



PASTIMES

Newsletter of the Panhandle Archaeology Society

Volume Thirty-Six Number Three — March 2016

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NOTES FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

We had an excellent program last month. Melissa Griswold talked to us about the Herring Hotel. Some of us (okay, me!) hadn't known of the Herring's twin, the President. The President has been restored, but the Herring is awaiting its renewal.

I thought how nice it would be if Ms. Griswold's work could be known to a wider audience. Books, TV, movies. The problem is hard to describe, but I'm thinking that even if it were to be preserved in such a form, who at some future time would know what it meant — or care?

Some kid on TV the other night, in one of those man-on-the-street things, was asked about certain prominent people. He recognized Abraham Lincoln. Lincoln did a couple of things, the boy thought, but he was racist. The interviewer was totally flabbergasted. So was I.

Which brings us to archaeology. Historians think in terms of centuries and documents. Archaeologists think of millennia and material remains, mostly lithics. We stand in front of a wall of rock art and try to imagine what it might mean. Perhaps it tells the story of some long-ago Lincoln, but we stand as confused and uninformed as the young man on TV. Confused, uninformed. And humbled.



UPCOMING EVENTS

First weekend in April: TAS Lithic Academy. You must have pre-registered for this. Meet at Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum for bus transportation to Palo Duro Canyon. If you have questions, call Veronica Arias at 806-651-2244

Sat. April 9, 2016: Southwest Federation of Archaeological Societies, 52nd Symposium, Quitaque, Texas

Please pre-register to let our food service know how many to expect for lunch and to secure a spot on the amazing Rails to Trails Tour through the canyon. The Friday evening tour and the Saturday evening tour will be limited to 12 each on a first come, first serve basis.

A sign-up for a Sunday tour of Caprock Canyons State Park will be offered at the symposium. Turkey Hotel will be the Get-Together spot on both evenings, offering drinks and entertainment by Cecil White and John Walker.



RESERVE LODGING EARLY!

Caprock Canyons State Park, 806 455-1492 (Campsites: \$10-20)

Turkey Hotel, 201 N 3rd, Turkey 806 423-1151 (10 rooms - \$85; w/Breakfast)

Hotel Matador, 1115 Main, Matador 806 347-2939 (7 rooms - \$85 w/Breakfast)

Floydada Inn, 1105 Ralls Hwy., Floydada 806-983-5826 (\$65-70)

Holiday Inn Express, 4213 W 13th, Plainview 806 296-9900 (\$105-110)

Executive Inn, 1591 Interstate 27, Tulia 806 995-3007 (from \$78)

Please reserve _____places for the meeting at \$20 each for registration & lunch: \$ _____

Please reserve _____places for Friday Evening Tour or _____ for Saturday Evening Tour

Name and email address: _____

Affiliation _____ Phone _____

Please address questions to marisuepotts@hotmail.com or call 806 348-7137

Make Checks payable to Canyonlands Arch. Soc. and return to Sec.:

Marisue Potts, P.O. Box 523, Matador, TX 79244

MINUTES OF THE LAST MEETING
PANHANDLE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

February 17, 2016

The meeting was called to order by Vice-president Veronica Arias at 7:00 PM at the Downtown Amarillo Library second floor Board Room.

There were 16 members and two visitors in attendance.

PROGRAM: Veronica Arias introduced Melissa Griswold, who began her association with the Herring Hotel 3 1/2 years ago. She presented a program on the past, present and future of the hotel which was built in 1926 to answer the need for rooms during the oil boom of the 20s. Amarillo led the nation in construction during that time, and the Herring was the fourth largest hotel in Texas with 600 rooms and 600 baths. C.T. Herring and Ernest Thompson were partners in the project. At about the same time Herring was involved in construction of a "twin" hotel, the President, in Kansas City, which has recently undergone restoration. Melissa showed slides of the two in their early days and today with the President's restoration and the Herrings desolation. Much of Amarillo's business, court, and social life centered around the Herring before 1967 when it went into bankruptcy. The Federal government leased it in 1970 and turned it into offices, tearing out much of the old decor and replacing it with "Fed Era Ugly." Restoration awaits.

MINUTES: The January minutes were approved as published in the PAS newsletter.

TREASURER'S REPORT: Treasurer Pam Allison reported a balance of \$4197.71. The report was approved.

PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE REPORT: Rolla Shaller of reported a balance of \$1285.97 in the money market account and \$5052.01 in the CD. The report was approved

OLD BUSINESS: The TAS Lithic Academy will be the first weekend in April at the PPHM with bus transportation to the Palo Duro Canyon.

Southwest Federation will be April 8, 9, 10 in Quitaque, hosted by the Caprock Canyonlands Society.

NEW BUSINESS: Six volunteers are needed for the Lamar Elementary Science Day May 20th.

The meeting adjourned at 8:30 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

[signature]

Mary Ruthe Carter, Secretary

Next Meeting:
March 16, 2016, 7:00 p.m.
Downtown Branch Amarillo Public Library, Second Floor Board Room.
You are invited to join us at Napoli's, 700 South Taylor
For a pre-meeting dinner at 5:30

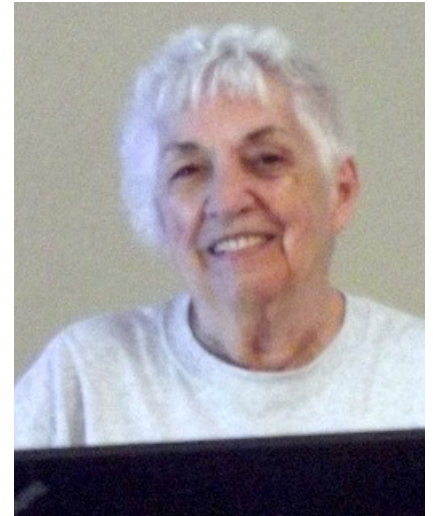
PROGRAM INFORMATION

BIO

Beryl is our PASTimes editor and a dedicated Curmudgeon. She represented us at SWFAS last year, and will speak there again this year.

ABSTRACT

Cupules are generally accepted as the oldest form of rock art, appearing as far back as the Lower Paleolithic. A relatively small hemispheric form (1.5-10 cm wide and 10-12 mm deep), they often occur along with straight grooves. Found on every continent except Antarctica, they are not natural, but man-made by pounding the rock surface. They are neither metates nor querns. Opinions vary as to their purpose: worship, magic, geophagy, or perhaps something that does not occur to the modern mind. Their ubiquitous appearance over time and space certainly shows that they represent an effort to satisfy the basic needs of humankind, especially the needs of women.



Miniature Distal Endscrapers from the Southern High Plains

Scott D. Brosowske

Recently, while documenting a private artifact collection from the Oklahoma panhandle we came across a miniscule sized distal endscraper (Figure 1). Over the years we have seen, both from excavated contexts and private collections, undersized distal endscrapers. Often these small scrapers simply represent tools that were thoroughly exhausted. Many of these items, however, were so small that we have often wondered if they were actually used to scrape bison hides. Having skinned many animals while growing up, I have speculated that these small scrapers could have been used to clean around the eyes and ears of smaller animal hides, such as the prairie dog skin from the Kenton Caves in Cimarron County, Oklahoma that was made into a small bag to store seeds. I have also wondered if these small scrapers simply represented children's tools used as they imitated work done by their mothers and fathers. We may never know how these small tools were used.



Figure 1 Texas County, Oklahoma Undersized Distal Endscraper

Considering that this scraper may likely be the smallest we have ever seen we thought it might be worthwhile to report this unique artifact in hopes of hearing from others who may be aware of other similarly sized distal endscrapers. We are also interested receiving input from others for alternative uses, other than processing hides, for these small tools. This possible scraping tool was made of Alibates silicified dolomite and was recovered from Texas County, Oklahoma. Metric attributes are presented in Table 1.

Table 1 Metric Attributes for Texas County, Oklahoma Undersized Scraper

Maximum Length	Maximum Width	Maximum Thickness	Weight
18.7 mm	12.7 mm	5.4 mm	1.3 grams