



Loveland Archaeological Society, Inc.
A Colorado Non-Profit Corporation

Arrowheadlines



The Newsletter of the Loveland Archaeological Society

October 2018

UPCOMING MEETING ANNOUNCEMENTS

Date:	Next mtg. is November 6 th , 2018
Place:	McKee 4H Building at The Ranch, Loveland
Program:	Show and Tell
Refreshments:	Indiginous Foods Potlatch. Bring a dish to share if you'd like



From the Editor

The 'Take 5' interview section of the Newsletter is going to Take 10 and move over for a bit for a new section called 'In Other Words'. This new section will feature stories and photos by Club members about a site or place they've visited or an exhibit they've seen; anything related to the avocation we all enjoy. Always looking for member's input, photos, and writeups for the Newsletter. We were excited when Jenny Brown Smith contacted the Club and offered to bring some of the original Cornish arrowhead frames to this year's Loveland Stone Age Fair. Her great aunt and uncle were Oscar and Irene Shirk, co-founders of the original Cornish Stone Age Fair in 1934. It's nice to feel how alive that historical connection is that the LAS has today to those schoolkids and their teachers 84 years ago.

The next few months are always a busy time for the Club, even as everyone is recovering from this year's SAF. Elections for Club officers,

Indiginous Foods month in November, Christmas Party and holiday gift giving for Jan Irons and the local Native Americans in the area, and of course, the inaugural Loveland Archaeological Society *of Colorado* membership in the Central States Archaeological Society. Whew!!!

For those members who couldn't make the Stone Age Fair, or even if you were there, here are some future memories courtesy of Shellene Karst and Carrie Graves. More will be included in next month's Newsletter.

Thought I'd share three of the original Cornish artifacts that Jenny Brown Smith has in her care, some of which she brought down to the Stone Age Fair to show folks. Photos courtesy of Jenny Brown Smith.



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Participants at the Kid's Table



Dr. Jason LaBelle



Andy at the Artifacts ID Table



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In Memory of Bob Heid, a Great Friend of the SAF



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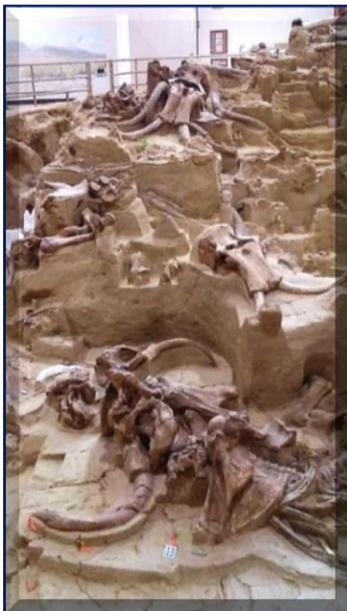


In Other Words

By Shellene Karst

A few weeks back I took a trip with my daughter Jadah to the Mammoth Site in Hot Springs South Dakota. A most interesting and fascinating tour for sure!

Approx. 26,000 years ago, the earth rumbled and shifted in such a way that it created a sinkhole. As time went on, the sinkhole began to fill up by a warm spring. Because of the temperature of the water, not only did it create an oasis of lush vegetation during the ice-age, but it stayed green throughout the bitter cold glacial winters. Eventually, Mammoths seeking food and water, made their way to this water hole but because of its steep banks, some slipped into the hole could never get back up, sealing their doom. Throughout the course of several hundreds of years, more mammoths became trapped and entombed leaving layers of bones as sediments slowly filled and covered them, leaving a fascinating fossil bone bed! Eventually the hole slowly filled and dried up.



As the story goes, this site was discovered in 1974 when bulldozers were prepping the land in which a house was to be built as part of a development. The dozer operator started turning over what appeared to be bone and ivory. The land owner, Phil Anderson, stopped everything and contacted proper scientific authorities which realized how significant the find was, leading to the protection of the site and developing the private and non-profit organization called 'The Mammoth Site of Hot Springs South Dakota'.

To this day there have been over 85 plant and animal species excavated from the sinkhole, including 2 mammoth species, short-faced bear, camelops, a species of llama and many small vertebrates and invertebrates like rodents, toads and snails. Most all of the specimens are preserved and left in-situ for the public to view in a covered climate controlled structure. According to our guide, archaeologists only work on excavating bones about 3 months out of the year so as not to expose the whole site all at once and allow the public years of enjoyment in visiting and seeing something a bit new in future years of visiting!

To my knowledge there have never been any artifacts found associated with the site, as man most likely would not have realized the animals were trapped below the water and most likely would have had no way to retrieve the lucky food sources (unlucky in this case) if they were even discovered. My guess is that man never wasn't even aware of what went on with the trapped and entombed animals... we may never know!



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All in all, this is one cool place to visit! If you wish to become more than just a visitor, they also allow the general public to participate in excavations through arrangement with the facility! Most likely you will see someone down in the pit working on un-covering new specimens as we did; very neat to see! I would say 'put this place on your bucket list!'



LAS Find of the Month

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 October 2018 was made by Shellene Karst as judged by all members present.

Type: Stone Maul

Material: Chert nodule

Where Found: Protruding from a dirt road just north of Briggsdale, CO.



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The Thanksgiving holiday is fast approaching and right behind it the Christmas season. It seems almost cliched to say it but I'm going to anyway...this year's gone by too fast. It's a time for celebrating, for remembering, and for sharing. As has been a LAS tradition for a dozen or more years, we collect gift cards, cash, clothing, and toys to help our *local* Native American neighbors have a more joyous Christmas holiday. Jan Irons, herself Native American, has been the Club's liaison in getting these donations distributed to those in a less fortunate position. The majority of those benefitting from our generosity live in the Loveland, Fort Collins, Longmont area. Jan usually shares with us a request list ranging from a little girl's doll, an expectant mom's nursery needs, work boots for men, and clothing for all ages-male and female. Of course, gift and grocery cards are always welcome! We will be accepting donations at the November and December meetings. If you cannot make either meeting and want to contribute, contact Andy Coca or another Club officer. Andy will be discussing this more in the coming months, and any information will be passed on in the Newsletter as well. Thank you all again. I know firsthand that the gifts are greatly appreciated.



HALLOWEEN COMES TO AMERICA

Celebration of Halloween was extremely limited in colonial New England because of the rigid Protestant belief systems there. Halloween was much more common in Maryland and the southern colonies. As the beliefs and customs of different European ethnic groups as well as the American Indians meshed, a distinctly American version of Halloween began to emerge. The first celebrations included "play parties," public events held to celebrate the harvest, where neighbors would share stories of the dead, tell each other's fortunes, dance and sing. Colonial Halloween festivities also featured the telling of ghost stories and mischief-making of all kinds. By the middle of the nineteenth century, annual autumn festivities were common, but Halloween was not yet celebrated everywhere in the country. In the second half of the nineteenth century, America was flooded with new immigrants. These new immigrants, especially the millions of Irish fleeing the Irish Potato Famine, helped to popularize the celebration of Halloween nationally. Borrowing from Irish and English traditions, Americans began to dress up in costumes and go house to house asking for food or money, a practice that eventually became today's "trick-or-treat" tradition. Young women believed that on Halloween they could divine the name or appearance of their future husband by doing tricks with yarn, apple parings or mirrors.

In the late 1800s, there was a move in America to mold Halloween into a holiday more about community and neighborly get-togethers than about ghosts, pranks and witchcraft. At the turn of the century, Halloween parties for both children and adults became the most common way to celebrate the day. Parties focused on games, foods of the season and festive costumes.



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Parents were encouraged by newspapers and community leaders to take anything “frightening” or “grotesque” out of Halloween celebrations. Because of these efforts, Halloween lost most of its superstitious and religious overtones by the beginning of the twentieth century.



ARTIFUNFACTS TRIVIA QUIZ

The Answer To Last Month’s Trivia Question: Besides founding the Loveland Museum, writing numerous local history books, helping start the Loveland Valentine’s Day remailing stamp program, and most importantly - *moving the Cornish SAF to Loveland in 1940*, Harold Dunning ran what type of retail business in Loveland? **Answer:** A shoe store in downtown Loveland, “Dunning’s New Electric Shoe Shop”. The Loveland Museum had its humble beginnings in his shoe store in 1930.

This Month’s Trivia Question: *Colorado Archaeology & Historic Preservation Month* is celebrated in which Month?

Answer in Next Month’s *Arrowheadlines Newsletter*.



THE LITHICS LIBRARY by Dr. Calvin (Cal) Sydney

Located northwest of Sterling, Flattop Butte is a rock outcrop that was used extensively by prehistoric peoples as a source of stone for tools. The butte has a Chadron Formation capstone that is the only major bedrock source of high-quality stone between central Kansas/Nebraska and the Rocky Mountain foothills. Known as *Flattop chalcedony*, this stone has been found at sites across a wide swath of the Great Plains, allowing archaeologists to reconstruct prehistoric patterns of migration and trade. Flattop chalcedony is a White River Group silicate, a type of stone commonly used for tools on the Great Plains. The only other two major sources of White River Group silicates are Table Mountain, Wyoming, and White River Badlands, South Dakota. Flattop chalcedony ranges from opaque white to translucent lavender in color, with some flecks of pink and blue. It has excellent flaking qualities, making it perfect for shaping into sharp points and tools. In 1976 Sally T. Greiser became interested in Flattop chalcedony which was known to have been used from the Paleo-Indian period (before 6000 BCE) throughout prehistoric times and performed a study of the butte. Greiser identified more than 200 depressions on top of the butte that were prehistoric quarries. She found that the butte’s surface was littered with prehistoric flakes, cores, hammerstones, and finished tools. Quarrying was apparently done by digging to the caprock and extracting blocks of stone using sticks, bone tools, and wedges. Because it can be so easily traced to a single source, Flattop chalcedony has helped archaeologists reconstruct the movements of prehistoric peoples who left behind few other remains. For example, lithic tool caches from the central Great Plains have revealed that White River Group silicates such as Flattop chalcedony were the most commonly used lithic tool materials in the region during the Clovis period (around 11,000 BCE).



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Clovis tools made from Flattop chalcedony have been found more than 300 miles from Flattop Butte, with an average distance of about 105 miles away to the east or southeast.

According to archaeologist Steven R. Holen [of the Denver Museum of Nature and Science], this distribution of Flattop chalcedony indicates that Clovis people knew Flattop Butte well and made it a regular stop on migratory routes that extended up to 350 miles. Dr. Holen has suggested that Clovis bands may have gathered at the butte to make tools in late summer or early fall, allowing different bands to exchange goods, information, and mates.



Knife made from Flattop chalcedony