

## The Copper Wells Controversy

Copper Wells, a small desert community an hour's drive from a large state capital, was founded near a local copper mine in the late 19th century. When the mine shut down 15 years ago, many jobs were lost. To rejuvenate the area, townfolk plan to build an amusement park and family entertainment site to attract tourists. The project will include building hotels and campgrounds to accommodate visitors, converting the mine into a museum, and refurbishing the old trolley system.

During the ground breaking ceremony, the mayor unearthed a 700-year-old artifact made by ancestors of the local Native American tribe. The people of Copper Wells are concerned about this turn of events and how it will affect their plans to revitalize the community, because many people will have to move if the project is not completed. Other community members have opposed development from the start, protesting the increased traffic and pollution that it will bring to the area. A town meeting has been called to decide what to do.

Some of the fundamental issues in the dilemma include:

- ✓ The plan will create 800 jobs, opportunities for small businesses, and attract thousands of tourists.
- ✓ The project land is privately owned and the project will be privately funded; thus, excavation and data recovery are not legally required before construction unless human remains are found.
- ✓ Some Indian activists want to halt the project to "preserve the homes and memories of our ancestors."
- ✓ Archaeologists want to excavate the site before construction begins to "save its contents for science, the future, and our common heritage."
- ✓ Controversy has erupted over the concepts of "progress" and "preserving the past." The story has been picked up by national news agencies.

## Copper Wells Community Members

*Harvey Greenback, mayor.* He supports the project, seeing his political career tied to its success.

*Ella Dent, city council member.* She is a lobbyist for the project.

*Ignacio Guerra, city council member.* His family was swindled out of land when copper was found. He opposed project zoning changes.

*T. J. Rightman, city council member.* A wealthy sheep rancher, he has land to lease to new businesses.

*Vance McGoode, city council member.* A project supporter, he has odd environmental protection ideas and lacks tact and cultural sensitivity.

*Philbert Norbert, shop owner and business community spokesperson.* He hopes the project will help local livelihoods.

*Erma Chippendip, leader of the local environmental activist group.*

*Otto Bagit, local environmental activist and reformed industrialist.*

*Flower O'Donnell, environmental activist and cafe owner.* She's torn between her possible loss of income and a cleaner environment.

*Dr. Oswald Grunwald, state university archaeologist.* He wants to bid on an excavation at the Copper Wells archaeological site, should the town decide to fund such a project.

*Alicia Alcaraz, Dr. Grunwald's graduate student.* She hopes to use the project as her Ph.D. topic.

*Dr. Penelope Smith, archaeologist from the state capital.*

*Angelina Nunn, archaeologist from the state museum.*

*Edgar Jones, chair of the local Native American tribe.*

*Bob "Two Birds" Johnson, vice chair of the local tribe.*

*Ellie Richardson, Native American tribal member.* She teaches math and science at a nearby community college.

*Fred Rogers, Native American artisan.* He supports the project because it will increase his craft sales.

*William D. Williamson, mining company president.* He will sell the mine to townfolks for their museum.

*Sam Jones, unemployed miner.* He looks to the project for his next job.

*Rachel Jones, Sam's wife.* She is employed at Philbert Norbert's shop.

*Anna Sanchez, unemployed miner.*

*Juan Carasco, construction worker.* He sees the project as the beginning of stable employment.

*Margaret Payczek, local construction firm owner.* She has contracted to build two project hotels.

*Lisa Orlando, noted reporter for a major network.* She first broke the Copper Wells story.

*Raymond L. Ruhlbraker, legal representative for the project investors.* He is involved to protect the initial investment of \$1,000,000.

*Additional opinionated players as needed to create enough parts.*