

ALL POINTS BULLETIN



Make friends with...  ...the past, through the....

Colorado Archaeological Society - Denver Chapter

“...in the future, as in the past, the gathering of information will depend to a great extent on cooperation between avocational and professional archaeologists.” (H.M. Wormington, 1978)

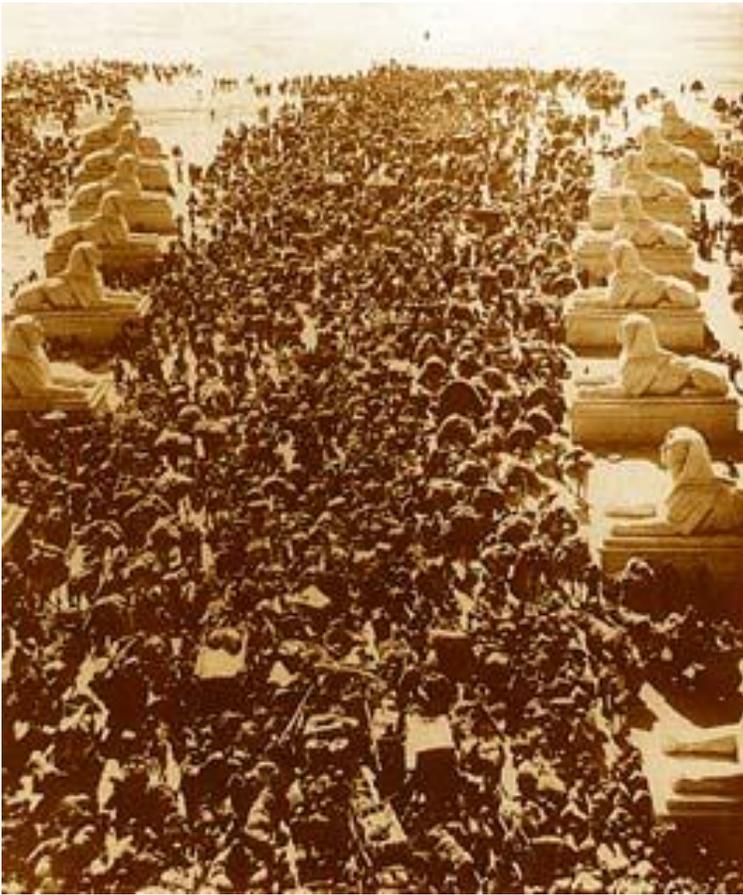
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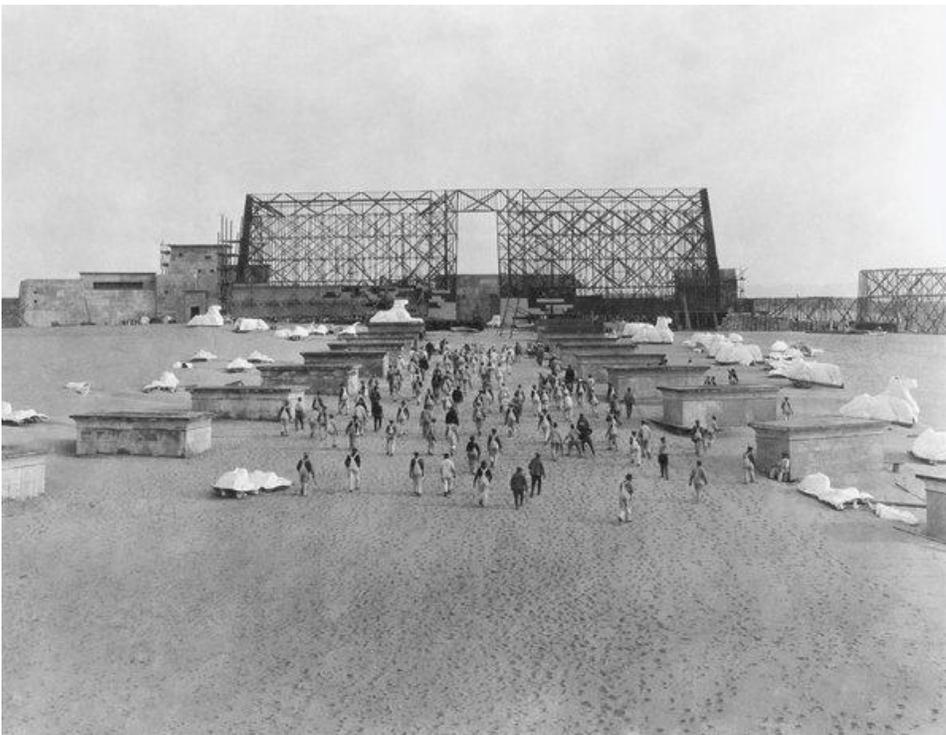
The Lost City of DeMille By Reid Farmer



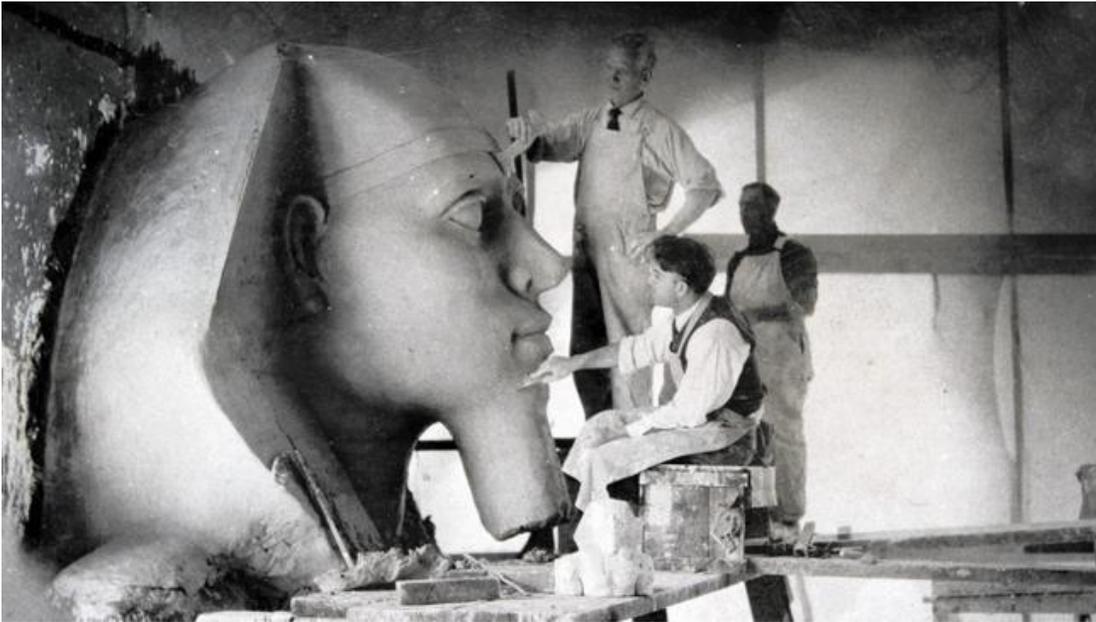
In 1923, the silent movie classic "The Ten Commandments" was filmed by Cecil B. DeMille in the Guadalupe Dunes area of northern Santa Barbara County, on California's Central Coast. It had the largest production budget of any movie made up to that time, \$1.4 million. Huge costs were incurred building the massive sets that a crew of 1,500 workmen put together. A tent camp was built to house and feed a cast and crew of 2,000 as well as 3,000 animals.



Look at this crowd scene, with all of those sphinxes. What appear to be great stone statues were really plaster of paris put on wooden forms. What looks like large stone buildings were really painted canvas, tacked to wooden frames. In addition to the sets, DeMille and his producers built a massive tent camp to house and feed the actors, extras and crew.



Here is a picture of the set while it was under construction.



A large team of artists toiled to make the plaster statues and paint the “reliefs” on canvas. Looking at the still photographs from the movie, the results of their work were quite striking. Back in the days before computer generated images, if you wanted giant buildings in your movie, you had to build something that at least looked like a giant building.

At the conclusion of filming, DeMille faced the decision of what to do with the sets. He and his financial backers opted to have them knocked down and bulldozed into the sands. Locals scavenged a lot of usable lumber, but eventually the buried movie set was forgotten.

Until 1983, when documentary filmmaker Peter Brosnan came across a cryptic reference to the fate of the set in DeMille's autobiography. He eventually tracked down the location, and in association with a local CRM archaeologist, John Parker, conducted a ground penetrating radar survey that demonstrated that there still were buried targets in the dunes. By burying the movie set, DeMille had created one of the most unusual archaeological sites in the United States, called by some “The Lost City of DeMille.”



The Dunes are owned by Santa Barbara County who holds them as a county park. In the late 1990s, Brosnan and Parker were allowed by the county to do limited test excavations that proved there were still remains of the set intact under the sand. Here is a picture of one of their finds.



I really wouldn't have known anything about this except that in 2003, my wife Connie and I worked on an archaeological survey for a new entry road and parking lot for the park where the dunes are located. The "Lost City" turned up in our file search as site CA-SBA-2392H. This is what the site looks like today. The dark patches visible in the sand are made by millions of rusted nails as well as large expanses of wood fragments. Our survey actually located more material associated with the movie set that had not been previously mapped.

The "Lost City" is pretty near the top in the list of strange sites where I have worked. The area is closed both to keep vandals away and to protect nesting areas of an endangered bird species, the Western Snowy Plover.



Brosnan and his friends have toiled for decades now trying to raise money for more research and trying to get permission from the county to allow some data recovery excavations. They succeeded, and hired Applied Earthworks, a California CRM firm, to excavate and stabilize one of the sphinxes. Here is a picture from that dig. The stabilized remains will be put on display at the Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes Center.

Branson-Potts, Hailey

Sphinx Unearthed from 1923 Cecil B. DeMille Movie Set. Los Angeles Times, October 17, 2014.

Fessenden, Marissa

There's a Fake Egyptian City Buried in California. www.smithsonianmag.org, October 15, 2014.

Geggel, Laura

Giant Sphinx from Ten Commandments Film Unearthed 91 Years Later. www.livescience.org, October 17, 2014.

Linn, Sarah

Excavating the Ten Commandments in the Guadalupe-Nipomo Dunes. www.kcet.org, June, 10, 2013.

December General Meeting: Monday, December 14th, 2015 at Denver University, Sturm Hall, Room 154 at 7 PM.

Member's Night

Speakers will be fellow members giving short presentations about anthropology and archaeology related topics gathered from trips, vacations and other related events. Please bring goodies to share with everyone. The speakers are:

Teresa Weedin "The Aztec Floating Gardens of Xochimilco, Mexico City"
Catherine Griffin "Archaeology of the Arapaho and Roosevelt National Forests and Pawnee National Grasslands"
Reid Farmer "Olduvai Gorge"

Minutes of the DC-CAS Board Meeting, November 3rd, 2015

The DC-CAS Board Meeting was held at Sturm Hall at Denver University on November 3rd, 2015. Linda Sand called the meeting to order at 7:15 PM.

Attending were Linda Sand, Jack Warner, Reid Farmer, Preston Niesen, Teresa Weedin, Craig Banister, Ken Andresen, Ann Wilson, Catherine Griffin, and Cashel McGloin.

Speakers-Catherine reported the March speaker is Pascale Mehan, a doctoral candidate that spoke at the quarterly CAS meeting. Several members of the board volunteers to speak at the December meeting.

Science-Reid said the survey at Ken Caryl should be happening soon. Jack reported all the Blackfoot Cave artifacts have been completely added to the database. 4,200 artifacts need further analysis. There will be at least two more analysis meetings this year.

Membership-There was no report on membership.

CAS-Teresa is still going through the new bylaws from the quarterly CAS meeting.

PAAC-Ann is retiring, so Preston is now handling the PAAC announcements. Kevin Black announced the annual lab project, which will run on December 4, 5, 10, 11 and January 15, 16. Prospective volunteers should contact Kevin by November 23rd and should plan to be able to attend at least two of the days. The labs will be at the overflow facility rather than the History Colorado center. The lab is for multiple sites and will consist of cataloging and analysis. Kevin also provided a form for people to suggest PAAC classes they would want to take in the spring.

Treasury-Preston said the budget is a bit larger than usual, since we were catching up from the change to membership renewals in March. He asked that we transfer some money from the general fund to the student

fund, as the later was a little low. Teresa moved we transfer \$50 to the student account, which the board approved.

Trips-Teresa reported there were no trips scheduled at this time.

Library-The date we have the library has been extended until mid-December. We may have to move Bill Hammond's stuff to the pit for the time being. Reid contacted several book sellers, but so far there are no takers. We also have slides and A/V archives that need to be cataloged before giving them to Denver Public Library.

Website-Craig added the November APB to the website.

Old Business-Jack moved to approve the minutes, which the board voted to accept.

Nominations-We do not have a candidate to take over membership. Craig is working on correcting and updating the spreadsheet for the new membership person.

Archives-The archives are under control, there is no other news to report.

Holiday Dinner-The reservations are at 6:30 and anyone attending needs to give Linda Sand a head count.

New business-

Membership Categories- The pricing and categories for Denver CAS needed to be updated to match the categories agreed upon at the quarterly CAS meeting. The rates on the form that Craig inherited were incorrect, so Preston helped us correct them. Craig will post the new categories and corrected prices on the website.

Rock art-The rock art society offered the board the right to buy a digital archive of their information. They declined since there would be no library to keep it in. However, individual members are free to buy it for their own collections.

C-14 Dating-Jack proposed that we approve up to \$2,000 for carbon dating, in light of the price break from a new lab for black foot cave archives. Jack moved that "For the purpose of improving the Blackfoot Cave artifact analysis accuracy and organization, DC-CAS approves the expenditure of up to \$2,000 for lab fees to acquire more carbon 14 dates." The board approved the measure and agreed the funds should come from the scientific fund. There are 7 samples that would be ideal for further testing.

Linda adjourned the meeting at 8:17 PM.

Submitted by Cashel McGloin

Minutes of the DC-CAS General Meeting, November 9, 2015

The meeting, held in the DMNS Planetarium, was called to order by Linda Sand, who thanked Cashel, Ken, and

Rosalie for the recent APB publication. Neil H. thanked CAS for additional funding--soon the draft Blackfoot Cave report will be out, and the final in early 2016. At the recent CO-CAS statewide meeting, revised articles of incorporation and bylaws were passed. The statewide annual meeting will be held in Grand Junction next year and in Denver in 2017.

Preston, re PAAC, stated that the annual lab project, run by Kevin Black, will have sessions on Dec. 4, 5, 10, 11, also Jan. 15-16. There is a sheet in the back where people can indicate which classes they would be interested in taking in Denver in the next year. The Colorado Rock Art Association will have videos available on a thumb drive, cost of \$29.95, contact Al Copley at: mamacat8_2000@yahoo.com. Teresa stated that the CAS library at DU still has thousands of books that have to be sold in the near future to clear out the room, December 12-13 will be the last time to come look at them.

Next was voting on the slate of officers and directors (Denver Chapter) for year 2016. A membership chair is still needed. Sharon Murphy (seconded by Teresa Weedin) moved to accept the slate by acclamation. Motion passed.

President: Linda Sand
Vice President: Catherine Griffin
Secretary: Kendra Elrod
Treasurer: Michelle Giometti
PAAC Coordinator: Preston Niesen
Directors: Jon Kent and Craig Banister

Catherine then reminded the audience that December 14 is the annual "members' night". There are three member speakers already signed up, it will be held in DU's Sturm Hall, Room 154, parking available across the street in a lot. Bring goodies to share.

She then introduced Dr. Richard Wilshusen(former State Archaeologist) from Paleo Cultural Resources Group, presenting: "Lessons Learned at Chaco: Contract Archaeology, Cultural History, and Heritage Management 1969-2015." How did we get to where we are now from where we were then (re archaeological and cultural resource methods, the profession, etc.) was the main focus of the talk.

Since the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) was passed, there has been more awareness. In the 1960's and 70's, there were many changes, from large basin surveys to archaeology as a science. A lot of work had been done at nearby Mesa Verde by the time in 1969 when a meeting was called to start work at Chaco. What areas to open for tours was one item of debate. Picked for study were the farthest great house, Pueblo Alto, and other areas spread across the landscape--unlike previous NPS projects. Dr. Wilshusen talked about the many now well-known ("famous") archaeologists who were trained and worked in their early years on this project. The archaeological profession was changing. In the past, it

took many years to get all the studies for an area published. Sometimes there was no continuity, no normalized database, and diverse conclusions. There were numerous monographs and syntheses published over a period of many years.

More recent projects, such as such as the Dolores Reservoir one, were contrasted and compared to the Chaco project. The Chaco project could deal with planning and educational resources for visitors, the Dolores project was dealing with pending development on top of an area. Both project studies (as well as those from Mesa Verde) were needed to make sense of the cultural history and larger landscapes over centuries of time. The data were all combined to determine a pattern of population--even pre-dating Chaco--and depopulation.

Most archaeologists (80%) nowadays are working for private groups and non-profits. Others are state, federal, and university employees. Between 1980 and 2015, NPS expanded the Chaco park boundaries, and the "alums" (archaeologists) helped. One scholar, Steve Lekson, brought Chaco back into public debate, along with other university-affiliated archaeologists. The past 15 years have brought expanding oil and gas development. Dr. Wilshusen wonders whether CRM groups, state and agency personnel, and even CAS members can help handle the studies for such.

Dr. Wilshusen closed with a summary of things to think about for the future of heritage management, that the following things are needed:

- simpler survey data
- more volunteers and non-profit research groups
- strong federal emphasis on heritage management
- better site prediction models (for specific sites and time periods)
- greater balance between Section 106 mandated excavation/data and alternative mitigation strategies, not just focusing on immediate needs
- how to survey, what should be preserved, and what should be abandoned
- alliances between tribal, state, federal, and the public to pursue common goals

A question was asked of the speaker on how CAS can help with this and be actually listened to. The answer was that certain contractors may listen. PAAC-trained people can be useful, for example: as a liaison for landowners. If the goals of landowners are different than those of the archaeologists (university and governmental), this is another area where CAS might get involved and be helpful also. A lot of this has been going on regarding the development of wind energy.

Following the talk, Linda Sand conducted a short business meeting. The minutes of the October general meeting were approved. Teresa stated that Bill Hammond had

broken his hip and so CAS was granted a few extra weeks to have the Swallow Site artifacts removed from DU. Meeting was adjourned at 8:20 pm.

Submitted by Linda Trzyna for Kendra Elrod

Mounds and Migrants: An archaeological tour of southern and central Arizona

March 19-25, 2016

The last 15 years have seen a dramatic increase in archaeological understanding of precontact migration and the Salado "phenomenon" in the American Southwest. In

this tour, participants will join Drs. William Doelle and Jeffery Clark of Archaeology Southwest and other esteemed researchers at the forefront of these recent investigations for a tour of southern and central Arizona, where they will explore the effects of this "clash" of Hohokam and Ancestral Pueblo ideologies. The tour is sponsored jointly by Archaeology Southwest (a nonprofit based in Tucson, Arizona) and Southwest Seminars (a nonprofit based in Santa Fe, New Mexico). You can learn more, and download a PDF of the tour flyer, at <http://www.archaeologysouthwest.org/what-we-do/tours/>

DC/CAS
October, 2015 Financial Report
 Prepared by Preston Niesen, Treasurer

Assets		
	September	October
Key Bank checking	\$3,465.91	\$3,246.91
TD 182 day to 01/04/16 @0.10%	\$5,692.36	\$5,692.36
TD 182 day to 4/19/16 @0.05%	\$4,806.97	\$4,808.17
TD 1 year to 02/17/16 @ 0.10%	\$4,993.10	\$4,994.36
Total checking/savings	\$18,958.34	\$18,741.80
Liabilities & Equity		
Current Liabilities		
AH Scholarship Fund payable	\$ -	\$ -
State CAS Dues payable	\$ -	\$ -
Funds		
Scientific Applications	\$5,080.66	\$5,082.41
Swallow Report Project	\$2,681.81	\$2,681.81
D Bucknam Memorial Speaker Fund	\$1,747.10	\$1,747.10
Blackfoot Cave	\$70.00	\$70.00
Library	\$302.45	\$302.45
Education	\$182.00	\$182.00
Field Trips/Social	\$483.01	\$483.01
Student Membership	\$15.50	\$7.50
Speakers Meal Fund	\$801.62	\$811.62
Total Liabilities & Funds	\$ 11,364.15	\$11,367.90
General Fund	\$7,594.19	\$7,373.90
Total L E F's	\$18,958.34	\$18,741.80

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