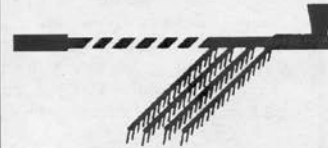


Oct 1995, Vol 3, No 8

CALUMET



Newsletter for the Indian Peaks Chapter of the Colorado Archaeological Society

SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

October / Denver CAS Swallow Site excavations on all weekends. Volunteers welcome. Call Bill Hammond, 303-333-2984.

October / Volunteers needed for documentation and stabilization program at the Sierra Ancha Cliff Dwellings, in central Arizona, in "beautiful, rugged canyon country". Backpack in and out. Call Rich Lange, Arizona State Museum, (w)520-621-6275, (h)520-325-7754.

Oct 17 / IPCAS Board of Directors Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Boulder Police Bureau, 1805 33rd Street, Boulder.

Oct 24 / IPCAS General Meeting, **Dr Scott Elias** will speak on "Insects in Archaeological Sites", 7:30 p.m., The Meeting Place, Crossroads Mall, Boulder.

Nov 21 / IPCAS Board of Directors Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Boulder Police Bureau, 1805 33rd Street, Boulder.

Nov 28 / IPCAS General Meeting, **Bob Brunswig** will return to update us on the work at the West Stoneham Archaeological district. He will also talk about new areas for excavation, east of the Archaeological District.

IPCAS GENERAL MEETING

Oct 24, 1995, 7:30 pm, The Meeting Place

"Insects in Archaeological Sites" by **Dr Scott Elias**.

Scott Elias earned a Ph.D. in Paleoecology from the University of Colorado. That was followed by post-doctoral work at the University of Waterloo, Canada, and the University of Berne, Switzerland. He is currently a fellow of the Institute of Arctic and Alpine Research, University

of Colorado, where he has been studying Quaternary insect fossils since 1982. He has studied insect fossil assemblages from more than 120 sites in North America and Europe, focusing especially on arctic and alpine projects. These studies have led to more than 50 articles in scholarly journals, as well as a textbook on Quaternary Entomology, and a series of three books on Ice Age environments of



national park regions in Alaska, the Rocky mountains, and the American Southwest.

Elias has been one of the principal investigators

studying insect fossil assemblages from archaeological sites in the western United States. This began with his work on the Lamb Spring site with Dennis Stanford in 1981. He studied insect fossils from the False Cougar Cave site in southern Montana, in cooperation with Rob Bonnicksen. He has also collaborated with Eileen Johnson and Vance Holliday on studies of archaeological sites on the Southern High Plains. He recently worked with Reid Ferring on a study of insect fossils from the Aubrey Clovis site in northeastern Texas. These studies helped elucidate late Pleistocene environments, including data on mean summer temperatures, soils and vegetation, and site stratigraphy.

Insect fossil analysis from archaeological sites has been under-utilized in North America. Elias will discuss the types of sediments that yield insect remains, the interpretation of insect fossil evidence, and their potential use as indicators of paleoenvironmental conditions associated with archaeological sites.

CONSERVATION PRESERVATION EDUCATION EXPLORATION

BE HERE THEN

Last month you read here about the Paleoindian point that **Warren Bradshaw** discovered at the Caribou Lake excavation. This month be sure and read the preliminary report on the project which has been excerpted from a narrative that **Bonnie Pitblado**, the P.I., will be giving at the Rocky Mountain Anthropology Conference.

Bonnie's field work on early mountain sites, represents the increasing interest in researching the cultural phenomenon of the mountain region and fleshing out Black's "mountain tradition" proposition.

All of the CAS volunteers who participated in the excavation will receive a casting of this beautiful paleo artifact.

IPCAS was privileged to have the Chair of Anthropology at D.U. **Ms. Sarah Nelson** as our speaker at the September general meeting. Sarah's presentation on the "Burial of the Silla Queens" was a refreshing diversion from our normal focus on western states archaeology.

The Executive Board is wondering if the membership would like to have more speakers on international archaeology? We have many other questions of what the members of IPCAS would like to hear, see and do. To that end **Tom Cree** has created the survey accompanying this Calumet to solicit your opinions on our future activities. Please, please take a few minutes, answer the survey and return it to the IPCAS P. O.

If you have more to say than a check-off box can accommodate, write us a letter, and let us know if we can publish it in the Calumet. In fact, if you have an opinion or a report on your work, or a tall tale about your archaeological experiences, the Calumet would be glad to publish it.

The Rollins Pass game drive field trip was a great time, on a beautiful day, at a spectacular site. Six people from the Plains Chapter of the Wyoming Archaeological Society joined about ten IPCAS members. We drove up to Rollins Pass from the West and joined there by **Jean Kindig** who hiked up from the east side and gave us a tour of these extensive sites that stretch for about two miles along the Divide.

I was most impressed with one particular area where 63 hunting blinds were crammed into a small area of a boulder field in the midst of the tundra landscape. The blinds were located within a network of low meandering stone walls that were barely distinguishable from the boulder field itself. Speculation has it that the boulder area might have been the preferred migration corridor of some very sure footed prey like mountain sheep.

Dewey Baars, from Wyoming, turned me on to my first taste of Mountain Bistort root which grows profusely in the area, and tastes like water chestnut, but sweeter - so surprisingly tasty that I'm craving some now.

In an earlier column this summer I mentioned that the Southdown Corp had engaged **Walker Nightwalker** as the cultural resource monitor to survey the grading operations at their new quarry in Dowe Flats near Rabbit Mountain in Lyons. The monitoring was a requirement of the permit granted by Boulder County, and of the Native American Council which Southdown had trumpeted as its ethical touchstone in guiding the development of the Dowe Flats Cultural Management Plan.

I was anxious to meet walker and talk with him about his work, so I arranged to meet him for lunch.

When I got to Lyons the grading was going full blast - 3 belly-loaders stripping the topsoil from the future mine site. I was disappointed to find that Walker was not monitoring the work, but instead had been given a janitorial job that day cleaning up spilled cement inside the plant!

Based on the limited monitoring that Walker told me about - finding numerous obsidian flakes and a mano in the waste piles from grading - I believe that sites were destroyed in this important area of Boulder County's prehistory. I've reported the situation to Boulder County. Hopefully they'll take some action.

Frank Schaller and **Ken Larson** have made a great video of the field trip that IPCAS members took to the Spanish Diggings this Spring. After our regular speaker at the October meeting Frank will play the video which includes a narrative by archaeologist **George Zeemans** on the many sites that we visited.

See you then. Bring a friend.

Steve Montgomery, President

PRELIMINARY RESULTS OF TESTING AND EXCAVATIONS OF A LATE PALEOINDIAN SITE AT CARIBOU LAKE, GRAND COUNTY, COLORADO.

Generally speaking, the Rocky Mountains -- especially here in Colorado -- haven't been the focus of many Paleoindian investigations. notable exceptions include Pegi Jodry's work at the Black Mountain site near Creede; Jodry's work with Dennis Stanford at numerous San Luis Valley Folsom sites; ongoing investigation in the Gunnison region by Mark Stiger and others; University of Wyoming research in Kremmling; Liz Morris's longitudinal study of

sites in the Rawah Wilderness, and Jim Benedict's pioneering studies of very high altitude sites in the Boulder area.

Despite this handful of important studies, though, Colorado Rocky Mountain Paleoindian research is definitely at a premium, and fundamental questions remain about the earliest occupation of this unique environmental zone. Perhaps most importantly, it remains to be established whether the foothills and mountains were the year-round home of Paleoindian populations specifically adapted to highland living, or whether they were simply used occasionally by groups otherwise adapted to life in the lowlands. Moreover, if lowland groups were using the mountains on a part-time basis, just where did they come from? The Plains are in some ways the obvious choice -- they're just a hop, skip and a jump away, and besides, most of what we know about Paleoindians we learned on the Plains, so why not just smash mountain assemblages into a Plains model? But as Kevin Black has convincingly argued, the Great Basin can't be ruled out as a possible homeland for Rocky Mountain Paleoindians. More studies are demonstrating that in some cases, the connection between the Rocky Mountains and the Great Basin was strong indeed during the Paleoindian period.

Realistically, there's only one way that this issue can be tackled, and that is with the addition of sites to the Rocky Mountain Paleoindian database. Toward that end, in the summer of 1995, work was conducted at the Caribou Lake site, at 11,000 ft. elevation, on the west side of the Continental Divide, in the Indian Peaks Wilderness. The following is a preliminary report on the findings of this excavation.

First excavated twenty-five years ago by Dr. Jim Benedict, Caribou Lake yielded a radiocarbon date of 8,460 +/- 140 on a hearth that contained a quartzite projectile point base that Benedict felt compared well with the Cody Complex. Interestingly, Benedict recovered a second projectile point in a krotovina, deep in the ground and less than a meter from the Paleoindian hearth, that he thought resembled certain Elk Eared points commonly found in the Great Basin, and dated to as early as 8800 B.P. This evidence prompted him to observe that, (quote) "the possibility that Great Basin and Plains groups both visited the Caribou Lake site during the Paleo-Indian period, camping on the lower occupation surface, and perhaps meeting for trade, cannot be evaluated without extensive additional excavations in Area A." Clearly this is an important idea to explore, so our work in Area A at Caribou Lake was designated to provide the additional information necessary to do so.

Area A is located at the north end of the lake, near the outlet channel. The lake is a tarn in a large cirque with stunning views of the surrounding peaks of Mount Neva

and South Arapahoe Peak.

Benedict's excavation was conducted 25 years ago, but because the tundra is so fragile the vegetation on the site has yet to recover. We did our best to minimize damage to the tundra by removing the turf in squares and saving it in piles, which we kept covered and watered frequently until we backfilled and laid it back in place. We'll see next year whether or not it took but we hope so.

We excavated four units along the northern periphery of Area A and they produced a rich assemblage of material associated with relatively late occupations of the site. According to Benedict's radiocarbon assays, numerous occupations dating to between 1900 and 300 years old are represented at Caribou Lake. Two basin shaped hearths were recovered in this part of the site. One hearth was associated with about 35 Kremmling chert flakes, 30 burnt Table Mountain jasper flakes, a few fragments of debitage of other material types, a Kremmling chert biface tip, a few bits of badly decayed bone, and one piece of plain pottery. Similar pottery recovered by Benedict was assigned a Ute affiliation and dated to the 17th century.

Underneath, but stratigraphically distinct from the young hearth was a much subtler one, complete with well-oxidized sediment beneath it. The older hearth was located directly on top of the Satanta Peak moraine, in the same stratigraphic position as the previously-dated 8,460 year-old hearth. In addition, this early fire feature was northwest of, but adjacent to the chipping station that Benedict had suggested was Paleoindian in age. Interestingly, all of Benedict's paleoindian debitage at the north end of Area A was quartzite, and none of the three units excavated adjacent to Benedict's yielded more than one or two quartzite flakes. Rather, the vast majority of chipped stone fragments in each of the four units were Kremmling chert and Table Mountain jasper. A charcoal sample from the potentially Paleoindian hearth has been submitted for radiocarbon dating, so we should know soon whether we have been successful in expanding the northern boundary of the Paleoindian portion of the Caribou Lake campsite.

At the south end of Area A, we excavated seven 1x1 meter units. All of these produced ample evidence for late prehistoric occupation, including over 120 Kremmling chert flakes and 130 Table Mountain jasper flakes and at least two, and maybe three stratigraphically late hearths. At least a few fragments of chipped stone were found at the Paleoindian level, but exact counts for early versus late occupations won't be available until the assemblage can be more thoroughly assessed in the lab.

One of these stratigraphically late hearths brings us to the most spectacular find of the project, a complete lanceolate projectile point found nearby (see photo). This artifact is characterized by gorgeous parallel-oblique flaking (and on

quartzite like this, producing such a fine flaking pattern is no small chore), basal grinding, a slightly concave base, and a twist that is probably a function of the flake blank morphology.

Interestingly, the base of this point is almost identical to the base that Benedict recovered in the Paleoindian hearth and tentatively assigned to the Cody complex. In this case, given the whole projectile point, it can be quite certainly stated that the Cody complex is not represented. Rather, the artifact closely resembles late Paleoindian projectile points recovered in the Rocky Mountains by Frison and others, and which some have argued are characteristic of an independent mountain Paleoindian tradition.

What is perhaps most interesting about this point is the stratigraphic position in which it was located. It

was recovered in situ not on top of the Satanta Peak moraine like Benedict's Cody point, but on top of the succeeding level, into which late prehistoric hearths were dug. This can be interpreted in at least two ways. First, the shallow depth of the point might be the result of frost heaving. Frost action is intense at 11,000', and rocks and artifacts can be moved considerable distances both up and down in a deposit. The projectile point was found at an angle in the ground. The edge was thrust upwards. This suggests that the point has shifted at least somewhat as a result of frost-related processes. Now, the point was recovered just a meter or so south of the previously dated hearth, so it did move through natural formation processes, it is entirely possible that it was originally associated with that 8,400 year-old occupation.

In addition to the possibility that the point moved up in the deposits through cryoturbation, one must also consider the likelihood that the point was recovered at precisely the level at which it was deposited, and that it can be associated with the shallow hearth mentioned earlier, which lies only centimeters away and at the same stratigraphic level as the projectile point. Although it is true that all previous dates on hearths dug into this level are 1900 B.P. or younger, it is also true that Benedict was

unable to define a maximum age for the unit; rather, he was only able to bracket it between the young ages and the date on the Paleoindian hearth. Thus, it is conceivable that an early or middle Holocene date could be obtained on the submitted charcoal, and reasonably associated with the point. If this is the case, then our findings would not

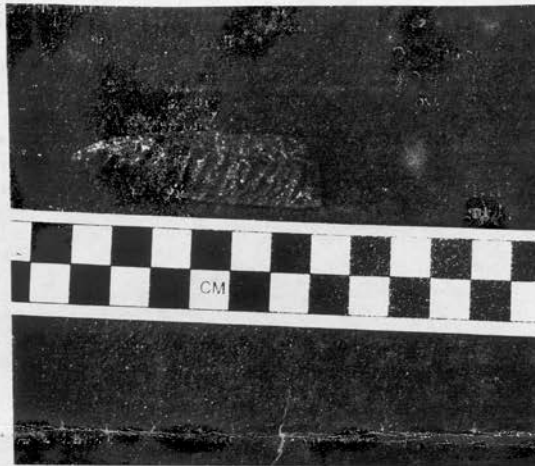
contradict Benedict's interpretation of the 8,400 year-old component as Cody, but rather would indicate that the site was used at some point later by a group that manufactures a rather different type of projectile point.

The next step with Caribou Lake is to "wait and see." Most importantly, we need to obtain the radiocarbon dates on the early hearth at the north end of the excavation area, and on the hearth associated with the projectile point at the south end. In addition, we

need to separate out debitage found at the Paleoindian level from that in the upper deposits, so that we can characterize it in depth. Ultimately, we need to decide which scenario best explains the presence and provenience of the point, and what implications that explanation has for the issue of who was using the mountains during the Paleoindian period. So, naturally, the jury is still out on the big questions, but we believe that data like that obtained at Caribou Lake is exactly what we need if we are ever to unravel the complex relationship between the Rocky Mountains and the surrounding lowlands during the earliest part of the Holocene.

I'd like to wrap this up with a plea. I am currently working on a dissertation on Paleoindian occupation of the Rocky Mountains and foothills, with a special focus here in Colorado. If anyone knows of promising late Paleoindian sites, especially any with projectile points similar to the one from Caribou Lake, I would really like to hear about them. My long-term goal is to excavate a number of these in various foothills and mountain settings, so any leads would be much appreciated!

By Bonnie Pitblado - edited for the Calumet by Steve Montgomery.



TEACHER TRAINING WORKSHOP UPDATE

This is an update on plans for the IPCAS sponsored teacher training workshop. Its purpose is to encourage the use of lessons on the process of archaeology - and on issues in preservation of archaeological resources - by elementary school teachers in this region.

Nancy Silbert, Education Director of the C.U. museum, has suggested cosponsoring it. The museum would arrange space either there or in classrooms on the C.U. campus, assist with publicity, and offer a collections tour as part of the program. The 2 day workshop (which include the tour) will be held July 10 and 11, 1996. It would be taught by Megg Heath, leader of the BLM Imagination Team at the Anasazi Heritage Center in Cortez, Colorado (possibly also by an assistant, Cindy Ramsay, depending upon the size of enrollment). Registration will be limited to 40 persons.

For a \$25 registration fee, teachers would receive a copy of Intrigue of the Past: A teacher's Activity Guide for Fourth Through Seventh Grades and hands-on guidance through essential parts of it, an array of articles and activities for classroom use, presentations by archaeologists and teachers experienced in using archaeology in the classroom (these would be local experts), an introduction to the rock Creek trunk and the museum tour. For an additional \$35, they would receive one credit from Adams State University. Box lunches prepared by University catering would be available for an additional charge.

Roseann Fulton, social studies coordinator for the Boulder Valley Public Schools, has offered to assist with contacting teachers through the use of their media.

The workshop would take place in June or July of 1996, during the week since teachers are then out of school. Announcements would go out in early February. The exact date has yet to be decided.

IPCAS would handle registration, help with hosting and coordinating of the event. Those IPCAS members who would like to assist please call Ann Hayes, 494-3773.

Ann Hayes

Welcome New Members

Millie & Jim Haggart, Jim Chase, Carol & George O'Sullivan, Stan Vera & Rose Womack, Maired & Michael Nagle, Brigitte & Lawrence Beck, Marsha Sullivan, Karyn Berg, Steve & Marsha Lantz, Barbara Stiltner, Mureen Wood.

IPCAS EX BD MTG

Sept 19, 1995

Attendees: Steve Montgomery, Tom Cree, Laura Viola, Dick Owens, Ken Larson, Morey Stinson, Maureen Arthur.

* July minutes approved.

* Treasurer's Report: Dick Owens

Discussion concerning what new members receive with their registration. ID Cards, membership and bi-laws will be issued to new and renewing members.

* VP Report: Tom Cree

Sept Meeting reviewed. Thanks to those contributing refreshments.

* Membership survey status. additional rewrite necessary but it will be included in next issue of CALUMET. Members are asked to take the time to complete survey. Maureen Arthur will make calls to lapsed members inviting them to return to the fold and future meetings.

* Reminder: Articles for CALUMET are due to editor on the weekend (beginning, i.e., Fri PM), after the general meeting.

* Education Committee Report: Maureen Arthur, Steve Montgomery

Teacher training workshop w/ BLM @ CU Museum, 7/10 - 7/11/96 (See article in this CALUMET.)

* Other Business

--Book & Poster sales - will be available at General Meetings.

--State CAS Quarterly Report - distributed to Executive Bd members.

--Annual Meeting items for silent auction being sought. Authorization to spend \$40 toward Items was approved.

--1996 Officer Nominations - Morey Stinson will coordinate nominating committee.

--Rock Creek Report Publication Status - Pete Gleichman is completing the report.

--IPCAS, two videos of Spanish Diggings - Ken Larson.

Frank Schaller made and edited two videos of the Spanish Diggings field trip. Two copies were distributed to Dewey Barrs and George Ziemans. A motion was made and approved for reimbursement to Frank Schaller for three copies of the video. One copy will be in the IPCAS archives and the other two copies are earmarked as gifts.

Maureen Arthur, Secretary



1995 INDIAN PEAKS OFFICERS

PRESIDENT: Steve Montgomery 443-4414
VICE PRES: Tom Cree 776-7004
SECRETARY: Maureen Arthur 939-8342
TREAS/MEMBER: Dick Owens 650-4784

DIRECTORS:
Hilary Reynolds 530-1229 Bob Powell 494-9445
Dock Teegarden 494-6496 Cheryl Damon 678-8026
Ken Larson 469-2228 Leni Clubb (610) 358-7835
Kristine Holien 586-8982 Michael Landem 499-9877
Mac Avery 499-3455 Donna Shay 443-3273

COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS:
CAS REPRESENTATIVE: Anne Mutaw 666-0437
PROFESSIONAL ADVISOR: Bob Mutaw 666-0437
PROJECT INFO OFFICER: Laura Viola 442-2019
PAAC COOR's: Janet & Morey Stinson 530-7727
CALUMET EDITOR: Ed Grefrath 444-2091

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Please check : Date: _____
 Individual \$25/yr New
 Family \$28/yr Renewal

Name _____
Address _____
City _____ State _____ ZIP _____
Telephone _____

Please make check payable to: Indian Peaks Chapter, CAS
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*

*P. O. Box 18301
Boulder, CO 80308*



1296
Montgomery, Steven C.
1120 Pearl
Boulder, CO 80302

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