

LAS June 2017 Headlines:

Found: One of the Oldest North American Settlements

The discovery of the 14,000-year-old village in Canada lends credence to the theory that humans arrived in North America from the coast

By Brigit Katz, smithsonian.com, April 5, 2017

The oral history of the Heiltsuk Nation, an Aboriginal group based on the Central Coast of British Columbia, tells of a coastal strip of land that did not freeze during the ice age, making it a place of refuge for early inhabitants of the territory. As Roshini Nair reports for the CBC, a recent archaeological discovery attests to an ancient human presence in the area associated with the tradition. While digging on British Columbia’s Triquet Island, archaeologists unearthed a settlement that dates to the period of the last ice age.



The archaeological team, supported by the Hakai Institute, sifted through meters of soil and peat before hitting upon the charred remains of an ancient hearth. Researchers painstakingly peeled away charcoal flakes, which were then carbon dated. In November, tests revealed that the hearth was some 14,000 years old, indicating that the area in which it was found is one of the oldest human

settlements ever discovered in North America. Or as Randy Shore of the Vancouver Sun contextualizes, the village is “three times as old as the Great Pyramid at Giza.”

Alisha Gauvreau, a PhD student at the University of Victoria and a researcher with the Hakai Institute, presented the team’s findings at the annual meeting of the Society for American Archeology this week. She tells Shore that archaeologists also found a number of artifacts in the area: fish hooks, a hand drill for igniting fires, a wooden device for launching projectiles and a cache of stone tools near the hearth.

“It appears we had people sitting in one area making stone tools beside evidence of a fire pit,” Gauvreau says. “The material that we have recovered ... has really helped us weave a narrative for the occupation of this site.”

These findings may have significant implications for our understanding of ancient human migration patterns. As Jason Daley reports for Smithsonian.com, the traditional story of human arrival to the Americas posits that some 13,000 years ago, stone-age people moved across a land bridge that connected modern-day Siberia to Alaska. But recent studies suggest that route did not contain enough resources for the earliest migrants to successfully make the crossing. Instead, some researchers say, humans entered North America along the coast.

In a radio interview with the CBC, Gauvreau says that the ancient settlement on Triquet Island “really adds additional evidence” to this theory. “[A]rchaeologists had long thought that ... the coast would be completely uninhabitable and impassible when that is very clearly not the case,” she explains.

The discovery is also important to the Heiltsuk Nation, lending credence to oral traditions that place their ancestors in the region during the days of the ice age. “[I]t reaffirms a lot of the history that our people have

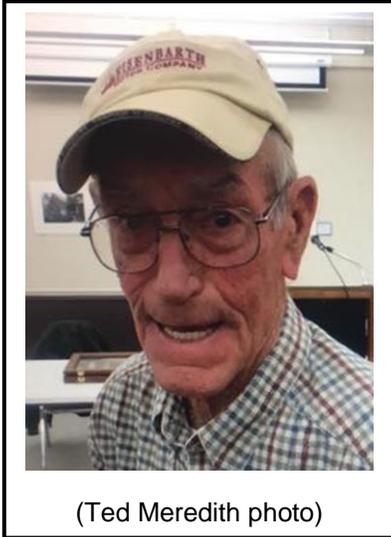


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been talking about for thousands of years," William Housty, a member of Heiltsuk Nation, tells Nair. He added that the validation by "Western science and archeology" can help the Heiltsuk people as they negotiate with the Canadian government over title rights to their traditional territory.

In Remembrance: Eugene Eisenbarth (November 22, 1931 - May 28, 2017)



(Ted Meredith photo)

Gene was born on November 22, 1931 in Yoder, WY to Philip & Elizabeth Eisenbarth.

The family moved to the Prospect Valley area (near Keenesburg, CO) in January 1937. Here he received his education and graduated from Prospect Valley High School in 1950. After graduation he joined the Air Force and served during the Korean War. He was awarded an honorable discharge in 1958.

On June 3, 1956 he married Barbara Naill. To this union were born 3 children.

After several different moves, Gene settled the family in Keenesburg and opened a Blacksmith & Welding Shop in Prospect Valley in which he ran for 36 years. Retirement was not for Gene and he continued welding for Waste Management for another 10 years.

He helped his kids with their activities all through their High School days and attended all the functions. He also enjoyed playing cards with family and friends, arrowhead hunting and attending Dutch Hops & Square

Dances.

He was preceded in death by his parents, 2 sisters-June Wiederman and Betty Trofholz; and 1 granddaughter-Megan Hicks.

He is survived by wife Barbara of 62 years; 3 children-Pamela (Rob) Hicks of Akron, CO, Gene Eisenbarth Jr of Keenesburg, and Gregory (Linda) Eisenbarth of Park City, UT; 5 grandchildren, Kristi (Joe) Roth of Littleton, Rebecca (Kaleb) Wagy of Camp LaJune, NC, Sarah (Matt) Raile of St. Francis, KS, Ethan Eisenbarth of Salt Lake City, UT and Adam Eisenbarth of Park City, UT. 5 great-grandchildren, Quinn, Hayden, Marissa, Maxton, & Karlee.

Private Graveside Services were held at Ft. Morgan Riverside Cemetery.



LAS Find of the Month, June 2017:

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 2017 was made by Robin Guthrie.

Type: Scraper

Material: Tan chert

Location: Weld County, Colorado



LAS News and Upcoming Events:

Speakers Needed!

Really!! We need speakers for our 2017 meetings! If you would like to give a presentation or know of someone who would give a great program please contact Andy Coca, Jean Steinhoff or Kevin Zeeck. No experience is necessary, just a passion for our hobby and a willingness to share that passion. Thanks!

- June-October 2017 Tracks and Trails. Free events and activities on City of Fort Collins Natural Areas. For more information visit the website and download a free Tracks and Trails Guide. <http://www.fcgov.com/common/pdfs/spotlight-pdf.php?id=1398>
- July 4, 2017 NO JULY MEETING due to Holiday.
- July 22, 2017 Hell Gap National Historic Landmark Dedication. The Hell Gap Paleoindian Site will be dedicated as a National Historic Landmark Site. Ribbon cutting at 11:00 a.m. with lunch to follow. The public is invited to attend.
- August 1, 2017 August meeting. Program: Annual picnic/potluck. This will be discussed at the June meeting, and more information will be sent in the July newsletter. Location is TBD.



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National Historic Landmark Dedication

SATURDAY, JULY 22, 2017

**11 A.M. RIBBON CUTTING & DEDICATION
LUNCH TO FOLLOW**

Wyoming Archaeological Foundation, Paleoindian Research Lab,
Wyoming State Historic Preservation Office

www.stoneagetair.com