



# **Crow Canyon**

**Education and Archaeological Research Center**

**The Early Years 1968 - 1986**

**By**

**Dr. Edward F. and Joanne H. Berger**

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**CROW CANYON EDUCATION &  
ARCHAEOLOGY RESEARCH CENTER**

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2016

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## THE FIRST EIGHTEEN YEARS OF CROW CANYON'S DEVELOPMENT

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Crow Canyon is one of the foremost archaeological education and research institutions in the United States. It involves people of all ages in the exciting field of archaeology through excavation, lab work, and educational travel, while in the company of prominent archaeologists and educators. The programs that are fundamental to Crow Canyon today are the rich legacy of the pioneering work of Ed and Jo Berger.

The involvement of non-archaeologists, the *lay public*, in archaeological excavation and research was a new idea in the late 60s and early 70s when the Bergers began to develop their dream; the education center that became the Crow Canyon Archaeological Center. The history of Crow Canyon dates back to 1968 with the first programs for high school students participating in 3-week field schools in Cortez. The program was developed and implemented by Ed Berger, a secondary school teacher at Cherry Creek High School in Englewood, Colorado. Jo was a student in the first program and continued to work with Ed. They were married in 1976.

From the late 60s through the mid-80s, the Bergers involved students in field schools focused on archaeological excavation and lab work with outstanding southwest archaeologists, developed travel programs to explore the rock art and natural resources of the Four Corners region, and involved Native American representatives as program specialists. They facilitated the interaction between archaeologists and local land owners to protect sites, and elevated the local community's commitment to the preservation of archaeological sites that were rapidly disappearing. This body of work provided the strong foundation that allowed for the development and expansion of today's Crow Canyon Archaeological Center. It is a wonderful story.





## THE BIRTH OF CROW CANYON 1968

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The education and archaeology programs that drive Crow Canyon today actually began in 1968 not 1983. It seems that somewhere along the way, the early pioneering history of Crow Canyon has been available, but not included.

The creation of a new and remarkable program that integrated education and field archaeology required risk and commitment. It required giving up security, breaking away, and a willingness to lose everything in order to pursue a vision and dream of what *could be*. Music composed by Lerner and Loewe for the western *Paint Your Wagon*, sums up my feelings at that time. Remember Lee Marvin singing:

*Gotta dream boy? Gotta song?  
Paint your wagon and come along.*

*Where are we goin'?  
I don't know.*

*When will we be there?  
I ain't certain.*

*What will we get?  
I ain't equipped to say.*

*But who gives a damn? Who gives a damn?  
We're on our way!*



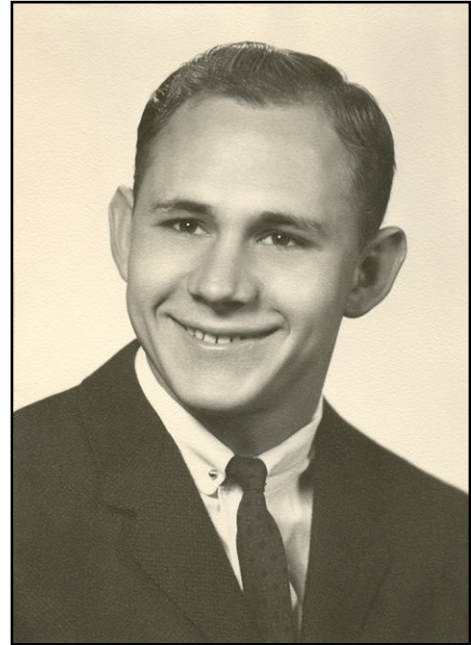


## TRANSFORMING PUBLIC EDUCATION

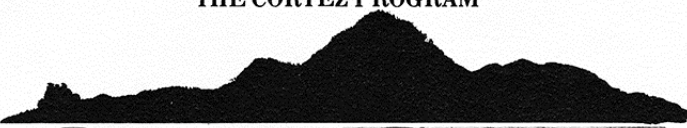
I started teaching high school in 1961. I was also helping manage our family's Country Club at the time. I became a successful teacher and businessman. After a few years of teaching, I found I had outgrown an education system that was too limited and too rigid. I was at the crossroads. Was I willing to give up a great job, a paycheck, and retirement guarantees? Was I willing to jump into the unknown and start over to follow the vision of education I believed in?

In 1967, with the sale of our family business, I told my folks I was going to work my way out of the system and build my dream. I did not know how long it would take to totally break free, but I was willing to risk everything and balance on a teeter-totter with no counter weight. It took eight years to save and prepare. Eight years in classrooms where I could not fully apply what I was learning about education and the needs of those entrusted to me. Eight years of ethical compromise and fights against the factory system. They were years of forming plans that became more real with the passing of each day.


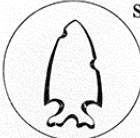
Taking little steps, I pulled resources and information together. I created programs outside of the classroom, testing what I thought to be true to create interdisciplinary – experiential programs, study scholars and philosophers like John Dewey, Howard Gardner, and William



**THE CORTEZ PROGRAM**


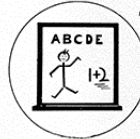


**SOUTHWESTERN ARCHAEOLOGY**  
I-SEP, in cooperation with Dr. Art Rohn and Wichita State University, offers a program in archaeological field techniques and Pueblo Culture. Under the direction of competent archaeologists the students excavate and do original research. The results of their efforts become part of the story of the lost civilizations of the southwest. The students recreate a culture from the past, and in so doing, gain a greater insight into their own culture. We are presently excavating an entire village near the Mesa Verde, on Goodman Point.



**COMMUNITY GOVERNMENT & SERVICE INVOLVEMENT**  
The heart of any community is its government and the services offered by its citizens. We believe that to become an effective member of a community one needs an insight into the mechanisms by which it works. With this in mind I-SEP has arranged with government officials and business leaders to place students where they can observe government and business practices firsthand. The students may involve themselves in various apprentice and service type programs, such as VISTA, Headstart, Cortez Service Clubs, The Newspaper, Four-H, Police work, offices and agencies.

**TUTORING**  
Under the direction of Mrs. Audry Allmon, 1973 Colorado Teacher of the Year, the students may participate in a unique tutoring program for the elementary school children of the greater Cortez Community. The I-SEP students change their role and become teachers. They share their knowledge and they accept the responsibilities involved. This program has generated interest and motivation in the educational field for many students. It has proven to be a great learning experience for the student tutors and a vital service to the Cortez community.

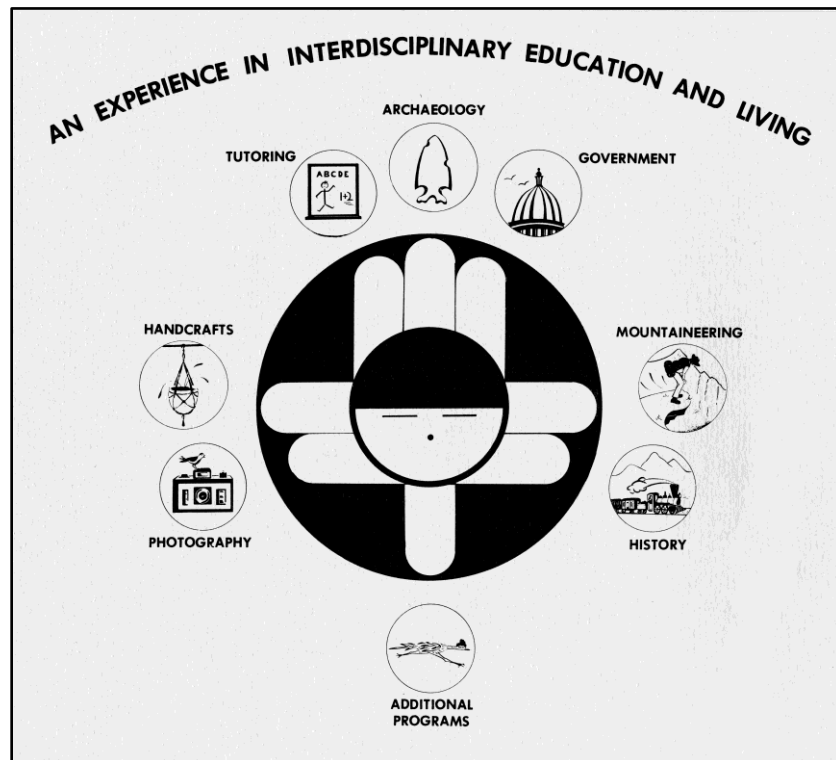


Glasser, and put money away for the lean times coming.

In late 1967, I learned of the beauty, prehistory, and opportunities available in Southwestern Colorado. I developed a supplemental enrichment course for high school students, with the support of the Cherry Creek Schools near Denver. That first summer I taught 3, three-week summer credit courses titled: *Introduction to Community Service and Social Studies Field Techniques*. Whew! What a mouthful! During the summer of 1968 I ran field

sessions out of an old 1890s farm house in Arriola, Colorado, about 8 miles north of Cortez. I proved beyond a shadow of any doubt – to myself at least – that learning was accelerated and internalized through hands-on experiential programs.

Another significant breakthrough came when Audrey Allmon, a teacher at the Battlerock School in McElmo Canyon west of Cortez, introduced me to the Wilsons who live on Yellowjacket Canyon. They had part of a spectacular and massive canyon-head ruin on their land. The Wilsons invited me to bring students to dig in a large ruin on their property.



*(The original Crow Canyon logo was derived by Jim Cable from this graphic depicting the various aspects of the Cortez Program.)*

The details of that encounter and my introduction to the educational powers inherent in archaeology are best described in the book, [Crow Canyon: Pioneering Education and Archaeology on the Southwestern Colorado Frontier](#), 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. 2009. MillennialBooks.com. *Free download.* There is a chapter titled, *Along Came Archaeology.*

From 1968 on, archaeology became a significant part of the programs. Audrey also introduced me to Clifford and Ruth Chappell. It was in their home, perusing their amazing collection of artifacts (now in the Anasazi Heritage Center), that I met Dr. Art Rohn. Art excavated Mug House, a cliff dwelling in Mesa Verde National Park. Dr. Rohn was excited by the opportunity to work with the program, continue his research in the area, and get field supervision experience for his graduate students.

## 1971 FIRST PERMANENT CAMPUS: THE CHERRY CREEK HOUSE

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In the summer of 1969, the second year of operation, we rented a large rock house north of Arriola near the Narraguinnep Canal. After the summer sessions were completed in August, I took off to travel the globe for a year evaluating schools and education programs in 22 different countries. I continued my search for educational approaches that were hands-on, experiential, and let students make tangible contributions. As a result, there was no summer program in 1970.

The pursuit of my adventure became a rallying point for others of like mind. The most significant of these new partners was my friend and fellow teacher, adventurer, scholar, and musician – Joanne Hindlemann, who became co-creator and co-director. We were married in 1976.

When I returned in August 1970, Jo, Rod Lister, and I hopped in Rod's car and drove to Cortez to find a location for the 1971 summer programs. I wanted to buy a place and guarantee that I-S Educational Programs (Interdisciplinary-Supplemental) would have a home.



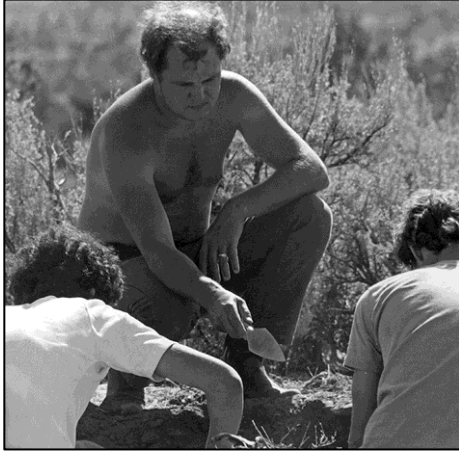
I found a delightful house and barn on 14 irrigated acres near Arriola, north of Cortez. It was just up the road from the Rogers house we rented in 1968. We called it the Cherry Creek House, named for the public high school where I still taught. From 1971 until 1975, the programs operated out of the Cherry Creek House (and barn). A benefit of that location was an archaeological site close by.

An old bachelor cowboy living down the road told us of a site on his land that he was going to “plow under” soon. We visited the site with Dr. Rohn and found it to be pristine. In 1971, the Lee Scott archaeological site, a large Pueblo-I ridge-top ruin located a quarter of a mile from the Cherry Creek House, was where our first encounter with stringent and controlled academic research took place. For Dr. Rohn, it was an opportunity to continue his research, to teach his graduate students how to manage crews of unskilled workers, and to maintain rigorous standards. Through Rohn's contacts, we were introduced to the community of archaeologists working in the area.

With the help and support of Dr. Rohn's graduate program at the University of Illinois, Urbana, we added archaeology to the supplemental and enrichment programs offered to students. Shortly thereafter, Art moved to Wichita State University. Dr. Rohn agreed to



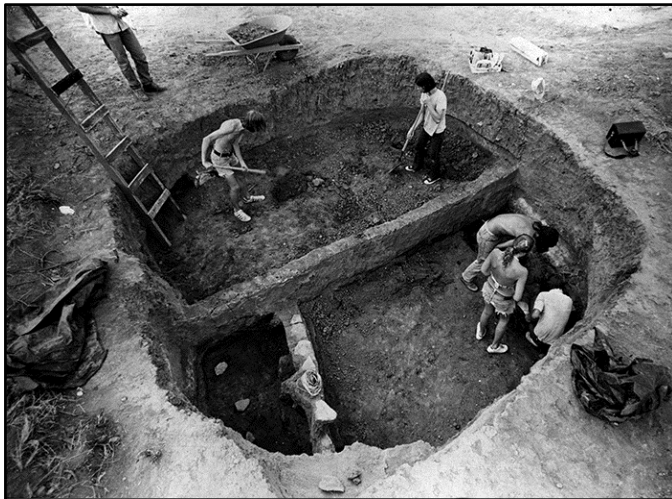
curate and maintain the collection of materials excavated and documented from the sites, conduct appropriate research, and write up the results. These were some of the first field research programs where high school students were taught and supervised “on-site” by academic archaeologists and graduate students. It demonstrated that teens, non-



archaeologists, could make a significant contribution to research under proper supervision. I was most encouraged by the accelerated learning and motivation we observed as students got involved.

In 1974, Ron Gould was hand-picked by Dr. Rohn to supervise our field work. Ron’s work was vital to our summer programs, demonstrating the contributions of the lay public when prepared, supervised, and taught by scholars. When we moved the campus to Crow Canyon, Dr. Ron Gould was the first archaeologist on our staff. He was a remarkably committed and motivated man; loved and respected.

Through experience, experimentation, observation, and research, we developed experiential education models used to prepare students for field work in several areas: In the community, on the reservation, and in the field of archaeology. The challenge was to



take students with little background or knowledge, get them trained and ready to work alongside teachers and community leaders, and in the case of archaeology, work with graduate students and scholars on actual digs. This “readiness,” occurred through a carefully planned sequence of learning activities over the course of several days. Our experimental, hands-on programs were remarkably successful, at all levels, and accelerated learning.



Ron then began research on the Mustoe Site, supported by our program and our students. He wrote his doctoral dissertation at the University of Texas at Austin, which included field research observations using the application of neuron activation analysis in the interpretation of multi-component archaeological sites. He included information about managing field crews which utilized the talents of teenagers. That decision to include his observations in a dissertation was controversial among the archaeologists of the time who refused to believe non-archaeologists could make significant contributions to research.

## 1972 FORMATION OF INTERDISCIPLINARY-SUPPLEMENTAL EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS, INC (I-SEP)

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### **Officers of the I-SEP Board:**

Edward F. Berger, President  
Dr. Kenneth A. MacInnes, MD, Vice President  
Marsha M. Berger, Secretary-Treasurer

### **I-SEP Staff Full Time**

#### **Denver:**

Mr. Edward F. Berger — Headmaster, Program Director, Cherry Creek School District Secondary Teacher.  
Mrs. Marsha Berger — Assistant Headmaster, Cherry Creek School District Secondary Counselor, Experienced Elementary Teacher.

#### **Boulder:**

Ms. Joanne Hindleman — Assistant Program Director (Activities)  
Mr. James Cable — Assistant Program Director (Logistics)

#### **Colorado Springs:**

Mr. Lloyd Hayne — Alumni Program Director

#### **Cortez:**

Mrs. Audrey Allmon — Tutoring and Public Relations Director, 1973 Teacher of the Year, Montezuma-Cortez Elementary School Teacher.

#### **Wichita:**

Dr. Art Rohn — Archeological Supervisor, Chairman of the Dept. of Anthropology Wichita State University.  
Mr. Ronald Gould — Archeological Field Program Director, Graduate student at Wichita State University.

#### **Phoenix:**

Mr. Jeff Gross — Coordinator for Arizona, High Altitude Coordinator.

As the field school continued to grow, I realized I needed a not-for-profit corporation for ongoing growth and development. I knew from my school law courses, that a school district cannot operate programs outside of its territorial limits. To protect Cherry Creek Schools, and to begin the gradual break I knew had to occur, I launched I-S Educational Programs (I-SEP).

It took almost a year to get it incorporated in Colorado, complete the federal IRS tax-exempt and state tax-exempt requirements, and recruit a board of education.

Nothing I-SEP owned or built could enrich me or any member of the board.

Money we loaned or donated did not give us ownership. If I-SEP failed, the not-for-profit's assets, after payment of debts, had to go to government or other non-profit organizations. From 1972 to 1982, we worked for I-SEP as non-paid employees.

I-SEP, Inc. was a vital component of program operations. It provided the vehicle for financial accountability and tax-exempt status for donations critical to growth. The I-SEP Corporation was maintained in good standing until it was replaced in the mid-80s - but that is getting ahead of the story.



## IF YOU BUILD IT THEY WILL COME

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Since the late 1960s, our programs had attracted the attention of experiential educators. Summers, we had a constant stream of visitors who wanted to observe programs that were hands-on within clear parameters. Programs where the staff got involved and learned alongside of the students.

TV crews had visited and filmed our students working at the Yellowjacket archaeological site, tutoring local kids, and volunteering in departments of local government. A one-half hour film by Leo McGuire and Jerry Kernan aired on Chanel 4 in Denver. We had exceptional press coverage in the Rocky Mountain News and the Denver Post. Soon, the Durango Herald and the Cortez papers were following our progress; writing articles which generated new contacts.

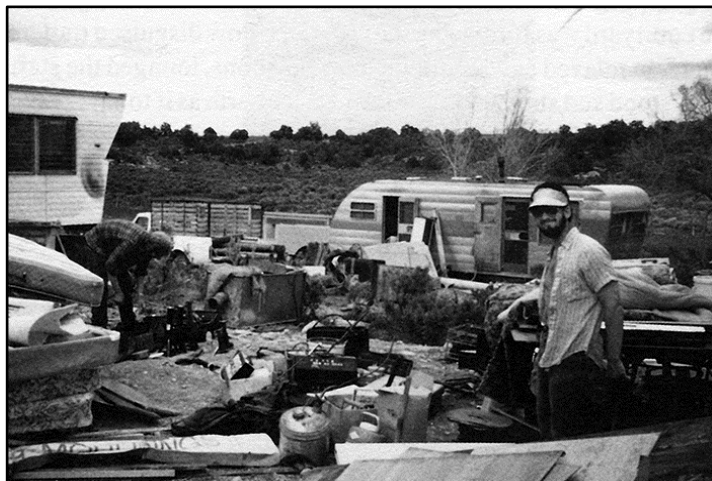
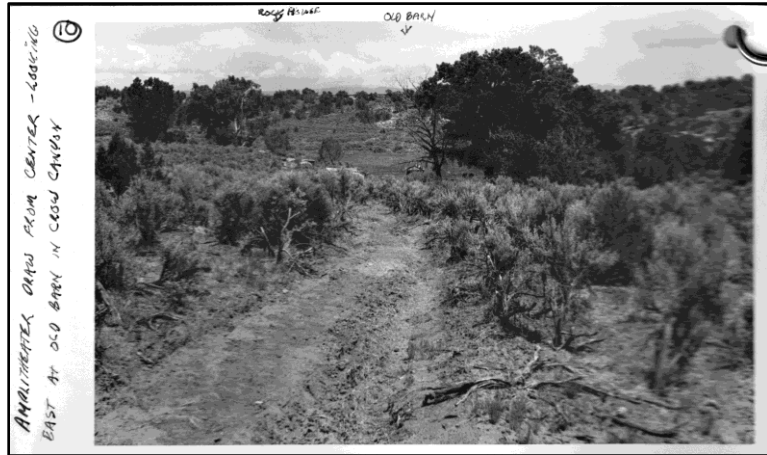
## 1974 PURCHASE OF 80 ACRE CAMPUS ON CROW CANYON

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In the fall of 1974, I purchased 80 acres of wild land overlooking Crow Creek (Crow Canyon). In 1975, I completed my doctoral work at UNC. My project in lieu of dissertation, included extensive research into developing the campus on Crow Canyon including planning, space programming, and, most importantly, the design and delivery of accelerated educational courses focused on student motivation and experiential learning.



On a blustery, cold, drizzly March day in 1975, spring break for Cherry Creek and the University of Colorado, Jo, Jim Cable, Lloyd Hayne and I slipped our way down a muddy cattle trail named Road K and camped near an old spud cellar on our new land. In the sleeting spring storm, we tore down a dangerous old shed and old rock house at the edge of the meadow. We laid out the location of the temporary building we imagined we could have in place when I brought the first group of students down from Denver in June, less than 3 months away.



We hired a caterpillar tractor, cut in the road, and cleared a site for buildings and a turn around. We spread word that we were building a school and by May, people began to arrive to help.

Using 3 trailers purchased in Denver and hauled over Wolf Creek Pass, a temporary L-shaped facility was created. Covered with rough-cut lumber, board-and-batten style, it was adorned with fake vigas, assorted

animal skulls, and metal parts found on hikes. The trailer insides were stripped, connected, and transformed.

The students thought the place looked like an old fort and the name stuck. They loved The Fort, and pitched-in to make it their own. We learned an important lesson. Creating an educational space brings a group together and lets them become invested in the program. Providing beautiful bricks and mortar does not create ownership the way building and improving the Fort did. Great buildings do not educate students.





We did not have a water supply, electricity, or a telephone. We got electricity of a sort once we bought a surplus 10kw generator that we ran to charge 12-volt batteries that fed our 12-volt lights and darkroom. We occasionally ran a vacuum cleaner. Water tanks on the hill provided gravity-fed water hauled from town by our staff. By the time students arrived, the volunteers had put in core

infrastructure including a septic system and two working bathrooms. I was still teaching at Cherry Creek and flew to Cortez every weekend and break. In June, we had a “school” with gas lights, gas refrigeration and stove, hauled water, and amenities, all built by volunteers – many of whom had never swung a hammer before. It all worked and was loved.

The 1975 programs operated out of “The Fort.” Officially, we called ourselves The Crow Canyon Education and Archaeological Research Center. In addition to our work at the Mustoe Site, Crow Canyon students surveyed the fields and canyons west of Crow Canyon recording and mapping sites to document and help preserve them.



Now, with the campus at Crow Canyon, Jo and I left our teaching positions and worked full-time to develop the dream. In '76, we moved to Crow Canyon, were married, and devoted all of our energy to building facilities and programs. By this time, most of our programs revolved around archaeology. For those of us who knew how to accelerate learning and motivate students, the detective story and the ability to know one’s self by looking at another culture, were magical elements of education. The participants also made a tangible contribution, something John Dewey said every educational program must include.

It was obvious that a facility for seasonal, fair-weather use was not adequate to meet the needs of K-12, college, university, and programs that ranged from Elderhostel to



museum docent groups. To grow, we had to tap into the local electrical grid, get a good all-weather road, extend telephone service, develop a dependable water supply, and expand facilities to include a general service meeting/eating room.

We approached the electric company and were told that the cost of building the line from its end point over a half-mile away on County Road 23, to the buildings, was \$11,500. Jo and I worked jobs as remodelers, bought and fixed-up a house near Lewis, Colorado for resale or rental, fixed-up VWs, taught, and did everything we could to raise money. Paying insurance premiums was first on our list. We did not have the funds to bring in electricity, set the service, and commercially wire the Fort in conduit as code required. That was one of the more difficult obstacles we had to overcome in the mid-'70s.

The good will we created in the community brought us the support and help we needed. The County improved Road K and filled-in the dump at the northwest end of the property. Duane Longenbaugh was the Cortez City Manager. He believed in what we were doing. Jerry Bean was a dynamic attorney who asked if he could help us. It was Jerry, with Duane's support, who took us to visit the electric company's manager. He explained



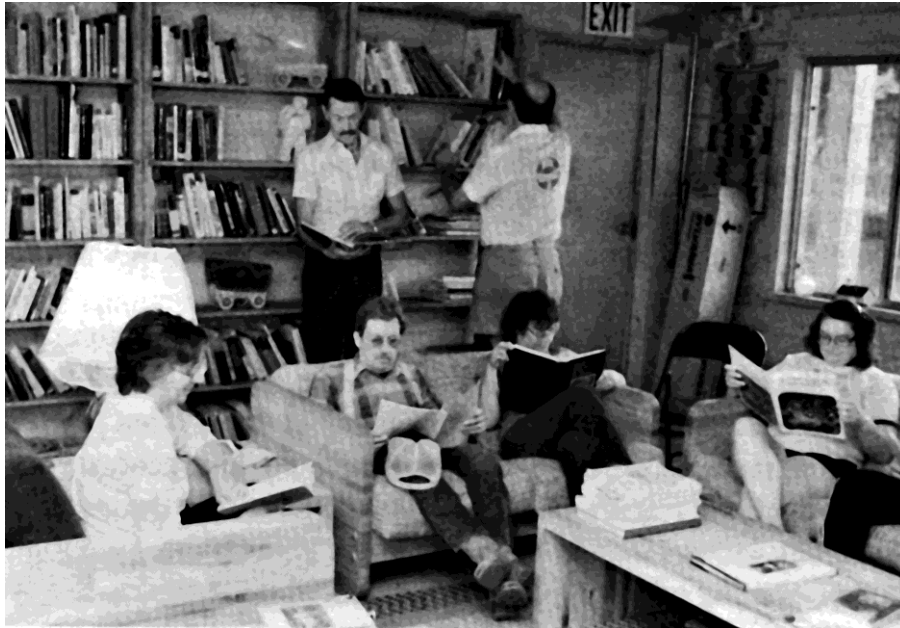
Crow Canyon and what we were doing. He had found that the service could be built by REA and the cost recovered by a monthly minimum. We left knowing we would soon have electricity and that it would cost us a minimum of \$133 per month. The weight was lifting.

Soon, while the poles were set and the wires stretched, a local electrician agreed to wire our buildings to code. He let us save money by installing the conduit and boxes, pulling the wire, and attaching the fixtures. Jo and I raised the money needed, bought the electrical supplies, and had the Fort ready when electricity arrived!

Getting an all-year water supply was another must if Crow Canyon was to grow. We decided to drill a well. We raised the money, hired Kilby's Well Service, and watched as the bore went down. We were assured that we had a water supply that would produce a constant 2 ½ gallons per minute. It did! There was only one problem. The water was brackish and unfit for human consumption. We had literally sunk our money down a hole. We still had to haul water from the water station in the City Park. To winterize our water tanks, we built a water house at an elevation midway between the truck water dump on the hill and the Fort. Inside, we installed a tank and a pressure pump. We could store enough water to stay operative when we couldn't get in with hauled water.

Our facilities were a constant challenge. We needed space to process artifacts from our sites and a place for Ron to work and instruct. We contacted our friend Dean Brookie, a

dynamic young architect from Durango, who focused our thinking about a campus plan that would result in the removal of the temporary trailers. He proposed a log room on the northwest corner of the trailers that could eventually connect with additions to the South and East. We would eventually build a small living quarters above it so Jo and I would not have to move every time a program came in.



We put out a call to Steve Miles, one of the first students in the field programs who had moved to Cortez and started his own business. With Steve's support and labor, we built the ground floor addition we called the Library. With the kitchen nearby, shelves for books, and tables for eating, sorting and studying, it was a perfect solution. We

built a corner fireplace using moss rock for the face.

Not long after, we had a chance to buy tongue-and-groove logs at cost. Again, volunteers showed up and we built a second story onto the library. Jo and I had our own space. The only access was by ladder from the hall. We were delighted.

Dean focused our thinking about expansion: A lodge addition to the south and a major education and lab building on the north to make an L-shaped two-story building that would replace the two trailers. This future facility would block the north winds, facilitate cooling in the hot months, and capture solar energy to keep operational costs down. More important, it would allow us to move sewage and wastewater to the north and west, where there were deep soils and room for sewage ponds – downwind.

Too soon, we had more programs than space to house them. We knew we had to build the lodge edition including a full kitchen, room for forty beds (20 bunks), modern bathrooms with showers, and... We acknowledged that we were not experienced fundraisers and we didn't have the time. We couldn't recruit students, operate programs, maintain facilities, *and* conduct a major capital campaign. We needed help.

## 1977 - 79 UTE MTN. UTE TRIBE CETA-TRAINING & ELEMENTARY EDUCATION PROGRAMS ON CROW CREEK

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In 1977, we were approached by Joe Keck, the CETA director for the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe at Towaoc south of Cortez. Joe asked if we could work with Ute kids like we did with city kids. We jumped at the chance. Our relationship with the Tribe and Ute kids was amazingly successful. Experiential, hands-on education was the key to helping motivate them and work to develop the skills necessary to survive in our complex culture.



The program focused on job training for the newly forming Ute Mtn. Ute Tribal Park, a 125,000 acre archaeological preserve of great significance. Through them, and Frank Lister, we came to know the tribal park as an amazing resource for pre-history. We expanded the programs to work with elementary kids and to train Ute ladies as aides.



We built a five-teepee encampment down across Crow Creek, under massive cottonwood trees. From those programs, deep and lasting ties with the Ute Mountain people and the Tribal leaders were cemented. We liked and respected them, they respected and trusted us. Norman Lopez, one of the Tribe's spiritual leaders, and Ernest House became strong supporters of the program. They provided insight into Ute culture and history. They loved Crow Canyon and the


teepee village. That philosophy and those ties exist today. As we worked with Native Americans our belief that archaeologists should study and have contact with living cultures, and the decedents of those who lived in the sites we were excavating, was cemented into place.



## LATE 70s BUILDING LOCAL SUPPORT IN THE CORTEZ COMMUNITY

In the late 1970s, Crow Canyon was expanding on many fronts. I taught teachers through continuing education courses as an adjunct faculty member at Fort Lewis College, Western State College, and Adams State College. We learned that teachers aware of/involvement in our Crow Canyon programs often brought students to our campus. Sometimes, we flew to the Denver area, got checked-out in a school bus, drove the kids the 428 miles to Crow Canyon,

Monday, May 19, 1980 -- Cortez Sentinel -- 7A



### Dr. Berger elected to academy of scholars

Dr. Edward F. Berger, director of the I-S Educational Programs (Crow Canyon School) west of Cortez has been elected into the Academy of Independent Scholars for his work in identifying patterns of learning and appropriate educational programs.

Dr. Berger has been studying the development of self-discipline within individuals and the relationship between self-indulgence and the lack of self-discipline in children.

The school he and his wife, Joanne, direct provides special programs for all ages. In recent years the school has been working closely with the Ute Mountain Ute Tribe to develop learning programs for Ute young people. Last fall a new division of the school was opened, called The Interpretive Services Division. Its purpose is to educate for preservation and maximum enjoyment of natural and cultural resources. ISD programs are aimed at adults, primarily teachers and influential corporate and public individuals who will influence others.

Prior to moving to Cortez and establishing their permanent home here in 1976, the Bergers were employed by the Cherry Creek Schools in suburban Denver. Dr. Berger began offering local programs in the Montelores area in 1968 through the Cherry Creek Schools. Although the programs are no longer connected with Cherry Creek, the school still provides special programs for the district on a contract basis. In 1975 an 80 acre campus west of town was opened and new facilities have been added each year.

The Academy of Independent Scholars is an association of individuals representing all segments of knowledge. The academy is committed to assisting men and women of all ages who pursue creative work; it believes that new knowledge gains by being shared among the members and communicated to society at large; and it is committed to the use of knowledge and skills for human betterment.

**DR. ED BERGER**

worked with them, drove them back, and flew back to Cortez. I became the professor of record for CSU teacher continuing education. Teachers could now get credit for studying at Crow Canyon. Forging this link between teachers and Crow Canyon not only enriched teachers, it provided a future opportunity for those teachers to bring students on programs.

To us, Crow Canyon's existence and success depended on support from the Cortez-Dolores-Mancos communities as well as strong relationships with Mesa Verde National Park, the State Archaeologist, the Bureau of Land Management, and the newly formed Dolores Archaeological Project. Jo and I served on the board of the local drug and alcohol program, Human Potential Development, formed and run by Episcopal Priest, Dr. Bob Bryan.

As part of HPD programs in the community, I-SEP provided a school bus (we painted it to look like a creamsicle) and tools for a program to help those in need called, The Need Is Enough Program. In 1978, we started and ran the Montelores Area Education Center, which

offered credit and non-credit courses at the graduate and undergraduate levels through Fort Lewis College. I served on the Library Board and worked with leaders in the community. Jo was deeply involved in the Cortez Downtown Improvement Association. Through our community work, Crow Canyon became well-known and respected.

## CROW CANYON CHUCKWAGON COMMUNITY OUTREACH PROGRAM

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Concerned about the preservation of archaeological sites, we decided to use our positions as educators and archaeo-educators to start a program that would inform locals of the value of preserving sites. We purchased an old 1890s wagon and built a chuck box in back. Jo, Fred Blackburn, and I built a stage front and a seating area, set lights and power to the stage, and advertised the Crow Canyon Chuckwagon Program. Through the Chuckwagon, we started the regional movement to develop a strong constituency to learn about, preserve,

and protect archaeological sites. We pointed out the economic development value of tourism and travel dollars. It was the beginning of a strong local base of support as we used farming and ranching history to build an appreciation for the pre-history of the region and the important work we were doing at Crow Canyon. When it came to the development of our dream, every decision to undertake a particular endeavor was evaluated against its ability to advance the growth and integrity of Crow Canyon.

## 1979 INTERPRETIVE SERVICES DIVISION

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Fred Blackburn joined our staff in the late '70s. His dream was to educate through field programs. We set-up the Interpretive Services Division and Fred developed and operated field programs that took our Crow Canyon folks out to study archaeological sites, Desert Big Horn Sheep in remote Utah, or Basque shepherd's aspen art in the high mountains. Fred was an inspirational teacher. His programs were later enlarged and developed by the remarkable and talented Jim Colleran.

We worked with Sally Cole, the renowned rock art historian, and began an ongoing program to document rock art sites along the San Juan River. That led to a program with the Denver Museum of Natural History that was part of the education, documentation, and research Crow Canyon sponsored. The combination of rock art documentation and river rafting was very successful.

We were asked by Sally Cole to go with her and her husband Chuck to the Hopi Mesas where she was respected. We began a great friendship with Fred Kaboti, who came and stayed with us at Crow Canyon. Through Fred and his son Michael, we addressed the sensitive issues of reverence for the burials and ruins of their Pueblo ancestors. Slowly we gained Ute, Hopi and then Navajo respect. That made Crow Canyon special in their eyes and added significant depth to our programs.

## 1979-1981 COMMUNITY EDUCATION & INSIGHTS INTO THE ANCIENT ONES

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Jo and I cherished a copy of Mug House (National Park Service, U.S. Department of the Interior, 1971. Wetherill Mesa Excavations researched and written by Art Rohn), which involved the help of locals, like Ruth Chappell and Marilyn Colyer. We wanted to know more about archaeologists who had done research in the region. We wrote a proposal to the Colorado Endowment for the Humanities, to bring these archaeologists and researchers back to the Mesa Verde region for a series of evening presentations about their work and experiences. We were awarded a one-year grant that was extended into a second year.





### *Before the tour . . .*

DR. JOE BEN WHEAT, center, shows tour-goers the plat of the Yellow Jacket archaeological site, at Sunday's tour, second in the "Insights into the Ancient Ones" series of five. More than 100 persons attended the evening outing to see the complex site, which has been under excavation since 1954. Dr. Wheat pointed out how difficult it would be for an amateur to understand the layers at the dig, where different eras of civilizations built on top of the ruins of another. Pat Wheat demonstrated the use of native clay as it was practiced by the ancient ones, in finding, developing and using the clay to make vessels. Three more programs are planned in the "Insights" series. On August 10, the tour will include points of interest in the proposed National Conservation Area. The August 17 tour will take in three archaeological sites at the Dolores dam project and the final tour will be an overnight outing to Hovenweep National Monument, beginning at 5 p.m. Saturday, August 23 and concluding at 11 a.m. Sunday.

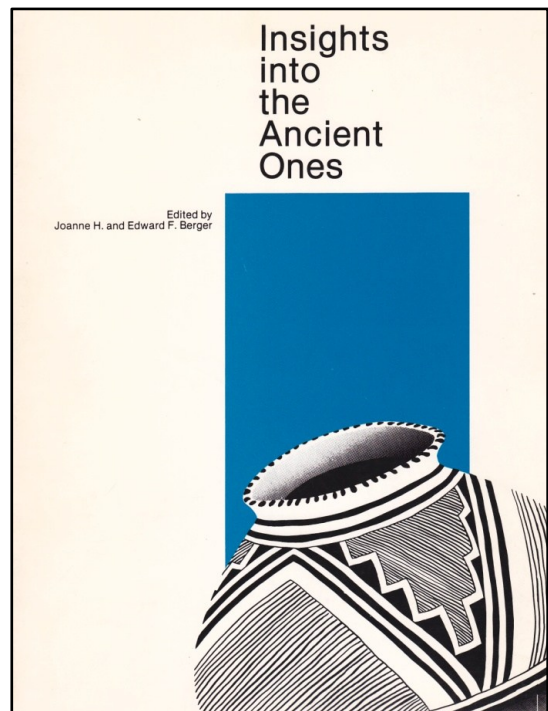
Photo by Gil Wenger

We contacted the leaders in Southwest Colorado Archaeology who were still available, and brought them, one-by-one to Crow Canyon. Their presentations in the surrounding communities were part of a series we sponsored called *Insights Into The Ancient Ones*. Our time with them, and the nature of our programs, melded into friendships and their awareness of what we were

accomplishing. It established our credibility in the archaeological community.

That credibility brought the State Archaeologist, Bruce Rippeteau to Crow Canyon and began a friendship which earned Crow Canyon the support of the State office. It connected us with the BLM, through Gary Matlock and others, and gave us access to sites. It must be acknowledged that without these networks of support within the archaeological communities, Crow Canyon's ongoing research and programs would not have been possible. Sites like Sand Canyon Pueblo and Duckfoot would have been reserved for major institutions specializing in southwestern archaeology if not for the close relationships we had formed.


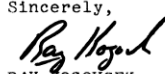
We recorded and transcribed all of the talks from each of the series and compiled them into a book named for the series: *Insights Into The Ancient Ones*, which Jo and I edited. We distributed the 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition free to libraries throughout the US.





Jo completed her master's in Planning and Community Development. Her thesis entitled Planning and Preservation of Cultural Resources focused on the protection of sites located on BLM lands. Her planning and management recommendations spurred the development of the Canyons of the Ancients National Monument.



<p><b>RAY KOGOVSEK</b> 3RD DISTRICT, COLORADO</p> <p>430 CANNON HOUSE OFFICE BUILDING WASHINGTON, D.C. 20515 (202) 225-4761</p> <p>COMMITTEES: EDUCATION AND LABOR INTERIOR AND INSULAR AFFAIRS PUBLIC WORKS AND TRANSPORTATION</p>	 <b>Congress of the United States</b> <b>House of Representatives</b> Washington, D.C. 20515	<p>DISTRICT OFFICES: PLEASE REPLY TO:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> UNITED BANK BUILDING 201 WEST 8TH STREET, ROOM 425 FUELED, COLORADO 81003 (303) 544-5277, EXT. 311</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 2860 SOUTH CIRCLE DRIVE, SUITE 2108 COLORADO SPRINGS, COLORADO 80906 (303) 576-5596</p>
<p>November 4, 1981</p>		
<p>Joanne Ferger 23390 County Rd. K Cortez, Colorado 81321</p>		
<p>Dear Joanne:</p>		
<p>Knowing of your concern about the ELM Sacred Mountain Planning Unit in southwest Colorado, I am pleased to announce that my office is in the process of selecting a citizen Advisory Committee to examine the multiple use aspects of this area. The purpose of the Committee is to examine the broad range of resources within the planning unit, define problems of resource use or development, analyze impacts, and provide either administrative or legislative recommendations to ensure the continuation of the multiple use concept.</p>		
<p>I would like you to serve as Secretary to this Advisory Committee. Your knowledge and understanding of the complexities of the issues will be of great benefit to everyone. I would ask that you notify Mr. Ned Wallace of my Durango Office, as soon as possible, with regard to your acceptance of this appointment. We would like to have the initial organizational meeting prior to the holidays.</p>		
<p>Thank you for your interest in assuring the multiple use concept of management for this area. I will look forward to working with you on this matter in the near future.</p>		
<p>Sincerely,</p>  RAY KOGOVSEK Member of Congress		
<p>RK:ml</p>		

These core programs, developed during Crow Canyon's formative years, before the involvement of the Foundation for Illinois Archaeology (FIA), created the perfect opportunity for the further development of our efforts.

## SAND CANYON AND DUCKFOOT SITES

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From our permanent campus on Crow Canyon, we walked out or rode our Enduro bikes to survey, explore, record, and set up protection for remote sites that were being “potted.” During these surveys, often with school groups, we were able to identify dozens of sites. Several were of special interest. One major site not adequately described in the CU surveys of the mid-1980s, was on a side drainage off a major canyon system. At the head of the canyon was a large Chaco outlier protected by the Black family. George Kelly, a local horticulturalist with an avid interest in archaeology, first took us to see the ruins of this great D-shaped Pueblo-III ruin. On our first visit, we counted over 200 room depressions within the D, and identified a phreatophyte in the center which indicated a source of water. Old-timers called it the Johnson Ruin. Jo and I referred to it as Sand Canyon Pueblo.

The second great find was a complex of sites dating from several different periods: Basketmaker cists, vertical slabs of developmental pueblo structures, and on through time to definite Pueblo-II and Pueblo-III ruins. We took Dr. Bill Lipe, a Washington State University archaeologist working on the nearby Dolores Project, out to the site. We learned that current thought did not place developmental sites like this one at our elevation; below 6500'. We were anxious to map and excavate it. Soon, with a group of students, we began to carefully clear brush from the site for mapping. As we removed sagebrush, a duck foot from an effigy duck-shaped pot emerged on the surface. We named the site Duckfoot.

The story of how Sand Canyon and Duckfoot became the major research sites of Crow Canyon for many years is documented in detail my book about Crow Canyon.

## 1983 MERGING WITH THE FOUNDATION FOR ILLINOIS ARCHAEOLOGY (FIA)

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More than thirty-five years have passed since Crow Canyon first caught the attention of a program called the Foundation for Illinois Archaeology (FIA) which operated at Northwestern University. In the spring of 1981, Fred Blackburn represented Crow Canyon at an experiential education conference in Farmington, New Mexico. He visited with Dr. Jane Buikstra, a Northwestern University Anthropology professor specializing in bio-archaeology. As they talked about their respective programs, it seemed that Crow Canyon and FIA had similar goals. Jane told Fred about a program at Kampsville, Illinois where the Foundation for Illinois Archaeology was conducting research. She told him about a new program at Kampsville developed by Clark Hinsdale, where students came to learn and work with the research teams. She asked Fred to have me contact Stuart Struever, a professor at Northwestern.

I wrote Stuart and we agreed to meet at Crow Canyon. During those first contacts in 1981, we discussed Stuart's idea to create multiple archaeological centers in Illinois and other states that shared a centralized database and over-arching administration; a national network of archaeological research and education centers. We discussed our programs and facilities already in place and explored the possibility of Crow Canyon becoming the center in Southwestern Colorado. We focused on continuing the significant advances Crow Canyon made in research and in enhancing public support for education, preservation, sustainable management, and the identification and the protection of archaeological sites. Jo and I explained that we did not have the facilities or staff to meet existing demands for our programs. We were doing almost everything ourselves and knew that could not continue.

Stuart left Crow Canyon with a promise to return. He brought some FIA board members out to see our operation. At the end of October, FIA flew Jo and me to Saint Louis and Kampsville for several days, and then on to Chicago to meet members of the FIA board. We did our dog-and-pony show about our programs and the area. Stuart highly complimented our program, explained the popularity of southwestern archaeology, and discussed how a merger with FIA could provide funds to build the facilities we needed. On December 12<sup>th</sup>, Stuart and Clark Hinsdale came to Crow Canyon and we discussed a merger. Jo and I promised to work with the I-S Educational Programs Board to develop the terms of a merger with the FIA, to stay on as directors, and continue to develop Crow Canyon.

That winter as we became more involved with FIA, we learned that there was considerable objection from FIA board members and members of the Kampsville staff to the merger with Crow Canyon. FIA was already struggling to support Kampsville and any additional expansion plans were threatening. We discovered FIA did not have the funds necessary to buy the I-S Educational Programs assets, or to buy the land. There were no funds available to build the lodge. The Board feared Stuart's fundraising efforts would be pulled away from Kampsville, a program that was floundering and felt abandoned.

Despite the instability in Illinois, that spring Jo and I were contracted by FIA as Director and Associate-Director of Crow Canyon. Titles we held until we retired in 1986.

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## **Center for American Archeology**

**Stuart Struever**, Director

<p><b>EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS</b></p> <p><b>ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF</b></p> <p><b>Clark Hinsdale</b> Director of Educational Programs  <b>Ellen Gantner</b> Director of Admissions  <b>Mary Taylor</b> Admissions Officer  <b>Elaine Educate</b> Admissions Secretary  <b>Brenda Nord</b> Kampsville Secretary  <b>Glenda Wilhelm</b> Crow Canyon Secretary</p> <p><b>KAMPSVILLE STAFF</b></p> <p><b>Karen Ann Holm</b>  (M.A. Montclair State), Director of Educational Programs, director of curriculum development activities</p> <p><b>Karen A. Atwell</b>  (B.A. Northwestern), Staff Archeologist, mortuary archeology, field methods</p> <p><b>Stephen Aylward</b>  (M.A. Wisconsin, M.A. St. Louis University), Director of Summer High School Field School</p> <p><b>Thomas Genn Cook</b>  (Ph.D. Chicago), Director of Research, Educational Programs, specialist in North American prehistory and lithic artifact analysis</p> <p><b>Frank Cowan</b>  (B.A. Vermont), Staff Archeologist, field methods, lithic technology, experimental archeology</p> <p><b>Lyn Kraus Cowan</b>  (M.S. Yeshiva, M.S. Rensselaer Polytechnic), specialist in historic archeology, historic preservation and public law</p> <p><b>Denzel Ford</b>  (M.S. SIU-Edwardsville), Instructor, plant and animal resources, secondary education</p> <p><b>James Novelli</b>  (B.A. SUNY-Fredonia), Audrey Site Excavation Director, field methods</p> <p><b>Ele White</b>  (B.A. Swarthmore), Instructor in Native American Technology, specialist in traditional North American weaving techniques</p> <p><b>John White</b>  (M.A. Chicago, M.A., Ph.D. Candidate, Stanford), Director of Native American Studies Program</p>	<p><b>CROW CANYON STAFF</b></p> <p><b>Edward F. Berger</b>  (Ed.D. Northern Colorado), Director, experiential education, public archeology</p> <p><b>E. Charles Adams</b>  (Ph.D. Colorado), Senior Research Archeologist, ethnoarcheology, ceremonialism, stabilization</p> <p><b>Joanne Berger</b>  (M.A. Colorado), Associate Director, experiential education, planning and community development</p> <p><b>Fred Blackburn</b>  (B.S. Fort Lewis College), cultural and natural resources of the Four Corners region, experiential education</p> <p><b>Bruce Bradley</b>  (Ph.D. Cambridge), Research Archeologist, South-western archeology, lithics, experimental archeology</p> <p><b>Maurine H. Stoll</b>  (B.A. Iowa), elementary education, applied art</p> <p><b>Russell F. Stoll</b>  (M.A. University of the Americas, M.B.A. Syracuse), Mesoamerican archeology</p> <p><b>FOX VALLEY STAFF</b></p> <p><b>Alice Berkson</b>  (B.A. Northwestern), archeological survey, cultural resource management</p> <p><b>Lyn Kraus Cowan</b>  (M.S. Yeshiva, M.S. Rensselaer Polytechnic), specialist in historic archeology, historic preservation and public law, Director of Garfield Site</p> <p><b>Robert Joslin-Jeske</b>  (Ph.D. Candidate, Northwestern), Midwestern archeology, lithic studies</p> <p>PHOTO CREDITS</p> <p>D. Baston  E. Berger  F. Blackburn  K. Engstrom  D. Helzer  K. Stransky  M. Tappin  S. Warburton</p>
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Struever became the President of the overarching entity, legally renamed the Center For American Archaeology (CAA) in 1984.

Even though the merger had not taken place, we were on the FIA payroll and spent time at Kampsville during their summer season sharing information and learning from their experiences. They were delivering great programs to students.

In July, we returned home somewhat confused and concerned. Kampsville was in turmoil torn by political in-fighting. Struever, the archaeologists, and the staff were divided into opposing camps. Many archaeologist friends, including Bill Lipe, warned us to be careful. We balanced those warnings and what we had learned

about FIA, against what Crow Canyon needed. With trepidation, we chose to move forward and commit to growth. The name was changed to the Crow Canyon Center for American Archeology at Northwestern University.

Clark and Stuart continued to plan the merger. Most of the details were left to Clark. Then, Struever found an angel who put up \$100,000 for the lodge addition. We were urged to get construction started. John Schmitt, a retired FIA board member and contractor, came to stay at Crow Canyon providing oversight for the Board. John was a terrific asset and a wonderful man. He assured us that FIA would eventually close on the property which Jo and I owned, and with I-S Educational Programs, the not-for-profit that operated the programs and owned the improvements. John also urged us to hire a bookkeeper. We added Glenda Wilhelm to the staff and kept our own books and records. John advised us to



keep out of FIA politics and stay as independent as possible. Advice that eventually saved Crow Canyon when the Center for American Archaeology (FIA) dissolved in 1985.

## CAMPUS EXPANSION

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We agreed to start construction because we felt Crow Canyon was protected. If FIA didn't close, the building and any other assets would revert to I-S Educational Programs, Inc. Architect Dean Brookie drew up the plans and engineered the two-story log structure with a tower,

kitchen, and really nice tiled bathrooms/shower rooms on the south end.

Steve Miles began construction of twenty sturdy bunk bed sets, for the forty beds we were adding. Through our contacts with local sawmills we were able to have them cut 22' X 8" X 12" beams to support the second floor and the second-floor roof. They also provided 6" X 3" tongue-and-groove flooring and peeled tree trunk columns to carry the weight of the beams. There was no budget for heating, kitchen, or things like septic tanks and leaching fields, nor an adequate supply of water. I had to find ways to get them in place, often loaning the money to I-SEP, paying for them out-of-pocket, or working long hours to clean and repair state surplus equipment. We pulled together a fantastic state-of-the-art kitchen with surplus stainless steel equipment.

Several years before, Jo and I had a pond dug that was below the irrigation lateral that ran along the west side of the meadow along Crow Creek. Irrigation water kept the pond full and fresh. The dirt the big belly-loaders removed to dig the pond was spread in front of the turn-around, to the east of the buildings. Knowing that depth of soil, we were able to set the septic tank and leaching fields. We watched our levels, knowing that as the campus expanded, the effluence would be hooked to the major system going north and west around the building.

The infrastructure for water continued to be a problem. Over the years, Jo and I became friends with Sandy and Jan Thompson. Sandy was elected to the Durango City Council and voted Mayor. His tenure there connected him to many good people. He approached Mickie and Bill Thurston who lived on Florida Mesa near Durango, and told them of our water infrastructure dilemma. They visited, we shared information about our plans, and they agreed to donate the money to extend the water line down County Road K and in to the campus. The biggest challenges were the massive rock formation at the northwest end of

the land running several hundred feet down County Road K and an old dump in that corner of the property. The Montezuma Water Company agreed to bring the water line to the corner of CR 23 and CR K, but warned us of the cost of cutting through the rock to go down Road K. Enter Steve Miles, once again to the rescue. Steve was able to route the line around the rock and past the drainage, take it east down to the meadow, and then up to the buildings. For the first time, we had an unlimited source of water!

The story of how we got telephone service, and much more detail, is in the book, *Crow Canyon: Pioneering Education and Archaeology on the Southwestern Colorado Frontier*. It is enough to say that we soon had telephone service and many lines into the Fort.

Construction went well. The tower on the south side of the lodge was completed and stucco was troweled on. The lodge would be ready to house our summer programs. We got word from Evanston they were recruiting two senior archaeologists for the research positions at Crow Canyon to begin in 1983. Names came in for our comments.

Jo and I realized there was no place to house the archaeologists or facilities to support their research. I used my contacts with the Colorado Surplus Property Agency and asked them for help. In a couple of days, I got a call that eased our fears. They found us two 12' X 40' Transportation Test Track surplus trailers that I-SEP could purchase. I drove to Pueblo and examined the trailers. While there, I arranged for their delivery to Crow Canyon.



Back at Crow Canyon, Fred Blackburn, Jo and I cleared a site for the labs, eagerly awaiting their delivery. We had the haulers place the trailers side-by-side, offset by 12', and proceeded to cut a hole through each to make one big room. We wired the trailers in, got water to them, and started looking for 1" X 12" rough-sawn boards like we had used on the Fort. We framed the

outside of the trailers and attached the siding. With steps, and a porch in place on the south end, the lab space and offices were usable. Wow! Another crisis averted. We built it and sure enough, the archaeologists came.

Late in 1983, the merger/sale of I-S Educational Programs, Inc. and the Foundation For Illinois Archaeology, and the transfer of 70 acres of land Jo and I owned and leased to ISEP for a dollar a year, was completed. To make this work, as FIA did not have the money to purchase the land, Jo and I donated the land and water rights (irrigation). We strongly believed that the programs would succeed and our donation made that possible.

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EDUCATION AND RESEARCH ... RESEARCH AND EDUCATION

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An advisory committee was put together to select staff archaeologists. Names were submitted, vetted, and Jo and I helped screen the applicants. Of course, we wanted Dr. Gould, Crow Canyon's archaeologist, to continue. Other committee members had their favorites. In the end, we all agreed on Dr. E. Charles Adams, a well-qualified field archaeologist and, to us, a significant addition because he was a member of the Sun and Eagle Clan of the Hualapai people. We knew he would be sensitive to Pueblo feelings about disturbing their ancestors. He was focused on research. For the second choice, Dr. Bruce Bradley stood out from the list because of his excavation of the Wallace Ruin East of Cortez, his excellence in lithics and paleo-development, and his personality. We knew him as a fantastic communicator. He would balance Chuck's strength in research and be an asset to our educational programs.

We knew that the education part of Crow Canyon's archaeology program, like Kampsville's, was not well understood even though it was fundamental to the accelerated preparation of Crow Canyon participants to work effectively in the field and develop a lifelong commitment to the preservation of archaeological resources. Ongoing support in the form of individual donations came as a direct result of the experiential, hands-on involvement of participants through the education component of the programs. We had observed this ongoing tug-of-war between education and research at Kampsville and definitely wanted to avoid the problem at Crow Canyon. Our programs had always been well-balanced between education and research goals. Within the archaeological community however, there was definitely a pecking order with research on top.

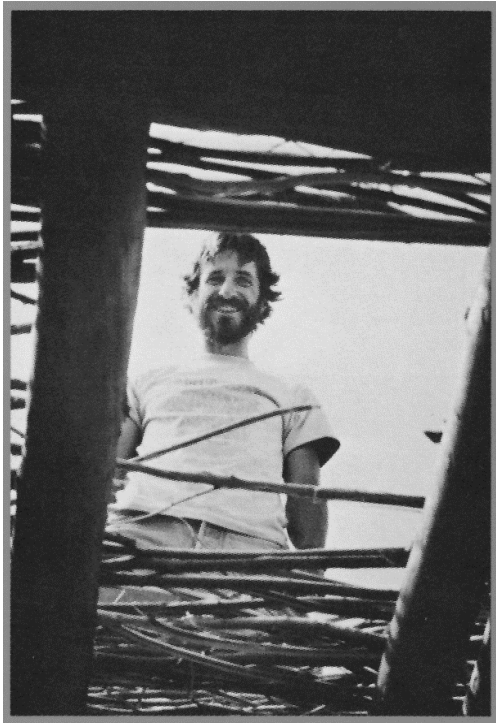
Jo and I demanded that archaeologists also be teachers. The old idea that an archaeologist was king of a site and no one – except maybe peers he respected – could come onto his site or know anything of his research until he published his report, was not acceptable. At least half of Crow Canyon's mission was to educate and involve the public in archaeology, and then, as informed lay people, they would promote preservation and research. Beyond the fact that education was core to Crow Canyon's mission, it was Crow Canyon's bread and butter. We knew that Crow Canyon could not survive on research grants and fundraising alone. That was irritating to some research archaeologists, although they agreed in principle with our philosophy. Working out the conflicts between research and education caused some angst, but we were able to get it done.

From our perspective, we were able to power the archaeological research with educational programs. The most important and necessary job of the archaeologists was to write a credible overall research design, a research design for each site, carry out the excavations, teach students in the field, maintain rigorous standards on the site and in the lab, write reports, and apply for research grants.

It is not enough to justify the excavation of sites for the purpose of education alone. Credibility within the academic community required rigorous procedures for excavation, analysis, publication, and curation. Meeting these standards was the domain of the research component of the team. Over the years, we had developed relationships with prominent southwestern archaeologists and the institutions they worked for. Through Dr. Art Rohn

and Wichita State University, we struck this balance and institutional backing. With the merger, many friends of Crow Canyon cautioned us that our archaeology program was on shaky ground academically. Stuart was not a southwestern archaeologist and hadn't been in the field for many years. He was essentially a fundraiser. They pointed out we had no university connection for our research. Dr. E. Charles Adams was a graduate of the University of Colorado. Dr. Bruce Bradley was a graduate of Cambridge University.

Jo and I were deeply concerned and asked Dr. Bill Lipe of Washington State University for advice. Bill had the credentials, and the support of (WSU). He ran exceptional field programs (including a summer based at Crow Canyon), and had tied WSU into the Dolores Archaeological Project in his role as Co-Principal Investigator. The Dolores Archaeological Project was wrapping up. He was available, at least part-time. With Bill, exceptional graduate students like Carla Van West, Ricky Lightfoot, Angela Schwab, and Professor Tim Kohler, got involved. Dr. Adams, Dr. Bradley, and Dr. Lipe via WSU gave us the credibility we needed.



After several seasons, Dr. Adams left and went to the University of Arizona. Dr. Bradley, and then Bill Lipe became research director. Crow Canyon achieved the academic status and university connection necessary for acceptance.

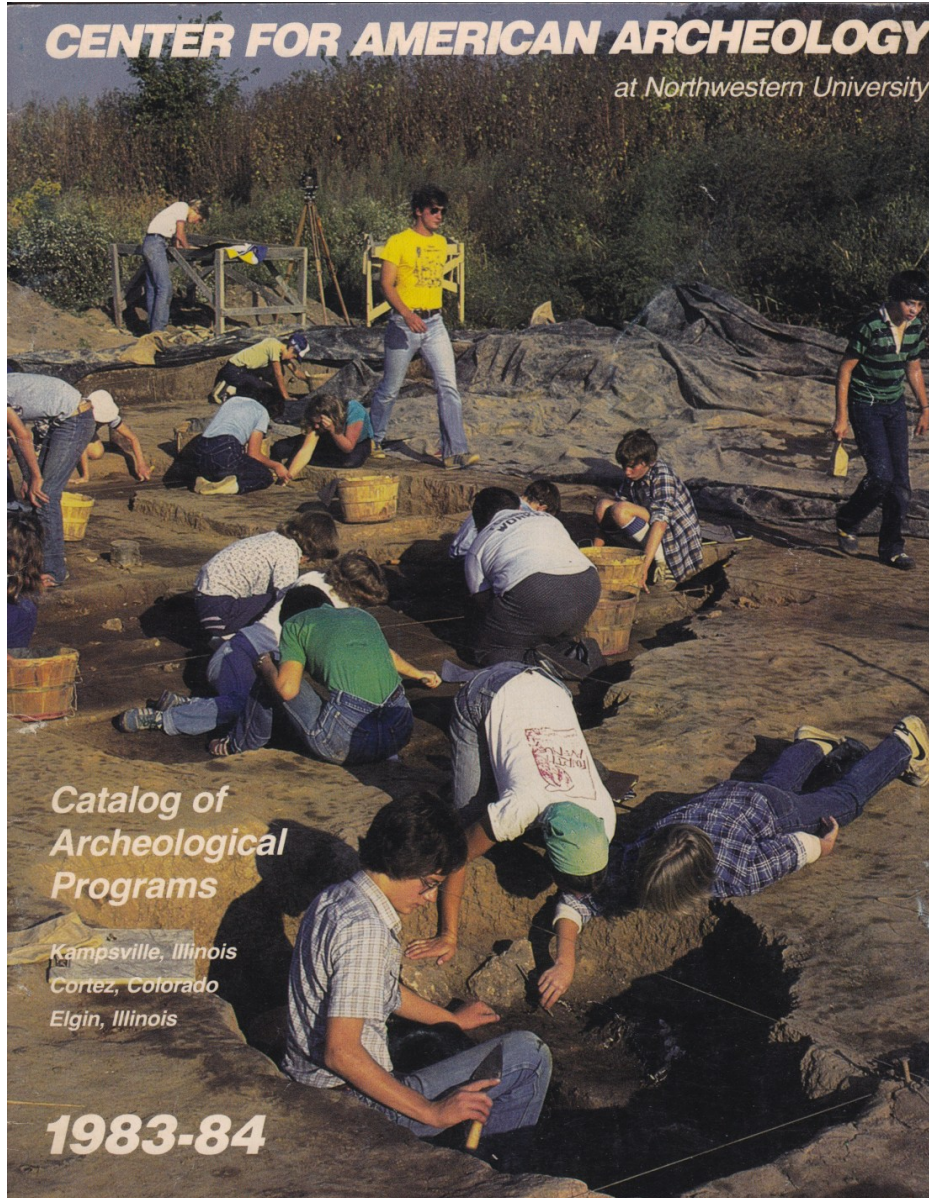
In 1984, the Duckfoot site became the research-realm of another fine archaeologist and archaeo-educator. Ricky Lightfoot joined our Crow Canyon staff. He was a natural teacher and a focused, tough-minded academic. Jo and I had first become aware of Ricky two years before when he toured us around a pit house he was excavating on the Grass Mesa site in the McPhee Dam take-out area near Dolores. He was one of several exceptional WSU students we were able to hire as the Dolores Archaeological Project (DAP) was winding down. Later, Dr. Ricky Lightfoot became the highly respected director of Crow Canyon.



## 1983 THE OPENING OF NEW FACILITIES

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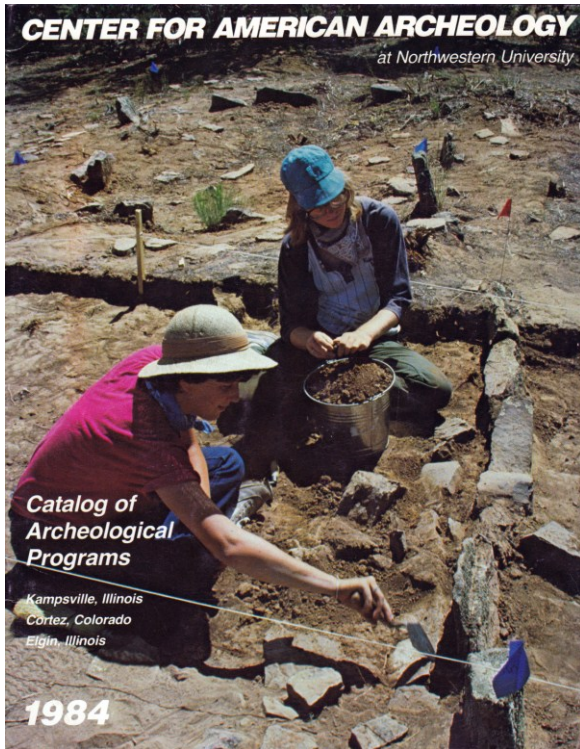
Despite all of the ups-and-downs, lip-biting, and last minute miracles, the 1983 season opened with school programs that had been coming to Crow Canyon for several years, new



programs that Jo and I had recruited during the winter, and schools that had been recruited by Ellen Gantner in Evanston. Ellen was terrific! She connected us with the Smithsonian and their field programs. She recruited other programs that were looking for experiences after Kampsville. We met directors and teachers, sold our programs, and worked out logistical details. Like the Heard Museum in Phoenix, and other schools and organizations, they sent groups because they related well to us – trusted our word - and knew we would deliver high-quality programs.

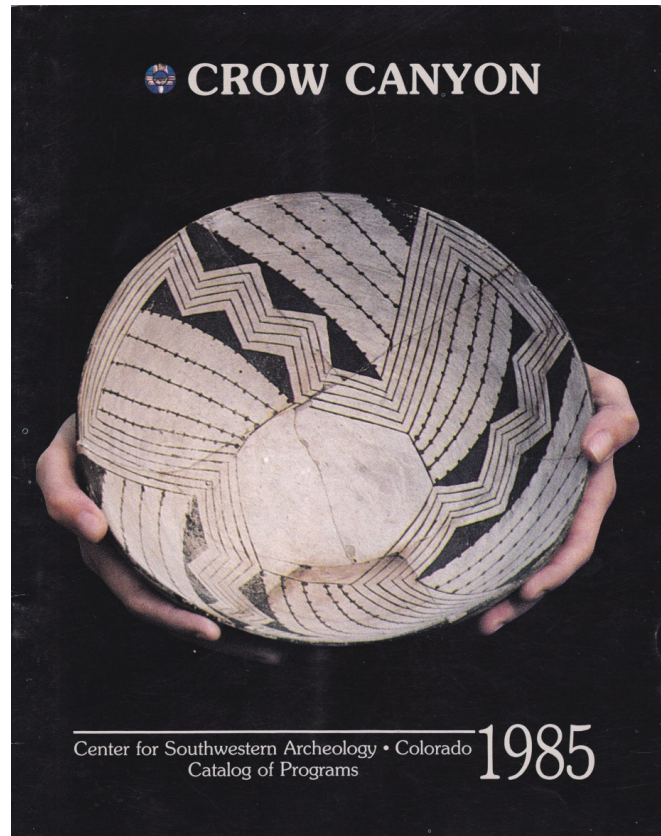
We were definitely growing and extending our reach!

## 1984 - 1985 SETTLING IN



1984 and 1985 were filled with programs from all across the country. Crow Canyon was entering onto the national stage and attracting positive attention. The quality of our program delivery was terrific and the staff was exceptional. Participants couldn't say enough good things about their experiences at Crow Canyon and many became donors.

In 1985, CAA changed the name to the Center for Southwestern Archeology.





## THE LEGACY OF THE ANCIENT ONES

Dear Friends,

You are about to embark on a great adventure ... the discovery of prehistoric man in North America. Nothing gives us greater pleasure than sharing the spectacular ruins of the Mesa Verde region of Southwestern Colorado with you. Squinting our eyes, perched on the canyon rim, we imagine the ingenious Anasazi - the Ancient Ones - dwelling in cool sandstone caverns, laughing around the spring, painting exquisite black on white bowls, processing hides with bone scrapers, and weaving rabbit fur for robes.

As wandering bands of hunters and gatherers, they had sought temporary refuge in caves or crude brush shelters, fashioning elaborate basketry of yucca fiber and willow (6000 B.C.-1000 B.C.). Traveling the southwestern desert, they learned to cultivate corn and beans from traders to the south (1000 B.C.-100 B.C.). As their nomadic lifeway was gradually abandoned in favor of more permanent pithouse villages and an agricultural economy, they learned the art of pottery making, complementing their vessels of baskets and gourds with those of clay (100 B.C.-A.D. 500). The villages of the Anasazi flourished as extended families pooled their resources building large pueblo villages (A.D. 500-A.D. 1100). Eventually, the population increased beyond the carrying capacity of the land and many people moved off the mesa-tops and built stone villages in the cliffs or around the heads of the canyons. Beset by dwindling resources, which intensified the effects of the periodic droughts, more frequent crop failure, and a fear, perhaps, that the Great Spirit had turned against them, the Anasazi abandoned the region (A.D. 1100-1300). They headed south mingling with other desert dwellers to become the ancestors of the modern day Pueblo Indians. During the last 700 years, the wilderness has reclaimed the abandoned towns and farms of the Anasazi in the Mesa Verde region.

Throughout the last century, most archeological research into the Anasazi of Southwestern Colorado has occurred within the boundaries of National Parks and monuments. But most of the Anasazi sites, tens of thousands of them, actually lie outside the boundaries of these federally managed preserves. It is to these previously unexamined sites that Crow Canyon archeologists are now looking to unlock the mysteries of the Anasazi.

At the CROW CANYON CENTER FOR SOUTHWESTERN ARCHEOLOGY, we are committed to creating a broader understanding of the Anasazi through disciplined archeological research. We have gone far beyond the academic treasure hunt of the first half of this century where the aim was the accumulation of artifacts. At Crow Canyon, research scientists and interested citizens of all ages join together in a partnership to extract data and carefully reconstruct the lifeways of a major folk civilization. Each year hundreds of individuals and groups from all across the country excavate with scholars. In return for the contribution these participants make to our archeological research programs, we offer them comprehensive educational programs in Anasazi archeology in a secluded and beautiful setting with the simple comforts and amenities long associated with Southwestern resorts. We hope that you or a member of your family will join us in 1985, not as spectators, but as active participants in the archeological research process. We're glad you received our catalog and hope you will share it with friends. If you have questions, feel free to call us. We look forward to meeting you and sharing an exciting excursion into the ancient world of the Anasazi.

*Jo Berger*  
*Ed Berger*

Ed and Jo Berger  
Directors  
Crow Canyon



On the administrative side, titles changed a bit but the areas of responsibility continued: Stuart was out fundraising for the Center for American Archaeology, Clark was managing the Evanston office, Ellen was coordinating admissions, while Jo and I were managing Crow Canyon. With the passage of time and a closer involvement with Evanston it was clear that FIA-CAA could not sustain the burdens placed upon it.

## **Center for American Archeology**

**Stuart Struever**, President

**Clark Hinsdale**, Executive Director

### **EDUCATIONAL PROGRAMS ADMINISTRATIVE STAFF**

**Robert W. Kling** Director of Educational Programs  
**Ellen Gantner** Director of Admissions  
**Ellen Latushko** Coordinator of Marketing/Promotion  
**Geraldine Leamon** Admissions Officer  
**Brenda Nord** Kampsville Secretary  
**Glenda Wilhelm** Crow Canyon Secretary

### **KAMPSVILLE STAFF**

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(M.A. Montclair State), Director of Educational Programs, director of curriculum development activities

**Stephen Aylward**  
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**Thomas Genn Cook**  
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(B.A. Vermont), Staff Archeologist, field methods, lithic technology

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**Ele White**  
(B.A. Swarthmore), Instructor in Native American Technology, specialist in traditional North American weaving techniques

**John White**  
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## 1985 FIA-CAA CORPORATION IS DISSOLVED

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From 1982 until 1986, Jo and I worked 24-7 to continue the development of Crow Canyon's programs and campus. We had believed that our merger with FIA was a merger with a strong program supported by Northwestern University; a marriage that would further our dream. We were wrong. As Director, I flew often to Evanston to represent Crow Canyon at FIA-CAA board meetings. There I learned that FIA-CAA was in serious trouble. Kampsville was collapsing. As board members, they were personally liable for an organization that was being torn apart. It was obvious to everyone that the end of the not-for-profit corporation was near. There were few discussions about Crow Canyon, whom many of the board, loyal to Kampsville, refused to acknowledge.

Through manipulations, the grace of ancient spirits, and a lot of politicking, Crow Canyon was rescued when the CAA was dissolved in 1985 and the assets went to the University. The asset called Crow Canyon entered into complicated discussions with representatives of the University. At the end of the day, we were able to buy back Crow Canyon, and use the I-SEP, Inc. not-for-profit to continue operations. Stuart gave up tenure and resigned from Northwestern, and Ray Duncan, now deeply invested in Crow Canyon, agreed to the terms. He put up most of the cash, hired Stuart, and brought him to Denver where they created an administrative office.

By the late Fall of 1985, Crow Canyon was once again operating through I-S Education Programs, Inc. (I-SEP), the corporation I had written in 1972. The I-SEP board sold the not-for-profit to the new board and resigned. The name was changed, the articles adapted, and Crow Canyon once again became a Colorado not-for-profit corporation. Ray and Stuart began to organize a board for the Crow Canyon Archaeological Center. Jo and I were pleased that the programs we developed over the years would continue. There was no hitch or reshuffle, just new board members and ongoing plans for the future. Jo and I continued in our jobs as Director and Associate Director.

The almost three years we operated through FIA-CAA were full of accomplishment. Through it all, the programs we created had evolved. Improvement in campus facilities and the expansion of our archaeological research programs were the greatest benefit of that short time.

As the program continued to grow, the senior archaeologists and I prioritized the addition of adequate laboratory and office space. Stuart had met Ray Duncan on a Crow Canyon excursion and Ray decided to help. He flew me to Grand Junction to look at factory-built units that would serve. What I saw had exactly the same limitations as the Transportation Test Track trailers we were already using. It took some work, but I convinced Ray and Stuart that we needed to build the addition Dean Brookie had envisioned for us. A building that could serve as laboratory and an education center. I was given the go-ahead to start planning the building with Dean.

We worked with the staff on space programming and soon we were in basic agreement on the lab design including adjacencies and the amount of overall space necessary. Dean Brookie's vision, and ours, was to remove the remaining "office" trailers and build an addition that connected the lodge and library. This building would be two-story with labs and offices on the garden level and education and meeting rooms, etc., on the same level as the lodge porch. The building would create protected space by preserving the courtyard. Effluence would be taken to the north and west and dealt with away from people space; downwind. Vehicles could access the lab without entering the inner campus.

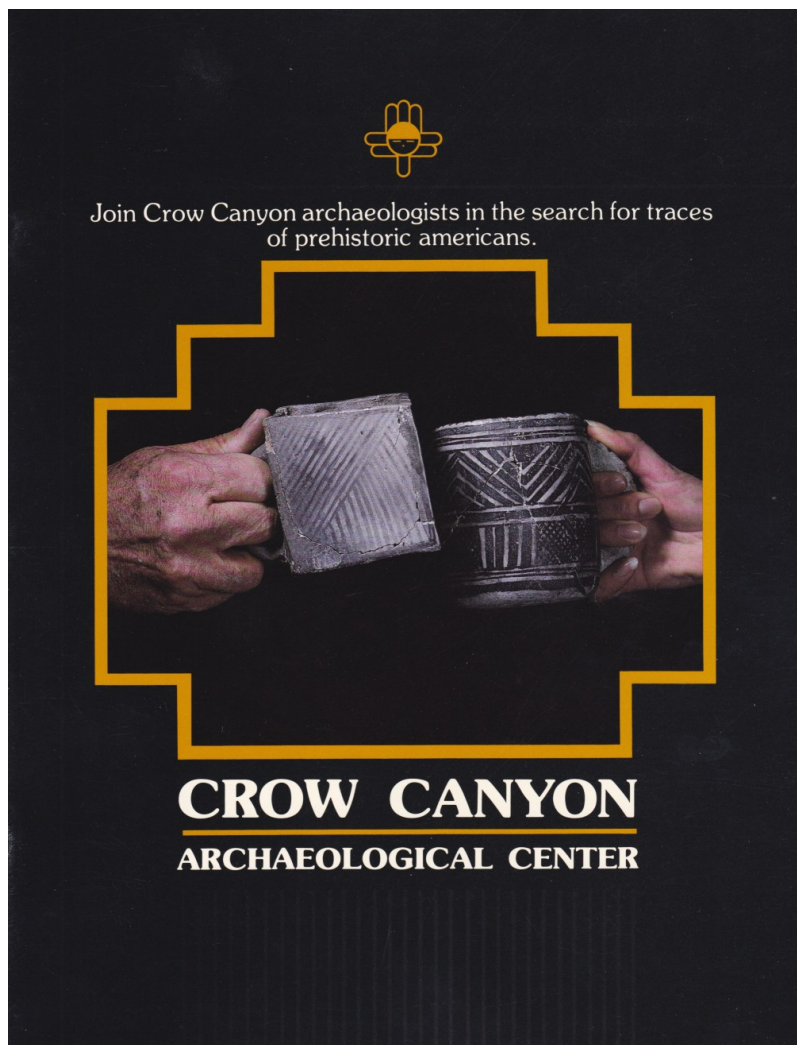
Unexpectedly, Dean was replaced by Ray's architects and they implemented a different plan. They placed the building in its current location in the drainage by the pond. Sewage ponds were built in the meadow.

We needed to increase housing that had the flexibility to handle different-sized groups on campus at the same time. After discussions about treading lightly on the land, we designed a 6-hogan complex and bathhouse that would be built at the upper end of the drainage above the pond. It was located near the replicated pit house structure that provided

experiential cultural experiences and a great spot for telling tales about the Anasazi.

I had been working with Steve Sloan, a local contractor on a simple design that mimicked the construction of Navajo hogans. By the time the architects re-designed and engineered the structures, the cost for each leapt from \$3500 dollars to \$10,000. Ray Duncan donated funds for the construction and they were built.

The last catalog Jo did for Crow Canyon was really a work of art. We took the picture on the cover ... my hand on the left and Jo's on the right. A final toast to our grand adventure as we prepared to retire and leave this chapter of our life. We were exhausted and starting

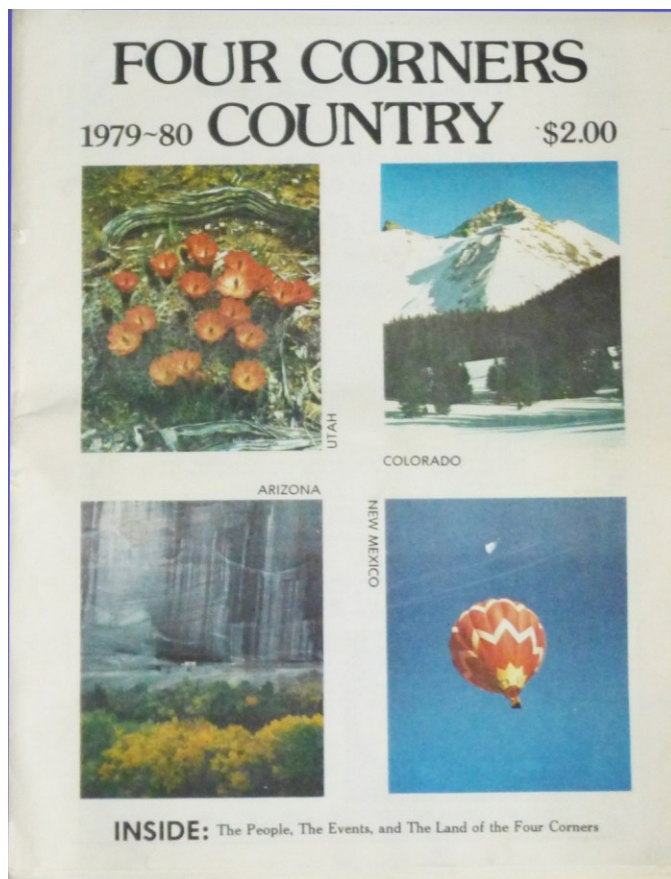


our family. Building Crow Canyon, with all the twists along the way, was like raising a beloved child. Turning it loose when it came of age was a difficult decision for us. We knew it needed strong leadership to carry the organization forward after the political and financial upheaval of the preceding 2 ½ years. The future was filled with challenges and great possibility.

## 1986 PICKING A SUCCESSOR

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We had one last and very important job to do: Pick a successor. We first came to know Sandy (Ian) Thompson in the mid-70s driving into the Tribal Park with Sandy and Tony Schweickle to camp and photograph cliff dwellings in deep winter snow. Later, Sandy, Gil Wenger, Louis L'Amour, Jo, and I put 400 candles in Cliff Place ruin and Jo, from deep in the ruin, played the flute for one of the most beautiful evenings one can imagine.



Sandy was a wonderful writer. The Durango Herald commissioned him to create an insert called Four Corners Country. It was a photographic journal of the major attractions around the Four Corners. He came to live at Crow Canyon while he wrote it and holed-up in the Cozy Cruiser trailer in the woods on the hill above the Fort. It is a unique piece filled with beautiful photography –much of it taken on campus - great information, and Sandy's musings. We became better friends as Sandy lived at Crow Canyon, wrote, and house-sat our rental house near Lewis. We even gave him a Pontiac that had belonged to Ed's folks. We hired Sandy as the guide for our Denver Museum of Natural History studies of rock art along the San Juan River. He worked with Roger Irwin and Amatterra, a volunteer organization helping Crow Canyon provide security at the Sand Canyon Pueblo excavations.

Sandy's son Geoff became involved at Crow Canyon.

Over the years, we had many talks about Crow Canyon, its potential and challenges. We pushed for him to be added to the CAA board as one of Crow Canyon's representatives and brought him up-to-speed on the dangerous issues facing Crow Canyon as the CAA board moved to dissolve the corporation that controlled Crow Canyon.



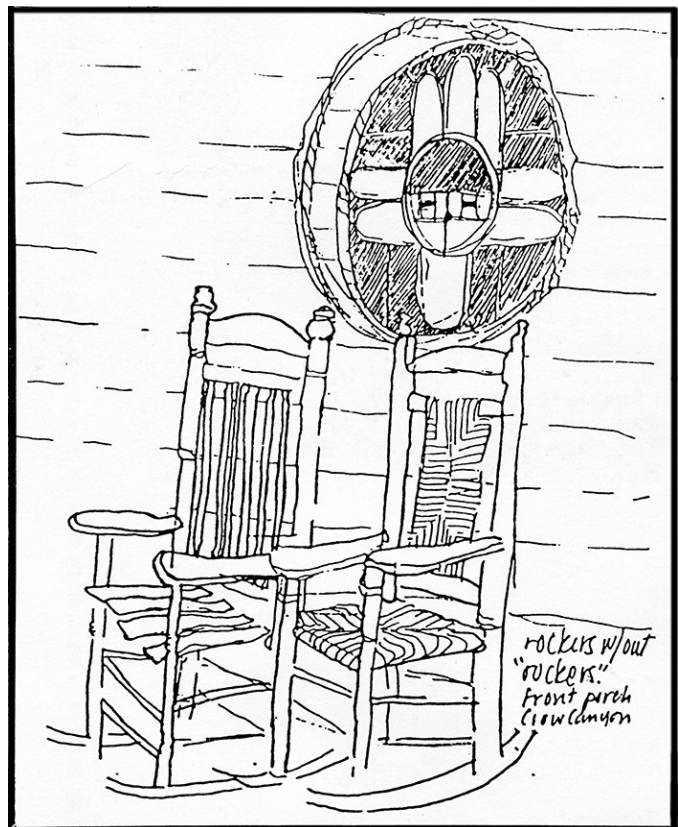
After months of negotiations with us, Sandy reluctantly agreed to take on the battles and continue building the institution. Jo and I went on the road and filled the 1986 programs. Sandy took the director title, and was in place to build upon the strong experiential and archaeological research programs developed over our years at Crow Canyon.

## 1986 A FOND FAREWELL

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We had accomplished our dream! Our time of building and pioneering was over. Crow Canyon was moving successfully into a future which would be crafted by the visions of others. The name was now The Crow Canyon Archaeological Center. Most recently, it had been called the Crow Canyon Center for Southwestern Archeology, and before that, The Crow Canyon Center for American Archaeology at Northwestern University. Prior to that, it had been the Crow Canyon Education and Archaeological Research Center. Prior to that, I-SEP, and the Cortez Program. Whatever the name change, the programs we began in those early years shaped the institution and remain to this day. Crow Canyon continues the legacy of hands-on, experiential learning in the field of archaeology, of quality research, dynamic interpretive programs, and public involvement.

The history of the birth of Crow Canyon must include more than the hard work and battles fought to survive and prosper. From its beginning, something wonderful happened. People joined together and through friendships and involvement made a contribution to something they came to believe in. The magical elements that connected people were rocking chairs on the porch, where after a hard day in the sun and dust, we came together to share what we learned – our adventures. A significant element was music. From the earliest days of our programs, Jo brought people into the magic with music. She played the flute out away from the campfires, chilling us, and then came into the campfire circle and picked-up her guitar. I “taught” about the area and the ancient people who had lived here through “campfire” stories. In the formative years, the staff did not count hours or look at the time and depart. They brought their families to campus and spent quality time with participants –





and each other. We were inclusive and looked forward to meaningful relationships. Perhaps that is a luxury of small scale. We are the Mom and Pop of a wonderful organization. Had it not been for my dream to accelerate learning through hands-on experiential programs, the entity that is the Crow Canyon Center for Archaeology would not exist. Our contribution was long and deep, providing the shoulders for others to climb on as they make their contributions to the ongoing growth of the institution.

Gotta dream boy? Gotta song?  
**Risk everything ... and come along**

Where are we goin'?  
**Now I know.**

When will we be there?  
**Now I'm certain**

What will we get?  
I ain't equipped to say

But who gives a damn? Who gives a damn?  
**We've made our way!**

