

CALUMET



Newsletter of the Indian Peaks Chapter of the Colorado Archaeological Society
February, 2007

CALENDAR OF EVENTS

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

Web Site: WWW.INDIANPEAKSARCHAEOLOGY.ORG

- February 1** Executive Board Meeting, 7:30PM at The Atrium.
February 7-9 Colorado Preservation Inc (CPI) Conference, Denver
February 8 **Presentation Meeting**, Doug Bamforth, Topic: Pre-Contact Settlement Evidence In Northwestern Nebraska
February 17 Basketry Workshop, see Page 3.
- March 1** Executive Board Meeting, 7:30PM at The Atrium.
March 8 **Presentation Meeting**, Jeff Pappas, Topic: Devils Tower
March 14 **PAAC Course (Boulder)**: Intro to Laboratory Techniques (Class 1), see Page 3
March 21 **PAAC Course (Boulder)**: Intro to Laboratory Techniques (Class 2), see Page 3
March 29-31 Colorado Council of Professional Archaeologists (CCPA) annual meeting, Glenwood Springs
- April 4** **PAAC Course (Boulder)**: Intro to Laboratory Techniques (Class 3), see Page 3
April 5 Executive Board Meeting, 7:30PM at The Atrium.
April 10 PAAC Course (Fort Collins): Historical Arch (Class 1)
April 11 **PAAC Course (Boulder)**: Intro to Laboratory Techniques (Class 4), see Page 3
April 12 **Presentation Meeting**, Tom Stafford, Topic: Open
April 17 PAAC Course (Fort Collins): Historical Arch (Class 2)
April 18 **PAAC Course (Boulder)**: Intro to Laboratory Techniques (Last Class), see Page 3
April 21 CAS Quarterly meeting in Pueblo
April 24 PAAC Course (Fort Collins): Historical Arch (Class 3)
April 27 Sand Creek Massacre Site Dedication.
- May 1** PAAC Course (Fort Collins): Historical Arch (Class 4)
May 3 Executive Board Meeting, 7:30PM at The Atrium.
May 8 PAAC Course (Fort Collins): Historical Arch (Class 5)
May 10 **Presentation Meeting**, Open, Reserved for Topics on "Archaeology Preservation and Protection"
May 15 PAAC Course (Fort Collins): Historical Arch (Class 6)
May 18-20 **CRAA 2007 Symposium** in Craig, CO.
May 22 PAAC Course (Fort Collins): Historical Arch (Last Class)
- July 21** CAS Quarterly meeting in Gunnison

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New Members: E. James Dixon, Michelle Falke, Margaret Finucane, Bob and Diane Greenlee.

Renewing Members: Elizabeth Novak, Christine O'Toole, Cal and Colleen Schilling.

Glad you are with IPCAS.

Expired Memberships (please renew): Robin Hardin, Piper Herron, Jill Starcevich, John and Kathy Wilson.

February Presentation by Dr. Doug Bamforth

Title: Pre-Contact Settlement Evidence in Northwestern Nebraska

Bio: I got my BA at the university of Pennsylvania and my MA and PhD at the University of California, Santa Barbara. I have field experience in Nevada, coastal California, the California desert, Nebraska, Texas, Colorado, and Germany. My major research interests are in the archaeology of the Great Plains, with a technical specialization in lithic analysis. However, I have also started doing collections research in Ireland. I taught at the University of Nebraska from 1987 through 1990 and I have been here (at CU) ever since.

Trash Pit Shows Insight into Natives

CU professor shares evidence of agrarian-based Plains Indians

Josh Boissevain, The Longmont Daily Times-Call, October 19, 2006

New research by a University of Colorado professor suggests that Plains Indians in northwest Nebraska, before the arrival of whites, might not have been nomadic hunter-gathers as historians once thought. CU anthropology professor Doug Bamforth found evidence of an ancient trash pit he believes shows people from the Pine Ridge region of Nebraska in the 1400s were actually a more stationary and agrarian-based culture. Bamforth presented an outline of his ongoing field research Wednesday night in front of a crowd of about 30 at the Longmont Museum & Cultural Center as part of the museum's annual History Lecture Series.

Teaching a field-school program through the university, Bamforth's spent 10 weeks over the past two summers looking for clues of what life was like in what he called "the pre-contact period." On the very last day of the program's expedition, his group happened to find a large collection of pottery shards and burned animal bones in a single location while digging random site tests. The find wasn't what they were expecting. "It was not a deeply stratified site that had layer upon layer of stuff in it because we would have hit that in other places we had dug." The materials were so concentrated, it had to be something else.

"There is only one way this makes sense: It has to be a bell-shaped pit that was dug to store food, and when they were done with it, they filled it with their trash," he said. Assuming the site was a cache pit, he said, it would mean that the people were almost certainly not nomadic. "If we've got a cache pit where people (stored food or trash), I'm thinking you've got houses," Bamforth said. "And if you've got houses, you've got farms."

Since they found the site on their last day in Nebraska, Bamforth said his group unfortunately did not have a chance to look for any signs of architecture. But he plans to return in June to continue his search. If they find any evidence of permanent structures, Bamforth said they could potentially match the architecture to that of other Central Plains cultures. Bamforth also is waiting for results from a radio-carbon dating test that would pinpoint when the site was in use. Any information Bamforth and his group find is expected to be revealing because not much is known about the people who lived prior to contact with Western Europeans.

Aside from the lack of oral or written records, the history of pre-contact people was clouded by interactions that took place well after the first whites arrived, he said. "Contact transformed Indian people and did it really, really rapidly," Bamforth said. "So the visions we have from the 1700s and 1800s are actually centuries out of date because the lives of the people that came before white contact were, in many cases, quite different." The theory is that people in the northwestern Nebraska area probably came from interactions with Lakota, who were hunter-gathers, he said. So there was a perception that that is how it has always been. But the Lakota didn't move to the Great Plains until the 1700s and 1800s, Bamforth said, and they were much different than the people who lived there in the 1400s.

Cami Taylor, who attended the event, was surprised by Bamforth's findings. "It's interesting," she said. "I think the theory that people who lived here before us might have much been more advanced than we thought is really important."

Spring PAAC Class

IPCAS will be offering "Introduction to Laboratory Techniques" as our spring PAAC class.

This is a great class to take if you would like to get involved with Kevin's PAAC labs, in which we work with artifacts that have been collected in Colorado during surveys or excavations. It would also be a good class to take if you are interested in getting involved behind the scenes at museums, working with collections, or working with the National Forest Service laboratory projects.

The class will meet on Wednesday evenings 6:30 to 9:30 PM from March 14 to April 18 (except for March 28). If you would like to register, please send two checks - one for \$12 made out to "CHS" and one for \$10 made out to "IPCAS". Then mail both with your name, postal address, telephone number, and e-mail address to: IPCAS, PO Box 18301, Boulder, CO 80308-1301, Attn: PAAC.

If you need more information, contact Katherine McComb at 303-666-7448, kmccomb@comcast.net .

Basketry Workshop

IPCAS is sponsoring a pine-needle basketry workshop on February 17, 2007. The class instructor is Linda Aguilar - a Native American who has many years of experience in making and selling many kinds of beautiful baskets.

There are only a few spaces left but if the class fills, I will keep a waiting list in case of cancellations.

Date: Feb 17, 2007

Time: 9:30AM-1:30 PM

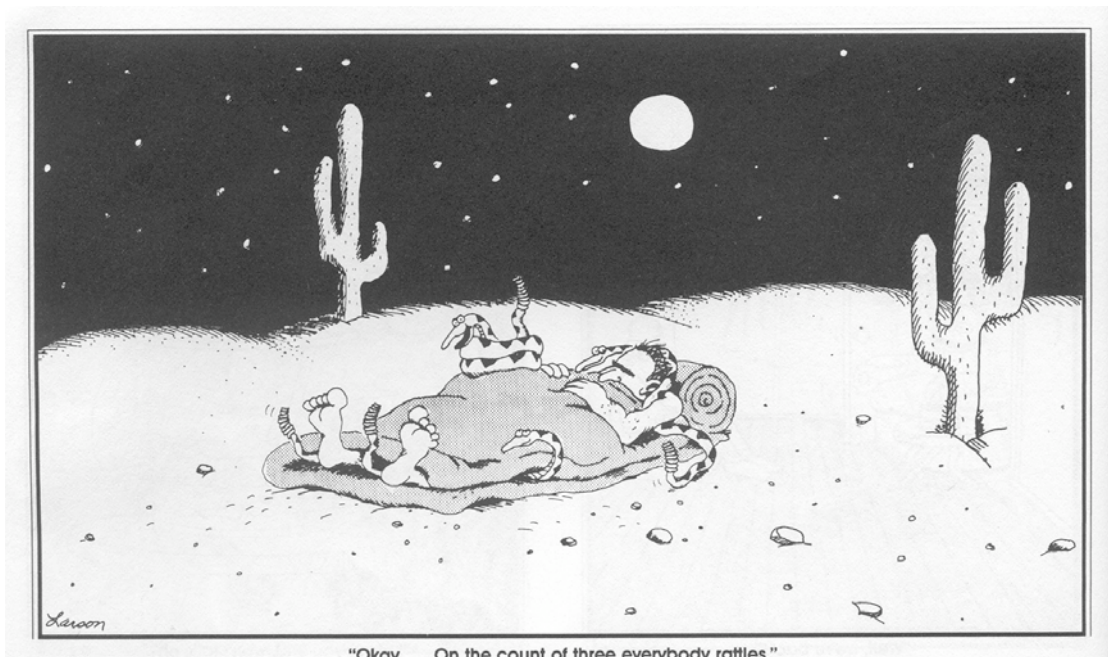
Location: TBD - in Boulder, most likely

Cost: \$20.00

Materials: Provided at class

Number of participants: minimum 8, maximum 15

If you did not sign up at the Chapter meeting on January 11, and if you are interested in participating, please contact: Cheryl Damon, cherdam@cs.com, 303-678-8076. Please provide name, email, & phone number, along with number of interested persons.



"Okay . . . On the count of three everybody rattles."

Rock Creek Remembered From Past Calumets

Executive Board Minutes June, 1990

Rock Creek Camp: Carol Gleichman, an archaeologist with Native Cultural Services, requested the Chapter's help in work on a creek bank Woodland site in east-central Boulder County. Carol and her husband, Pete, will be conducting excavations at the site in September, and requested help from the Chapter. They have applied for a Cultural & Scientific Facilities grant, and plan to use the excavations as a teaching tool for area school children.

The site is eroding out of a creek bank on Boulder County Open Space land and data on the site may be lost through natural processes if the site is not excavated soon, according to Carol.

The Board approved of the project and agreed to seek volunteer help from members for the project. Other sources of possible funding will also be explored.

Coffee Break with Ed & Rick September, 1990

After a summer off, vacation, and some very hot weather, we're back with a new issue of *The Calumet*. We hope you all had a great summer, participated in some exciting archaeological events such as the Pawnee Grasslands survey, etc.

As we come toward Fall, the first opportunity is the Rock Creek dig with Native American Services (Carol and Pete Gleichman) on September 6-16. This salvage of a possible early ceramic phase habitation site, eroding out of the bank of Rock Creek, will give Indian Peaks members valuable experience in excavation working with experienced professional archaeologists. Carol also noted that tour leaders are needed to conduct school class tours of the site in the mornings on September 10-14. Call Carol at 444-5574 if you can help, and to set up the best time for your help.

Kevin Black informs us that some funds are available for dating .. not that kind .. the C/14 type .. ! Said funds to be given on the basis of need to date samples either past or present. Needless to say, your prez immediately applied for some funds for the Rock Creek project. Any other old samples laying around that might need dating? Call Rick at 828-3144 and we'll try to include in the proposal.

The Chapter has received the second \$1000 grant check from the Cultural and Scientific Facilities Board. Recommendations for additional equipment are welcome by Rick at 828-3144. The present equipment will be used on the Rock Creek project so come out and use your new gear.

Coffee Break with Ed & Rick October, 1990

The Rock Creek Project was exciting with the discovery of lithics, ground stone, bone, and several hearths! Only a small portion of the site has been excavated, and approximately 50 square meters of the site is still at risk from erosion. The search is on for some grant money to at least finish the at-risk portion of the site. Ideas, friends, contacts: call Rick Lippincott at 828-3906. Just a reflection on the Rock Creek Project: Carol Gleichman, the P.I., said some really great things about the Indian Peaks volunteers – that they were careful, competent, and good even with the paperwork! Chapter members put in 127 hours cutting through the clay plus 27 hours leading school children on tours of the working site. It's words like that that make being prez worthwhile.

February Meeting Focuses on Rock Creek February 1991

On February 27, the Indian Peaks Chapter, Colorado Archaeology Society, will hear a report from Pete Gleichman, head of Native Cultural Services entitled: "The Prehistory and Public Archaeology at Rock Creek Camp." The presentation will be given at 7: 30 p. m. at the Foothills Nature Center, 4201 N. Broadway, in Boulder.

Pete Gleichman is a professional archaeologist with more than 15 years experienced. He and his wife, Carol, herself an archaeologist, operate Native Cultural Services, an archaeological consulting service located in Boulder. In the late summer of 1990, the Gleichmans conducted an excavation at Boulder County Open Space's Rock Creek Farm. During a survey by Carol earlier in the year, cultural material was discovered eroding out of the bank of Rock Creek. The erosion of the creek bank threatened to destroy evidence of habitation, which necessitated excavation to identify and study remaining cultural elements.

The site, known as Rock Creek Camp, is an Early Ceramic camp site dating from approximately 1000 A. D. Indication of significant human occupation was found in the presence of" several archaeological features tentatively identified as hearths or fire pits. Preliminary excavation yielded numerous artifacts including projectile points, and pottery shards.

At the Gleichmans' invitation, several members of Indian Peaks Chapter assisted in the excavation and conducted tours for more than 400 school children to a working archaeological site. In all, the Chapter provided more than 120 hours of work on the site. Indian Peaks Chapter is presently assisting the Gleichmans in seeking additional funding to continue the primary salvage excavation of the eroding creek bank.

Rock Creek Excavation and Mini-Field School June, 1992

An excavation and mini-field school will be held in July at the Rock Creek Camp Site, to salvage a hearth eroding out of bank of Rock Creek. The work will be done by members of the IP Chapter under the leadership of Pete and Carol Gleichman and Chapter field director, Rick Lippincott. Call Rick at 828-3144. The site was identified, in 1991, as an Early Ceramic camp. This new hearth is stratigraphically lower and thus may reflect an earlier occupation of the site. Boulder County Open Space has requested the hearth be salvaged and has agreed that the Chapter take on the task. This is an opportunity for Chapter members to gain experience in excavation techniques under the guidance of skilled professionals. The work will be conducted in July and will be scheduled on a Saturday to permit maximum participation. Those signing up will be notified as to the day and time.

Indian Peaks Seeks Grant for Rock Creek August / September 1992

The Indian Peaks Chapter in conjunction with Native Cultural Services and the Boulder County Parks and Open Space Department is applying for a State Historical Fund grant to compete work on the Rock Creek Campsite (5BL2712). The grant request is for \$20,057, with the participants providing \$13,194, for a total amount of \$33,251. The \$13,194 represents "in-kind" funds such as equipment, personnel, services, etc. and is provided by the participants. The grants funds will be used to:

- complete excavation of 56 square meters of 5BL2712 now at risk from erosion;
- provide an extended educational opportunity for several hundred grade school children to view an archaeological "dig" in progress and learn about cultural preservation;
- provide a field school opportunity for anthropology students from area colleges and universities to gain "hands-on" experience in archaeological field work;
- create an interpretative site to foster public awareness of cultural history and the need for preservation.

The grant application was reviewed by Pete Gleichman, of Native Cultural Services, and Bill Lucius, the Chapter professional advisor. Grant winners in the first round will be notified on November 17, 1992. If the Chapter receives the grant, work on rock Creek Campsite will begin in April 1993. Six crew positions will be open each of the 19 days of field work. Members of Indian Peaks will have first chance at crew slots with unused slots being made available to members of other chapters. Additional information will be published in the December Calumet.

Early Archaic Hearth Found at 5BL2712

By Rick Lippincott, March 1993

There was the stuff of diamonds in that small rock-lined pit perched precariously on the cutbank at Rock Creek Campsite (5BL2712). The stuff is carbon from the hearth excavated by Native Cultural Services and Indian Peaks Chapter, CAS, in August, 1992. The carbon yielded a date of 6070 +/- 190 B.P. (Beta 58396), the earliest Early Archaic site date on the plains of Colorado.

Those who attended Dr. James Benedict's lecture last year will recall the Early Archaic occurred during the significant climatic shift identified by Ernst Antevs (1948, 1955) as the Altithermal, in which the plains became hotter and dryer, forcing the plains fauna (including the human component) into the cooler and wetter foothills and mountains. Benedict's Mt. Albion complex people are Early Archaic. His studies of Early Archaic sites such as Hungry Whistler, 5BL70, Ptarmigan, and Fourth of July Valley are well known in the literature (Cassells, 1983:95). The Early Archaic on the Plains is much less well known and understood (Eighmy, 1984: 63). The lack of information on Early Archaic use of the plains makes this component extremely important to our understanding of Early Archaic materials, culture and lifeways. On this same timeline, the Early Ceramic Period component of the site has already been dated at 850 +/- 70 B.P. (Beta 40187) and 970 +/- 70 B.P. (Beta 40188) from two hearth features and 650 +/- 110 B.P. (Beta 42955) and 780 +/- 90 B.P. (Beta 42956) from Stratus B (the charcoal-stained stratum immediately above the hearth surface).

These dates place the Early Ceramic component of 5BL2712 in the transition period between the Plains Woodland (Early Ceramic) and the Upper Republican (Middle Ceramic) which began ca. A.D. 1000 (Cassells 1983: 171). In this transition, the typical Early Ceramic conical shape was replaced by the more globular Upper Republican ware (Cassells 1983:171). Both were formed by the paddle and anvil technique.

The chapter, under the guidance of Pete Gleichman of Native Cultural Services, and with the approval of Boulder County Parks and Open Space, has nominated Rock Creek Campsite for the State Register of Historic Places. If the nomination is accepted by the Colorado Historical Society, the site will be eligible to receive grant funds from the State historical Preservation Fund to complete excavation of the endangered portion of the Early Ceramic component and to test the Early Archaic component for additional data.

A portion of the Early Archaic hearth had already been lost to erosion. There is no way of knowing if there is additional Early Archaic artifacts in the hearth area. Only test excavations will shed light on the Early Archaic component.

Once the site is accepted for the state register, a new grant application will be submitted by the Indian Peaks Chapter to the Colorado Historical Society by the March 1, 1993 deadline. A response to the application will be made by the Historical Society in May or early June. If the grant is approved, it will be mid-September field work can begin. Pre-field preparation will require notification of teachers in area school districts of the availability of a September field trip experience to a working archaeological site. Schedules of class visits will have to be worked out to maximize the educational opportunity. Field experience leaders will have to be trained to interpret the excavation activities to school classes, as well as interpretation of the cultural periods represented in Rock Creek Campsites and their place in the cultural history of Colorado and archaeological record. This field experience program is, for the Chapter, a vital part of our involvement in the Rock Creek Campsite, since education and development of cultural awareness is a major charter obligation of CAS and its chapters.

Pete Gleichman has agreed to be Principle Investigator and Field Director for the project. The actual field crew will be selected by Pete, since his professional reputation will be evaluated by the competency and accuracy of the field work and interpretation.

At this point, the Chapter's contribution is:

1. The preparation of the nomination documentation (thanks to Laura Viola for the property ownership research, and Kevin Black for his critique on the nomination),
2. The subsequent grant application prepared in collaboration with Pete and Carol Gleichman (with additional guidance, direction, and encouragement from Dr. William Lucius), and
3. Picking up the cost (\$355) of the radiocarbon date analysis for the early Archaic hearth.

This is a great time to be part of the Indian Peaks Chapter. We have the opportunity to extend the cultural horizons of Colorado archaeology and to be part of some significant work in promoting understanding and public awareness of two important periods in the prehistoric cultural processes of our state.

References:

- Antevs, E. (1948). Climatic changes and pre-white man. Bulletin of the University of Utah, 38, (20), 168-191.
- Cassells, E. S. (1983). The Archaeology of Colorado. Boulder, Colorado: Johnson Books.
- Eighmy, J. L. (1984). Colorado plains prehistoric context. Denver, Colorado: Colorado Historical Society.

Indian Peaks Horizons March 1993

I was privileged to be present at the February 19th hearing of the State Register Review Board when Rick Lippincott, on behalf of IPCAS, nominated the Rock Creek site for the State Register of Historic Places. The proposal was defended by archaeologist Peter Gleichman, principle investigator for the project.

Our State Historic Preservation Officer, Susan Collins, praised the Rock Creek project as exemplary of cooperation between county government, CAS, avocational, and professional volunteers. The good news is that the Review Board voted to place the Boulder County site on the register! This is a pre-requisite for our application to the Colorado Historic Fund (CHS) for funds to complete the work at Rock Creek. That weighty application is due March 1.

We will hear at the end of May whether the CHS grant comes through. If awarded, it will support completion of excavation of both the early ceramic and archaic components of the site. This will give the chapter and other volunteers a fascinating project for the season ahead.

Rock Creek on Colorado State Historic Register April 1993

Rock Creek Camp has been listed on the State Register of Historic Properties effective March 10, 1993. The successful nomination of Rock Creek Camp (5BL2712) to the State Register was crucial to the Chapter's grant application for funding to excavate the site starting in July of this year. Only properties listed on the State or National Historic Register, are eligible to receive grants from the Colorado Historic Preservation Fund. The Chapter has requested \$28,292 to complete field work, analysis of materials including radio-carbon dating, and a final report on Rock Creek Camp. Total cost of the project is estimated at \$46,692, of which \$17,400 is in-kind donations of labor, equipment, and report preparation. Rock Creek Camp is an Early Archaic and Ceramic (Plains Woodland) Period site threatened by erosion of the north bank of Rock Creek in southeastern Boulder County.

The field work will consist of completing excavation of 56 square meters of erosional bank involving the Early Ceramic Period camp, excavation of the remaining hearth area of the Early Archaic site. The initial data from excavations on the Early Ceramic portion of the site suggests and occupation or use from approximately AD 840 to AD 1300. Structures are sometimes found in relation to Early Ceramic Period sites, but no architectural features have so far been discovered at Rock Creek Camp. The Early Archaic portion of the site has been dated to 6070 BP from radiocarbon tests of charcoal from the hearth. Excavations on this portion of the site will attempt to determine if any vestige of the Archaic living floor remains. The hearth was discovered eroding out of the vertical creek bank on northwest side of the site. Approximately 60% of the hearth was lost to erosion by the time it was excavated in August, 1992.

There will be many opportunities for field school training and experience for avocational archaeologists working under the direction of Peter J. Gleichman and Bob Mutaw of Native Cultural Services, who will head the project. Persons interested in gaining field experience in archaeological excavation and field procedures, should contact Rick Lippincott, 828-3906. Since a major goal of the project is education, we need persons willing to learn to lead groups through the excavation area, explaining what is going on and why cultural preservation is so important.

Indian Peaks Horizons

Ann Hayes, IPCAS President, June 1993

We need no longer hold our breath about the outcome of the IPCAS sponsored proposal to the Colorado Historic Fund for a \$29,292 grant to excavate at Rock Creek this summer. On May 20 we received a letter from the Colorado Historical Society letting us know that our proposal had been funded in full. Three cheers for our own Rick Lippincott and for Pete and Carol Gleichman of Native Cultural Services who worked together on the proposal. The funds will be spent on salary for professional staff, supplies and equipment, analysis of recovered material, and site interpretation which includes a brochure and interpretive signs for the site. The scope of this grant is an unprecedented experience in IPCAS history, providing great opportunity and placing great responsibility on the chapter. We have more hoops to jump through before the funds become available. We will be required to attend a workshop on grant administration and to enter into a contract with the State of Colorado assuring that we meet necessary legal requirements. That done, our expectation is that we will be able to begin work at Rock Creek in early July. The project is expected to require 25 crew days. Eight workers will be scheduled each day, usually 3 professionals and 5 volunteers.

At the May 20 Executive Board meeting, it was decided that volunteer participants should be CAS members. Participants must commit to not less than 3 and not more than 5 full days. As soon as the dates of the excavation have been established (which depends on the progress of our contract negotiations with the state of Colorado), we will hold an orientation meeting for those who have volunteered as crew members. The date and place will be announced in a special issue of the *CALUMET*. Meanwhile, call Edna Devai at 494-4524 to express an interest in participating.

Rock Creek Grant Awarded to Indian Peaks Chapter June 1993

Pete Gleichman announced at the IP Executive Board meeting on May 20 that the requested grant to fund the Rock Creek project had been awarded and that excavation would be done during July and August. The expected length of the excavation period is about 25 working days.

The project will be headed by professional archaeologist, Pete Gleichman. Two other professional archaeologists will be part of the staff as well as five volunteers daily for eight hours to round out the excavation crew. In order to establish an efficient work schedule there will be no casual site visitations. Tours for interested CAS members will be arranged.

The scheduled days for the excavation and the date for an evening orientation meeting for the volunteers will be announced in the July issue of *CALUMET*. Members of Indian Peaks CAS are being given priority in staffing the project. Here is the way you as an active member of Indian Peaks Chapter can become involved in this history making opportunity.

The initial requirement is that the volunteers be willing and physically able to participate in excavation work e.g., shovel and trowel, pushing a wheelbarrow, screening, filling out forms, etc. While the work will be interesting to the avocational archaeologist it can be physically demanding and rigorous in the July and August sun.

If you would like to sign up for a minimum of three on-site days, (not necessarily consecutive), call Edna Devai on 494-4524. Edna will maintain the master volunteer work schedule. Anyone who signed an interest sheet earlier should re-confirm their interest with Edna and indicate their date preferences when the schedule is announced.

A second required volunteer group will be formed of those adults interested in becoming tour leaders. Tours for school-age students from summer community activities will be scheduled concurrent with site excavation work. This will be an opportunity to make a significant contribution to "Archaeological Awareness". Those interested in being part of this component should sign up with Edna Davai.

IPCAS Tour - Rock Creek August 1993

On Saturday, August 14, Pete Gleichman will conduct two tours especially for IPCAS members who are not on crew at Rock Creek. This will be an opportunity to see personally a bit of authentic history right in our own back yard.

The Rock Creek Camp (5BL2712) has been listed on the State Register of Historic Properties. The Early Archaic portion of the site has been dated to 6070 BP from radio-carbon tests of charcoal from the hearth.

The tours will be conducted at 9:00AM and 1:30PM. Because of limited parking at Rock Creek and widening of HW 287, we will meet at 8:30 am and 1:00 pm at the Broomfield Park and Ride at 120th and Wadsworth and car pool to the site.

Directions from Boulder: Take HW 36 to the Broomfield exit. Go about I block south on old Wadsworth, at the 2nd traffic intersection after leaving HW 36. Entrance to Park & Ride is on the right. Reservations are required for the tour. Call Ann Hayes, 494-3773.

Calumet Articles, October 1993

Rock Creek Thanks

Commendations are in order to all who participated in the Rock Creek Project. To Pete Gleichman and the staff of Native Cultural Services, Bob Mutaw, Sandy Kahru, and Dave Tucker, for their leadership and dedication, and especially for their patience in working with volunteers. To Pete Gleichman and Rick Lippincott for nominating the Rock Creek site to the State Register of historic places and for collaborating on the proposal that won the Colorado Historic Fund grant. To Edna Davai and Sue Lippincott for scheduling the volunteers who excavated at Rock Creek. To Dock Teegarden (who put in many hours) and to 36 other volunteers who came out to dig: Maureen Arthur, Pam Baker, Alice Bardsley, Yardley Beers, Francis Black, Norma Boslough, Chris Cree, Tom Cree, Cheryl Damon, Edna Davai, Peter Finfrock, Frank Gose, Leah Gose, Sandy Gose, Ed Grefrath, Jeannie Hamilton, Frank Hauke, Tom Harrold, Ann Hayes, Karen Hershberg, Kris Holien, Ken Larson, Bob Lindsay, Marie Mayer, Joe Marquez, Anita McHugh, Ellen Meehan, Steve Montgomery, Ann Mutaw, Hilary Reynolds, Richard Owens, Russell Smith, Mary Sucke, Dave Trumbo, Laura Viola and Eden Welker. Finally to Rich Koopmans who supported and supervised the dig on behalf of Boulder County Open Space.

Indian Peaks Horizons Ann Hayes IPCAS President

The Rock Creek dig was scheduled to begin on July 21st and end on August 27, but that's not quite the way it happened. The dig was running on schedule until we discovered that the Barn Owl inhabiting a burrow in the Rock Creek cut bank was raising a family! Wildlife specialists advised that further excavation in that area be terminated until the young had fledged, which meant that part of the archaic component will have to be excavated later this season.

A lot of earth was moved, by picks, shovels, trowels, and whisk brooms. Hundreds of pounds of dirt were wet screened and dry screened, daily. Myriad flakes, bone bits, and charcoal chunks were bagged and cataloged. We learned to map grid units, sketch soil profiles, remove hearths, and fill out those picky level forms. The work was done by 35 (mostly IPCAS) volunteers working along side the Native Cultural Services professional staff. Sometimes it was very hot but nobody complained. It was an exhilarating experience!

Lab analysis of the cultural materials removed this year will shed new light on ancient lifeways in the plains-foothills transition zone of the Colorado Front Range. Dates from the archaic hearths buried a meter deep in the cut bank may provide a reference that will enable geologists to date certain alluvial deposits for the first time. We have contributed to an important piece of scientific work.

Does anyone wish to nominate a candidate, or be a candidate for the 1994 IPCAS Executive Board? Let nominations chairman Edna Devai know about it by calling her at 494-4524. New officers will be elected at the November meeting, and officially installed at the January meeting. Time marches on!

Rock Creek Educational Tours A Success

Rock Creek was more than a dig. As part of the interpretive program for the project, seven IPCAS volunteers led ten educational tours through the site. Most of the participants were youngsters ages 6 through 10 who were enrolled in various summer programs throughout the county.

The hour-long tours began on the porch of the Rock Creek "White House", where the leader gave a brief introductory talk on the landscape and lifeways of early inhabitants, and explained archaeological methods in use at the dig. The children were encouraged to examine, hands-on, a display of artifacts similar to those found at the site, and to grind corn with a mano and metate. They were then led across the creek to observe work in progress at the site. At this point the professional staff took over, explaining the operations in more detail. Of course everyone was fascinated with the owl hole, which no one could get close to because of restrictions imposed by the Boulder County Division of Wildlife.

Here are some comments from letters written by 5th graders from Loma Linda Elementary:

- "I liked seeing the artifacts and the diggers digging the artifacts. I learned that it is not that easy to dig artifacts up."
- "I liked grinding corn with the mano and metate. I really liked it when Steve sprayed mud through the screen."
- "Am I old enough to join your club?" Norman, age 7 years "I liked touching the projectile points and shards."
- "The owl hole was neat even though I didn't see a darn thing."
- "Thank you for telling us how the Indians made things like projectile points, and for teaching us what nomadic means".
- "I learned that you can't touch charcoal if you are picking it up to send to the lab because you might contaminate it".
- "It was amazing that I was actually walking on a land where Indians used to live".
- "Thank you for teaching us about the oxidized rock. It's neat walking where somebody lived 6,000 years ago".
- "I found at Rock Creek that they have to make a map every five to ten centimeters, and it's a pretty hard job too".
- "I learned you have to take time to find things".

The tours were organized by Boulder County Volunteer Coordinator Mary Jo Rosemayer in cooperation with Ann Hayes of IPCAS. Tour leaders were: Richard Owens, Pam Baker, Alice Bardsley, Ken Larson, Russell Smith, Maureen Arthur, and Hilary Reynolds. Learning Alliance, Thorne Ecological Institute, Children's World, and Boy Scout Troop #72 sponsored groups. Loma Linda Elementary of Longmont brought two busloads of 50 children. Adult groups included Boulder County Volunteer Naturalists and the special IPCAS Tour.

Archaeologists Unearth Ancient Fire Hearths

By Pam Stratton (Reprinted from BROOMFIELD ENTERPRISE, October 21, 1993.)

He says National Geographic is to blame. Ken Larson of Broomfield spent weekends this summer at the edge of Highway 287 scratching at hard Colorado clay with an ax, a pick or sometimes a trowel. Grime became a source of pride for this otherwise white-collar worker, who lives five minutes away from one of most productive archaeological sites in boulder Valley. "I would take a shower after and there would be dirt in my ears," he said.

Larson is one about 35 avocational explorers, many from the Colorado Archaeological Society, who helped uncover 20 fire hearths - more probably remain - on county open space bordering Broomfield~The Rock Creek Farm site was Larson's second dig, and the first day out in July he uncovered a 1,500-year-old mano, or grinding stone. Because of the shape of the stone and how it might fit in the palm of someone's hand, scientists have determined it was used by a woman to break apart grains. Older artifacts have been found. In fact, the site has produced evidence that challenges a prevailing theory about the way Colorado people lived 6,000 years ago.

Clues that the plains were particularly hot and dry in 4,000 B.C. had led theorists to believe that ancient people took refuge in the cooler mountains, rarely wandering onto the flat lands. But a 6,000-year-old hearth found in 1992 and the thousands of shards of pottery, grinding tools and points for weapons discovered since at Rock Creek farm could suggest otherwise .

"This is one of the most active sites this far east." said Pete Gleichman, the archaeologist heading the project. "I don't know of another one comparable in Boulder County." What the ancient people left behind - their garbage, essentially - will help Gleichman and others determine how people lived. Scientists will analyze bones, seeds, other plant residue and charcoal at laboratories in the months to come. Samples of leftover sludge will be carbon-dated to determine the ages of the fire hearths, which look like black basins, smudges against red clay about one and a half feet wide and one foot deep.

The layers of civilization piled on top of one another suggest the spot was popular for thousands of years. That said, the question remains: Why here? Gleichman offers some possibilities. "The plains and foothill transition (was known) to be a big corridor for movement of people and animals," he said. Rock Creek may have been part of a migration route for big game, and people gathered seasonally to hunt at the spot. Many hearths of the same age suggest the site could have been a trading center. Tools made of stone found only in the mountains or Nebraska would also support this conclusion.

Results of some of the laboratory studies should be available in six months. Money for this year's excavation came from the Colorado Historical Society, which granted \$30,000 to the project. The money; gleaned from taxes on casino gambling; paid for three professionals and the carbon dating, which costs about \$250 a sample. The rest of the work was donated by volunteers like Larson, who like to play in the mud on weekends in order to forget the urban grind.

It might do residents of Broomfield, a city sometimes said to suffer from a lack of identity and history, a world of good to know that their hometown area has been attractive to people for a long time, Larson said. "Having traveled that road (Highway 287) for the past decade, I never in my wildest dreams had imagined that this area was inhabited for over 7,000 years," he said. The site was first detected in 1989, when Carol Gleichman surveyed the land for a bike trail.

Annual CAS Meeting Report November 1993

Sandy Karhu spoke on the Rock Creek Site.

Rock Creek

Boulder County has backfilled the site. Work is proceeding on a brochure, several interpretive options and the display of actual artifacts.



PAST LIVES
of Prehistoric Peoples At Rock Creek Farm
By Wendy Underhill
Boulder Magazine, Winter/Spring 1996-1997

In 1989, Boulder County Parks and Open Space was planning to put a trail beside Rock Creek at Rock Creek Farm. Before it started, however, the agency wanted to know if there was any reason not to proceed. So Carol Gleichman, representing an archaeological consulting firm called Native Cultural Services, was asked to review the proposed route.

She set out to walk its length, but what started as a pro-forma exercise ended in an exciting discovery. "There were arrowheads and pottery shards on the surface," and in thick layer of black charcoal soil, says her husband and partner Peter Gleichman.

Charcoal and artifacts are "pretty much a neon sign to archaeologists that you're on top of an occupied area," he says. "We knew right away the site was not only important, but also endangered."

The exposed relics were visible thanks to fast-acting creek erosion. If something wasn't done soon, however, the site would wash away. So Boulder County Parks and Open Space staff switched gears from recreation to preservation of a finite resource. The terms "finite resource" likely evoke images of petroleum, coal or gas deposits—all natural occurrences—rather than pottery shards and projectiles. But they also describe cultural artifacts such as remains of human existence. Like coal, artifacts are found on or below the ground and can't be replenished. They also serve a useful purpose for humans. Thus, we must adopt a waste not, want not attitude about artifacts as well as mundane mineral resources.

Rock-Hard Views

A hundred years ago, most digging at archaeological sites resulted from a desire to get loot out of the ground and ,into collectors' hands. Today, the idea is to preserve as much in situ as possible. We know future archaeologists will have better technology, so why expend this resource now with techniques that someday will appear clumsy? Fortunately, Boulder County is "ahead of the game" in understanding this approach, says Peter Gleichman, lead archaeologist for most excavation that since occurred at Rock Creek. Because archaeological ethic has evolved to preservation, about the only sites explored today are endangered either by development or erosion.

The whole archaeological and historical community was excited by the Rock Creek discovery, which Peter Gleichman's discoveries at Rock Creek Farm changed conceptions of prehistoric Plains' tribes appeared to be one of Boulder County's few Plains sites representing occupation over many centuries.

After a few digs during the next few years, the site turned out to be more significant than originally believed. At least three marvelous "finds" have come to light. One is the site is much older than was expected. Archaeologists have known for a while that people occupied the Plains in at least three distinct periods: the Paleo Indian Period dating from 9,500 to 5,500 B.C.; the Archaic Period dating from 5,500 B.C. to A.D. 1; and, most recently, the Ceramic Period dating from A.D. 1 to 1,550.

But which tribe occupied the site at any period is impossible to determine. "We can't assign it to a tribe in terms of Pawnee, Sioux, Arapaho, Ute, or whatever," Gleichman says, "because it's far enough back in

prehistory that ethnic or tribal differences in material culture can't be perceived. For instance, we can't distinguish a stone tool made by a Ute from one by a Pawnee because certain designs overlap in tribes, and distinguishing style differences on clothing or arrow shafts are on perishable materials that have rotted away. What is important is this adaptation goes back a long time and indicates inhabitants used both the Plains and the mountains to acquire resources."

Indeed, Rock Creek artifacts indicate inhabitants traveled widely and traded vigorously with surrounding tribes. Gleichman's crew recovered several hundred ceramics dating from A.D. 850 to 1300. "It was a fairly large amount for a site in this region," Gleichman says. Through microscopic analysis, archaeologists proved recovered ceramics were made locally and not traded from other areas. Eventually, 286 shards representing at least 10 different vessels from the Ceramic Period were recovered, as well as stone and bone tools from the Ceramic and Archaic epochs. A large quantity of arrowheads made from petrified wood, chert, or quartzite also were found whose origins were traced to Kremmling, Parker and Elizabeth, Colo. "A lot of stones used for tools came from widely separated areas," Gleichman says, "so inhabitants were either traveling a lot or widely trading with other tribes."

Dig It!

From her initial discovery, Carol Gleichman knew she was looking at artifacts from the Ceramic Period. In 1992, however, a fire pit was found eroding out of the creek bank. Radiocarbon dating revealed it was from the earliest parts of the Archaic Period-some 6,200 years ago. That was news, Gleichman says. Although "the older the better for a lot of people," archaeologists don't always share that bias. In this case, however, it was important because it shed light on travel and settlement patterns during a time period when the Plains were believed abandoned.

"The theory is a drought six-thousand years ago forced animals into the mountains because more moisture was there, and people followed the big game into the mountains," Gleichman explains. Evidence of occupation at that time is plentiful in the high country, and although Rock Creek doesn't refute the drought theory, it suggests that, at least in some years, prehistoric people still traveled to the Plains.

Second, the fact the Rock Creek site was used 6,200 years ago, 5,000 years ago, 3,000 years ago and intensely in the last millennium begs the question: Why this spot? Gleichman says human habitation changes the environment and "camp follower" plant species often take hold. Many have medicinal and edible value, and may have drawn people back to the site. Perhaps, however, after a thousand-year gap, new people serendipitously found the spot and were delighted to "recycle" pottery and arrowheads from earlier inhabitants. Or maybe a natural, on-going cycle drew people back to the site. Speculating-or rather researching-that question will keep archaeologists busy.

The last big "find" at Rock Creek was non-archaeological. The cooperative model used for securing funds and personnel worked not just adequately, but extremely well. Students, amateurs and professionals teamed up Arrowheads unearthed at Rock Creek were made from materials whose origins were far from the site, proving prehistoric tribes traveled widely on foot and traded with surrounding tribes with Boulder County Nature Association, Colorado Historical Society, which provided most funding, volunteers from the Indian Peaks Chapter of Colorado Archaeological Society and professional staff from Native Cultural Services and the University of Colorado.

Recovered artifacts eventually will be curated locally through the county or a museum, and the cooperative model used at Rock Creek already was adopted for other projects.

Secured For Future Sleuths

The Rock Creek site has now been back-filled-standard practice on archaeological sites, Gleichman says, to preserve them for future archaeologists to explore with hopefully improved technology.

However, educational trunks with replicas of artifacts, a video and lesson plans are available from Boulder County Parks and Open Space, the University of Colorado Museum, Boulder Valley School District and the Indian Peaks Chapter of Colorado Archaeological Society.

Using Rock Creek as a teaching tool for hundreds of schoolchildren and CU students was very successful, Gleichman adds. Imagine altering a child's glorified image of archaeologists digging up relics in Egypt by letting them bask in the hot and painstaking reality of a dig in their own backyard.

"Recovering scientific data and using the site as an educational tool for both archaeological and grade school students were the most exciting aspects for me," Gleichman says. "Schoolchildren were so thrilled to see what we were doing digging in the dirt. It made the whole experience very gratifying."



Rock Creek as it might have looked in prehistoric times.
Drawing by Steve Montgomery

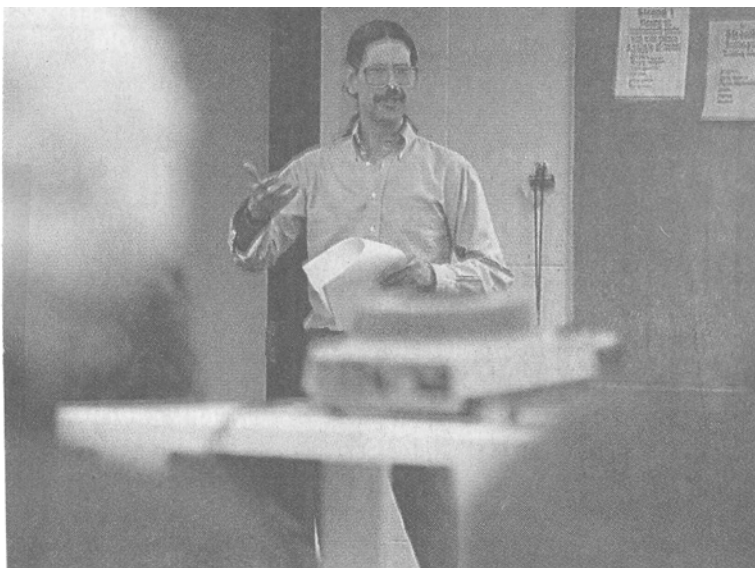
The Daily Times-Call, April 1998

By Greg Avery

ERIE - A swallow found the blackened smudge of dirt in the bank of Rock Creek before Carol Gleichman did. The bird had burrowed into the dirt where the creek cut into southeast Boulder County's hard soil. A team of archaeologists followed, and over the next few years revealed much about life in the area dating back more than 6,000 years.

Before Gleichman, the swallow or any other modern day creature set foot there, the area is believed to have been the wintering ground for Native Americans for thousands of years. That history was brought to life again Wednesday as archaeologist Pete Gleichman, Carol's husband, detailed the findings of a dig near Boulder County's Rock Creek Farm open space that began in 1990 and was undertaken sporadically over the next four years. Speaking to about a dozen members of the Erie Historical Society, Gleichman told how the blackened dirt led to the discovery of a fire pit and other artifacts, and how the site became one of the best dated prehistoric Native American living sites in the Rocky Mountain foothills.

"That fire pit dated to 6,200 years (ago) and that's extremely early for the area. That, of course, caused a lot of interest," he said. Pete and Carol Gleichman, contract archaeologists working on behalf of Boulder County government, were surveying Rock Creek for evidence of "cultural resources" - the traces of human habitation - before the county's planning of the Rock Creek-Coal Creek pedestrian trail.



The Gleichman's fire pit discovery brought in teams of archaeologists from the Indian Peaks chapter of the Colorado Archaeological Society, CU-Boulder and amateur assistants. While they dug, hundreds of area school kids got to visit the site on field trips. The archaeologists uncovered fire pits, the remains of weapons, animal bones and some ceramic pottery remains that suggested the site was used over and over again starting about 6,000 years ago, again 3,000 years ago and more recently from about 500 A.D. to 1300 A.D.

"It's the best site that I can think of as far as providing material on the plains ... There are many of them that provide various material, but none that are quite as rich," Gleichman said. He believes the site supports the notion that ancient American Indians were permanent residents of the region, not plains tribes from Nebraska and Kansas on hunting forays into the Rocky Mountains as some anthropologists believe.

Research on the artifacts traced stone arrowheads to rocks found near Granby and Sterling, ceramic pots were made of clay found in Front Range soils, grinding stones were made from Lyons sandstone, and firewood came from shrubs common to the region.

Archaeologists believe several hundred years of drought hit the American plains between 5,000 and 6,000 years ago, driving game into the Rocky Mountains. The theory is that ancient hunters followed, moving seasonally from the foothills up into the mountains and back as weather dictated, something the Rock Creek site supports, Gleichman said. "It's told us a lot about the re-sources the people were using," he said. "These people were adapted to our area." Utes and Arapahoes were known to live in the Front Range foothills area, and many other tribes were known to pass through, but Gleichman said it is impossible to know to which tribe, if any, the ancient natives of Boulder County are related.

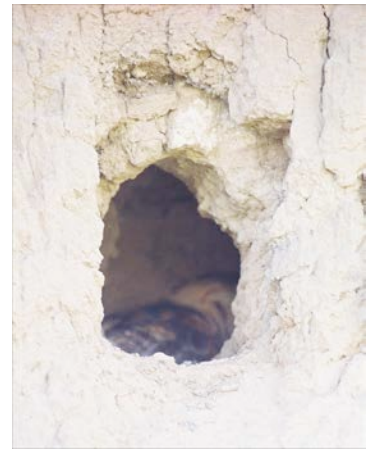
The findings surprised few audience members. After Gleichman's talk, the older crowd pressed him with stories of their own discoveries about traces of Native American life in the area - everything from arrowheads to teepee rings still in evidence. Local kindergarten teacher Jim Avery said he knows of a half dozen spots around Erie that routinely yield arrowheads and handheld grinding stones. "Every time it rains and people plow I can find something," he said.

While talk of Native American tribes living in the area seems like ancient history to many, the reality is much more recent, said Avery. "It really doesn't take going back that far. Shave off a couple hundred years and that's all you need," he said.

Gleichman guessed there are probably several sites in the area that could tell more about the time before written history if they were studied.



Rock Creek before the Excavation



The problem owl nest complete with problem owl



Getting Started: Dock Teegarden, Dr. Bob Mutaw, Pete Gleichman, and Chris Cree



The slab-lined hearth that got it going



Commander's Tent: Dr. Bob Mutaw, Dr. Sandy Karhu, and Pete Gleichman



Dock Teegarden, using a pick-ax



Russell Smith



Scaffolding for excavating the hearth



Screen Crew: Pam Baker, Russell Smith, Bill Rosquist, and Dr. Karhu



Taking a lunch break – in the shade, with the original “bucket seats”.

ROCK CREEK SUMMARY

Pete Gleichman

Investigations at the Rock Creek site have resulted in recovery of data from multiple occupations at the site. A total of 94 square meter excavation units were dug over four seasons, 37 features were identified, mostly firepits, and 32 were excavated. Over 2000 field samples were recovered, including botanical and faunal remains, charcoal and fire-cracked rock, and 5134 artifacts of chipped and ground stone, ceramics and bone. 15 radiocarbon dates were obtained, making this one of the better dated sites in the Colorado Plains.

The site was occupied during the Early Archaic Period, at about 6200 years B.P. (Before Present), and had two Middle Archaic (McKean complex) occupations, at around 5600 B.P. and 3000 B.P. A series of Ceramic Period (Hog Back complex) occupations took place from 1100 to 650 B.P. (A.D. 850 to 1300). The Ceramic Period occupations spans the transition from the Early Ceramic Period to the Middle Ceramic Period, generally thought to have occurred about A.D. 1000. However, with the exception of simple stylistic variation of the locally manufactured ceramics, there does not seem to be any discernable transition occurring at the site around A.D. 1000 or anytime during the Ceramic Period occupations. Continuity of artifact types, assemblages, and in floral and faunal remains argue against a cultural shift or transition to a “Middle Ceramic Period” as being distinct from an “Early Ceramic Period” at this site.

Data from Rock Creek indicate the people living there were adapted to and oriented to the Front Range and the plains/foothills transition zone, and the occupants participated in an interactive sphere and/or seasonal round that included the plains and extended well into the Front Range and Middle Park.

Getting the Point Shaft Abrader



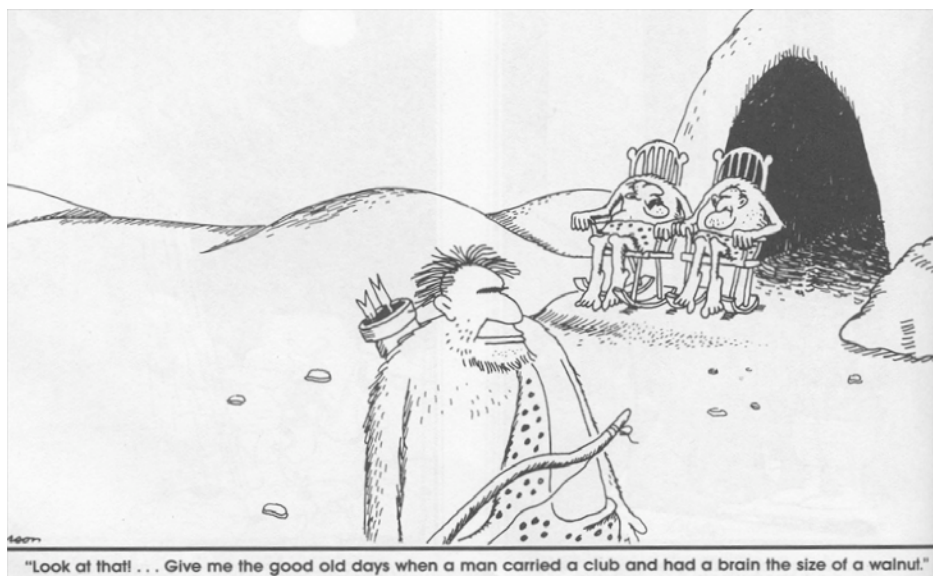
Tool Type: **Shaft Abrader**

Range: Across the United States, Canada, and Mexico.

Material of this tool: Sandstone

Source of this tool: Field find from the Robert Kougl Collection

This tool is used to polish arrow shafts and even straighten minor bends. Shaft abraders are occasionally found all across America. Most **abraders** are made of soft stone, like this example in sandstone, so that use will create a groove – thus improving the effectiveness.



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