 TO PRESENT)



**RANCHING TRADITIONS**  
(1690 TO PRESENT)

PIMA COUNTY BOUNDARY



**JUAN BAUTISTA DE ANZA AUTO ROUTE**



**U.S. MILITARY POSTS ON THE MEXICAN BORDER**  
(1856 TO PRESENT)



**PARKS/PRESERVES**

CAP CANAL



**BUTTERFIELD STAGE LINE/MORMON BATTALION ROUTE**

WASHES

# Marana's Cultural Heritage Sites Arranged by Themes

The Santa Cruz Valley Heritage Alliance established the following themes, based on nationally distinctive stories, to link and interpret the variety of natural and cultural treasures of the Santa Cruz Valley in southern Arizona. These themes help residents and visitors follow their interests and experience heritage destinations that are open to the public. To learn more about these themes, visit [www.santacruzheritage.org](http://www.santacruzheritage.org). The locations below are Marana's Cultural Heritage sites as shown on page 32, arranged by theme.



## **NATIVE AMERICAN LIFEWAYS**

*(11,000 B.C. to present)*

- Las Capas
- Los Morteros
- Dairy Site
- Yuma Wash
- Picture Rocks
- Yoem Pueblo



## **DESERT FARMING**

*(2000 B.C. to present)—includes parts of Native American Lifeways*

- Agave fields
- Greene Canal, Dam, and Reservoir
- Producer Cotton Gin
- Migrant worker housing
- Farm worker housing
- Field worker housing
- Well #9
- Grain silos in Heritage Park
- Heritage and Beard Houses



## **RANCHING TRADITIONS**

*(1690 to present)*

- Bojórquez Ranch
- White Stallion Guest Ranch
- Marana Stockyards



## **SPANISH AND MEXICAN FRONTIER**

*(1690 to 1854)*

- Llano del Azotado
- Puerto del Azotado
- Oit Par
- Picacho de Tacca



## **MINING BOOMS**

*(1690 to present)*

- Lime kiln
- Silver Bell Mine
- Silver Bell mining camp (1904) and Baby Cradle cemetery
- SASCO smelter
- CalPortland Rillito Cement plant
- Twin Peaks Mine



## **U.S. MILITARY POSTS ON THE MEXICAN BORDER**

*(1856 to present)*

- Picacho Pass
- World War II POW “side camp”
- Titan II missile sites (SAC 570-3, 4, 5, and 6)
- Pinal Air Park
- U. S. Marine memorial marker



## **U.S. - MEXICO BORDER CULTURE**

*(1854 to present)*

- Pointer Mountain, Nelson's Desert Ranch, and Picacho Pass Butterfield Stage stations
- Southern Pacific Railroad Rillito and Red Rock water towers
- Thomas Jeffords homestead
- Mercantile Center

## **MAP FEATURES**

- Anza Trail—auto and historic routes with National Park Service logos
- Butterfield Stage route
- CAP canal
- Pointer Mountain
- Mormon Battalion route
- Marana Municipal Complex

Visit Marana Heritage Project's crown jewel,  
the Marana Heritage River Park.  
Learn more at: [www.marana.com](http://www.marana.com)

