



# *Concho Valley Archeological Society Newsletter*

*February 2010*

## **February 20th survey scheduled for Paint Rock**

During the January CVAS meeting Tom Ashmore gave a recap of some initial survey work performed at the Campbell's Paint Rock Ranch by himself, Jack Pool, C.A. Maedgen, Larry Riemenschneider and Fred Campbell. This survey focused on metal detecting, looking for evidence of historic battles or camping areas. One area proved to be particularly interesting. It is just west of the spring, along the bluffs and close to the documented Fort Mason to Fort Chadbourne military road. This was quite obviously a camping area. Two interesting items found were a .50-70 cartridge, dating to the 1870—1880 period and some broken china found on the surface. The china had the Anthony Shaw royal coat of arms on it. The Anthony Shaw Mersey Potteries made china in Burslem, England from 1850—1882. Their graniteware and cream-colored ware were especially made for the American markets.



The February survey will focus on metal detecting and surface search of the area. We will be looking for artifacts probably left behind by either military or civilian travelers of the mid to late 1800s.

Meet at the Paint Rocks Campbell Ranch at 9:30 a.m.. Bring metal detectors, sturdy boots/hiking shoes, gloves, lunch & water. CVAS will bring shovels, magnets and other implements we think will help. This is probably not a good outing for small children. Although it is February and rattlesnakes are mostly denned up now, this area is well known for being very snakey. If the weather turns warm we need to be careful. If it rains we will postpone until the next weekend.

## **November Meeting Presentation 25 Feb, 7 p.m.**

Bill Yeates will be sharing his pictures of Satan Canyon on the Devils River. Arnetta Cooper, Brownie Roberts and Bill visited the canyon after the TAS Annual Meeting in Del Rio. Two rock shelters in Satan Canyon, a tributary of the Devil's River in Val Verde county, once contained large galleries of Lower Pecos style rock art. The pictographs have been mostly destroyed by water and spalling, but photographic enhancement techniques, which Bill excels at, reveal some of their former splendor. This should be a very interesting.





## Welcome New Members

*Christopher Eide, Army Reserve working at Goodfellow AFB.*

## 2010 Dues

It's that time of year again. Dues are not changed. We have been using creative ways to keep the account healthy, such as the sutler's store at the archeology fair and silent auction at the Christmas party. Print the application on the last page of this newsletter or you can download the application from the website:

[http://cvassanangelo.org/uploads/2010\\_application.pdf](http://cvassanangelo.org/uploads/2010_application.pdf)

### Meeting Location

Please remember that our meetings are now in the classroom at the Fort Concho Living History Stables, 236 Henry O. Flipper St. We enter through the side door.

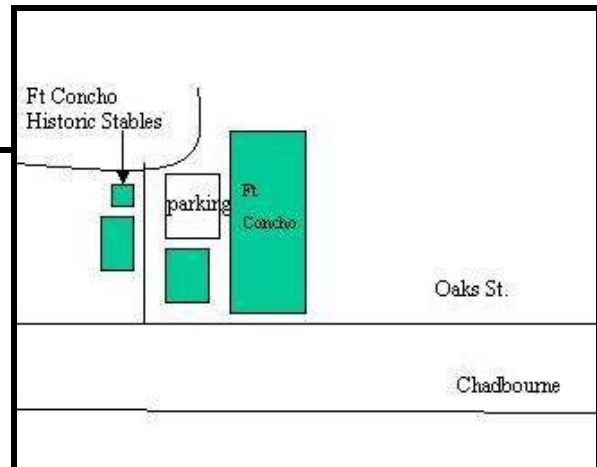
### **Fort Chadbourne Hospital Excavations Continue**

The CVAS and SMART's groups will continue excavations on the post hospital during the month of March. Excavation dates are March 15-19 and March 22-26. On Thursday March 25th, a group of 7th grade history students from Denton will join the excavations. The group of 60 will camp out at the Fort. The group will learn about archeological technique and the history of Fort Chadbourne. It will be our duty to teach them what we know about archeology, etc.

Again this year the SMART's group will provide breakfast and Fort Chadbourne will provide a noon lunch for workers. Remember to bring clothing to fit the day (could rain, snow, be warm, be cold). Who knows? Bring any snacks or drinks that you may want.

A reminder-- No pets, No alcoholic beverages, No smoking except in designated areas. You will be required to sign a new liability form for activities during this project.

Work has started on the visitors center and the road through the parade ground has been closed (removed).



Please follow the road to the office (signs will be posted). All vehicles will park in the office parking lot (No vehicles will be permitted at the site unless authorized).

If you plan to camp on the grounds during the project please contact Fort Chadbourne.

During last years excavations valuable information about the construction of the hospital was obtained. We look forward to completing excavations of the hospital and learning more about the building.

FMI: Contact Larry Riemenschneider (653-8216) or Fort Chadbourne (743-2555)

Hope to see you there,  
Larry Riemenschneider

## Concealed Carry In National Parks

Although this topic is not on archeology or history, per se, it is important to many of our members due to our many outings to parks such as the one coming up in Big Bend next month. Historically, citizens with concealed handgun licenses were still banned from legally carrying concealed handguns in national parks. This was the law, even though most states with concealed handgun laws allowed for carry in state parks. In the waning days of the Bush administration, the rule was administratively changed to allow concealed carry in National Parks. A legal challenge was quickly filed to overturn the new rule. The challenge failed but the law required an environmental impact study from the Department of Interior. The dates of the law kept getting changed and the environmental impact study threatened to take years, especially since many the new administration did not want the law to change. So Congress stepped in and submitted a bipartisan amendment to a bill they knew had to pass. The new law allowed concealed carry in national parks and wildlife refuges under the same circumstances as the surrounding state. It sailed through both houses and was signed into law. However, the date of the new law to take effect was February 22nd, 2010. We are coming up on that date and our next trip to Big Bend will certainly be after the law takes effect. Although some deem this law unneeded, in 2006 alone there were 11 murders, 35 rapes, 61 robberies and 261 aggravated assaults in national parks. Stay informed and stay safe.

## Homeowner Claims Artifacts Are From Battle Of Medina

Doug Shupe, KSAT 12 News Reporter, Tuesday, January 19, 2010

SAN ANTONIO -- On property off Highway 16, where Angie Ash plays, historical artifacts have surfaced.

Her grandfather thinks his property is where the Battle of Medina was fought, not where a marker stands 10 miles away.

"They never found the exact location," said Steve Ash.

On his land, Ash found a Bowie knife and a button he believes reads 1813, the year of the Battle of Medina.

"There's still bones on the ground," said Ash.

With a metal detector, Ash searched the trunk of an Oak tree on his property.

"And it goes off right (where) we think there's a cannonball," he said.

The device also detected four spots Ash believes are nails that once hung a sign indicating the spot where more than 1,300 bodies, killed in battle, were buried.

"It said, 'Here lie the brave Mexicans following the example of Leonidas who sacrificed their wealth and lives fighting ceaselessly against tyrants,'" said Ash.

Another piece to the puzzle lay at the base of the old Oak tree. A large scar indicated some type of major trauma, from the battle itself, was done there, Ash said.

"I believe if this tree could talk it would have amazing story," said Ash.

A Texas Department of Transportation archaeologist wrote Ash a letter, saying the glassware, flatware and other artifacts Ash found were not related to the battle, but that the button and Bowie knife are anomalies.

"He says, 'I believe you are correct in assuming that portions of the battle took place near your residence,'" Ash read from the letter.

State Rep. Joe Farria sent his staff to research the possibility, but said more studies are needed.

**Reprinted with permission by KSAT and Doug Shupe.**

## CVAS Big Bend National Park Outing—update

Join CVAS members for an outing on March 6-7. We will camp at Chisos Basin Campground on Friday night, with a pot luck group meal on Saturday night. Saturday morning, a trip is planned to Swirl Tenaja (tin-ah-hah), approximately 18 miles west of Panther Junction. This large site has 350 features and is not known to the public. A national park archeologist noted the most post hole mortars on a single site he has seen. There is no trail, so from the paved highway, we will take an easy, flat cross-country hike for 7/10 mile. Saturday afternoon, we will travel to Study Butte to private property and climb up to several rock shelters. If time allows, a side trip may be made to nearby Indian Head Springs, where the easy walking trail is approximately 1/4 mile roundtrip. Sunday morning, a cross-country moderately physical hike will be made to Neville Springs Cavalry Outpost, near Panther Junction. **For more details, call Jack Woodrow 325-942-9153**

### **Entrance fee for Big Bend is \$20 for a 7-day pass (annual pass is \$40)**

**Senior Pass** The Golden Age Passport is available to U.S. citizens or permanent residents who are age 62 or older. There is a one-time charge of \$10 for this lifetime pass. The pass provides free entrance to most federal recreation areas and provides a 50% discount on use fees, such as camping fees.

### **Chisos Basing Campground Details**

60 campsites. Flush toilets, running water, grills, and picnic tables are available. NO HOOK-UPS. \$14 per night (\$7 per night for bearers of applicable passes). Due to the narrow, winding road to the Basin, and small campsites, trailers over 20' and RV's over 24' are not recommended at this campground.

### **Reservable Campsites**

Reservations available for 26 of the 60 sites available November 15 to April 15. Contact [recreation.gov](http://recreation.gov) or call 1-877-444-6777. *Big Bend National Park cannot make reservations.*

**Chisos Basin Lodge:** Beautiful place to stay. Around \$107 - 137 per night. Call for Reservations: 877-386-4383

**Terlingua Motels** (Terlingua is close to locations CVAS will be visiting. Be sure to stay in touch for times and locations to meet up.) prices range from \$79 – \$126 per night

Big Bend Motor Inn, Study Butte The reviews of this motor inn are not very favorable, but if you cannot get in anywhere else... The phone number is: (432) 371-2313

El Dorado Hotel The reviews of this hotel are good, but it is farther from the Terlingua town proper. The phone number is: 800-371-3588 Web site it: <http://www.eldorado-hotel.net/>

Chisos Mining Company Motel The reviews of this motel are “very basic.” The phone number is: (432) 371-2254

Easter Egg Motel The reviews of this motel are “spartan.” The phone number is: (432) 371-2254

La Posada Guesthouse The reviews of this guesthouse are very good (432) 371-3044

Upstairs at the Mansion The reviews of this motel re very good “captures the very best of Terlingua.” The phone number is: (360) 713-3408

Mission Lodge The reviews of this motel are very good The phone number is: (432) 371-2517

# One man's trash is another man's treasure....

From oldammo.com, Guy Hildebrand

I often receive e-mails from metal detectors and the occasional archeologist who have found cartridge cases that they would like to have identified. More often than not, these are the heads of old paper hulled shotgun shells, or modern military or sporting cartridge cases. However, sometimes their finds are quite interesting, such as the .45-70 cases shown in this picture, all of which exhibit varying degrees of flattening. They were found in Eastern Nebraska and, beginning with the Benet primed example on the left, were made in 1880, 1883 and 1884. I had always assumed that the damage exhibited by cartridge cases such as these was caused at some point after they were discarded, either from having been stepped on by a person or a heavy hoofed animal, or from being run over by a vehicle or a piece of farm machinery. While these causes may account for some of the damaged cases found, the more likely cause is that they were intentionally flattened, in accordance with military orders.



It had been found that Indians were reloading inside primed .45-70 and .50-70 cartridge cases that were discarded by the Army. This was accomplished by inserting a percussion cap in a hole punched in the base of the copper case, filling the case with black powder, and inserting either a newly cast or a reclaimed bullet. In an effort to put an end to this practice, the Secretary of War ordered that officers exercise 'great care' to prevent Indians from procuring any empty cartridge cases that were thrown away. This was General Order No. 13, issued February 16th, 1876, and reproduced here. Apparently, one method adopted by the troops in the field was to flatten the

empty shells, perhaps with the butts of their rifles, and then bury them all together in a single hole. Consequently, rather than being found individually, these cartridge cases are usually found in bunches. A lady recently sent me the picture of the cartridge case shown here, which was found near Rath City, Texas, a ghost town in the western part of the state. From 1876 through 1879, this area was a center for buffalo hunting, and she thought this cartridge case may have been used by one of those hunters. Those who hunted for their livings tended to be a frugal lot, who saved and reloaded their car-



## GENERAL ORDERS

No. 13

WAR DEPARTMENT  
ADJUTANT GENERAL'S OFFICE,  
Washington, February 16, 1876.

It appears from reports of officers serving on the plains, as well as from experiments conducted by the Ordnance Department, that the empty metallic cartridge-shells for the Springfield carbine and musket can, after being fired, be used an indefinite number of times by refilling and capping.

Great care will therefore be exercised by all officers to prevent Indians from procuring the empty shells thrown away by the troops after firing, either in action or at target practice.

BY ORDER OF THE SECRETARY OF WAR:

E. D. TOWNSEND,  
*Adjutant General.*

OFFICIAL:

*Assistant Adjutant General*

tridge cases. This is an externally primed case, and was intended to be loaded a number of times, so it is not likely that a buffalo hunter would have thrown it away after it was fired. The fact that the case has been flattened, and then had the mouth folded over would indicate that the person who fired it was intent on ensuring that it would no longer be serviceable. For this reason, I believe this cartridge case was used by a soldier who was cognizant of General Order No. 13 and fully understood its intent.



WE'RE ON THE WEB AT  
CVASSANANGELO.ORG

*CVAS is a non-profit organization whose purpose is to bring together people who have an interest in archeology and whose mission is to protect the historic and pre-historic resources of the region.*

*Meetings are held on the fourth Thursday of every month except July, November and December.*

### 2010 CVAS Membership Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Cell \_\_\_\_\_

Family members \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

<b>Individual</b>	<b>\$15</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Family</b>	<b>\$20</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Student or military N/C</b>		<input type="checkbox"/>

I pledge I will not intentionally violate the terms or conditions of any current or future state or local statute concerning cultural resources or engage in the practice of buying or selling artifacts for commercial purposes, or engage in the willful destruction of archeological data, or disregard proper archeological field techniques

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: Cynthia Purcell, 1532 Loop Dr, San Angelo, TX 76904