

SAN JUAN BASIN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Chapter of Colorado Archaeological Society



FIELD TRIP REPORT

Date: **February 22 - 24, 2013**

Destination: **Albuquerque Area**

Leaders: **Marion and Andy Simon** Number of Participants: **7**

Marion and Andy Simon organized a delightful Albuquerque excursion for seven additional SJBAS members, some of whom traveled through snow and ice to have a wonderful dinner at the Simons' on Friday night. On Saturday morning, Catherine Baudoin, Curator of the Maxwell Museum's photo collections, led an informative tour of the Maxwell Museum's Navajo rug exhibit, "Woven Stories," together with Gwen Saul, a Ph.D. student at the U of NM. The exhibit included written comments on plaques from numerous weavers, who had had the opportunity to examine and touch the rugs on display in a seminar put on by the Maxwell, which brought the rugs to the weavers. In addition, the exhibit included photographs by John Collier, Jr., from the Maxwell's Collection. The photographs were made during the Great Depression under the auspices of the Farm Security Administration.

Saturday afternoon, although the docent at the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center didn't rendezvous with our group, we had the opportunity to visit the Center's new Zuni Map Art exhibit, together with its explanatory film. We attended a dance and music performance by Shelly Morningstar and her husband, Fabian Fontinal, who performed Omaha and other Indian dances. Shelly played the bass and standard native flute and sang her own songs. Several of the group viewed the Center's excellent pottery exhibit with films about Maria of San Ildefonso Pueblo and one on the artistry of Pablita Velarde. The group enjoyed a delicious dinner at the Bravo Italian Restaurant. On Sunday, we had a snowy tour, with two volunteers from the Friends of Tijeras Pueblo, Judy Kredenbug and Bruce. Christina Sinkovec, a ranger from the neighboring US Forest Service District, was there to learn and also answer questions. Although the excavation at the Pueblo had been reburied, we learned a tremendous amount about this 14th century mountain village located on major trade routes, its history and the culture of its residents. The site and surrounding canyon areas likely were visited for thousands of years by small groups of hunters and gatherers. In the early 1300s, Tijeras Pueblo and other year-round communities were established along the east side of the Sandia and Manzano Mountain ranges. The Pueblo was continuously occupied from 1313 to 1425, with two major construction periods, with the second pueblo built in the late 1300s over parts of the original, resulting in perhaps only half as many rooms. Recent tree ring dating indicates that construction, and perhaps reconstruction, was taking place throughout the occupation period. Because the occupation of Tijeras Pueblo predated the arrival of the Spanish, the inhabitants had no horses, cattle, sheep, or pigs, nor was there any metal. Tools were made from stone, bone, and wood with sinew (tendon) and cordage used to attach components. Cordage was made from various plant materials, such as yucca fiber. Stone points were made from a variety of rock. Construction materials were largely puddled adobe and masonry, with some jacal (mud and twig). Adobe bricks were not used. We also visited the site exhibit hall and hands-on activities' space. While some members headed home, Janice Sheftel and Bob Powell met Penny Gomez to visit the wonderful basketry exhibit at the Santa Fe Indian Arts and Culture Museum.