

MARK ALLEN GRADY 1945–1978



In June 1978 Mark resigned his position with the Archaeology Research Program at Southern Methodist University and prepared for summer field research before assuming a new teaching position at San Diego State University in the fall. Mark's summer plans reflected the type of person he was. He was returning to active fieldwork, an environment he preferred to more desk-bound jobs; he was assisting an SMU student, Charles Mobley, in gathering material for Mobley's doctoral dissertation; and he was busily completing several other projects while working with Mobley. The summer was to be spent on the Pecos River near Santa Rosa, New Mexico. In mid-June Mark wrote, "The research is going well and the responsibility of field direction is relegated to someone else for a change. We live in an old ranch

on the Pecos River with just enough in the way of amenities, such as electricity and propane to be convenient, but out-of-the-way and primitive enough to promote the feeling of 'roughing it.' " In late July while returning to the field camp from a visit to Santa Fe, Mark was killed in an automobile accident.

Mark Grady was born on November 14, 1945, in Burbank, California, but as a child moved with his family to northern California where he grew up and went to school in small communities on the western slopes of the Sierra Nevadas. This early exposure to a rural environment produced a close affinity with the natural world that led to the development of several special interests including speleology, ecology, and archaeology, and his student and professional life was marked by many projects that combined these interests. Mark entered Humboldt State College in 1963 with the idea of majoring in forestry, but his earlier enthusiasm for archaeological work prevailed and was bolstered by summer archaeological projects in California. He transferred to Sacramento State College in 1965 where he majored in anthropology with a minor in history. He was admitted to the Master's program in 1967 and completed this degree in 1969 with a thesis on human osteological material from California burial caves.

Two years of Army service ended in the summer of 1971 when Mark was discharged early to attend the Grasshopper Archaeological Field School at the University of Arizona. He had done fieldwork in Arizona several years earlier with William Beeson and he quickly involved himself in Southwestern archaeology. Because the location of the University of Arizona coincided with his special regard for deserts, Mark's particular research interests soon focused on the prehistory of the basin and range country of southern Arizona. From 1971 until the fall of 1976 Mark was at the University of Arizona working on his doctoral degree (received in 1976) and developing a program for conservation archaeology in the Arizona State Museum.

Grady was one of the early leaders in the evolution of conservation archaeology. He had participated in a number of archaeological salvage projects in California and Nevada and he understood the research and resource limitations of this work. He also was aware of the potential for creating programs for the better management of cultural resources. By 1972 he had helped to establish the Cultural Resource Management Section in the Arizona State Museum and assumed

direction of CRMS in the fall of that year. Mark was a strong proponent of multidisciplinary research and he recognized the need to familiarize himself with fields relevant to cultural resource conservation and management. As a result, while at Arizona, he took coursework in environmental conservation law and land-use planning. His expertise in this new field and his reputation for hard work led to his active participation in the 1974 Cultural Resource Management Conference in Denver and the Society for American Archaeology's Airlie House Seminars on the Management of Archeological Resources that same year. In addition to the many tasks he assumed while working for the Museum he also found time to assist in the development and teaching of a course in cultural resource management in the anthropology department. He headed CRMS until the fall of 1975 when he began full time work on his dissertation, based on many of the problems he had defined while directing the Museum's conservation archaeology program. He was convinced that cultural resource managers could make an important contribution to the profession through generation of regional research designs. Combining his interests in basin and range archaeology and man's adaptive responses to environmental pressures, Mark developed an operational model for investigating agrarian adaptation to the Sonoran Desert. The model was translated into explicit hypotheses and tests that could be used in regional research. A portion of this research was done for the National Park Service for use in monument and park areas in central and southern Arizona.

In 1976 Mark moved to Dallas and became associate director of research for the Southern Methodist University Archaeology Program. His work there entailed project development and administration as well as counseling and student teaching. Typically, he quickly immersed himself in the archaeology of the area and worked toward developing better research models for projects under his direction. Mark also had strong convictions about the role federal agencies should take in cultural resource conservation and increasingly devoted time to recommending changes in federal procedural guidelines for management of cultural resources. He continued to take a serious interest in speleology and served as a consultant to the Army Corps of Engineers on cave sites in the New Melones reservoir project area in California. While in Dallas he learned that he had cancer and spent a year undergoing treatment. Despite pleas from friends that he cut back on his responsibilities and rest, he did not and this was one of his most productive research periods. The job that he was to take at San Diego represented a goal he had been working toward for a number of years. He was to be involved in establishing a contract research program and training students in cultural resource management. Shortly after he accepted the offer from San Diego he was offered employment with the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation—another important objective he had set for himself. Though Mark had only a few years to make a contribution to the profession, his bibliography is a good measure of the role he played in guiding many archaeologists toward wise conservation of natural and cultural resources. Most importantly, Mark's research and personal concern for good archaeology strongly influenced many students and numerous friends.

Mark Grady will be remembered not only for his professional accomplishments but for his generosity and concern for others. He was willing to spend hours helping students and friends in endeavors as disparate as preparing meals on field trips, writing research papers, and putting in fence posts. He was an enthusiastic backpacker, spelunker, and general outdoorsman who could also be counted on to share his expertise and personal gear when in the field. Those who knew him probably remember him best in a field situation either in the junipers of the Colorado Plateau or the saguaro of the Sonoran Desert. In keeping, Mark's ashes were scattered in the Sonoran Desert from a rock outcrop in the Tucson Mountains that had been his favorite place for viewing the desert with friends.

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