

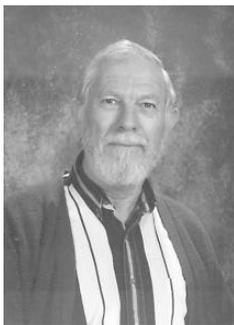
TCAS BENCHMARK



APRIL 2006

VOLUME 5, ISSUE 4

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT



We hope as many members as possible can make it as we return to the Upper Sprague Site on May 6th. We have been working there for a couple of years in a stop and go fashion and it would be nice to try and get more done this year so we can do analysis and, ultimately, prepare a report. I think it is important for members to learn something about the lab work that has to be done, and what it takes to write a report.

We would also like to see if we can get a good turnout over the Memorial Day weekend so that we can spend a couple of days working at the site. There will be space for camping and there are also several motels in Hamilton. It would sure be nice if folks could spend more than one day at the site so we could get some levels done in our excavation units. We will have a sign up sheet at the monthly meeting to see how many people may be interested.

Again, the Sprague Ranch is on Hwy 281 about 14 miles south of Hico and the entrance is on the right just before the Leon River. If you cross the river, you have gone too far.

Field School is not far away. Remember, you can now register online. Also, if you have not checked out the TAS website lately (www.txarch.org) you will find more information than ever. Several initiatives are underway to put additional content on the site. You can find this monthly newsletter on the regional societies page.

April Refreshments

Shirley Green, Dena Grubis, and Julia Mosely

Thank you so much!!

Calendar of Activities

APRIL

- 4-7 Texas Association of Museum, Beaumont. Contact: Brenda Jackson brendajacks1@yahoo.com
- 8 Prehistory on the Pecos: Daily Bread/Healing Balm; Shumla School, Comstock, TX. Information: <http://www.shumla.org/calendar.htm>.
- 8 Annual Meeting Southwestern Federation of Archeological Societies of Western Texas and Southeastern New Mexico, Midland, TX. Check the Midland Archaeological Society's [Website](#) for information.
- 15 Southern Texas Archaeological Association (STAA) Quarterly Meeting. <http://www.staa.org/> for details and location.
- 20-22 Annual Preservation Conference, Texas Historical Commission, Galveston, Tremont House, 512-463-6255
- 22 TAS Board Meeting, Waco/Temple
- 26-30 Society for American Archeology Annual Meeting, Puerto Rico. Information: <http://www.saa.org>.

MAY

- 11 TCAS Meeting 7:30 P.M. UNT-HSC-see map p. 7
- 15-June 2 *Field Methods in Rock Art* by Dr. Carolyn Boyd, Shumla School. Undergraduate and graduate level course through Texas State University.

JUNE

- 1 TCAS Board Meeting 7:30 P.M.
- No TCAS meeting in June—See you at Field Sch.
- 2 Deadline to submit information for the TAS newsletter. Contact: Jonelle Miller millerjo@austin.rr.com
- 4-23 *Lower Pecos Archeology* by Dr. Grant Hall, Junction. Three-hour-credit course through Texas Tech University. Summer Session I. [Information](#) (PDF file)

10-17 TAS Field School near Paris, TX

- 11 TAS Board meeting at field school camp
- 25-July 14 *Lower Pecos Archeology* by Dr. Grant Hall, Junction. Three-hour-credit course through Texas Tech University. Summer Session II.

For more information on State Events visit

www.txarcheologysociety.com

TCAS BENCHMARK

TCAS Board Members

Glynn Osburn

President

817.571.2727

gosburn@comcast.net

Bryan Jameson

Vice President

817.249.5242

bryan.e.jameson@lmco.com

bryanjameson@sbcglobal.net

Jay Hornsby

Vice President for Projects

817-496-5475

jhornsbys@sihometheater.com

Linda Ott Lang

Treasurer

817.781.8236

ottl2001@yahoo.com

Laurel Wilson

Secretary

817.465.1467

noslim@sbcglobal.net

Wendy Lockwood

Immediate Past President

817.295.0266

wendy1247@yahoo.com

Paula Vastine

Editor

817.457.7428

pvastine@flash.net

paula.vastine@tccd.edu

Gen Freix

Librarian

817.581.1645

gen_freix@birdville.k12

gendigs@yahoo.com

Historian

TBA

Hospitality Chair

Sandy Osburn

817.571.2727

Editorial Committee

Glynn Osburn

Paula Vastine

Jim Blanton

"Plans for the 2006 TAS Field School at the Stallings site"

Speaker

Dr. Alan Skinner

Biography:

S. Alan Skinner created AR Consultants Inc. in 1977 while he was still at Southern Methodist University receiving his PhD. Since then Dr. Skinner has accumulated 35 years of experience in archaeological surveys and excavations in Texas and Louisiana, but his emphasis has been in North Central Texas. He is a member of several archeological societies including the Tarrant County Archeological Society. He is currently the director for the Texas Archeological Society's field school at the Stalling's Ranch in Paris, a position he also held last year.

How would you like to spend a week in "Paris" next spring? Just leave a message that you've gone to "Paris" and join your friends at the TAS 2006 Field School. Paris, Texas, is the county seat of Lamar County, which was named for the cavalry commander under Sam Houston at the battle of San Jacinto. Our county snuggles between the eastern cross-timbers and the piney-woods of East Texas. This is the upper end of the black land prairie of Texas, where Bermuda grass can grow to the size of bushes! The city of Paris has over 25,000 wonderfully hospitable folks who are looking forward to hosting the 2006 TAS Field School for a second year.

This region of Texas has probably been less utilized by archeological societies and universities than most other regions. Therefore, the potential for discovering evidence needed to answer crucial questions about prehistoric and early historic peoples and their cultures is great. Initial work by our Valley of the Caddo Archeological Society at the site where the field school is to be held, has yielded large numbers of artifacts with exciting possibilities for further work. No one should miss this field school.

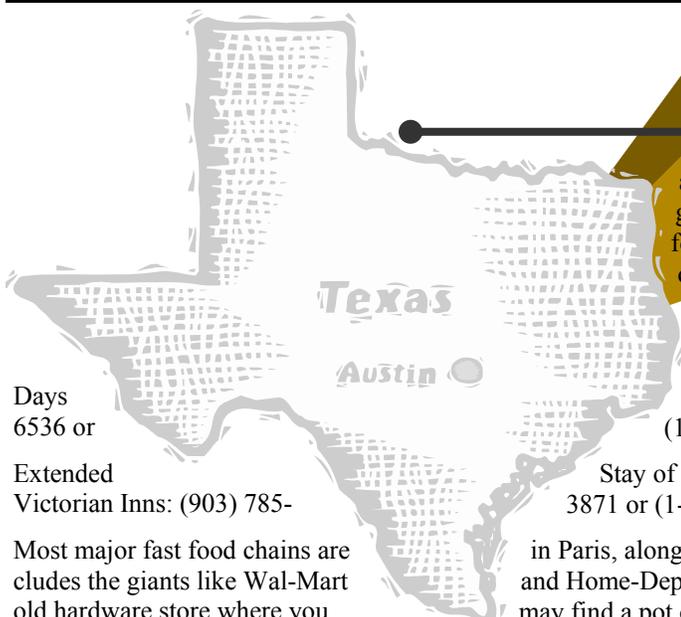
The "Camp" will be on City of Paris land near the Love Civic Center. This is near Paris Junior College in Southeast Paris. With help from the City of Paris staff and the Chamber of Commerce, we have reserved a huge pavilion (32' by 68') with a concrete floor, and lights and water on the site. We have permission to park the kitchen trailer under the pavilion to permit dining without getting wet if it rains. The camping ground is a large, flat, grassed acreage near the pavilion. There will be some lighting available all night from nearby city ball fields.

We will have use of two brick restroom buildings, each with 3 showers, 3 toilets and 2 sinks on both the male and female sides of the building. One restroom building is near the pavilion and the other near the campground. Porta-potties will also be located in the campground and at the dig/survey sites. Bags of ice can be purchased at the pavilion from TAS.

There are 49 R.V. spaces at the civic center with water and electricity. Eight of the slots have 50 amp electricity and the rest have 30 amps. These R.V. slots will rent for \$25 per night. The R.V. slots are in the concrete parking lot of Love Civic Center and directly across

TCAS BENCHMARK

Around The State



a side road from all the activities at the pavilion (meals, evening programs, and training classes). Call the Civic Center at (903) 739-9912 for reservations and inform them you are TAS. Paris motel accommodations are listed below.

Best Western: (903) 785-5566 or (1-800) 528-1234; Budget Inn: (903) 785-9700; Comfort Inn: (903) 784-7481

Inn: (903) 784-81 64 or (1-800) 329-7466; Hampton Inn: (903) 784- (1-800) 426-7866

Stay of Paris: (903) 784-8851; Red River Inn: (903) 427-2278; 3871 or (1-800) 935-0863; King's Inn Motel: (903) 739-8499.

Days
6536 or

Extended
Victorian Inns: (903) 785-

Most major fast food chains are
cludes the giants like Wal-Mart
old hardware store where you

in Paris, along with many restaurants with diverse menus. Shopping in Paris in-
and Home-Depot, as well as many small shops, antique stores, boutiques, and one
may find a pot or utensil that someone's great-grandmother once handled.

The Municipal Band of Paris will be giving an hour-long concert in the Bywaters Park across from the Paris Library at 8:30 P.M. on Friday the 10th and Friday the 17th of June. We are in the process of planning several tours in the afternoons. Current prospects are the large Campbell Soup plant, historic homes, buildings, parks and monuments (e.g. cattle magnate, John Chisum's grave and the home of Civil War general, Samuel Bell Maxey). Maps and information about Paris and the surrounding area will be available at the Field School Registration Desk. By Richard Proctor, Camp Director

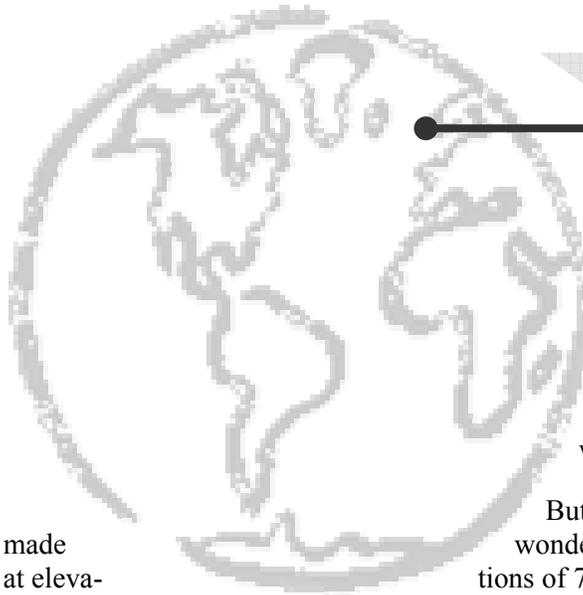
2006 Field School Camp in Paris, TX

JUNE 10-17

The 2006 Summer Field School will offer TAS members a variety of opportunities to continue the exploration of the Gene Stallings Ranch in Lamar County and to get to know the landscape of the county in our search for sources of knappable lithic resources and other natural resources. Excavation, survey, and testing will focus within the 600 acre Stallings Ranch, with excavation being concentrated on the Stallings site which is a Fourche Maline campsite situated on a knoll overlooking the Pine Creek floodplain. Dates have not been set. The field school will be staffed with experienced professionals and avocational archaeologists who will offer quality guidance and instruction for everyone from beginner to veteran. Consult the TAS Web Page for suggested readings on Fourche Maline archaeology and on archaeology of the Lamar County area.

Fees					
Registration			Meals		
	1-3 days	4-8 days		Breakfast	Dinner
Adult	\$65	\$90	Adult	\$3.00	\$6.50
Youth 7-17	\$27	\$40	Youth under 12	\$2.50	\$4.50
Nonparticipant	\$30	\$55			
Children, 6 and under — No charge					

Around The World



MESA VERDE:

100th anniversary of first park to protect man-made wonders

By Beth J. Harpaz, Associated Press

MESA VERDE NATIONAL PARK, Colo. — Most national parks protect natural wonders — mountains, forests, canyons.

made
at eleva-

This intricate archi-

ture, dating to the 12th century, is as awesome to behold today as it was when cowboys and ranchers first saw it. Two men looking for lost cattle, Richard Wetherill and Charles Mason, came upon the most spectacular site, the 150-room Cliff Palace, in 1888.

Mesa Verde National Park was established 18 years later, in 1906. The park's centennial is being observed this year with festivals, lectures and access to sites that have been closed to the public for decades.

"It's not just a birthday party to commemorate 100 years in June 2006," said Tessy Shirakawa, chief of visitor services for the park. "It is a yearlong celebration about the last 100 years, and looking into the future to the next 100 years."

A four-day party, free to the public, with a birthday cake, music, Indian dances, a traders' festival, craft demonstrations and other events is scheduled for June 29-July 2. Other highlights of the centennial include monthly lectures and demonstrations; daylong horseback rides in September to Spring House, which has been closed since the 1960s; and ranger-led hikes to two other dwellings. One of these, Mug House, has never been open to the public before, and another, Oak Tree House, has been closed since the 1930s.

Other events are being held in communities around the region; for advance reservations and a complete schedule, visit www.mesaverde2006.org. The celebration ends Dec. 9 with a "luminaria" — nighttime illumination — of Cliff Palace and Spruce Tree House, another dwelling.

The cliff dwellings were built by a group of people whom archaeologists refer to as Ancestral Puebloans. They lived in the area from about 400 A.D. to 1300 A.D. Their descendants include 21 contemporary tribes.

"They were incredible masons," said Ranger Kimberly Accardy on a tour of Cliff Palace, the largest of the park's 600 dwellings. "They did not have metal. All their tools were made out of wood, stone or bone." Bricks for the buildings were made from sandstone mixed with mud mortar.

Accardy said Cliff Palace was probably "a community center for trade, commerce or special ceremonies. Only 125 people lived here, but many more people came here. It's a bit like the idea of people living on the outskirts of a major metropolitan area and coming into the central area to take care of their needs."

Cliff Palace's 150 rooms include walls up to four stories high, nine storage rooms on an upper ledge, and 21 "kivas," deep round pits used for ceremonies and other community activities. Kivas are still used by modern-day Hopis and other tribes.

The Puebloans hunted wild game, domesticated turkeys, and grew corn, squash and beans. For water, Accardy said, "they relied on rain and snow-melt, and a lot of the alcoves had seep springs" — water that trickled in through the canyon walls.

The park is also a UNESCO World Heritage site.

Most first-time visitors to Mesa Verde — which is Spanish for "green table" — tour Cliff Palace. But adventurous types — including sure-footed children — will also want to see Balcony House, which can only be accessed by climbing steep ladders and shimmying through an 18-inch-wide stone tunnel.

Balcony House is much smaller than Cliff Palace, but its highlights include interesting archaeological evidence.

Shell prints on the sandstone suggest that millions of years ago, "this was the shore of an ancient sea," according to Ranger Lee Littler.

Littler also pointed out red plaster on the walls, along with paintings of triangular designs that resemble mountain ridges

Mesa Verde continues

"Everybody wants to add personal touches and beauty to their homes," Accardy said.

The centennial celebration includes a symposium, May 3-5, on the history of Southwestern archaeology. "The science of early archaeology (in North America) started here at Mesa Verde," Shirakawa said.

In fact, the same year Mesa Verde was made a national park, Congress passed a law making it a crime to collect or destroy antiquities from federal land. The law was spurred in part by the removal of 600 objects from Mesa Verde by a Swedish scientist. Those objects now reside in the National Museum in Helsinki, Finland.

Fortunately, you don't have to travel that far to see the tools, baskets and exquisite pottery produced by the Ancient Pueblos. Mesa Verde's Chapin Mesa Archeological Museum has its own fine collection. While you're there, visit nearby Spruce Tree House, the only dwelling in the park accessible by a paved trail.

Cliff Palace and Balcony House require tickets for ranger-led tours; you can see Spruce Tree House and the museum on your own for free.

Those looking to get away from the crowds may want to head to a more remote area of the park, Wetherill Mesa, to explore two other dwellings — Long House, which requires a ticket, and Step House, which does not.

The Ancestral Pueblos left Mesa Verde some 800 years ago, and archaeologists think they might have been on a quest. "They were on a migration route to find their ancestral home," Accardy said. "Perhaps they left on a journey to that place."

Around The World

"Research from the Center for the Study of Early Americans"

One of the most important debates in American archaeology centers around the first people to enter the Americas.

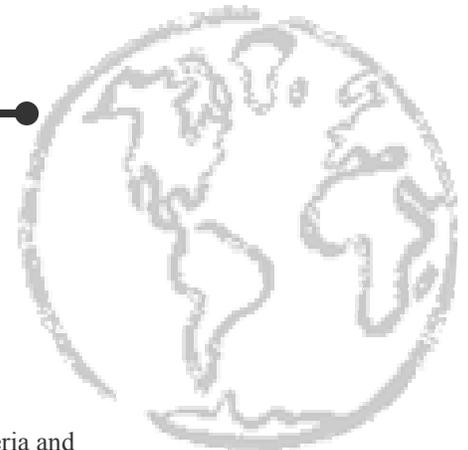
Some archaeologists believe that Clovis represents the founding population of the New World. These researchers see a group of hunters migrating from Siberia sometime before 12,000 ¹⁴C yr B.P., crossing the Bering Land Bridge (the dry land connection between Siberia and Alaska), and entering the New World through an ice free corridor between the two large ice sheets that covered Canada at the very end of the Pleistocene. These early people brought with them a sophisticated late Paleolithic tool kit and technology and somewhere along the migration the characteristic Clovis point developed. Proponents of this "Clovis-First" model point out that there are no sites with indisputable artifacts that are firmly dated to before 11,500 ¹⁴C yr B.P., and that the sudden appearance of the Clovis complex across North America between 11,500 and 10,900 ¹⁴C yr B.P. signals the rapid spread of a colonizing population.

An equal number of archaeologists support the competing "Pre-Clovis" model arguing that humans colonized the Americas long before 11,500 ¹⁴C yr B.P., and claim that "Clovis-First" supporters have been overly critical of early sites in the Americas. Further, they point out that by 10,500 ¹⁴C yr B.P., just several centuries after Clovis times, the Americas had become filled with numerous diverse cultures, too many to be explained by such a short chronology.

The antiquity of the first Americans, where they came from, and how they got to the New World remains unresolved.

The North Star Archaeological Research Program

The North Star Archaeological Research Program is a research program focused on understanding the earliest inhabitants of the Americas. The objective of the North Star Program is to investigate Clovis and potential pre-Clovis archaeological sites in the New World. The emphasis of this program is on field research—archaeological and ge archaeological investigations. Projects are funded



Research from The Center continues

primarily from earnings from a permanent endowment created at Texas A&M University by Joe and Ruth Cramer in 2002. Their vision and generosity has contributed substantially to our knowledge of the first Americans. Additional funding for research projects is provided by private donations, grants, and contracts. Michael Waters is the Executive Director of the North Star Archaeological Research Program.

Current Projects

Gault Clovis site, Texas

The Gault site, Texas contains the greatest density of buried Clovis artifacts in North America. Geoarchaeological investigations at Gault defined a complex stratigraphy of channel, bar, and floodplain sediments and buried paleosols. At the base of the sequence, Clovis artifacts occur in primary contexts within pond clays and in overlying floodplain deposits. A weak soil caps the Clovis horizons. Clovis artifacts include fluted projectile points, bifaces in all stages of reduction, blade cores, blades, core tablets, end scrapers, and other tools and debitage. Clovis artifacts are separated from Folsom and later Paleoindian horizons by an erosional unconformity. Archaic artifacts, including engraved stones, occur in overlying floodplain deposits.

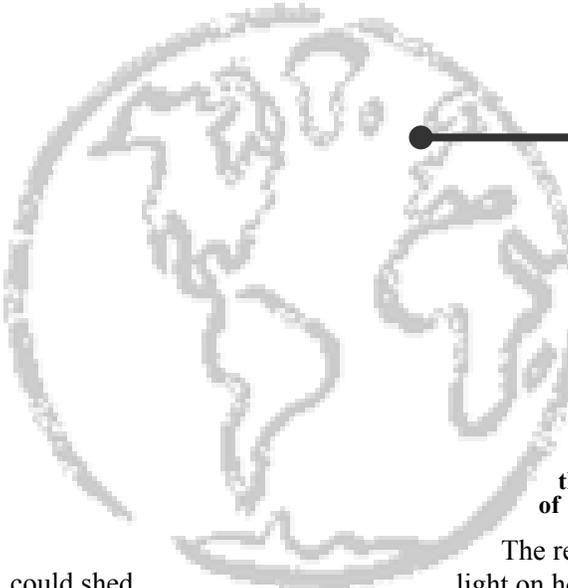
Excavations in 2000 and 2001 by Texas A&M University (Michael Waters, Harry Shafer, and David Carlson) recovered over 74,000 pieces of debitage and over 1300 artifacts, mostly from the Clovis horizons. Analyses have focused on the Clovis material and include studies of the biface and blade technologies, debitage and expedient tools, and use-wear analysis of the end scrapers and blades. In addition, the faunal material from the excavations have been analyzed, a micromorphological analysis of the sediments has been completed, and a site formation study is underway. These analyses are nearing completion.

Hueyatlaco, Mexico

Several potential pre-Clovis localities were found in the 1960s around the edge of the Valsequillo Reservoir, Mexico. One of these localities is the site of Hueyatlaco. This site was excavated by Cynthia Irwin-Williams in 1962, 1964, and 1966. At this site, numerous unifacial flake tools were found with extinct fauna. Questions about the stratigraphy, location of the artifacts, and dating have plague this site. In 2003, a trip was made to the Smithsonian Archives in Maryland and the files of Cynthia Irwin-Williams were examined. Numerous maps and files were photocopied and this material was used to reconstruct the excavations conducted at the site in 1962, 1964, and 1966. Field investigations were undertaken during May and June of 2004 at Hueyatlaco. Three trenches were excavated at the site in order to examine and evaluate the stratigraphy at Hueyatlaco. We were able to confirm that the Hueyatlaco Ash did indeed overlie what was reported to be the unifacial artifact-bearing deposits (Bed I). An unconformity separated the alluvium containing the bifacial material (Bed E and C). Samples of the Hueyatlaco Ash and other units are being dated by the Ar-Ar and luminescence techniques. These dates will resolve once and for all the age of this important site. This research is being done in collaboration with Joaquin Arroyo-Cabrales (INAH), Patricia Ochoa-Castillo (National Museum of Anthropology), and Mario Perez-Campa (INAH).

Mud Lake, Wisconsin

Near Mud Lake, Wisconsin (Kenosha County), the fore limb and toe bones of a mammoth were recovered in the 1930s and these bones showed extensive evidence of butchering. Later radiocarbon dating by Dan Joyce (Curator of Archaeology, Kenosha Public Museum) showed that the bones were 13,500 ¹⁴C yr B.P. In partnership with Dan Joyce, we conducted an extensive hand coring operation in 2004 that resulted in the definition of the site stratigraphy and four target areas where the mammoth bones could have originally come from based on historical accounts. In 2004 and 2005 we extensively tested all four areas. These tests failed to find any additional traces of the mammoth. Radiocarbon dates on wood obtained from the trenches confirms that we were in the correct location and examining sediments of the correct age in our search for the Mud Lake Mammoth. The Mud Lake mammoth bones will be brought to Texas A&M University for more in-depth study in 2006. This will result in a thorough documentation of the bones collected in 1935 and the evidence for human involvement at the site.



Around The World

Rediscovering the New World

Ancient bones offer glimpse into how earliest settlers lived

Sunday, March 5, 2006; Posted: 11:29 a.m. EST (16:29 GMT)

Editor's note:

The following is a summary of this week's Time magazine cover story.

Skeletal remains found near the Columbia River show an individual with a right arm overly developed, probably from hunting and spear fishing. It's been more than a decade since the bones of an ancient hunter were found along the banks of the Columbia River in Benton County, Washington, near the town of Kennewick.

could shed light on how the New World was first settled.

Although the skeleton, known as Kennewick Man, was found in the summer of 1996, the local Umatilla Indians and four other Columbia Basin tribes almost immediately claimed it as ancestral remains under the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act.

A group of researchers sued, starting a legal tug-of-war and negotiations that ended only last summer, with the scientists getting their first extensive access to the bones. And now, for the first time, we know the results of that examination.

What we're learning was worth the wait. Sophisticated forensic techniques have allowed scientists to plumb these remains for secrets of how life began in the New World. The skeleton not only reveals the personal condition of one man some 9,000 years ago, but it also offers a rare glimpse into how the first settlers may have lived and survived.

Consider, for example, what scientists can now tell us about Kennewick Man's physical attributes. He stood about 5 feet 9 and was fairly muscular. He was clearly right-handed: the bones of the right arm are markedly larger than those of the left. In fact, says forensic anthropologist Douglas Owsley of the Smithsonian Institution's National Museum of Natural History, "the bones are so robust that they're bent," the result, he speculates, of muscles built up during a lifetime of hunting and spear fishing.

An examination of the joints showed that Kennewick Man had arthritis in the right elbow, both knees and several vertebrae but that it wasn't severe enough to be crippling. He had suffered plenty of trauma as well. "One rib was fractured and healed," says Owsley, "and there is a depression fracture on his forehead and a similar indentation on the left side of the head."

The revelations are all the more remarkable when you consider the limitations placed on the team by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, which is responsible for the skeleton because the Corps has jurisdiction over the federal land on which it was found.

The researchers had to do nearly all their work at the University of Washington's Burke Museum, where Kennewick Man has been housed in a locked room since 1998, under the watchful eyes of representatives of both the Corps and the museum. And, says Owsley, "we only had 10 days to do everything we wanted to do. It was like a choreographed dance."

One of the big unanswered questions was whether Kennewick Man was Caucasian. The answer, it turns out, is probably no. He's more likely Polynesian or closer to Ainu, an ethnic group that is now found only in northern Japan but in prehistoric times lived throughout coastal areas of eastern Asia, say researchers.

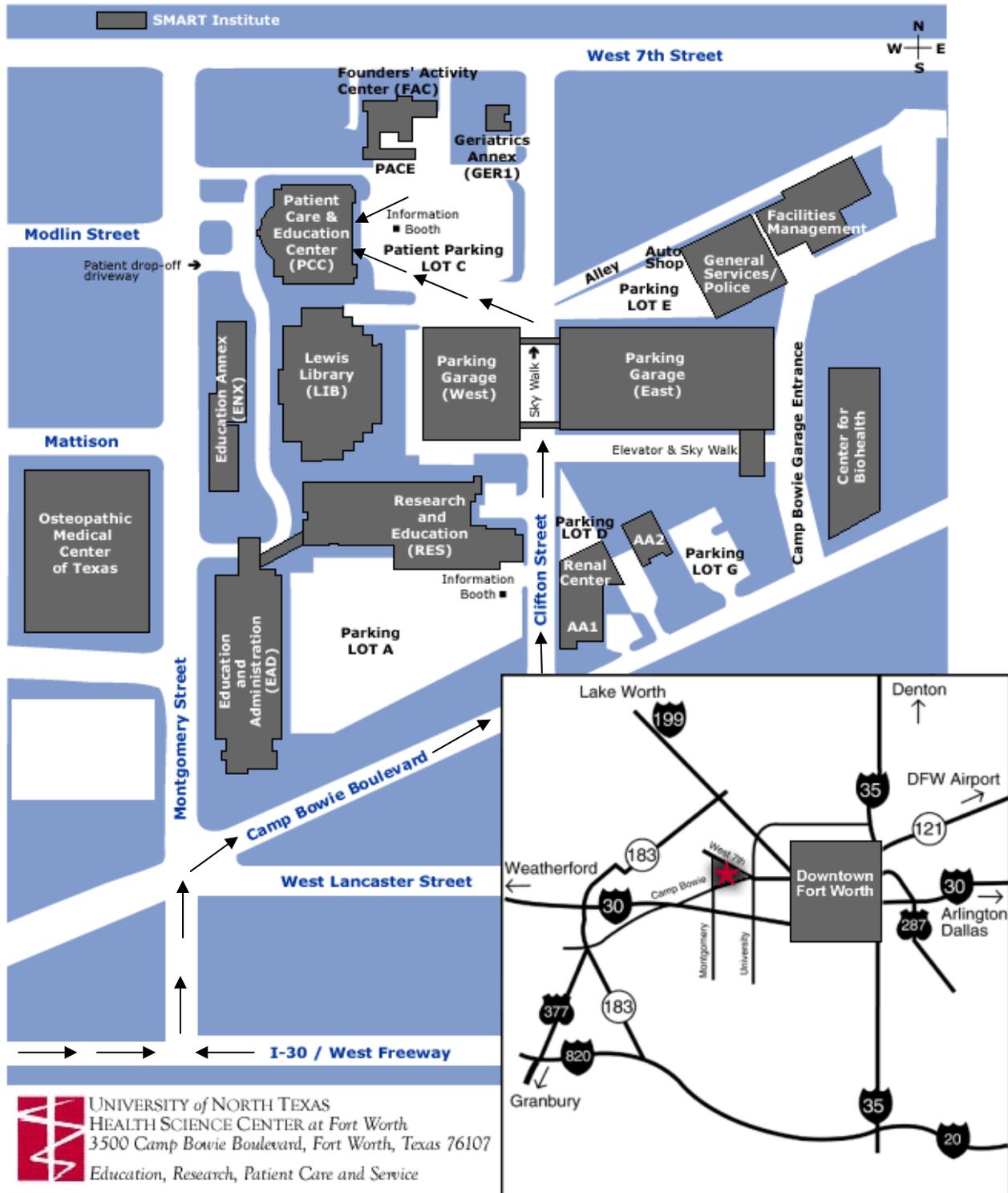
That assessment will be tested more rigorously when scientists compare Kennewick Man's skull with databases of several thousand other skulls, both modern and ancient.

But provisionally, at least, the evidence fits in with a revolutionary new picture that over the past decade has utterly transformed anthropologists' long-held theories about the colonization of the Americas.

And thanks to a deeper understanding of Kennewick Man and much more scientific research into ancient artifacts and migration patterns, scientists are piecing together a picture of human life in this hemisphere that's far more complex and certainly much older than anyone had previously imagined.

TCAS BENCHMARK

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 ARCHEOLOGICAL 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 (H.S., active univ. degree candidate through age 25)

Employer _____

___ \$10.00

___ Contributing ___ \$30.00+

Email _____

___ Lifetime ___ \$250.00

CODE OF ETHICS (Signature required)

I pledge that I will not intentionally violate the terms and conditions of any federal, state, or local antiquities 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 ground for expulsion from the Society.

Signature(s) _____ Date _____

TARRANT COUNTY ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

P.O. BOX 24679

FORT WORTH, TEXAS 76124