

# La Vista de la Frontera



Newsletter of the Center for Big Bend Studies  
Sul Ross State University

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT

Dear Reader:

Welcome to this issue of *La Vista de la Frontera*. I am honored to share information about the many activities of the Center for Big Bend Studies which contribute to the goals and mission of Sul Ross State University. This is an exciting time for the Center. The opportunities to expand existing programs and for new projects and achievements are great.

We recently reorganized the cultural resources area of the University by placing the Museum of the Big Bend under the administrative direction of the Center. This aligns two important educational and cultural resources bringing greater purpose and efficiency. The Center and the Museum are deeply involved in the study and preservation of the culture and heritage of the Big Bend region. Thus, it is a natural marriage that will benefit both, and enhance the University's role in achieving its goals in all areas of education, research, and service, especially as they relate to the vast Big Bend region.

The support we receive from the Texas Legislature in the form of appropriations has greatly increased in each of the last three legislative sessions. Thanks to the efforts of our State Representative, Pete P. Gallego, the Center and the Archives have received a boost in financial resources that provides unprecedented opportunities to expand programs and activities in achieving their respective and collective goals.

Other opportunities come from grant and contract work through the efforts of Center Director Robert Mallouf. We are now planning for new office, storage, and work space for the Center. Additional facilities and staff will further expand opportunities for all aspects of the Center's work.

I invite you to continue to share in our excitement for the expansion of programs and activities for the Center. Your support will be an essential component of our ongoing efforts to preserve the magnificent culture and heritage of the vast Big Bend region of Texas and Mexico.

Sincerely,

R. Vic Morgan  
President, Sul Ross State University

## EXCITING TIMES FOR ANTHROPOLOGISTS AND DOG OWNERS

New discoveries in the field of anthropology and related disciplines are causing quite a stir among scholars, as long-standing theories concerning human evolution, the origins of agriculture, and the peopling of the Western Hemisphere are once again subjected to scrutiny. New technologies continue to enhance our ability to reconstruct the past.

For example, Dr. Bruce D. Smith of the Smithsonian Institution has recently announced his discovery of 10,000-year-old domesticated corn in hunter-gatherer deposits from southern Mexico—a full 4,000 years earlier than previous studies had indicated. The Mexican dates coincide with known beginnings of agriculture in the Middle East and in China, indicating that major advances in human civilization have occurred simultaneously among widely separated peoples around the world. And this is just for openers.

Spanish paleontologists and anthropologists are claiming to have found the oldest known European, *Homo antecessor*, at a site named La Sima de los Huesos in north-central Spain.

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Along with this 700,000-year-old find, a shaft in the deepest recesses of Atapuerca Cavern has thus far yielded the remains of 32 men and women, termed *Homo heidelbergensis*, that date to around 300,000 years ago. These ancient Atapuercans had large noses and brows like Neanderthals, but were taller. Scientists believe their remains were dropped into the shaft after having been served-up for supper by their fellow Atapuercans.

A recent discovery along the Columbia River in the state of Washington is also lifting eyebrows. This involves the 8,400-year-old skeletal remains of an individual who has been tagged the Kennewick Man. This well-preserved skeleton of an adult male has a very early style of stone dart point (Cascade) embedded in his pelvis. Surprisingly, examination of the bone material by physical anthropologists has led to the conclusion that this early inhabitant of the New World had Caucasoid rather than Mongoloid physical traits, only the latter being typical of Native Americans. When quizzed by the media as to the significance of this finding, physical anthropologists responded by revealing that most of the earliest known burials from North America exhibit Caucasoid traits—a fact not generally known. It was noted that Kennewick Man could be walking the streets of Stockholm today, and one anthropologist went so far as to say that his facial characteristics were strongly reminiscent of Patrick Stewart (*Star Trek's* Jean-Luc Picard). The future of these controversial remains are currently in question, with Native American groups demanding a cessation of scientific studies and immediate reburial of their “ancestor,” and scientists pleading the case for continued study. Hence the problem!

For those interested in the role of women in warfare, 2,000-year-old burial mounds on the steppes of Central Asia in Russia are yielding the remains of what are believed to be female warriors. The grave mounds, left by nomadic tribes who roamed the region from 600 to 200 B.C., are full of bronze arrowheads, daggers, and swords. The swords have small handles, indicating they were actually used by the women whose remains are also in the graves. Of interest is the fact that Herodotus described a tribe of fierce female warriors in his

travels north of the Black Sea around 450 B.C., descriptions that helped give rise to the mythical female warriors called the Amazons.

Scientists at Australia's La Trobe University say they have developed a more accurate method of dating prehistoric rock paintings—by studying sand grains preserved in wasp nests stuck to the paintings. The technique, which involves the measurement of radiation levels of quartz grains, was recently used to date a 17,000-year-old rock painting in the Kimberly region of Australia.

Finally, a new study reported in the journal *Science* indicates that ancient humans began domesticating dogs perhaps as early as 135,000 years ago. Bred from wild wolves, DNA characteristics of modern dogs reveal that they have been around at least since the age of the Neanderthals, or 10 times earlier than the oldest known fossil evidence of dogs in unquestionable association with humans. Accurate or not, it is still maintained that dogs were domesticated long before cats, which can claim barely 7,000 years.

And how does all of this pertain to the Trans-Pecos and north-central Mexico borderlands? Certainly, this region has a wealth of rock art in need of dating and interpretation, and both corn and dog remains show up in the region's prehistoric archeological sites. Sites considerably older than 8,400 years are known from the Trans-Pecos, and we can even boast of female warriors—at least among the nineteenth century Apache. In addition, the same technological advances in dating and other aspects of analysis that have been applied in the discoveries described above are available to researchers in the Big Bend as well. The goals of anthropology cross-cut geographic regions and cultures, and the Borderlands, like other regions of the world, have the potential of contributing in a substantive way to a holistic understanding of our human past. Will the next major discovery come from the Big Bend? No one can predict, but armed with the latest techniques of analysis, we have as good a chance as anyone else.

R. J. Mallouf  
Director, Center for Big Bend Studies

## APPRECIATION EXTENDED TO REP. PETE GALLEGO

The Center for Big Bend Studies has received a significant increase in funding for fiscal years 1998-1999 thanks to the heroic efforts of Representative Pete P. Gallego (D-Alpine). Representative Gallego not only expresses a strong interest in preservation and interpretation of the Big Bend's cultural legacy, but occasionally takes time out of his busy schedule for a first-hand look at archeological and historical sites of the region. His concern for the “future of the past” is reflected in his demonstrated strong support for the Center. All of us here at the Center say, “**Thank you, Pete!**”



## PUBLICATION UPDATE

An index of the first 8 volumes of the *Journal of Big Bend Studies* will be ready for distribution in the fall. Prepared by Gerald G. Raun, the index is primarily a guide to the proper names and places found in the *Journal*. The book will feature an index to all of the articles (by both author and title), a general index, and an index to all of the illustrations found in the first 8 volumes.

# FOUR PAINTED PEBBLES FROM JACAL (HARKELL) CANYON IN THE MCNUTT COLLECTION

by *Francisco A. García*

As the Museum of the Big Bend settles into its new quarters in Lawrence Hall, we are provided the opportunity to examine some of the objects in the collections which have been part of permanent exhibits in the old museum facility, and some “buried treasures” from museum collections which have not been displayed before. In this issue of *La Vista de la Frontera*, we take a look at four painted pebbles from a rockshelter in a tributary canyon to the Pecos River in Val Verde County, Texas. The pebbles are part of the McNutt Collection, which was donated to the museum on July 1, 1930, by E. F. McNutt and Guy Skiles of Langtry, Texas. McNutt also donated a large quantity of aboriginal artifacts to the Witte Museum in San Antonio, Texas, at about the same time. These particular pebbles have been on display in the Museum of the Big Bend since 1969. The specific site from which these pebbles came is unknown at this time.

## PAINTED PEBBLES IN THE LOWER PECOS

The Lower Pecos archeological region of Texas and northern Mexico extends roughly 50 miles to the west, north, and east of the confluence of the Pecos River with the Rio Grande. The extent of the region south into Mexico has not been determined, but sites with clear affiliation have been reported as far as 90 miles into Coahuila at Arroyo de la Babia to the southwest of the Serranías del Burro (Turpin 1991; see

map). This rough boundary is based on the occurrence of Pecos River Style pictographs, which are large polychrome wall paintings depicting stylized human and animal figures, as well as abstract geometric motifs (see Kirkland and Newcomb 1967; available at the Museum’s gift shop).

Painted pebbles are a common artifact in the Lower Pecos, and have been found throughout the entire chronological sequence, from as early as ca. 8500 B.P. to ca. 600 B.P.; even at less well-protected sites such as Arenosa Shelter (Dibble 1967) and open sites like the Devil’s Mouth Site (Johnson 1962). They have been less frequently reported in the Big Bend, but this may be due more to the lack of scientific excavation than to actual absence of the artifacts from the material culture. Coffin (1932:Plate IX) illustrates five painted pebbles from a large rockshelter in Bee Cave Canyon in the Chalk Mountains in southern Brewster County. These pebbles are similar to pebbles from the Lower Pecos, but the extent of the relationship between the Lower Pecos and the Big Bend remains uncertain.

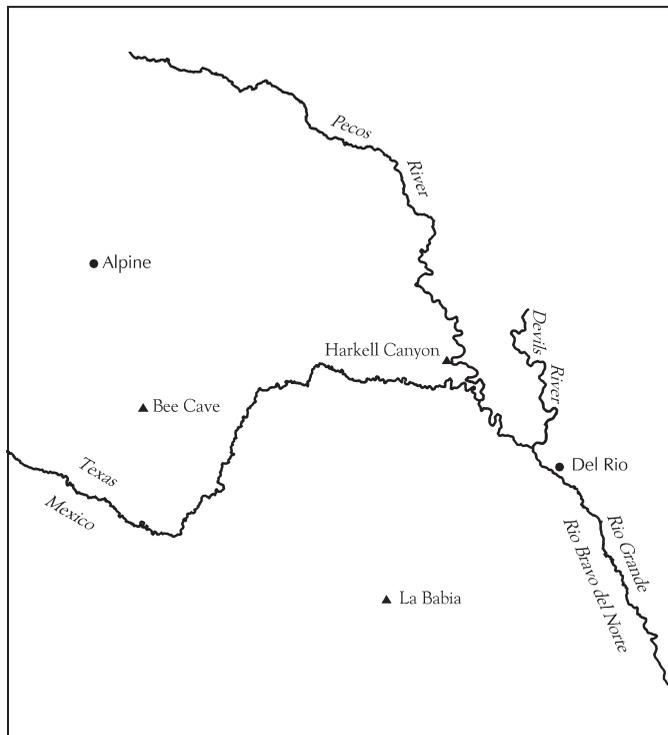
The function of painted pebbles is not known. They may have served as visual props for storytelling, as markers for divination or other rituals, or for some other purpose entirely. At least one researcher has argued that they might be associated with menstrual taboo (Shafer 1986:167). They have frequently been found in trash heaps (middens), sometimes with edge-bashing indicating that they were used as hammerstones in stone tool manufacture. This suggests that if they were involved with sacred rituals that they might have lost their sacredness after use, or perhaps after the person with whom they were associated had died. They have not, however, been found in burials, and all of these possible uses are only speculations.

In the 1960s Mark Parsons, then a student at the University of Texas at Austin, worked out a stylistic typology of painted pebbles from several sites in the Lower Pecos. Parsons has not had the opportunity to present his findings in detail, and archeological evidence to tie his styles to the chronological sequence has been slow in coming. The pebbles in the museum collection do fall within the range of characteristics described by Parsons (see below), but assigning a date to these artifacts is not really possible at this time.

## DESCRIPTION OF THE PAINTED PEBBLES

The pebbles in the collection are numbered 1381 to 1384 (see photo). They are all limestone, and are smooth, presumably having been collected from a stream bed before being painted, but this is not certain. All designs are in black; specimens 1381 and 1383 have a red stain on one edge which may be very faded paint or a natural discoloration of the stone. The black design is superimposed upon the red in each case. The designs are mostly typical of Parsons’ Style 2 (1381, 1383, and 1384), in which the central motif is circular or rectangular with linear or





spatulate elements radiating out from it (Parsons 1986:181). Style 2 generally has one to three lines bisecting the stone along the long axis, flanked by crescent-shaped lines perpendicular to the long axis. Specimen 1382 also falls into this range, but the curved elements at the top (as illustrated) of the stone may qualify as the “chevrons” that distinguish Style 3 from Style 2. Interestingly, these very stones may have been part of Parsons’ original research sample, as specimen 1384, or its twin, is illustrated in a line drawing as an example of his Style 2 (Parsons 1986:182). Parsons does not list the provenience of his examples, however, and the museum has no official record of him studying these (Karen Green, personal communication).

## SUMMARY

The painted pebbles in the McNutt Collection of the Museum of the Big Bend are remains of a cultural tradition that spanned thousands of years in southwest Texas and northern Mexico. Further research may reveal examples of a similar tradition in the Big Bend region, which has been scrutinized less carefully than the Lower Pecos. As the Center for Big Bend Studies continues to sponsor historical and archeological studies in the Big Bend, the nature of prehistoric cultures in the Big Bend will be better understood.

## President of the Municipio Manuel Benavides Speaks at Behavioral and Social Science Colloquium

Professor Hector Villa Moreno, President of the Municipio Manuel Benavides in the State of Chihuahua, addressed Sul Ross students and faculty, as well as interested Big Bend residents, in the last lecture of the Department of Behavioral and Social Sciences’ Spring colloquium.

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Professor Villa Moreno, who was accompanied by other governmental leaders of the *municipio*, explained the *municipio* as a unit of local government in Mexican politics. He and his administrative team also profiled the history of the Municipio Manuel Benavides and spoke on their economic development initiatives in the *municipio*. Professor Villa Moreno’s lecture was the first in the Department of Behavioral and Social Sciences’ efforts to bring local governmental leaders from Mexico to Sul Ross State University to address economic, social, and political issues from the Mexican perspective.



The Center for Big Bend Studies is now accepting papers to be given at the 4<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference, November 14-15, 1997. Presentations should focus on 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.

Papers accepted for presentation will be considered for publication in the *Journal of Big Bend Studies*, Volume X.

Please submit an abstract of 200 words or less by October 1, 1997.

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#### INVESTIGATIONS CONTINUE AT THE DOUGLAS GALE SITE IN ALPINE

The CBBS has been conducting intermittent archeological investigations at the Douglas Gale site within the city limits of Alpine, Texas. This prehistoric campsite was occupied repeatedly by small bands of hunter-gatherers from about 1000 B.C. to as late as A.D. 1500, and there is minor evidence of even older habitation. Mr. Gale, owner of the property, has graciously allowed the university access to the site for purposes of research and teaching. A large private collection of artifacts from the site are currently under analysis by students and professional staff, and mapping and controlled test excavations were initiated during 1996. The goals of fieldwork at the site are twofold: (1) to assess the integrity and condition of the archeological deposit, and (2) to train students in the scientific techniques of field archeology.

The Gale site is yielding significant information with respect to prehistoric lifeways of the Big Bend area. Preliminary analysis suggests that the site was used often for short durations of time by highly mobile hunter-gatherers who were camping next to a shallow, marshy drainage. The area still collects a lot of water during periods of high rainfall. Although low in elevation, the immediate area probably offered an abundance of resources that would have attracted not only the

Indians, but the game they hunted as well. A wide range of plants for foodstuffs and materials for making baskets, mats, sandals, and other essential items was readily available, as was a variety of stone for making tools. Well over 90% of the raw material used for making stone tools found at the site appears to be from a single source (or quarry) of fine-grained purple trachyte located somewhere in the very near vicinity. Analysis suggests that the Indians roughed out tool preforms at the stone quarry, then carried the preforms into camp where they were refined into finished tools, such as dart and arrowpoints, scrapers, and perforators. Styles of projectile points recovered from the site include Archaic-age Paisano, Shumla, and Ensor dart points, and Late Prehistoric Perdiz, Livermore, and Fresno arrowpoints. The sheer number of projectile points found at the site suggests that hunting was an important subsistence activity through time.

The Gale site has unfortunately been severely damaged by earth-moving activities in the recent past, and most cultural features such as hearths, ring middens, and cairns that might have been present, are destroyed. Although damaged, the site still offers important insights into human-environmental interaction during the past few thousand years, and students are greatly benefitting from opportunities to gain hands-on archeological experience. Site investigations are under the direction of R. J. Mallouf.

## BOOK REVIEW

### **The Militarization of the U.S.-Mexico Border, 1978-1992: Low Intensity Conflict Doctrine Comes Home**

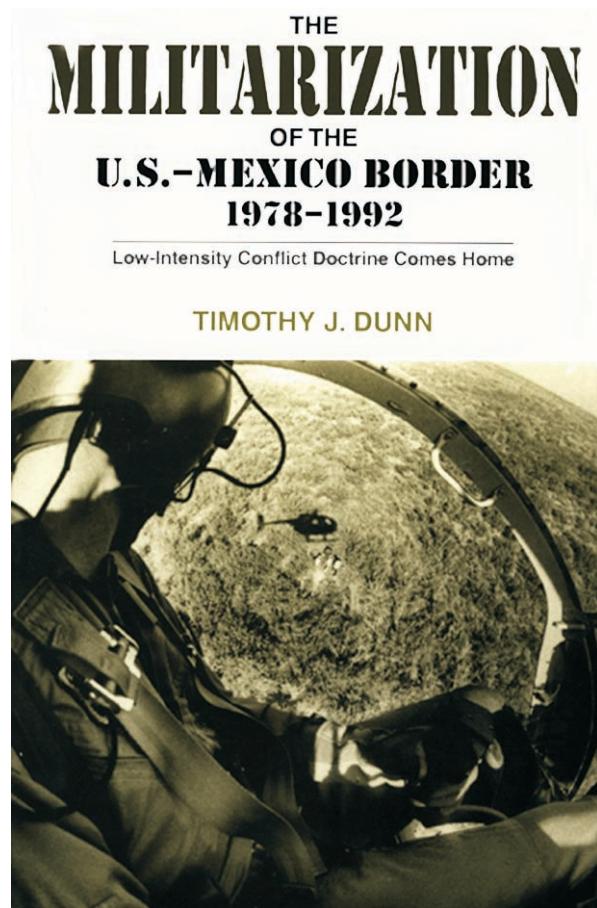
By Timothy J. Dunn

**The Center for Mexican American Studies,  
University of Texas at Austin, 1996**

On May 20, 1997, Esequiel Hernández, a youth from the small town of Redford, Texas, was watching his family's livestock when he was shot and killed by a United States Marine. This incident highlights the growing militarization in cities and towns, such as Redford, along the U.S.-Mexico border are increasingly facing. The increase in illegal border crossings and the American government's continuing obsession with the war on drugs have both served to accentuate this growing militarization. Timothy Dunn's outstanding book, *The Militarization of the U.S.-Mexico Border, 1978-1992*, provides an analytical framework in which to understand the slow and steady militarization of the border that has taken place over the past two decades.

Dunn traces the concept of "border control" as a national issue from the late 1970s when it emerged as a major topic of immigration policy during the Jimmy Carter administration. In 1977, Carter proposed doubling the size of the Border Patrol to halt what was perceived to be a national emergency, increasing illegal immigration from Mexico. According to Dunn, the increase in the size of the Border Patrol and the emergence of illegal immigration as a priority issue coincided with the emergence of a U.S. military doctrine of low-intensity conflict (LIC). The LIC warfare doctrine developed as a response to growing political unrest in Central America during the late 1970s. Low-intensity conflict provided a means in which a government could establish and maintain social control over targeted civilian populations through "the implementation of a broad range of sophisticated measures through the coordination and integration of police, military, and paramilitary forces." The fusion of LIC doctrine and the increased patrolling of the U.S.-Mexico border has led to a deterioration of human rights along the border, dramatically increased the level of anxiety among border civilian populations, and vastly expanded the role and duties of police and federal agencies in the lives of American citizens.

The size and scope of the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) increased during the 1980s under both the Reagan and Bush administrations. During this time, the buildup on the border included the introduction of sophisticated weaponry, helicopters, night vision devices, increased number of Border Patrol personnel, border checkpoints, and INS detention centers. In addition to the growing militarization of the border, a number of legal constraints separating legal and political jurisdiction among local, state, and federal police and



military powers were removed. The notion of *posse comitatus* was deeply rooted in the American political tradition: a law passed in the 1880s which prohibited the use of the federal military to conduct domestic police duties. In the 1980s, a series of laws watered down the notion of *posse comitatus* to the degree that, by the early 1990s, the American military was conducting drug interdiction along the border and the Border Patrol had increasingly taken on military capabilities and responsibilities.

Dunn's book is an excellent introduction to the growing crisis facing the citizenry along the U.S.-Mexico border. The lessening of personal freedom and growing militarization is the logical outgrowth of the failed border policies of the successive American presidential administrations. Esequiel Hernández's death is a vivid example of those failed policies, and

unfortunately, will not be the last.

## BOOK REVIEW

### **Wild Plants of the Pueblo Province: Exploring Ancient and Enduring Uses**

by **William W. Dunmire and Gail D. Tierney**

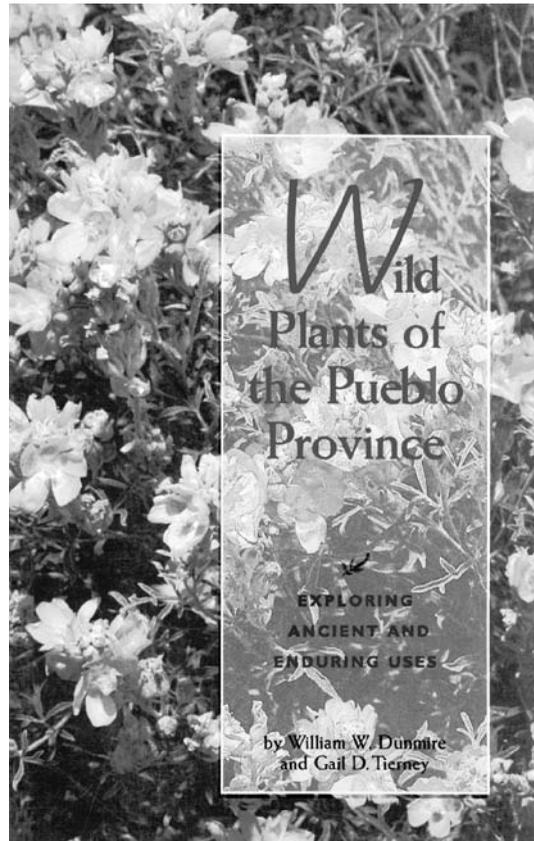
**Museum of New Mexico Press, Santa Fe, 1995**

*Wild Plants of the Pueblo Province* by William W. Dunmire and Gail D. Tierney is an informative and insightful treatment of the “cultural relationship” that humans have long enjoyed with the native plants of northern New Mexico’s Pueblo Plateau. The book documents the prehistoric, historic, and contemporary uses of many common plant species that grow in the Pajarito Plateau and middle Rio Grande Valley of New Mexico. This area includes the tribal lands of the Zuni, the Acoma, and the Taos pueblos—lands rich in ethnic tradition where “the native flora is never too far out of sight, out of mind, or out of spirit.”

Equally suited to be in a backpack, on a coffee table, or in a reference library, this book will satisfy a variety of tastes. It is at once a well-illustrated field guide, a “coffee table book” with aesthetically-pleasing photographs and line drawings of many flowering plants, and an ethnobotanical reference that explores the uses of these plants over the centuries. Furthermore, *Wild Plants* could easily be read from cover to cover as a novel would be; simply put, it is good reading. Although the book’s central focus is on the lands of northern New Mexico, most of the plant species covered are also found in the Trans-Pecos, making the subject matter even more meaningful to far-west Texans.

The first few chapters of the book familiarize the reader with the ecology and history of the Pueblo Province. The authors examine the climatic and resultant vegetational changes that have occurred over the centuries, as well as the area’s human history, from the time that the first hunters and gatherers entered the region thousands of years ago to the present. Throughout these pages, a common thread is woven into the fabric of the story—the use of native plants is the like ingredient which spans the centuries and connects the lives of the countless generations who have lived on this land. Plants, such as Bee-Balm (*Monarda menthaefolia*), were used medicinally by the region’s earliest inhabitants and are still cherished by modern Puebloans today. Imagine an Anasazi woman, living 5000 years ago, giving her sick child a soothing tea made of crushed Bee-Balm leaves to calm his stomach. Today, a Zuni woman might go to a wet meadow or into her garden to pick enough Bee-Balm leaves to season a special dish she is preparing.

Accounts of over 60 common plant species comprise the bulk of the book. Each two-page description includes an interesting and well-written narrative, which not only describes the species in detail but also chronicles its past and present uses. The term “uses” is quite wide-ranging in this context. The plant’s utilization as a source of food, medicine, construction



material, coloring, and clothing article, among other functions, is covered. Also included in each account is a color photograph showing the plant species in its natural setting as well as a pen-and-ink line drawing which helps call attention to identifying characters or field marks. A quick glance through this section of the book brings a sense of familiarity, as so many species included here are found in the Big Bend region, perhaps even in your own backyard. All of the plant species described in this section of the book can be seen from public trails at four different parks in New Mexico: Bandelier and Petroglyph national monuments and Coronado and Jemez state monuments.

*Wild Plants of the Pueblo Province* ends on an authoritative note with a review and discussion of the science of ethnobotany: the study of the mutual interactions of plants and human cultures or cultural groups. Included is an annotated list of all of the useful wild plant species known to grow in the New Mexican Pueblo Province, a compilation that would prove exceptionally useful for any serious student of the subject. Above all else, however, the authors of this book capture a mood that lingers throughout the rural American southwest, a mood that can easily be felt if only we take time to look for it and to feel it . . . a reminder of our connection to Mother Earth and all that she has provided for us.

**Linda Hedges, Natural Resource Biologist  
Texas Parks and Wildlife Department**

Gerald Raun was born July 14, 1932, in Maryville, Missouri. After living in Lincoln, Nebraska, San Francisco, California and Tulsa, Oklahoma, his family moved to Odem, Texas, where he graduated from high school in 1949. Dian Thornton was born in Riesel, Texas, December 6, 1942. After living in Waco, Houston, Galveston, and Tulsa, her family moved to San Angelo, where she graduated from San Angelo Central High School in 1960.

Gerald and Dian met in San Angelo in 1978 after each had nearly raised a family. Gerald has three children, a daughter born in 1957, a son in 1959, and a second daughter in 1963. He has one 10-year-old grandson and two more grandchildren on the way. Dian has one son who was born in 1967. Gerald and Dian were married on May 12, 1980, in San Angelo.

After graduating from Odem High School, Gerald attended Texas Tech University where he graduated in 1954 with a BA in geology. He received a commission as 2<sup>nd</sup> Lieutenant through the ROTC program and entered the service in May 1954. He attended the Basic Infantry Officer Course and the Ranger School at Fort Benning, Georgia, and was assigned as a weapons instructor at Fort Chaffee, Arkansas. He was discharged as a 1<sup>st</sup> Lieutenant in March 1956. He served in the 90<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division, U.S. Army Reserve, until 1968, and attained the rank of Major.

Shortly after graduation, Dian began raising a family in Christoval, Texas. She worked at Newsfoto Publishers, L. G. Balfor Company, and Jones, Hay, Sanders, CPAs, before becoming office manager for Virginia Barnhill Advertising. She later became an account manager for Eckert, Ingram, Tinkler, Oliphant, and Featherston, CPAs. After moving to Alpine, she was a Deputy County Clerk and then became office manager and comptroller for Southwest Municipal Gas Corporation.

Gerald enrolled at the University of Texas at Austin in 1956 and received an M.S. in Zoology in 1958 and a Ph.D. in Zoology in 1961. His thesis was an ecological study of the terrestrial and aquatic vertebrates of Palmetto State Park, a moist, relict area in Central Texas. He was awarded a Welder Wildlife Foundation Fellowship and spent three years at the Welder Wildlife Refuge near Sinton, Texas, where he completed the fieldwork for his dissertation, a study of the population dynamics of the woodrat, *Neotoma micropus*.

Gerald was appointed Curator of Zoology at the Texas Memorial Museum in Austin in 1960, where he served until accepting an appointment as Assistant Professor of Biology at North Texas State University in Denton in 1967. He was promoted to Associate Professor, and in 1970, moved to Angelo State University in San Angelo as Professor and Head of the Department of Biology. He remained at Angelo State until 1978 when he resigned and entered private business.

He became involved in advertising, including positions with the *San Angelo Standard Times* and the *Thrifty Nickel*. He became publisher of the *Devil's River News* in Sonora, Texas, and in 1989 moved to Alpine as publisher of the *Alpine Avalanche*. He retired in 1993 and returned to research interests including Trans-Pecos cacti and the history of the Big Bend, particularly as affected by the Mexican Revolution 1910-1920. Dian enthusiastically supports and assists his research including extensive fieldwork. She has acquired a fairly broad knowledge of the local cacti and has developed an intense interest in the Chihuahuan Desert.

Gerald served for almost 10 years as Editor of the *Texas Journal of Science* and is a Fellow and Honorary Life Member of the Texas Academy of Science. He has held offices as Secretary, Vice President, and President of the Texas Herpetological Society. He is a member of the Board of Scientists, Chihuahuan Desert Research Institute, the Advisory Council of the Center for Big Bend Studies, and also serves on the Center's Editorial Advisory Board. He is an Adjunct Professor of Biology at Sul Ross State University and has recently been elected to a term on the Alpine City Council.

Gerald is the author of 2 books, 1 book chapter, several monographs and over 50 scientific articles dealing with amphibians, reptiles, and mammals of Texas, and more recently on cacti. He has also authored several historical articles which have been published in the *Journal of Big Bend Studies*. Most recently, he compiled an index of the first 8 volumes of the *Journal*.

His interest in the Center developed after enrolling in graduate history courses at Sul Ross State University and meeting Dr. Earl Elam, then director for the Center. He and Dian continue to be enthusiastic supporters of the Center for Big Bend Studies and are looking forward to greater involvement particularly in northwestern Mexico.



# MILITARIZATION OF THE BORDER

*by Gerald G. Raun*

If the United States Government actually sends military units to the Mexican border, as recently authorized by Congress, it will not be without precedent. And, since the action authorized no more than 10,000 troops, it will be on a much smaller scale than the mobilization of 1916-1917.

The raid by forces under General Francisco “Pancho” Villa on the small town of Columbus, New Mexico, on March 19, 1916, sent the bulk of the U.S. Regular Army, commanded by General John J. Pershing, deep into Mexico in search of Villa and his forces. This left the border guarded by only a small force of cavalry units. On May 5, 1916, a group of Mexican irregulars raided the wax factory and settlement of Glenn Springs, Texas. American lives were lost in both raids.

Responding to these military or para-military incursions into the United States, President Woodrow Wilson mobilized the National Guard of Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona. The order was issued on May 8, 1916, and by the following day the guardsmen began to mobilize. This rapid deployment placed 5,260 civilian soldiers along the border in Texas, New Mexico, and Arizona in a matter of a few weeks.

The 4<sup>th</sup> Texas Infantry regiment, composed primarily of guardsmen from north-central and northwest Texas, was sent to the Big Bend area. Units of the regiment were stationed at Lajitas, Marfa, Alpine, Marathon, and Sanderson. Company I, from Mineral Wells, was stationed in Marathon and made frequent trips to La Noria, Glenn Springs, and Stillwell Crossing.

Jodie Harris, who was a trooper in Company I, corresponded with the folks at home by means of cartoons drawn on postcards. The collection of some 70 postcards is housed in the Archives of the Big Bend at Sul Ross State University. It is a valuable resource for study of this little-known mobilization for it reveals invaluable details of everyday life of the guardsmen as well as insight into the lives of the civilian population.

Declining relations between Mexico and the United States prompted Wilson to mobilize the National Guard from all of the states. This unprecedented call of civilians to meet a peacetime crisis would eventually bring almost 200,000 guardsmen from practically every state in the Union to the Mexican border. The vast majority of these were stationed in Texas, from El Paso to Brownsville. Troops of the 10<sup>th</sup> Pennsylvania Infantry were also stationed at Marathon for a short period of time. While most of the other National Guard units rotated in and out of the Big Bend area, the Texas troopers spent their entire duty, from June, 1916 to May, 1917, at remote stations on the border.

Almost immediately after their release from national service, May, 1917, most of these troops were recalled to national service and began training for the United States’ entry into World War I.

*This invasion of the Big Bend has been a research interest for Dr. Gerald G. Raun for several years and is planned for inclusion in a book on the military history of the Big Bend which Dr. Earl Elam and Raun are planning.*

## PAST AND PRESENT



*Cheta Hollan (middle) in front of the Big Bend Museum, 1938, with Roy Deaton (left) and Ford Rackley (right).*

Photo taken from *The Brand*, 1938



*Cheta Hollan in front of the new Museum of the Big Bend, 1997, with Director Ken Perry.*

## NEWS FROM THE MUSEUM OF THE BIG BEND

### Micallef Donates Bronze

Al Micallef, his family, and the Clear Fork Ranch recently made one of the largest single donations ever to the Museum of the Big Bend. Their gift was the life-size bronze, “Between Broncs,” by artist Garland Weeks, which was one of the showcased works in this year’s *Trappings of Texas* exhibit.

This work depicts a kneeling cowboy who is whittling between breaking wild horses. Extremely detailed, the bronze shows a variety of horse and cowboy gear including a saddle, bosal, and quilt. There is even a June bug, but it is difficult to find.

The bronze is the first piece of work donated to the permanent *Trappings* collection which was established this

year. Micallef was instrumental in helping create a sponsorship program for *Trappings* and the Texas Cowboy Poetry Gathering. He generously gave his time and support to launch this new program. Proceeds from sponsorships go to purchase items for the permanent *Trappings* collection.

By donating Week’s magnificent bronze, Micallef has ensured that the new *Trappings* collection will not only be a success, but will



“Between Broncs”

### Recent Acquisitions

A piece of television history was recently given to the museum by Mary Martha Gearhart of Ft. Davis — the original cowboy hat that Dan Blocker wore on *Bonanza*. The hat, a tan beaver with no creasing, is easily recognizable as Hoss Cartwright’s signature headgear. Blocker wore the hat not only throughout the long running hit series but in all of the publicity shots from the period. The Dan Blocker display will be up at the museum in the fall.

Teeby Forchheimer—various military insignia

Mary Allen Meriwether—projectile points and scrapers for educational collection

Pete Gallego, Sr.—Photo of Dan Blocker, 3 restaurant machines

Al Tucker—two desks from the old Lajitas school

Guy Combs—copy of the Combs Cattle Co. ledger book

Chris and Michelle Villanueva—U.S. Army mule blinders

Bernard Quiñones—whip and cavesson for *Trappings* permanent collection

Doug Krause—mecate for *Trappings* permanent collection

Texas Cowboy Poetry Gathering Committee—a bronze, a bit, and a painting for the *Trappings* permanent collection

Al Micallef and the CF Ranch—a bronze for the *Trappings* permanent collection

Glenn Lowrance—a Mexican saddle

### Hinson Joins Staff

Jack Hinson, former intern for the Museum of the Big Bend, returned this June to serve as Curator of Public Services. Jack served as intern last fall and assisted with the museum move from the old building to Lawrence Hall. He holds a Master of Arts degree in History from Sam Houston State University, and is currently completing a thesis to fulfill degree requirements for a Master of Arts degree in Museum Studies from Baylor University. His undergraduate degree is also from Sam Houston State University in History. While fulfilling degree requirements for his M.A. in History, Hinson’s primary focus was early American history. His secondary focus was on Cold War History. His previous museum experience includes two years as staff assistant at the Sam Houston Memorial Museum in Huntsville, Texas, and nearly two years as graduate assistant at the Governor Bill and Vara Daniel Historic Village in Waco, Texas.

### Upcoming Exhibit Schedule

June 27 to August 17

The Hockshop Collection of Texas Regional Art

August 4 to September 15

La Belle: The Mystery of La Salle in the Gulf

September 29 to November 3

Four Contemporary Texas Artists

## NEWS FROM THE ARCHIVES OF THE BIG BEND

### Steve and May Bennett Collection

They say a picture is worth a thousand words and the photographs of Steve and May Bennett, recently grouped and described as a collection in the Archives of the Big Bend, tell a story of Glenn Springs as a social center of Big Bend at the end of the twenties. It seems the story starts with the adoption of an orphan.

According to W. D. Smithers, who took perhaps a majority of the photographs collected and donated by the Bennetts, the townspeople organized a school for Marie Landrum, which brought the schoolteacher, Ivalee Bales, who attracted “the undivided attention of every bachelor cowboy from 25 to 50 miles around.” And bachelor photographer Smithers catches them, coat-tails flapping in the blowing dust, in the act of playing croquet to entertain her.

Smithers was again the photographer when Steve and May Bennett posed with guests Marie Landrum, Ivalee Bales, and Bob Poole shortly after the Bennett wedding in 1928. The entree, duck, dangled by May and Marie, also makes it into the



*Ranger Arch Miller branding a horse.*

Photo courtesy of the Archives of the Big Bend



*Schoolteacher Ivalee Bales (on horse) with student Marie Landrum, ca. 1928. The Bennett's dog Sissy is in the background.*

Photo courtesy of the Archives of the Big Bend

story. Still in their party clothes, the school children and the Bennett dog, Sissy, watch Miss Bales and Ranger Poole release pigeons. Smithers, who was also a stringer for the *San Antonio Light*, sent his stories in from Big Bend by carrier pigeon.

In much less time than the telling, a researcher can also meet well-known Big Bend restaurateur Chata Sada, join her husband Juan Sada and Bennett on a bear hunt in Mexico, see Ranger Arch Miller branding a horse, see his father Tom Miller dandling a baby, and speculate about the event that left Steve Bennett standing in a cardboard box brandishing his six-shooter. The Bennett Collection is also a source of information on W. D. Smithers, including some of his photos of aviation, circuses, and the work of sculptor Borglum.

An exhibit at the Archives from the collection changed the direction of at least one visitor's research. He fell in love with Marie Landrum and vowed to follow her story to the ends of the earth. No word yet.

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**Compact Shelving**—Installation of a high density mobile shelving system was completed last summer in the Archives main storage room. This is the same system as is in the new National Archives facility in College Park, Maryland, but was made to order for our collections. It includes drawers for microfilm, bins for large framed items, and shelves tailored for specific items such as scrapbooks, as well as accommodating some 1,652 cubic foot boxes of papers. The system has given us about 50% more storage capacity in the same area as the previous traditional shelving. It is anticipated that it will accommodate acquisitions until the year 2000.

**Archives' Card Catalogue Automated**—Automation of the Archives' card catalogue was accomplished with

automation of the Bryan Wildenthal Library card catalogue. This means that for every catalogue card which existed in the Archives there is now a bibliographic record in the OPAC (Online Public Access Catalogue). The system in use is Sirsi, a full text database which allows for any word or words in a given bibliographic record to be searched for and found whether or not they are an actual subject heading.

As part of the Library's computerized bibliographic database the Archives' records are entered into OCLC (Online Computer Library Center), a national database of library records from institutions across the country including those of the Library of Congress.

# CULTURAL RESOURCE MANAGEMENT PROJECTS IN THE BIG BEND

## UPDATE ON BIG BEND NATIONAL PARK PROJECT

The broad-scale archeological survey project jointly sponsored by Sul Ross State University/Center for Big Bend Studies (CBBS) and Big Bend National Park (BBNP) has continued through the spring of 1997. Thus far, 257 sites have been recorded and approximately 10,800 acres surveyed. A draft of the research design has been completed and considerable progress has been made on environmental stratification for the Geographic Information System (GIS), historic research, and initial analyses of collected specimens.

Since our last newsletter, an additional 63 sites were recorded in Quadrat B (Northwest Grapevine Hills Basin) bringing the total number of sites in the quadrat to 144. A heavy concentration of sites was observed along Tornillo Creek, indicating the importance of this drainage during prehistory. Historically, however, seep springs along the creek did not supply enough flow to attract any substantial historic settlement.

Judgmental Quadrat #1 (500 acres) is positioned along the western park boundary just east of Christmas Spring, which is located on the eastern flank of Little Christmas Mountain. This quadrat was 100% surveyed with 23 sites recorded within its confines. One unusual site recorded on a mountaintop contained 5 crescent-shaped, stacked stone walls, all oriented in the same direction, and a single piece of lithic debris associated with the manufacture of chipped stone tools. Several other sites had stone structural remnants and stone alignments also.

Judgmental Quadrat #2 (500 acres) is located west of Burro Mesa and south of Rough Run on dissected and undissected portions of the landscape. Approximately 60% of

this quadrat was surveyed this spring with 16 sites recorded. One site of particular interest is a large open campsite located adjacent to a substantial tinaja (water catchment). With both prehistoric and historic components, this site contains hundreds of mortars and metates and structural remnants from unknown time periods.

Another aspect of the project that has seen great progress in recent months is development of the GIS. Betty L. Alex at BBNP and Francisco A. García at the CBBS have each made substantial contributions to compiling the vast data sets (i.e., landforms, geology, soils, vegetation, hydrology, elevation, and slope) required to produce an effective GIS.

Sharon Smith-Savage of the CBBS has completed preliminary research on county deed and tax records, census data, and files in the Archives and Records Division of the General Land Office. A general overview of the history of the park area is being compiled first, while a more in-depth history will be written later on the area targeted by the project for survey. Oral histories taken in the 1960s will be used to supply supplemental data on the park's history with additional interviews of elderly informants planned.

Over 560 prehistoric and historic artifacts have been collected over the course of the project. Approximately one-third of these artifacts have been measured and described, and this information has been entered into the Big Bend National Park database using a computer in the CBBS laboratory.

Current plans are to produce a management summary by this fall of the work performed to date. The first volume in a series of technical reports on the project is tentatively scheduled for completion in Fall 1998. Meanwhile, 40 days of

## BIG BEND RANCH STATE PARK PROJECT

Data recovered recently from an archeological reconnaissance in Big Bend Ranch State Park is undergoing analysis. Manuscript preparation is also underway with a publication date set for August 1997. During the fieldwork and preliminary analysis of data, several intriguing research avenues were identified. These include probable associations between intensively occupied open campsites and stacked rock cairns which are situated on isolated landforms with little or no surficially associated cultural debris. Also discovered were several sites with unusually heavy polish on large boulders and vertical bedrock projections—possibly the result of hide preparation or a similar activity. Distinctive yellowish-brown agate outcrops, which were used by prehistoric peoples for raw materials to make stone tools, were also found. Additionally, several examples of well preserved stone enclosures (dating to around 1300-1600 A.D.) and their associated artifacts are also being analyzed.

These research avenues, while intriguing from an archeological standpoint, are preliminary and will be subjected to intensive study in the future. The Center for Big Bend Studies, in cooperation with Texas Parks and Wildlife, hopes to accomplish these studies in the coming years.



*Oval stone enclosure found in Big Bend Ranch State Park. Note 2-meter tape measure is in the middle of the enclosure.*

## CBBS SOLICITS DONATIONS TO BRYAN WILDENTHAL LIBRARY

In cooperation with several individuals and organizations, CBBS is actively soliciting donations of reference materials to enhance educational potentials in the areas of anthropology and history at SRSU. Recent acquisitions include nearly-complete sets of the journals *American Antiquity* and *American Anthropologist*, both originally parts of the Alex D. Krieger collection that have been transferred to SRSU through the Texas Archeological Society (TAS). We are greatly indebted to those TAS members who supported our quest for these important teaching and research materials, especially Kay Hindes, Britt Bousman, Paul Ward, and others. We extend our sincere gratitude to TAS for its support of our West Texas institution.

In addition, a number of hard-to-find volumes on the archeology of Texas have recently been made available to the library and archives by CBBS Advisory Board member Dr. J. Charles Kelley of Fort Davis. And finally, a historical railroad map (1911) and original edition and map of the 1854 Marcy Expedition through northern Texas were donated to the Archives of the Big Bend by CBBS director Robert Mallouf.

Persons interested in joining our effort to build a first rate reference collection in the areas of archeology, cultural and physical anthropology, and related cultural disciplines at the Wildenthal Library are asked to contact the CBBS director or staff at (915)837-8179, or CBBS, Box C-71, Sul Ross State University, Alpine, Texas 79832.



## CONFERENCES ATTENDED

Two members of the Center for Big Bend Studies gave presentations at the annual Texas State Historical Association meeting March 3-7, 1997, in Austin.

Robert Mallouf, CBBS director, discussed "The Sul Ross State University-National Park Service Cooperative Archeological Project," and William A. Cloud, staff archeologist, talked on "Archeological Survey and Data Analysis: The 1995 and 1996 Field Seasons."

Melleta Bell attended the Amigos Spring Conference in Dallas May 14-16, 1997. Sessions attended included "Deacidification for Preservation: Moving Forward," "Cooperation for Libraries and Museums: A New Era," and "Managing and Organizing Preservation Activities" given by Scott Devine, Head of Conservation, Texas Tech University Libraries which includes the Southwest Collection.

Amigos Bibliographic Council, Inc., is a library network which was founded to facilitate OCLC (Online Computer Library Center) access in the Southwest. Its programs have expanded to include Preservation Services which include training, disaster planning, and recovery assistance, and site survey consultations.

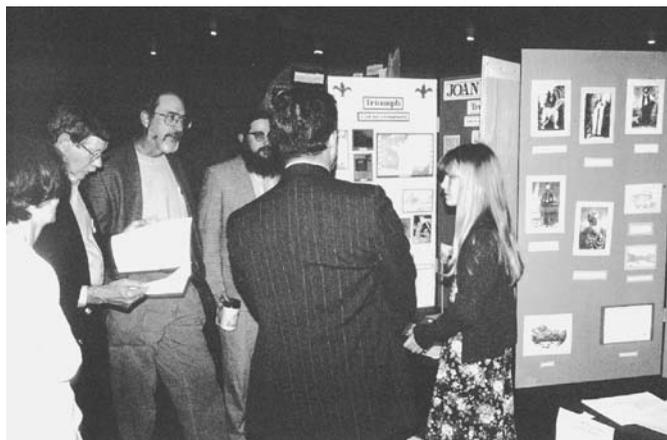
## JUNIOR HISTORIANS

Members of the Center for Big Bend Studies helped select 17 area middle school and high school students to compete in the Texas State History Fair held in Austin in May. Sponsored by the Texas State Historical Association, the state-level history fair is open to the winners of regional Junior Historian competitions in a number of categories.

Of the Big Bend students who competed in Austin, one student, Daisy Spanagel, was recognized as having an outstanding project. A 7th-grader at Alpine Middle School, Daisy's research and table-top presentation featuring Joan of Arc also won the \$100 Best-of-Show award presented by CBBS at the Big Bend Regional History Fair held in Alpine in April. At the regional level, the best table-top award went to an exhibit on "Kids at Work." Other regional awards included the Jane Y. McCallum award for the best entry dealing with women in Texas, given to a table-top exhibit on Selena; the Willie Lee Gay award for the best entry involving blacks and/or the black experience in Texas, for an exhibit on Henry O. Flipper; and the Hispanic History Award went to an exhibit on Shafter. Center for Big Bend Studies Director Robert Mallouf was accompanied by staff members Andy Cloud, Frank García, Kelly García, and Sheron Smith-Savage, who participated as judges for the regional fair.

Numerous Junior Historian groups across the state are currently active. Competition at the state level is tough, especially with some of the large city schools. In order to better prepare the Big Bend students to excel next year, Junior Historian sponsors Houston Hendryx and Jackie Stone will work closely to improve students' skills in research, preparing bibliographies, conducting oral interviews, and oral presentations explaining why their topics are important in the course of history.

CBBS staff also volunteered their time at a spaghetti supper to raise money for the Junior Historians' end-of-year trip to the Alamo in San Antonio and to the *USS Lexington* at Corpus Christi.



*CBBS staff, Gene Bickham, and Leo Dominguez judge Best-of-Show winner Daisy Spanagel's display at the Big Bend Regional History Fair, 1997.*

## CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS

The **1997 Pecos Conference** will be held at the Chaco Cultural National Historical Park (Chaco Canyon) on August 14-17, 1997. The purpose of the conference is to discuss the problems of Southwestern prehistory and to pool knowledge of facts and techniques. The conference registration fee is \$20 per person. For more information, contact Tom Windes at (505)277-0192, Phillip LoPiccolo at (505)766-3480, or e-mail [Pecos\\_Conf@nps.gov](mailto:Pecos_Conf@nps.gov).

The **City of Laredo and Texas A&M International University** announces its first binational conference, "Borderlands Landscapes: U.S.-Mexico Border Conference on Urban Settlement Patterns and the Human Dimension," to be held in Laredo on September 6, 1997. The conference will focus on the cultural landscape of the U.S.-Mexico border, which represents a complex Latin American settlement pattern of historic development over many generations. The conference will feature scholars from the U.S. and Mexico who will present information on recent investigations in the fields of archeology, historic preservation, architecture, environmental planning, social history, gender and class issues, demography, and identity. For more information, contact Nina Nixon-Méndez, Conference Project Director and City of Laredo Historic Preservation Officer, at (210)791-7441 or e-mail her at [planning@icsi.net](mailto:planning@icsi.net).

"Western Visions: Many Voices, Many Landscapes," the 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Conference for the **Western History Association**, will be held in St. Paul, Minnesota, October 15-18, 1997. For details, contact Anne M. Butler, Department of History, Utah

State University, Logan, UT 84322-0710, (801)797-1301, fax (801)797-3899.

The annual meeting of the **Oral History Association** will be held at Buffalo, NY, October 15-18, 1997. The theme of the conference is "Crossing the Boundary, Crossing the Line: Oral History on the Border." Contact Debra Bernhardt, Robert F. Wagner Labor Archives, 70 Washington Square S., New York, NY, (212)998-2640, fax (212)995-4070.

The **Texas Archeological Society** will hold its 38th Annual Meeting October 31-November 2, 1997, at the Holiday Inn Center in Odessa, Texas. Papers will be presented on archeology in Texas. The deadline for submitting papers is September 19, 1997. For more information on the meeting, e-mail Teddy Stickney at [711stick@worldnet.att.net](mailto:711stick@worldnet.att.net). To submit a paper, contact Pat Mercado-Allinger at (512)476-8882.

The **American Society for Ethnohistory** Annual Meeting will be held November 13-16, 1997, in Mexico City, Mexico. For more information, contact William O. Autry, P. O. Box 917, Goshen, IN 46527-0917, (219)535-7402, fax (219)535-7660, or e-mail [billoa@goshen.edu](mailto:billoa@goshen.edu).

The **Center for Big Bend Studies** 4th Annual Conference will be held in Alpine, Texas, November 14-15, 1997, on the campus of Sul Ross State University. Papers will be presented on the history, prehistory, and culture of the borderlands region of the United States and Mexico. For more information, call Robin Hughes at (915)837-8179 or e-mail her at [rhughes@sulross.edu](mailto:rhughes@sulross.edu).



### RECOVERING THE U.S. HISPANIC LITERARY HERITAGE

Recovering the U.S. Hispanic Literary Heritage Project is a ten-year research undertaking to identify, locate, preserve, make accessible, and publish works of primary literary sources written by Hispanics in what is now the United States, dating from the Colonial Period to 1960. Housed at the University of Houston, the project develops and administers a number of programs, including archival preservation, curriculum, grants-in-aid for scholars, a master bibliographic database, periodical recovery, and publications. The Spring 1997 project newsletter notes that Hispanic culture in the United States has been perceived largely as "a working-class culture." But working-class Hispanics produced "an important and vast body of written and published works, artifacts filled with knowledge worthy of preservation for generations to come."

According to a project task force report, the nature of Hispanic cultural production and an anti-Hispanic prejudice in the larger society help explain why these materials have not

been collected and cataloged on an appropriate scale by libraries and museums, or described adequately in indexes and finding aids. The task force report further notes that many materials are difficult to locate because they are in unidentified private collections belonging to families, estates, and ethnic societies. The report concludes with seven recommendations which include regional surveys to locate and register materials, creation of funding bases to address issues of preservation, the promotion of community-based document recovery projects, active participation by regional and state government, inclusion of bilingual librarians and archivists in institutions, promotion of professional Hispanic associations, and the establishment of an international working group to address larger-scale issues. The organization offers stipends of up to \$3,000 for scholars to assist in the recovery of pertinent materials, including diaries, memoirs, testimonies, oral traditions, folklore, and prose and poetry. For more information contact Nicolás Kanellos, Director, Recovering the U.S. Hispanic Literary Project, University of Houston, Houston, TX, 77204-2172; e-mail: [artrec@jetson.uh.edu](mailto:artrec@jetson.uh.edu).

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Please enroll me as a Center Associate in the Center for Big Bend Studies for 1997. I understand that as an associate I will receive:

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## CBBS Endowment Fund

Gifts to the CBBS endowment fund make a lasting contribution to the projects of the Center. The principal of the gift is never spent, and 10% of the interest earned each month is returned to the principal. The remainder of the interest income is used to help with projects and operations of the Center. The endowment is managed by Sul Ross State University in accordance with the rules and regulations of the Board of Regents, Texas State University System, and applicable state laws. The degree to which the activities of the Center will progress and fulfill its mission is directly commensurate to the resources that are available, and income from the endowment is essential. Gifts of any amount are greatly appreciated. They are categorized as follows:

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