

# West Texas Archeological Society

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westtexasarcheologicalsociety.website

President: Tom Ashmore, Vice President: C.A. Maedgen, Treasurer: James Michael Collett

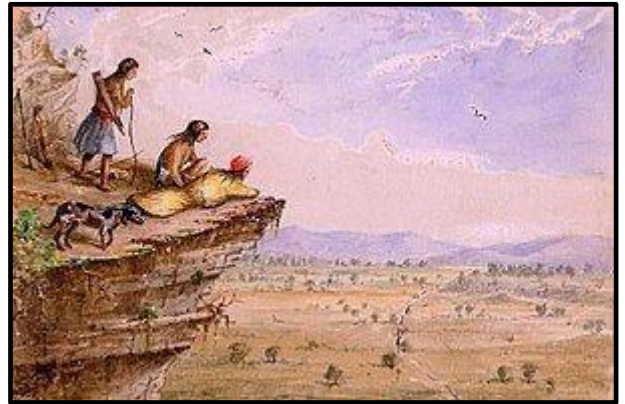
Feel free to share with friends. Membership is free. 116 members and growing!

*Newsletter & Website Editor: Tom Ashmore*

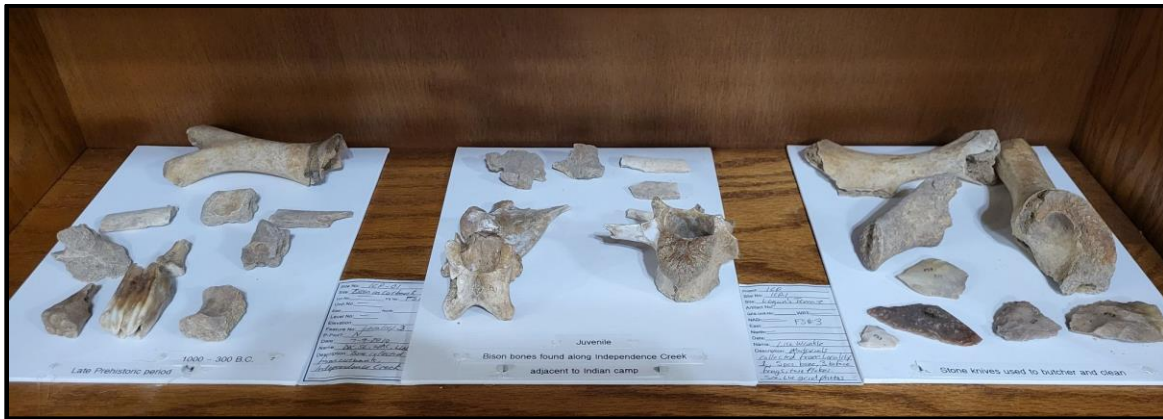
## May 2025

### *Independence Creek: The New/Old Project*

We returned to Independence Creek on April 26 and 27. In all, we had 10 members together on this trip. There were two goals for this visit. First, we revisited the lower area of the mesa where we had found two more hot spots previously, but we could not complete our reconnaissance. It was a huge success. Two items found were critical to our analysis. We were able to tie the two lower spots together, and we were able to verify that the metal trash found was from Indian scavenging. In at least the upper terrace, we believe it was likely from an 1857 battle on the Devil's River. We also believe the lower and upper sites are related. There is now a display of artifacts from this project that Nature Conservancy guests can view in the lodge. Our report on this project will be coming out soon.



At the lodge, we reviewed many documents and artifacts from the work done from 2009 to 2016. We also made bison bone displays from Independence and Dry Creeks excavations in 2010 and 2015. We were invited back to the nature preserve for a future visit to continue creating more educational displays.



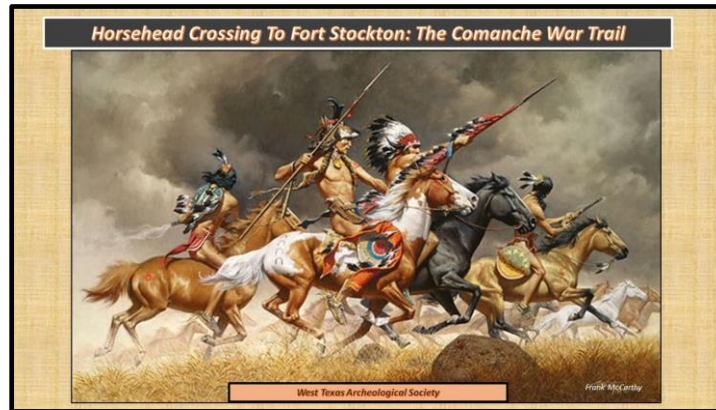
<https://cbbs.sulross.edu/independence-creek>

<https://www.mysanantonio.com/lifestyle/outdoors/article/independence-creek-preserve-national-landmark-19632062.php>



**While at Independence Creek Nature Preserve, I guided Anita Anaya and Ruben Martinez (Lipan Apache Band of Texas & WTAS members) to an ancient shaman's vision quest shelter I reported on in 2014.**

## **New Video On Website: Horsehead Crossing to Ft Stockton: The Comanche War Trail**



I've created a new video that we will show at lunchtime for the Horsehead Crossing Historic Days in October. It is a short 7 ½ minute video of the analysis of the Comanche War Trail that is still visible through Google Earth imagery. We use this, plus historic documentation, to highlight this section of the famous trail. You can view this video, now on YouTube, through our website video page:

<https://westtexasarcheologicalsociety.website/videos>

### **Friends of the Pecos River Collaboration**

The non-profit Friends of the Pecos River organization contacted us to collaborate on their Pecos River 3D mapping project. Through our years of following the wagon trail, we provided them with exact trail routes through the region to add to their upcoming map. This will be a physical 3D map, and they hope to have it available for viewing at the October Horsehead Crossing Historic Days. The trails provided were Butterfield/Goodnight Loving/Upper Emigrant Trail, Lower Emigrant Road (through Fort Lancaster and on to Fort Stockton), San Antonio to El Paso (cutoff from old Butterfield Trail to crossing at Pontoon Bridge), and the Salt Trail from Leon Spring to Cordona salt lake.

### **Concho Mail Station**

The Texas Historical Commission finally approved the Concho Mail Station site permit. We had our first planning session this week since the pause. Dr. Michael Bradle will be leading the project, with our assistance. He is using our initial analysis and report to begin planning an additional archeological study on the site. We will also be turning over the displayed artifacts to the city/Fort Concho to develop a museum-quality display of the mail station within the Fort Concho facilities. Some lab work on artifacts will be held sometime in the future on the Fort Concho grounds.

### **YouTube Horsehead Crossing Walk-and-Talk Video**

The Wild West History Association informed us that as of last week, the views for the video were up to 64,000! We plan on doing another one for the Pecos Mail Station and Camp Melvin.

*Our webpage is updated regularly with information on the home page that indicates when and what has been updated. There is no logging in. Visit the displayed page and enjoy the new information. Updates are identified at the top of the home page.*

<https://westtexasarcheologicalsociety.website>



The header of the West Texas Archeological Society website features a logo on the left with the text "WEST TEXAS ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY" and "IRAN, TEXAS" below it, accompanied by a silhouette of a person holding a shield. To the right is a navigation menu with links: Home, Newsletters, Reports, News & Events, Videos, Photos, and Meyers Spring History. Below this is a secondary row of links: Horsehead Crossing History, Archeology meets Art, Bill Yeates' Work & Memorial, and WTAS Friends and Collaborators. The main title "West Texas Archeological Society" is centered in a large, bold, serif font. Below the title is a paragraph of text starting with "Updated Apr 24 2025:" followed by a list of updates including video presentations, newsletters, reports, and photos.

**WEST TEXAS**  
ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
IRAN, TEXAS

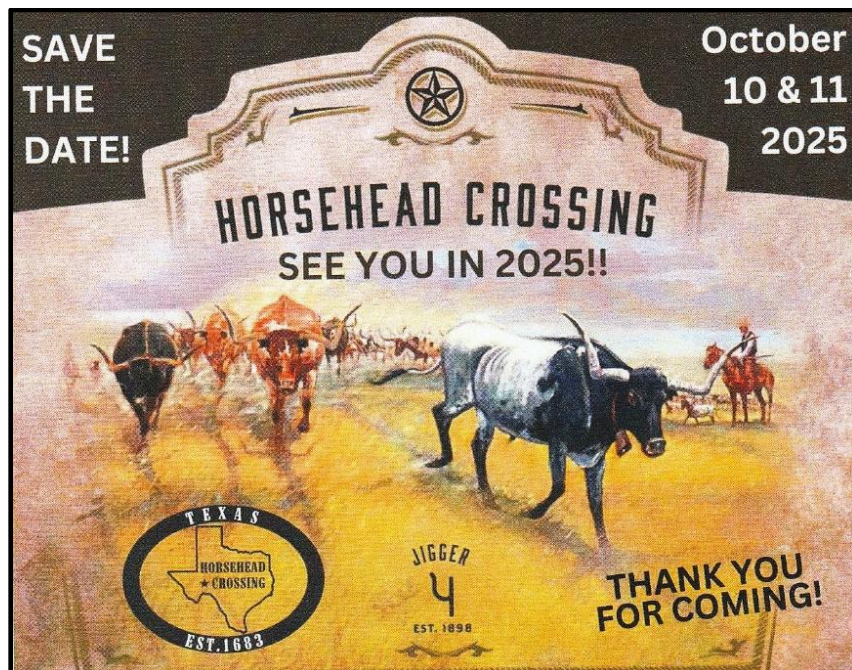
Home Newsletters Reports News & Events Videos Photos Meyers Spring History

Horsehead Crossing History Archeology meets Art Bill Yeates' Work & Memorial WTAS Friends and Collaborators

## West Texas Archeological Society

*Updated Apr 24 2025:* Zoom presentaion: Following the Butterfield Trail Across West Texas: Ft Chadbourne to Ft Stockton, Horsehead Crossing To Ft Stockton (videos), The Comanche War Trail (videos), WTAS Friends & Collaborators (new page), Walking Tour of Horsehead Crossing (videos), Feb & Mar Newsletters, Camp Shumla (reports), John L. Bullis: The Whirlwind (source documents, in reports), Camp Shumla Recon Trip (photos), Castle Gap Canyon video

**Upcoming Events** (upcoming field projects will be emailed separately)





***Donations: We do not charge for membership, presentations, or any work we undertake on the various projects. We do it because we love it and believe that history needs to be preserved accurately. All donations go directly to funding projects and/or public event costs. If you would like to donate to our efforts, please make out your checks to IAS. (We must maintain that banking deposit identity under the grandfathered banking rules.)***

**Mail any donation checks made out to IAS to:**

West Texas Archeological Society  
P.O. Box 183  
Iraan, TX 79744

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**West Texas Archeological Society Membership Form (no dues)**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address: \_\_\_\_\_

e-mail address: \_\_\_\_\_  
(You will receive the newsletter via e-mail.)

Cell: \_\_\_\_\_