



Concho Valley Archeological Society Newsletter

September 2012

CVAS represented at Genealogy Fair

The CVAS table at the Tom Green Genealogy Fair received quite a few visitors and questions and the fair itself had a very good turnout. The Tom Green County Genealogy and Historical Society, will reciprocate with a table at the CVAS Archeology Fair.



September Meeting Presentation

CVAS member, Lee Carlisle, will talk about her three week trip to India with a medical mission. She was in northern India in the Golden Triangle, the area around Delhi, Jaipur, and Agra. There are lots of photos showing modern India alongside the ancient.

Oasis Ranch outing with Iraan Archeological Society postponed

The October 20th trip to the Oasis Ranch at Independence Creek by the Iraan Archeological Society had to be postponed. They are planning to reschedule it for January 2013. We will get the info out to everyone as the time nears.

Stone Cairns of West-Central Texas

The countless stone mounds dotting the low hills and flat-topped mesas of west-central Texas have perplexed landowners and archeologists alike for more than a century. Known as “cairns,” these mysterious arrangements of rock can be found by the hundreds—and perhaps thousands—along the rocky ridgelines and bluffs overlooking the broad valleys of the Brazos and Colorado rivers and the canyons of their tributaries.

Area ranchers typically have referred to these large cairn clusters as “Indian burial grounds”—and with good reason. Many of the cairns have been found to contain human remains—men, women, and children who long ago were carefully interred in specially prepared graves.

The term cairn harks back to Old World usage describing a mound of stones erected as a memorial or marker. Although similar stone configurations have been observed in other regions of the state, those in the general vicinity of Abilene are distinctive in their quantity, scale and complexity. Varying widely in size, west Texas cairns typically have a discernible circular shape. They usually are located on prominent elevations that afford both panoramic vantage points and ready access to stone outcrops; indeed, several archeologists have noted the spectacular views afforded by the location of many of the cairns.

Puzzling though they may seem to us today, these hilltop cemeteries mark special places on the landscape—sacred territory where kin and comrades once gathered for rituals and memorials. They speak to a little-known prehistoric era of human turmoil, transition, and rivalry, a Native American world that existed in the centuries before the entry of Europeans into the region and the arrival of the Comanche and Apache.

To see the rest of this TBH article, go to <http://www.texasbeyondhistory.net/cairn/index.html>



Large cairn on high point, one of dozens documented in the Middle Concho valley.



Members of the Concho Valley Archeological Society excavate a cairn burial at 41CN94, prior to impoundment of O. H. Ivie Reservoir. Photo by Larry Riemenschneider. TARL Archives.

Artifact Quiz

This is one I actually own. I found it in the Goodwill many years ago. There is a slit down the middle of the piece that attaches to the handle and the whole handle piece can be pulled out.

It is 17" X 14" X 5 1/2 ".



2012 CVAS Archeology Fair

The Concho Valley Archeology Fair will be held on **OCTOBER 13th 2012 at FORT CONCHO**. The event will be a full day beginning at 10:00AM and ending at 4:00PM. Breakfast and Dinner (or lunch if you call it that) for the event will be provided by the "Fiddle Fire Chuck Wagon."

CVAS members will be setting up for the event on Friday the 12th of October in the afternoon. If your exhibit or demonstration is inside a building and you would like to set up on Friday, you are welcome to do so. During this time tables, chairs, signs, etc. will be set up. You will have the same number of tables, chairs, and benches for your exhibit, same as last year. If you have an exhibit, demonstration or activity to be set up on Saturday, **PLEASE BE AT THE FORT BY 8:00AM. WHEN THE FAIR CLOSES, EVERYONE PLEASE STAY AND HELP BREAKDOWN ALL EXHIBITS.** Thanks again for everyone who have volunteered in the past and again for this year; both Ray Theiss and Callan Clark are looking forward to meeting everyone and to having a great fair this year.

Following is a list of volunteers who have been contacted and say that they will be participating this year. If your name is omitted from the list and would like to be a part of the fair, please contact Callan Clark at (325) 763-7361 or clarkc74@gmail.com.

EXHIBITS

Artifact Identification
CVAS & TAS

Larry Riemenschneider

Sue Meacham

Cynthia Purcell

Fred Brazeil

Evans Turpin

Bill Yeates

Marcia Esser

Glenn and Susan Perry

Jim Hickman

Karen Hickman

Tom Ashmore

Kathy Powe

Michelle and Derek Doss

Ray Theiss

Iraan Archeological Society
Photography of History and Archeology
The Times of Our Lives
Native Plants: Useful and Edible
Nature Warehouse
Lace Making
Butterfield Trail
Illuminated Threads
Walnut Schoolhouse
Lone Star Ghost Towns
Tom Green County Genealogical
and Historical Society
Author and Professional Researcher
Geology and Fossil Record

Susan Ball

W. C. Jameson

Dr. Joe Satterfield

G.E.O. ASU

Tee Maedgen

Ginger Hudspeth

Quilts Display

DEMONSTRATIONS

Flintknapping

Blacksmith

West Texas Gold Prospecting

W. C. Briley

Joe Jay

Earl Theiss

2012 CVAS Archeology Fair

ACTIVITIES

Metal Detecting in Archeology
Atlatl Throw

Bow and Arrow Shoot

Pottery Making
Painted Pebbles

Basket Making
Prehistoric Food Preparation

Clues in the Dirt

Making a Medicine Bag

CVAS Patches Sales

FAIR VOLUNTEERS

Tables and Decorations
Printing and Placing Signs

FOOD BOOTH

Fiddle Fire Chuck Wagon

Henry Dusek
Gary Heumier
Lee Keele
Jack Woodrow
Johnny Gurley
Jo Millican
Arnetta Cooper
Helen Cozart
Mary Frentz
Brownie Roberts
Loy Haley
Loy Haley
Evelyn Diebitsch
C. A. Maedgen
Bill Haley
Eileen Braziel
Jo Riemenschneider
Allamay Schafer

Lila Boles
Ward Gregory
Tee Maedgen

Virginia Hudspeth
Tommy Deering

Dorothy Douthitt
Mary Douthitt
Lisa Truesdell
Kathy Dunn
Justin Minton

Artifact Quiz Answer. This is a newspaper log roller. People would place the newspaper into the slit and roll it up into a log to be used in the stove or fireplace.

17th century shipwreck to be freeze-dried, rebuilt

MICHAEL GRACZYK, Associated Press, 15 Aug 2012

BRYAN, Texas (AP) — More than three centuries ago, a French explorer's ship sank in the Gulf of Mexico, taking with it France's hopes of colonizing a vast piece of the New World — modern-day Texas.

And that important piece of history, once completed, will head to the heart of the Lone Star state and sit inside the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum.

Like La Salle in 1685, researchers at Texas A&M University are in uncharted waters as they try to reconstruct his vessel with a gigantic freeze-dryer, the first undertaking of its size. By placing the ship — La Belle — in a constant environment of up to 60 degrees below zero, more than 300 years of moisture will be safely removed from hundreds of European oak and pine timbers and planks. The freeze-dryer, located at the old Bryan Air Force base several miles northwest of College Station, is 40 feet long and 8 feet wide — the biggest such machine on the continent devoted to archeology. Researchers will then rebuild the 54 ½-foot vessel, which will become the centerpiece of the Bob Bullock Texas State History Museum in Austin.

From a historical perspective, it's "an icon of a small event that dramatically changed the course of Texas history," said Jim Bruseth, who led the Texas Historical Commission effort to recover the remains.

The supply ship was built in 1684 and sank two years later in a storm on Matagorda Bay, about midway between Galveston and Corpus Christi.

"When La Belle sank, that doomed La Salle's colony and opened up the door for Spain to come in and occupy Texas," Bruseth said. "People can see firsthand how history can turn on a dime."

"It's an important piece in ship architecture," said Peter Fix, conservator at the school's Center for Maritime Archeology and Conservation. Researchers have determined that unlike earlier vessels, the frames on La Belle were marked specifically by the French craftsmen so the wood comprising the hull could follow the complex curve of the ship.

"This was the age of Enlightenment when math was coming into more play," Fix said.

After a more than decade-long hunt, Texas Historical Commission archeologists found it in 1995 in 12 feet of murky water. Then began the tedious recovery that involved constructing a dam around the site. After the water was pumped out, teams dug through up to 6 feet of mud in the Gulf of Mexico seabed to retrieve the nearly intact ship and some 700,000 items, from swords, cannons and ammunition to beads and mirrors intended for trade. Archeologists also found one skeleton, believed to be a crew member or settler among the some 40 people aboard. The ship was then transferred to the Texas A&M lab, where the water-logged wood has been immersed in a chemical solution to keep it solid.

Initially, the ship was being reassembled in a two-stage chemical process, but as oil prices rose, so did the cost of the key chemical, polyethylene glycol. They decided the freeze-dry process was more economical and would shorten the preservation timeframe. So, the hull was disassembled and the wood was categorized and digitally scanned so that they could make molds of its original shape. A New York-based firm that specializes in scientific equipment built the submarine-like freeze dryer.

"If we were to take any piece of wood, say it's been in the water for 300 years, and pull it out, it would shrink, crack, warp within a couple of days," Fix said. "The physical stress on wood would essentially cause it to fall apart and crumble and powder into pieces."

But scientists know that at the right temperature and pressure, water can go from being solid to gas and skip the liquid phase.

"It's a slow, controlled process and depending on the thickness of material, over four to six or seven months, we know that timber has lost most of its bound water and it's safe to bring out," Fix said, noting that they're experimenting with smaller pieces to "make sure nothing goes wrong."

A similar preservation using freeze-dryer technology is planned for a medieval ship discovered in 2002 in Newport, South Wales. That vessel is about twice the length of La Belle.

The La Belle rebuilding will start late next year at the Bullock Museum.

"I can't wait," said Bruseth, who is serving as guest curator for the exhibit. "It's just fantastic to see this project reach the point where we'll actually be reassembling the ship as a permanent installation."

Rene-Robert Cavelier Sieur de La Salle was the first European to travel the Mississippi River south to the Gulf, claiming all the land along the Mississippi and its tributaries for France in 1682. In 1685, he sailed from France with more than 300 colonists aboard four ships, La Belle among them, to establish a settlement at the mouth of the Mississippi. Maps of the time show he believed the river was closer to Mexico, and his expedition missed the Mississippi by hundreds of miles.

"They were guessing," Bruseth said.

His team established a colony near Matagorda Bay, but it was ravaged by disease, rattlesnakes and Indians. Three years later, La Salle led

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)