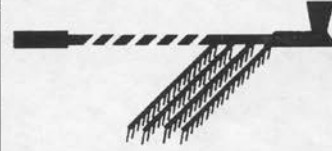


Mar 1995, Vol 3, No 3

CALUMET



Newsletter for the Indian Peaks Chapter of the Colorado Archaeological Society

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

Tues , March 21 / IPCAS Executive Board Meeting, 7:30 pm Boulder Police Bureau, 1805 33rd Street, Boulder.

March 24 - 25 / Colorado Council of Professional Archaeologists Annual Mtg, Fort Collins.

Tues March 28 / IPCAS General Meeting. The Meeting Place, Crossroads Mall. **Speaker will be Michael Oberndorf** on "The North Table Mountain Site."

Apr 22 / State CAS Quarterly Meeting, hosted by Denver Chapter, call Anne Mutaw 666-0437 for details. Participation of the general membership is urgently needed at the state level.

April 22,23 / Pawnee Grassland Excavations with Bob Brunswig begin. Also April 29 and May 23 - June 10. For info call Ton Cree, 776-7004.

May 13, 14 / Spanish Diggings field trip out of Wheatland, Wyoming. (See article). Call Steve Montgomery, 443-4414 for info.

May 14 - 20 / Colorado Archaeology Preservation Week, IPCAS volunteers will take the Rock Creek Interpretive Trunk into Boulder County classrooms, Call Ann Hayes, 494-3773 for info.

July 1 - 4 / CAS Annual Encampment, McPhee Reservoir, Cortez, CO.

July 31 - Aug 5 / Caribou Lake Excavations with Bonnie Pitblado begins. Also Aug 7 - Aug 12. (See article), Bonnie Pitblado, (602) 795-3723.

Oct 16 / CAS 1995 Annual Meeting, Montrose, Co. Symposium on "Western Colorado Formative".

IPCAS GENERAL MEETING

March 28, 1995, 7:30 pm, The Meeting Place.

"The North Table Mountain Site" by Michael Oberndorf.

North Table Mountain, Jefferson County, Colorado, is the location of a grouping of activity areas and stone circles closely surrounding a system of cairn lines along the perimeters of two short but prominent intermittent drainages, encompassing an area of approximately 49 hectares. Six sites, (5JF962; 963, 964, 965, 966 and 989), have been distinguished. They are based on distribution of surface artifacts, groupings of cairns and stone circles, and spatial/topographical relationships among these factors. Preliminary analysis of the diagnostic artifacts in the sparse surface collection indicates a probable temporal span from at least the **Late Archaic through the Late Prehistoric**. The content of the assemblage of artifacts and their distribution among the various component sites suggests several possibilities regarding the significance of the association of the stone circles, cairn lines and camps. Partial excavation of two of the stone circles produced no cultural material. The composition/spatial relationship of these sites, their location on the mountaintop, and their close proximity to hogback valley sites like Magic Mountain and LoDaisKa add a new dimension to the known prehistoric activities for the area and raise numerous questions concerning cultural relationships among the people of the hogback valley, the mountains, and the plains.



Michael Oberndorf says that after working for 25 years as a stage carpenter in professional theater he made a career change and moved to Arizona in 1990. There he joined the Flagstaff Chapter of the Arizona Archaeological Society and participated in excavation at Elden Pueblo. He returned to Colorado three years ago and has worked for Powers Elevation, a contract archaeology firm. He is presently a full time student in Anthropology at Metro State College.

CONSERVATION PRESERVATION EDUCATION EXPLORATION

PAWNEE GRASSLANDS FIELD RESEARCH SCHEDULE

In the summer of 1994 former IPCAS VP Ken Larson organized about thirty IPCAS volunteers to assist archaeologist Bob Brunswig with investigations at the West Stoneham site in the Pawnee National Grasslands.

IPCAS members were a valuable addition to Bob's field research team, and they were rewarded with work on sites that were extremely rich in cultural remains, as you may recall from Bob's presentation to the chapter on the results of the 1994 work.

This year Bob has again asked for assistance from IPCAS. Bob plans to do further investigations of the multicomponent campsites adjacent to the sheltering rock outcrops which surround an ancient playa lake at the West Stoneham Site.

The work schedule is as follows:

Sat & Sun - April 22 & 23,

Sat - April 29,

Tues, May 23 through Sat, June 10.

Overnight accommodations are available in nearby Fort Morgan or on the site.

For more information and to sign up call this year's volunteer coordinator, Tom Cree at 776-7004.

CARIBOU LAKE EXCAVATION OPPORTUNITY

As many of you Indian Peaks folks know, I'm planning to continue excavations of Dr. Jim Benedict's Caribou Lake site, in the Indian Peaks Wilderness. Dr. Benedict worked at the site in 1970 and 1971 with a small crew and a National Science Foundation grant. Among other things, he obtained a radiocarbon date on charcoal of 8460 +/- 140 BP. The sample came from a possible hearth in a level that also produced a projectile point base, bifacial knife, and chipped stone flakes. The date is one of the oldest ever from the Colorado Rockies, and it appears to represent Paleoindian presence in the region. It is this Paleoindian occupation that particularly interest me, and I'm hoping that work this summer will add some pieces to the puzzle.

But, and this is a big but, in order to complete this project I need help from willing CAS members who would enjoy some high-altitude archaeology. I plan to conduct excavations from Monday, July 31 to Saturday, August 12, 1995. I will need volunteers throughout this two-week span, but I thought that the best approach would be to have two one-week sessions, beginning July 31 and August 7,

respectively. Each group will meet at the trailhead and hike the 3 to 4 miles to Caribou Lake on Monday morning. After setting up camp, we'll have an orientation and begin work on Monday afternoon. We'll work through the week, and hike out Friday afternoon. For anyone wishing to help out both weeks (bless you!), you could either hike out for a hot shower and restaurant meal, or hang out in the mountains and relax over the weekend. As always, we will need to pack in our own gear and food. The Forest Service may be able to supply llamas to help us carry excavation supplies up the mountain at the beginning of the project, but I can't make any promises on that one.

If you are interested in participating, please contact me as soon as possible, so we can figure out who will do what and when. Until mid-May, you can phone me at (602) 795-3723 [though please note that after March 15, the area code will change to 520], or write me at 1321 N. Roberts Way, Tucson, AZ 86712. After mid May, I'll be out on the Pawnee National Grassland, 44741 WCR 77, Briggsdale, CO 80611. My phone there is (303) 656-3532.

If you would like to read about Caribou Lake, I recommend the following two publications:

Benedict, J. B.

1974 Early Occupation of the Caribou Lake site, Colorado Front Range. *Plains Anthropologist* 19(63):1-4.

1985 *Arapaho Pass, Glacial Geology and Archeology at the Crest of the Colorado Front Range*, Research Report No 3, Center for Mountain Archeology, Ward, CO. (Chapter 4 is specifically about Caribou Lake, but the rest of the volume has loads of great info).

I'm looking forward to a great experience this summer, and to working with any of you who want take part!

Bonnie Pitblado

CENSORING SITES

The National Park Service and the Forest Service are working with the National Mapping Division of the U.S. Geological Survey (USGS) to delete unprotected archaeological sites from updated topographic maps. Federal law allows government agencies to protect information about the locations of threatened historic ruins and even to reject inquiries about their whereabouts under the Freedom of Information Act.

New USGS maps will show only those sites that are controlled and protected by a government or private agency, and only when the agency has given the USGS permission to map them. Because there are some 55,000 topographic maps covering the 48 contiguous states, it will be many years before all of them can be reviewed and adjusted.

Reprinted from *ARCHAEOLOGY*, Jan/Feb, 1995

Occupations were between about 3000 B.C. and 4000 B.C. in the Early Archaic Period and between about 1700 B.C. and 2400 B. c. in the Middle Archaic Period.

Alum root, which presently grows at altitudes of about 9,500 feet and was used externally to treat cuts and scrapes and internally to calm diarrhea, found at the site appears to support another of Benedict's theories, Tate said.

Benedict has proposed two migration models for an ancient mountain tradition. In one model, which describes some of the earliest inhabitants of the area, people moved into the mountains during the summer and wintered in the foothills/plains conjunction. Later, native inhabitants wintered in the foothills and moved in a circular pattern that started with northern movement along the foothills as the snow melted and then moved into north Park for the summer, concluding with hunting activity on the Continental Divide before they returned to the foothills for winter.

When Tate talked about the third site, she leaned forward and her voice rose with excitement: "We found all kinds of wonderful tools and pottery on the surface."

In the past, mountain cultures were assumed to have been almost completely reliant on plains cultures. But, increasingly, evidence suggests the mountain people had their own set of traditions, as proposed by Benedict.

Clay pots found at the third site were made from local materials rather than being imported from the east, which seems to support the mountain tradition theory. Another clue is the atlatl weight, which was probably used to fine-tune the mechanics of spear throwing. The closest source for the material used to make the weight is Idaho Springs, Tate said.

"The traits were introduced from the East and local people adopted them," Tate said. Of Benedict's mountain tradition theory, Tate said, "It makes a lot of sense."

But remnants of two pit houses, rare in this area, provoked the most excitement. They were used between A.D. 350 and A.D. 1400. Although small, they have hearths and other features that may have been used for storage. They resemble pit houses found in western Colorado and Wyoming. "I'm not sure what this implies," Mutaw said. "They could have been getting this idea from an outside group, or an outside group itself paid a visit."

Tate thinks the houses might have been constructed like a three-sided lean-to, oriented to protect against the prevailing winds. If future construction activities can be structured to avoid the site it would provide an excellent opportunity for a public, interpretive site, she said.

By Chris Roberts, Reprinted from the Daily Camera, February 23, 1995

DEATH of IVOL HAGER. FORMER CAS OFFICER

It is with real sorrow that I must announce to the membership the death of Ivool Hager. Ivool needs no introduction to this group but it should be noted that probably no one in our organization had more friends in CAS or was a better friend to CAS. In his many years as a member and officer Ivool contributed as much to CAS as did C.T. Hurst or Omer Stewart. While serving as Executive Secretary Ivool belonged to every chapter and made every effort to visit each chapter at least annually.

Larry Riggs, CAS Exec Secretary.

SUM - EX BD MTG, 2/21/95

Attendees: Steve Montgomery, Kristine Halien, Morey Stenson, Anne Mutaw, Michael Landen, Donna Shay & Maureen Arthur.

Minutes of 1/17/95 were approved.

Treasurer's Report: (by Steve Montgomery). Denver Chapter CAS will audit expenses/income for 1994 annual dinner meeting.

Vice President's Report: (by Steve Montgomery). Summary of Membership survey will be presented at March Ex Bd Mtg.

Field Trips:

Spanish Diggings, (see article Calumet).

Masonville Jump, Cheryl Damon will investigate 1

day tour of this buffalo jump site.

Field Work:

Pawnee Grassland, (see article Calumet).

Caribou Lake, (see article, Calumet).

Membership Drive:

Decrease in paid CAS membership also a source of concern at Quarterly Meeting.

IPCAS brochures will be sent to 1994 Annual Mtg registrants, (non-members).

New business: Motion made to make donation to Archaeology Conservancy's preservation of "Lamb Spring" site. Discussion followed, motion was tabled.

Submitted by: Maureen Arthur, Secretary



SPANISH DIGGINGS FIELDTRIP

The "Spanish Diggings" quarries of southeastern Wyoming, and the many ancient archaeological sites in their vicinity, have provided significant information about the cultural history of our region, especially about the Paleoindian period.

The numerous quarry sites extend over an area of thirty miles from north to south and fifteen miles east to west. We will visit some of the largest and least disturbed quarry sites on private and public land.

Nearby cultural sites which we'll visit include the Hell Gap site (early historic back through Clovis); the Hageman Narrows Site (r.c. dates of 10,200 B.P.); the Fisher site (multicomponent); and the register cliff historic site. One or more sites may be under active excavation.

We'll meet at the Arby's in Wheatland, Wyoming (about a 3 1/2 hour drive north on Interstate 25), at 9:00 am on Saturday, May 13 and Sunday, May 14. From there we'll take only 4-wheel drive vehicles and follow our guides, Janice Baars and Dewey Baars, President of the Wyoming Archaeological Society, into that beautiful and haunting landscape of the North Platte River corridor.

All planning to attend need to sign up in advance. We also need to know who will be kind enough to provide their 4-wheel vehicles and assign who will ride in them. Call Steve Montgomery, 443-4414 for information on Wheatland motels or nearby camping facilities.

This trip will be especially valuable to persons working in the Pawnee Grasslands who will encounter lithics there from the Spanish Diggings source and collateral cultural manifestations.

OLD WORLD AT DIA

Found beneath the marvelous marble floors of Denver International Airport's terminal and near the four-lane asphalt of Peña Boulevard were the traces of ancient people who watched the skies for guidance and inspiration.

Soon, planes will rumble down DIA's runways ferrying a mobile population through skies no longer pristine. The ancient inhabitants were also mobile, but they used muscle power to follow the seasons.

Although the density of archaeological finds at DIA has been relatively sparse, a few rich sites were uncovered. Money for the work was included as part of the DIA construction costs and areas examined were slated for construction.

More than 100 sites - mostly prehistoric - have been identified so far, along with 100 isolated finds, which include single projectile points or spots where some ancient

inhabitant of the area stopped to sharpen a spear point or trim a grinding stone.

A wealth of grinding stone remnants indicate the inhabitants lingered in the area, rather than simply using it as a temporary hunting camp. Ancient residents ground up plants and seeds, tanned hides and processed meat.

"It's a little bit lower elevation and it's next to water," said archaeologist **Marcia Tate**, with Powers Elevation Co. the firm that did most of the archaeological work. "Maybe the same reasons that make it good for crops today made it good for vegetation in the past."

A paleo-Indian projectile point (probably a spear point) dated to sometime between 6,000 B.C. and 7,000 B.C. was the oldest artifact found. Other evidence indicates the site was occupied consistently from that time until about A.D. 1200 to A.D. 1500.

"It was more than anybody ever imagined," said **Robert Mutaw**, a Louisville archaeologist who worked at the airport sites. "A lot of the sites had been pretty well disturbed and picked over."

In addition to projectile points and grinding stones - hand-held stone tools used for hide preparation and grinding - workers found atlatl weights (an atlatl is a throwing aid for spears and darts), pottery and stone knives.

"Most of this area has been plowed for 70 or 80 years," Tate said. However plowing doesn't necessarily ruin a site for archaeologists. Ancient sites can survive, depending on where bedrock lies (it provides a "bottom" below which nothing is likely to be found), how much dirt there is on top of the bedrock and how deeply the land was plowed.

Such is the case at DIA.

Three sites considered candidates for the National Register of Historic Places were given special scrutiny: one on the eastern side of the DIA property, one on a hilltop between Concourse A and Concourse B that has since been leveled, and another on the southwest side of DIA. About 19,000 acres were intensively surveyed by Aurora-based Powers. Another 5,825 acres was surveyed by Alpine Archaeological Consultants from Montrose.

The least significant of the sites appears to be the one near the eastern boundary, which was occupied between A.D. 1 and A.D. 1000. It is not yet in the way of progress, but design plans for the future may require a more thorough examination.

The hilltop revealed artifacts that indicate the small patch with a good view was used as a prehistoric hunting camp, Tate said. Dates of occupation support a theory proposed by Ward archaeologist **James Benedict** that a drought with two particularly onerous peaks pushed people toward the mountains at two different points.

BUILDING ON THE PAST

Prospective homeowners in southwestern Colorado can now purchase land where more than 200 Anasazi sites have been identified. Those who buy property on the 1,200-acre, 31-lot housing subdivision called **Indian Camp Ranch** will also be allowed to excavate sites on their land, provided they do so under the supervision of a certified archaeologist. Artifacts recovered will become the property of a museum to be built in the area. Homeowners will be allowed to display recovered artifacts in their residences, provided they are turned over to the museum upon their death. "These policies will be enforced," says Archie Hanson, the California-based developer of Indian Camp, "through peer pressure and financial penalties. If a landowner strays from the rules, the homeowners' association quadruples that member's due. Our credibility lies in our ability to police ourselves."

Indian Camp's land-use plans are legal, according to Susan Collins, state archaeologist of Colorado. Stephen Lekson, president of the nearby Crow Canyon Archaeological Center, notes that Woods Canyon Archaeological Consultants, the contract firm excavating at Indian Camp, "does an excellent job," adding "our attitude toward Indian Camp is friendly but guarded."

Reprinted from *ARCHAEOLOGY*, March/April 1995.

EARLIEST KNOWN ANCESTOR

Fossil remains found by paleoanthropologists working at Aramis in the Middle Awash region of eastern Ethiopia belong to our earliest known ancestor. Named **Australopithecus ramidus** ("ramid" means root in the local Afar language), the 4.4-million-year-old hominid bones predate Lucy, a small female **Australopithecus afarensis** found 20 years ago, by nearly one million years. According to Gen Suwa of the University of Tokyo and Tim D. White of the University of California, Berkeley, the remains, which include the upper-arm bones of several adults, the bases of two crania, a child's jaw, and various teeth, exhibit features common to both humans and apes.

Scholars generally agree that the split between humans and apes occurred four to six million years ago, and that bipedalism predated the development of a larger brain. There have been questions, however, regarding what our earliest ancestors looked like. The new finds, though fragmentary, have begun to answer these questions. According to White and Suwa, the teeth of **A. ramidus** strongly resemble in size, shape, and enamel thickness those of a chimpanzee, while its rather short upper arm bones and position of its **foramen magnum** (the hole at the base of the skull through which the spinal cord passes), attest bipedal locomotion. Though height estimates are hard to determine, the left humerus, ulna, and radius of one specimen suggest that the species may have been slightly larger than its 3.5- to 4.5-foot-tall **A. afarensis** descendants.

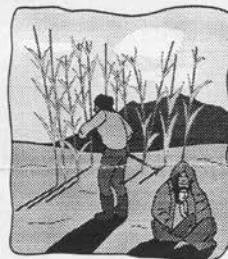
Reprinted from *ARCHAEOLOGY* magazine, March/April 1995.

AGRICULTURE IN NEW WORLD 4,700 YEARS OLD

By The New York Times

A new technique for dating ancient organic matter has upset thinking about the origins of agriculture in the Americas. The earliest known cultivation of corn, it now seems, occurred much more recently than had been thought - 4,700 years ago, not 7,000 - and scientists are perplexed as they ponder the implications.

The new date means that people in the New World, in the Tehuacan valley of the central Mexican state of Puebla in particular, probably didn't begin growing their most important crop until as much as 4,000 or 5,000 years after the beginning of agriculture in the Old World.



Hunter-gatherers who settled along the Jordan river valley managed to domesticate wild progenitors of wheat and barley as early as 9,000 to 10,000 years ago, and thus became the first farmers anywhere.

Perhaps such a lengthened time gap could suggest clues to the circumstances favoring the transition to agriculture, one of the foremost innovations in human culture.

The new evidence, said Dr. Gayle Fritz, paleobotanist at Washington University in St. Louis, "makes it necessary to begin building new models for agricultural evolution in the New World."

But reliable as they may be, are the new ages definitive? Because all the ancient corn specimens examined so far were fully domesticated, scientists were fully domesticated, scientists suspect they have yet to find the intermediate and earliest examples of cultivated corn.

Botanists are urging archaeologists to widen their search for evidence of early agriculture in Mexico, the only country where the nearest wild relatives of Maize are native. Look in places where the wild teosinte grows, botanists recommend.

Reprinted from *The Denver Post*, March 7, 1995

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Mail To: P.O. Box 18301, Boulder, CO 80308-1301

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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Number on the mailing label above is the mon/yr your membership renewal is due.