



COLORADO COUNCIL OF PROFESSIONAL ARCHÆOLOGISTS

NEWSLETTER

VOL 8, NO. 2

JULY 1986

PRESIDENT'S CORNER

by Susan M. Collins

Was it Gerald Ford who used the expression, "Now more than ever"? Colorado archaeologists may or may not wish to join the Republican party, but this professional community seems badly in need of a renewed commitment. In the face of increasing public misapprehension and managerial hostility, we need to assure each other that we are wasting neither our time nor anyone's money. We are dedicated to achieving an understanding of the past, because it is important to have perspective in our lives, and it is important responsibly to offer information about the past to those who may want or need it.

The Colorado Council of Professional Archaeologists is a network of individuals who share similar concerns and face similar challenges in our working lives. We have the potential for a strong advocate voice, and we have been successful in expressing our concern for threatened cultural sites. While some members express frustration that the organization cannot solve all of the problems that we face, other non-member professionals shy away from the group as "too political." Some come to us at times of crisis, and then disappear when times are calm.

According to the bylaws, "The Council is a non-profit voluntary association that exists for the purpose of maintaining and promoting the goals of professional archaeology in the State of Colorado." The verbs "maintain" and "promote" are positive words. While it may on occasion be necessary to investigate, perhaps even condemn, particular situations, I hope that we can have an upbeat year. The CCPA can be a source of strength for us -- for you -- as an educational information exchange and as a peer group. Please use the organization to your best advantage.

Four Corners archaeologists will be saddened to learn of the demise of the Turquoise Bar just east of Shiprock, New Mexico. Public (and private) pressures proved in the end to be too much, and the site will now become a convenience store. A farewell celebration was held on May 31, 1986.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

1986 PLAINS CONFERENCE

A reminder that the 44th annual Plains Conference will be held in Denver from Wednesday November 19 through Saturday November 22, 1986, at the Denver Marriott Southeast. It is sponsored this year by the Colorado Archaeological Society, the Colorado Council of Professional Archaeologists, the Colorado Historical Society, and the National Park Service. Featured speaker will be Dennis Stanford, Curator of North American Archaeology, the National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution. Proposals for suggested symposia, due by August 1, 1986, and typed abstracts of papers, due by October 1, 1986, should be sent to:

Ann Johnson
National Park Service
Rocky Mountain Regional Office
Division of Cultural Resources
P.O. Box 25287
Denver, Colorado 80225
Phone: (303) 236-8675

Inquiries concerning local arrangements should be addressed to:

Colorado Archaeological Society
ATTN: Bill Tate
P.O. Box 36217
Denver, Colorado 80236
Phone: (303) 364-0059

PECOS CONFERENCE 1986

The 59th Annual Pecos Conference will be held at Shoofly Village Ruins, outside of Payson, Arizona from Thursday, August 7 through Saturday, August 9, 1986. This year's conference is sponsored by Arizona State University, the Tonto National Forest, the Arizona Archaeological Society, and the Arizona Archaeological and Historical Society. Inquiries concerning the conference should be directed to:

Pecos Conference
ASU Field Camp
P.O. Box 87
Payson, Arizona 85547

EDITORIAL

Archaeologists, as social scientists, belong to a group of probably the greatest obfuscators the world has ever known, for if there is any academic field in which the basic function of language as a means of communication has been thoroughly perverted, it is the social sciences. Pick up any journal -- anthropology, sociology, whatever -- and see what sense you can make of most of what is written. This often requires a major struggle to sift the meaning out of a complex, involuted, convoluted prose, which too often appears to have been constructed more to impress than to inform. Usually the subject could have been presented far more simply and briefly.

I once had to submit a lot of my stuff to an editor who regularly returned it with great masses of my carefully constructed verbiage crossed out in red pencil. It hurt my ego, but this was a fairly successful writer, and I regarded him highly. He gave me a good piece of advice. He said, "Unless you are trying to be a poet, don't say things with a lot of words if you can say them with a few." I think he was quite correct about that. We are avalanched with words all the time, and it is difficult enough to get through just the essential ones without having to have to try to translate them into intelligible English. From this same writer I learned to go back and cross out everything that was not necessary to getting the substance of the message across. Inevitably the end result is a much shorter piece, and generally a better one.

Brevity and directness are not the only virtues in communication. Another is the use of words only when you really know what they mean. (Dictionaries are handy for this.) Too often people use words because they sound good, but the meaning is often misunderstood with the result that the sense of a phrase is lost or obscured. Here are a couple of examples from recent newspapers which illustrate both excess verbiage and sloppy use of words:

From Larry Speakes (the presidential mouthpiece): "The president is assessing the current situation which is ongoing at this moment." The first seven words say it all; the rest is just garbage.

Here is another from the public relations dept. of Johnson & Johnson after the Tylenol problem: "We have built an incredible credibility in the past three years." Managing that in any amount of time would be pretty incredible; this is using words for effect, not for meaning.

In sloppy writing, communication gets lost. I think we all owe it to one another to get out the message, simply and directly, and to avoid trying to impress each other with complex vocabularies. Simple is usually best. Practice it. While you are about it, write something for this Newsletter. People are interested in what you are thinking and what you are doing. You don't have to wait for the annual get-togethers. We need your thoughts, your ideas, and your news. And before you say it, you are correct -- this editorial could have been briefer -- but bear in mind that the first draft was twice as long.

FROM THE STATE ARCHAEOLOGIST'S OFFICE

The following requests come from the Office of the State Archaeologist:

1. Anyone who knows or has some ideas on important sites within the state that are eligible to the National Register and should be listed should send the name and site number to the state office. The office is attempting to establish a priority list for sites/districts that should be listed on the National register and are not currently listed.

2. Anyone who is interested in the monthly CRM Roundtable discussions at the state office is invited to submit topics that they would like to discuss/debate or present at these meetings, which are held on the third Monday of every month.

Also from the State Archaeologist's Office comes word that the OSAC Regulations are now in preliminary draft form and are out for review. Persons wishing information should contact the State Archeologist's Office.

THE FAR SIDE



"Well, here comes Mr. Hunter and Gatherer with another useless treasure."

CCPA NEWSLETTER

Published quarterly by the Colorado Council of Professional Archaeologists. Editor: Jack E. Smith, P.O. Box 84, Mesa Verde National Park, Colorado 81330.

1986 CCPA ANNUAL MEETING

The 1986 Annual Meeting was held at the Morgan Community College, Fort Morgan, Colorado on March 14-16. In addition to morning research reports, two afternoon symposia addressed current issues -- permits and reburial. Both symposia were tape recorded.

The Treasurer's Report and minutes of the Executive Committee meeting are presented below. Minutes from the general business meeting will be presented in a subsequent issue.

TREASURER'S REPORT - FISCAL YEAR 1985-1986

Fiscal year 1985-1986 ended March 31, 1986. Receipts and expenses are summarized as follows:

Receipts

Dues	\$640.00
Registration	258.00
Interest	295.36
TOTAL	\$1193.36

Disbursements

Postage	\$19.04
Printing	68.97
Supplies	37.56
Bank Charges/checks	4.65
Corporate Fee	20.00
Newsletter	261.15
Meeting Expenses	277.87
Executive Committee Expense	1.78
Other Special Committee Expense	37.39
Special Function Expense	50.00
TOTAL DISBURSEMENTS	\$778.41

Net Receipts Over Disbursements \$414.95

As with FY 1984-1985, income from dues and the annual meeting registration continues to drop. Paid membership as of 3/31/86 is only 60. No book sale took place in FY 1985-1986. Interest income continues to climb as a result of the growing CCPA account balance. Disbursements are down from FY 1984-1985.

The final balance sheet for FY 1985-1986 is as follows:

Assets

Cash in Banks	\$5817.18	
Total Cash Accounts		\$5817.18
Total Fixed Assets		0.00
Accounts Receivable	00.00	
TOTAL ASSETS	\$5817.18	

Liabilities/Fund Balance

Accounts Payable	\$ 3.50
Fund Balance	5398.73
Current Receipts	414.95

TOTAL LIABILITIES/FUND BALANCE \$5817.18

Respectfully Submitted
Mark R. Guthrie
May 1, 1986.

(NOTE: The Treasurer's Report for Fiscal Year 1984-1985 will be published in the next issue of the Newsletter.)

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE MEETING

March 14, 1986
Fort Morgan, Colorado

Incoming President Susan Collins thanked the committee for its past support and immediately began by appointing committee chairs, with the intent that CCPA needs to be viable for the full 12 months.

Membership: Jenny Anderson was appointed new membership chair. Much work needs to be accomplished. New persons need to be recruited, new applications need to be processed and past "drop outs" should be contacted about rejoining. Work should continue on the development of a new application form and process. The membership roster needs to be updated and will then be published in the newsletter.

Newsletter: Jack Smith was appointed as the new newsletter editor.

Ward Weakley Scholarship Fund: This ad-hoc committee will continue to be chaired by Polly Hammer who will shortly distribute a questionnaire to determine the membership's opinion on the type of scholarship.

New Business:

Next year's meeting: The executive committee suggested that the southwest part of the state would be both a good geographic location and population center to attract a large turnout to next year's meeting. Susan Collins will approach Fort Lewis College to host our regular spring meeting in 1987.

Plains Conference: The 1986 meeting will be in Denver at the Marriot on South Hampden and I-25. CCPA will host the "Early Bird Party". Marcia Tate will coordinate our efforts.

Alan Reed suggests that we consider changing the by-laws to make the Treasurer's position a two-year term. This position usually takes at least a year to learn, and then another to be effective. Mark Guthrie will write up the necessary language.

The current By-Laws need to be published with all of the latest revisions and then published in the newsletter for all members.

Executive Committee Meeting (cont.)

The meeting was adjourned, but briefly reconvened on 3-15-86 to include the unanimous passage of the following resolutions:

Whereas James F. Torrence, Rocky Mountain Regional Forester, has provided substantial new support for the Forest Service Cultural Resource Management Program in Colorado; and

Whereas Mr. Torrence courageously acted to protect the Chimney Rock Archaeological Site, listed on the National Register of Historic Places, from encroachment by proposed coal strip mining; and

Whereas Mr. Torrence now is leaving Colorado to become Regional Forester in the Pacific Northwest Region, Portland, Oregon,

Now Therefore Be It Resolved:

The Colorado Council of Professional Archaeologists commends James F. Torrence for his efforts on behalf of Colorado archaeology and wishes him good fortune in his new post.

Moved by Marcia Tate; seconded by Ivol Hagar. Passed unanimously.

Another resolution thanking the City of Fort Morgan, the local Museum, and Morgan Community College for their hospitality in hosting our meetings was passed unanimously.

Respectfully submitted,
Victoria Atkins Sounart
Secretary

THE FAR SIDE



"Anthropologists! Anthropologists!"

CCPA MEMBERSHIP 1986

The following is a list of CCPA members. If your name is not on the list, perhaps you forgot to send in your dues. If so, please do so as soon as possible so that your name can be added. Please check the list also for any needed corrections.

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