

THE CHRONICLE

The Official Newsletter of the Highlands Ranch Historical Society

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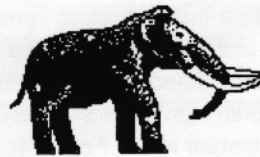
MAMMOTHS, SLOTHS, AND CAMELS ROAMED HIGHLANDS RANCH

On Saturday, July 6th, 1996, members of the Highlands Ranch Historical Society were invited to view a northeastern Douglas County archeological site associated with a natural spring. The site, located amid private property, is administered by the Colorado Historical Society, and reveals the remains of bison, camel, horse, llama, mammoth, sloth, a wolf-sized canid, and several other mammals, mostly rodents. Most importantly, also found at the site were human artifacts which may prove that man was in the Americas earlier than scientists previously thought.

Between 13,000 and 11,000 years ago, ice-age peoples from Siberia had established settlements in a cold, harsh land that would one day become Alaska. They moved down the North American continent into Colorado probably through an ice-free corridor between two large ice sheets (the Cordilleran ice sheet along the coast, and the Laurentide ice mass). These Paleo-Indian peoples hunted game such as mammoths, horses, camels, and bison.

In Colorado, occupation sites reveal that ice-age man had resided here between 11,500 and 11,000 years ago. They made flint-knapped spearpoints that were fluted at the base for fitting into wooden shafts. These distinctive spearpoints are named Clovis points (for a site near Clovis, New Mexico), and those who made them are known as Clovis people.

In 1960, a natural spring was being widened by a rancher in northeast Douglas County to develop a stock pond. The spring had been ringed by cattails and formed a pool some 20 feet wide and 75 feet long. The rancher observed bone fragments in a dragline bucket. Dr. G. Edward Lewis of the U.S. Geological Survey in Denver identified the bone fragments



as those of Pleistocene mammals. Even before archeological excavations began, a mammoth tusk and several bone fragments were visible on the banks of the spring and just below the water's edge. During the summer of 1960, while doing hand auger tests, Dr. Wedel and Glenn Scott, a geologist for the USGS, found several worked flint chips that suggested that humans had been at the site in the late Pleistocene Ice Age.

Excavations were undertaken in 1961 and 1962 under the direction of Dr. C. L. Gazin, Curator of Vertebrate Paleontology, and Dr. Waldo R. Wedel, Curator of Archeology, from the Smithsonian Institution. Dr. Wedel and his field assistant, George Metcalf, carried out the actual excavations. The team found bones of at least five mammoths. Radiocarbon tests run by Dr. Wedel on bone fragments found nearly six feet below the surface yields dating of just over 13,000 years before the present era.

A later excavation in 1980 and 1981 by Dr. Dennis Stanford, an archeologist with the Smithsonian, found evidence that people may have butchered Ice Age mammoths at the site. The bones they found reveal that a total of at least 24 mammoths died next to the spring. In 1979, Dr. Stanford supervised excavations on the Colorado plains at a location known as the Dutton Site. He said that at Dutton and another Colorado Plains location, the Selby Site, hunters apparently hacked off the heads, tails, and feet of the animals they killed, probably to pull the bodies away to butcher at their campsites. It may explain why so many skulls and foot bones are found compared with other parts. But are these altered bones proof that man was on the Colorado plains thousands of years before Clovis? Dr. Stanford said, "Certainly

Mammoths FROM PAGE 1

they are a strong indication, but not an airtight case."

The excavations of 1961 and 1962 also found several projectile points, a knife, a scraper, a flake cutting implement, and several stone flakes, all associated with bison remains in a dark-gray sandy clay filling a fossil stream channel. These artifacts belong to what archeologists call the Cody complex and date between 9,000 and 8,500 years ago. By 8,000 years ago, people began to rely more on plants, seeds, and smaller animals, ushering in the Archaic complex. Archaic and more recent tools also have been found at the site.

The Archeological Conservancy purchased the 35 acres that contain the spring site. The purchase was accomplished with help from the Highlands Ranch Foundation, the Denver Museum of Natural History, the Smithsonian Institution, the Colorado State Historical Fund, the Douglas County Open Space Fund, the Boettcher Foundation, the Gates Foundation, Tyrox Land Investment Company, the Greenlee Family Foundation, and the Ruth Vernon Taylor Foundation, as well as hundreds of individual donors.

The Douglas County archeological site contains significant data critical to the debate on the timing and nature of the human migration into the North American continent. The site's regional significance rests in its ability to continue to provide new and valuable scientific evidence important to understanding the late Paleo-Indian occupation of the Colorado Plains. But its national significance largely rests in its ability to address the question of pre-Clovis occupation in the Americas.

Governor's Mansion Twilight Tours



WALTER SCOTT CHEESMAN

On Tuesday, June 25, several members and guests of your Highlands Ranch Historical Society took the Governor's Mansion Twilight Tour. The half-hour tours start at five-minute intervals from Noon to 2:00 p.m. and 5:00 to 7:00 p.m. Admission is free but is on a first-come, first-served basis, so arrive early. Upcoming tours for the remainder of the year are on Tuesdays through August.

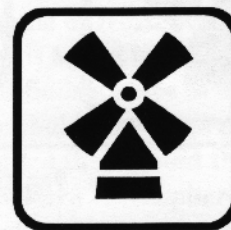
A 64-page booklet, *Queen of the Hill*, is available at the mansion for \$4.00. It was written by two members of the Colorado Historical Society, Jean Walton Smith and Elaine Colvin Walsh, and is well worth the minimal price of publication. For example,

page 11 tells that "The property [Mr. Cheesman] purchased on Logan Street had not always commanded such a panorama of the mountains. For a number of years a three storied structure across the street, the Home of the Ladies Relief Society of Denver, had obliterated the view. From the time of its construction it had been an object of public ridicule and was considered the "ugliest building in Denver. . . . The building was intolerable to John F. Campion, one of Colorado's wealthiest entrepreneurs, whose mansion was under construction nearby. Therefore, because the Home blocked his view of the mountains and he thought it unsightly, he purchased the property and leveled the edifice. Building sites in the neighborhood immediately doubled in value."

As Smith and Walsh tell us in their introduction, "Today the great double doors are open to all who wish to tour the State Rooms of the Mansion"

The Governor's Mansion is located at 400 E. 8th Avenue (at Logan) in Denver. Parking is across the street on the southwest corner of Logan and 8th Avenue. For further information, call (303) 866-3682.

Highlands Ranch Historical Society



President: Donna Rood
Vice President: Elaine Frasher
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Secretary: Pam Cress
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Editor/Publisher: Dick Oakes

The Highlands Ranch Historical Society incorporated in 1991 as a nonprofit, tax exempt organization to bring together those people interested in the history of Highlands Ranch. We are involved in many projects, including collecting artifacts, photographs, oral histories, and biographies; researching and documenting land grants of original homesteaders; compiling site surveys of historical home locations in our area; conducting tours of the historic Highlands Ranch mansion; and making presentations to schools and to the community.

Please join us at 7:00 p.m. on the last Wednesday of the month at the Library Conference Room, 48 W. Springer Drive, Highlands Ranch. Call ahead to confirm.

For more information about the Highlands Ranch Historical Society, please call (303) 791-3438.

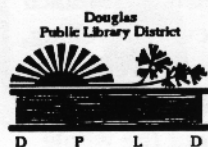
Membership in the Highlands Ranch Historical Society is available to interested individuals, families, and corporations.

Individual: \$15.00
Senior: \$10.00
Family: \$20.00
Corporate: \$50.00

Mail your tax-deductible check today to:

Highlands Ranch Historical Society
520 Fox Hunt Circle
Highlands Ranch, CO 80126

Informative Booklets Available at DPLD's Philip S. Miller Library in Castle Rock



There are several booklets available as a service of the Local History Collection at the Douglas Public Library District's Philip S. Miller Library in Castle Rock. The booklets were compiled by the collection archivist, Johanna Harden. To obtain one or more of the titles, you must make an appointment during normal library hours at the library Reference Desk, or by calling the library Conservation Specialist. The library is located at 961 South Plum Creek Blvd., Castle Rock, CO 80104. Telephone is (303) 688-4875; fax is (303) 688-1942.

Care of Personal Papers and Photographs. This informative booklet includes a glossary of selected preservation terms and several articles on the preservation of books, papers, photographs, and other items in your collection. Article titles include: "Preserving Archival Materials for the Next 100 Years," "Surface Cleaning Paper," "How to Flatten Folded or Rolled Paper Documents," "Encapsulation" (a process for protecting the pages of books and pamphlets between chemically inactive plastic), "Caring for Photographs," "Tips for Proper Negative Storage," "Book Bugs in Colorado," and "Preserving Your Scrapbook of Memorabilia." Also included is a list of conservation resources in Colorado.

Introduction to the Local History Collection and Reference Materials of Douglas County, Colorado. Includes materials in circulating collection, bibliography, reference materials, local history collection materials, and uses of the collection."

It's Your Memory. It's Our History. It's Worth Saving. An introductory bibliography for and about historic preservation, conservation, restoration, and history. Sections include information about antiques and artifacts, archeology, architecture, barns, cemeteries, churches, clothing, geology, landscaping, and railroads. Other sections cover historical societies, Colorado history, local history, natural history, Western history, museums and archives, oral histories, photography and photographers, preservation and conservation, researching and writing, schools and teachers, stage and wagon travel, and surveys.

Local History, Local Authors, and Not So Local Authors. A selected bibliography that acknowledges writers who record our history and that serves as a guide for exploring and preserving our history.

Preserving Paper Items and Photographs. A selected bibliography for the care and management of photographic images, records, and documents. Sections include collection management, preservation and conservation, writing and researching, and photography.

Rehabilitating, Renovating, Restoring Historic Sites & Buildings. A selected bibliography covering restoration, rehabilitation, and renovation of architecture, barns and out-buildings, churches, fences, retaining walls, stone walls, historic sites, landscaping for historical buildings, trim, millwork, and interior finishes. Also included is a section on researching buildings and their history, and a section of materials from the Colorado Historical Society.

Research Resources & Organizations for Archaeology, Genealogy, History. A selected bibliography of archaeological, genealogical, and historical resources for Douglas County and the Divide area of Colorado.

Stop! Look! & Listen! A selected bibliography of history and resources of narrow, standard, and model railroads. Covered are engines and locomotives, accidents and wrecks, cog roads, depots, safety and hazards, streetcars and trolleys, tramps, cabooses, and model railroads. Other areas include collectibles, videos, travel and excursion, history, maps, and research resources.

Upcoming Events

August 6, Tuesday

Governor's Mansion Tour, 400 E. 8th Ave., Denver. (303) 866-3682.

August 9-11, Friday through Sunday

Romance of the West Weekend, Denver. Reservations required, and a fee is charged. (303) 640-7710

August 11, Sunday

Shake, Rattle & Roll: The 1950s exhibit closes, Colorado History Museum. (303) 866-56299

August 13, Tuesday

Governor's Mansion Tour, 400 E. 8th Ave., Denver. (303) 866-3682.

August 20, Tuesday

Governor's Mansion Tour, 400 E. 8th Ave., Denver. (303) 866-3682.

August 21, Wednesday

Denver's Historic Parks and Parkways is the subject of a slide show, talk, City Park Pavilion lunch, and bus tour conducted by Colorado Historical Society's Stan Oliner, Carolyn Etter, and Paul Foster. Reservations required and a fee is charged. (303) 866-4686.

August 27, Tuesday (Last Day)

Governor's Mansion Tour, 400 E. 8th Ave., Denver. (303) 866-3682.

September 2, Monday

Lebanon Silver Mine and Healy House & Dexter Cabin close.

September 15, Sunday

The Real West exhibit and *Buffalo Soldiers of the West* exhibits close.

September 17, Tuesday

Annual Lecture Series, Colorado History Museum. First up, *Colorado's Pioneering Spirit, from Kit Carson to Today's Astronauts*, by Dr. Jerry Brown of the U.S. Space Foundation. Reservations required and a fee is charged. (303) 866-4686

September 18, Wednesday

Organic Fair, Four Mile Historic Park, 715 S. Forest St., Denver. (303) 399-1859

September 22, Sunday

Artists of America exhibit and sale of 80 painters and sculptors, Colorado History Museum. (303) 893-5454.

Preserving Our Heritage

The Parker Area Historical Society successfully raised \$8,000 to move the Tallman/Newlin House, a log cabin on a homestead settled by John M. Tallman, a rancher and early clerk and recorder of Douglas County. PAHS President Karen Kievit, a professional archeologist, was instrumental in saving the historical structure for relocation and restoration.

Join Us!

We need your support. Pick up a membership form for the Highlands Ranch Historical Society at the Highlands Ranch Library. Fill out the coupon and send it in. Thanks!

Ads of Yesteryear



The name of Hostetter's Stomach Bitters is heard in every dwelling, it finds a place in every household, and its praises are sounded throughout the whole Western Hemisphere, as a general invigorant, a cure for sick headache, a specific for flatulency and sour stomach, an appetizing stomachic, an excellent blood depurent and certain remedy for intermittent fever and kindred diseases.

For sale by all Druggists and Dealers generally.

HIGHLANDS RANCH HISTORICAL SOCIETY: PRESERVING OUR PAST FOR THE FUTURE



Highlands Ranch Historical Society
520 Fox Hunt Circle
Highlands Ranch, CO 80126

