



# PLEISTOCENE COALITION NEWS

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- Challenging the tenets of mainstream scientific agendas -

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#### 6.) The 22,000–29,000-year old 'Venus of Brassempouy'

(France) is one of the most famous pieces of Paleolithic art ever discovered. What the U.S. anthropology community conceals from the public through suppression and ridicule is that contemporaneous tools from Brassempouy and other European sites match those from Calico. Here is compared a Calico stone blade found 5' below the surface with a statuette-contemporaneous blade from Brassempouy. U.S. anthropology falsely teaches subsurface Calico artifacts are "not" manmade. See Feliks p.10.

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#### 1.) "First of all: The Calico site is a very important find and, of course, all the stones that I have seen there are real artifacts. Incidentally, some other European archaeologists are of the same opinion. I think many American cultural anthropologists either don't look properly or are afraid of the school of herring in which all other colleagues seem so sure to swim. They are more uniform in their views than we Europeans. Americans prefer to say yes to what the vast majority think is right." -Lutz Fiedler, PhD; former State Archaeologist, Hessen, Germany; Discoverer of the famous 'Venus of Tan Tan' figurine. Germany

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#### 2.) "The field trip that changed my life was the weekend spent at Calico Early Man Site." Tom Baldwin and many others have gained valuable life experience and education through Calico. We need to stop Calico's being 'bulldozed' like what happened at Hueyatlatco. See Baldwin p.5.

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#### 3.) Stone tool production expert, Jan Willem van der Drift, notes that without visual clues from the obvious symmetry of such as handaxes (above left) poorly-trained American archaeologists unfamiliar with assymmetric 'bipolar flaking' (above right) are unable to distinguish tools made using that technique from naturally broken rocks. The resulting bias has misled the public regarding Calico. See Van der Drift p.2.

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#### 4.) Two of Dr. Virginia Steen-McIntyre's superb Calico abuse exposés showing mainstream archaeologists' and the California BLM's apparent agendas for destruction of Calico. See Steen-McIntyre p.11, p.12.

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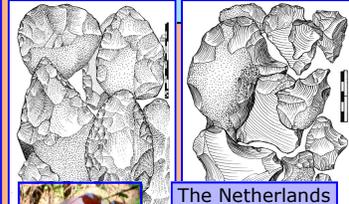
#### 5.) "Dr. Gramly...has verified that both Harvard Hill and Calico Hills have Clovis artifacts scattered on them. We now believe the whole region was intensely settled by Clovis peoples. ... Master Pit 3... suggests... pre-Clovis peoples... The approximately 42,800-year date is comparable... to secure absolute dating of some sites in South America... [as well as] Hueyatlatco I and II... (~74–130 ka)... It is clear... the entire Calico/Manix area has multiple archaeological sites dating from at least Clovis times. ...For our knowledge of the peopling of the Americas it is one of the most important archaeological sites in North America." See Harrod p.9.

### PCN SPECIAL ISSUE

Information & statements challenging the California BLM—big business ally—and its recent threat to Calico archaeological site

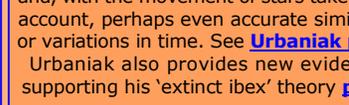
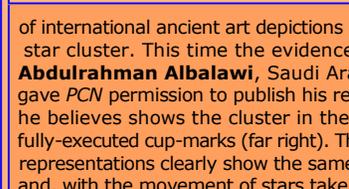
Interspersed this issue, scientifically-objective PhDs, international stone tool experts (including the late Dr. Louis Leakey), etc., speak on Calico suppression and threat of the site's destruction by the BLM, big business, and the 'unscientific' U.S. anthropology community. Numbers=Calico statements.

1.) "First of all: The Calico site is a very important find and, of course, all the stones that I have seen there are real artifacts. Incidentally, some other European archaeologists are of the same opinion. I think many American cultural anthropologists either don't look properly or are afraid of the school of herring in which all other colleagues seem so sure to swim. They are more uniform in their views than we Europeans. Americans prefer to say yes to what the vast majority think is right." -Lutz Fiedler, PhD; former State Archaeologist, Hessen, Germany; Discoverer of the famous 'Venus of Tan Tan' figurine. Germany



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Updating the Pleiades in ancient art saga with significant new evidence and implications: Engineer and rock art researcher, Ray Urbaniak, expands the possibilities



Regarding an upcoming special series on the Clovis, archaeologist Dr. Richard Michael Gramly, PhD, states: "Organic artifacts, it has long been thought, are rarely preserved... In actual fact, however, artifacts of these materials are abundant—IF you know where to look. ...fresh revelations should be expected." The series will include the Bowser Road Mastodon excavation and evidence of social and religious practices. See Gramly p.14.

# The pioneers of Calico

By Jan Willem van der Drift, Stone tool production expert, early man theorist

**"Their efforts are being undermined by people in positions of**



**authority that don't have a clue.**

**That's why we need to explain the reason for the misunderstandings and the importance of the site."**



### Unknown makes unloved

People do not appreciate what they don't understand. That's why the Dutch destroyed 5000-year old megalithic grave chambers (such as those shown in **Fig. 1**) until about a century ago. Before that they used the stones simply as cheap building materials.

Today Calico Early Man Site in the Mojave Desert outside Barstow, California, is endangered for a very similar reason, to confiscate the land for reasons that have nothing to do with archaeology or the interests of indigenous peoples in the region. A handful of archeologists and other researchers and concerned citizens are fighting to preserve the site. However, their efforts are being undermined by people in positions of authority that don't have a clue. That's why we need to explain the reason for the misunderstandings and the importance of the site.

### Short chronology hypothesis

All archeologists understand that the 'handaxes' in **Fig. 2** (dated 500,000 years old) are 'manmade' because they show intentional symmetry. All scholars also accept the asymmetrical forms in the drawing (a chopper and two scrapers) because these come from the same site (near Atapuerca in Spain) as the handaxes.

However, a bunch of hardliners reject all asymmetric tools if found without handaxes to steer them. This tendency was clearly demonstrated at the Tautavel workshop, November 19–20, 1993, by Wil Roebroeks. Roebroeks claimed that *all of the oldest*

*finds from all over Europe were pseudo-artefacts, i.e. natural forms that only resembled tools.* With this belief system, Europe would therefore have been completely uninhabited before the introduction of the handaxe! But Roebroeks' short chronology hypothesis (available at <https://hdl.handle.net/1887/27978>) was defeated on July 8 1994. That day, at the site of Atapuerca, Spain—dated 800,000 years old—human bones of a type called *Homo antecessor* were discovered associated with pre-handaxe tools otherwise known as 'Mode-I.' That discovery made these once rejected tools—even for hardliners—impossible to deny!

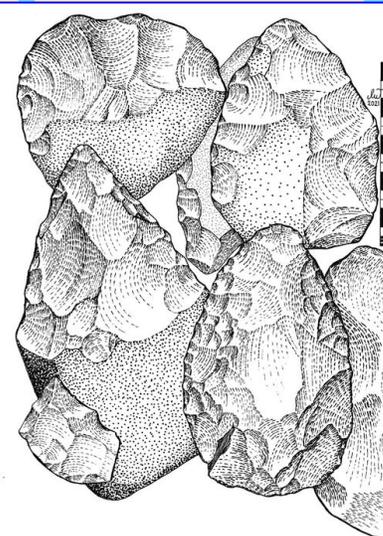
### Suppressing knowledge

People should not mess with things they don't understand. But we all know that hardline doctors suppress developments in alternative medicine they don't understand because that makes them feel like knights on a holy crusade against quacks. So don't be surprised when you see hardline archeologists crusading against new insights. The American hardliners claim an even shorter chronology than Roebroeks; they say that America remained uninhabited until the last ice-age. That theory rejects Calico. But man had already migrated from



**Fig. 1.** Hunebedden are prehistoric grave chambers in which the stone walls and roof were originally covered with earth. They are the oldest monuments in Holland erected 5,000 years ago. Until the early 20th Century—when the public was finally informed—the stones were simply hauled away for use as cheap building materials.

Africa to China (Shangchen, Yellow River, Lantian province), at least 2.1 million years ago and herds of animals travelled between Asia and the Americas in those two million years.



**Fig. 2.** The intentional symmetry of the 500,000-year old handaxes helps us easily see that handaxes are 'manmade' forms. Scrapers such as in the upper left are more difficult to recognize as they tend to be asymmetrical. The scale in upper right is 10 cm or 4". Drawing by JW van der Drift.

So, why would man have stayed behind?

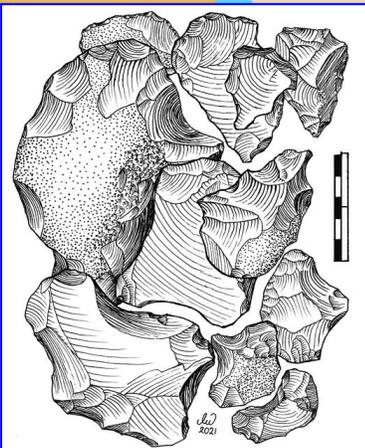
### Long cutting edges

In the 1960s, all archeologists believed that early-man first

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## The pioneers of Calico (cont.)

### "The American hardliners claim..."



**Fig. 3.** The lack of intentional symmetry makes it harder to see that these are *manmade tools*. Scale at right is 5 cm or 2". Drawing by JW van der Drift.

**America remained uninhabited until the last ice age. ... But man had already migrated from Africa to China...at least 2.1 million years ago and herds of animals travelled between Asia and the Americas. So, why would man have stayed behind?"**

cut with simple flakes. More evolved humans would have made choppers with short cutting edges in Olduvai, Tanzania; and Vértesszölös, Hungary. When man learned to make longer edges, these choppers would have evolved into thick Abbevillian handaxes.

The next stone tool evolutionary stage would have made the handaxe thinner for the effect of making the cutting edges shaper. Finally, handaxes in general were replaced by blades when man understood this was a more efficient way to produce long cutting edges. So, Dr. Louis Leakey logically came to the conclusion that the

asymmetric tools at Calico had to be very old.

However, in the 1980s new dating methods proved that humans had made perfect handaxes long before they made the asymmetric tools found, for instance, at Vértesszölös and Calico. These sites then fell from grace; human bones had been found at Vértesszölös so that site could not be denied but it was reduced to a local curiosity. The hardliners rejected all sites without human bones, including Calico.

#### Short TFUs

The conditions at Calico were not suited to preserve human bones, but today we understand that tools were not only about long cutting edges. Even handaxes also had other *techno-functional units* (TFUs): the top, for instance, served to pierce the skin and the butt end was shaped for gripping.

Neanderthals took their TFUs a step further; the Moustérien

*denticulé* altogether stopped making handaxes and focused on short TFUs like points, burins, notches and *denticulates* [stone tools with one or more edges worked into multiple notches like saw teeth]. Since we know the Neanderthals liked asymmetric tools with short TFUs, there is no reason to disqualify the people at such as Vértesszölös or Calico for making the same choice (as illustrated by the comparison on page 6 of my PDF book, [The Paleolithic, How and Why](#)).

Yet we do want to understand why. At Vértesszölös the reason for making short TFUs is simple: the only available raw material was pebbles. Nobody can turn a pebble into a handaxe because pebbles measure less than 2.5 inches (64 mm); the small size only allows short TFUs.

#### Production methods

The use of pebbles had an effect on the length of the TFUs, but it also affected the method of making tools. Handaxes were made by lifting a large flat stone in one hand and hitting it with a hammer held in the other hand. But this freehand method doesn't work on pebbles, small rounded stones can only be worked with hammer and anvil. We call that method *bipolar flaking* because the forces come from opposed sides. The forces that cause geological fractures are often also bipolar, so bipolar tools tend to resemble natural forms. *This explains why Roebroeks and many other professors mistake bipolar tools for pseudo-artefacts*; it takes a specialist to tell the difference.

#### Pioneer toolkit

Now that you know how and why early-man turned pebbles into bipolar tools with short TFUs, we come to the question of why some groups applied the same methods to far better raw materials. There is good

quality flint at Banholt-TH ([Paleolithic Pioneer Technology at Banholt \[the Netherlands\]](#); Van der Drift, Oliscläger and Dijkstra 2020) but the people who lived there 300,000–400,000 years ago just made bipolar flakes giving them short TFUs. This resulted in the multitools shown in **Fig. 3**. Specialists immediately recognize their forms. However, to the untrained eye they look like natural stones.

So, why are there no handaxes at Banholt-TH?

The answer to that question begins with knowing that lowlands generally offered lots of food but no stones big enough to make handaxes. After each ice-age when the warmer climate drove humans to the north through lowlands, *the lack of raw materials forced the pioneers to make pebbletools*. The next generations grew up in these lowlands so they never learned to make handaxes and simply kept making bipolar tools with short TFUs when they continued north—even if they found large and good quality raw materials. In *PCN* #67, Sept-Oct 2020 ([Bipolar multitools](#)), I showed how the pioneer migration routes explain the absence of handaxes in the Clactonian of Europe, Peking man's Zhoukoudian in Asia, and Calico in North America.

#### Hardaker at Calico

In 2008, after I made a film about bipolar tools, the secretary of the APAN ([apanarchoe.nl](#)) told me that the website [www.earthmeasure.com](#) also showed bipolar tools. When I contacted the maker of this site, archaeologist Chris Hardaker, he turned out to be one of the few specialists who really understood bipolar tools. He had studied Calico and showed several tools in his Calico Lithics Photography Project on the site. For instance, the

> [Cont. on page 4](#)

# The pioneers of Calico (cont.)

Calico tool in **Fig. 4** (found 118" down) shows a point-



**Fig. 4.** Bipolar tool from Calico Early Man Site photographed and catalogued by archaeologist, Chris Hardaker, for his Calico Lithics Photography Project. Used with the late C. Hardaker's permission to PCN (Hardaker was a co-founder of the Pleistocene Coalition).



**Fig. 5.** Fully-accepted Neanderthal denticulate tools; Atapuerca, Spain; dated 50,000–70,000 BP. They show the same short TFUs as the 300,000–400,000-year old tools at Banholt-Th, NL (Fig. 3 prior page), and the 200,000-year old industry at Calico. Note the remarkable resemblance to Calico #1717 (Fig. 4 above). Photo: Jan Willem van der Drift.



**Fig. 6.** Blade tool from Calico Early Man Site photographed and catalogued by archaeologist, Chris Hardaker, for his Calico Lithics Photography Project. Used with the late C. Hardaker's permission to the PC and *Pleistocene Coalition News*.

TFU (with ventral retouches) between two deep notch-TFUs.

It is just like what we regularly see at Banholt-TH, Netherlands, and other bipolar sites. The fully-accepted 50,000–70,000-year old Neanderthal tools in **Fig. 5** show a remarkable similarity in techniques of production to the 200,000-year old industry of Calico.

The untrained eye may find tools with short notch-TFUs and point-TFUs 'less impressive' than handaxes. However, this is no different than finding modern metal wrenches and screwdrivers 'less impressive' than butcher knives. All tools have their histories and uses. The short-TFUs reflect technological progress in stone tool production. Those who used these tools were clearly far beyond the popular image of Paleolithic people simply cutting or scraping meat off of bones.

**Fig. 6** shows a Calico blade (found at a depth of 209"). Similar bipolar blades were found at Neer in the Netherlands. See the photo on p. 112 of my book, the *Paleolithic, how and why* (link is on the prior page).

### Later use of bipolar

The mesolithic and neolithic pioneers in the lowlands of Brasil also combined hammer and anvil to produce bipolar blades. See, for instance, A. Prous, M.A. Lima, G.N. Souza; A.P. Lima, and F. Amoreli. 2010. *La place et les caractéristiques du débitage sur enclume ("bipolaire") dans les industries brésiliennes* [Place and characteristics of bipolar-on-anvil debitage in Brazilian industries]. *Paleo, Les Eyzies-de-Tayac*, p. 201–19.

### Pioneer heritage

Americans are proud of their pioneer heritage, because they know all pioneers are intelligent and enterprising humans. They tell the whole world about the pioneers that came to America a few centuries ago and about the First Nations pioneers that arrived during the last ice-age. Early-man at Calico deserves the same respect, we must preserve their unique pioneer heritage.



JAN WILLEM VAN DER DRIFT, a veterinarian in the Netherlands by trade, is a colleague of the late Chris Hardaker, archaeologist and founding member of the Pleistocene Coalition. He is a Dutch lithics expert in stone tool production with over 40 years field experience. Van der Drift is a prolific author in both English and Dutch publishing in such as *Notae Praehistoricae, Archeologie, APAN/Extern* (publication of Aktieve Praktijk Archeologie Nederland), etc. He is also a producer of educational films demonstrating bipolar techniques of stone tool production and its association with various human cultures of all periods beginning with the Paleolithic. Van der Drift's work is referenced in Paul Douglas Campbell's book, *The Universal Tool Kit* (2013), a highly-rated overview of stone tool production techniques. Van der Drift is presently Chairman of APAN or Active Practitioners of Archaeology in the Netherlands (Aktieve Praktijk Archeologie Nederland). The organization was started due to the cumulative knowledge and field experience of its members consistently observing inaccurate interpretations of physical evidence regarding the nature of early humans by the mainstream archaeology community. The group was given extra motivation along these lines by Chris Hardaker who, in correspondence with van der Drift related the treatment of Calico Early Man Site in California (excavated by famed anthropologist Dr. Louis Leakey) by the mainstream archaeological establishment. Van der Drift lives in the small town of Cadier en Keer in the province of Lumborg, Netherlands. Website: <http://apanarchoe.nl>

# Calico Early Man Site—a personal journey

By Tom Baldwin

***"The field trip that changed my life was the weekend spent at Calico Early Man Site.***

***... the excitement was dramatically present right when we arrived as there was an airplane from the National Geographic Society making low passes over the site taking pictures for a magazine article."***



**When I was in high school** a friend of mine and I would spend Saturdays riding our bikes out into the hinterlands

to hunt fossilized shark teeth located in the Miocene deposits found out there. We took long bayonets we'd bought at a military surplus store to hack our way through the prickly pear that covered the hillside. Once we'd exposed the ground we could hunt the teeth and other fossils found weathering from the sandstone. Shark teeth were in abundance and I'd find five to ten on a trip. My neatest discovery, however, was a sea lion tooth complete with its root. As with so many paleontological and archaeological sites in Southern California it is now a housing tract. This is what they call progress.

This fossil hunting gave me a taste for searching out things from ages long past. It seemed a natural step, therefore, for me to join the youth wing of the Pacific Coast Archaeological Society (PCAS). This wing was Boy Scout Explorer Post #806. Fortuitously for me, it was one of only two Archaeological Explorer Posts in the whole country. Interestingly, the Explorer Post was also open to girls. We are talking the early 60's here folks, and I always found myself wondering at all the controversy of the last few years over letting girls into the scouts when we had done it all those years ago with no ill effects.

The PCAS had regular field trips where we got to dig Native American villages and other archaeological sites. The field trip that changed my life was the weekend

spent at Calico Early Man Site.

That Calico trip was in late 1964 or early 1965. The Early Man Site saga was in its infancy and the excitement was dramatically present right when we arrived as there was an airplane from the National Geographic Society making low passes over the site taking pictures for a magazine article.

We set up camp down on the flatlands below the hill from where the dig was going on. Not looking forward to sleeping on the ground, I had brought an old folding army cot which I set up in the tent I was assigned to.

It was not long after we all settled in for the night that the wind showed up. If you know anything about Calico you know the wind blows almost all the time there. Hot in the summer and cold in the winter, it blows and blows. Soon, all the tents were knocked down!

A few of the PCAS members had brought campers and everyone had to pile into the few RVs in order to get out of the wind. I, however, got under my cot instead of on it. I was still inside the blown down tent, but there was a nice space there under the cot and the whole tent. Ironically, I wound up being the only one to spend a comfortable night as the rest were packed like sardines in a can.

The following day at Calico, we saw the site and what was going on and we wandered the nearby hills. That



**Fig. 1.** The "Dirt Diggers" group I hooked up with during my rekindling of interest in Calico. That's a much younger and thinner version of me at the left.

was just about my last experience with archaeology for decades as a few months later I graduated from high school and was off to university. Shortly after that came a wife and kids, a job, and a mortgage. Things archaeological settled into the dim reaches of the past.

Many, many moons went by since high school. Those moons stretched into years and the years into decades. Then, one day I found myself crossing the Mojave Desert and noticed the brown sign beside Interstate 15 announcing that Calico Early Man site was at the next exit. Fond memories came back and I decided to take the plunge and pull off the freeway and visit the site.

I do not remember many of the details. However, I got to see the site again and at some point I let it be known to others that I had visited the site in its very early days and that I knew a little about archaeology. This got me an invitation to come back and become one of the 'diggers.' I accepted and began years as a member of the "Dirt Diggers Local (I forget the number)." **Fig. 1** shows our "Diggers" group. That's a much younger and thinner version of me at the left.

> [Cont. on page 6](#)

## Calico Early Man Site—a personal journey (cont.)

### *She still remembers*



**Fig. 2.** 'A Room with a View' at Calico many years back. Photo: Tom Baldwin.

From October to May, the first weekend of the month was spent at the site digging in Master Pit 3. No digging took place in the other months because the Mojave is just too hot that time of year.

### *my taking her there.*



**Fig. 3.** My granddaughter, Chelsea Amberson, showing one of her artifact finds in Calico's Master Pit 3.

I learned a lot about archaeology over the years: how to tell if a

### *It made a lasting impression*



**Fig. 4.** Chelsea learning the art of sifting from Dee, one of our other 'Dirt Diggers' not pictured in the first figure. Dee is showing Chelsea how to spot anything important she may have missed in her initial search.

stone was an artifact or just a rock. It got so I

### *on her."*

could tell the different types of artifacts from each

other. I was shown how to catalog anything important that I dug up. That's a lost art if my most recent return to Calico is any indication. Then an archaeological student from one of the local colleges was overseeing a dig going on and doing it all wrong. I also involved myself in surface surveys, and more. I made lots of friends too, squatting in Master Pit 3, each of us chipping away with awl and mallet, joking, laughing, and all the time hoping we were the next one to find something that all the others would ooh and aah over.

There was some danger too. I refer, of course, to 'A Room with a View' (**Fig. 2**). It was a long hike down the hill from the dig site to the headquarters and the restrooms. If one was experiencing a fecal emergency there was always 'The Room' only about fifty feet from the pits. However it was a known haunt of desert rats which nested in it and it was always a good idea to go on a search and destroy mission where black widows were concerned before taking a seat. However, from its location—and if you were willing to brave the dangers—the view was tremendous. One could sit there and see out across 50 miles of the beautiful Mojave Desert and the dried lakebed of old Lake Manix.

It is such a shame that the California government wants to bulldoze the site. There are so few places a person can go and learn about archaeology. It is a very important site, in fact, the oldest in the United States and, instead of closing it down, efforts should be made to make it a teaching site now. It isn't just adults like myself that can learn the basics of ar-

chaeology, young people can learn too. I recall a person I know who got their first taste of archaeology at Calico and from there went on to a career in the field.

I have included a few figures to demonstrate what I mean about the inspirational nature of Calico.

**Fig. 3**, for instance, is a photo of my granddaughter, Chelsea Amberson. It shows her in Master Pit 3 proudly displaying an artifact she has just found. You can see the joy of accomplishment on her face. She still remembers my taking her there. It made a lasting impression on her.

After digging down a ways the digger gathers all the stuff they have chipped loose from the Master Pit and collects it in a bucket and takes it out to be sifted to see if there is anything important they missed when pounding away with mallet and awl. **Fig. 4** shows Chelsea learning the art of sifting from Dee, one of our other Dirt Diggers. She is showing her how to find anything she may have missed while digging.

Lots of time and a great deal of human effort went into making the Early Man Site and it could still be both a teaching site and an active archaeological site. **Fig. 5** on the following page shows where most of the digging goes/went on. The covered area on the left shows the cover over Master Pit 1. The cave-like entrance in the middle and the covering to the right is Master Pit 3 where I spent so many years. The area stretching down on the right is Master Pit 2.

Calico Early Man Site has been a place of learning for me and my family, and it can be the same for other people, but more than that, it is a site where the oldest manmade

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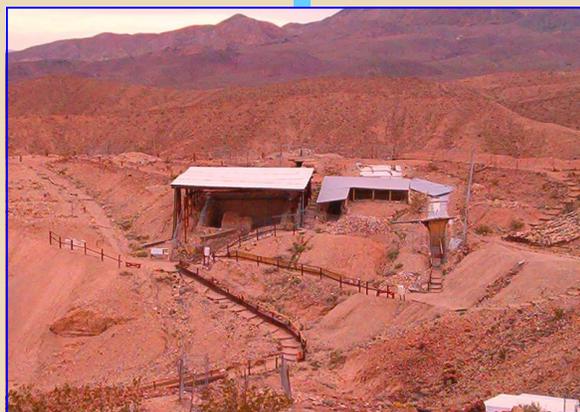
## Calico Early Man Site—a personal journey (cont.)

**“The Early Man Site ... could still be both a teaching site and an active archaeological site.”**

artifacts in the United States are found. It must be preserved for future generations.

TOM BALDWIN IS an award-winning author, educator, and amateur archaeologist living in Utah; an early founder of the Pleistocene Coalition; and writer and copy editor for *PCN* the past 11 years. Links to all of Baldwin’s over 40 articles in *PCN*, including many on Calico and associated Lake Manix, can be found at:

[http://pleistocenecoalition.com/index.htm#tom\\_baldwin](http://pleistocenecoalition.com/index.htm#tom_baldwin)



**Fig. 5.** Calico’s central area. Photo by Tom Baldwin; crop.

## Quotes of interest on suppression in science and education

**“Universities are becoming laughing stocks of intolerance.”**

-Steven Pinker, Linguist, cognitive psychologist; Harvard University

**Note:** This collection of quotations is reprinted from [PCN #57](#), Jan-Feb 2019. It is included here to remind *PCN* readers about *mainstream behaviors* that lead to destruction of sites like Hueyatlaco and Calico. It is also to inform readers such behavior often deliberately ruins the reputations of honest researchers who provide the evidence that pop science dogma must be questioned.

**“Censorship...creates in the end the kind of society that is incapable of exercising real discretion.”**

-Henry Steele Commager, American historian

**“This week my employer, Harvard University, announced its next president...”**

The campus newspaper asked what advice I would give our incoming chief... I reiterated the counsel I had offered the search committee: ‘The President of Harvard University is ... a voice for the integrity of academia as a forum for free inquiry. Yet universities are becoming laughing stocks of intolerance, with non-leftist speakers drowned out by jeering mobs, professors subjected to Stalinesque investigations for unorthodox opinions...and much else... [These] damage the credibility of university scientists and scholars....It’s up to the president ...to stanch this credibility drain ... publicly affirming the sanctity of free inquiry and civil disagreement, and reining in the factions that are assaulting them.’”

-Steven Pinker, PhD, linguist, cognitive psychologist, Harvard. “Universities are becoming laughing stocks of intolerance.” *The Spectator*. Feb. 24, 2018, 9:30 a.m.

**“Those who challenge dominant ideas may face... attempts at scientific suppression: discrediting or silencing**

a scientist or scientific claim in ways that violate accepted standards of scientific conduct... they happen frequently enough to deserve careful consideration as breaches of academic integrity.”

-J.A. Delborne. 2016. *Suppression and Dissent in Science*, in *Handbook of Academic Integrity*, 2016.

**“I did not try to present a work that would change the ‘paradigm’**

but rather show that there was a mighty groupthink disease going on in the highest levels of archaeology and anthropology. ...I spent over thirty years in this field, and to find out five years ago I was lied to, constantly, by leaders in the Paleoarchaeology field was a real problem. Worse, when a top Paleoarch like Mike Waters from Texas A&M supports an article in the *Mammoth Trumpet* (Mar 2006) that despicably reduces top USGS geologists...to mere enablers for the ‘crazies’ well, that was really over the top...If you think real science is carried out by ignoring excellent preClovis evidence that can

be characterized as nothing less than pure gold, then you have a lot more to learn about true science.”

-Pleistocene Coalition founding member, the late Chris Harkaker, archaeologist, 2008, Amazon.com, cited in *PCN* #49, Sept-Oct 2017

**“There must be no barriers to freedom of inquiry.**

There is no place for dogma in science. The scientist is free, and must be free to ask any question, to doubt any assertion, to seek for any evidence, to correct any errors.”

-J. R. Oppenheimer, physicist

**“Denying people information they would find useful because you think they shouldn’t find it useful is censorship, not journalism.”**

-Michael Kinsley, American journalist

**“Every great advance in science has issued from a new audacity of imagination.”**

-John Dewey, psychologist

**“In questions of science, the authority of a thousand is not worth the humble reasoning of a single individual.”**

-Galileo Galilei, astronomer



Pleistocene Coalition founding member and archaeologist, the late Chris Hardaker, at Hueyatlaco archaeological site, Puebla, Mexico, 2001. Photo: Virginia Steen-McIntyre.

## Member news and other info

### Quick links to main articles in [PCN #71](#):

#### PAGE 2

[Palaeo-American stone figurine from the Calico Hills, CA](#)

Richard Michael Gramly

#### PAGE 6

[The fittest creatures, the innovators, the survivors—not necessarily the same, Part 2](#)

Tom Baldwin

#### PAGE 8

[Experimenting prehistoric art](#)

Dragoş Gheorghiu

#### PAGE 10

[Mathematical rock art in India, Part 5](#)

[Animal associations and Conclusion](#)

Raghubir S. Thakur

#### PAGE 12

[Nine Men's Morris Part 2: Alquerque](#)

John Feliks

#### PAGE 14

[Member news & other info](#)

Brian Cairns, Tom Baldwin, Terry Bradford, Virginia Steen-McIntyre, Jim Harrod, John Feliks

#### PAGE 16

[American cheetah](#)

Ray Urbaniak

#### PAGE 17

[What to make of mainstream Clovis/Folsom dates](#)

Ray Urbaniak

#### PAGES 18–19

Revisiting 2013

['Black cowboy' brings Native Americans into the Pleistocene](#)

Virginia Steen-McIntyre

[More on interpreting animal petroglyphs](#)

Ed Swanzey

#### PAGE 20

Revisiting 2011

[More on taking better photographs](#)

Virginia Steen-McIntyre

### International experts respond to California's BLM/big business threats to Calico Early Man Site

Note that as of June there are now 2,144 solar companies operating in California trying to control all the desert they can get their hands on. Solar doesn't mean the BLM is environment-friendly. It destroys the landscape. In other areas the BLM is allied to fossil fuel companies even opening 95 percent of central Montana's public land to oil and gas leasing. As a 2020 Matador Network article reminds them and us, "The BLM is here to serve our public lands, not just big business." Make no mistake; archaeological sites are just a nuisance to big business. The question is, how was an important site like Calico—the only site in the Western Hemisphere excavated by renowned anthropologist Dr. Louis Leakey—with a 60-year history even opened up to such an assault by the BLM and big business in the first place? The only group with the power to make or break U.S. archaeological sites is the American anthropology community and its well-proved dogmatic publication ethics. –jf

### "First of all: The Calico site is a very important find

and, of course, all the stones that I have seen there are real artifacts. Incidentally, some other European archaeologists are of the same opinion. I think many American cultural anthropologists either don't look properly or are afraid of the school of herring in which all other colleagues seem so sure to swim. They are more uni-

form in their views than we Europeans. Americans prefer to say yes to what the vast majority think is right."

–Dr. Lutz Fiedler, PhD, fmr. State Archaeologist, Hesse, Germany, discoverer Tan Tan figurine; 2021



[Link to PCN #71](#)



[Link to PCN #70](#)



[Link to PCN #69](#)

"Dr. Gramly has been to Harvard Hill and Calico Hills twice now in the last 6 months ... [He] has verified that both Harvard Hill and Calico Hills have Clovis artifacts scattered on them. We now believe the whole region was intensely settled by Clovis peoples.... I note the most recent datings for Calico sites:

- Master Pit 3, surface, 42,800 BP (Owen, Davis, Caffee, Budinger & Nash, 2011).
- Rock Wren Test Pit... 14,400±2,200 cal BP (... Debenham, 1998; Budinger, 2004; 2012. *Pleistocene Coalition News* 4(3) May-June.
- The Master Pit 1 dating is in the general range of Clovis dates in North America.
- The Master Pit 3 dating suggests... pre-Clovis peo-

ples... The approximately 42,800 year date is comparable... to secure absolute dating of some sites in South America, e.g., Boquierão, Brazil, ~36.5 ka; Capivara... Brazil ~36–27 ka... Hueyatlaco I and II, Unit B, C and E (diatom dating) Sangamonian (~74–130 ka) and Unit E (14C date) ~39–25 ka. ...

[The] entire Calico Manix area has multiple archaeological sites dating from at least Clovis times

to recent. I suggest the Calico Hills 'Early Man' site, be renamed, e.g., 'Calico First Peoples' site, and should be preserved not only for tourists but for future excavations. For our knowledge of the peopling of the Americas it is one of the most important archaeological sites in North America."

–Dr. James B. Harrod, PhD, anthropologist, Co-founder PC; 2021

"As a long time explorer of Calico and environs [60 years], I completely agree with you."

–Dr. Anthony Peratt, Ph.D, physicist, U.S. Dept. of Energy, Defense Programs (ret.); Los Alamos Nat. Laboratory, Associate Laboratory Directorate (ret.); 2021

"I have tried in vain to get the NPS and the BLM to date such pictographs [possible game-changing rock art]. I have even offered to pay for the dating to no avail."

–Ray Urbaniak, engineer, rock art researcher and preservationist; 2021

"The Dutch destroyed 5000-year old megalithic grave chambers...they used the stones simply as cheap building materials. Today, Calico Early Man Site... is endangered...to confiscate the land for reasons that have nothing to do with archaeology or the interests of indigenous peoples... [Efforts to preserve the site] are being undermined by people in positions of authority that don't have a clue. That's why we need to explain... the importance of the site."

–Jan Willem van der Drift, stone tool expert, Netherlands; 2021

"I have consistently refused to say more about Calico than that it is over 50,000. And...it may be a great deal more than over 50. ...beyond the range of carbon dating. I know that there are those who believe it is so old that it *couldn't* contain artifacts... But a great age...should not interfere with the interpretation of facts."

–Dr. Louis. S.B. Leakey, PhD, most renowned anthropologist; 1970

# Letter to California Bureau of Land Management (BLM) regarding preservation of Calico environs

By James B. Harrod, PhD

**"Dr. Gramly has been to Harvard Hill and Calico Hills twice now in the last six months ...and has verified that both**

**July 5, 2021**

Dear Michelle Van Der Linden, Barstow Field Office:

I am a scholar specializing in paleoanthropology and evolution of art, language, religious behavior and symbol systems, with special emphasis on portable rock art. In collaboration with one of the country's top Clovis archaeologists, Richard Michael Gramly, I have recently published on the discov-

I am currently re-examining the Anzick Montana Clovis burial cache, with the oldest DNA typed human fossil in the Americas.



The approximately 42,800-year date is comparable in date to secure absolute dating of some sites in South America, e.g., Boquierão,

Brazil, ~36.5 ka; Capivara area sites, Brazil ~36–27 ka, with Early Itaparica tool industry (flake-based, unifacial retouch, chopper tools); El Cedral, Mexico (scrapers); Hueyatlaco I and II, Unit B, C and E (diatom dating) Sangamonian (~74–130 ka) and Unit E (14C date) ~39–25 ka.

It has become more clear to us that the Great Basin was occupied by Clovis peoples at its three corners of pluvial paleolakes. This includes the Manix and Mojave paleolakes region. Attached is a draft paper (references not completed) I've been working on in the last few days describing this.

Dr. Gramly has been to Harvard Hill and Calico Hills twice now in the last six months, with amateur collectors of artifacts, and has verified that both Harvard Hill and Calico Hills have Clovis artifacts scattered on them. We now believe the whole region was intensely settled by Clovis peoples. We leave open the debate on pre-Clovis peoples in the region.

I note the most recent datings for Calico sites:

- Master Pit 3, surface, 42,800 BP (Owen, Davis, Caffee, Budinger & Nash, 2011).

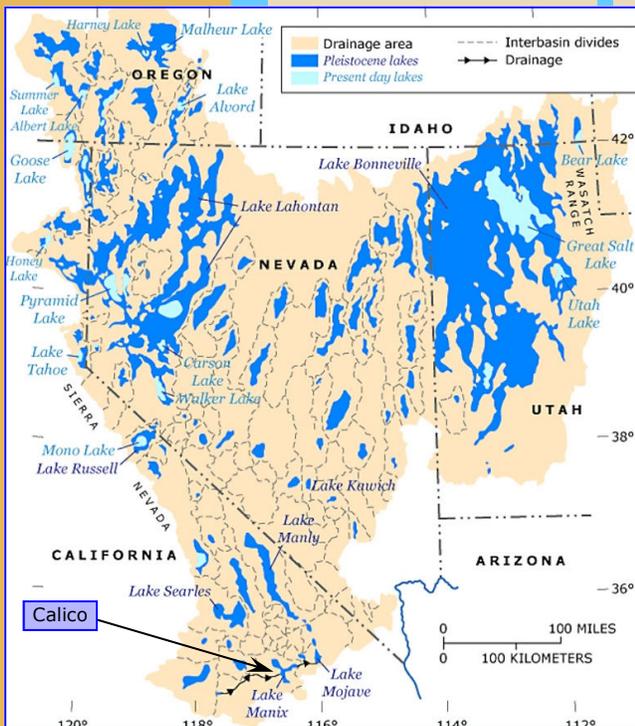
- Rock Wren Test Pit, in younger nested-inset alluvial deposit, 100 m ENE of Master Pit 1, Calico site. (TL sediment) 14,400±2,200 cal BP (citing Debenham, 1998; Budinger, 2004; 2012. *Pleistocene Coalition News* 4(3) May-June.

The Master Pit 1 dating is in the general range of Clovis dates in North America. The Master Pit 3 dating suggests that pre-Clovis peoples may have occupied the Calico Hills.

It is clear from the attached section of my Americas archaeological database that the entire Calico Manix area has multiple archaeological sites dating from at least Clovis times to recent. I suggest the Calico Hills 'Early Man' site, be renamed, e.g., 'Calico First Peoples' site, and should be preserved not only for tourists but for future excavations. For our knowledge of the peopling of the Americas it is one of the most important archaeological sites in North America.

Ethnography and interviews indicate also that the north side of the Calico Hills was or still is occupied by and the original territory of the Kawaiisu people. It seems the entire pluvial lakes region was the homeland of their ancestors. Considering NAG-PRA and common decency the Kawaiisu people should be solicited for their input on any archaeological discoveries in the Barstow BLM area and especially the Calico and Harvard Hills areas and on the future of archaeological sites in these areas.

James B. Harrod, Ph.D.  
[researchgate.net](http://researchgate.net)  
[academia.edu](http://academia.edu)



**Great Basin Pleistocene age Lakes.** Calico is located at the bottom next to Lake Manix. Calico area was one of the richest in flora and fauna and lakes in the Americas. It was a paradise, as was each of the three visible corners of the Great Basin triangle. Illustration J. Havens, USGS, modified from Morrison, R.B. 1991, and further modified by J. Havens, 2019; Wikimedia Commons.

**Harvard Hill and Calico Hills have Clovis artifacts scattered on them."**

ery of first ever evidence that Clovis first peoples made portable sculptures in ivory, antler, bone and stone, including figurative decorations on tools

[Discovery of Portable Art Zoomorphic Sculptures from the Clovis Zone, Hiscock Site, NY \(Pre-Publication Print Version\)](#)

# Calico and Brassempouy—an objective comparison

By John Feliks

**"We all need to ask if we can trust any anthropolo-**

**Calico Early Man Site** is again being actively threatened by the California Bureau of Land Management. As only briefly covered on [page 8](#), the agency is increasingly recognized for its corrupted actions involving improper commitment to big business while circumventing preservation of public lands

archaeological site. The field accomplished this through *decades of false statements to the public that Calico's artifacts are "not" manmade.*

The bulk of academics making such statements are either poorly-educated with objectivity and critical thinking skills

championed by PC founding member Dr. Virginia Steen-McIntyre for over 50 years against unrelenting mainstream resistance.)

I first made the Calico/Brassempouy comparison (**Figs. 1a & 2a**) for [Reviving the Calico of Louis Leakey, Part 1](#) (PCN #21, Jan-Feb 2013) and



**Fig. 1a.** Unquestioned Gravettian-age stone blade c. 25,000 BP **shows high sophistication**; Brassempouy site, France. **Fig. 1b.** The site's level of social and artistic culture is exemplified by the famous Venus of Brassempouy, c. 25,000 BP. I.e. a=b means each artifact reflects the same level of mental capabilities. Images: Wikimedia Commons.

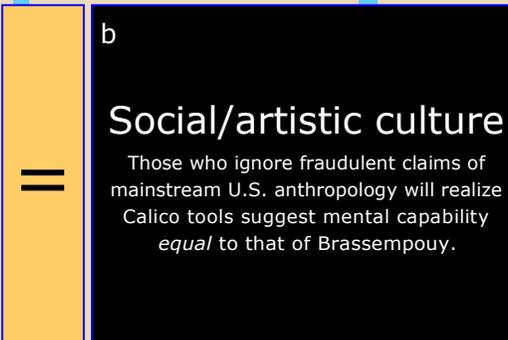
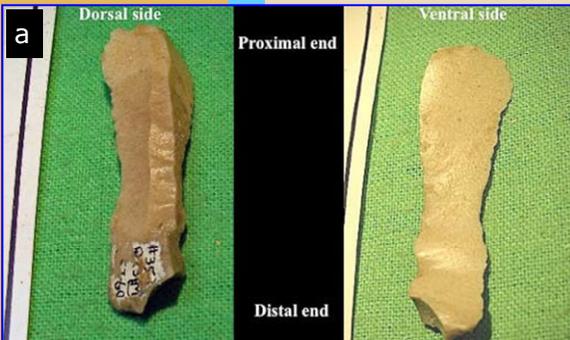
several variations such as [Part 3: Audio clips from Leakey's 1970 Calico talk](#) (PCN #39, Jan-Feb 2016) after famed geologist and PC founding member Dr. Sam L. VanLandingham responded to Fred Buidinger's exposé on the wanton destruction

**gists who claim the object in**

for important cultural, educational or recreational uses. The purpose of this brief article, like others this issue,

deleted or kept from forming in the first place (a documented problem in 'American' public schools) or are deliberate

of Calico artifacts by then Director, Dr. Adele Schroth. Sam explained the illegality of destroying artifacts on U.S. public lands in an article titled



**Fig. 2a.** Calico blade, Artifact #16605 (L=5cm), same basic style as the 25,000-year old Gravettian blade from Brassempouy (Fig. 1a). The Brassempouy blade is *universally-accepted* as a 'manmade tool' by all properly-trained anthropologists. Yet the Calico blade (from a depth of 5') which shows equal sophistication is **rejected by U.S.-educated anthropologists who proclaim to the trusting public Calico's subsurface artifacts are naturally-formed rocks.** **Fig. 2b.** In light of the Brassempouy equation what level of cultural sophistication is reflected in the artifact from Calico? Calico blade photographed & catalogued by Pleistocene Coalition founding member and 30-year contract archaeologist the late Chris Hardaker. Comparison with Brassempouy by John Feliks beginning PCN #21, Jan-Feb 2013.

[VanLandingham responds to Calico destruction.](#)

I made these better-explained **Figs. 1-2** so readers could compare and judge for themselves whether or not what the mainstream says about Calico being *just rocks* is true. We all need to ask if we can trust any anthropologists who claim the Calico object in

**Fig. 2a is 'not' manmade."**

is to address a fallacy by which mainstream anthropology has contributed to the BLM's misconceptions, encouraging it to think it knows which areas are worth preserving and which are not. The effect is endangering an important

participants in the kind of science fraud that can lead to the destruction of inconvenient archaeological sites, such as 250,000-year old Hueyatlaco, that go against mainstream dogma. (Hueyatlaco is the recently-destroyed site in Mexico

Fig. 2a is "not" manmade. Chris, on [page 7](#), noted the anthropology community does indeed lie to the public. 60 years of resisting evidence suggests mainstream anthropology is unqualified to advise the BLM on controversial sites like Calico.

Revisiting PCN #23, May-June 2013, regarding earlier efforts against Calico

## Without scientific oversight or consensus dates, Calico Early Man Site is renamed and emasculated

By Virginia Steen-McIntyre, PhD (volcanic ash specialist)

**"This is not the type of management one expects of a 50-year old archaeological site with thousands of catalogued artifacts and a long history of researchers and publications."**

**"It reminds me of a scene from George Orwell's futuristic novel, 1984."**

### The Calico Early Man Site is no more.

Oh, it's still there alright, but no one is permitted to examine the deep stratigraphic layers where the old tools occur.

And as if that weren't enough to make shrewd people wonder what is going on, the name of the site has also been changed after a 49-year history with the changes being quickly disseminated to various publications without professional consensus.

According to the spring 2013 issue of *The Calico Core*, the newsletter for the Friends of Calico, Inc., and the Calico Mountains Archaeological Site in Yermo, CA, it will be called, "The Calico Mountains Archaeological Site, a part of the 900-acre Calico Mountains Archaeological District." The announcement goes on to say, "To avoid any more confusion, we will be using only that name for now on."

This is not the type of management one expects of a 50-year old archaeological site with thousands of catalogued artifacts and a long history of researchers and publications. It reminds me of a scene from George Orwell's futuristic novel, *1984*.

In changes that must be questioned by objective sci-

entists, it appears that new excavations will be confined to near-surface sites only.

The new director at Calico, Dr. Dee Schroth, does plan to archive field notes and letters on acid-free paper and plans to digitize "all the slides, photographs, tapes and videos that Calico has amassed through its 49+ years of history." However, digital is a complex and relatively new medium which has not stood the test of time as far as archiving goes; it is never a good idea to discard time-tested archival media such as photographs and slides if that is their intention; and from information we have from former site director, Fred E. Budinger, Jr., it is best not to take anything for granted in this case of altering the history of an archaeological site.

They have also started work on the debitage from the Master Pits at Calico (that is, the debitage that remains after much of the material was indiscriminately tossed out last year by the site's new director).

For details on the lack of scientific rigor involved in this clean-out project, see,



[Protecting Calico, PCN#17, May-June 2012](#) where former Director Budinger has told of deliberate destruction of evidence at Calico.

The evidence at Calico has been accumulating since Louis Leakey was its Director and excavator from 1963-72.

Any ideas what next discredited Early Man site we should focus our spotlight on?

VIRGINIA STEEN-McINTYRE, PhD, is a tephrochronologist (volcanic ash specialist) involved in preserving and publishing the Palaeolithic evidence from Valsequillo since the late 1960s. She is one of the founding members of the Pleistocene Coalition. Her story first came to public attention in Michael Cremona's and Richard Thompson's book, *Forbidden Archeology* (1993), and in the Bill Cote NBC television special, *Mysterious Origins of Man*, hosted by Charlton Heston (1996). Apart from being one of the core editors for *Pleistocene Coalition News*, Steen-McIntyre keeps up with every topic under the sun especially as related to lesser-known or forgotten sites and archaeologists.

Links to all of Dr. Steen-McIntyre's over 80 articles in *PCN* can be found at:

[http://pleistocenecoalition.com/#virginia\\_steen\\_mccintyre](http://pleistocenecoalition.com/#virginia_steen_mccintyre)

Revisiting *PCN* #50, Nov-Dec 2017, on Calico/Hueyatlaco suppression

# Information control

By Virginia Steen-McIntyre, PhD (volcanic ash specialist)

**"in Fred Budinger's case, it appears that membership is not open to anyone who keeps reminding those in power that the Calico site is extremely old—c. 200,000 years old—even if they were Curator of the Site for 12 years and Director for 8 years!"**

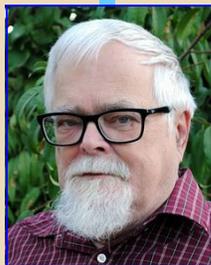


**Coincidence?**

I was working on my computer this afternoon (November 12), trying to reduce somewhat the stack of c. 300 unanswered emails. One was from a former director of the Calico Early Man Site (outside Barstow, California), [Fred E. Budinger Jr.](#)—Curator, 1974–1986, and Project Director, 2000–2008—i.e. a service association of over 20 years. It now seems that Fred is

not even allowed to be a 'member' of the Friends of Calico group. His membership check was returned. Friends of Calico is a 501(c)(3) organization. Membership in a 501(c)(3) should be open to everyone. However, in Fred Budinger's case, it appears that membership is *not open* to anyone who keeps reminding those in power that the Calico site is extremely old—c. 200,000 years old—even if they were Curator of the Site for 12 years and Director for 8 years!

(BTW, the old dates for Calico which are aggressively being blocked have been repeatedly confirmed including by such outstanding scientists as USGS geochemist, Jim Bischoff, PhD. See Jim's article, [Upholding the 200,000-year old dates for Calico](#), *PCN* #13, Sept-Oct 2011 [**Eds. note:** We reproduced the article in *PCN* #50 (Nov-Dec 2017)]. Jim's credentials are impeccable and include managing the United States



Geological Survey [USGS] in its participation in the Deep Ocean Mining Environmental Study, a.k.a. the DOMES program, as well as seminal work leading to discovery of the famous "black smokers" phenomenon [hydrothermal vents] on the ocean floor via the research submersible *Alvin*. In archaeology, Jim proved the rapid replacement of Neanderthals by *H. sapiens* in Spain.)

See the following *PCN* articles by Fred detailing exactly how the destruction of Calico and its perceived value in the public's mind have been choreographed by an out of control mainstream science community. It includes destruction of over 60,000 artifacts including ones already accepted and catalogued: [Protecting Calico](#) (*PCN* #17, May-June 2012; [Saving Calico Early Man Site](#) [Part 2 of "Protecting Calico" in the same issue of *PCN*]. "Saving Calico Early Man Site" features Budinger's interview with the new Director telling exactly how the artifacts—with their painted data labels being brazenly scraped off—were then discarded indiscriminately against archaeological protocol.

The same afternoon I read an email from philanthropist Marshall Payn. We

were planning on writing a short article on our version of the Hueyatlaco/Valsequillo saga for an establishment journal. "No," we are not allowed to write such an article unless they had one of "their" people write it. We would be allowed to make suggestions but not write our own article. My PhD in tephrochronology (volcanic ash), field experience in the U.S. and



Geochemist **Jim Bischoff** on Calico (see *PCN* #13).

Mexico as well as working with leaders in geology, chemistry, paleontology, and archaeology, not to mention 50 years of research and writing, apparently did not qualify me to write my own paper.

Hmm. A couple of examples of information control here?

These two recent incidents brought back memories of when I tried to have someone build a personal website for me, gratis. I didn't know how to do it and didn't have the money to pay someone. I tried this three times with different webmasters. Each time, for various reasons, the website was taken down. Lately, I went online to try to find my English translation of Juan Armenta Camacho's 1978 classic Spanish paper on the Valsequillo area, i.e. worked bones and artifacts. Gone. Don't know if it's even on the Internet anymore.

> [Cont. on page 13](#)

## Information control (cont.)

**“Saving Calico Early Man Site’ features a transcript of Budinger’s interview with the new Director telling exactly how the artifacts and their data—including the painted labels on each artifact being brazenly “scraped off”—were then, indiscriminately discarded.”**

All this is to point out how fragile information can be that is just stored on a computer. I trust some of you have taken my advice and are making paper copies of the *Pleistocene Coalition News* newsletter as new issues become available? The day may come when you can no longer access PCN online! ... -VSM

### PCN #72 BIO after Virginia’s strokes

VIRGINIA STEEN-MCINTYRE, PhD, is a volcanic ash specialist and founding member of the Pleistocene Coalition. Before the onset of her major health problems, including two debilitating strokes, Virginia was the lead copy editor and scientific consultant for *Pleistocene Coalition News*, as well as a prolific author writing over 80 articles. [She worked on dating Hueyatlaco with NASA’s moon core specialist, archaeologist Roald Fryxell](#), while he was analyzing soils from all the Apollo moon landings. Virginia began her lifelong association with the Hueyatlaco early man site, Mexico, in 1966. Her story of suppression—now well-known in the science community—was first brought to public attention in Michael Cremo’s and Richard Thompson’s classic tome, *Forbidden Archeology*, which was followed by a central appearance in the NBC special, *Mysterious Origins of Man* in 1996, hosted by Charlton Heston. The program was aired twice on NBC with mainstream scientists attempting to block it.

All of Virginia’s articles in PCN can be accessed directly at the following link:

[http://www.pleistocenecoalition.com/#virginia\\_steen\\_mcintyre](http://www.pleistocenecoalition.com/#virginia_steen_mcintyre)

**RELEVANT UPDATE:** About three years ago, before her two strokes, Dr. Virginia Steen-

McIntyre and philanthropist, Marshal Payn, had PCN Editor-in-Chief, John Feliks proofread and review their drafts of the article/letter she mentioned above which they then submitted to an appropriate mainstream



**Fred E. Budinger Jr—** archaeologist, 12-yr. curator and 8-yr. Project Director (after famed anthropologist Dr. Louis Leakey), Calico Early Man Site, and upholder of Leakey’s and USGS’ 200,000-yr old dates for the site—denied Calico membership.

journal. After 50 years, this was Virginia’s last attempt at publishing the long-suppressed



**Marshall Payn;** philanthropist, engineer, 35-yr veteran of archaeological research, pilot, award-winning documentary film Producer (Emmy), and owner of 23 businesses, was blocked from co-authoring a scientific report on the 250,000-yr. old Hueyatlaco Site, Puebla, Mexico.

Hueyatlaco story in a mainstream venue. Our readers can easily guess that this last effort was also rejected and kept from the public. Virginia’s plan and final instructions (before her two strokes) were that if the article was

not published to get it into *Pleistocene Coalition News* along with the full story related to its rejection. We will publish it soon. The article/letter is a superb abbreviated history of the Hueyatlaco saga. It will let our readers see for themselves

a current example of how mainstream anthropology controls information that goes against mainstream beliefs about early humanity.

In the case of online publication, the behavior of suppressing undesirable scientific information is reinforced by the actions of followers who deni-

grate authors, researchers, and even websites and organizations such as the Pleistocene Coalition that bring the evidence forward. They do this on blogs and forums using well-known techniques of propaganda to manipulate easily-swayed consumers of pop science never taught how to assess evidence objectively. Outlined in PCN these include thought-terminating clichés (e.g., “attacking science” where “science” simply means their own dogma), card stacking, managing the news, emotionally-charged words, demonizing the enemy, false statements of fact, bandwagon, milieu control, obfuscation. Most insidious are university professors hiding behind avatars—the modern equivalent of anonymous peer review in the corrupted field. They are not dumb but they are dogmatic, self-absorbed, and very damaging to the truth-seeking goals of science.

# Preface to upcoming essays about ivory, proboscidean bone, and extinct/extirpated cervid antler artifacts from Clovis-age sites

By Richard Michael Gramly, PhD, Anthropology

**"Organic artifacts, it**



**has long been thought, are rarely preserved and seldom encountered by archaeologists.**

**In actual fact, however, artifacts of these materials are abundant—IF you know where to look."**

**Ongoing discoveries have prompted me to present a series of five essays with illustrations** about a remarkable group of Clovis artifacts made of proboscidean bone and ivory, as well as cervid antler, that first came to light at the Bowser Road Mastodon site, Orange County, New York State (Fig. 1).

Organic artifacts, it has long been thought, are rarely preserved and seldom encountered by archaeologists. In actual fact, however, artifacts of these materials are abundant—IF you know where to look. The art of the archaeologist is searching for archaeological sites where preservation is good.

If archaeologists are unwilling to accept the challenge of locating Ice Age (Upper Palaeolithic) sites with preserved ivory, bone, and antler artifacts, then they must fall back upon assemblages of flaked stone tools for understanding the past. However, it is important to realize that useful information about human social and religious practices is limited when working with just stone tools.

It is true that there may be some insights to be derived from studying stone artifact colors and overall shapes (zoomorphic, anthropomor-

phic); however, as a general rule most analysts choose to 'play it safe' and limit themselves to basic technology and robust evi-

Cedar Fork Creek (Ohio), and other Clovis manifestations. Work is ongoing and fresh revelations should be expected.



**Fig. 1.** Excavation of the Bowser Road Mastodon site in New York is the central theme in this upcoming series. Photo by R. M. Gramly.

dence of tool-use—rather than attempting to address esoteric matters.

**The first installment of this 5-part series** will be devoted to Clovis stone tools and the limited range of information to be derived from them. Successive installments will explore the following:

- 1) Clovis bone industry,
- 2) Clovis ivory industry,
- 3) Clovis era use of antler, and
- 4) Clovis ritual practice and conceptions of an afterlife.

Treatments of these weighty topics are derived from the 2014 and 2015 explorations of the remarkable Bowser Road Clovis site and subsequent investigations of the Hiscock site (also New York),

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Links to all of Dr. Gramly's articles in PCN can be found at:

<http://pleistocenecoalition.com/#richard-michael-gramly>

# The Pleiades rock art saga New evidence and implications

By Ray Urbaniak Engineer, rock art researcher and preservationist

**"Unless anthropologists are highly resistant for personal or dogmatic reasons, I propose there is little doubt all three images represent the exact same phenomenon—the Pleiades star cluster."**

### Saudi Arabia

Recently, while checking some of my friends' Facebook

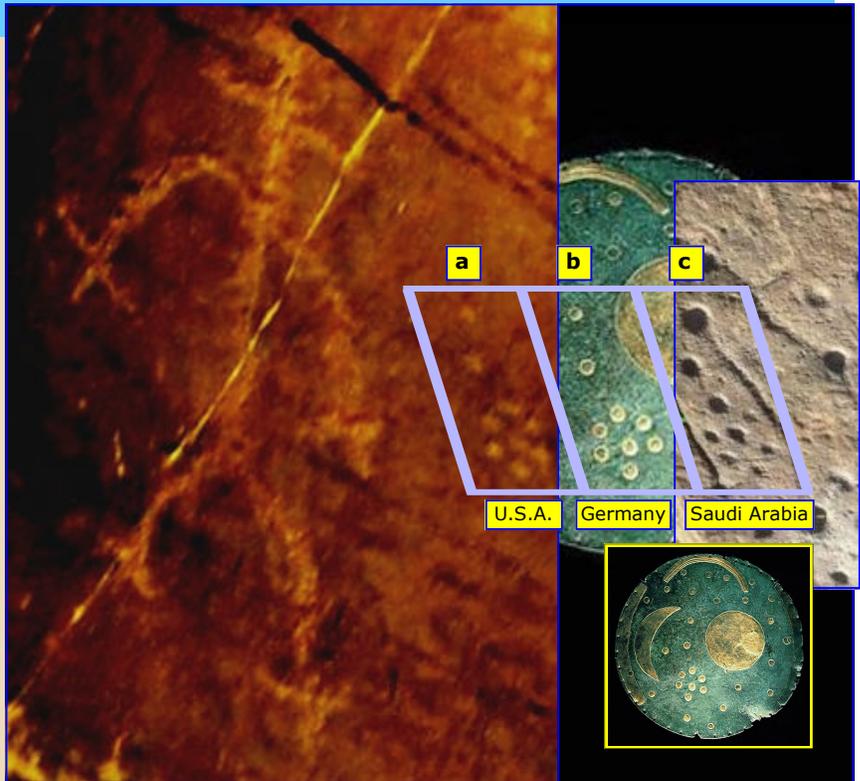


pages, I ran across a startling new post from Abdulrahman Albalawi in Saudi Arabia (I

had earlier published a camel track petroglyph photo of his in [PCN #70, March-April 2021, p.13](#)). This time the evidence he provided was for his question of whether or not he had found a petroglyphic depiction of the Pleiades star cluster in the Tabuk region.

The pattern had been formed by a carefully executed group of cup-marks. He gave *PCN* permission to publish the discovery. I show it side-by-side with my earlier comparison of the Nebra Sky Disc (Germany) and my discovery on a rock art panel in Arizona (**Fig. 1**, with another nice layout by the Ed.).

The three duplicated motifs are so much alike—despite how complex—as to certainly show the Pleiades star cluster made on different continents on opposite sides of the world. Unless anthropologists are highly resistant for dogmatic or personal reasons, I propose there is little doubt all three represent the exact same phenomenon—the Pleiades star cluster.



**Fig. 1.** Convincing international evidence of what I have proposed is the very same cosmic event—the Pleiades star cluster—depicted in the rock art of an Arizona Paiute reservation and Saudi Arabia (**a and c**) and on the Nebra Sky disc from Germany (**b**). Recall the Nebra disc is constantly called the "oldest" representation of a cosmic event. I think the Arizona and Saudi rock art depictions suggest this may not be true as there can be little doubt among objective researchers each represents the exact same phenomenon which can be seen with the naked eye, namely, the Pleiades star cluster.

### Wupatki, Arizona

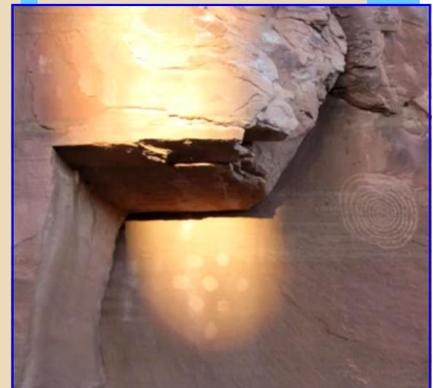
I just watched a YouTube video on archaeoastronomy markers



**Fig. 2.** Still of a petroglyph in David Purcell's YouTube video *Seasons in the Sun*.

in northern Arizona's Wupatki National Monument by David Purcell called, *Seasons in the sun: Time-lapse documentation of archaeoastronomic sites at Wupatki*. **Fig. 2** shows a petroglyph in the video one can readily compare with the images in Fig. 1. This petroglyph happens to mark the equinox sunset (**Fig. 3**).

I have never seen anything like this glyph used as a solstice, equinox, or cross quarter marker in any of the 60+



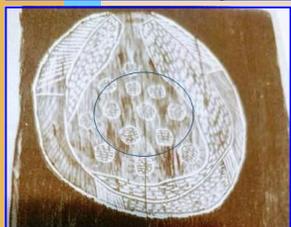
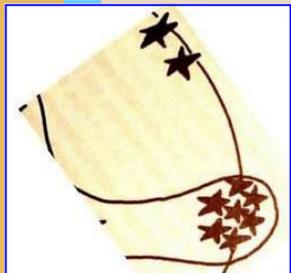
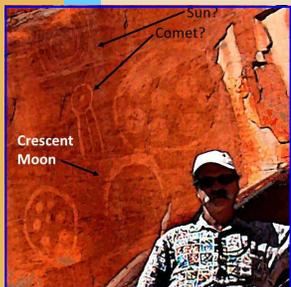
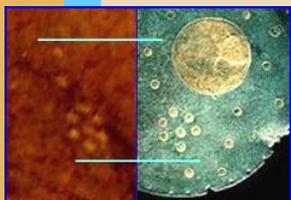
**Fig. 3.** The petroglyph's familiar pattern in David Purcell's film marks the equinox sunset.

> [Cont. on page 16](#)

# The Pleiades rock art saga (cont.)

**"I have never seen anything like this glyph used as a solstice, equinox, or cross-quarter marker in any of the 60+ markers I have identified and recorded. This suggests to me it is a very special marker!"**

markers I have identified and recorded. This suggests to me it is a very special marker!



**Fig. 4.** Several of my comparisons in the Pleiades series over the past several years. They are each detailed in the *PCN* issues listed to the right. Peter D. Bowden's Facebook photo above used with permission.

It seems obvious the now very recognizable pattern I've discussed in this series the past several years could very well be yet another representation of the Pleiades cluster and perhaps even showing the documentary recording of a new 'nova' star (see images **Fig. 4**).

I discussed these ideas in the following prior articles:

[Dating a remarkable petroglyph through visual clues](#) (*PCN* #50, Nov-Dec 2017),

[The Pleiades 1600 BC](#) (*PCN* #54, July-August 2018), and

[Sequel to Pleiades articles](#) (*PCN* #61, Sept-Oct 2019).

Although the archaeologists group the petroglyphs on this Wupatki panel from the late 12th century to the early 13th century—based on designs similar to pottery found near the panel—I don't think we can assume that this particular glyph was made at the same time. My reason for suggesting this is that it is

different from all the other petroglyph patterns that also appear on pottery. This 'Pleiades glyph' may be much older. However, knowledge of the glyph could also have been passed down through oral tradition, another topic I have discussed in several prior articles in the context of not easily identified or even controversial images that don't want to line up with popular mainstream beliefs. See, for instance, [More on a Utah rock art panel with a proposed hunting scene](#) (*PCN* # 39, Nov-Dec 2015).

The fact that the Wupatki glyph lights up as it is getting darker outside makes me wonder; could the Pleiades have been chosen for this equinox glyph because there was a new star in the night sky when a star in the Pleiades went nova? It would have been like looking at the Pleiades on the eastern horizon—where it actually appears—in the evening of the fall equinox. This panel faces west so that when you look at it you are looking toward the eastern horizon facing the rising Pleiades on the fall equinox (**Fig. 5**).

['Nova' refers to the sudden appearance of what seems to be a bright "new" star. Novas slowly fade away over several weeks or months time.]

The eighth pecked disc at the bottom of the glyph from David Purcell's film may be a planet in conjunction with the Pleiades.

The Pleiades doesn't presently look like this with seven stars.

The 1600 BC depiction of the Pleiades showing seven stars could have been a motif passed down through oral tradition. In fact, this may be a specific depiction of the presently seen Pleiades (substituting the seven-star 1600 BC depiction) and witnessed

on a specific fall equinox with a planet in conjunction versus being created in 1600 BC when the Pleiades actually looked like this during a nova.

RAY URBANIAK, engineer by profession, is a passionate amateur archaeologist with many years of systematic field research in Native American rock art. He has written over 30 articles on many topics with original rock art photography for *PCN*. All of Urbaniak's *PCN* articles can be found at the following link:

[http://pleistocenecoalition.com/index.htm#ray\\_urbaniak](http://pleistocenecoalition.com/index.htm#ray_urbaniak)



**Fig. 5.** Top: Detail of petroglyph reflecting sunlight in David Purcell's film. Bottom: Facing the rising Pleiades on the fall equinox. Photo from Farmers Almanac online (farmersalmanac.com), "The Seven Sisters."

# Support for proposed ibex depictions in U.S. rock art and mammoth tusks depicted as large horns

By Ray Urbaniak Engineer, rock art researcher and preservationist

**"Despite the characteristically long horns of ibex, in mainstream anthropology publication images that appear to clearly represent them are routinely dismissed as 'stylized' versions of big-horned sheep!"**



**Over the years, I have written many articles discussing proposed depictions of extinct animals in U.S. rock art.**

I have proposed that several such animal types were seen alive by early Native Americans even though physical evidence for them has been scant or even nonexistent at American Paleolithic sites.

## Ibex

One category in this context is ibex images. Despite the characteristically long horns of ibex, in mainstream anthropology publications images that appear to clearly represent them are routinely dismissed as 'stylized' versions of big-horned sheep! Why would university-trained experts do this when there is no resemblance between the two? It is because of a lack of fossils for the animals in the local record as if the lack of fossils means the animals were obviously not here. It is as unscientific a position as not calling a reindeer image at Cosquer Cave (southern France) a reindeer because they hadn't found any reindeer bones in the area. More reasonable alternative explanations challenge that kind of logic.

I discussed this topic in greater detail in my article on J. Clottes' and J. Courtin's 1996 book, *The Cave Beneath the Sea*, about Cosquer Cave ([When the scientific method becomes unscientific](#), PCN #68, Nov-Dec 2010).

Before the moratorium on referring to such images as 'ibex' even though identical to ibex depictions around the world early explorers easily recognized them and classified them as 'ibex' images.

A compelling historical document of the conundrum involving pictographs in the Grand Canyon can be found in Harold T. Wilkins' 1952 book, *Secret Cities of Old South America*.

The author relates the following about the 1924 Doheny expedition especially noting the absence of American ibex fossils:

"The Doheny expedition found ibex pictured on the walls, and there are pictographs of prehistoric hunters driving seven ibex and two deer into a trap. It is odd that up to date no ibex and not even fossil ibex have been found in America." (Fig. 1.)

I recently found another corroboration for American ibex in a 1956 article, "Ibex lowensis, First Evidence of Fossil Goat in North America," *Proceedings of the Iowa Academy of Science*, 63(1): 450-52. The author, H. A. Palmer, explains:

"One of the problems dealing with the migration of Quaternary Bovid stocks from Eurasia to North America... is the extreme fragmentary nature of the fossil record. A number of...genera now recognized have been established on the basis of single fragmentary specimens."

The Iowa find should have erased any doubt U.S. rock art images of ibex likely do depict ibex. However, like much evidence in anthropology, it must have been played down, not properly cited when relevant, and then forgotten.



**Fig. 1.** Grand Canyon ibex pictographs from the 1924 Doheny Expedition. Public domain. Detail of larger panel.



**Fig. 2.** Proposed example of tusks depicted as horns. Utah photo Ray Urbaniak.

## Tusks as horns

I have also suggested certain images of mammoth/mastodon may have been depicted with large horns vs. tusks. I suggested this because descriptions were often

passed down through oral tradition, and since the artist had never seen tusks they depicted them as very large horns, something of which they were familiar (e.g., Fig. 2).

I recently read an identical explanation in *Blue Latitudes* (T. Horwitz 2002) for depiction of a cow by a NW Coast Native:

"Moses lit brass candelabras and led us to a few icons painted by Aleut artists in the early nineteenth century. In one, of the Apostle Mark, the artist had to imagine a cow, since he'd never seen one. The creature's head looked like a seal's."

I don't know how much more corroborative evidence should be needed before SW petroglyph and pictograph images are accepted as depictions of extinct animals either directly observed by the artists, remembered by individuals who migrated to North America, or had been passed down through oral tradition.

RAY URBANIAK, engineer by profession, is a passionate amateur archaeologist with many years of systematic field research in Native American rock art. He has written over 30 articles on many topics with original rock art photography for PCN:

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**The Pleistocene Coalition** celebrated its eleven-year anniversary September 26, and the anniversary of *Pleistocene Coalition News*, October 25. *PCN* is now in its twelfth year of challenging mainstream scientific dogma.