



Area 3 under the shade, which was great if it wasn't windy— but it was almost always windy. (Right) A typical meal— the fries were especially for the Westerners.

'It is truly amazing just how much you can tell about a society through its clay.'

Second breakfast was on site at 9 a.m. More veggies, eggs, large pieces of fresh bread, cheese and tea. By this time, the sun was up— and hot. Daily temperatures were always over 35C and for one week were around 50C. When you dig dirt, you pick up dirt—lots of it—everywhere. We would be so grimy by the end of the day (think Pigpen in *Peanuts*) that one of the bus drivers actually refused to pick up one of the guys because he was so dirty. (A chat with the director changed that in a hurry!).

Lunch was at 2 p.m., and was the main meal. Our cook was fantastic, preparing mouth-watering soups from scratch and delicious fare every day. All ingredients were local and fresh. The last time I ate this well while away from home was when I picked tobacco in southern Ontario as a teenager. Liberally spiced with chile, sumac, tumeric and other delights, the blend of flavours was quite marvelous.

After lunch came a truly pleasurable part of the day— the shower. When it was running, and hot, the shower was fantastic. It was somewhat less so if it was cold or not running at all. A one-hour snooze prepared me for the rest of the day.

More than 90 per cent of the artifacts that we found were pottery shards, and they had to be examined and catalogued the next day after they were cleaned. My area produced a prodigious amount of

pottery, so we never seemed to stay ahead of the game. It is truly amazing just how much you can tell about a society through its clay. Eating habits, religious customs, trade patterns, storage, class of society and much more can all be inferred from pottery. From a piece of clay the size of a dime, the experts could sometimes describe its age, provenance and use.

Dinner was another fine meal, served at 6 p.m. Afterwards, the square supervisors tended to do paperwork and the assistants often helped. We would play guitar and sing for a while, or play backgammon, or read and get to bed by 9 p.m.

Part 4: Who Killed Bill (2)

A 10m x 10m square is the standard work area and it is broken down into 1m x 1m sections for manageable work. I had developed a reputation for a fine, detailed approach, so I was extremely pleased, three weeks into the dig, to be asked to move two squares over to work on what might be human remains. The local labourers loved to work with large picks (think chain-gang size), but this technique didn't work well with bone removal (dental picks and small brushes).

As I started to dig, I had to level out what was a



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