



THE MOKI MESSENGER

NEWSLETTER OF THE SAN JUAN BASIN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Chapter of Colorado Archaeological Society

March, 2010

Our March Meeting

The SJBAS March Meeting will be at the Lyceum, Southwest Center at FLC, 7:00 p.m., on March 11, 2010. Bill and Beth Sagstetter will speak on their brand new book, *The Cliff Dwellings Speak*, which is being released in March 2010. We are honored to be the authorized kick-off event, with a book signing.

Many SJBAS members are familiar with their book *The Mining Camps Speak*. Beth and Bill are a photographer/writer team living in Denver. They have been researching, writing, photographing and filming western and southwestern U.S. subjects for forty years. Their byline appears on hundreds of magazine and newspaper articles, a dozen films and three books. One of their films won an award at the 1978 Aspen Arts Film Festival.

Because we are aware of the conflict with Judith Reynolds' talk on China's Terra Cotta Warriors the same night, Judith has kindly agreed to be the SJBAS speaker on that topic in January 2011.

Field Trip to Aztec and Salmon

Ten SJBAS members left Durango early in the morning Friday, February 19 in a snow-storm to travel to New Mexico, where they enjoyed dry weather on visits to the Aztec Ruins and the Salmon Ruins. Gary Brown, Archaeologist, led the group on a tour of Aztec West and Aztec East in the morning. It was cold but soon the sun came out and everyone enjoyed its warming rays while listening to the story of the peoples of this ruin. It was really nice seeing the ancient buildings and grounds spotted with snow.

After a great lunch at Oliver's in Aztec, the group drove on to the outskirts of Farmington and toured the Salmon Ruins. Larry Baker, Archaeologist and Executive Manager of this site, led our tour.

This trip was led and organized by Bruce Howard. The entire day was exciting and full of new sites and much historical information. We returned to falling snow and covered driveways in Durango that evening.

Notice To All Trip Leaders

We want to document ALL of the SBJAS trips. It is impossible for the writers in our club to make each trip. Therefore, we are asking each leader to either write up a short trip report and email it to Mokibev@frontier.net or to call Bev at 970-375-9568 in Colorado or 817-421-1496 in Texas. Seh will happily interview you about your trip and write up the article. It will only take a few minutes.

The editors think that it is important that we record something about each of our great field trips. Please help by responding to this request. Our trips are super, and we should share a bit of news about them.

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Meetings & Lectures

HISATSINOM CHAPTER. The speaker on March 2 is Laurie Webster, who will speak about "Out of the Museum Basement: Textiles, Baskets and Other Perishable Artifacts from Chaco Canyon and Aztec Ruins". The Chapter meets at the Cortez Cultural Center.

Friends of Crow Canyon 2010 Distinguished Lecturer Series. Fridays at 7:00 p.m.

March 12, 2010; Gates Bldg ("Gates"), Crow Canyon Campus ("CCC") - Dr. Bill Lipe, Prof. Emeritus of Anthrop, Wash State U.; *Before Lake Powell: Memories of Glen Canyon Archaeology*;

April 23, 2010; Gates, CCC - Dr. Maelee Thomson Foster, Prof. Emerita, School of Architecture, U. of Fla; *The Megalithic Temples of Malta: Their Astronomical Significance Compared to Sites in the American Southwest*;

May 14, 2010; Gates, CCC - Dr. Peter Decker, Rancher/Author, Dir of Nat Western Stock Show and Rodeo, past member of CO Comm on Higher Ed, former CO Comm of Agriculture; *The Utes Must Go!: American Expansion and the Removal of a People*.

Seating is limited. The series costs \$135 for one, \$250 for two. Cost per lecture is \$30.00. Call 970-564-4341 for reservations.

Life-Long Learning Lecture Series; 7:00 p.m., 130 Noble Hall, Fort Lewis College.

(same time as archeology meeting) Thursday, March 11; *A Tomb of One's Own: The Terra Cotta Warriors*, Judith Reynolds. Journalist, critic, and art historian continues a life-long interest in a memorial art. On a recent trip to China, she toured Xian's newest museum and two pit excavations. The ancient clay soldiers pose many questions about mankind's ideas about and artistic exploration of the mysteries of life and death.

Thursday, April 8; *Easter Island: An Environmental Tragedy*, George Richardson. The forlorn stares of disbelief chiseled into the faces of Moai (statues) surrounding Easter Island remind us of the tiny island's disastrous history and the collapse of its culture, a classic example of environmental unsustainability. As a geologist, Richardson worked in minerals and petroleum as exploration manager, general manager or chief representative in various countries around the world.

Thursday, April 29; *Living and Dying in the Bronze Age*, Brad Bartel, Ph.D. The Bronze Age of Europe and West Africa was a time of great changes in social

organization, technology, and ethnic movement. The arrival of Indo-European speaking peoples totally restructured the fabric of Europe and gave us modern language groups, and a new middle class developed through the popularity of bronze technology. Dr. Bartel completed his doctorate in anthropology. He is the eighth President of Fort Lewis College.

SJBAS Trips

Tombstone, Sierra Vista, Other Activities, March 4-8.

Meet in Tombstone, AZ late for extended trip to museums, forts, battlefields, mines, mills and much more. Learn about the history of Southern Arizona. There are options available to stay longer. Trip leaders: Gail and Marlo Schulz 946-5234, mschulz@frontier.net;

Dinetah Area Petroglyphs, March 27.

A day trip to Largo Canyon (NM), with BLM ranger Jim Copeland, an expert on petroglyphs of the area, to look at early Navajo rock art and defensive sites dating from 1500s to mid-1700s. Wear good walking shoes, bring lots of water and sunscreen, a sack lunch, and weather-appropriate clothing. Meet at Santa Rita Park - departure 7:30 a.m.; return 5:00 p.m.; or meet Jim Copeland in Bloomfield at the Farmers Market located at intersection of US64 and 550.

No dogs allowed. Depending on weather, road conditions and vehicles, other less-traveled canyons may be visited. A high clearance vehicle is required, 4WD is preferred; need to keep cars to a minimum. Limit of 20; seven people on the waiting list, so please reply if you are unable to go. Leaders: Jim Mueller and Rhonda Raffo; 259-8870; rhondaandjim@msn.com (will be traveling 2/20-3/16); for more information on Dinatah rock art and pueblito reading list recommended by Jim Copeland go to www.nm.blm.gov/features/dinetah/dinetah_splash.html.

The Dinetah Area, April 10.

Day trip to Largo Canyon (NM), with Trust Land Archaeologist David Eck, to visit several Navajo pueblitos, not often seen by our group. Wear

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SJBAS Trips

Other's Trips

(Continued from page 2)

good walking shoes, a hat, and bring plenty of water and a sack lunch. A high-clearance 4WD vehicle is required. Limit of 20. Leaders: Marion and Andy Simon; 749-2927; msimon183@aol.com;

Near Dove Creek, April 17.

Day trip to mesa in the Dove Creek area, occupied over a long period. The amount of walking has not been determined, but even if long (several miles) will not be difficult. Wear good walking shoes, bring hat, water, sack lunch, and weather appropriate attire. High clearance 4WD vehicle is recommended. Limit of 10. Leader: Mary Ann Hiller; 259-5170; johnhilldurco@durango.net;

Acoma Pueblo and Chaco Outliers, April 30 to May 2. 3-day,

2-night Grants motel trip to visit several Chacoan Outliers, the Acoma Pueblo, and take a guided tour. Short (<1 mi) easy hikes to several ruins. Bring good walking shoes, lots of cold water. High-clearance 4WD vehicle is recommended. Limit of 20. Leader: Richard Robinson;

Robinson@frontier.net.S

Indian History Battlefield Walk—"The Fighting Cheyennes" of Colorado, May 18 to May 20.

Car trip with individual motel or camping. Trip will visit three unique battle sites: 1) a massacre of peaceful Cheyenne's under an American Flag (1864 Sand Creek), 2) a surprise frontal attack on entrenched cavalry by mounted Cheyenne Dog Soldiers (1868 Beecher Island), 3) an attack by cavalry and Pawnee Scouts against a large Dog Soldier and Lakota village that was tracked from burned ranch houses in Kansas resulting in the death of the prominent Cheyenne Dog Soldier leader, Tall Bull (1869 Summit Springs). Paul and Beverly Dittmer will guide, and Paul will lecture. Suggested reading for this trip is "The Fighting Cheyennes" by George Bird Grinnell ISBN 0-7394-0373-7, University of Oklahoma Press, 1915. To register call 375-9568 or email pauldittmer@frontier.net.

CAS Field Trips:

Easter Island, June 22-28, 2010: (Just two people short of making the trip) A day in Santiago, followed by a five-day stay on Easter Island, visiting the Poike Peninsula and the coastline consisting of black volcanic rock. Will see Vaihu archaeological sites; Ranu Raraku -- the quarry where all moais were sculpted; the restored giant Ahu Tongariki and its 15 moais; the ceremonial villages of Orongo and Ahu Akivi. Limit 10. **Land Only:** \$1,630/person based on double occupancy (\$500 single supplement) (Subject to change.) Trip is customizable for extra days. Contact: Teresa Weedon; (303) 366-7843(h); (303) 478-6705(c); weedon@comcast.net; or Sheridan Samano, Reefs to Rockies, (303) 860-6045; sheridan@reefstorockies.com.

The trip, **Archaeological Sites in Northern Peru and the Sacred Valley, June 29 - July 11, 2010**, has been canceled.

Friends of Archaeology ("FOA") 2010 Field Trips, Museum of NM Foundation Support Group for the Office of Archaeological Studies Lecture Series; New Mexico Film Museum Theater, 418 Montezuma Street, Santa Fe.

June 5-7, *Mimbres Ceramics--Gila Region of NM.* Study Mimbres Pottery, including stylized imagery of animals and human related to Mimbres life and religion. Visit ceramics collection at the Museum of Western NM U., Silver City, with the Director, Dr. Cynthia Bettison; sites of the Mogollon/Mimbres in the Mimbres Valley, Lake Roberts, and the Gila Cliff Dwellings and TJ ruin. The Mogollon cliff dwellings were occupied for only 15 years, starting in 1270. Enjoy side trip to the Woodrow site in the Gila-Cliff area, west of Silver City. Base will be in a Silver City hotel.

September 18, *Gallina Sites Field Trip*, Saturday trip to sites between Coyote and Cuba, NM.

September 26, *Chiles and Sherds*, a celebration of the archaeology and cuisine of NM, at Piedras Marcadas, in a bosque along the Rio Grande at the Open Space Center, near Albuquerque. Explores the archaeology of conflict in New Mexico. Piedras Marcadas is located in a bosque along the Rio Grande at the Open Space Center in Albuquerque.

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Other's Trips

Exhibits

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Investigations of the site confirm its historic association with NM. Coronado's forces attacked and overwhelmed the pueblo, leaving behind cross bow bolts and obsidian blades, which belonged to the Mexican Indians who arrived as part of Coronado's army. Small group tours of the site throughout the day, displays and demonstrations of 16th century archery and pottery, lunch and walks through the Center gardens; October 8-10, *Coronado Contact Sites and Zuni Field Trip*.

October 30-31, *Conflict in Modern Times - Trinity Site*, with Alamogordo option. See <http://www.museumfoundation.org/foa.html> for more details.

Museum of Western Colorado Trips: See www.museumofwesternco.com/programs_and_events/trip_and_tours/.

Exhibits

New Mexico History Museum, Santa Fe.

"Santa Fe Found: Fragments of Time" explores the archaeological and historical roots of America's oldest capital city and early Hispanic life in North America. From the first Spanish colony in San Gabriel del Yunque, to the founding of Santa Fe and its first 100 years as New Mexico's capital, the exhibition shows how the founders lived, the hardships they faced, and tells the story of cultural encounters between early colonists and the Native Americans. Monthly lecture series runs from November through May; www.nmhistorymuseum.org;

Detroit Science Center and 67 other places: Accidental Mummies of Guanajuato Makes Trawley Exhibit. (Summary, [The Durango Herald](http://www.durangoherald.com), October 9, 2009)

Touring exhibition offers a glimpse into the lives of 36 people whose bodies, on loan from Guanajuato's Museo de las Momias, accidentally were mummified in the mining town of Guanajuato, Mexico, over a century ago. Tells the story of Guanajuato, its culture and its people;

Ohio Historical Center, Columbus, Ohio, (long-term exhibit) "Windows to Our Collection: Ohio's Ancient Past"; Explores 15,000 years of Ohio's ancient Native American heritage, including some of the Ohio His-

torical Society's most significant artifacts, such as an Adena Pipe, a mica hand, and many animal effigy pipes from Tremper Mound; (614) 297-2300, www.ohiohistory.org;

The Field Museum, Chicago, Illinois;

"Travels of the Crow: Journey of an Indian Nation," portrays the lives of hunters, warriors and nomads of the American Northern Plains. The exhibit includes a woman's superbly beaded horse regalia, a headdress of bison fleece and eagle feathers, and shields with powerful symbols. The Crow people tell the story of a search for the sacred tobacco plant that eventually led them to the Bighorn Mountains of Montana. (312) 922-9410, www.fieldmuseum.org (through July 2010);

National Museum of the American Indian, New York, New York;

New long-term exhibit, "A Song for the Horse Nation", presents the story of the horse's influence on American Indian tribes from the 1600s to the present. How horses shaped the social, economic, cultural, and spiritual foundations of native life, particularly on the Great Plains; (212) 51403700, www.americanindian.si.edu;

Museum of the West Exhibit "Distant Cities in the Mist: The Search for Lost Kingdoms", Focuses on Explorers of Grand Valley. (Summary, [Daily Sentinel](http://www.daily-sentinel.com), January 10, 2010)

The Museum of the West is located in Grand Junction. What lured Aztecs, as early as the 1400s, and Spaniards in successive waves to the Grand Valley is this exhibit's subject. The exhibit shows how "myth and legend fit together." Dominguez and Escalante were explorers looking to convert the natives, as well as find a way to Monterey, when they passed through in 1776. Escalante, however, was looking for Spaniards who lived north of the Colorado River, also called el Rio del Tizon, to prevent any attack upon the kingdom and, if they were foreigners, to incorporate them. The exhibit includes excerpts of Escalante's letters to his church and royal superiors. Reports of Europeans in the American SW had credibility for the Spaniards because of the search for Cibola, the legendary seven cities of gold, linked to the legendary 714 A.D. escape of seven Catholic bishops across the Atlantic from Muslim conquerors. One of the displays is a 1587 hand-drawn and colored map of

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EXHIBITS

the New World by cartographer Juan Martines showing Cibola in what is now western Colorado at 39 degrees north latitude, the Grand Valley and Grand Mesa.

In 1765, Juan Rivera led an expedition through Utah and western Colorado, passing through regions held by the Ute Tribe. As early as the 1400s, the Aztecs sent a party north in search of the Aztec home. Where they ended up isn't known.

The exhibit points out similarities between Aztec and Ute mythology. The exhibit also includes not so original artifacts, including an elegantly carved tablet found in 1968 atop the Uncompahgre Plateau, cut by Jack Daniel Stirling in the 1950s, and a rare replica of the Chalice of Antioch, a goblet displayed at the 1933 Chicago World's Fair as being the Holy Grail, now is believed to have been made in the 6th century.

Dinosaur Fans Give Museum Welcome Boost in '09 Visitation. (Summary, Daily Sentinel, January 30, 2010)

Dinosaur Journey located in Fruita, CO. cobbled together grants and contributions from a number of sources to repair the museum's infrastructure and exhibits. Traffic at the museum increased more than three percent in 2009. The museum will be the first to exhibit *Fruitadens haagarorum*, the smallest plant-eating dinosaur ever unearthed. The museum had been in disrepair. The robotic brains of some of the dinosaurs were breaking down, and the company that installed the dinosaurs was out of business. The museum, after finding a company in Montrose that could acquire the necessary parts, also replaced the background sets for some of the displays and refurbished the popular earthquake exhibit.

Paleontologists from California State University Long Beach, found a series of bones from *Fruitadens* in the Fruita Paleontological Area in 1976. The Natural History Museum of Los Angeles County has since served as the repository of those fossils, which include bones from a leg, foot, back, neck, pelvis and tail, as well as the upper and lower jaw. Dinosaur Journey was able to make a trade with the Natural History Museum, agreeing to give it casts of other dinosaur fossils on display at Dinosaur Journey in exchange for a cast of *Fruitadens*' lower jaw and a three-dimensional, reconstructed model of *Fruitadens*. The exhibit features the model, photographs taken at the time *Fruitadens* was found and several placards explaining more about the dinosaur and the discovery.

Dinosaur National Monument Visitor Center Project Moves Ahead. (Summary, Daily Sentinel, November 17, 2009)

A project to demolish and replace parts of the condemned visitor center at Dinosaur National Monument in Fruita, CO. will be finished in 2011. The Quarry Visitor Center, which houses the nation's premier quarry of Jurassic-period dinosaur bones, was shuttered more than three years ago because of safety problems. Its closure frustrated paleontologists who have been unable to access its 1,500 dinosaur bones.

New History Colorado Center. (Summary, Denver Post, January 31, 2010)

The New History Colorado Center is located at 1200 Broadway, CHS and was founded in 1879. It is constructing its History Colorado Center as a cornerstone of the new Civic Center Cultural Complex. The \$110 million museum is being built with assistance from U.S. stimulus funds. The old museum will be demolished later this year. The four-story limestone History Colorado structure will be elegant, with a 100-foot-long lobby and four-story atrium. It will be a place to celebrate history in Colorado today as well as in the past. The building's Broadway orientation will focus attention on the Civic Center Cultural Complex consisting of the Denver Public Library and Denver Art Museum, as well as the rejuvenated Colorado Historical Society.

Conferences

Society for American Archaeology (SAA) Annual Meeting, April 14-18, Renaissance St. Louis Grand, St. Louis, MO;

Pecos Conference, TBA, Fort Lewis College.

Colorado Council of Professional Archaeologists Annual Meeting, March 25-28, Montrose, CO, at the Holiday Inn Express, 1391 South Townsend Ave., Montrose, CO 81401; Hotel Front Desk: 970-240-1800; Fax: 970-240-1909;

The business meeting will be held on Friday morning (March 26) and papers and posters will be presented that afternoon and on Saturday (March 27). The CAS Quarterly Meeting will be held on March 27 in conjunction with this meeting, and CAS members are encouraged to attend the CCPA meeting. Schedule:

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Conferences

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Thursday, March 25, Early Bird Party - 6:30 to 9:30 p.m.;

Friday, March 26, Business meeting -- 8:30 to 11:30 a.m., Exec Bd lunch -- 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m., Papers -- 1:00 to 4:30 p.m., Cocktail hour/Banquet -- 6:00 p.m.;

Saturday, March 27, Papers -- 8:00 a.m. to noon, Posters -- 10:00 a.m. to noon, Papers -- 1:30 to 5:00 p.m., Museum of the Mountain West Tour and Reception -- 5:30 to 8:30 p.m.;

Sunday, March 28, Field trip to Ute Indian Museum and Shavano Rock Art site -- 9:00 a.m. to noon.

Note that advance registration must be submitted by March 8, 2010. Registration at the meeting costs an additional \$10.00. VISA/ Master Card only. Preregister to attend the banquet because the caterer needs to have a head count days before the meeting begins. For more information:

www.coloradoarchaeologists.org.

Colorado Rock Art Association Chapter of CAS Annual Symposium, May 14-16, Trinidad, CO.

Registration for American Rock Art Research Association 2010 Meetings Now Open: Del Rio, Texas, located on the Texas/Mexico border, will be the setting for the 37th annual conference of the American Rock Art Research Association (ARARA), to convene March 26th - 29th, 2010. Del Rio is the portal to the Lower Pecos River style of rock art. <http://www.arara.org>.

TIME TO PAY YOUR 2010 DUES



Volunteering

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

Chimney Rock Interpretive Association. Email Helen Richardson, 1218HL1944@century.net.

Colorado Historical Society ("CHS"). Volunteers needed to pack CHS archaeological collection, including ceramics, lithics and fiber perishables of the CHS in preparation for the move to new facilities through April 18. Packing involves constructing mounts from CHS archival materials. Experience handling museum objects is desirable but not necessary. Hours: 8am-4pm, Mon-Fri., weeknights and weekends. Contact: Angela Caudill angela.caudill@chs.state.co.us. Include your name, contact info, particular collection interest, availability and background/interest.

Collections of the **Office of Arch and His Preservation (OAHP)** need processing. PAAC volunteers may receive credit toward certification at either the Lab Trainee or Technician level by helping to catalogue and analyze these materials at the CHS's Support Center in east Denver (MSCD). Contact Kevin Black at Kevin.Black@chs.state.co.us.

Colorado Archeological Society offers a program on Indian Rock Art for elementary classrooms or other groups at the 3rd-4th grade level, which includes a slide show about archaeology and the need for preservation. The children are able to make their own rock art to take home. In order to reach as many children as possible, volunteers are needed. It takes no training or special skills. Contact Betsy Weitkamp at 303-722-1656 or ELAW@q.com

PAAC CLASSES

Due to the CHS move to temporary quarters during construction of the new History Colorado Center, no PAAC courses will be offered during the period January 25 through June 30, 2010. Information on the resumption of the normal schedule will be offered as soon as available

JAN'S BOOK RECOMMENDATIONS

Montezuma County Historical Society ("MCHS") Prints Local History Book: *Great Sage Plain to Timberline: Our Pioneer History*, a 200-page compilation of 60 plus local stories that is the first in a series to be sold for \$20. (Summary, Cortez Journal, December 17, 2009)

Stories of imported elk from Jackson Hole, Wyoming, a pre-1900 gold mine on Ute Mountain and the Mother Theresa of Rico, Allie Baer, are just a few of the stories to be included in the first volume. Stories were included on a first-come, first-serve basis, with no chronological order imposed on them. The stories are provided as they arrived. Volume two, pioneers and early history from Dolores County, is on its way, with plans to start printing at Pioneer Printing in Cortez if volume one is well-received. MCHS relies on volunteers to type the stories. Prepayment accepted, with checks made out to Montezuma County Historical Society, P.O. Box 218, Cortez, CO 81321.



"Guns of Imogene" by Mary Jo Martin, Speaks of Injustice in Telluride Mining. (Summary, Durango Herald, February 7, 2010)

The complicated story of Telluride's labor strife of 1901-1908, was based on an analysis of all evidence. The body of evidence gathered over 23 years shows that the Western Federation of Miners (WFM) was for the most part the victim, not the perpetrator of violence. Three of the five so-called murder victims of Telluride's Local 63 were alive well after the event. Of the other two, one went missing during a series of violent snowstorms. The only body was of mine manager, Arthur Collins, who disdained immigrant miners, but hired them because he could pay them less. This created enmity. At the time of his murder, there existed numerous followers of the extremist Emma Goldman -- anarchists who believed in assassination. The WFM did not. True, anarchists were sometimes members of the WFM. In Telluride, Local 63's president, Vincent St. John, abhorred violence and murder and kicked out any union miner who promoted such. Just before his assassination, Collins had refused to hire two immigrant miners who were heard later to make threats against him. Witnesses saw two men during the time of the murder. An anarchist was arrested in Idaho Springs and confessed that he and his compatriot killed Collins. All those things were ignored because these men were anarchists and not affiliated with the union. No one was ever tried for Collins' murder.

The facts in a nutshell look like this: Corporations wanted to keep a stranglehold on labor, believing they could do so with the illegal help of the Pinkertons as agents provocateurs. As union membership increased, the power of solidarity and the possibility of a general strike became a threat to the corporations; therefore, their goal was the destruction of the unions. State militia supplied the means to that end when all else failed. Martial law was used illegally against one set of citizens for their opinions -- the National Guard reports make that clear.

Most of what the corporations did in their attempt to suppress free speech and the right to peaceful assembly were illegal. They deputized gunmen from out of the county or state, made arrests without charge, incarcerated people without due process, confiscated property, raided homes, made threats and performed beatings of citizens, and enforced mass deportations, which were oddly only over county lines. Would you dump a criminal in your neighboring county if you knew he was truly dangerous?

The union merely demanded what we enjoy today: a living wage, an eight-hour day, child labor laws, safety standards in the mines and nondiscrimination. Companies forced miners to buy their supplies from them, to board at the company for a third of their wages and to accept scrip instead of cash. Miners were fired when they were injured, were replaced when they dared to complain. The list of cruelties goes on.

Ms. Martin has irrefutable evidence from the reports of the Pinkertons themselves that shows

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their own criminal activity and suppression of genuine evidence that was collected at the scene of the Cripple Creek bombing and other crime scenes. Most interesting of all, the original confession created by Pinkerton Detective McParland and Orchard was rediscovered recently -- it was suppressed at the trial -- and a second version was created for publication.

British Author Ann Bridge, in Her 1948 Novel *And Then You Came*, a Fine Imaginative Tale of *Lost Worlds*. (Summary, Opinion, Durango Herald, January 31, 2010)

This novel combines 20th-century archaeologists with first-century gods. Set in pre-war rural Scotland, Bridge's picture of the hills and lochs, the quiet villages and the weather-beaten shooting lodges is vivid and enduring. Against the background of pre WWII Scotland, she tells the engrossing story of the shifting relationships within a group of well-contrasted characters. Inspired by a professor of archaeology, the members of two house parties start to uncover the Celtic past around them. In doing so they release strange forces, and find themselves re-enacting the beautiful and melancholy legend that haunts the glens. This is Miss Bridge at her finest. The result is a dramatic and moving novel.

Chocolate Archaeology. (Summary, Daily Times, June 24, 2009)

Chocolate's mystical allure has led historian Sharon Edgar Greenhill to distant places and ancient times. She explores the meaning of chocolate to the Maya, Aztecs, Olmecs, Mixtecs, and Zapotecs who grew, produced, traded and fought over the prized substance at the center of Mesoamerican mythology for thousands of years. Cacao was considered a spiritual link between humans and their gods, and its elixir had many uses in ceremonies, in human sacrifices, and even in ball games.

The Maya people were the first to make chocolate from the seeds of the tropical Cacao tree, and it still plays a role in their modern lives and ceremonies. The ancient Maya roasted and ground cacao beans into a powder, then mixed it with water and chilies to create a dark, bitter drink, not at all like the sweetened chocolate we enjoy today. Mayan vases from A.D. 400 have traces of the brew inside, with recipes written on the outside. In a surprising recent discovery, traces of chocolate were found on ceramics dating to about A.D. 1050 from Chaco Canyon.

Christopher Columbus brought cacao beans from the New World to Spain in 1502, where the drink was a well-kept secret among the Spanish royalty. About 100 years later, the secret got out and spread throughout Europe. The tree didn't receive its Western scientific name, *Theobroma cacao* ("food of the gods") until the 1700s.

Greenhill's book, *Chocolate: Pathway to the Gods*, includes a copy of her award-winning film of the same name. Greenhill has more than 20 years of experience in the fields of architecture, museum design, and historic preservation in the United States and Mexico. She focuses on the pre-Columbian and Contact Period (16th century) iconography and culture. Greenhill's research demonstrates the extraordinary value of chocolate, and provides new reasons to celebrate this concoction.

Archaeology, Volume 63 Number 1, January/February 2010: Top Ten Discoveries of 2009.

Archaeology's annual list of the year's most exciting discoveries -- from North America's earliest canals to evidence for chemical warfare at a Roman outpost in Syria -- highlights sites, artifacts, and scientific studies we feel most enrich our knowledge of the past. Archaeology is an incremental science, and "eureka" moments are rare. Often the most significant advances result from many years of research. For instance, we feature the work of archaeologists who have dug for four decades at a second-century B.C. Greek city in southern Russia. They were only recently able to identify a large structure at the site as the palace of King Mithra VI, a legendary foe of Rome.



Archeology in the Southwest

Colorado Historical Society to Grant the Community Radio Project \$240,442 out of State Historic Fund to Preserve and Rehabilitate the Montezuma Valley National Bank Building, also Known as the Basin Industrial Bank Building. (Summary, Cortez Journal, February 4, 2010)

The Community Radio Project will use the funds for the Cornerstone project, which focuses on the historic downtown building. Cornerstone officials will use the money first to rehabilitate the building, which will house KSJD's studios, office and a media center. Similar to DCTV in Dove Creek, the facility will be able to handle all locally produced, over-the-air television and radio. The space measures about 2,500 square feet, including the basement. The eastern part of the building eventually will house an 80-seat performance venue and an 800-square-foot mezzanine, slated to begin construction in 2011. Cornerstone officials are starting with the exterior first. The "scope of work," including details like what gets preserved, what color paint to use, and the best way to return the building to its period, still need to be determined. Those are details which will be worked out with the state. The community has to raise \$80,000 locally to match this funding from the state -- \$80,000 to receive \$240,000.

Cortez Historic Preservation Board ("CHPB"). (Summary, Hisatsinom Newsletter, February 2010)

After the CHPB met with the Cortez City Council, the Council agreed that the City should pursue becoming a Certified Local Government. The first step in the process is to modify the Historic Preservation Section of the City Land Use Code, with changes to be reviewed by the SHPO's office, and presented to City Council for approval in March.

Telling Stories: Montezuma County Historical Society ("MCHS") is Collecting Pioneer History, Old Photos and Maps for a Series of Historical Volumes about Southwest Colorado. (Summary, Cortez Journal, October 16, 2009)

MCHS is accepting donations for their "history book fund" as well as biographies and family stories of people from Montezuma County -- and beyond. MCHS is not going to concentrate on areas and years. MCHS has received a story about a family who ran a trading post on the San Juan River. Besides early pioneers, the older buildings in the area will receive attention since there is an eagerness to know about the history of the area. Since funds are limited, MCHS will publish one volume at a time, with at least 175 pages each, an ongoing project as funds are available.

Montezuma County was created out of the west end of La Plata County in 1889 and attracted many of its pioneers because it was opened for homesteading and was good cattle country. Pioneers were settling the region even before that date. Submissions can be given to any of the following MCHS book committee members: Frank Pyle (Dolores) 882-2369; Virginia Graham (Cortez) 565-7767; Tom Johnson (Cortez) 565-3321; Harold Baxstrom (Durango) 247-4811; Audrey Garchar (Dove Creek) 677-2825; Jean Bader (Mancos) 533-7964; Vivienne Kenyon (McElmo Canyon -Cortez) 575-7714 and June Head (Cortez) 565-3880. Information may also be mailed to Montezuma County Historical Society, Box 218, Cortez, CO 81321.

Crow Canyon Announces Summer Program for Educators. (Summary, Hisatsinom Newsletter, February 2010)

K through 12 teachers will have the opportunity to study Southwestern archaeology during two professional development programs in July and August 2010. Hosted by Crow Canyon Archaeological Center and funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities, the programs provide stipends to cover all expenses, including travel and living costs. <http://www.indiancountrytoday.com>.

Desert View Watchtower Undergoing Maintenance and Stabilization. (Summary, Hisatsinom Newsletter, February 2010)

The tower marking the eastern entrance to Grand Canyon National Park is getting repairs to a roof and windows that leak, damaging its famous murals. The 70-foot Indian Watchtower at Desert View will receive nearly \$2.1 million in masonry work and roofing, projected to be done at the end of the year.

Proposal to Designate Chimney Rock a National Monument Gains Momentum. (Summary, Pagosa Springs Sun, January 28, 2010)

Chimney Rock, currently owned and maintained by the USFS, was designated as a National Historic Site in 1970. According to John Whitney, regional director for the office of Rep. Salazar, a National Monument designation would give the site a higher level of protection. While National Monument designation is usually accomplished through presidential proclamation (and, by the Antiquities Act of 1906, does not require Congressional approval), those proclamations are traditionally made at the very end of a President's term in office. However, a designation may be made by an Act of Congress and Rep. Salazar's intends to expedite the process by submitting a bill to Congress. Designating Chimney Rock as a National Monument would be a boon to the local economy as the site would be added to the National Register of Historic Places and could bring more tourists to the area. The designation would also mean an infusion of cash into the area as infrastructure and staffing needs are increased.

Chimney Rock Fire Tower, Built in 1940, will be Removed in Fall 2010, Because it Obstructs the View of Astronomical Alignments from Culturally Significant Locations in the Archaeological Area. (Summary, Durango Herald, February 6, 2010)

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The Tower, which fell into disuse in 1956, was by the early 1970s, in poor repair. It was reconstructed in the 1980s. Since then, the square-shaped structure has been used as a viewing tower, but it is now seen as intrusive to the prehistoric site. In the 1980s, it was recognized that the moonrise during the northern lunar standstill was visible between the pinnacles of Chimney and companion rocks from the Great House Pueblo. The lunar standstills occur every 18.6 years. The location of the lookout tower blocks views of the pinnacles from the Great House and obstructs the visibility of the astronomical alignment. Other astronomical occurrences that can be observed at Chimney Rock include: the sunrise over the north wall of the Great House on the summer solstice; a sunrise between the two rock spires from across the Piedra River at C-Block Pueblo on Peterson Mesa on both the spring and fall equinoxes; an alignment with the Great House and the Crab Nebula as viewed from the stone basin.

The Tower will be dismantled by hand using a helicopter, between September 1 and November 30. The Tower is not eligible for the National Register of Historic Places. The Chimney Rock Interpretative Association supports the removal project.

Undercover Artifacts Informant Had Only Minor Traffic Offenses. (Summary, [Durango Herald](#), February 2, 2010)

The undercover operative in a federal sting of artifact trading collected about \$7,500 a month for secretly recording transactions with collectors and sellers across the Southwest for more than two years, documents say. Ted Gardiner, a Utah antiquities dealer, got an initial \$10,000 payment before the operation began in earnest, then collected regular monthly payments throughout 2007 and 2008. Gardiner still is being paid for helping agents prepare for nearly two dozen court cases, and he will receive more money if he testifies. Gardiner had received \$162,000 in payments plus expenses, for a total of \$224,000, when most of the arrests were made in June. The operative has no felony or misdemeanor convictions or charges pending against him, nor immunity. The FBI and BLM obtained his cooperation without any inducements other than payments, and without any threats.

Utah Man, Charles Armstrong, Sentenced to One Year for Threatening Government Witness at Center of Federal Prosecution into Artifact Looting. (Summary, [Durango Herald](#), February 2, 2010)

Armstrong was accused of plotting to beat the undercover artifacts dealer with a baseball bat. The government operative helped set up the June sting operation leading to the arrest of 26 people in the Four Corners on charges of collecting or trafficking in plundered American Indian artifacts from federal and tribal lands.

Crow Canyon Hires Deborah J. Gangloff as Center's New President and CEO, Succeeding Ricky Lightfoot. (Summary, [Durango Herald](#), January 24, 2010)

Gangloff, who holds a doctorate in cultural anthropology from Rutgers University, comes to Crow Canyon with 30 years experience in non-profit management, nearly all of it with the 135-year-old American Forests, the nation's oldest citizens' conservation organization. She was named executive director in 1996. Gangloff also has extensive cultural resource management experience from participation on archaeological projects throughout the United States. She served as a researcher at the National Academy of Sciences in the early 1980s.

Museum of Western Colorado Wins Fourth Consecutive Accreditation by the American Association of Museums, Placing it Among Less than One Percent of the Nation's Museums. (Summary, [Daily Sentinel](#), August 20, 2009)

The accreditation validates more than just the museum's exhibits. It shows the staff "meets professional standards and are good stewards of materials and artifacts." The accreditation process began in 2005 with a self-study undertaken by the staff and included a visit by association officials. All three units of the Museum of Western Colorado -- the Museum of the West in downtown Grand Junction, Dinosaur Journey in Fruita and Cross Orchards Living History Farm in the Fruitvale area -- were evaluated by the accreditation team. The nation has 17,500 museums, of which 774 are accredited by the association: 91 museums have been accredited four times, and no museum in the nation has been accredited five times. Accreditation takes into account the museum's ability to maintain and protect its collection, down to the point of making sure light and temperature conditions are appropriate, and includes a look at the museum's books and accounting systems and requires the promise of continued financial support of the Mesa County Commission.

Remodel of Lower Spring Creek Schoolhouse Stirs Memories for Former Teacher. (Summary, [Cortez Journal](#), August 13, 2009)

Evelyn Payne, 97, who studied at the one-room school and returned to teach there, is pleased with the renovated building. No one, including local historians or the Ignacio School District can say for sure when the school, which housed eight grades in a 24- by 18-foot room, opened or closed. It was simply one of the rural schools that served a purpose then fell by the wayside. Richard Parry, whose family owns Foxfire Farms, said a 1908 date on a hand-operated cast-iron water pump outside the entrance to the school offers a clue as to when the school was built. The schoolhouse, located on 1,100-acre Foxfire Farms, was standing -- but barely -- before renovation. Family photos of yesteryear are mounted on interior walls. Payne recalled walking or riding her horse, a pinto named Baldy, through the woods to school

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from the home of her parents, Arthur and Dovie Jones, about a mile away. The teacher, who boarded at her home, sometimes carried her part way when she started school at age 5. There were one or two students at each grade level, Payne recalled. The teacher kept a pot of hot water on the wood burning stove in order that students who brought lunch from home could have a hot meal. A book closet, a tiny room in one corner of the schoolhouse, often hosted a nest of hornets.

After graduating from eighth grade, Payne went to high school in Durango and then attended Colorado College to earn a teaching credential. She returned home to teach at Lower Spring Creek School in 1932. The salary was \$90 a month, and the teacher had to sweep the classroom after school and chop wood for the stove. As a teacher, Payne played games such as "fox and geese" and "pump pump pull away" with her charges. When Billy Bean, a strapping eighth-grader, damaged an outside playhouse and refused to line up with his schoolmates, Payne -- five feet tall and petite -- grabbed a board, and he changed his mind. In keeping with the education code at the time, teachers could not be married.

The school was renovated to create a bed and breakfast, an extension of the family's venture into tourism, which started with tours of their 900 acres of certified organic agricultural activities. Based on information and photos online, the original school was one of the kit houses that Sears Roebuck started to ship nationwide in 1908.

Oil and Gas Company to Drill at Aztec Ruins National Monument. (Summary, Daily Times, May 20, 2009)

Land ownership issues are blurry with the proposed operation. The federal government owns the original 27-acre national monument site, managed by NPS. When the park expanded to 320 acres in 1998, the federal government purchased the surface rights to the land, leaving the mineral estates below the Aztec Ruins boundaries in private ownership. Oil and gas companies, including Mañana Gas, have leased the mineral rights, including the land under the original 27-acre site. Mañana Gas plans to locate the surface well site 125 feet off the northwest corner of the monument and directionally drill to the mineral and gas deposits directly below the monument-owned surface. Despite being a world heritage site, drilling at the monument is legal.

The problem is on the surface. Mañana will not disturb any of the artifacts because they are about 2,000 feet below the surface. The new well will not be the first at the national monument. During the 1988 expansion, three active wells were grandfathered in and allowed to remain at the world heritage site. Two of the active wells are owned by XTO Energy Inc. and the other, which is visible from the west ruins, is owned by Mañana Gas. The new well shouldn't affect visitors to the ruins because the surface well is outside the monument boundaries. Though construction of a well on or near Aztec Ruins is less than ideal, Mañana Gas was wise to locate the well slightly outside the national monument boundaries. But the larger issue still remains. The situation surrounding mineral rights on the monument remains a concern and a threat.

Cochiti Dam Changed Pueblo Way of Life. (Summary, Durango Herald, August 23, 2009)

The Rio Grande flows through the heart of Cochiti Pueblo land, several miles west of Interstate 25. In the 1950s, boys would swim in the river, hunt birds and scoop up Rio Grande silvery minnows by the bucketful and fry them. They would pick fruit all summer and fall -- apples, apricots, plums and cherries from pueblo family orchards along the river. Every family had a plot of land by the river, and everyone helped during harvest and shared food. It all changed in a generation. The federal government bulldozed the farms, orchards and homes by the river in the late 1950s, when most of the pueblo people living on the almost 54,000-acre reservation had two homes -- one in the pueblo and one by the river. Why the lands were bulldozed isn't remembered, maybe to make the farms larger. Everyone still remembers where (everyone else's farm) was at the time when it happened. Then came the dam, five miles long, holding back billions of gallons of water in the Cochiti Reservoir.

The Army Corps began building the dam in the mid-1960s and finished in 1975. At capacity, the reservoir can hold more than half a million acre feet collected from a 11,695-square-mile drainage area and sources such as the Santa Fe River. The dam is 251 feet above the river bed. It was built to control flooding and sediment, an important tool for managing Rio Grande flows to miles of ditches and hundreds of farmers in the Middle Rio Grande Conservancy District. Congress later added recreation to the reservoir's purpose. The pueblo didn't know up front it was also for recreation. Dust and noise from the dam's construction disturbed the usual quiet around the pueblo for a dozen years. The water covered a canyon. The sides of the spillway-outlet were anchored to a rock outcropping, destroying a sacred site, not just to Cochiti, but to other pueblos.

Riverbanks once lined with cottonwoods now have a forest of non-native Russian olives. Seasonal floods on the river used to clean everything out. The little silvery minnow wasn't endangered until the dam interrupted the natural ebb and flow of the Rio Grande. Many bird species that once flocked to the small farms and orchards stopped coming. The grading of the farms and the dam construction, along with other factors, changed the pueblo's relationship to the land. The arrival of electricity and a tourism industry at about the same time further enticed Cochiti Pueblo people into a new way of life. The last blow to farming occurred after the dam was finished. Water seeped along its sides constantly and

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flooded pueblo farmlands downstream. Farmers couldn't plant when the fields were flooded. When water did dry off, salts rose to the top, killing vegetation and poisoning the fields.

Pueblo elders traveled to Washington, DC to draw attention to the seepage. The pueblo eventually sued the federal government over the seepage. In 1994, the tribe used settlement funds to contract out and build a subsurface drainage system to take the seepage away from the fields. But the damage was done. For almost a quarter of a century, there was no farming. Older men say the young ones do not know how to work hard and work with their hands. The cultural shift changed the whole relationship, not only between people and the land but the (helping) relationship of people to each other. The people became more private.

Cochiti Reservoir became a new destination for anglers, swimmers, boaters and partiers. Visitors traipsed across Cochiti Pueblo land without permission, leaving behind trash and beer cans. Over the last several years, the Corps began consulting the pueblo about decisions with the reservoir. In 2008, Cochiti Pueblo signed a historic agreement with the Corps to participate in overall management of the Cochiti Lake area. The young men are coming to the council asking for plots of land.

San Juan Hospital -- 100 Years of Shared History. (Summary, Daily Times, January 17, 2010)

This Farmington Hospital opened in 1910. It first consisted of eight beds in a small house. By 1920, the needs of the community had outgrown the four-room hospital. The San Juan County Association, a group of locals concerned about the hospital, bought the building and nine acres of land. The hospital was expanded to a 16-bed facility in 1922. A new, 44-bed hospital opened in 1952. A second floor was added in 1956, increasing the number of beds to more than 100. The intensive care unit opened in 1963, and a surgical ward was built in 1972. By 1978, the hospital had transformed into a five-story regional medical center.

Specialists started arriving in the area in the 1960s. Dr. Frank Nordstrom started working at the hospital in 1954 and was the first pediatrician in the area. The purchase in 1988 of the first MRI machine was a large step forward for the hospital and the community. The Immediate Care Center opened in 1990 and the cardiac catheterization laboratory in 1998. After a century of operation, the hospital still has room to grow and expand.

Preserving Colorado's Landmarks. (Summary, Denver Post, January 31, 2010)

Colorado Preservation Inc., which has partnered with the CHS to save endangered landmarks statewide, held its Saving Places Conference in February, with a focus on working with existing buildings on the close ties between sustainability and historic preservation. Preservationists have much to celebrate. The Daniels & Fisher Tower restoration has been completed. Plans are underway to rescue Riverside, Denver's dying pioneer cemetery. Many groups are pitching in to help the waterless cemetery and to restore it as an environmentally sustainable landscape and save some of the landmark trees. It will become more of a natural area as it was in 1876 when Riverside first opened. The award for Excellence in Historic Preservation will go to Edward D. White, Jr., who has been involved in many major preservation projects, including Four Mile House, Ninth Street Historic Park, the Governor's Residence and Black Hawk's Lace House.

Utah Authorities Turn Over Ruins-filled Canyon to Archaeologists. (Summary, Daily Times, August 26, 2009)

The University of Utah made archaeologists permanent stewards of Range Creek Canyon, which stunned the scientific world when it was revealed in 2004. The canyon, 125 miles southeast of Salt Lake City, was kept secret by a family of ranchers for the better part of a century before it ended up in state hands in 2004. It features the remains of ancient settlements, with the eroded remains of pit and cob houses, still-standing grain caches, and colorful trapezoidal figures painted with spiky hair styles on canyon walls. The University of Utah gave up some of its trust lands -- elk and deer habitat in another part of the state -- to gain control of Range Creek Canyon to allow the emphasis on the study of the natural history and archaeology of the canyon. The public access and wildlife habitat at Range Creek will still be there. Carbon dating of artifacts has revealed that about a dozen miles of Range Creek Canyon was intensively occupied by hundreds or possibly thousands of people for two or three centuries until around 1,200 A.D. Artifacts from baskets to tobacco bundles suggest human life showed up in Range Creek hundreds of years earlier and lingered longer, but significantly, the large population seemed to vanish by 1,200 A.D. The canyon was occupied by the Fremont people, descendants of the continent's original Paleo-Indians. As a culture, the Fremont were distinguished by their style of basket weaving, animal-claw moccasins and dual survival strategy of farming and hunting. Little else is known about them, including their fate.

Early Spanish Explorations of San Juan Country. (Summary, Pagosa Springs Sun, January 28, 2010)

Rich gold deposits were discovered in the San Juans, including the mining camp at Summitville, in 1876. As early as 1765, Juan Maria Rivera and other adventurers from New Mexico had visited what we know as San Juan Country and Archuleta County. Many historians believe the San Juan Mountains received their name from the first name of that early trader. It is known that the Southern San Juan Mountains were formerly called Las Grullas, the Cranes, by the Spanish. Some of Rivera's written records have been discovered during recent years. It is believed he was on a mission to open

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up trading routes with the Ute Indians. It is also easy to believe that rumors of mineral wealth had reached the Hispanic settlers in New Mexico. It could well be that Rivera had one eye open for any evidence of previous metals in these daunting mountains. There could have been Hispanics trading in the Four Corners Country before Rivera, but Spanish policy forbade their citizens from trading with Indians unless they first obtained an official permit. No one without a permit returned home and wrote a report.

So far as we know now, Juan Maria Rivera was the first. Just a few short years later, a pair of Franciscan fathers using guides who had been with Rivera attempted a journey from Santa Fe to what we know today as San Francisco. Their mission was to find and establish a trail connecting Spanish settlements in New Mexico with Spanish settlements on the West Coast. The Fathers Dominguez and Escalante traveled up the Rio Grande from Santa Fe to that river's junction with the Chama River. They then followed the Chama River to Abiquiu, at that time Spain's northernmost outpost in Nuevo Mexico. From Abiquiu, the party continued northward along the Chama River to El Vado -- the Crossing -- crossed the river there then continued past Horse Lake -- Laguna de Caballo -- on today's Jicarilla Apache Reservation and crossed the reservation until reaching the San Juan River -- el Rio del Navajó at that time. They crossed the San Juan into Archuleta County, followed that stream westward to its junction with the Piedra, then cut across to strike the Dolores River somewhere near present-day Dolores. From there they moved north to today's Rangely, Colorado, at which point they turned west. Their westward journey took them to about Provo, Utah, from which they circled home by a southerly route that crossed northeastern Arizona. Some years passed before the route from Santa Fe to California, known as the Old Spanish Trail, was completed.

Ricky Lightfoot, Recently Retired President and CEO of Crow Canyon Archaeological Center Awarded CHS's Inaugural President's Award. (Summary, *Cortez Journal*, February 6, 2010)

The award was given to Lightfoot in recognition of excellence in the field of historic preservation and archaeology in Colorado. He has been involved in the field of archaeology since college. He kept taking more and more classes and got a job in the field, and that led to a career and advanced degrees. A ten-year tenure as Crow Canyon's president offered Lightfoot a variety of opportunities to expand the reach of the institution's educational and preservation programs. Lightfoot credits his work at Crow Canyon for the honor he just received.

Although technically retired, Lightfoot has no intention of stepping back from archaeology and preservation work. He will stay on the board of trustees and be involved as a scholar in some of the travel programs. He believes the preservation work being done in Southwest Colorado is important not only to the region but also to the world. Along with the personal recognition, Lightfoot is proud of his status as a President's Award recipient because of the attention it brings to the area.

Baxstrom Added Skillful Touch to Cortez's Early Architecture. (Summary, *Cortez Journal*, May 9, 2009)

Cortez owes much of the credit for its historic stone buildings that grace the town to the skillful work of Peter Baxstrom. Born in 1841 in Stockholm, Sweden, Baxstrom immigrated to the United States during the Civil War in the mid-1860s. He served in the Union Army during the last nine months of the Civil War, after which he made his home in Kansas, finding work as a mason contracted by the railroad. For the next 20 years, Baxstrom roamed Kansas, Texas and Oklahoma, following the railroad wherever it went. However, the completion of the railroad and a divorce led Peter Baxstrom to seek a new place to call home.

In 1885, along with his sons Oscar, Edward and Harry, Peter arrived in Cortez and homesteaded 80 acres just west of town, in the area presently known as Hartman Draw. Along with a home, Baxstrom built a stone quarry and went to work in the field he knew: masonry. According to Baxstrom's great-grandson, Harold Maxstrom, of Durango, Peter was instrumental in much of the design work and construction of the stone buildings in Cortez and the surrounding area.

The CHS credits Baxstrom with the Wilson Building, built in 1889; the original schoolhouse in Cortez, located at 23 E. Montezuma Ave., built in 1890; the Calkins building, built in 1909; Battle Rock School, built in 1913; and the Zwicker House in McElmo Canyon, with an unknown completion date. Baxstrom built the Calkins building with stone gathered from his quarry in Hartman Draw. The building has the same distinct style as others built by Baxstrom. The Calkins building also bears the work of another Baxstrom. Peter's son, Harry, also a mason, trained the Works Progress Administration workers who built the addition to the building in 1935.

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