



Concho Valley Archeological Society Newsletter

May 2012

Is it or isn't it?

On April 2nd Bob Bluthart contacted us regarding an unusual rock passed to him. He asked if we might have any thoughts on what looked to be a pictograph. After viewing it I contacted the man who found the rock. He is a city worker that dug it up about a year ago while working to fix a broken sprinkler line next to the Sunken Gardens at the park on Abe and Ave D. He kept it with him either in his truck or at work for about 8 or 9 months. He then gave it to his wife to pass to Bob Bluthart. She kept it under her desk at work for about three months, forgetting about it, until just recently when she contacted Bob and passed it to him.

I contacted the city worker by phone. He did not see anything in particular with the other dirt pulled from the hole that he dug to fix the sprinkler system.

However, he admits he was not looking closely and did not realize the rock had an interesting face until after he was finished. He kept the rock out of the hole purposely when filling it back in because he did not want a large rock to rebreak the pipe. He only noticed it being interesting when he got ready to haul it away after he finished his work. The rock was pulled up from 3 feet below the surface.

After sending photos around to some of the folks Larry knows and showing it to a few at the SWFAS symposium we still could get no consensus on much. The one consensus we got was that everyone believes the suspect image is man-made.



For a more professional analysis we first passed the rock to Callan Clark to get a geologic evaluation from the Angelo State University. Dr. Joe Satterfield analyzed the rock to be limestone and this was followed up by a chemical test involving dropping a few drops of hydrochloric acid on the rock. The rock effervesced, meaning that there is calcite in the rock and calcite is in limestone.

The next test will be to see what the black substance is on the rock. This will help in analyzing if this is in fact a pictograph or a natural phenomenon of nature that just makes it look like one.

What do you think? Pictograph or natural? Stand by for more reports in the coming months.

Sunken Gardens Park, Abe & Ave D, San Angelo

SWFAS Report

On April 14th members of CVAS traveled to Iraan, Texas to attend the annual SWFAS meeting. Two of our own members presented papers at the federation meeting. Tom Ashmore reported on "Rediscovering the Butterfield Trail Through Satellite Imagery Interpretation". This report by Tom was a culmination of three years of investigation of the Butterfield Trail from Fort Chadbourne to the Pecos River. Bill Yeates was the first presenter for the day and reported on "Ghost Courthouses of West Texas". Bill demonstrated how the arrival of the rail road in the region caused the ultimate demise of the by passed cities with their rock courthouses. CVAS recognizes the dedication and efforts of Bill and Tom to research a subject and take time to do a presentation on their subject of interest. We all extend our thanks to Bill and Tom for their efforts at so ably representing CVAS at the SWFAS meeting.

On Saturday afternoon attending members were treated to a field trip to the Pecos to see burnt rock middens and mortar holes just outside the city limits of Iraan. That afternoon about sun down there was a chuck wagon meal served to all attendees from a real chuck wagon built about 1900 by John Deere. The food was great and no one went away hungry.

On Sunday morning about a dozen attendees traveled to a rock shelter on the west side of Iraan. Here we were treated to a spectacular view of the Yates Oil Field and the valley below. The site is known as 41 PC 23 in Big Tree Canyon and was examined in detail by the University of Texas in the 1930's. The University reported Paleo Indian artifacts as well as faint rock art. The shelter is larger than most have ever been to. We spent 3 hours there photographing the pictographs as well as the hide processing stone used by early man.. Most of us also spent time evaluating the ocean fossils trapped in the Cretaceous era formation. This site is certainly a treasure for an archaeologist and is an equal treasure to a paleontologist. Ultimately we had to leave this site to return home but it was not without protest at having to leave such a historic site. Remember that any of our CVAS members wishing to join the Iraan Society can do so for a nominal fee and thus be eligible to attend the field trips. Let me know if I can assist.

C. A. Maedgen CVAS 2012 President



Noah's Ark Is (still) In Turkey

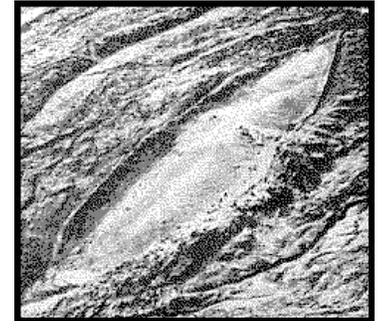
by Dan Eden for viewzone.com

In 1959, Turkish army captain İlhan Durupinar discovered an unusual shape while examining aerial photographs of his country. The smooth shape, larger than a football field, stood out from the rough and rocky terrain at an altitude of 6,300 feet near the Turkish border with Iran.

Capt. Durupinar was familiar with the biblical accounts of the Ark and its association with Mount Ararat in Turkey, but he was reluctant to jump to any conclusions. The region was very remote, yet it was inhabited with small villages. No previous reports of an object this odd had been made before. So he forwarded the photographic negative to a famous aerial photography expert named Dr. Brandenburger, at Ohio State University.

Most of the global media turned away from the find and it became a non-story.

In 1977 Ron Wyatt visited the site. Obtaining official permission, Ron and others conducted more thorough research over a period of several years. They used metal detection surveys, subsurface radar scans, and their findings were startling. The the Ark of Noah.



chemical analysis -- real science -- evidence was undeniable. This was

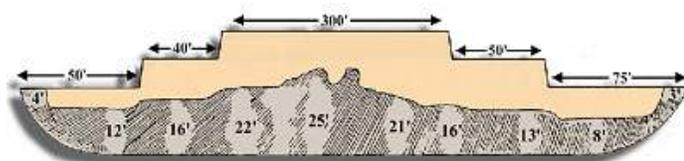
The first part of the survey was to examine the object and take its measurements. The shape looked like hull of a ship. One end was pointed as you would expect from bow [below: D] and the opposite end was blunt like a stern. The distance from bow to stern was 515 feet, or exactly 300 Egyptian cubits. The average width was 50 cubits. These were the exact measurements mentioned in the Bible.

On the starboard side (right) near the stern there were four vertical bulges protruding from the mud [B], at regular intervals, that were determined to be the "ribs" of the hull [see below]. Opposite to these, on the port side, a single rib [A] protrudes from the mud. You can see its curved shape very clearly. Surrounding it are more ribs, still largely buried in the mud, but visible upon close examination.



Remember that this object, if it is the Ark, is extremely old. The wood has been petrified. Organic matter has been replaced by minerals from the earth. Only the shapes and traces of the original wood remain. Perhaps this is why the expedition in 1960 was disappointed. They anticipated finding and retrieving chunks of wood, long since eroded.

From the position of the object in the middle of an obvious mudflow, it is obvious that the object slid down more than a mile from its original location. Geologists believe it was originally over 1000 feet higher in the mountain and encased in a shell of hardened mud. They think that an earthquake in 1948 cracked the mud shell and revealed the structure. This is confirmed by stories from the surrounding vallagers who tell of its "sudden appearance" around that time.



Biblical accounts of the Ark describe it as having as many as six levels. The assumed shape of the Ark seems consistent with the bulge [C] in the middle of the object. In fact, as we will soon learn, radar scans of the structure suggest that this bulge is the collapsed debris of these levels.

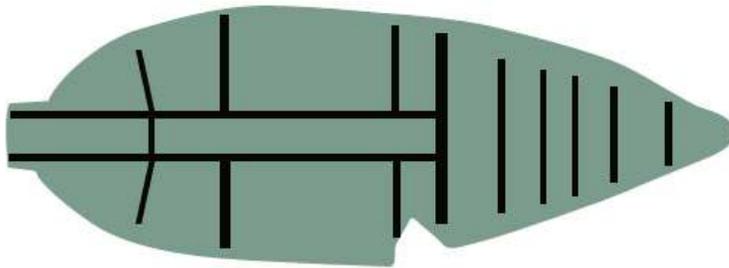
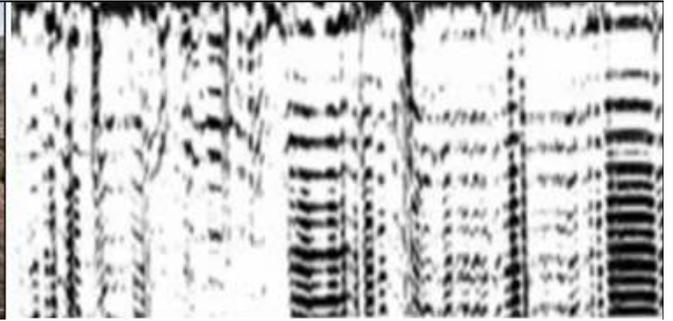
Although most people think of the Ark as being rectangular, that only applies to the top decks. The sleek shape of the hull is necessary to enable the huge ship to remain stable in the water and survive tremendous waves.

The human eye needs to see reflected light to recognize an object. To visualize what remains below the earth, scientists use micro-waves which can penetrate the ground and bounce back when they hit something solid. This technique is commonly used to locate oil and other minerals. Called Ground Penetrating Radar (GPR), the apparatus us made from an antenna that transmits, then listens to

Noah's Ark Is (still) In Turkey (continued from page 3)

receive the "echo" and prints the result on a piece of paper. The delay and strength of this echo tell the geologists how solid and at what depth the objects are under the earth.

The team of geologists didn't scan the entire object. Instead, they marked out lines that crossed the object with yellow tape. Then they dragged the antenna (about the size of a lawnmower) over the lines and watched the output on the paper recorder. When they got a strong "hit" -- meaning there was something solid underneath -- they would record the position on the tape [above]. Later, when they made a map of the object, the tape and the location of the "hits" they realized that there was indeed a structure underneath the mud.



The radar cans revealed this structure [above] under the mud. The symmetry and logical placement of these objects shows that this is unmistakably a man made structure, most likely the Ark of Noah.

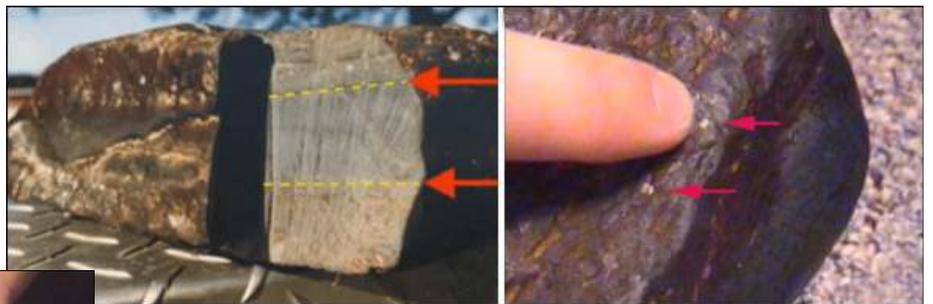
Using the GPR, Ron Wyatt discovered an open cavity on the starboard side. He used an improvised drill to make core sample inside this cavity and retrieved several very interesting objects. Below you can see the artifacts which were sent for laboratory analysis. On the left is the bore hole [see below], followed by what turned out to be petrified animal dung, then a petrified antler and lastly a piece of cat hair.

low], followed by what turned out to be petrified animal dung, then a petrified antler and lastly a piece of cat hair.

Perhaps the most significant find from the Ark itself is a piece of petrified wood. When this was first found it appeared to be a large beam. But upon closer examination it is actually three pieces of plank that have been laminated together with some kind of organic glue! This is the same technology used in modern plywood. Lamination makes the total strength of the wood much greater than the combined strength of the pieces. This suggests a knowledge of construction far beyond anything we knew existed in the ancient world.



The most surprising find was discovered with sensitive metal detectors. The team located several strong "hits" that, when dug up, revealed large disc shaped rivets. From simple observation of the metal it was possible to see where the rivet had been ham-



mered after being inserted through a hole.

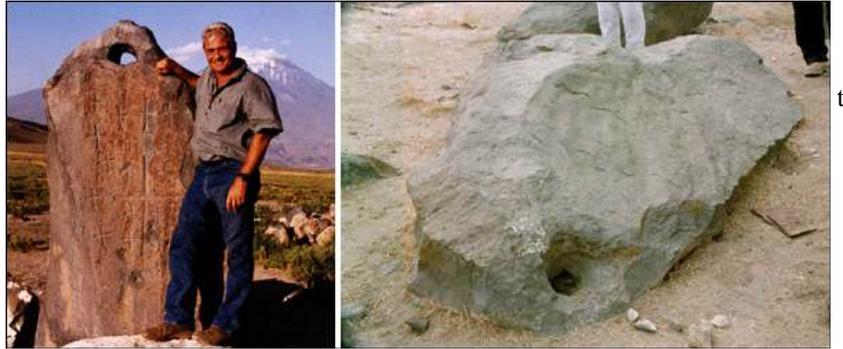
If rivets being used in ancient construction doesn't impress you, this surely will.

An analysis of the metal used to make the rivets revealed that they were a combination of iron (8.38%), aluminum (8.35%) and titanium (1.59%). Remember these trace metals have survived petrification and so do not indicate the exact content in the original material.

Noah's Ark Is (still) In Turkey (continued from page 4)

Several miles from the location of the Ark, huge stones were discovered, some standing upright while others lying on the ground. These stones, weighing many tons, have holes carved in them. Scientists have determined that they were anchors and the holes would have been their attachment to a ship with hemp rope.

Often these stones will have crosses carved in them, from centuries ago when pilgrims made the journey visit the Ark. Yes, the Ark was well known in the Middle Ages and even before. And its location was recorded in many historical documents.



The huge anchors would have been suspended from the keel of the ship. This was a common practice among ancient mariners to stabilize a heavy ship and ensure that the bow is always facing the on-coming waves. A "top heavy" ship, such as the Ark, could easily be capsized by a wave approaching from the side. This is yet further proof that Noah's Ark was a reality and that it has indeed been found in Turkey.

Bill Yeates will give the program this month at the May 24th meeting. Title: Army Camps of the Big Bend Area It will cover the periods 1870-1890 and 1910-1920.

As usual, meetings are held at the classroom at the Fort Concho Living History Stables, 236 Henry O. Flipper St. We enter through the side door.



Hello,

My name is Callan Clark. Ray Theiss and I both volunteered to be this years Fair Directors. The Fair will be held on Saturday, October 13, same time schedule as before at Fort Concho in San Angelo, TX. I am looking forward to meeting and getting to know all of you, and to a great Fair this year.

If you could, please email back with your name, maybe possibly you phone number, what exhibit you have, how many tables you had and where you set up last year, and where you are from so I can have an idea of who are out of town volunteers/exhibitors.

Ray Theiss' email is 89theiss@gmail.com

My cell number is (325) 763-7361 if you need to get a hold of me directly. You can call me anytime, but you can best reach me by email, but if you need to talk to me directly you will best reach me when you call me in the afternoons and on the weekends, even on Sunday. I don't mind. Its because of you the fair is such a huge success. So, please call or email me or Ray if you have any questions or concerns or if you are unable to participate in the Fair this year.

Looking forward to meeting all of you,

Callan

If you haven't already, please pay your 2012 dues. You can use the back page of this newsletter to mail it in or pay at the meeting.

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)