



COLORADO COUNCIL OF PROFESSIONAL ARCHÆOLOGISTS

NEWSLETTER

VOL 9, NO. 4

NOVEMBER 1987

CONGRESSIONAL HEARING

The U.S. House of Representatives Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs Subcommittee on General Oversight and Investigations, personified by Congressman Sam Gejdenson of Connecticut and Congressman Ben Nighthorse Campbell of Colorado, held an Oversight Hearing on Theft of Indian Artifacts from Archaeological Sites on October 19 in Cortez, Colorado. Mr. Campbell, a resident of the Southern Ute reservation, has expressed a desire to strengthen laws protecting American Indian artifacts and sacred items. Mr. Gejdenson chaired the proceedings, which consisted of formal, sworn testimony from 21 individuals, including State officials, Native Americans, constituents from the Four Corners, law enforcement officers, Federal managers, professional archaeologists, and businessmen.

The session was divided into seven "panels", but there was no cross-debate between those who testified. Each individual made his statement -- more or less formally prepared -- and then answered questions from the congressmen. This procedure made it possible to complete the hearings in a few hours, beginning in mid-morning and ending in the early afternoon.

Strong statements abounded. Colorado State Archaeologist Leslie Wildesen asserted that "systemic cultural homicide" is taking place, and that "The current federal laws simply don't work." Hopi Tribal Vice-Chairman Stanley Honanie accused anthropologists, capitalists, and Germans of undermining Hopi religion by encouraging theft. Calvin Black, a county commissioner from Utah, claimed that Federal officials used Gestapo techniques in raiding his home and those of other innocent families suspected of having illicit items.

Some positive suggestions emerged. Arizona State Historic Preservation Officer Shereen Lerner described a program that includes a statewide Archaeology Week in the public schools, voluntary site stewardship, and conservation easements for privately owned sites. Oregon attorney Kristine Olson Rogers stated that Oregon has a certificate of origin which must accompany antiquities being sold in order for the sale to be legal. Douglas Ewing, President of the American Association of Dealers in Ancient, Oriental, and Primitive Art, suggested that several European countries have effective laws which clearly define and protect national patrimony.

Colorado Rancher Jim Suckla modestly proposed that the Federal government should sell ruins to the highest bidders, who would in turn excavate them for profit, putting artifacts on the market. This would "clean up the land" once and for all, and save the government the expense of policing sites forever.

Most of those who testified expressed a need for better educational programs. There was a difference of opinion on the need for better law enforcement.

Speakers included Dr. Shereen Lerner; Utah State Archaeologist Dr. David Madsen; Dr. Leslie Wildesen; Ute Mountain Ute Vice-Chairman Judy Knight; Southern Ute Chairman Chris Baker; Chief of the Navajo Resource Enforcement Agency, Henry Deal; Mr. Stanley Honanie; Ellen Holstein of the Anasazi Historical Society; Mr. Jim Suckla; Bruce Bradley of the Crow Canyon Archaeological Center; Calvin Black; U.S. Attorney for Utah, Brent Ward; U.S. Attorney for Phoenix, Arizona, Stephen McNamee; Kristine Olson Rogers; Dean Bibles, State Director for Arizona, U.S. Bureau of Land Management; Sotero Muniz, Regional Forester, Southwestern Region, U.S. Forest Service; Michael Spear, Regional Director, Region II, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service; Jack Neckles, Deputy Regional Director, Rocky Mountain Region, U.S. National Park Service; Sidney L. Mills, Area Director, Albuquerque Area Office, U.S. Bureau of Indian Affairs; Dr. Alan Downer, Government Affairs Committee, Society for American Archaeology; and Mr. Douglas Ewing. In addition, several Montezuma County residents submitted written testimony.

Chairman Gejdenson offered to leave the record open to receive additional written testimony from anyone who might wish to contribute their thoughts. He also expressed a willingness to receive evening telephone calls from government employees who might wish to express personal insights not conforming to "party line."

NEW BUSINESS

A new archaeological consulting firm, to be known as Alpine Archaeological Consultants, will be ready for business by early 1988. Owners of the firm are Alan D. Reed, Susan M. Chandler, and Jonathon C. Horn.

EDITORIAL AND COMMENT

While there is a great interest among the general public in very old things, it is unfortunate that there is not an accompanying respect for the value of old things in what they can tell us of the past when properly treated and studied. As archaeologists, we are all intimately acquainted with the problem. It may be of small comfort to know that we are not alone, but it is a fact that the same problems of theft and wilfull destruction are faced by others as well. This was brought home to me recently when I visited several paleontological sites where the evidence of vandalism was as dramatic as that at any archaeological site. The sites in question are located near Grand Junction, and all three have been developed as self-guided public accessible educational areas through a cooperative effort of the Bureau of Land Management and the Museum of Western Colorado in Grand Junction. These are the scenes of important paleontological finds, particularly of Jurassic dinosaurs, both during the 1920s and quite recently. They have been known for many years, and past efforts, none too successful, have been made to preserve them. The most recent of these areas to be developed for public access, completed only within recent months, was vandalized only three weeks before it was to be opened. On a rainy afternoon, some unknown parties removed over three hundred pounds of fossil-bearing rock from one of the stops along the trail, thus destroying a major portion of a beautifully preserved dinosaur skeleton and marring what is otherwise an interesting and educational experience. So, if it is any help to know we are not alone, clearly others face the same frustrrtions and disappointments.

I visited the dinosaur sites partly because, like many people, what turned me on to a career devoted to ancient materials was the dinosaurs. As a small boy I kept a scrap book in which I pasted ads for Sinclair gasoline, carefully clipped from Colliers and the Saturday Evening Post -- then, as now, the dinosaur was their primary advertising symbol, and some of their ads contained nice drawings of the old beasts as they were thought to have looked. How I got diverted from dinosaurs to humans, I'm not certain (sometimes I think I should have stuck with the dinosaurs), but the same fascination I felt then is still with me. Surely I am not alone in this -- just look in the stores for all of the items for sale dealing with dinosaurs; they are a major fad which must be traceable back to this public fascination with ancient and unknown things. Given this fascination, it is too bad that neither we nor our paleontological colleagues are able to elicit a better response when it comes to the protection of these things for their educational value. The recent hearings reported elsewhere in this newsletter really bring out the lack of understanding, or interest, that much of the general public has regarding any other than personal or pecuniary gain to be derived from "old things".

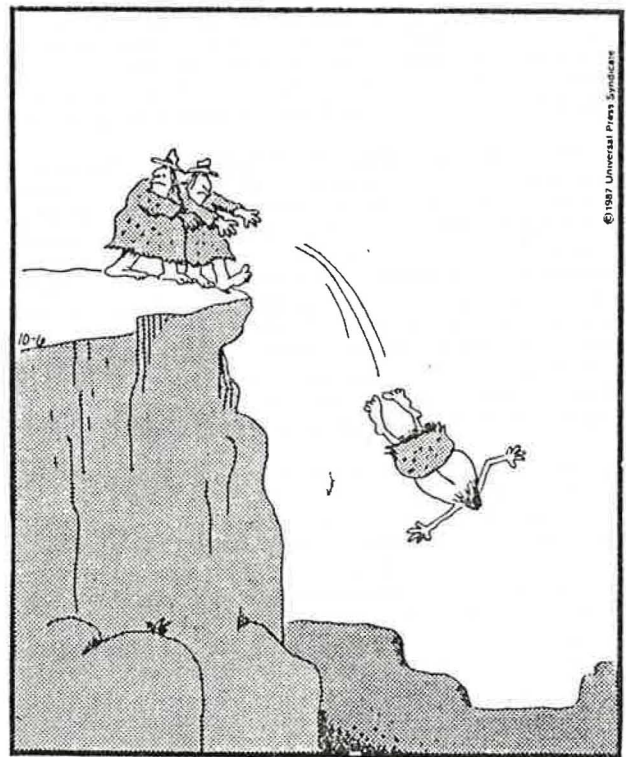
As long as I am on this subject, it might be

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appropriate to point out that the upcoming annual meeting of the CCPA will be held in Grand Junction in March 1988, and some of you might want to set aside a bit of time to visit the dinosaur sites -- and also the downtown Grand Junction museum known as "Dinosaur Valley." The latter contains some animated half-size restorations of various dinosaurs, and although it might sound like Disneyland, they are really very well done, and so lifelike that when they turn their heads, give you a rolling eye, and snarl at you, the instinct to back off a bit is too strong to ignore. Besides the animated replicas, there are photo murals of past paleontological excavations at the nearby sites, displays of a variety of fossils, and an active laboratory in which volunteers are engaged in cleaning and repairing the bones of a stegosaurus recently excavated by the Western Colorado Museum. And if this turns you on, you might want to explore a couple of recent books which I have found to be very interesting and stimulating. One, The Riddle of the Dinosaur by John Noble Wilford, is an excellent overview of the men and events that have brought the dinosaurs from obscurity to a subject of major public interest. The other, a highly controversial book, The Dinosaur Heresies by Robert Bakker, is bound to stimulate you, for it is what it says, a series of essays challenging a lot of taken-for-granted ideas about dinosaurs; and whether or not you agree with him, you must give Dr. Bakker credit for a stimulating, jargon-free excursion into dinosaur anatomy and physiology, lifeways, responses to environmental changes, and, yes, the question of what happened at the end of the Cretaceous when they all (apparently) disappeared. The former book is in paperback, the latter, so far as I know, still in hard cover, but both are well worth your time.

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Although their descendants firmly deny this, Neanderthal mobsters are frequently linked with the anthropological treasures of Olduavi Gorge.

NOMINATIONS ARE NOW IN ORDER

It is time once again to seek a President-elect, a Treasurer, a Secretary, two Executive Committee members, and a Newsletter Editor. If you would like to serve on the Nominations Committee, nominate someone for CCPA office, or volunteer to be nominated yourself, now is the time to speak up.

The Nominations Committee will be formed by January 8, 1988, and nominations will be completed by January 29, 1988. Please contact Susan Collins, CCPA Nominations Committee Chairman, P.O. Box 84, Mesa Verde National Park, Colorado 81330 (303 529-4471).

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE

New or Reinstated Members:

John W. Beardsley (V)
Bureau of Land Management
P.O. Box 311
Canon City, Colorado 81212

Susan Fiore (A)
Department of Anthropology
Colorado College
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80903

Terri Liestman (V)
5886 W. 77th Dr.
Arvada, Colorado 80003

Sarah M. Nelson (CV)
Department of Anthropology
University of Denver
Denver, Colorado 80208-0174

Diane Lee Rhodes (A)
National Park Service
Denver Service Center, TWE
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Lakewood, Colorado 80225

John D. Slay (V)
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Fort Collins, Colorado 80526

Changes of Address:

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1924 So. Pontiac St.
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Casper, Wyoming 82609

Gail S. Firebaugh
P.O. Box 688
Newcastle, Wyoming 82701

Katherine Johnson
Worner Box 1194
Colorado College
902 No. Cascade
Colorado Springs, Colorado 80946

Sharon L. Pay
P.O. Box 1557
Eagle, Colorado 81631

CURRENT RESEARCH

Southwestern Colorado

Colorado Department of Highways

Debra Angulski and Terri Liestman report that the Colorado Department of Highways is conducting mitigative excavations at 5GN246 near Cerro summit in Gunnison County. The site was tested by the Colorado Department of Highways in 1978 and was determined to be eligible for inclusion in the National Register of Historic Places. Cultural material recovered during the testing included seventeen projectile points with cultural affiliations ranging from Paleo-Indian (Folsom) to historic Ute, with specimens resembling the Pinto Complex and Early to Late Archaic. Other materials include lithic debitage, utilized flakes, ground stone fragments, and flaked lithic tools.

At the time of this writing the crew was ten days into the mitigation. Although there had been no features recovered at that time, there was evidence of occupation surfaces, one two meters deep, stratigraphically below a Middle Archaic projectile point.

The area of the site which will be impacted does not appear to be the area of greatest artifactual density. Based on the test data, the southernmost portion of the site appears to have been the most heavily occupied, a single test unit there producing more than fifty percent of the total recovered artifacts (including two Paleo-Indian projectile points). Nevertheless, cultural occupation of an extended duration and of moderate intensity seems to be indicated in the area which will be directly impacted by highway construction activities.

The final results of the excavation will be published in the next CCPA Newsletter.

Crow Canyon Archeological Center

Long-term archeological excavations continue at the Sand Canyon Pueblo in Montezuma County. Sand Canyon Pueblo contains 250 rooms, 90 kivas, and 14 towers, enclosed within a wall nearly one-third of a mile long. It was constructed and occupied in the mid to late 13th century. The Center's research is designed to determine the probably function of the pueblo through excavation of fifteen percent of its structures, through excavation of contemporaneous sites in the vicinity, and through an archaeological survey of the area within a ten kilometer radius of the pueblo. The research design includes investigation of social organization, the role and nature of ritual, and patterns of abandonment and behavior. Key project personnel include Dr. William D. Lipe, Dr. Bruce Bradley, Michael Adler, James Kleindon, Edward Huber, Angela Schwab, and Mary Etkorn.

The 1987 season marks the fifth and final year of excavation at the Duckfoot Site, also located in Montezuma County. According to Ricky Lightfoot and Mark Varien, all of the structures and roughly ninety percent of the extramural areas of the Pueblo I hamlet have been excavated, making it one of the most intensively excavated sites in the area.

Crow Canyon will begin a two-year period of special analysis and final report preparation. The final report will be written by Ricky Lightfoot, who has supervised the excavations at

Metcalf Archaeological Consultants, Inc.

the site since 1984. Lightfoot will use data from the Duckfoot Site excavations for a dissertation at Washington State University. Lightfoot's research will use refitting analysis of grinding tools and ceramic vessels to study abandonment behavior and social organization in late Pueblo I.

The five-year excavation project completed excavation of nineteen rooms, three pithouses, approximately 250 square meters of plaza, and 400 square meters of shallow midden deposits. The excellence of preservation at the Duckfoot Site, the completeness of the sample, and the care with which the excavations were conducted have produced an important research collection.

Nickens and Associates

In the late summer of 1987, Nickens and Associates, of Montrose, Colorado, conducted archaeological investigations at three lithic scatters located in the West Dolores River Valley in Dolores and Montezuma Counties. The work was conducted under contract to the National Park Service, acting on behalf of the Federal Highway Administration. The sites, 5MT8041, 5DL896, and 5DL1176, are all located at elevations above 7,500 feet. Excavations were most intensive at 5DL896, where a possible hearth, mano and metate fragments, and numerous small projectile points were found. Radiocarbon determinations indicate that 5MT8041 was occupied between A.D. 1200-1320, and that 5DL896 was occupied between 1240 B.C. and A.D. 590. Key personnel included Dr. Paul R. Nickens, Alan D. Reed, and Stan A. McDonald.

An important facet of this project entailed the increment boring of ten scarred Ponderosa pine trees located in the valley. The objective was to obtain tree-ring dating of the peeling events. The increment boring was conducted by Marilyn A. Martorano of Goodson and Associates, under subcontract to Nickens and Associates. While the tree-ring dates are yet to be determined, it is anticipated that most will cluster in the latter half of the nineteenth century.

University of Colorado Museum

The University of Colorado Museum conducted excavations at a small ruin in the Yellowjacket site cluster in Montezuma County last summer. Key personnel included Dr. Frederick Lange, Mark L. Chenault, and John D. Cater. Excavation followed a testing program carried out in 1986. The site consists of two small masonry house blocks with associated kiva structures. Based on evidence found within the site (masonry style and ceramic chronology) the masonry ruins date between A.D. 1050 and A.D. 1230, with an indication of earlier occupation levels directly beneath this occupation level.

A particularly interesting structure was uncovered in the larger of the two house mounds (House I); this was a four-meter deep kiva with several tunnels leading out to the surface rooms, and approximately eighteen reconstructable vessels located at the base of the wall. It was apparent that the kiva roof collapsed very quickly following abandonment of the structure.

In addition to the excavations, the project also included surveys by two teams of the large Pueblo III ruins in the area.

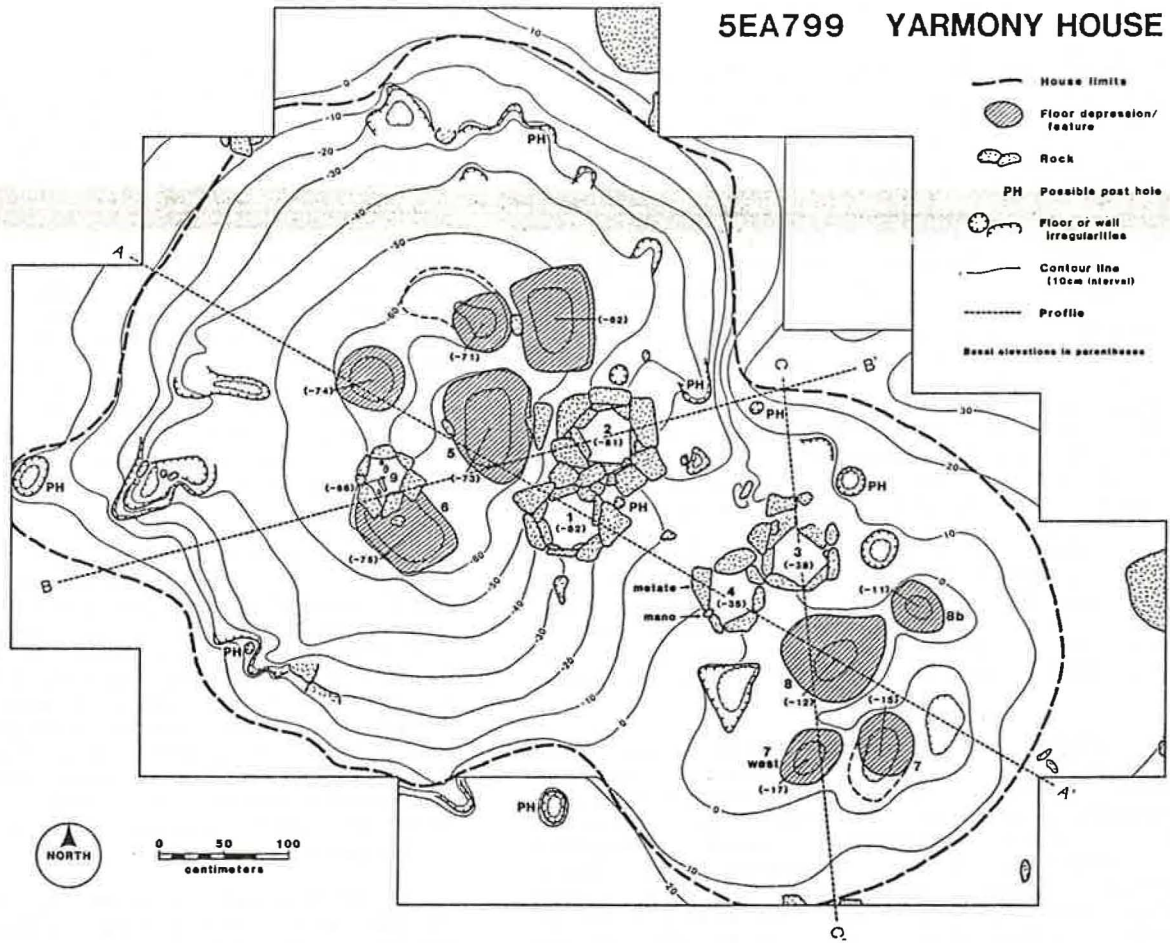
- Alan D. Reed

In April and May, 1987, Metcalf Archaeological Consultants, Inc. of Eagle, Colorado, excavated an Early Archaic period pithouse in the Colorado River Valley of northeastern Eagle County. The site, 5EA799, is named the Yarmony Site after nearby Yarmony Mountain, and is situated at an elevation of 7,140 feet (2,176 meters), between Middle Park and the town of State Bridge. Local vegetation is sagebrush and Rocky Mountain juniper, and the site setting is the gently sloping toe of Piney Ridge, about 1 kilometer south of the Eagle River. The site was discovered during a survey for the Eagle County Road and Bridge Department in advance of significant upgrading of a county road. Testing and subsequent excavation revealed at least three and probably four or five prehistoric components ranging from a ceramic-bearing occupation of Late prehistoric age to the Early Archaic habitation.

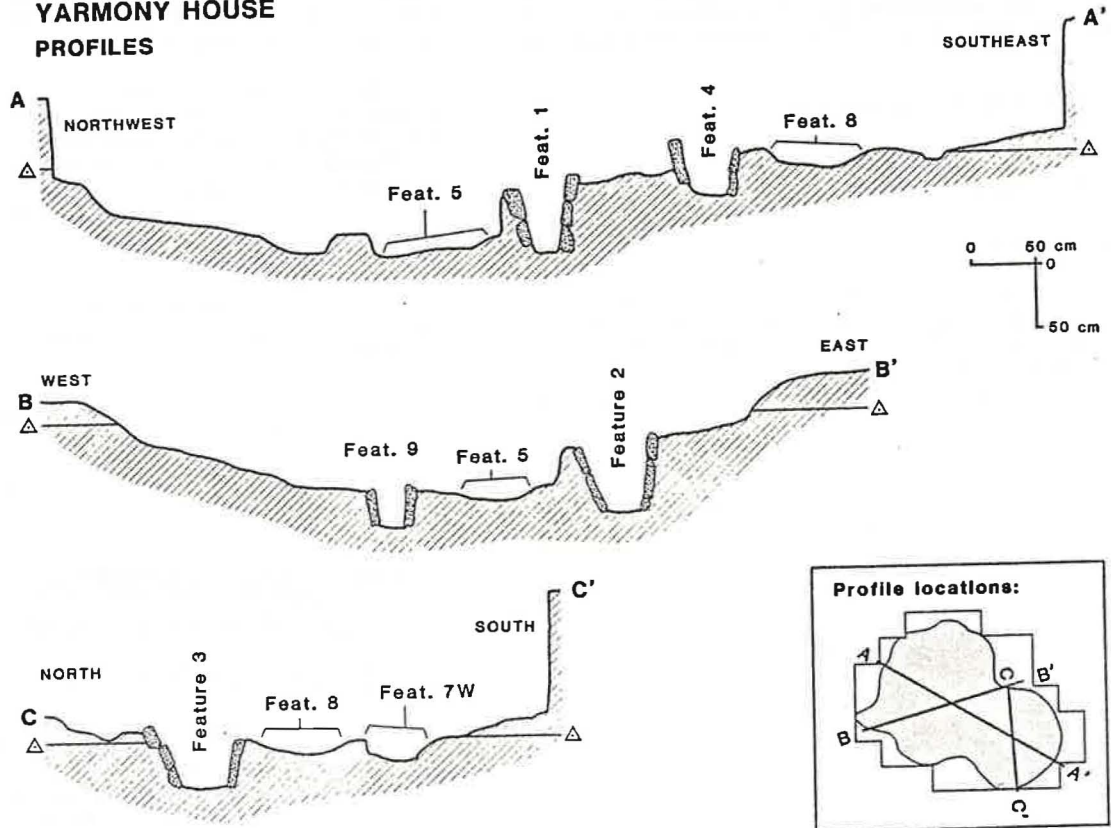
The pithouse, which is of the most interest, was exposed in a block excavation measuring forty-six meters square. No surface depression was noticeable to suggest the presence of the pithouse, and it was only through the penetration of the organic-rich house fill during testing that the pit was discovered. The top of the pit wall averages forty centimeters below the present ground surface, where the transition to a distinctive yellowish-brown sandy clay of probable Pleistocene age provides a sharp contrast to the grayish-brown loamy house fill. The pithouse was dug into the yellowish-brown subsoil an average of forty centimeters, but ranging up to eighty centimeters deep because it was excavated in "dugout" fashion into the hillslope. In plan view (see map on following page), the structure includes a main house basin six meters in diameter, with a smaller three meter, forty centimeter diameter shallower basin adjacent on the southeast. Each basin has a similar floor plan with shallow unlined central hearths and a pair of intricately constructed rock-lined storage bins adjacent. Shallow, generally circular, unlined floor depressions surround both hearths -- the only exception being a small slab-lined pit in the larger house basin. In profile, the larger room is more bowl-shaped with fairly steep walls and a more gently sloping floor. The smaller basin is saucer-shaped.

The main house pit, and probably the shallower basin on the southeast side, was roofed with a wattle-and-daub superstructure of uncertain morphology. Post hole patterns were difficult to identify due to extensive rodent burrowing and the fact that the structure burned neither completely nor intensely. Probable post molds up to four centimeters in diameter were noted along the lower pit walls, and possible larger posts at the cardinal directions were noted along the outside edge of the pit. Smaller burned sticks, perhaps of pine, were present in abundance embedded in oxidized patches of daub lying directly on the house floor, and a collection of this charcoal from the west half of the larger basin's floor has provided a c-14 date of 6,320 ± 90 B.P. Entrance to the structure is uncertain, perhaps through a roof hatch or from the side -- possibly via the smaller southeast basin. Function of the main house pit as a habitation is not in doubt, and abundant grinding stones show that plant processing also occurred there, but the shallower basin is more of a mystery. Its similar floor plan suggests a second habitation

5EA799 YARMONY HOUSE



5EA799
YARMONY HOUSE
PROFILES



structure, but its very shallow profile and much smaller diameter also suggest an ancillary function as a separate work area.

Artifacts include a very diverse assemblage of chipped stone, ground stone, bone, and antler -- the faunal remains in particular were well-represented compared with most sites in the Colorado Rockies. Chipped stone includes tool classes such as graters, borers, scrapers, wedges, knives, core tools, miscellaneous flake tools, and projectile points, virtually all made from locally available toolstone. The points are mainly of two styles: corner-notched and, especially, stemmed-indent base with closest affinities to the Pinto series of the Great Basin. Ground stone items were very prevalent with unifacial and bifacial manos, slab millstones, and a single basin metate represented. Pollen washes are planned for several of these implements. Antler, most likely from elk, was present in small amounts and included one worked tine with a flat beveled tip. Bone tools were limited to a couple of awls and one incised pendant fragment, but food scrap was plentiful. The full range of small, medium, and large mammals is represented, and species identifications are anticipated to include deer, elk, mountain sheep, caribou, rabbit, hare, smaller rodents and, perhaps, bison.

Full-scale analysis of the collected assemblage and ancillary specimens is now underway. Flotation for macrobotanical remains, palynology, malacology, Quaternary stratigraphy, further C-14 dating, wood species identifications, water screenings of floor scrapings, faunal analysis, and the usual artifact analysis are among the studies to be completed. We have high hopes for adding significant data on the topics of seasonality, paleoenvironment, and faunal procurement at this unusual habitation site. Details on at least a portion of the abovementioned analyses will be presented at the next CCPA annual meeting in Grand Junction.

- Kevin Black and Mike Metcalf

UPCOMING MEETINGS

Southwest Symposium

Arizona State University will host a Southwest Symposium on January 15-16, 1988 at Tempe. The purpose is "... to advance a synthetic understanding of the prehistory of the Greater Southwest." Registration is \$10.00. For further information contact:

Paul Minnis
Amerind Foundation
P.O. Box 248
Dragoon, AZ 85609

or

Charles Redman
Department of Anthropology
Arizona State University
Tempe, AZ 85287

SAA Annual Meeting

The Society for American Archaeology will hold its 53rd Annual Meeting at the Phoenix Hilton Hotel, Phoenix, Arizona, from Wednesday, April 27 through Sunday, May 1, 1988.

ARCHAEOLOGY OF WORLD WAR II

December 7, 1987 marks the fortieth anniversary of the entry of the United States into World War II. There are still a few of us around who remember that day forty years ago and how it affected and changed our lives. Maybe because we are still so close to it, we tend not to think of World War II as a subject for archaeology. There are others, however, who have recognized in it a proper subject for archaeologists, as an area of study and one in which archaeologists may help in preserving aspects of the history of that global event that otherwise will be lost. Thus, during this past year, a new organization has been formed, known as The Society for the Archaeology of World War II. The purpose of the organization is to "... focus on the anthropological study of that conflict, especially in studies of material culture. Another major concern will be on historic preservation."

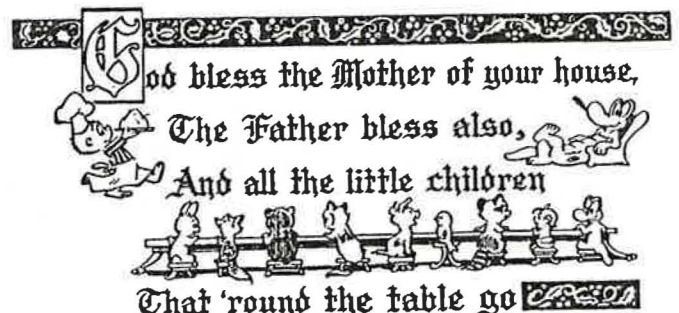
In recent years there has been an increase in interest in recovery of objects from World War battle sites, and numerous private individuals have visited these, particularly aircraft crash sites, where they have recovered the remains of aircraft, some remarkably intact, without, so far as I know, any concern being paid to the recording of the many historic details that could have been noted surrounding the sites where the aircraft were found. It is a situation analogous to that involving salvage of shipwrecks where the conflict between private salvage and public preservation remains unresolved.

Archaeological interest in war-related sites is not new. There have been many studies in Europe of the sites of past military activities dating back to the Medieval period. Closer to home are studies of Civil War sites and the recent work of Doug Scott and Richard Fox at the site of Custer's final encounter with the Sioux at the Little Bighorn.

Several World War II sites are being preserved, both in Europe and in the Pacific, as national monuments, and archaeologists are being utilized in their development. It seems, fitting, perhaps overdue, that a formal organization of archaeologists devoted to the preservation of this part of the past, should now be formed.

If you are interested in learning more about the Society for the Archaeology of World War II, contact:

Dr. Douglas Scott
SAWWII Newsletter
1920 B
Lincoln, Nebraska 68502



To You All

