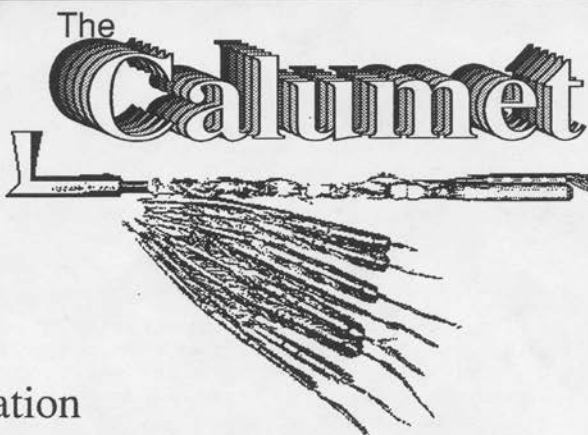




Indian Peaks Chapter
Colorado Archaeological Society

Conservation
Preservation
Education
Exploration



Calendar of Events

August / September, 1992

- August 29 - Excavation at Rock Creek. Directed by Pete Gleichman, Coordinated by Rick Lippincott. 828-3906
- September 16 IP Exec Board Meeting. 7:30 pm at Foothills Nature Center. 4201 N. Broadway. Members welcome.
- September 23 IP Membership meeting. "Did you See that Mastodon Down by the Creek? Highlights of Colorado Archaeology". Speaker: Richard Lippincott, 7:30 pm, Foothills Nature Center, 4201 N. Broadway.
- September 15 PAAC classes begin. Ceramic Description and Analysis taught by Kevin Black. First class at Jean Kindig's. 714 Kalmia. For information call 442-2581. See article this newsletter.
- September 25 - 27 Four Corners Tour with Florence Lister. The trip is presently full however there is room on the waiting list. Co-ordinated by Ann Hayes (494-3773)
- Sept 25 & 27, Oct 2 & 4. Colorado Historical Society Fort Garland Archeological Project, (Last two weekends of 1992 season. Call Anne Bond, Curator of Material Culture, CHS, 866-4691.
- October 9 - 11 The Colorado 57th Annual Meeting of CAS. Iron Horse Inn, Durango. (Details in this issue.

Indian Peaks Horizons

Lots has happened since last I wrote. One of the major events of our field season, a three-day backpacking trip with author-archaeologist Steve Cassells up to the Sawtooth Game Drive sites, took place near the end of June. It was well worth the strenuous 8 mile trudge getting up to the game drive walls and hunting blinds high on the continental divide about a mile south of Buchanan Pass. The millions of avalanche lilies emerging from the snow melt were a scenic marvel, as was our secluded campsite on a small terrace protected by a grove of trees right at timberline.

The party consisted of Steve Cassells, Professor of Archaeology at Judson College in Elgin, Illinois, a small group of his grad students, Jim Stoltman, an archaeologist from the University of Wisconsin (Cassell's doctoral thesis advisor), six CAS members, and Chris Roberts, a science reporter for the Daily Camera, whose article about the trip, entitled "Killing Fields", is reproduced in this issue. Cassells has almost completed his four-year study of the site which entailed excavation for charcoal samples and artifacts, extensive aerial mapping, and lichenology studies involving thousands of samples. Members of the group were able to assist him in taking measurements of several hunting blinds - a few "stones left unturned".

Say what you will about the importance of survey archaeology, in the minds of many there's nothing to compare with the romance of the dig, delving into dirt and the dirt-enshrouded, distant past. Though digs are rare in Boulder County, the IP chapter has been blessed with two opportunities this season. Both are ancient hearths. The Arapahoe Pass excavation was completed, start to finish, on August 21. The second, a hearth embedded in a cut-bank at the Rock Creek site, started on August 29, and probably will be completed by the time you receive this newsletter. These miniature digs are special in that one experiences the entire, complex process of excavation, one that usually takes weeks or months, in a matter of hours. My detailed write-up, "Excavating SBL153", appears elsewhere in this issue.

Speaking of Rock Creek, find in this Calumet a story by Rick Lippincott about his application to the State Historical Fund for a share of the state's revenue from limited stakes gambling. He's applied for a hefty sum to complete work on the Rock Creek Camp, where our second hearth is located. Rick will be the first speaker in our fall series. His talk on the history of Colorado archaeology has a fetching title. On sale at his September 23 talk at Foothills Nature Center will be copies of CAS's just-published Memoir Five, The State of Colorado Archaeology, which contains two articles on the history of Colorado archaeology (one by Cassells), a delightful one by Susan Oton about the impact of amateurs on Colorado archaeology, and others that answer all the questions about everything you always wanted to know but were

afraid to ask about Colorado archaeology. We will be selling this for the bargain price of \$9.

The annual picnic at Lippincott's Friendship Hall in Erie was terrific. Because of rain we couldn't hold the atl-atl contest, but this gave us time to admire the atl-atls themselves, especially the darts and throwing stick made by Laura Viola. Sally Meisenhelder brought homemade, Hopi-style badminton birds, with which, lacking a net, we played "hopisack". Marie Mayer showed us shell and ceramic artifacts from a large Hohokam site she discovered near Phoenix. The food was outstanding, and good time was had by all.

Ann Hayes, President, Indian Peaks, CAS

EXCAVATING 5BL153

The Arapahoe Pass dig, 5BL153, took place under the expert direction of geologist-archaeologist, Jim Benedict. This small hearth had long been eroding out of a portion of the Arapahoe Pass trail close to the Fourth of July mine site. Heavy foot traffic along the trail was hastening its demise. An untrained observer would scarcely notice the scatter of stones resting on a darkened patch of earth by the side of the trail. For Benedict, the imperiled feature that might contain a wealth of cultural information was a nagging concern. Our mission was to salvage the doomed hearth which he suspected dated back to prehistoric times.

The group camped in the area the night before in order to get an early start. Deteriorating weather in the late afternoon is an occupational hazard for high altitude archaeologists, just as it is for hikers. Sharp-eyed Jean Kindig and Laura Viola immediately spotted a lithic scatter near the hearth and began collecting flakes and microflakes strewn along the trail. They mapped each one, numbering it with a fine rapidograph pen, noting where concentrations were greatest. By the end of day, they had found more than sixty.

A wooden stake marking datum was positioned directly above hearth-center. A two-meter area, including the hearth, was defined by meter sticks. Steve Montgomery "mapped" the hearth by making a careful drawing with contour lines at 5 cm intervals, showing the placement of the surface rocks. These and the topsoil were removed. The fill was carefully screened. A second map was drawn, an overlay of the first, showing the placement of embedded rocks. Several of these were non-indigenous sandstone imported from quarries near Lyons. Sandstone was known to have been used by prehistoric peoples for grinding. This was another testimonial to the antiquity of the hearth. Benedict examined and measured the "rocks", noting the composition, wear, and fracture pattern

of each. A rich vocabulary, new and wondrous to some of us, emerged as he described each sample. "Dirt" and "rocks" were acquiring identity, becoming less generic by the minute.

Half the hearth was removed and a profile sketched. Everyone had a turn at excavating - removing the rich, black charcoal with a pointed (Marshalltown) trowel from the basin-shaped hearth, down to the level of oxidized soil. A tiny sample from this batch of charcoal will be used for radio-carbon dating. Topsoil was removed from the surrounding area, exposing the subsoil, a "cultural layer" where Benedict predicted that we would find more flakes. Indeed we did!

Another drawing was made and photos were taken of the small crater about 8 cm deep where the hearth had been. The final step was backfilling the shallow pit that remained. Our salvaging efforts had decimated the fragile hearth, a poignant reminder that archaeology is indeed a destructive science, and of our obligation to complete the study, thus to preserve the archaeological record.

This will be done. The processing of the radio carbon sample will be paid for by the National Forest Service, in accordance with a pre-arranged cost-share agreement whereby CAS volunteer hours are assigned a dollar value. Our small hearth is part of one of the largest prehistoric sites in the Front Range. This vast site lies all along the terrace where the Forth of July mine is situated. Ours will be the first radio-carbon date to be taken from this area. Lab analysis of the lithic material and hearth rocks will be done by Benedict. CAS members will complete the forms required by Colorado's Office of Archaeological and Historic Preservation, a non-trivial task. If there is a moral to this story, it is that you can't just dig and leave it at that!

There is lots more work to be done on other unexcavated sites in the area. We already have some members qualified to supervise an excavation, and more who working toward that level of expertise through PAAC classes. Come forth. We need you! Ann Hayes.

The Indian Peaks Executive Board met at 7:30 pm on Thursday, August 20 at the home of Ann Hayes. Present were Rick and Sue Lippincott, Jeannie Hamilton and Ann Hayes. Jeannie Hamilton reported that our checking account balance is \$958.42. Rick submitted his nearly complete application to the State Historical Fund for monies to support further work at Rock Creek. We talked about our need to draw in and activate new members, to find a home for our library, and to complete unfinished site reports. Laura Viola, our Project Information Officer, has offered to tutor those who need help. There were no action items. Meeting adjourned at 9:30 pm. Respectfully submitted by Ann Hayes.

Indian Peaks seeks Grant for Rock Creek

The Indian Peaks Chapter in conjunction with Native Cultural Services and the Boulder County Parks and Open Space Department is applying for a State Historical Fund grant to compete work on the Rock Creek Campsite (5BL2712). The grant request is for \$20,057, with the participants providing \$13,194, for a total amount of \$33,251. The \$13,194 represents "in-kind" funds such as equipment, personnel, services, etc. and is provided by the participants.

The grants funds will be used to:

- * complete excavation of 56 square meters of 5BL2712 now at risk from erosion;
- * provide an extended educational opportunity for several hundred grade school children to view an archaeological "dig" in progress and learn about cultural preservation;
- * provide a field school opportunity for anthropology students from area colleges and universities to gain "hands-on" experience in archaeological field work;
- * create an interpretative site to foster public awareness of cultural history and the need for preservation.

The grant application was reviewed by Pete Gleichman, of Native Cultural Services, and Bill Lucius, the Chapter professional advisor. Grant winners in the first round will be notified on November 17, 1992.

If the Chapter receives the grant, work on rock Creek Campsite will begin in April 1993. Six crew positions will be open each of the 19 days of field work. Members of Indian Peaks will have first chance at crew slots with unused slots being made available to members of other chapters. Additional information will be published in the December Calumet. Rick Lippincott.

PAAC CLASS, FALL 1992

Jean Kindig, (442-2591), PAAC Co-ordinator, has arranged for **CERAMIC DESCRIPTION AND ANALYSIS** taught by Kevin Black, to be offered in Boulder this fall. This will be an introduction to ceramics and their place in Colorado prehistory. (A brief summary of the course content is on the cover page.)

Classes will be held on consecutive Tuesdays from Sept 15 to Oct 27, from 6:30 to 9:30 pm. They will be held at Foothills Nature Center, 4201 N. Broadway with the following exceptions:

Sept 15 and Oct 20 will be held at Jean Kindig's home, at 714 Kalmia in Boulder.

Killing fields



Archaeologists unravel vivid stories of prehistoric hunts

By CHRIS ROBERTS
Camera Science Writer

Peering over the edge of a shallow rock hunting blind on the Continental Divide, prehistoric hunters waited for wild game to amble up the steep gulch. In the valley below, "beaters" walked behind the wild herds, slowly pushing them toward the killing fields on the mountain ridge.

In place throughout the cold night, the ancient hunters were exposed to wind, rain and lightning in their strategic perches, which were built well above timberline. To keep warm, they tended small fires in the blinds as they sharpened their arrow and spear tips and waited for the early dawn when the animals were most active.

Every now and then, an arrowhead would slip through a hunter's cold fingers and fall, hopelessly lost, into the maze of holes between the rocks.

Archaeologists follow ancient clues

The communal hunting systems — low stone walls and shallow rock hunting blinds — pepper the tundra in western Boulder County and eastern Grand County, concentrated mostly in the Indian Peaks Wilderness area.

Steve Cassells, author and professor of anthropology at Judson College in Elgin, Ill., has studied one particular system near Sawtooth Mountain that was used extensively in prehistoric times.

It is one of the richest prehistoric finds in the nation and dwarfs most other game drive systems in the Indian Peaks area. More than 50 hunting blinds can be found at the end of an extensive network of game drive walls.

Cassells' team of archaeologists and students is looking for clues to the story of the ancient people who hunted on these mountains. Every rock is a potential piece of the puzzle.

With good information, archaeologists like Cassells can recreate

The communal hunting systems — low stone walls and shallow rock hunting blinds — pepper the tundra in western Boulder County and eastern Grand County.

the history of the land, with captivating images of killing fields and people who followed the wild game.

"What you have to do is ask yourself, 'Can the rock get there naturally or not?'" Cassells said, climbing up to the 12,000-foot ridge. Some of the walls are staccato lines of rock cairns, others are continuous, with rocks piled a few feet high.

Charcoal from the warming fires and flakes from the sharpened projectile points are major clues that tell Cassells and his team what happened on that rocky ridge as many as 2,500 years ago.

Cassells and team excavated some pits and found arrow and spear points and other flakes that had been lost because of the hunters' careless handling or tossed away because they were no longer useful.

Most of the 12 pits were barren, Cassells said. But one particular pit was rich with charcoal and numerous projectile points.

Carbon dating of the charcoal indicates the blinds were used between 1,300 and 200 years ago, the most recent time period being shortly after white men had appeared on the continent. Some of the artifacts found are 2,500 years old.

"The hunters came up the back side to be on top in the early morning when the animals are moving," Cassells said. "They made fires and sharpened points. Just about any throw would hit a rock and break a point."

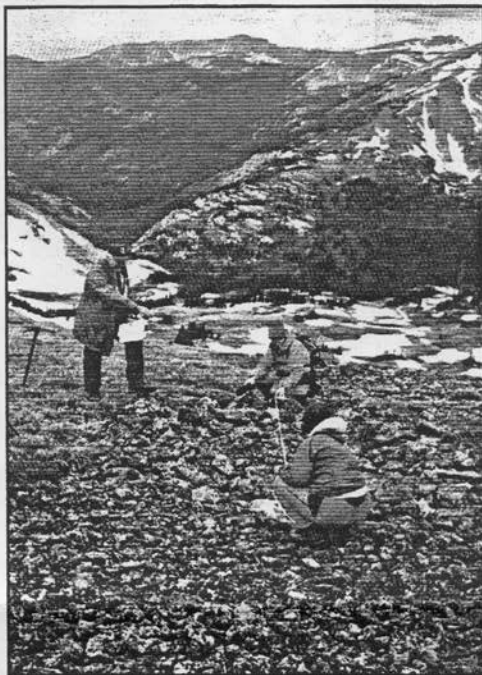
Paradise found

As the small bands of hunter/gatherers joined together to take advantage of the plentiful game in late summer and early fall, they headed for the high country. They climbed steep stretches to the Sawtooth game drive system, carrying slabs of Lyons sandstone. The heavy rock, carried all the way from a quarry near the town of Lyons, was used for grinding and other purposes.

Despite the arduous climb, the trip was a beautiful one.

Little has changed along the seasonal migration route. Just as today, expansive meadows cycled through colors that marked the seasons — from the yellow glacier lilies that poked up through the thinning layers of receding snow in spring to the red Indian paintbrush that flourished through summer. Curious hummingbirds, with sparkling ruby throats, hovered around the party members, searching for something sweet to drink.

Cascading waterfalls from the never-ending snow melt provided clean water for the party members.



Photos by Chris Roberts for the Camera

HUNTING BLIND: Steve Cassells, left, an anthropologist who is studying the prehistoric Sawtooth game drive system on the Boulder County side of the Continental Divide, directs members of the Indian Peaks Chapter of the Colorado Archaeological Society as they measure a hunting blind that concealed prehistoric hunters.

And, at the lower altitudes, rock slabs larger than school buses leaned on each other, creating communal shelters.

Dangers existed, too. Mountain lions and bears roamed the territory, making each solitary hike a potentially mythic and heroic encounter, to be woven into campfire oratories.

Follow the seasons

Chunks of Lyons sandstone have been found along an existing Indian Peaks wilderness trail. The discarded pieces, too small to be of any use, indicate that the same route was used by the prehistoric bands. Lyons sandstone is found only in quarries near Lyons.

Table Mountain jasper and Kremmling chert, found at camps along the route and at the game drive, were used to create projectile points and scrapers.

These finds tend to support a rather controversial theory proposed by Jim Benedict, a respected high-altitude archaeologist who lives near Ward.

Benedict theorizes that the Indians moved in a large circular migration. From the hogbacks near Boulder, which were near the sandstone quarries and other rock formations that provided good stone for spears and arrowheads, through

north park near the Wyoming border, where game was plentiful, into middle park where small groups would join together for traditional celebrations, and finally back to the hogback over the Continental Divide.

If Benedict's theory is true, the Indian Peaks hunters were on their way back to their wintering grounds, anxious to see the colorful high mountain meadows and the pure headwaters.

It isn't clear whether the natives, probably descended from the first human inhabitants of the area, were hunting sheep or elk.

Deer bones have been found in the excavated floors of the hunting blinds, bones that had been cooked. They were probably a reward for the long wait and successful hunt.

Even though no bighorn sheep bones were found, researchers know that the sheep were prized. The horns were used to create compound bows, which made hunting a more deadly and efficient operation.

Blood-stained snow

The stone walls stand only a few feet above the tundra, but the ancient hunters hung scraps of hide, animal bones and other items from (See LICHENS, Page 2B)



SNOW JUMP: Steve Cassells walks through an area where ancient hunters herded elk and bighorn sheep over a small cliff into a snow field below. Remnants of a game drive wall stretch off to the left.

Lichens serve as ancient signposts

(From Page 1B)
wooden poles anchored in the rock. These would flap in the wind, making the walls more imposing.

Each year the walls would be modified, and hunting blinds added. The bands worked together to improve the system and anticipate the scattering of animal herds caused by the hunting.

In ancient times, blood-stained snow signaled a unique feature of the Sawtooth game drive system.

On the precipice of a short cliff, the hunters built a wall with a roughly 15-foot break, right above a permanent snowfield sheltered from the sun. An older wall that ran in front of the new one was torn apart in that location.

As the sheep were driven up the slope, they were corralled into a bottleneck and eventually through the only exit, over the edge of the cliff.

Struggling to gain their footing in the snow, the animals were easy prey for the hunters with their spears and arrows.

Another short ridge that would have looked like a natural escape route for the animals, hangs from the eastern Boulder County side of the divide and is thick with blinds.

Guided by the walls and spurred on by the beaters walk-

ing behind them, the animals moved onto the ridge looking for a way down.

Instead they found themselves in a killing field.

As the animals approached, the hunters sprang from their hiding places, launching their weapons. The rocky floor of the area would make a quick desperate escape almost impossible.

Nearly 1,000 feet below, sheltered by the stunted trees at timberline, other members of the bands processed the kills. Hides were scraped and cured, meat was cut and smoked and tools were fashioned from hoof and bone.

Lichens as timekeepers

The lichens tell the story of the walls. Cassells and his team measured the lichens — more than 10,000 measurements in the whole system and about 1,000 per wall.

Averages were figured. A chart prepared by Benedict gives approximate dates. The varying ages of the walls indicate which ones were originals and which represent later modifications.

"Every wall we look at was probably used for generations," Cassells said. "The kill area is right at the crest and they could sit up there and see everything that was going on without being



Photo by Chris Roberts for the Camera

COLLECTING DATA: Members of the Indian Peaks Chapter of the Colorado Archaeological Society help Cassells, left, measure the width and depth of hunting blinds.

detected."

Two different kinds of lichen are used for the measurements. One thrives only on vertical surfaces and grows very slowly. If a rock is moved and the lichen is left in some other position, it dies.

The other — called rhizocarpum geographicum — is very common and paints the tundra with its yellow-green. When it reaches the size of a small pancake, it is about 1,500 years old.

In the area that Cassells believes was used as a snow trap, pieces of the older wall are found scattered within five feet of their original location, fung by the prehistoric hunters.

Another wall was probably made very recently by modern hikers whose motives are less clear than those of the prehistor-

ic hunters, Cassells said.

Grave robbers

Artifact hunters have presented a problem for Cassells, as they do for many archaeologists. One pit was trashed — fortunately after Cassells had already excavated it.

When people blindly pick apart rock formations searching for that prehistoric souvenir, Cassells said, they destroy most of the archaeological value of a site. The careful detective work done by archaeologists depends on a relatively undisturbed site. The less disturbance, the more complete the information gleaned from the site.

High country ghosts

By CHRIS ROBERTS
Camera Science Writer

I have hiked these mountains for many years seeking solitude.

It calms me to think I am the only human within spitting distance. But a recent spring trip into the Indian Peaks Wilderness Area to examine a prehistoric game drive system added a new depth to my enjoyment.

I found a mystery better than any Humphrey Bogart or Mike Hammer thriller and learned to read some of the clues left behind by ancient hunters. I now share my solitude with ghosts from the past.

My footsteps fall next to the same rivers and on the same rocks that the native people followed. We are a group of 13, archaeologists, students, members of the Indian Peaks Chapter of the Colorado Archaeological Society and a reporter — and we are looking for clues that will paint a picture of prehistoric communal hunts.

Archaeologists see mysteries everywhere. Steve Cassells, anthropology professor at Judson College in Elgin, Ill., is trained to find and evaluate the few remaining clues that have survived high above timberline.

Cassells has studied a prehistoric game drive system along the Continental Divide for the past three years. It is the subject of his doctoral dissertation.

He is a tall man with white hair and the grizzled start of a beard. He lumbers along carrying the tools of his trade and the pots and pans he will need to fix spaghetti with mushroom sauce and other substantial meals. He eschews freeze-dried food. "It's too expensive," he states flatly.

Jim Stoltman, professor of anthropology at the University of Wisconsin, is a slender man of medium height and is on Cassells' doctoral committee.

Stoltman talks about his own ghosts. Caves were available to the prehistoric residents of what is now Wisconsin, but no artifacts have been found in the ancient dust layers in the cave floor.

"We can't explain it," he said, in an apologetic tone that also reveals frustration.

The spots that boast beautiful views and fresh water inevitably contain evidence of prehistoric occupation. Small flakes of stone that are not native to the Indian Peaks Wilderness area betray the presence of a campsite that may be 2,500 years old.

Our camp hangs at timberline, with a broad view of the valley below and the rocky peaks that form the Continental Divide above. It was 9 miles in and about 3,000 feet up, but it was worth the effort.

A day spent on the ridge above our campsite, finding new rock blinds, focuses my senses on the ancient traces. Rock lines that I would once have ascribed to slow, natural causes now spark compelling images of thrashing animals dying on the stained rocks.

The trained eyes — there are many on this trip — find projectile points and other artifacts, which are carefully replaced after quick examinations. Stealing clues is disdained among those who take the historical record seriously.

My new awareness exceeds my skill. As we walk down the mountain, I see arrowheads everywhere. A closer look reveals none of the human chipping and grinding that would justify my initial excitement.

But, the ground is now alive with a nearly spiritual, positively ghostly presence that connects me with the past. History has truly come alive.



"Oo! Now here's a nice one we built last fall."

57th ANNUAL MEETING OF C.A.S.

IRON HORSE INN, 5800 NORTH MAIN AVE. DURANGO, COLORADO

Registration for all meetings and field trips is \$10 in advance, \$15 at the door, and \$5 for students with ID. Meals are extra.

Friday, Oct 9th

- 6:00 - 7:00 pm - Registration, Stagecoach Room Entry Hall.
6:30 - 9:30 pm - Dinner Meeting for Board of Directors & Advisory Board Committee.

Saturday, Oct 10th

- 8:00 - 9:00 am - Registration / PAAC Committee Meeting / Teacher's Education Conference Mtg.
9:00 - 3:00 pm - Presentation of Papers.
12:00 - 1:00 pm - Lunch
3:15 - 5:00 pm - CAS General Meeting.
7:00 - 10:00 pm - Banquet dinner with Keynote Speaker: Dr. Jim Judge, Professor of Anthropology, Fort Lewis College, Durango. "The current status of southwestern Archaeology".

Sunday, Oct 11th

Field Trip choices: / Durango Rock Shelter / Anasazi Heritage Center & Escalante Ruins, Dolores, CO / Aztec Ruins, Aztec, NM / Historic Downtown Durango.

1992 C.A.S. ANNUAL MEETING REGISTRATION FORM

Name/s: _____ Phone: _____

Address: _____

Advance Registration _____ persons at \$10.00 = _____

Student Registration (enrolled at: _____) _____ persons at \$5.00 = _____

Friday Night Dinner _____ persons at \$14.00 = _____
[Select: _____ (a) Sirloin; _____ (b) Trout; _____ (c) Chicken; _____ (d) Fettuccine]

Saturday Night Banquet _____ persons at \$16.00 = _____
[Any special dietary needs? _____ low salt; _____ low cholesterol; _____ vegetarian;
_____ low calorie; allergic to: _____; other: _____]

TOTAL ENCLOSED: _____

Please indicate tentative reservation numbers for:

Saturday Lunch _____; Field Trip #1 _____; #2 _____; #3 _____; #4 _____; RMCF Factory Tour _____
(10/11) (10/12)

Mail this form & your check payable to "SJBAS" by 10/2/92 to:
SJBAS, 385 Highland Hill Dr., Durango, CO 81301

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APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP - INDIAN PEAKS CHAPTER - CAS

Individual membership \$20 New
 Family membership \$25 Renewal

Name(s) _____

Address _____

Phone numbers _____ (H) _____ (W)

Make check payable to: INDIAN PEAKS CHAPTER, CAS

Mail to: JEANNIE HAMILTON, 1100 Deer Trail, Boulder, 80302

For renewals please enclose a stamped, self-addressed envelope with your check to receive your membership card and roster.

0192

Hayes, Ann
2525 Briarwood Drive
Boulder, CO 80303

Indian Peaks Chapter, CAS
P. O. Box 18301
Boulder, CO 80308



PAAC CLASS FALL 1992

CERAMIC DESCRIPTION AND ANALYSIS

An introduction to ceramics and their place in Colorado prehistory.

Technology of ceramic manufacture:

- Three basic elements composing ceramics
- Ceramic paste
- Vessel forming techniques
- Finishing techniques
- Firing

Description and analysis:

- Viewing and describing ceramic paste, form and finishing techniques.
- Defining ceramic types, series and ware.

Survey of Colorado types:

- Plains and Mountains
 - Woodland
 - Apishapa
 - Shoshone
 - Upper Republican
 - Dismal River
 - Ute
- West Central and Northwest:
 - Fremont
- Southwest:
 - Anasazi