



# *Concho Valley Archeological Society Newsletter*

*July 2012*

## **Upcoming Events**

At the June meeting we talked about several upcoming events.

The CVAS July picnic will be held at the Fort Concho Commissary on Thursday, July 26th and will begin at 6 p.m. This will be a pot luck dinner, with CVAS bringing the meats and drinks. Meats will be purchased from the Pack Saddle BBQ and will consist of brisket and sausage. Members are asked to bring side dishes, salads, or deserts.

We also discussed a CVAS trip to Fort Chadbourne to visit the museum as a group. As many of you know, much of the museum's displays were discovered from the work provided in excavations of the buildings at Fort Chadbourne. A date of Saturday, August 11th was picked. Members can bring a sack lunch and eat out on their new patio at the museum. Times of departure, car pooling for folks and such will be discussed at the July picnic and provided via email and on the website after the July picnic.

CVAS will maintain a table at the upcoming Genealogy Fair on August 28th at the Tom Green County Library. This fair is hosted by the San Angelo Genealogical and Historical Society. It will begin at 6:30 p.m. We will need four to five volunteers to visit with folks, pass out brochures and just talk about CVAS and archeology. Contact C.A. if you're interested in volunteering for this event.

## **Artifact Quiz**



**Four inches long, this tool has three**  
(the handle can be folded down against the hook)

Answer on page 5

# Gobeklitepe: The world's first temple

<http://gobeklitepe.info/>

Gobeklitepe is a pre-historic site, about 9 miles away from the city of Sanliurfa, Southeastern Turkey. What makes Gobeklitepe unique in its class is the date it was built, which is roughly twelve thousand years ago, circa 10,000 BC.

Archaeologically categorized as a site of the Pre-Pottery Neolithic A Period (c. 9600–7300 BC) Göbeklitepe is a series of mainly circular and oval-shaped structures set on the top of a hill. Excavations began in 1995 by Prof. Klaus Schmidt with the help of the German Archeological Institute. There is archeological proof that these installations were not used for domestic use, but predominantly for ritual or religious purposes. Subsequently it became apparent that Gobeklitepe consists of not only one, but many of such stone age temples. Furthermore, both excavations and geo magnetic results revealed that there are at least 20 installations, which in archeological terms can be called a temple. Based on what has been unearthed so far, the pattern principle seems to be that there are two huge monumental pillars in the center of each installation, surrounded by enclosures and walls, featuring more pillars in those set-ups.



All pillars are T-shaped with heights changing from 3 to 6 meters. Archeologists interpret those T-shapes as stylized human beings, mainly because of the depiction of human extremities that appear on some of the pillars. What also appears on these mystical rock statues, are carvings of animals as well as abstract symbols, sometimes picturing a combination of scenes.



Foxes, snakes, wild boars, cranes, wild ducks are most common. Most of these were carved into the flat surfaces of these pillars. Then again, we also come across some three-dimensional sculptures, in shape of a predator depicting a lion, descending on the side of a T-pillar.

The unique method used for the preservation of Gobeklitepe has really been the key to the survival of this amazing site. Whoever built this magnificent monument, made sure of its survival along thousands of years, by simply backfilling the various sites and burying them deep under, by using an incredible amount of material and all these led to an excellent preservation.

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Each T-shaped pillar varies between 40 to 60 tons, leaving us scratching our heads as to how on earth they accomplished such a monumental feat. In a time when even simple hand tools were hard to come by, how did they get these stone blocks there, and how did they erect them? With no settlement or society to speak of, with farming still a far cry away, in a world of only roaming hunter-gatherers, the complexity and developed blueprints of these temples represented another enigma for archeologists. Do we have to change our vision of how and when civilized human history began? The plot thickens



To unearth Gobeklitepe, the first shovel hit the ground in 1995. So far – in 15 years - four temples have seen the light of day, but geomagnetic research says there are at least 20 more installations to uncover. The four which were dug out were tagged as temples as A, B, C and D.



Tests have shown that three of them belong to the same time period, which is around 10,000 BC. One thing became clear from the get-go... these monumental stone circles had never been roofed, but had rather served as open air installations, with not just enclosures, but also several layers of walls surrounding the central pillars.

Evidently those walls are concentric in nature, but chances are that there was a spiral way leading to it. Although still unclear, at temple C that seems to be the case. Other temples were built much later than the original structures, give or take a 1,000 years later. Here the format changes, and becomes more square shaped. **(continued on next**

# Gobeklitepe: The world's first temple

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The planners and builders of Gobeklitepe still remain a big mystery, and no one has been able to crack the code so far. Archeologists believe that the tail end of Hunter- Gatherer societies were organized in a shamanic way, suggesting that some individuals among them were more developed, possessed a higher intellect, and developed a calling for contact with the hereafter and as such became religious leaders, who presided over - and organized - their clans and societies. But the question here is: "Did they maintain their shamanic characteristics, or were they propelled to the divine and powerful level of priesthood, as seen later in the Orient as well as ancient Egypt?"

Those T-shaped pillars are 3 to 6 meters high in size, and weigh anything between 40 to 60 tons each. Even with today's technology one would need very specialized equipment to move that stuff. In human terms it is roughly estimated that a minimum of 500 bodies might pull it off. But in a world of chaos and self-preservation how were these people organized, and by whom? Then again, it seems somehow they knew, and were coached to achieve this monumental task of transporting and sequencing these megaliths in specific order. There had to be quarrying experts, transport specialists, planners, ritual overseers etc. According to archeologists this kind of organization could have only existed in a society which already had established a solid system and a sound hierarchy.

*CVAS editor comment: You remember in the May issue we highlighted archeological work ongoing at Mt Ararat, Turkey in what is being reported as possibly Noah's Ark. Gobeklitepe is in the shadow of Mount Ararat and that reported archeological site. Additionally, the ancient Sumerian tablets, when translated, indicated the great flood was approximately 11,000 B.C. rather than the currently theorized much later period. If that is correct, some theorize that this site is related to the time soon after the great flood, which may account for the many depictions of animals not native to this area.. The Bible states that the very first thing Noah did when he landed and was safe was build an altar to God. Genesis Chapter 8 Verse 20: "Then Noah built an altar to the Lord." Just a few thoughts to ponder on this mystery.*



Artists rendering of what Göbekli Tepe must have actually looked like.

## Oak Cliff retiree finds bygone bison in backyard while digging for gas line

dallasnews.com,, 29 June 2012, By HAILEY WINSTON

Ruben Marroquin has been digging holes and searching for treasure since he was 10 years old.

Last week, the Oak Cliff retiree finally found something — something big: the skeleton of a bison, possibly prehistoric, in his own backyard.

And this time, he wasn't even treasure-hunting.

Marroquin was looking for a gas line, which he must enlarge to renovate the pool of his home on Kessler Parkway. In addition to pipes, he found what he believed was a set of dog bones.

Unfazed, he prepared to close the hole, but then he came upon a “big tooth like a cow's.” Still unmoved, he started to seal the hole for a second time, and unearthed the top of a horn.

“I knew that was not a cow,” Marroquin said.

His suspicions were confirmed by Darryl de Ruiter, an associate professor of anthropology at Texas A&M University. He said the bones belonged to a bison, possibly a prehistoric female.

“From the pictures I was sent, it was pretty obvious it was a bison,” de Ruiter said.

Marroquin said he was pleased to have finally discovered a significant artifact after a life full of searching.

“I'd never found anything of significance in my life,” he said.

Or so he thought. On Wednesday, de Ruiter confirmed that a tooth that Marroquin unearthed in his flower bed over 25 years ago, was that of a mammoth.

“That [tooth] has to be at least 9,000 years old,” de Ruiter said.

Marroquin said he hopes that anthropology students from Texas A&M or Dallas will help him dig the bison out and continue investigating the mammoth tooth.

“I need somebody to benefit out of it,” he said, “maybe a student to learn how to dig prehistoric bones.”

Marroquin could tell them a thing or two about digging, though not for bones. Growing up in Cadereyta, Mexico, he searched for money buried for protection during the Mexican Revolution.

“He's always been curious,” said his wife of 15 years, Maria. “There's a picture of him in a cave in Mexico scouting around. They used to skip school. Or maybe after school they would go.”

Now Marroquin hopes to pass his passion to another generation: Next to Ruben's metal detector on the back porch stood the one he bought for his grandson.



Artifact Quiz Answer: This tool is three in one: 1) boot puller 2) the left end was also a leather punch 3) the right was a carriage door key.

WE'RE ON THE WEB AT  
CVASSANANGELO.ORG

### 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.

## 2012 Membership Application

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

City \_\_\_\_\_

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

Cell \_\_\_\_\_

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

Email \_\_\_\_\_

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: CVAS, 4063 Green Meadow Dr., San Angelo, TX 76904

<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"/>

(active military only)