

# COLORADO COUNCIL OF PROFESSIONAL ARCHÆOLOGISTS

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## NEWSLETTER

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### PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Marcia J. Tate

A colleague recently suggested that the subject of networking should be addressed in this column. There is no question of the value of such activities to those in our profession, where informal, person-to-person networking is used for the general dissemination of information, for problem solving and to sound out new ideas, and as a crisis management tool. In this way we share a wealth of information effectively and quickly, avoiding the costly delays that often accompany more formal communication with companies, agencies, etc.

We can all think of dozens of examples where a phone call has brought attention to a field crisis (i.e., a vandalized site) and resulted in quick action to mediate the situation. And where would we be if we could not quickly and informally consult a colleague about some new idea or problem? As an example, in the last year individual members of several state archaeological societies have been informally discussing the utility of forming a coalition of state organizations. There has now been a formal proposal for a regional council that, to date, would include organizations in Colorado, Utah, Arizona, and New Mexico.

There is a problem in that the need for this vital exchange of information increases commensurately with our workload, just when there is the least amount of time to commit to it. This is precisely when a more formal form of networking is needed, one that will effectively reach more people. In this regard, we already have in place two mechanisms which have, in recent years, been under-utilized.

First, there is this newsletter. For general types of information known or planned in advance (i.e., meeting dates, publication information, public outreach events, etc.) the newsletter will inform all of our members and may result in broader and welcome participation. Also, members, editorials or relevant issues are invited. The newsletter can be a sounding board if we are willing to use it as such.

Second, for both the dissemination of information and for problem solving and crisis management, we should explore the idea of some type of informal clearing house arrangement with the State Archaeologist. As most of you will

remember, that office in earlier years served as a hub around which many activities, not formally in its work plan, revolved. The archaeological community benefitted from this and should seek to renew and expand this relationship in mutually acceptable and beneficial ways.

### ANNOUNCEMENTS

#### CCPA ANNUAL MEETING - 1988

The 1988 Annual Meeting of the Colorado Council of Professional Archaeologists will be held in Grand Junction on March 11-12, 1988, on the Mesa College Campus. A Friday evening dinner at the Cross Orchard Living History Farm (a National Register property) will include a catered barbeque supper and a talk by Brian O'Neil on the historic archaeological excavations which he directed at the farm.

Paul Nickens is organizing a symposium on Ute archaeology. Although papers have been solicited for the session, Paul would like to hear from those people who have data to contribute. It is anticipated that the papers will be made available in a published format following the meeting.

It is not too soon to begin submitting abstracts for contributed papers which will be given in an open session. You are encouraged to submit abstracts by January, 1988 so that appropriate arrangements for facilities can be made.

Abstracts and any other useful ideas may be submitted to:

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#### CCPA NEWSLETTER

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Why is it that archaeologists fail to command the respect of the general public that is normally accorded to other professionals? I get tired of hearing archaeology and archaeologists maligned and insulted by people who neither understand what archaeology is about nor how much training, education, and experience is required to attain a truly professional level in this field. When I consider the years of struggle and deprivation which is the lot of most students who manage to make their way successfully through the academic maze, the demands that are made of them, and the compromises that are necessitated by the limited professional opportunities, I fail to be amused when I am referred to either in the local press or in person as an "archy", or read glowing accounts of local pot-hunters and how great they are as opposed to the archaeologist. During the introduction to a recent lecture I was invited to give, I heard archeologists referred to as "archys", and even though it was done in a joking manner, it didn't set too well. I took it in as good humor as I could, but could not resist asking the fellow who introduced me, who was an engineer, how members of his profession would react if they were referred to popularly as "engies". Maybe after a lot of years in archaeology, I am getting a bit paranoid, but I get piqued at the failure of the general public, and of many of our academic colleagues as well, to take archaeology seriously.

It is true that there are some among us who don't really deserve to be taken seriously, but that hardly sets us apart from other professions. Maybe it is because we are a non-profit kind of activity (de facto if not intentional) that we elicit this negative attitude. Certainly we are not getting rich, nor do many of us hope to, and this probably does not make much sense to a society in which greed and self-interest are the prevailing norms. But most academic pursuits are non-profit, and yet their practitioners do not face the same degree of ridicule that archaeologists do.

Maybe the answer is that we, unlike our other academic colleagues, operate in a more visible world. Few of us are content to remain cloistered in the ivory towers of universities, but prefer, instead, to pursue as much of our careers as possible in the field -- in the dirt and grime of excavation, where we do attract a lot of attention. We are more visible, and probably more inexplicable, and the common reaction to something not understood is to ridicule it.

I suppose I ought to take comfort in the many examples in Western civilization of people who were ridiculed by a public who found them odd, or strange, or even threatening. What greater example, after all, than Charles Darwin? (Now there was a threat!) If we look to our ancestry as a science, we can see the tremendous opposition that the early archaeologists, paleontologists, geologists, and other scientists, faced when they began to amass their evidence of a world far older and far more complex than traditional orthodoxy would allow. After all, who were the devils who, with their stratigraphy, fossils, and primitive men, were trying to undermine the very basis of society? People didn't much like them then. They don't much like them now.

The more I think about it, the more a certain hostility and lack of respect makes sense. After all, how many folks watch Nova as opposed to the PTL Club? I guess there is the answer. And if you have to be a Jim or a Tammy, who the hell wants to be popular anyhow?

jes

## POETRY CORNER

The interest in poetry among Colorado archaeologists appears to be continuing. Here is the most recent contribution:

## THE UNWHOLESOME FOLSOM

He split the stone with a mighty blow,  
Inspecting its grain and color,  
Then taking the slab, he tapped it so  
It rang with a bell-like clamor.

And he well knew it tested true,  
Its sound was crystal clear,  
And then he rapped its edge a tap,  
and a flake flew from the rear.

And then he sent another spent  
Flake from that ribboned stone,  
And then another and still another,  
Each sliver, razor honed.

Then, squinting in the glaring sun,  
He turned the piece around,  
Its shape improved with chips removed  
That fell upon the ground.

Putting down his hammer stone  
He searched for his baton,  
The antler wand, still heavy,  
And his work continued on.

With his sledge, he ground the edge  
He knew what it would take,  
And then again, he ground the rim,  
And removed a thinning flake.

He held the point before him,  
And nimbly flipped it o'er,  
Then chose a lighter flaker  
With which to do some more.

The purple stone was nearly done,  
The knapper now pressed chips.  
He use a fine deer antler tine;  
He pursed his sweating lips.

With care he set the antler point,  
With measured force he pressed,  
Each flake withdrew, just as he knew,  
The knapper met the test.

He set the stone against a bone,  
To give it some support,  
And then a careful measured tap,  
But the flute was much too short.

The sweat was dripping from his brow,  
And tenseness filled the sky.  
He took another careful aim,  
And then he let it fly.

Ten thousand years have passed away  
Since this worker made that hit,  
and shattered alibates about,  
And the Indian hollered, "Shit!"

- Bill Tate

COLORADO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY NEWS

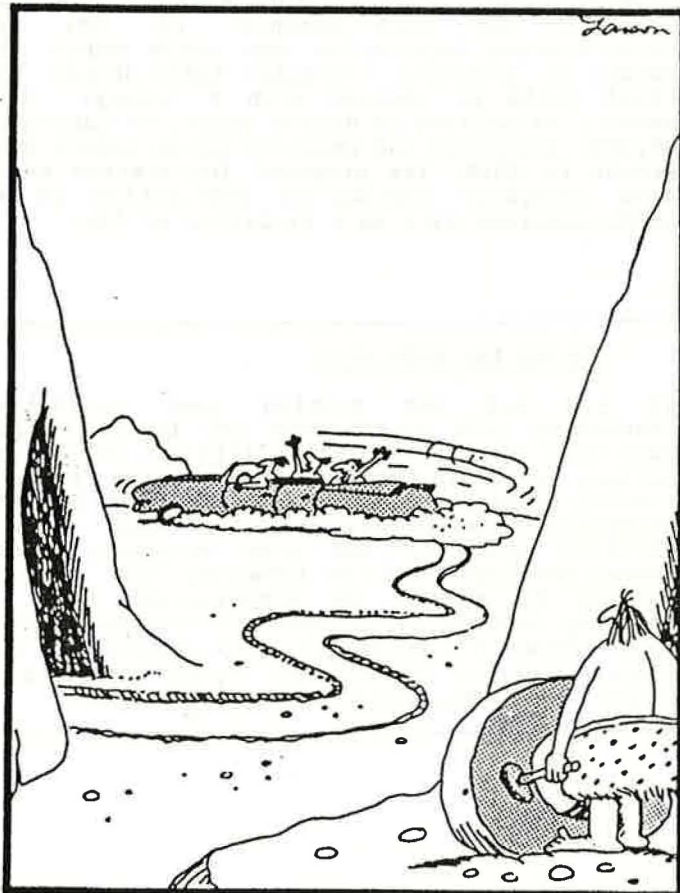
As noted in the last CCPA newsletter, the CAS has plans for several events and publications in the coming months. Council members are invited and encouraged to participate in all CAS activities.

State Fair The CAS is coordinating archaeological exhibits for the Colorado State Fair, where we have been allotted 15,000 square feet of exhibit space. Scheduled to run from August 28 through September 8, 1987, a wide range of Colorado institutions involved in archaeology will provide exhibit materials. In addition to CAS, these include the Colorado Historical Society, Denver Museum of Natural History, Colorado State University, University of Southern Colorado, Fort Lewis College, University of Colorado, University of Colorado Museum, the Forest Service, and the Bureau of Land Management.

Annual Meeting The annual meeting of the Colorado Archaeological Society will be held October 9-11, 1987 at the Howard Johnson South in Denver. We are still accepting papers for presentation October 10. If interested please contact Bill Harris at 1605 Mesa, Montrose, Colorado 81401.

Rock Art Symposium Publication Private funding has been made available for the Denver Museum of Natural History and the Denver Chapter of CAS, co-sponsors of the successful April 1987 symposium, to publish the invited papers as a special CAS memoir.

Marcia J. Tate



TREASURER'S REPORT - FISCAL YEAR 1986-1987

Fiscal year 1986-1987 ended March 31, 1987. Receipts and expenses are summarized as follows:

Receipts

Current Dues	\$735.00
Meeting Registration	436.00
Interest	347.05
Contributions	52.00

TOTAL GROSS RECEIPTS \$1570.05

Disbursements

Postage	\$ 13.20
Telephone	53.44
Supplies	2.00
Bank Charges/Checks	4.85
Newsletter Expenses	338.48
Misc. Mailings/Copying	3.40
Meeting Expenses	239.62
Exec. Committee Expenses	6.57
Guest Travel	36.74
Special Functions	250.00

TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS \$948.30

Net Receipts over Disbursements: \$621.75

The final balance sheet for FY 68-87 is as follows:

	<u>Assets</u>	
Cash in Banks	\$6438.93	
Total Cash Accounts		\$6438.93
Total Fixed Assets		0.00
Accounts Receivable	0.00	
TOTAL ASSETS		\$6438.93
	<u>Liabilities/Fund Balance</u>	
Accounts Payable	\$3.50	
Fund Balance	\$5813.68	
Current Receipts	621.75	
TOTAL LIABILITIES/FUND BALANCE		\$6438.93

Total paid memberships for calendar year 1986 were 74, an increase of 16% over the 64 members who paid dues in 1985. Fifty-five persons registered for the March 1987 annual meeting in Durango, up 28% from the 43 registrants at the 1986 meeting in Fort Morgan. In summary, fiscal year 1986-1987 reversed the downtrend of the previous two years, with healthy increases in membership and meeting attendance. Receipts and disbursements yielded concomitant increases of 32% and 22%, respectively. Interest income continues to climb as a result of the growing CCPA account balance. Interest income is up 17.5% over the previous year, and total assets show an 11% increase over fiscal year 1985-1986.

Respectfully submitted,

Gail S. Firebaugh  
August 15, 1987

## REGIONAL NEWS

### Plains

Powers Elevation is nearing completion of the fieldwork portion of the data recovery program undertaken for the City of Aurora at Site 5AH380. The site, located on the plains east of Denver, is a Woodland base camp with four dateable occupations. A date of 1060 ± 80 B.C. was obtained from the most recent occupation level during the testing phase in 1986.

Marcia J. Tate

### Southwest Area

Mesa Verde National Park has been long recognized as a major area of occupation by the prehistoric Anasazi, but that occupation has never been traced farther back than Basketmaker III (Modified Basketmaker). The Anasazi occupation has seemingly suddenly appeared at that stage without any antecedents despite the known presence of earlier Anasazi, Archaic, and even Paleo-Indian peoples in adjacent areas. A recent resurvey of a small area proposed for visitor parking near the park entrance, however, has disclosed an occupation which appears to have been part of the poorly-known Archaic stage in southwestern Colorado. A scattering of surface lithic artifacts and what appear to be several nearly buried hearths all seem to match closely Archaic materials found elsewhere. No dating is possible at this time, but this non-ceramic occupation seems to clearly pre-date anything recognized in the park prior to this survey. The fact that the area had been surveyed earlier as part of the general inventory of park lands, suggests that other earlier sites may also be present which have gone unrecognized.

Jack E. Smith

### WHAT ARE YOU DOING OUT THERE?

This is your newsletter, but it can serve you only if you supply the news. We have a lot of dues-paying members, and they are presumably active archaeologists. We would like to know what you are doing, finding, supporting, opposing, whatever. This newsletter is a vehicle for keeping us together and informed about what we are all doing. So find a post card and jot down a brief summary of what is happening in your part of the world and send it to the Editor. News, comments, criticisms, complaints, whatever you are involved with, are of interest to others. Help keep them informed. The newsletter comes out (more or less) on time on a quarterly basis. The next issue is scheduled for November, 1987. Send your items by October 31 and you can see your name in print. For the February 1988 issue, the deadline will be January 31, 1988. Do it; we need your help.

### ANTHROPOLOGIST SELF-INTERVIEW PROJECT

An interesting item comes from State Archaeologist Leslie Wildesen concerning a proposal which initially appeared in the April 1985 Anthropology Newsletter, entitled "A Do-it-Yourself Proposal". This, as the author, Robert W. Ehrich, states, had begun as a project

to organize formal interviews with older anthropologists "... with a view to salvaging recollections of the preceding generation of teachers and colleagues now dead before such personal memories become irretrievable lost." However, the project has expanded into a self-interview program which welcomes contributions from anthropologists of any age. The National Anthropological Archives at the Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC 20560, will serve as a repository for tapes, documents and other material related to this project. Details on the project may be obtained either from Robert W. Ehrich, Box 475, Fitzwilliam, NH 03447, or from James Glenn of the National Anthropological Archives at the Smithsonian. Ehrich will also be available at the American Anthropological Association meetings in December, in case you plan to attend. Materials being solicited are both autobiographical (general background, college years, post college/graduate school, professional and research career) and personal insights into one's teachers, colleagues, former students, and associates. If you are interested in participating, contact one of the individuals mentioned above. Even if you are not yet "relatively aged", you might want to share your recollections of those who are or who have passed on. In any case, sitting down to write your autobiography, even in a brief outline form, helps bring back a lot of things you might have forgotten. Besides, you might become famous one day, and such an archive would be valuable to your biographers.

### TOUGHER LAWS AGAINST LOOTERS

Another item contributed by Michael Piontkowski concerns an effort to toughen the laws against looting archaeological sites on federal lands. U.S. Senators William Armstrong (R. CO) and Pete Domenici (R. NM) are co-sponsoring legislation that would reduce the amount of artifacts illegally taken before the thief could be charged with a felony. This amount, calculated in dollar value, is currently \$5,000. Armstrong and Domenici would reduce that amount to \$500. The proposed legislation would also recognize looting or destruction of an archaeological site as a violation of law.

### PLEASE PAY YOUR DUES

If you are not getting your newsletter (including this one), maybe you forgot to pay your dues for 1987. Don't be left out of all the action; send in your \$10.00 Voting Members (including Charter Voting Members) or your \$7.50 Associate Members, and you won't miss another exciting issue of the CCPA Newsletter, the Annual Meetings, and the knowledge that you are helping to support an organization that is uniquely devoted to Colorado archaeology. Send your checks to Treasurer Gail Firebaugh, BLM Casper District Office, 951 North Poplar St., Casper, WY 82601. You'll be glad you did.

#### ADDENDUM

The following Forest Service Update, submitted by Steve Sigstad, was inadvertently misplaced while the newsletter was being assembled, and reappeared only after the printing was done. Apologies to you, Steve.

Jes

#### FOREST SERVICE UPDATE

We are currently making plans for a tri-Regional CRM Workshop to be held in the Four Corners area, in the Fall of 1988. This will involve, primarily the CRM specialists from the FS Rocky Mountain, Southwest and Intermountain Regions. It is shaping up to be somewhat of a big deal.

The Regional Office and the Pike/San Isabel National Forests are working with Bill Buckles on a plan to inventory the rock art sites in the Comanche National Grassland. These sites, or some of them, have recently been receiving a lot of attention from the public and vandalism is a growing problem. It is our view that in order to get control of and properly manage these sites, we must first get a handle on the size and nature of the resource.

Bill Kight, shared services archeologist, White River National Forest, in concert with the Regional Office and CAS is working on plans to conduct test excavations, this summer, at the townsite of Independence on Independence Pass. Independence is on the National Register of Historic Places but the nature of the subsurface components is largely unknown. Anyone wishing to participate in these excavations, as a volunteer, is urged to contact Bill Kight, at the BLM Glenwood Springs Resource Area Office in Glenwood Springs.

A Programmatic Agreement between the Regional Office, in behalf of the National Forests in Colorado, the Colorado State Historic Preservation Officer and the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation is in preparation. This agreement is designed to address Section 106 compliance and is modelled after and will contain elements of other programmatic agreements in the state and in other Regions.

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