Big Fuss About a Small Pot: The Mickelsen Pot from Central Utah

Utah was occupied between about 100 BC and AD 1300 by two groups of people who farmed, lived in villages, and made beautiful pottery. Archaeologically, we call them by different names, the Fremont in central and northern Utah, and the Ancestral Puebloans in southern Utah. Who were these people, and what was the nature of their relationship? The amazing discovery of a whole Ancestral Puebloan ceramic vessel in central Utah gives us insights into these questions. This little pot provides us with a window into a time in ancient Utah when people were on the move and creating spheres of interaction that affected their day to day lives in profound ways. It also reminds us about the connection between modern Puebloan people and their ancient Utah ancestors.

Photo courtesy of Charmaine Thompson

Mark Your Calendar


Nov 11: CAS-GJ monthly meeting with Marilyn Martorano on stone artifacts with musical properties. Redlands United Methodist Church, 527 Village Way, GJ, 6:30 pm.

Nov 12: Hisatsinom Chapter monthly meeting with Grant Coffey on social landscapes in the Mesa Verde region. Methodist Church, 515 Park Street, Cortez, 7:00 pm.

Nov 13: San Juan Basin Archaeological Society meeting with Dr. Randy McGuire on “Building an International Archaeology in Sonora, Mexico.” Center of Southwest Studies Lyceum, Fort Lewis College, 7:00 pm.

Nov 20: Chipeta Chapter monthly meeting with Charmaine Thompson on the importance of a small decorated pot found in central Utah (right). Montrose United Methodist Church, S. 1st Street and Park Avenue, 7:00 pm.

Dec 18: Chipeta Chapter Christmas party. Lions clubhouse, N. Nevada Ave, 5:30 pm. Silent auction. Bring potluck dish, table service, and drinks.

There will be no newsletter in December. The next issue will come out in early January.
November’s Speaker, Charmaine Thompson

Charmaine Thompson (shown here recovering the little pot) is the Heritage Program Manager for the Manti-La Sal National Forest. She has been an archaeologist in Utah for the past 36 years, most of those while working for the Forest Service. Her research interests include a wide range of topics, from Ancestral Puebloan social organization as expressed through architecture, to the archaeology of US military encampments in the late 1800’s.

Photo courtesy of Charmaine Thompson

The Squint and Juanita Moore Scholarship

Created in honor of Chipeta Chapter founding member Carlyle “Squint” Moore and his wife, the scholarship is awarded each year to a deserving high school senior or college student intending to enroll or already enrolled in an Anthropology or Archaeology program. Students can apply online at collegeXpress—and note that the deadline is April 1.

The scholarship is managed by the Montrose Community Foundation. If you wish to donate, please send your tax deductible donations to the Montrose Community Foundation, PO Box 3020, Montrose, CO 81402.
Site Stewardship, Field Trips, and Other Random Notes
by Bill Harris

Site steward Geoff Tischbein led a field trip to three rock art panels he monitors in Paradox Valley. It was a sunny, October day. The petroglyphs are predominantly Abajo-La Sal Style as described by Sally Cole, author of “Legacy on Stone”. The rock art panels are almost completely free of graffiti, but evidence of increased visitation warrants more monitoring. The BLM site stewardship program is considering conducting another site steward training session in 2020. Look for more information about the training in a future newsletter. Still need 2019 site reports from a number of stewards, so get them to me as soon as possible.

Left: Shaman Site, Paradox Valley.

Below, left and right: Bear Dance rock art site.

Photos by Bill Harris
Yes, it seems that Winter is here, at least for the moment. I want to thank Dave Upchurch for stepping up to be the PAAC coordinator. If you are interested in any PAAC classes please let Dave know at uphill1354@gmail.com. You can also look at the History Colorado website to see the selection of classes to get an idea of the many choices.

We are also looking for a CAS representative for next year, or maybe many people who can attend the state meetings on the front range. There are four meetings per year with three of them scheduled on the front range. Nick Ard has decided to step down from this important position that he has held for many years. Thank you, Nick, for all the great work with the State CAS.

Save the date for the Christmas party on December 18th at the Lion's Clubhouse on Nevada Street. Please remember that we have a silent auction at the Christmas party, and if you have anything to donate, please let me know before the party.

We will also start planning field trips for next year, so if there is an area that you would like to visit, or if you would like to lead a trip please contact Leigh Ann Hunt.

Thank you for all the support.

Sally

---

**Election Notice and Call for Volunteers**

At the November meeting we will vote on officers for the chapter board. We have nominees (read volunteers) for four positions. All are running unopposed. The positions are President—Sally Johnson, Vice President—Leigh Ann Hunt, Secretary—Annette Butts, and Treasurer—Jim Douras. Nick Ard is resigning his post as State CAS Representative after many years. Dave Upchurch has volunteered for the position of PAAC Coordinator, an appointed position.

There are two unoccupied positions. The first is the CAS representative, which is an elected position. The duties of the CAS Representative are to attend State CAS Board meetings (see above), for which expenses may be reimbursed up to $150. The second is the Membership Chair, an appointed position that is currently being covered by Sally Johnson, who really has a lot on her plate.

The Membership Chair is to keep track of all chapter members and their dues payments, and alert them when their membership year is expiring. The Membership Chair also sends out email messages about field trips and distributes the Uncompahgre Journal electronically to all members.

We encourage our members to consider taking on one of these positions for 2020. It is vital for a club like this to get members involved in the administrative positions of the club. The workload isn’t onerous, and it is important to know that there is a pool of engaged members ready to take over the duties when any given officer or appointee feels she or he has served long enough.

Please let any officer know if you are interested in filling one of these positions. Their contact information can be found on the last page of this newsletter.
Report on the 84th Annual Meeting of the Colorado Archaeological Society by Nick Ard

The October 2019 CAS Board Meeting and Annual Meeting were hosted by the Pueblo Archaeological and Historical Society. The October 11th Board Meeting was held in the evening at The Pueblo Heritage Museum. Some reports: the Alice Hamilton Committee awarded 9 scholarships amounting to more than $6,000; the Science Advisory Committee collected information on 134 CAS volunteers; and the statewide membership count is 714, representing 990 actual members. Membership is down because the San Juan chapter left CAS.

In addition to the reports, two actions were taken by the board. First, a slate of officers was approved by voice vote for the next year:

- President: Bob Rushforth
- Vice President: Linda Sand
- Recording Sec.: Larry Beidle
- Treasurer: Michele Giometti

Second, the following sites were selected for quarterly and annual meetings:

- January 25th: Denver
- April 4th: Colorado Springs
- July 18th: Cortez
- Oct?: Boulder

The CAS newsletter will resume publication soon, and Bill Haddock has volunteered to administer the web site, which has not been updated for a year.

The Annual Meeting was held on Saturday at Pueblo Community College. Pueblo CAS provided an entertaining and informative roster of talks. Many of the presentations were from former recipients of Alice Hamilton scholarships and demonstrated the value of that program. Talks were divided according to region of the state with an emphasis on Southeast Colorado. Several Sunday field trips explored rock art in the canyons south of La Junta and in the Army’s Piñon Canyon maneuver range.

The keynote speaker was Dr. Charles Musiba, Professor of Anthropology at University of Colorado Denver. Dr. Musiba spoke about the discovery and preservation of 3.6 million-year-old hominin footprints at Laetoli Tanzania. This had been a project he was responsible for in the mid 1990s.

I did not attend the ADVANCE sessions on Columbus Day but Doug Van Etten was kind enough to give his impression of what transpired. The focus was to use a facilitator to assess where CAS is and where the organization and its chapters need to go. A discussion in the morning resulted in the addition of one word to the mission statement: “Advocacy”. CAS and chapters can advocate for policies but not candidates because of the tax exempt status of the organization.

No final decisions were made regarding Southwestern Lore. The publication was thought to be valuable because it defines CAS as a serious scholarly organization rather than just a hiking club. There are two primary funding streams for SWL. The general fund contribution is supplemented by the Tessman fund which derives from dues paid in by the chapters. A suggestion was made to increase CAS dues but that can’t happen until the entire membership is allowed to vote and that vote can’t occur until the 2020 annual meeting. Apparently no committees were established to move any suggestions forward and an action list that was promised at the beginning of the meeting was never created.

Finally, CAS may not renew the $100 payment to Monticello, Utah BLM next year because no chapter applied to go anywhere in the district.
From the Editor

Leigh Ann Hunt sent me a note about a bill that may be making its way through congress, having passed the Senate in July. It concerns heritage preservation on the moon. Since China landed an unmanned craft on the moon recently, and because private business concerns have advanced the concept of space tourism, a bill of this nature is deemed necessary to prevent artifacts of the late 1960s from being chopped up and sold as souvenirs like the Berlin Wall. Even Neil Armstrong’s footprints are thought to still be there in the lunar dust (I guess there’s no wind on the moon), which will somehow need to be protected. This law, if it passes the House and is signed by the President, requires that any agency which gives a permit to any agency or business to fly to the moon must stress to those organizations that lunar artifacts must not be disturbed, and that they will be penalized if they ignore these regulations. The bill, by the way, is named the One Small Step to Protect Human Heritage in Space Act.

I get a kick out of this, but it’s actually a serious issue. And this isn’t the first serious discussion of space archaeology. Google space archaeology and you will find many articles about using space-based high-resolution cameras to study archaeological features and sites (including cities!) on the ground. One can map ancient cities or discover unknown buried archaeological features this way. In a way, you’re doing archaeological mapping and discovery on your computer from the perspective of space. We’re not talking about that.

This is the archaeology of space artifacts. I remembered reading about this many years ago and thanks to the internet, I managed to find it again. It was a short piece by P.J. Capelotti, written for a popular audience and published in Archaeology magazine in 2004, interspersed with a fictional graphic short story (like a comic strip but with more words). It was interesting to read the article fifteen years later. Not a lot has changed. One of the things I found interesting is that archaeology has already been done on the Bean of the Apollo 12 mission in November 1969, landing by the unmanned Surveyor III probe. Landing probe and the landing site (the craft had bounced recovered and landed upright as planned). They removed samples, including a television camera and bagged and brought back home.

It’s all very interesting, and we can agree, probably, that there are important and informative remains up there that might someday be useful for historians of the space program and the Cold War competition to get to the moon. But before we get all excited about creating, for example, a World Heritage Site at the Apollo 11 landing site (Tranquility Base) and other sites of the American and Soviet programs, there are some issues that will have to be solved.

Foremost among these is that the moon doesn’t belong to us, and we can’t make laws stipulating what people can and cannot do on the moon without stepping on the toes of other countries. Now, there is a UN agreement (Outer Space Treaty of 1967) that says that the artifacts, or space junk, flying around and lying around the solar system belong to the country of origin. This could be good or bad, I suppose. On the one hand, we can theoretically take steps to prevent anybody from messing with those artifacts without permission. On the other hand, if some big pieces of orbiting space junk come down on some city in China or Europe, the US could be held liable for damages. The article points out that with regard to the Tranquility Base, the US might own Neil Armstrong’s footprints, but not the dust that the footprints are in. So our country would own the space surrounded by the dust matrix, but not any of the dust itself. Cool.

Capelotti, P.J.

Senate Bill 1694
Membership Application

Date: __________________
Name: ____________________________________________________________
Street or RR Address: ________________________________________________
City: ___________________ State: _______ Zip: ____________
Telephone: __________________________________________________________
Email: _____________________________________________________________

(email required to receive Chipeta & CAS newsletters & field trip info)

Check One:

____ Family (2 or more members same household) .....................$40
____ Individual ..............................................................................$35
____ Student (Circle if Individual or Family) ...............................$25
____ Senior/Disabled** (Circle if Individual or Family) ............$25
____ Secondary (Circle one) Individual ($10) or Family ($15)
____ Opt out of printed Southwest Lore

*Southwest Lore is the journal of the Colorado Archaeological Society; print copies are
mailed quarterly to all members except seniors, who receive electronic (PDF) copies.

**Senior is any person who is at least 65 years of age; Disabled is any person who is
permanently disabled.

Code of Ethics

As a member of the Colorado Archaeological Society, I pledge to:

• Uphold local, state, and federal antiquities laws.
• Respect the property rights of landowners.
• Report vandalism to appropriate authorities.
• Support only scientifically and legally conducted archaeological activities.
• Conduct field and/or laboratory activities using professionally accepted standards.
• Not condone the sale, exchange, or purchase of artifacts obtained from illegal activities.
• Be sensitive to the cultural histories and spiritual practices of groups that are the subject of archaeological investigation.
• Accept the responsibility, if serving as principal investigator, to publish the results and make the collection available for further study.

Signature: ____________________________________________________________ Other Family Signature: ____________________________________________________________

Make checks payable to “Colorado Archaeological Society” and mail the signed application to:

Chipeta Chapter
P.O. Box 593, Montrose, CO 81401
Program for Avocational Archaeological Certification (PAAC)

There will be a PAAC course in Durango on Colorado Archaeology, November 22-24 at Fort Lewis College - Center of Southwest Studies. Contact Tish Varney at 970-259-4099. Cost is $20.

PAAC Contacts
Dave Upchurch
uphill1354@gmail.com

Rebecca Simon
rebecca.simon@state.co.us
Assistant State Archaeologist/PAAC Coordinator
303-866-4671

CHIPETA CHAPTER BOARD MEMBERS
- President: Sally Johnson, sjicas1@gmail.com
- Vice Pres: Leigh Ann Hunt, lahunt970@gmail.com
- Secretary: Annette Butts, annettebutts63@gmail.com
- Treasurer: Jim Douras, mtncpa@gmail.com
- CAS Rep: open

STANDING COMMITTEES
- Newsletter: Dave Batten, david.batten@enmu.edu
- Membership: Sally Johnson, sjicas1@gmail.com
- BLM Liason: Bill Harris, trlgpa48@gmail.com
- Library: Linda Manske, manske46@gmail.com

FIELD TRIP COMMITTEE
Leigh Ann Hunt, Joe Oglesby, and George Decker
For more information on upcoming field trips and to sign up, please contact the Field Trip Leader

CHIPETA CHAPTER WEBSITE
- https://www.chipetachaptercas.org

TO JOIN OR RENEW:
- Go to the Chipeta Chapter website and follow the membership links.

Chipeta Christmas Party
December 18th
Lions Clubhouse at Lions Park on Nevada Avenue
5:30 pm
Silent Auction, Potluck
Bring your own table service and drinks.

Want More?
Archaeology Southwest is a great link to find out about current issues and events relating to Southwest Archaeology.