



## UPAC NEWS

NEWSLETTER FOR THE UTAH PROFESSIONAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL COUNCIL

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Stan McDonald, President  
Jerry D. Spangler, Editor

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### FALL UPAC MEETINGS

The semiannual UPAC meeting will be held November 8 and 9 at the Division of State History offices, Rio Grande Depot, Salt Lake City. Sessions will begin at noon Friday and continue through Saturday morning. Social events are being planned. More detailed information will be provided in the October newsletter. Comments, concerns and suggestions should be directed to UPAC president Stan McDonald at 801-637-2817, or Nancy Coulam, vice-president of membership and ethics at 801-259-3911 ext-2134.

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

It is truly an honor to serve you as UPAC president for the next two years. First, I'd like to thank the outgoing officers of UPAC -- President Bill Davis, Vice-President of Membership and Ethics Charmaine Thompson, Treasurer Nancy Shearin and Newsletter Editor Bill Fawcett -- for their outstanding service to UPAC in the past two years. On behalf of UPAC, I thank all of the candidates who accepted nominations for office and graciously offered to serve UPAC. I also offer my congratulations to Nancy Coulam, Kenny Wintch and Jerry Spangler on their election as UPAC officers.

I look forward to working with my fellow officers over the next two years as we serve you, the members of UPAC. UPAC can take great pride in its long record of accomplishments to promote professional archaeology, publish research results, foster dialogue on difficult issues, shape and affect the passage of legislation to protect Utah's archaeological heritage, and promote public education efforts. It is my goal to continue this tradition for UPAC.

In the coming months, I look forward to discussing with you my thoughts on how we can best continue this tradition of service, cultivate a healthy membership and promote effective communications within the Utah archaeological community. Please don't hesitate to contact me or any of your UPAC officers when you have concerns or issues that you'd like to discuss or have UPAC address.

Stan McDonald  
Manti-LaSal National Forest

## CONFERENCES AND SYMPOSIA

**Society for American Archaeology:** The 62nd annual meeting of the Society for American Archaeology will be held April 2-6, 1997, in Nashville, Tennessee. All submissions, both session and individual, must be made on appropriate forms and must reach SAA offices no later than Sept. 7, 1996. For more information, contact the SAA at 202-789-8200, or through email at [meetings@saa.org](mailto:meetings@saa.org).

**"Sacred Images" Rock Art Symposium:** Through a grant from the Utah Humanities Council, the Brigham Young University Department of Anthropology and the College of Family, Home and Social Sciences are sponsoring a rock art symposium Sept. 19 and 20 at the Museum of Art. The symposium will celebrate the Utah Centennial and the BYU Department of Anthropology's 50th anniversary. The symposium is also part of the rock art display "Sacred Images," a four-month exhibit at the museum. Scheduled participants include Sally Cole, Larry Loendorf, Mary Jane Young and Ray T. Matheny, among others. Symposium papers are being considered as Publication Number 4 of the newly instituted publications of the Museum of Art.

**Archaic Conference:** A conference on Archaic cultures of the Southwest is scheduled for Oct. 24 to 26 in Albuquerque, New Mexico. For more information, contact W.H. Wills, Department of Anthropology, University of New Mexico. To register, send your \$25 registration fee to Archaic Conference, New Mexico Archaeological Council, Box 1023, Albuquerque, New Mexico, 87103.

**Great Basin Anthropological Conference:** The biennial Great Basin Anthropological Conference will be held Oct. 10 to 12 at the North Tahoe Conference Center, 8318 N. Lake Boulevard, Kings Beach, California.

**Governor's Conference:** The Governor's Conference on History and Heritage will be held Sept. 19 to 21 at This Is The Place State Park (formerly Pioneer Trails State Park) in Salt Lake City. Call 533-3545 for more information.

## COMMENTS PLEASE:

Pamela Miller of the Prehistoric Museum, College of Eastern Utah, is seeking comments from UPAC members on the proposed wording of a mission statement for the state certification program. Miller was selected by UPAC/USAS Certification Committee to develop a mission statement for the USAS Certification Program with the intent that it provide future direction for the program. Those interested in reviewing the mission statement should contact Miller at the CEU Prehistoric Museum, 801-637-5060.

## EXTRANEOUS NEWS

**ARPA:** On March 12, 1996, Department of Interior special agents from Utah and Colorado conducted two simultaneous search warrants in Grand Junction, Colorado, resulting from an Archaeological Resources Protection Act investigation in the Dolores Triangle of east-central Utah. The case was initiated by a Colorado wildlife officer who contacted a BLM ranger about possible vandalism of an alcove. BLM special agents later stopped a pickup truck, which was seized under warrant. An investigation of the vandalized site revealed that the suspects had abandoned their digging tools and other personal items. Interviews with the suspects during the serving of the search warrants resulted in confessions by both suspects. For more information, contact BLM enforcement agent Marty Phillips at 539-4084.

**KANE GULCH:** Written comments are being accepted by the BLM concerning a proposal to replace the existing Kane Gulch Ranger Station (currently a small trailer house) with a permanent building designed to accommodate the 50,000 annual visitors to the Grand Gulch Primitive Area. "It is critically important for those interested in this project to realize that we're not proposing a new visitor center designed to promote use of the area. We are booked up at Grand Gulch and we know that," said San Juan Field Office Manager Kent Walter. "Rather, this proposal will enable us to eliminate the health and safety problems associated with the present outmoded facility, as well as help us deal more effectively with the information needs of existing customers who come to hike the backcountry." Additional improvements that are planned include the addition of 18 parking spaces and moving the entrance to the ranger station 120 feet to the south. To receive a copy of the Cedar Mesa/Grand Gulch Visitor Contact Station Environmental Assessment, write or call the BLM San Juan Field Office, P.O. Box 7, Monticello, Utah, 84535, 801-587-2141. The Grand Gulch Primitive Area remains among Utah's most heavily impacted archaeological districts.

**IN THE NEWS:** Vandalism of archaeological sites in the Southwest, and Utah in particular, was the subject of a recent in-depth feature by the New York Times News Service. The article focused on the ARPA indictments of Earl Shumway, and included perspectives by Utah BLM special agent Bart Fitzgerald, assistant U.S. Attorney Wayne Dance, Anasazi State Park Manager Larry Davis and Utah Geological Survey archaeologist David Madsen. The article had international distribution. Copies of the article are available by contacting the newsletter editor at 582-2900.

## OBITUARY: Ric Thompson, 1921-1995

Dr. Richard A. (Ric) Thompson, passed away on June 27, 1995, at the age of 74. Ric, known to recent field school students as "Doc," introduced many of us to archaeology at field schools in southern Utah and northern Arizona beginning in the 1970's. A fixture in Utah archaeology for more than 30 years, Ric was a UPAC member since the inception of the organization. He served UPAC in several capacities, including UPAC President in 1983-1984.

Ric was a dedicated archaeologist, conducting research, curating archaeological collections and doing CRM work, and he poured his heart and soul into teaching, training, and encouraging students and colleagues. Through the field school, as well as teaching at Southern Utah University, he reached hundreds of students from Utah and around the nation. He believed strongly in providing educational opportunities to students of all backgrounds, and he provided scholarships to many Native American and other local students to attend field schools over the years. He has left a rich legacy through his dedication to teaching archaeology, particularly in the residential field school setting.

Ric invested a tremendous amount of his time, energy and personal funds into archaeology, and it was his dream to see SUU archaeology and the field school continue after his retirement. Although he was not able to see the formal academic year archaeology program continue after he retired in June 1986, he made sure that the field school continued. The Museum of Southern Utah also continues to exist as an archaeological repository with important federal, state and other collections curated there. Ric and his wife Georgia Beth set up an archaeology curation endowment at SUU in April 1986, and this fund continues to support curation of archaeological collections at the Museum. To contribute to the archaeology curation fund, contact the Development Office at SUU (801-586-7775).

Ric hoped, and many of us still hope, to see the academic year archaeology program return to SUU, an institution that has been associated with the teaching and training of many of us. In the meantime, Ric's legacy will live on during the 21st field school season, which will be taught on Little Creek Mesa in 1996 by Barb Walling.

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## PUBLICATION OF LOCAL INTEREST:

**Formal Process of the Archaeological Record**, by Michael B. Schiffer, University of Utah Press, Salt Lake City. 428 pages. Publication date: July 1996. \$19.95

Publication synthesizes the most important principles of cultural and environmental formation processes, and is intended as both an introduction and a guide in method and theory, fieldwork and analysis. It is based on the premise that "the cultural past is knowable, but only when the nature of the evidence is thoroughly understood. It shows how one can make the past accessible in practice by identifying the variability introduced by the diverse processes of people and nature that form the archaeological record."

**The Archaeology of Navajo Origins**, edited by Ronald H. Towner, University of Utah Press, Salt Lake City. 322 pages. Publication date: July 1996. \$45.00

Publication is a collection of 12 articles that address a variety of topics related to the protohistoric and historic Navajo. Among the topics addressed are radiocarbon and tree-ring dates from early Navajo sites, new perspectives on the "pueblito phenomenon," Navajo lithics and ceramics technologies, ceremonial imagery and early Navajo occupations of the San Juan drainage, Chuska Mountains and Grand Canyon region.

## BLUEGRASS:

Abajo Archaeology's Bill Davis and his Bluff compatriots have organized the seventh annual Bluff Acoustical Music Jubilee September 20 to 22 at the Sand Island Recreation Area three miles west of Bluff. Established camp sites are available with picnic tables, fire grills, toilets and trash barrels. There is no cost to attend, and all are invited to bring their musical instruments and participate. For more information, contact Bill Davis at 672-2272.

## TRUST LANDS:

The Office of School Trust Lands Administration has moved to 675 E. 500 South, Suite 500, Salt Lake City, Utah 84102 (801-538-5100). Trust lands archaeologist Kenny Wintch can be called directly at 538-5168 (please do not send UPAC dues to this government address).

## PEOPLE ON THE MOVE:

Dr. Patricia Lambert will join the Utah State University faculty as an assistant professor of anthropology. She comes to USU after working as a visiting research instructor at the University of North Carolina, Chapel Hill. She received her Ph.D. from the University of California at Santa Barbara in 1994. Her research interests including subsistence patterns, health and violent conflict in prehistoric societies. She brings technical skills in the analysis of human skeletal remains and zooarchaeology. In the spring of 1997, she will begin post-doctoral fellowship at the Smithsonian Institution.

Dr. Bill Fawcett has been promoted to assistant professor of anthropology at Utah State University, a tenure-track position. Fawcett has been working as a contract archaeologist at USU since 1991. He will now spend half of his time teaching and the other half pursuing contract archaeology as it relates to the anthropology/archaeology undergraduate program at USU.

Assistant state archaeologist Dave Schmitt has resigned his position with the State Historical Preservation Office effective July 26. Schmitt has moved to Texas where his wife, Karen Lupo, has accepted a teaching position at the University of North Texas in Denton. Lupo had been teaching special-topic anthropology courses at the University of Utah.

Barbara Blackshear has been hired by the Manti-LaSal National Forest as the district archaeologist for the Sanpete, Ferron and Price Ranger Districts. Blackshear just completed her MA at the University of Northern Arizona. She has been working as a seasonal archaeologist for the Manti-LaSal National Forest since 1993 under a cooperative employment-education program.

Major organizational changes have occurred at the Utah Department of Transportation. Don Southworth has left the agency for a position with Sagebrush Consultants (Ogden) where he will oversee the NEPA consulting part of the business. UDOT has subsequently hired three new archaeologists: Chris Lizotte, who recently completed his MA at the University of Northern Arizona, has been assigned to UDOT's Region 1 office (northern Utah); Ron Rood, a former adjunct professor and Forest Service archaeologist from southern Colorado, has been assigned to the Region 2 office (Salt Lake and Davis Counties); and Reed Soper, who recently completed his MA at Brigham Young University, has been assigned to the Region 3 office (Utah and Juab Counties, and the Uinta Basin). Susan Miller continues as the Region 4 archaeologist responsible for most of southern Utah.

## UPAC RENEWALS:

UPAC membership rolls contain the names of more than 90 individuals whose membership has expired (in some cases many years ago). UPAC activities, which includes quarterly issues of UPAC News and the annual Utah Archaeology, are funded entirely from membership dues. In the past, those whose memberships have expired have continued to receive the UPAC News and notices of UPAC meetings and activities. In effect, members who have regularly paid their dues have subsidized those who have allowed their memberships to lapse. The current UPAC officers have decided to discontinue mailings to those who have made no attempt to maintain current membership. If you need to renew your membership, please send \$25 and updated address information to Kenny Wintch, 5280 S. 2150 West, Salt Lake City, Utah, 84118 (801-538-5168). Students and associate members can renew for \$12.50.

## NINE MILE CANYON:

The Nine Mile Canyon Coalition has scheduled a "Centennial Homecoming" September 6 to 8 to raise funds for archaeological and historical preservation efforts there. Activities include a silent auction, tours a steak dinner, historical demonstrations and campfire discussions with former and current canyon residents. Several prominent Utah artists have donated items that will be auctioned. Planned developments in the canyon (located northeast of Price) include the construction of hiking trails, restrooms, interpretive signs and a picnic area. It is estimated that \$100,000 is needed to implement the management plan. Tickets for the Centennial Homecoming dinner are \$10 for adults and \$5 for children. For more information, contact the Nine Mile Canyon Coalition at P.O. Box 402, Price, Utah, 84501, or call the CEU Prehistoric Museum at 801-637-5060.

## SPECIAL THANKS:

UPAC officers would like to thank several folks for the assistance with the spring meeting. The Office of Institutional Trust Lands authorized use of state lands for a camp site. Kenny Wintch secured state lands' approval for the campsite, put together maps and local accommodation information, and got essential facilities to the site. Bob Leonard hauled water to the site. Lee Kreutzer and Kenny Wintch hosted field tours to local sites. PIII Associations generously provided a large tent, which Dave Schmitt lugged down in his pickup and which we thankfully did not have to set up (the weather was clear). Dutch Oven Delight of Price provided us with two tasty meals of generous proportions. Thanks to all of you who made it happen. Stan McDonald

## COMMENTARY, COMPLAINTS & LETTERS

Editor's Note: In an effort to generate discussion among UPAC members on pertinent issue affecting the archaeological community, the UPAC Newsletter will print all letters (30,000-word Unibomber manifestos will be edited). Letters, preferably on computer disk using Word Perfect 5.1, should be sent to UPAC editor Jerry D. Spangler, 6400 E. Emigration Canyon Road, Salt Lake City, Utah 84108. The deadline for the fall newsletter is Oct. 1, 1996.

## Commentary, Bluegrass, Bar-B-Que, Beer and UPAC ...

UPAC members are dedicated to archaeology, the expression of which takes many forms and, in part, reflects the diverse constituencies comprising UPAC. The following opinion about two issues raised at the 1996 spring meeting serve as the basis for a suggestion that UPAC may be most useful as a medium of interaction for our diverse constituents.

A member proposed at the spring meeting that UPAC allocate perhaps \$500 (with additional amounts in the future) to the reward fund for the prosecution of ARPA violators. This would send the message that UPAC is serious about enforcement of antiquities laws. I think this is a bad idea, not because I am opposed to the antiquities laws, but because UPAC has more than one message to send. This proposal would bring our multiple messages into conflict.

UPAC works with avocational societies and while we oppose the destruction of cultural resources, the criminalization approach is only one expression of this concern. Not only may the appearance of a hard-line approach hold implications for our relationships with the public, but UPAC members themselves hold a variety of political views. Perhaps some UPAC members oppose an authoritarian, government-backed approach to some classes of crime. If there is concern with the excesses and misguided nature of the "war on drugs," for instance, then similar reservations might be held toward a "lock 'em up and throw away the key" approach to cultural resource crimes, despite one's love of archaeology.

UPAC's limited funds would be better spent on positive approaches -- such as per diems to operate a UPAC speakers bureau to create a greater incentive for our members to participate outside of UPAC. My point, however, is not to propose a specific program, but to suggest that we should not be spending what could amount to significant funds on a basically negative approach over which UPAC members may hold larger philosophical reservations, and which narrowly

expresses what we are about.

The second issue is about Native American relations. I raised this issue because in the past year, UPAC has formed a committee to take on this thorny task. If UPAC really wants to do this, we need more than a couple of dedicated UPAC members to form a committee. We would need a representative or two from each of at least six different parts of the state to regularly interact with local Native American groups in their respective areas. Their interaction would have to consciously represent UPAC, not just the individual archaeologists or agencies seeking an agreement with Native Americans to solve some problem of the moment. It was suggested that, should we want to be serious about this, UPAC should fund per diem, travel and perhaps an honorarium for the representatives as an incentive for regular, face-to-face contact on behalf of professional archaeologists. These members would then be responsible to UPAC to show their progress.

I did not raise this issue to advocate that we do more. Rather it is an issue that may benefit from a recognition that unless we are willing to put much more into this, any perception that UPAC has "Native American relations" will be illusory. I don't think the task is achievable with the human and financial resources available, and I do not write this as a challenge to try to stimulate action on this issue. My suggestion is for a more modest UPAC focused on something we need more of: face-to-face contact with each other.

UPAC members have diverse perspectives, even conflicts of interest, on issues in cultural resource management, the future of archaeology, archaeology education and the function of UPAC. They vary in their commitment to action, and in their social, religious and political backgrounds. Perhaps the best thing UPAC offers is something we have glimpsed over the years: the gathering of UPAC members in a non-threatening, primarily social gathering with little urgency that we "do" something. Upon doing so, a lot of bridges are built and people are better understood. Sure, arguments ensue, and there may even be a bit of yelling, but the differences are typically soothed, rather than heightened, by a context that might generically be referred to as "bluegrass, bar-b-que and beer."

I do not argue for dismantling UPAC. We do some valuable things with our dues, such as Utah Archaeology, and we have had some modest political success over the years. However, underneath it all, the diversity within UPAC has grown with the increasing complexity of the environmental, social, political and legal context in which we work. The potential for conflict of interest among people who otherwise have in common a "love of archaeology" has always been

high, but is greater now than perhaps ever before.

Let's continue to meet with USAS. Let's explore joint meetings with the Nevada Archaeological Association and hold another joint venture with the Colorado Council of Professional Archaeologists. Or let's hold another major symposium such as was held at the Cedar City meetings a few years ago. Most of all, let's spend UPAC money on making the gatherings attractive so members and nonmembers will come. What Bill Davis organized last year was a tough model to follow, but reminds me of some other outstanding UPAC get-togethers (often outdoors, but not always) over the years. This year's spring meeting organized by Stan McDonald and Ken Wintch was a good way to keep the ball rolling. In my opinion, these kinds of gatherings are worth an investment of UPAC funds. Getting people together is the hardest part and the walls soften just a bit on their own after that. Some may think that "bluegrass, bar-b-que and beer" may be tantamount to reducing UPAC to a social club, but there may be some value to this.

Dr. Steve Simms  
Department of Sociology, Social Work and Anthropology  
Utah State University

#### WHO'S DOING WHAT: ONGOING RESEARCH

**Camels Back Cave**  
**David Madsen**  
**Utah Geological Survey**

The Paleontology and Paleoecology Group at the Utah Geological Survey is currently involved in a long-term cooperative project with the environmental directorate at Dugway Proving Ground. This project focuses on the stratified deposits of Camels Back Cave (see *Utah Archaeology* 1994 for a report of preliminary test excavations), and is intended primarily to provide a chronological structure for the large array of surface materials currently being documented at the facility. Beside meeting these basic management needs, however, we hope to use the unique structure of the cave deposits to investigate the residue of short-term occupations left by mobile hunter-gatherers in the Bonneville Basin.

Camels Back Cave is one of the few stratified caves in the eastern Great Basin where, because of limited access to water, it is possible to be confident that individual visits were relatively brief (Floating Island and Lakeside Caves are other prominent examples). Most other well-known cave sites, such as Danger and Hogup Caves, are associated with spring and/or lakeside marsh deposits and contain relatively complex depositional sequences resulting from long-term occupation of

these sites. Due to disturbances caused by repeated use of these caves for long periods of time, it is virtually impossible to identify individual living surfaces.

Camels Back Cave, however, appears to have been visited only briefly at widely spaced intervals. Material deposited between these visits is composed primarily of aeolian dust and small ebouli. These layers are culturally sterile, serving to protect the underlying cultural deposition from disturbance and contamination during visits by subsequent groups of hunter-gatherers. The alternating levels of cultural deposits and sterile aeolian materials gives the cave's stratigraphy the classic layer-cake depositional sequence so often sought, but rarely found, by Great Basin archaeologists. By carefully peeling back these sterile layers and exposing relatively large areas on the surface of underlying deposits, we hope to be able to identify the nature and distribution of cultural deposits created during short-term visits to the site.

Test excavations suggest the deposits span at least the last 7500 years (bedrock could not be reached in the narrow confines of the initial test trench), and the presence of basalt tools of the Great Basin Stemmed Tradition in a lithic scatter immediately fronting the cave suggest the possibility of even greater antiquity. At least five living surfaces are evident in the test excavation profiles, and it appears we will be able to identify others in the course of detailed excavations. We are in the midst of the first year of a three-year project, and so far we have exposed and mapped two living surfaces dating to 800 and 2500 radiocarbon years ago. These living surfaces give every appearance of representing individual short-term events, and are composed of food bone scrap, flaking debris, and a few broken and discarded tools around small hearths. Like ships found in the Bermuda Triangle, they were abandoned quickly and completely. The surfaces were then preserved intact through burial by aeolian dust and spall.

Analysis of materials recovered during the first year of excavations is currently underway. Excavation of the middle Holocene deposits is tentatively scheduled for May and June of next year. Visits by anthropology classes, field schools and individuals are welcome, but must be coordinated through the staff of Dugway Proving Grounds. Call Kathy Callister at 522-3805 to arrange a visit.

**The Bluff Great House**  
**Catherine M. Cameron**  
**Department of Anthropology**  
**University of Colorado**

The University of Colorado Archaeological Field School arrived in the town of Bluff, San Juan County, on June

4, 1996, to begin five weeks of excavation at the Bluff Great House site (42Sa22674). Thirteen students participated in the project, learning excavation techniques, survey and mapping methods, and laboratory analysis.

The Bluff Great House site is located on Cemetery Hill in Bluff and has long been known and protected by town residents. The Southwest Heritage Foundation, comprised of Bluff residents and led by Indiana businessman Skip Lange, invited archaeological investigations at the site. A week of test excavations by the University of Colorado and the foundation during October 1995 gathered information to develop a research design for the site.

The University of Colorado's excavations were conducted in cooperation with Abajo Archaeology in Bluff. Mark Bond of Abajo served as field foreman and Jonathan Till, also of Abajo, supervised an excavation unit. Teaching assistants Caryn Berg and Eden Welker, both from the University of Colorado, supervised other units. Bluff residents and other visitors generously volunteered their time to help with the excavations. Dozens of local, U.S. and foreign visitors toured the site each day, under the guidance of our tour coordinator, Bluff resident Maggie Lasakow.

Although on private land, the project operated under a Utah antiquities permit. The project is also the recipient of a Utah Division of State History grant that will help fund analysis of ceramics recovered from the site. Representatives of the Division of State History, including Kevin Jones and Wilson Martin were some of the many professionals who visited the site during the field season.

The project invited the collaboration of several Southwestern Native American tribes. Six tribes indicated interest and all were invited to visit the project during the field season. Representatives from the Pueblo of Zia, the Pueblo of Zuni, and the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe visited the project (scheduling conflicts prevented the other three tribes from attending). Tribal representatives provided advice about culturally sensitive issues and discussed their interests regarding archaeology and tribal history with the students.

Research at the Bluff Great House explored the relationship of this site to Chaco Canyon, located 125 miles to the southwest in New Mexico. Between about A.D. 900 and 1150, Chaco Canyon was the center of a widespread regional system. Elaborate Great Houses with hundreds of rooms were built in Chaco Canyon and ceremonies were apparently held in huge Great Kivas. At this time, similar, but smaller, Great Houses and Great Kivas were built throughout the northern Southwest that were similar to those at Chaco Canyon. Architectural similarities included the construction of

multiple-storied structures and massively-built walls. Most intriguing, many of the Great Houses outside Chaco Canyon may have been connected to Chaco by wide, straight roads.

The Bluff site has all the characteristics of a Chacoan settlement: a multi-storied Great House, a Great Kiva, and a prehistoric road that runs through the center of the site. Like many Chacoan structures, the Great House is surrounded by an earthen berm, part of which is a trash midden. But what was the Bluff site's connection with Chaco? Did Chacoan peoples come to Bluff, build the site and coerce locals into providing tribute to the Chacoan system? Or did local people in the Bluff area, hearing of Chaco, decide to build replicas of the structures they had heard about or seen? Answering these questions and others is part of the Bluff Great House Project research design.

The 1996 field season was the first of a planned multi-year project that will be accomplished in three year increments (3 summers of excavation, 3 years of analysis and write-up, 3 more summers of excavation, etc) until we have achieved our research goals. During the 1996 season, the goals of the field school were to begin to gain an understanding of the timing of events at this site and to begin to explore the cultural affiliation of the site. We hoped to end the season with a detailed site map, an adequate artifact collection, and an understanding of mode of construction of the Great House and Great Kiva. We were able to achieve these goals, accomplishing even more excavation than originally planned for 1996.

Field school students excavated in four areas of the site: the trash midden/berm (two 1 X 1 meter units and one 1 X 2 meter unit), a room in the Great House (one 2 X 1 meter unit), wall-defining units on the Great House, and a 5 X 1 meter trench across the eastern perimeter of the Great Kiva. Sherds from the trash mound/berm suggest a Pueblo II occupation of the site contemporary with events in Chaco, as well as Pueblo I and Pueblo III occupations. The lower levels of the midden/berm seem to have been intentionally mounded to create the berm while later levels appeared to consist of periodic deposits of domestic trash. One of the trash midden/berm units north of the Great House, however, was composed almost entirely of Pueblo III trash.

In the Great House, excavations revealed that the structure had been at least two stories. The lower story had a thickly plastered north wall. The exposed masonry, which was only visible in the north wall above and below the plaster, was very crude with poorly shaped stones and abundant mortar.

In order to produce an accurate map of the Great House we excavated 10 shallow trenches (2 m X .5 m) across

its surface to define the walls. The results of these efforts indicate that the west part of the Great House may be a single-story addition to the multi-storied central section. The walls uncovered in the western half of the structure were like the north wall of the excavated room, consisting of crude masonry with abundant mortar, although these walls had what appeared to be rough attempts at Chaco-like chinking. All the walls were a single course wide which would make it difficult to support an upper story. Two additional enclosed kivas may have been identified in the front (south) portion of the Great House, although this will require further investigation.

The Great Kiva turned out to be the most complex unit at the site. In our narrow trench (placed to locate the wall and floor of the structure) we found a series of upright slabs that corresponded with the berm of the Great Kiva. At first we thought that we had a Pueblo I Great Kiva, but the slabs ended about 50 cm below the surface, while the kiva depression was far deeper. We found a coursed masonry wall more than a meter inside and .5 m below the upright slabs. This wall extends at least 2.5 meters below the surface; we were not able to reach the floor of the kiva this year, but plan to next year.

During the first two weeks of the project, a ground penetrating radar (GPR) crew used the Bluff site to test new methods of using GPR to identify buried archaeological sites. The GPR crew was led by Dr. Larry Conyers of the University of Denver, assisted by Tom Carr of the University of Colorado. The data the crew collected is now being analyzed and should be invaluable in helping us plan for future excavation seasons.

The 1996 excavations at the Bluff Great House were extremely successful. We achieved our research goals for the season. We had a superb group of students who were introduced to a wide range of excavation and survey experiences. Each student excavated in each of the four units at the site and they also learned survey and laboratory techniques. The Bluff Project was fortunate to have a large number of professional visitors throughout the season, many of whom lectured to the students about Southwestern archaeology. It was a great season!!

**Coombs Cave**  
**Bill Fawcett**  
**Utah State University**

The cooperative agreement between USU and the Manti-LaSal National Forest supported a third season of field work at the Coombs Cave site east of Moab. Bill Fawcett and Jason Bright (USU teaching assistant) taught and supervised eight students from three colleges during the June 1996 field

school. Excavations in the northeast portion of Coombs Cave (42Gr383) reached the bedrock floor of the cave. Several samples were collected from an early Formative hearth for AMS dates. As in prior excavations, diagnostic artifacts (points, ceramics, cordage, etc.) above the roof-fall are entirely types that archaeologists associate with the Formative.

Below the roof-fall radiocarbon samples consistently date from the Middle to Early Archaic Periods. We had hoped to recover a larger sample of the Archaic materials below the roof fall in the 1996 excavation, but the rear portion of the cave lack early deposits. Instead we found a thick, weathered layer of wind-blown sand that accumulated at the rear of the cave after the roof fall occurred. These sands begin immediately above the sandstone bedrock. Archaic occupations and the roof fall now appear to be restricted to the more level, front portions of the cave. Above the roof fall, the occupations were extremely brief and episodic with the occupants shifting between hunting-gathering of wild species and the cultivation of domesticated species.

The field school also surveyed a large portion of the pinyon-juniper flat below the cave. Many sites were found and recorded. Most of them were probably contemporary with occupations at Coombs Cave (based on similarities in arrow points). Most of the sites have vast scatters of fire-cracked rock, vertical-slab cists, hearths, ground- and chipped-stone. Some sites and features may be associated with pinyon nut use, while others may represent storage features for domesticates being grown on the flats. Further investigations at these sites will examine these possibilities.

**Capital Reef Project**  
**Joel Janetski**  
**Brigham Young University**

Brigham Young University began a five-year cooperative research project in Capitol Reef National Park this spring as part of the National Park Service Systemwide Archaeological Inventory Program (SAIP). Management goals include providing data to the park on the nature of archaeological resources to facilitate planning, protection and interpretation. Similar university/NPS cooperative projects under SAIP have been initiated at Glacier National Park and Glen Canyon National Recreation Area.

Capitol Reef is important archaeologically as it is here that Noel Morss, as part of the Peabody Museum-sponsored Claflin-Emerson Expedition, first defined the Fremont culture of Utah. Subsequent research along the Fremont River by James Gunnerson and the Waterpocket Fold by Robert and Florence Lister (during the Glen Canyon Project) has provided

an excellent foundation for the current work. Research interests during the initial phase of work are general. Most intriguing are a re-examination of the Fremont in the type area, placing Morss' data in temporal perspective and testing Robert Lister's model of the Anasazi-Fremont boundary along the Waterpocket Fold.

Field work this spring included six weeks of intensive survey and limited testing in the southern part of the park. This was accomplished by a combined effort of the BYU archaeological field school and Office of Public Archaeology. The work was directed by Joel Janetski and Richard Talbot, in coordination with park archaeologist Lee Kreutzer. The sampling strategy consisted of walking systematically placed transects and judgmental blocks. Steep terrain and difficult access hindered the completion of several transects, but crews recorded more than 150 sites and numerous isolates. Several extensive quarry sites are evidence of the importance of toolstone procurement along the Waterpocket Fold. Testing found pithouses and well-preserved cultigens. Preliminary survey results suggest interesting and distinct contrasts between hunter-gatherer and farmer land-use patterns.

The Capitol Reef Project will also re-analyze collections from the region by Morss and Gunnerson now stored at the Peabody Museum and Utah Museum of Natural History, respectively.

**Fielding Garr Ranch (Antelope Island)**  
**Kevin Jones**  
**Division of State History**

Archaeological survey and testing of sites on Antelope Island this summer by crews from the Antiquities Section and the Utah Museum of Natural History have increased our scant knowledge of prehistoric occupation of Antelope Island and deepened our understanding of historic lifeways on the largest island on the Great Salt Lake. Initiating a second season of work on the island, crews led by Antiquities Section personnel and consisting of volunteers (mostly USAS), excavated four test units at the Fielding Garr Ranch site. The ranch, a National Register site, was first occupied in 1848, and the ranch house, an interesting architectural amalgam, was continuously occupied until 1981 when the island was purchased by the state.

Testing in 1995 yielded a large number of historic artifacts from an abandoned root cellar. The artifacts dated from the late 1800s and into the 1920s. Testing in 1996 resulted in new information pertaining to leisure activities at the ranch. One unit yielded mixed prehistoric and historic materials down to a depth of 110 cm, where the water table was encountered. That unit contained one sherd of Great Salt

Lake Gray, a Desert side-notched arrow point and numerous historic artifacts.

Most interesting was the distribution of artifacts near the bottom of the unit. In the center of the meter square was a champagne bottle, next to it a beef bone, and on either side of the bottle were two upright cowboy boots imbedded in the mud. One test unit south of the ranch house, placed at the edge of a slight depression, encountered a cone-shaped refuse pit measuring about .75 m in diameter and 1 meter deep. The pit contained seven liquor bottles, a corked medicine bottle of some kind (still containing red liquid) and a condom. The bottles appear to date to the World War II era. Leisure activities at the ranch, which was once owned by the LDS Church, seemed to have included some activities with which archaeologists are quite familiar.

Field crews from the University of Utah, under the direction of Duncan Metcalfe and Glade Hadden, recorded six open prehistoric and three historic sites, and they tested three of the prehistoric sites. They encountered active and mixed deposits with cultural material extending to over 1 m in depth in some locations. Artifacts recovered included Desert side-notched, Gypsum and Humboldt points.

The surveys and testing have significantly increased the available information about prehistoric use of the island, where only two prehistoric sites had been previously recorded. We expect that prehistoric use of the island was extensive because the island is easily accessible from the mainland under most conditions, and because of the 40 springs and diverse habitat that are present there. Additional field work will continue on the island in 1997. Continued development of the island as a tourist destination will increase pressure on archaeological and historical sites. The cooperation between the museum, the Antiquities Section and the Division of State Parks will help to moderate the effects of the development by identifying sites and developing comprehensive plans for the management and study of the interesting and poorly-known use of this beautiful and enchanting island.

**SUBMISSIONS:** UPAC News welcomes all submissions by Utah archaeologists and others working in Utah in archaeology or related fields. Issues of relevance to UPAC News readers include ongoing research, education and preservation efforts, ARPA investigations, new hires, conferences and symposia, etc. Please submit to Jerry D. Spangler, 6400 E. Emigration Canyon Road, Salt Lake City, Utah, 84108 (801-582-2900). Whenever possible, please submit in Word Perfect 5.1 format. The deadline for the fall issue is Oct. 1, 1996.