



# THE MOKI MESSENGER

NEWSLETTER OF THE SAN JUAN BASIN ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Chapter of Colorado Archaeological Society

June, 2010

## Annual Picnic

There will be no SJBAS Meeting for June. Instead, come to SJBAS's Annual Picnic on Thursday, June 10, at 5:00 P.M. at Edgemont Ranch Picnic Grounds on Florida Road, same site as 2009, available through member David Wright, an Edgemont Ranch resident. To reach the picnic ground follow these directions:

1. go east on Florida Road past the Edgemont Ranch main entrance on the right.
2. At the giant metal pinecone sculpture on the left, Edgemont Highlands Drive.
3. Turn right to the entrance to the picnic ground.

The covered picnic area has tables, benches, and gas grills, and there is water and a food prep area. Portable toilets are available. Our club will provide brats, hot dogs, buns, condiments, disposable tableware, bottled water, iced tea and lemonade. To complete the meal, participants should bring a potluck dish as follows according to their last name:

- ◆ A - F side dish;
- ◆ G - K dessert;
- ◆ L - R appetizer;
- ◆ S - Z salad.

You may bring your favorite alcoholic beverage. A head count was needed by June 1<sup>st</sup> for food orders, but late sign-ups are accepted. You may bring family members, friends and prospective new members. Please contact Gail Schulz at [mschulz@frontier.net](mailto:mschulz@frontier.net) or 970-946-5234 or Bill Cagle at [cagle81301@yahoo.com](mailto:cagle81301@yahoo.com) or 970-385-4566.



## *The Fighting Cheyenne's Field Trip*

By Beverly Stacy Dittmer

On Tuesday, May 18, nine souls met in Las Animas to begin the "Fighting Cheyenne" field trip led by Beverly Stacy and Paul Dittmer. We had all driven across our state and had toured Bent's Fort upon our arrival. If you haven't seen this perfectly restored fort, you have missed something. Among the authentic fixtures inside the place was the huge pool table that was the center piece of the "entertainment" room. The fort was privately built in 1833. The government attempted to take it over in 1849, but failed in negotiations. The fort was burned soon afterwards. But in its glory, Bent's Fort was a protected city on the wild frontier providing a sanctuary, medical care, trade goods, and rest for weary travelers. The fort became the trading center with the trappers and the Indians for a number of years. It was possible to rebuild this fort in 1976 because an army engineer who visited early on carefully drew the walls of the fort along with all of its interior structures to exact scale. The fort today is populated with animals like they might have had in the 1800's and with people who were costumed correctly.

After our visits to the fort, we checked into our motel, appropriately named Fort Bent's Lodge in time to enjoy an early dinner together. Our guest for the evening was Kit Carson's great great grandson, John Carson. John arrived in the complete attire that his

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Warm weather is the beginning of Road Repair Season.

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**Important Note to ALL Trip Leaders: See notice on page 4.**

# Mesa Verde Adds New Hikes

Mesa Verde National Park (Mesa Verde, Spanish for green table) offers a spectacular look into the lives of the Ancestral Pueblo people who made it their home for over 700 years, from A.D. 600 to A.D. 1300. Today, the park protects over 4,000 known archeological sites, including 600 cliff dwellings. These sites are some of the most notable and best preserved in the United States. There are over 52,000 square acres of parkland, of which 8,500 acres are designated wilderness. The park was designated a World Heritage Site in 1978 by UNESCO.

The park was established in 1906, by President Theodore Roosevelt, to protect the culture and architecture of the Ancestral Puebloan people. It also presents a breathtaking natural landscape of high plateau country in southwestern Colorado.

Mesa Verde Institute which was inaugurated on the park's centennial anniversary in 2006, was established to offer visitors expanded and in-depth experience in Mesa Verde National Park. Through weeklong seminars, 1-day workshops, educational hikes, lectures, and special programs, visitors of all ages may engage in enhanced educational and interpretive opportunities and gain a new, behind-the-scenes understanding of Mesa Verde and the Four Corners region.

These opportunities share the message that a sustained and thoughtful stewardship ethic is essential to preserving and protecting cultural and natural resources. In this spirit, the Institute is dedicated to sharing Mesa Verde with the world. For more information, visit their website at: [www.mesaverdeinstitute.org](http://www.mesaverdeinstitute.org).

Mesa Verde National Park joins with its partner, the nonprofit Mesa Verde Institute to provide visitors with new opportunities and experiences in the park this season. These three new hikes include a day-long hike to Spring House, day-long hike across Wetherill Mesa, and a two-hour hike to Mug House. The ranger-guided hikes begin on Memorial Day weekend, May 30th through Labor Day, September 6th. The Spring House hike will continue through September 30th. All tours are limited to 14 people. Tickets for Spring House and the Wetherill Mesa Experience may be purchased online at [www.mesaverdeinstitute.org](http://www.mesaverdeinstitute.org), prior to arrival in the park. Mug House tickets may only be purchased at the Far View Visitor Center up to 48 hours in advance.

"We are very excited to present this pilot program of new visitor experiences in the park. So little of the park is accessible to visitors or employees, and we hope this opportunity is well received by our neighbors and park visitors," stated Bill Nelligan, Acting Superintendent. "We want visitors to know that there's more to Mesa Verde than Cliff Palace, Balcony House and Spruce Tree House. This is a great opportunity to learn more about Mesa Verde National Park."

**Spring House** is an 8-hour, 6-mile, very strenuous hike along an unpaved, uneven trail with an elevation change of 1,000 ft, and includes steep drop-offs and switchbacks. You will see more than just Spring House cliff dwelling. Hikers will have stunning views of Buzzard House, Teakettle House, Daniel's House as well as other archeological sites perched in the sandstone recesses of Navajo and Wickiup Canyons. Lunch is included.

**Wetherill Mesa Experience** is a 5-mile, 5-hour easy to moderate hike and introduces the broad community landscape story of the Ancestral Pueblo people from earliest occupation in pithouses to the cliff dwellings. You will also learn about the Wetherill Mesa Archeological Project, jointly sponsored by the National Park Service and The National Geographic Society, 1958-1965, one of the largest archeological projects ever conducted in the United States. Binoculars are highly recommended for cross-canyon views of multiple cliff dwellings such as Kodak House and Double House. Lunch is included.

**Mug House** is a strenuous 2-hour, 3-mile round-trip hike along an unpaved, uneven trail that descends 100 ft and includes one ladder, knotted rope, steep drop-offs, switchbacks, and scrambling over boulders. Mug House is named for the three mugs found tied together hanging on a peg inside one of its rooms. Mug House was also excavated during the Wetherill Mesa Archeological

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Project.

The Mesa Verde Institute will continue to host the **Cliff Palace Twilight Tours** led by historic characters from Mesa Verde's past. These are 90-minute tours, beginning at 7 p.m. and limited to 20 people, from Memorial Day to Labor Day. Tickets may be purchased at the Far View Visitor Center. For more information on these new hikes contact Tessy Shirakawa at 970-529-4628.

## SJBAS's Upcoming Field Trips

**Ute Mountain Ute Tribal Park Service Day**, June 5-6. This is the annual work day, followed by a day of touring Park sites. Participants will widen the trail to Morris III Ruin, requiring both light work, such as pruning and raking, and heavier work with pick and shovel, moving rocks and plants, etc. We will help repair a partially washed out culvert. Bring a tool that matches your aptitude, including loppers, steel garden rakes, hoes or McClouds, picks or mattocks or Pulaski's, shovels, and a wheelbarrow or some 5-gallon plastic buckets. The Tribe has planned the work for people of all abilities. The group will camp Saturday night at the primitive Tribal Park campground along the Mancos River, which has toilets, rustic tables and a campfire ring. We will share hors d'oeuvres and swap stories. Participants may also stay in motels in Cortez or return home. The destination for the Sunday tour has not yet been decided. Trip Leaders: Kathleen and Jim Shadell, 247-5597, shadj@durango.net.;

**Old Fort Lewis**, June 17. Day trip to learn about the work of Mona Charles's field school, the Magnetometer and other tools and culturally altered trees. Involves some easy walking. Bring a hat, water and a sack lunch; Trip Leaders: Bev and Bob Danielson, 385-1058, dnbdan@bresnan.net;

**Gunnison River Canoe Trip**, July 9-11, with Centennial Canoes ("CC"), outfitter for this 3-day, 2-night camping and paddling trip. Information at 877-353-1850 (re: Dr. Gulliford trips). Need your own camping gear and personal items. CC will supply canoe, meals and shuttle. Cost is about \$340/person. Will visit several archaeological sites and petroglyph panels. Trip Leader: Andrew Gulliford, 375-9417 or 247-7011; Gulliford\_a@fortlewis.edu;

**Mesa Verde B/W Pottery Demonstration**, weather conditions permitting, July 21, at home of Bud and Sandy Beebe. Participation limit of 6. Educators and Hosts: Sandy and Bud Beebe, 382-9789, anasazi@frontier.net;

**Colorado River Canoe Trip**, July 23-26, CC as outfitter, for 4-day, 3-night camping and paddling trip. Reach CC at 877-353-1850 re: Dr. Gulliford trips. Bring your own camping gear and personal items. CC will supply canoe, meals and shuttle. We will hike several canyons, visit several archaeological sites and petroglyph panels; Trip Leader: Andrew Gulliford, 375-9417 or 247-7011; Gulliford\_a@fortlewis.edu;

**Tomboy Mine**, near Telluride, August 3. Day trip with Rudy Davison as the guide. Bring sack lunch. High clearance 4WD vehicles (no Subaru) are required, but we can carpool. Participants need sturdy boots, water, sunscreen, hats and rain gear for short hikes. Trip participation limit of 15. Leave Santa Rita Park at 7:00 a.m., return to Durango by continuing over Imogene Pass into Ouray or retrace route back to Telluride. There are two excellent background books, Tomboy Bride, by Harriet Backus and Father Struck It Rich, by Evalyn Walsh McLean; Information or RSVP to Richard Robinson, 970-259-1943 or Robinson@frontier.net.

# Nearby Lectures

**Far View Lodge, Mesa Verde**, June 6 at 7:00 PM. Anne Hillerman will speak on "Tony Hillerman's Landscape: On the Road with Chee and Leaphorn". Photographs by Don Strel

**Anasazi Heritage Center**, June 13 at 1:00 PM. Sally Cole will speak on "Indigenous Iconography: Anthropomorphism in Colorado Plateau Rock Art and Cultural Traditions"

**Far View Lodge, Mesa Verde**, June 22 at 7:00 PM. Mark Schiavoni will speak on "The Four Corners Power Plant: A Partner with the Farmington Community".

Far View Lodge, mesa Verde, June 26 at 7:00 PM. Ben Chavarria will speak on "Land, Water, and Reservation: Here Today Gone Tomorrow".

**Chapin Mesa Amphitheater, Mesa Verde National Park**, July 3 & 4, 11:00 AM, Noon, 2:00 PM, 4:00 PM. There will be traditional Hopi dances performed by the Lomayestewa Family.

Cortez Cultural Center, July 4, 7:00 PM. There will be traditional Hopi dances performed by the Lomayestewa Family.

**Anasazi Heritage Center**, July 11, 1:00 PM. Will Hobbs will speak on "Adventures in the Wild Southwest".

**Crow Canyon**, July 23, 7:00 PM. Susan Ryan will speak on "Do They Stay or Do They Go?" This talk evaluates the occupation of Great House Communities during the mid-1100's Drought.

**Anasazi Heritage Center**, July 25, 1:00 PM. Fred Young Begay will speak on "My Long Walk from Towaoc to Los Alamos".

**Crow Canyon**, July 29, 7:00 PM. Ed Kabotie will speak on "Courting the Rain".

**Crow Canyon**, August 5, 7:00 PM. Jon Callender will speak on "The Natural World of Ancestral Puebloans".

**Far View Lodge, Mesa Verde**, August 13, 7:00 PM. James Snead will speak on "Ancestral Puebloan Landscapes".

**Anasazi Heritage Center**, August 29, 1:00 PM. Dwayne Findley & Marilyn Colyer will speak on "Forestry Discussion".

**Aztec Ruins Lecture Series** being held at the Aztec Ruins National Monument in Aztec will feature the following speakers: June 4 at 7:00 PM Dr. Larry Loendorf on "The Oldest Petroglyphs in North America"; June 11 at 7:00 PM Dr. David Burge; June 26 at 7:00 PM Dro Patricia Crown, Professor of Anthropology at University of New Mexico will speak on "Crafting Children in Chaco"; July 2 at 7:00 PM Dr. Andrew Gulliford (our club president will speak on "Preserving Sacred Native American Landscapes"; July 30 at 7:00 PM Dr. Kathy Durand, Eastern New Mexico University will speak on "Aztec and Chaco Canyon: A Close Relationship confirmed by Dental Analysis"; August 13 at 7:00 PM Dr. Charlie Carrillo, University of New Mexico will speak on "Saints fo the Pueblos"; August 27 at 7:00 PM Dr. Carla Van West will speak on "Tree Rings and Human History in Chaco Canyon"; September 3 at 7:00 PM Dr. Steve Lekson, University of Colorado, will speak on "Aztec Ruins in the Greater Southwest"; September 10 at 7:00 PM Michael and Kathleen Gear (authors) will speak on "Why Fiction? Blending Art and Science".

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## HISATSINOM Chapter Meeting

The June meeting will be at the Calvin Denton Room, Empire Electric. The June 1 speaker will be Cindy Bradley, who will discuss her work analyzing Ancestral Puebloan skeletal remains.

## To All Trip Leaders

Remember we love to include your trip reports in each of the Moki's. It is easy to get one in. You can write it and send it to [beverlydittmer@frontier.net](mailto:beverlydittmer@frontier.net), or you can call Beverly Stacy Dittmer at 970-375-9568, and she will be glad to write your article up with the information that she gets from your phone interview. It only takes about 15 minutes. Remember our activities are the important thing in these newsletters, and it distinguishes us from other chapters.

# Exhibits

**Heard Museum**, Phoenix, AZ. (Summary, *American Archaeology*, Spring 2010) Traveling exhibit "Arctic Spirit: Inuit Art from the Albrecht Collection," highlights artistic history of Canadian Inuits, living mainly in Siberia, Alaska, Greenland, and the Canadian Arctic. 602-252-8848, [www.heard.org](http://www.heard.org). (Through January 20, 2011).

**New History Colorado Center**, Denver, CO. (Summary, *Denver Post*, January 31, 2010) The \$110 million History Colorado Center will be a cornerstone of the new Denver Civic Center Cultural Complex, consisting of the Denver Public Library and Denver Art Museum, as well as the new Colorado Historical Society.

**Utah's Renovated State Capitol**, Salt Lake City, UT. (Summary, *Daily Times*, March 11, 2010) Rare artifacts of state history that pre-date the domed statehouse completed in 1916. A once-in-a-generation exhibit of state treasures ranging from the constitution adopted by Utah's 1895 Constitutional Convention to the state's first flag, sewn in 1903. Until October.

**Aztec Museum Launches Aztec Walking Guide Available Free at the Museum and the Chamber of Commerce.** (Summary, *Daily Times*, May 19, 2010) Thanks to a grant from the New Mexico Tourism Department, the museum has published a free guide to areas of historical significance in Aztec, with several trails noted and a guide to two-story elaborate and beautiful downtown brick buildings. Between 1905 and 1912, the railroad first came to the Four Corners and brought an era of unprecedented growth to Aztec. The names of these early individuals and their homes on nearby adjoining streets are still common names in Aztec.



**It's Road Repair Season In  
Colorado.  
Drive carefully and safely.**



# PACC IS BACK

Kevin Black is working to schedule tentative PAAC classes for Cortez (early November) and Durango (October 29-31, probably ceramics). Email: [J\\_e\\_viner@frontier.net](mailto:J_e_viner@frontier.net) with the names of the classes you would like to have offered from the following list: Historical Archaeology, Lithics (stone artifacts), Perishable Materials (bone, basketry, woven materials, etc), and Rock Art.

A summer survey project at Antelope Gulch, the Fremont County parcel of state trust lands northeast of Salida, has been confirmed for July 7-14. Information can be found on the OAHIP web site at [www.coloradohistory-oahp.org/programareas/paac/summersurvey.htm](http://www.coloradohistory-oahp.org/programareas/paac/summersurvey.htm). Interested volunteers should contact Kevin at [www.KEVIN.Black@chs.state.co.us](mailto:www.KEVIN.Black@chs.state.co.us) by June 1, or <http://coloradohistory-oahp.org/programareas/paac/summersurvey.htm> for more details. Volunteers who have already contacted him about the survey based on the July 7-14 dates DO NOT need to do anything else, unless your plans have changed.

# Conferences

**Pecos Conference**, August 12-15, Silverton, CO. 2010 Pecos Conference Archaeological Field Trip Locations [http://www.swanet.org/2010\\_pecos\\_conference/day4.html](http://www.swanet.org/2010_pecos_conference/day4.html); 2010 Pecos Conference Chairperson -- Dr. Chuck Riggs < [riggs\\_c@fortlewis.edu](mailto:riggs_c@fortlewis.edu); 2010 Pecos Conference Primary Organizing Institution -- Department of Anthropology Fort Lewis College <http://www.fortlewis.edu>; 2010 Pecos Conference Organizing Partners -- The Mountain Studies Institute <http://3.ly/mtnstud> & the Town of Silverton CO <http://3.ly/Ag2240>; 2010 Pecos Conference -- 2nd week of August (August 12-15), Silverton Colorado; 2010 Pecos Conference Website -- [http://www.swanet.org/2010\\_pecos\\_conference/index.html](http://www.swanet.org/2010_pecos_conference/index.html); 2010 Pecos Conference Facebook -- <http://www.facebook.com/pages/Silverton-Colorado/2010-Pecos-Conference/313361426955>; 2010 Pecos Conference Twitter -- <https://twitter.com/2010Pecos>;

**Annual Tate Conference**, "Beneath Wyoming Waves: Marine Paleontology", June 4-6, Tate Museum, Casper, WY;

**Society for Industrial Archaeology Annual Meeting**, June 3-6, Antlers Hotel, Colorado Springs;

**CAS and PAAC Board quarterly meeting in Cortez**, July 23-25;

**CAS annual meeting in Gunnison**; October 1-3;

**68th Plains Anthropological Conference, Bismark, ND**; October 6-9;

**32nd Great Basin Anthropological Conference, Layton, UT**, October 2-3.

# Volunteer Opportunities

**Cortez Cultural Center**. To help with Cortez Cultural Center renovation, call Deb Avery (970) 565-1151; [deb.avery@cortezculturalcenter.org](mailto:deb.avery@cortezculturalcenter.org); or visit [www.cortezculturalcenter.org](http://www.cortezculturalcenter.org);

**Chimney Rock Interpretive Association ("CRIA")**. Email Helen Richardson, [1218HL1944@century.net](mailto:1218HL1944@century.net) or go to [www.chimneyrockco.org](http://www.chimneyrockco.org);

**Colorado Historical Society ("CHS")**. CAS offers a program on **Indian Rock Art** for elementary classrooms or other groups at the 3rd-4th grade level, including a slide show about archaeology and the need for preservation. The children are able to make their own rock art to take home. Volunteers are needed to reach as many children as possible,. It takes no training or special skills. Contact Betsy Weitkamp at 303-722-1656 or [ELAW@q.com](mailto:ELAW@q.com);

**Center of Southwest Studies**. The Center at FLC needs gallery sitters and people to do special projects, pulled from volunteer gallery sitters. The hours for gallery sitting will be M-F, 1-4 p.m., Sat. 12-4 p.m. Contact Julie Tapley-Booth at 247-7456 for more information or to volunteer;

**Pecos Conference** -- All kinds of help needed. To get on 2010 Pecos Conference Mail List, send name, snail mail address, email address & phone number to [2010.pecos.conference@gmail.com](mailto:2010.pecos.conference@gmail.com);

**Mesa Verde** -- Volunteers partner with the Park's staff in a variety of activities, including visitor services, education, trail monitoring and maintenance, data collection and archiving, landscaping and special evenings. For more information about the program or to sign up for training, visit [www.mesaverdevolunteers.org](http://www.mesaverdevolunteers.org), email Cheryl and Chuck Carson, volunteer coordinators, at [ccarson@aol.com](mailto:ccarson@aol.com), or phone at 259-2699;

**Aztec Ruins National Monument** -- Seeks people to assist rangers in providing visitor information services. Training session to teach volunteers the skills needed for operating the information desk, contacting visitors on roving patrols and giving talks on subjects related to the ruins. For more information or an application, call Tracy Bodnar, 505-334-6174, ext. 232, or [tracy\\_bodnar@nps.gov](mailto:tracy_bodnar@nps.gov).

# Archeology In the Southwest

**Mesa Verde Collaboration.** (Summary, *WWE/WEI Currents*) Ken Wright, Wayne Lorenz and Nicole Chancey worked with Dr. Stephen Nash, Chairperson and Curator of the Department of Anthropology, Denver Museum of Nature & Science ("Denver Museum"), on Dr. Nash's Colorado Historical Society grant for work on tree-ring dating at Mesa Verde, to determine when prehistoric events occurred. There will be a live broadcast through the Denver Museum Website on October 7 to answer questions on Mesa Verde tree ring samples.

**Peter Decker -- Historian, Educator, Rancher and Statesman -- Discusses Removal of Ute People at Crow Canyon.** (Summary, *Cortez Journal*, May 8 and 18, 2010)

The infamous "Meeker Massacre" opened the door to the removal of the Utes from their Colorado homeland of more than seven centuries. What really happened on September 29, 1879, at Milk Creek and the nearby White River Indian Agency? Peter Decker reviewed the processes and events leading to the Utes' removal during his recent Crow Canyon presentation: "The Utes Must Go! American Expansion and the Removal of a People." He wondered why the Utes would leave an area full of game, fish, and elk. Decker detailed the Utes' history in the Four Corners, seven bands with hunting ground in some of Utah and almost all of Colorado, forced from their homeland by the 19th-century tide of pioneer settlement, racism and greed. The US entered the picture in 1803, when President Jefferson made the Louisiana Purchase. Americans had already killed most of the Native Americans in New England. The aim had always been to move the Native Americans out of the way so agriculturists could expand their endeavors.

Nathan Meeker's mission as agent of the Indian Agency of the White River Indian Reserve in northwestern Colorado was to turn Ute hunters into farmers, and the subsequent conflict ensued. Meeker, who grew up in Connecticut, was a failed poet, known as "Father Meeker" in a "Utopian society" in Greeley who did not allow dancing or drinking. When most of his settlers moved back East after a few years, Meeker was granted a request to become the Indian agent at the White River agency. When Meeker also threatened to kill the prized horses of the Utes and then invited the military to enter restricted Ute reservation land, the usually peaceful Utes revolted, killing Meeker and ten other men at the Indian Agency and 14 others at Milk Creek on the reservation border.

The standard policy on Native Americans, offered up by General Sherman, was to kill the Natives by using rifles, by spreading new diseases the Native Americans were helpless against and especially by exterminating the buffalo they survived on. Between 1870 and 1880, ten to 20 million buffalo were estimated to have been killed. Another way of getting rid of the Natives was to create reservations. The first reservation was in New Jersey.

Decker discussed the individuals who shaped the Ute's history with the U.S., like Chief Ouray, the half Ute, half Jicarilla Apache leader of the Uncompahgre band of the Ute Tribe. When Chief Ouray gave up part of the San Luis Valley where the Southern band of Utes lived, they didn't follow his orders. Using gifts, annuities and monthly supplies, the government tried to control the Native Americans through "Indian Agencies.

Enter Nathan Meeker, an Indian agent appointed by Congress. Meeker moved the agency to a different spot, charging the Indians for the move by withholding annuities. He had no idea how to administer, and no idea about Indian needs. The Utes had a horse culture and one day Meeker decided he was going to plow up a horse pasture and plant corn. Meeker sent a telegram to Chicago, the Army base for the Western region, asking for reinforcements. The Army set in motion the Meeker massacre of 1879.

Chief Ouray was a hero, advising the Utes if they went to war against the U.S. they would be eradicated. Paid \$1,000 a year salary for his advice, Chief Ouray continued negotiations on behalf of the Utes, although many of the more militant bands thought him a coward. There are no Ute voices found in the original peace documents.

Decker earned his Ph.D. in history from Columbia University and taught at Duke University and Columbia. He was the first chairman of the Board of Trustees of Fort Lewis College in 2002, and still serves on the board. He has been a director of the National Western Stock Show since 1989. Decker's major publications include "Old Fences, New Neighbors" and "The Utes Must Go!: American Expansion and the Removal of a People."

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## Archeology In the Southwest - Cont.

### **Harris Cabin Used in 1900s by Ranchers Pasturing Cattle in Summer, Near the Backside of Purgatory Ski Area, Placed on La Plata County's Historic Register.** (Summary, *Durango Herald*, March 31, 2010)

The Harris cabin, located on the east fork of the Hermosa Creek drainage, was used from about 1910 until the early 1990s. The site includes a log cabin, tack room and corral. Robert McDaniel, director of the Animas Museum, wrote about the property in *Historic Durango: Dealing with the Great Depression*. He said an old geological survey map from the turn of the 20th century marks the spot around where the cabin stands as "old toll gate." The toll route would have run between Rockwood and Rico.

The property was acquired by George Pearson through a homestead patent dated July 5, 1910 and consolidated with two other ranches homesteaded or purchased from the government and sold to John Lord in 1931. Lord sold the 480-acre ranch to the Harris family, who had moved to the area from Oklahoma to homestead a ranch in La Plata, NM. Most ranches in the San Juan Basin grazed their livestock in the high country during the summer. Before driving their cattle into the high country, the Harrises gathered supplies for the summer -- 100 pounds of beans, 200 pounds of potatoes (usually purchased from the Zinks or another Animas Valley farmer), and other staples. The Depression was hard on their operation. The government killed a lot of the cattle for \$20 a head, since there wasn't a market for them. The Harrises grazed cattle on the property for more than 30 years, until they sold it to Ray Duncan, Purgatory founder, in 1971. The Forest Service received the property in a land swap with the ski area in 1991.

Historic furnishings that remain in the cabin include wooden tables, a 1940s propane-fire refrigerator and a 1920s cast iron stove. The San Juan Public Lands Center is seeking a grant from the State Historic Fund to stabilize the ranch's structures, in cooperation with Colorado Preservation, Inc. and its "history corps," similar to the Civilian Conservation Corps of the 1930s. With the grant volunteer youth will work on historic buildings.

**Cortez Celebrated Historic Preservation Day on May 22.** (Summary, *Cortez Journal*, May 6, 2010) Cortez Historic Preservation Day occurred in conjunction with Colorado Archaeology and Historic Preservation Month. Free walking tours of historic Montezuma Avenue, historic site on the city's Register of Historic Structures, Sites, and Districts, were offered. A new walking tour brochure will be available, researched and written by Montezuma Historical Society historian June Head, which points out the oldest houses on the street, and how many buildings in town were won in poker games in Rico. The Montezuma County Historical Society held a book signing of Volumes I and II of "Great Sage Plain to Timberline: Our Pioneer History." This program included readings from the volumes. Brochures for a self-guided walking tour of Main Street were available, and there were open houses at other historic buildings in Cortez, including Cornerstone offering tours of the historic Montezuma Valley National Bank building at the corner of Main and Market streets, recently listed on the National Register of Historic Places. There were a number of historic photos of Cortez hanging on the wall as well -- and one mystery photo that needs someone to identify a structure in Cortez that is no longer extant.

### **Final Draft of Federal Legislation that would Designate the Chimney Rock Archaeological Area a National Monument is Nearing Completion was Introduced to Congress.** (Summary, *Durango Herald*, April 4, 2010)

Michael Bennet and John Salazar received feedback from interested local groups, including tribes, archaeologists, landowners and representatives of Archuleta County, before completing the final bill. Salazar did not anticipate any challenges that would hinder the bill's passage. The designation would not stipulate funding requirements. The decision about spending would remain with the USFS. Increased funding would improve maintenance of the area, parts of which have been deteriorating over the last several years. Federal support also would need to fund infrastructure improvements because the current parking, restroom and welcome center facilities could not sustain the increased number of tourists the designation is expected to bring.

Chimney Rock is one of the defining natural landmarks of our region, and it is a place of important historical and cultural significance. Giving Chimney Rock this designation will safeguard its natural, cultural and historic resources by bringing new federal funding and protections to the area. Under the proposed legislation, Chimney Rock will remain part the San Juan National Forest, and local Native American tribes will

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# Archeology In the Southwest - Cont.

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continue to be able to use the area for traditional and cultural uses. This legislation will ensure that Chimney Rock continues to be a treasure for all Coloradans to enjoy for many generations to come.

## **Park Service OKs Expansion of Historic Grand Canyon Railway Train to Three Trips a Day.**

(Summary, *Cortez Journal*, September 24, 2009) An environmental assessment approved recently allows as many as 30 special trains a year for events and promotions to the Grand Canyon. Those trains include sunset trips or the railway's Polar Express, a nighttime trip that treats passengers to hot chocolate, cookies, and a reading of the holiday tale. More than 200,000 passengers a year board 1950s-style rail cars pulled by a diesel locomotive from Williams, AZ, through the high desert and Ponderosa pines to the Grand Canyon's South Rim. Passengers have the option of staying overnight at the canyon and boarding the train the next morning. In the early 1900s, the railroad was the main mode of transportation to the Grand Canyon but now accounts for just six percent of the 4.5 million annual visitors to the South Rim. The Grand Canyon Railway ran the first trains to the South Rim in 1901, capitalizing on Americans' fascination with one of the world's greatest natural wonders. The operation ceased in the late 1960s and was reinstated in 1989 under a concession permit.

## **Grand Junction Elks' Lavishly Appointed 1901 Building: Rare Jewel.**

(Summary, *Daily Sentinel*, March 16, 2010) Keeping a low profile has been a hallmark of the Elks, and few outsiders have had the opportunity to wander the halls of the sprawling, elegant lodge, with white Corinthian columns that support the grand staircase in the historic three-storied Elks lodge. The lodge opened its doors as a fundraiser for The Legends Historic Sculptures Project to commission sculptures of past Grand Junction leaders. Three sculptures of historical community figures have been commissioned and created so far. They are of the Hollywood 10 member Dalton Trumbo, former *Daily Sentinel* publisher Walter Walker, and Fair Store owner and swimming pool donor William Moyer. Three more sculptures are scheduled for production. They will be of St. Mary's Hospital founder Sister Mary Balbina, Colorado National Monument advocate John Otto and the Operation Foresight planners, who in the 1960s turned Main Street into a serpentine, pedestrian-friendly shopping center.

The lodge has its original stained glass dome inset into the ceiling of the meeting room and a grand ballroom. Hundreds of names of deceased members line the ceiling of the room. Many of the rooms have been restored and dedicated to preserving and showcasing the accomplishments of past members. A clock in the meeting room is stopped at the 11 o'clock hour and serves as a reminder for members to honor the dead.

The Grand Junction lodge originally was used by railroad workers who came to socialize and relax with their families. The library room pays tribute to these members by displaying photographs, trophies and leather-bound books. Old black-and-white photographs show Elks members and their wives dancing in days gone by. In the past, each floor would host a band, making the party extend three floors up.

## **An Introduction to Archaeological Survey at West Bijou Creek ("WBC"),**

Jonathan Kent (Summary, *CAS Newsletter*, March 2010) CAS and Metropolitan State College of Denver (MSCD) teamed up to carry out archaeological research along WBC, beginning in 2004. The Plains Conservation Center (PCC) acquired almost 6,000 acres of undeveloped grassland in both Arapahoe and Elbert Counties, 30 miles east of Denver. Very little survey work has been done in Colorado's eastern plains, because most of this land is privately owned. Excavations 40 years ago produced good burial data along with reliable C-14 dates and artifactual evidence. (Cassells *The Archaeology of Colorado*, 2nd ed.). PaleoIndian (Folsom), Archaic and Late Plains Prehistoric (in the last 2000 years) sites have been recorded.

An archaeological firm carried out an initial survey of eight percent of the total acreage. Both prehistoric (Archaic and Late Plains Prehistoric) and historical archeological remains (from the early 1900s through the 1970s) were recorded. MSCD's archaeological field school began a more extensive survey on the west side of WBC. Two seasons later, CAS-Denver began its survey on the east side. In 2008, PCC acquired an additional 8,000 acres of adjacent land. At least 15 additional sites have been surveyed and recorded. There could be hundreds of sites. CAS and MSCD have been working on a comprehensive

(Continued on page 10)

## Archeology In the Southwest - Cont.

plan to investigate the temporal (partly through excavation) and spatial (through survey) dimensions of the PCC property, and to put these investigations into the broader context of High Plains Archaeology.

**Tracing Rare Footprints of the Past.** (Summary, [Denver Post](#), March 14, 2010) Coloradans spent the 19th century building a vast rail network, then spent the 20th century ripping it out. RTD is now rebuilding the west corridor rail system -- for \$707 million -- that was in place from 1891 to 1950. This first leg of FasTracks is scheduled to open in May 2013.

A fast, cheap trip from Denver to Lakewood and Golden on comfy rail cars with big picture windows first became a reality in 1891. Then William Austin Hamilton Loveland and Associates opened the Denver, Lakewood & Golden Railway (DL&G). Loveland had come to Colorado with the 1859 gold rush. Real estate and railroading soon made him a wealthy man. A founder of both Golden and Lakewood, he hoped to expedite growth of both towns by making them easy commutes from the then booming city of Denver.

As owner of the *Rocky Mountain News* from 1878 to 1886, Loveland, like his predecessor William N. Byers, editorially as well as financially pushed streetcar service into mushrooming suburbs. These streetcar suburbs thrived during Denver's 1870 to 1893 boom, Loveland founded Lakewood in 1889. Its growth accelerated two years later when the DL&G arrived. A century later, Lakewood is the fourth largest city in Colorado.

Loveland had help promoting Denver's western suburbs from the prince of all promoters, Phineas T. Barnum, of Barnum and Bailey Circus fame. P.T. Barnum platted Barnum on the south side of the tracks between Federal and Sheridan boulevards. He persuaded the DL&G to build a spur line through Barnum which he promoted as the healthiest suburb on the planet. He hyped its sunshine, blue skies and dry champagne air as a sure cure for even those with one foot in the grave.

To bring settlers to such westside paradises, the DL&G kept modernizing its services. The entire line was electrified in 1909 by a new owner, the Denver and Intermountain. In 1914, the Denver Tramway Company, RTD's forerunner, took over the line. The Denver Tramway Company operated the Lakewood and Golden line until 1950, when it abandoned its electrified streetcar system for rubber-tired diesel buses. The old yellow streetcars will be reincarnated as RTD's shiny white passenger coaches when the West Corridor line opens as a 12.1-mile light rail transit corridor between Union Station and the Jefferson County Government Center in Golden. Major stations will serve the Auraria campus, Lakewood, the Federal Center and Red Rocks Community College.

**A Resting Place to Match the Landscape.** (Summary, [Denver Post](#), March 9, 2009) Families who carved out livings on the dry-land wheat farms near Roggen, Keenesburg and Hudson, Colorado never felt a kinship to green cemeteries. So three years ago, they took a five-acre piece of donated land and turned it into sacred ground more suitable to the land and people of the area. They molded the soil with their own tractors and backs. They planted buffalo grass and native flowers and erected a carved archway they built. They used donated granite to put in benches memorializing loved ones, inscribed with events in the life of Christ. A heart-shaped walking path encircles the Heart of the Plains Cemetery, which also includes a cross-shaped plaza in the center, which will be used for graveside services and observances of Memorial Day and Labor Day. A fence will encircle the cemetery, but will allow tumbleweeds to roll over the 2,000 burial spaces available for families. There won't be any irrigation. The cemetery is open to anyone and was built as part of a community effort.

**Picacho Peak, AZ, where Cavalry Clashed 150 Years Ago, Joins Ten Most Endangered Civil War Sites Because State Budget Cuts are Set to Close the Park that Marks the Site.** (Summary, [Daily Times](#), May 14, 2010) In addition to Pennsylvania's Gettysburg and the Wilderness Battlefield in Virginia, the list of endangered Civil War sites includes some memorable battles in states where the Civil War still resonates on the eve of its 150th anniversary. They are located primarily in the South and the Mid-Atlantic.

On April 12, 1862, Lt. James Barrett led a detachment of Union cavalry to the rocky spire 50 miles northwest of Tucson and skirmished with Confederate Rangers. While Barrett was killed and the Union army retreated, Union forces from California eventually moved on to Tucson and snuffed a Confederate settlement. The battle still attracts annual visits by re-enactors. A fund drive launched in nearby Eloy, AZ, is attempting to keep the park open. Called "History Under Siege," the most-endangered list is intended to highlight threats to what the trust calls "tangible links to our shared history."

*(The Fighting Cheyenne's Field Trip—Continued from page 1)*

famous ancestor probably wore. He had on a denim blue calico shirt, stained leather pants, moccasins, and carried a big knife. Around his neck hung his spirit bundle and a tobacco pouch. He weighed 140 lbs. and was about 5'6" (just about exactly the same size as his great great grandfather). He answered all of our questions and gave a very interesting talk. The evening was a hit for everyone even though a plains storm with lightning, thunder, and heavy rains raged outside which caused the electricity to go off and on several times. During the dark moments, we all just sat listening to John tell the tales of the old West and the early frontiersmen.

The next morning we rose early and left our motel in more pouring rain to drive the 90 miles up the state to the National Park at Sand Creek. This site is located in the middle of the fields of southeastern Colorado, and to get to it we had to drive many miles over the dirt section roads that cordon off this area. The roads were straight, but they were very muddy and slick. Driving them was an adventure in itself.

We arrived at the headquarters however, nearly on schedule. We were met by Eunice Petramala, a Cheyenne Indian and park historian. She is very spiritual and took us into a conference room to tell us the ghastly story of Sand Creek where Colorado Volunteer Irregular's under John Chivington massacred old men, women, and children camped here under the United States flag. This group of Indians were banded under Black Kettle who was assured by the regular Army officer and Indian Agent that he was at complete peace and safe on the designated reservation. Eunice made the story come alive as she related the stories that have been passed down by word of mouth from the Indians who were there that fateful winter morning.

Because of the heavy rain, only a few of us made the trek out to the ridge that overlooks the creek and the battle site. However, the visit was most interesting. Leaving the site, I think all of us felt a great deal of remorse for the atrocities that befell this group of innocent Indians that day.

It was quite a drive on up the eastern side of Colorado to the location of Beecher Island. By the time we arrived, the rain had stopped. There was a small monument at this site, and Paul Dittmer explained how Major Forsyth and his 55 frontier scouts had managed to survive a multiday battle with the Cheyenne when they retreated to this small island (really just a sand spit) in the middle of the Arickaree River. The Americans were able to ward off the continuous attacks from the Indians because they were armed with Henry lever action repeating rifles (nicknamed the golden boy or "The gun that won the West"). These soldiers fought well killing famed Dog Soldier warrior Roman Nose or Bat on the first day, and most of them survived.

Our next visit was supposed to be in the northeastern part of the state near Sterling, Summit Springs. However, in our drive to the area we passed through a terrible, tornadic like storm that slowed our progress again. We were not able to go to the site of the Summit Springs battle that day. After checking into our hotel, we had dinner together and met the president of the Sterling Historical Society, Myron Graybill and his gracious wife.

On Thursday morning, we awoke to find it still raining. We thought that it would be impossible to get in to see the Summit Springs site. However, the owner and the leaser of the land arrived at our morning meeting to assure us that the roads to the site were passable. However, only four of us ventured on to tour this site. This was the scene of a cavalry charge against the Cheyenne. The pristine battlefield is easily visualized as the Pawnee soldier scouts chased a courageous Cheyenne herder into and through the village. Here Buffalo Bill Cody shot Tall Bull, the Dog Soldier warrior society leader, in a rifle duel after Tall Bull shot a white captive in his lodge.

The final tangent of our group left the rolling northern plains of this historical and beautiful part of our state heading home about 11:00, Thursday, May 20. Despite the inclement weather, it had been a good trip with many adventures for all. Attendees were Bob and Beverly Danielson, Paul and Beverly Dittmer, Bruce and Olga Howard, Dave and Jean Kelsey, and John Sanders.



←

Some of us at Beecher Island. See the storm clouds in the back. They did rain on our parade but not our spirits.

→

This picture was taken inside Bent's Fort.



San Juan Basin Archaeological Society  
107 St. Andrews Circle  
Durango, Colorado 81301

FIRST CLASS

## San Juan Basin Archaeological Society

A Chapter of the Colorado Archaeological Society

If you're not a member of our group and would like to receive our newsletter, attend our monthly meetings, join us on our outings, and participate in our many other activities and those of the Colorado Archaeological Society (CAS), call our President Andy Gulliford (970-375-9417) and ask for information about our organization. Annual dues, including those for membership in the Colorado Archaeological Society, are listed below and are payable by checks made out to SJBAS and mailed to our Treasurer Mark Gebhardt, 107 Saint Andrews Circle, Durango, CO 81301. Dues cover membership for the calendar year. With SWL means that the membership includes a subscription to CAS's quarterly journal "Southwestern Lore" (SWL). No SWL means that the journal is not included with your membership, hence the difference in the dues.

Individual (includes "Southwestern Lore")	SJBAS \$15.00 + CAS \$16.00 = \$31.00
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Family (with SWL)	SJBAS \$20.00 + CAS \$20.00 = \$40.00
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