

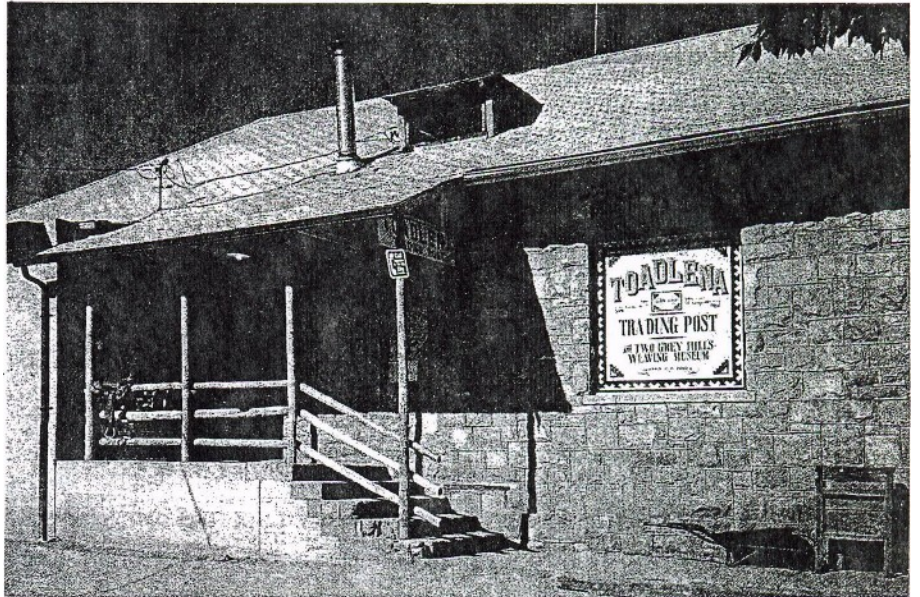
THE MOKI MESSENGER

NEWSLETTER OF THE SAN JUAN BASIN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
Chapter of Colorado Archaeological Society

May 2008

The next meeting of the San Juan Basin Archaeological Society, our local chapter of the Colorado Archaeological Society, will be on Thursday, May 8th, and will commence at 7:00 PM. This will be held at Fort Lewis College's Center of Southwest Studies, in Room 120 (the Lyceum), our usual meeting place. The gathering will be highlighted by a lecture by Larry Nordby, a retired National Park Service archaeologist, who many of our members met during his long years as a research specialist at Mesa Verde. Mr Nordby will discuss "Cliff Dwellings: Archaeology from the Ground Up", a talk concerning the famous puebloan structures so common in our region, such as those at Mesa Verde National Park, the Tonto and Navajo National Monuments of Arizona, the Gila Cliff Dwellings of New Mexico, and the abundant canyons of the Ute Tribal Park and southeastern Utah. Because of their remarkable degree of preservation in sheltered alcoves, these picturesque architectural features provide considerable information regarding the lives, culture and social activities of those Native Americans who inhabited the Southwest during the 11th through 13th Centuries. This talk should be of special interest to those many members of our group who go on our chapter's outings and have visited so many of these unique habitations.

We have an exciting field trip scheduled for Friday, May 16th (note the date change from that listed in our "2008 Tentative Outings Schedule" leaflet); this will be a day trip to the famous Toadlena Trading Post in northwestern New Mexico, on the east side of the Chuska Mountains. Toadlena (Navajo for "Water Bubbling Up") is one of the older trading posts of the Southwest. Originally established by Merritt and Bob Smith in 1909 and subsequently operated by George Bloomfield, Fred Carson, and several other Indian traders, it is now owned by



Mark Winter, who has faithfully restored the interior in a manner that maintains the historic atmosphere of an old time trading post. In addition to operating the post to serve area residents and visitors, Mr Winter has created a " museum that highlights the work of the weavers of the region. The Two Gray Hills weaving collection that forms the basis of the museum exhibits has been in the making for many years under Winter's direction, and is one of the finest of such displays ever assembled. Trip leaders Ralph and Jan Blanchard have scheduled a special tour of the post and museum, which will be followed by lunch and then an easy hike to nearby ruins, and a visit to a Navajo weaver in her hogan may also be included in our itinerary. Our group will carpool and depart from Durango's Santa Rita Park at 7:00 AM, and return late that afternoon; local grandmothers (when advised in advance) will prepare a lunch (\$15) for those who do not intend to bring their own.

A second trip for our chapter members is scheduled for May 22nd (Thursday) through May 24th, a three-day affair; this will be focused upon archaeological and historical sites in the vicinity of Santa Fe, New Mexico. Please see the notice on page 4, as provided by our trip leaders Andy and Marion Simon, for details regarding what we expect to see and do on this outing. You should also contact the Simons regarding motel accommodations for our group – it would be preferable, and certainly more companionable, if all of our people could, stay at the same motel.

And we have a third SJBAS trip planned for this busy month: on the weekend of May 30-31 a group of hardy volunteers will go to the Ute Tribal Park (the so-called "Other Mesa Verde") for our chapter's annual service project. This will involve spending Saturday doing trail work or other chores under the supervision of the Park Maintenance Manager, after which the gang will spend the evening at the park's campground and then, as a reward for their labors, they will be given a special guided tour of rarely-seen archaeological sites in the park.-Jim and Kathleen Shadell, who are organizing this excursion, will tell us more about the trip plans, and have a sign-up sheet, at our May meeting, or you can call them (970-247-1755). for further information and about adding your name to the trip roster.

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Looking further ahead: don't forget about our chapter's forthcoming journey to the Mescalero Apache country that is scheduled for early June; details regarding this exciting affair, as organized by Paul and Beverly Dittmer, were provided in the last couple of issues of our newsletter and at previous meetings of our chapter. If you wish to go on this five-day excursion and haven't already signed the roster and made your reservations, you might call the Dittmers (970-375-9568 or 817-421-1496) and ask if there are still places for late signees

An added note: the date of our forthcoming trip to Raven Ridge in the Bayfield area, originally planned for sometime in May, has now been changed to Friday, July 11th, so mark your calendar accordingly. This will be a day trip, involving a somewhat strenuous hike up a steep ridge to view some early Pueblo-I sites; this one or two-mile hike may be a bit difficult for some of our people, but should be rewarding. Trip leaders Gail and Marlo Schulz (970-259-3249) will tell us more about this trip when we gather for our May or June meeting, or you can telephone them for more details and regarding signing the roster.

A reminder: if you prefer to receive your monthly Moki Messenger by E-mail rather than by post as before, and haven't already made arrangements to do so, you should contact Bud Beebe at Anasazi@frontier.net and ask for a trial run so as to verify that your equipment can handle this procedure.

Santa Fe and Surroundings Field
Trip on May 22,23,24, 2008

The trip starts on May 22, at 9 A.M. to tour La Cieneguilla pueblo and petroglyph sites with Paul Williams, BLM Archaeologist. This is an all day affair.

On May 23, we will have guided tours of Pecos National Monument of the ruins and Civil War sites. Again, this will be most of the day.

On May 24, we will visit Kuapa and surrounding sites^vwith David Eck, Trust Land Archaeologist. This day trip will start at 9 A.M. and last most of the day.

Suggested motel accommodations are in Santa Fe on the south end of Cerillos Road near Airport road: Comfort Inn (4312 Cerillos, 505-474-7330), La Quinta (4298 Cerillos, 505-471-1142), Best Western Inn of Santa Fe (3650 Cerillos, 505-43 8-3 822), Fairfield Inn (4150 Cerillos, 505-474-4442). Another choice is Sunrise Springs, a lovely quiet south of Santa Fe (800-955-0028) where we can negotiate the rate if the whole group wants to stay there.

This trip will involve hiking over some rocky terrain and participants need to be in

reasonably good shape and bring proper hiking gear[^] hats, sunscreen, and water. All day trips will involve packing a lunch. Because these are guided tours to some restricted areas, there will be a limit of 24 participants. The following people are signed up already: Rae Haynes, Christine and Rich Dourte, Linn and Pam Butler, Bill and Letha Cagle, Erma Ruth, John Sanders and Sheila van Sickle, Please let me know if you are still interested!

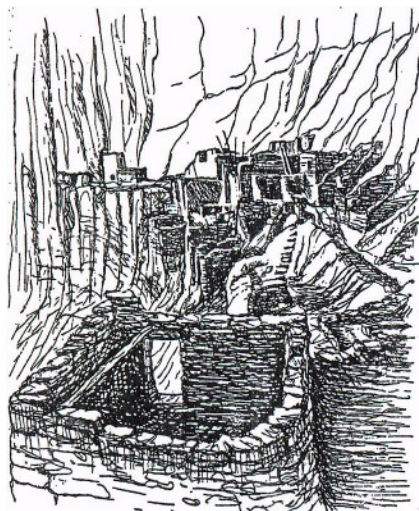
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Please contact Marion or Andy Simon for additional information at 505-822-0594 or 970-749-2927.

A dozen adventurous members of our chapter visited southeastern Utah in mid-April, where they explored portions of Comb Wash, Butler Wash, Cottonwood Wash, and the rocky country in and above Arch Canyon. A rich and varied assortment of Anasazi ruins and rock art panels were examined, and the group enjoyed a presentation by Laura Kochanski, Bureau of Land Management archaeologist, who explained what her agency was doing to study and preserve the abundant cultural remains in the San Juan County district. This was a delightful and informative excursion, blessed with fine springtime sunshine and a vast amount of splendid scenery. Thanks for organizing this outing, Bill and Letha Cagle, and for finding the comfortable campsite at the mouth of Mule Canyon. We trust that, in the future, you guys can take our members on more trips into this fascinating portion of the Southwest.

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An unusually large contingent of SJBAS members - 22 of them - joined up for our second April trip, a journey to the Dinetah, the ancestral homeland of the Navajo in the rugged canyon-and-mesa country of northwestern New Mexico. The primary objective of this outing was to examine and understand the background of the Frances Pueblito, an early 18th Century masonry building located in a defensive position upon the rim of a steep cliff face. Trip leader John Sanders gave the group a brief talk about the site, and about the Navajo occupation of the region. This discussion was later followed up by a second talk in the churchyard of the village of Blanco, where Mary Jane Clark shared memories of her experiences when growing up as a young Anglo girl in one of the more isolated Hispanic communities of the San Juan Valley. Our people truly enjoyed, while cruising the abominable dirt roads of the area, the magnificent scenery of this part of New Mexico, and our trip leader was never lost (frequently confused, but never lost) despite the perplexing network of well pad turnoffs, locked gates, and a burning gas field truck which blocked one of the main access routes to Frances Mesa. In view of the interest shown by our trippers in the Frances Ruin, consideration might be given to scheduling additional excursions, perhaps next year, to some of the many other Navajo pueblitos of the Dinetah.



Our chapter's third and final adventure of this busy month was a late-April journey to northeastern Arizona. On the first day of this outing our trippers visited the historic Shonto Trading Post, located in a cozy cottonwood grove at the bottom of Ten Mile Canyon. This post was established almost a century ago by Joe Lee and John Wetherill; it was subsequently operated by the Babbitt brothers and other owners, and is now the property of Al Grieve, who gave our group a talk concerning the history of the post, along with a fascinating series of anecdotes regarding the trials and tribulations of the managers of such an isolated establishment. After car-camping and enjoying a festive happy hour at the scenic and commodious campground at the nearby Navajo National Monument, our group – on the following morning – gathered at the monument's visitor center and enjoyed a couple of videos that displayed the scenic and archaeological treasures of the area. Our people were then given a special, tour of the huge

Betatakin Ruin Betatakin Ruin by Volunteer Ranger Jim Black. Betatakin (a Navajo

name meaning "Ledge House") is situated in a deep alcove, and dates to the last couple of decades prior to the Anasazi evacuation of the Four Corners country. It is considerably more visually impressive than such better known cliff houses as those at Mesa Verde, and is one of the largest of such structures in the Southwest. This was the highlight of our trip, a truly delightful outing organized by Jill Ward and Beth Cugini. Thanks for this springtime treat, Jill and Beth!

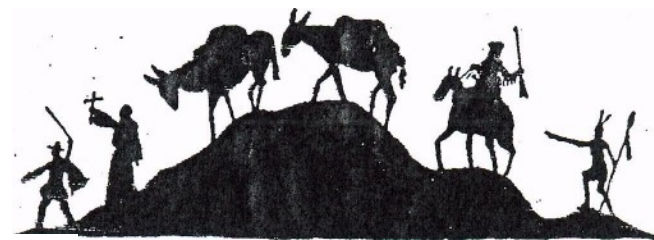
Those people in our chapter who are fascinated by rock art – and that appears to be a substantial portion of the membership – should be interested in two important conferences that will be held in our part of the Southwest this month. The first of these, scheduled for May 2nd through May 4th, will be the Colorado Rock Art Association Annual Symposium. This will convene in La Junta, Colorado, at the Koshare Ki^{va} and Museum, an institution that houses a world-class collection of Native American art and artifacts. During the first two days (Friday and Saturday) of this meeting a number of distinguished rock art scholars will present papers on topics related to the archaeology, rock art and ethnohistory of the region; there will also be performances by the famous Koshare Dancers. And on May 4th (Sunday) a varied assortment of field trips and self-guided tours have been arranged to permit the conference guests to become acquainted with the rock art and historical features of the La,~ Junta area. Also, if you are interested in attending this affair, you just might also wish to add an extra day to your trip and plan to spend Thursday evening, May 1st, in nearby Pueblo, when (at 7:00 PM) the Pueblo Archaeological and Historical Society will host a talk concerning "Pigments of the Imagination: Rock Paintings in Canyon de Chelly", to be given by Dr Larry Loendorf at the Robert Hoag Memorial Library.

The second rock art conference of this month will be held in Farmington, at the Best Western Inn, on the Memorial Day weekend, May 23rd through May 26th; this location should be somewhat more convenient for the greater number of our chapter members who live in southwestern Colorado and northwestern New Mexico. This gathering will be the 35th Annual Conference of the American Rock Art Research Association, and will also feature lectures, field trips, poster displays, a banquet and other activities relating to the study and appreciation of Native American petroglyphs and pictographs. John Sanders (970-259-0841) can provide further information about the agendas of these two conferences, plus

details regarding registration fees and accommodations in both Pueblo and Farmington. Perhaps we can organize car pools to these gatherings – will any of you readers volunteer to do this?

Several lectures that should be of interest to you Moki Messenger readers are scheduled for afternoons or evenings at local institutions during this month, as follows. On Tuesday, May 8th (sorry about the date conflict with that of our regular monthly SJBAS meeting!) there will be a talk by Edward Jolie concerning "in the Shadows of Pueblo Bonito and Aztec Ruin: Ritual Basketry from the Grants Basket Site"; this will be at 7:00 PM, at Aztec Ruins National Monument. On Thursday, May 15th, also at 7:00 PM, Dr Floyd O'Neil will discuss "Oral Histories of the Ute Mountain Utes" at the Cortez Cultural Center, at 25 Market Street, Bruce Hucko will tell stories about "A Gesture of Kinship: Growing Up in Montezuma Creek" at 2:00 o'clock Sunday afternoon, May 18th, at the Anasazi Heritage Center near Dolores. And at 7:00 PM Thursday, May 29th, Dr Kelly Hays-Gilpin will give a lecture at the Aztec National Monument auditorium regarding "Butterfly Girls and Farmer Boys: Gender Roles in the Ancient Pueblos" (what a catchy title). These several talks are all a part of the series entitled "All Our Relations: Native American Patterns of Kin and Community". If you'd like to find out more about these lectures, or about other forthcoming talks in this series, please contact Mesa Verde National Park at 970-529-4632. And here's a bit of good news – the price is right; admission to these talks is free!

Do note: the date for the Old Spanish Trail Conference, which was listed as April 19th in the previous issue of the Moki Messenger, has now been changed to May 10th, a Saturday. We'll tell you more about the plans for this event at our May meeting, or you can call Julie Tarpley-Booth (970-247-7456) for information. And, to dispel what has confused some of our members, this May conference is, to the best of your editor's knowledge, a purely local affair that is sponsored by the Fort Lewis College's Center of Southwest Studies, and is not the same event as the 15th Annual National Conference of the Old Spanish Trail Association, which is to be held in Espanola, New Mexico, in early June, as listed below. You may call Pat Kuhloff (505-466-4871) for details regarding the national conference agenda and registration; John Sanders (970-259-0841) can also tell you more about both this conference and about the Old Spanish Trail Association.



OU> SPANISH TRAIL ASSOCIATION

15th Annual National Conference
June 5, 6, 7, 8, 2008 Thursday to Sunday
Sponsored by Salida Del Sol Chapter OSTA

Ohkay Owingeh Resort and Conference Center, Espanola, New Mexico (formerly San Juan Pueblo Center)

Theme: At the Beginning - Sheep, Wool and Mules, Packing and the Trail

Man and mule hit the trail in the fall each year carrying bundles of New Mexico's handsome woolen weavings to trade for California's abundant but little prized horses and mules, then in the early spring the long trail drive back to New Mexico are the setting for real adventure. The sheep and resultant goods, the Mexicans from New Mexico with their pack mule trains, the Indians: Pueblos, Utes, Apaches, Navajos, Paiutes and Mohaves, the Californios; the weather and the landscape all made for some of the best and the hardest of life in the Mexican southwest. The Old Spanish Trail was the overland joining of two of Mexico's main outposts.

This year's national conference will be oriented around the beginning of the trail here in northern New Mexico and the animals, goods and people who traveled the trail and connected the Southwest with the west coast of North America.

For questions call: Pat Kuhlhoff 505-466-4877/ e mail pglk@cybermesa.com