



THE UNIVERSITY OF ARIZONA  
TUCSON, ARIZONA 85721

LABORATORY OF TREE-RING RESEARCH  
BUILDING #58

9 August 1978

Mr. Dabney Ford  
Cultural Resource Management Program  
New Mexico State University  
4601 College Blvd.  
Farmington, New Mexico 87401

Dear Mr. Ford:

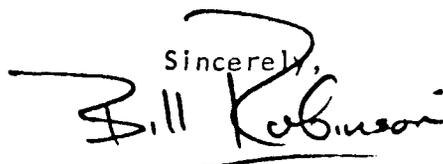
I am enclosing two copies of the results of our analysis of tree-ring material from SJC-186. The numbers may shock you, but let me explain what I think is going on. First, we believe that all three dated pieces are part, possibly limbs, of a single, original tree. Unfortunately, this is impossible to prove because of the nature of juniper growth. Second, none of the samples, including the one with the latest date, have any sapwood left. This means simply that the sapwood has been eroded and the death date of the tree is some years later than the latest date. How many years is hard, again, to prove. It is not unusual for a juniper to have 100 to 150 sapwood rings. Thus I am going to guess that the tree died about A.D. 1400. Since it was then over 500 years old, I further guess that the tree died a natural death and was later incorporated in the hogan. When I can't say.

The alternative explanations are that your site is actually as early as ca. 1400, which I don't believe, or that we are dealing with wood reused from an Anasazi context, which also seems a bit far-fetched.

Whatever the case, we have a real paradox. I suppose the beam ends are too weathered to tell if a steel axe was used. This would help support my position since stone axes are suitable only for green wood and also the steel would indicate clearly post-Spanish time.

Please let me know if I can confuse you further. We did not find, by the way, the piece of pinyon. Everything was juniper.

Our invoice will be sent separately.

Sincerely,  


William J. Robinson  
Professor

enc.

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