

Schedule of Events

Friday, February 21

Cowboys and Cave Dwellers: Basketmaker Archaeology in Grand Gulch, Utah

Fred Blackburn & Dr. Ray Williamson

Ricketson Auditorium

7 pm / Denver Museum of Nat. Hist. \$6 member / \$9 non-member

Thursday, February 27

Mimbres Pottery and Archaeology: Pueblo Prehistory and Art in Southwest New Mexico.

Speaker is Associate Curator Steve Lekson. 7 pm / CU Museum .

Sunday, March 2

Museum-members-only tour of Mimbres pottery collection with Dr. Lekson, 2 pm / C.U. Museum.

Thursday, March 6

IPCAS Executive Board Meeting

7:30 pm / Public Safety Bureau

1805 - 33rd Street, Boulder.

Sunday, March 16

Last day to see Imperial Tombs of China exhibit at DMNH. For reservations call 32-CHINA.

The Devil's Thumb Valley Game Drive Site

Site 5BL3440, a prehistoric game-drive system on the floor of the Devil's Thumb valley in western Boulder County, Colorado, is the Indian Peaks equivalent of the Eveready Bunny -- a site that keeps on going, year after year, despite our best intentions. The site was discovered during an October whiteout in 1982, relocated and mapped by Katharine Albino in 1983, mapped in greater detail by the author in 1991, and excavated (with help from IPCAS members and other volunteers) in 1992, 1994, and 1996. Located in the forest-tundra ecotone at an altitude of 3425-3440 m, the site includes a funnel-shaped array of low stone walls and cairn lines, an interior wall thought to be a later addition to the system, and five circular or semicircular blinds. The tips of two Foothills-Mountain projectile points and one probable Eden point were found on the ground surface where the drive lines converge, suggesting the possibility of use during the Paleoindian period. If so, this would make the site the oldest well-documented game-drive system in the high Colorado Front Range. Observations of modern game-animal activity in the valley suggest that elk were the probable quarry.

Efforts to confirm a Paleoindian connection began with the excavation of two blinds in 1992, and with coring of the remaining blinds in search of charcoal. Radiocarbon ages of 2155 BP - 55 BP 1850 - 50 BP, and 765 - 55 BP show that the blinds were used (though not necessarily constructed) during the Late Archaic and Late Prehistoric periods. Projectile points of several styles and ages have been found within the boundaries of the site. Jean Kindig's excavated pottery sites are close nearby. But the blinds themselves produced no artifacts or waste flakes.

Excavations then shifted to the kill area, where the drive lines converge. Area B is on the north side of a shallow swale. The tips of two Paleoindian projectile points made of probable Kremmling chert were collected here in 1991. During our excavations three years later, Quentin Baker recovered a collaterally flaked projectile-point midsection from the base of the modern A horizon, in sediments that appeared to have been redeposited by pocket-gopher activity. The midsection could be refitted to the Eden tip. The only feature found in Area B was a shallow-basin hearth with a radiocarbon age of

2160 - 60 BP. Coring of the surrounding area and exploratory dating of redeposited charcoal grains found near the projectile-point midsection gave no indication that a Paleoindian hearth might exist higher on the slope. Area A is on the south side of the swale, where an obliquely flaked projectile-point tip made of Windy Ridge quartzite was collected in 1991 from the surface of a pocket-gopher entrance mound. Our 1994 excavations exposed a deeply buried charcoal layer just east of the projectile point. Charred spruce-needle fragments from the layer were dated at 9390 - 70 BP (Beta-85362). The charcoal was underlain by thermally oxidized pebbles and earth, indicating that it had burned in place. But was it the result of human activities? We returned to Area A in the summer of 1996. Our goal was to expose a larger expanse of the deeply buried charcoal layer, and to search for evidence that it was a Paleoindian living surface. We found no formal tools, but recovered waste flakes from all three major stratigraphic units: ground moraine (till), windblown silt (loess), and sediment of mixed origin brought to the surface by pocket gophers. All of the flakes are Kremmling chert and Table Mountain jasper, suggesting that site occupants entered the valley from the west after replenishing toolstone supplies in Middle Park. Flotation samples from the deeply buried charcoal and from three similar layers in the overlying loess produced charred twigs, charred spruce and fir needles, and charred sclerotia (the resting stages of mycorrhizal fungi associated with tree roots) that suggest burning of forest or tree-island duff layers during intervals when trees grew at the site. This is of paleoenvironmental interest because the excavation area today is a treeless tundra meadow. The youngest duff layer burned in about 3070 + or - 40 BP. The probable natural origins of the fires do not rule out the possibility that the deepest of the burned surfaces was occupied by Paleoindian hunters. A biface-resharpening flake of white Kremmling chert found in fine-screening charcoal-rich earth from this stratigraphic level suggests that the surface may indeed have been occupied. But disturbance processes at the site are so pervasive that additional stratigraphic studies are needed. Barring battery failure, we plan to conduct these studies in the summer of 1997.

- James Benedict

IPCAS Web Page to Serve All CAS Chapters

On January 25, IPCAS hosted the CAS quarterly meeting at the Longmont Public Library. IPCAS representative, Cindy Miller, reported that the CAS long range planning committee is working to establish e-mail contacts throughout each chapter. A list is being compiled and updated as new names and addresses are received. The IPCAS web page will be the linking point for all chapters within the state. Any chapter with an existing page will be able to link to our site and chapters without existing pages can provide simple text files for inclusion.

Many thanks to Tom Cree, Mike Landem, Cindy Miller, Jim Morrel, Ann and Bob Mutaw, Ann Phillips, and Morey Stinson for their assistance in hosting the meeting.

Loendorf Explains

The Power in the Rock

Difficult weather conditions on February 6 compelled many of us to miss Dr. Larry Loendorf's excellent lecture The Power in the Rock: Pictographs and Petroglyphs of the West presented at the School of Mines in Golden. Those who braved Route 93 were rewarded with an excellent talk.

Loendorf explained that canyons of the West are viewed by Native Americans as the homes of spiritual forces which can be invoked through pictographs and petroglyphs. He sees rock art as a record of past lifeways and as a key to understanding present Native American ritual and ceremony.

Current dating techniques allow us to establish chronologies going back 3,000

to 4,000 years, Loendorf said. He cited ethnographic data, photos, and personal interviews to give the audience a sense of the rich belief systems of the artists. Loendorf uses a multi-disciplinary approach to archaeological research. Scholarship, site investigation, long hours of field work, and high-tech analysis contribute to his understanding of the art of early man in the North American West.

-Janet Lever

Victory for Medicine Wheel Coalition

On September 28, 1996, at a ceremony high in the Mountains of Wyoming, a Programmatic Agreement and Historic Preservation Plan were approved to protect the sacred Big Horn Medicine Wheel and Medicine Mountain.

Medicine Wheel and Medicine Mountain are sacred to many Indian Tribes, particularly Plains tribes.

The approved agreements were the result of seven years of intensive negotiations. The Bighorn National Forest, Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office, Bighorn County (Wyoming) County Commissioners, Federal Aviation Administration, Medicine Wheel Coalition on Sacred Sites of North America and Medicine Wheel Alliance were parties to the Programmatic Agreement.

The Historic Preservation Plan establishes a long term management plan for more than 20,000 acres surrounding the Medicine Wheel and Medicine Mountain. In its own words, the purpose of the HPP is to insure that the Medicine Wheel and Medicine Mountain are managed in a manner that protects the integrity of the site as a sacred site and a nationally important traditional cultural property

Indian Affairs, Fall 1996

Tutankhamun Ale may reveal Brewing Secrets of the Pharaohs

An Egyptologist, two scientists and Britain's largest brewer plan to brew an ale from an Egyptian recipe more than 3,500 years old. Tutankhamun Ale will be based on sediment from old jars found in a brewery housed inside the Sun Temple of Nefertiti, queen of a pharaoh called Akhenaten who Egyptologists believe was probably Tutankhamun's father.

Barry Kemp, an Egyptologist at Cambridge University, who set off to excavate the temple four years ago, and Delwen Sanuel an archeobotanist, worked alongside brewer Scottish and Newcastle to find out how the beer was made. The team has enough of the right raw materials to produce 1,000 bottles of the ale. "We are about to unveil a great Tutankhamun secret," said Jim Merrington, commercial director at Newcastle Breweries. "It's the liquid gold of the pharaohs. It's a really amazing inheritance they have left us, the origins of beer itself!"

"There is no doubt about it. The ancient Egyptians were obsessed with beer. It is said the pyramids were built on a diet of bread and beer," said Merrington. "Most will be used for tasting in the industry and the rest will go to the Egypt Exploration Society."

Rocky Mountain News, Thursday, February 8, 1996

February IPCAS Board Meeting Minutes

Meeting called to order on 2/4/97 at 7:30 pm. at the Public Safety Bureau.

Present: Avery, Cree, Hayes, Holien, Landem, Miller, Montgomery, Morrell, Owens, Patterson, M. Stinson, and guest, Janet Lever.

Secretary's Report: (Holien)

January minutes approved with correction to meeting date: 1/2/97.

Treasurers Report: (Owens)

Balance \$3,058.94. 76 paid memberships. 49 free mailers.

Vice Presidents Report: (Cree)

Cree requests IPCAS members e-mail addresses. Fall lectures to date: Sept. / Payson Sheets, Oct. / R. Hohfelder. Cree distributed copies of IPCAS library

inventory.

President's Report: (Landem)

Other CAS chapters joining Rocky Mtn. News web site.

Discussion with Janet Lever about possible May Special Event with David Lewis Williams on 5/19.

Persuading a Geologic Society tour of NE Colorado.

Old Business: Storage space. If board members still have books from inventory, please get them to Avery ASAP. Avery may have room for IPCAS equipment that Montgomery has in storage.

A. Hayes and Vicki Walsh will present program on local archaeological sites at Platte Elementary for Beverly Heumann's 7th grade class on 2/26.

Hayes and Maureen Arthur will exhibit Rock Creek Trunk and IPCAS panels on High Altitude Archaeology at AAUW Careers conference for 6th & 7th grade girls at UMC on 4/20.

New coffee pot was purchased.

New members: Cree will contact people who sign blue sheets at monthly meetings but do not belong to IPCAS.

New Business: Miller reported on CAS Quarterly Meeting on 1/25 at Louisville Public Library. Emphasis on communications and visibility, i.e. web site.

New time for monthly meetings at C.U. Museum is now 7 pm.

Motion made and passed to pay for security guards at Museum.

Owens requested permission to investigate interest-bearing account for IPCAS treasury funds.

Meeting adjourned at 9:20 pm.

Kris Holien, Secretary