

COLORADO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY: HISTORICAL PERSPECTIVES AND IMPACTS

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Back in 1932, Harry “Hardware” Endner, who would become the first President of the Society, and Kenneth Lucy, the future first Secretary and Treasurer, excavated a very special Mimbres bowl from a pit structure in the Silver City area of southwestern New Mexico (Figure 1). In the following three years this bowl played an important role, convincing Endner and his colleagues that although a work of art, an artifact like this was a non-replaceable archaeological resource and did not belong in the common marketplace (Whatley 1985). Together with Lucy, C. T. Hurst, and R. G. Montgomery, Harry began to formulate ideas and ethical standards emphasizing proper collection and documentation of prehistoric cultural remains. These four men met at Western State College in Gunnison, Colorado in April of 1935 and hammered out a Charter that addressed protection, public education, curation, research, and agency cooperation. These ideas and standards became the foundation of the Southwestern Colorado Archaeological Society (Stewart 1949).

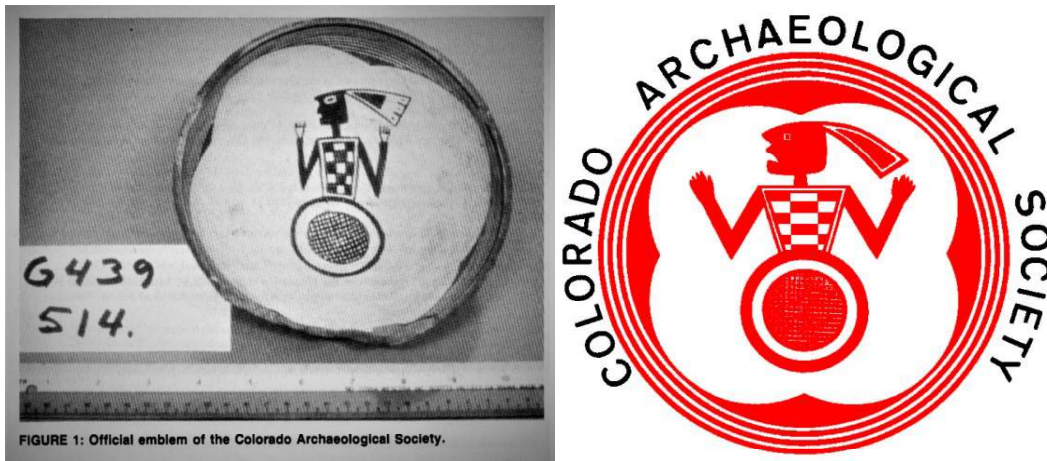


Figure 1. Mimbres bowl excavated by Harry Endner and Kenneth Lucy (left); Colorado Archaeological Society logo based on the design element on the bowl (right).

Clarence Thomas (C.T.) Hurst, Professor of Zoology and Archaeology and Dean of the Graduate School at Western State, led the group as its first Executive Secretary and Editor (Figure 2). They hit the ground running with the opening of the Western State Museum just one month later on May 30th. In just one more month, Volume 1, Number 1 of *Southwestern Lore* was published. Within a year it was apparent that membership would extend well beyond southwestern Colorado. So in May of 1936, the membership voted to change the name of the organization to Colorado Archaeological Society (CAS) (Stewart 1949). Adapting to his new role, Hurst,

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Figure 2. Photographs of C. T. Hurst, co-founder and first Executive Secretary of the Colorado Archaeological Society. Originally published in *Southwestern Lore* in 1949.

as can be seen in the right-hand photograph in Figure 2, spiffed up his image.

Hurst proceeded to move CAS forward, fostering research in archaeology and continuing to excavate and publish at an untiring pace. Case in point: His article “A Corn Cache from Western Colorado” was published in *American Antiquity* in the month of his untimely death in 1949 at age 53 (Hurst and Anderson 1949). In a short 13 years, Hurst had built CAS into a statewide, nationally recognized organization with 15 chapters and 540 members.

One of the most notable achievements of CAS has been its campaign for a State Archaeologist, an undertaking that took nearly four tedious years to accomplish. (This process is described in detail by Lyons [1973].) Colorado’s first Antiquity Act was passed in 1967. The Act assigned authority for its administration to the Colorado Historical Society. This included the powers to issue or deny permits for archaeological surveys and excavation and to enter into agreements with agencies and individuals controlling highway and other construction projects. However, as concerned citizens, academics and archaeological professionals, CAS members felt that the provisions of the Act were not being adequately implemented by the Colorado Historical Society. A CAS committee was formed consisting of Dr. A. H. Schoondermark (future CAS President), University of Colorado professors Dr. Robert H. Lister and Dr. David A. Breternitz, and CAS avocational archaeologists Ivor K. Hagar and Ray D. Lyons. Lyons, a retired USDA Forest Service botanist, became a registered lobbyist to help the cause.

This group was to study the problem and present recommendations to CAS at the 1970 Annual Meeting. Their task was to consider the need for a State

Archaeologist and the means to develop an effective archaeological program for Colorado. In the first year the committee gathered information from the Colorado Historical Society; other states with active archaeological programs; affected state agencies including the Colorado Department of Highways (now CDOT); and federal agencies including Bureau of Reclamation, Bureau of Public Roads (now Federal Highway Administration), USDA Forest Service, and Bureau of Land Management.

The report produced by this group offered a plan of action that included development of a legislative proposal. It set a goal of 1973 to pass the needed legislation. Meetings were held with all of the concerned institutions and organizations. Two proposals resulted from these meetings. One proposal would place a new office of the State Archaeologist in the State Historical Museum at the Colorado Historical Society, and the other proposal located the new office at the University of Colorado Museum. This information was presented at the 1971 CAS Annual Meeting, and it was decided to proceed with the Colorado Historical Society option. CAS members began contacting their State legislators (which they really did), and the committee negotiated the introduction of the bill in both houses of the legislature with sponsors.

A rough draft of the bill was prepared after the 1972 CAS Annual Meeting that now included a provision for placing the State Archaeologist at the University of Colorado Museum and a Deputy for Historical Archaeology at the State Historical Museum. This draft was presented at a joint meeting between CAS and the Colorado Historical Society in December of 1972. After hearing the draft, the Director of the University of Colorado Museum informed CAS that the university lawyer had advised him that, under the State of Colorado constitution, it was not possible for the legislature to include any special project in the university program. The Colorado Historical Society firmly objected to moving control from its museum. It assured CAS that it was taking care of prehistoric archaeology and highway salvage in Colorado and that, in fact, since 1967 it had cross-checked all highway construction, which included 80 percent of the interstate system, against its list of known sites – and only two surveys were needed and just one very small site had been excavated. The Society stated that it had had a State Archaeologist on its proposed staffing chart since passage of the Antiquity Act, but that higher priorities and limited funds had prevented actual creation of the position. The Society assured CAS that if it would support the request for funds, a State Archaeologist would be hired. After the meeting, the CAS committee stayed on to discuss the probability of securing an adequate archaeological program with this Colorado Historical Society commitment. The consensus was that there was little faith that the objectives of CAS would be met.

And so, it was time for Plan B. In essence, the CAS committee decided to prepare a very simple bill placing the State Archaeologist in the Department of Natural Resources and eliminating deputies and all of the wording that the Colorado Historical Society found objectionable. CAS's bill was printed and introduced as House Bill No. 1187 on February 9, 1973 and assigned to the Natural Resources Committee. A grassroots CAS letter-writing campaign started in earnest.

After reviewing a copy of the bill, the Colorado Historical Society

wanted to wheel and deal. Its offer essentially became “We’ll give you two seats on our Board of Directors if CAS will withdraw the bill and sweeten the pot with a CAS lobby for a \$65,000 budget increase for the Society.” (This is a loose translation on the part of the author.) When Ray Lyons passed this information on to CAS’s Senate sponsor, he said privately that the legislature was behind the need for a State Archaeologist, but cautioned that there was a confidence gap between the Colorado Historical Society and the committee of CAS members and professionals. All parties needed to work out a mutually acceptable solution.

The committee and the Colorado Historical Society met, and two important points were agreed upon:

- The Colorado Historical Society Board was to be expanded to include two representatives from the state’s archaeological interests, to be selected from a list of at least five individuals submitted by CAS.
- The new bill would include the Antiquity Act restructured to establish the position of State Archaeologist, and the enumerated duties of the position were to be performed under the direction of the Colorado Historical Society.

The House approved the re-introduced bill, HB-1569, and it went to the Senate. The bill passed in the Senate, but with a floor amendment to locate the State Archaeologist on the campus of Fort Lewis College in Durango. Back to the House; more meetings and compromise. After many rounds between the House and Senate the final bill, now without the Durango amendment, was passed and signed into law by Governor John A. Love on July 7, 1973. We finally had a State Archaeologist!

It is hard to imagine what our archaeological world would be like without the efforts of these people, and a great debt of gratitude is owed to them. Ray Lyons (Figure 3) went on to serve as CAS President and Executive Secretary, and was the third recipient of the C. T. Hurst Award for “extraordinary contributions to the archaeology of Colorado” (Johnson 1999).

Ivol K. Hagar (Figure 4) joined CAS in 1962 after a career in law enforcement, and spent his early years in CAS doing what many others did – hunting arrowheads and collecting. Later, when he came to realize the damage that collectors did to the prehistoric record, his interests shifted to leading and helping to turn CAS from the mainly collecting group it had become into a working scientific organization. There were many who fought this change in direction, but under his strong leadership the scope of CAS evolved. In the early 1970s, when he joined Ray Lyons and others in the State Archaeologist project, he played such an important role in that endeavor that he was asked to sit on the selection committee for the purpose of appointing our first State Archaeologist. He was the only avocational archaeologist invited to do so.

Along with a few other CAS Members and State Archaeologist Bruce E. Rippeteau, Ivol was also instrumental in developing the Program for Avocational Archaeological Certification (PAAC). Established in 1978, PAAC allows CAS members and the general public to obtain formally recognized levels of training outside of an academic degree program. The State PAAC Coordinator, who is also the Assistant State Archaeologist, is responsible for course development,

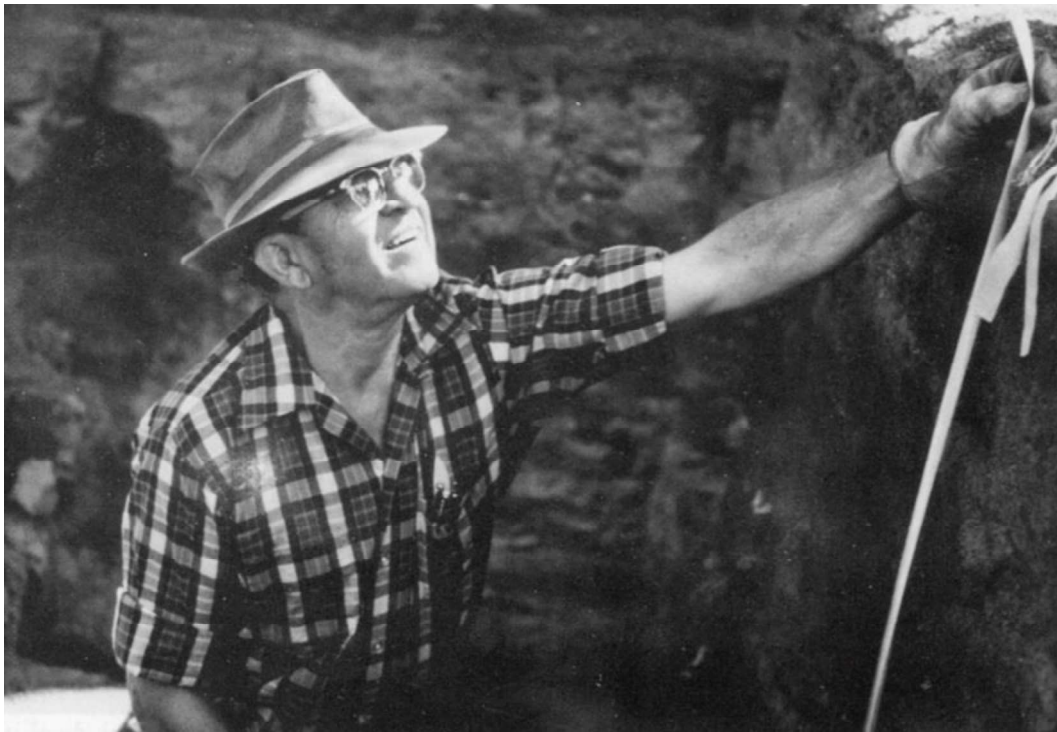


Figure 3. Ray D. Lyons, in a photo taken circa late 1970s at Bradford House III, Ken Caryl Ranch. Originally published in Southwestern Lore in 1999.



Figure 4. Ivor K. Hagar, in an undated photograph taken by Bill Tate. Originally published in Southwestern Lore in 1996.

scheduling and presentation. PAAC has 13 programs ranging from 8 to 25 hours in length, and since 2007, 154 courses have been given across the state to 2,657 attendees.

Ivol served as CAS President and Executive Secretary. He was also presented CAS's highest honor, the C. T. Hurst Award (the Silver Trowel). And – last but not least – he was the only avocational archaeologist invited to become a member of the Colorado Council of Professional Archaeologists (CCPA). Ivol passed away in 1995, and in honor of his 30+ years of service the CAS Board created the Ivol Hagar Award given appropriately “to those individuals who have made outstanding long-term contributions to CAS” (Tate 1996).

The other important name in CAS history that deserves special mention is Alice L. Hamilton and her scholarship program (Figure 5). Alice was a Denver Chapter member known for her fieldwork and development of educational materials and presentations. In 1979 she received the State Archaeologist's Award for her dedicated years of service (Tate 1987). Following her passing in 1986, CAS created the Alice Hamilton Scholarship Award in her honor. These scholarships are open to all enrolled students in archaeology-related fields at Colorado institutions of higher learning. CAS is very proud to note that since the first awards were made in 1987 it has given out over \$94,000 to 255 Colorado students from 13 colleges and universities. As a point of trivia, past recipients include our previous State Archaeologist, Richard H. Wilshusen; our current Assistant State Archaeologist, Christopher M. Johnston; and current CCPA President and Colorado State University Professor Jason M. LaBelle. And there are numerous other CCPA recipients as well.



Figure 5. Alice L. Hamilton, in an undated photograph. Originally published in Southwestern Lore in 1987.

The Colorado Archaeological Society now stands 82 years strong with 11 Chapters and more than 1,100 members. We continue our strong relationship with CCPA. As today's political and financial landscape changes at an ever increasing rate, CAS endeavors to maintain and grow interagency relations. Together we share the common goal of research, education and the preservation our state's cultural heritage.

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