

EDUCATION



Newsletter of the Indian Peaks Chapter of the Colorado Archaeological Society January, 1998

EXPLORATION

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

General (lecture) meetings are held in the University of Colorado Museum, Dinosaur Room Second Thursday of each Month, at 7:00 PM. The public is always welcome.

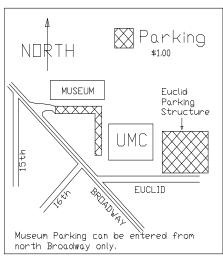
January 8 IPCAS General Meeting, 7 PM. Bob Powell. Topic: Oaxaca. The Mexican state of Oaxaca (pronounced "wa-há-ka") marks the break between North American central Mexico and Central America. From the earliest times, the central valley and hills of Oaxaca were inhabited by the same Zapotec and Mixtec Indians who form the bulk of the population now. Their ancient sites - Monte Albán, Dainzu, Zaachila, Lambityeco, Yagul, and Mitla - are less well known than their contemporaries in central and eastern Mexico, but are every bit as important and impressive. Monte Albán has been designated a World Heritage Site. IPCAS member Bob Powell will present his investigations and photographs of the area. Directions to the meeting location are in the map to the right.

February 5
 February 12
 Executive Board, Boulder Police Community Rm, 7:30 PM
 IPCAS General Meeting, 7 PM. Kim Malville.
 Topic: The Astronomy of Chimney Rock. IPCAS Member
 Kim Malville, CU Professor of Astrophysics and Planetary

Sciences, will describe his work at the Chimney Rock Site in southwestern Colorado. Because of its unique topography, Chimney Rock contains a number potential calendrical stations which may have sent calendrical information to Chaco via Huerfano Peak. Besides the moon appearing between the double pinnacles at major lunar standstill, the sun rises between them every equinox as seen from the Piedra Overlook. Another example of astronomy is the summer solstice sun rising along the north wall of the Chimney Rock Pueblo as viewed near the great kiva. Beginning around A. D., 1050 people with Chacoan connections began living on the high mesa and appear to have watched the heavens closely.

March 5
March 12
Executive Board, Boulder Police Community Room, 7:30 PM.
IPCAS General Meeting, 7 PM. Cathy Cameron and Steve Lekson. Topic: Bluff Great House. During the summer of 1996, IPCAS members Steve and Cathy, began excavating an Anasazi site just over the Utah border near Bluff. The site includes the remains of a two-story community building, a great kiva, and a series of prehistoric roads, built during three separate periods. Although not as carefully crafted, the Bluff Great House is similar to structures in Chaco Canyon. The CU team has collected thousands of pottery shards that appear to date the site from about 600 A.D. to 1300 A.D. The 1997 season started the first week of June and was partially sponsored with a grant from the National Geographic Society.





CALENDAR OF EVENTS - Continued

- April 2 Executive Board, Boulder Police Community Room, 7:30 PM.
- April 9IPCAS General Meeting, 7 PM, Doug Bamforth. Topic: Warfare on the Plains. Doug will present
information about archaeology at specific sites that provide information about the battles and warfare
on the prehistoric great plains. He warns that parts of the presentation get very gruesome (even
horrifying) and attendees should be prepared for some intense evidence.
- May 7 Executive Board, Boulder Police Community Room, 7:30 PM.
- May 14 IPCAS General Meeting, 7 PM. Dr. Payton Sheets. Topic: Joya de Cerén. At the ruins of Cerén, a World Heritage Site, in a lush valley near San Salvador, corn cobs, thatch fragments, and carbonized beans are being studied. That wouldn't be surprising in the arid Four Corners, but in a tropical jungle/war zone for a bean to survive 1400 years required being buried under 16 feet of scalding, fine, wet, volcanic ash. Called a "New World Pompeii", Cerén is revealing Mayan pottery from AD 500-800, complete with finger-swipes indicating eating habits. Storerooms contained pots, tools, obsidian blades, 3 kinds of beans, seeds of cotton and cacao, corn, squash, avocados, palm fruits, chilies, nits, and the meat of deer and dog. Researchers conclude that the people of the region were living far better in AD 600 than they are today.

Christmas Party

The Christmas Party was held at the home of Morey and Janet Stinson. Two dozen members gathered for fine food and great conversation. The White Mammoth Exchange was great fun but not as outrageous as last year.

Welcome to New Members

We would like to welcome our new members: Barbara Mallot of Loveland, Sloan Schwindt of Boulder, and Thomas Van Zandt of Boulder. We hope to see you at our meetings and working on some of our many projects.

Archaeology and Historic Preservation Week Grants

Mark your calendars for May 9th-17th, 1998 as the Colorado Historical Society invites interested historic preservation organizations and archaeological groups to celebrate Archaeology and Historic Preservation Week. This week is used to highlight special projects and educational events from local historic and archaeological organizations in Colorado. Last year over 60 events were held throughout the state and ranged from a double-decker bus tour to lectures on the archaeology of a particular region or topic.

For 1998, grants of up to \$200 will be made available to organizations needing financial assistance to hold an event. The grant money can be used to rent space, advertisements, purchase material, etc. Early planning for the event is strongly encouraged. All organizations interested in obtaining grant money should complete an application form which can be obtained from the Office of Archaeology and Historic Preservation, (303)866-3395. The deadline for the return of the grant application is February 20, 1998.

AGbgi

Excavations at Williams Fork Reservoir

by Michael Landem

For two seasons I have worked as a contract archaeologist for Powers Elevation Company in Middle Park, on the checkerboard of BLM lands surrounding Williams Fork Reservoir, cultural resource work precipitated by a land exchange with the Denver Water Board.

Heading west out of Hot Sulfur Springs, one passes through Byer's Canyon, a rugged and beautiful cut of the Colorado River through the Precambrian granites and schists that compose the region's higher mountains, emerging onto a wide expanse of sage-covered hills, terraces and finger ridges carved by the meandering convergence of the Colorado River, the Williams Fork River and their tributaries.

The history of this region is available in a BLM publication entitled *An Isolated Empire* by Frederic J. Athearn, Cultural Resource Series, Number Two. A comprehensive geologic map of this complex area has recently been published.

Williams Fork River originally meandered through riparian woodlands and lush meadows as it flowed slowly north to join the Colorado River a few miles downstream of the project area. It passes through a narrow canyon where as early as 1884 a small dam was erected by local ranchers. This original dam was replaced by a much larger one in the 1920's, forming essentially the very large reservoir seen today.

In 1994, Pete Gleichman's company, Native Cultural Services, under the direction of Rebecca Hutchins, conducted the initial cultural survey, identifying seven sites as potential NRHP candidates. This was not an easy determination, as much of the area is covered with a confusing assortment of culturally and naturally fractured lithics. Rebecca's strategy consisted of mapping a site's area, then calculating the densities of formal tools, utilized and unmodified flakes.

In October of 1996, Powers Elevation Company, in the person of North Dakota archaeologist Byron Olson and a six person crew began test excavations of these seven sites. Mike McFaul of LaRamie Soils was contracted to perform the augering and coring. I had first met Geomorphologist Mike at Hell Gap in the summer of 1995, where he had volunteered to core many of the terraces upstream of Locality One with his specialized rig. On this phase of the project, I became the note-taker. While Mike drilled the holes and co-workers Megan and Tom screened and back-filled, I stood beside the rig listening to Mike's casual lectures on geomorphology and recording his astute observations of the various soil horizons as they spilled off the spiraling blade of the auger or were tapped delicately out of his stainless steel coring tube. Over the course of five days, we drilled or cored 372 holes and I learned a great deal about soils and the science of geomorphology.

After Mike departed we three joined the others, popping $1 \ge 1$ or $1 \ge 2$ meter test excavations to 20 centimeters below the last trace of cultural materials. In many cases, this was a difficult task. Some of the clay layers we encountered *absorbed* the point of the pick axe rather than chunking out in more reasonable manner, and in many instances the cultural materials had been carried by pesky rodents to the very top of the Pleistocene cobbles. It was often hard work.

The weather, which had in early October been a delightful, bug-free 75 degrees, changed to cold and nasty by October's end. On the last day we had been working in steady wet snow all morning, covered in mud from head to foot, when Frank Rupp, BLM archaeologist for the region, stopped by. All three crews were 50 to 80 centimeters deep in 1 x 2 meter units, still hitting charcoal and flakes on a regular basis, pushing mud through ¹/₄"screens with our gloved palms and trowels.

Frank very kindly decided that a 50 by 50 centimeter unit would, under the circumstances, be acceptable. We returned to work with renewed vigor, finishing all three units by 2 PM, just as the storm intensified, and slopped our way out the slanting access road in heavy red Powers work trucks. Based on these 32 test units, Byron determined that five of the seven sites deserved further investigation. In July of 1997, Byron and an 8 person crew returned to begin excavations. I was again among them.

The 1997 season was very different from the first. We started in mid-summer, the mosquitoes were terrible, but the weather, for the most part, was far better. Powers had accidentally assembled a crew of remarkable individuals and the work, while still diligently performed, became mere background for the many amusing interactions, conversations and laughter.

There was a mythic feeling hanging over us all summer, as if we were moving through and shaping great events. We weren't, of course, but something about the vast sweep of cloud and sky, the energy of storms unleashed upon that magnificent landscape day after day, the company of American Pelicans, Belted Kingfishers, Cormorants, seagulls, ducks, Mountain Bluebirds, magpies, ravens, crows, five species of fish jumping, the constant exposure to the wind and to the changing face of the lake made it seem so.

We found very little. Areas of lithic procurement are often very poor in terms of formal tools. Such is the case at Williams Fork. Native Americans came as visitors to the area, mined Kremmling Chert or a local outcropping of Windy Ridge Quartzite for a day or two, then left, doing their manufacturing and refitting elsewhere. Byron suggested that this place, being a resource procurement area for many different cultural groups or clans, was not a safe spot to linger.

One site did yield seven Pinto Shouldered projectile point bases, Archaic points dating to about 6,000 or 7,000 B.P., numerous flakes, charcoal, burned bone, hammerstones and one little manuport.

Located on a high saddle with good views in three directions, it was a place where a band of hunters might camp in relative isolation and safety to watch for game, manufacture and refit points, rest in the sun.

Big Rock Site Photographs Photographs by M. Alex Rainey

This photograph shows the overhang and the excavations at the Big Rock Site in Estes Park. This site, and others nearby, are the subject of a project for the Indian Peaks Chapter.

A substantial amount of work was performed this September and October. More work is planned for next year. The April and May issues of the Calumet will contain a list of Volunteer Opportunities. This chapter project, as well as others, will be featured.

Artifacts from this project, after study, will be curated at the Dorsey Museum at the YMCA of the Rockies in Estes Park.



Back Chuck



Simmons and Janet Stinson Front Row - Jean Kindig and Carol Simmons Lower Right Corner - Dig Mascot, Alex's parrot "Cheeks"



Working at the Screen - Janet, Jean, and Chuck

Row

<u>Indian Peaks Chapter</u> - <u>Membership List</u> If you find a misspelling or address error, please notify Mac Avery at (303) 499-3455

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Norma L. Boslough 1380 West Sixth Avenue Broomfield, CO 80020

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Elaine Hill 1850 Kohler Drive Boulder, CO 80303

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CALUMET - January, 1998

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CALUMET - January, 1998

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Office of State Archaeologist 1300 Broadway Denver, CO 80203

Bureau of Land Management 2850 Youngfield Street Lakewood CO 80215

Rocky Mountain National Park Estes Park, CO 80517

University of Colorado Henderson Museum, Box 218 Boulder, CO 80309

Dorsey Museum YMCA of the Rockies PO Box 2550 Estes Park, CO 80511

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Lori Vanagunas 1301 Streamside Court Fort Collins, CO 80525

Laura Viola 2857 Shadow Creek Drive - 204 Boulder, CO 80303

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Denver Chapter / CAS PO Box 100190 Denver, CO 80210

Fort Collins Chapter / CAS LPO Box 9554 Fort Collins, CO 80525

Hisatsinom Chapter / CAS PO Box 1524 Cortez, CO 81321

San Juan Basin Chapter / CAS 385 Highland Hill Drive Durango, CO 80303

Membership Renewals

The following members have renewals due in January: Judy and Joe Evans, Ann and Dave Phillips

The following members have renewals due in February: Carolyn Hansen, Tracey and Bruce Derheim, Elaine Hill, Roger and Nancy Markham, Hal Ravesloot

<u>On The Internet</u> ur Web-Site at http://www.petone.com/~mland

Our Web-Site at http://www.netone.com/~mlandem

Please take the opportunity to view the changes that have occurred on our web-site, the Colorado Archaeology Network. We support a copy of the Winter 1997 - Spring 1998 PIT Traveler, with state indexes. Currently, we support or connect to the information for CAS chapters at Denver, Pueblo, Fort Collins, Cortez, plus our own chapter.

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San Luis Valley Chapter / CAS 8206 County Road 14 Del Norte, CO 81132

Pueblo Chapter / CAS 217 S. Grand Avenue, Box 56 Pueblo, CO 81003

Indian Peaks Chapter / CAS PO Box 18301 Boulder, CO 80308-1301

The Calumet - 10 Years Ago

Librarian Larry Riggs acknowledged the donation of a "very heavy box" of books and publications by Frederic Athearn (still a member of IPCAS) and The Bureau of Land Management, Lakewood office. Leni Clubb (also still a member of IPCAS) continued her column, *Desert Wind*, with a description rock alignment techniques. Ann Pipkins described the Lithic Lab PAAC Class for the Spring of 1988. Sharon Pay described how to plant the potted Christmas trees, giving special attention to the many varieties that members might have purchased.

The Calumet - 5 Years Ago

The December 1992 / January 1993 issue of the Calumet contained a book review about *Prehistoric Cannibalism at Mancos 5MT2346*. Ann Hayes, chapter President, wrote about the member's trip to the Aztec Exhibit at the DMNH. She also mentioned the "White Mammoth" gift exchange in the planned Holiday party and the PAAC class, *Perishable Materials*. The January meeting would feature Mr. Roger Echohawk with the topic, *The Use of Oral Tradition and Archaeology in Understanding Ancient Indian History*.

Article Submission for Current Calumet

The deadline for Calumet articles is the 20th of the prior month. All members are encouraged to send information for inclusion in the Calumet, especially articles regarding projects and work that club members have done. E-mail attachment or a diskette containing WordPerfect or MS-Word files are best but typed or hand-written articles are acceptable. Please include photographs, especially of club members, whenever possible. Send articles to Tom Cree, Calumet Editor.

October Executive Board Minutes

Meeting called to order on 10/7/97 at 7:30 PM at the Boulder Police Dept. Present: Braitberg, Holien, Landem, Larson, Montgomery, Morrell, Owens, and Patterson.

Secretary's Report: (Holien) September minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report: (Owens) Balance \$1743.75.

Vice President's Report: November guest lecturer: TBA. Cree will continue with CALUMET editor duties.

President's Report: (Landem) Magnolia Survey: Start-up scheduled for spring 1998. Sign-up at next General Meeting for volunteers to organize a committee by November to oversee project. Big Rock/YMCA (Estes Park) Excavation: continues for October weekends with Kindig and Landem. Lodging and meals for volunteers provided by YMCA.

Unfinished Business: North Broadway Game Drive site: Per Montgomery, Gleichman was PI for "Teegarden Wall" 5BL661. Report completed for City Open Space. Doug Bamforth will be at General Meeting to discuss upcoming Plains Conference. Sign-up for volunteers. He will begin poster sales at next General Meeting. Roster set for upcoming Officer and Board Members election.

New Business: Discussion concerning distribution of IPCAS by-laws and Membership List to members. Motion passed to include all information in January CALUMET. Discussion on Budget Projections using Cree's analysis for funding and spending. Suggestions include donation box, increase PAAC fees, set up CAS website for on-line CALUMET, reduce mailing of complimentary copies. Larson will check on bulk mailing rate. Also have a

water pump in Rock Creek barn that could be sold. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM. - Kris Holien, Secretary -

November Executive Board Minutes

Meeting called to order on 11/6/97 at 7:30 PM at the Boulder Police Dept. Present: Avery, Holien, Landem, Owens, Shay, Smith and J. Stinson. Secretary's Report: (Holien) October minutes approved.

Treasurer's Report: (Owens) Balance \$1680.75.

Vice President's Report: Motion passed to substitute 1 year CAS membership instead of honorarium for guest lecturers who are IPCAS members. President's Report: (Landem) Magnolia Survey: Start-up scheduled for spring 1998. Eight volunteers signed up at October Meeting. Will have sign-up at November Meeting for additional volunteers to organize a committee to oversee project. Big Rock/YMCA (Estes Park) Excavation site is closed for the winter. Anticipate a spring 1998 excavation start-up.

Unfinished Business: Doug Bamforth will be at November General Meeting to discuss upcoming Plains Conference and sign up volunteers. More discussion on Budget Projections. Avery proposed seeking corporate sponsorships (\$100-150 each) to enhance revenues. Motion passed to pursue this line. Landem and Holien will write thank you letters. Bulk mailing is not a feasible option for mailing CALUMET. Rejected proposal to immediately cut the number of CALUMET issues printed each month. However, will review mailing list of complimentary copies, duplications, etc. More discussion concerning distribution of IPCAS by-laws and Membership List to members. Motion passed to include Membership List in January CALUMET and the by-laws in September issue.

New Business: General Election for IPCAS Officers and Executive Board members for 1998 will be held at the next General Meeting (November 13). The two new candidates are Martha Patterson for Vice President and Sloan Schwindt for CAS Representative. All the rest are up for re-election. Motion passed to accept 2 new letters by Avery: a "Welcome to IPCAS" letter sent to new members (not renewals) and "A Reminder that Your Membership has Expired" letter. IPCAS Christmas Party will be Thursday, Dec. 11, 7:00 PM, at the Stinson residence, to include a pot-luck and White Mammoth gift exchange. Meeting adjourned at 8:45 PM. - Kris Holien, Secretary -

This newsletter is published monthly (except June and August) by the Indian Peaks Chapter, Colorado Archaeological Society. The views expressed in articles or editorials appearing in this publication do not necessarily reflect those of the membership or the Executive Board of the Indian Peaks Chapter, Colorado Archaeological Society.

1997 Officers and Board Members

1777 Officers an	u Douru members		
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Please check the club web-site at: http//www.netone.com/~mlandem.

Individual \$25 / Year Family \$28 / Year			
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Please make check payable to:	Indian Peaks Chapter, CAS		
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member list, and a copy of our bylar newsletter, and <i>Southwestern Lore</i> ,) SASE and you will receive a membership card ws. You will receive the <i>Calumet</i> , our monthly the quarterly publication of the Colorado vill have opened the door to Colorado Archaeolo		

CALUMET

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