

PASTIMES



The Newsletter of the Panhandle Archaeological Society

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On the Cover: Tecovas
Plainveiw found in
Beaver Co. Oklahoma

The Panhandle Archaeological Society will hold it's Annual Studer Banquet on Saturday December 17, 2011, from 6:00 pm to 10:00 pm, at Hazelwood Hall, Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum 2503 4th Ave., in Canyon, Texas. Our program will be presented by Miles Gilbert.



Miles Gilbert

Tales of the Southern Plains Buffalo Hunters

ABSTRACT

Disregarding the Medicine Lodge Treaty of 1867, which set aside lands south of the Arkansas River as the hunting grounds of the Southern Plains Indians, Kansas buffalo hunters spilled south into what is now the Oklahoma and Texas Panhandles in 1872 to ply their trade. Readers of *Getting a Stand* and the *Encyclopedia of Buffalo Hunters and Skinners* have often inquired if there were other hunters and skinners who operated in the Texas Panhandle, the Llano Estacado, Indian Territory or Southwestern Kansas that have received little attention from historians. This presentation will examine the lives and adventures of a few of these individuals.

Biography

Miles Gilbert was born and raised in Pampa, Texas. He received his undergraduate and graduate degrees from the University of Kansas. He served his post-doctorate at the Smithsonian Institution. From 1969 until 1992 he served as an instructor, research associate, and lecturer at Southern Illinois University, University of Missouri-Columbia, University of Wyoming, Northern Arizona University, and Yavapai Community College. Since then he has worked as a cultural resources specialist, director of the Casa Malpais Archaeological Program, and as an archaeologist at the South Dakota State Archaeological Research Center. He has published numerous articles and five books including *Mammalian Osteology*, *Avian Osteology*, *Getting a Stand*, and *Encyclopedia of Buffalo Hunters and Skinners Volumes I and II*. His research interests include firearms and the American West.

November Field Trip Review: Borger/Stinnett Area

By Stacy Brown



PAS members, local landowners, and West Texas A&M University students gathered early Saturday morning on November 12, 2011 anxious to visit some of the best known archaeological sites around the area of Borger and Stinnett, Texas. Over 20 people had the rare opportunity to view several key sites in this region. PAS member Bob Smith worked with local ranchers to gain access to these privately owned sites, many of which he personally worked on over thirty years ago. The sites that were visited this day included an unnamed *pastore* corral and dugout site, “Holden”, *Tres Casas Grandes* (41HC36), and finally Zollars (41HC34).

The first site visited that day was a *pastore* corral and dugout. Both the dugout and corral were built and occupied by New Mexico sheep herders known as *pastores* sometime between late 1876 and 1886. The corral was fashioned out of large caliche rocks forming a rectangle, 10.3 m by 14.0 m and 0.5 m to 1.0 m tall. During the day the animals would be allowed to graze in the surrounding area, but at night were brought back to the safety of the corral. A short distance away was a large rectangular dugout, 9.5 m by 4.3 m. Both structures were built near the base of the surrounding cliffs. While the footprint of these structures is still very clearly

defined, no surface artifacts were observed. It is estimated that the sheep herders abandoned the area around 1886 when they were driven out of the panhandle by ranchers.

The remaining sites visited that day were sites attributed to the Antelope Creek Phase. This is a little known period of habitation occurring in the Texas and Oklahoma panhandles from A.D 1200-1500. Architecture unique to this period was the use of horizontal and vertical stones lined together to form the base or outline of the structure. Larger rectangular structures contain a long central channel with a hearth, while the hearth is typically located against the wall of the smaller circular structures. It is hypothesized that these peoples were semi-nomadic foragers who also practiced some gardening. Cordmarked pottery is common at these sites.

After a brief drive north, we arrived near the location thought to contain an Antelope Creek Phase site known as “Holden”. This site was to have been investigated by Texas Tech University sometime between 1929 and 1932. After a 45 minute pedestrian survey, we were unable to locate the site. The only artifact observed was a single Tecovas flake.

A lunch break was held prior to going to the next site. Everyone enjoyed the sunshine, company, and animated discussion including but not limited to the area's geology, biology, and of course archaeology. During the break, Bob Smith and Scott Brosowski surveyed the best route to the next site. Upon their return, everyone loaded up and headed for the largest site of the day.

Tres Casas Grandes (41HC36) is a large Antelope Creek Phase site located on a high bluff overlooking Cottonwood Creek consisting of over seven structures. Even though these structures have been heavily potted through the years, the outlines of the structures are still visible. The structures ranged in size from 4.0 m by 3.5 m to 7.6 m by 7.0 m. The aspect of the site provided clear view of all venues of approach as well as the creek below possibly indicating it could have been a tactical location.



The remains of several structures can be seen in this photo. Some of the stones are still sitting on edge. *Tres Casas Grandes* site

Littered throughout the site were Alibates debitage and fire-cracked quartzite cooking stones. A partial mano and several large flakes were observed on an eroded slope on the northwest side of the site. While loading into vehicles to go to the next site, a small Washita point made of Alibates was found near the road. Bob Smith stated that the property owners are very interested in having PAS or some of its members map the site and its disturbed structures. They are also willing to consider additional study of the site.

The final site visited was Zollars (41HC34). This was another Antelope Creek Phase site occupied by several families on a lower terrace and a nearby point adjacent to an unnamed tributary to Little Sandy Creek. Zollars is one of several small Antelope Creek phase settlements in this valley. Zollars contains as many as nine small circular structures outlined in stone and measuring about 3.0 m by 3.0 m. Seven of these structures, including three that were documented by Bob Smith in the 1980's, but are currently buried, are present on the west side of the tributary. Four of these structures had been previously excavated or potted and were clearly visible as circular depressions outlined in stone. The two remaining small circular structures were located atop a prominent rocky point east of the unnamed tributary and the other structures. A small hammer stone was found near this location.



One of the small depressions at the Zollars site

After a long day of visiting a wide variety of sites in different locations, everyone involved drove off that evening very impressed at the remarkable sites they had the privilege to visit. Even though we ran out of daylight and did not visit all of the sites in the area, we were able to view a wide variety of locations in various states of preservation. We would like to thank Bob Smith and the ranch owners for allowing us this special opportunity.



From the Civil War to the Southern Plains:

This Colt Pistol had seen its Better Days!

by James Coverdale

Historic period Native American campsites usually yield an interesting variety of artifacts. Some of the more interesting artifacts, from an analytic perspective, are firearms or firearm parts. While conducting a survey in Gray County, Texas for a proposed transmission line right-of-way, some parts for a Colt Pistol were recovered in a historic period Native American campsite. While finding gun parts in such an encampment is not unusual, finding parts that have matching serial numbers is rare.

Designated as the New Model Holster Pistol, this popular sidearm was first produced by the Colt's Patented Fire Arms Manufacturing Company in 1860. By the time the Colt Model 1860 with serial number 91556 had left the factory in 1863, it was more commonly known as the cap and ball .44 caliber Colt's Army Model 1860 revolver. Destined to be used by the Union Army during the conflict in the east, its life ended in the west on a rise near McClellan Creek in the Texas Panhandle.



The frame, cylinder pin, and hammer as found. This Colt pistol was still in surprisingly good shape for it's age

The Colt factory produced over 200,000 Model 1860 pistols between 1860 and 1873 in several variants. The U.S. government purchased 129,184 for use during the Civil War. Serial number 91556 was made a few months before the government contracts were completed late in 1863. The Colt M1860 cap and ball pistol remained in service with frontier cavalry units up to 1874 when it was replaced by the Colt Model 1873 Single Action Army in .45 caliber that used a metallic cartridge.

While this pistol is almost certainly a combat vet of the Civil War issued to either Company L, 18th Pennsylvania Volunteer Cavalry, or Company I, 1st Maryland Volunteer Cavalry (records show that it fits in a range of serial numbered Model 1860 Army pistols that were issued to one or the other of these cavalry units) it became lost or discarded after it was disassembled in the camp of a group of Native Americans sometime before or during the Red River War of 1874.



The serial number 91556

On this survey several sites were located including this particular one that yielded several parts for a Colt pistol. These parts are a steel pistol frame and associated parts and the trigger guard. Some of the other 70 artifacts recovered at this site might tell us more about the occupants of this site and when it was occupied once analysis is completed. A short list of some of these other artifacts include two metal arrowpoints, arrowpoint production debris, tin cone tinklers, metal awls, a fragment of a flat file, a .56-56 Spencer cartridge case modified for use as an ornament, and brass, German silver, and tin ornaments.

The steel frame is from a Colt Army Model 1860 of the 3 screw variety that has the cut outs on either side of the recoil shield for a shoulder stock that could be attached to the pistol. There are still several parts attached to the frame. These parts include the hammer, hammer roller and pin, cylinder pin, and the hand and spring which are held in place by the hammer. The pistol hammer is still attached, but the hammer screw head has been twisted off. All other screws had been removed prior to being lost or discarded.

The cylinder pin is of particular interest in that it is damaged by being bent. This damage appears to have happened while the pistol was complete and before it was disassembled. Colt pistols were known to be prone to this type of damage due to the fact that they did not have a top strap over the cylinder. This error was corrected on the Colt SAA M1873 making it one of the strongest Colt pistols ever produced. The bend in the cylinder pin would have made it difficult to remove the cylinder. The cylinder pin is marked with the last four digits of the 91556 serial number that appears on the frame. The makers mark "Colt's Patent," which appears in two lines on the left hand side of the frame near where the loading lever joins the frame, is only faintly visible due to pitting.

Approximately 3.0 m away from where the frame was discovered, the brass (bronze) trigger guard was recovered. It is in very good shape with several ordnance sub-inspector marks and the serial number clearly visible. It is marked "44 CAL" on the left side of the trigger guard near the left rear trigger guard screw hole. Lower down on the left side of the handgrip part of the trigger guard is stamped with a small "B" by a parts inspector. On the right hand side of the trigger guard hand grip is a larger stamped letter "C". This larger "C" may have been placed on this part to show that it was inspected and then marked as condemned by the inspector. The mainspring and mainspring screw have been removed from the trigger guard. Near where the front trigger guard screw hole is located is the serial number 91556 just above a small "O" sub-inspector's mark.



The trigger guard with markings



The matching serial number

Unfortunately, knowing exactly how these pistol parts came to be in a Native American campsite in Texas may never be fully answered. Research shows that the Native Americans came into possession of firearms in many ways. At the conclusion of the Civil War soldiers were offered the opportunity to purchase their issued pistols and accoutrements for the sum of \$8.00 (when new the pistol had cost the \$13.75). Could this Model 1860 have been carried west by a former soldier seeking adventure or an opportunity for a better life? Maybe it was sold, traded, stolen or captured somewhere on the frontier? Was it given to Native Americans as an annuity goods payment for signing a treaty? Claims were also made by some military officers that some Indian agents and traders were providing Native Americans with as many weapons, lead, powder, and caps as the Indians wanted during the Indian Wars. Whatever the case may be, bent and disassembled, these parts of a Colt's Army Model 1860 have seen their better days.

PANHANDLE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Minutes of the November 16, 2011 Meeting

-President Paul Katz called the meeting to order at 7:00 p.m. at the Wildcat Bluff Nature Center. Eighteen members were in attendance.

-The next meeting of the PAS will be the Studer Banquet held on Saturday, December 17, 2011 from 6:00 - 10:00 p.m. at Hazelwood Hall, Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum.

PROGRAM

-Paul introduced the evening speaker, PAS member Donna Otto. She spoke of the U.S. Forest Service's (USFS) volunteer archaeological and historical preservation program, Passport in Time (PIT). Donna provided an excellent power point presentation and lecture on how this program utilizes volunteers to assist professional USFS archaeologists conducting surveys, excavations, rock art restoration, analysis and curation of artifacts. Donna concluded her presentation focusing on her experiences with the PIT program. Her lecture was a fine example of public agencies and private volunteers working together to preserve archaeological sites on public lands.

BUSINESS MEETING

-The business meeting began at the conclusion of Donna's lecture. The minutes of the October 26, 2011 meeting were unanimously approved.

-Lisa gave the treasurer's report. The current operating balance is \$1,681.22. Several checks for member dues are pending deposit.

-Rolla submitted the Publication Committee report in writing. The previous checking account balance was \$1,336.60. Last month's transactions included the following:

- \$430.00 in book sales
- \$38.00 cash on hand

-The current balance is \$1,804.60

-The Amarillo National Bank certificate of deposit balance is \$5,310.37.

-Ten books were sold at the annual TAS convention. Several ideas to increase book sales were proposed including advertising in the TAS bulletin or having Bob Wishoff publish a book review of the Canyon Club City Cave Report.

-The next proposed publication will be a collection of articles that examine the use of Alibates in the Texas panhandle and/or the Alibates Quarries.

-An inventory of past publications will be conducted within the month.

-Questions were raised as to who stocks the National Park Service's book collections and book stores.

NEW BUSINESS

-Alvin Lynn presented a list of nominations for 2012 officers. Donna Otto is nominated for President, Jeff Indeck for Vice-President, Lisa Jackson as Treasurer, Stacy Brown as Secretary, and Rolla Shaller for Publications.

-Scott Brosowske requested clarification of the duties of the PAS President and Vice President. Paul Katz, Jeff Indeck, and Rolla Shaller provided the requested information.

-Motion was for acceptance of the nominations was made by Rolla Shaller, and was unanimously accepted.

OLD BUSINESS

-Scott Brosowske provided an overview of PAS field trip held on November 12th. Over 20 people attended the trip that included site visits to a pasture corral and dugout, Holden, Tres Casas Grande, and Zollar. Due to oil field construction we were not able to locate the Holden Site. Several students from West Texas A&M attended the field trip in addition to PAS members and local land owners.

-Suggestions for future field trips were requested. Gaining admittance to Rocky Dell to view the rock art was suggested for January, 2012. Alvin Lynn volunteered to talk to the property owners about gaining access. Alvin reminded members that due to drought conditions, property owners are very hesitant to allow vehicles in pastured areas.

-Paul Katz reported that during the TAS convention the date and site for the 2012 TAS field school was announced. Next year's location will be Devils River State Park and will consist of flat land surveys, rock art surveys, and rock shelter surveys. The field school will begin the first week in June, 2012.

- Alvin Lynn reported that all preparations for the Studer Banquet are in place. Jeff Indeck requested that a head count of attendee's be provided to West Texas A&M as soon as possible to allow for adequate dining accommodations. Auction items are still being requested. Accommodations for the guest speaker were discussed including hotel and transportation.
- Paul Katz talked to Bob Wishoff about the management of the PAS website. Due to illness, Bob had not been able to update the website as often as he liked and was very regretful that he had fallen behind maintaining the site. Bob stated that all provided information will be posted within 1-2 days of receipt.
- Jeff Indeck wanted to clarify that the Studer Banquet was open to the public. General advertisement to the public was discussed including the Amarillo Globe newspaper, High Plains Public Radio, and local radio stations.
- Rolla Shaller announced that the THC steward, Doug Wilkens, was now also the regional director for region one.
- Requests for January speakers were proposed. The Boys Ranch Historian was suggested. Any additional suggestion may be submitted to Paul Katz.
- The meeting was adjourned at 8:47p.m.

Announcements, Updates, and Upcoming Events

Panhandle Archaeological Society Annual Studer Banquet

December 17, 2011 from 6:00 - 10:00 pm

Hazelwood Hall; Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum

For more information visit the PAS website at:

<http://txpanhandlearchaeology.org/>

Panhandle Archaeological Society Monthly Meeting

Wildcat Bluff Nature Center

2301 N. Soncy, Amarillo, Texas

January 18, 2012 at 7:00 pm

For more information visit the PAS website at:

<http://txpanhandlearchaeology.org/>

SPECIAL NOTICE: This is a reminder for all members of PAS to bring some items to be used for the silent auction at the Studer Banquet.

Studer Banquet

Guest Speaker - Miles Gilbert
Tales of the Buffalo Hunter

Saturday Evening - December 17th, 2011
Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum • Hazlewood Room (2nd floor)
2503 4th Avenue, Canyon, TX
\$25.00 per person • Reservation Required

Name(s): _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

City _____ State _____ Zipcode _____

No. In Reservation: _____ x \$25.00 = \$ _____

RSVP no later than December 10, 2011 • You may pay at the door

Remember to bring an item for the auction!



Send information to: Lisa Jackson
Panhandle Archeological Society
P. O. Box 814 • Amarillo, TX 79105
or email: ljackson@pphm.wtamu.edu

6:00 p.m.Social Hour and Silent Auction Bidding
7:00 p.m.Invocation and Banquet
8:00 p.m.Special Presentation for Honoree
8:10 p.m.Program, Miles Gilbert
9:15 p.m.Break
9:30 p.m.Introduction of New Officers, 2011-2012
9:30-10:00 p.m.Silent Auction, Auction and Raffle

It's time to renew your membership.

Name: _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____ Email: _____

_____ Individual (\$15) _____ Family (\$15) _____ Student (\$10) _____ Institution (\$15)

Remit to Treasurer: Lisa Jackson
Panhandle Archeological Society • P. O. Box 814 • Amarillo, TX 79105