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Cerutti Mastodon Site special issue PROS, CONS, AND UNPUBLISHED FACTS

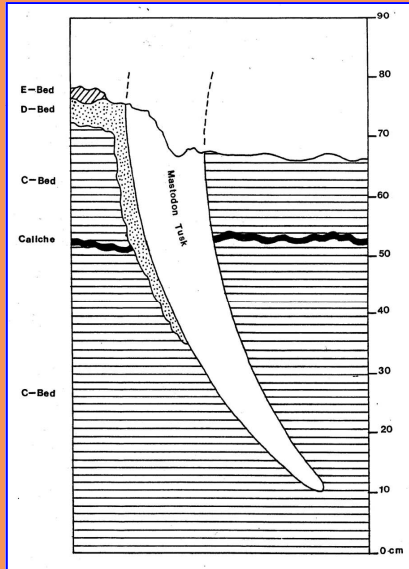


Figure from Cerutti (Caltrans) Mastodon Site's 1995 "Final Report" as it appeared in PC founding member Virginia Steen-McIntyre's exposé, *PCN #3, Jan-Feb 2010*. *PCN #3* was the first announcement w/figures of the site since its discovery "18 years" prior (same issue as our exposé of Ardi in the journal *Science*). Virginia and colleagues agreed not to discuss the site until the excavators made the "exciting discovery" public; it never happened. Of the nine, some are ill, and three are deceased; that's what a 25-yr suppression can do. Later, in *PCN #7* (Sept-Oct 2010), founding member Chris Hardaker gave his first of many insider lessons on how honest paleontologists such as Richard Cerutti and archaeologists both are cattle-prodded by the American anthropology community: "First American research is a high-voltage high-stakes arena where the ruling paradigms can exact nasty epithets against challengers, blasting their credibility to kingdom come. ...Don't expect any changed attitudes. Not about Calico, not Valsequillo, not National City/Caltrans (California, 300k. See Steen-McIntyre 2010)...It took the mainstream experts a full twenty years to go look at a site in Chile... Twenty years!"



"A total of fifteen artifacts and flakes of indisputably human work-

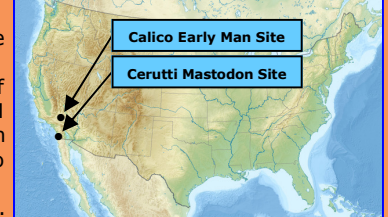
manship were recovered, eleven in direct association with

the bones of extinct animals, primarily mastodon....[dated] greater than 280,000 years."

—VSM on the El Horno Mastodon Site, Mexico. *PCN#6*, July-August 2010.

On page 3 we continue our reprints of selected *PCN* arti-

We received many passionate referrals to the latest mastodon announcement in the journal *Nature*. Most readers immediately recognized where they knew this site from—*Pleistocene Coalition News* (cited in 11 articles the past seven years) even though the name change in honor of long-time California contract paleontologist, Richard Cerutti—colleague of PC founding member, California archaeologist Chris Hardaker—was confusing to some. Both *PCN* readers and mainstream readers have commented on the non-citation of relevant sources in the *Nature* report. In this issue we provide some strong opinions on Cerutti Mastodon publications ranging from excitement whatever the shortcomings and Hardaker's *psychology behind suppression* to documenting the presence of PC between the suppression and publication of the site. We see the CM publication as success in our founding mission to help bring suppressed information to the public.



The mastodon as food in ancient Mexico

By Virginia Steen-McIntyre, PhD, Volcanic ash specialist; *PCN* article reprint; Full article on [p.3](#) ["Thoughts on early man" article [p.2](#)]

cles with abundant evidence ignored by predisposed and competitive researchers skipping normal citations while promoting individual sites.



Thoughts on early man

By Virginia Steen-McIntyre, PhD

Volcanic ash specialist

"Then, being so many years later with no change in the site's status we reprinted the article in our Jan-Feb 2017 issue, PCN #45, as [Revisiting PCN#3 \(Jan-Feb 2010\), "In their own words," with additional figure, just before their public announcement.](#)"



Most of you will have heard of the Cerutti/Caltrans mastodon site in southern California by now. Steve Holen and his group reported on it in a *Nature* Letter recently. Dated at ca 130k. An excellent article that covers several bases. An **official** breakthrough that demolishes the old Clovis First mental barrier for good. Reported worldwide.

Sort of a bitter-sweet time for me. We reported on the site way back in the Jan-Feb 2010 issue of this newsletter, *PCN* #3, [In their own words: Caltrans Site](#). Then, being so many years later with no change in the site's status we reprinted the article in our Jan-Feb 2017 issue, *PCN* #45, as [Revisiting PCN#3 \(Jan-Feb 2010\), "In their own words," with additional figure](#), just before their public announcement. It was then called the Caltrans site.

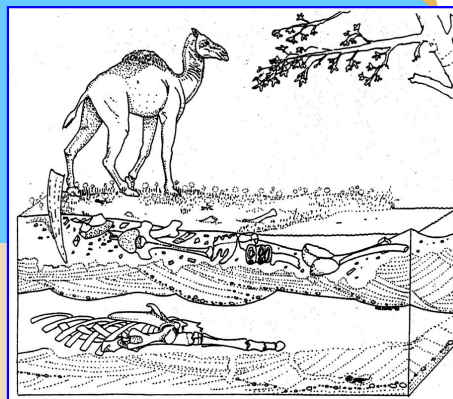
Why the bitter taste? No mention of Hueyatlaco, even as an acknowledged controversial site. Hueyatlaco is officially ignored, again. They start off in their abstract listing the criteria proposed early sites are required to meet for acceptance: "(1) archaeological evidence is found in a clearly defined and undisturbed geologic context; (2) age is determined by reliable radiometric dating; (3) multiple lines of evidence from interdisciplinary studies provide consistent results; (4) unquestionable artefacts are found in primary context." Hueyatlaco has met all of them. Then they write, "The CM site is, to our knowledge, the oldest *in situ*, well-documented archaeological site in North America..."

No. Steve knew about Hueyatlaco and the other older sites down by the Valsequillo Reservoir, state of Puebla, Mexico. Sites two to three times as old as Cerutti/Caltrans and first reported in *Quaternary Research* in 1981. Steve and I corresponded from 2008 through January 2013 regarding early man in the New World, including the Valsequillo sites and Cerutti/Caltrans. Then he wrote he was leaving the Denver museum, husband Dave died suddenly, and I fell and broke my arm and ended up in a nursing home.. Haven't heard from him since..

For the record, I've copied below parts of early emails sent to Steve Holen when we were corresponding:

December 31, 2009:

I've been re-reading the Caltrans open-file report that includes information for a mastodon butchering site in the San Diego area (1995), age roughly 300,000 years U-series on tusk, C14 dates infinite). Bones had been moved around and modified, associated with a few large cobbles and stone flakes in a fine-grained stream matrix (had to have been brought in.) According to a note attached to the report by our murdered colleague, the late Charles Repenning, the stone flakes could be fit together to form small boulders. They were using the bipolar flaking technique, placing a boulder on an anvil and bashing the opposite end with another cobble to shatter it into a bunch of flakes, then finding "expedient flakes" to use as tools.



February 14 2010:

[My \[Caltrans\] article](#) is there [in the Jan-Feb 2010 *PCN* newsletter.]. A colleague e-mailed me only after I had finished the piece that you had been quietly working on the Caltrans material for over a year. I had forgotten. Note that I did not include the authors' names and affiliation. Ditto for that piece in the last issue, on Solorzano's classic *H. erectus* skull fragment from the Guadalajara area. No sense embarrassing folk. As I wrote my friend, we are presently tumbling over a major paradigm cliff, and ALL of us have said or done dumb things before our thinking was changed! [So true! VSM 5/17]

VIRGINIA STEEN-McINTYRE, PhD, is a volcanic ash specialist; founding member of the Pleistocene Coalition; and copy editor, author, and scientific consultant for *Pleistocene Coalition News*. She began her lifelong association with the Hueyatlaco early man site in Mexico in 1966. Her story of suppression—now well-known in the science community—was first brought to public attention in Michael Cremona'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

Revisiting PCN #6 (July-August 2010) *In their own words...*

The mastodon as food in ancient Mexico

By Virginia Steen-McIntyre, PhD Volcanic ash specialist

"A total of fifteen artifacts and flakes of indisputably human workmanship were recovered, eleven in direct association with the bones of extinct animals, primarily mastodon."



Did paleofamilies enjoy an occasional mastodon bar-b-cue in ancient Mexico? Evidence says yes; establishment says no. Evidence from the 60s

In her 1962 report to INAH (Instituto Nacional de Antropología e Historia),¹ archaeologist Cynthia Irwin-Williams devotes eight pages to the El Horno site, north shore of the Valsequillo Reservoir, State of Puebla, Mexico. Edge-retouched unifacial stone tools were found there, in close association with the remains of a butchered mastodon. Some of the bones had been modified (Fig. 1).

Irwin-Williams closes the section on El Horno with the following summary: "Between June 8 and July 14, 1962, excavations were carried out at the site of El Horno, in the Valsequillo Zone, Puebla, Mexico. A total of fifteen artifacts and flakes of

than 280,000 years.²

Evidence from the 70s

In 1978, Professor Juan Armenta Camacho reported on his Tetela 1 specimen,³ an intricately carved fragment of mastodon pelvis that included a clear representation of a double-tusked mastodon, probably *Ryncotherium tlascalae*, whose remains have been discovered in the area (Fig. 2). It was collected in 1959 a short distance north of what was later to become the Hueyatlatco site, and from the same sedimentary unit (Valsequillo gravels). The upper artifact-bearing levels at Hueyatlatco have been dated by the uranium-series methods at approximately 250,000 years.²

The bone was fresh ("green") when it was carved.

No evidence today?

But this evidence apparently has been forgotten. Although the El Horno site and Tetela 1 engraving are not unknown to government scientists in Mexico City, a recent article by them states the following:

"Proboscideans are among an important suite of animals in examining the coexistence of early peoples and extinct fauna in México. For the late Pleistocene, four genera are known for this group, the gomphotheres *Cuvieronius* and *Stegomastodon* having one species each, the American mastodon *Mammut americanum*, and the Plains mammoth *Mammuthus columbi* (Polaco 2002). The only one that has been found in association with evidence of human activity is the mammoth."⁴

Of course radiometric dates for Irwin-Williams' and Armenta's discoveries would put them back in mid-Pleistocene, not late-Pleistocene time. Perhaps that is why they are ignored here? Is this a case of a communication gap or a classic example of Michael Cremo's "knowledge filter" in action?⁵



Fig. 1. Modified mastodon bone with a groove, dated 280,000 years old.

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3. Armenta Camacho, J. 1978, *Vestigios de Labor Humana en Huesos de Animales Extintos de Valsequillo, Puebla, Mexico* [Traces of Human Workmanship on Bones of Extinct Animals from Valsequillo, Puebla, Mexico], Work supported by the American Philosophical Society and the Mary Street Jenkins Foundation, presented at the 35th International Congress of the Americanists, Puebla, 1978, published privately, Puebla, Mexico, 1,000 copies, 128 pp.
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5. Cremo, M., 2010, *Forbidden Archeology and the Knowledge Filter*, *Pleistocene Coalition News*, March-April, 1:2, pp. 4,5.

VIRGINIA STEEN-MCINTYRE, PhD, is a volcanic ash specialist; founding member of the Pleistocene Coalition; and copy editor, author, and scientific consultant for *Pleistocene Coalition News*. She began her lifelong association with the Hueyatlatco early man site in 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.

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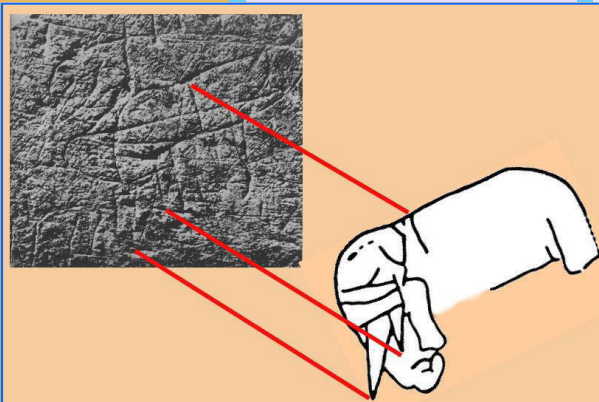


Fig. 2. Engraving on a mastodon pelvis bone of what appears to be a double-tusked mastodon. The engraving is dated c. 250,000 years old. Remains of the double-tusked mastodon are known from the same area as the engraving.

indisputably human workmanship were recovered, eleven in direct association with the bones of extinct animals, primarily mastodon" (p. 17, later pagination, p. 20). Later uranium-series dates for the animal, obtained from a tooth fragment, are greater

The "new" New World

Chapter 7 from [The First American: The Suppressed Story of the People Who Discovered the Americas \(2007\)](#) reprinted in response to the recent Cerutti Mastodon Site announcement

By Chris Hardaker, MA, archaeologist

"Now it will be up to us to explain 'why' a certain broken stone cannot be an artifact instead of blindly assuming geofacts."



The sooner we know where pre-Clovis horizons are, the sooner we'll know what to look for and what to keep from being destroyed before we get a good chance to look at it.

Bone beds and stone quarries would be good first bets. Sheguindah's quartzites and Calico's semi-precious

cherts will make excellent study collections because there are so many specimens. Bone beds from the Middle Pleistocene forward are now potential goldmines.

What do kill sites look like without bifaces, without stone spearheads of any kind? Without stone? A kill site without arrowheads might look very different from the Clovis kill sites we know and love. So might the tools, like bone tools?

The puzzle pieces of human evolution are materially finite. The preClovis record is fragile and easily destroyed. That record will be largely composed of faint vestiges of human presence captured in the ancestral dust, mere fingerprints in a Clovis world that demands skulls if not skeletons.

Valsequillo could easily be one of a kind. It would be hard to imagine another region so generous in Middle Paleolithic bones and artifacts buried in sand and silts (**Fig. 1**). The Lake Manix region surrounding Calico would be a good second. But what of all those other sites that didn't quite measure up? (For Euros like Francois Bordes and Mary Leakey, Calico measured up.) These "lesser" sites might not have been strong enough to



Fig. 1. Valsequillo spearheads. Age: 200,000+ years old. Priceless. Missing.

survive, maybe there is some of us in the mix. Translated: Track down your friendly neighborhood Pleistocene paleontologist. Bow. Present the customary imported six-pack. And this is what you ask: "Seen any anomalies lately?"

Experimenting with bipolar flaking is definitely a start [see [Bipolar Corner](#), PCN #36, July-August 2015]. A few centuries ago in Europe, flake scatters were regarded as places where witches blew up. While most all archaeologists are (or should be) hip to direct percussion and pressure methodologies, bipolar assemblages might as well be places where witches blew up Bone fractures and taphonomy could become the meat and potatoes of the new American archaeology. In the end, exposing our deep New World heritage may depend on bone beds. Where bones

Anomaly Heaven

"I met Roald Fryxell. He gave a talk at the Udden Club. I remember sitting in the laboratory afterwards and he told me about a site that he was working on in Mexico. I don't remember exactly the name of the site. He found some really early kinds of tools. He dated the site five or six different ways. It was too old for carbon-14. It was a very old site. He had primitive tools. He had volcanic ash that he dated. There was a basalt flow that blocked a lake. They were able to date that using a uranium dating technique. The fossils were much older than recent material. They did hydration studies on flints [volcanic glass-ch] to get an age. All

> [Cont. on page 5](#)

The "new" New World (cont.)

"It was a cross-section of a tusk, a tusk that had been buried vertically in the ground... like a post."

the dated material was more than 100,000 years old. Of course early humans in the new world at that time had only been dated to seven or eight thousand years. He worked on an early man site in Washington State. Nobody would believe that work in Mexico because it was way too old. I never forget him telling me that. It was just a few months after that he was killed. He was out in the field and was going to town to give a talk. They think he fell asleep and got into an automobile accident.

The reason I remember that, as a paleontologist, I always thought that if humans were chasing mammoth and mastodons and bison and large mammals up in the arctic, when those things migrated into the New World, I always thought that man would be right behind them. Just about four or five years ago we discovered a site here. It was the same kind of thing. We dated it every way possible. It was close to 200,000 years old. Nobody believes that one either. People will argue about it whether it was fossil that was deposited and then reworked into a younger deposit. So there are many academic arguments. But I have never forgotten that and tend to think

that he was probably right. It was probably that old. I think our site is as old as that. I think someday you will find somebody publishing on a paleolithic discovery in North America."

-MW Hager, PhD. Executive Dir, San Diego Natural History Museum. 2005

If monitoring behind bulldozers and bellyloaders is one's idea of a romantic profession, it ceases to be after the first day, unless you have a thing for diesel fumes. It is a marginal type of work because you usually get to do it when there is a good chance there is only a slight

chance of finding anything. For example, if there are sites in an area and they have been avoided or excavated, the contract archaeology company often leaves one or two fieldworkers behind to follow the mechanical dinosaurs in case anything else turns up. This also applies to paleontologists.

More than a decade ago, in National City, California, south of San Diego, a SDNHM [San Diego Natural History Museum] paleontologist was monitoring an area where there was a slight chance that California Department of Transportation (CDOT) roadwork would turn up old bones. Day after day it is as much your ears as your eyes that can call your attention to a possible discovery. Fossilized bone sounds different from hardened mud and sand when scraped by a bulldozer's blade, and this sounded like bone. He calls the bulldozer off the spot and brushes the ground looking for the source of the "noise."

Anomaly 1

It was a circular outline, but it was not bone. It was a tusk, probably mastodon. It was circular. And it was a tusk. It was circular, and that meant it was a cross-section of a tusk. It was a cross-section of a tusk, a tusk that had been buried vertically in the ground...like a post (Fig. 2).

What could have naturally buried a tusk that stood it up in a vertical position?

Once excavated, the paleontologists had to append that question.

What could have naturally buried a tusk in a vertical position that penetrated at least three strata of a buried flood plain?

The deposits were made up of hardened sands, silts and clays. Like Valsequillo this meant a low energy, gentle burial, only slower. There were no gravels. This was later supported by the articulated nature of the buried remains of many other critters. From reconstructions, the burial

context seems to have been caused by a rising ocean level and the resulting back up of the local drainages creating a marsh-like zone. The gentle deposition of sediments kept the bones in place for the most part. A horse was uncovered; a near-perfect burial except the head was missing, which is not rare in paleontology.

Anomaly 2

What is rare, is to find the remains of animals in fairly good shape while another one next to them is smashed to smithereens, like it got run over with a steamroller. This was the Mastodon. The bones were broken when they were still fresh (green).

Anomaly 3

What was also strange was finding several small boulders (roughly about 20 pounds) and a couple of broken cobbles in a fossilized marsh. The larger stones were typified as "anvil-sized" but could also be viewed as large hammerstones, possibly using two hands. A couple of the larger stones were found amidst bone clusters. Referred to as "erratics," it means that the presence of these stones is unexplainable, out-of-place. There is no natural riverine agency that can select certain heavy stones for transport while only carrying silts and clays over flat ground. It drove a local geology professor batty. Several of the smaller cobbles were found broken, with sharp refittable bits and pieces scattered about the site. This meant they were broken up onsite in a muddy matrix. How did the boulders get there? What broke the cobbles up?

Anomalies 4 and 5

Clusters of bones were seemingly arranged. One cluster featured the "heads" of two mastodon femurs that were found paired up, together. The other "arrangement" looked like a collection of bones in a framed context.

> [Cont. on page 6](#)

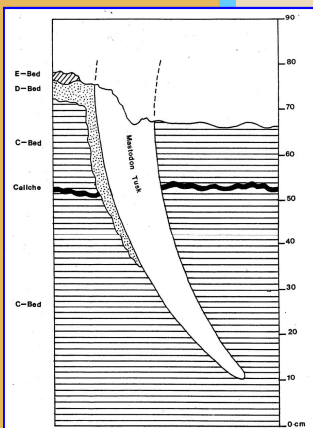


Figure 4.9 - Cross section showing near vertical orientation of tusk in Unit B2, Mastodon Quarry. Microstratigraphy annotated along left margin, scale (in cm) along right margin.

Fig. 2. National City Mastodon tusk found buried vertically (1992 report).

The “new” New World (cont.)

“This was southern California and they all knew about what happened to archaeologists who claimed pre-Clovis sites.”

As often happens in contract fieldwork, unexpected finds tend to eat up small budgets, and paleontologists live on scanty morsels to begin with. A northern Arizona paleontologist (also present at the 1968 meeting in Tucson where the 250,000y U-series dates were first discussed) helped the museum facilitate a \$10,000 National Geographic Society emergency archaeology grant. You don’t mess with the NGS until you are fairly sure of your claims, so the features must have looked pretty archaeological to the paleontologists. Nothing else made sense.

No natural agency or forces could selectively and collectively account for the anomalies turning up among the bones. They acknowledged that there was no absolute, direct evidence, but when all the anomalies were added together, it always spelled a-r-c-h-a-e-o-l-o-g-y. (To local archaeologists, not so much.) The paleontologists got the grant quickly.

It was not a kill site but a butchering or processing site. By all counts, the mastodon was probably already dead, little more than a carcass, but still worth butchering; the tusks and bone would make for good tools plus all the other things like high-protein marrow from bones, hide, etc.

A cautious silence was the local archaeological reaction to the site by officials from San Diego’s Museum of Man. They visited the site, looked and listened, but did not say a word. The CDoT archaeologist merely scoffed. She didn’t buy it for a second. One can only wonder: had archaeologists been digging the site, would they have noticed anything strange? Most of us aren’t trained to recognize an archaeology composed of a series of paleontological anomalies. What the hell’s a paleontological anomaly?

That’s not to say there wasn’t a lot of head shaking among the crew. Though dates would not be known for many

months after they left the field, speculation on the site’s antiquity was rife. The Arizona paleontologist made a most ominous assessment to the museum crew: “If the site is less than 15,000 years old then it is probably cultural; if it is older, it is probably natural.”

Had it stayed within the 15,000y maximum, you might have heard about the site on the evening news. There would have been a monument. And *National Geographic* would have scored another cover. In 1993.

It was not even close.

180,000-300,000 years. This is what the U-Series dates originally said. What did the scientists say? Nothing. Silence. Tip-toe away? Maybe nobody will hear. More than a decade later, nobody has. A monograph was started a few years ago and then it just stopped. From all accounts, no report was ever sent to *National Geographic*. One has to wonder what NGS thought about all this when they heard the dates. Oh, no! Not another Calico! No thanks. Don’t call us; we’ll call you. [Recently improved Uranium-Thorium dates came up with 130,000y.]

So, instead of a world class archaeological discovery demanding its very own conference, published volume, TV show, and a national monument to commemorate the site,...nothing. Nothing is known of this site outside a very small circle of participants. The report of the fieldwork was sent to CDoT and a couple other government agencies and is not currently available for sale. What survives are some nagging memories among some of the professional geologists and paleontologists who worked and visited the site.

Robson Bonnichsen was one of a very small number of archaeologists who actually took the time to examine the materials in the lab and looked over the field notes and report. From a letter in the SDNHM

files, he thought it was some of the most intriguing evidence he had seen regarding really early man in the New World.

Whether or not the mastodon quarry is ever resuscitated, it should draw attention to the types of problems archaeologists should learn to expect in a preClovis, preModern world. It also calls to paleontologists to be on the lookout. After all, like Professor Krieger said forty years earlier, it was the paleontologists who first brought bone tools to the attention of archaeologists at the turn of the 20th century. This was how it was for me when Joaquin showed me the flattened rib fragment from his bone pit. In a preMod world, a great burden of recognition will shift to paleontologists.

In the end, it was an archaeological call. If the museum paleontologists led the charge on this site, there is every chance they would not have fared too well. There is every chance they would have suffered a drop in credibility and respect, and a drop in grants and contract work. Afterall, this was southern California and they all knew about what happened to archaeologists who claimed pre-Clovis sites. Archaeologists nor paleontologists would not have stood a chance in the academic climate of the day. They probably would still not stand a chance. The only chance will come from an informed public.

CHRIS HARDAKER, BA, MA, is an archaeologist working in California and is one of the founding members of the Pleistocene Coalition. He reviewed and catalogued the data from the massive artifact collection of Calico. For details, see [The abomination of Calico](#), Parts 1-3, including Hardaker’s first explanation of Caltrans (Cerutti) Mastodon Site suppression beginning in *PCN* #6, July-Aug 2010, and [Calico redux: Artifacts or geofacts: Original 2009 paper updated and serialized for PCN](#) (*PCN* #24, July-Aug 2013) and its [Part 2](#) (*PCN* #26, Nov-Dec 2013). Hardaker is also author of:

[The First American: The suppressed story of the people who discovered the New World.](#)

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

http://pleistocenecoalition.com/#the_first_american

Member news and other info

"Of interest to me, they may have also shared the globe with the Valsequillo"



DNA can be recovered from soil 17-05-14

Apparently, human-based DNA can now be recovered from cave soil. It looks like we have a game changer here! Now the very dirt that incases those precious bones and artifacts at archaeological sites can be examined to tell us who left them!

Scientist Viviane Slon of the Max Planck Institute for Evolutionary Anthropology and a large group of colleagues have extracted mitochondrial DNA from sediment collected at four European caves.



Fig. 1. In this picture from 1973, I am preparing a Hueyatlatco monolith (stratigraphic sample) for extraction. See [The Valsequillo Saga and Hueyatlatco Site: VSM recalls, Parts 1-2 \(PCN #11, May-June 2011, pp. 15-20\)](#) for details. And for a recent update of the series, see, [The Valsequillo/Hueyatlatco story: Overview and links, \(PCN #39, Jan-Feb 2016\)](#). The photo also appears in Emmy-award-winning documentary filmmaker Bill Cote's article on pp. 7-8, [The Valsequillo saga and Hueyatlatco site: Bill Cote's involvement](#), and in Cote's controversial 1996 NBC special, *The Mysterious Origins of Man*, hosted by Charlton Heston. Though the film has its critics, most do not know the facts of Valsequillo as detailed in many issues of PCN over the years.

people in central Mexico and the Calico people in southern California!"

-VSM

Using small samples, only about a half-teaspoon of dirt, they treat them with chemicals that release the genetic material into solution. Then they take genetic material of known species and add it to the mix. If the unknown DNA is similar to one of the known adds, it hooks up with it and can be extracted and identified.

So far they have identified Neanderthal DNA at three caves where Neanderthal bones have previously been collected. They have also found Neanderthal DNA at the famous Denisova Cave, although no Neanderthal bones have yet been found there. And not only ancient homo DNA, they also find DNA of ancient animals like woolly mammoths and woolly rhinos. The oldest sequence they have successfully worked with so far

is around 700,000 years old.

And at the California Academy of Sciences in San Francisco a stratigraphic monolith—which I was involved in extracting from the archaeological layers at Hueyatlatco in 1973 (**Fig. 1**) sits, still tied to its board and wrapped in burlap, just waiting for someone to examine it! The DNA paper was published in *Science* in late April. -VSM

Homo naledi just got younger

Skeletal remains of several individuals, possibly intentionally interred, were reported from deep within a South African cave system called Rising Star in 2015. They have been called *H. naledi*, and they are a puzzle, with a very small brain case and modern feet similar to ours. At first, based on phylogenetic analyses, age of the fossils were thought to be roughly 900,000 years. More recently (May 9, *eLife*) using chemical dating techniques on the bones and surrounding materials, an international group of scientists believe they are much younger, between 335,000 and 236,000 years. This means that *H. naledi* may have shared their African homeland with our own species, *H. sapiens*. Of interest to me, they may have also shared the globe with the Valsequillo people in central Mexico and the Calico people in southern California! -VSM

In response to similar news about Homo naledi

Ken Johnston quotes a standard evolutionary publication:

"These were not human beings. These were pinheads, with some humanlike body parts."

-This face changes the human story. But how? *National-geographic.com* Sept 10, 2015

[pinhead One who lacks the intelligence of the "normal" sector of the human population; even so cannot handle the most mundane of tasks due to the lack of common sense and intelligence. -*Urban Dictionary* definition supplied by the Eds.]

With this news, the establish-

ment must put down early people with no justification.

Thanks for all you do,

Ken Johnston
Harbor Hills, Ohio

Eds. Comment: Johnston is right in drawing attention to a science presumption. The remains of *H. naledi* don't say anything about their intelligence. Yet the field presumes evolving intellect while continuing to block evidence proving the opposite is true.

H. erectus musicians evolved? -jf



In our March-April 2017 issue (PCN #46) we published an article called, [Homo erectus inching toward Carnegie Hall: Modern jazz musicians compose and improvise on Bilzingsleben's Augmented Scale X](#). This was to show that world-class musicians including Director of the New York Piano Society composed and performed a composition based entirely on a 400,000-year old engraved bone from Bilzingsleben, Germany. The artifact was shown by PCN Layout editor in a paper presented at the XV UISPP Congress, Lisbon, 2006 to be a duplicate representation of 'Augmented Scale X.' In a paper to which Bilzingsleben may be an un-cited reference, U.K. anthropologists announce *H. erectus* as piano-capable musicians e.g., 5-8-17 (after *Nature Human Behavior*). Here are a few of the 'new' claims:

"Ancient humans ...may have been budding musicians."

ScienceDaily put it this way:

"Advances in the production of Early Stone Age tools had...more to do with **the brain networks involved in modern piano playing**..a major step..in understanding **the evolution of human intelligence.**"

"These same brain networks today allow modern humans to perform such behaviors as skillfully playing a musical instrument."

Does using these same networks today really point to evolution?

The Pleistocene version of a multi-use tool

By Tom Baldwin

"While working at the



Calico Early Man Site as a volunteer, I

At least 200,000 years ago, Early Man wandered the shores of Pleistocene Lake Manix (the now dry lake is found in the Mojave Desert near modern day Yermo, California).

All those eons ago Lake Manix's shoreline teemed with animals to hunt and plants to gather. The animals

found in the area were primarily shore birds of various types, but mammoth, and herds of camels, and horses

also left their fossils there. In addition predators such as dire wolves and sundry types of cats

could be found in the area. The surface of the nearby hills was littered with chalcedony, a favorite stone for knapping into the tools those early men used to make their lives easier. In short, the lake with its teeming life along the shore and the surrounding mineral deposits for tool making made this an ideal place to live, and man did so as evidenced by The Calico Early Man Site found in those hills and just a few miles from the ancient lakeshore.

Today, that lake is gone along with the animals that lived beside it. The hills, however, remain, and littering their surface are the tools that were made by early man.

A great way to find your way back into those hills is provided by the power companies. Huge half million volt power lines stretch across the desert all the way from Boul-

der Dam (AZ) to Los Angeles (CA). Beneath the power lines run maintenance roads. While they are dirt, they are at least graded and drivable by most cars, and open vast areas to exploration by people like me, without ATVs.

I named one of those hills Lithics Knob (a personal designation that while appropriate, will not appear on any map except the one in my hand-held GPS). It is a small hill, with power lines above and a maintenance road for access below. Its surface is covered with desert pavement and littered with objects made by early man.

Years ago I found an interesting stone tool on one of those artifact rich hillsides. It seems to have multiple uses. It has a cutting edge on one side that could be used as a scraper, also a tip that shows evidence of having been used as a graver. In addition it has a concave area perfect for trimming up wooden shafts or peeling meat from bones.

Anyway, I found the artifact interesting, but at the same time I also thought it was only a fortuitous flake. I had fallen into the same trap that has caught up so many members of the archaeological establishment, I made the mistake of not sufficiently respecting our forbearers. I figured the knapper had gotten lucky. They had not created such a multi-purpose tool through skill and planning, but just by accident.

Then one weekend some time later, while working at the Calico Early Man Site as a volunteer, I noticed that in the Visitor's Center they had a casting of an almost identical tool, albeit the casting was of a bigger version than the one I had found. (It was common practice back then to make copies of important tools found at the site so visi-



Fig. 2. How the multi-use stone tool fits into the hand as if molded to fit. It demonstrates the skill of the person who knapped this tool. Photo by Tom Baldwin.

tors could see and handle the castings while the actual tool was safely locked away in the San Bernardino County Museum.) When I saw and handled that casting I knew that what I had found was not just happenstance, but the result of planning by whoever made it. Just one more proof of how wise and skilled those early men and women were.

I decided this type tool needed a name of its own. It was more than a scraper, more than a graver, more than even a concave scraper. I would call it a PSAK (pronounced *piss-ack*), which stands for Pleistocene Swiss Army Knife.

Fig. 1a and **Fig. 1b** Show the whole tool. In Fig. 1a the left side is the area used as a scraper, the pointed area at about seven o'clock is the graver, and the lower portion is the concave scraper. Also notice the deep brownish orange color. This staining of the tool's surface is called 'desert varnish' (see [The romance and prehistory of Lake Manix, PCN #46](#), March-April 2017, for a discussion of the phenomenon). It argues for the tool having a very great age. Fig. 1b shows the obverse of the tool

Fig. 2: Shows how the tool fits into the hand as if it were molded to fit and demonstrates the skill of the person who knapped this tool.

> [Cont. on page 9](#)



Fig. 1. Top: Multi-use stone tool the author found during exploration of Pleistocene Lake Manix. Left side is area used as a scraper, the pointed area at about seven o'clock is the graver, and the lower portion is the concave scraper. **Bottom:** obverse side of the tool. Photos by Tom Baldwin.

noticed that in the Visitor's Center they had a casting of an almost identical tool."

The Pleistocene version of a multi-use tool (cont.)



Fig. 3. Highly magnified view of the Lake Manix multi-use tool showing use/wear on the *scraper* portion of the tool. Photo by Tom Baldwin.

"It is a complicated intellect that can design a tool with multiple purposes in mind, one that we do a disservice when we fail to give them credit for their many accomplishments."

Fig. 3: A highly magnified view showing use/wear on the *scraper* portion of the tool.

Fig. 4: A highly magnified view showing use/wear on the *graver* portion of the tool.



Fig. 4. Highly magnified view of the Lake Manix multi-use tool showing use/wear on the *graver* portion of the tool. Photo by Tom Baldwin.

a tool with multiple purposes in mind."

Fig. 5: A very high magnification view of the *concave* portion of the tool, again showing use/wear.

As can be seen in Figs. 3–5, all three working portions of the tool show signs of use. Its creator must have drawn a great deal of

satisfaction from having made it. It is a complicated intellect that can design a tool with multiple purposes in mind, one that we do a disservice when we fail to give them credit for their many accomplishments.

TOM BALDWIN

is an award-winning author, educator, and amateur archaeologist living in Utah. He has also worked as a successful newspaper columnist. Baldwin has been actively involved with the Friends of Calico (maintaining the controversial Early Man Site in Barstow, California) since the early days when famed anthropologist Dr. Louis Leakey was the site's excavation Director (Calico is the only site in the Western Hemisphere which was excavated by Leakey). Baldwin's recent book, *The Evening and the Morning*, is an entertaining fictional story based on the true story of Calico. Apart from being one of the core editors of *Pleistocene Coalition News*, Baldwin has published many prior articles in *PCN* focusing on Calico, early man in the Americas, and *Homo erectus*.

All of Baldwin's articles published in *Pleistocene Coalition News* can be found at the following link:

http://pleistocenecoalition.com/index.htm#tom_baldwin

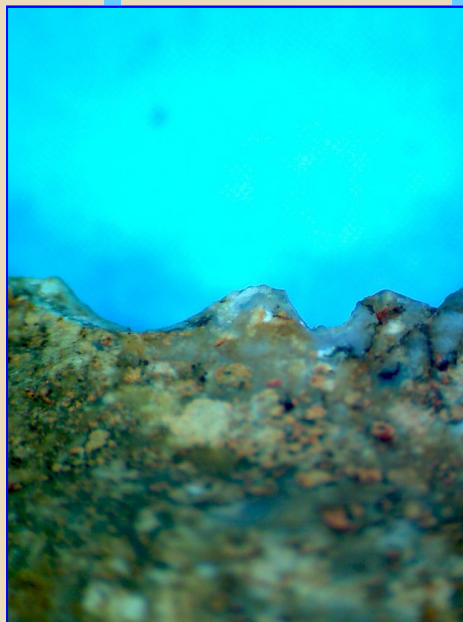


Fig. 5. Highly magnified view of the Lake Manix multi-use tool showing use/wear on the *concave* portion of the tool. Photo by Tom Baldwin.

The levee breaks By David Campbell

By now all of you have probably heard the buzz about the Cerutti Site and some of you may have had a déjà vu moment recalling reading often of a similar site here in PCN

beginning around 2010 called the Caltrans site. Maybe that's because they are one in the same.

The renaming honors one of the excavators and Chris Hardaker gives details of that elsewhere in this issue.

The main differences between our account and this latest one is the confirmation of a 130,000 YBP date by uranium-thorium methods and the publication in *Nature*, one of the top dogs in peer reviewed literature. When *Nature* speaks, people listen, at least the people who count in mainstream scientific literature. While many of them may disagree with the authors' claims, they are forced to step into the daylight and present their counterarguments. Holen and his colleagues are already prepared to swat those away like so many moths drawn to the porch light. They've had plenty of practice.

Some may not know of the La Sena and Loveless sites in Kansas and Nebraska that Steve Holen advocated as Pre-Clovis megafaunal butchering sites exemplifying the same signature bone fracturing as he found at Cerutti and like Cerutti lacked any stone projectile points. Those sites aligned with Alex Krieger's Pre-Projectile Horizon, in which he observed that the earliest artifacts in North America may have been of wood or bone no longer extant. Further he argued that some of the artifacts labeled scrapers or gouges would have been labeled Oldowan had they been found in Africa instead of North America. Krieger was forced to back down from this hypothesis because it flew full in the

face of the prevailing notion that human occupation of the Americas was no older than the Clovis artifacts, 11,500 YBP or perhaps a thousand years previous allowing them to rush down the Ice Free

Corridor and exterminate the megafauna before rushing head-long down to Tierra del Fuego only to stop because they lacked boats to cross the waters and inhabit Antarctica.

Now many apologists will protest that the final nail was driven into the Clovis coffin with Tom Dillehay's discoveries at Monte Verde in the mid 1970's proving how good science corrects itself with new input. Maybe good science does work that way in theory, but in practice, Zombie Clovis still walks the imaginary Ice Free Corridor in almost every popular science release sanitized for public consumption. Remember, with regard to individual response to perceived reality, perception IS reality. Today perception management is pervasive obscuring any alternative view beyond a carefully constructed artificial barrier. Holen's publication has breached that barrier significantly.

Some may wonder why previous sites of equal or greater antiquity were not mentioned in Holen's report, such as Calico, Hueyatlaco, Texas Street and others commonly known to readers of this newsletter. The answer may be similar to the advice David Meltzer gave Tom Dillehay in the days when Monte Verde's 13,000-year dates were struggling for acceptance and evidence of

a 33,000 YPB site nearby, Chinchihuapi, turned up. Meltzer told Dillehay to let Chinchihuapi slide until the 13,000-year date of the original site had cleared the hurdle. In other words, throw the

dogs a bone until we get this steak home.

Monte Verde opened doors for other Pre-Clovis sites that had been waiting in the wings for some time. Like roaches, once you spot one, you suddenly see a

hundred more. They've been there all along but now a change in your perception allows you to see them.

The public announcement of Cerutti was slightly preceded by the acceptance of Jaques Cinq-Marrs' Bluefish Cave work with a verifiable date of 23,000 years old. Jaques had provided evidence of his claims about 30 years ago but the Clovis Barrier prevented acceptance of his evidence that consisted mostly of bone and non-projectile lithics. He later stated in an interview at a Canadian university that the Clovis First myth had hobbled progress in paleoanthropology for fifty years. Oddly enough bone and non-projectile, non-fluted artifacts are a common theme in the newer discoveries that are not really new at all but a reexamination of previous ones or areas near them.

An example that caught my eye recently was the reexamination of a mound some 600 miles north of Lima called Huaca Prieta (**Figs. 1-2**). Junius Bird had excavated this site in 1946-1947 com-

> [Cont. on page 11](#)



"Some may wonder why previous sites of equal or greater antiquity were not mentioned in Holen's report ... Calico, Hueyatlaco, Texas Street and others commonly known to readers of this newsletter. ...

throw the dogs a bone until we get this steak home."



Fig. 1. Stone tools from the deepest cultural level at Huaca Prieta, Peru, now dated c. 15,000-13,500 years. Detail from Dillehay *et al*, "A late Pleistocene human presence at Huaca Prieta, Peru, and early Pacific Coastal adaptations." *Quaternary Research*, May 2012. See also *SciNews* May 25, 2017.

The levee breaks (cont.)

"Junius Bird had excavated this site in

ing up with dates around 5,000 years. Recently, Tom Dillehay and friends decided to dig a little deeper and discovered an occupation component dating to 15,000 YBP. Okay, stifle your yawns, gentle readers. Re-

duced dates and artifacts dated to 6,500–8,000 years, raising more than a few eyebrows, but quickly moved to the backroom of the memory hole until years later. He is also noted for the fishtail unfluted points that run neck

and neck with Clovis. Later, when radiocarbon dating became available, layer V beneath a sterile layer at Fell's Cave yielded dates of 10,000–11,000 years. Had Bird put forth such dates in 1936, his career would have ended in muffled protests from a rubber room. Flash forward to the 21st century when a

Elsewhere, Vero Beach, where E.H. Sellards discovered human artifacts along with extinct mammals in 1916, is being reexamined by Andy Hemmings. Hemmings, you may recall, discovered the "oldest" engraving of a mammoth on a tusk a few years back in the same region. Sellards was hounded out of Florida for his discovery and Texas gained one of its pioneer archaeologist/paleontologist/geologist founding fathers. While his controversial dates for the Malakoff Heads remain largely unaccepted today, maybe Malakoff will be given a posthumous second chance too.

So while it's premature to break out the firewater and firecrackers for Calico and Valsequillo, it's not too optimistic that they are in the lineup for a second glance not too far in the future. With Holen's publication, there's a break in the levee holding back a flood of similar discoveries. It remains to be seen how effective the sandbaggers will be in slowing it down.

DAVID CAMPBELL is an author/historian and an investigator of geological or manmade altered stone anomalies or large natural structures which may have been used by early Americans. He also has a working knowledge of various issues regarding the peopling of the Americas. Along with Virginia Steen-McIntyre and Tom Baldwin, Campbell is one of the core editors of *Pleistocene Coalition News*. Campbell has also written nine prior articles for *PCN* which can be found at the following link:

<http://pleistocenecoalition.com/index.htm#anarchaeology>

Author's website:
anarchaeology.com



Fig. 2. View SW toward Huaca Prieta mound and the Pacific Ocean across the Raised Plain and Irrigated Lowlands, El Brujo (Peru). Image: Wikimedia Commons—detail.

1946–1947 coming up with dates around 5,000 years. Recently, Tom Dillehay and friends decided to dig a little deeper and discovered an occupation component dating to 15,000 YBP."

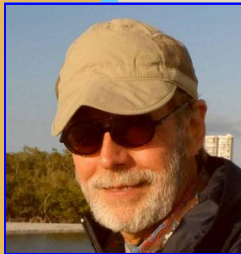
call that Michael Waters, who had so cavalierly dismissed Hueyatlaco in 2004, was hoisted upon his own petard when proudly proclaiming his Debra Friedkin (Brushy Creek) site as 15,000 years old. His colleagues bristled at such a suggestion, noting the crude artifacts he presented as evidence looked nothing like projectile points. Yet, they did bear a resemblance to the crude artifacts from Huaca Prieta, that dated also to 15,000 YBP but were inconveniently located thousands of miles to the south of Brushy Creek. Not mentioned in all of this was that Junius Bird, who in 1979 had pronounced Monte Verde a non-site because upon his visit Tom Dillehay had not yet cleared the top layers to get at the good stuff, discovered Fell's Cave in 1936. Fell's Cave at layer III pro-

duced dates and artifacts dated to 6,500–8,000 years, raising more than a few eyebrows, but quickly moved to the backroom of the memory hole until years later. He is also noted for the fishtail unfluted points that run neck and neck with Clovis. Later, when radiocarbon dating became available, layer V beneath a sterile layer at Fell's Cave yielded dates of 10,000–11,000 years. Had Bird put forth such dates in 1936, his career would have ended in muffled protests from a rubber room. Flash forward to the 21st century when a large point is fished from an excavation of a prehistoric cemetery at Buckeye Knoll near Victoria Texas. Texas archaeologists gasp asking what a big fishtail, Fells Cave Tradition point is doing in a South Texas Archaic cemetery dated to 7,000 years. Yielding to pressure from various Amerindian tribes who did not even exist at that time, the results of the excavations were "repatriated" at an undisclosed site and photos the complete skeleton recovered there forbidden for public display. The principal investigator of the site later opined in an interview that indications were that the unexcavated components of the site dated to 8,000 years and perhaps thousands of years earlier. We will probably never know the full truth of this Big Fish story.

Oral tradition and beyond

By Ray Urbaniak, Engineer, rock Art researcher and preservationist

"This has made me wonder just how far back such oral tradition might actually go? I've mentioned a few examples of current research elsewhere suggesting that oral history may go tens of thousands of years into the past."



Some Ice Age animal depictions could have been made by individuals who had actually observed the animals. However, my personal opinion is that most of the depictions

are images passed down through the oral tradition and later depicted 1,000 to many thousands of years ago. **Fig. 1** is what I believe to be one such example. It is a photo from the Dinosaur National Monument website—Jones Hole Trail. It appears to represent a Siberian Ibex an example of which can be seen in the inset to the figure.

In past articles (e.g., my series beginning with [Ice Age animals in Southwest U.S. rock art, Part 1](#), PCN #22, March-April 2013), I have presented evidence which led to my conclusion that petroglyphs from Utah, such as that pictured in **Fig. 2**, are actually depictions of extinct pronghorn antelope, not big horned sheep as is generally believed.



Fig.1. Proposed Siberian ibex depiction. Photo credit: Dinosaur National Monument website Jones Hole Trail. **Inset:** Example of a living Siberian ibex. Notice the ridged horns in each.

This has made me wonder just how far back such oral tradition might actually go? I've mentioned a few examples of current research elsewhere suggesting that oral history may go tens of thousands of years into the past. See for example: "Recommended article: Aboriginal memories of inundation of the Australian coast dating from more than 7000 years

depictions from genetic memory, encoded during the development of our species. Such horns make an indelible artistic impression on our brain. To this day, this animal is being hunted to extinction not for meat but for its horns.

Every time I have seen these sweeping horns, in



Fig.2. Left: Scimitar oryx from Africa. **Right:** Proposed Scimitar oryx depictions from petroglyph panel, Utah. Such depictions have traditionally been referred to as "bighorn sheep." See my prior PCN articles showing more such comparisons. Photo: Ray Urbaniak.

ago," [PCN #44, Nov-Dec 2016](#); and "Recommended articles: Articles providing more evidence of oral histories passed down across millennia," [PCN #45, Jan-Feb 2017](#)).

I suppose one could even make a case that some of the petroglyphs are in fact

rock art or in photos of animals, it has stirred a primal feeling inside of me which goes beyond my logical brain (see **Fig. 3**, following page).

> [Cont. on page 13](#)

Oral tradition and beyond (cont.)

RAY URBANIAK is an engineer by training and profession; however, he is an artist and passionate amateur archeologist at

niak's book, *Anasazi of Southwest Utah: The Dance of Light and Shadow* (2006), is a collection of rock art photographs

"Every time I have seen these sweeping horns, in rock art or in photos of animals, it has stirred a primal feeling inside of me which goes beyond my logical brain."

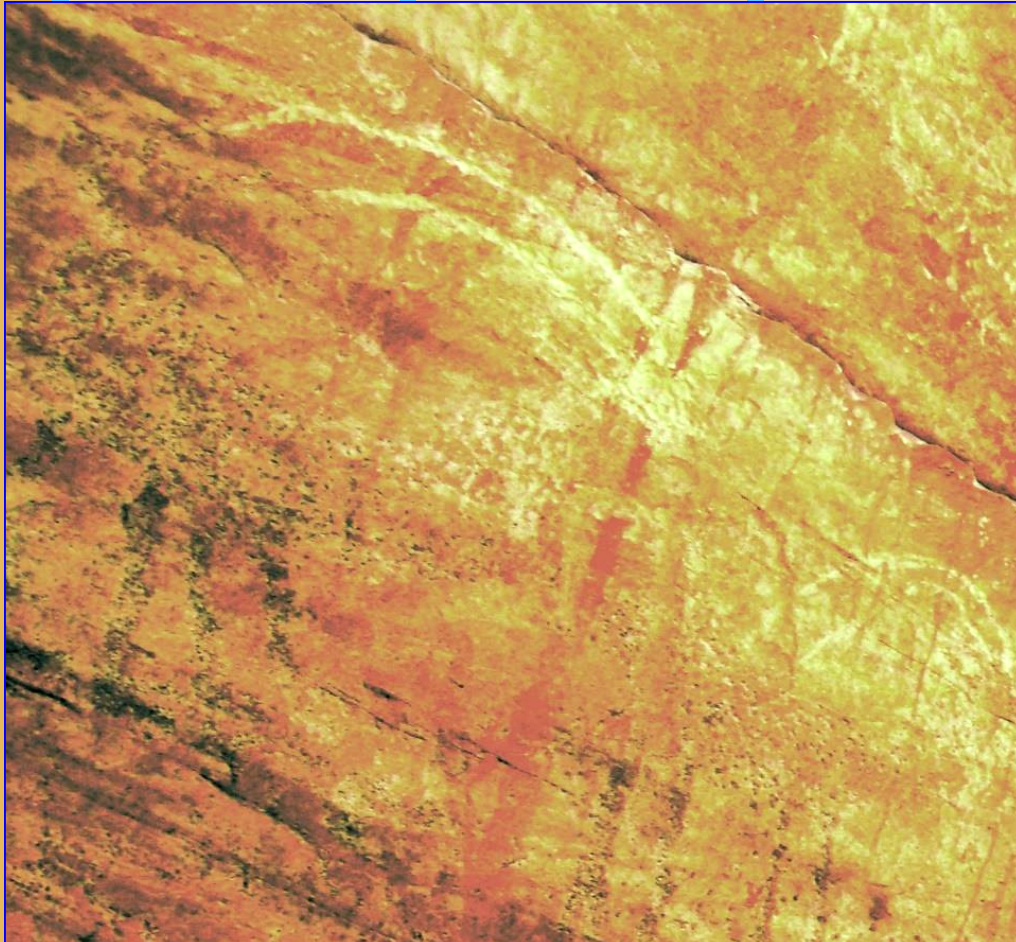


Fig. 3. Every time I have seen these sweeping horns, in rock art or in photos of animals, it has stirred a primal feeling inside of me which goes beyond my logical brain. Photo Ray Urbaniak.

heart with many years of systematic field research on Native American rock art, including as related to archaeoastronomy, equinoxes and solstices in Utah. He has noted that standard archaeological studies commonly record details of material culture but overlook the sometimes incredible celestial archeological evidence. Urbaniak has also played a role raising concerns for the accelerating vandalism, destruction, and theft of Native American rock art. He has brought state representatives to rock art sites with the hopes of placing "protected" labels near what he calls "sacred art" sites as a deterrent to vandalism. Urba-

including time-sequenced events with clear descriptions, compass, and other information. All of Urbaniak's prior articles in *PCN* can be found at the following link:

http://pleistocenecoalition.com/index.htm#ray_urbaniak

Cerutti Mastodon publication after “25 years”

What was actually behind the infamous suppression and publication? The answers are not as clear-cut as *Nature* and other popular venues are saying, *Part 1*

By John Feliks; informed by PCN editors Dr. Virginia Steen-McIntyre, Tom Baldwin, and David Campbell; and PC records; Chris Hardaker; the San Diego Cerutti Team’s “Discovery Timeline;” and other sources as credited

“First, the problem is not falsification. What’s needed is proper citation and acknowledgement of prior relevant work.”

This side-by-side timeline compares Pleistocene Coalition documentation with the Cerutti Timeline. It provides missing perspective on how CM Site authors’ confidence was interwoven with the PC and *Pleistocene Coalition News*. It also sheds light on the inner workings of anthropology and paleontology the past 50 years.

“This is a hypothesis that begs for careful scrutiny and attempts to falsify it; I’m open to that.... That’s the way science should work, right? Bring it on.”

–Dr. Tom Deméré, Cerutti Mastodon Team, *National Geographic.com*, April 26, 2017

First, the problem is not falsification. What’s needed is proper citation and acknowledgement of prior relevant work and that the hypothesis of 100,000-year+ people in

the Americas has already been long-forwarded and established. As critics of *Nature* have recently published, the evidence as presented does not match the boldness of claims made for Cerutti Mastodon as a “stand-alone” site. Because of this, the claims made seem to come out of nowhere. Where did so much confidence in *H. erectus* or Neanderthal capabilities come from after 25 years? Also, how is it that the evidence provided both “suggests” and, at the same time, “confirms” the presence of unidentified *Homo* species in the Americas without acknowledging any prior evidence? As Dr. Virginia Steen-McIntyre says in this issue the CM Site is *not* the “oldest *in situ*, well-documented archaeological site in North America” (Holen *et al* 2017, *Nature* 544: 479). Yet, in the *Nature News* article 5-27-17, CM Team

dismisses established artifacts from older sites as *mere rocks* only “resembling” stone tools. This standard claim can be questioned by looking at the Figures in Hardaker’s, Baldwin’s, and Feliks’ articles this issue to decide whether or not the claim is even remotely true. Only in anthropology is undeniable well-documented professionally-acquired physical evidence not incorporated into the knowledge base even after half a century but ignored while new claims start over from scratch. This is one of the reasons the field is attracting increasing skepticism with a public looking more and more into matters for themselves. For too long, anthropology has promoted individual sites at the expense of a larger picture which is already here. 50 years of Calico and Valsequillo suppression and omission is enough. That also is how science works.

PCN’s Parallel Timeline: PC documentation behind Cerutti confidence regarding *H. erectus* and Neanderthals in the Americas

1992–2009

The Cerutti Mastodon Site was recognized already in 1992 as an important “Pre-Clovis” site by its discoverers despite a cryptic 1995 “Final Report.” Whether it was 400,000 years old or 100,000 is minor compared to the many implications of an extinct mastodon skeleton worked by early Americans who were, purportedly, not *Homo sapiens*:

“When we first discovered the site, there was strong physical evidence that placed humans alongside extinct Ice Age megafauna. This was significant in and of itself.”

–Dr. Tom Deméré quoted in *University of Michigan News*, April 26, 2017, with co-author, University of Michigan paleontologist, Daniel Fisher.

For something so profound it is surprising the site was suppressed for 25 years. Where did the Cerutti Mastodon Team’s later confidence in *H. erectus* and Neanderthals in the Americas come from beginning in 2008—enough to finally move them toward publication? The 2017 *Nature* articles and interviews in other journals suggest that the delay was because of dating problems:

“The main delay came from the sheer difficulty in accurately dating the site [e.g., professional problems w/the U.S. Geological Survey].”

–*National Geographic.com*, April 26, 2017.

Dating problems don’t keep important discoveries from the public and definitely not for 25 years. The dating claim just can’t be given any credence

Cerutti Mastodon Discovery Timeline: San Diego Museum website—abridged

1992

Nov 1_Retired PaleoServices Field Paleontologist **Richard Cerutti** discovers the site. Curator of Paleontology and Director of PaleoServices **Dr. Tom Deméré** and PaleoServices Field Paleontologist Brad Riney meet with Cerutti to formulate plan for excavation of the fossils.

Nov 17_Formal excavation begins.

Nov 18_Caltrans archaeologists visit the Cerutti Mastodon Site and help screen sediment from disturbed area.

Nov 19_Steve’s Horse Quarry discovered and excavated over next 9 days.

Dec 3_Dr. Tom Deméré begins videotaping/documenting the Site.

Dec 19_Paleontologist Dr. Larry Agenbroad visits the Site for the first time.

Dec 24_SDSU Geologist Dr. Pat Abbott visits the Site for the first time.

> [Cont. on page 15](#)

Cerutti Site publication after “25 years” (cont.)

PCN's Parallel Timeline (cont.)

1992–2009 (cont.)

when seeking the real reasons for suppression. It will be something bigger. This Parallel Timeline, instead, adheres to PC founding member, California archaeologist, **Chris Hardaker's insider take** (this issue) as far more credible. Instead of blaming the USGS, Chris explains *what happens to American scientists* who dare publish controversial dates as the real deterrent. I.e. the delay was not the scientists' or the USGS' fault but mainstream anthropology-paleontology—an academic monopoly *well-known* and *well-documented* for suppression and even quashing researchers—e.g., famed anthropologist Dr. Louis Leakey—should they publish controversial dates or opinions. This is the kind of suppression power that can cause a 25-year publication delay. The reason such control has existed in the community for decades is its attachment to origin myths taught as fact now forcing the community to self-censor, block, or deride researchers every time conflicting evidence is discovered. Honest and hard-working scientists like **Richard Cerutti** and **Tom Deméré** pay the price for bias at the highest levels of their fields. The problem is the myth that early humans such as *Homo erectus* and Neanderthals were not capable people and not intelligent enough to make it to the Americas. As Chris explains, the way for the public to get past science like this is to become informed. Chris (an associate since the 1970s of the CM Site's discoverer Richard Cerutti), in his book, [*The First American: The suppressed story of the people who discovered the New World*](#), instead of appealing to conspiracy to explain suppression, proposes “groupthink.” I.e. the community resists individual creative thinking in an effort to reach consensus without having to acknowledge conflicting evidence.

1993

1994

Cerutti Discovery Timeline (cont.)

1992 (cont.)

Dec 28_Dr. Larry Agenbroad and Paleontologist Dr. Jim Mead join the excavation team for one week.

Dec 29_Dr. Tom Deméré videotapes the Cerutti Mastodon Site.

Dec 31_Former PaleoServices Field Paleontologist Steve Walsh mentions discussion with Larry and Jim about a Sangamian versus Wisconsinian age for the Site.

1993

January 3_Dr. Tom Deméré videotapes the Cerutti Mastodon Site.

January 14_National Geographic Society awards emergency grant of \$14,038 to support field work and travel.

January 23_Dr. Larry Agenbroad returns to San Diego for two-day visit.

January 24_Dr. Tom Deméré videotapes the Cerutti Mastodon Site.

January 27_SDSU Geologist **Dr. Tom Rockwell** visits the Site suggesting an age of 300,000 years +/- one interglacial (i.e., 200,000–400,000 years) based on elevation, caliche volume, and degree of modern soil development.

March 22_CM-423 cobble found in Unit G-5 at the Cerutti Mastodon Site.

April 5_Dire wolf skeleton discovered.

April 21_Column sample of quarry stratigraphy jacketed in northwest corner of Unit F-5 at the Cerutti Mastodon Site.

April 27_Steve Walsh collects OSL samples—north wall Unit B-6; last day of field work at the CM Site.

April 28_C Mastodon Site buried by bulldozer.

December 29_Richard KU (USC) calls Dr. Deméré with preliminary radiometric date of ~190 ka on caliche sample.

1994

January 7_USC Geologist Dr. Richard Ku sends letter report with radiometric (U-Th) dating results.

> [Cont. on page 16](#)

Cerutti Site publication after “25 years” (cont.)

PCN's Parallel Timeline (cont.)

1995 – **On the ball scientists appear immediately.** After reading the 1995 “Final Report” (submitted only to CA government), USGS professionals, the late **Dr. Charles Repenning** (renowned paleontologist who confirmed ID’s of small mammals at the site), **Dr. Virginia Steen-McIntyre** (volcanic ash specialist), and the late **Dr. George F. Carter** (Johns Hopkins U., Texas A&M U.; anthropology)—all involved with earlier sites and well-aware of U.S. suppression regarding early Americans—agreed not to discuss the “exciting discovery” until the original scientists made their public announcement. **No announcement was ever made** ([Dr. Virginia Steen-McIntyre, PCN #3, Jan-Feb 2010](#)). Note that Richard Cerutti was/is a supporter of Dr. Carter’s views on early Americans; so not publishing suggests concern over career exactly as per Chris’ article this issue.

1996–2007 Nothing happens with the Cerutti (Caltrans) Mastodon Site for 11 years. Anywhere else such a discovery would have been announced quickly. But in the Americas due to predisposition scientists have been afraid to publish sites old enough to invoke Neanderthals or *Homo erectus*. Those who do are academically maligned.

In the meantime, due to no small effort by Dr. Steen-McIntyre, Caltrans was becoming recognized “outside” academia as the suppression of yet another early American site. For the most part, those listening were not mainstream scientists. One result involved online discussions in 2006 including both amateur and professional archaeologists informed by Dr. Steen-McIntyre and Chris Hardaker that Caltrans was one of “many” suppressed American sites. This was just prior to Chris’ announcement in the same forums of his upcoming exposé, *The first American*, incl. Caltrans, providing insight into how honest archaeologists and paleontologists are cattle-prodded by science institutions. Such exposés questioning science authority are increasing. An editorial published in *Nature* simultaneously with PCN’s Jan-Feb re-publication of Virginia’s 2010 Caltrans exposé describes this very well:

“Of the two industries I work in ... concerned with truth—science and journalism—only the latter has seriously engaged and looked for answers. Scientists need to catch up, or they risk further marginalization in a society that is increasingly weighing evidence and making decisions without them.”

–A. Makri. “Give the public the tools to trust scientists... The form of science ...in popular media leaves the public vulnerable to false certainty.” *Nature* 541, January 2017.

Public pressure to publish: In 2005, Dr. Steen-McIntyre’s sought-out knowledge sent Michael Cremo and co-author of *Forbidden Archeology*, mathematician, Richard Thompson, to the San Diego Museum to speak directly with Dr. Tom Deméré—author of the 1995 CM “Final Report.” They didn’t stop there. They further asked about a relevant San Diego site with mammoth bones showing “cut marks made by stone tools.” The bones were dated by the USGS to 300,000 years old. Deméré said he was familiar with the evidence but that due to peer review it could never be published into “any” scientific journal. There’s the culprit at work.

2006 **Dr. Steen-McIntyre** continues actively discussing suppression of early American sites with scientists and others via online forums, etc.

2007 **Chris Harkaker** publishes *The first American*. See his article, [The ‘new’ New World](#), this issue for perspective on what contract paleontologists and archaeologists such as Richard Cerutti and Tom Deméré were up against when deciding whether to publish.

2008 – **THE TURNING-POINT YEAR: Dr. Steve Holen and influences** Though Steen-McIntyre, Repenning, Carter and Hardaker were aware, 2017 *Nature* paper lead author—mastodon expert, Dr. Steve Holen—had no idea the site even existed until 2008:

“After hearing about the San Diego mastodon the Holens visited Deméré in 2008 to see the boxed-up remains.” –*Nature News*, April 26, 2017

Also in 2008, **Steen-McIntyre contacted Dr. Holen** regarding [mastodon sites incl. bones w/undeniable markings from stone tools in Valsequillo, Mexico, dated 250,000 years by the USGS](#). One expert critic of the *Nature* report noticed such missing references:

“I do think it is important to properly contextualize the Cerutti Mastodon claim, and I believe it should have been done, however briefly, in the original article.”

–Dr. Andre Costopoulos, Prof. of Anthropology; Vice-Provost and Dean of Students, University of Alberta, CA; “Traditional academic publishing has jumped the mastodon.” *Archaeothoughts.com*, May 2, 2017

August 2008, Dr. Steen-McIntyre introduced PC founder and Layout editor, **John Feliks**, to Dr. Holen via e-mail. Dr. Holen who had just learned about the CM Site’s evidence of “pre-*sapiens*” people in the Americas was interested in hearing about the 400,000-year old evidence from Bilzingsleben, Germany, recently published by Feliks on [modern-level intelligence in *Homo erectus*](#)—‘cognitive archaeology’—early human capabilities.

Cerutti Discovery Timeline (cont.)

1995

March 20 State Route 54 Paleontological Mitigation Report submitted to the California Department of Transportation (Caltrans).

1996–2007 N/A

11 years

2006 N/A

2007 N/A

2008

April 5 Archaeologists **Dr. Steve Holen** [mastodon site expert] and **Kathleen Holen** [‘cognitive archaeology’] first research visit to San Diego Natural History Museum to examine the fossils and artifacts salvaged from the Cerutti Mastodon Site.

...Continued in Part 2

Cerutti Mastodon publication after “25 years”

What was actually behind the infamous suppression and publication? The answers are not as clear-cut as *Nature* and other popular venues are saying, *Part 2*

By John Feliks; informed by PCN editors Dr. Virginia Steen-McIntyre, Tom Baldwin, and David Campbell; and PC records; Chris Hardaker; the San Diego Cerutti Team’s “Discovery Timeline;” and other sources as credited

PCN’s Parallel Timeline (continuing from Part 1)

2009 **Dr. Holen** was part of the inside group during formation of the Pleistocene Coalition. PC was formed for two main reasons: 1.) Publish mainstream-suppressed evidence about *early humans in the Americas*, 2.) Publish mainstream-suppressed evidence that early humans were of *modern-level intelligence*. Afterwards, a 3rd goal became exposing sciences aggressively promoting origin myths as fact.

When Pleistocene Coalition News debuted in 2009, Dr. Holen was already on the mailing list—PCN #1 onward. The Denver Museum of Nature and Science—where Dr. Holen was Curator of Archaeology and Kathe Holen ‘cognitive archaeology’—archived hardcopies of PCN as arranged by Dr. Steen-McIntyre. **When PC began, Dr. Holen believed humans in the Americas were no older than a couple dozen millennia.** Through VSM and PCN, Dr. Holen became increasingly informed about earlier sites as well as PC’s ongoing evidence for modern-level intelligence in the Cerutti-pertinent age range of *H. erectus* and Neanderthals. This was squarely against mainstream consensus. **These facts explain the confidence of CM claims** which critics find unsupported with CM promoted as a stand-alone site. *So, while Dr. Holen’s confidence was strong that support already existed, Nature skeptics—seeing no citations—did not have this.* By not citing earlier science, to critics, CM confidence seems to come out of nowhere. PC, PCN, and Dr. Steen-McIntyre and her prior San Diego site connections no doubt fueled that confidence. At least one mainstream expert noticed missing citations and questioned why relevant contextual references were not included:

“The Cerutti Mastodon Letter to *Nature* introduces, seemingly out of the blue ... the find and its claim of interglacial human occupation of North America ... and surprisingly uncritically. It is no surprise in fact that this development comes out of the San Diego area with its long history of research on this question. What *is* surprising is that despite its obvious roots, the *Nature* paper makes no reference at all to this long history and is not contextualized with reference to the evidence previously presented in an archaeological tradition that goes back at least to the 1950s and probably earlier.”

—Dr. Andre Costopoulos, Professor of Anthropology; Vice-Provost and Dean of Students, University of Alberta, Canada; “The Cerutti mastodon and the San Diego School: A brief history of the claim.” *Archaeothoughts.com*. May 10, 2017.

2010—12th year nothing from the CM Team. From Jan 2010 to April 2017, PCN was the only publication keeping the CM Site before the public. **By contrast, readers of mainstream science** had no idea the site even existed for 25 years. They continued to be told there were no early people in the Americas.

PCN #3, Jan-Feb 2010 PC founding member, volcanic ash specialist, Dr. Virginia Steen-McIntyre, published her first article on the suppressed Cerutti (Caltrans) Mastodon Site called, [In their own words: Caltrans site](#). Dr. Steen-McIntyre had already begun telling researchers about the site in the 1990s after realizing it was not going to be published.

PCN #7, Sept-Oct 2010, First Anniversary Issue PC founding member, archaeologist, **Chris Hardaker’s** first PCN mention of the suppressed Caltrans Site, [The abomination of Calico, part two](#). In the same issue we frontloaded the work of Cree First Nations archaeologist, molecular anthropologist, **Paulette Steeves** (now PhD)—**another associate of Dr. Holen**. Her article, [Deep time ancestors in the Western Hemisphere](#), started her online database to coincide with PCN’s Ann. 12 sites, incl. CM, Calico, Valsequillo were oldest. To help it get off the ground, the Pleistocene Coalition promoted Steeves’ database incl. sites known only to Native Americans and First Nations peoples of Canada. [The four oldest North American sites](#) involved Dr. Steen-McIntyre and Dr. Louis Leakey—Valsequillo and Calico. Steeves’ PCN article received rave reviews from all associates prompting her to create the first university class on indigenous sites 10,000–200,000+ years old. Again, Dr. Holen was informed on the earliest American sites via the PC.

Cerutti Discovery Timeline:

2009

May 28–29, 2009

Conference on Cerutti Mastodon Site held at San Diego Natural History Museum. Attendees included Dr. Tom Deméré, Richard Cerutti, **Dr. Steve Holen, Kathleen Holen**, Dr. Dan Fisher (paleontologist and mastodon expert), Dr. Tom Stafford (archaeologist and dating expert), George Jefferson (paleontologist and Pleistocene expert), Dr. Steve Forman (OSL dating expert), Dr. Pat Abbott, and Dr. Mark Becker (archaeologist and lithic expert)

May 28, 2009

Trench excavated into the south side of the sound berm directly opposite the Cerutti Mastodon Site to collect fresh sediment samples for OSL dating.

2010 N/A

> [Cont. on page 18](#)

Cerutti Site publication after “25 years” (cont.)

PCN's Parallel Timeline (cont.)

2011 Denver Museum of Nature and Science where **Dr. Holen** was Curator of Archaeology begins *archiving archaeological papers on Valsequillo*—dated 250,000-years by the U.S. Geological Survey—as arranged by **Dr. Steen-McIntyre**.

PCN #14, Nov-Dec 2011: In this issue we produced a **map** of the earliest suppressed Western Hemisphere sites up to 400,000 years old including Caltrans. See [The collapse of standard paradigm New World prehistory](#), **Virginia Steen-McIntyre, PhD**. Also in this issue is Virginia's, [Hueyatlaco/Valsequillo saga: Part 7](#), important because it proved the destruction of Hueyatlaco, a direct result of U.S./Mexican anthropology omission and denigration. *Even at this late stage*, **Dr. Holen** was promoting the Mammoth Steppe Hypothesis that Americans dated no earlier than 40,000 years.

2012

2013—Still no Cerutti Mastodon Site announcement after “21 years”

PCN #22, March-April 2013 Excerpts: “**Fred F. Budinger Jr.**, archaeologist and former Director of the 200,000-yr old Calico Early Man Site ...is looking for any ideas on how to protect the site from the ongoing destruction of physical evidence... by its new Director, Dee Schroth.” “Toca da Tira Peia site [Brazil] is being sold to the public as “rewriting history” because of its 22,000-yr old date. Of course, that date is not at all controversial compared with... Calico (200,000), Hueyatlaco (250,000), or Caltrans (300,000)—all blocked from mainstream publication.” “In *Part 1*, I suggested that the discovery of ‘cultural’ evidence of early humans in the Americas at sites such as Calico, Hueyatlaco, Caltrans, etc., was more important and more trustworthy than anything the public has been taught by the physical anthropology community.”

PCN #23, May-June 2013 Excerpts: “Pleistocene Coalition founding members, **Jim Harrod** and **Chris Hardaker**, also discussed evidence for the potential of very early Bering Strait crossings as far back as several hundred thousand years ago ([Out of Africa revisited](#), *PCN* #3, Jan-Feb. 2010; [The abomination of Calico, part 3](#), *PCN* #8). *PCN* editor **Tom Baldwin** provided estimates of an available Bering Land Bridge at 13,000, 125,000, 325,000, and 425,000 years ago ([Breaking the Clovis barrier](#), *PCN* #16, March-April 2012). This is all not to mention the years of evidence provided by founder, **Virginia Steen-McIntyre**, regarding the 250,000-year old Valsequillo sites in Mexico as well as sites such as the [Caltrans 300,000-year old mastodon kill site in California](#) (*PCN* #3, Jan-Feb 2010).”

PCN #24, July-Aug 2013 Excerpts: [The Pleistocene's most well-traveled creature](#). By **Tom Baldwin**. “The animals ... were going back and forth between Alaska and Siberia—the land bridge becoming a veritable megafauna superhighway—yet we are led to believe by archaeological authorities that early man stopped and did not make that same crossing, at least not until a relatively few thousand years ago... [I] find myself asking a big “WHY?” Then I realize it isn't I who has to answer that question. It is the Archaeological Powers That Be. They are the naysayers. ... In fact, there is ample evidence that *Homo erectus* did cross over. He left his tools at the Calico Early Man Site ... (and at the [Caltrans mastodon kill site](#) also in California). He left them at Valsequillo in Mexico. ... This is as should be expected. ... Given *Homo erectus*' well-known penchant for travel and ... Beringia ... with all kinds of large animals crossing back and forth regularly it is logical to assume that *Homo erectus* did find his way to the Americas. Those who believe otherwise need to come up with reasons why not.”

Also **2013**, **Dr. Holen** publishes The Mammoth Steppe Hypothesis proposing oldest evidence for humans in Americas 40,000 yrs. **No mention of CM, Calico, Hueyatlaco** even though dated much older, e.g., 250,000 years by the USGS and NASA.

Cerutti Discovery Timeline (cont.)

2011

May 16 First Cerutti Mastodon Site samples sent to Dr. James Paces, geologist and geochronologist at the [U.S. Geological Survey](#).

2012

February 18 Initial radiometric (U-Th) dating results reported to the Cerutti Mastodon Team.

April 2 Dr. Jim Paces and Dr. Steve Holen visit the San Diego Natural History Museum to identify additional samples for dating.

October 5 Two Cerutti Mastodon Site rock specimens (CM-254, 383) sent to Australia for use-wear and residue analysis. Initial contact with Archaeologist Dr. Richard Fullagar.

July 2012–December 2014 Dr. Jim Paces prepares multiple specimens and performs digestions, chemical separations and purifications, and completes isotope analyses on nearly 100 individual subsamples.

2013

Dr. Jim Paces dating continues

> [Cont. on page 19](#)

Cerutti Site publication after “25 years” (cont.)

PCN's Parallel Timeline (cont.)

2014

PCN #29, May-June 2014 Excerpts: “After **Tom Baldwin’s** recent articles concerning the rapidly changing views about people in the Americas ... our readers have been on the lookout... One item sent by Kevin Callaghan is very telling. It is a...write-up in the May 9 issue of *Science* called, ‘New sites bring the earliest Americans out of the shadows.’ What they mean by ‘earliest Americans’ has to be questioned...Hueyatloco, Calico, Caltrans, [Old] Crow, etc., are much older...Now that the *once taught-as-fact Clovis-first theory* has been disproved mainstream archaeologists are rushing to push their dates back while still blocking the evidence of earlier sites.”

2015

PCN #33, Jan-Feb 2015. 8th article w/CM suppression. Excerpts: “*National Geographic*, **January 2015—Same old same old.**” –By **Dr. Virginia Steen-McIntyre**. “On the ‘First Americans.’ Both give ...establishment take... *As expected*, none of the early sites or artwork from the Americas...are mentioned. ...While...Monte Verde...is mentioned, the older dates for artifacts from lower in the excavated section are not... No mention of: [Valsequillo, 250k], Calico (200k+ yrs., Issue 13 pp. 6,7); the Flagstaff site (Sangamon interglacial, >80k yrs. Issue 31 p. 13); Old Crow Basin, Yukon (Pre-Sangamon, Issue 20 p.16); National City/Caltrans State Route 54, California (ca 300k yrs, Issue 3 p.10).”

PCN #36, July-Aug 2015. 9th article incl. suppression of Caltrans Site. Excerpt: “Fortunately, the preservationists persisted, and won. The Cõa Valley sites are now safely on the ‘World Heritage’ list. If Valsequillo, Hueyatloco, Calico, Caltrans and other American sites experienced similar efforts, they too—rather than being destroyed—might be World Heritage Sites today. –jP”

2016

PCN #39, Jan-Feb, 2016 10th article CM suppression—**2 months before** CM submitted to *Nature*—“25 years” after discovery. Excerpts: “This brings us back to one of the main reasons the Coalition was formed...that evidence for the presence of truly ancient man in the Americas is suppressed by the science community. ...Related...is **Virginia Steen-McIntyre’s ...Mammoth migrations into North America suggest human presence** (PCN #38, Nov-Dec 2015). ...[suggesting] that if mammoths ...were wandering the Bering Land Bridge 1.5 million years ago...human mammoth hunters would have likely not been far behind. ...more evidence pointing straight to North American early man sites dated between 200,000 and 400,000 years old by professional geologists and chemists including from NASA and the USGS. These sites are suppressed by the mainstream science community because of their antiquity. ...They include such sites as Old Crow in Alaska, Caltrans and Calico in California, Hueyatloco in Mexico, and Monte Verde in Chile.”

2017

PCN #45, Jan-Feb 2017 11th article on suppression of the CM Site **two months before** the CM paper is accepted by the journal *Nature*. This is our re-print of Dr. Steen-McIntyre’s original Caltrans suppression article from Jan-Feb 2010 w/an additional figure—“25 years” after the site’s discovery in 1992.

April 26 Concerns of the Mastodon Team and San Diego Museum were expressed that *PCN* Layout editor was “leaked” inside information to explain how our Jan-Feb issue (*PCN #45*) wound up with a front-page re-publication of Dr. Steen-McIntyre’s original exposé (*PCN #3*, Jan-Feb 2010). It created a stir. The suspicion of a leak arose because the issue just so happened to appear two months before the CM Site was finally announced in *Nature*. There was a statement requested of the Editor as to why the VSM exposé was chosen for that particular issue. **For the record and to alleviate any concerns:** A year or so ago Chris Hardaker suggested re-publishing some of our best prior articles and that was simply the one the Layout editor chose to be first. An amazing coincidence to be sure. The re-publication was also about 25 years after CM discovery. *PCN* had already been keeping the site in public view for seven years in 10 prior issues. So, there was no leaked information by anyone from the SD Museum, Cerutti Team, from Chris Hardaker, Richard Cerutti, or anyone else. Chris, a 40-year associate of Cerutti, did not break any confidences in keeping the *Nature* announcement completely secret. Now, with the Parallel Timeline published readers might ask themselves: “How many more sites with evidence of modern intelligence in early people are out there?” True science always goes wherever the evidence leads.

Cerutti Discovery Timeline (cont.)

2014

Dr. Jim Paces dating continues

2015

January to April Dr. Jim Paces compiles and evaluates all data using newly published numerical age models that consider diffusion, absorption, and decay of U in bone.

February Geoarchaeologist and Soil Scientist Dr. Jared Beeton visits the San Diego Natural History Museum for first time to examine Cerutti Mastodon Site collection and obtain sediment samples and soil descriptions.

May Final age determination for the Cerutti Mastodon bones of 130,700 ±9,400 years is reported to the Cerutti Mastodon Team.

2016

March 17 Initial submission of Cerutti Mastodon Site manuscript submitted to the prestigious science journal *Nature*.

2017

March 13 Formal acceptance of Cerutti Mastodon Site manuscript by the science journal *Nature*.

Below added to “Discovery Timeline” by *PCN* editor:

April 26-27 Cerutti Mastodon Site finally announced to the public in the journal *Nature*—25 years after its discovery

JOHN FELIKS has specialized in the study of early human cognition for nearly 25 years providing evidence that human capabilities have remained the same through time. In 2009, Feliks and several colleagues formed the Pleistocene Coalition to bring to the public suppressed evidence related to human origins and prehistory.

Neighboring archaeological sites—The Cerutti Mastodon case would be strengthened by not distancing Calico

By John Feliks

"This is exciting for the day but to move forward

"In these cases [e.g., Calico Early Man Site, Barstow, California], the findings could be explained as the outcome of geological or biological processes that superficially mimic human-made items."

—*Nature* 544, p. 421, April 27, 2017

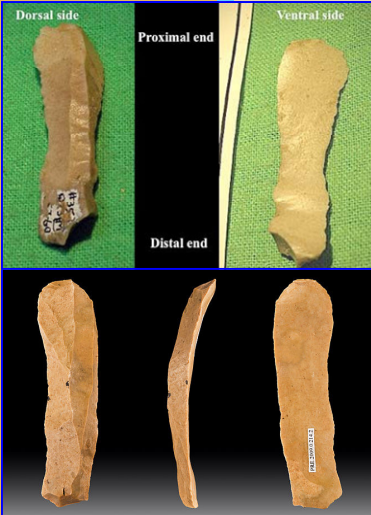


Fig. 1. Comparison from [Reviving the Calico of Louis Leakey, Part 1](#) (PCN #21, Jan-Feb 2013). I made this figure so that readers could see scientific bias in action by comparing a stone blade from Calico, CA, dated c. 50,000–200,000 years old (meticulously photographed and catalogued by PC founding member archaeologist Chris Hardaker) with a virtually identical blade from the famous site of Brassempouy in France, dated c. 22,000–29,000 years old. Readers can judge for themselves the objectivity of *Nature* claims recently published repeating that Calico's specimens were *made by nature* while the European specimens are fully-accepted as *made by man*. **Top:** Artifact #16605 from Hardaker's Calico Lithics Photographic Project (see PCN #6, July-August 2010). **Bottom:** a flint blade from Brassempouy (Wikimedia Commons). Dr. Leakey, familiar with artifacts worldwide, was fully confident in the artifacts from Calico despite uninformed mainstream attempts, even in 2017, to denounce them as "geofacts."

American anthropology needs a bigger picture."

This is a sample stance which the Cerutti Mastodon Team has taken regarding contemporaneous or earlier sites in the Americas. Obvious and already-identified and catalogued artifacts being referred to as findings that "superficially mimic human-made forms" would never pass peer review in normal sciences. Facts can be checked to see whether or not statements such as this are scientifically valid. Instead of taking the journal *Nature* at its word take a look at an actual artifact from Calico (**Fig. 1**).

Then, decide for yourself whether or not the statement is true.

The Cerutti Mastodon Site is being promoted as the oldest

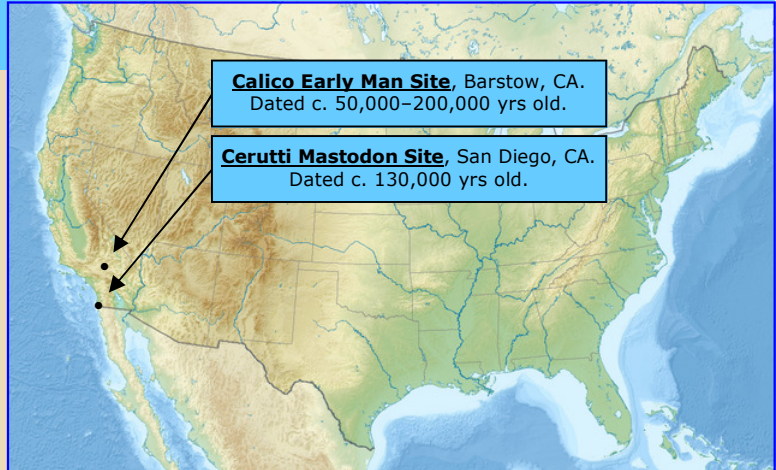


Fig. 2. This map shows two long-suppressed "contemporaneous" Pre-Clovis sites: Top, Calico Early Man Site (excavated by the late Dr. Louis Leakey—renowned international expert on stone tools) and Bottom, Cerutti Mastodon Site. The two sites are a mere 188 miles apart. They are so close together that it would take a fit person less than a week to walk from one site to the other. The Cerutti Team weakens their case by rejecting contemporaneous sites such as Calico.

in the Americas without any older or contemporaneous sites acknowledged. This is exciting for the day but to move forward American anthropology needs a bigger picture. The field does not have a 'periodic table of elements' such as chemistry had which gave researchers a common objective goal to work toward. Anthropology tends to be a field full of lone wolves with the only common element being adherence to a vague evolutionary myth that early people such as *Homo erectus* and Neanderthals were less intelligent than us and less capable of reaching the New World.

Fig. 2 is a map that shows the locations of Calico Early Man Site—excavated by the late Dr. Louis Leakey renowned international expert on the manufacture and identification of stone tools—and Cerutti Mastodon Site. The two sites are a mere 188 miles apart—i.e. neighbors. The sites are so close to each other that it would take a fit person less than a week to walk from one site to the other. (For more on Pleistocene-age walking see [A prehistory of hiking: Neanderthal storytelling](#), PCN #10, March-April 2011; and

[The straight line route: A different perspective on trekking from Central Asia to the U.S. Southwest](#), PCN #23, May-June 2013. Also see, [Two contemporaneous Paleolithic cultures showing modern-level intelligence](#), PCN #46, March-April 2017.)

If American anthropology would change its focus from single sites to contemporaneous or neighboring sites it would help us preserve all of our sites. We could also gain a bigger picture of prehistory perhaps revealing many communities of interacting groups.

JOHN FELIKS has specialized in the study of early human cognition for nearly 25 years providing evidence that human cognition has remained the same throughout time. Earlier, his focus was on the invertebrate fossil record studying fossils in the field across the U.S. and Ontario for 30 years, as well as studying many of the classic texts such as the encyclopedic *Treatise on Invertebrate Paleontology*. In 2009, Feliks and several colleagues formed the Pleistocene Coalition to challenge sciences that block evidence from the public in fields related to human prehistory and origins.



The Pleistocene Coalition

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