

FIRST DRAFT

A woman pushed early research into archaeological sites in region

In the autumn of 1938, Al Look, advertising manager of The Daily Sentinel and an amateur archaeologist, sent artifacts he had collected near Cisco, Utah, to Marie Wormington, the young curator of archaeology at the Colorado Museum of Natural History (now the Denver Museum of Nature and Science).

Wormington responded enthusiastically: "Opening the box you sent was rather like looking under the Christmas tree to see what Santa Claus brought," she wrote to Look in November 1938. "There's no doubt that it's grand stuff."

The result was a friendship between Look and Wormington and the excavation of two important archaeological sites in this region.

The site near Cisco became known as the Turner-Look site, after Al Look and ranch owner Albert J. Turner. The research conducted there played a central role in Wormington's 1955 publication, "A Reappraisal of the Fremont Culture."

A dozen years after Look contacted Wormington about the Turner-Look site, the duo collaborated again, this time on the Taylor and Alva sites, near Unaweep Canyon.

A 2016 re-examination of Wormington's work at the Taylor site called the rock shelter there "one of the most important in western Colorado." I'll write more about it in my next column.

This column is about Hannah Marie Wormington, the first woman to earn a doctorate degree in anthropology from Harvard, in 1954, and a pioneer in Colorado archaeology.

To earn her doctorate, she often had to sit outside Harvard lecture halls and listen to what was said inside because some male professors didn't want a woman in their classrooms, said Erin Schmitz, curator of collections and archives at the Museums of Western Colorado in Grand Junction.

Before coming to Grand Junction, Schmitz worked at the Denver Museum of Nature and Science, where she had access to many of Wormington's papers.

"She was a real trailbreaker for women in archaeology," Schmitz said. "She ran a major museum's archaeology department before she even had a master's degree."

She also served as a mentor to many younger women.

Wormington made friends with scholars around the globe and was well respected in the world of archaeology. For a time, she was considered the pre-eminent expert in the world on Paleo-Indians.

But she had one great nemesis. And he happened to be her boss for more than 30 years at the Denver museum. Their decadeslong falling out led to her leaving the museum in 1968.



Photos courtesy of DENVER MUSEUM OF NATURE & SCIENCE
Hannah Marie Wormington is shown taking a break during fieldwork in her archaeology career.

Hannah Marie Wormington was born on Sept. 5, 1914, in Denver, the city she would call home until her death in 1994.

She attended the University of Denver, where her interest in early human history was piqued by professor and self-taught archaeologist Etienne B. Renaud. He persuaded Wormington and another student to volunteer at the Denver museum, beginning in the winter of 1934-35. In the spring of 1935, the two volunteers were hired to catalog the museum's collection of Paleo-Indian projectile points.

The museum formally established its Department of Archaeology in 1936, and Wormington was appointed its curator in 1937.

Before that occurred, however, Wormington and her mother took a tour of England, France and Spain, during which they met with a number of archaeologists. She took photos and drawings of some of the Denver museum's projectile points to share with European scholars. As a result, she was able to get some European artifacts sent to the Denver museum for temporary display.

In 1937, Wormington's first connection with the pre-history of the Western Slope began, when she learned of a pair of sites near Montrose. Wormington and a museum team excavated the Moore and Casebier sites in 1938 and 1939.

Her work at the Turner-Look site began in 1939 and continued for a decade, with a hiatus during World War II.



Young Marie Wormington is holding a snake.

But Wormington didn't just work on the sites in western Colorado and eastern Utah. From 1935 to 1977, she was involved in archaeological digs from France to Mexico to Alberta, Canada, as well as in eastern Colorado, Nebraska, South Dakota, Nevada and Alaska.

She also published a number of books and papers, including "Ancient Man in North America," a popular textbook, the first edition of which came out in 1939, when she was just 24.

She took time off to obtain her master's degree from Radcliffe, then her Harvard doctoral degree.

Wormington also became the first female president of the Society for American Archaeologists in 1968. And she helped found the Colorado Archaeological Society.

She produced popular exhibits at the Denver museum, and she traveled extensively to conferences here and abroad.

All of this apparently contributed to the ongoing animosity between Wormington and the museum's director, Alfred Bailey. When she took a leave of absence in 1968, Bailey wrote her a letter telling her that her job had ended.

She accepted temporary teaching positions at universities around the country. In 1988, after Bailey died, the Denver museum granted Wormington emeritus status, and she once again became involved with the institution where her career began.

On May 31, 1994, she died of smoke inhalation at her home in Denver. She had apparently fallen asleep with a lit cigarette in her hands. But her influence in the archaeology world lives on.

Sources: "A Reappraisal of the Fremont Culture," by H.M. Wormington; *Letters of Marie Wormington to Al Look, Museums of Western Colorado; "Hannah Marie Wormington: Woman, Myth, Legend,"* by Stephen E. Nash; "Archaeological Investigation on the Uncompahgre Plateau," by H.M. Wormington and Robert H. Lister; *Denver Museum of Nature and Science; Erin Schmitz; Michael Piontkowski.*

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Marie Wormington on a ladder to oversee work at the Turner-Look site near Cisco, Utah.

Thousands of projectile points and bone fragments were discovered there, along with the remnants of nine structures and parts of five human skeletons, which were believed to be of the Fremont culture.

"The inhabitants of the Turner-Look site practiced agriculture and hunted," she wrote in her 1955 publication. "Corn is the only crop for which there is evidence, but it is entirely probable that other domesticated plants were also used."

Because there were so many more projectile points than at Anasazi sites in the Four Corners area, she suggested the people who inhabited Turner-Look had "a much greater dependence on hunting."

BLOTTER COMPILED BY SENTINEL STAFF

Police arrest couple

The Grand Junction Police Department jailed and released a Clifton woman and a Grand Junction man in the 2800 block of Darla Drive last Thursday.

The man, Cody Reed, 27, was jailed on suspicion of violation of a protection order.

The woman, Hannah Ready, 21, was jailed on suspicion of assault, domestic violence, violation of bond conditions and driving with a revoked driver's license.

According to the Grand Junction Police Department:

- Items valued at less than \$500 were stolen May 5 from a home in the 1300 block of Kennedy Avenue.

- Items valued at less than \$2,000 were stolen from a building in the 2600 block of

Elm Avenue on May 23.

- Charles Davison, 51, was jailed May 26 on suspicion of felony menacing and causing damage to a vehicle valued at less than \$100.

- Tammie Lee, 53, was jailed Thursday on suspicion of possession of a controlled substance and a turn signal violation.

- A vehicle was stolen Friday in the 2700 block of Crossroads Boulevard.

- A thief armed with a deadly weapon stole items from a victim Friday in the 2800 block of North Avenue.

- Kaleo Nakano, 26, was jailed Saturday on suspicion of assault.

- Items valued at more than \$300 were stolen from a vehicle Friday in the 600 block of Rae Lynn Street.

- Cree Rentie, 26, was jailed Saturday in the 200 block of Rood Avenue on suspicion of possession of a controlled substance.

- Items valued at less than \$50 were stolen from a vehicle in the 1900 block of Barcelona Avenue on Friday.

- Items valued at less than \$2,000 were stolen from a vehicle Saturday in the 2500 block of Rimrock Avenue.

- Jose Soto-Gonzales, 42, was issued a summons Sunday on suspicion of driving under the influence, DUI per se and failing to maintain a single lane at the intersection of Grand Avenue and North Second Street.

According to the Glenwood Springs Police Department:

- Joseph Merrill, 37, of Grand Junction was issued summonses May 26 on suspicion of having an open container in a motor vehicle, failure to show proof of insurance, driving with vision obstructed and driving while license under restraint.

Two bills that would benefit out-of-state interests vetoed

By CHARLES ASHBY
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Gov. John Hickenlooper vetoed two bills Friday that would have benefited out-of-state people.

For the second year in a row, Hickenlooper vetoed a bill that lowers taxes on non-cigarette tobacco products sold to out-of-state buyers.

In his veto letter, the governor said he nixed SB179 for the same reasons he vetoed a nearly identical bill last year, that it made little sense to make a product that has "negative health effects" cheaper.

"Furthermore, as we noted in our letter regarding SB17-139, 'tax uniformity and equity are core foundations for an efficient and fair tax code.'" Hickenlooper said in his letter. "However, SB18-179 does not extend similar tax benefits to other products, such as alcohol, marijuana, tobacco and fuels. Once more, we reaffirm that uniformity and equity are critical principles for a sound tax code, yet are absent in this bill."

The measure would have replaced a refundable tax credit with a tax adjustment and would have made that tax reduction permanent.

The governor also said the Colorado Department of Revenue is barred by law from revealing the number of taxpayers claiming the credit. He said that means there either are less than three taxpayers who are claiming it, or at least one of them is claiming more than 80 percent of the total credit.

"The bill's proponents identified only one company benefiting from the bill," Hickenlooper wrote. "That company cited fewer than a dozen jobs created due to the existing credit."

The bill had bipartisan support. It was introduced by Sens. Owen Hill, R-Colorado Springs, and Angela Williams, D-Denver. Its House sponsors were Denver Democratic Reps. Edie Hooton and Dan Pabon.

A second bill that Hickenlooper vetoed, HB1181, also would have affected few people, and out-of-state residents at that.

That measure, introduced by Republican Rep. Larry Liston of Colorado Springs and Sen. Jack Tate of Centennial, would have allowed out-of-state people who own property in special districts to vote in elections for members of those districts' board of directors.

Hickenlooper said that was poor public policy.

"Out-of-state landowners enjoy Colorado's great views, activities and economy," the governor wrote. "While we are grateful to our out-of-state neighbors and their love of Colorado, we are persuaded that the state should allow those who spend days or weeks in Colorado to make decisions impacting those who make it their home each and every day."

Colorado residents who own property in special districts but don't live there are allowed to vote in such elections.

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The Daily Sentinel will be producing a commemorative program for Special Olympics Colorado. Designed to highlight the athletes and events, this special program wraps the A section of the paper on Friday, June 8 - giving the athletes prominent recognition.

Look for your Special Olympics Colorado Guide in your Friday, June 8 Daily Sentinel. Additional copies will be available at the games.

Publishes Friday, June 8
Also available at GSentinel.com in our magazine gallery

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