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.

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 outreach project are often as interesting as the actual outcome of the project and 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-
Muerto Canyon Virus (continued from page 1)

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 co-residents 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°F 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:
1. 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.
2. 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. (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
Vermont Archaeology Week
... continued from page 2

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
entreatings, last-minute phone calls
to some of the larger northeastern
consultant firms netted us a
sponsorship that was supple-
mented 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
teammed 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
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 archae-
ology 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" grass-
roots 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
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 head-
quartters for the underground in
Westport, PA. This event will
attempt to bring together field techs
from all over the country to dis-
cuss issues particular to archaeo-
logy - including the status of
positions in contract archaeology,
pros and cons of union organiz-
ing, the field tech’s role in
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.


**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 Pownal 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 associated 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.


**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 Chery Gladden, e-mail: classen@apstate, 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 2-4, 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 Colonia, 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.

New Corporate Subscribers

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Tool Tips

GeoRadar, Inc., has introduced an improved ground penetrating radar based on stepped-FM technology. Ground penetrating radar has many applications in archaeology, including mapping buried walls and foundations; measuring soil depths; detecting tunnels and cavities; delineating burial sites; and locating artifacts.

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 Paisagio 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.

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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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