

Professor Vlasich releases book “Pueblo Indian Agriculture”

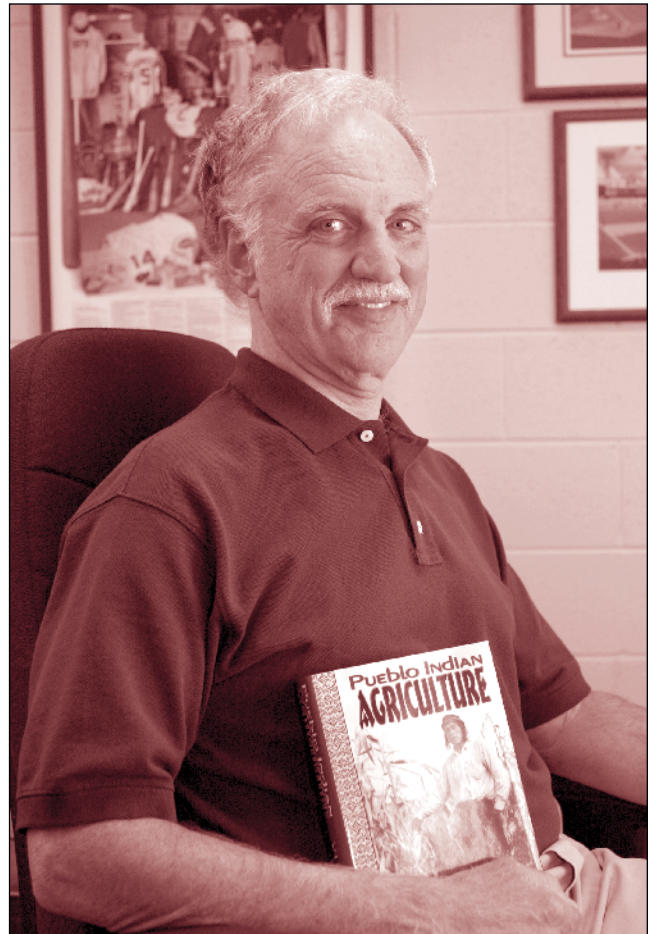
Dr. James Vlasich, Professor of History at Southern Utah University, has just published his second book titled *Pueblo Indian Agriculture*. Vlasich reveals that this book has been 30 years in the making. “In essence, this is my career you’re holding in your hands,” he says.

Vlasich submits that agriculture, and the Pueblos’ development of it, is what distinguishes this tribe from others. Agriculture defined the Pueblo culture throughout their history. It became a symbol for their culture in much the same way the buffalo are identified with the Plains Indians. “The practice of irrigational agriculture has always set the Pueblo Indians apart from other native groups of New Mexico, and really the whole gamut of the Native American populations in North America,” Vlasich states.

While the Pueblo certainly faced daunting challenges, the book describes how they took matters into their own hands and, with the help of some concerned non-Indians, managed to hold onto an agricultural program that stretches back to a time before the Europeans arrived in the western hemisphere.

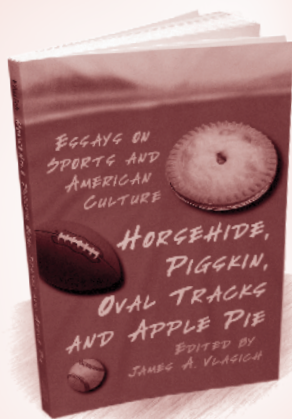
“For centuries, farming has been the economical foundation of all 19 Pueblo Indian groups and their ancestors,” he continues. “It led to their theocratic system of government which controlled water and land use, and included a complex ceremonial religion designed to ensure a bountiful harvest.”

Early explorers marveled at the Pueblos’ sophisticated irrigation systems and crop production. Their agricultural practices facilitated industry, stability, prosperity, and technology. “Even their housing was sophisticated!” Vlasich exclaims. “Their adobes were multi-level. They had established homes because they were a non-nomadic people as a result of their involved farming and irrigation infrastructure.”



James Vlasich holding his book “Pueblo Indian Agriculture.”

Vlasich traces Pueblo agriculture from the Spanish Entrada in the 16th century to the 21st century. The only documented history of the Pueblos, spanning four centuries, Vlasich’s book is being regarded as a groundbreaking history of the Pueblos. About 30,000 Pueblos reside in New Mexico today.



Horsehide, Pigskin, Oval Tracks and Apple Pie

Jim Vlasich’s newest book, *Essays on Sports and American Culture*, brings together 16 of the best presentations on sports from the conference of the Popular Culture Association. Topics include baseball (the 1941 World Series, the career of Stan Musial, Italian Americans in the game, and Japanese players), golf (Tiger Woods, the culture wars over women at Augusta National), football (integration at UCLA, the controversy over the Indian mascot

at Florida State, the creation of the New Orleans Saints), auto racing (the revival of dirt tracks, racing’s roots in Virginia, NASCAR in Eastern Iowa, and the NASCAR fan), and sports and men (marketing in hockey, social class and fishing, and Muhammad Ali’s last stand). Together the essays demonstrate that sports are deeply woven into the fabric of American culture—a tapestry of society with all its heroism and triumph, failures and flaws.