



Concho Valley Archeological Society Newsletter

March 2012

April SWFAS Symposium in Iraan

The Southwestern Federation of Archeological Societies 2012 symposium will be hosted by the Iraan Archeological Society this year and will be held at the Iraan Civic Center April 13 and 14. Registration fee is \$10 per person.. So far two CVAS members are signed up to be presenters this year. Tom Ashmore will be presenting 'Rediscovering the Butterfield Trail Through Satellite Imagery Interpretation: Fort Chadbourne to the Pecos River' and Bill Yeates will be presenting 'West Texas Ghost Courthouses.'

The IAS will provide free tent camping and recreational vehicle parking on Friday, April 13th and Saturday April 14th in the Pecos County Park (located on west edge of Iraan). This camping is within 100 yards of the Iraan Civic Center where the symposium papers are to be presented. Electricity outlets are located on the curbside camping sites with many nearby water faucets within water hose distance. Two restrooms are located in the park (one of these has both women's and men's shower rooms). Those wishing to have full RV hookups can get a space in the Iraan City RV Park for only \$12.00 per night. A free dump station is also located in this city park which is only ¼ mile from the free camping area. Those not wishing to camp out can find motels in Iraan, Ozona, Rankin, McCamey and Fort Stockton (as well as some Bed & Breakfast facilities in or near Iraan). All of those out of town motels are from 25 to 60 miles away.

Because of a limited amount of open restaurants in town on weekends, the IAS will provide a free stew and cornbread and green chile supper (cooked by a real Chuck Wagon) the evening of Friday, April 13th for both campers and motel arrivals. This will take place in the Civic Center building starting at 5:00 PM until (?). No one should go hungry on the night of arrival.

For lunch on Saturday, April 14th complimentary homemade sandwiches, chips and drinks will be provided by IAS. This will be a good time to get involved with the Silent Auction activities and a visit to the Iraan Museum.

The evening meal on Saturday will again be prepared by the Chuck Wagon crew and will be paid for by donations from the participants. This activity will take place behind the Civic Center (and near the camping site).

Field trips are planned for mid-afternoon Saturday and early Sunday morning to nearby sites in Pecos County. The field trip Sunday will end early enough for everyone to return to your communities on Sunday afternoon.

A brief summary:

Friday, April 13th – 12:00 noon until ? – Campout in County Park near Civic Center or get motel rooms. Meal prepared by Chuck Wagon is provided for all arrivals.

Saturday, April 14th – Symposium paper presentation 9:00 AM to 3:00 PM in Civic Center. Open Silent Auction, start registration and have coffee and donuts at 8:00 AM. Field trip to mortar hole and midden site 3:30 to 5:00 PM. Chuck Wagon cookout in park will follow.

Sunday, April 15th – 9:00 AM go to rock shelter 41PC23 near Iraan that was excavated by the University of Texas in the 1930's and found to be a major archeology site. Some very faint rock art is still located inside this very large shelter.

March 22nd CVAS meeting moved to Officers' Quarters 8

Jeremiah Bihl, an ASU Geosciences major, will give a presentation on the work he's done at the San Angelo State Park.

CVAS/Iraan trip to Big Bend: A weekend of extremes

Tom Ashmore

Our trip to Big Bend this year will really stand out as a weekend of extremes in my mind. It was a great weekend, but as these things go, it was nothing like I expected. I did not realize we were combining both CVAS and Iraan into a single group outing and was surprised to see vehicle after vehicle begin to roll into the campground Friday night. We had many more vehicles than parking spaces for the five campsites reserved. As it turned out one of our group got another site and several got rooms up at the lodge, relieving some of parking congestion. It turns out we had 36 people all together. Combining the two groups was a great idea and I met lots of new folks.

That night a cold norther blew in, but Jack Woodrow and crew pushed on with the evening meal. Heavy coats and tarps around the picnic area kept everyone from completely freezing up. The food was great, as usual—three kinds of chili and lots of side dishes. Then everyone ran for their tents, vehicles or rooms. It got down to 27 degrees that night. Brrrrrrr!!

In the morning we all met up at the lodge restaurant for a buffet breakfast and plan the day hike. The cold front moved on and it turned out to be a really nice day. We headed down to one of the park's parking and picnic areas on the desert floor to begin our hike. This was not going to be a trail hike though. We were bushwhacking it across the desert. Although Jack Woodrow was not wrong in his description of the general hiking conditions being fairly easy and flat, bushwacking across a desert full of every kind of plant that can stick you makes the trip a little harder and longer than some people might have been ready for.

Our first stop was a probable Archaic Indian site on a rock rise overlooking Tornillo Creek. We found mortar holes, pieces of points, hand knives and scrapers around the area. After a short rest we headed out again to a hill we could see not far away that had several stone piled graves on the side of the hill. All were marked with crude crosses but no names. They were probably from the little abandoned Mexican village not far on the other side of this hill. This abandoned group of crude stone buildings was the site of a candelilla factory, probably from the early 1920s to the late 30s and possibly the 40s. Strewn about the place were pieces of pipes, pots, fittings and homemade straining pans. Pieces of an old truck, bedsprings, and lots of sardine and tobacco cans also lain about the place. We all wandered about, picking up and examining items, trying to imagine what some of these left over pieces of time might reveal and thinking what a difficult life these people must have lived. The village covered several acres and was divided by a small set of hills. A path ran between the hills and we rambled through the area marveling at the little odds and ends that had been left behind when this place folded up for good. The one thing we never saw was a single candelilla plant. It must have been overgrown with them at one time, but all were gone now.

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Please don't forget that annual dues. The new application form with the new mailing address is on the back of this newsletter or you can pay at the meeting to our new treasurer, Peter Norris.

Artifact Quiz: Releasing the lock mechanism and turning the dial will loosen the rope and allow the two pieces of wood to be separated.. Patented in 1877, 12" long: **Answer on page 5**

Hayrick Outing, Feb 4th



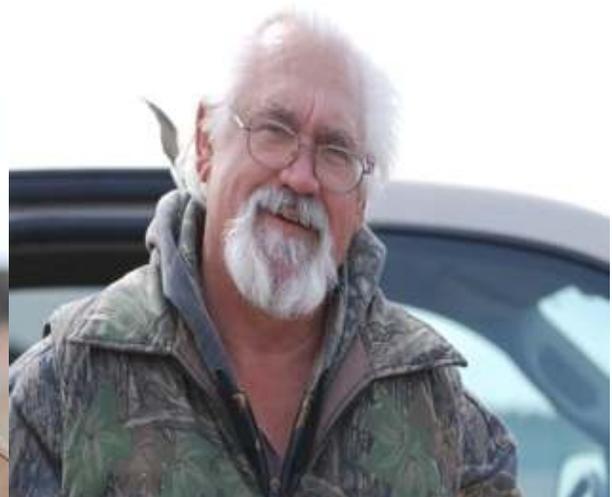
Saturday February 4th was a cold blustery day for the CVAS metal detecting crew as we worked with Callan Clark at the long abandoned town site of Hayrick. Our efforts were rewarded by our finds and the camaraderie we enjoyed. Our finds were diagnostic and helped to provide more insight into the history of Hayrick.

Besides window glass, pottery, and an old fork we uncovered a long lost delicate and ornately decorated ladies belt buckle. This item was the subject of much speculation and discussion as to exactly how it was used. As you all know this is half the fun of archaeology. What did you find and how was it used and by whom?



We all had a good time and we all look forward to returning again to assist Callan in his efforts to complete a report for CVAS on the Hayrick site.

Photos and article by C. A. Maedgen



CVAS/Iraan trip to Big Bend: A weekend of extremes

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At the end of the village most of us decided to stop and rest for lunch. Some of us even sat in and around one of the old buildings for lunch. Some of the group were just getting into their most exciting area, though, and could not hold back their enthusiasm to move ahead. Those were the ones with a keen interest in geology and paleontology. Just around the corner from the last of the huts and up on top of the hills was the dinosaur bones area. After finishing my lunch I wandered over to see them crawling around the hills with the excitement of a bunch of kids. There really were bones all around the area. Most were small but some were fairly large. Unfortunately, one really large one found by a previous group and left where it was found was now gone. Some of the group who knew geology explained how these bones got to the tops of these hills. This, to me was the most fascinating insight. All the hills were jutting out at about 45 degree angles. As it was explained, the bones had originally been deep under a flat earth, covered with many feet of sediment. At some point the earth had been shoved up and over, almost completely flipping the earth upside down. But it had been stopped, upside down on these 45 degree angles, leaving the bones exposed on top of these hills. This area was originally a swamp 60—100 million years ago. Who knows if the bones were from natural deaths by predators or came about during the extinction of the dinosaurs.

Finally, it was time to head back. I was sitting on top of one of these hills, looking out over the land when I realized just how far we had come and what a long way back it was. We decided to bushwack it back the most direct way possible, which was still a good three miles. Needless to say, our group was strung out over a mile toward the end, with folks struggling in over a period of an hour or so. Exhausted, but thrilled was the general consensus for the day.

The next day we met again at the lodge and headed off to a tinaja along a dried creek bed. Again, no trail to follow, but this time it was only about 2/3 of a mile from the road. Again, it was out in the middle of nowhere, across the desert. It was just a dried up stream bed that suddenly dropped off into a tinaja. What was incredible here, though, was the unbelievable number of mortar holes. There must have been a hundred round and boat shaped mortar holes in the rock surrounding this tinaja. There were also four small shelter areas barely large enough for four individual groups. Each shelter had mounds and mounds of fire ash pits and small chert tools laying about. We found hand and finger scrapers and a graver. There were several fire pits that looked like larger sotol cooking pits. And then Brownie found something I've never seen—a complete large pestle used in those mortar holes. It was a foot and a half long and about 4 and a half inches in diameter. It was also flat on one side, so it could be used as a standard pestle or flat grinding. After taking pictures and admiring it we buried it so that it would not be stolen by unscrupulous visitors in the future. I was down looking into the shelters and about this time someone noticed in one of the boat shaped mortar holes fairly recent scat that appeared to be mountain lion. (I passed two more of the same type droppings on the way out.) Maybe it was just coincidental timing, but the next thing I know I'm about the last one there and everyone was heading back to the cars. On the way back Jack showed everyone a fossilized oyster bed, once at the bottom of the Permian Sea.

There was one more location to visit, but it was at this time I had to break away from the group and start my journey back to San Angelo. Maybe someone else can relate the final hike, but for me, even with missing out on the last one, it really was an incredible weekend.

(see more photos on next page)



Friday afternoon cooking



Saturday morning pre-hike talk

CVAS/Iraan trip to Big Bend: A weekend of extremes

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Digging out a 2-foot deep mortar hole



Bill Haley resting in abandoned Mexican village



Just like home



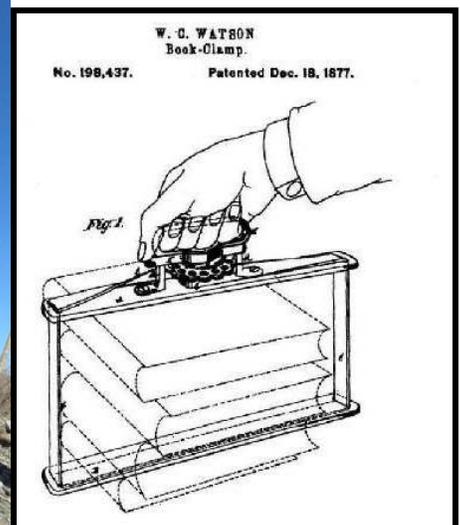
Dinosaur bone



Some of hundreds of mortar holes



Gigantic pestle



Artifact Quiz from page 2: Book clamp, in the days before book bags, this was invented to be used for carrying books.

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

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

(active military only)