

LYNDON LANE HARGRAVE, 1896–1978



In thinking over our friendships with Lyn Hargrave, going back more than forty years for one of us and being especially close for the other during the later years of Lyndon's life, we were surprised to discover that the essence of his remembered image and his considerable influence upon both of us is that of a man of ideas and a teacher. Although this does not appear to be the common perception of him prevailing in our profession, nevertheless after much reflection we believe it to be true.

Despite the fact that both in archaeology and ornithology the large majority of his many published works are descriptive reports of field and laboratory studies, and despite the fact that, except for two brief academic experiences, he did no formal teaching, the most enduring impression we have of him pertains to his concern with ideas and to his amazing rapport with students and his natural bent for teaching. Both of these qualities were enhanced by his effervescent and contagious enthusiasm for his work. Another factor is that Lyndon loved to talk. He loved to throw out ideas to see where they might land and where

they might lead. He had a remarkable faculty for enlisting the interest and active intellectual participation of his listeners, whether they were students or colleagues. In all of this, his interests were patently intellectual, integrative, interpretive, and more concerned with what the "facts" might mean than with what they were. Over the years, we came to realize that there was a method in what we often regarded as his madness, that more consciously than unconsciously he was trying to educate us. Gently and without formality or travail, he was truly "leading us out" so that we might understand his way of looking at things—and that was the way of "wholes." He seemed to take almost tangible pleasure and stimulation in viewing the world as something which could be investigated and, hopefully, understood, and could therefore be the more enjoyed. He studied events both large and small, the obvious and the least apparent, the chains and interrelationships that together constituted for him the natural and cultural context.

One time, it was in the spring of 1938, Lyndon was driving his old, battered, dearly beloved Model A Ford pickup around the San Francisco Peaks near Flagstaff to visit some pithouses that he had once excavated. Suddenly, he tramped down on the foot brake nearly sending himself and his companion through the windshield. With a somewhat sheepish and apologetic grin, Lyn asked, "Did you hear that birdsong; do you know what it means?" His companion's reply was brusque, disdainful, and unprintable, but it can be paraphrased to the effect that he had not heard the birdsong; and even if he had, he wouldn't know what it meant; and even if he knew what it meant, he wouldn't give a damn. "Probably only some dumb bird expressing his happiness or his stomach ache." This rather insensitive retort made Lyndon very angry. "People like you," he said, "make me sick! You go riding through this marvelous, living country as if you were in a tunnel. You don't hear, you don't see, you don't know, and you don't enjoy because you can't enjoy without appreciation, and you can't appreciate without knowing. Me, I know what that song means; it tells

me a whole story. My world is ten times as full as yours, and I have ten times the fun you have because everywhere I go I am in a world full of interesting and wonderful things."

If that story throws light on Lyndon's fascination with his world, another may do the same for his way of passing on his knowledge and interest. Many times we asked him, or heard others ask him, about a pottery type only to have him dodge the question and say, rather offhandedly, "Well, let's see what I say in the handbook." Then he would bring out a much worn copy of the famous Colton and Hargrave *Handbook of Northern Arizona Pottery Wares* and thrust it upon the inquirer without a further word. For years, we thought this was merely a bit of vanity on Lyndon's part or was indicative of an apathy, a forgetfulness, or a gross sloth—or all of these. But it gradually dawned on us that this routine was deliberate and premeditated; he was making us learn for ourselves. It was a pedagogic device, characteristically gentle as well as effective. That he was challenging us to learn became apparent when, at some later time, he himself brought up the subject of that pottery type and got us into long and detailed discussions of its specifications, its contexts, its historical and cultural meanings; he would expect us to control the "facts" and to have developed some ideas as to what they might mean. The discussions would thus be among more or less equals, not the cold and formal handing down of "the word" by a teacher. Since his real forte was not only in research, but equally in instilling in all who associated with him exciting ideas concerning human beings and the natural world about them, students, faculty, and friends all benefited from his insights. And this is where he became our teacher. Over many hours we explored these relationships of men, animals, and plants—ecology in the true sense of the word—and he instilled in us, as well as in his students, an understanding and a sense of values about our natural interacting world that we shall long cherish.

Lyndon Hargrave was born in Franklin, Georgia, on May 30, 1896. At an early age he became interested in local archaeology and ornithology. We well recall the story of his first excitement about birds; the young daughter of one of us had asked him how he first became interested in ornithology. "Well," Lyn replied, "I was walking through the woods one day, and a woodpecker winked at me. I winked back and the love affair began." Lyn's sense of humor was second only to his scientific achievements.

Lyn's early concerns were interrupted by service in France and Belgium as an artilleryman in World War I. Almost immediately after leaving the military, he took a job as hydrographer at the then relatively new Roosevelt Dam in Arizona. It was during this period, from 1919 to 1926, that his archaeological interest came to the fore, kindled by the many prehistoric ruins of the area. At the urging of Byron Cummings, then head of the Anthropology Department at the University of Arizona, Lyn entered that university and began his formal studies in archaeology.

Although he had participated, as a good undergraduate should have the opportunity to do, in a number of basic research projects in the field—excavating one of the first Paleoindian sites in Arizona, participating in the forefront of today's great programs in conservation archaeology (the excavation of sites threatened with flooding by the construction of Coolidge Dam)—Lyn's professional stature was assured when, in the spring of 1928, he spent a number of months with the National Geographic Society's tree-ring expedition to the Hopi towns, in a successful attempt to apply the then fledgling science of dendrochronology to the cultural time gaps of the Southwest.

The following year he moved to Flagstaff to become Field Director and Curator of Archaeology at the newly founded Museum of Northern Arizona. On half-time allowed him from the Museum he also initiated the first courses in archaeology at Arizona State Teachers College, now Northern Arizona University, at Flagstaff. At the Museum his intellect flourished. He made significant contributions to the importance of prehistoric ceramics as a guide to determining the age of archaeological sites in the area and welded this to his understanding of the importance of tree-rings as a dating tool. Perhaps his most significant contribution of this period was when, with Dr. Emil Haury, then at the University of Arizona, he discovered a prehistoric timber in a ruin at Showlow, Arizona, that bridged a chronological gap in the tree-ring chronology and thus provided the sound basis for dendrochronology upon which all Southwestern archaeologists rely today.

In 1933 and 1934 he participated in many excavations, including that of Wupatki, and found

time to lead two Rainbow Bridge–Monument Valley Expeditions. And, in 1938, he conducted the first archaeological survey of the Walapai Indian country of northwestern Arizona.

What is not so well known is that, in 1929, Lyn single-handedly founded the Department of Biology at the Museum of Northern Arizona, a department that has developed into one of the most exciting biological research programs in the Southwest. Lyn was, as Dr. Steven Carothers, the Museum's present curator of biology, has noted, a "champion of the organized museum curator." He not only built the Museum's archaeological and ethnological collections, but also developed that institution's superb holdings in all fields of biology.

Present curators oftentimes find it difficult to do research. Not Lyn. During his decade of museum work he published 61 scholarly papers in archaeology and ornithology, many descriptive, but some in the vanguard of scientific theory as well.

Of his combined contributions, archaeologist Albert Schroeder has written: "Lyndon Lane Hargrave [is] a man recognized for his taxonomic approach to Southwestern ceramic classifications, for his role in helping to close the gap in Southwestern dendrochronological sequence of prehistoric times, and for his development of the field of archaeo-ornithology in the Southwest beyond the restricted limits of identification." To this must be added Lyn's humanness with all with whom he came in contact.

Lyndon left the Museum and Flagstaff in 1939, temporarily retiring from scientific work. He entered business in Benson, Arizona, operating a motel and becoming involved in local activities, something he had never done in any of the places he had formerly lived. But evidently he could not stay away from some sort of scientific work, and it was not long before he became connected with the ornithological program at the field station of the American Museum of Natural History in the Chiricahua Mountains close to Benson. Also at that time he went back to Georgia to marry a childhood friend and bring her to the Southwest. Beth Hargrave was a strong influence upon Lyn, and we believe that she was a persuasive force in getting him back into scientific activity, which he did in 1956, when he began to work as a nonsalaried Collaborator for the National Park Service in Globe, Arizona. There his work was largely ornithological, curating the Park Service's study collection of bird bones, adding to his own extensive collection, and doing identifications and archaeo-ornithological interpretations not only for the Park Service but for other archaeologists as well, "on his own time" as he righteously and properly explained. His own unique collection of ornithological specimens, a collection of inestimable value to researchers in this field, now reposes at the Museum of Northern Arizona, usable by those to follow in his footsteps.

In 1968, Lyn was appointed a Research Professor at Prescott College, Prescott, Arizona, where once again, and this time happily and enthusiastically, he was associated with students, upon whom he had a most stimulating influence and from whom he had an eager and heartwarming response. He was back once again as a scholar, a professor in the true sense of the word, and a humanist, and he had a stimulating impact on us all.

Beth Hargrave died in Prescott in 1976. Lyndon continued his research until his last illness, working with students right to the end. In his later years, he used to worry that no one would take up where he would have to end, but that concern was eased when Steven Emslie, of the University of Colorado and under a grant from the Max C. Fleishmann Foundation, came to work with him and became his successor in the laboratory. Lyndon Hargrave died in the Veterans Hospital in Tucson on July 22, 1978.

In one of his trying last years, when he was in the hospital facing a serious operation, one of us stopped by to visit. "Bob," he said, tears dimming his eyes, "I'm a goner this time." And then he proceeded to tell about an experience he had had in the Hopi country many years before. He had met at the Winslow train an eastern colleague on his first visit to the Southwest. Driving north, on the barely passable roads of that day, Lyn remarked on the beauty of the sunset. "I don't see anything remarkable about that," his visitor replied. "That's because you haven't taken off your sunglasses" was Lyn's instant comeback.

That he wasn't "a goner" then and that his philosophy of science embodied the spirit that if one didn't take off one's culturally blinding glasses, one could never truly see the relationships in

nature exemplified Lyn's life. All of us who have listened to him deeply have profited from those associations.

During a somewhat paradoxical and hectic career, that philosophy shone through. Without the benefit of the advanced scientific education now available in some colleges and universities, Lyn Hargrave was in many respects a self-taught man. True, he took degrees in Carolina and at the University of Arizona, and was honored with a Doctor of Science degree by Northern Arizona University in 1971, but what he really knew about his multifaceted fields—archaeology, ornithology, ecology—was realized through his own great mind, his passion for the intellectual frontier, and his three-quarters of a century perseverance. Lyndon Lane Hargrave should remain as an exemplar to all students of the intellect. To those who aspire to that important goal, Lyn, we are sure, would say that nothing supplants academic integrity, objective down-to-earth thinking and reasoning, dedication to the goal, dynamic and innovative ideas, and scrupulous, disciplined honesty.

WALTER W. TAYLOR AND ROBERT C. EULER

BIBLIOGRAPHY OF LYNDON L. HARGRAVE*

- 1929 Elden Pueblo. *Museum Notes* 2(5):1-3. Museum of Northern Arizona, Flagstaff.
- 1930a Shungopovi. *Museum Notes* 2(12):1-4. Museum of Northern Arizona, Flagstaff.
- 1930b A contribution to the study of development of the Hopi kiva. *Museum Notes* 2(11):2-3. Museum of Northern Arizona, Flagstaff.
- 1931a First Mesa. *Museum Notes* 3(8):1-7. Museum of Northern Arizona, Flagstaff.
- 1931b Recently dated Pueblo ruins in Arizona: excavations at Kin Tiel and Kokopnyama, (with Emil W. Haury). *Smithsonian Miscellaneous Collections* 82(11)80-120.
- 1931c The Museum of Northern Arizona Archaeological Expedition, 1931. *Museum Notes* 4(7):1-8. Museum of Northern Arizona, Flagstaff.
- 1931d The influence of economic geography upon the rise and fall of the Pueblo culture in Arizona. *Museum Notes* 4(6):1-3. Museum of Northern Arizona, Flagstaff.
- 1932a Oraibi: a brief history of the oldest inhabited town in the United States. *Museum Notes* 4(7):1-8. Museum of Northern Arizona, Flagstaff.
- 1932b Guide to forty pottery types from the Hopi country and the San Francisco Mountains, Arizona. *Museum of Northern Arizona Bulletin* 1:3-48.
- 1932c Banding report, 1931: Museum of Northern Arizona Bird Banding Station, Flagstaff, Arizona. *News From the Bird-Banders* 7(2).
- 1932d Miscellaneous bird notes from the San Francisco Mountains. *Grand Canyon Nature Notes* 7(2):18-21.
- 1932e Woodhouse Jays on the Hopi Mesas, Arizona. *Condor* 34(5):40.
- 1932f Notes on fifteen species of birds from the San Francisco Mountains region, Arizona. *Condor* 34(5): 217-220.
- 1932g The American Golden-eye in Arizona. *Condor* 34(5):227.
- 1932h The Museum of Northern Arizona Archaeological Expedition, 1932. *Museum Notes* 5(5):25-28. Museum of Northern Arizona, Flagstaff.
- 1933a A review of archaeological activities in the San Francisco Mountain region, Arizona. *Museum Notes* 5(7):33-36. Museum of Northern Arizona, Flagstaff.
- 1933b Bird banding in northern Arizona, part I, Flagstaff Station. *Grand Canyon Nature Notes* 7(11): 114-116.
- 1933c Some fall migration notes from northern Arizona lakes. *Condor* 35(2):75-77.
- 1933d The Western Gnatcatcher also moves its nest. *Wilson Bulletin* 45(1):30-31.
- 1933e Bird life in the San Francisco Mountains, Arizona: number 1. *Museum Notes* 5(10):57-60. Museum of Northern Arizona, Flagstaff.
- 1933f Pueblo II houses of the San Francisco Mountains, Arizona. *Museum of Northern Arizona Bulletin* 4:15-75.
- 1933g Some bird notes from Bly, Arizona. *Grand Canyon Nature Notes* 8(6):27.
- 1933h Archaeological report on excavations at Wupatki. *Southwestern National Monuments Monthly Report*. October Supplement: 19-21.
- 1933i The Museum of Northern Arizona Archaeological Expedition, 1933: Wupatki National Monument. *Museum Notes* 6(5):23-26. Museum of Northern Arizona, Flagstaff.
- 1933j Bird life in the San Francisco Mountains, Arizona: number two: winter birds. *Museum Notes* 6(6):27. Museum of Northern Arizona, Flagstaff.
- 1934a The Tsegi country. *Museum Notes* 6(11):51-54. Museum of Northern Arizona, Flagstaff.

- 1934b A recently discovered Basket Maker burial cave in the Tsegi. *Museum Notes* 7(4):13-16. Museum of Northern Arizona, Flagstaff.
- 1934c A note on Poncho Ruin, Utah. *American Anthropologist* (N.S.) 36:190.
- 1935a Archaeological investigations in the Tsegi Canyon of northeastern Arizona in 1934. *Museum Notes* 7(7):25-27. Museum of Northern Arizona, Flagstaff.
- 1935b Report on archaeological reconnaissance in the Rainbow Plateau area of northern Arizona and southern Utah. University of California Press, Berkeley.
- 1935c The Museum of Northern Arizona in 1934: ornithology. *Museum Notes* 7(8):31-32. Museum of Northern Arizona, Flagstaff.
- 1935d Red-tailed Hawk kills young Turkey. *Condor* 36:83.
- 1935e Concerning the names of southwestern pottery types. *Southwestern Lore* 1(3):17-23.
- 1935f What do potsherders tell us? *Museum Notes* 7(12):49-51. Museum of Northern Arizona, Flagstaff.
- 1935g Naming pottery types, and rules of priority, (with H. S. Colton). *Science* 82(2133):462-463.
- 1935h Nine new birds from Williams, Arizona. *Condor* 37:285.
- 1935i Concerning the names of Southwestern pottery types. *Southwestern Lore* 1(3):17-23.
- 1935j The field collector of beam material. *Tree Ring Bulletin* II: (3):22-24.
- 1936a Bird life of the San Francisco Mountains, Arizona, number three: land birds known to nest in the pine belt. *Museum Notes* 8(9):47. Museum of Northern Arizona, Flagstaff.
- 1936b The Museum of Northern Arizona in 1935: ornithology. *Museum Notes* 8(8):43. Museum of Northern Arizona, Flagstaff.
- 1936c Three broods of Red-backed Juncos in one season. *Condor* 38(2):57-59.
- 1936d Stilt Sandpiper in Arizona. *Auk* 53(2).
- 1936e Seven birds new to Arizona. *Condor* 38(3):120-121.
- 1936f A method of determining the texture of pottery, (with Watson Smith). *American Antiquity* 2:32-36.
- 1936g New bird records for Arizona. *Condor* 38(4):171-172.
- 1936h Report on bird banding: Museum of Northern Arizona Bird Banding Station, Flagstaff, Arizona. *News From the Bird Banders* 11:33.
- 1936i Why birds are banded. *Museum Notes* 9(3):13-16. Museum of Northern Arizona, Flagstaff.
- 1936j Notes on a red ware from Bluff, Utah. *Southwestern Lore* 2(2):29-34.
- 1936k Bird life of the San Francisco Mountains, Arizona, number four: swans, geese, and ducks. *Museum Notes* 9(5):25. Museum of Northern Arizona, Flagstaff.
- 1937a The Museum of Northern Arizona in 1936: ornithology. *Museum Notes* 9(8):45. Museum of Northern Arizona, Flagstaff.
- 1937b Extension of range of *Perognathus flavus fuliginosus*. *Journal of Mammalogy* 18(1):101.
- 1937c Sikyatki: were the inhabitants Hopi? *Museum Notes* 9(12):63-66. Museum of Northern Arizona, Flagstaff.
- 1937d Handbook of northern Arizona pottery wares, (with H. S. Colton). *Museum of Northern Arizona Bulletin* 11.
- 1937e The White-winged Junco in Arizona, (with Phillips and Jenks). *Condor* 39(6):258.
- 1937f A new sub-culture in Arizona. *Southwestern Lore* 3(3):54-57.
- 1938a Results of a study of the Cohonia branch of the Patayan culture in 1938. *Museum Notes* 11(6):43-50. Museum of Northern Arizona, Flagstaff.
- 1938b A plea for more careful preservation of all biological material from prehistoric sites. *Southwestern Lore* 4(3):47-51.
- 1939a Winter bird notes from Roosevelt Lake, Arizona. *Condor* 41(3):121-122.
- 1939b Bird bones from abandoned Indian dwellings in Arizona and Utah. *Condor* 41(5):206-210.
- 1939c Investigations of controlling factors of wild turkey populations in Arizona. *Bureau Biological Survey Abstracts, Quarterly Report for 1939-40*.
- 1941 Probable breeding of the beautiful bunting in the United States. (with R. Sutton and A. Phillips). *Auk* 58(2):265-266.
- 1944a Notes on three genera of bats from Arizona. *Journal of Mammalogy* 25(4):312-313.
- 1944b A record of *Lasiurus borealis teliotis* from Arizona. *Journal of Mammalogy* 25(4):414.
- 1953 Woodchuck Cave: a Basketmaker II site in Tsegi Canyon, Arizona, (with H. C. Lockett; edited by H. S. Colton and R. C. Euler). *Museum of Northern Arizona Bulletin* 26.
- 1960 Identification of archaeological feathers from Glen Canyon, Utah. *University of Utah Anthropological Papers* No. 44, Appendix II.
- 1961 Bird bones from the Coombs site. *University of Utah Anthropological Papers* No. 41, Appendix II, pp. 114-116.
- 1964 Additional records of the Scissor-tailed Flycatcher in Arizona. *Condor* 66(5):438.
- 1965a Archaeological bird bones from Chapin Mesa, Mesa Verde National Park. *American Antiquity* 31: 156-160.
- 1965b Turkey bones from Wetherill Mesa. *American Antiquity* 31:161-166.
- 1965c Identification of feather fragments by microstudies. *American Antiquity* 31:202-205.
- 1968 The proper way to report birds in print. *American Antiquity* 33:384-385.

- 1969a Bird species identified from feathers recovered from Sand Dune Cave (NA7523) *Museum of Northern Arizona Bulletin* 45:387-389.
- 1969b Faunal changes in the Southwest during the historic times, (with R. Roy Johnson). *Journal of the Arizona Academy of Science* 5:18.
- 1969c Bird remains from vicinity of Navajo National Monument, Arizona. *Southwestern Monuments Association, Technical Series* 7:67-68.
- 1970a Mexican Macaws: comparative osteology and survey of remains from the Southwest. *The University of Arizona Anthropological Papers* 20.
- 1970b Feathers from Sand Dune Cave: a Basketmaker cave near Navajo Mountain, Utah. *Museum of Northern Arizona, Technical Series* No. 9.
- 1971a Comparative osteology of the chicken and American grouse. *Prescott College Studies in Biology* No. 1.
- 1971b Bird bones. In *Site BC 236, Chaco Canyon National Monument, New Mexico*, by Z. A. Bradley. Report to the National Park Service, Washington. Appendix A, pp. 89-93.
- 1974 Type determinants in Southwestern ceramics and some of their implications. *Plateau* 46(3):75-76.
- 1978 Feathers from the Westwater Ruin, southeastern Utah, (with S. D. Emslie). In *Excavation of Westwater Ruin (425a 14) San Juan County, Utah: first field season*, by LaMar W. Lindsay. Utah Division of State History, Salt Lake City. Appendix II, 235-246.
- 1979a Avifauna from the Curtis site, southeastern Arizona, (with S. D. Emslie). *Kiva* 44:3-4.
- 1979b Osteological identification of Sandhill Crane vs. Turkey, (with S. D. Emslie). *American Antiquity* 44: 295-298.

* We wish to acknowledge the assistance of Steven Emslie and Katharine Bartlett in compiling this bibliography.