

La Vista  
de la

# Frontera



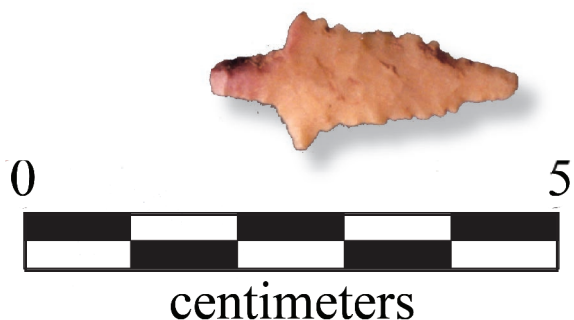
Center for Big Bend Studies  
Sul Ross State University  
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## THE JOHN Z. AND EXA MEANS CACHE

New Discovery Yields Insights into Big Bend's Prehistoric Indians

*Robert J. Mallouf*



In 1895, the high forested peaks of the Davis Mountains in Jeff Davis County, Texas still comprised a wilderness that was visited in large part only by surveyors marking boundaries and hunters seeking mountain lions and bears. During that year, a weekend outing by two area residents to the top of the highest peak in the range—Mount Livermore—would prove archaeologically momentous.

Having attained the narrow, ridge-like summit of the mountain, T. A. Merrill and C. C. Janes found and disassembled a stacked rock cairn that overlay a pit containing hundreds of small stone arrow points. News of the find spread quickly through the eastern Trans-Pecos region, and eventually throughout the nation. Subsequent trips to the summit by local groups of residents resulted in the recovery of many additional points, with the cache site eventually yielding over 1,700 specimens.

Over the following twenty years, the excitement generated by the Livermore Cache served as a catalyst for turn-of-the-century relic hunters who combed the mountaintops in a quest for comparable finds. The discovery also served as stimulus for an extended visit to the Big Bend in 1908 by Charles Peabody, the first professional archaeologist to evaluate archaeological sites in the region. While a few additional mountaintop caches were apparently found, like the Livermore Cache, they were dug without the benefit of documentation. The collections from these other cache discoveries were ultimately lost, and there is little or no existing information concerning their contexts or contents.

Due to the exceptional efforts of two local residents, Susan M. Janes and Victor J. Smith, the Livermore Cache collection was saved, and by 1929 it had been placed for permanent curation in the new Big Bend Memorial Museum at Sul Ross State Teachers College. The history of the cache assemblage once removed from the

mountain is replete with notations concerning the probable addition or removal of specimens, specimens possibly being stolen during a series of long-term and inappropriate cache exhibits, and other regrettable occurrences that, for purposes of scientific study, have adversely affected the integrity of the collection.

For reasons stated above, the unexpected recent discovery in the western extent of the Davis Mountains of still another mountaintop cache has great implications for scientific study. The John Z. and Exa Means Cache, discovered in 2002 by D. Craige Means and his sons, Samuel and Jesse, contains over 1,250 stone arrow points. Importantly, the discoverers contacted CBBS archaeologists about their find and allowed archaeological participation during excavation of a portion of the cache feature, thus

ensuring the scientifically acceptable integrity of the find. The result is our first documented find of a mountaintop cache in the history of the Big Bend.

The Means Cache, like the Livermore Cache, was constructed by peoples of the Livermore phase, a term applied by archaeologists to a nomadic culture of hunters and gatherers who inhabited the Davis Mountains area from approximately A.D. 800 to possibly as late as A.D. 1350. Placed ceremonially, the hundreds of complete, but mostly fragmentary, arrow points were intentionally grouped in niches among the rocks and inside cracks in the bedrock below the stacked rock cairn. While Livermore arrow points dominate the artifact assemblage, there

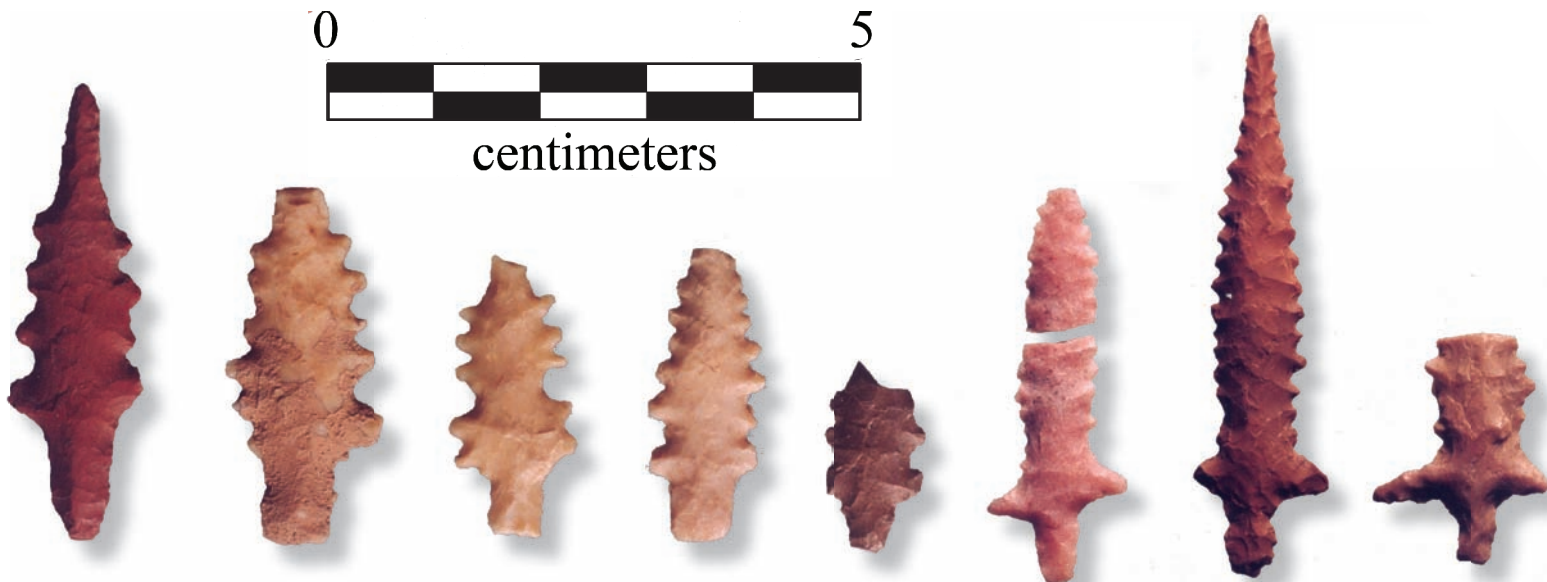
**The discoverers contacted CBBS archaeologists about their find and allowed archaeological participation during excavation of a portion of the cache feature. The result is our first documented find of a mountaintop cache in the history of the Big Bend.**

*Front cover and below: Some examples of the stone arrow points recovered from the Means Cache in the Davis Mountains of the Big Bend. All of the examples are Livermore points, although the cache includes a variety of different styles.*

*Top: CBBS staff archaeologists perch on the tip of the cliff to recover arrow points that were placed ceremonially a thousand years ago.*

*Middle: D. Craige Means with sons Samuel and Jesse at the site of their discovery.*

*Bottom: The cache donors, Alfred and Ruth Means.*





is a wider variety of point styles from the Means feature, some of which are indicative of northern (southeast New Mexico) cultural influences. When studied together, the two caches provide amazing insights into the ritual practices and other lifeways of Livermore phase peoples—insights that can also help to resolve perplexing interpretive issues arising from the Livermore Cache’s lamentable history.

The scientific and educational potentials of the exciting Means Cache discovery are further enhanced through a recent donation by Alfred and Ruth Means of the cache assemblage to Sul Ross State University. In August 2008, over one hundred friends and relatives came together for a reception at the Museum of the Big Bend to view an exhibit on the discovery and to honor the Means family for their donation. After analysis and reporting by the CBBS, this collection will be permanently curated at the museum and included in a planned educational display on the Livermore phase. Through this important donation, the Means family has saved for perpetuity a remarkable and infinitely important piece of Big Bend history.



# Tight Spaces

(Left) 2008 Sul Ross Archaeological Field School students and CBBS staff excavate in Tranquil Rockshelter; (artifacts, counter-clockwise from top) sandal found in an excavated feature, small pieces of wood with looped and knotted cordage, likely components of dead-fall traps used to catch rabbits; bone or antler that was split longitudinally, ground and shaped—possibly a “flesher”; (below) a planview portion of the excavation showing the trenches and various cultural features.



# In the Field

A sampling of CBBS projects



CBBS volunteer Gena Roberts plots artifacts at the David Williams Site.

## The David Williams Site, MacGuire Ranch

**D**avid Williams, manager of the MacGuire Ranch, unearthed a projectile point while grubbing mesquite along a cutbank of Alamito Creek in January 2008. At David’s request, CBBS director Bob Mallouf visited the location and noticed a hearth nearby that was eroding out of the cutbank and bleeding charcoal. He took a sample, which dated to about seven thousand years ago. This represents the second-oldest dated hearth in the Big Bend area. The Center for Big Bend Studies unearthed another hearth in a series of excavation units when they investigated the David Williams site in April 2008. Charcoal from this second hearth was sent to a different laboratory and yielded a date of seven thousand years old as well. These preliminary investigations also indicated that there were intact cultural deposits buried under up to 2.5 meters of extremely resistant soils below the upper alluvial terrace.

A team from the CBBS returned in the fall of 2008 to investigate further. With David Williams deftly manning a backhoe, the crew put in a series of trenches to explore the dimensions of the site. They also sampled the soils that lined the trenches in order to retrieve environmental data for this little-known period of prehistory. The backhoe uncovered portions of two additional hearths and an eight-centimeter thick cultural stratum. All or portions of fifteen excavation units have been opened so far at the site to investigate these features. While “chasing” these features, crews encountered numerous burned bone fragments and lithic debris from tool production. This site is located close to an extensive deposit of chalcidony, a stone material valued by native peoples for its workability. The CBBS has uncovered hundreds of pieces of this material at the site, including one apparent “pile” of about 150 pieces. Patterns of activity preserved within the deposits will enable the Center to learn much about the behavior and lifeways of these people.

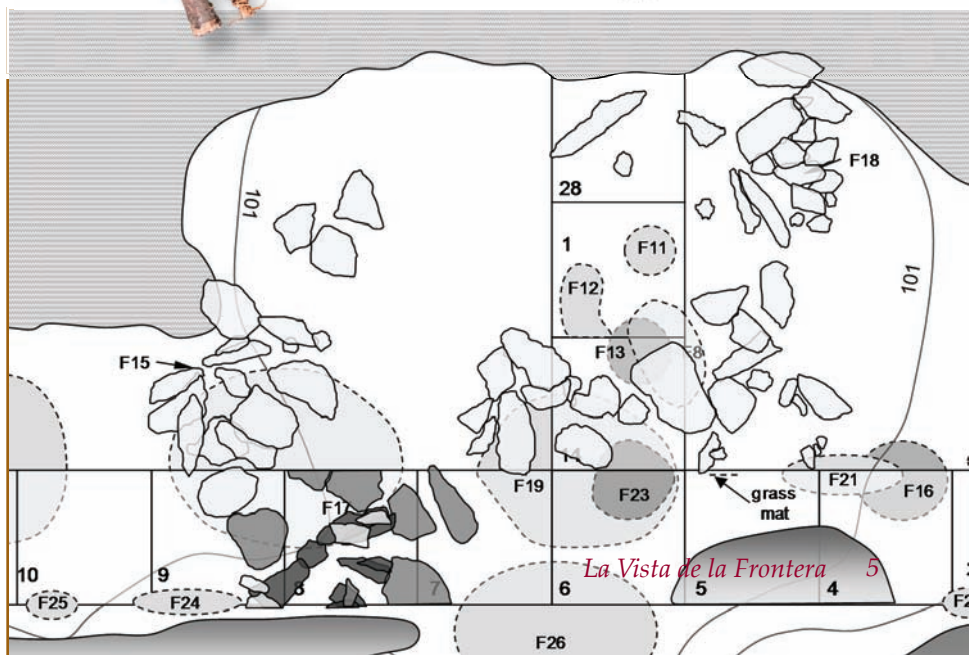
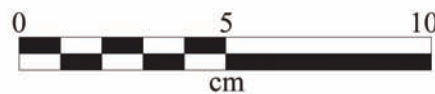
# at Tranquil Yield Wealth of Discovery

The narrow confines of a rockshelter on the O2 Ranch are producing a wide range of information concerning prehistoric hunter-gatherers and their changing lifeways in the Trans-Pecos region. After two seasons of fieldwork, evidence of many aspects of ancient domestic life was uncovered by CBBS staff and the 2008 Sul Ross State University Archaeological Field School. Just over sixteen square meters were painstakingly excavated in the often cramped quarters of the rockshelter, and the majority of the work was performed by students of the field school.

The students learned a wide range of technical skills while contributing through their efforts to our understanding of prehistoric lifeways in the Big Bend region. They brought a fresh perspective that helped the Center for Big Bend Studies ask new questions about changing lifeways in the midst of one of the most complex periods in North America—the Late Prehistoric period punctuated by European contact.

While there is evidence of occupation at Tranquil Rockshelter as early as 3000 B.C., seven radiocarbon assays date the intact deposits to roughly A.D. 890–1620. Crews documented more than thirty-five features including a structural remnant, rock art panels, grass lined pits, hearths and roasting pits, and the sheltered setting preserved sandals, woven matting, and cordage. Interpretation at the site is difficult because of complex stratigraphy—many features are superimposed upon one another. Several suites of technology are represented by a variety of arrow shaft fragments and cordage. Corn cobs, beans, and the structural remnant all show potential ties with Late Prehistoric villagers in the La Junta district along the Rio Grande.

One of the primary lessons of anthropology and archaeology is that humans adapt to changing conditions with a wide variety of behavioral responses. Environmental and social conditions (drought and European contact, respectively) changed substantially over the period represented by radiocarbon dates at Tranquil Rockshelter. People likely had to change the way they lived and provided for their families, change the way they used and moved about the landscape, and change the way they perceived the world around them. Tranquil Rockshelter, along with numerous Late Prehistoric and Protohistoric sites investigated by the CBBS, is shedding new light on the diversity of the region's prehistoric lifeways.





## Research Associates Broaden CBBS Rock Art Efforts



*(Top) Jamie Hampson records rock art at Meyers Springs. Jamie has visited many sites in the Big Bend while working on his analysis of the significance of the region's rock art; (above) an example of the petroglyphs in Chihuahua discussed by Leticia González Arratia in a presentation at Sul Ross State University in April 2008; (far right above and below) Jamie Hampson and Leticia González Arratia.*

**T**he Center for Big Bend Studies offers a Research Associates Program designed to affiliate noted scholars in the fields of borderlands archaeology, history, ethnohistory, and related cultural disciplines with the Center and Sul Ross State University. Appointment as a research associate offers considerable advantages to researchers interested in collaborating to document, preserve, and share the rich cultural legacy of the borderlands. Collaboration also benefits the Center and the University. The outstanding and professional research generated by associates serves to enhance the Center's publication series, promote the annual conference, and expose our programs and efforts to a wider geographical region and audience.

The Center has had the good fortune to host two distinguished research associates this past year. Leticia González Arratia is a Mexican archaeologist currently living in Torreón, Coahuila, Mexico who studies prehistoric desert cultures and adaptations. Her works include seven books on the archaeology and rock art of north-central Mexico. She holds a master's degree from the Universidad Nacional Autónoma de México (UNAM), and has studied at the National School of Anthropology and History in Mexico, D.F. The CBBS invited her to spend time in Alpine in April 2008 at the Center offices to conduct research for comparison of mortuary practices and behaviors on both sides of the border. Arratia also gave a public lecture at Sul Ross on April 29 titled, "The Making of Petroglyphs and Ritual Time Among Hunter-Gatherers of the Chihuahuan Desert." The talk was well-attended, with many professors, CBBS staff, students and community members present.

Jamie Hampson is a registered Ph.D. student at the University of Cambridge. He received his B.A. and M.A. in history from the University of Oxford, and his M.Phil. in archaeology from the University of Cambridge. He has worked as a rock art researcher for ten years in South Africa, Australia, India, and the British Isles. He is currently a research associate at the Center for Big Bend Studies conducting rock art research and assisting CBBS staff member Reeda Peel with the creation of a regional rock art database.

His primary goal is to undertake a multi-faceted analysis of Trans-Pecos rock art for his dissertation. He is investigating the social, economic and ideological significance of the art, and addressing some of the implicit assumptions that govern notions of rock art regionalism. He is looking at regional rock art in relationship to other archaeological data, as well as to the culture-history/time-space grid.

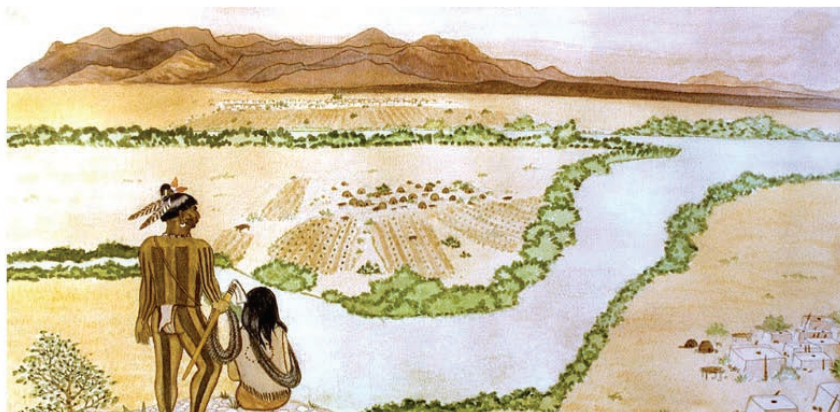
## More from the Texas Beyond History Website

www.texasbeyondhistory.net/trans-p/index.html

Early in 2008, the CBBS assisted the Texas Archeological Research Laboratory of the University of Texas with another extensive exhibit on the Texas Beyond History (TBH) website. Entitled "Trans-Pecos Mountains & Basins," this regional exhibit now contains the La Junta exhibit that was completed in late 2007 as well as a vast amount of information from the rest of the region concerning select sites, potential food sources, and the environment. Several archaeological sites investigated and/or reported by the CBBS are in the exhibit, including Rosillo Peak, the Paradise site, Rough Run, and the Chispa Creek site.

The aforementioned La Junta exhibit was the focus of Andy Cloud's presentation at the Big Bend Regional Sierra Club's February meeting. Entitled "The Texas Beyond History La Junta Exhibit: Bringing the Past to the Present," the presentation highlighted CBBS efforts to bring the rich prehistory and history of La Junta de los Ríos—the relatively lush environs centered at the juncture of the Río Conchos and Río Grande—to the attention of the general public through the TBH webpage (www.texasbeyondhistory.net/junta/). Andy's Powerpoint presen-

### La Junta de los Rios: Villagers of the Chihuahuan Desert Rivers



Indian couple overlooking La Junta de los Rios. In the foreground is the Río Conchos which joins the Río Grande on the far right. Across the landscape are agricultural fields, a farming hamlet of circular houses, and, in the lower right, a pueblo (village) with flat-roofed adobe houses. The details are inspired by eyewitness descriptions in Spanish documents. This 1994 painting by artist Feather Radha can be seen in Restaurante Lobby's OK in Ojinaga, Mexico. Courtesy Elsa Socorro Arroyo.

tation focused on environmental background data, previous and current archaeological research, and an overview of the different cultures documented in the region—all topics that are comprehensively presented on the webpage.

# In the Community

CBBS staff go above and beyond



## Briefs: Sharing Our Work in the Big Bend

Throughout 2008, CBBS staff made more than thirty educational presentations, and had the opportunity on several occasions to speak to the extensive listening audience of KRTS-Marfa Public Radio.

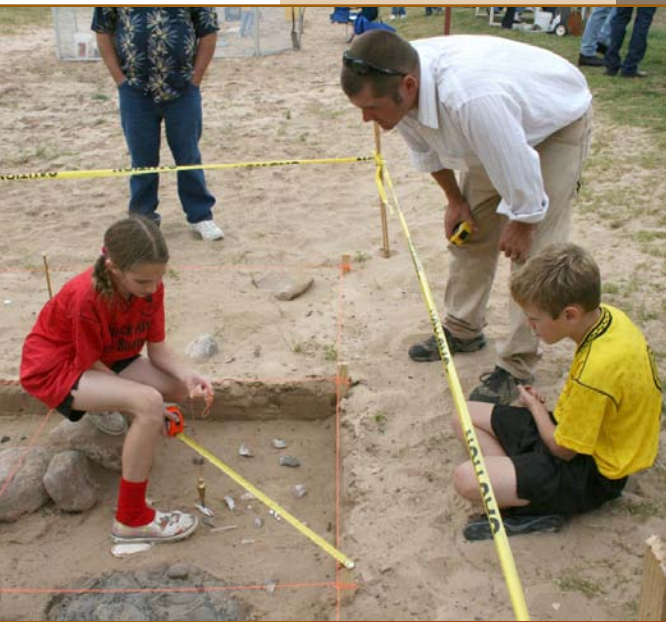
CBBS staff presented six hours of instruction and led two field trips for the more than one hundred attendees of the Texas Archeological Society's Rock Art Academy held in nearby Van Horn last February.

The first annual Way Out West Texas Book Festival was held August 9 as a benefit for the Alpine Public Library. About two hundred community members attended. The CBBS manned a book table with sales at the festival

amounting to nearly two hundred dollars. CBBS staff, who volunteered their Saturday at the table, distributed copies of the *La Vista de la Frontera* newsletter and a list of publications and discussed the Center's mission and current projects with attendees.

CBBS staff began construction of a searchable database for rock art in the eastern Trans-Pecos, which constitutes another important milestone achieved this past year. The database will bring together in one place for the first time rock art data gathered by CBBS staff and from both early and more recent efforts by other researchers. When finished, the database will provide researchers a powerful tool that will greatly enhance interpretive efforts.

Clockwise from top right: Neal Stilley creates an ember by producing friction between a stick and sotol stalk; Martha Latta describes edible desert plants; post-soccer practice, children get in some band practice, with mixed reviews; Sam Cason directs visitors as they measure and plot archaeological "artifacts" in a recreated dig. All photos by Aoram Dumitrescu.







# Learning by Living It

## *Archaeology Style*

John Seebach

**N**eal Stilley exhaled heavily as he pressed and twirled an upright stick into a notch he had cut into a sotol stalk. He kept the stick moving rapidly for two minutes, a task which, according to Stilley, is more laborious than it looks. His efforts finally produced a small red ember among the microscopic shavings, a product of friction between the two pieces of wood. He gently blew on the ember until it glowed, then he placed it among a loosely packed wad of cattail pollen. Within seconds, flames danced to life—prehistoric fire-making technology resurrected.

As part of the Texas Historical Commission's Archeology Awareness Month, and in conjunction with the Museum of the Big Bend, the CBBS sponsored the first ever Big Bend Archaeology Fair. Its purpose was to educate visitors about how prehistoric Native Americans made their living and how archaeologists learn about them. For instance, the fire-making technology reproduced by Stilley was used in Texas for thousands of years. Ancient examples of his wooden spindle and sotol fireboard have been found in many of the Big Bend and Lower Pecos regions' archaeological sites. Stilley takes great pains to construct his tools to the exact specifications used by prehistoric peoples.

CBBS rock art specialist Reeda Peel conceived of and organized the fair's presenters and activities. Held on October 11 on the campus of Sul Ross State University, Peel designed activities that would appeal to all ages.

Local ceramicist Pauline Hernandez taught hands-on ancient techniques of making and decorating pottery, and CBBS staff demonstrated stone boiling and the use of grinding stones to make acorn meal. Also, an exhibit of plants used by prehistoric Native Americans throughout the Big Bend was on display. These varied from food plants such as the mesquite bean and agarita berry to medicinal plants such as leatherstem, used for dental hygiene. The native plant exhibit was put together by CBBS student worker Debbie Ferris and native plant enthusiast and landscaper Martha Latta. Photographic and painted representations of Lower Pecos and Big Bend rock art by Peel and Texas Archeological Society member Curt Harrell were also on display.

CBBS project archaeologist Sam Cason assembled a detailed mock archaeological excavation so that visitors, especially children, could see what it is that archaeologists do when they dig at sites. Cason had recon-

*CBBS student worker Debbie Ferris demonstrates a bull roarer with the proper enthusiasm. Bull roarers are noisemakers that were used ceremonially by Indian groups such as the Apache.*



*Neal Stilley bravely assists children and adults who want to test their skills with the atlatl (top); children try their hand at grinding acorns with a mano and metate (above).*

structed a prehistoric living surface both inside and outside of a stone structure. Visitors were encouraged to take part in the “dig” by mapping artifacts and hearthstones, and most importantly, by trying to figure out what happened during occupation at the “site” by looking at the types of artifacts left behind and the relationships between them. Cason was trying to impress upon participants that archaeologists excavate in an exact manner so they can exhaustively document and study everything they uncover to learn about past behaviors.

Louisa Mayfield of the Museum of the Big Bend helped children to build teepees. She also had participants paint pebbles—a widespread and long-lived artistic practice dating back to at least four thousand years ago in the Lower Pecos region, and which was possibly contemporaneous in the Big Bend.

Children and adults both enjoyed a display of musical instruments and noisemakers. Drums and rasps—foot long sticks with grooves carved in that make noise when rubbed by another, ungrooved stick—were provided to try. Completing the ancient percussion section were deer tinklers, which make a clacking noise as dried deer hooves attached to a piece of leather hit each other. These would have traditionally been worn just under the knees to make noise while dancing. Neal Stilley also demonstrated the bull roarer, a flat piece of wood attached to a string that, when swung with exceptional force, makes a sound like roaring wind. One Apache bull roarer in a museum collection bears an image of the wind god.

One of the most popular activities was spear throwing using an atlatl. An atlatl is an approximately two foot-long piece of flat wood that is weighted and spurred at one end. The end of a long spear fits onto the spur, and when thrown, the device serves to lengthen the arm and multiply the force of the throw many times over that which could be achieved by throwing bare-handed. With practice, a spear thrown by an atlatl can be deadly accurate at very long range. Although it would probably not be advisable to rely too heavily on the hunting prowess or marksmanship of the day’s participants, fun was had by all.

1805 Spanish inventory of accounts for goods given to nomadic Indians (background); Eighteenth century brass serpent-patterned side plate from Indian trade musket. Photo by Robert J. Mallouf



# Historic Indians of the Big Bend

**B**y the time early Spanish missions were established (A.D. 1683–1715), many La Junta villagers had already been influenced by the mission and labor force systems. For example, as early as 1715, Indian women from La Junta villages were wearing blouses of fine white Rouen linen embroidered with silk, serge petticoats, silk rebozos, Cordovan leather shoes, and silk hose during occasional festivities. All the while, these villagers maintained a mutualistic relationship with the more nomadic groups who principally roamed outside of the La Junta region. But what is known about these nomadic tribes?

The Center for Big Bend Studies has recently renewed a focus on the villages of the La Junta region which contain Protohistoric and Historic Indian components. Previous investigations at Historic Indian sites in the Big Bend outside of this confined area are exceedingly rare compared to those in adjacent regions. In fact, historic Indian finds in the larger region are almost exclusively limited to isolated finds, and as a result, the existing interregional database is grossly inadequate. In recognition of this deficiency, the CBBS is hoping to initiate a systematic study of major demographic, technological, and socio-cultural aspects of the Historic nomads of the Big Bend.

Both the Protohistoric and Historic periods are unique in contrast to earlier prehistoric periods in that there is valuable ethnographic data related to many indigenous groups. Spanish documents indicate that from the sixteenth through eighteenth centuries, there were at least thirty-six nomadic groups within the eastern

Trans-Pecos region, including the Tobosos, Chisos, Sumas, and Jumanos. By the late 1600s, the Apaches were entering the Big Bend, and soon established a mutualistic relationship with the La Junta villagers. Shortly thereafter, Comanche Indian groups from the Southern Plains entered the Big Bend, pushing the Apaches aside and conducting raiding forays that reached deep into the northern frontier of New Spain. By the turn of the nineteenth century, most of the groups present before the Apache and Comanche intrusions were displaced, exterminated, or assimilated by the Spanish or by the intruding populations. As a result, only the “new kids on the block”—the Apache and Comanche—had a profound presence in the eastern Trans-Pecos region during the nineteenth century.

While the Comanche and other Plains tribes used the region more as a corridor for seasonal raids that emanated on the Southern Plains and extended into Mexico, Mescalero Apaches actually resided within the rugged and mountainous areas that typify the region, from the Big Bend to south-central New Mexico. The acquisition of the horse dramatically changed nomadic lifeways in the Big Bend and, because of the horse, the range of exploitation expanded greatly. Isolated Spanish and Mexican haciendas became prime targets where a suite of European goods could be acquired. Horses became currency and could be traded for firearms, items of adornment, culinary ware, and textiles. Consequently, raiding became an important part of the subsistence strategy, while the horse became central to nomadic Indian culture.

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# Mallouf Retires After 13 Years with CBBS



*Robert J. Mallouf excavating in Goat Cave in the Davis Mountains in 1990. His interest in the Big Bend began long before taking the CBBS directorship in 1995.*

**R**etirement for Robert J. Mallouf merely means shifting priorities. Mallouf, director of the Center for Big Bend Studies at Sul Ross State University since 1995, stepped down from his position on August 31, 2008.

Mallouf has spent over thirty-six years in the archaeological field with the State of Texas, including nearly a quarter-century with the Office of the State Archeologist, Texas Historical Commission. Prior to coming to Sul Ross and the CBBS, he worked progressively as field archaeologist, survey archaeologist, director of the Department of Archeological Surveys, director of Archeological Surveys and Research, Assistant State Archeologist and State Archeologist.

At Sul Ross, he succeeded Dr. Earl Elam as director of the CBBS. In thirteen years, he built a program with a \$15,000 budget and part-time secretary to a staff of seventeen with a \$700,000 budget (including a \$200,000 state budget).

"What I set out to do was to build an archaeology program and to preserve the history portion of the Center that Earl had started," he said. "When I applied for this position (after Elam's

retirement), I felt that Sul Ross was the perfect place. This region is a major natural laboratory and it was one of my favorite areas to do research."

A native of Brownwood, Texas, Mallouf attended Howard Payne University, then transferred to the University of Texas at Austin, where he received a B.A. in anthropology in 1970. He also studied at the University of California at Berkeley and the American University of Cairo, Egypt, as a scholarship recipient, and received an M.A. in anthropology from the University of Texas at Austin in 1985.

Mallouf has divided his time teaching, excavating, administrating and fund-raising since coming to Sul Ross. He helped establish the Friends of the Center for Big Bend Studies, which has attracted several million dollars in grants and private donations. The CBBS expansion has allowed them to do contractual archaeology as well, including a major project in Big Bend National Park.

"It's a good time for me to pass this (directorship) on to someone younger," said Mallouf, noting that long-time associate Andy Cloud is his successor. "We are four years into a five-year research program (the Trans Pecos Archaeological Program) and I am confident we will be able to obtain another five years."

"This university is perfectly situated for an archaeological research program, and it offers potential in other areas as well."

Mallouf has returned to work part time for the Center to write at least two books on his past research.

"Getting to work in an area that I love and building a program at a small university has been fun. I have enjoyed it," he said. "I think the program has a future and I think we have the people to make it happen."

## Cloud Named as New Director

**W**illiam A. "Andy" Cloud, a native Texan with thirty years of experience in Texas archaeology, took over as director of the Center for Big Bend Studies on September 1, 2008. Beginning his tenure with the CBBS in September 1995, he progressed from staff archaeologist to senior project archaeologist. His knowledge of both the Center and the Big Bend region will ensure a smooth transition of leadership.

Andy graduated from the University of Texas at Austin with an M.A. in anthropology. He has been captivated by archaeology since explor-

ing a rockshelter in the Guadalupe Mountains when he was eleven years old. His research interests in the Big Bend region include projectile point typologies, lithic studies, settlement systems, and adaptive behaviors.

He will continue on the track Bob Mallouf began, working with landowners on private land and with local, state, and federal land managers on public land to unlock the mysteries of the Big Bend's rich archaeology and history and share those findings with both the scientific community and members of the public.



## Special thanks to 2008 Contributors:

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# Thank You!

The Center for Big Bend studies is grateful for the unflagging support from the many individuals and organizations who recognize the importance and potential of historical and archaeological research in the Big Bend and northern Mexico. Every donation is applied to further the goals of the Center's mission to recover, protect, and share the region's rich cultural legacy.

Everyone is encouraged to consider supporting the CBBS through membership, and a special lifetime membership has been developed that allows those interested to further support CBBS efforts.

By contributing to the CBBS endowment fund through a lifetime membership, you are providing the support necessary for the Center to continue its unique work in discovery and documentation of West Texas history and culture. Benefits of membership include complimentary copies of the *Journal of Big Bend Studies* and *La Vista de la Frontera* newsletter, a 50 percent discount on other publications, free conference registration for you and a guest, and more. Contact Susan Chisholm at 432/837-8179 or [cbbs@sulross.edu](mailto:cbbs@sulross.edu) for more details, or fill out the form on page 15.

## Lifetime Members:

Richard Bartlett  
Jed Becker  
Harold Courson  
Dick and Janie DeGuerin  
Carol Edwards  
Glen Ely  
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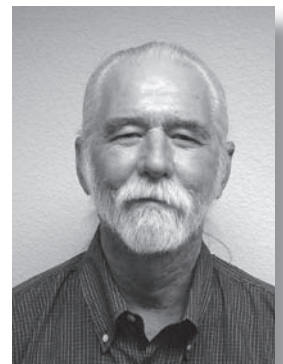
## New CBBS Staff

### Roger Boren *Archaeologist*

Roger is a magna cum laude and honors program graduate of Southwest Texas State University in San Marcos, Texas. He began participating in archaeological field research with the Center for Big Bend Studies in 2001 and he assumed a staff position with the Center in 2006. In the fall of 2006, Roger was the field director for a project which recorded a major, new rock art complex in central Brewster County. He has recently completed a manuscript on the rock art at San Esteban Rockshelter in Presidio County. Among various additional projects, he is currently the field director for archaeological excavations at an Early Archaic open campsite along Alamito Creek in Presidio County.

### Samuel Cason *Project Archaeologist*

Samuel S. Cason received a B.A. from the University of Colorado in anthropology and an M.A. in anthropology from Colorado State University. He has worked as a professional archaeologist since 1997 in far-west Texas and the Rocky Mountain region while maintaining research interests in the Trans-Pecos and now holds the position of project archaeologist with the Center for Big Bend Studies. Sam is currently engaged in the analysis of materials recovered from Tranquil Rockshelter. His primary research interests are concerned with diversity in hunter-gatherer lifeways and the integration of Geographic Information Systems (GIS) into archaeological investigations. Sam has contributed to many CBBS investigations since 1998.





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### Mission

The Center for Big Bend Studies fosters interdisciplinary scholarship of the diverse prehistoric, historic, and modern cultures of the borderlands region of the United States and Mexico, with emphasis on the area encompassed by Trans-Pecos Texas and north-central Mexico. The Center is committed to the recovery, protection, and sharing of this region's rich cultural legacy through dynamic programs involving research, education, public outreach, and publication.

Volume 20, Winter 2009  
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New Occasional Paper!

# Dust, Smoke, & Tracks

Two Accounts of Nineteenth-Century Mexican Military Expeditions to Northern Coahuila and Chihuahua

Colonel Emilio Langberg 1851

Major Blas Flores 1880–1881

Edited by Solveig A. Turpin and Herbert H. Eling, Jr.

Translated by Noemí Galván Eling

In 1851, **Colonel Emilio Langberg**, an expatriate Dane in the Mexican army, led an expedition from San Carlos to Monclova Viejo in order to measure distances between nodes on the Chihuahua-Coahuila trail and to assess the readiness of border defenses against intruders from the north.

Thirty years later, **Major Blas María Flores** participated in two three-pronged military expeditions against the Apaches that he describes in a document he presented to the Mexican government as part of an overall plan for colonizing the northern desert. His discussions of the various Indian groups compare linguistics, appearance, clothing, customs, and kinship.

Almost 150 years later, **Turpin and Eling** followed the routes laid out by Langberg and Flores, looking for traces of the expeditions and camping at the way points named in their texts.

Also included in this volume is a short description of a visit to Presidio San Vicente by **Luis Alberto Guajardo** in 1897 which provides previously unpublished information on features of this important fort which were subsequently totally destroyed.

Order this volume by checking under the Occasional Papers Series on the facing page.

*Historic Indian research, cont. from page 11*

Historic Indian artifacts are often not recognized as such. These include barrel band scraps and other metal debitage created during manufacture of metal tools such as knives and arrow points, telegraph wire used for bracelets, tie wire used to bind structures, wire nails used for manufacturing needles and awls, and tin cans used for containers or as raw materials for the manufacture of cone tinklers.

The material culture from both the Apache and Comanche groups is quite similar because of the high degree of mobility and attendant lifeways of each group coupled with access to the same kinds of European goods. Common items include metal arrow points, lance blades, and metal tinklers, drilled or punched coins, wire bracelets, bridle assembly components, worked glass, and glass beads. Artifacts that have the potential to be "tribal diagnostics" are rare given that, during this time, many of the possessions of both groups were obtained from common origins—the Spanish, English, or French, and later the Mexicans and Americans. Accordingly, confidently tying ethnicity to material culture is an extremely difficult task.

Technological changes in Native culture between initial Spanish contact and the latter part of the nineteenth century was rapid and many of these changes can be traced in the material culture found not only in occupational sites, but at battle sites, burial sites, cache sites, and rock imagery sites as well. The CBBS will continue its research of Historic Indians, which promises to yield new insights into the lifeways of these people. —Richard Walter

# CBBS Store: books and gear

## New TAP Book: The Millington Site

*Papers of the Trans-Pecos Archaeological Program, Number 4*

William A. Cloud and Jennifer C. Piehl



**THE MILLINGTON SITE**  
Archaeological and Human Osteological Investigations  
Presidio County, Texas

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Texas Antiquities Permit Nos. 4094 and 4091

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Alpine, Texas 79832

Papers of the Trans-Pecos Archaeological Program, No. 4

After inadvertent damages from a city backhoe uncovered several human interments at the Millington site in Presidio, Texas, the Center for Big Bend Studies research team conducted a month-long survey and excavation. The site is an important village of the La Junta archaeological district that was occupied for hundreds of years. The team documented fourteen features and five burials, and collected 314 artifacts from the surface that include a wide range of ceramic sherds and a few cupreous Spanish metal items.

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# Have an interesting point to share?

## JBBS Call for Papers 2009

The *Journal of Big Bend Studies* is accepting papers of ten to fifty pages for publication in fall 2009. Any topic relating to the history, archaeology, or culture of the Big Bend region of Texas or north-central Mexico is welcome, and graphics are strongly encouraged.

View abstracts for the current and past journals on our website under "Publications" ([www.sulross.edu/cbbs/](http://www.sulross.edu/cbbs/)). For questions or submission guidelines, write Erin Caro Aguayo at [ecaro@sulross.edu](mailto:ecaro@sulross.edu), or call 432/837-8834.

**Deadline: May 15, 2009**



*Metal arrow points from Sterling County, Texas. James Davis Collection. Photo by Robert J. Mallouf.*



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