

#### Schedule of Events

Tuesday, July 16

Tuesday, August 20

IPCAS Executive Board Meetings

7:30 pm. / Boulder Police Bureau.

1085 33rd Street, Boulder.

August 30 to September 2.

1996 Utah Rock Art Research Symposium, Green River, Utah.

Contact Jane Bush,

183 South 200 East

American Fork, UT 84003

Editors note: This and the September CALUMET will carry first hand reports of summer field projects. Submit photos and articles of 300 words or less directly to me at the masthead address.

Ann Hayes, Editor

#### A Visit to the Hell Gap Site

Hell Gap, in east central Wyoming, was the site of the Wyoming Archaeological Society's Annual Encampment. It was also the site of a major archaeological project, involving the Universities of Wyoming, Arizona, and Nebraska, as well as such notable figures as Dennis Stanford, George Frison, Vance Haynes, Robson Bonnichsen, and Bonnie Pitblado. Michael Braitberg, Steve Montgomery, and myself went up there to say "Howdy!" a few weeks ago. What follows is a personal account of that weekend.

Michael Landem

Rain fell hard from Ft. Collins to Cheyenne.

A curtain of black cloud rolled towards us off Laramie peak as we raced along the dirt road over Hell Gap and down to the site of the Wyoming Archaeological Society's Annual Encampment.

Just as we were setting up our tents at the edge of the trees the storm hit.

Michael Braitberg and I sat in the truck talking and drinking Steve Montgomery's sherry through an hour of heavy rain.

Hell Gap was discovered by two amateurs in 1959: James Duguid and Malcolm McKnight. G. Agog-gino and C. Vance Haynes were the first formal investigators. What they and others discovered there, from 1959 through 1966, redefined the Paleo-Indian cultural sequence for the region, adding three previously unknown complexes: Hell Gap, Goshen, and Frederick.

This year's research goal is two-fold: First, through the use of trenching and coring, to determine the precise stratigraphic sequence of the immediate area, Second, to more closely associate the various cultural complexes with this stratigraphy.

The fruits of this labor will be an edited monograph detailing all of the work done at Hell Gap since its discovery, and photographic essays of the original excavations that took place in the sixties.

This is an extremely rich site. Flakes of colorful Hartville chert and Spanish Diggings quartzite cover the landscape. Almost a hundred stone circles dot the surrounding meadows. The geology of the region is dramatic. A core of precambrian granite pushes its way to the surface through highly mineralized layers of limestone, sandstone and shale.

In late June, with a sunlit canopy of cumulus overhead, the rugged cliffs to the west, and the soft green panorama of the plains to the east, there are few more beautiful places on earth.

George Frison and Vance Haynes worked together on a narrow trench. Three sections were dug for a total length of 80 meters, reaching maximum depths of 4.5 meters. Projectile points, large tools, and Clovis-style reduction flakes

emerged with the excavated dirt, but more important for the project was the stratigraphic sequence exposed on the high vertical walls.

Just after the big yellow Case backhoe had completed the trench, George brought his personal backhoe over to carve a set of steps into the west end. With the luck or intuition for which he is renowned, he immediately hit a rich pocket of flakes -- the wide, flat, razor-thin flakes typical of Clovis reduction techniques. We immediately began screening the mounds of excavated dirt, unsuccessfully seeking the core from which the flakes had been removed.

Michael McFaul of LaRamie Soils took core samples all week-end long with his specialized rig, plunging out 1.33 meter cores one after another until he had reached depths of four to five meters, then tapping them gently out of the stainless steel pipe and onto the soft grass for inspection by George and Vance. Each change of texture and color added to their growing familiarity with the stratigraphy of the terraces surrounding the stream.

Vance entered the deep trench alone each day in the early morning hours and remained there until long after all the other volunteers had returned to camp, observing, taking samples of charcoal from exposed lenses, making copious notes in his peculiar shorthand, placing colored toothpicks, running horizontal strings -- applying a lifetime of experience and study to the complex puzzle before him.

"Hey Vance, someone called down just after lunch on Sunday, 'Where's the Pleistocene/Holocene transition?' Vance casually pointed to a band of wet, tan clay near his shoulder, a full three meters below the surface of the sunlit meadow where we stood, looking down.

Meanwhile, a quarter mile downstream, Bonnie Pitblado and others were running the main excavation at Locality I, removing the old concrete cap, working slowly down through Cody, Alberta, Hell Gap and Midland to the Folsom and Goshen levels at the bottom.

All artifacts and elevations were shot in with a total station. Material removed was water-screened through 1/4" and 1/16" screens, then dried and bagged for subsequent study. One liter dry soil samples were taken from the northwest quads of each grid at 5 cm intervals.

Many outstanding consultants are participating in this project. Dr. Robson Bonnicksen plans to search for human and animal hairs in the soil. Dr. Linda Scott-Cummings will do pollen analysis. Dennis Stanford is both general advisor and lithics consultant.

Funding was provided by Joe Cramer, the National Endowment for the Humanities, National Geographic and the Wyoming Archaeological Foundation.

A very clear picture of Hell Gap should emerge from the use of new technologies, unknown 30 years ago. This season's work will provide a broad and stable foundation upon which to build project designs for years to come. I can easily envision a permanent research center and museum similar to the Koster Site in Southern Illinois growing up around this invaluable archaeological resource.

Documenting the Ford Cabin for the National Forest Service

In January, Bob Nykamp spoke to our group about archaeological opportunities for volunteers in the National Forest Service. He specifically mentioned that there were four cabins that needed to be surveyed. It turns out that the Forest Service has over a hundred cabins that need to be surveyed, by volunteers, but the four were the most important.

The Forest Service granted people Special Use Permits to build cabins on National Forest Service land during the early and middle part of this century. That policy changed and the permits are no longer being granted or renewed. The cabins are, for the most part, being relinquished to National Forest

Service ownership and will be torn down or allowed to fall apart on their own. But, prior to demolition, the cabins need to be evaluated for pre-historic and historic qualities.

Martha Patterson, Jim Morrell, Karen Good, and I have been working on cabin surveys, performing Class III cultural inventories. Two cabins are completed. One of those is the Ford cabin, a very interesting conversion of an old mining claim into a vacation home.

The property on which the cabin is located is 1.5 acres along the north side of the creek and contains a wetlands, a terrace on which the cabin is located, and a rather steep hillside above the cabin. There is a collared spring above the cabin that provides water. The property was used in the early 1900s as a metals mine, probably tungsten. It is constructed of logs, chinked with cement. The log construction contains corners that are Øship-lapØ (like Lincoln-logs, except squared more). This log corner style is common in the northeastern United States, but is unusual in this area. The cabin has a stone and masonry fireplace in the main room and a wood stove in the kitchen area which also has a skylight.

The outhouse is 150 feet to the east at the end of a path that has stone pillars and timber guides. It is made of corrugated metal on a wooden frame and has a bazillion magazine pictures on the inside walls. It also has toilet paper. (a volunteerØs dream come true!)

One side of the cabin has a lean-to that is open toward the creek. There is a slat-door at the end of this lean-to away from the cabin that appears to be very old (hand-hewn with an adz). Behind this door we found a room with piled rocks for walls and timbers supporting the roof. We assumed that this was the entrance to a mine, now sealed off.

The Forest Service owns the land and the minerals, the City of Boulder owns the creek, and the Ford family owns the cabin, lean-to and outhouse. The permit for the cabin, lean-to and outhouse has expired and will not be renewed. The Fords are negotiating with the Forest Service to obtain the 1.5 acres via a land-swap or some other method - so that they can keep their cabin.

The Fords live in New York and Florida (depending on the season) but spend one or two weeks in their cabin each year. I thought that they might like a copy of the report that we were generating.

They were interested in the project and appreciated the chance to see the report. They sent copies of the property and tax records they have for the mine claim (back to 1917) and cabin (back to 1936). That information will be placed into the report. The Fords confirmed that the rock-walled area was indeed the entrance to the mine shaft and that the mine goes much farther back into the hill.

Because of the mining history that is still in evidence, and the unusual architecture of the cabin, our team decided that the cabin and property be recommended for the Colorado Register of Historic Places. Our report would form the informational basis for that submission. If the cabin is accepted, our group might have the opportunity to assist in its repair or maintenance.

We are working with the Forest Service to obtain more cabins to document.

Copies of all of our reports will be placed into the club library

Tom Cree

June Minutes 6/18/96

Meeting called to order 7:30 pm.at the Boulder Police Bureau. Present: Cree, Hayes, Holien, Landem, Montgomery, Morrell, Patterson, & J. Stinson.  
SecretaryØs Report

May minutes approved.

Treasurers Report (Landem for Owens)

Balance \$3158.91. 81 paid memberships. Motion to renew 6 mos lease at Crossroads Meeting Place. Passed.

Vice Presidents Report (Avery)

Estimate \$400 in profits from Clottes book sales. 230 tickets collected.

Co-President's Report (Cree)

Volunteer activities: Cabin surveys in progress for USFS with Bob Nycamp.

Motion to spend up to \$100 for llama rental for 2nd week of Caribou Lake excavation. Passed.

Possible survey opportunity at RMNP in July or August.

Co President's Report (Landem)

Field Trip dates / Hell Gap Encampment: 6/21 - 6/23. Dinwoody Rock Art 6/28 - 7/1. Picketwire sometime in Sept.

Old Business

Rock Creek report ready to print.

Request 80 copies for CAS to sell.

Project Archaeology Workshop. 10 are registered.

New Business

Cree will check on an IPCAS membership in 'Friends of Anthropology'.

Lyons Historical Society requested back issues of CALUMET - 1994 to present - (Hayes). Kinko's will make double sided copies.

Meeting adjourned at 8:30 pm.

Kris Holien, Secretary

May Minutes 5/21/96

Meeting called to order 7:30 pm.

at the Boulder Police Bureau. Present: Avery, Braitberg, Cree, Holien, Landem, Morrell, Owen.

Secretary's Report (Holien)

April minutes approved.

Treasurers Report (Owens)

Balance \$3622.26. 81 paid memberships. Motion to renew 6 mos lease at Crossroads Meeting Place. Passed. Bills still coming in regards Clottes program

Vice Presidents Report (Avery)

Estimate \$400 in profits from Clottes book sales. 230 tickets collected.

Co-President's Report (Cree)

Distributed updated list of volunteer activities.

Co President's Report (Landem)

Rock art tours. Dinwoody in Wyoming mid July. Kremmling area mid Sept.

Old Business

Received grant request from Maureen Arthur to attend Project Archaeology workshop. Motion to approve \$100 grant. Passed. Motion to set up grant application guidelines before approving more requests. Passed.

Book Inventory (Avery)

Offered storage in his home for chapter library and survey equipment.

New Business

Speaker's Program pinned down through November. (Avery)

Meeting adjourned 8:30 pm.

Kris Holien, Secretary