



LAS June 2016 Headlines:

WAGON RUTS: SITES DISPLAY THE DIVERSITY OF PREHISTORIC ACTIVITY

Daily Record By: Earl Mead Posted 01/10/2016

Many persons are familiar with the general history of America or of our region and understand that our settlement of Colorado spans some 160+ years, or 475 years since Coronado may have passed across a corner of Southeastern Colorado. But it is hard to grasp the idea that people have been living in our area for over 12,000 years. Such numbers seem difficult to imagine.

The amount of prehistoric materials recovered over the past 100 years and the diversity of site types in our region attest to that activity. But if we, in our short time in Colorado, have managed to leave our traces, mainly in the form of trash, across the landscape, imagine the refuse left behind by 12,000 years of Native American activity.

In an earlier column, we spoke of the traces of early agriculture in the area and of the excavations at Draper Cave near Wetmore. Much more, however, has been recovered and much more awaits scientific discovery and analysis. One case in point is known as the Grape Creek-DeWeese Cache and is on display in the Canon City History Museum. This cache of 17 bifaces was discovered in 1923 probably during construction activities associated with the DeWeese Ditch off of lower Grape Creek.

The Grape Creek-DeWeese Cache has recently been scientifically examined by Michael D. Troyer of the Bureau of Land management. The collection, donated to the Museum at the passing of Dall DeWeese in 1929, consists of late-stage tools which could have been retrieved when needed and quickly modified into a final form for hunting or cutting.

A number of years ago I recorded the Four Mile Rock Art site for a company out of Denver. The site has often appeared in regional guides to the area and consists of a grouping of Plains Abstract style pictographs on a boulder near the route of the modern road. Other rock art sites are known in our area including some historic incised carvings of native headdresses along the Arkansas River. Rock art sites have also been recorded in the Temple Canyon area and along Colorado State Highway 9.

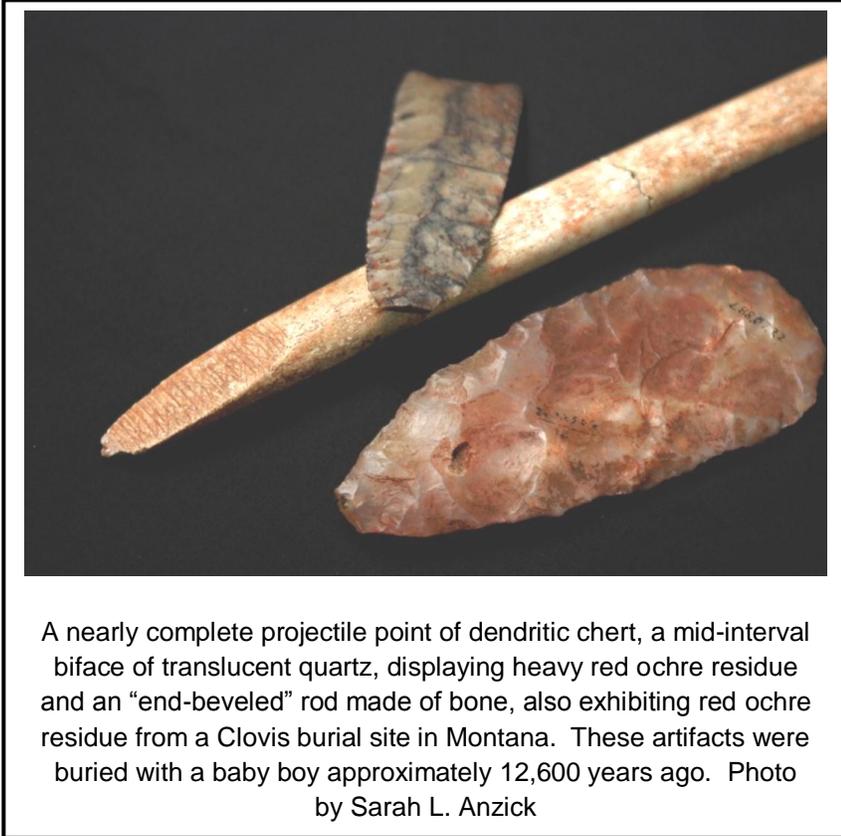
The Four Mile site sits along one of more historic routes of passage through our area. The Four Mile drainage would have provided a way to access the South Park region throughout the prehistoric period. Later, this route was well known to historic tribes such as the Ute and still later was the route taken by Pike and Fremont during their explorations before becoming a Stage route to Cripple Creek.

We live in an area that has seen a long and rich history of human activity over many thousands of years. We occupy one small stretch of time within that history. More of our past history, of those who came before, waits to be told in the history books of the future.

DNA TRACES NATIVE AMERICANS' ANCESTRY TO SIBERIA

PBS By: Rebecca Jacobson February 13, 2014

The bones of a baby boy buried in Montana 12,600 years ago may help scientists confirm the origins of North and South America's first peoples.



A nearly complete projectile point of dendritic chert, a mid-interval biface of translucent quartz, displaying heavy red ochre residue and an “end-beveled” rod made of bone, also exhibiting red ochre residue from a Clovis burial site in Montana. These artifacts were buried with a baby boy approximately 12,600 years ago. Photo by Sarah L. Anzick

The remains were discovered when a construction dig on the Anzick family property overturned a grave in southwestern Montana in 1968. Archeologists determined the boy was between 12 and 18 months old when he died, although the cause of death is still a mystery.

Stone knives, spear points and elk bone artifacts buried with the boy identified him as one of the Clovis people—the earliest known indigenous North American culture, which existed approximately 13,000 years ago.

Archeologists had found other stone tools and artifacts from Clovis sites across North America, but the Anzick site in Montana is the only known burial site from this time period, said Michael Waters, anthropology professor at Texas A&M University.

DNA analysis of the boy confirmed

the child was a relative of ancient Siberian and East Asian people, concludes a study published in the journal *Nature* on Wednesday. Their analysis also showed that the child shares DNA with 80 percent of all modern Native American tribes, revealing that he is part of a direct ancestral line to Native Americans living today.

The study affirms what native people’s oral traditions have known for centuries, said Shane Doyle, professor of Native American studies at Montana State University and member of the Crow tribe.

“This discovery confirms what tribes have never doubted, that we have been here since time immemorial,” Doyle said in a press briefing Tuesday.

This discovery confirms archeologists’ idea that native people of North and South America descended from people who crossed a land bridge over the Bering Strait from East Asia and Siberia. But while there were archaeological signs to suggest that was the case, there was no DNA evidence until now.

For native people, the study is also a move forward toward a more cooperative relationship with archeologists, Doyle said. Danish evolutionary biologist Eske Willerslev, one of the study’s lead authors who analyzed the DNA, began consulting with Doyle and tribal councils about his findings when he suspected the boy had Native American roots.

This has been a monumental shift since the 19th and 20th centuries, when archeologists and anthropologists took bones and other property from gravesites without permission from the tribe, Doyle said.

“We didn’t have control over our own graves if you will. We were always seen as subjects to science rather than partners,” he said.

Now he hopes native people can be seen as partners to archeologists. The archeologists involved in the study are now working with Montana tribes on a reburial ceremony for the child in the spring.



LAS Find of the Month, June 2016:

Members can bring an artifact to be entered into the competition at the monthly meeting, which will be judged based on the following rules:

1. Must be a member of LAS in good standing.
2. The artifact must be a personal find.
3. It must have been found within the specified time frame, i.e., within the month prior to the meeting.
4. The artifact doesn't have to be a Colorado find—all that matters is that it was found in the last month.

The Find of the Month for June 2016 was made by Jim Mountain

Type: 7 ½" Shoshone Blade
Material: Quartzite
Location: Utah

This beautiful blade was found in two pieces. As you can see, the pieces fit perfectly. Congratulations Jim!



LAS News and Upcoming Events:

- Ongoing: Univ of Colorado Museum of Natural History. "Unearthed: Ancient Life in the Boulder Valley" exhibit featuring the Clovis artifacts from the Mahaffy Cache found in Boulder, Colorado in 2008. The exhibit will run through September 2016. Cost is free.
- July 2 – 4, 2016 Loveland Archaeological Society 4th of July weekend field trip to the Harris Ranch at Bosler, Wyoming. See map and instructions on the next page. Respect the landowner and do not abuse the privilege. This includes the following: Do not litter; respect gates, fences and cattle; drive only on established dirt roads and don't bring motorcycles and ATVs; camp only where designated; and if you bring an animal don't let it run loose. To view the Loveland Archaeological Society Code of Ethics please go to the following website: http://stoneagefair.com/LAS_code_of_ethics.htm.
- July – August 2016 Hell Gap site excavation. Dr. Marcel Kornfeld has extended an invitation to all LAS members to come by and visit the site, or even volunteer to help with the dig. If you are interested see the website at <http://www.uwyo.edu/pirl/summer%20schedule.html>.
- July 5, 2016 July meeting. Program: Jim and Joyce Mountain, with Keith Anderson, will give a presentation on the Cahokia Mound and the Collinsville Artifact Show.
- August 2, 2016 August meeting. Program: Annual picnic/potluck. This will be discussed at the July meeting, and more information will be sent in the July newsletter. Location is TBD.
- September 6, 2016 September meeting. Plan your presentation and give me a call today!
- September 24 & 25, 2016 2015 Loveland Stone Age Fair. More information will be provided in the coming months. Put the dates on your calendar, and plan now to attend!