

Arrowheadlines



The Newsletter of the Loveland Archaeological Society

April 2020



Club Minutes

There are no minutes for the April meeting as we didn't have a meeting. The Ranch cancelled all events and meetings through July. We had previously cancelled our June meeting due to The Ranch's scheduling issues on our second Tuesday of the month meeting. So, to be clear, we **will not** have a May, June or July meeting. If travel is permitted and the Harris Ranch gives us permission for hunting on Memorial Day weekend, we will announce it in the May newsletter.

If permitted by the City of Loveland and/or Governor Polis, we will try to have our annual picnic meeting in August if it can be held safely for all of us. We are also considering moving our monthly meetings back to the Deveroux Room at the Rialto Theater in downtown Loveland (not far from the Pulliam) starting in September. Stay tuned...

Members are encouraged to send in photos of any artifact finds they've made recently that they'd like to share as there's no Find of the Month contest per se till our next Meeting. This is just for fun, especially for those members that can't make the monthly Meetings to enter the Find of the Month contest in person. We just might make this a permanent feature of the Newsletter - members sharing photos of their finds with other members. Please include the type and material if known, and the general area where it was found if you'd care to.

This Month we have LAS members Todd Davis and his wife Rachel with their 'His and Her' Folsom points they found last year in New Mexico, as well as a find made last month in SW Colorado by Garry Weinmeister.

If you are not receiving your subscribed Central States Journals, please let Andy know by email: arrowhead@what-wire.com or by cell 303-903-0587.

"Everyone, please stay safe and healthy", – *Andy and Sandy Coca.*



LAS Find of the Month

There was no **Find of the Month** as there was no meeting in April. Instead, members are requested to send in photos of artifacts they found hunting recently.

Garry Weinmeister sent in this photo of a recent find he made on his property in SW Colorado.

Type: *We'll let members guess the Type.* San Pedro? Tularosa? Durango?



Here are the 'His and Her' Folsom points Todd Davis and his wife Rachel found last year in New Mexico.





Archaeology in the News



In 1914, one of the most unusual events in the region's history was an invitation tendered to two Arapaho elders living on the Wind River Reservation by the Colorado Mountain Club. Gun Griswold and Sherman Sage were selected by Colorado Mountain Club during a trip to the reservation. It was believed that these individuals had lived in the Estes Park region before it was settled.

The purpose of the invitation was to have them take a two-week long pack trip through the mountains and to record what they could remember about the area, especially names and events. During their progress, they documented Arapaho names for local landmarks. The elders, interpreter Tom Crispin, host Oliver Toll and wrangler Shep Husted crossed the Continental Divide four times. Oliver Toll kept a detailed journal of the trip and 48 years later, published his journal as "Arapaho Names and Trails." The first edition came out in 1962 and the second improved edition was published in 2003. Although colorful, it is anything but a scientific journal. It links the past occupation of the area by Indians to the present.

Gun Griswold, 73, was the oldest of the Indians, and the trip was hard on him. He was eventually examined by a doctor. Sherman Sage was 63 and in contrast to Griswold, was quite active. This was an extremely ambitious trip starting at Marys Lake where an old Indian camp was examined. They rode their horses into what would become Rocky Mountain National Park to the ranch in Upper Beaver Meadows owned by Pieter Hondius. They climbed up over Trail Ridge down to Poudre Lakes and then up to the crater at Specimen Mountain. The party crossed the Continental Divide at Milner Pass.

They spent the night at "Squeaky" Bob Wheeler's ranch along the Colorado River and followed the river past Lulu City and over Thunder Pass. They climbed a shoulder of Sawtooth Mountain and here they traced an old Indian trail. They traveled to Grand Lake, and using the North Inlet Trail, they made their way over Flattop Mountain and part way up Hallett Peak. Using Mill Creek, they returned to Estes Park. After a night's stay, they rode up over a ridge to West Creek returning to via the Devil's Gulch Road. The final leg of the trip was by stagecoach to Fort Collins to visit the agricultural college, now Colorado State University.

Toll recorded what he could of the Arapaho language, giving it specialized symbols in his attempt to create a written language. In the process, he discovered that it was a difficult language to document because the way a single word was pronounced could convey different meanings. In addition, Toll encountered a certain protocol. No matter how long an elder talked, interpreter Crispin could not reply until the entire story was finished.

In August just as the Fort was finished, Weld County rancher Elbridge Gerry made his historic ride along the South Platte River to warn settlers of an impending attack. At the Platteville stage station, Gerry dispatched two men to ride to the lower Boulder and St. Vrain Valley to warn settlers.

The settlers converged on Fort Junction filling it to capacity with their ox-drawn wagons. The attack never materialized because the Indians realized that the settlers were well prepared.

The Fort was also used by farmers and ranchers traveling to and from the mining areas taking produce, hay and livestock to Central City and Black Hawk. It was also a stopping off point for gold seekers who traversed the road between the eastern plains and the gold mines to the west of Boulder. This road passed close to the Fort. The Fort later became a post office and shelter for travelers for a night's respite.

Because the Fort was constructed of sod, it eventually deteriorated back into prairie, although vestiges such as the well and a slight rise where the sod walls stood were still present up until the 1930's according some of the older farmers in the area Several remembered visiting the 'site' years back with their parents or grandparents who were actually there when the Fort was an active gathering place whenever the local alarm sounded that there were sightings of Indians in the vicinity. So, you would have thought the Fort site was a given, right; relegated to the obscurity of history, right? Not so fast...

The site and accompanying marker were slated to be destroyed to make way for a private prison and a new interchange and expanded service road. While conducting research and interviews for a 3-part documentary on the Fort produced in May 1994, a local access television producer interviewed current residents and descendants of the early pioneers in the area. A farmer who lived at the northeast corner of Interstate 25 and Colo.

Highway 119 stated that he had found on his land remains of what he believed to be the Fort, just 40 yards or so from where the historic marker stood. It was this video and the accompanying research that put a halt to the road interchange construction until a true archaeological survey by Department of Transportation experts and archaeologist Dan Jepson could be conducted, which included ground-penetrating radar (GPR) tests northeast of the Hwy. 119 and I-25 intersection. This created a lot of excitement in the area, and several newspapers sent reporters out to cover the activities, and longtime farmers and folks that had grown up in the area gathered around to see if anything would be discovered.

The GPR suggested that beneath the surface was "a wall-like section, gate posts and a dumping area that could have been the well." There were also rumors of graves in the area, most likely of emigrants travelling alongside the Fort on the road to the gold fields. Weld County historian and author Carol Rein-Shwayder used divining rods that directed her to multiple gravesites on the property. Furthermore, she was able to determine whether the ground held the remains of a man or woman, based on the behavior of those rods. (Back and Forth for a man; circular for a woman.) Dan Jepson was amazed when his GPR and Carol's divining rods located the exact same areas where the posts, walls, and opening (possibly a door or window) were. But when archaeologists conducted an exploratory dig at the site, they could find no remnants of the Fort or the graves, and so without any solid evidence, construction went forward. As the water table in the immediate area is very close to the surface, it is possible that the 'graves' had dissolved and there was nothing left to find. The site marker itself was slated to be destroyed but Dan Jepson was persuaded to relocate it, and thus preserving at least a part of the Fort's history, albeit disassociated with the true Fort's site. So, the story ends here, right? Wrong again!

Later on, other historians determined that the Fort stood on what is now the *west side* of I-25.

The original 1939 marker itself, however, states that the Fort stood "200 feet due east of this site."

Paul Sorensen, Firestone's mayor pro-tem and parks, trails and historical commissioner, has been studying Fort Junction for years and invited a CU doctoral student in anthropology to join him.

He believes the Fort sat in what is now St. Vrain State Park, west of I-25 and north of Highway 119, and that the site east of I-25 is where the home guard mustered.



He used maps from the Library of Congress to support his case. But this flies in the face of all other evidence, both physical, historical, and anecdotal.

So, where *is* the exact location of Fort Junction? No one knows for sure. Like so much of history, it's most likely buried under acres of asphalt and tons of cement.

The following was contributed by Angela Savino, who loves to hike this area near her home in Bozeman, Montana.

Montana Buffalo Jump

Bill Goold vividly recalls his first trip to Madison Buffalo Jump State Park. He drove the gravel road south of Logan to the park's entrance and hiked to the top of the limestone bluff that rises over the Madison River valley.

The view from the top of the jump was stunning, but it was the history and power of the place that really struck him. The jump tells the story of how Native American nations used the land to harvest bison. It is a story about survival and community, and a story that changed Goold's understanding.

"Like most non-natives, I was ignorant of the knowledge and wisdom indigenous peoples used to stampede bison off a site like that," Goold, now coordinator of the Friends of the Madison Buffalo Jump, said Monday. "It contradicts a lot of assumptions and myths that we are taught in our history classes.

Once you understand how a communal bison jump was used by tribal nations, it turns on its head what is civilized and what is sophisticated."

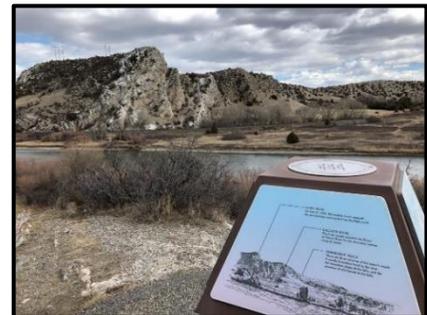
Madison Buffalo Jump State Park, located a short distance from the Madison River on Buffalo Jump Road, was authorized by the Montana Legislature in 1965 and formally established in 1967. The park features a variety of hiking trails that lead around the jump, and a series of interpretive panels that tell the story of how Native Americans used the site. Park Manager Dave Andrus said Madison Buffalo Jump was used for thousands of years by nearly all the Native American nations of Montana. The introduction of the horse brought with it mounted bison hunts and spelled the end for the buffalo jump, but archeological evidence suggests the site was used as recently as 200 years ago. "We think the Shoshone used the jump and the Crow and Blackfeet," Andrus said. "The Salish used the jump as well. The rivers were always major corridors, so groups of people moved through. This was an area many people passed through, but they preferred to winter somewhere else and traveled to the plains to hunt buffalo, even more than this area."

Andrus said evidence of the site's significance surrounds visitors. A recent archeological study conducted by the University of Montana unearthed numerous artifacts at the site.

"At the top of the buffalo trail, you come up on some old teepee rings," Andrus said. "If you know what you are looking for you can see the rock cairns they would use to direct the buffalo to the edge and that they would hide behind."

Andrus said Madison Buffalo Jump is unique in that there are many bison bones still buried at the site. Once bison were stampeded off the cliff, the community would spend several days or weeks processing the animals. Those bone piles presented a source of fertilizer used by Montana's early settlers, but Madison Buffalo Jump was not mined.

The Antiquities Act of 1906 protects the artifacts at Madison Buffalo Jump. It is illegal to remove relics or disturb the site.



Still, collections of arrowheads, bones and other relics found at the jump are on display at the Museum of the Rockies, the Gallatin County Courthouse and the Headwaters Heritage Museum in Three Forks. While the cultural, archeological and recreational importance of Madison Buffalo Jump State Park is certain, its future as a state park is not. "Everybody's shared interest is in seeing this preserved as a state park," Goold said. There's several payment and lease related issues still needing to be resolved. "It is a special place to a broad cross section of the public for different reasons. It is a cultural, scientific, archeological and recreational treasure. Whether you are native or non-native, it has significance on a national level."



ARTIFUNFACTS TRIVIA QUIZ

Last Month's Trivia Question: Which Indian tribes, if any, fought for the Confederacy during the Civil War?

Answer: The Choctaws, Chickasaws, Cherokee, and Seminole all fought for the Confederacy, led by General Stand Watie, a Cherokee leader from the Oklahoma Territory. One reason was that some Cherokees, including Stand Watie, were slaveholders. There were also Indian tribes, including other Cherokees, that fought on the Union side.

This Month's Trivia Question: So, you want to outrun a buffalo (American Bison) do you? How fast would you have to run to do that?