Well, time flies. It is already spring and the annual conference is upon us. It promises to be an interesting one, with a full day and a half of presented papers. We conducted our winter Board meeting Caliente at the historic train depot. It is beautiful old building and has been restored to its earlier grandeur. Before the meeting, we were guided by Lynn Wolf of the Caliente BLM to some fascinating petroglyphs in the area.

The annual Nevada Archaeology Awareness and Historic Preservation Month poster and brochure have been completed and will be available at the conference. There are 71 events in 12 counties that are specifically focused on public education of the archaeology and history of Nevada. Those in attendance will be among the first to get their free copy.

This is my last Presidents Corner as I am stepping down as President. Looks like there will be an opening on the board, so anyone who would like to be part of this important organization as one of the decision makers should consider putting their name in the hat. Board member elections are held during the general membership meeting on Saturday. Remember you must be a current member to vote. See you there!

Next Board Meeting

The quarterly NAA Board of Directors meeting will be held in conjunction with the Annual Meeting, on Friday April 11 at 5:00 PM. As always, the meeting is open to all members.

Membership Dues are Overdue

The following NAA members are paid up for the year. If you do not see your name on the list, please send in your membership dues. If you have paid your dues and don’t see your name, contact Membership Secretary Daron Duke at daron@farwestern.com. A membership application can be found at the end of this newsletter. Thanks for your support.
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ANNOUNCING
NEVADA ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION
37th Annual Conference
April 11-12, 2008
Carson Valley Inn, Minden, NV

This year's NAA meeting will take place April 11-12 in Minden, Nevada. There will be a special Friday afternoon session this year dedicated to Alanah Woody. Dave Valentine's dutch oven workshop will be at the Silver Saddle ranch on Friday morning with Jim Carter of the BLM helping Dave out. We're thinking of 9 a.m. to 1 p.m., and limiting attendance to 20. Sign up for this workshop on our Conference application. Renee Kolvet has agreed to be the honored speaker at the NAA conference dinner on the 12th of April.

Meeting Schedule

- Friday Workshop: Dutch oven demonstration and cooking by Dave Valentine. Learn how to cook with a Dutch oven. 9 am to Noon. $10/head. Silver Saddle Ranch--map on the website. Eat the results starting around 11:30.
- Conference Registration 12:00
- Afternoon symposium in remembrance of Alanah Woody 12:30-5:00.
- NAA Board of Directors Meeting Friday 5:00 PM—open to all members
- Friday Evening Mixer- Hours d'œuvres and drinks hosted by ASM-free 6:30-8:30 pm
- Continental Breakfast and registration Saturday 8:30 AM
- Saturday, papers from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm.
- Saturday, 4:00 pm. Meeting of the general membership to discuss issues and hold election of officers with Board of Directors meeting to follow.
- Saturday evening activities
- 6:00 No-host bar
- 7:00 Dinner
- 8:00 Guest Speaker- Renee Corona Kolvet
- 9:00-11:00 Auction to benefit the NAA—please bring items to be auctioned.

NEWS FROM AFFILIATED ORGANIZATIONS

Archaeo-Nevada Society
Kevin Rafferty

The Archaeo-Nevada is continuing a slate of speakers for its Spring season. On March 13th at 7 pm Dr. David Weide will, tentatively, present a lecture on the Lascaux Caves in France. As a back-up we will have Elizabeth Roycraft, Research Assistant in Archaeology with the Public Lands Institute – Lake Mead NRA, who is planning on discussing the prehistory of the Shivwits Plateau area in northwestern Arizona. On May 8th Terri Robertson will present a program on the Gold Butte area. The program for April is as yet not settled.
Archaeo-Nevada Society is in the process of establishing a scholarship fund to benefit local students who are declared archaeology/anthropology majors at the 2-year level. Details are being worked out this Spring with the first awards projected for Fall 2008. This will be run through the College of Southern Nevada (CSN) Foundation. If we can reach a minimum goal of $10,000 the scholarship will be endowed and awards will be made out of the interest generated by the fund. The society is soliciting donations from local cultural resource management firms, and individuals interested in Nevada archaeology and historic preservation. Anyone wishing to donate please contact Kevin Rafferty at kevin.rafferty@csn.edu. Donation checks should be made out to the CSN Foundation/Archaeo-Nevada Scholarship Fund.

The Churchill County Chapter
Bob Kautz

The Churchill Chapter has been quiet over the winter. They start up again tomorrow, Wed., 5 March. Danielle Risse from the KEC office will give a talk on "Manhattan, Historic Archaeology in a 20th Century Mining Community". Our firm recently completed an historic context and survey for a part of the community which has been submitted and accepted by Sue Rigby of the Tonopah Field Station of the BLM. The talk will be based on that work.

Elko County Chapter of the NAA
Donna Murphy ECCNAA Secretary-Treasurer

Elko County Chapter members are coming out of winter hibernation. Membership renewals are trickling in with one new member and 14 old timer renewals. We continue to meet at 7 p.m. on the first Friday of the month in the training room at the Northeastern Nevada Regional Hospital. Everyone interested in archaeology is welcome to attend.

We are gearing up for Nevada's Archaeological Awareness and Historic Preservation month celebration in May and are fine tuning events for the annual Archaeology Fair held at the Northeastern Nevada Museum on May 10th from 10 a.m. till 2 p.m. We are working on a plant food information pamphlet to hand out at the Native Plant Foods Exhibit which seems to be one of the most popular exhibits and always draws a lot of questions. Tim Murphy has collected and processed samples of plant foods from berries to roots and has made a cut-away diorama of an earth oven showing how onion bulbs were roasted. Other events will be a prehistoric Hunting Tools Exhibit, amulet and bead stringing for the kids as well as the seed grinding and pump drill use for the younger ones.

Hopefully we'll have the very popular, participatory, atlatl throwing event that we had at the California Trails Day Celebration last summer. Jill Jensen is working on arrangements to borrow, again, or even purchase, a full sized bison target from the Elko Archery Club to use as the target for atlatl throwing. When the weather warms up we'll have a work party to make more darts and if anyone is interested in helping out, please give Donna a call at 775 738-6269 or email at murphys@citlink.net.

If you're out surfing, drop in at our web site and say "hello". http://www.elkoarchaeology.org. We appreciate any advice, assistance, criticism or comments so please sign the guest book. We'd love to hear from you.
Lincoln County Chapter
Barbara Rhode

The Lincoln County Chapter has been quite busy this winter: we have had two field trips to sites in the Pahranagat Valley (where it is much warmer than the northern section of the County!), and a great Pottery Workshop given by Eva Jensen of the Lost City Museum. We are always glad to have Eva come to make presentations, as we learn so much about the prehistory of the Great Basin! This workshop was sponsored in conjunction with the quarterly meeting of the N.A.A. Board, which met in Caliente on January 26. Some of the Board members also joined us on one of the field trips that morning, to the “Galley of the Ancients.”

The Board met that afternoon in the Art Gallery at the Caliente Railroad Depot, which several commented on as “the most beautiful meeting place we’ve had.” The paintings on display are the permanent collection of the Creative Artists of Lincoln County, acquired over the past 45 years from both visiting artists and local artists. Thank you, Board members, for choosing Caliente as your meeting location! As a side note, the Creative Artists of Lincoln County will be hosting their 40th annual juried Art Show over Memorial Day weekend, and all artists are invited to enter their work. Contact Barbara (secretary/treasurer for that group also) for more information – b_rohde@yahoo.com 775-728-4579 – or talk to me at the N.A.A. meeting. (I have retired from Nevada State Parks, after 30-1/2 years of service – so now I can participate more fully in N.A.A. and Chapter activities!)

Liz Russell, Chapter President and “resident site steward trainer” participated in the “Train the Trainer” seminar in Tonopah on March 13-14. This was co-sponsored by N.A.A. and the S.H.P.O. to train new site stewards. Welcome, new Trainers, we need you desperately! Liz has gone all over the state to train new trainers, and her “resources” are stretched pretty thin some weeks!

The Lincoln County Rock Art Guide is getting closer to fruition. This project was the result of cooperation between the Greater Lincoln County Chamber of Commerce, the Lincoln County Chapter, and the B.L.M. Cultural Resources program (under the direction of Mark Henderson) in conjunction with tribal representatives – to combine all the various leaflets on “public sites” that the B.L.M. has, into one resource. The initial work of “digitizing” the information was funded by the Nevada Commission on Tourism; it will be uploaded onto the Lincoln County Chamber website www.lincolncountynevada.com and ultimately go to print, when the Chamber of Commerce can find funds. This will be a companion piece to the historical “Walking & Driving Tours of Lincoln County,” which also was funded by N.C.O.T.

Nevada Archaeological Site Stewardship Program (NASSP)
Sali A. Underwood

Did you know that NASSP includes the monitoring of paleontological sites? Paleontology is the study of ancient life using fossil evidence. Fossils are the evidence in rock of the presence of a plant or an animal from an earlier geological period. Fossils are formed when minerals in groundwater replace materials in bones and tissue, creating a replica in stone of the original organism or of their tracks. Fossils are divided into two categories: invertebrate (no spine), and vertebrate (with spine). It is important to understand the distinction, as there are different laws protecting the types of fossils found in Nevada.

The BLM allows for limited collection of invertebrate (Trilobites, shell fish, petrified wood, etc.) as long as they are not collected for resale or trade. Vertebrate fossils (mega fauna, dinosaurs, teeth etc.) can only be collected with a permit. Permits are only granted to individuals associated with educational and research institutions who must agree to preserve their finds in a public museum, a college, or a university because of their relative rarity and scientific importance. The major laws protecting fossils on
federal lands are the Federal Land Policy and Management Act (1976), the National Environmental Policy Act (1969), and various sections of Part 43 of the Code of Federal Regulations.

Why monitor paleontological sites on Federal land? Just like archaeological resources, theft is a serious problem for this nonrenewable paleontological resource. Once they are gone they are gone forever. Several laws have been introduced to Congress over the years, the most recent being H.R. 554, S. 320 and S. 2180 in 2007. These bills have not been passed into law. In 2000 a summary report on Fossils on Federal and Indian Lands was generated with BLM, USFS, USFW, BOR, BIA, NPS, USGS, and the Smithsonian Institution. Seven principles were generated and used by the Society of Vertebrate Paleontology to prepare draft legislation.

These principles are: 1. Fossils from Federal lands are part of America’s heritage, 2. most vertebrate fossils are rare, 3. some invertebrate and plant fossils are rare, 4. Penalties for fossil theft should be strengthened, 5. Effective stewardship requires accurate information 6. Federal fossil collections should be preserved and available for research and public education, 7. Federal fossil management should emphasize opportunities for public involvement.

For more information please go to:

Site Stewardship Programs refresher course

The first Nevada Archaeological Site Stewardship Programs refresher course will be offered on April 5, 2008 at the Walker River Paiute Reservation in Schurz, NV. The class will run from 9 am to 1 pm with an optional site tour in the afternoon. This class will focus on refreshing your site stewardship skills, how to complete computerized monitoring reports, reviewing impact classifications and discussing program goals and projects with agency representatives. It is a great opportunity to meet your agency rep, fellow site stewards and get updated on the program.

The course is open to all active site stewards throughout the state, but there is limited space available so sign up early by contacting Salis Underwood (702) 486-5011 or Carl Bjork. Please feel free to spread the word to all of those who might be interested.

Note that this is not the required basic site stewardship training class and does not count towards site stewardship certification. All interested parties, however, are welcome to attend to find out more about the Nevada Site Stewardship Program.

The next full training class will be held in Gerlach, NV on Memorial Day May 26th.

News from the SHPO

SHPO has hired Sara Fogelquist, an architectural historian, to review NDOT projects.

The Commission for Cultural Affairs meets on March 20-21 to distribute $3 million for projects to rehabilitate historic buildings used as cultural centers around the state of Nevada.

The schedule of events for Historic Preservation and Archaeological Awareness Month has been posted on the SHPO web page at www.nvshpo.org. Please e-mail me any additions or revisions at ambaldri@clan.lib.nv.us
SOLICITATIONS, EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

Lost City Museum

What is new at the Lost City Museum?
Well mostly everything is old, but we have updated all of our exhibit areas in the past five years. If you haven’t visited recently, you should consider visiting in May when we will open two brand new exhibits and provide two special feature presentations on archaeology projects and history in the area.

Exhibits opening in May
"From the Footlocker: An Album of Life in the ‘3-C’ (Civilian Conservation Corps)”, will feature memorabilia from Civilian Conservation Corps workers in Southern Nevada. CCC workers left a lasting legacy in building the Lost City Museum, assisting archaeological excavation, improving Valley of Fire park facilities, roads, dams and water erosion control. This exhibit will open May 1 and continue through the month.

“Landscapes of Change” presents the timeline of human history and the changing environment in Southern Nevada. The exhibit is the outcome of a cooperative effort with the Southern Nevada Agency Partnership Cultural Resource Team (SNAP CRT for those who read government.) Exploring how people view their landscape and resources through time we will feature archaeological projects funded by the Southern Nevada Public Land Management Act Conservation Initiative “Preserve America”. Exhibit opens to the public on May 18, International Museum Day, and admission is free for that day.

Guest Lectures
May 18, 2:00 p.m.
At 2:00 pm the Dave Conlin of National Park Service Submerged Resources Team will give a presentation about their work documenting the B-29 that crashed and sank in Lake Mead in 1948. Conlin will discuss the history of the site, their findings, and techniques involved in underwater archaeology in the desert.

May 24, 1:00 p.m.
"From Boys to Men” The Civilian Conservation Corps in Southern Nevada.
Renee Corona Kolvet will give a presentation about the Civilian Conservation Corps in Southern Nevada. Kolvet gathered information from former enrollees for her book, “The Civilian Conservation Corps in Nevada, From Boys to Men”. Kolvet will autograph copies of her book following the presentation.

Monthly Art Exhibits
March presents Barbara Yoerg, born and raised in the upper Midwest, loves painting landscapes of native desert and wild flowers in watercolors. She is accompanied by Kathy Christensen and Anne Nahser, both wonderful watercolor artists featuring desert wonders on canvas as well.
April we display the whimsical creations of Joyce Spavin. Spavin moved to Las Vegas in 1970 having been well educated in art. Spavin’s inspiration for her printmaking, etching, linocuts,
block printing, and embossing comes from the southern Nevada desert. Her work includes machine and hand-appliqued wall hangings, as well as wearable art such as capes, evening coats and hand bags.

May is devoted to Wally Pacholka who is an eastern Canadian who shares images of historic celestial events framed by scenic southwestern desert landscapes such as the Valley of fire and Mohave Desert all in breathtaking photographs.

June Local Artist Sandra Goetting Rich will display her works in various media of charcoal, oil, watercolor, glass bead and wire jewelry, gourds, metal embossing, ceramics, polymer and silver clay.

8th Biennial Conference on Nevada History

*Alphabet Soup: The New Deal in Nevada*

Mella Rothwell Harmon, Curator of History, Nevada Historical Society


Please submit a one-page proposal and a short biographical sketch to the Director of the Nevada Historical Society by March 15, 2008.

American Rock Art Research Association (ARARA)

American Rock Art Research Association (ARARA will Meet in Farmington, NM on May 22-26.

For further information contact: Conference: Donna Gillette rockart@ix.netcom.com, President: Mavis Greer mavis@GreerServices.com, ARARA website www.arara.org

2008 GREAT BASIN ANTHROPOLOGICAL CONFERENCE

Portland, Oregon

The 31st biennial Great Basin Anthropological Conference will be held **October 8-11, 2008** on the campus of Portland State University at University Place in downtown Portland, Oregon. The theme of this year's gathering is *Beyond the Fringe: Interactions Between Great Basin Peoples and Their Neighbors.* With one symposium dedicated to this concept, a second honoring the contributions of anthropologist Kay Fowler, and several other sessions in the works, the 2008 conference promises to be a fine one.

The conference will begin on Wednesday afternoon (Oct. 8th) with registration and a cashbar reception. Presentations begin on Thursday morning (Oct. 9th) and continue through Saturday mid-day (Oct. 11th). Friday night's banquet will feature local cuisine, award presentations, and dance, with music by Hammerstone. Several field trips are planned for Saturday afternoon (Columbia Gorge Rock Art; Missoula Flood Features/Archaeology of The Dalles; Archaeology of a Plankhouse Village on the Lower Columbia).

Presentations related to all anthropological sub-disciplines are welcome. Submission forms for symposia, and individual papers and posters are available on the GBAC website for downloading and should be e-mailed to Dr. Dennis Jenkins.

Symposia organizers should submit packages by July 1. Please e-mail digital copies of the symposium title, a 150-word abstract, list of
paper titles, and their 150-word abstracts. Please include the name and affiliation of the organizer(s), participants, and discussants. Contributed paper and poster abstracts should be submitted by August 1.

NAA Website

Check out www.nvarch.org, NAA’s official website, constructed and maintained by Web Master, Hal Rager. Feel free to stop by for a visit on your next trip on the cyber highway. The website has lots of useful information, such as how to order your very own NAA mug or back issues of *Nevada Archaeologist*. It also contains links to other related web sites.

Troop movements

Leah Bonstead, at Lake Mead working through the Public Lands Institute for the past 4 years, began working for the National Park Service at Death Valley as the Park Archaeologist in February. Leah can be reached at a new email address leah_bonstead@nps.gov or at her new office at Death Valley National Park, 760) 786-3232

The State Historic Preservation office is pleased to welcome Sara Fogelquist, an architectural historian, hired to review NDOT projects.

PROJECTS, ARTICLES, MINI REPORTS

A Walker Lake Pictograph Photographed by Edward Curtis.

Steve Stearns
Nevada Department of Transportation

A proposed Nevada Department of Transportation material pit project gave us the opportunity to reexamine a previously recorded pictograph boulder (26MN06) on the west side of Walker Lake (Figure 1). The pictograph boulder lies near the mouth of a large rugged drainage that has been scoured by repeated flash flood events. The resulting action has deposited large boulders along the drainage edges—some of these boulders measure several meters in diameter.

This pictograph was first recorded in the late 1950’s (no date given on site sheet) under a California number—26MN03. This site is also described and illustrated by Heizer and Baumhoff (1962:49) and in 1975 the site was rerecorded by the BLM. The site record descriptions of the pictograph boulder follow.

*Original site record:* “Red pictograph on a granite boulder. Also petroglyphs…”

*1975 recording:* “A large granite boulder approximately 10-12 feet high and 20-22 feet in diameter. The rock is well rounded with two sharp vertical faces on the north side. Pictographs of red-orange color are on the north side…”
The pictographs are a red pigment—probably hematite—comprising the following design elements.

- Parallel zigzag lines
- A circle with six radiating lines with dots on their ends
- Pigment "smudges"
- A large dominating "Y" shape with a "Y" junction at its base
- Two faint circles on either side of the upper "Y" junction
- A "leaf" shape design at the very base of the boulder and contiguous to the "lower "Y" junction"

Since its recording the boulder has been shot by vandals with a few bullet holes damaging parts of the upper "Y" pictograph element (see Figure 2).

The pictographs are mostly visible along a north protruding edge of the boulder (Figure 2) but some faint elements also appear on a large flat east facing panel (Figures 3 and 4). On this panel elements are barely visible but could be seen at a distance, appearing as semicircular patterns. In addition there are very faint "petroglyphs" that appear as three connected oval pecked areas and two isolated pecked surface areas (Figure 4). All of these elements are highly speculative due to the weathering of the granite surface but these may have been what was observed and reported in the original 26MN03 site recording (see above).

Edward S. Curtis

In 1924 the prominent photographer Edward Curtis (1868-1952) traveled to the Walker River Reservation to photograph the Northern Paiute. The reservation boundary, at its inception in 1859, encompassed the whole of Walker Lake but now is restricted to the lake's north end surrounding portions of the lower Walker River drainage and the community of Schurz. Curtis's most well known photograph (Johnson 1975) from his visit is that of a young man fishing with a spear from a boulder along the western lake shore (Shore of Walker Lake, Figure 5). Another of his photographs is of the 26MN03/MN06 pictograph titled The Primitive Artist—Paviotso (Figure 6).

Curtis describes the pictograph this way: "A side of the glaciated boulder (sic) near the southwestern shore of Walker lake is covered with phallic symbols in faded red" (Curtis 1997:588). The validity of his symbolic interpretation of this pictograph is debateable, but it interested him enough to take an additional photograph (titled "Phallic Rock Painting") of this boulder—this time without his Paiute subject.

Edward S. Curtis grew up in Seattle Washington and in 1882 was a partner in a portrait studio. He was not well educated but was fortunate enough to work with several influential people. Curtis was the photographer for the Harriman Alaska Expedition in 1899 where he met C. Hart Merriam and John Muir, among others. He was also hired by President Theodore Roosevelt to document his inauguration and daughters wedding. J. Pierpont Morgan provided Curtis with a five year endowment to produce his photographic work The North American Indian; however, this project lasted over twenty years. From 1907 to 1930 Curtis produced 20 volumes of The North American Indian containing over 700 photogravures. It is in Volume 15 (Curtis 1926) that the Walker Lake photographs appear. Curtis settled in the Los Angeles area in the 1920's and made his mark in Hollywood becoming a still photographer for many Tarzan movies as well as in the Cecil B. de Mille epic, The Ten Commandments. Earlier, in 1914, he directed a movie titled In the Land of the Headhunters (Northwest Coast Indians).

Curtis's quest was to create a photographic record of the vanishing American Indian. It was the same period when hordes of ethnographers were attempting to gather surviving ethnographic information on Indian tribes knowing that they too would also soon be gone. Curtis was not perceived as an ethnographic photographer but as a pictorialist (Vizenor 2000:05). He paid tribal members to pose and staged his photographs including manufacturing backdrops, and selecting the clothing and ornaments. By
manipulating his subject he created a simulated image or, at best, an idealistic picture of the North American Indian. In the case of his photograph of the pictograph (Figure 6) he “stages a re-enactment” of a young man painting this boulder with a paintbrush and clothing that appear unauthentic. The scientific accuracy of most of Curtis’s photos is obscured because he saw his subjects from a pictorialist point of view striving to create the romantic imagery of the vanishing American Indian.

26MN03/MN06 Depositional History
Curtis, through his photograph, provides us with a depositional history of site 26MN03/MN06. In Figure 2 the pictograph has been excavated to reveal the base of the pictograph appearing in Curtis’s 1924 photo (Figures 7 and 8). The recent excavation at the boulder’s base appears to have been done in conjunction with its recording or is possibly a recent action. However, by comparing Curtis’s photograph to the modern surface there has been at least 30 cm of deposition. This is somewhat surprising due to the juxtaposition of this boulder to a large active wash. Here one would expect cyclical flash flooding to rapidly deposit alluvium along the drainage edges and around the base of the pictograph boulder. In view of this, it appears that alluvial deposition did not occur as rapidly as the site’s geographical setting may indicate but the boulder’s lower rock art elements continue to be impacted by alluviation.

Conclusion
A visit to this pictograph boulder provided an opportunity to compare the site records with Edward Curtis’s turn-of-the century photograph. At first glance it is striking that the pictograph elements pretty much survive as they appeared in Curtis’s 1924 photograph despite their position on a large boulder exposed to the elements. The east panel shows signs of other design elements that were painted and/or pecked on its surface. However, their position on the more weathered side of this boulder may have taken its toll—destroying all but a few faint traces of rock art. Also, Curtis’s photograph provides us with a measurable rate of deposition where the bottom element of a pictograph is partly buried by alluvium at a rate of c.30cm in 84 years (Figures 2 and 6). It is also noted that this site may have additional undetected pictograph elements buried below the 1924 surface.

Figure 1. Pictograph boulder setting 26MN03

Figure 2. Pictograph Elements—note excavated area in the foreground.
Figure 7 (Northwestern University: 2001)

Figure 8 Alluvial deposit and lower pictograph element.

Photo credits: Patty DeBunch (Figures 3, 4) and Steve Stearns (Figures 1, 2, 8), Curtis, E. S (Figures 5, 6, 7).

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Paleoindian Occupations Along the Shores of Pleistocene Mud Lake, Central Nevada
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Recent archaeological investigations southeast of Tonopah, Nevada, encountered and recorded what it believed to be a cluster of Paleoindian sites along the shorelines of Pleistocene Mud Lake. The sites were identified during a cultural resources inventory on lands administered by the BLM's Tonopah Field Station, anticipating a proposed development project in Ralston Valley. Of the seven archaeological sites and eight isolated finds identified within the 530-acre project area, five sites and two isolated finds contain items which appear morphologically similar to Great Basin Stemmed Series projectile points and associated toolkits identified at other localities in the Great Basin (papers in Graf and Schmitt 2007). The sites discussed here are assigned to the Paleoindian period, prior to 8,500 B.P., based on artifacts' morphological attributes, toolstone material, and their location within the Mud Lake basin.

Mud Lake was a semi-permanent pluvial lake located in Ralston Valley southeast of present-day Tonopah, Nevada, containing no fishes (Hubbs and Miller 1948:49; Snyder et al. 1964). The lake had a maximum surface area of 165 square miles, and a maximum areal extent of 133 square miles (Mifflin and Wheat 1979:54, Appendix; Plate 1). With a highstand elevation of 5,280 feet (1,609 m) and a basin elevation of 5,195 feet (1,583 m), it had a depth of approximately 85 feet (26 m) at its deepest point. Its shoreline is extensively developed, represented by well-preserved landforms, and recent investigations by Nellis Air Force Base have identified several remnant shorelines within Ralston Valley (Figure 1). Mud Lake is assigned an age equivalent to that of Lake Lahontan, suggesting that it reached its Late Pleistocene highstand sometime between 14,500 and 13,000 B.P.

The Paleoindian components identified at Mud Lake are all waste flakes and stone tool scatters which are dominated by basalt and obsidian, but also contain flakes and artifacts manufactured on CCS (cryptocrystalline silicate). All five sites contain stone tools which, while incomplete, highly resemble fragments of Great Basin Stemmed Series. These include both base fragments and tip fragments which closely resemble Haskett- or Parman-like implements (Figure 2).
All of these artifacts are manufactured on basalt or obsidian, which is common for Stemmed Series tools. In addition to the artifacts identified within the context of archaeological sites, two isolated artifacts resembling possible Paleoindian items were also identified during the survey; an obsidian Haskett- or Parman-like base, and a CCS scraper very similar to concave scrapers identified at the Sadmat Locality in western Nevada (Figure 3). All of the possible Paleoindian artifacts and sites were encountered between the 5,254 and 5,272 ft. contour intervals, which are just below the high lake level of 5,280 ft. and just above the next recorded shoreline at 5,260 ft. As no exact dates are currently available for the Mud Lake shorelines, and rates at which the shoreline receded are unknown, it is not possible to assign a firm date to the Paleoindian components identified here. But the proximity to the lake’s highstand elevation suggests that these sites and isolated finds may be related to the earlier portion of the Paleoindian period.

Additional cultural resource inventories may be forthcoming in the Mud Lake basin, with the anticipated expansion of proposed development projects. These inventories may identify more Paleoindian occupations along the shorelines of pluvial Mud Lake. Potential future investigations at these sites include collection of artifacts for morphological analyses, as well as obsidian and basalt sourcing studies, and obsidian rind hydration analyses to determine relative dates for these components.
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**Manhattan, Nevada: A 20th Century Mining Town**

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“In scope and significance, Nevada’s second great mining boom [in the early 20th Century] was almost as critical to the state’s history as were the events associated with the discovery of the legendary Comstock Lode. Like the rush to the Comstock, it attracted thousands of people to Nevada, encouraged further mineral exploration and discovery, increased the state’s prosperity, stimulated the development of new railroad lines, and led to the establishment of a plethora of new towns and mining camps,” (Harvey 2006:110-111).

Manhattan, Nevada, located at the heart of the Manhattan Mining District, is roughly 34 miles north of Tonopah, Nevada, in Nye County. Kautz Environmental Consultants, Inc. recently completed an historic context for the Manhattan Mining District (Simons et al. 2007), which was discovered in 1866. Fifty claims were made at that time, though the only recorded production from the district, before 1900, was one ton of silver (Couch and Carpenter 1943).
The district was rediscovered in 1905 when four cowboys, traveling from Belmont through Manhattan Gulch on their way to the Seyler Ranch in the Big Smoky Valley, found gold. According to one version of the tale, the cowboys were camped at Palo Alto Spring at the west end of Manhattan Gulch, noticed the surrounding mineralized rock, and carried out some profitable gold pannings (Cornell 1977). Another story has it that the four stopped to eat lunch, after which one of the cowboys, John Humphrey, walked away from the group and found an outcropping 100 feet away. A few pieces of the rock were broken off and removed for assay. These assayed at more than $3,000 a ton (Hall 1999:154). In either event, the cowboys soon staked several claims, including the Mother Load, Fido, Mustang, Oreana, Buyo, Ida, Lottie, Little Grey, War Eagle, Tip Top, and April Fool. All these claims were field located between April and July 1905.

By August 8, 1905 the Plat of the Town of Manhattan, Nye County, Nevada was approved for lands included in these earliest claims. By October 19, 1905 the Seyler Humphrey Gold Mining Company began selling off lots of the platted township (Deeds Book Y, page 448, Nye County Recorder). While they sold the surface rights, they retained the right to underground minerals and the right to conduct mining and prospecting activities to recover those minerals. The boom was on and the entire Manhattan Gulch and adjacent hills were becoming dense with prospectors staking claims.

Fourteen different plats of Manhattan, representing various portions of the townsite, were drawn up. In late 1905 a modest slump hit the burgeoning little camp, though a rich shipment of ore from Manhattan soon reached Tonopah and the boom began again. By March 1906, there was an estimated 3,000 people in Manhattan which was reportedly a town a mile long (Garrey and Emmons 1907:85). The town had many wooden buildings, stone buildings under construction, a post office, numerous stores, banks, newspapers, assay offices, telegraph and telephone service, and stage and automobile lines (Figure 1). In April 1906, the town of Manhattan was dealt a severe blow when the earthquake hit San Francisco. Many of the Manhattan investors had links to San Francisco and quickly pulled out of their investments during the ensuing financial chaos. However, new strikes were made and the discovery of placer deposits in Manhattan Gulch renewed interest in the district and in Manhattan, its urban center.

Figure 1 Manhattan, Nevada, February 18, 1906 (photo acquired from the Nevada Historical Society, Reno, Nevada).
By June 1906, Manhattan’s population was reported to be 3,500, exclusive of the prospectors and miners living in the adjacent hills (DeWolf 1906). Main Street was lined on either side with brokerage offices, all kinds of businesses, and a score of hotels and rooming houses. By the end of January 1906, a barbershop had been established and branches of the Tonopah Banking Corporation and the Nye and Ormsby Counties Bank, had opened. The Nye and Ormsby Counties Bank occupied the first stone building in Manhattan, though only for a year since the bank failed in 1907. This building was later used as a post office until 1940, and still stands today. A stone jail was also erected, measuring 26 by 18 feet, with two foot thick walls and two steel cells (Berg 1942:105).

The long history of placer mining in the Manhattan Mining District began in the Summer of 1906 when a miner named Burns found gold nuggets at the surface above the gulch near the Little Grey claim (Vanderburg 1936:125-126). By the end of 1906, the focus in the district switched from lode mining to placer mining.

A second minor depression impacted the camp during the winter of 1907-1908 due to the “Panic of 1907,” a financial crisis resulting from a fall in the stock market, an economic recession, and numerous runs on banks and trust companies. The slump through the winter of 1907-1908 was over in April 1908, when William McDonald, a placer miner from California, hit pay dirt on his lease on the Nellie Grey claim (Jones 1909:103).

By 1915, there were several organized companies that owned claims along Manhattan Gulch and were conducting underground lode mining operations, though leasing, and subsequently placer mining, also produced a good profit. Even so, Manhattan was no longer a boom town. In 1910 the population of Manhattan was at 631 people, shrinking to 401 people in 1920. By the early 1920s, the majority of work was exploratory with only one of the larger mines still active.

Mining in the Manhattan District was looking up when the Manhattan Gold Dredging Company was organized in 1937, acquiring properties in Manhattan Gulch known as the Kirchen and Donald Placers (Unknown 1939). The company was a subsidiary of the Natomas Company of Sacramento, California. In 1938, a large scale dredging operation started at the eastern edge of Big Smoky Valley. Subsequently, it worked its way five miles up Manhattan Gulch, leaving in its wake a large tailings pile that can be identified on aerial photographs and modern topographic quadrangles. The dredge worked both the deep gulch gravels, averaging 30 feet of barren overburden, and bench gravels pushed into the path of the dredge by tractors, bulldozers, and scrapers (Figure 2). In 1946, dredging operations ceased, and the bucket dredge was shipped to Copper Canyon in Lander County, Nevada to be used for yet another placer mining operation. The dredging operation run by the Manhattan Gold Dredging Company in Manhattan Gulch from 1938 to 1946, was claimed to be possibly the second largest gold placer operation in the United States. Between 1938 and 1946, the dredging operation produced $4,596,427 in gold (McCraken 1997:232).
From the 1930s through the 1940s, other than the Manhattan Gold Dredging operation, the Manhattan Mining District had a modest number of small scale placer and lode operations with almost no mining (placer or lode) occurring by 1950. Modern mining in the area, characterized by open pit mining, began during the 1970s. In early 1980 the population of Manhattan hovered around 28, though with the opening of a new mill in the Fall of 1980, 40 new families moved in (McMillian 1980). By the 1990s, however, the population had declined once again.

As of 2005 the population of Manhattan was 124. Currently, there are two open bars, The Miner’s Saloon and The Manhattan Bar and Motel. The motel has four rooms and a laundromat. The town is a ghost town with numerous old abandoned buildings. Some mining activity, mostly of the prospecting type, goes on but mostly the town is a tourist stop for those eager to explore an old mining boom town.

Limited archaeological survey conducted in Manhattan Gulch, by Kautz Environmental Consultants, Inc., in 2007 suggests that important cultural resources related to 20th Century mining still exist (Malinky et al. 2008). What remains are miner’s homes, ore bins and chutes, adits, shafts, remnant hoists, other mining features, domestic refuse, and most spectacular of all (to the author), the foot print of the 1938-1946 dredge tailings, stretching 4 ½ miles long along the gulch bottom (Figure 3). Future archaeology should stress protection and, when threatened, investigation of these archaeological remains, which provide a unique glimpse of Manhattan and the 20th Century mining community.
Figure 3 Modern aerial photograph with a portion of the 1938-1946 dredge tailings clearly visible.

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In Memoriam

Sheilagh Brooks
Chris Hudgins, Interim Dean
Alan Simmons, Chair – Anthropology

The Department of Anthropology notes with deep regret the passing of Dr. Sheilagh Brooks. Dr. Brooks was born in 1923 in Tampico, Mexico, and received her degrees in anthropology from the University of California at Berkeley, culminating with the Ph.D. in 1951. Although a physical anthropologist, Dr. Brooks was a vocal proponent of the “four-field” approach in anthropology (physical anthropology, archaeology, cultural anthropology, and linguistics). Her research interests were wide-ranging, and included understanding the interdependence between cultural and physical aspects of human behavior, improving criteria for determining skeletal sexual dimorphism, defining and interpreting distinctive biological characteristics of specific population groups, and the analysis of health and disease in ancient populations. She worked closely with her archaeologist husband, Richard, and in 1961 she began teaching part-time summer courses at UNLV. Dr. Brooks became the first full-time anthropologist at UNLV in 1966 in the Department of Sociology and Anthropology. She was a major force in developing the anthropology program, and was able to justify a separate Department of Anthropology and Ethnic Studies in 1972. Dr. Brooks became UNLV’s first distinguished professor in 1987.

She retired from UNLV in 1992 after a long and successful career at both the University and within the discipline.

Because of their contributions to archaeology in the State of Nevada and their involvement with the development of the NAA, Sheilagh and Richard were awarded the NAA 2007 Lifetime Achievement Award. The legacy of Richard and Sheilagh Brooks will long be felt in Nevada archaeology even by those who have not had the privilege of knowing them personally. Sheilagh will be remembered with endless affection and respect by her students and colleagues throughout the state.