

ACRA History News

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Welcome to the first column for ACRA History News. This column represents recognition that historians may have different issues in cultural resource management than archaeologists, architects, or practitioners.

This column is designed to reflect the concerns of historians - historians out there feel free to write or e-mail me. Several comments by fellow historians regarding ACRA may serve to spark debate and may or may not reflect the historian community. For example, "ACRA is only concerned about archaeologists - just read ACRA-L," or "archaeologists are considered the universal, renaissance people. Who made them God? Why should archaeologists be allowed to do history but historians not allowed to do archaeology." Another perspective is, "ACRA's pricing structure precludes the part-time historian who may hold another position."

Let me know what you think about these and other issues.

Just as a discussion point, the application of National Register significance criteria, often a complicated undertaking, becomes even more so when both historians and archaeologists evaluate the same resource. The methods used to evaluate historic resources typically reflect the disciplinary orientation of the person leading the project. Moreover, they usually reflect the traditional research methods and tools of his or her discipline. For example, historians typically rely on the written and oral record, in many forms, as the basis for historical research and, thus, significance evaluations. Prehistorians generally rely upon artifacts, site locale and other physical remains to piece together interpretations of the past and the data potential of the site and its eligibility. Historic archaeologists frequently prioritize their sources with material culture first and written and oral records following. Any approach to historic resources that

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ACRA Edition: A New Name

We have changed our name. *ACRA News* will hereafter be known as *ACRA Edition*. The name change does not mean a change in the nature of the publication. Simply, when *ACRA News* was first conceived, it was an inclusion in *The Grapevine Newsletter* and was listed under the subtitle *ACRA News*. When the time arose to break away and become an independent publication, a new name was called for. After much deliberation, weeding out the catchy and/or "punny" names, we hope that we have found a name that is distinctive and does not imply any association with or similarity to any other publication.

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History News..

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relies too heavily on only one data set is inadequate given the increasing sophistication of historic resource National Register evaluations.

The growing need for historians and archaeologists to work together arises from the increased sophistication of resource analysis, greater National Register staff input and the growing number of cross-disciplinary projects. In the future, an interdisciplinary orientation to historic resources implies that neither the historian's nor the archaeologist's methods alone will be effective, viable, or acceptable. When resources require the collaborative efforts of historians and archaeologists, the respective specialists face new demands on their abilities to be successful team members. Furthermore, the passage of time is changing the complexion of "historic." The fifty-year criteria will soon mean that resources dating from the second half of the twentieth century will be eligible for nomination under standard practices. Effectively we will be evaluating the post-industrial pattern, urbanization, and suburbanization of America with all its complexities.

Sound evaluations of historic resources require complex analyses through the process of contextual development. Contexts have evolved from a recitation of dates, names and places to documents that provide pertinent information within regional or national frameworks requiring an understanding of regional and national events. The authors must include the current literature of many fields of study to appreciate and thus incorporate new intellectual currents and research directions related to the contexts.

Is it possible for historians and archaeologists as well as other cultural resource professionals to work together in an atmosphere of trust and collaboration to ensure a successful project? Comments are appreciated.

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Workshop - The Business of Archaeology

The Ohio Historic Preservation Office (OHPO) and the American Cultural Resources Association (ACRA) are sponsoring a workshop on the business of archaeology. The workshop will be held at the Ohio Historical Center on Tuesday, October 15, 1996. The purpose of the workshop is to initiate a dialogue among professional archaeologists, consultants, OHPO staff, agency personnel, and others working in the cultural resource management contracting/consulting environment in Ohio. Our goals are to improve communication among these groups, improve the delivery of professional archaeological services to the private and public sectors, improve the quality of archaeological reports and, fundamentally, improve our ability to study, interpret, preserve and protect the archaeological record.

The workshop is scheduled from 9:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m. and will be divided into morning and afternoon sessions. The morning session will include three presentations by highly qualified authorities on business concerns in the competitive cultural resource management field. The afternoon session will include a roundtable discussion of factors affecting the cost of archaeological investigations. During the roundtable discussion, we will also address ethical issues, such as competition, low bids, standards, and unfair labor practices.

Each consulting firm and agency working in Ohio is invited to attend, and we ask that you limit your representation to one or two delegates. Due to the size limits of the room and in order to get everyone involved with the discussion, we are asking for your cooperation at this workshop in limiting registration from each firm or organization. We hope that you will be able to make arrangements to attend this important workshop. For registration forms and information, contact David Snyder, OHPO, 614-297-2470.

ACRA Committee Reports

Labor Relations Committee

ACRA's Labor Relations Committee has been working diligently to assist the U.S. Forest Service (USFS) in their efforts to modify the position descriptions and wage rates currently used by the Department of Labor (DOL) for Archaeological Technician. In August the USFS submitted revised position descriptions to the DOL. The revised descriptions reflect some, but not all, of ACRA's comments. These descriptions have the support of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Bureau of Land Management, and National Park Service.

The revised position descriptions recognize three levels of Archaeological Technician and even though levels of supervisory responsibility are not made explicit until the Level 3 description, there is an implication that the three levels generally correspond to the construct of crew member, crew chief, and field supervisor. The USFS also attached federal wage grade equivalents to each of the position descriptions ranging from GS-4 to GS-6/7.

Although the position descriptions must be considered as in draft form, and the GS levels certainly should not be construed as wage determinations, it is important that ACRA's membership be aware that a change is imminent for the Archaeological Technician (29020) position description. In light of this pending change it is equally important that the membership inform federal contracting officers of the possible consequences for CRM procurements under the Service Contract Act.

W. Kevin Pape, Chairperson

Education Committee

I continue to receive a steady stream of e-mail from students interested in internship programs. Students are very tuned into the fact that their university departments are not offering them any tangible CRM guidance, programs and lifelines to future employment (the bottom line!). The wave of inquiries ebbs and flows, generally as a function of periods during which students have the time or need to surf the Web and pick up on ACRA's Home Page. Activity was very high during the early summer, co-incident with breaks in classes and job seeking. It has fallen off a bit recently as school begins again. My main concern at this point is that ACRA needs to take a proactive stance and formulate a structure for implementation of internship programs. To date, isolated CRM firms have moved on this issue, by offering positions to graduate students. I have published an article in *ACRA News* on the benefits and advantages of Internships for specialized CRM concerns. However, it appears that education and the employment picture in CRM will emerge as one of the cornerstone issues for ACRA in the very near future. ACRA should take a unified position on the matter and implement a framework for bridging student training with employment. This will require discussion and deliberations. I intend to get this moving at the upcoming meetings in Sacramento.

Joe Schuldenrein, Chairperson

ACRA's New Telephone Number

ACRA has a new phone number. Please keep this number handy and disregard the previous number. It will take a while for our printed material to reflect the change.

The new number is:
770-498-5159.

ACRA's 1996 Questionnaire: A Reminder

Please remember to fill out your ACRA Questionnaire and return it in the envelope provided in last month's mailing. If you did not receive a questionnaire, please contact Tom Wheaton at the address listed on the back of this newsletter.

COMPUTER INSURANCE FOR YOUR BUSINESS

In Memoriam

For those who haven't heard, Loretta Neumann, an esteemed member of ACRA's board, suffered a terrible loss this past week when, without warning, her husband, Tedd McCann, suffered a heart attack and passed away. For those of you who didn't know Tedd, he was an extremely well known urban park planner and a delightful man of many talents. For those of you who wish to send a memorial, these should be sent in memory of Theodore McCann to:

Plan Tacoma
528 Cedar Street, NW
Washington, DC
20012

The money will be used for landscaping, benches and plantings in a small, urban pocket park that has already been purchased by Plan Tacoma, a community action group in Loretta's neighborhood.

I want to let the readers of *ACRA Edition* know how much I have enjoyed participating in the newsletter. To be candid, it has been an eye-opening experience. For most of my insurance career, I have been in sales positions. Much of my time has been spent talking with clients and prospects about insurance. The opportunity to use the written word to explain different types of insurance has been more challenging than I expected. I hope that the topics and explanations of coverages has been helpful to all. It has been great having Mike Polk suggest topics and, most importantly, having the editorial staff proofread for grammatical mistakes. I look forward to continuing to share suggestions on improving your insurance program.

In this issue I want to discuss items to consider when insuring your computers. One of the most fascinating developments in the last ten years has been the emergence of the computer. Twenty years ago when I began work with Aetna Life and Casualty, there was not a computer in the office. When I left the company in 1985, there were very few computers in use. Ten years later, Aetna has become almost totally computerized. In fact, I am now able to underwrite, rate, and issue policies from my office by downloading with Aetna. In watching how the computer has changed my industry, I can imagine how it is similarly changing yours.

Obviously, I think it would be safe to say that all of your businesses use computers. With the ever-increasing use of computers, insurance companies have had to respond to new special coverage requirements. As a result, most companies have started writing separate policies or using special endorsements to cover computers. It is important to know that your policy, which covers business property, also covers your computer hardware. However, there are some exclusions and limits in the standard business policy that could cause problems. I will expand on these items.

The key exclusion under the standard business policy which is covered under most computer policies (verify with your agent) is power surge. The exclusion reads as follows: "We will not pay for loss or damage as a result of artificially generated electric current, including electric arcing that disturbs electrical devices, appliances, or wires." By insuring the computers under a computer policy, you have coverage for power surges.

As computers have become more popular,

they have become more mobile. Many times computers will be taken off premises. This means they are in transit and temporarily not at your business location. Again, the standard policy will not provide the coverage needed for this off-premises exposure. The computer policy usually will do so. As an example, Aetna's form reads: "We will pay for loss to covered property while: 1) In Transit; 2) While temporarily not at your locations. We will pay the policy limits, up to a maximum of \$75,000."

As you can see, this form is very broad in coverage. Generally speaking, the standard policy limits coverage for property in transit to \$1,000 and temporary locations to \$1,000. For some businesses this may not be adequate coverage.

Computer policies also can insure your software. Standard policies usually limit coverage for software and cost of research to \$1,000. Computer policies allows you to determine the adequate amount of insurance. Again, using Aetna's policy as an example, they define software as follows: "A) Data, if it is in a form that can be read directly by your hardware; B) computer programs; C) instructional materials for computer programs; D) data storage media of all types provided they are not an integral part of hardware." After defining software, the policy states that the value of the software will be the cost to reproduce or replace the software.

A computer policy provides special coverage that the standard policy does not meet. Do you need a computer policy? That depends on your own situation, but if you are concerned about damage by power surge, have computers that are used off premises, or want coverage for software, it may be a good idea to investigate this coverage.

One additional note to this discussion is that, aside from insurance coverage, you yourself need to take some precautions as well. It is extremely important to regularly back up your computer files and to store that backup tape or disk in a fireproof safe or away from your business premises. Should a major fire, theft or other catastrophe strike your business, such a precaution could someday help you recover your lost files and programs and more quickly restore your business to operating condition.

Chris Butler
C & D Butler, Inc.

Additional Conference Information

Last month the Advance Registration Information Packet for ACRA's Second Annual Conference was sent to all ACRA members. The conference will be held October 31 - November 3, 1996. If you failed to receive a packet, please contact either Jeanne Harris or Tom Wheaton at the addresses listed on the back of this newsletter.

The Advance Registration Packet failed to list registration fees for students. Student fees are as follows:

\$35 non-members
\$25 members.

These substantially discounted fees are meant to allow students seeking positions in the private sector a chance to meet the owners and upper-level management of CRM firms from around the country.



Correction: The Native American Consultation Workshop will be held 8:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. (not 8:00 p.m. as noted in the preliminary program).

Advertising Space Available

ACRA Edition offers advertising space to our members. Does your company have a special product, service, or publication that would be of interest to some aspect of the CRM community? Why not consider placing an ad in *ACRA Edition*?

Advertising Rates:	Per 6 Months	Per Year
Business Card size (3.5"x 2")*	\$100.00	\$175.00
1/4 page (3.5"x 4.75")	\$200.00	\$350.00
1/2 page (7.0"x 4.75")	\$300.00	\$525.00

* Business cards can be scanned.

ACRA Awards Committee Call for Nominations

By now most of you have received your ACRA Awards nomination information in the mail. These awards will be presented at the Second Annual Conference to be held in Sacramento on October 31 - November 3, 1996. This is a reminder that nominations need to be received by the organization no later than October 9, 1996. If you did not receive your Awards Nomination information, please contact Adrian White at the address below.

This year's Awards Committee is comprised of the following ACRA members: William Self, William Self Associates; Amy Gilreath, Farwestern Anthropological Research Group, Inc.; Susan M. Chandler, Alpine Archaeological Consultants, Inc.; and Charissa Wang, Hardlines: Design and Delineation. The Awards Committee has established ten award categories:

- Award of Appreciation
- ◆
- Legislative Award
- ◆
- SHPO Award
- ◆
- Governmental Award
- ◆
- ACRA Company Award
- ◆
- Quality Product Award
- ◆
- Research Award
- ◆
- Preservation Award
- ◆
- Public Service Award
- ◆
- Industry Award

Nominations should include a statement that details why the company or individual is deserving of a specific award. This statement should describe the nature, scope, and significance of the nominee's contribution, and should include background information on the company and/or individual nominated. Examples of quality work should be supplied along with a nomination for the Quality Product Award.

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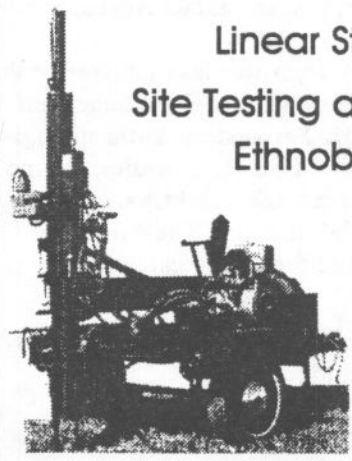
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Geoarchaeology Since 1979

Linear Studies

Site Testing and Mitigation

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ACRA Edition is a monthly publication of the American Cultural Resources Association. Our mission is to promote the professional, ethical and business practices of the cultural resources industry, including all of its affiliated disciplines, for the benefit of the resources, the public, and the members of the association.

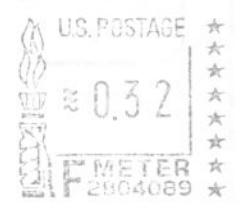
This publication's purpose is to provide members with the latest information on the association's activities and to provide up-to-date information on federal and state legislative activities. All comments are welcome. Please address comments to:

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