



In-Situ



Newsletter of the Nevada Archaeological Association

Summer 2001

2001 Annual Meetings

Overton, Nevada

Anne DuBarton, NAA President

The 30th Annual Nevada Archaeological Association Meetings proved to be our most successful yet. A record eighty people registered for the meetings on March 9-11 held in Overton and neighboring Logondale in the Moapa Valley.

We kicked the conference off on Friday with a ceramic workshop conducted by Laurie Perry (Bureau of Reclamation) and Greg Seymour (Las Vegas Springs Preserve). Several members, both professional and avocational, had positive comments about the organization and amount of information they came away with. Later, on Friday afternoon, the outgoing board met at the Best Western Hotel. We discussed several ongoing projects including the NAA Web Page, preservation of the Longstreet Cabin in Ash Meadows, and next year's meetings in Carson City. Our first day ended with a wonderful reception sponsored by the Archaeo-Nevada Society. We drove to the Valley of Fire Visitor's Center during a spectacular thunder and lightning show. Upon arriving at the Visitor's Center we were treated to food and conversation.

On Saturday everyone met at the historic Logondale School for a breakfast supplied by the Lost City Museum docents. Morning papers focused on several southern Nevada and Utah

locations including Lake Mead, Las Vegas Wash and the Virgin Anasazi of the Moapa Valley and Zion National Park. One presenter traveled farther north to present data on an eastern Nevada site. After lunch presentations continued; the Wetlands Park and the Apex region were the focus of two prehistoric presenters. Another presenter showed that there are still prehistoric archaeological sites worth investigating in the Las Vegas Valley. Later in the afternoon, papers focused in historic archaeology. These talks focused on mining, the development of transportation corridors, the Civilian Conservation Corps, and novel ways to re-use blasting powder cans. On Saturday night everyone gathered at the Lost City Museum for drinks, dinner, and a presentation by Dr. Claude Warren (UNLV Emeritus). Claude discussed Church of Latter Day Saints (Mormon) settlements and how they reflected the values and beliefs of the Mormons. Quite a few of Claude's students were in attendance. We reminisced about our field school experiences in the Moapa Valley.

On Sunday several field trips were offered. One group traveled to Arrow Canyon to visit petroglyph sites, while the first of two boat trips to the Main Ridge site headed for what Harrington called "Pueblo Grande de Nevada." Margaret Lyneis (UNLV) and Steve Daron (National Park Service) guided the group. After two days of rain, we had partially blue skies and everyone thought that stormy weather

had moved on. The morning group traveled to the site without mishap until they attempted to leave. One of the boats wouldn't start, and had to be towed back to the marina. The marina staff was able to get it started once they returned, so the second group, including yours truly, headed out. While looking at the site, we noticed big, black clouds moving in, and we hurried back to the boats. The one boat wouldn't start again, and so we headed out being towed by the other patio boat. The previously calm water got choppier and choppier, and the previously calm passengers got very nervous. One particularly large swell swamped the boats, and we almost capsized. Everyone was thoroughly wet and cold by this time. Our brave and experienced Captain, Joe Watson, continued on as rain and hail pelted us. Marina staff was called in to assist, and they made it out to us quickly as we were fairly close in. They were able to start the second boat, the towrope was cut, and each vessel proceeded independently. We made it back to the Marina without going swimming, so we were happy. What an adventure!!

June Board Meeting, Tonopah, Nevada

The next board meeting is scheduled for Tonopah. There will be a presentation by David Valentine on his research in American Canyon, Friday, June 22nd, at 7:00 p.m. at the Central Nevada Museum. The following morning, Saturday June 23rd, there will be a field trip, possibly to nearby rock art sites. Meet at 8:00 a.m. in the parking lot of the Museum. The actual board meeting will take place at 3:00 p.m. at the Bureau of Land Management office, located on the main highway in the Pass. As usual, all NAA members are invited to attend the field trip and board meeting.

Seven Opportunities for Asian Studies in Nevada

Sue-Fawn Chung, UNLV

1. "The Good Earth: Folk Art and Artifacts from the Chinese Countryside" will be on exhibit at the Lied Discovery Children's Museum, 833 Las Vegas Blvd. North, from May 11-August 18, 2001. The colorful exhibit includes 25 peasant paintings and 15 artifacts, such as children's toys and clothing, created between 1985 to 1991 in Huxian, a county 35 miles north of the Xi'an, the capital of Shaanxi province and cradle of Chinese civilization. The paintings depict fishing, harvesting, sports, and festivals as well as other aspects of rural life. Don't miss this delightful exhibit!
2. May is Asian Pacific American Heritage Month and the Library District is celebrating with several activities: May 1-June 10 at the West Charleston Library is the art exhibit "Asian Americans: At Home" curated by Lia Chang; March 28-June 3 at the Sunrise Library is the art exhibit "Nisei Soldier: Japanese American Soldiers during World War II. There is a Culture Fair on May 12 at the Sahara West Library, 10 a.m.-4p.m., a fashion show and dance program at the Summerlin Library on May 6, 1 p.m., and other activities. Pick up a brochure from any library for details.
3. In October 2000, workers uncovered bones from the Carson City Chinese Cemetery while constructing a medical office building complex. The owner, James Foley, was aware of the fact that this had been a Chinese cemetery. Thomas Chin, one of the founders of the Chinese Historical Society of America in San Francisco, visited the site in the late 1930s and observed the lack of care given to the cemetery which once had one of the few crematoriums for Chinese in the American

west. Members of the Yee clan were prominent in late 19th through early 20th century Carson City as restaurant owners and silk merchants and their deaths were recorded in the local newspapers. They probably were buried in this site across from Lone Mountain Cemetery. Unlike California and some other states, Nevada has no laws protecting cemeteries, so some Chinese cemeteries in Nevada are now the sites of private homes, a public park, and a high school. A law needs to be passed to protect the final resting-place of Chinese American pioneers in Nevada.

4. "On Gold Mountain," the story of F. See On and his family against the backdrop of general Chinese American immigration to Los Angeles is on display at the Smithsonian Museum, Washington, D.C. F. See On became noted as a famous importer of Asian artifacts and his customer list included many Hollywood stars. Granddaughter Lisa See wrote a book, which served as the basis of the exhibit, created by the Gene Autry Museum in Los Angeles. She also wrote an opera on the same premise and negotiations are underway to bring the opera to Piper's Opera House in Virginia City in 2002. A film is being produced on the same subject.

5. The Railroad Museum in Carson City will feature an exhibit on Chinese railroad workers in Nevada in 2002. Do stop by if you are in Carson City next year!

6. Visiting Nevada's Great Basin National Park? Don't miss the exhibit of Chinese miners in Nevada at the Visitor's Center!

7. Volunteers are still need for the "Island Mountain," an U.S. Forest Service Passport in Time program in Elko County's Humboldt-Toiyabe Division. The dates of the project are July 23-August 3.

University of Nevada Reno's graduate student Patricia Hunt-Jones (Department of Anthropology) is serving as on-site

supervisor. Island Mountain was a predominately Chinese American community between 1873-1916 and dominated by Hong Lem (Ng Hung Lem), the friendly merchant in this relatively isolated mining town.

Call for Papers 2002 Nevada Archeologist

The 2002 *Nevada Archaeologist* will be a non-thematic issue. If interested in submitting a paper, send your name and topic to the editor, Steve Daron, by the end of October 2001. Full papers will be needed by the end of February 2002 with an anticipated publication date of July 2002. You may make your submissions on paper (mail to: Steve Daron, Lake Mead National Recreation Area, 601 Nevada Highway, Boulder City, NV 89005), or by e-mail to Steve.Daron@nps.gov.

New Publication

NAA has decided to start a new, peer reviewed publication series, *NAA Occasional Papers*. The decision to start the new series was made in part to increase participation from academic archaeologists, who get more credit for work published in a peer-reviewed format. We fervently hope that peer review will not discourage participation by other archaeologists or interested researchers. If you are willing to review papers, or have a paper, manuscript, or gray literature report begging for wider distribution, please contact David Valentine by phone at (702) 293-8443 (w) or (702) 645-9579, e-mail at dvalentine@lc.usbr.gov or valentinedw@juno.com, or via snail mail at 5713 Cliff Point Court, Las Vegas, NV 89149.

A Difficult Task?

Oyvind Frock, NAA Treasurer

We have all heard how hard it is to find a needle in a haystack and how hard it was for the miser to ride his horse backward looking for the silver dollar he dropped in the horse's hay. Surely it can't be that difficult to find an amateur worth of nomination to receive the NAA's Ting-Perkins Award. Last year we received no nominations and did not make an award at our conference in Overton.

The nomination conditions are simple: the individual is a non-professional in the broad field of archaeology who has participated in activities related to discovery, conservation, education, education, assisting professionals, or reporting on Nevada archaeology.

Let's find someone! Write a background sketch and mail it to:

Oyvind Frock
3785 Falcon Way
Reno, NV 89509

Student Study Kit

Oyvind Frock, NAA Treasurer

The State Museum in Carson City has available for use in elementary schools a portable study kit. Physically, the kit resembles an ice chest with suitcase wheels, an extendable pull handle, and a lift off top. The box measures some 36" X 12" X 18". Compartments inside contain samples of basketry, ceramics, projectile points, groundstone, and historic photos of Native Americans. Arrangements to borrow the kit are made by contacting Dr. Alanah Woody at (775)687-4811, ext. 229.

106 Training

The Advisory Council for Historic Preservation in conjunction with the University of Nevada Reno is offering an updated introductory course, *Introduction of Section 106 Review*, in Las Vegas, Nevada, August 8-9, 2001. The course explains the responsibilities required of Federal agencies under the National Historic Preservation Act. Section 106 of that act requires agencies to take into account potential effects to cultural resources anytime they do almost anything. The regulations concerning Section 106 were recently revised. The course fee is \$440.00, but well worth it if you are evenly remotely involved in cultural resource management. To register, contact UNR Division of Continuing and Distance Education at (775)784-4062, or toll-free 800-2333-8928.

Volunteer Projects

Oyvind Frock, NAA Treasurer

In addition to the archaeological projects in each of our local areas and the PIT projects offered by the Forest Service, there is another source. The Earthwatch Institute offers over 100 volunteer programs throughout the United States and the World. Archaeological programs range from rock art in Utah, Pueblos in New Mexico, the Copper Age in Mallorca, Pre-Incas in Peru, Mayas and Mexico, and Neanderthals in Spain.

Additional Earthwatch projects cover biodiversity, cultural diversity, endangered ecosystems, and ocean and global change. Earthwatch is a non-profit organization and expenses connected with their programs generally are tax-deductible. You can request their catalog at 800-776-0188 or you can contact Oyvind Frock in Reno at (775)826-8779.

Am-Arcs of Nevada

Am-Arcs continues to hold meetings at the new Desert Research Institute building, 2215 Raggio Parkway, at 6:30 p.m. on the second Wednesday of the month, excluding the summer months of June, July and August. Meetings include a social hour and guest speakers. The March speaker was Alvin McLane, who presented a slide show based on his visit to the cave paintings in Baja. The April speaker was BLM Archaeologist, Dr. Pat Barker, who talked about the current status of Spirit Cave Man. On May 9th, Fred Frampton spoke on Northern Nevada Chinese.

A variety of field trips have taken place or being planned. In March, a series of sites, including a rock shelter, an historic haul road, and enigmatic rock structures near Wadsworth were visited. In April, an unrecorded site at the south end of a dry lake was visited and recorded. The scheduled May field trip (on the 19th) is to Jameson's Station. Long range plans include a field trip and reconnaissance survey in the Tonopah/Beatty area in October. Watch for details in future editions of *In-Situ* and the Am-Arcs newsletter, *Chippings*.

Archeo-Nevada Society Mark Rosenzweig, AN-S

The Archaeo-Nevada Society will hold its Annual Meeting and Awards Event on Friday May 11, 2001, 6:30 p.m. at the Old Mormon Fort in Las Vegas. Presentations by the Old Spanish Trail Association and the Friends of the Old Mormon Fort will highlight the evening, which will also include the annual A-NS awards given to individuals in recognition of their contributions to the further understanding of Nevada archaeology.

This year's recipients are Irv and Annette Goldstein, Nancy Wier, and Julie Thorn.

In conjunction with Archaeology & Historic Preservation week, members of A-NS will have the opportunity to participate in the laboratory study of collections from the Elwood II site. This Basketmaker/Pueblo site in the Overton/Logandale area was excavated during the 1988-1990 field season when recovered materials were cleaned, cataloged, and inventoried. Proposed activities will further analyze the materials and prepare for the final curation. Supervised work sessions will begin around the weekend of May 11-13 and be scheduled as needed to complete the work. For more information contact: Mark Rosenzweig at 233-9424 or wenro702@aol.com.

During the March General Meeting, Lynn Dunbar, Western Regional Director of the Archaeology Conservancy, spoke on "The History of the Archaeology Conservancy" with slides illustrating sites from across the country that have been saved through acquisition by the Conservancy. Ms. Dunbar also outlined the Conservancy's efforts to obtain their first historic property in Nevada. In lieu of the monthly field trip, A-NS members were encouraged to attend the NAA Conference and Pottery Workshop being held in Overton/Logandale the following weekend. As an extra, the A-NS sponsored a reception at the Valley of Fire State Park for all conference attendees on Friday night.

During the April General Meeting, Ann DuBarton (DRI) spoke on the uses and the preparation techniques of various plants, particularly agave, by a variety of Native American populations.

A-NS has become an Adopt-A-Highway sponsor. Our first pick-up was safely completed on February 10 with

about 20 members participating. After gathering trash from along a 2-mile stretch of State Route 159 just outside of the Red Rock Canyon Conservation Area, Don Hendricks and Bruce Holloway led most of the group on a field trip to nearby petroglyph and pictograph sites.

For more information on AN-S, please contact: Harold Larson at (702)228-3337 or Helen Mortenson at (702)876-6944.

Elko County Chapter News

The Elko County Chapter (ECC) continues to be active. Patricia Hunt-Jones is scheduled to present an evening talk on Island Mountain, Friday May 18th at 7:00 p.m. in the Northeastern Nevada Museum theater. The ECC is also sponsoring an Archaeology Fair in conjunction with Nevada Archaeological Awareness and Historic Preservation Week on May 19th from 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m. at the Northeastern Nevada Museum. There will be exhibits on hunting tools, beading, seed grinding, knapping, and cordage making. There will also be T-shirt and food sales and chautauqua performances. Other activities they are involved in are preparation of the Carlin Cemetery artifacts for shipping to UNLV, continued excavations at Island Mountain, a joint BLM/Great Basin College field school, and putting together a diorama of activity at a prehistoric quarry near Midas.

Don't forget to visit the ECC website at: <http://members.nbc.com/elkocnaa>.

Churchill County Chapter

The Churchill County Chapter meets the 1st Wednesday of each month (excluding the summer months) at the Round Table Pizza in Fallon at 7 PM. Each meeting includes a program of

interest to archaeology and a short business meeting.

For more information about the Churchill County Chapter of the NAA, please contact Maie Nygren at (775) 423-2212.

Southern Nevada Rock Art Enthusiasts (SNRAE)

SNRAE has an informal gathering the first Thursday of the month and a more formal meeting, with a guest speaker, the third Thursday. Gatherings and meetings are at the main Las Vegas Library at 7:00 p.m. The March speaker was BLM archaeologist Roberta McGonagle, who gave a talk about the Moore's Station Rock Art site with an emphasis on an historic glyph that was most likely added by a Basque sheepherder that was also a prolific aspen artist. In April, Mike Horsley gave a presentation on the rock art at Petroglyph National Monument in New Mexico, and Jesse Warner spoke about shadow interactions. Forest Service archaeologist Kathleen Sprowl is the May guest speaker; she will discuss the Yellow Plug site near Goodsprings. Field trips will soon be suspended due to summer heat; the last one scheduled will be lead by Kathleen Sprowl to the Yellow Plug and Aztec Tank sites in the Spring Mountains. For information on meetings and field trips call the SNRAE voice mail at (702) 897-7878.

White Pine Historical and Archaeological Society

February 16 was the first meeting of the year for the White Pine Historical and Archaeological Society (WPHAS). Regular meetings are planned for the third Friday in February, April, June, August, and October in the White Pine Public

Museum, 2000 Aultman Street at 7:00 p.m. The public is invited.

In addition to regular meetings, a number of field trips are planned. May 19th was a trip to Cherry Creek. On July 21st, a trip to the Belmont Mill is planned, and a September 23rd field trip is scheduled for Osceola. Field trip participants are responsible for their own food and transportation, and generally meet at the Gorman's ATM machine at 9:00 a.m.

Other activities of WPHAS include a continuing oral history project, and the publication of a newsletter, *Past is Prologue* (As *In-Situ* editor, I must say I'm a wee bit jealous of the quality of WPHAS newsletter—you can help by sending me news, information, and other submissions). Also available is a reprint of the 1907 publication *Ely and Her Mines* and five different historical photographs reproduced as postcards.

NAA Website

Don't forget to visit the NAA website: <http://www.webpanda.com/NAA>. The website lots of useful information, such as how to order your very own NAA mug, and contains links to related web sites.

Archaeological Awareness and Historic Preservation Week

Archaeological Awareness and Historic Preservation week is scheduled

for May 13-19, 2001. NAA prepares, prints, and mails the brochure to schools, libraries, museums, etc. throughout Nevada, and also to individual members of the NAA. The brochure should have arrived with your Archaeological Awareness and Historic Preservation Week poster.

Fall Newsletter

The Fall issue of *In-Situ* is scheduled for publication in early September. If you have anything you want included, send it to David Valentine by Sept. 5, 2001, via e-mail at dvalentine@lc.usbr.gov or valentinedw@juno.com, or via snail mail to 5713 Cliff Point Court, Las Vegas, NV 89149 or *In-Situ*, P.O. Box 73145, Las Vegas, NV 89170-3145

Membership Database Problems

There are some apparent problems with membership database. If your sure you're a paid up member, but haven't received a membership card, Archaeological Awareness and Historic Preservation Week poster and brochure, or newsletter, please contact Laureen Perry, membership chair. Part of the problem appears to be people paying membership dues without filling out a current membership form. Laurie can be reached via e-mail at laureenmp@aol.com.

RESURRECTION OF THE LAS VEGAS WASH ARCHAEOLOGICAL DISTRICT

Laureen Perry, Bureau of Reclamation

In 1977, the Las Vegas Wash Archaeological District (District) was defined and determined eligible under Executive Order 11593. It was posted in the Federal Register on March 18, 1980, with no further actions taken. The District was composed of 30+ prehistoric and historic sites found within 1,800 acres along Las Vegas Wash. Mitigation, consisting of

surface collections and partial excavations, was done on 13 sites in the late 1970s for a desalination project that was eventually cancelled. Artifact analyses, sample analyses, and a report on the mitigation was never completed. Since that time, more sites were found within the District boundaries, but they were not evaluated as part of the District. It appears that the District was forgotten and was not used in management decisions made for this area, particularly in a land transfer from federal management into private development.

During late 2000 and early 2001, HRA, Inc., conducted surveys in the Clark County Wetlands Park (Park) whose boundaries overlap the District's boundaries. Included in HRA's (Roberts and Ahlstrom 2000; Woodman *et al.* 2001) two reports are site recording histories and re-evaluations of all of the sites found in the Park. HRA found that many of the earlier recorded sites, including those that were mitigated, still have intact cultural features and deposits. Furthermore, cleared circle and rock ring features, often considered surface manifestations only, were evaluated as possibly containing buried deposits. This determination is based on the fieldwork led by David Ferraro (1977; 1982) on the 13 mitigated sites; work by Richard Ahlstrom and Heidi Roberts (2000) in southern Arizona; and work by Alice Hunt (1960) in Death Valley, California. Ferraro recovered macrobotanical remains, including burnt seeds from a cleared circle, and a tortoise carapace from a slab-lined pit whose surface manifestation was a cleared circle. Hearths and roasting pits were uncovered in or underneath cleared circles by Ahlstrom and Roberts and Hunt. Hunt also found food stored in cleared circle pits. Numerous sites in the Park have cleared circle and/or rock ring features. Stratified deposits with several different occupation levels were documented by Ferraro and by HRA.

Several different cultural groups used the Park portion of Las Vegas Wash over a long span of time. A Clovis-like point recorded by HRA (Roberts 2000; Roberts and Ahlstrom 2000) so far shows the earliest occupation. Later prehistoric occupation includes Anasazi, Patayan, and Southern Paiute peoples. Pottery from these three cultural groups was found at several locations. Some of Ferraro's work indicates cultural features from the time periods for the presence of these groups in southern Nevada. Also represented is the ill-defined (in this area) ethnohistoric or protohistoric period, when Euroamerican influence on Native Americans began. Occupation and use of Las Vegas Wash continues through Historic times. This information opens up numerous research topics for the area. What were these people doing here through time? What resources were available at different times and how were they used? What kinds of interactions were there between different cultures? These and other research questions can be applied to prehistoric and historic sites.

Based on the evaluations and testing of sites by HRA and personal visits into the Park, Dave Valentine and Laurie Perry, Bureau of Reclamation archaeologists, decided to not only resurrect the District, but to revise it to reflect the changes in the last 24 years. Revisions to the District include changing the boundaries to eliminate portions of the District that now are being developed by Lake Las Vegas and other projects, and to incorporate newly recorded sites. The District, as currently revised, consists of 40 prehistoric and historic sites. Site types include lithic/artifact scatters, rock shelters, cleared circles, irrigation ditches, and historic foundations. These sites are unified by their location along Las Vegas Wash. The historic context was updated based primarily on HRA's reports. The District is eligible for inclusion in the National Register for Historic Places under Criteria C and D. The last portion of Criterion C refers to districts that "represent a significant and distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction" (Advisory Council on Historic Preservation

2001). The grouping of the archaeological sites within the District is significant as a whole within its historic context and location. The District has already yielded important information on the prehistory and history of the area and has the potential to produce more such information. HRA's work in the Las Vegas Wash/Clark County Wetlands Park is very exciting for the Las Vegas Valley. Reporting on sites here has been very limited. Hopefully, this time the District will stick, and aid efforts to preserve and understand our prehistoric past.

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WILDCAT WASH TRIGGERS

David Valentine, Bureau of Reclamation

One of the goals of the Nevada Rock Art Documentation Project (NRADP) is to record the other archaeological deposits that are often associated with rock art. The first southern Nevada rock art site recorded by the NRADP was Wildcat Wash (26CK4412) in the Meadow Valley Mountains. Rock art panels were mapped, photographed, and sketched over a mile-long stretch of the canyon. Also noted in the same area of the canyon was a variety of other archaeological features and artifacts, including lithic scatters, groundstone, pottery, a roasting pit, etc.

One unusual class of artifacts found (in rockshelters and niches in the canyon) were a number of modified sticks. These sticks have grooves or notches cut in one end with the other end sharpened. A total of six carved sticks was found; one single stick and a group of five.

The isolated stick was found in a pack rat midden in a niche in the cliff wall. It is 97 mm long and 8 mm in diameter (Figure 1). Four mm from the butt end are two notches that almost circumscribe the stick. Twenty-seven mm of the opposite end were carved down to form an uneven, wedge-shaped point. The bark was left on the stick. This bark closely resembles the bark of white burrobush, or cheeseweed (*Hymenoclea salsola*), which is a common plant growing in the bottom of the wash. A fragment of a corncob was found in the same pack rat midden, and within a few meters is a groundstone cache with a mano and metate.

Oscar Mora of the Lost City Museum found the group of five sticks (Figure 2) in a packrat midden above a rockshelter. In addition to the five sticks, a rodent's lower mandible, and a wad of cordage (Figure 3) were found. Instead of two notches cut into the stick near the butt end, these sticks only have one relatively large notch. Again, the opposite end is rather minimally sharpened, and bark is largely left on the sticks. These sticks range in length from approximately 95 mm to 104 mm. Three of the sticks also appear to be from burrobush, but the other two are unidentified.

These sticks are part of the trigger mechanism for a deadfall trap. Jimmy George described this type of deadfall trap to Margaret Wheat (1967: 72-73), and the interested reader is encouraged to read his account. Deadfall traps utilize baited sticks to prop up large rocks. Small animals, generally rodents, are crushed to death by the rock when they attempt to take the bait. This type of deadfall (and a variety of other trigger mechanisms) is also described and illustrated by Catherine Fowler (1986: 84). Both of these sources indicate that a string is tied around the notch, and that the other end of the string is tied around a short length of twig. The string is under tension with another stick holding the bait.

Deadfall trigger sticks similar to the ones from Wildcat Wash have been found in other archaeological sites in the Great Basin. A complete deadfall trigger was found in layer DV in Danger Cave (Jennings 1957: 191). Six examples, one with some attached cordage, were recovered from Gatecliff Shelter (although they were identified as Promontory Pegs) from Horizon 1 and 2, and three more were recovered from Eastgate Cave (Thomas 1983: 297-301).

A spectacular find of these triggers was found in Fortymile Canyon on the Nevada Test Site (Lockett 1988). Two bundles of triggers were found cached in a shallow rockshelter in site 26Ny4722. One of the bundles was removed, and analyzed in the archaeology lab at

the Desert Research Institute in Reno. Fifty-nine triggers were in the collected bundle; forty-one are complete with attached string and twig (Figure 4). Length of the main stick on the triggers ranged from 71 mm to 115 mm (Lockett 1988: 62-67). Two of the carved sticks were radiocarbon dated at 250 ± 70 B.P. (Henton and Pippen 1988: 126).

Examples of a different style of deadfall trigger were recovered from surface sites in Death Valley, California (Hunt 1960) and Santa Clara, Utah (Fowler and Matley 1978). Additional possible snare and deadfall triggers were also recovered in Utah from Hogup Cave (Aikens 1970; Fig. 124k, 1), Swallow Shelter (Dalley 1976: 62, Fig. 29d), and Promontory Point (Steward 1937: 23), and from Gatecliff Shelter in Nevada (Thomas 1983).

Although Lockett (1988) points out that there are numerous ethnographic references to deadfall traps and accounts by early explorers of Native American trapping, these artifacts are rare in the archaeological record. It is obvious, however, that trapping played a significant role in the foraging activities of Native Americans, providing a significant amount of animal protein and skins. Trapping continues to the modern day--the setting of a deadfall trap is the opening scene of *The Blessing Way*; a modern mystery novel set on the Navajo Reservation (Hillerman 1970). Archaeologists, more used to dealing with durable stone tools instead of perishable items, need to give them due consideration when pondering the mysteries of ancient hunting and gathering activities.

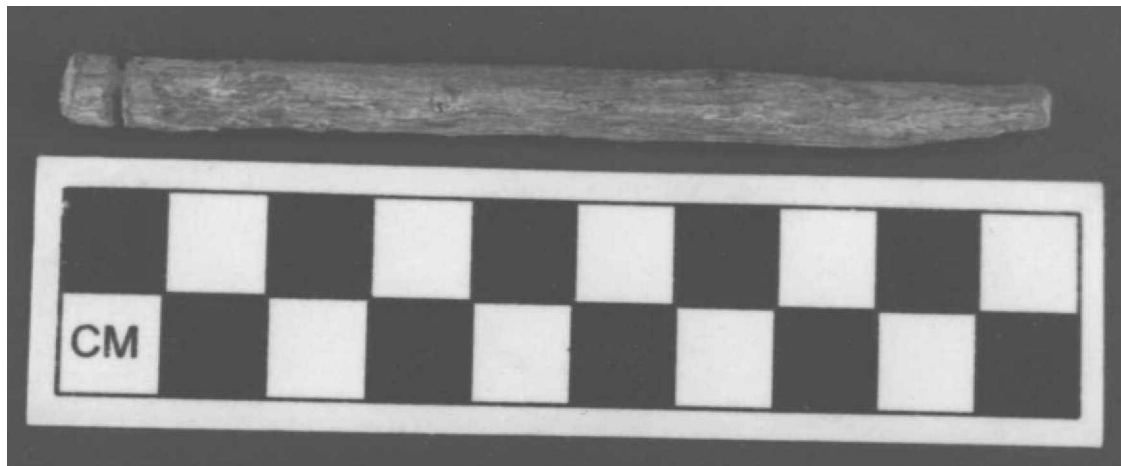


Figure 1. Isolated deadfall trap trigger stick found in Wildcat Wash.



Figure 2. Deadfall triggers from rockshelter, Wildcat Canyon. Photo courtesy of Jack and Elaine Holmes.



Figure 3. Cordage recovered with the five triggers. Photo courtesy of Jack and Elaine Holmes.

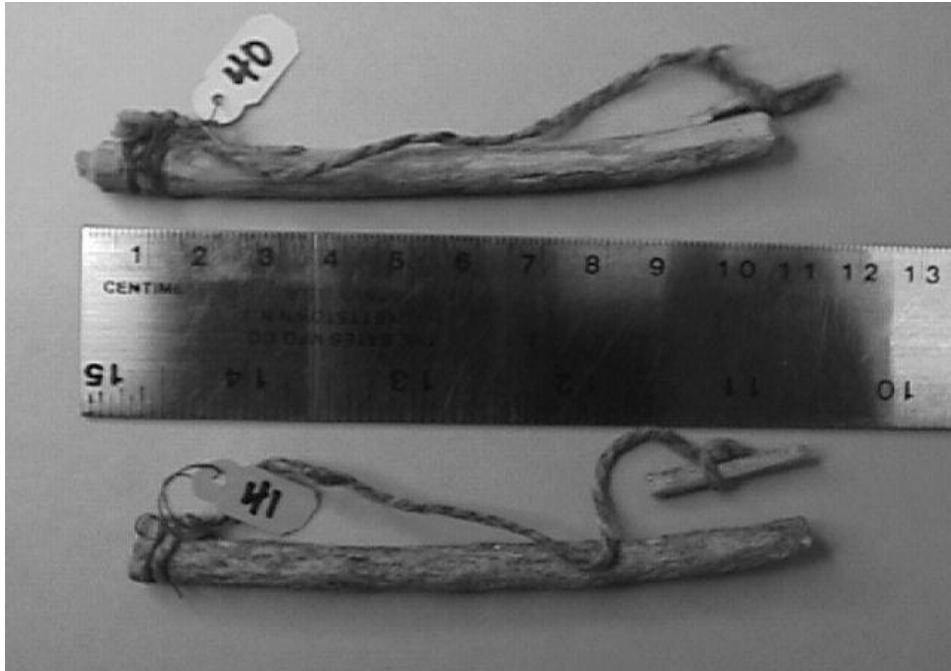


Figure 4. Two deadfall triggers from the bundle collected from 26Ny4772. Photo courtesy of the Desert Research Institute.

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