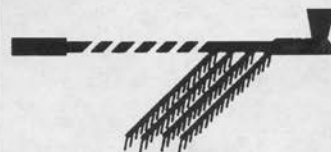


Sept 1993, Vol 1, No 7

# CALUMET



Newsletter for the Indian Peaks Chapter of the Colorado Archaeological Society

## CALENDAR OF EVENTS

**Tuesday, Sept 14** / Colorado Scientific Society, 7:30 pm at the Golden Room, 2nd floor, Sheraton Hotel, 360 Union Blvd., Lakewood, Co. Modern Medical Technology Reveals Secrets of Ancient Egyptian Mummies, Robert Pickering, Dept of Anthropology, DMNH. & The Geology of the Gray Whale and Walrus Feeding Ecology, Kirk Johnson, Curator of Paleontology, DMNH.

**Tuesday, Sept 21** / IPCAS Exec Rd Meeting, 7:30 pm at the Boulder Police Bureau, 805 33rd St, Community Room.

**Saturday, Sept 25** / Rock Creek Reunion, 7:30 pm at home of Julia Johnson, 1935 vassar CT. Refreshments will be served. Bring your best slides. -Regrets only, Ann Hayes, 494-3773.

**Tuesday, Sept 28** / IPCAS Regular Meeting, 7:30 pm, at the Meeting Place, 1600 28th St. Speaker, Bob Powell, will present "Indonesia Archaeology, Past and Present".

**Sept 30 - Oct 2** / 1st BIENNIAL ROCKY MOUNTAIN ANTHROPOLOGY CONFERENCE; Human Use of High Elevation Environments, Jackson, Wyoming. Contact Michael Metcalf for details, PO Box 899, Eagle, CO 81631 or call (303) 328-6244.

**Oct 1 - 3** / Colorado Archaeology Society Teachers Education Conference: From Stone Flakes to Computer Chips at Sanborn Camps near Florissant. Contact Bev O'Neil at 3002 A, 1/2 Road, Grand Junction, CO 81503 or call (303) 468-2197.

**Oct 8 - 10** / CAS 58th ANNUAL MEETING, in Telluride. Registration - \$12.50; Fri buffet - \$15.00; Sat lunch \$6.50; Sat Banquet - \$20.00. Contact Bob Brooks, PO Box 1, Bayfield, CO 81122; (303) 884-4235 or Don Tucker, 920 Balsam St, Cortez, CO 81321. Call 1-800-446-3192 for Housing reservations.

(1994 Annual Meeting is tentatively scheduled to be hosted by IPCAS.)

**Wednesday, Oct 20** / Fall, 1993 PAAC classes start in Boulder. (See complete schedule of PAAC classes in Calumet.)

**Oct 21 - 24** / FIFTH OCCASIONAL ANASAZI SYMPOSIUM, Farmington, NM. "The Big Project and The Big Picture: Synthesis in the Four Corners and Beyond". For further info contact Wolky Toll, Off of Arch Studies, Museum of NM, PO Box 2087, Sante Fe, NM 87504-2087, (505) 827-6343.

## SEPTEMBER IPCAS GENERAL MEETING

Tuesday, September 28, 1993, 7:30 pm at the Meeting Place, west parking lot, Crossroads Mall. Robert Powell will speak on *The Archaeology of Indonesia, past and present*.

Bob Powell is an IPCAS Director. He has researched and roamed the jungles and ruins in Java and Bale with his high tech camera gear to bring back the story and a guaranteed extraordinary slide presentation on the little known archaeology of these regions.

Bob will guide us to Java, to the 1,000 year old Hindu and Buddhist temple structures of Candi, Boro Budur, and Prambanan with their massive octagonal designs and towering thin spires. Then he will move on to Bale, with over 20,000 large temple structures and many hundreds of thousands of smaller family temples.

Tired of firehearth and the occasional pithouse? Come see what was happening in Java during the plains ceramic period!

CONSERVATION PRESERVATION EDUCATION EXPLORATION

## ARAPAHOE PASS WAS A GAS

The sun rises behind the cloud shrouded peaks surrounding the camp. The crew rustles from their covers, and begins gearing up while heating a quick breakfast on the small fire at each tent. In the chill fog, they gather around the leader's tent discussing the coming days hunt, the weather prospects, yesterday's find, and the splendid mountain valley that the lifting clouds reveal around them. They sharpen tools and set off before the midday storms begin.

The CAS volunteers in this hunting party were camped on the Arapahoe Pass trail in the Fourth of July valley, for a week in early August, on a joint venture project with the U.S. Forest Service. They intended to salvage the remains from 13 charcoal features eroding out of the trail where it crosses site 5BL153. Their leader was Jim Benedict, mountain archaeologist, who volunteered to be the Principal Investigator on the excavation of these features.

The excavators found that due to traffic and natural erosion on the trail, (which they experienced as the trail became a streambed in the daily rainstorms), only a thin layer of cultural material, primarily charcoal and lithics, remained in most of the features.

However, one feature excavated by John Slay turned out to be exceptionally deep (+/- 30 cm.) with very well preserved contents of bone, rock, charcoal and lithics.

Some of the charcoal features were hearths, often eroded down to the last 2 cm of their basin depth. Other charcoal features appeared to be remains from surface fires, with no clear outline of a basin; yet others appeared to be material discarded from some hearth activity such as roasting or stone boiling that occurred nearby. Cultural material retrieved were numerous fire cracked rocks, pieces of groundstone, many lithic flakes, (primarily resharpening flakes and a few retouched flakes), and charcoal in quantities adequate for dating. No complete tools were found.

The cultural materials will give us a better idea of how the surrounding high altitude terrace campsite was used. Some areas of interest include its relationship to the game drive systems on the nearby Divide, where the site users had traveled from, what floral and faunal resources they consumed, and perhaps information on the paleo climate. Jim Benedict and CAS volunteers will do the labwork and report writing over the coming winter. While science can't confirm it, a good guess is that the ancients and moderns shared the same reverence for this high, flat, sheltered site, and for the first rays of the sun breaking through the clouds to warm their backsides!

Steve Montgomery  
IPCAS Vice President

## REMAINS OF ANCIENT MAN DISCOVERED

Associated Press: Denver - The remains of a man who died more than 8,000 years ago have been found above the 10,000 foot level in the southern Rocky Mountains, the U.S. Forest Service announced Wednesday.

Details of the find will be kept secret until the senior archaeologist on the project, Dr. Pat Watson of Washington University in St. Louis, makes a report at the Rocky Mountain Anthropology Conference in Jackson, Wyo., on Oct 1.

Kenny Frost, a member of the Southern Ute tribe, was in charge of repatriation of the remains in accordance with Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act.

Reprinted from DAILY CAMERA, Sept 2, 1993.

## CRYPT FOR NATIVE AMERICAN REMAINS

The Utah Legislature has allocated \$60,000 to build a burial vault to hold Native American remains disturbed in 1983 when the Great Salt Lake flooded its shores. To control the flooding, the state had pumped water out of the lake, uncovering hundreds of ancient burials. The skeletons were held at Utah State University until they could be reburied.

Descendants of the Shoshone, who once occupied this land, claimed the remains. The Native American Grave Protection and Repatriation Act provides for Native American determination of where to relocate burials found on state land. After much debate, the Shoshoni leadership decided on a vault, since the more desirable original location had proved unstable. State funds will also pay for the caskets, made by the Shoshoni. The vault will be buried in the city's Pioneer Trail State Park, about 30 miles from where the remains were found. (Jessica E Healey, Editorial Assistant.)

Reprinted from ARCHAEOLOGY, Sept/Oct 1993.

## CAS CHAPTER PAAC COORDINATORS - 1993

### Indian Peaks (Boulder)

Anita McHugh --- (303) 449-6127 (h)  
1630 30th, Suite A-258, Boulder, CO 80301

### Denver

Teresa Weedon --- (303) 366-7843 (h)  
1189 Norfolk St., Aurora, CO 80011  
(Other Coordinators - in future issues)

## PAAC SCHEDULE FALL 1993

### **BOULDER** - Foothills Nature Center

Colorado Archaeology - Oct 20, 27; Nov 3, 9 (date chg), 17, 24; Dec 1.

### **DENVER**

Ceramic Description & Analysis - Aug 26; Sept 2, 9, 16, 23; Oct 7, 14.

### **FT COLLINS**

Field & Lab Photography - Sept 14, 28; Oct 5, 12.

### **CARBONDALE**

Colorado Archaeology - Sept 10 to 13.

### **DURANGO**

Basic Site Surveying - Sept 17 to 20.

### **STEAMBOAT SPRINGS**

Historic Archaeology. - Oct 15 to 18.

### **GUNNISON**

Ceramic Description & Analysis - Oct 22 to 25.

### **PUEBLO**

Perishable Materials - Nov 5 to 9.

### **COLORADO SPRINGS**

Basic Site Surveying - November 19 to 21.

### **CORTEZ**

Ceramic Description & Analysis - Dec 3 to 5.

## USING THE PAST TO DEFINE THE FUTURE

I went walking with an archaeologist friend one recent evening. We began by exploring an ancient pueblo built around a spring on the edge of a canyon. We weren't looking for anything in particular. We talked about the pursuit of archaeology in general. Should archaeological research strictly confine itself to what can be proven scientifically and empirically? Can the present be used to interpret the past? Is much of the current archaeological interpretation of the past nothing more than storytelling? Is there any good reason to conduct archaeological research? Should archaeological sites be disturbed for any reason, including for archaeological research? Can just anyone study and accurately interpret the prehistoric past or is that something only trained archaeologists can and should do? These questions are being debated within the archaeological profession itself.

We wandered among the ruins. The clouds thickened and light dimmed. The flight of two **baby owls**, (editor's emphasis), so young they could only flap wildly from tree to nearby tree, interrupted our conversation. We looked for kivas in thick stands of oak. We followed low stone walls surrounding the pueblo linking one structure to the next within the complex. We searched for ancient dams on an expanse of exposed slickrock. We followed what might be an ancient footpath linking a nearby cluster of buildings to a water source. The sun set and the sky turned crimson. Curtains of rain became cascades of embers falling across distant mountains, embers dying before they touched earth. Tall grass blazed green in the last light.

It struck me then that discussions such as ours should be held only in ancient places. In classrooms the questions we were examining could only lead to even more questions until one finally questioned the existence of the past whatsoever. In that ancient pueblo, surrounded by a natural landscape so old that it made the pueblo look new, the past was undeniable, not subject to question. My friend observed that archaeology may be on the brink of splitting into two disciplines, one absolutely scientific and one not, and that the two would lose communication with another. I'm sure he's right. It's already happening.

In the beginning of knowledge there was only general knowledge of all things physical and metaphysical. Within early knowledge all things were connected and inseparable. Knowledge grew and divided into more than one body of knowledge. It is growing. It will follow the path of all knowledge and split into two, then three, then four. Conservatives within the discipline will be dismayed by this fragmentation. Radicals will be cheered by it because they can gravitate to the body of archaeological inquiry and knowledge most closely reflecting their own intellectual inclinations, a luxury they couldn't enjoy when all archaeological knowledge was shared by all archaeologists.

Absolute science or not, the disciplines now call archaeology are not like other disciplines. Archaeological research is driven by the desire of all human beings to know the human past from the dawn of humanity. That is a universal desire so intrinsic that it is almost an instinct. We cannot know the future so we cannot measure ourselves, define ourselves against it. We can only turn to the past in order to define our present selves and societies. We hunger for that definition, to know who we are in the contest of all human time up to this moment. What the archaeologists divide into parts in order to focus on particular past moments using particular methods of inquiry, the rest of us will put together again to our own satisfaction.

(Ian Thompson is a writer living in Cortez and columnist for the Sunday Durango Herald. He is author of *The Towers of Hovenheep*, Mesa Verde Museum Association, 1993.) Reprinted from the **DURANGO HERALD**.

1993 INDIAN PEAKS OFFICERS

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**SECRETARY** Sally Meisenhelder 499-1875  
**TREAS/MEMBER** Jeannie Hamilton 443-9221

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**PROJECT INFO OFFICER** Laura Viola 442-2019  
**PAAC COORDINATOR** Anita McHugh 449-6127  
**CALUMET EDITOR** Ed Grefrath 444-2091

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Please make check payable to: Indian Peaks Chapter, CAS  
**Mail To:** P.O. Box 18301, Boulder, CO 80308  
 To receive membership card & roster, enclose a stamped, self-add envelope.

When you join the Indian Peaks Chapter of CAS, you will receive our monthly newsletter, **The Calumet**, & the CAS quarterly Magazine, **Southwestern Lore**. You will be informed of recent developments in Colorado Archaeology as well as field surveys to locate and record archaeological sites, travel opportunities to places of archaeological interest, courses and workshops in archaeology, and monthly meetings featuring guest speakers.

THE CALUMET --- INDIAN PEAKS CHAPTER

# CALUMET

*Newsletter for the Indian Peaks Chapter  
 of the Colorado Archaeological Society*

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