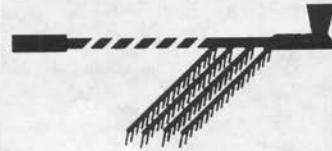


Apr 1994, Vol 2, No 4

CALUMET



Newsletter for the Indian Peaks Chapter of the Colorado Archaeological Society

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

April 6 / PAAC Class on "Lithic Description and Analysis" begins. See Feb, '94 CALUMET, page 2, for details.

April 15-16 / CAS Quarterly Meeting at Crow Canyon Archaeological Center. Sponsored by Hisatsinon (Cortez) Chapter of CAS.

April 19 / IPCAS Executive Board Meeting, 7:30 pm at the Boulder Police bureau, 1803 33rd St, Community Room. (To be admitted, dial 3300 on the vestibule phone.)

April 20-24 / Society for American Archaeology Annual Meeting, Anaheim, CA.

April 26 / IPCAS Membership Meeting, The Meeting Place. E. James Dixon, PhD. Curator of Archaeology at the Denver Museum of Natural History. Dr. Dixon will present a synthesis of his book, "Quest for the Origins of the First Americans".

May 1 / IPCAS Field Trip to White Rocks petroglyph site.

May 14 / IPCAS Field Trip to Parson Ranch game drive.

***** See article on Summer Field Work, page 2 *****

July 2-4 / CAS Encampment, near Radium, CO

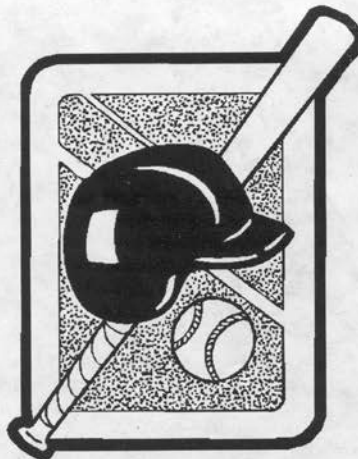
Oct 29 / 1994 State CAS Annual Meeting in Boulder, hosted by IPCAS.

IPCAS GENERAL MEETING

April 26, 1994, 7:30 P.M., "The Meeting Place", 1600 28th Street, Boulder.

Dr E. James Dixon will present a synthesis of his recent book, "QUEST FOR THE ORIGINS OF THE FIRST AMERICANS". Before joining the Denver Museum of Natural History as the Curator of Archaeology, Dr Nixon was the curator of archaeology at the Univ. of Alaska Museum and professor of anthropology at the Univ of Alaska, Fairbanks. His research of Alaska and the Yukon region seemed to bring to light conflicts with the peopling of the Americas. New discoveries in Alaska and Asia provide exciting insights about the "when and how" the first Americans may have arrived.

Dr. Dixon will provide a fresh scientific synthesis which redefines Arctic archaeology and re-evaluates the Bering land-bridge theory as the major route by which Paleo-Indians first entered North America. He will share with us his odyssey of intellectual discovery (in lay terms) presenting a wealth of unpublished information important to those interested in the archaeology of North America.



CONSERVATION PRESERVATION EDUCATION EXPLORATION

FUNDRAISING / BOOK SALES

For both the April and May general membership meetings, the chapter will be making available to the membership for purchase the following books:

QUEST FOR THE ORIGINS OF THE FIRST AMERICANS by E. James Dixon, \$19.95

(Dr Nixon will autograph purchases of his book at the April meeting.)

HOPI POTTERY SYMBOLS by Alex Patterson, \$17.95

KINNIKINNICK - ROCKY MOUNTAIN FLOWERS by Millie Miller, \$5.95

EARLY BIRD - WESTERN BACKYARD BIRDS by M. Miller / C. Nelson \$5.95

A FIELD GUIDE TO ROCK ART by Alex Patterson, \$15.95

THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF COLORADO by Steve Cassells, \$14.95

UTES: THE MOUNTAIN PEOPLE by Jan Pettit, \$11.95

UNDERSTANDING THE ANASAZI OF MESA VERDE & HOVENWEEP by David Noble, \$8.95

SALINAS - ARCHAEOLOGY, HISTORY, PREHISTORY by David Grant Noble, \$7.95

WUPATKI AND WALNUT CANYON by David Grant Noble, \$7.95

GLIMPSES OF THE ANCIENT SOUTHWEST by David Stuart, \$9.95

ART OF A VANISHED RACE - MIMBRES CLASSIC BLACK-ON-WHITE by Giammattei/Reichert, \$11.95

ANASAZI BASKETMAKER - WETHERILL/GRAND GULCH SYMPOSIUM by Johnson/Hayes/Phillips, \$15.00

SECRETS OF THE ANCIENT KIVAS by E. P. Henderson, \$4.00

STATE OF COLORADO ARCHAEOLOGY by Colorado Archaeological Society, \$10.00

and ... 1 Ex Large Rock Creek T-Shirt, \$15.00



IPCAS MAY '94 FIELD TRIPS

White Rocks, May 1, 10:00 a.m. - 2:00 p.m.

Arrangements have been made for a limited group of 20 CAS members to visit the White Rocks petroglyph site on private land east of Boulder. The field trip was announced and a sign up sheet was passed at the March general meeting. Twenty people immediately signed up. Though the slots for this trip are full, there may be some cancellations so if you missed the meeting (shame) and want to go there may still be a chance. Call Steve Montgomery 443-4424.

For those who signed up: wear waterproof boots, bring a lunch. Parking is limited so we'll carpool from the U.S. Post Office parking lot on the corner of 55th Street and Valmont. Meet there at 9:30 a.m. This is an extraordinarily beautiful and sensitive natural area along Boulder Creek. **No dogs, but definitely bring your camera.**

Parson Ranch Game Drive, May 14, 9:00 a.m. - 1:00 p.m.

In case you missed the White Rocks trip, here's another chance to see one of the outstanding local prehistoric cultural features. Dock Teegarden will lead this hike onto the Parsons Ranch (City Open Space) to view the large game drive wall on this property as well as some its historic features.

A sign up sheet will be passed at the April general meeting or call Steve Montgomery 443-4414. We'll meet at the open space parking lot on the east side of Hwy 36, (north of Boulder about one mile beyond the intersection of Broadway and Hwy 36), at 9:00 a.m. Wear good boots, bring lunch.

SUMMER '94 FIELD WORK

Don't let your trowels rust! If you're anxious to sharpen and expand your excavation and survey skills there are numerous professional survey and excavation projects taking place this summer in which CAS volunteers can participate.

Most of the principal investigators on these projects have asked that we define a date for Indian Peaks Chapter volunteers to visit their projects as a group, although individual participation is also possible.

The Executive Committee needs to know the level of interest in these projects so that we can predict the number of volunteers that we can make available, and the dates those volunteers prefer.

Here are some of the prospects. Sign up sheets will be available at the general meeting. Where "group arrangement" is indicated below it means that we'll go as one

party. Where "individual arrangement" is indicated you should call the contact person to schedule your visit independently.

The South Platte Project: +/- late June, group arrangement, call Steve Montgomery, 443-4414.

Excavation and survey on the South Platte project with Bob Brunswig of the University of Northern Colorado. Bob was our March speaker. He's working on an area in the Pawnee National Grasslands with dense multi-component sites extending to the Late Paleo period.

Comanche Creek Project: +/- early June, group arrangement, call Steve Montgomery, 443-4414.

Excavation and survey on the Comanche Creek Project with Christopher Prillwitz of the Center for Plains Archaeological Research. Chris is working on an area of private land near Strasburg, CO (just east of Denver), also with dense multicomponent sites dating back to the Paleo Indian period.

Devil's Thumb game drive site: +/- late July, group arrangement, call Steve Montgomery, 443-4414.

Excavations at the Devil's Thumb game drive site with Jim Benedict of the Center for Mountain Archaeology. Jim is looking for 6 to 8 experienced excavators to assist in a one week investigation of a high altitude game drive.

Boulder County & City Open Space Surveys: +/- June - September, group arrangement, call Steve Montgomery, 443-4414.

Surveys on Boulder County and City open space with Pete Gleichman of Native Cultural Resources. Pete has mentioned several projects which he believes will begin this summer where CAS volunteers could help; the Boulder

Mountain Parks Survey; the Bighorn Mountain Survey for BLM near Gold Hill; and the Marshall Mesa Survey.

Excavations at the Swallow Site: April - October, individual arrangement, call Bill Hammond, 333-2984.

This is an ongoing excavation of the Denver CAS Chapter on the Ken Karyl Ranch, southwest of Denver. The site is a rock-shelter occupied on an intermittent basis for at least 3,500 years. With the recovery of a Folsom point during the '93 field season, a much earlier occupation now appears likely. Weekend excavations begin April 9 and continue through October 23.

PAAC Summer Training Survey: July 12-21, individual arrangement, call Kevin Black, 866-4671.

PAAC Summer Training Survey with Kevin Black, Assistant State Archaeologist, near Buena Vista, CO.

ANCIENT PETRA MORE THAN A NECROPOLIS

PETRA, Jordan - The 2,000-year-old tombs of Petra, streaked with white-and-rose-colored Cambrian sandstone, have long been known to border the ruins of one of the greatest ancient cities in Middle East.

But the metropolis of Petra, unlike Palmyra in Syria, has never been extensively excavated, and visitors might have had the impression that the site was little more than a giant necropolis.

Now an international team of archaeologists has begun an extensive project to uncover the lost city, which played an important role in the Nabatean empire which dates from approximately the third century B.C. to the second century A.D., and in the Roman and Byzantine empires, until its virtual abandonment at the end of the sixth century.

Work has already begun on a Byzantine church discovered in 1990, but the rest of the city still lies under sand dunes.

"Most of the city structures have been covered by naturally deposited sand," said Dr. Zbigniew Fiema, who is working on the excavation of the church as part of a team from the American Center for Oriental Research in Amman.

He stood under a tarpaulin covering near the work site at the church. "The winds are very strong in this area, so I expect, in many areas, we will find magnificently preserved structures up to one or two stories high," he said. When the winds are strong, structures are buried more quickly by the sand.

Fiema's excavations at the church have already produced at least one potentially major find. Last month, archaeologists announced the discovery there of scores of ancient papyrus scrolls that are more than 1,400 years old and could date



back to Roman times.

Deciphering the scrolls will be extremely difficult, though, because they were carbonized in a fire that swept through the church when it collapsed in an earthquake, perhaps in the year 551.

"Only when these carbonized papyri are separated, conserved and carefully unwrapped can the script be identified and understood," the American Center for Oriental Research said in an announcement of the discovery.

The international team also includes the University of Utah, Brown University and Swiss and French teams.

Archaeologists hope that excavations in Petra, which could have had as many as 30,000 inhabitants, will eventually help fill in many of the mysteries of the Nabatean civilization, including an understanding of its pagan beliefs, daily life and cultic practices.

The Nabatean kingdom is considered to have been an important force in the ancient world, but it is one often neglected by modern scholars.

"The city of Petra has hardly been touched," said Dr. Pierre Bikai, the director of the American center, "and we expect to find many surprises. This is a first class site, and one of the great archaeological treasures in the Middle East."

By Chris Hedges, The New York Times. Reprinted from the Sunday, March 27, 1994, Denver Post.

STRANGE CORPSES FOUND IN CHINESE DESERT

San Francisco - In dim light they appear to be sleeping, but they've been dead up to 4,000 years: more than 100 astoundingly well-preserved corpses unearthed in a Chinese desert, whose inexplicably blond hair and white skin could topple dogmas about early human history.

A former Stanford scientist is analyzing the corpses' DNA in hopes of answering haunting questions: Who are they? Where did they come from? And what on earth were these European-looking men, women and children doing in China's parched outback 2,000 years before Jesus, when Europe was largely a dark forest?

Sixteen years after the first corpses were found, the Chinese government has granted Western researchers their first close look at these faces from prehistory: a baby in colorful swaddling clothes; a 20-year-old girl with braided hair, found buried in a fetal position with her hands by her chest,

as if dosing; a man with a pigtail, scarlet-colored clothes and red, blue and amber leg wrappings, who looks as relaxed as if he were posing for a Benetton ad.

The discovery - which could have far greater impact on our understanding of societal evolution than the lone, ancient "ice man" uncovered in the Alps in 1991 - is described in an article by science writer Evan Hadingham in the forthcoming April issue of *Discover* magazine. Here's how the discoveries unfolded:

In 1978 and 1979, Chinese archaeologist Wang Binghua found the first of what would prove to be more than 100 corpses in Xinjiang ("shin-jee-ahng") province. The corpses had white skin, blond hair, long noses and skulls, and deep-set eyes - Caucasians, perhaps from Northern Europe. Incredibly, only scanty press reports have reached the West, at least partly because of the region's isolation, Chinese bureaucratic inertia and the regime's suppression of foreign contacts, particularly after the Tiananmen Square massacre of 1989.

Now the cloud of mystery is lifting thanks to an investigation organized by University of Pennsylvania China scholar Victor Mair, in collaboration with researchers in China, the United States and Italy. The collaboration required delicate negotiations with Chinese officials. It would have been "absolutely unthinkable" for Chinese authorities to grant Westerners such access - including tissue samples from the corpses - only five years ago, Mair said. In the 1910s and 1920s, it was a game of the imperialist (Western) archaeologists to go in and take away important stuff - ancient manuscripts, art works, paintings, statues. "Chinese officials are very sensitive to that and they don't want to make the same situation recur," Mair said. He also speculates that some Chinese officials may have hesitated to ballyhoo the find because they didn't know what to make of all those Caucasian faces. They date from a time when, according to regional histories and national pride, China was advancing - developing writing and metal artifacts and wheeled vehicles - with help from foreign meddlers.

The corpses were unearthed at scattered burial sites in an approximately 500-mile-wide region of northwest China, between the so-called Celestial (Tian Shan) Mountains and the Taklimakan Desert. They range in age from 2000 B.C. to 300 B.C. based largely on radiocarbon dating.

Where do they come from? At the University of Sassari in Italy, anthropological geneticist Paolo Francalacci - who worked at Stanford until recently - hopes to determine the corpses' likely place of origin by comparing their DNA, or genetic material, with modern DNA from different societies.

"It will take time before we know anything (from the DNA analysis)," cautions Francalacci's Stanford colleague, Luigi

Luca Cavalli-Sforza, a famed population geneticist. "It's a very tricky type of analysis. Old DNA is generally very damaged.

"What I find most surprising of all is that these cadavers were in such perfect condition," Cavalli-Sforza said. Their features are "sufficient, I think, to say these people came from Northern Europe. My guess is that these (people) were kind of 'scouts' (who) were, most probably, traveling east and maybe settled there (in Xinjiang)." He believes thousands of corpses may yet be discovered.

Why has it taken so long for the news to Western scholars; attention? While Western news media trumpeted the 5,000-year-old "ice man" found in the Austrian and Italian Alps, they have ignored the Chinese find. Almost. For example, in 1981 a UPI story entitled "Chinese Find Blonde Mummy" appeared on page D-2 of the Albuquerque Journal: in 1986 the Associated Press passed on a brief report from the New China News Agency that archaeologists had found 50 corpses preserved for at least 3,000 years, some of which wore "beautiful designs in bright colors", and in December 1993 the Chicago Tribune cited speculations that corpses in an ancient city along the Silk Road - the route that has traditionally linked the Mediterranean to China - indicate it "may have been inhabited by drop-outs from Alexander the Great's army" in the 4th century B.C. (In fact, the corpses are up to 1,500 years older than that.)

Some corpses were displayed in Chinese museums, and one- dubbed the Beauty of Loulan - traveled all the way to Japan, where she was publicly exhibited in a few cities in 1993. In 1987, Mair happened to be touring China when he entered a museum in Urumqi that displayed corpses of a man, woman and child - a family, as it appeared. They had died 3,000 years earlier, "yet the bodies looked as if they were buried yesterday," he said. What left him "thunderstruck," though, was their faces. They were Caucasians, apparently of European origin. "The questions kept nagging at me. Who were these people? How did they get out here at such an early date?"

The April issue of Discover includes a gallery of color

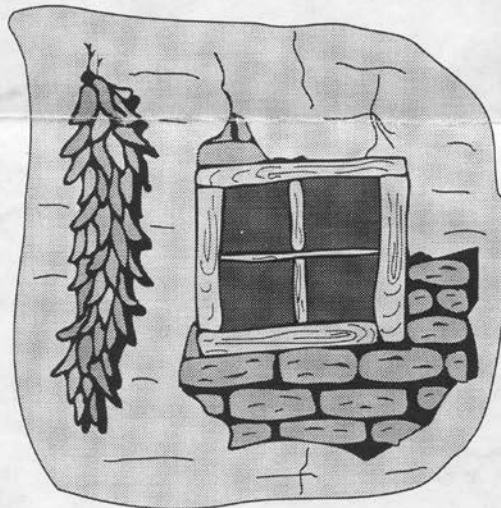
photos of the corpses. They include a man, with a painted image of the sun - a religious symbol? - on the temple of his head; the baby in swaddling clothes, its eyes covered with stones - a burial ritual?; a woman in a tall peaked hat reminiscent of witch's hat, and a woman wearing a fur-lined coat, leather mittens and a two-pointed hat that, according to Chinese archaeologists, indicates she might have had two husbands - a possible result of a shortage of females. They were buried in simple graves, roughly 6 feet deep, with mats at the bottom. Some graves contain artifacts hinting that the living mourned the dead: For example, a baby was buried with a sort of milk bottle fashioned from a sheep's breast.

Traditionally, Chinese historians insist that their society evolved on its own with little foreign input. That view has played well in modern China, which resents its past subjugation to foreign imperialists. But Mair says the traditional view is hard to reconcile with the discovery of so many Caucasians who lived in what is now the westernmost edge of China, thousands of year before Marco Polo.

"The archaeological, linguistic, and textual evidence forces me to conclude that China has both significantly influenced and been influenced by other civilizations throughout history and, indeed, prehistory," Mair said.

By Keay Davidson, San Francisco Examiner

Reprinted from the Boulder Daily Camera, March 10, 1994



Bill and Mary Lou said Thank You.

Bill and Mary Lou Maston miss the CAS members but "plan to be back this summer". Bill hopes "he can find some dig to work on." In the meantime they are at 305 W Granite in Butte, Montana, 59701. (Editor's note - Granite St sounds appropriate for an avocational archaeologist.)

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Please check one:

Date: _____

☐ Individual \$25/yr☐ New☐ Family \$28/yr☐ Renewal

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Telephone _____

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*

P. O. Box 18301

Boulder, CO 80308



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