



PASTIMES

Newsletter of the Panhandle Archeological Society

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From the Editor's Desk

Several years ago I was at a banquet seated next to a historian from New Mexico. I happened to mention that *pastores*, *ciboleros*, and *comancheros* were all the same people; that is the same man could be all those things. The fellow was aghast. They were all different, he said. Different activities, different economic base, on and on.

I wondered whether this man had ever talked to a real live person, one whose not-so-distant ancestors had actually engaged in these pursuits, or if he just read about them. I reminded him that schoolteachers often worked in the coal mines in the summers, when school was out. Different activities, different economic base, on and on. He was probably not impressed!

I was deep in my investigations of Trementina, a New Mexico ghost town. The old-time residents gathered there for a reunion every year, and were kind enough to welcome me among them. Several were old enough to remember the early 1900s. Happily, they shared lots of stories, handed down from fathers and grandfathers, not in anybody's archives.

It seems that there were *ricos*, those men, mainly from Las Vegas, who owned the sheep and hired others to take their herds down the Canadian every year to the rich pastures of the Plains. The rico would furnish *carretas* and wagons, with minimal provisions for the trip. They cared for the sheep; they were *pastores*. They had to hunt and kill the bison along the way, first to feed themselves, and then to load the hides into the wagons for the return trip to Las Vegas. This helped to repay the rico for the expense he incurred in financing the expedition. So they were *ciboleros*.

As they walked (yes, walked) along they were sure to encounter Plains Indians, generally Comanches and Kiowa. They exchanged whatever goods they had managed to accumulate before they left home for the Indians' belongings. Thus they were *comancheros* as well, though not as Hollywood portrays them. They were just plain and simple men trying to make the best of their situation.

If somebody managed to pick up a few Texas cattle along the way, he would leave the group and herd the animals back to New Mexico, where he could sell them to Anglo ranchers. No self-respecting sheepherder wanted to rob anybody, not even Texans. But then as now, people are people, and every group has somebody who is willing to take advantage of the situation.



“The Observer,”
by a favorite Southwest artist:
Ettore “Ted” DeGrazia



MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING

Last month (last year??) we had the Studer Banquet, so no minutes were kept.

We had a great program about LaBelle and her discovery. Most of us knew Curt Tunnel, so the subject was not entirely foreign to us, but as always, there was a lot of new and fascinating formation presented.

A new slate of officers has taken the reins: President Veronica Arias and the new Vice President, Scott Brosowske, traded places. The post of secretary has been set up with alternates, so that in case one can't attend, we'll always have somebody there who is prepared to take the minutes. Pam Allison, Rolla Shaller, and Beryl Hughes will continue in their previous spots.

NEXT MEETING

Wednesday January 17, Wildcat Bluff, 7:00 p.m.

Pre-meeting dinner, Hofbrau, 5:15.

See following page for program information.

READ ANY GOOD BOOKS LATELY?

From Rolla:

I like to recommend interesting reading for the list on subjects that might be of mutual interest. One book that I had previously recommended is *Killers of the Flower Moon* by David Grann. It was nominated for the National Book Award, the American literary prize, and just missed winning. Some on the list responded and read it. I also have to mention Carolyn Boyd's *White Shaman Mural, An Enduring Curation in the Rock Art of the Lower Pecos* that received the Society for American Archaeology book award.

Another great little book that I recently purchased and read is *Climate and Culture Change in North American AD900-1600* by the late William C. Foster published in 2011. This book has been around for a while and once discovered I could not put it down. Some on the list probably read it, but if not, I highly recommend it.

Also, Neil DeGreese Tyson's little book *Astrophysics for People in a Hurry* takes you out of this world. Another fun read that I have previously mentioned is *The Hidden Life of Trees* by Peter Wohlleben. This book gives you some insight on what goes on underground and certainly gave me pause in accepting the results of organic residue tests of ancient stone tools. Soils are NOT sterile environments that preserve organics; microbes feed on them.

I just saw a post on Facebook that Americans generally don't read. Most don't read books after graduation and some 70 percent of Americans do not read books. I can't imagine not. I hope others on the list have book suggestions.

HJS

From Beryl: As a Librarian and occasional writer, I find the thought of people not reading absolutely terrifying. People occasionally "inform" me that there are no books being published now, and thus there is no more use for libraries. Google has taken their place. This will come as a shock to the Library of Congress, library schools and publishers everywhere. In fact reliable statistics show that some 2.2 MILLION books are still being published worldwide each year. This doesn't include the KJV Bible—they are measured in tons, not copies.

When I met Jack T. Hughes, the first question he asked me was whether I had read *Gods, Graves and Scholars*. I had, so he followed up with *The Silent Language* by Edward T. Hall. Lucky for me, it was on my bookshelf, and still is.

It would probably be safe to skip *Gods Graves and Scholars* today, but your education is not complete if you haven't read *The Silent Language*.

PROGRAM INFORMATION

Bio

Alvin Lynn has served as a steward for the Texas Historical Commission (THC) since 1998. He is a member of the Panhandle Archeology Society, Texas Archeology Society, Santa Fe Trail Organization, West Texas Historical Association, and Wild West Historical Association.

Archeology and history have been a lifelong interest to Alvin. He has been involved in many archeology projects through-out the Texas Panhandle, prehistoric and historic.

During 1998,1999,2000 and 2003, he did field work for the THC on the Red River War Project and continues to do field work and re-research in that area. He also located Major Evans' 1868 military depot on the north side of the Canadian River in Roberts County. In the fall of 2003 he served as field supervisor for metal detecting at the first battle of The Revolutionary War, the Battle of Lexington and Concord in Massachusetts. He spent 15 years doing field work and researching for a book on Kit Carson's route to and battle of Adobe Walls.

Texas Tech Press published Alvin's book "*Kit Carson and the First Battle of Adobe Walls; A Tale of Two Journeys*" August 15, 2014. Texas Tech University Press named it the inaugural recipient of the Judith Keeling Book.

Topic-Pastores on the Canadian River

In the mid to late 1870s **Pastores** (sheepherders) followed **Comanchero and Cibolero** trails out of New Mexico into the Texas Panhandle-mostly along the Canadian River with a few along other creeks. Many of the **Pastores** were previously **Comancheros** or **Ciboleros** so they knew the country well and where the best grass was. Some of the settlements consisted of only one or two families but a few became large plazas with stores and saloons.

Some of the known plazas were Trujillo, Salinas, Chavez, Borrego, Atascosa, Pescado, Sandoval, and many other smaller ones. With the exception of Tascosa, most of the sheepherder residences were deserted by the mid1880s.

Tonight we are going to look at a power point of the condition of some of the Pastore villages today.

