



THE MOKI MESSENGER

NEWSLETTER OF THE SAN JUAN BASIN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Chapter of Colorado Archaeological Society

October, 2009

SJBAS Meeting

The next meeting of SJBAS will be held **October 8, 2009 at 7:00 pm in the Southwest Center's Lyceum**. Gary Brown, Chief of Cultural Resources, Aztec Ruins National Monument, will discuss "Who Built the Great Houses? Chacoan and Vernacular Architecture in the Animas Valley".

Gary has worked for the National Park Service at Aztec Ruins for the past nine years. One of his main pursuits has been the study of ancient architecture at West Ruin, the largest of several Chacoan-style "great house" buildings at Aztec. He has worked on several other large Puebloan sites during the 33 years that he has been involved in Southwest archaeology, including excavations at Salmon Ruin, and Chavez Pass Ruin, Arizona. He has worked at numerous sites dating to many different time periods, including the protohistoric Navajo, Archaic, Paleoindian, Anasazi, Mogollon, Sinagua, Fremont, Hohoham, and High Plains. He has an MA in Anthropology from Arizona State University.



Lifelong Learning

More learning to take place on Oct 29th at 7:00 pm at Noble Hall at Fort Lewis College. Kevin Britz, Director, Center for SW Studies will speak on the "Abandoned America: The meaning of ghost towns, ruins, etc." He will look at our fascination with abandoned places. This talk should be especially interesting for those who missed this talk at the SJBAS meeting recently.

2010 SJBAS OFFICERS

It is the time of year when we are searching for volunteers to serve our archaeological society as officers and in non-elected positions for the coming year. We hold our election for the 2010 calendar year at the Christmas party on December 10, 2009.

The current officers are: President, Andy Gulliford; Co-vice presidents, Bill Cagle and Gail Schulz; Treasurer, Mark Gebhardt; Secretary, Jeff Davis; PAAC Coordinator, Peggy Morris; and CAS Representative, Bob Powell. Members serving in non-elected positions are: Newsletter; Beverly Dittmer, Janice Sheftel, and Jill Ward; Programs, Janice Sheftel; Publicity, Jill Tripp; Trip Committee Chair, Richard Robinson; Webmaster, Lyle Hancock.

Andy, Bill, Gail, Mark, and Bob are willing to continue in their current elected positions in 2010. However if you would like to run for one of these positions in 2010 you are definitely encouraged to do so, and the members will choose the winning candidate at the December elections. Bev, Jill Ward, Janice, Jill Tripp, Richard Robinson and Lyle are willing to continue to serve in their same non-elected positions in 2010.

Jeff would like it if someone else would volunteer to be the Secretary in 2010. Peggy has served as PAAC Coordinator for five years and is stepping down to allow someone else this opportunity to serve our club.



**F
A
L
L**



What's Inside

Field Trips.....	2
Lectures & Conferences.....	2
Museum Exhibits.....	3
Editor's Corner.....	4
Archeology News Near & Far..	5
What Is PACC.....	9
Scientist to Connect Dots.....	10

Field Trips

Lectures & Conferences

SJBAS FIELD TRIPS

Cedar Mesa and Hovenweep Area on October 2-4. A camping or hoteling visit to Anasazi sites in the Cedar Mesa area to provide insight on the significance of their location and architecture. Most of these sights can be seen with short walks from cars. The trip participation is limited to 20. Leaders: Kathleen and Jim Shadell; 247-5597; shadj@durango.net.

Tonto Basin in Arizona on October 17-20. A four-day trip, either camping or moteling. High clearance vehicles needed over a short section, but carpooling available. Visit both petroglyph and archaeological sites of the Salado culture that our group has not been to. There will be a range of easy to moderate hikes. Trip participation limit is 20; Trip Leaders: Bob Danielson, 385-1058, bnbdan@bresnan.net; Richard Robinson, 259-1943, robinson@frontier.net.

Galisteo Basin on November 6-9. Four-day motel trip to visit petroglyph and P-IV habitation sites in Galisteo Basin and a daylong hike to several sites near Santa Fe. Participants may choose to do all or some of the day hikes. Trip participation limited to 20. Leaders: Linda and Richard Robinson, 259-1943, robinson@frontier.net.

Other's Field Trips

Hisatsinom Field Trips Call Larry Tradlener, 565-7804; insitu@fone.net.

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



Four Corners Lecture Series 2009

Majel Boxer will speak on *Indigenizing the Museum*, October 1, 6:30 p.m. at 120 CSWS, Fort Lewis College ("FLC");

Kathy Fine-Dare will speak on *Creating Continuity: South American Natives' Changing Relationship with "Ruins" and "the Archaeological Record"*, October 15, 7:00 p.m. at 130 Noble Hall, FLC.

Denver CAS Chapter Lectures

Ben Bellordo from Crow Canyon will speak "On the Trail of Sacred Geographies: Walking Through Ritual Landscapes in Southeast Utah", October 12,

Steven & Kathleen Holen from DMNS will speak on "The Evidence for a Mid-Wisconsin Human Occupation of the North American Continent", November 9. Email Bob Rushforth, President, at rrush4th@msn.com for more details.

PAAC Classes

Contact the PAAC Coordinator for the local chapter or Kevin Black to register.

"Perishable Materials" will be held in Alamosa on November 20-22 and in Montrose on November 13-16.

"Ceramics Description & Analysis" will be held in Cortez on November 6-9.

"Rock Art" will be held in Durango on December 11-13.

"Lithics Description & Analysis" will be held in Gunnison on December 4-7.

Colorado Archeological Society Meeting

On October 2-4 in Pueblo this society will hold its annual meeting. Steve Lekson will be the featured speaker at Saturday's banquet.

16th Biennial Jornada Mogollon Conference

This conference will be held October 2-3 in El Paso, TX at the Museum of Archaeology. It covers recent archaeological research in the Jornada Mogollon culture region encompassing western Texas, central New Mexico, and northern Chihuahua, Mexico. Contact Marilyn Guida at (915) 755-4332, GuidaMR@elpastotexas.gov, or www.elpasotexas.gov.

(Continued on page 3)

Lectures & Conferences

(Lectures & Conferences -Continued from page 2)

Moundville Native American Festival

This festival will be held October 7-10 at U. of Alabama's (AL) Moundville Archaeological Park. This should be one of Alabama's top tourism events with a boardwalk nature trail, theater, lodge, and museum with fine Mississippian-era artifacts. (205) 371-2234, <http://moundville.ua.edu/programs> or contact Claudia Cummings at ccummings@ua.edu.

Rocky Mountain Anthropological Conference

This conference will be held October 8-10 at Western State University, Gunnison, with field trips on October 11.

Utah Rock Art Research 29th Annual Symposium

This symposium will be held October 9-12 in Cedar City, Utah. There will be presentations on rock art research and preservation and field trips to local rock art sites. Contact Robert Reed at (801) 566-0741, bobreedclyartist@hotmail.com or www.utahrockart.org.

Plains Anthropological Conference

This conference will be held October 14-17 in Norman, OK. More information at www.ou.edu/cas/archsur/plainsanth.html.

2009 Midwest Archaeological Conference

This conference will be held October 15-18 at the Sheraton Hotel in Iowa City, Iowa. There will be paper presentations, symposia, poster sessions, and archaeological site tours. Contact John Doershuk at (319) 384-0751, johndoershuk@uiowa.edu or www.midwestarchaeology.org.

66th Annual Meeting of Southeastern Archaeological Conference

This conference will be held November 4-7 at Renaissance Riverview Hotel in Mobile, AL. There will be presentations, poster sessions and a half-day symposia on recent archaeological research in the area. Contact Philip Carr at pcarr.seac@gmail.com or www.southeasternarchaeology.org.

American Schools of Oriental Research

The Annual Meeting will be held November 18-21 in New Orleans. For information see www.asor.org.

Museum Exhibits

The Center of Southwest Studies and CDOW, in Partnership with San Juan Mountains Association, Southern Ute Indian Tribe, Sorrell Sky Gallery, and Durango Nature Studies Present Mountain Lion Exhibit.

(Summary, [Pagosa Springs Sun](#), August 20, 2009)

"Mountain Lion!", opened on August 22 to address the need for greater public awareness on the growing issue of human encounters with mountain lions over the last two decades. In a few rare cases, there have been fatalities. The exhibit creates an understanding of the nature of these predators and their historic relation with people, blending science, history and art, including dioramas, fossil representations of extinct cougar relatives, hands-on learning experiences, and the work of leading wildlife photographers, including Robert Winslow and Claude Steelman.

New Mexico History Museum

Santa Fe, NM's newest museum opened this summer, offering numerous interactive, multimedia displays, hands-on exhibits, and vivid stories of New Mexicans. A 96,000-square-foot extension of the 400-year-old Palace of the Governors, the oldest continuously occupied government building in the U.S., focuses on 6 time periods key to the development of New Mexico and the American Southwest and explores how the West's various cultures clashed and blended over 400 years of written history. (505) 476-5200, www.nmhistorymuseum.org.

Anasazi Heritage Center

This center will display through October 31, "The Old Spanish Trail: A Conduit for Change", (970) 882-5600, www.co.blm.gov/ahc.

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

This museum will exhibit *Pirates, Privateers and Freebooters* through January 2010. It shows the 16th to 19th century sea adventur-

Enjoy the Last Warmth of Summer

(Continued on page 4)

Museum Exhibits

(Continued from page 3)

ers along the N. Am. Eastern seaboard and the Caribbean. 514-872-9150 or www.pacmusee.qc.ca.

Smithsonian's National Museum of the American Indian

The Smithsonian has on a long term exhibit the *Return to a Native Place: Algonquin Peoples of the Chesapeake*). This exhibit covers the Algonquin peoples from the 1600s to present. 202-633-1000, www.americanindian.si.edu.

Historic Arkansas Museum

This museum in Little Rock, AR has as a permanent exhibit the “*We Walk in Two Worlds: The Caddo, Osage & Quapaw in Arkansas*,” the story of Arkansas' first people. 501-324-9351, www.arkansashistory.com/exhibits.

Ohio Historical Center

This center in Columbus, OH is displaying long-term the “*Windows to Our Collections: Ohio's Ancient Past*” which contains artifacts such as the Adena Pipe, the mica hand, and the Wray figurine. 614-297-2300, <http://ohsweb.ohiohistory.org/places/c09>.

THE EDITORS' CORNER

Machu Picchu Revealed

(Summary, Wright Water Engineers (WWE) *Currents*, December 2008)

Ruth Wright's new book, *Machu Picchu Revealed* is available at johnsonbooks.com and amazon.com.

Moray Book

(Summary, WWE *Currents*, December 2008)

ASCE Press has contracted with Wright Water Engineers to write a third book about Inca water handling in Peru, *Moray: Ancient Inca Civil Engineering Mystery*. This book is a companion to Ken Wright's ASCE books on Machu Picchu and Tiplon.

The Neighbors of Casas Grandes: Excavating Medio Period Communities of Northwest Chihuahua, Mexico, by Michael E. Whalen and Paul E. Minnis (Summary, *American Archaeology*, Fall 2009)

After the collapse of Chaco Canyon and Mesa Verde, a complex culture flourished in and around Casas Grandes (or Paquimé) in northern Mexico, with its peak dating from about A.D. 1300 to 1450. Even with little excavation, it is widely recognized as a major regional system. This book suggests a much earlier development--perhaps as early as A.D. 1180-- and focuses on the complex relationship between the central city and the outlying areas. Before 1300, regional organization was low, but a well-organized polity formed in the later years.

Chaco and After in the Northern San Juan Excavations at the Bluff Great House

by Catherine M. Cameron (Summary, *American Archaeology*, Fall 2009)

In the early 1980s, archaeologists realized that there was more to the Chaco culture than the community in Chaco Canyon itself. Dozens of Chaco-style settlements were scattered across the San Juan Basin. Long straight roads emanating from the canyon may have connected them into a regional polity. The outlying settlements may be the key for understanding the Chaco Phenomenon. U of Co. archaeologist Catherine Cameron and her team spent six years excavating a Chaco outlier in Bluff, Utah that was constructed in the Chaco style. It consisted of a massive, multi-storied Great House, a great kiva, Chaco-style roads, and other diagnostic features. With the collapse of the re-



(Continued on page 5)

(Editor's Corner—Continued from page 4)

gional Chaco system around A.D. 1130, the Bluff Great House was abandoned, with a marked population decline in the entire northern San Juan region. The book is illustrated with maps, drawings, and photographs that enhance the text.

American Archaeology, Fall 2009 Articles Include:

The Mysterious Towers of the Mesa Verde Anasazi by Tamara Stewart discusses "What purposes did these remarkable structures serve?"

Ancient Cavers by Mike Toner talks about "Prehistoric peoples used caves in the Southeastern United States for centuries".

Embracing Archaeology by Andrea Cooper says that "Though they once had little use for archaeology, the Eastern Band of the Cherokee is now employing it to reveal their history".

Uncovering Early Colonial Life by Paula Neely is about "St. Mary's City, Maryland's first capital, and how it is being revealed by decades of excavating".

Collaborating With Cuba by Wayne Curtis tells how "An unusual Cuban-American project could change assumptions about the island's prehistoric cultures".

Duane Smith's "Images of America -- Mesa Verde National Park"

(Summary, Cortez Journal, September 5, 2009)

Mancos, Durango, and Cortez fought to secure a spot next to what would become Mesa Verde National Park. This, his latest book, describes that rivalry and the women who made the park happen. One Durango chamber map had a star designating Durango big enough to completely obliterate Mancos. The Rio Grande Southern Railroad carried visitors to Mancos, where they transferred to horses and eventually to automobiles to tour the park. The railroad didn't reach Cortez. Construction of the U.S. highway system finally gave Cortez gateway status to the park. Stories of the discovery, excavation, construction, and establishment of the park's Ancestral Puebloan sites are supplemented with more than 200 vintage photographs. Besides park figures like the Wetherills and Superintendent Jesse Nusbaum, Smith describes characters like Virginia McClurg and Lucy Peabody, who worked to get the area protected. The Park didn't officially recognize the group of Colorado women who helped convince President Theodore Roosevelt to create the Park until the 1970s. Smith explains the Ute and Navajo influences at Mesa Verde. Smith has likened his Mesa Verde research to a Sherlock Holmes adventure. A friend told him about Willa Cather's visit to Mancos in 1915. After a visit to the Park, she wrote "The Professor's House" out of her experience at Mesa Verde.

Archaeology News: Near & Far

Colorado Avenue, Grand Junction, Once Home to Bevy of Madams (Summary, Daily Sentinel, August 7, 2009)

The houses in the 200 and 300 blocks of Colorado Avenue in Grand Junction were known as the "Barbary Coast." The four most famous madams were: Broken Jaw Nell, Vanna Harris and Jean Harris, no relation to each other, and Kate Stone. Vanna was slender and nicely dressed in well-tailored clothes and always wore black lace silk stockings and heels. She would walk down Main Street, her back straight, face held high, never looking to the side. Vanna would bring her girls to Alta, where they were measured for clothes, and designs and fabrics were then discussed. When Vanna returned to pick up the garments, she always paid with \$1 bills.

Jean Harris was rather large but always well-dressed. She and her girls frequently checked out the costume jewelry at the then-new Kress Store. Jean's house was in back of the Veterinarian Hospital at Fifth Street and South Avenue and was known as the "Doubledecker", the largest of the prostitution houses. Dr. Lumley checked on Jean often and one day after finding her on the floor with a broken hip, he took her to St. Mary's Hospital and stayed there with her until she died.

Kate Stone was known as Madame Butterfly. When she died, her attorney sold her household belongings at auction. Rumor has it that certain Democratic Party politics were hashed out at the Second and Colorado address of Kate Stone in the 1920s and 1930s. It was no secret that the madams and girls gave generously to most of the charity drives,

(Continued on page 6)

Archaeology News: Near & Far

(Continued from page 5)

but they wanted to remain anonymous.

National Monument Status Considered for Chimney Rock Site (Summary, Durango Herald, August 13, 2009 and Pagosa Springs Sun, August 20, 2009)

Chimney Rock, the most important historical site within Forest Service land, needs better stabilization and a better visitor's center. Chimney Rock's monument status has the support of not only Senators Bennet and Udall and Rep. Salazar, who recently visited the site, but also Interior Sec. Salazar and the USFS. The National Trust for Historic Preservation ("NTHP) and USFS met with Southern Ute Indian Tribal representatives to apprise them of what a national monument designation would mean and to gain support from the Tribe. Although national monuments are usually declared through presidential proclamation, the senators and congressmen intend to push national monument designation for Chimney Rock through Congress. As a national monument, Chimney Rock could see an infusion of federal money, both for initial improvements to the site and for ongoing administration. Currently, the site receives some USFS funds but is largely supported through donations and is mostly staffed by volunteers.

Search Suggests Ancient Elite Class Inhabited Top of Chimney Rock (Summary, Cortez Journal, July 16, 2009 and Durango Herald, August 2, 2009)

Research by a U of Co archaeological team at the Chimney Rock, led by Stan Lekson, suggests the rabbit- and turkey-eating commoners living below the mesa brought the best provisions to those who dwelled on the top. The team spent five weeks digging at the Chimney Rock Great House, which was inhabited between A.D. 1075 and 1130. The team had access to two rooms for the first research dig allowed by the USFS at Chimney Rock since the 1970s. In these rooms they found the remnants of meals to support their theory. Under the rock floors, where the builders would have discarded their trash, archaeologists found the bones of small animals. Above the floor, they found the bones of larger mammals -- elk or deer. They found no tools to indicate the food was prepared in those rooms. Researchers found pieces of burned beams to carbon date to help verify whether the major building episodes correspond with lunar standstills. They found hundreds of tiny ears of burned corn that can be chemically sourced to reveal nutrients in the soil where it was grown. Lekson speculates that corn was grown all over the Four Corners to be transported to Chacoan cities. Past studies have indicated that the timber from the forests around Chimney Rock may have been used in the construction of the Aztec and Salmon ruins near Farmington. Line-of-sight surveys have revealed that signaling between Chimney Rock and Chaco would have been possible from atop Huerfano Peak in New Mexico. Despite these clues, Chimney Rock's inclusion in the Chacoan culture is still debated.

A film crew from *National Geographic* documented the research at Chimney Rock for an upcoming documentary on "Collapse: How Societies Choose to Fail or Succeed," a book by Pulitzer Prize-winning author Jared Diamond.

Fray Angelico Chavez History Library in Santa Fe Showcases Billy the Kid Letters Written in Aftermath of Battle in Southern County (Summary, Daily Times, August 6, 2009)

One letter (from Mach 1881) addressed to Governor Lew Wallace, states: "Dear Sir, I wish you would come down to the jail and see me." The Kid was being held in the Santa Fe jail. The old letter and an earlier letter to the governor are now in a state history library in Santa Fe and available for public viewing. The letters have been out of the public eye for some years. They belonged to the Wallace family before being passed on to various historical organizations. It was recently decided that the most appropriate venue for them was the Fray Angelico Chavez History Library. The letters, in black ink, are signed with the name of William H. Bonney. They were written in the aftermath of the so-called Lincoln County war, a bloody, five-month feud in 1878 between different mercantile interests in the southern New Mexico village of Lincoln. The Kid, a ranch hand, was aligned with one of the factions.

Crow Canyon Archaeological Center Helps Nurture Budding Archaeologists (Summary, Cortez Journal, July 21, 2009)

This program introduces students to archaeology, how it works, how we know what we know, and how we gather and interpret it and combines practical learning with book learning. Cortez native, Dylan Schwindt, enjoyed his Crow Canyon experience so much he got a job there after returning from New York University in 1995. For Schwindt, it all began with a science fair project as a junior at M-CHS. Schwindt said Crow Canyon helped him choose his college. NYU offered him a full scholarship and a \$20,000 research grant. Schwindt took part in the High School Field School, a three-week program Crow Canyon has offered since its beginnings in 1983. Crow Canyon is offering Friday classes in response to the Montezuma-Cortez School District Re-1's four-day school week, at a cost of \$30. Scholarships are available for American Indians and Four Corners students. For more information, visit www.crowcanyon.org or call 565-8975.

(Continued on page 7)

Archaeology News: Near & Far—Cont.

(Continued from page 6)

Pecos Conference Brought 400 to Southwest Colorado (Summary, *Cortez Journal*, August 8, 2009)

David Breternitz of Dove Creek, attending his 53rd Pecos Conference, worked with the University of Colorado field school at Mesa Verde for 13 years and directed the Dolores Archaeological Project at McPhee in the 1970s. At the conference researchers presented 10-minute synopses of their latest findings. The Basketmaker II forum included research of sites spanning the Animas and Upper San Juan Rivers, Colorado, New Mexico, Moab, and the Canyonlands in Utah to Arizona. Fort Lewis College Archaeological Field School director Mona Charles presented the new technologies that have allowed archaeologists to refine the chronological and human biological data for the Durango Basketmakers. Charles said that newer, expanded dates have been found by using more reliable dating sources such as corn or tree-ring dating. These more accurate dates can help fill in the gaps of research, refine, and solidify, or challenge past assumptions. For Dawn Mulhern, an assistant professor of biological anthropology at Fort Lewis, that could lead to questioning bigger assumptions. The Southwest regional director for the Albuquerque-based Archaeological Conservancy, James Walker, was also in attendance to listen. Walker said the Archaeological Conservancy has 15 preserves in Montezuma and Dolores counties alone and 400 sites in 39 states.

Two Local Road Trips Named Among National Geographic Traveler's Best (Summary, *Daily Times*, August 18, 2009)

Vacationers looking for a journey rather than a destination may find themselves in the Four Corners area after two local scenic drives were featured in the September issue. The magazine searched for the world's 50 most beautiful or interesting road trips, or "drives of a lifetime." The Four Corners area and the Navajo Nation both made the cut. The drive includes stops in Winslow, Arizona; Canyon de Chelly; Mexican Water, Utah; the Trail of the Ancients near Cortez, Colorado; Mesa Verde; the San Juan Skyway, and Telluride, Colorado. The Trail of the Ancients is the only national scenic byway set aside by the federal government solely for its archeology. The route stretches for 114 miles in Colorado, and about the same length in Utah. Plans are under way to connect the Trail of the Ancients to portions of the same route in New Mexico and Arizona, linking local attractions such as Aztec Ruins National Monument, Chaco Culture National Historical Park, and Salmon Ruins to the historic trail. The other local route to make the list of "drives of a lifetime" is a 425-mile loop on the Navajo Nation. The dozens of highways cutting across the sprawling, 27,000-square-mile Nation could be one of the West's best-kept secrets. Landmarks specifically mentioned by *National Geographic Traveler* include the dinosaur tracks near Tuba City, Arizona; cliff dwellings at Navajo National Monument; Canyon de Chelly; and Hubbell Trading Post.

Civil War-era Cash Helps South Carolina Make Some Money (Summary, *Durango Herald*, June 12, 2009)

South Carolina officials have quietly picked through boxes of Civil War state currency and auctioned it on e-Bay, providing the state archives with an influx of cash amid tight budgets. About 40 boxes of the currency were supposed to be destroyed more than a century ago, but some of the bills were tucked away in the Statehouse basement and eventually moved to the state archives, largely undisturbed for four decades. The archives has made about \$200,000 selling hundreds of the bills over the last couple of years. Most of that money was made in an auction of uncut sheets of the currency last year. The old money is a little wider, whiter, and lighter than today's paper money. In May, a bill from the Bank of South Carolina worth \$4 when it was issued almost 150 years ago fetched nearly \$400.

Pack String Team Keeps Mules Trucking (Summary, *Cortez Journal*, June 27, 2009)

Time was when pack string team mules was about the only way to get to these parts, but nowadays using mules to haul cargo through the backcountry is a dying art. Glenn Ryan is keeping the mule packing tradition alive and recently taught a weeklong course about the intricacies of hitches and handling pack stock. Ryan leads the Rocky Mountain Specialty Pack String, one of two regional teams kept by the USFS for work projects in areas where machines are prohibited. The recent workshop took place at Vallecito Reservoir. Ryan says proficiency in pack-string transport and other backcountry techniques were once mandatory for Forest Service rangers.

Paleontologists Use T-Rex Footprint to Study Past (Summary, *Daily Times*, July 13, 2009)

The giant size footprint was discovered at the Philmont Boy Scout Ranch near Cimarron in 1983. New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science scientists verified the find and wrote a paper about it in 1994. To this date, the imprint remains the only confirmed T-Rex track in the world. What differentiates the Philmont T-Rex track from others that lived at the same time is that the imprint preserved an impression of three toes and what's called a dew claw -- a small digit that was once a toe that, through evolution, had moved up T-Rex's ankle. Getting the tracks out of Philmont and to

(Continued on page 8)

Archaeology News: Near & Far—Cont.

(Continued from page 7)

a museum will prove difficult because the tracks are located in rock slabs that weigh several tons.

Pagosa Springs' Last Stage Holdup (Summary, Pagosa Springs Sun, June 11, 2009)

Pagosa Country's last stage holdup took place in September of 1892 near the present intersection of Light Plant Road and U.S. 84. The *Pagosa Springs News* reported: "The occurrence took place on top of the first hill beyond Montroy's ranch, where a man behind a tree gave orders. He made the parties get out of the wagon . . . He ripped the mailbag and after taking out what he desired he relieved Mr. Spickard of \$38 cash. . . . They were ordered to lose no time in hitting the road for Amargo . . . They drove on about three miles when they turned back and came back to Pagosa and related their experience." The driver was so impressed with the holdup that he gave up driving stages. Following the holdup of the Creede-Spar City stage a week after the Pagosa Springs holdup, a Canadian citizen by the name of Alexander McKenzie was arrested and charged with both crimes. McKenzie was destitute. In seeking funds for his defense, the courts turned to the British consulate in Denver. After a considerable amount of international pushing and shoving, McKenzie was convicted of the robberies in a Denver court.

Dealer Surrenders Antiquities (Summary, Cortez Journal, August 20, 2009)

Vern Crites, a 74-year-old antiquities dealer from Durango surrendered his vast collection, the second defendant to do so in a sweeping federal investigation of looting and grave-robbing in the Four Corners. His lawyer said he has been collecting artifacts for 50-plus years, as have many people in the Four Corners area. Whether they were legally obtained or not is obviously the issue. Agents, archaeologists, and curators worked into the night to photograph, wrap, and box up the artifacts. The government brought in two moving vans to haul them away. The surrender, together with a similar hand-over earlier this summer by Jeanne Redd of Blanding, Utah, recovers some of the biggest personal collections at the center of a 2 1/2-year sting operation. Crites bragged of having sold pottery collections worth \$500,000 a set, according to search affidavits. Crites traded \$4,800 of artifacts with an undercover operative on August 27, 2008. Crites carefully guarded a collection of sacred Pueblo prayer sticks, telling the informant he could not reveal how he obtained them and wouldn't sell any for fear they could be traced.

Two Defendants in Artifacts Case Receive Probation, Not Prison (Summary, Durango Herald, September 17, 2009)

Two defendants in the federal prosecution of theft and illegal trafficking of Native American artifacts received leniency when a judge rejected the government's request for imprisonment. Jeanne Redd got three years of probation and a \$2,000 fine for her conviction on seven felony counts of plundering artifacts from tribal and federal lands. Redd, 59, pleaded guilty to the charges in July and surrendered 812 boxes of artifacts. The woman's 37-year-old daughter, Jerrica Redd, was sentenced to two years of probation and no fine on three similar felony counts. The women, of Blanding, Utah, were the first to plead guilty among more than two dozen defendants caught up in a 2-1/2 year sting operation. They also were the first to be sentenced.

On Grand Mesa, A Gap in Time (Summary, Daily Sentinel, August 31, 2009)

Is a cave on Grand Mesa a hiding place for Spanish gold, the ancient meeting place of the Utes, or the home of an ancient civilization? From a distance, a rectangular chunk of rock seems to be missing from the lava cap atop Grand Mesa. This interests the Western Investigations Team of the Museum of Western Colorado and Mesa State College. The Western Investigations Team thinks the gap might explain a cryptic 1942 report filed with the USFS and shed light on what the Utes knew of the giant mountain at the east end of the valley. Tradition tells of a great cavern, the Hall of Indian Fame, in Grand Mesa Mountain, in which were held the councils and pow-wows of the Red Skin chiefs and warriors. Even after diligent search, its location remains a mystery to the Pale Face. The team is conducting "a visual survey of Grand Mesa basin areas to investigate the possibility of a cave similar to the USFS description of sandstone walls of Colorado National Monument to the west.

Claudia and Elijah Blair Recall Decades of Work at Trading Posts on Native American Land (Summary, Cortez Journal, September 5, 2009)

Sixty-one years ago and four trading posts later, Blair gained control of Blair's Trading Post in Paige, Arizona, which his family still operates. He had two brothers, and one had married an Indian trader's daughter. His brother sent him a one-way ticket to the trading post in Newcomb, New Mexico, when he landed in Denver from Europe. Working on the reservation border, roughly between the Navajo and Ute tribes, the youngest of three brothers decided to stay on at the trading post, which his brother leased from the tribe. The trading post served a 15 to 20 mile radius, and had a ho-

(Continued on page 9)

Archaeology News: Near & Far—Cont.

(Continued from page 8)

gan if the people had to stay overnight.

Blair's wife, Claudia, bought what the Navajo produced, including arts and crafts, rugs, pottery, jewelry, and livestock. In turn, the mostly Navajo people could buy dry goods, tack, groceries, hay -- even wagons -- on credit, trade or pawn. The trading post supported ceremonies, at least by giving food. They bought an interest in the Aneth Trading post in 1953 and the Dinnebito Trading Post 50 miles east of Tuba City in 1962. Blair traded Navajo rugs to Cortez Flying Services to learn how to fly.

Families Try to Save One-room Schoolhouse in Lochiel, Arizona, Built Around 1918 (Summary, *Cortez Journal*, September 10, 2009)

There was an **official port-of-entry on the border of Mexico** in Lochiel until 1983, when federal officials, citing budget restraints, closed it. The community, southeast of Patagonia in the San Rafael Valley, is made up of only several families. The building where the old one-room school was located is decaying. Among the student chores were cleaning the chalkboards, sweeping the floors, bringing in chopped wood for the stove, and lugging in water from the well. When students needed to be excused, they used an outhouse on the property. Efforts are being made to save the historic school.

Great Sand Dunes, Not Mesa Verde, will Represent Colorado in America the Beautiful Quarters Program.

(Summary, *Cortez Journal*, September 10, 2009)

The United States Mint announced that the America the Beautiful Quarters Program will feature five new quarters per year, each with a park or refuge featured on the "tails" side of the quarter. Colorado's coin will display an image from the Great Sand Dunes National Park and will be issued in 2014.

PAAC Class in Durango

A Rock Art class is being held Dec 11-13 in the Center of Southwest Studies by instructor Kevin Black. Cost is \$12 for the entire weekend. Dead line is 10 days before class. Contact: Peggy Morris at 382-8688 sipapu_72@q.com if you have any questions.

What is PAAC and Why Is It Important?

As stated on the Colorado history-oahp.org website: "PAAC is the Program for Avocational Archaeological Certification. It is a joint program of the Colorado Archaeological Society and the Office of the State Archaeologist of Colorado established in 1978. It allows CAS members and other citizens of Colorado to obtain formally recognized levels of expertise outside of an academic degree program. It also facilitates contributions by avocationalists to public service and assistance in education, governmental management of cultural resources, research and the protection of archaeological resources in Colorado"

It is crucial that we have a PAAC Coordinator to enable us to have Assistant Colorado State Archaeologist Kevin Black come to teach a class each spring and fall. Peggy has arranged with FLC to hold these classes in the Lyceum in the Center of SW Studies on an ongoing basis. The PAAC Coordinator publicizes the classes, strives to fill the minimum number of 10 slots required for each class, collects the \$12 per person fee, and keeps the signup list. The Coordinator works with Kevin to schedule the classes and to be sure everything is arranged and runs smoothly. The biggest benefit of this position for the Coordinator is that he or she is present and able to learn the material for the entire class, which usually runs Friday night, Saturday, and Sunday.

There are 13 different classes including Colorado Archaeology, Basic Site Survey, Ceramics, Lithics, Photography, Lab Methods and more. These are excellent classes allowing you to learn about all aspects of archaeology and can lead to certification that allows you to be an avocational archaeologist. This is very beneficial when volunteering in archaeological surveys, excavations, in museums, or in site stewardship programs. If you would like to have this learning opportunity for yourself and ensure our club is able to continue to hold these classes, please contact Gail Schulz right away to volunteer. Some PAAC Coordinator positions in other chapters are held by co-coordinators so perhaps this could work for you and a friend or partner.

Scientist Tries to Connect Migration Dots of Ancient Southwest



'BIG PICTURE' ARCHAEOLOGY Steve Lekson sees ties between places like Chaco Canyon and other sites that many experts are not ready to accept. By [GEORGE JOHNSON](#) from the New York Times, Published: June 29, 2009

CASAS GRANDES, Mexico

From the sky, the Mound of the Cross at Paquimé, a 14th-century ruin in the Mexican state of Chihuahua, looks like a compass rose — the roundish emblem indicating the cardinal directions on a map. About 30 feet in diameter and molded from compacted earth and rock taken near the banks of the Casas Grandes River, the crisscross arms point to four circular platforms. They might as well be labeled N, S, E and W.

“It’s a hell of a long way from here to

Chaco,” says Steve Lekson, an archaeologist from the [University of Colorado](#), as he sights along the north-south spoke of the cross. Follow his gaze 400 miles north and you reach Chaco Canyon in northwestern New Mexico, a major cultural center occupied from about A.D. 900 to A.D. 1150 by the pueblo people known as Anasazi. Despite the distance, Dr. Lekson believes the two sites were linked by an ancient pattern of migration and a common set of religious beliefs.

But don’t stop at Chaco. Continue about 60 miles northward along the same straight line and you come to another Anasazi center called Aztec Ruins. For Dr. Lekson the alignment must be more than a coincidence.



Steve Lekson, shown at Chimney Rock, Colo., has a theory tying Casas Grandes to Chaco Canyon and Aztec Ruins.

Picture from George Johnson for The New York Times



A decade ago in “The Chaco Meridian: Centers of Political Power in the Ancient Southwest,” he argued that for centuries the Anasazi leaders, reckoning by the stars, aligned their principal settlements along this north-south axis — the 108th meridian of longitude. [In an article this year](#) for Archaeology magazine, he added two older ruins to the trajectory: Shabik’eschee, south of Chaco, and Sacred Ridge, north of Aztec. Each in its time was the regional focus of economic and political power, and each lies along the meridian. As one site was abandoned, because of drought, violence, environmental degradation — the reasons are obscure — the leaders led an exodus to a new location: sometimes north, sometimes south, but hewing as closely as they could to the 108th meridian.

“I think the reason is ideological,” Dr. Lekson said on a recent visit to Paquimé. “The cultural response to something not working is to move north, and when that doesn’t work you move south. And then you move north again and then you move south again, and then you finally say the hell with it, I’m out of here, and you go down to Chihuahua.”

For many of Dr. Lekson’s colleagues that is an awfully big leap. With all the ambiguities involved in interpreting patterns of dirt and rock — the Anasazi left no written history — archaeologists have been more comfortable focusing on a particular culture or a particular ruin. Dr. Lekson is constantly reaching — some say overreaching — to make connections between isolated islands of thought. Scheduled for publication this summer, his new book, “A History of the Ancient Southwest,” will go even further, offering a kind of unified theory of the Native American population movements that have puzzled Southwest archaeologists for many years.

“Steve has definitely been the one who has dragged us kicking and screaming into ‘big picture’ archaeology,” said William D. Lipe, emeritus professor of archaeology at [Washington State University](#). “In many ways, Steve’s ideas and publications have driven much of the intellectual agenda for Southwestern archaeology over the last 20 or more years.” That does not mean, Dr. Lipe added, that he buys the idea of the Chaco meridian.

On a walk around Paquimé, Dr. Lekson points out his evidence. Casas Grandes, the Spanish name for the ruins, means “big houses,” and the multistory structures remind him of the palatial “great houses” at Chaco and Aztec. Inside the structures, people moved from room to room through T-shaped passages like those at Anasazi sites. At the House of the Pillars, a row of three colonnades formed a grand entranceway. “No one around here had colonnades except at Chaco,” Dr. Lekson says. A coincidence or a connection?

Paquimé also hints at other influences. Ball courts, used for ceremonial games, are typical of those found in southern Mexico and Central America. Effigy mounds, in which dirt was shaped to form birds and other figures, resemble those built long ago by Native Americans in the Ohio Valley. A long sinuous row of mud and stone called the Mound of the Serpent seems to undulate like a snake.

“This thing runs north and south,” Dr. Lekson says. “I love it.” He points toward a prominent hill on the horizon called Cerro de Moctezuma. Barely visible on its summit are the remains of a centuries-old stone watchtower. Nearby, he says, is another snakelike mound running north and south. “It’s not as easy to see,” he says. “You have to believe it.”

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
Individual (no SWL)	SJBAS \$15.00 + CAS \$ 8.00 = \$23.00
Family (with SWL)	SJBAS \$20.00 + CAS \$20.00 = \$40.00
Family (no SWL)	SJBAS \$20.00 + CAS \$10.00 = \$30.00



www.sjbas.org