

Nevada Archaeological Association

WINTER

NEWSLETTER

1995/1996

Board Notes



An NAA Board of Directors meeting was held in Ely at the BLM District Office on November 4, 1995. At the meeting, it was announced that NAA President, **Dr. Colleen Beck** has been appointed to BLM's Mojave/Southern Nevada Resource Advisory Council. Colleen will serve on the Council for a period of two years and will assist BLM in making management decisions concerning cultural and environmental resources. Congratulations.

Concerning membership, **Bill Johnson** stated that the membership is holding at 166 paid members. Bill is working feverishly on developing a new membership form that is more representative of the current needs of the organization. Until it is completed, however, NAA will have to use the current form (see below).

The Treasurer's Report, submitted by Treasurer **Robin McMullen**, indicates that NAA has managed to build up the funds to a comfortable position. It was, however, pointed out that total \$\$\$\$ does not reflect the funds encumbered for the purpose of printing two outstanding NAA Journals, 1994 and 1995. *Oops, but we are still a head above the side walls.*

And speaking of the *NEVADA ARCHAEOLOGIST*, as of this mailing, the 1992 Journal has been sent to those persons holding 1992 membership. If you have not received your Journal and were enrolled in 1992, please contact the Executive Secretary, **Susan Murphy**, at Nevada Archaeological Association, 9785 Tropical Parkway, Las Vegas, NV., 89129, ph. 702-895-1411 (W). The 1994 and 1995 Journals are being finalized and will be sent to the publishers in the near future. **Mark Henderson** reports that he has received only two papers for publication in the 1996 Journal and urges any person who wants to have a paper on Nevada archeology published to contact him at 702-289-1869 (W). The 1996 Journal will also include a bibliography of Journal articles published up to 1996.

Other Board matters and news of interest are discussed as separate items below. ➡

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

It's that time of the year again; to renew your membership, to become a new member, or to recruit a member. Attached is the 1996 membership application/renewal form. As a sales pitch, NAA is the only non-profit organization in the state with both professional and avocational archaeologists devoted to promoting archaeological interests and the

preservation/conservation of prehistoric and historic cultural resources in Nevada. The organization and its purpose is only as strong as you and others like you make it. So please, sign up today and make this year better than last year, for you and NAA. And after you've done that, get a friend to join. (A reminder, be sure to SIGN and date the signature block on the form). ➡

TING-PERKINS AWARD

Submitted by **Susan Murphy**. The 1995 Ting-Perkins Award was presented to **Grace Burkholder** on October 18, 1995 at a luncheon held in her honor. A Certificate of Accomplishment and a check for fifty dollars were presented to Grace at that time. The luncheon was attended by the following NAA members: **Grace Burkholder; Colleen Beck; Bill Johnson; Lynda Blair; Bill McKinnis; Ann DuBarton; and Susan Murphy.**

Grace was honored for her outstanding effort in rock art conservation and recordation. Over 100 previously unrecorded sites have been added to the archives as well as formal recording of visitor approved sites such as Grapevine Springs and Atlatl Rock in the Valley of Fire. Thanks again Grace for all of your hard work and dedication. *Congratulations Grace, your work is greatly appreciated by the professional community. In this age of budget shrinkage, we Federal archeological-types need more dedicated avocationalists such as yourself.*

TECOPA CHARCOAL KILNS

This past October, **Kathy Moskowitz**, Archeologist with the Spring Mountain National Recreation Area, Toiyabe/Humboldt National Forests, undertook the partial stabilization of the only remaining complete kiln of three located on the western flanks of the Spring Mountain Range, northeast of Pahrump, NV. The kilns were constructed in 1875 by **Nehemia Clark** and were used in the production of charcoal to fire smelters at Tecopa, California. The kilns were used up to 1910 producing an estimated 12,000 bushels of charcoal per month. Since then, their condition has deteriorated.

The two-week long stabilization project was accomplished with the aid of several dozen volunteers donating several hundred hours of time and labor. The efforts resulted in the stabilization of the bottom 2/3 of the kiln. Kathy hopes to be able to complete the upper 1/3 with additional funding. The project, under direction of a specialist in historic structure repair, was consistent with the intent of the Secretary of Interior's Standards for Historic Preservation Projects. ➡

DYNAMIC DUO

For those of you who might have missed it, Drs. Colleen Beck and Bill Johnson were featured in a ½-hour episode of ARCHAEOLOGY on THE LEARNING CHANNEL entitled "GROUND ZERO." The show portrayed Desert Research Institutes's, on-call cultural resource contractor for DOE, efforts at recording buildings and structures associated with America's Nuclear Testing Program on the Nevada Test Site in the 1950s and 60s. The duo represents the cutting edge of Atomic-Age Archaeology. ➡

ADOPT A DATABLE FEATURE

In the fall of 1994, Archaeological Research Services, Inc. conducted archaeological excavations at a Late Archaic village site on the north edge of Carson City with limited funding being provided by a real estate developer. The village site contained over 75 features, including 25 probable habitations and 50 storage facilities and hearths. The site was excavated using AM-ARCS and professional volunteers donating their weekend time and labor.

The SHPO has granted Carson City a limited amount of funding to complete analyses and to prepare a report. Because there is no federal involvement in the project, ARS is seeking matching funds for the SHPO grant in the form of donations for radiocarbon dating analysis. ARS is hoping to send 21 radiocarbon samples for dating at a reduced cost of \$215 per sample. If you would like to help out in the adoption of a feature for dating, contact Vickie Clay, ARS, P.O. Box 701, Virginia City, NV., 89440, ph. (702) 847-0615 for information.

HUMBOLDT GROUP

An *ad hoc* consortium presently consisting of prehistoric-oriented staff from Intermountain Research, Gnomon, Inc., and Resource Concepts, Inc. has formed for the purpose of initiating a dialog concerning a new synthetic overview of the Middle Humboldt region of north-central Nevada. The Humboldt Group, recognizing the voluminous amount of archaeological research conducted in the region over the past few years, has conceived a plan to synthesize the data, develop recommendations for future research, for data collection and management, and for administrative policy. A questionnaire regarding prehistoric research interests in the region was distributed to professionals and contracting firms as part of the Group's scoping phase. The posed questions were intended to provoke reconsideration of recent trends and research in the region. For additional information, contact: The Humboldt Group, P.O. Drawer A, Silver City, NV., 89428. *The Group's regional approach and timely synthesis is needed throughout the state. Let's hope that there is additional partnership support, and we look forward to the results of the Group's efforts.* ➡

ROCK ART WORKSHOP

The Bureau of Reclamation, Lower Colorado Region, and the National Park Service, Lake Mead National Recreation Area, recently sponsored a Rock Art Recording and

Conservation Workshop. Two one-week long training sessions were held at two separate petroglyph complex sites: one at Burro Wash southeast of Boulder City; and one at Inscription Rock south of Davis Dam adjacent to the Colorado River. Instructors for both classes were Dr. Larry Loendorf and Claire Dean, Conservator. A total of 23 students from various federal agencies, including seven Native Americans representing five regional tribes, learned the proper procedures in recording rock art through drawing, narrative description, and photography, formulating site condition assessments, and were provided with incites on site conservation methodology (not to be tried by the untrained) and protection. Pending budget and other management concerns, future training courses are proposed. ➡

OUT AND ABOUT

State Historic Preservation Office, Carson City. The SHPO has recently completed the new historic preservation plan for the state which has been reviewed and approved by the National Park Service. During the planning process, public input was sought and feedback indicated that public education was the number one priority for historic preservation in the state. A copy of the plan can be had by contacting the office at 100 Stewart St, Capitol Complex, Carson City, NV 89710 or call Alice Baldrice at 687-6361.

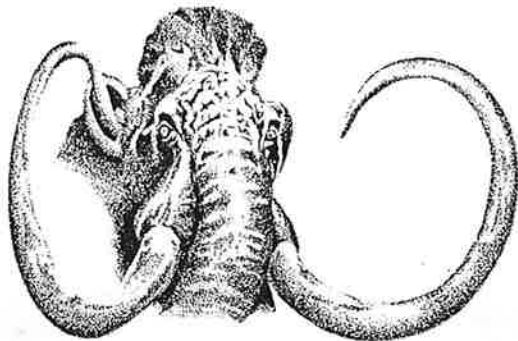
Also, Alice is interested in hearing from you if your chapter, city, or agency is planning any Archaeological Awareness and Historic Preservation Week activities, the second week of May. Give her a call if you have ideas or planned activities.

Archaeo-Nevada Society, Las Vegas. Now that cooler weather is here, ANS has been active with monthly meetings, trips, and projects. The group has joined forces with the Red Rock Canyon Interpretive Association in an effort to establish a coherent and comprehensive monitoring program for this archaeologically sensitive area. Recent meeting speakers have included Dr. Steve Rowland, Professor of Geology, UNLV, Dr. Kevin Rafferty, Community College of Southern Nevada, and William White, Archeologist with the Bureau of Reclamation. ANS members participated in the stabilization of the Tecopa Charcoal Kilns and are actively cataloging and analyzing artifacts recovered from Elwood II, a Virgin Anasazi site excavated in 1988 and '89. Guidelines for analysis were established by Greg Haynes, Archeologist with Desert Research Institute, with the intention that the results of ANS's efforts would be published.

White Pine County Chapter, Ely. Prior to the last Board meeting, Board members, Chapter members, and members of the public participated in a field trip to McGill, NV. *Some of us will remember when stamps cost 2 and 5 cents, photographic film cost a dollar, ice cream and pop was served at a soda fountain, and you had to ask the lady behind the counter for protective sex products, discreetly placed under the counter out of public view. Oh, Happy Days.* Dick Goddard, White Pine County Museum, provided a history and opened the doors to the McGill Rexall Drugstore for the assembled group to explore a true slice of recent, but

not forgotten Americana time. The drugstore was closed in the 1970s and contains a variety of material items dating from the 40s through the 70s. The back room contains a complete pharmaceutical record dating from the 1920s. The drugstore has been turned over to the County Museum and upon completion of probate matters, the museum will inventory the store of its endless items of material cultural. It is the hope of the museum to reopen the store as a static-time, stabilized exhibit and information center. They also plan to be able to reopen the soda fountain.

Elko County Chapter, Elko. Condensed from a one-page article from Elko's *Free Press* submitted by Penny Urriola. For two weeks in the month of June, 1995, ECC members along with numerous local and not-so local volunteers, 80+, unearthed the partial remains of a MASTODON. The



adapted from NEVADA STATE MUSEUM & HISTORICAL SOCIETY

mastodon was first encountered several months earlier during construction of a water line at the Spring Creek Mobile Home Park in Elko. Dr. Fred Nials, professor at University of Nevada, Reno, and geomorphologist with Desert Research Institute, conducted soil sampling and studied soil strata from a nearby test trench. It was determined that the bones had been deposited in the sediment of a river or stream that flowed through the area and that the bones were between two and four million years old. *So much for a hoped for Paleoinian connection.*

The excavation, a private undertaking, was arranged and conducted by the Elko Chapter with professional supervision such as Tim Murphy, BLM Archeologist. Some volunteers, from as far away as Alta, CA., heard about the excavation by word-of-mouth and drove to the site to participate in what for them was a unique experience and a chance of a lifetime. Although a large area was excavated, the entire skeleton of the beast was not uncovered, and it is unknown if other bones remain undiscovered. The recovered bones, however, will be cleaned, stabilized, catalogued and eventually put on display at the Northeast Nevada Museum. ➔

MATURANGO MUSEUM

Looking for a four trowel-rated activity for yourself or group, then try this one on for adventure. The Maturango Museum, Ridgecrest, California sponsors guided petroglyph tours of the Coso Range during the fall and spring of each year. A large contingent of Am-Arcs and an impromptu group of NAA members recently participated in two separate fall tours of Renegade Canyon (aka-Little Petroglyph

Canyon). The Coso Range is located on the China Lake Naval Air Station testing facility, and access to this world class and National Landmark petroglyph site/s is controlled. Collectively, the petroglyph sites comprise the largest concentration and best preserved in the Western Hemisphere. For someone interested in representations of Big Horn Sheep and patterned-body anthropomorphs, this is a must tour. The sheep depictions are famous for their head-on view of the horns rather than the standard side or profile view so typical of the Great Basin. A mile-long walk in the basalt canyon will reveal 500+ individual panels with 6,000+ elements that span several thousand years. Warning, the intensity of the site can result in sensory overload and numbness due to the "uh, ah" factor. Information concerning future tours can be had by contacting Edna Laytart, at the Maturango Museum, (619) 375-6900. ➔

DATES TO REMEMBER

Society of Historical Archaeology, January 2-7, 1996, Cincinnati, Ohio.

NAA Board Winter Meeting, February 3, 1996, 9785 Tropical Parkway, Las Vegas, Nevada, 702-658-3396, Susan Murphy.

Society of American Archaeology, April 10-14, 1996, New Orleans, Louisiana.

NAA 25th Annual Conference, May 17-19, 1996, Tonopah, Nevada.

25th ANNUAL MEETING, 1996

Plans for the 1996 annual NAA Conference are evolving and have not been finalized. Details of the up coming meeting, the 25th anniversary of the founding of NAA, will be published in the next *NEWSLETTER*. As it stands, the meeting will be held in Tonopah, May 17-19, 1996, at facilities to be arranged by Susan Murphy and Oyvind Frock; so mark your calendar. Pat Hicks, BLM Archeologist in Tonopah, will act as chairperson for presentations. Persons interested in presenting a paper or displaying a poster can contact Pat at 702-482-7800 (W). It has been proposed at NAA Board meetings that in honor of the 25th year the guest speaker will be replaced with a panel discussion featuring Charter Members, the "Old Timers." Panel discussion will be focused on the paper presentations or perhaps the past and future of Nevada archeology given the current political climate. A used book table will once again be set up; donated books of historical or archeological interest are needed, so clean off you bookshelf. An auction of donated items, so successful last year, will also be conducted. Used books and donated auction items will be accepted by William White (702-293-8705) before or at the beginning of the meeting. All proceeds will go to benefit NAA. And speaking of poster presentations, are there any old photographs out there among Charter Members that portray activities/persons during the first couple of years of the organization that they would like to share at the meeting?

If you have any ideas, give Pat a call. Plan on attending and supporting your organization for the next 25 years. ➡

NAA BOARD MEETING, WINTER

The next NAA Board meeting will be held in Las Vegas at Susan Murphy's place of residence, 9785 Tropical Parkway. The meeting time is February 3, Saturday, at 9:00 A.M. A field trip is scheduled to Brownstone Canyon, the best concentration of pictographs in Nevada, at the conclusion of the meeting. Susan's place is located on the northwest side of Las Vegas. For the out-of-town members/visitors, the Santa Fe Casino and Hotel located on US 95 is

the closest accommodations. As always the meeting and field trip are open to NAA members and the general public. Become involved in your organization. ➡

NEWSLETTER

The NAA Newsletter is the organization's voice to its membership and interested public. Do you have any ideas for a name for the Newsletter or ways to improve the quality or quantity? Send your ideas and any items of archeological/historical interest or chapter activities to William White, 919 Stetson Drive, Henderson, NV., 89015. Your feedback is welcome. ♦

LAST LAUGH

adapted from WIZARD of ID

