

# Nevada Archaeological Association

Fall

NEWSLETTER

1995

## 1996 ANNUAL MEETING



Mark (✍) your calendar and make plans now to attend the 1996 NAA Annual Meeting. The rendezvous will be held in Tonopah beginning on May 17, Friday evening, and running through Sunday the 19th. The place and time will mark the 25th annual conference; the first meeting was held in Tonopah as a central gathering point for the entire state. Susan Murphy and Oyvind Frock will coordinate the

facilities, and Pat Hicks will act as chairperson for paper presentations. Details will be published in this forum as they are made available.

William White has offered to chair the 1997 annual meeting with a proposed location of Las Vegas at either the University of Nevada or Desert Research Institute. Paper presentations will be based on a thematic context of Seventy Something, Archaeology of Southern Nevada: Past, Present, and Future. Dates, times, and locations remain to be arranged.

It is hoped by the NAA Board of Directors that the 1998 annual meeting will be held somewhere in the western part of the state such as Carson City, Reno, or Fallon. Is there a Chapter, individual, agency, or archeological contractor out there willing to take on this responsibility? ✎

## MISSION FROM THE GODS

According to the *Las Vegas Review-Journal*, a Las Vegas man, in the presence of his attorney and stating 'I don't want to go to jail,' surrendered a prehistoric ceramic pot and bowl to National Park Service Archeologist Leslie Peterson. The material was illegally excavated from a cave in the Lake Mead National Recreation Area, a felony offense on any Federal property. The man related that he had spent his childhood in Henderson 'hunting arrowheads.' Recently, while boating on Lake Mead with his brother, the two pulled into a cove to avoid a storm. Collecting wood for a fire, the man encountered an odd-shaped piece that resembled an 'Indian's spiritual carving of a snake's head and interpreted that to be a sign from God...The gods wanted me to have this (*material*).' The man searched on to discover the shelter. Aside from extensive cultural deposition, the cave was occupied by a wasps' nest, an

army of fire ants and a spider performing a side-to-side dance, all contributing to the man's 'religious experience.' After experiencing 'strange dreams' this year, the man returned to the cave during a full moon night to remove the objects of antiquity. Descent from the shelter with an armload of illicit booty must have been difficult because the man fell on his 'ass down a sheer cliff.' *Maybe that was a sign from above that the man should have heeded also.* In addition to returning the stolen objects, the man is supposed to show NPS officials the location of the cave. ✎

## RUIN FOR SALE

*High County News* reports that in an effort to jump on board the Wise Use Coalition bandwagon, the 1990s version of the Sage Brush Rebellion, Arizona Governor Symington reportedly asked Congress for the opportunity to operate Montezuma Castle, an archeological National Monument, by saying, 'Let us show you what we can do.' Meanwhile back at the ranch, the state is proposing to sell 15 acres of state land to the highest bidder. The land contains a 100-room pueblo, Casa Malpais, and has been designated a National Historic Landmark. Arizona's deputy commissioner of the Land Department is reported to have said, 'We are not really in the business of managing archaeological sites, and this is one of the most spectacular archaeological sites in the state.' *Whoa, so much for wise use, eh?* ✎

## NAA BOARD MEETING

And speaking of signs and experiences... After rendezvousing at the Bucket of Blood in Virginia City, several Board Members proceeded to the Brickyard, a reconstructed late 1800s commercial establishment, for lunch and entertainment by the three-piece Desert Torch Band. The lunch crowd reassembled at the facilities of Archaeological Research Services while other Board Members wondered the streets taking in the sights, sounds, and aromas of Virginia City; actually, they were lost having been given the wrong meeting place address. A phone call solved the problem and after some delay the meeting was convened. Seven Board Members, 4 general NAA members, and 2 members of the public were present. The Membership Chair reported that NAA has 166 paid and 5 honorary members for 1995; the Elko Chapter has the most members of all the chapters. The Treasurer reported that NAA is in good financial standing, comfortably into the 4 digit figure. Mark Henderson and Wally Cuchine were both presented with

a well deserved Certificate of Appreciation for their efforts at organizing and presenting the 1995 annual meeting. Other issues discussed were future annual meetings and problems with the NAA Journal. Thanks go to Carmen Kuffner and Ron Reno for the use of the meeting facility. ❖

### CORRECTION

By error, the last *NEWSLETTER* printed that Chet Bate had been re-elected as a Board Member. It is Tina Reuwsatt of Ely, White Pine County Chapter, who was elected to fill the Board vacancy left by Chet's too soon departure. Sorry Chet and welcome aboard Tina. ❖

### A CALL FOR PAPERS

Mark Henderson, unofficial NAA Historian and 1996 NAA Journal Editor, has requested a call for papers for the 1996 *NEVADA ARCHAEOLOGIST*. If you have a short paper dealing with Nevada archeology and would like to see it published in the Journal, please give Mark a call at 289-1869 (W) or 289-8250 (H). ❖

### OUT AND ABOUT

*Editor: And now for something completely different. After badgering numerous people, I'm finally beginning to receive information from the various chapters, affiliates, and individuals on happenings within their areas that are of interest to the general membership. So with that...*

**State Historic Preservation Office, Carson City.** The SHPO has a new clerical position being filled by Barbara Prudick who will assist in the implementation of the "reborn" Historic Marker program. The program has been dormant for several years due to state fiscal problems and has been given a shot in the arm with a \$20,000 fund.

The SHPO has partially funded the third annual historical archeological field school in Virginia City. The field school was conducted in July and August by the University of Nevada, Reno, under the guidance of Dr. Don Hardesty. Participants excavated portions of the former O'Brien and Costello Saloon and Shooting Gallery. *Now there was an establishment you could get more bang for your buck, or was it two bits?* The excavation site on C Street and field lab, located at the Fourth Ward School, were open to the public for viewing and interpretation.

The SHPO recently survived a field inspection/audit from the National Park Service with flying colors. On the downside, NPS inspectors found that the SHPO had been accepting reports and site forms from Federal agencies and archeological contractors that did not meet the Secretary of Interior's Standards and Guidelines for Evaluation. In an effort to remedy this problem area, the SHPO will no longer accept reports and site forms that do not meet the Standards and various other applicable guidelines; agencies and contractors have been notified of

this development. Specifically (*heads up*), reports will include research designs scaled to the size of the project and adequate historic contexts. Reports that do not contain this information or site forms not properly filled out will be returned to the appropriate party, thereby extending the consultation process. Should you have questions concerning the directive, call Alice Baldrice, 687-6361, Gene Hattori, 687-6362, or Rebecca Palmer, 687-5138.

**White Pine County Chapter, Ely.** As previously reported, this "bare bones" NAA Chapter has merged with the local historical society with meetings of combined interests. A successful summer picnic was attended by 30 people. A field trip was made to the Sunshine Site which is being excavated by a field school from Hamilton College, New York, under the direction of Drs. Tom Jones and Charlotte Beck. It was reported that the base of a Clovis-like projectile point was recovered from its *in situ* subsurface context.

The Chapter will host a slide-illustrated lecture on "Calendrical Petroglyphs Along the Colorado River and White River Narrows" by William White. The presentation will be held at the White Pine County Library on November 3, 1995 at 7:00 PM.

**Archaeo-Nevada Society, Las Vegas.** After a brief reprieve from southern Nevada's deadly summer heat the society is up and running again. The Society holds its general membership meeting on the second Thursday of each month at Wright Hall, University of Nevada, Las Vegas. The Society's new season began with a presentation by Robin McMullen, NAA Secretary and archeologist with Dames & Moore, focusing on "Historic Mining in Central Nevada." Society President, Fred Ferate, indicates that 48 volunteers donated over 2100 person hours in the excavation and artifact processing from the Old Las Vegas Mormon Fort. The information obtained from the excavations will help Nevada State Parks develop a management plan.

**Am-Arcs, Reno.** Submitted by Oyvind Frock. On September 13, Am-Arcs began their monthly meetings after a three month summer break. Sue Ann Monteleone, Curation Assistant at the Nevada State Museum, spoke to our group on the significance of "Red Hand" petroglyphs (pictographs). The Saturday after her talk, we made a field trip to Salt Cave on a terrace of Lake Lahontan. Several of the 300 plus pictographs in this cave were relevant to her remarks.

During the summer meeting hiatus, we had field trips to Petroglyph Hill, Guano Cave, and the ghost towns of Masonic and Bodie. The strange spring weather forced us to reschedule two of the above trips.

Am-Arc's student assistance fund grows steadily and we look forward to helping some University of Nevada, Reno anthropology students during this academic year.

**Elko County Chapter, Elko.** This Chapter has been up to very big things in a mastodon sort-of-way according to

**Penny Urriola.** Their happenings will be the focus of the next *NEWSLETTER*. ➡

#### DATES TO REMEMBER

NAA Board of Directors Meeting, 1:30 PM, November 4, 1995, BLM District Office, ELY.

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

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

#### PACRAT MEETING IN BOULDER CITY

Submitted by **Bill Johnson**. PACRAT is the acronym for the Paleontology and Cultural Resource Action Team. Initiated in California's Mojave Desert, PACRAT formed in recognition of the constraints and limitations to managing the desert's fragile, non-renewable cultural and paleontological resources used by multiple federal agencies. The group's strategy is a desert-wide management approach that coordinates state and federal land-managing agencies with Native American groups, academic and other cultural entities having ties to the resources. Interim strategies for a desert-wide approach focus on locating, sharing, and organizing existing data held by the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) and the

National Park Service (NPS). Long-range objectives call for contextual, science-based management plans that will enhance resource stewardship through preservation, research, interpretation, education and protection. This desert-wide, interagency approach offers opportunities for greater resource protection, increased interagency coordination and more effective management.

NAA members attending the meeting in Boulder City (August 3 & 4) included archaeologists from the Bureau of Reclamation, Desert Research Institute, US Forest Service and Lake Mead National Recreation Area (LMNRA). An overview of PACRAT was followed by reports from the different agencies represented by the group (including US Forest Service, Reclamation, BLM, Joshua Tree and Death Valley National Parks, and LMNRA). **Leslie Peterson**, archeologist with LMNRA, led the group on a tour of a nearby geoglyph and a rock art site. While no specific items were accomplished by the meeting, those in attendance felt that the interaction between the agencies is a positive step forward in managing the Mojave's resources. ➡

#### NEXT BOARD MEETING

The next NAA Board of Directors Meeting will be held in Ely at the BLM District Office on November 4, 1995 at 1:30 PM. The office is located on the east side of Highway 93 North (the road to McGill) prior to the Ely *International* Airport. Your participation is encouraged. ♦

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