

TCAS BENCHMARK



AUGUST 2009

VOLUME 23, ISSUE 8

WELCOME DALLAS SOCIETY

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



Many of you are well aware that after a 73 year existence our friends and neighbors at the Dallas Archeological Society held their last meeting on May 21st of this year. Many TCAS members were also members DAS; and in reciprocation many Dallas members belonged to TCAS. Two long time DAS members, Duane and Bonnie Peter, commented in the last DAS issue of In Situ on some of their

memories and experiences with the society throughout the years. Duane vividly remembers many members who were actually avocationalists but truly professional in their pursuit of knowledge and their ability to teach it to others. Both he and Bonnie commented on the many projects, programs, events and friendships that developed over the many years that DAS was an active society. With sadness, they bid farewell to the Dallas Archeological Society. Bonnie also encouraged all DAS members to join other archeological groups to pursue their interesting Archeology. As I mentioned, many of us from Tarrant County were members of DAS too, and feel the same sadness and loss of a valued neighboring society.

The Tarrant County society would like to welcome all those who may still have their interest in archeology to attend any of our meetings and outings throughout this year. Personally, I know that you will find the friendships, camaraderie and archeology in the TCAS organization to be an extension of what you have always experienced at DAS. We too are as vulnerable as any society and are keenly aware that we need to keep up with interesting programs, outside archeological outings for our members, and maintain a growing membership. Our indoor meetings are on the 2nd Thursday of every month (except December) at UNTHSC (map on page 7), so please attend.

We had a record high forty members present at our usually low attendance July meeting. Thanks to all those attending, especially our two members/guest speakers for the month, John Yates and Max Ratheal. Both of them gave us an entertaining recap on some of their archeological interests and adventures throughout Texas and adjacent areas.

Jay Hornsby

We are saddened by the closing of DAS. We echo Duane and Bonnie Peters sadness at this end of an era. We invite all DAS member to join us at our monthly meetings or our weekend trips. We will be sending you an e-mail copy of our newsletter through the end of the year to remind you of our meetings and alert you to our upcoming events.

Calendar of Activities

AUGUST

13

TCAS Meeting 7:30pm UNT-HSC

15

SAINT JO SURVEY & EXCAVATION (see page 3)

SEPTEMBER

10

TCAS Meeting 7:30pm UNT-HSC

25-27

ARKANSAS ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY ANNUAL MEETING

OCTOBER

(TEXAS ARCHEOLOGY MONTH)

23-25

TAS ANNUAL MEETING DEL RIO

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AUGUST PROGRAM

CLARA RUDDELL

Quanah and Cynthia Ann Parker.

The story of Quanah and Cynthia Ann Parker is one of the most important in the lore of the American West. Many books and articles focus on these two people and explain the complex challenges that they both faced in their lives.

Cynthia Ann Parker's family moved to Central Texas and built Fort Parker on the headwaters of the Navasota River in 1834 or 1835, when she was about nine or ten. On May 19, 1836, Fort Parker was attacked by several hundred Caddo, Comanche and Kiowa. They killed several of its inhabitants. During the raid the Comanches seized five captives, including Cynthia Ann. Within 6 years, all the captives had been returned to their white families, except Cynthia Ann who remained with the Indians for almost twenty-five years, forgot white ways, and became thoroughly Comanche.

While with the Comanches, Cynthia Ann married Peta Nocomo, the young chief who gained fame for his many violent raids on white settlements in the territory. They had 3 children: Quanah, Pecos and Topsannah (2 boys and 1 girl).

On December 18, 1860, Texas Rangers under Lawrence Sullivan Ross attacked Peta's hunting camp at Mule Creek, a tributary of the Pease River. During this raid the rangers captured three of the supposed Indians. The Rangers were surprised to find that one of the Comanche had blue eyes; it was a non English speaking white woman with her infant daughter.

The story of Cynthia Ann Parker and her son Quanah is a compelling part of the history of Texas



Clara Ruddell

Retired Registered Nurse

Manager of the Fort Worth Convention and Visitors Information Center at Will Rogers Memorial Center since 2000.

Member of the:

- Tarrant County Historical Commission—county commission Marker Chair

- North Fort Worth Historical Society

- Tarrant

County Historical Society

SAINT JO SURVEY & EXCAVATION

On **Saturday, August 15**, TCAS members will journey to Montague County to conduct excavations at the Wayne Miller site (41MU70) north of Saint Jo. We attempted to accomplish this last April but were rained out. The site is being eroded by deep gullies surrounding several probable prehistoric hearth features. We will excavate one hearth feature that is already being lost to erosion, and we will test other burned rock clusters that may be identifiable features.



Saint Jo is 20 miles west of Gainesville on highway 82; about 90 miles from Fort Worth. We plan to meet at 9:00AM on the 15th at the Dairy Queen on Hwy 82 in Saint Jo.

The site is about 6 miles north of the town on hwy 677. The site is in the open, so several shades will be needed depending on how many folks we have. There will be a sign-up sheet at the August meeting, otherwise contact Glynn Osburn or Bryan Jameson by email or phone. Glynn's cell is 817-944-3013.

TCAS Board Making Plans For Boy Scout Archaeology Merit Badge Day



Following numerous requests from local Boy Scout Troops, the TCAS Board has begun making plans for a day designed to help scouts earn their Archaeology Merit Badge.

The one day event, tentatively planned for the fall, will be in coordination with the Longhorn Council which serves the Tarrant County area.

TCAS members will, of course, be asked to volunteer and participate in coordinating and running the event. The day will focus on Archaeology Merit Badge requirements that require participation in an excavation, lab, or mock dig.

(from the Archaeology Merit Badge Handbook)

Do ONE of the following:

- a. Under the supervision of a qualified archaeologist, spend at least eight hours helping to excavate an archaeological site.
- b. Under the supervision of a qualified archaeologist, spend at least eight hours in an archaeological laboratory helping to prepare artifacts for analysis, storage, or display.
- c. If you are unable to work in the field or in a laboratory under the supervision of a qualified archaeologist, you may substitute a mock dig. To find out how to make a mock dig, talk with a professional archaeologist, trained avocational archaeologist, museum school instructor, junior high or high school science teacher, adviser from a local archaeology society, or other qualified instructor. Plan what you will bury in your artificial site to show use of your "site" during two time periods.

Drought Rolling Back the Hands of Time

JULY 30, 2009

BY NOELLE NEWTON KVUE NEWS

As our local lakes recede, it offers us a look back in time. Archeologists are uncovering artifacts here in Central Texas dating back to A.D. 200.

Somewhere underneath our lakes and creeks lie the answers to the mysteries of the first Texans. As the drought intensifies, hints appear and LCRA Senior Archaeologist Dan Prikryl sets out to find them. His explorations have resulted in boxes and boxes of artifacts like buffalo bones dating back to between the 11th and 16th centuries and spear points left behind a thousand years before that.

"Back in the year 2000, when we had a severe drought, we put a lot of effort into finding prehistoric campsites," said Prikryl.



Every time the lake levels go down, he heads back to the campsites to uncover more items. He focuses on the Highland Lakes like Lake Travis and Lake Buchanan. Along the way he also discovers items used by early pioneers. He showed us bottles found at Lake Buchanan dating back to sometime between the late 19th century to 1916.

Prikryl wouldn't reveal his secret spots along the lakes, but just in case you happen upon one he says leave it alone, "People need to be aware they can do serious damage to things that might allow us to learn new and interesting facts about the Indians and early pioneers."

The answers are out there. It depends on Mother Nature whether he'll find them.

"We'll just see how much longer the drought continues and how much lower the lakes get. It will be a very exciting time for us to explore areas that are typically unavailable," he said.

Prikryl turns in all of his artifacts to the archeological research lab at the University of Texas.

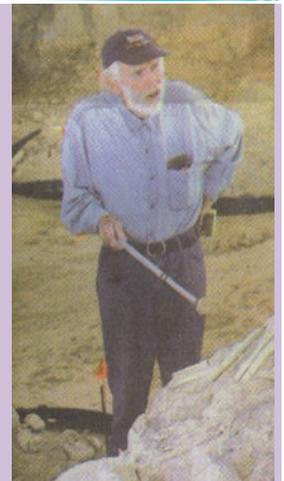
Ralph D. Vinson



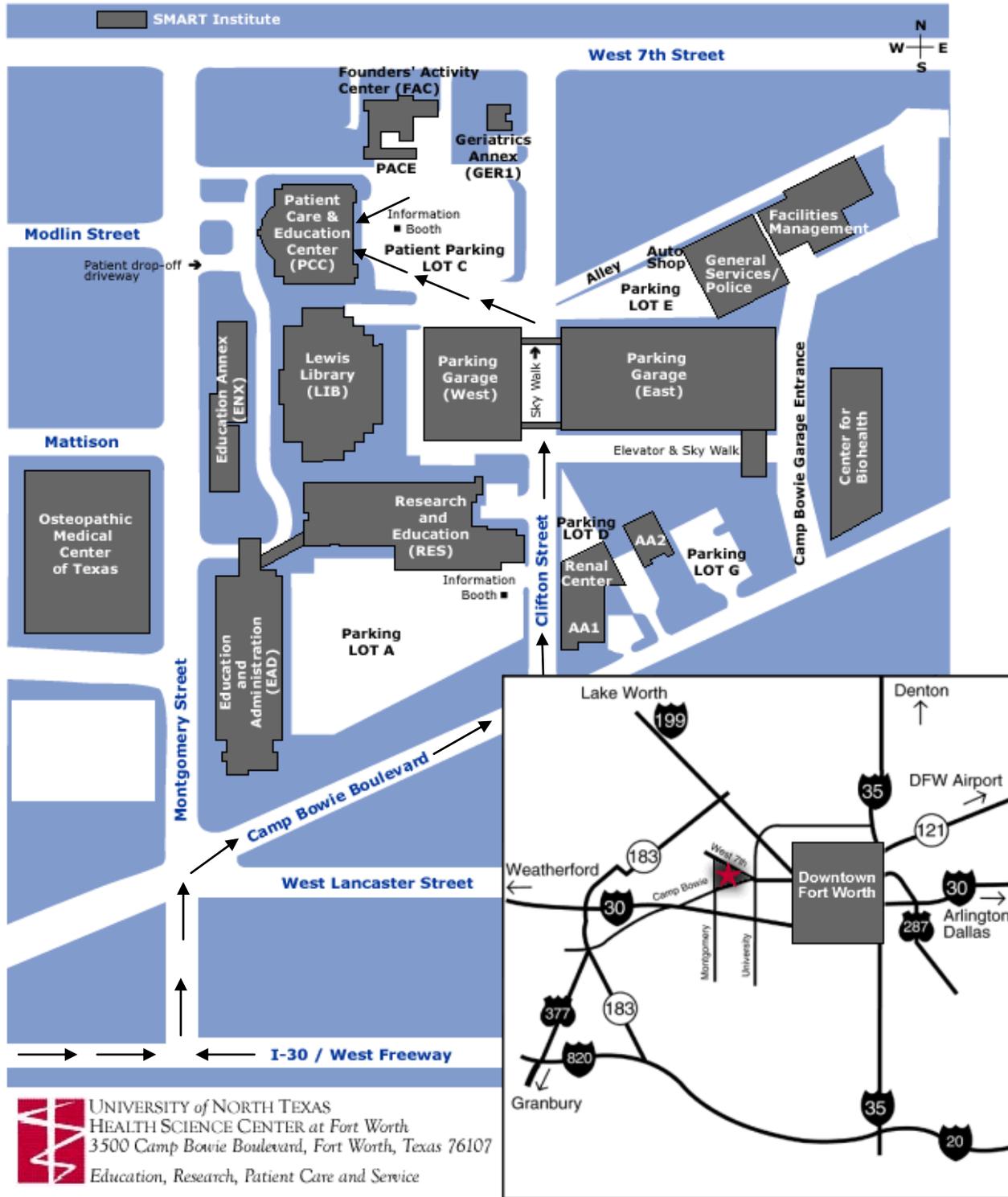
If you've been to Field School, Annual Meeting, or hung around the Waco Mammoth Site or Mayborn Museum, or any of a myriad of paleo or archeological sites you, at least, saw Ralph. You were illuminated if you took some time to talk to him; enchanted if you were his friend.

Ralph was often called the "oldest Archeologist in Texas;" a distinction he never argued. He was one of the most knowledgeable and loved archeologists anywhere.

Ralph passed away in his home on July 3rd. We will all miss you, Ralph.



TCAS meets at 7:30PM, the 2nd Thursday of each month at the University of North Texas Health Science Center (UNTHSC), 3500 Camp Bowie Blvd., in Fort Worth. The location is centrally located in Tarrant County near the intersection of Camp Bowie and Montgomery Street about two miles west of downtown. Take Clifton Street off of Camp Bowie (one block east of the Montgomery intersection) to Parking Lot “C” on your left (west). Park in the patient spaces (after 5PM) and go past the information booth into the underground parking garage. Turn left down the corridor at the double doors in the center. Proceed down the hallway until you come to room 110.



TARRANT COUNTY ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM

NAME(S) _____

TYPE OF MEMBERSHIP

RENEWAL _____ NEW MEMBER _____

ADDRESS _____

INDIVIDUAL \$20.00 _____

CITY/STATE/ZIP _____

FAMILY \$25.00 _____

HOME PHONE _____

STUDENT \$10.00 _____

EMPLOYER _____

(H.S. , ACTIVE UNIV. DEGREE CANDIDATE THROUGH AGE 25)

E-MAIL _____

CONTRIBUTING \$30.00+ _____

I WANT MY NEWSLETTER DELIVERED BY E-MAIL _____ POST OFFICE _____

CODE OF ETHICS (SIGNATURE REQUIRED)

I PLEDGE THAT I WILL NOT INTENTIONALLY VIOLATE THE TERMS AND CONDITIONS OF ANY FEDERAL, STATE, OR LOGAL ANITQUITIES STATUTES CONCERNING CULTURAL RESOURCES, OR ENGAGE IN THE PRACTICE OF BUYING OR SELLING ARTIFACTS FOR COMMERCIAL PURPOSES, OR ENGAGE IN THE WILLFUL DESTRUCTION OR DISTORTION OF ARCHEOLOGICAL DATA, OR DISREGARD PROPER ARCHEOLOGICAL FIELD TECHNIQUES. I UNDERSTAND THAT FAILURE TO FOLLOW THESE GUIDELINES WILL PROVIDE GROUNDS FOR EXPULSION FROM THE SOCIETY

SIGNATURE _____

DATE _____

TARRANT COUNTY ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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