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In Memoriam: Albert H. Schroeder, 1914-1993¹

Quoting one of Albert H. Schroeder's colleagues in 1985, Charlie R. Steen, a renowned Southwest archaeologist, wrote, "You may not agree with everything Al says, but you can be sure that his mind is constantly at work on some anthropological problem—it's always at work."² In many ways the statement is epitaphic. Those of us who had the honor to work with Al Schroeder were always impressed with his ability to read between the lines of a historical document, test it in the field, and present a new and fresh idea or hypothesis that would challenge an accepted notion. Aside from having published nearly 200 articles, monographs, reports, and reviews, Schroeder was very active in the Historical Society of New Mexico, the Santa Fe Westerner's Corral, the School of American Research, the Governor of New Mexico's Cultural Properties Review Committee, and the Archaeological Society of New Mexico where he served as editor of their annual publication for many years.³

Schroeder was born on March 23, 1914, in Brooklyn, New York. He received his B.A. in 1938 and his M.A. in 1940 from the University of Arizona in Tucson. During World War II, he served in the Army; and, while stationed at Ft. Lewis, Washington, he met and married Ella Margaret Krienke of Olympia, Washington, who survives him, as do his three children, Stephen, Christine, and Scott. In 1946 he began his thirty-year career with the National Park Service's Southwest Region. His distinguished career with the NPS earned him the Department of the Interior Meritorious Award in 1956 and the Distinguished Service Award in 1976.

As an archaeologist, Schroeder began his career with the Museum of Northern Arizona in Flagstaff in 1938. For over a year,

¹ In Memoriam originally appeared as Joseph P. Sánchez, "In Passing: Albert H. Schroeder, 1914-1993," *New Mexico Historical Review* 68 (October 1993):409-11.

² Charlie R. Steen, "Albert Henry Schroeder—Always Working," in Charles H. Lange, ed., *Southwestern Culture History: Collected Papers in Honor of Albert H. Schroeder* (Santa Fe: Ancient City Press, 1985), 1.

³ *The Indian Trader*, August 1993, 21.

1938-1939, he was the archaeological foreman on the W.P.A. Project sponsored by the University of Arizona. In 1940-41 he was a field archaeologist for the U.S. National Museum Field Expedition in Coahuila, Mexico. The first phase of his career with the NPS began in 1941 when he worked as archaeologist at Lake Mead National Recreation Center and as Park Ranger (Naturalist) at Wupatki National Monument. His work with the NPS was an extension of his Master's thesis in the Salt River Valley, a survey of the lower Colorado River and excavation of sites below Hoover Dam, which forged his professional dedication to research and preservation. From these studies, Schroeder published several pages on pre-Columbian cultures of the western portion of the Southwest.

During the 1950s and 1960s, Schroeder served as an expert witness for the Justice Department in Indian Land Claims filed by various western Apache tribes before the Indian Claims Commission. His work resulted in a series of anthropological and ethnohistorical research papers on the Chiricahua, Mescalero, and Tonto Apaches.

Schroeder's scholarly work frequently turned toward research on early Spanish *entradas* into the Southwest. His interest resulted in a number of papers including his classic translation with Don Matson, *A Colony on the Move: Gaspar Castaño de Sosa's Journal, 1590-91* (Santa Fe: School of American Research, 1965). A regular contributor to the *New Mexico Historical Review (NMHR)*, one of his most influential articles regarding the Spanish period was "Shifting for Survival in the Spanish Southwest," *NMHR*, 43 (1968):291-310. His last article in *NMHR* appeared in April 1992, "The Locale of Coronado's 'Bridge'" in which he presented his hypothesis that the river bridged by the expedition of Francisco Vázquez de Coronado in 1541 was not the Pecos River but the Canadian River.

His distinguished career as archaeologist in the Southwest earned him much recognition. In 1981 he was awarded an honorary Doctorate of Laws by New Mexico State University. His most recent professional acknowledgement was the Paul A.F. Walter Award for his distinguished service to the Historical Society of New Mexico. The award was presented to him by his longtime friend and associate, former state archivist and historian Myra Ellen Jenkins, who passed away in June 1993 at age 76. Services for Albert H. Schroeder took place at the Santa Fe National Cemetery on July 23, 1993.