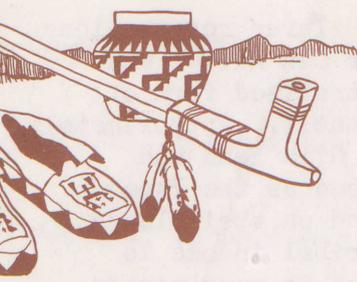


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THE PAPAGOS

U.S. DEPOSITORY DOCUMENT

The Papago are a tribe of the Piman linguistic group and are closely associated with the Pima tribe who are their neighbors. Located in Arizona, they occupy the same territory that they occupied prior to the arrival of Europeans, although their total land area is diminished. This mostly desert country of Papaguera has been the home of man for perhaps 10,000 years. A desert variation of the Hohokam culture existed there from the first century until about 1400 A.D., and it is interesting to speculate on the possibility that these people might have been the ancestors of the present day Papagos.

The Spaniards discovered a peaceful farming people living in villages. They wore cotton clothes, which they spun and wove themselves, and leather sandals. They constructed dome shaped houses with thatched grass roofs; but much of their time was spent in the attached ramada, which frequently was surrounded by green plants and brilliant flowers. An agricultural people, it was necessary for them to make the best use of rainfall as they were too distant from rivers to irrigate their lands, although there is evidence that an irrigation ditch from the mountains had been attempted. Because of their arid climate the Papagos had to move their villages frequently. For part of the year, they moved to the mountains where the men hunted deer.

First contact with the Spanish was in 1540. In 1687, the first European missionary, Father Eusebio Kino, reached Papaguera and converted large numbers to the Catholic faith. For many years few priests lived among them, but they maintained their faith. These were known as Sonora Catholics because of their pilgrimage once a year to the town of Magdalena in the Mexican State of Sonora for the fiesta of St. Francis. Today other religious faiths exist on the Papago reservations, the Presbyterian constituting the largest Protestant group.

The Papagos resisted Apache raiders whose harassment became severe in the 18th and 19th centuries. They lived under Mexican rule and were Mexican citizens until the Gadsden Purchase of 1853 when they were placed under the American flag. Their reservations were established by successive executive orders.

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Today, the Papago live on four reservations in Arizona. Three reservations lie in southern Arizona, the vast Sells, and the smaller San Xavier and Gila Bend. These three reservations have adopted a centralized form of government, and all three are governed by The Papago Council. Approximately 8,000 Papagos live on the Sells Reservation, 273 on the Gila Bend and 732 on the San Xavier. Most of the land is tribally owned as the Papagos largely refused to accept allotments. Minerals are found on their lands, including extensive deposits of copper. Considerable tribal income is derived from copper royalties and mineral leasing. There is easy access to these reservations by interstate highways. The old Spanish Mission of San Xavier del Bac on the San Xavier Reservation is of considerable interest to tourists. Other attractions located near all three reservations are the Kitt Peak Observatory and the Organ Pipe Cactus National Monument.

The other Papago reservation is located somewhat further to the north in what is mostly Pima country. It is called the Maricopa Ak-Chin Reservation and is governed by the Ak-Chin Indian Community Council. Some Pima Indians are enrolled there; however, populationwise Papagos predominate. These Papagos are descended from a band from the Sells Reservation who, in a search for natural water sources, relocated in 1874. The reservation was established by a 1912 Executive Order. Most of the land is tribally-owned. Excellent farmers, income from the Ak-Chin Farm was approximately \$628,000 in 1973. There are 322 enrolled tribal members with 290 residents living on the reservation. Profits from tribal enterprises are used for community betterment. The Community operates its own water and sanitation services. All utilities, including electricity and gas, are paid for by the Community for all families living on the reservation as long as contributions are made through employment to Community enterprises and services. Close to urban centers, this quite advanced small reservation is only 40 miles from the Phoenix airport.

(This is published with the approval of the Chairmen of the Papago Council and the Ak-Chin Indian Community Council.)

SUGGESTED READING LIST - PAPAGO

(Copies can be obtained from most large libraries.)

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- Waddell, Jack O. PAPAGO INDIANS AT WORK. (Anthropological
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* Expert testimony before the U.S. Indian Claims Commission.

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