



U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service

August 2009

Historical Happenings

Notes on Cultural Resource Management in the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service



Historical Happenings provides information on the USFWS Cultural Resources Management program. Information comes from sources such as the Regional Historic Preservation Officers, websites, new sources, as well as other cultural resource management professionals.

Issues are also available on the USFWS Cultural Resources website <http://historicpreservation.fws.gov>. Submissions are encouraged and can be made via email. Please contact Eugene Marino at Eugene_Marino@fws.gov for submission guidelines.

Wonderful Things

A look at FWS Museum Property

THE BERTRAND COLLECTION

LOCATED AT

DESOTO NATIONAL WILDLIFE REFUGE

Dean Knudsen, Curator



At three o'clock in the afternoon of April 1, 1865, the riverboat *Bertrand* struck a snag while negotiating the dangerous waters of the Missouri River 30 miles north of Omaha, Nebraska Territory. Damage to her hull was so severe that she sank in twenty feet of water in a matter of minutes. Luckily the ship's crew and passengers were all able to make their way to shore safely, and a modest effort was later made to salvage what they could over the following weeks, but eventually the insurers and owners of the *Bertrand* decided to simply write her and her cargo off as a loss.

For the next century the Missouri River did her best to hide the wreck. Several feet of fine silt settled in over the hull, and soon there was no indication that the 200 foot long steamboat had ever existed. In the intervening years the Missouri even changed her channels a number of times, further complicating any effort to find her. However, in 1967, two Nebraska treasure-hunters succeeded in locating the long-lost *Bertrand*, only to learn that she now resided thirty feet beneath the surface of a field and inside the boundaries of DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge.

After working out a contract between the federal government and the discoverer's of the wreck, excavation of the site began in the summer of 1968 and continued the following year. What they found exceeded all expectations, as virtually the entire cargo was intact and in good condition. All artifacts were removed to be cleaned and treated, while the delicate and broken wooden hull of the *Bertrand* was left in place. In time the water table rose and reclaimed the ship that had been hidden from sight for more than a century.

Hundreds of thousands of objects have been cleaned, treated, cataloged and displayed to provide the general public with a glimpse into the material culture of 19th century America. Among some of the more intriguing finds were a wide variety food stuffs that included such unexpected delicacies as honey, almonds, instant coffee and champagne. One of the most striking discoveries was brandied cherries still sealed in glass bottles (*Pictured above*).

These cherries still retain their rich coloring, as does the brandy. It is not known for certain just where these cherries originated, as any labels that may have been present on the bottles did not survive the *Bertrand's* century-long burial. There are stories that the brandied cherries had been imported from France, but at this point the French connection is unsubstantiated. Visitors often ask if the cherries and brandy are still edible but no record has yet been found that describe any taste testing!

Recently a massive conservation program was initiated that will help our commitment to preserve this unique collection. Hundreds of the most delicate or at-risk objects are receiving treatment at the hands of professional conservators at the Gerald Ford Center in Omaha, Nebraska. The brandied cherries are only one of thousands of surprising artifacts to be seen in the museum collection at DeSoto National Wildlife Refuge, located 30 miles north of Omaha, Nebraska.

FWS Regional News:

Washington Office

The Cultural Resources and Facilities programs will be offering a workshop for historic building maintenance at Chincoteague National Wildlife Refuge September 14-18, 2009

Participants will learn about Section 106 and also see preservation in action as they take part in renovations of the lighthouse at the Refuge.

For more information contact Eugene Marino at 703-358-2173

Region 7—

A 20 year effort to document traditional Native place names in the Koyukuk River drainage was completed recently with the publication of a 54 page full color atlas. In the mid-1980's Kanuti Refuges local Refuge Information technician, Johnson Moses of Allakaket, helped Dr. Eliza Jones compile hundreds of traditional Native place names near the villages of Hughes, Allakaket, Alatna, Bettles and Evansville. Dr. Jones and Moses recorded interviews with Native elders who told the stories behind the names of places within Kanuti refuge and surrounding areas. This information was documented by university of Alaska researcher Wendy Arundale in an unpublished report where it remained for 20 years.

In 2005-2006 the FWS and National Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) funded Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association to gather traditional knowledge on fishing sites and fish spawning areas in the Koyukuk Drainage. At that time, Kanuti Refuge staff wanted to include traditional place names in their revised Comprehensive Conservation Plan (CCP) due in 2008. Kanuti Refuge planner, Deborah Webb, painstakingly entered Moses' and Jones' work into a computerized GIS so computer records accurately depicted the unique lettering to ensure accurate pronunciation of the Koyukon language. With a Challenge Cost Share from the FWS, the YR DFA included Moses' and Jones' information in their refined and comprehensive Atlas of place names. With additional support from NOAA and the Lannan Foundation, YR DFA recently published "Middle Koyukuk River of Alaska-An Atlas of Fishing Places and Traditional Place Names". Copies can be obtained from the Yukon River Drainage Fisheries Association at 725 Christensen Dr., Suite 3B, Anchorage, Alaska 99501. They can also be contacted via e-mail at info@yukonsalmon.org, or by **Phone:** (907) 272-3141 • 1-877-99-YUKON (98566), or **Fax:** (907) 272-3142.

Other Agency News

NPS—the Director of the National Park Service has formally approved the proposal of the Pala Band of the Mission Indians of California to assume certain State Historic Preservation Officer duties within the exterior boundaries of the tribe's trust lands. The Tribe has assumed formal responsibility for review of Federal undertakings pursuant to Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. In addition, the Tribe has assumed all of the other SHPO functions set out in the Act with the exceptions of assisting in the certification of local governments and assisting in the evaluation of Investment Tax Credit rehabilitation projects. Please address correspondence to:

Ms. Shasta Gaughen, THPO
Pala Band of Mission Indians
35008 Pala Temecula Road, PMB 445
Pala, CA 92509
Telephone: 760-891-3591
Fax: 760-742-4543
Email: sgaughen@palatribe.com

Legislative News

FLTFA Reauthorization Will Aid in Preserving Cultural and Historic Resources on Public Lands

Rep. Martin Heinrich (D-NM) intends to introduce a reauthorization of the "Federal Lands Transaction Facilitation Act" (FLTFA) this week with Rep. Cynthia Lummis (R-WY) as an original co-sponsor. The Federal Lands Transaction Facilitation Act was originally enacted in 2000 and directs the revenues generated from the sale of nonessential Bureau of Land Management (BLM) lands to an account for purchases of critical in-holdings and adjacent tracts from willing sellers in federally designated areas managed by the BLM, the U.S. Forest Service, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, and the National Park Service in the western United States. FLTFA embodies the concept of "land for land," using the proceeds from sales of "non-essential lands" to acquire other key lands. Since FLTFA's enactment in 2000, the Secretaries of Interior and Agriculture have approved over \$57 million toward protecting more than 13,600 acres under the program. Funding from the sales of these non-essential lands will be used to facilitate the purchase of other relevant and important public lands and sites, such as the historic Wallace Ranch in Canyon of the Ancients National Monument, for example.

Senior advisor for Sustainable Housing and Communities Named at HUD

Reconnecting America President and CEO Shelley Poticha has been appointed Senior Advisor for Sustainable Housing and Communities at the U.S.

Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD). Shelley has been President and CEO of the national nonprofit Reconnecting America since 2004, where she has become a national leader for the reform of land use and transportation planning and policy. In that role she has helped stimulate a national conversation about the role of transit in shaping communities and making them more sustainable and affordable, and has been a tireless advocate for diverse and inclusive neighborhoods—which also happens to be a goal high on preservationists’ list of priorities. Poticha is expected to advise HUD Deputy Secretary Ron Sims on sustainability issues through HUD’s Office of Sustainable Housing. This office will be charged with providing technical and policy support for energy, green building and integrated housing and transportation programs at HUD and around the nation as well as manage the department’s key relationships with other federal agencies.

Senate Panel Holds Hearing on Bill to Preserve and Protect Historic Lighthouses

On July 22, the Senate Committee on Energy and Natural Resources Subcommittee on National Parks held a hearing to discuss a number of bills, including S. 715, the “National Lighthouse Stewardship Act of 2009.” The measure would authorize \$20 million for a three-year pilot grant program to protect and preserve historic lighthouses in 31 states that have National Seashore or Lakeshore coastline. Proponents of the measure say the pilot program would help the 31 coastal states identify a process that would work for all lighthouse rehabilitation projects rather than many different approaches from state to state.

Training, Upcoming Events, Education, and Volunteers and Friends News

Archeological Resources Protection Training Program

The Federal Law Enforcement Training Center (FLETC) presents this thirty-seven hour class which provides training in all aspects of an archeological investigation and subsequent prosecution of the crimes. This premier class is taught by accomplished instructors that are nationally recognized subject matter experts in the fields of law enforcement, archeology and law. The class cumulates in a twelve-hour archeological crime scene practical exercise where law enforcement officers and archeologist work as a team to investigate and document a crime scene. Attendees will gather and process physical evidence, write incident reports, executive summaries, search warrants, damage assessments, and provide testimony in a courtroom scenario.

XP-ARPTP-903 / Department of the Navy, Jacksonville, FL – September 14-18, 2009

XP-ARPTP-904 / San Juan Public Lands Center, Durango, Co – September 21-25, 2009

XP-ARPTP-101 /Apostle Islands National Lakeshore NP, Bayfield, Wisconsin – October 19 – 23, 2009

XP-ARPTP-102 / Jean Lafitte National Historical Park and Preserve, New Orleans, La – November – 02-06, 2009

This class is open to all sworn law enforcement officers, prosecutors and Federal Archeologist. To register please contact your agencies training representative at FLETC.

Contact FLETC Senior Instructor Charles Louke at (912)280-5188 for course information

There are a number of activities at the Cathlapotle plankhouse. For information on these events take a look at www.plankhouse.org