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- Challenging the tenets of mainstream scientific agendas -

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Archaeologist, **Fred E. Budinger, Jr.**, Director of Calico Early Man Site in CA's Mojave Desert (after Dr. Louis Leakey) in his Part 7 discusses the geology and **stratigraphy of Calico.**



This includes how Calico correlates with other features in the same vicinity—such as Pleistocene Lake Manix—regarding age, etc. See **Budinger p.14.**

— Welcome to PCN #99 —

Dutch stone tool expert, **Jan Willem van der Drift**, continues in Part 3 his **skeptical look at "the modes."** The modes have long been dogmatically



promoted in anthropology as representing 'stages' in human intelligence and technology while blocking evidence demonstrating that early humans were much more intelligent. See **Van der Drift p.5.**



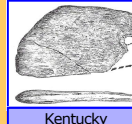
Architect and researcher in Paleolithic civilizations, **Tina Wan**, discusses early hominin intelligence and surprising tool-making skills.



If told the stone tools above were made by H. erectus no one would bat an eye. But what if not only stone but bone tools as well were made by the 'small-brained' *Paranthropus* as Wan suggests? Due to its dogma, anthropology is well known to downplay and even block evidence of early advanced cognition. See **Wan p.7.**



Czech Republic



Kentucky

Archaeologist, **Dr. Richard Michael Gramly**—Fellow of the Royal Anthropological Institute (FRAI)—reveals more evidence from his excavations at American mastodon kill sites of symbolism matching *Gravettian-age* cultures in Eurasia. It points to an early **intercontinental link.**



Among other discoveries, Dr. Gramly has shown the oldest absolutely-dated sled (PCN80) and an *in situ* Venus figurine in Kentucky (PCN92). This issue: Kentucky-Illinois 'Gravettian' pendants. See **Gramly p.2.**



Repeating symbols panel Saudi Arabia



Technical engineer,

Abdulrahman Albalawi (known especially for Pleiades rock art discovery in PCN), introduces a fascinating rock art panel consisting of **repeating composite symbols** very deliberately arranged. He notes abstractions and traditional interpretations. See **Albalawi p.4.**



Richard Dullum provides surprising new photographs and insights into the debut of **North America as a megalithic culture.**

Taking a closer look at unexpected evidence right in the center of the U.S. (Missouri) and the Northwest (Montana) he also suggests a

time context for the constructions as beginning sometime *before* the Younger Dryas event which was in the neighborhood of roughly 12,000–13,000 years ago...



Dullum also asks about North American



populations at the time: Were they large enough to spark such a civilization or interact with others elsewhere? See **Dullum p.11.**



Two brachiopods rec. by the author are *4-dimensional records of real-time events* 365 million years ago. **Top:** Martin-Marietta Quarry, Milan, MI (c. 1970); **Bottom:** Arkona, ON (c. 1967).

Trace fossils: Hours, minutes, and seconds preserved in stone

There is no doubt whatsoever that the invertebrate fossil record is the most profound of any record kept on Earth whether naturally or by the hand of man. The problem of misguided science remains Darwin's theory "not" the fossil record. See **Feliks p.15.**

A pattern that connects Polygonal pendants from Siberia, the Czech Republic, Illinois, and Kentucky

By Richard Michael Gramly, PhD

"From the outset we have recog-



nized art objects and ornaments that resemble Gravettian

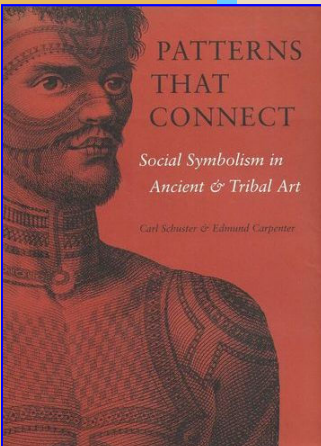


Fig. 1. Cover of *Patterns That Connect* (Schuster and Carpenter, 1996).

forms in Eurasia suggesting a strong connection between the Old and New Worlds."

We are beginning to understand that the Camp of the Proboscidean Hunters at the Lower Blue Lick site, Kentucky, was occupied periodically when religion and ritual dictated a mastodon should be killed and given special treatment. Over the period of the site's occupancy (from 15,000 to 12,400 calendar years before present) we estimate that a minimum of 260 mastodons were slain along a saline spring-run and butchered there. The hunters encamped upon rising ground immediately adjacent to the run. During 2026 we intend to explore archaeologically 10–15%

of this important camp-site that is still available for scientific investigation.

Systematic test-trenching since 2022 culminated in the discovery of a Late Upper Palaeolithic encampment with habitation debris rich in mastodon bones, teeth, and tusks. From the outset we have recognized art objects and ornaments that resemble Gravettian forms in Eurasia suggesting a strong connection between the Old and New Worlds. Clearly, periodic ritual slaying of proboscideans formerly was practiced over an immense region, and this activity was likely in the hands of religious specialists or shamans who orchestrated such hunts.

Our job is to document cross-continental connections as revealed by shared art and ritual treatment of proboscideans. In this vein,

I wish to present to readers of *Pleistocene Coalition News* a specific pattern or style of ornament dating to the Late Upper Palaeolithic that has come to light in both Eurasia (Czech Republic, Kamchatka) and northern North America (Kentucky, Illinois). When finally we have formulated a long list of such patterns and behaviors that connected continents, we will be able to posit a common archaeological culture. I hypothesize that this culture will be termed "Gravettian," which was first recognized and defined in western Europe.

Before giving more evidence for an inter-continental relationship, I wish to acknowledge my deep debt intellectually to Edmund Snow Carpenter, PhD (1922–2011), a fellow upstate New Yorker, who was largely responsible for writing and producing a monumental set of books entitled *Materials for the Study of Social Symbolism in Ancient and Tribal Art* (Schuster and Carpenter, 1986–1988) and its companion summary volume *Patterns That Connect* (Schuster and Carpenter, 1996; **Fig. 1**). Ted Carpenter encouraged me to look for patterns of textile design, sculpture, and even body tattoos that linked artisans and their cultural traditions—no matter where in the world they are found.

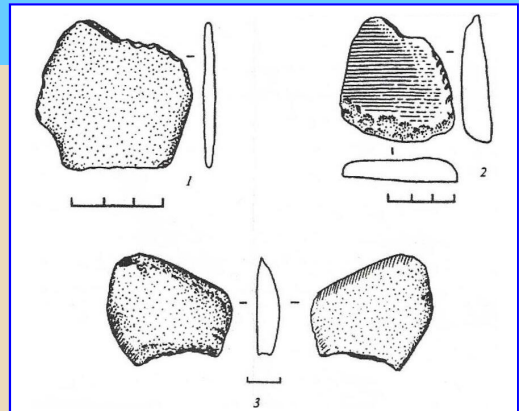


Fig. 2. Images (sculptures made of thin stone) of mammoths from the Ushki site (1 and 3) and Ul'khum site (2). After Fig. 14 in Kiriyaak (2007). Scale is in centimeters.

The Essence of Mammoths and Mastodons

Archaeological sites in the Russian Far-East (Kamchatka



Fig. 3. Small polygonal bead or pendant made of thin stone with a drilled hole for suspension from the Ushki site, Kamchatka. Dimensions are 1.5 cm by 1.0 cm. It is thought to represent a mammoth in profile.

Peninsula and Chukotka) such as Ushki and Ul'khum have yielded highly abstract, small figurines shaped from thin pieces of stone (Kiriyaak, 2007: Fig. 14) that depict mammoths (**Fig. 2**). Likewise, Upper Palaeolithic Layer VII of the Ushki site, Kamchatka yielded a drilled pendant, polygonal in shape, which is also regarded as a representation of a mammoth (Kiriyaak, 2007: Fig. 2). This pendant is shown here as **Fig. 3**. Both the sculptures and pendant exhibit the distinctive domed head and body profile serving to recognize a mammoth.

> [Cont. on page 3](#)

A pattern that connects (cont.)

"The manufacture of polygonal

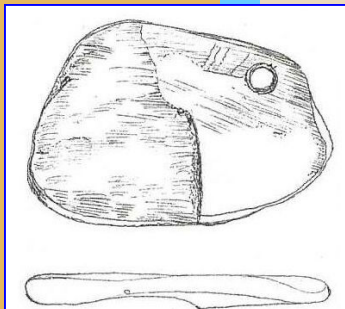


Fig. 4. Small sculpture of a mammoth, which is an element of a 5-piece necklace—all made of thin stone. It was unearthed at the Dolni Vestonice site, Czech Republic. Measurements: Length = 45 mm; width = 30 mm. Drawn from a cast.

pendants in the shape of mammoths and mastodons...for personal

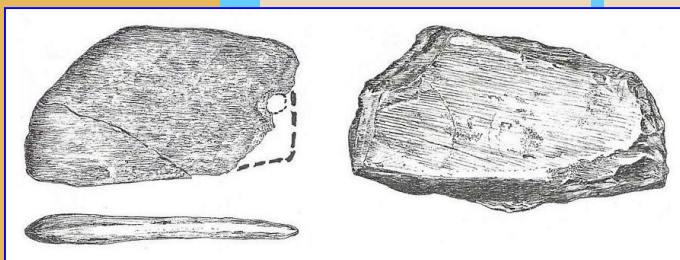


Fig. 6. Left: Fragmentary polygonal pendant made of drilled bone from Lower Blue Lick, Kentucky—length = 70 mm, maximum thickness = 7 mm; **Right:** Spear-thrower (atlatl) weight fashioned of tusk ivory from the Bowser Road site, New York State—length = 79 mm, thickness = 15 mm. Both sculptures depict a mastodon in profile. Both artifacts are in private collections.

adornment was a shared activity across the northern hemisphere."

Dr. Gramly is a Fellow of the Royal Anthropological Institute (FRAI).

Compare these small sculptures to **Fig. 4** from the Dolni Vestonice Gravettian site (Oliva, 2017 and Svoboda, 2020) in the Czech Republic. The Czech artifact, which is thought to date to an early phase of the Gravettian culture (the Pavlovian), is made of thin stone, which has been drilled from one side only. One edge has the unmistakable profile of a mammoth's head and back; while, the opposite—a mammoth's underside—is gently curved.

Close in shape to the Dolni Vestonice specimen is **Fig. 5**—a small, polygonal pendant or bead made of thin stone (hematitic sandstone?) from Union County, Illinois. Note the gently curved edge and humped opposite edge. The drilled hole was sited very near one end in order that the overall form of the pendant was not obscured. The polygonal

at one end had given way, ruining this diminutive sculpture of a mastodon in profile (**Fig. 6**). The maximum length of the pendant is 70 mm; its width is 38 mm, and maximum thickness is 7 mm. This artwork resembles a presumed spear-thrower (atlatl) weight that came to light at the ritually-killed Bowser Road mastodon, Hudson River Valley, New York State (Gramly, 2017: 129, Figure 94). The polygonal pendant from the Lower Blue Lick and the spear-thrower weight from Bowser Road are close in size although their raw materials (bone and ivory) differ.

The manufacture of polygonal pendants in the shape of mammoths and mastodons by drilling stones and massive bone for personal adornment was a shared activity across the northern hemisphere. It constitutes evidence that proboscideans were venerated and not just items of diet. In a manner of speaking, wearing such a figural pendant was a badge of membership in system of belief focused upon proboscideans. This religion first appeared in the New World after the extinction of mammoths in the Old World, which is reckoned to have been completed 14,500–15,000 years ago.

Readers are advised to "stay tuned" to future archaeological investigations at the Lower Blue Lick site in Kentucky if more information about this fascinating period of North American prehistory is desired.

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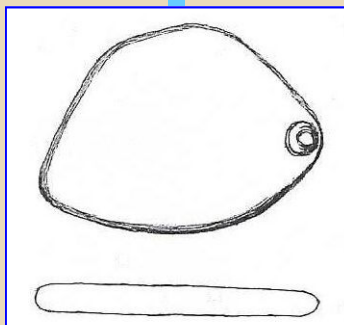


Fig. 5. Polygonal pendant or bead in the form of a proboscidean from Union County, southern Illinois. Dimensions are 39 mm (length) and 18 mm (width). The hole appears to have been drilled from one side. The asymmetry of this artifact is marked and is likely intentional. R. M. Gramly collection.

Bohemia) in the European Continent. Moravian Museum, Brno.

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RICHARD MICHAEL GRAMLY, PhD, is an archaeologist with a BS in geology (Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute) and an AM and PhD in anthropology (Harvard University). He has conducted archaeological and geological fieldwork in six countries and 30 states. His PhD dissertation (1975) focused on Kenyan and Tanzanian prehistory. Dr. Gramly worked for six years in East Africa two years of which he was an Exhibits Planner at the National Museum of Kenya, Nairobi, under famed anthropologist Richard Leakey, being well-acquainted with the entire Leakey family. Dr. Gramly feels a great sense of gratitude for the amateur archaeology community and is the Organizer of the American Society for Amateur Archaeology which has been active in his excavation work. Links to all of Dr. Gramly's articles in *PCN* can be found at: <https://pleistocenecoalition.com/#richard-michael-gramly>

An intriguing repeated symbol panel in Tabuk

By Abdulrahman Albalawi, technical engineer

"Later, I became



interested in the several recurring combination symbols. Each is made up of a single deep cup-mark accompanied by a single short and deep-cut line with the two, for the most part, not touching each other."

Across the expanse of a year in 2024-25, I took a series of monthly photos of a fascinating rock art panel in one of the deserts of Tabuk. The region is in northwest Saudi Arabia. I had first discovered and photographed the panel years before and recently visited again. My primary interest this time was in the position of shadows within the many cup-marks for the sake of a possible calendar interpretation. So, what I made was essentially a wide time-lapse of the shadows. **Fig. 1** shows the January 2025 part of the series. I posted some of the photographs on my Facebook page at the time.

Later, I became interested in the several recurring combination symbols. Each is made up of a single deep cup-mark accompanied by a single short and deep-cut line with the two, for the most part, not touching each other. The pairs extend pretty much across the entire length of the panel. In **Fig. 2**, with dissimilar carvings covered, one can see these particular repeating combination symbols much better.

Traditional interpretations

Such things as mammals and humans in rock art are readily recognized by everyone. Being as confident identifying what abstract or geometric rock art patterns represent is more difficult. In fact, similar patterns could mean different things in different places. Symbols can have different meanings even if they resemble symbols found in cultures nearby.

Even though they are abundant throughout the world and considered by many to be the oldest type of rock art, the study of cup-marks and any associated markings con-



Fig. 1. Complex rock art panel in Tabuk, Saudi Arabia. My initial interest was timelapsed shadows as calendar. Now, I am looking closer at the repeating straight grooves with cup-marks. Photo: Abdulrahman Albalawi.



Fig. 2. Detail of Fig. 1 with the dissimilar parts masked. This gives a very good sense of the deliberateness of the special cup-marks + groove marks I am drawing attention to. Photo: Abdulrahman Albalawi.

tinues to involve a good deal of speculation. Interpretations as confident as our Pleiades matching the Nebra sky disk ([Urbaniak, Albalawi, Crocco, Walli-Knofler](#)) are uncommon. To give a quick overview of reasonable solutions often considered they include: Ritual and symbolic meanings, astronomical or landscape maps including boundary or territory markings, directions, and more mundane functions such as containers, mixing bowls, tool manufacturing. These are not to mention signatures or tribal symbols for various groups or individual persons.

The clear repetitions and variations in this panel suggest it might even involve some kind of narrative. Without a

key it is as difficult to read as Egyptian hieroglyphs without a Rosetta Stone in-between.

ABDULRAHMAN ALBALAWI is a technical engineer with a passion for rock art (including inscriptions) and history. He has been discovering and photographing rock art in the Tabuk region of northwestern Saudi Arabia since 2014. In 2019, Albalawi established a Facebook group devoted to rock art to help promote its study and lead to a greater understanding of the possible meanings behind rock art worldwide. He is also author of the 6-Part series, [Cultural significance of rock art for Saudi Arabia's Vision 2030](#).

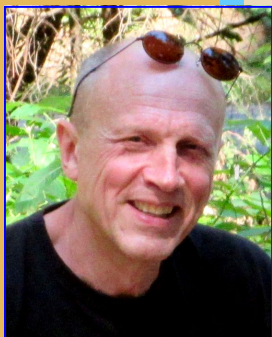
Albalawi's Facebook rock art page:

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/463030367655466/posts/840031606622005/>

Climate changes set the pace for the Modes, Part 3

By Jan Willem van der Drift

"It is often claimed that making



prepared-cores would prove that Neanderthals were cleverer than *H. erectus*... But today, we know that the African *H. erectus* (*ergaster*) already made prepared-cores."

Continuing from Part 2
(PCN #98, Nov-Dec 2025)...

At the end of Part 2, I introduced the Clactonian toolmaking tradition—when migrants to what is now

England were trained to flake bipolar on the ground and on anvils. This resulted in large OBFs—*oblique bipolar flakes*.

Meanwhile the Acheulian population that had settled the Middle-Garonne grew. So the next generations needed new hunting grounds, and the areas further downstream were already taken. The population-growth therefore drove the next generations

into the foothills of the Massif-Central. There are plenty raw materials for handaxes in these foothills, so this slower-secondary migration brought Mode-2 (flaked on both sides, handaxes, etc.) back north. Thus Mode-2 finally reached England again about 10.000 years after the bipolar pioneers that made the Clactonian (see Part 2, Fig. 3).

4.1 Mode-3: prepared-cores

Homo erectus and Heidelberg man carefully modeled Acheulian handaxes, cleavers and pics. But the Neanderthals went one step further: they carefully modeled prepared-cores. There are two main types: the first main type was designed to produce a lot of rather similar flakes; this is called the recurrent prepared-core technique (Fig. 1). The second prepared-core type was designed to make one special flake that was extra large or extra thin or had a predetermined form (e.g., a point or blade); this is called the preferential prepared-core technique. The prepared-core technique is also called Levallois technique because the extra large preferential flakes were first described at Levallois-Perret (Paris). It is often claimed that

making prepared-cores would prove that Neanderthals were cleverer than *H. erectus* and *heidelbergensis*.

Professor François Bordes called Neanderthals Middle-Paleolithic man because he believed the prepared-core technique proved their intelligence had evolved beyond that of the Lower-Paleolithic *Homo erectus*, but was below that of Upper-Paleolithic *Homo sapiens*. But today, we know that the African *H. erectus* (*ergaster*) already made prepared-cores.

Homo erectus used prepared cores to overcome raw material shortcomings. For instance, 1.3 Ma—where the Peninj-river runs into Lake Natron (Tanzania)—the only stones the toolmakers had were some basalt chunks measuring 5–10cm. They maximized the number of flakes that could be made from each core, by alternately flaking the top of the chunk in centripetal direction and the sides of the chunk in vertical direction. This led to recurrent prepared-cores (Mora et al, 2003) of the type shown at the left of Fig. 1. The same recurrent prepared-core technique was used in Europe 0.9 Ma in the Cueva Nega (MIS 21; Walker et al, 2014). At Canteen-Kopje (Orange-

river, South-Africa) *Homo erectus* 1.0 Ma had a different raw material problem: he wanted to



Fig. 1. Recurrent prepared-cores. The arrows at the top-view indicate these cores were flaked in centripetal direction. The negatives were then used as platforms to flake the sides (arrows in side-view). These side-negatives were then used as platforms for the next series of centripetal flakes.

make large thin flakes (to be used as blanks for handaxes) from thick cobbles. He therefore made the earliest known preferential prepared-cores (the Victoria-West technique; Li et al, 2017).

Mode-3 is the phase when the prepared-cores and flakes became more important than the handaxes. Most scholars agree Mode-3 began ± 300 kya in MIS 8 (the middle Saalian ice-age). So Mode-3 began a million years after the technique that is characteristic for Mode-3 was invented, that makes one wonder why our ancestors kept making Mode-2 whilst they knew the Mode-3 techniques. The answer is simple: *Homo erectus* rarely used prepared-core techniques

> [Cont. on page 6](#)

Climate changes set the pace for the Modes (cont.)

"Homo erectus 1.0 Ma had a different

because he preferred handaxes. His preference makes sense, because large handaxes were like large knives, and our present-day butchers and survivalists still prefer large

Carrying large stones over huge distances is strenuous and uneconomical, so all over the world the toolmakers had to save weight. That's why at Orgnac-3 280 kya in MIS 8

more energy, so the territories really grew out of necessity.

Conclusion and References in Part 4...



Fig. 2. The size- and weight-difference between Mode-2 and Mode-3 is remarkable. Left Mode-2: Acheulien-méridional cleaver on side-struck OBF (bipolar signals visible in photo: crushed impact-point, wide platform, flat bulb, huge central scar) 9x15cm 535gram. Top-right: single-face recurrent cores 6-5.5cm 49-41gram. Bottom-right: KMG Micoquian-handaxe and bifacial-backed-knife, both 6cm 36-45gram.

(Moncel et al, 2011) the handaxes became rare. Instead, the Neanderthals cut with small flakes, made from recurrent prepared-cores. They even developed a lighter recurrent core: the single-face recurrent core that is made from a bulky lump

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

Website:
<https://www.apanarcho.nl/>

raw material problem: he wanted to make large thin flakes... from thick cobbles. He therefore made the earliest known preferential prepared-cores."

knives. Large Mode-2 handaxes were simply the best butchering and all-purpose cutting tools.

But the Saalian ice-age climate was so cold, dry and instable that life ± 300 kya changed. The grasses grew slow and were tough, so grazing herds had to migrate over far greater distances. That forced the Neanderthals to expand their territories; they needed huge areas to hunt sufficient game and gather enough food. The raw materials tell us how much the mobility increased: before 300 kya our Mode-2 ancestors carried stones over 10-20km, and after ± 300 kya our Mode-3 ancestors carried stones over >50km. Sometimes stones were even carried hundreds of kilometers.

at the left, and at the right a lighter single-face core that is made from a large flake. Single-face cores were repeatedly prepared for a new series of centripetal removals by removing mini-flakes from the thin edge (small arrows). **Fig. 2** illustrates that groups who had to carry stones over huge distances also saved weight by making smaller cores and tools.

Some scholars blame the growth of the territories on intelligence; groups would travel further because they understood the landscape and knew where to find the best raw materials. But it costs a lot of energy to move camp and walk so many kilometers with your family almost every day. It's not intelligent to spend

Five new discoveries reveal prehistoric human mysteries, Part 1

By Tina Wan, B.Arch (Architecture), MLA (Landscape Architecture)

"It has long been believed



that the behavior of toolmaking was unique to Homo."

Hominins were way smarter

For some time now, the Pleistocene Coalition has published evidence that early humans

In my 3-part series, I would like to begin by taking a step further back in time than the genus *Homo* and propose



Fig. 1. An Acheulian cleaver and two tear-shaped 'handaxes' found at Lake Turkana in Kenya. Oldowan and Acheulian were once presumed made by *H. habilis* and *erectus* but now earlier hominins are being considered. Original image: Turkana Basin Institute; Vers. via Kenya Geographic.

Paleolithic era that are reassessing this part of the human story. These recent insights reform how we think about the cognitive timeline of our genus and modify previous beliefs on what earlier human societies were like. Per the latest archeological findings, early Paleolithic humans, including our ancestors, had a much longer developmental history, were more intelligent than presumed, and might have had a lifestyle not so different from people of 10,000 years ago.

Furthermore, there is a certain crucial parallel across these discoveries that has not been mentioned much, which I'll discuss in Part 3. I'll also review old conceptions used to describe early human societies that are now being challenged by new findings. I will start with the five latest important discoveries and why they are paradigm changing.

Evidence 1

The first one is the world's oldest stone tools, unearthed from the Lomekwi site by the shores of Lake Turkana in Kenya. Hundreds of stone tools had been found onsite dating back to 3.3 million years ago, before the time of Lucy (**Figs. 1-2**).

These tools are significantly earlier than anything that had been found previously, 700,000 years older than any tools found before, even predating the earliest known hominins. Previously, it has long been believed that the behavior of toolmaking was unique to *Homo*, arising from a cognitive leap that differentiated our genus. *Homo* fossils date to only 2.8-million years ago, therefore these 3.3-million-year-old tools suggest that more ancient hominin

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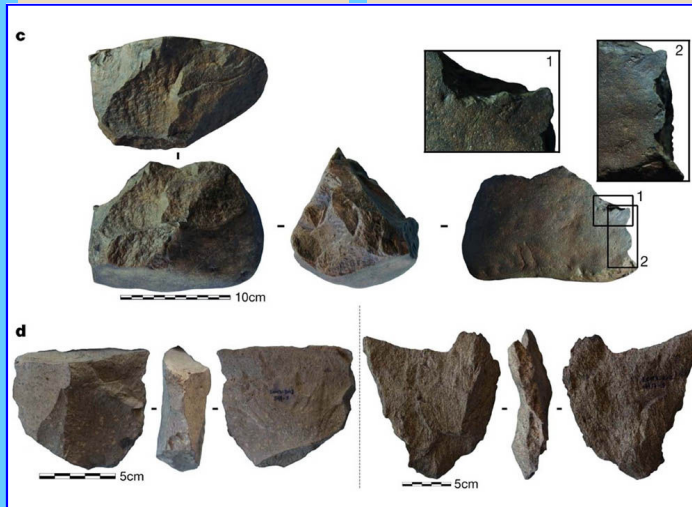


Fig. 2. Several of the currently oldest known stone tools from the Lomekwi 3 site at the shores of Lake Turkana in Kenya; dated 3.3 million years old. Image: <https://www.slashgear.com/see-the-worlds-oldest-stone-tools-up-close-21384696/>.

were as intelligent as modern humans and even that human intelligence in general does not evolve. The ideas challenge the popular notion that early examples of the *Homo* genus such as *Homo erectus* and Neanderthals were not quite human.

that earlier hominin ancestors in the human line were, also, far more intelligent than the mainstream has ever given them credit for.

I would like to introduce five new discoveries about the

Five new discoveries reveal prehistoric mysteries (cont.)

"These tools are significantly earlier

species, like the *Paranthropus* genus, may have been more sophisticated than was thought (Fig. 3). The excavations uncovered sharp flakes of stone, sheared off from larger rocks,

(33–66 lbs). It's uncertain what these large and heavy stone pieces at Lomekwi were used for; since they are different from the Oldowan tools which were clearly used for

pounding technique (similar to how modern chimpanzees crack nuts). In contrast, the method used to make Oldowan tools involves stone knapping which required more dexterity and a systematic understanding of how stone fractures. Even heavy-duty Oldowan tools were still light enough to be manipulated easily with one hand for woodworking or scavenging.

The discovery of two large molars belonging to *Paranthropus* alongside the tools at Nyayanga has challenged the long-held assumption that only the genus *Homo* was capable of making such technology. While it cannot be definitively proven that *Paranthropus* made the tools, they are currently the only hominin species found at the site from that specific time period. Besides, the muscular jaws of *Paranthropus* were more efficient and suitable for eating raw meat. Raw meat is highly elastic and difficult for human-like teeth to break down. Even though early *Homo* genus species like *Homo erectus* were anatomically capable of eating raw meat, their jaw muscles and teeth were surprisingly weak and poorly suited for consuming it without mechanical processing (<https://www.nature.com/articles/nature16990>).

In general, the jaw muscles in the *Homo* genus are weaker, teeth are smaller, which is associated with a reduced bite force compared to their ancestors. Therefore, the raw meat consuming, earlier tool makers were likely earlier *Paranthropus*. It's highly likely that there might have been more ancient stone tools yet to be discovered.

At the 3.4-million-year-old site Dikika in Ethiopia, animal bones with stone tool butchery marks were found (Fig. 4). Analyses reveal that the 12 marks on the two specimens were not caused by trampling, but

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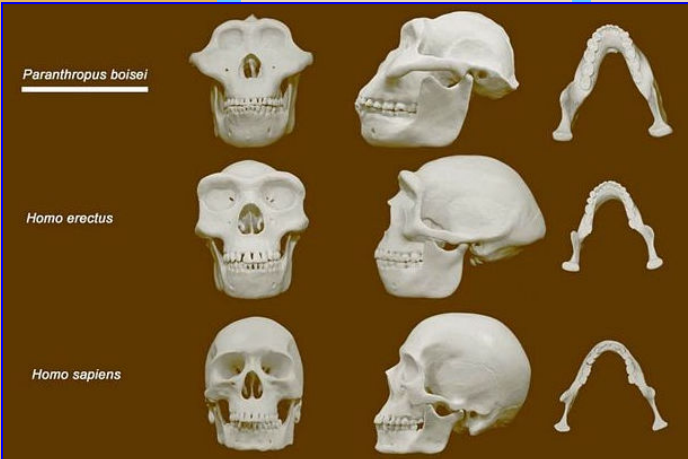


Fig. 3. While not proved, *Paranthropus* is the hominin that may have made the Lomekwi tools c. 3.3 million years ago. *Sci.News* 6-9-14 (detail).

than anything ...found previously,

which were most likely used for cutting. There are also massive hammer stones and anvils. Cores average over 3 kg

which were most likely used for cutting. There are also massive hammer stones and anvils. Cores average over 3 kg (10–13 km) away, demonstrating a high degree of forward planning and suggest complex behaviors like long-distance raw material sourcing. Here, early humans used stone tools to butcher hippos, cut and scrape animal tissue and pound plant material. These tools predate the era of hominin fire making by potentially 1 million years; hence the food would have been eaten raw. Many researchers believe that although hominins ate hippos, they probably did not hunt large, healthy adult hippos as food source; because there is no archaeological evidence of distance weapons like spears or bows for taking down megafauna, but consisted of handheld stones for butchering and processing meat, which allowed hominins to cut through thick hippo hide and smash bones for marrow. Thus, the hippo meat may come from scavenging and power scavenging to shoo away predators from a fresh kill.

Compared with Oldowan tools, Lomekwian tools are significantly older, larger, and made with a cruder, anvil-based



Fig. 4. Two bones from the 3.4-million-year-old site of Dikika in Ethiopia contain a total of 12 marks determined to have been made by purposeful cutting plus percussion marks made by stone tools. *Nature.com*. 3-5-25.

700,000 years older."

(6.6 lbs), with some anvils weighing more than 15 to 30 kg

Five new discoveries reveal prehistoric mysteries (cont.)

"This bone tool finding shows that an early human

closely resemble purposeful cutting and percussion marks of stone tools (<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0047248415001657>). This is the first evidence that an early hominin species,

Evidence 2

The 2nd important finding is the earliest bone tools discovered in Olduvai Gorge, Tanzania, by a prehistoric lake. The research was published in March, 2025, which states that early humans used animal bones to craft tools 1.5 million years ago—more than a million years earlier than archeologists once proposed. These bone tools were made from limb bones of large mammals, primarily hippos and elephants. These were split and then modified using a similar knapping technique. This bone tool finding shows that an early human species had advanced cognitive abilities and were able to perform technological transfer (Fig. 5). The ability to adapt stone knapping techniques to bone exhibits a major innovation and transfer of skills between different materials.

subsistence and social organization. The ability to systematically exploit large prey represents a unique evolutionary trajectory, with no direct modern analogue, since modern foragers do so only episodically." It is conceivable that hominins hunted large mammals, as well as scavenged them. They were opportunistic and flexible; and could have used both strategies depending on the situation. However, exploiting megafauna provided significant food surpluses, suggesting a sophisticated adaptation rather than just opportunistic fallback meals. Hippos and elephants are hefty giants—hunting them down would have been much more difficult. 2.9 million years ago, hominins at the Nyayanga site, likely merely scavenged raw hippo meat. 1.1 million years later, early humans at Olduvai Gorge might have actively hunted and ate megafauna which was a great technical development. What enabled this tech leap? Possibly the increased brain size. Brain size doubled since the earliest stone tool age and hominins were getting substantially smarter. In the human evolution belief system, a larger brain provided critical advantages that enabled early hominins to survive and thrive in unpredictable environments.

The human brain is one of the most energetically costly organs, requiring around 20% of the body's resting energy despite making up a small percentage of one's body weight. Dietary changes, particularly increased meat consumption, is regarded as a main reason why early hominins developed larger brains. A shift towards a diet rich in high-quality, energy-dense animal protein and fats provided the necessary calories to fuel brain growth.

> [Cont. on page 10](#)



Fig. 5. Earliest known bone tools 1.5 million years old. **Top row:** Olduvai Gorge, Tanzania. **Bottom row:** Swartkrans, South Africa. The tools show surprisingly complex construction for their age being made similarly to stone tools. Bradfield, J., et al, "Bone Technology in Africa." ResearchGate.net.

species had advanced cognitive abilities...

The ability to adapt stone knapping techniques to bone exhibits a major innovation and transfer of skills between different materials."

likely *Australopithecus afarensis* Lucy's species), consumed meat and marrow from large mammals such as antelopes and cow-sized mammals.

These excavations point to the possibility that earlier hominins before the birth of our genus, might have the cognitive skills or dexterity to create tools from stone and enjoyed a meat-heavy diet. Such discoveries oppose the long-held assumption that only the *Homo* genus made stone tools, expanding our views of early *Homo*, *Paranthropus* and *Australopithecus*, indicating a wider diversity of abilities and potentially different evolutionary paths than previously proposed.

How did hominins get hippo and elephant bones? Did they hunt hippos and elephants or scavenge them? Evidence for megafaunal butchery is scarce in the earliest stone tool assemblages found in the lowest geological layer of Olduvai Gorge, but becomes more frequent and widespread after 1.8 million years ago (<https://elifesciences.org/reviewed-preprints/108298>). Abundant butchery marks were found on elephant bones, along with impressive quantities of modified hippo and elephant remains. A 2026 study (<https://elifesciences.org/reviewed-preprints/108298>) infers that other than opportunistic scavenging, discoveries at this site "suggest a strategic adaptation to megafaunal resources, with implications for early human

Five new discoveries reveal prehistoric mysteries (cont.)

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Fred E. Budinger, Jr.

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Debunking evolutionary propaganda
Part 13 of the series in reverse (Plants)

John Feliks

Another important factor for the *Homo* brain development during this period was fire-making and cooking. Many anthropologists, most notably Richard Wrangham, argue that cooking must have begun approximately 1.9 to 2 million years ago with the emergence of *Homo erectus*. Because around this time, our ancestors' teeth and jaws shrank while their brains grew significantly which is a biological clue of better calorie and nutrient absorption. Cooking makes food easier to digest and provides more calories, which would have been necessary to fuel a larger, energy-expensive brain.

The *Homo* brain development was likely a feedback loop: a larger brain and higher brain-to-body mass ratio (encephalization quotient) enabling smarter hunting and foraging strategies to acquire more energy-dense food, which in turn supported further brain expansion.

The 1.5 Ma + tool finding at Olduvai Gorge appears to demonstrate that early hominins could conceptualize and create complex tools from different materials, a testament to their advanced cognitive capacity. Their improved cognitive ability rooted from increased brain size and encephalization quotient which were fueled from better food sources. Eating protein and fat rich meat increased brain size; a larger brain size is correlated with higher cognitive functions, including improved problem-solving, planning, and memory which enabled better hunting and tool making skills that result in better and stable food sources. This is a positive cycle—a central concept in paleoanthropology, often described as a "virtuous cycle" (https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Expensive_tissue_hypothesis, https://web.math.princeton.edu/~sswang/literature_general_unsorted/aielo_wheeler95_curr_anthropol.pdf).

TINA WAN is a multi-topic researcher with a Bachelor of Architecture and a Master of Landscape Architecture. Her primary research interests include lost advanced civilizations, prehistoric cultures and megalithic sites. She is a proponent of the hypothesis that precise megalithic sites such as the Great Pyramids, Osireion and Sacsayhuaman were the remnants of a civilization from the late Pleistocene. She has been posting her independent studies and findings in video form on her YouTube channel: Curious Being/ Where Evidence Meets Ancient Mystery.

<https://www.youtube.com/c/CuriousBeingbyTina>



[Link to PCN #98](#)

Member news and other info

Equality of hominins

By John Feliks

In Issue #97 (Sept-Oct 2025) I wrote a brief reminder titled [The real problem with ancient skulls](#). I pointed out that mainstream anthropology has long blocked established evidence of "modern level intelligence" in ancient human groups as *Homo erectus* and Neanderthals

(**Fig. 1**) such as the Bilzingsleben graphics. I also proposed it is blocked because evidence of modern-level intelligence in early humans makes the field's preoccupation with physical appearances "moot" and prejudices of presumed 'primitiveness' too easily seen. For instance, the field persists in



Fig. 1. Neanderthals as I knew them in 1962. Field Museum, Chicago; Photo by John Feliks.

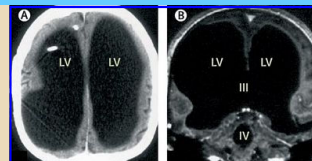


Fig. 2. Brain scans of 44-yr-old Frenchman showing missing areas. **A:** CT scan; **B:** MRI. **Scientists research man missing 90% of his brain who leads a normal life.** Orig: *The Lancet* 2007. *CBC.ca* update 4-17-23.

making a false distinction between 'Neanderthals' and 'humans.' Tina Wan's article this issue, though in an evolutionary vein, helps to challenge dogma in anthropology, as does Van der Drift's in the 'modes,' also in this issue. If higher intelligence is shown for non-*Homo* hominins like it has for *Homo erectus* Wan's research may lead to finding intellectual equality among all early hominins. While brain size may not be as crucial (**Fig. 2**), if *Paranthropus* made similar tools to other hominins, it seems likely they would be of similar intelligence.



[Link to PCN #97](#)

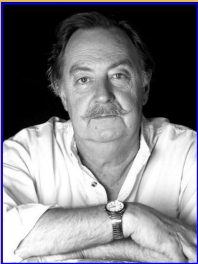


[Link to PCN #96](#)

Stone-cutting in the Eemian Interglacial Missouri and Montana

By Richard Dullum, B.A. (Biology)

"There are unmistakable signs



North America was reached by a previously unknown and certainly unexpected megalithic civilization."

The discoveries I've shown in my previous articles, in issues #83-#98, demonstrate that there are unmistakable signs North America was reached by a previously unknown and certainly unexpected megalithic civilization.

The mere fact of locating and photographically documenting ancient stone works of megalithic size *on this continent* must place these constructions *before* the Younger Dryas event around 10,500 years ago. After that time, no cultures existed that worked megalithic stone—at least not in North America.

Stone can't be dated by any scientific method. We do know, however, that during the Pleistocene, glaciers advanced from the North and retreated at least four times in North America. We do know that temperature averages during the periods of glacial retreats, approached and even exceeded those of today.

The *Eemian Interglacial* spanned roughly 20,000 years, about 125,000 years ago. (Interglacials are warmer periods in-between ice ages.) The differences in sea level and appearance of the earth's land-masses at the time compared with today is startling! See **Fig.1**.

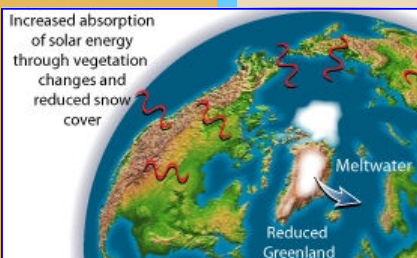


Fig. 1. Based on data from NASA/JPL-Caltech, this is a detail of Greenland region during the height of the Eemian Interglacial showing how far the glaciers had retreated 125,000 years ago; From a study by *yg*, skeptical-science.com. Global temperature averages during this time were 2-4° higher than today.

Note: Due to time constraints, this is an abridged version of the article. Details on discovery and directions to the Batholith will appear later.

Global temperature averages during this period were 2-4° higher than today. Popular belief is that the ice ages were all periods of extremely cold, icy conditions that penetrated latitudes which are today temperate. Woolly mammoths abounding on the glacial tundra, no less!

So, where did megalithic building knowledge come from? Did enough people live in Northern America to provide a population base for such a civilization for a long enough time to effectively generate a material culture that could spark a civilization or interact with one already generated elsewhere?

We can ask what was the generation time *for our own civilization*: a time span of 10,000 years, in our case, has brought us to where we are, now, a global civilization, from cave, rocksheltering, tent or hut gamehunting nomads, chipping flint tools? *Homo sapiens* is now believed to have co-existed with genetic cousins dating to older than 1Ma. B.P.

This latest evidence is giving humans much more time on the planet, more than doubling their previously thought timeline of emergence. Are we willing to say that people anatomically and genetically identical to us had hundreds of thousands of years to develop civilizations and never did? That seems unlikely to me, and in this case I say *there is no absence of evidence*. The likely existence of modern humans at 1Ma., as found in their cousins' case, *Homo longi* and *Homo denisova*, is buttressed by the reports of Joseph Keith Anders' [documentation of a moccasin-print](#) in 1.1-1.2 Ma. volcanic basalt in Oregon (PCN #78-81), the Strickland Stone, which has not been remarked on by the mainstream, so far.

Cultural remnants of megalithic style exist from South America all the way to Mexico, and megalithic sites dot the world, on every habitable continent except North America.



Fig. 2. Underground at the time of wagons, this cannot be a wagon track. The elbow of the track, shows the 30° directional change quite abrupt and quite sharply angled as if it were chiseled. Photo: Carl Carter. For a closer: look see [PCN #97 p. 19](#).

Why would a worldwide megalithic culture leave out this territory? Perhaps it did not.

Evidence of ancient stone-cutting in Missouri

Before I go on, I want to emphasize that my work is dependent upon numerous people and sources acting as a team to uncover evidence of ancient human civilization, locating the sites of this activity, which amazingly is in plain sight at Tryst Falls. Anybody can go there.

One of the strongest pieces of evidence for special stone-cutting work at Tryst Falls, Missouri, are its so-called 'cart-ruts.' Contrary to popular belief, these were certainly 'not' cut by wagon wheels. This is not only because no wagon roads existed at that location, ever, but for the astonishing qualities of the several evenly cut deep grooves. The most baffling of all is to be found where the tracks make a very sharp and abrupt angle change of 30°, as though made by chisels, that no wheels of any kind would have made. This unique feature can be seen in **Fig. 2** with its excavator, Carl Adam Carter, who provided several

> [Cont. on page 12](#)

Stone-cutting in the Eemian Interglacial (cont.)

"A recent cutting of

of the photos in this series. The arrow and circle were added by the Editor later to make the feature easier to



Fig. 3. View of slabs and groove in the creek bed. Some have mused that perhaps the straightness and flatness of everything was a result of the mill installation at the Falls in the 1850's, without proposing what their purposes might have been. This is not a credible argument because a recent cutting of the rock slab and the ruts show the same patina as the flat slab surface. Photo: Carl Adam Carter; circle added.

the rock slab and the ruts show the same patina as the flat slab surface."

see. A closer view of this remarkable cut-stone evidence for a megalithic culture in Missouri can be seen in [PCN #97, p. 19 \(Sept-Oct 2025\)](#). The Bethany Falls limestone member comprising the Tryst Falls site was completely covered with glacial till and *erratics*, until the formation of Williams Creek in the Holocene period eroded the till away from the flat slabs by the Falls. Pink granite glacial *erratic* boulders dot the entire area, (seen in [PCN #95, p.7, fig.2](#)) left over from the last glacial advance. They too were recovered by Carl Carter. I showed

the result of Carl Carter's excavation of the *complete* track from the overburden of earth that still covered the elbow of the track, showing the abrupt 30° direction change. I can't show it enough.

Ultimately, these cannot be wagon tracks in hard, recently uncovered and substantially excavated limestone. No wagon wheel can or even was fitting in that sharp of a turn without breaking down the interior angle of the track, were it actually a track. It can be observed at the location that the sharp turn—which was underground at the time of wagons—is completely intact and sharp. This is the leftover *top-down* quarrying of the limestone outcrop itself. The slab(s) where the tracks exist is almost completely flat, quite unlike any of the other numerous outcrops in this area. In a natural state, you'd expect the slabs or grooves to be at least wavy or lumpy. How does a 70' square area of limestone outcrop get nearly perfectly flat? Does a small creek do that? See **Fig. 3**.

Some have mused that perhaps this is a result of the mill installation at the Falls, in the 1850's, without proposing what their purpose might have been. This is not a credible argument for a recent cutting of the rock slab and the ruts show the same patina as the flat slab surface. No grist mill requires such a construction and would never be built below the level of the falls, on the lower bank, which is undercut by the flood pool. The access road for the old mill lies on the opposite side of the creek, which is higher, where the mill was, briefly, until a flood carried it away 3 years after it was built.

Some, who have no experience with limestone, insist that wagon wheels following each other's tracks on the Oregon trail routes,

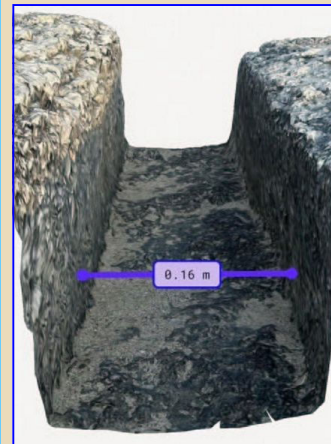


Fig. 4. Clearly, the tracks are machine-cut with straight-sided 6"X6" U-shaped grooves. They continue in two straight parallel lines for 50' before taking a sharp 30° turn for another 15' and terminating at the pool edge in a 90° cut-off. There's nothing *natural* about this. See **Fig. 5** next page. Polycam LiDar from M. Bucci.

can cut ruts into it, if they follow each other in the same tracks, but this is not the case at Tryst Falls, which was not on the Oregon Trail, which started at the Missouri-Kansas border.

Speaking of which, "Suptropolis," in Kansas City, carved into the Missouri River cliffs, is 55 million square feet large, composed of, and carved out of the Bethany Falls limestone member which extends to and includes Tryst Falls limestones. The limestone is very durable, formed in the Pennsylvanian Era, 324 Ma.

All the possible mechanisms to account for the visible tracks at Tryst Falls having taken place in the early modern America era of expansion westward are eliminated. No natural mechanism has been offered to account for the tracks, either. They are undoubtedly man-made, but were not made by any modern man. What is left to account for what we see at Tryst Falls? Fig. 4 above and Fig. 5 on the following page.

> [Cont. on page 13](#)

Stone-cutting in the Eemian Interglacial (cont.)

"The blocks are highly patinated

A brief comparison visit to South America

There are, indeed, other world sites that feature this sort of

able to walk a few low altitude mountain trails, etc.

Fig. 7 consists of two photographs at the possible

tors. All of Dullum's articles in *PCN* can be found at the following link:

https://pleistocenecoalition.com/index.htm#Dullum_and_Lynch

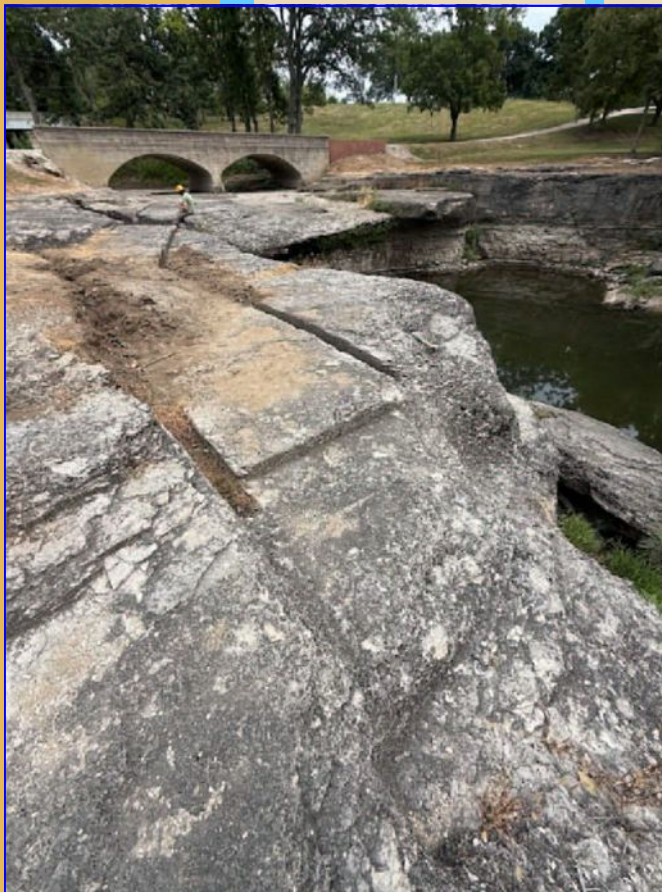


Fig. 5. Sharing description details from Fig. 4: Clearly, the tracks are machine-cut with straight-sided U-shaped grooves that are 6"X6" continuing in two straight parallel lines for 50' before taking a sharp 30° turn to run another 15' and terminating at the pool edge, in a 90° cut-off. There's nothing *natural* about this. From Carl Adam Carter.



Fig. 6. Two South American examples of *top-down* quarrying at a quarry site just north of Ollantaytambo, Peru. Although narrower or thinner cut in a checkerboarding style, they give one an impression of the same technology used at the Tryst Falls site in Missouri as seen in Fig. 5. Image: UniverseInsideYou at Ollantaytambo.

and quite rounded... and don't appear to be the result of modern quarrying, but only a closer inspection would tell for certain."

top-down quarrying that may be enlightening to take a look at. **Fig. 6** shows two examples from South America. They are from a stone quarry just north of a famous site nothing less than Ollantaytambo, Peru.

A checkerboard quarry site in Montana

Near the continental divide and not far from Sage Wall, Montana—a site I have been covering in detail for about 2 years now—is what appears to be a possibly ancient stone quarry. Within the Boulder Batholith it is available and accessible to anyone who is willing and

quarry that give a sense of the site from a birds-eye view. The blocks are highly patinated and quite rounded for having lain flat on the ground and don't *appear* to be the result of modern quarrying, but only a closer inspection would tell for certain. I will provide more information



and details on how to get to the site coming up.

The similarity of the Montana site I show here with the Ollantaytambo quarry site is to me quite striking. It would be an easy exploration, if only I were young again (sigh)!

RICHARD DULLUM, retired as a surgical R.N. working in a large O.R. for the past 30 years, is a researcher in early human prehistory and culture. He is also a Vietnam veteran with a B.A. in Biology. Dullum has written or co-written over 50 articles for *PCN* since 2009 and is also one of *PCN's* copy edi-

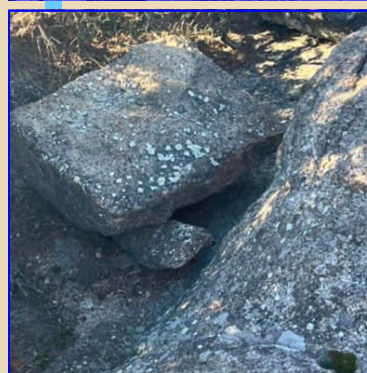
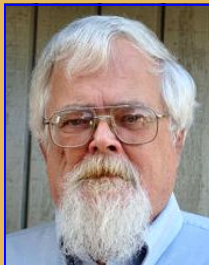


Fig. 7. Top: Possible stone quarry two miles west of Sage, Montana. **Bottom:** An apparently detached quarry block to discuss later. Images: Julie Ryder.

Legacy of Calico Early Man Site Archaeological Project

Part 7 By Fred E. Budinger, Jr. Budinger & Associates, San Bernardino, CA

Continuing from
Part 6 in PCN #98
(Nov-Dec 2025)...



"Haynes...divided the Yermo deposits into the younger and older units and postulated that the base of the 23-m deep Control Pit I was in the upper (younger) Yermo deposits, whereas



From PCN #32: The author as Project Director of Calico Early Man Site measuring artifacts—such as those seen in this series—in the wall of Master Pit I. Photo: T. Oberlander.

the sites' Master Pits penetrate the artifact-bearing, lower (older) deposits."

Note: The long list of references will be included after the final installment.

Calico Site geology and geomorphology

The Calico Mountains consist of Mesozoic volcanics intruded and overlain by Tertiary igneous and lacustrine deposits. The Calico Site is located on topographically high-level dissected alluvial deposits known as the Calico Hills. These are separated from the source area by younger alluvial fans, many of which are bounded by apparently active faults. The middle Miocene Barstow Formation contains a wide variety of lacustrine lithologies, including chalcedony and chert. The artifact-bearing Pleistocene mudflows, debris flows, and conglomerates overlying the Barstow Formation are termed the Yermo deposits. An angular unconformity indicates a regional depositional hiatus. The Yermo deposits (about 3 to 10 m thick) are topographically lower than the high-level dissected alluvial fans. Lithologies include weathered tuffs and crystalline igneous clasts in a poorly sorted, silty sand matrix. Lesser amounts of chert and limestone clasts are present. Sequentially younger alluvial deposits nested into older fans off the Calico Mountains are judged to be topographically intermediate,

and low, and active fan sediments. Their relative ages can be inferred by comparison with deposits dated using soils and stratigraphic techniques, correlation with Lake Manix shorelines, and regional changes in sedimentation inferentially correlated to the Marine Oxygen Isotope Chronology (Bischoff et al. 1981;

Shlemon and Budinger 1990). Accordingly, intermediate, low, and active alluvial sediments are thus estimated to be about 60–70ka ago, 10–20ka ago, and <10ka ago, respectively.

The Calico Site lies in an area of high neotectonics; the Calico and Manix faults are nearby and smaller faults pass near and through the site (Shlemon and Budinger 1990). Some Quaternary displacements are expressed geomorphically; others have historic seismicity and are clearly active. The Barstow Formation is significantly deformed and the Yermo deposits are locally folded. Faulting and folding have contributed to greater dissection of surfaces than is typically observed elsewhere in the Mojave Desert. This is especially true compared with the eastern Mojave Desert where high-level fans with well-preserved geomorphic divides and varnished desert pavements may be more than 700ka ago (Shlemon and Budinger 1990). The deep dissection of the Calico Hills does not necessarily imply that the artifact-bearing beds must be at least 500ka ago, as has been proposed (Haynes 1973). It reflects area-wide, high rates of recent uplift, folding, faulting, and erosion.

Haynes (1973:181) divided the Yermo deposits into the younger and older units and postulated that the base of the 23-m deep Control Pit I was in the upper (younger) Yermo deposits, whereas the sites' Master Pits penetrate the artifact-bearing, lower (older) deposits. An alternative hypothesis (Shlemon and Budinger 1990) is that the two, high-level fan remnants are stratigraphically reversed. By this view, artifacts from the Master Pits occur in a younger deposit which has been locally displaced by one or more faults.

Evidence for this hypothesis comes from the lithology and

grain-size differences between the Master Pits and Control Pit I and from consideration of other climatically controlled fans in this desert. In Control Pit I, reddish-brown arkosic sands, locally interstratified with lenses of pebbles and cobbles, are predominant; chalcedony and cherts clasts are rare. The Master Pits penetrate topographically middle-level fan deposits from mudflows, debris flows, and conglomerates with many chalcedony and cherts clasts (Shlemon and Budinger 1990). Comparable nested fans elsewhere in the Mojave Desert are thought to represent geomorphic response to regional climatic changes.

Continued in Part 8 on uranium-series dating...

FRED E. BUDINGER, JR., MA, RPA, is Senior Archaeologist at Budinger & Associates and former Curator (1974–1986) and Project Director (2000–2008) at Calico Early Man Site. Over the past several years he has raised concerns and discussed in detail the threatened Calico artifacts and the gradual and deliberate destruction of the site in several articles including [Protecting Calico](#) (PCN #17, May-June 2012), [Saving Calico Early Man Site](#) (2012, same issue), and [The Calico Legacies, December 2014](#) (PCN #32, Nov-Dec 2014). He has also provided several brief news items on the degraded state of U.S. archaeology and lack of preservation efforts and the subject of truth in science including [An important update on the state of affairs at Calico Early Man Site](#) (PCN #39, Jan-Feb 2016). In that report Budinger encapsulated current "professional" rulings: 1.) "No [Calico] artifacts can be seen by anybody," and, 2.) A respected book author (*Bipoints Before Clovis*) who wrote to Director Schroth about flying out to California from Virginia to photograph selected Calico specimens for an up-coming book was given the following response: "The Calico collection is no longer available for study." Budinger continues his efforts to keep Calico site from being buried by popular archaeology as have other sites such as Hueyatlatco.

Debunking evolutionary propaganda, Part 12

The inconvenient facts of living fossils: Trace fossils & graptolites

A lifelong reader of textbooks in every field exposes “thousands” of examples of false statements of fact and other propaganda techniques easily spotted in anthropology, biology, and paleontology textbooks

By John Feliks

Reprint from PCN #34, March-April 2015. This is Part 12 of 21 in reverse to give readers the facts of the fossil record first.

“The only objective conclusion the columns bear out is that variations on well-established forms come and go but the basic forms themselves stay the same.”

The date ranges in this article are from Fossilworks: Gateway to the Paleobiology Database, Macquarie Univ. Dept. of Biological Sciences, Sydney, Australia—assembled by hundreds of paleontologists internationally; Fossilid.info, Baltic University, Paleobiodiversity in Baltoscandia; and many other sources.

Trace fossils: Hours, minutes, and seconds preserved in stone

So far in this series (in Parts 6–11), I have shown through well-known fossils recovered direct from formations across the U.S. and Ontario, Canada, that phyla, classes, orders, genera, species *do not evolve* any more than dog breeds evolve but remain the same throughout their tenure on the earth. The proposition has been backed up by concessions from paleontologists and geologists that this is, indeed, what the physical evidence actually shows.

Still, evolutionary stories are being more and more aggressively sold to the public as “fact” by the science community. Challenging the authority of this community I build the case that none of these stories are supported by fossils in any geological column nor by any number of columns combined. The only objective conclusion the columns bear out is that variations on well-established forms come and go but the basic forms themselves stay the same.

This observation that the basic forms remain the same is also true for a profound aspect of the fossil record directly related to the passage of time. That is the phenomenon of ‘trace fossils’ (Figs. 1-3). Such fossils, except for footprints, are little known

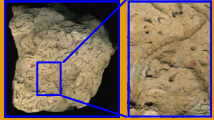




Genus, etc.	Current living fossils	Range	Fossils recovered <i>in situ</i> by the author
<p>Trace fossils</p> <p><i>Phylum</i></p> <p>Traces of animal and plant behavior preserved in stone; i.e. fossilized recordings of the activities of once-living organisms</p> <p>No evolutionary links</p>	<p>Unchanged</p> <p>560 million years</p> <p>Ediacaran–Recent; 560.0 MYA–Present</p>	Worldwide	 <p>8" wide (21 cm)</p> <p>Scalartuba missouriensis worm borings; Ordovician–Recent; author’s collection; Organisms packed their burrows behind them as they moved through the sediment in search of food.</p>
<p>Trace fossils</p> <p><i>Phycodes</i></p> <p>Trace fossil <i>Genus</i></p> <p>No evolutionary links</p>	<p>Unchanged</p> <p>542 million years</p> <p>Cambrian–Recent; 542.0 MYA–Present</p>	Worldwide	 <p>Fossil portion 1 3/4" tall (4.5 cm)</p> <p>L: Phycodes burrows; Like most trace fossils they are natural time-exposure rock ‘photographs’; Ordovician; Williamsburg, OH; R: a time-exposure of modern-day fireworks (Frankfurt, Germany; Wiki-Com). Each records movement through time.</p>
<p>Trace fossils</p> <p><i>Cruziana</i></p> <p>Trilobite or similar animal tracks showing remarkable details of behavior</p> <p>No evolutionary links</p>	<p>Unchanged</p> <p>542 million years</p> <p>Cambrian–Recent; 542.0 MYA–Present</p>	Worldwide	 <p>Fossil 1" long (2.7 cm)</p> <p>Left: Cruziana (trilobite tracks) found w/ Cryptolithus and Flexicalymene trilobites; Ordovician; Williamsburg, OH; Right: Reconstruction of Ordovician trilobite and its tracks; Wikimedia Commons</p>
<p>Trace fossils</p> <p>Worm tubes</p> <p><i>Phylum</i> Annelida</p> <p><i>Class</i> Polychaeta</p> <p><i>Suborder</i> Tubicola</p> <p>No evolutionary links</p>	<p>Unchanged</p> <p>520 million years</p> <p>Cambrian–Recent; 520–Present</p>	Worldwide	 <p>Spirorbis 1/16" wide (1.2 mm)</p> <p>Spirorbis arkonensis worm tubes encrusting a Schizophoria brachiopod shell; Shown in negative for clarity; Ordovician–Recent; Devonian; Hungry Hollow, Arkona, Ontario</p>
<p>Trace fossils</p> <p>This remarkable specimen is a Devonian Mucrospirifer brachiopod fossilized while clamping down on a bit of unidentified shell.</p> <p>No evolutionary links</p>	<p>Unchanged</p> <p>542 million years</p> <p>Brachiopods (e.g., Lingula with pedicle preserved, Tales of a fossil collector, PCN #28, March-April 2014)</p> <p>Cambrian–Recent; 542.0 MYA–Present</p>	Worldwide	 <p>1 7/16" wide (3.7 cm)</p> <p>Mucrospirifer brachiopod in the process of clamping half-shut on a bit of unidentified shell; Devonian; Milan, MI</p>

Fig. 1. A few examples of “thousands” of living fossils—classes, orders, families, genera (presently trace fossils), showing *no evolution* over hundreds of millions of years.

> **Cont. on page 16**

Links to the prior parts in this reverse reprint series: [Part 13](#), [Part 14](#), [Part 15](#), [Part 16](#), [Part 17](#), [Part 18](#), [Part 19](#), [Part 20](#), [Part 21](#).

The inconvenient facts: Trace fossils & graptolites (cont.)

to the public. Trace fossils represent the actual behaviors, activities, or experiences

of ancient organisms as they went about their daily lives. Trace fossils include tracks,

equivalent of 3D sculptures of real-time events making their 4-dimensional objects. In contrast to Darwin's hope that the fossil record would prove to be a record "poorly kept" (as he already knew it

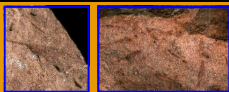

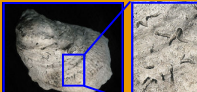



Genus, etc.	Current living fossils	Range	Fossils recovered <i>in situ</i> by the author
Trace fossils <i>Phylum</i> Traces of animal and plant behavior; i.e. a fossilized record of the activities of both animals and plants No evolutionary links	Unchanged 560 million years Ediacaran–Recent; 560.0 MYA–Present	Worldwide	 Holes are c. -1/16" wide (1 mm) Unidentified trace fossils in Cambrian sandstone; Slab also contains remains of trilobite, <i>Prosaugia curvicostata</i> ; Waucehed Township, MI, U.P., near Wisconsin border
Trace fossils <i>Trypanites</i> Cambrian–Recent <i>Petroxestes</i> Ordovician No evolutionary links	Unchanged 520 million years Cambrian–Recent; 520.0–Present	Worldwide	 Fossil coral 1 7/8" tall (4.9 cm) Trypanites (round) and Petroxestes borings (trenches) in a <i>Grewingkia</i> horn coral; Ordovician; Milton, KY. See Fig. 3 for a magnified view of Petroxestes and a picture of the type of creature known to have created it.
Trace fossils Sponge borings <i>Phylum Porifera</i> Class Demospongia Genus Entobia No evolutionary links	Unchanged 542 million years Cambrian–Recent; 542.0 MYA–Present	Worldwide	 Central trench 3/16" long (5 mm) Entobia borings made by a clionaid sponge in an <i>Ostrea</i> oyster shell; Pleistocene; southern Florida
Trace fossils <i>Chondrites</i> No evolutionary links	Unchanged 530 million years Cambrian–Recent; 530.0 MYA–Present	Worldwide	 Burrow 1 1/8" long (2.8 cm) Chondrites type A (seen in cross-section to the seafloor bedding plane). The layer below the burrow consists of <i>crinoid columnals</i> ; Ordovician; Cincinnati, Hamilton Co., OH
Trace fossils <i>Chondrites</i> No evolutionary links	Unchanged 530 million years Cambrian–Recent; 530.0 MYA–Present	Worldwide	 Trace 2 5/8" wide (6.7 cm) Chondrites type B (horizontal on bedding plane) w/ <i>Zygospira</i> brachiopod lower left; Ordovician; Cincinnati, OH. Even though still produced today no one has observed the creature which produces it.
Trace fossils Predator-crushed brachiopod shell No evolutionary links	Unchanged 540 million years Cambrian–Recent; 540.0 MYA–Present	Worldwide	 1 1/4" wide (3.2 cm) Mucrospirifer brachiopod shell crushed by an unknown predator; Devonian; Glen Falls, Arkona, Ontario

Fig. 2. Promoting evolution as fact the science community has no choice but to ignore the fossil record. Once in the record every taxon, including trace fossils, remains the same. Trace fossils recovered by author *in situ* across U.S. and Ontario over 30-yr. span.

burrows, and borings, and a host of many other more unique or even unusual specific events that might only have happened to a single individual over the millennia.

Trace fossils preceded "long exposure" photographs by hundreds of millions of years

What the public has also not been told is that trace fossils actually record events in time in high resolution 2D and 3D images and in increments as small as weeks, days, hours, and even minutes and seconds. At best, they are the



Fig. 3. Top: **Petroxestes** borings (trenches) on a **Grewingkia** horn coral—from Fig. 2—close-up; Ordovician; Milton, KY; Longest trench is 1/4" long (6mm); Bottom: Devonian **Modiomorpha** clam; Pottsville, PA; 1 1/2" long (3.8cm); It is almost indistinguishable from the Ordovician age **Modiolopsis** clam that created the trenches. **Petroxestes** is the earliest trace fossil created by clams.

did not support his evolutionary theory), one can hardly ask for a much more perfect record of anything that happened in the ancient past.

Finally, as far as trace fossils go, many of them are still created and persist today in exactly the same form as when they first appeared over 550 million years ago. That makes them in-

stantly addable to our increasingly long list of living fossils.

Graptolites—once thought extinct—now living fossils

The long-mysterious fossils known as graptolites (Figs. 4-5 on the following page) believed to have been extinct for the past 350 million years being discovered in the Indian Ocean were recently added to the growing list of 'living fossils.' They were later confirmed to be still living creatures (i.e. extant) by independent researchers.

Graptolites are included here as they are sometimes confused with trace fossils. In fact, the name graptolites

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The inconvenient facts: Trace fossils & graptolites (cont.)

means "writings on rock" or "written in stone." They are often found as a black filament

on dark shale which can make them difficult to see. A couple of the graptolite fossils in this

article, *Diplograptus* in **Fig. 4**, and the *Rectograptus* fossil in **Fig. 5** were converted to negative to let their subtle details be easier to see.

Some of the oldest trace fossils from the Cambrian and earlier back to about 570 million years ago are presumed to have been created by ancient worms which is one of the categories graptolites have been placed into over the years.

Graptolites have been regarded as an order, a subclass, and a class, but recently seem to have settled into being a subclass under the class Pterobranchia which are simply referred to as worm-shaped animals. The Pterobranchia are placed under the even more confusing phylum known as Hemichordata considered related to the echinoderms (starfish, crinoids, sea urchins) and even more confusedly, related to human beings. But that's how the evolutionary system works. You pick out one or two traits that you wish to focus on and regard as more significant than others and then try and force-fit as much into a category as you can. The system is problematic as researchers have long drifted away from scientific objectivity (genetics included) into a realm of doing whatever it takes to fit organisms into evolutionary categories—no matter how contrived. To do this is regarded more scientific than to admit they are unresolved. As mentioned earlier, and in several other articles in this series, when one starts looking critically at evolutionary literature one quickly finds that the origins of all groups, bar none, are mysterious and unexplained.

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JOHN FELIKS has specialized in the study of early human cognition for twenty years demonstrating that human cognition does not evolve. Earlier, his focus was on the invertebrate fossil record studying fossils in the field across the U.S. and parts of Canada as well as studying many of the classic texts such as the *Treatise on Invertebrate Paleontology and Index Fossils of North America*.

All of Feliks' articles published in *Pleistocene Coalition News* can be found at: <https://pleistocenecoalition.com/>

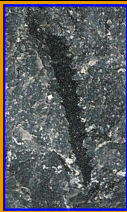
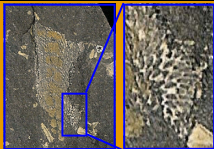
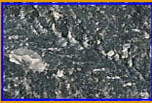


Genus, etc.	Current living fossils	Range	Fossils recovered <i>in situ</i> by the author
Hemichordata Phylum Class Pterobranchia Subclass Graptolithina The graptolites have been moved around between Order, Class, and Subclass. It doesn't matter. Constant name-changing is based on trying to force-fit organisms into evolutionary templates. No evolutionary links	Unchanged 570 million years Ediacaran–Recent; 570.0 MYA–Present New living fossils: "Rhabdopleurids can be regarded as extant members of the Subclass Graptolithina." –CE Mitchell et al. 2013	Worldwide	 Portion shown 5/16" tall (9mm) Rectograptus graptolite colony found in association with Flexicalymene and Isotelus trilobites; Ordovician; Trenton Falls Gorge, NY; Detail shows the famous saw-blade graptolite look.
Hemichordata Phylum Includes the <i>once-thought-extinct</i> graptolites sometimes mistaken for trace fossils No evolutionary links	Unchanged 570 million years Ediacaran–Recent; 570.0 MYA–Present Important science history note: The discoverer of coelacanth fish as a <i>living fossils</i> and the discoverer of the graptolites as <i>living fossils</i> were both 'amateurs.'	Worldwide	 9/16" tall (1.4cm) Dictyonema , a Dendroidea graptolite colony found in association with Triarthrus trilobites (see Part 11: Arthropoda ; PCN #33, January-February 2015); Ordovician; Bellefonte, PA
Hemichordata Graptolithina	Unchanged 570 million years Ediacaran–Recent; 570.0 MYA–Present	Worldwide	 3/8" long (1 cm) Rectograptus graptolite colony found in association with Flexicalymene and Isotelus trilobites; Ordovician; Trenton Falls Gorge, NY.
Hemichordata Graptolithina	Unchanged 570 million years Ediacaran–Recent; 570.0 MYA–Present		 Portion shown 5/16" tall (9mm) Geniculograptus graptolite colony on slab with Pseudogygites trilobites; Ordovician; South shore of Georgian Bay, Craigeleith, ON
Hemichordata Graptolithina	Unchanged 570 million years Ediacaran–Recent; 570.0 MYA–Present	Worldwide	 7/8" long (2.2cm) Diplograptus graptolite colony; in negative for detail; Ordovician; Newberry, MI, U.P. Up close one can see angled serrations like the teeth of a saw blade; each was the home of a tiny animal.

Fig. 4. Graptolites. One reason biology, paleontology, and anthropology can spread evolutionism without normal scientific rigor or restraint is because the public and many scientists alike have little direct contact with fossils.

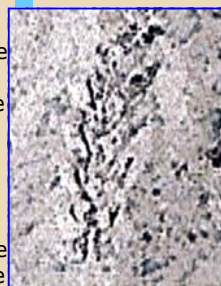


Fig. 5. *Rectograptus* graptolite colony found in association with *Flexicalymene* trilobites; Ordovician; Trenton Falls Gorge, New York. Shown here in negative to bring out detail in this tiny section.



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