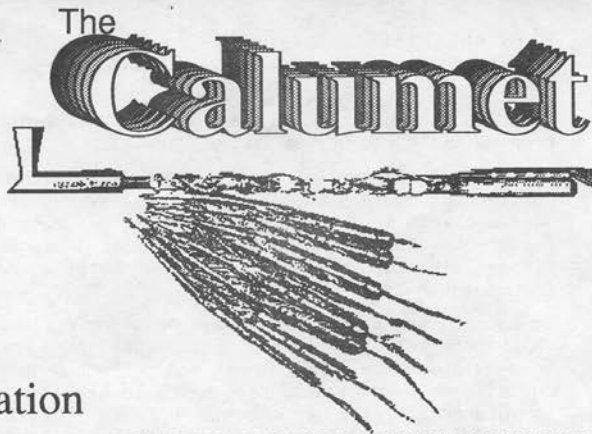




Lyons Chapter
Colorado Archaeological Society

Conservation
Preservation
Education
Exploration



Calendar of Events

- Jan. 14 The first quarterly meeting of state CAS in Canon City. The meeting will be held at the Public Library in Canon City. For more information call Bill Maxson. All members of CAS welcome.

- Jan. 24 The first 1989 Lyons Chapter Executive Board meeting, 7:30 p.m. at the Lacey's home, 2262 Juniper Court, Boulder, 442-4400. At this first meeting of the year, it is important that last year's board members show up to help train the new members.

- Jan. 31 The Lyons Chapter regular meeting. The speaker is Acting State Archaeologist Susan M. Collins.

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BITS AND PIECES
from the Prez

With the beginning of the new year, it's time to look at our educational program and field work.

Part of the chapter's educational program is the speakers we have had at our regular monthly meetings. We have been fortunate to have had excellent speakers in the past, and our January meeting should be no exception. Our speaker this month is Susan Collins, State Archaeologist. The title of her talk will be "Architectural Geometry of Mesa Verde Great Pueblo Structures."

To educate the public on archaeology, our state CAS office has asked each chapter to set up an Archaeological Awareness Committee. Sue Struthers told us about the committee at our regular November meeting. A number of our members have already been asked to serve on the committee. If you want to volunteer, let us know at our January 31 meeting or contact Sue Struthers. We will formalize the committee at our January meeting, hopefully with the help of the State Archaeologist.

Your Lyons Chapter has had an Educational Committee for years, called the Youth Program. Thanks to Lee Lacey we have some items for educational talks to school children. Lee made a beautiful atlatl and spear for the program. Thank you, Lee! Sue Struthers will head up the Youth Program for 1989.

We have four professional archaeologists as Field Directors, and along with Larry Riggs' enthusiasm and connections with the Open Space Program, we should have a good field survey year. But, we need your participation. We can't do it alone!

For those who want to learn about faunal remains, D.U.'s bone lab will be in operation this winter. If you don't want to drive to Denver to learn about bones, if available, we can use Osteo-Tech Company lab. Sue Struthers is president of Osteo-Tech, and the lab is located on her farm. Contact Bill Maxson or Sue Struthers for the dates.

Dues are due! Please send your dues for 1989 now. This will enable us to budget money for next year. We have both family and single memberships, but only one newsletter and "Southwestern Lore," will be sent per family membership.

We still need help! Some positions have not been filled, and we need still more assistance on committees. Please let me know if you can help.

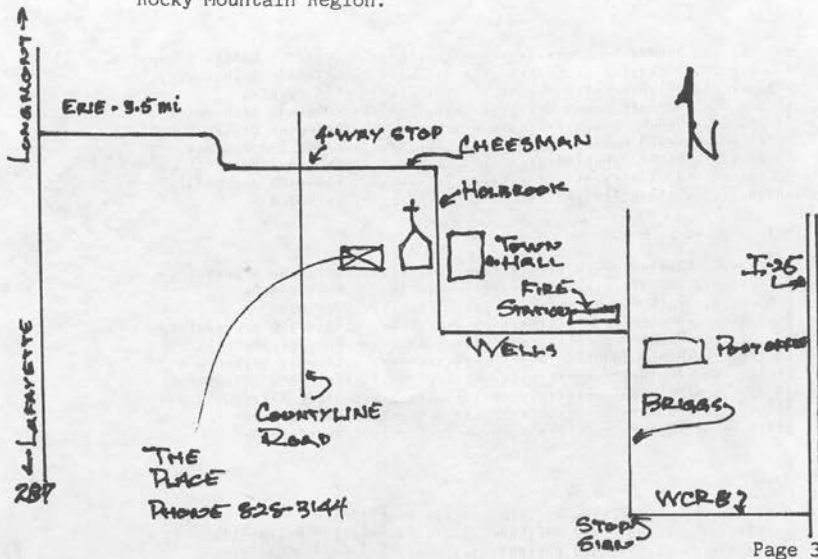


January Meeting

WHEN: Tuesday, January 31, 1989
TIME: 7:30 - 9 (9:30) p.m.
WHERE: Erie UMC Fellowship Hall, Erie, Colorado (604 Holbrook)
PROGRAM: We are honored to have Acting State Archaeologist Susan M. Collins as our speaker. The lecture will be on "Architectural Geometry of Mesa Verde Great Pueblo Structures."

Site excavations and precision mapping suggest that prehistoric architects took pains to create round and quadrilateral shapes, even in very unsuitable settings.

Dr. Collins has worked extensively in Colorado, New Mexico, Wyoming, Missouri, North Carolina, and the northwest coast of Canada. Her research projects were conducted in a variety of lab and field situations. Some highlights of her career are: work at Mesa Verde Research Center (1969-70); directing archaeological research and student training in western North Carolina (1975-78); directing the tribal government agency charged with cultural resources management, the Zuni Archaeological Program (1982-84); preparation of documentation for the National Register of Historic Places file on Mesa Verde National Park, under contract with the National Park Service, Rocky Mountain Region.



PAAC NOTES

January

6-9.....Colorado Springs.....Historic Archaeology
14.....Canon City.....CAS Quarterly Meeting
20-23.....Montrose.....Historic Archaeology
28-29.....Grand Junction.....Dating Methods
31.....Fort Collins.....Basic Site Survey

February

1.....Denver.....Historic Archaeology
7.....Fort Collins.....Basic Site Survey
8.....Denver.....Historic Archaeology
10-11.....Carbondale.....Basic Site Survey
21.....Fort Collins.....Basic Site Survey
22.....Denver.....Historic Archaeology
24-25.....Carbondale.....Basic Site Survey
28.....Fort Collins.....Basic Site Survey

March

1.....Denver.....Historic Archaeology
4-5.....Pueblo.....Dating Methods
7.....Fort Collins.....Basic Site Survey
8.....Denver.....Historic Archaeology
11-12.....Canon City.....Perishable Materials
14.....Fort Collins.....Basic Site Survey
18-19.....Canon City.....Perishable Materials
22 or 29.....Denver.....Historic Archaeology
24-25.....Denver.....CCPA Meeting

April

1.....Denver.....Research Design & Reports
4.....Boulder.....Colorado Archaeology
6-9.....Atlanta.....SAA Meeting
11.....Boulder.....Colorado Archaeology
15.....Denver.....Research Design & Reports
17-21.....Grand Mesa.....Lands End Project
22-23.....Grand Junction.....Photography
25.....Boulder.....Colorado Archaeology
28-29.....Carbondale.....Ceramics

May

2.....Boulder.....Colorado Archaeology
3.....Denver.....Photography
5-6.....Carbondale.....Ceramics
9.....Boulder.....Colorado Archaeology
10.....Denver.....Photography
13-14.....Grand Junction.....Ceramic Workshop
16.....Boulder.....Colorado Archaeology
19-22.....Durango.....Basic Site Survey
24.....Denver.....Photography
31.....Denver.....Photography

June

8-11.....Cortez.....Ceramics
17-18.....Colorado Springs.....Colorado Archaeology
24-25.....Colorado Springs.....Colorado Archaeology



Desert Wind by Leni Clubb

ATLATLS: THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE

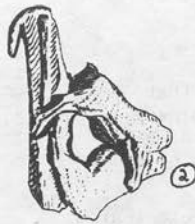
Somewhere during the last Ice Age, some inspired hunter discovered the principle of the spear thrower which gave early man a little more control over his destiny. The knowledge of this superior weapon traveled from tribe to tribe over the centuries in the Old World and was eventually brought into the New World.

Our first knowledge of the spear thrower comes from the Upper Magdalenian period in southwest France and northeast Spain. This time span (15,000 to 10,000 BP) coincided with the final phase of the Ice Age. Magdalenian artists which created the rock paintings and engravings at Lascaux, Altamira, and other cave sites also produced much mobiliary art. In this category are many elaborate carved spear throwers incorporating at the spur end animals such as the horse, ibex, mammoth, reindeer, and bison. (See Fig. I, 1, 2, 3)

Figure I



1. A young ibex is looking over his shoulder. Perched on the end of an extrusion are two birds, the tail of one forming the spur. Mas d'Azil.



2. Spur end of spear-thrower featuring two headless ibex; Les Trois, Freres.



3. Magdalenian, France. All three are carved from reindeer antler.

No wooden examples have survived, but the beautifully carved horn examples of the Palaeolithic spear-thrower are evidence of the great antiquity of the weapon.

Evidence for the antiquity of the atlatl in North America was discovered in 1927, when a fluted spear point was found between the ribs of an extinct bison near Folsom, New Mexico. Since the bison became extinct around 6,000 BP, the point could be very old. There are radiocarbon dates from western North America that are more precise - an atlatl spur from the San Joaquin Valley, California, that is over 8,000 years old, and a complete weighted atlatl from a cave near Lake Winnemucca, Nevada, about 8,000 years old. Since the discovery of the first archaeological atlatl in Grand Gulch, Utah, in the 1890s, (Pepper 1905), many complete examples of the weapon have been excavated from dry cave burials. These spear-throwers were found from Oregon to Florida and were most abundant in the Great Basin and the Colorado Plateau. (See examples, Fig II, 5,6,7)

Figure II



5. Side view and dorsal view of the Lovelock Cave spear-thrower. Redrawn from Keller (1955).



6. One of the two unusual atlatls from Key Marco, Florida. The single large finger hole might accommodate both index and second finger. Redrawn from Keller (1955).



d
10 cm

7. Four Atlatls from the Great Basin and Colorado Plateau.
a. Reversed spur atlatl with stone weight from Dakehimbaher cave, southwestern Arizona. Redrawn from Bidder and Gurney (1918).
b. Biased spur atlatl from Baring Springs Cave, southeastern Oregon. Redrawn from Crossman (1962).
c. Unusual atlatl with bone spur lashed into shallow grooves at top. The large boat-shaped stone weight was still attached when excavated from cave, Lake Winnemucca, Nevada. Redrawn from Hester (1974).
d. Bottom view of small atlatl from cave near Condon, Oregon. Note recess for stone weight and sharp horn finger-grips. From Emory Strong photo.

Figure II,6, is the sort of atlatl that might have been used against DeSota near the mouth of the Mississippi - one of his men was wounded by a missile thrown by an atlatl.

To be continued next month - Archaeological Evidence in Baja, California, Mexico, Peru, Alaska, and Australia.

(All information and drawings compiled from an article by Campbell Grant, Volume 15, No. 1, *Pacific Coast Archaeological Society QUARTERLY*, Jan. 1979)

Despite the thousands of sites that have been found, there is much to be discovered about these prehistoric people. When archeologists are investigating a site, they use a technique called "artifact patterning." This method uses the spatial relationships of artifacts found at a site to explain how they were used.

Says Don Simonis, a Bureau of Land Management archeologist in Kingman, Arizona, "If we find a rock, it's just a rock. If we find three rocks together, however, we know it was used as a fire dog [a structure used for cooking]."

"Once a site has been disturbed, the entire sense of its historical development is disrupted, and it becomes impossible to research the site by any standard archeological method. So, the theft of collectible items is only part of the disaster wreaked by pothunters."

Pothunting became a major problem for archeology resource managers in 1971, when New York's Sotheby Parke Bernet Galleries first began to auction Anasazi and other pre-Columbian artifacts, exponentially increasing the demand for such items. An Anasazi basket recently brought \$152,000 at an auction at Sotheby's in London. More commonly, baskets have fetched up to \$10,000. An unbroken mug will bring \$200, and a human skull is worth \$50.

Some law enforcement officials believe that the only way to stem trade in artifacts is to crackdown on dealers—not diggers. "It's like trying to stop the trade in jaguar furs by arresting all the Amazonian Indians," said Utah State Archeologist Dave Madsen. "There's always more Indians."

And, at this time, arresting diggers can be a hollow victory. Dealers and collectors in New York City can still trade illegally taken, priceless pre-Columbian items—from the United States as well as from Central and South America—quite openly. Traders can always claim that the objects came from private land.

The only real solution, in the opinion of many, is to change the law so that the burden of proof falls on the defendant rather than the government.

Such a change would be possible with the creation of an artifacts registry for items found on private land. Dr. Walter Wait, a NPS archeologist with the Southwest Region in Santa Fe, has recommended that archeologists be required to provide objects taken from private ground with a "provenience" that documents the object's origin. These papers would include a complete description of the item, a copy of the excavation report, a certificate of excavation by a licensed archeologist, and a certified appraisal.

"Upon entry into the registry," Dr. Wait wrote in a 1986 Office of Technology Assessment report, "the owner would obtain a nontransferable title and an artifact documentation card similar to a plastic driver's license, complete with photo." So far, there is no consensus among archeologists that this is a good idea. Kurt Schaafsma, a New Mexico archeologist who supports an artifacts registry, admits the proposal is a compromise:

"To archeologists all sites are equal," he said. "Whether it's private or public land has no bearing on what people did 1,000 years ago."

Doli Capax

Sorry about the lateness of The Calumet, but holidays do get in the way of production schedules. The February issue will go a little better.

Speaking of issues, what will issue forth in the February copy, must be in the Editor's hands not later than the 25th of January. Also comments for the general improvement of the publication by the same time.

Finally, don't forget the January meet-at Erie. There is a party associated with this event to welcome the new SA.

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- PAAC Coordinator:* Publicity)

- Ways & Means:* Youth Program: Sue Struthers, 8439 N 63rd, Longmont 80501 (776-2350)
- The Calumet Editor:* Richard Lippincott, PO Box 8, Erie, 80516 (828-3144)

According to the By-laws of the Lyons Chapter, Colorado Archaeological Society, the officers and chairpersons of the Standing Committees are voting members of the Lyons Chapter Executive Board.

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1989 Application form for membership in the Lyons Chapter of the Colorado Archaeological Society.



Individual Membership \$15.00 New member

Family membership \$22.00 Renewal

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone numbers _____ (h) _____ (w)

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