



# THE MOKI MESSENGER

NEWSLETTER OF THE SAN JUAN BASIN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Chapter of Colorado Archaeological Society

**August, 2009**

## ***SJBAS August Meeting***

On August 13 at 7:00 p.m. in the Lyceum at the Center for Southwest Studies at Fort Lewis College the monthly meeting of the San Juan Basin Archeological Society will be held. Jill Seyfarth and Ruth Lambert will discuss the La Plata County Historical Building Survey.

## **July Meeting of SJBAS**

by Beverly Stacy Dittmer

The July meeting of the SJBAS on July 9 opened to a full house. Nearly every seat was taken. There were lots of visitors to our chapter attending. Everyone had come to hear Sally Cole speak about the Falls Creek Ranch Project. She is currently working on documenting and preserving the work in this area as well as carrying on further research and excavations.

Since everyone in and around Durango knows about this rich site, this program drew a lot of community interest. Many residents of the housing development near these sites, Falls Creek, came to find out more about the history that lies at their back doors.

Despite a few computer projection problems, Sally was able to show some very interesting slides of the sites including enhanced drawings of pictographs that are found there. It was interesting to note that the ancient artists used colors that still show up on the rock canvas.

It was an informative talk. It is always nice to find out the latest findings and research that has been done on your own "home" sites. The Falls Creek Ranch Project is working on one of SJBAS's "home sites".

## **Mining Trip Final Itinerary**

by Bruce Howard

The annual trip of the SJBAS devoted to mining will take place on Friday and Saturday, August 21-22, and will focus on Summitville and Creede. Departure from Durango at Santa Rita Park will be on Friday morning, August 21, at 8 A.M. The group will travel over Wolf Creek Pass, and then proceed by way of the dirt forest roads 380 (Pine Creek Road) and 330 (Pinos Road) to Summitville. The route is well-signed. The road can be traveled safely in 2-wheel-drive, low-clearance passenger vehicles.

Summitville, a gold mining camp that thrived from 1870-1900, lies at 11,800 feet elevation. Many of its old buildings still stand. Open pit gold mining using cyanide leaching was started in 1984, and was abandoned in 1991 after fish kills occurred on the Alamosa River. Summitville is now an EPA Superfund site.

After lunch, the group will travel in the afternoon from Summitville, returning by the same route to Highway 160, and then by way of South Fork to Creede. Creede boomed in 1889-1893 after silver was discovered. The citizenry included Soapy Smith, Calamity Jane, Bat Masterson, and Bob Ford. There should be time to explore Creede, with a visit to the Creede Museum as an option. The Creede Repertory Theatre will show "Swiss Family Robinson" on Friday

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# Detailed Trip Information

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night, August 21, and “The Imaginary Invalid” on Saturday night, August 22, for those who choose to remain an extra night.

Available lodgings in Creede can be viewed at [www.creede.com](http://www.creede.com), and include bed and breakfasts, motels, RV parks and campgrounds. Reservations should be made well in advance.

Saturday morning, the group will meet at the Creede Underground Mining Museum for a one-hour guided tour at 10 A.M. The Bachelor Historic Tour by automobile will follow, with stops at old mines and town sites, and at the Creede Cemetery. The tour takes about two hours, and can be traveled in 2-wheel-drive, low-clearance passenger vehicles.

For further details, please contact Bruce Howard at [brucehoward@frontier](mailto:brucehoward@frontier) net, or (970) 385-4539.

## Trip to Range Creek, Utah

by Gail Schultz

Friday, September 18 through Monday, September 21, 2009, sixteen SJBAS members will travel to Range Creek Utah. Gail Schulz is leading this trip which was filled by early February, 2009. If you would like to be on a waiting list for this trip in case there are last minute cancellations, please contact Gail right away at 970-259-3249. Gail has collected a lot of information about visiting Range Creek and would be glad to share it with anyone who is interested in visiting this remote valley filled with incredibly well preserved Fremont sites.

The group will leave from Santa Rita Park on Friday, September 18 at 7:00 AM for the long drive to Range Creek near Price, Utah. This is a camping trip, and access to Range Creek does require high clearance 4WD vehicles. Saturday, September 19 we will go on a vehicle tour of about 13 miles of Range Creek with Tavaputs Ranch Tours run by Jeanie Jensen. Jeanie grew up in the valley and is the daughter of Waldo Wilcox, the rancher who protected the valley for decades. This is an all day tour which includes lunch at the Wilcox ranch headquarters and costs \$125 per person plus some tips for guides/drivers.

The next day some of us have permits to walk in and out of the valley as far as we can in the daylight to see all that we can on our own. We hope to obtain more permits from the Utah Division of Wildlife Resources if more permits are made available the week before the tour. If we don't obtain more permits, we will make alternate plans for the rest of the group to visit other places such as 9 Mile Canyon and to camp in that area. We plan to return home on Monday, September 21, 2009.

If you wish to learn more about Range Creek, please visit [http://wildlife.utah.gov/range\\_creek](http://wildlife.utah.gov/range_creek). If you wish to learn more about Tavaputs tours please visit [www.tavaputsranch.com](http://www.tavaputsranch.com).

Diane Skinner alerted us to a PBS program on Range Creek to be aired on both Rocky Mountain and New Mexico PBS on Wednesday July 29, 2009, at 7:00 pm. This is the fourth of five in a series of archaeological programs, each on Wednesday at 7:00 pm which began July 8, 2009.

## Service Opportunities

### Want to be part of a blockbuster?

The Center of Southwest Studies at Fort Lewis College is currently working on its new blockbuster exhibit, Mountain Lion! We need your help to ensure it is a huge community success! The Center seeks volunteers to help at events and in the museum. Mountain Lion! will open in late August. Training is scheduled for August 13 at 5pm. Please call Julie Tapley-Booth at 247-7456.

### 2009 (72nd Annual) Pecos Conference, Volunteer Opportunities

*August 6-9, McPhee Campground*

If you can help with any of the following committees, please let Patricia Lacey know at 565-0634 or at [patricia@fone.net](mailto:patricia@fone.net).: **WEB SITE, REGISTRATION, PROGRAM, BOOK SALES, FIELD TRIP, KIDS ACTIVITIES, FACILITIES, FOOD SERVICE, ENTERTAINMENT.**

# Upcoming Events

## SJBAS FIELD TRIPS

**Shavano Petroglyphs** - August 15. Long day or overnight trip to Montrose to visit Ute Museum and an interesting petroglyph panel. Leaders: Peggy Morris, sipapu\_72@q.com; and Dennis Lopez, 970-382-8688.

**Historic Mining Districts** - August 21-22. Either camp or stay in a motel. High country mining camp tour, including several historic sites in South Fork-Creede area. Leader: Bruce Howard, 970-385-4539, brucehoward@frontier.net.

**Sunnyside Mill** - August 29. Day trip to one or more historic mining mills near Silverton. Dave McCrillis' many years of mining experience will help him interpret the mill processes. Leader: Dave McCrillis, 970-259-9698.

**Front Range Museums** - September 9-12. A four-day motel trip to visit the Western Museum of Mining and Industry, the Manitou Cliff Dwellings and other activities as time permits. Leader: Richard Robinson, 239-1943, robinson@frontier.net.

**Range Creek** - September 18-21. Either a camping trip or motel trip to visit Fremont Culture sites 400 AD to 1300 AD. Follow the link on the SJBAS web-site for detailed trip plans: Range Creek Trip Notes. Trip leaders: Gail and Marlo Schulz 259-3249 [mschulz@frontier.net](mailto:mschulz@frontier.net).

## Four Corners Speakers' Series - July, August & September

**Craig Childs** - "Living in an Archaeological Landscape" - August 8, 7:00 p.m., Morefield Campground, MVNP;

**Connie Garcia** - "The People Shall Continue" - August 23, 1:00 p.m., Anasazi Heritage Center;

**Art Neskahi** - "Traditional Rehab vs. Whiteman's Rehab" - August 25, 7:00 p.m., CCC;

**Michael Kabotie & Mark Varien** "Journey of the Human Spirit" - August 27, 6:30 p.m., Crow Canyon;

**Scott Ortman** - "Oral Tradition and Archaeology: Do They Tell the Same Story?" - September 3, 6:30 p.m., Crow Canyon.

## Denver CAS Chapter Lectures

**2008 Denver CAS Egypt Trip** - August 10, 7:00 p.m., Ricketson Auditorium, Denver Museum of Natural Science ("DMNS");

**Richard Wilkinson** - *Funerary Temple of Queen Tausert (Egypt)* - September 21, 7:00 p.m., Ricketson Auditorium, DMNS.

## Aztec Ruins Summer Series 2009

**7:00 to 8:30 p.m. - Free Admission.**

**Dr. Michael Whalen** - *Architecture and Authority in the Casas Grandes Region, Chihuahua, Mexico* - August 7;

**Sally Cole** - *Across the San Juan: Rock Art and Murals of the Mesa Verde, Aztec, and Chaco Areas, AD 1000 to 1300* - August 21;

**TBA** - Fridays - 7/24, 8/14, and 8/28.

## 2009 (72nd Annual) Pecos Conference, August 6-9, McPhee Campground

Papers and presentations of recent research concerning the Southwest will be presented. The Thursday night reception will be at the CCC. Oral talks and poster displays happen on Friday and Saturday at McPhee Reservoir Campground. Craig Childs will make a presentation Friday night. There will be a catered dinner and dance featuring live music on Saturday night. Tours to local sites on Sunday. <http://pecos.cortezculturalcenter.org>.

**Hisatsinom Chapter** is not having a speaker in August. For their field trips call Larry Tradlener, at 565-7804 or at [insitu@fone.net](mailto:insitu@fone.net). Hisatsinom Chapter members have first preference for trips. A

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## More Upcoming Events

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listing of their trips follows:

**Elk Ridge**, No leader, August, Day/Overnight.

**Hammond Canyon**, Larry Tradlener, August, Back Packing/Overnight.

**Lancaster House**. Tom Hoff, September, Day Trip.

**Cedar Mesa**, Larry & Sandy, September, Day/Overnight.

**Range Creek**, No leader, no date set, Overnight.

**Dinetah sites/Gobernador**, Larry & Sandy, October, Overnight.

**Gallina sites**, no leader, no date set, Overnight.

### Denver Chapter Field Trip

Contact Ken Andresen at (303) 278-0855 or at gandresen@earthlink.net.

September 4-7. Rock Art: Lander, Wyoming area.

### Cortez Cultural Center

Open from 12:00 to 4:00 p.m. during the summer.

### Animas Museum Activities

Living History Programs - August 29, 10:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

### Museum of Western Colorado Trips

Meeker Sheepdog Trials; McDonald Canyon; Discover Local Museum series travelling to Delta, Montrose, Telluride and Gateway; Rifle Falls; Family Dinosaur Dig. The International trips include: Mexico and Peru. To find out about these trips see

[www.museumofwesternco.com/programs\\_and\\_events/trip\\_and\\_tours/](http://www.museumofwesternco.com/programs_and_events/trip_and_tours/)

## Conferences, Museum Information

### Rocky Mountain Anthropological Conference

October 8-10, Western State University at Gunnison, with field trips on October 11. Call for papers by September 1, 2009, to DByears@missouristate.edu.

### Plains Anthropological Conference

October 14-17, Norman, OK. ([www.ou.edu/cas/archsur/plainsanth.html](http://www.ou.edu/cas/archsur/plainsanth.html))

### Southwest Traders Rendezvous

September 25-27, Cortez Cultural Center.

### Pueblo Grande Museum and Archaeological Park, Phoenix

"Pieces of the Puzzle: New Perspectives on the Hohokam", latest methods for dating and analyzing archaeological material; new perspectives on the Hohokam and cultural changes in the 15th century. (602) 495-0901, [www.pueblogrande.com](http://www.pueblogrande.com).

### Anasazi Heritage Center

through October 31, "The Old Spanish Trail: A Conduit for Change", traces the history of this first successful Euro-American connection of the Mexican frontier provinces of New Mexico and California. (970) 882-5600, [www.co.blm.gov/ahc](http://www.co.blm.gov/ahc)

**Santa Fe Museum** 113 Lincoln Avenue, Santa Fe. 1680 Pueblo Revolt exhibit. About 20 volunteers and staff from the Museum of New Mexico Foundation's Friends of Archaeology and the state's Office of Archaeological Studies crafted 300 replica arrows that

hang in a mass from the ceiling via nearly invisible fishing line, pointing toward a mock-up burned and crumbling building -- in real life, the Palace of the Governors. Artists and religious leaders from New Mexico's 19 pueblos provided handmade arrows. 505-476-5200

### Pointe-À-Callière/Montreal Museum of Archaeology and History

*Pirates, Privateers and Freebooters*, (through January 2010) tells of the 16th to 19th century sea adventurers along the North American Eastern seaboard and the Caribbean. Over 150 objects include pewter tableware, navigation instruments, a clyster for treating diseases, firearms and sabers, figureheads, sea chests and other prized personal possessions, some rare objects linked to Canadian piracy, and a life-size ship for visitors to board. 514-872-9150, [www.pacmusee.qc.ca](http://www.pacmusee.qc.ca).

### Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian

*Return to a Native Place: Algonquin Peoples of the Chesapeake* (Long-term exhibit), with photographs, maps, ceremonial and everyday objects, and interactive displays, to educate visitors on the continued native presence in the region. Overview of the history from the 1600s to the present. 202-633-

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# Conferences, Museum Information—Cont.

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1000, [www.americanindian.si.edu](http://www.americanindian.si.edu).

## **Historic Arkansas Museum**

Little Rock, AR. (permanent exhibit)

*We Walk in Two Worlds: The Caddo, Osage & Quapaw in Arkansas.* Tells the story of Arkansas' first people from early times to today. 501-324-9351, [www.arkansashistory.com/exhibits](http://www.arkansashistory.com/exhibits).

## **Ohio Historical Center**

Columbus, OH.

*Windows to Our Collections: Ohio's Ancient Past*, (long-term) includes significant artifacts such as the Adena Pipe, the mica hand, and the Wray figurine, as well as many animal effigy pipes from Tremper Mound. 614-297-2300, <http://ohsweb.ohiohistory.org/places/c09>.

## **THE EDITORS' CORNER**

### **Local Historian Recounts Durango Deeds**

(Summary, Review by Patricia Miller, *Durango Herald*, April 17, 2009)

- This article is a review of the book, *Durango Diary II*, by Duane A. Smith, which is the second volume of his *Durango Herald* columns that includes 43 historical photographs. His first volume, *Durango Diary*, covered the 1880s and 90s. The columns are to be read one by one. The fall in the price of silver in 1893 that dropped Durango into a depression is referenced often. Durango had a not-terribly-successful land rush starting in 1899. Duane includes the town's flaws, reproducing a front page from *The Durango Klansman* newspaper and recounting how the town voted against women's suffrage and establishing the national forest. In the section about the Great Depression he interviewed many people who were alive then, and their recollections fill his columns on the subject.



### **Colorado Historian Publishes Book No. 50**

(Summary, *Denver Post*, 7/12/09)

- *The Trail of Gold and Silver: Mining in Colorado, 1859-2009* is Duane Smith's fiftieth book. The University Press of Colorado's Timberline Series celebrates the 150<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the great Colorado Gold rush with this overview. Smith has taught history since 1964 at Fort Lewis College and was the Teacher of the Year. He also won the Colorado Endowment of the Humanities Colorado Teacher of the Year award. Duane completed his BA, MA and Ph.D. at CU-Boulder, publishing his Ph.D. dissertation as his first book, *Rocky Mountain Mining Camps: the Urban Frontier (1967)*. This work focused on the urban nature of the mining West. His second title, co-authored with others, *A Colorado History*, remains a widely used text. Smith's primary interest is Colorado mining. His goal as a writer and teacher is to make history come alive, to hook people on history. Duane is the chair of the Durango Parks and Recreation Board and proudly leads walking tours along its Animas River Trail. As a founding member of the La Plata County Historical Society, he takes fourth grade Colorado history students on tours of the restored Animas City Schoolhouse. *The Trail of Gold and Silver* is an overview of hard-rock mining, a survey which ponders past failures as well as successes. From bonanzas such as Cripple Creek to Summitville's environmental disaster, Colorado mining has had its ups and downs.

**Don't forget to fill out and return to us (your editors)**

**the Moki Questionnaire on Page 9.**

**Thank you very much.**

# Archaeology Near and Far

## **Undercover Agent Purchased Wide Range of Antiquities Stolen from Public Land**

(Summary, Hisatsinom, July 2009)

For two years, someone close to a large network of archaeological looters in southeastern Utah was wired with an audio-visual recorder when buying ancient baby blankets, stone pipes, seed jars, digging sticks, pots, and even a pre-Columbian menstrual pad. This "Source," as he or she is identified in a search warrant affidavit recently unsealed, is an insider who worked with U.S. Bureau of Land Management and FBI special agents to nab two dozen suspects in the theft and sale of more than 250 American Indian artifacts from the Four Corners area. Find out more at [www.sltrib.com](http://www.sltrib.com).

Another article in the Hisatsinom is entitled, Craig Childs Describes the Federal Case as a Raid on the "Good 'Ole (Artifact) Boys". It says that after federal raids on the somewhat casual, small-town traffic in illicit Southwest artifacts, one prominent pot hunter is dead and nearly a dozen more are under indictment. The criminal actions grew out of a two-year undercover investigation in the Four Corners region, in which a wired informant purchased more than \$300,000 in illicit antiquities. Most were bought in the high desert town of Blanding, Utah. Find out more at [www.cdarc.org](http://www.cdarc.org).

Another article from the same issue of the Hisatsinom, is entitled Arrests Part of Effort to End Years of Looting. It reports that while the criminal prosecution of 24 defendants nabbed in an operation dubbed "Cerberus Action" has just begun, the looting of treasures held sacred by Utah's earliest inhabitants has been going on for years. More at [www.cdarc.org](http://www.cdarc.org).

A fourth article in the July Hisatsinom entitled Major Law Enforcement Action Against Looters in the Four Corners Area reports that Ken Salazar, Secretary of the Interior, issued the following statement: "Let this case serve notice to anyone who is considering breaking these laws and trampling our nation's cultural heritage that the BLM, the Department of Justice, and the federal government will track you down and bring you to justice." [www.npr.org](http://www.npr.org).

A final reference from the Hisatsinom is entitled Utah Senators Call Pothunting Raids "Overkill" reports that Utah's U.S. senators say they want Congress to investigate the actions of federal agents who arrested two dozen people for the theft of ancient artifacts stolen from public and tribal lands in the Four Corners area. Sens. Orrin Hatch and Bob Bennett, both Republicans, told the Deseret News of Salt Lake City that the raid was overkill. The two made the comments during interviews at the state's GOP convention. [www.cdarc.org](http://www.cdarc.org).

## **Man Accused of Threat in Southern Utah Artifacts Theft Case.**

(Summary, The Daily Times, 7/14/09)

Charles Denton Armstrong of Blanding told a witness he planned to "take care of" an artifacts dealer who spent two years working undercover for the FBI and the BLM on an investigation into the trafficking of ancient relics on the Four Corners area. The investigation included hours of recorded phone calls and in-person conversations. It eventually led to the indictments of 25 people from Utah, Colorado, and New Mexico. Armstrong, who is suspected of retaliating against an informant, remains in federal custody. Armstrong was once a patient of James Redd, a Blanding doctor who committed suicide a day after the indictments were announced. Armstrong blamed the informant for Redd's death. Armstrong told a federal agent that he didn't intend to kill the informant, but to "hurt him real bad".

## **Pot Hunting More Than a Hobby**

(Summary, The Daily Times, 7/13/09, by Sherry Robinson, an award-winning, longtime New Mexico journalist. She is also the author of two books: "El Malpais, Mt. Taylor and the Zuni Mountains" and "Apache Voices.")

The theft and sale of more than 150 Indian artifacts in two years, many from burial sites, is organized trafficking. One person with a metal detector has pillaged nearly every military site in southwestern New Mexico, with the help of a GPS and a hired hand. He sells his haul piece by piece, starting around \$35. To an archeologist, these remnants are information when they're still in the ground. Removing them is like tearing pages from a book. A case in point: Archeologist Karl Laumbach used metal detectors to study the Hembriillo Canyon battle of the great Apache Chief Victorio. The site is undisturbed because it lies on the White Sands Missile Range, so the battle could be documented in detail. Cemeteries of Hispanic ghost towns on the High Plains are being looted and vandalized. A looter in Socorro harvested the entire body of a Civil War-era soldier from the grave at Fort Craig and kept it in his house. On July 28, 67 bodies were reinterred in the Santa Fe cemetery - where they can be protected. The theme is disrespect for the dead, greed, and lax enforcement of the laws. A key player in Blanding was the town's doctor. He was a fine man, a good physician, and his suicide was a loss to his community. Yet, in his home, agents found so many artifacts, cataloging took more than 10 hours. In 1996, a sheriff's deputy caught the doctor, his wife, and some of their children digging in an Indian burial site; a court battle ended in 2003 when his wife pleaded no contest to felony desecration of a corpse, and the couple paid a \$10,000 fine and his wife and daughter pleaded guilty to seven counts. Artifact trafficking can't exist without demand. The trail too often ends in Santa Fe with gallery owners.

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# Archaeology Near and Far

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## **Pilfering Indian Artifacts,**

(Summary, The Denver Post, 6/28/09)

Court documents filed in the recent federal action suggest the practice is ingrained in Southwestern culture. A BLM archaeologist, now deceased, was said to have initially pocketed a historically significant pipe that was later bought by a confidential informant working for federal authorities. An unnamed park ranger found an American Indian knife on federal land near Telluride and sold it to a Grand Junction dealer. Department of Interior Secretary Ken Salazar put himself on the line when he personally announced the indictments of two dozen people. The investigation is continuing and other arrests may follow. Policing archaeological sites is difficult since they tend to be numerous and in isolated locations. A search warrant filed in Utah federal court said one of the stolen artifacts was a "female loin cloth" taken from federal land and sold for \$1,500. Other items included knives and a blanket, and sandals taken from a burial site. A thriving foreign market for these items drives the grave robbing. Ernest House Jr., Executive Secretary of Colorado's Commission for Indian Affairs, says pots, blankets and arrowheads have sacred meanings, and the things taken from the earth must return to it. The desecration of graves is particularly distressing.

## **Inadequate Protection Puts Rock Art at Risk.**

(Summary Daily Sentinel, Commentary by Andrew Gulliford, April 26, 2009)

Over 1,000 rocks at sites of Barrier Canyon pictographs are found throughout the San Rafael Swell, from tiny, five-inch animal figures to stunning seven-foot tall human shapes with no arms or legs and alien-like bug eyes. Barrier Canyon-style images are always a dark, blood-red color. Some may have been painted 8,000 years ago; many panels are at least 5,000 years old. The images of eerie, elongated figures with shortened arms and legs are hard to decipher. The anthropomorphs, or human figures, often have large eyes, no ears or noses, and no obvious gender. Snakes writhe in their hands or above their heads. Yet circling the fierce, faceless creatures are delicate menageries of exquisitely painted birds, ducks, geese, deer, and occasionally free-floating eyeballs with wings. Twenty sites are spectacular. The most famous Barrier Canyon panel is the Great Gallery in a remote section of Canyonlands National Park named Horseshoe Canyon. Sego Canyon, north of Thompson, Utah, also contains examples of this rock-art style. There is a panel of four figures that looks as fresh as if it had been painted recently. Barrier Canyon paint is only one of the mysteries. Probably mixed from vegetable and mineral compounds, the paint is ten percent blood, but whether human or animal is uncertain. The sophistication of the art is made more mystifying by the fact that the artists were Archaic Period (8,500-2,000 B.C.) mobile hunters and gatherers who did not plant corn and who lived a precarious subsistence lifestyle.

The Swell is a BLM Special Recreation Management Area of 938,500 acres. The Southern Utah Wilderness Alliance and ATV groups squabble over wilderness designation. ATV use and illegal roads increase yearly. The under-funded BLM has few staff to enforce regulations on backcountry travel, and rock-art vandalism is an ongoing problem. At one site beneath a small cliff face at Molen Seep, the base of the cliff is covered in cow dung.

## **Sixteenth Century Torture Devices for Sale**

The devices, including shame masks to enforce silence, a 14-foot table-like rack to stretch the victim's body, a tongue tearer to punish blasphemers and heretics, iron masks, boots, thumbscrews, foot squeezers, ropes, leg irons, chains, rings, manacles and "witch-catchers", possibly the world's most extensive collection of historical torture devices -- some 252 items -- plus rare books, documents and other related artifacts will be auctioned. The proceeds will go to Amnesty International and other organizations committed to preventing torture. Of German origin and acquired in the late 19th century by England's earl of Shrewsbury, the torture collection has been in private American hands since last publicly shown in 1893 in New York and at the Chicago World's Fair. Its owner for many years after that was a Norwegian-born survivor of the Holocaust. On November 25, 1893, an article in *The New York Times* described what was then a 1,300-item collection, noting that "thousands of people have gazed upon these terrible relics of a semi-barbarous age," all of which "have been in actual use." Notably absent is what the *Times* in 1893 called the "justly-celebrated iron maiden", a coffin-like case with deadly spikes on the inside.

## **Forensic Tests Uncover no Link Between Skull Found in a Utah Pawnshop and Brutal 1857 Massacre of a Wagon-train Party that Crossed the State, but Mountain Meadows Massacre Descendents Group ("MMMDG") Wants More Tests**

(Summary, Denver Post, June 4, 2009; Daily Times, June 11, 2009)

The remains are probably those of an adult Asian male, possibly of Vietnamese ancestry. The skull was found in 1982 on the shelves of a Salt Lake City pawnshop. A note in the box said the artifact was from a female victim of the Mountain Meadows massacre, an 1857 attack by a Mormon militia and church members on an Arkansas wagon train that left 120 men, women, and children dead. It was turned over for testing earlier this year. A purported bullet hole on the back of the skull was also found to be post-mortem

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damage. The skull also lacked any evidence of damage from animals or exposure to weather, as was seen in other remains from Mountain Meadows. The eyehole screws that connect the jaw bone to the cranium suggest the specimen may have been used as an anatomical model. The President of the MMDG is not convinced, stating there have been two examinations and two opinions (an earlier finding was inconclusive), but suggest cranial features possibly indicate American Indian ancestry.

## **Ghost Hunters Investigate 180-year-old Adobe Building in Sierra County, New Mexico.**

(Summary, Durango Herald, May 17, 2009)

The former owner of the Old Cuchillo Bar hears the door of a potbellied stove opening and wood being stacked inside, but no one is there; whispers echo in the current owner's ear; things fall off shelves. The West Coast Ghost and Paranormal Society has been asked to investigate the property. Only about five percent of the group's investigations cannot be explained by electromagnetic radiation, thin walls, faulty wiring, lights from passing cars, or other normal explanations. The investigators are usually ghost debunkers. They explain the mysteries their clients relate to them using science or common sense. WCGAPS is booked through July with investigations, mainly in the Southwest.

The Old Cuchillo Bar dates to 1830, when it was a stagecoach stop. At one time, freight was unloaded and taken by wagon to nearby mines in Winston or Chloride. The 5,000-square-foot complex has housed a trading post, stables, mercantile, post office, hotel, and saloon over the years. Once home to 2,000 people and the hub of the county, Cuchillo has about 35 residents.

Rice, a business analyst, became interested in investigating ghosts when someone or something pushed him down stairs, lifting him off the floor, and leaving scratch marks on his back. For the investigation at Cuchillo, Rice will search area building codes and the site's history, talk with residents, review the property's title history and look at photographs of the original buildings. He and seven other investigators will bring cameras and video and audio equipment to record noises or anything found in the buildings.

## **Skeleton of Small, 47 Million-year-old Creature Found in Germany Produces Scientific Debate.**

Scientists say it will help illuminate the evolutionary roots of monkeys, apes, and humans but will not solve the puzzles of early evolution. Nobody is claiming that the animal, the size of a small cat, has four legs and a long tail, is a direct ancestor of monkeys and humans, but it provides a good indication of what a long-ago ancestor may have looked like. In an evolutionary sense, the fossil is like an aunt from several generations ago. The fossil is the best preserved ever found for a primate, about 95 percent complete, even including fingertips with nails, and lacks only the lower portion of one leg. It also includes gut contents, showing the creature ate leaves and fruit in its rainforest environment.

## **Earlier Dates for Peopling of the Americas**

(Summary, Hisatsinom, July 2009)

Many, if not most, Native people insist that their ancestors have lived on this continent since time immemorial, and some mainstream scientists are beginning to weigh in on their side. Scholars are pushing evidence of human habitation in North America well beyond the non-Native accepted wisdom that places it at a relatively recent 13,000 to 14,000 years ago. "Since Europeans came to the Americas, they have often been wrong about the Native inhabitants, and Western science has not been immune to this problem," said one Denver scientist. A perhaps-controversial 33,000 years ago, "and probably long before that," people lived here, according to Steven R. Holen, curator of archaeology in the Denver Museum of Nature and Science's Department of Anthropology. [www.indiancountrytoday.com](http://www.indiancountrytoday.com).

## **Chimney Rock Dig a Sherd Success**

(Summary, Pagosa Springs Sun, 7/2/09)

A film crew from the National Geographic Society was at Chimney Rock in late June to document the current project, which could provide conclusive evidence that Chimney Rock is not a stand-alone site, but part of a later group of pueblos whose function is related to astronomical events. Chimney Rock was designated an Archaeological Area and National Historic Site in 1970. The site was discovered in the 1920s and major excavation and repair work was done in the 1960s by Dr. Frank Eddy, University of Colorado. Chimney Rock Archaeological Area (CRAA) is under the care and protection of the USFS and the Chimney Rock Interpretive Association (CRIA). Since 2008, the site has been on Colorado's Most Endangered Places List. The CRIA has nearly 80 volunteers who conduct tours and ensure the site is cared for.

In 2009, federal grant money was awarded to the USFS for excavation work to stabilize walls of the Great House, built adjacent to the large chimneys. Stabilization work provided an opportunity for a full-blown dig, being overseen by Dr. Steven Lekson. The site has been relatively untouched since work in the 1970s. The dig has several major goals: to find large enough samples of wooden beams to allow examination of tree rings to determine cutting dates of the timbers. (Timber samples from previous

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excavations have determined two dates, A.D. 1076 and 1093, with both years being significant for major lunar stand-still events.); to find pottery sherds that can be dated or localized to determine the origin of the clay; and, to examine wall construction techniques to provide more evidence that the Great House is a direct export of Chaco Canyon and to determine why the House was built quickly as one project, rather than enlarged gradually as a growing village. The thick walls are constructed with the same techniques used at Chaco Canyon, a "core and veneer" technique that uses large stones for the structure and smaller stones for fill.

Much of the current wall damage is because of earlier repairs using conventional mortar that is much heavier than the natural silt and clay used in the ancient build. By a week into the excavation, archaeologists had removed most of the rubble of collapsed walls from two rooms (5 and 7) where the original roof had collapsed from fire. Small patches of the original plaster wall covering were beginning to be visible in the room interiors, and the first burned timber was discernible in the dirt. The first pottery sherd, discovered in early June, had clear markings indicative of Chaco style and were sent for lab analysis of the clay. Between both rooms, at least 30 good samples of wood were found that are large enough to date by tree rings at the University of Arizona. The leader is confident that pieces of timber were preserved enough to offer at least 30 rings for dating and more importantly, pieces with outside rings to allow a determination of cutting dates.

What is found beneath the burned timbers will be most important. Under numerous burned beams in Room 7 at the floor level of the original rooms, 150 to 200 charred corn cobs were found, several with the corn husk intact and braided to each other, as if they had been hanging from the ceiling. The biggest find documented by the National Geographic Society was an intact vessel found in a corner with corn cobs inside. Both Room 7 and 5 have original, intact plaster walls, although any paint that may have existed is long gone. No artifacts were found in Room 5 at the floor level. The floor is 15 centimeters (about 6 inches) thick. Below the floor level animal bones, pottery sherds, a bi-face knife blade, and even a bear jaw were found. Room 5 may once have been outside of the Great House. When the room was built, a new floor covered the bedrock features and artifacts. In contrast, in Room 7, no relics were revealed below floor level. Nearly all artifacts were removed from the site and sent to labs for testing. In addition to the intact vessel, many broken pots were found that can be reconstructed, and the corn cobs can be analyzed to determine where the corn was grown. Once analyzed and studied, all artifacts from the site will be curated at the Anasazi Heritage Center. There is still more work. Stabilization is the reason the dig happened in the first place. Intense and systematic documentation of the construction techniques, previous repairs, newly-exposed walls, and thorough photographs of the entire process will be compiled into a report that can be used by future teams. The goal at the Chimney Rock site is long-term preservation.

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