



The Grapevine



Newsletter

June 21, 1994

FOR CULTURAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT

Vol 4:6

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Muerto Canyon Virus: Archaeologists - Beware of The Risks

Muerto Canyon Virus (MCV) is a recently identified virus in the Hantavirus family. Hantaviruses and in particular MCV, are most commonly found in the Southwest. These viruses are carried by small mammals, such as deer mice, woodrats, ground squirrels, and chipmunks. MCV is transmitted to humans by direct contact or from contact with small-animal feces and urine. Airborne particles (dust), which is inhaled or ingested, can also transmit the virus.

To date 59 known cases of Hantavirus infections have been recorded. Human reaction to Hantaviruses range from benign to fatal. Thirty-five (35) have resulted in death from acute Hantavirus infections (Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome). MCV may prove to have the highest mortality rate of any of the Hantaviruses. Acute cases were linked with certain areas and times of high small-animal populations and risk of infection is higher for certain activities.

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Piecing Together a State Archaeology Awareness Week

by Kathleen E. Callum, GEOARCH, and
volunteer coordinator of the 1994 Vermont Archaeology Week

The details behind piecing together a broad public outreach project are often as interesting as the actual outcome of the project - and just as often overlooked in the final analysis. Just a little over a year ago, many of the professional archaeologists in Vermont (also known as the few, the over-ambitious, and the foolhardy!) designated an archaeology awareness week as a priority goal. In May of this year, Governor Howard Dean kicked off a week (May 8-14) of over 40 (highly successful) events with a media proclamation. The Green Mountain State promoted the week with a historic quilt theme

poster in appropriate colors (green and white) with the slogan "Piecing Together Vermont's Past." Public response to the radio shows, talks, tours, and other events listed in the calendar (or other materials) was enthusiastic. The press trumpets blared with economical Yankee fanfare. How did we get to the ending drum roll?

Surprisingly, we achieved most of our goals without the backing of any extant organization or agency (until rather late in the logistic game). Most states promote archaeology awareness through the office of the state archaeologist or the state arch-

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Muerto Canyon Virus

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One of the high risk activities is hand cultivation, an activity not unlike archaeological excavation. Therefore, this virus should be a major concern to the archaeological community.

There are other facts about MCV of which to be aware. In only one case of MCV have two coresidents or relatives been infected, implying there is no human-to-human transmission. It further implies that the rate of infection per exposure is extremely low.

Acute infection results in symptoms called Adult Respiratory Distress Syndrome (ARDS). ARDS is not specific to MCV. It is accompanied by a 101°+ fever, body aches, and, in some cases, gastrointestinal involvements. Potential hazards for archaeologists include working in or near active nesting and feeding areas. Such areas included caves, rock shelters, and historic structures. Suggested approaches to potentially hazard areas are to, first, be careful not to stir up dust until active small-animal occupation can be discontinued. Wear dust masks. Don't touch any live or dead rodents encountered. To reduce risk, ventilate the area for at least 30 minutes prior to working in that area.

Avoid direct contact with potentially contaminated deposits. A contaminated area can be sterilized using a mild solution of three (3) tablespoons of bleach in one gallon of water. Soak the area well and wait at least 10 minutes before touching any deposits. While MCV is a potentially fatal virus, it is easily killed. The fatality rate for Hantavirus Pulmonary Syndrome is so high that the archaeological community must take Muerto Canyon Virus infections seriously. Despite the low infection rate, this virus has the potential to kill. ■

Vermont Archaeology Week

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aeological society. In Vermont, these official bodies lack power because of our small threshold population, chronic understaffing, and woefully inadequate finances; for example, we only have one state archaeologist, a limited number of practicing professionals, and very few active avocational archaeologists. Yet the initiative to launch an archeology awareness week despite these problems drove the formation of an ad hoc volunteer committee consisting of a few naive individuals. This committee gradually developed into an effective working group of over 15 core committee members accompanied by dozens of event organizers. Eventually, representatives of the Vermont Archaeological Society, the Abenaki Heritage Council, private consulting concerns, government agencies (state & federal), and non-profit institutions (museums and historic sites) became actively involved. When we got close to our goal of realizing a Vermont Archaeology Week, the Vermont Archaeological Society formally voted to adopt our committee and the Division of Historic Preservation jumped in with

(much needed) funding and personnel. You might say our grass roots emphasis was an ad hoc success!

Because this first year was a learning experience, we spun our wheels in vain quite a bit, inventing all over again things other states have done. For example, the question of whether we had enough people to institute a poster contest outreach in schools occupied our attention before we decided that postponement of such a far-reaching effort until we had generated enough awareness to develop a wider archaeological community was the wisest strategy (talk about Catch-22"). The situation in Vermont required some reinventing to make formats utilized by other states work here (our heartfelt thanks to all the states who responded to our requests for information on their awareness weeks!). Vermont's strong sense of heritage (we were designated as an endangered historic landscape by the National Trust for Historic Preservation) operated in our favor. Finding museums, historic sites, schools, and libraries to host events was the easy part of organizational

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Vermont Archaeology Week

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planning. Most archaeologists dug into two or three events with enthusiasm, assisted in event organization by a diverse representation from the historic preservation, cultural resource, and natural resource communities. Popular events included a family-oriented archaeology night at a library, a panel discussion on 19th century sheep agriculture, slide shows on local sites, and historic hikes.

Finding adequate funding was difficult because no one wanted to actively seek funding sources (not unusual for such a naive committee!). A grant application fell through and there was little time to work on other applications. We ended up with a contribution of \$1 at the fall Vermont Archaeological Society meeting. The volunteer poster artist was almost finished with her design before we had any idea if we could pay for the printing. Poster printing costs were finally covered after entreating, last-minute phone calls to some of the larger northeastern consultant firms netted us a sponsorship that was supplemented by the printer. At the eleventh hour, the Vermont Archaeological Society held an auction, the Division of Historic Preservation paid for graphics design and printing of the calendar and accompanying materials, and a state agency teamed with a consultant firm to take care of incidental costs. At last, it looked like Vermont Archaeology Week 1994 beckoned to us just over the horizon.

Our state-wide publicity effort fell into the doldrums, but some of the regional coordinators picked us up, inspiring some excellent news articles. A coincidence in the dates for statewide "Abenaki Heritage Week" and "Turn Off Your T.V.

Week" extravaganzas helped with publicity efforts, as did an interview with three golden-tongued members of our professional archaeological community on the National Public Radio's "Switchboard" show. Hundreds of people have attended events during Vermont Archaeology Week 1994, over 300 phone calls to the Division for Historic Preservation have been generated, and thousands more have listened to, or read about, their local state archaeology. All of the committee members have learned much about working with their local communities toward a successful public outreach effort. The critical details entailed made this effort a positive transition from our formerly low-profile cultural resource community into one that shares more fully in the public limelight. With luck and support from unexpected sources, we pieced together an archaeology awareness week in typical Vermont fashion: frugally, and without the benefit of an existing organization's infrastructure. Over time, we hope to increase public awareness concerning endangered archaeological resources, develop a supportive archaeological community and a knowledgeable public, and eventually address problematic issues such as legal compliance and archaeological tourism. Our success with a "laid back" grassroots effort demonstrates that a similar approach may work in other states lacking an archaeology awareness movement; even states plagued by a lack of funds, active archaeological communities, or established organizational backing. For further of those ever-so-crucial details, contact: 1995 Vermont Archaeology Week Committee Chairperson, c/o Vermont Division of Historic Preservation, 135 State Street, Drawer 33, Montpelier, VT 05633-1201, ☎ 802-828-3226. ♣

♣ For Your Information

Signa Laralde has moved from the BLM to the Bureau of Reclamation in Salt Lake City. Signa's new telephone number is 801-524-5447.

On May 31, 1994, **Dr. Hannah Wormington Volk** passed away, reportedly as a result of a house fire.

University of Colorado - Mesa Verde Field School Reunion

In conjunction with the Pecos Conference to be held at Mesa Verde NP August 18-20, 1994, David A. Breternitz is organizing a reunion of everyone who was associated with the Mesa Verde Field School between 1965 and 1980. If you plan to attend, please contact David ASAP, so he can get your name on the Pecos Conference mailing list.

If you haven't already been contacted by Dr. Breternitz directly or can't attend, please send him a note regarding yourself and a current address and telephone number; a newsletter of sorts is in the works if information from enough people is received.

David A. Breternitz
PO Box 592
Dove Creek, CO 81324
☎ 303-677-2787

First Annual Field Archaeologist Conference/Gathering/Party

This first-ever event will be held July 1-4, 1994, at the headquarters for *the underground* in Westport, PA. This event will attempt to bring together field techs from all over the country to discuss issues particular to archaeology - including the status of positions in contract archaeology, pros and cons of union organizing, the field tech's role in

archaeology, and how to improve skills as field archaeologists.

Contact: *the underground*, HCR 71, Box 11, Westport, PA 17778.

State News

Maine

Maine Citizens for Historic Preservation invite all interested parties to join them on a trip on Penobscot Bay, July 10, 1994. For \$30 (\$25 members), participants will be transported from Searsport along the bay to Fort Knox, which is an impressive granite fortress in Prospect. The fort, which is focus of the tour, has recently undergone stabilization. The cruise also passes Sears Island and Fort Pownall before heading up into the gorge of the Penobscot between Prospect and Verona Island. For further information contact the Maine Citizens for Historic Preservation, PO Box 1198, Portland, ME 04104, ☎ 207-775-3652.

New Jersey

The New Jersey Historic Trust is accepting loan applications for the New Jersey Historic Preservation Revolving Loan Fund. Funds are available for \$25,000-\$450,000 loans for preservation, restoration, rehabilitation, and acquisition of historic properties. Applicants must be nonprofit tax-exempt organizations or agencies of state, county, or municipal government. For further information, contact the New Jersey Historic Trust, Thomas A. Hemphill, CN-04, Trenton, NJ 08625-040; ☎ 609-984-0473.

Rhode Island

The 1993-1994 annual report from the Rhode Island Historical Preservation Commission reported many accomplishments associ-

Boise State Expands Cultural Resources Report Series

Boise State University (BSU) is well known for its Cultural Resources Report series, which includes cultural resource evaluations and short technical reports. Currently, manuscripts of greater length and of a more substantive, problem-oriented nature are being sought.

As Steve Simms, a member of the editorial board, explains, "Cultural resource management is the engine of data collection in contemporary archaeology. Some of the real gems out there in the CRM literature do not find the circulation they deserve. The investment to take a CRM report that makes a substantive contribution to the next level of publication is small. In some instances it is possible to extract themes or specific problems from a larger report with relatively little effort, shape these into publishable manuscripts."

Anyone seeking further information on this series should contact the series editor: Mark Plew, Department of Anthropology, Boise State University, Boise, ID 83725.

Information taken from UPAC News, June 1994.

ated with cultural resource management. Archaeologists discovered and documented 35 prehistoric and historic sites during the last year. Furthermore, the computer database for historic structures received 7,747 new entries. Fieldwork was completed for a state-wide survey of historic rural landscapes. A second phase of survey of African-American historic sites in Newport was begun. A report on the architectural and historical resources of Barrington, RI, was issued in 1993 and the report for Jamestown, RI, is expected in 1994.

Publications

Boats: A Manual for Their Documentation, is a step-by-step instructional guide for measuring and recording boat construction techniques, shapes, and materials. The 415 pages includes numerous illustrations and an extensive bibliography, as well as a list of

resource organizations and list of museums with maritime collections. Available from the American Association for State and Local History (AASLH), 530 Church Street, #600, Nashville, TN 37219; ☎ 615-255-2971; FAX 615-255-2979.

Cultural Resource Management: Archaeological Research, Preservation Planning, and Public Education in the Northeastern United States. This book presents successful models and practical advice about cultural resource management in the Northeast. Available from Greenwood Publishing Group, ☎ 800-225-5800; cost \$65.

Call For Papers

Eastern States Archaeological Federation

The VanEpps-Hartley Chapter of the New York State Archaeological Association is hosting the 1994 Annual Meeting of the Eastern States Archaeological Fed-

Calendar of Meetings

July 1-4, 1994 - First Annual Field Archaeologist Conference/Gathering/Party will be held at the headquarters for *the underground* in Westport, PA. This event will be the first attempt to bring together field techs from all over the country to discuss issues particular to archaeology - including discussions on the status of positions in contract archaeology, pros and cons of union organizing, the field tech's role in archaeology, and how to improve skills as field archaeologists. Contact: *the underground*, HCR 71, Box 11, Westport, PA 17778.

September 23-25, 1994 - The 3rd Archaeology and Gender Conference to be held at Appalachian State University in Boone, NC. The theme is "Prehistory of the Americas." Abstracts for 20-minute papers are due by July 22, 1994. Submit abstracts to Cheryl Claassen, e-mail - claassencp@appstate, or write Anthropology, Appalachian State University, Boone, NC 28608.

September 29-October 1, 1994 - American Association for State and Local History (AASLH) will hold its 54th annual meeting

in Omaha, Nebraska. The theme for this year's meeting is "Thriving on Change: Redefining the Field of State and Local History." For further information, contact AASLH, 530 Church Street, Suite 600, Nashville, TN 37219-2325.

November 2-6, 1994 - The Texas Archaeological Society & The Plains Anthropological Society will hold a joint meeting in November. The Texas Archaeological Society will hold its 65th annual meeting November 4-6, 1994, in conjunction with the 52nd annual Plains Anthropological Conference, which will be held November 2-6, 1994, in Lubbock, TX. For more information, contact Dr. Eileen Johnson, Museum of Texas Tech University, Box 43191, Lubbock, TX 79409-3191, ☎ 806-742-2481, FAX 806-742-1136.

November 4-6, 1994 - Eastern States Archaeological Federation will hold its annual meeting in Colonie, NY. For further information, contact Dean Snow, SUNY-Albany, Dept. of Anthropology, Social Science 262, Albany, NY 12222, ☎ 518-442-4700.

November 9-12, 1994 - Southeastern Archaeological Conference & Midwest Archaeological Conference will be held jointly at the Radisson Plaza Hotel, Lexington, KY. For information on local arrangements, contact Mary Lucas Powell, W.S. Webb Museum of Anthropology, 211 Lafferty Hall, University of Kentucky, Lexington, KY 40506-0024, ☎ 606-257-7112.

January 4-8, 1995 - The Society For Historical Archaeology's annual Conference on Historical and Underwater Archaeology will be held at the J. W. Marriott Hotel, Washington, DC. For more information, contact Henry M. Miller, Historic St. Mary's City, PO Box 39, St. Mary's City, Maryland 20686, ☎ 301-862-0974, FAX 301-862-0968.

If you have a meeting you would like to include on our calendar, The Grapevine will be glad to list it for you. Please remember to submit your listing by the 10th of each month.

eration.. The 65th annual meeting will be held November 4-6, 1994, at the Best Western Airport Inn, Albany, NY.

Suggested topics for papers include: Early Archaic, Adena/Hopewell, Iroquois, and Algonquin, as well as Historical Archaeology. Presentations should not exceed twenty minutes in length.

Submit abstracts to:

Dr. Dean Snow
ESAF Program Chair
Dept. of Anthropology
University of Albany, SUNY
Albany, NY 12222
☎ 518-442-4716

For more information, contact the Local Arrangements Chair:

Sandra L. Arnold
147 Scotch Church Road
Pattersonville, NY 12137
☎ 518-887-2765

✦ New Corporate Subscribers

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Contact: Richard McEldowney

✦ Tool Tips

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For more information, contact:

Doug Crice, President
GeoRadar, Inc.
19623 Via Escuela Drive
Saratoga, CA 95070
☎ 408-867-3792
FAX 408-867-4900.

✦ Job Announcements

Burns Paiute Tribe Archaeologist

The Burns Paiute Tribe, Burns, Oregon, is currently advertising for an Archaeologist. For more information on job description, contact:

Burns Paiute Tribe
HC 71 Box 100 Paisago Street
Burns, OR 97720

Principal Investigators

Gray & Pape, Inc., has immediate positions open for Principal Investigators in their Cincinnati, OH, and Richmond, VA, offices, specializing in prehistoric archaeology of the Midwest and/or Mid-Atlantic. An M.A. in Anthropology required (Ph.D. preferred) and previous experience in cultural resource management (CRM) supervision at the Principal Investigator-level, including an ability to assess resource significance according to federal and state guidelines, is required. In addition to expertise in prehistoric archaeology, this person must have sufficient knowledge of historic archaeology to be able to evaluate historic resources at the Phase I level of investigation. The ability to write clear, concise, and thorough CRM technical reports without extensive editing is required, as is the ability to manage multiple projects simultaneously.

This person will also be asked to assist in the preparation of proposals and in marketing. Communication skills and an ability to effectively supervise people are a must. Knowledge of WordPerfect is essential; familiarity with database, spreadsheet, and Geographic Information Systems (GIS) applications is preferred. Other skills that will be given serious consideration include knowledge of geomorphology, prehistoric artifact analysis, and/or faunal/floral analysis.

Gray & Pape, Inc., offers a competitive pay and benefits package, including paid holidays, paid vacation and sick leave, and health and disability insurance. After one year of employment, regular employees are eligible for a profit-sharing retirement plan. Send a current resume, three references from persons in the CRM field, and an example of recent CRM technical writing (not to be returned) to Gray & Pape, Inc., 1318 Main Street, Cincinnati, OH 45210. An Equal Opportunity Employer

Principal Investigator

Earth Search, Inc., is accepting applications for the position of Principal Investigator. Responsibilities include preparation of proposals and estimates, supervision of fieldwork, analysis and interpretation of data, preparation of technical reports, and coordination with clients and agencies.

Applicants must have an M.A. in anthropology or archaeology (Ph.D. preferred), at least two years supervisory experience in CRM, and demonstrated writing skills. Experience in Southeastern prehistoric and/or historic archaeology strongly preferred. Competitive salary and benefits.

Submit vitae and references to:

Dr. Jill-Karen Yakubik, President
Earth Search, Inc.
PO Box 850319
New Orleans, LA 70185-0319
☎ 504-865-8723

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William Sandy
RR 3, Box 120
Newton, NJ 07860
☎ 201-383-6355
FAX 201-383-9377

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\$30.00 Each corporate subscription is entitled to be included in the newsletter's quarterly corporate listing for one year. This corporate listing, giving address, phone number, and contact person, will be printed at the back of these issues. New corporate subscriptions will be listed each month.

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