

# SOUTHWEST MEMORY

## Voices and Views on Indigenous Arizona History

### O'ODHAM CALENDAR STICK

A mnemonic device carved by José Maria, of the village of Si:l Naggia (Saddle Hanging), records events from 1893-1910. The distance between each notch represents a year from sahuaro harvest to sahuaro harvest. Originally started by Maria's father, the notches and cuts record various happenings which only the owner can interpret. This stick is made of pine. Reading from top to bottom inside the boxed area:

1899-1900 *Fiesta of Kaij Mek.*

1900-1901 *First dance given by Tohono O'Odham in Tucson for white people.*

1901-1902 *Big kick ball race at Fresnal Village (Jiawal Dak or Devil Sits), the northern villagers winning against the southern villagers.*

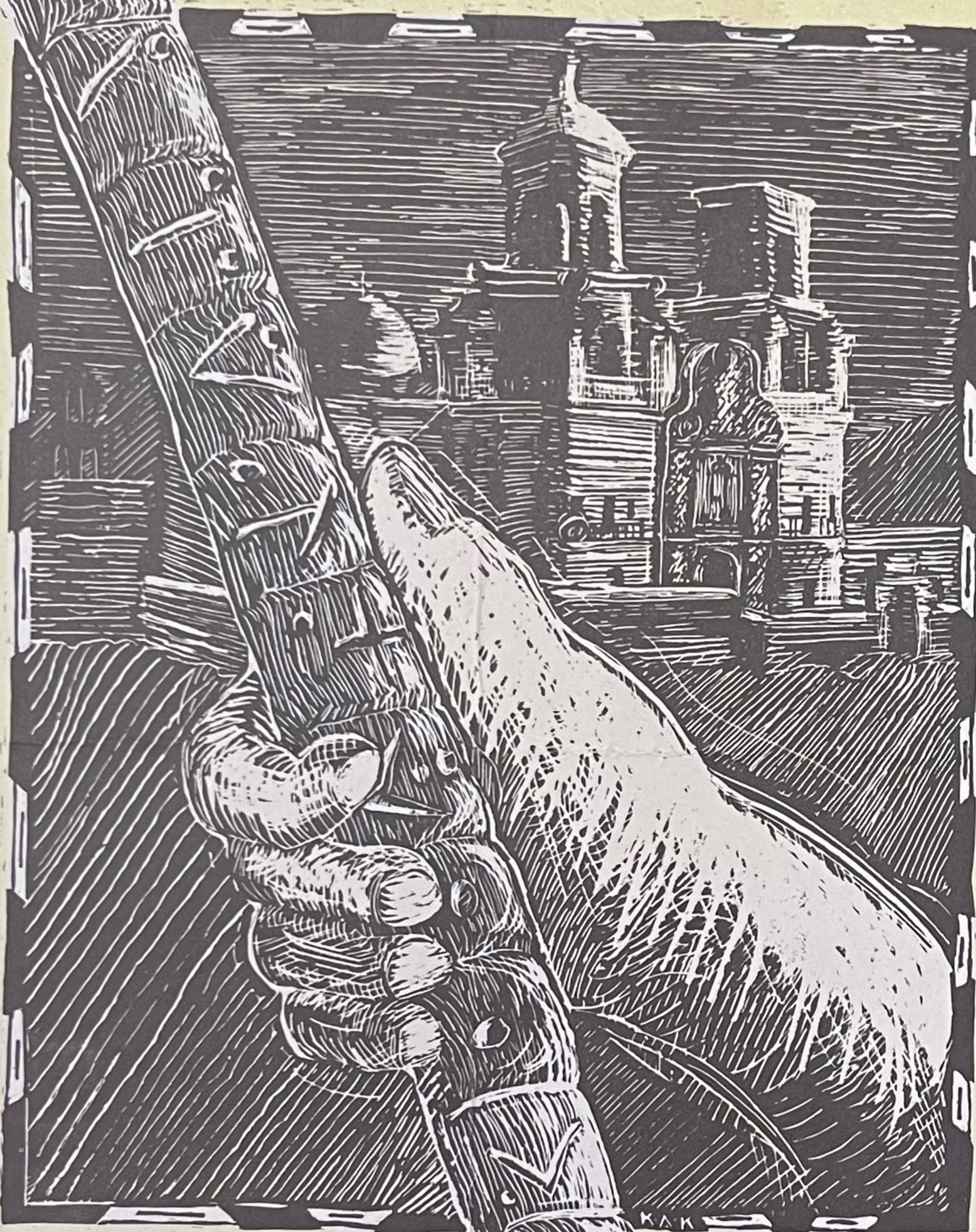
1902-1903 *San Xavier villagers dance at Tucson.*

1903-1904 *The cross indicates the building of a home for the Fathers at San Xavier.*

1904-1905 *Feast celebrated in honor of St. Frances; a stone kick ball race against the western villages as far west as Gila Bend.*

1905-1907 *Two uneventful years.*

1907-1908 *Drilling of the first well at Si:l Naggia.*



A calendar stick like this one can be found at the Arizona State Museum in Tucson.

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### FACULTY

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### GUEST SPEAKERS

#### EDGAR PERRY

Apache Cultural Historian

#### ANCITA BENALLY

Navajo Educator and Historian

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Hopi Poet, Educator and Historian

#### CATHERINE STEELE

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#### WILLIAM ALLEN

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#### FELIPE MOLINA

Yaqui Singer, Writer and Historian

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#### KEITH BASSO

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### INSTITUTE TOPICS

WEEK 1 Landscapes and  
Lifeways:  
Indigenous Arizona  
History through Oral  
and Written Accounts

WEEK 2 Land, People and  
History: the Colorado  
Plateau

WEEK 3 Land, People and History:  
the Canyon and Rim Country

WEEK 4 Land, People and History:  
the Southwest Desert