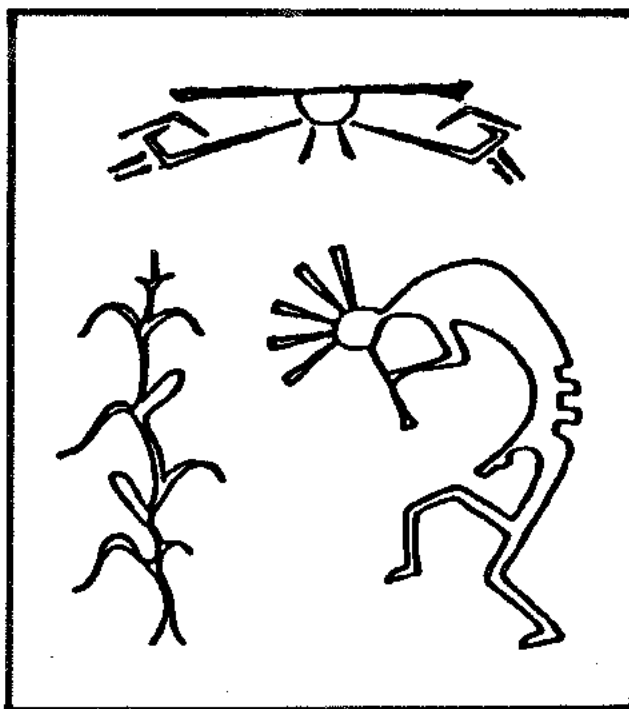


THE FRIENDS OF KOKOPELLI

A program of mutual organizations working to preserve and protect ancient cultural sites and educating people to honor our heritage.



**The Friends of Kokopelli
DANA J. von KRAUT
JOYCE JOHNS**

Good morning, ladies and gentlemen, I am incredibly pleased and slightly impressed to be here this morning.

First of all, I am not an archaeologist. Well, I'm a spectator archaeologist! I know what I enjoy looking for and hold a natural curiosity for history.

My real expertise, as it were, comes from a lifetime of being a cop, wearing various law enforcement badges: from city police to military C.I.D. and retiring as a detachment commander with the Montana Highway Patrol.

Three and a half years ago I was privy to a conversation in an Indian Art Gallery at a fancy Colorado ski resort. Two owners conversed excitedly about "Ron" coming from Four Corners with "like new" Anasazi pots. Preliminary appraisal set the top value

at \$35,000 per pot!

I was angry and frustrated. I thought this was against the law! Learning otherwise, I commenced a quest, and have since travelled extensively throughout the Four Corners area talking to folks and climbing up, down, around, over and through cliffs, canyons, and ruins to see and photograph the results of vandalism and thievery.

I was joined in these efforts by Ms. Joyce Johns, a talented rock climber, history buff, and art teacher from San Jose, California. My comments today are drawn from stories and conversations with various archaeologists, historical preservation directors, Native American authorities, interested and concerned citizens in affected communities, teachers, business people, local amateur Archaeological Society members, various museum curators and officers, researchers, and both federal and state agency heads; also reports from G.A.O. and other publications as well as investigative efforts of my own initiative.

What are the Problems?

First and foremost is greed--money--the long green! All the problems, aside from rock art vandals, all boil down to making an easy buck--money in the bank. Three years ago \$35,000 was top dollar for pristine pots. Best intelligence now puts that top dollar in Japan, England, and Europe at \$75,000! And for the really bad news--investigations indicate that those big money boys are from the illegal drug culture. Street-level drug users are being pressed into doing the grunt work, and passing artifacts up the line to be retailed to the highest bidder or best market.

As they pass upward and outward, the value doubles and quadruples. An archaeologist said he doubted these figures because he knew a local "little old lady" in town who potted and had them for sale for as little as \$2,000. I don't doubt it at all! A drug dealer can also buy cheap cocaine from a farmer in Columbia, but by the time it hits the street in the U.S., a few dollars of drugs have accelerated to tens of thousands of dollars.

The beauty of this to the big money bad guys is obvious: very little police pressure; no D.E.A.; no customs sniffing dogs; no Coast Guard; no hot shot police task force; no really effective laws or enforcement. In other words, no sweat! They have the old private property ploy. Take ten pots to England and bring back one-half to three-quarters of a million dollars. Easy! They're here, folks--and more will be on the way--big money developers and business entrepreneurs.

The Southwest is a population boom story and will continue to be as more people flood in by the thousands monthly. They're all coming to live, party and seek their fortunes in the Golden West. Communities feeling the pressure are building hundreds of new homes, condos, malls, and high-volume feeder expressways.

Those of you from Albuquerque can testify to just how concerned city government is to pre-history sites, sending bulldozers out to expand Unser Avenue that passes next to and threatens Petroglyph National Monument. An injunction was needed. As families move in and explore and live the Old West, their picnics, hikes, and searching will most certainly lead them to other treasures of the ancient west. These are the facts, and I won't bore you with statistics.

In the same vein, farmers, so-called "locals", Native Americans and even some grandmas dig and sell pots because (and this was honestly told to me by someone in archaeology authority) "they are poor and this is how they make their living." Forgive me on this, but I am a retired cop on a marginal income, and I have a bad back. Would it be OK if I robbed a bank and defended myself by saying, "Yeah, but I'm poor and this is really part of how I make a living?"

How do we rationalize a local family digging up a pre-history site or the farmer who finds a site in the middle of his crop and digs it up? Do we say, "Those poor people need the income," and then damn the bulldozers when the end result is the same?

There are answers. Supplement the farmer (it's done all the time), and work with these people, but do not make excuses for them!

Are laws so slack or agencies so inept as to allow basic criminal minds to beat them with the private land angle? Anyone who will steal for profit certainly wouldn't hesitate to falsify a certificate. Compounding these problems are poor to non-existent inter- and intra-agency communications among the land managers of all jurisdictions.

Political efforts have been marginal at best. A touted "Four Corner States Governors Conference" resulted with one governor showing. An archaeologist who participated told me, looking back a year later, "that nothing to speak of really came of it." One area's task force had been in effect for years and, again nothing concrete. This is not to say people aren't doing anything. Many agencies have people singularly working with schools or involved in programs that promote public awareness. I wholeheartedly commend their efforts, determination and their desperately needed concerns in this effort. From what I have seen, however, it may be too little too late with too few!

What are the answers?

The first step, the vital step, is to forget territorial egos; and this applies to all land managers concerned (and I may miss a couple): Forest Service, Park Service, Bureau of Land Management for the Feds, the Four Corner States, the Apache, Hopi, Navajo, Pueblo, Ute and Zuni tribes.

The key is simply this: all these land managers are involved in pre-history site protection, and they must altogether, frequently, seriously, and with single-minded determination, sit down at one table and cooperate, coordinate, communicate and educate--a united combined effort to exchange ideas, problems, solutions, skills, and criminal information; united and organized as one massive political entity, one voice, one concentrated effort. We can stop this raid on our grandchildren's right to their American heritage.

Remember these words: cooperate, coordinate, communicate, and educate!

First we must cooperate! I was a career bureaucrat--heck, I even had some for friends! Bureaucrats by definition are territorial. So are professional people--doctors, lawyers, archaeologists. Actually, by nature, we all are. It is rather like rooting for the hometown team.

It's the old adage: united we stand; divided we will fail. We will lose and keep losing a fragile precious heritage. With a united Four States, four federal agencies (I've included the FBI), six Native American tribes, and numerous local communities, then and only then can we form one powerful front, create an atmosphere sure to impress politicians who will then jump at the opportunity to join the team, giving us momentum for better laws. We will discourage and intimidate those with criminal intent, and educate those who would thoughtlessly vandalize. United, this will be an awesome force of good guys!

Then we must communicate! There is desperate need to communicate among ourselves--interagency. Share the problems. Share the solutions. Advise one another on who is doing what and where in potting, and purchasing/renting equipment, photos of artifacts, crime scenes, establishing private land digs and mapping criminal trespass digs, identifying suspects, their travels, their outlets, i.e., Scottsdale, Aspen New York, etc.

Who has been arrested and where? Convicted of what? Where are they from? Their "MO"? It is time to train people, educate them in enforcement technique before there is nothing left for archaeologists to study.

Communicate with the masses. Promote a media explosion aimed at the tragedy occurring every day to priceless historical sites. Communicate constantly by flooding public places with posters, using public service announcements by local celebrities and well-known personalities. Encourage all local archaeological societies to continually visit with any group who will listen, and put down anyone who would do this outrage; create a negative image. Let the nation know these are the bad guys. Success lies in the grassroots efforts.

Next would be to coordinate! Use specialized talents in speakers, amateur and professional archaeologists, teachers, enforcement officers. When people, and particularly bad guys, see a show of force, a display of unity, it's been proven to have the desired psychological effect. A group of various uniforms and folks all saying, "we're mad as hell and we're not going to tolerate this anymore," will definitely put the bad guys on notice.

Coordinate news releases and exploit vandalism and thievery for what it is. Do not just release a "sad-to-say, shucky darn, dag nabit, folks," release. Present a powerful put-down of what was done by some low life, third-rate jerk, not fit for proper society. Be outraged by what was done and make others outraged--pass it on!

Remember a few years ago when it was cool for major league sports players to be seen walking a mile with their Camel? They all clamored for the big bucks to be pouring their favorite beer down their throat? Not any more. Notice how things have changed? Smokers of all kinds feel intimidated, harassed, second-class citizens, as they are snubbed, frowned on, sent out of the building so as not to contaminate those of us who have kicked the habit. The drinking driver who leaves a classroom desk empty passes through our mind as we see someone imbibe and wonder how far he has to drive. Sports heros now sell hardware and diet products!

We must also adjust our attitude towards potting and the thieves of time. Do not forget--those involved in thieving are in it for the buck. Grandma, Fred the farmer, the family picnic party, the Native American, the tourist--are as damaging in the long run as the developer or the dooper with the bulldozer. You will not believe the responsible people I've met who damned one and condoned or excused the other. Their intent is the same. The damage is the same. People and politicians need to know this, loud and clear!

We must work to raise the consciousness of the people to honor their heritage! Education is a broad spectrum. We must educate the educators to present the best information to youth. We must educate law enforcement--from prosecutors to cops--on

what is at stake and proper techniques in discovery, investigation, preservation, and presentation of evidence. We must raise the awareness of the courts and legislators on the inadequacy of our laws. We must raise the awareness of the courts and legislators on the inadequacy of our laws. We must educate the public to honor their heritage. They must understand the need for them to join the good guys in catching and prosecuting the bad guys.

Youth is the real secret in education. It is youth who, with love, remind mom and dad to hook their seat belts, to quit smoking, not to litter, and to protect their environment.

We need educational "kits" passed down from state level channels with lesson plans prepared for teachers giving them the best technique in delivering this message to youth. A quick, short example: A nine-to-twelve year old group is asked to pretend they cannot write or read, but wish to express to their friends, "let's go to McDonald's for a burger and a coke," and can do it only with symbols. Afterward they then discuss their various symbols and meanings. Now each student is asked to draw a personal symbol--their symbol. This is me--what and who I am and will be. That accomplished, there is again class discussion on why they chose their symbol and its special meaning to them.

It is now time to bring out the petroglyphs and their mystery and what were "Hisatsinam--those who came before" trying to say? And why we must honor and protect these ancient symbols.

Put me in a room wearing a uniform, police, BLM, NPS, whatever, and with an Apache, Hopi, Ute whatever, and I will make those kids proud to share this honor--a cooperative, coordinated, combined educational effort to teach respect and honor. You bet it will work. It's been proven!

What is the solution?

My answer to avoid the pitfalls of politics, bureaucrats, red tape, territorial egos, is a simple concept: a non-profit organization with a Board of Directors made up of one representative from each land manager. The duties of that Board would be--

- * to meet quarterly, overseeing reports from various agencies, checking financial distribution and collection, and then to send information back down the ladders of their agencies.
- * to coordinate upper level media releases in format text and needed guidelines.
- * to work with area university students and involve them in this common cause. University students championing such a cause would be a formidable force.
- * to communicate with other states, agencies, etc., for assistance in mutual efforts.
- * to be a model for other areas of the nation.

* to work as a political action arm to display a united front--
-a combined force for better laws.

Financing could be based on membership to lend support, obtain grants, and later a system similar to narcotics where fines and forfeitures of property go to agencies involved in preservation and protection of pre-history sites. Forfeitures of vehicles, equipment, property, and monies realized from illegal transactions is not only a positive step for the good guys, but is really discouraging to the bad guys. OR, we could do bake sales and car washes!

I have already co-created one state-wide non profit organization and much of our professional assistance came from interested volunteers. A concerned bank wanting good "PR" can become our deposit center so people can donate directly into a bank. A young amateur archaeologist accountant (in four states there has to be one) could set up the accounting system and obtain IRS non-profit status; the same with legal assistance in drafting bylaws and registering this organization with the various state offices. This can be done. In fact, there are people dedicated to this cause everywhere who would willingly give us our grassroots communication and proudly help save our heritage. We all have met them!

I have two children with degrees in marketing and have my own nearly profitable business, and can tell you with some authority that to succeed, along with "location, location, location", it also helps to have a recognizable popular logo. An easy marketing symbol and one petroglyph found throughout the Four Corner States is presently enjoying near cult popularity with his figure found even on a bridge overpass on the Hohokom Freeway in Phoenix. This figure lines the streets of Cortez, Colorado, is found on the car doors and stationery of one tribal agency, and is so popular in jewelry that some silversmiths can't keep up with the demand. This is our "main man": the humped-back flute player of religious meaning, myths, legends, story tellers, and artists' concept--"Kokopelli".

I appreciate the name or term may be one-sided, or his aboriginal status singularly significant. I am not proposing this name in an archaeological truism, but as a marketing logo. To obtain public support for a common cause, attract membership, and provide something to relate to in this effort, this figure is by far the most easily associated and recognized in the Southwest.

I'm asking for unity to join behind one common symbol and sell the need to establish one organization dedicated to teach honor of our heritage and bring about the protection and preservation of our pre-history cultures. I suggest that this organization be named, "The Friends of Kokopelli".

There are two broad goals of this concept:

1. The primary mission is to educate. We must create an image of the thief of time; develop singular lesson plans for youth; instigate training efforts for lawmen and legislators; develop a speakers bureau so "our" people can explain the problems to the region and the nation if needed.
2. The second is concentrated at enforcement. As we gain public awareness, an appeal for their help will flood the region. Backpackers, day hikers and trekkers, bikers, campers, tourists, sportsmen, will become active eyes and ears in our campaign.

We must fight greed with greed. We'll reward anonymous tipsters with significant information. I have talked to Kathy Baca, Director of New Mexico Crimestoppers, and she supports an 800 number for the entire Four State region that they could answer. Information givers would talk to trained personnel, and people would remain anonymous, with rewards of \$500 to \$1000 to be paid.

All information obtained would be forwarded by form to the proper, responsible land manager. That jurisdiction would be responsible for returning this form with information of arrests, convictions, allowing "The Friends of Kokopelli" to follow up with needed training, education, media alerts, and forward any information to other enforcement agencies. This follow-up is imperative! The success of our efforts demands it!

The 800 phone numbers exist now, but can you find them in the phone book? Or if they are there, they are not obvious. This number will be posted virtually everywhere and easily found in the phone book. Again, this is a grassroots communication effort.

In that vein, for those of you not aware of it, my time spent with Mary Estes of the Arizona Historical Preservation Office was very illuminating. May I suggest that everyone present with any authority consider modeling their jurisdiction's preservation efforts after the Arizona Site Steward program. Aside from other duties, it is also an efficient program for disseminating and receiving information. "The Friends of Kokopelli" working in Arizona will be a breeze in that respect.

The organization chart of "The Friends of Kokopelli" would show a very simple system, based on non-profit organizations with perhaps two paid full- or part-time people: a director and secretary/treasurer to keep mailings and correspondence of information flowing.

I cannot emphasize enough the need for a unified, non-territorial, common effort for a common cause--a gathering of eagles ready to pounce on those who would prey on our history.

"The Friends of Kokopelli" are also friends dedicated to a cause who will coordinate, cooperate, communicate and educate to save what is left of our grandchildren's heritage.

We all must do this, because nearly 30 years of law enforcement experience tells me the new kids on the block, the big money bad guys, do very well at coordination, cooperating, communicating, and educating! They are masters of the effort; trust me on that!

"Friends of Kokopelli" can work and can be working in a relatively short time. It will take some money to set it up. My efforts in talking with people and covering the Four States was all at my own expense. I do not come from an organization and cannot, alone, ever begin to put such an effort together, or believe me, I would have. I am now seeking grants and assistance. Anyone with ideas or information, please contact me at: Box 1025, Clarksdale, Arizona 86324. If I had a central office and proper funding, I feel "Friends of Kokopelli" could begin to function in six months.

Crimestoppers can be a great help as their agency has good information. And while there exist no data or status for this type of crime, their success is a fact and so impressive that they have gone international with England, Australia, and Israel joining the system. It does work, and they can help "Friends of Kokopelli".

I would like to see a meeting with all jurisdictions mentioned, to sit at one table and discuss the probability of such a concept, and to see if it could get off the ground.

Do you know what I was told by one authority? (This is true.) "If you can bring four federal agencies, six tribes, and four states together at one table, it will take divine guidance." OK, so let us pray!...

May I say this in closing--We are an accumulative result of our history. This is our identity, and if we lose this, who are we? Join efforts and be one against the bad guys, my friends, because if you don't, you might just as well stand at your gates and issue them the shovels.