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# Pima-Maricopa Indians

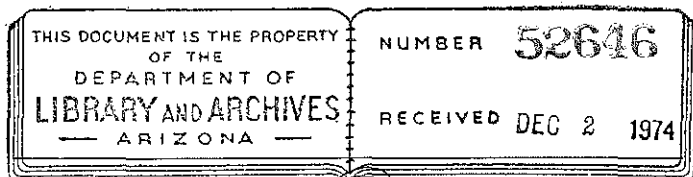
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ABORIGINAL LAND USE  
AND OCCUPANCY OF THE  
PIMA-MARICOPA INDIANS

Robert A. Hackenberg

in two volumes

Volume I



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employed in presenting the information will be the same as that adhered to in the preceding chapter. First, the statements of eyewitness observers will be used. Many of these are repetitious since they refer to sections of complete quotations reprinted in full elsewhere in the text. Following this, a number of statements supplied by native informants will be introduced.

#### Observers' Statements on Hunting and Gathering Territories

A small number of scattered, but valuable, statements from contemporary eyewitnesses testify to areas in which parties of Pimas and Maricopas were encountered or were alleged to have visited on hunting and gathering expeditions.

Emory supplies some very valuable information on the location of hunting and gathering grounds which were rich with cactus, mesquite and other wild foods of great value to the Pimas and Maricopas. He also indicates the relationship of these lands to territories which were frequented by Apaches. The following notes on Emory's account are taken from sections already reproduced in the body of this manuscript (Chapter IV), and here referred to by date. Pertinent sections of Emory's map (Calvin: 1951, 112,142) to which these quotes refer have also been reproduced. The information is contained in the following quotes:

"November 2....As we advanced, one of the number hailed us in Spanish, saying he wished to have 'a talk.' They were Apaches, and it had been for some time our earnest desire to trade with them,....They said they belonged to the

tribe of Pinon Lanos;...The mezcal flourishes here; and at intervals of a half-mile or so we found several artificial craters, into which the Indians throw this fruit, with heated stones to remove the sharp thorns and reduce it to its saccharine state."

"November 3...Our visitors today presented the same motley group as we have always found the Apaches.

"November 4...In the ravines we found, at places, a luxuriant growth of sycamore, ash, cedar, pine, nutwood, mezcal, and some walnut, the edible nut again,...We encamped in a grove of cacti of all kinds; amongst them the huge pitahaya, one of which was fifty feet high.... The Apaches gave us to understand that a marauding party of their people were in Sonora. The broad fresh trail of cattle and horses leading up the arroyo induces the belief that they have returned--successful, of course.

"November 5...The valley of this river is quite wide and is covered with a dense growth of mezquite,.... cottonwood and willow....The uplands were covered as usual with mezquite...the shrub with the edible nut, and cactus, of which there was a new and beautiful variety....The dry creek by which we crossed to the San Pedro River was the great highway leading from the mountain fastnesses into the plains of Santa Cruz, Santa Anna, Tucson, frontier towns of Sonora. Along this valley was distinctly marked the same fresh trail noted yesterday, of horses, cattle, and mules. The bed of this creek...formed a strong defensive position. The Apache...is secure from pursuit or invasion of the Mexican. Since the first of November we have been traversing...the stronghold of these mountain robbers,..."

"November 7...The hills on both sides of the river, still high, but no farther off, and covered to the top with soil producing the mezquite and pitahaya,....Three Indians hailed us just before reaching camp,....These people are of the Pinon Lano....

"November 8...Under today's date...the principal growth was as usual, pitahaya,....

"November 9...The Gila at this point, released from its mountain barrier, flows off quietly at the rate of three miles an hour into a wide plain...Upon this plain mezquite,

chamiza, the green acacia, ...and pitahaya, were the only vegetation....We passed the deserted lodges of Indians,... of the Apaches or the Pimos, we could not tell which, for it was on neutral ground, about the dividing line of the possessions claimed by each.

"November 12....A little north of east another gap, 20 or 30 miles distant, shows where the Rio SanFrancisco Verde flows into the Salt River. Le Voncoeur, one of my party, came down that river in 1844 with a trapping party of 48 men. He states that they were much annoyed the whole way by the Apache Indians, a great many of whom reside on that river. Every night they were fired upon, and an attempt made to stampede their mules.

"November 13 and 14....At 12 o'clock, after giving our horses a last watering, we started off in a southwestern direction to turn the southern foot of the range of hills pointing to the Salt River. Five miles brought us into a grove of Cereus, which had yielded a plentiful supply of fruit to the Indians....After leaving the Cereus, there was no growth except the Larrea Mexicana and occasionally, at long intervals, acacia or inga."

Emory's information establishes that, for the Gila Valley east of the villages, both mescal and pitahaya were located well within Apache territory. The only area adjacent to the Pima-Maricopa villages identified by Emory as a gathering ground belonging to them was five miles southwest toward Gila Bend. Between the Pima villages and the eastern point identified by Emory as the dividing line between the Pimas and Apaches there appears to have been nothing worth gathering. In Cooke's account (Bieber: 1938a, 167) for the same year, 1846, he mentions a grove of columnar cactus located about ten miles south of the Gila River on December 21st. Neither Emory nor Cooke mentions any concentration of edible wild plants between a point five miles southwest of Maricopa Wells and the Gila Bend.

In the Gila Bend area itself, Cremony (1951: 130-131) reported that parties of Pimas and Maricopas annually visited the Gila Bend desert in search of the pitahaya cactus. Reid (1935: 227-231) in his 1857 account mentions the "Picture Rocks", one-third of the distance from Gila Bend to Yuma as the dividing line between the hunting grounds of the Maricopas, Pimas and Yumas.

For the area south of the reservation there is no statement other than that of Cooke concerning the stand of columnar cactus. For the area north of the Gila River, Emory's statement (Calvin: 1951, 136) concerning the prevalence of Apaches on the Verde is significant. Bartlett, (1854: Vol II, 241) for 1852, locates Pima and Maricopa fishing parties twelve miles upstream from the Gila-Salt confluence on the Salt River.

82 All the informant accounts cited above refer to gathering of wild food plants. The absence of reference to hunting parties is noteworthy. In this connection, the diary of Judge Benjamin Hayes (Wolcott, 1929: 44-45), offers this comment for 1849:

"The interpreter was asked if there (are) many deer or bear in the neighborhood; he replied there were, but the Pimas preferred work to hunting--a remark which indicates the first great step in civilization..."

Fishing was apparently more extensive and was also more important to the Pima-Maricopa subsistence pattern.