

Interior



Shelves

Accessible Anasazi

Providing Access to the Culture of Ancestral Puebloans Inhabiting the Area from A.D. 1 to 1300

Located in SW Colorado, the Bureau of Land Management's Anasazi Heritage Center (AHC) is keeping visitors informed of the history and culture of SW Colorado and the Four Corner's region. AHC is an archaeological museum that displays and preserves artifacts and records from excavations on public lands in the area. AHC takes to heart its goal to increase public awareness of archaeology and cultural resources in the Four Corners. The arrival of Memorial Day weekend means behind the scenes tours for the public at AHC. During FY 2010, AHC hosted 46 behind the scenes tours which introduced 350 people to the inner workings of a collection. Tour groups learned about storage, environmental concerns, and all the other pieces that go into creating a suitable space for collections. In addition to accessibility, AHC strives to educate the people coming through their doors. Tour guides emphasize museum terminology, concepts and practices. These tours provide an opportunity for members of the community to learn about the resources available to them and how the BLM preserves local culture and history.

In addition to the curious public, AHC hosts many domestic and international researchers. Researchers interested in topics central to SW Colorado history come to AHC to take advantage of the staff's expertise and 3.5 million artifacts. A team from the University of Exeter in England used AHC's facilities to research small mammal use at archaeological sites. Researchers are currently using the collection to learn more about Chapin Black-on-White ceramics, prehistoric dogs, and pueblo room assemblages. AHC also fulfills research requests for those who cannot physically make the trip to Colorado, including 34 so far in FY 2010.

Interns play an important role at AHC. During the summer months they gain experience in collection care. In June 2010, AHC's summer interns hosted the Southwest Conservation Corps and the interns of Denver's Metro State College. Both groups experienced a behind-the-scenes tour, and personal interaction with AHC staff. Collaborations are an integral part of the Department's work, and it is exciting to see them in action at every level in the BLM.





All Hands on Deck

By Todd Swain, NPS

In 1986, models of the ship *United States Victory* and the British Revenue Cutter *Witch of Endor* were loaned by Golden Gate National Recreation Area to the Museum of the Sea and Ships in Seattle, WA. The loan was for twenty years, an uncommonly long term. In 2001, Judy Hitzeman, a curator at San Francisco Maritime National Historical Park (SAFR), discovered the Museum of the Sea and Ships no longer existed. In January 2009, it was discovered that the models were being held by a private museum in Wisconsin. The SAFR cura-

contact with the Wisconsin museum staff, who admitted that they possessed the ship models but then ceased all communication.

Ms. Hitzeman reached out to a National Park Service special agent who works exclusively on cultural property cases. Contact was made with the United States Attorney's Offices in San Francisco and Wisconsin and DOI's Solicitor in Oakland, CA. A joint effort between the Solicitor's Office and United States Attorney's Office produced a demand letter which was sent to the private museum.

In late February 2010, an art moving company arrived at the private museum to prepare the models for their voyage home. The *United States Victory* is now berthed at Rosie the Riveter/WWII Home Front National Historical Park in Richmond, CA and the *Witch of Endor* is safely anchored at SAFR. Both are available for research, exhibit, or loan.

Fossilized Facts

By Spenser Lucas, NMMNH

The New Mexico Museum of Natural History and Science (NMMNH) began a fossil collection in 1983. More than 90% of the Museum's fossil collection is from New Mexico, and the vast majority of those specimens are from BLM lands. The partnership between BLM and NMMNH provides care and public access to the collection. Each year about 2,000 to 5,000 fossils are cataloged into the collection. Collection access and use is through visitation, exhibition, scientific publication and a collection-dedicated web page.

Each year, university students and scientists from New Mexico undertake research on fossils in the NMMNH collection, as do their colleagues from around the world. School group visits during 2007-2009 numbered around 400 students and 40 teachers.

Fossils on loan from the Museum's collection are on display in museums

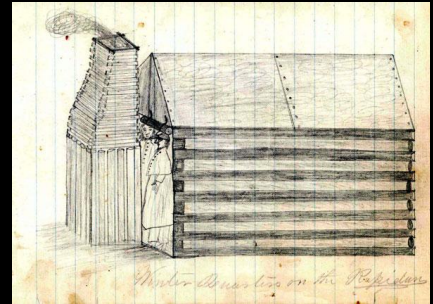


and other public facilities around New Mexico. This means, about 250,000 visitors per year see fossils from the NMMNH collection on display in exhibition halls.

More than 1,500 scientific articles have been published about items in the collection, further expanding the reach of BLM and NMMNH.

Growing Gettysburg

By Elizabeth Trescott, NPS



As a museum technician at Gettysburg National Military Park (GNMP), Elizabeth Trescott of the National Park Service (NPS) caught glimpses of the life of Civil War soldier Jacob Bechtel. With the help of a local researcher, she discovered Bechtel was born in Chambersburg, PA in 1833. He answered the call to duty and joined the 16th Ohio Volunteers in 1861. Three months later he joined the military as a member of the 59th New York Volunteer Infantry. Letters and drawings, like the one above, created during the Civil War made their way into GNMP's collection, as a gift from Bechtel's grandson.

In 2008, Ms. Trescott applied for and received an Albright-Wirth grant and for one year she was able to devote much of her time to the Bechtel collection. She located and corresponded with Bechtel's descendants and traveled to California to meet them. Even as she helped the park prepare for a move, she went back to the Bechtel collection whenever she could.

2009 brought an unsolicited donation of items from the Bechtel descendants to GNMP. The family donated 200 additional Civil War era items to NPS and increased the size of the collection to over 400 items. The Bechtel collection is now the largest collection of personal items belonging to a single soldier in the museum's collection. The collection provides a unique perspective from a virtually unpublished New York Unit.

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