



:Nine Mile Canyon Coalition News

Spring 2013

ninemilecanyoncoalition.org



New Board Chair - *Tammie Bostick-Cooper*



The Nine Mile Canyon Coalition has a new Chair. In its November 10th, 2012 meeting, the Board of Directors unanimously voted to elect Tammie Bostick-Cooper as Board Chair. She replaces Deanne Matheny who has held that position since January of 2009 and made too many contributions to the Coalition to count. Thank you so much for your service, Deanne!

Tammie grew up mostly in Utah's Uintah Basin in the small town of Neola. She attended Union High School in Roosevelt, Utah and later earned her BS degree in Communications and a minor in Marketing from the University of Utah. She worked for "*The Daily Utah Chronicle*" while attending school.

Tammie worked in the Uinta Basin for several years as the Executive Director of the Family Support Center where she has provided support and counseling to abused children, organized parenting education classes, and facilitated the formation of a children's justice center for abused kids. Tammie continued her work with families and children, most recently on the Ute Indian reservation as an Early Intervention Specialist. She is returning to the University of Utah to pursue a graduate degree in Public Health, with an emphasis on lactation education and breastfeeding awareness.

While growing up, Tammie's father – a former Baptist minister turned petroleum engineer – worked in the oil and gas industry on the Tavaputs Plateau. His career provided frequent opportunities for Tammie to visit and experience Nine Mile Canyon, as her father allowed her to tag along with him when he was working in and around the canyon. Tammie learned cultural site etiquette at a young age, as her father often took time to chat about the importance of respecting and preserving the delicate and precious cultural resources found in the region.

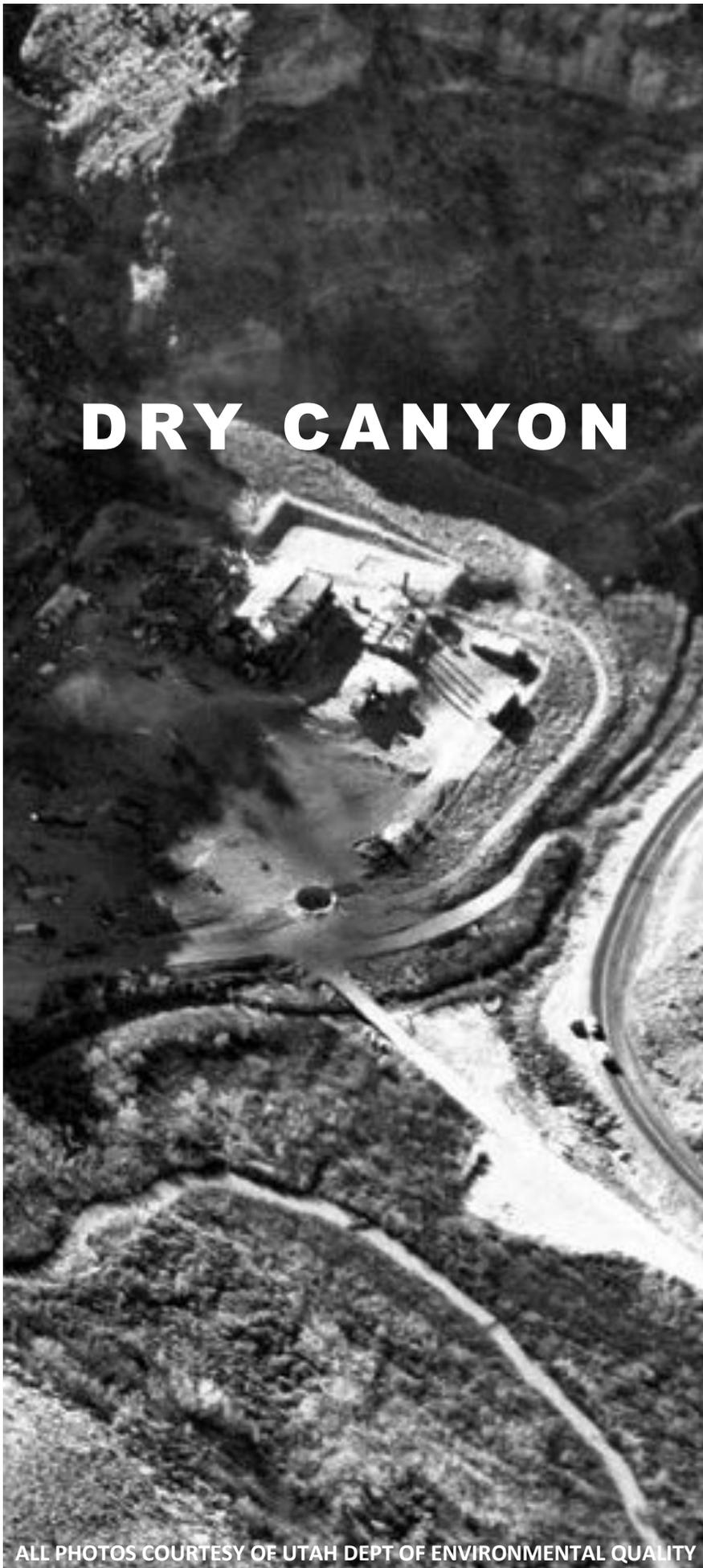
Tammie is looking forward to many opportunities ahead for the Nine Mile Canyon Coalition, including participation in the development of a BLM-sponsored site stewardship program, a Nine Mile Canyon oral history project, and the continuing development of educational interpretive kiosks and trails throughout the canyon.

Tammie is the mother of two children – 18 year-old Alexia, who is preparing to attend Westminster College this Fall, and 16 year-old Cole, who is currently attending Tammie's Alma Mater, Union High School. Tammie currently resides in Whiterocks, Utah, where she enjoys hiking, cross-country skiing, snowshoeing, and an off-the-grid lifestyle with her children, two dogs – Odin and Sparky and two cats – Witchy Poo and Hazel.

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Welcome Tammie!



DRY CANYON

ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF UTAH DEPT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

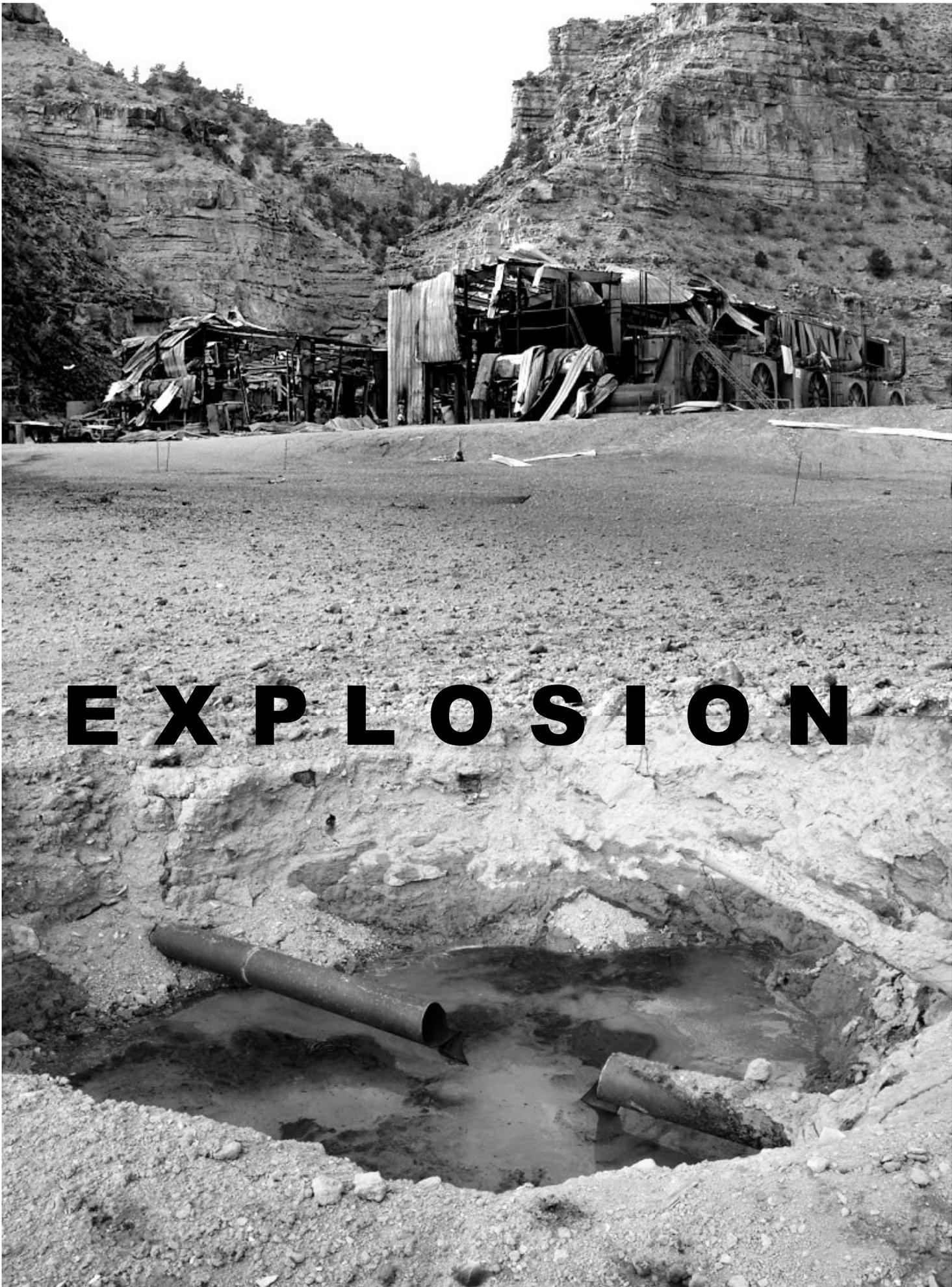
On November 20, 2012 a natural gas pipeline explosion destroyed the Bill Barrett Corporation Natural Gas Compressor Station at Dry Canon in Nine Mile Canyon. Since then, there has been very little news coverage and follow-up to this story.

The information in this article is based on the Report of Investigation by Troy D. Mills, Deputy State Fire Marshall, examined by air and on the ground over November 20-21, 2012.

The location is just off the Nine Mile Road, near the BLM kiosk, picnic tables and rock art hiking trail loop, and Rassmussen Cave, a famous archaeological site. Two workers, Larry Joseph and Doug Jenkins managed to activate the emergency system shutdown, but were badly burned as they ran away from the facility. They were Life Flighted, to the University of Utah Burn Center. The violent explosion and fire destroyed buildings and equipment, scattered debris for hundreds of yards, created a thirty-foot crater, fifteen feet deep, burned and blackened everything in its path. No rock art destruction is reported at this date.

The cause of the massive explosion was the rupture of a 12-inch buried steel pipeline that was part of the facility. When the pipe failed, gas burst out of the ground and concentrated. It was ignited by something within the nearby compressor building. Upon examination, the twisted pipeline shows teeth marks from a large backhoe – observers speculate the damage occurred during the construction phase of the project. The pressure inside of this pipe is typically 700 psi but on the day of the explosion, it was 900 psi. Pressure measurements reflect a time weighted average, not an accurate gauge of the actual pressure at any moment in time. There was likely a surge of gas that caused the rupture.

The destroyed buildings have been removed and there is industrial activity at the site. BBC declined to comment for this article.



EXPLOSION



ALL PHOTOS COURTESY OF UTAH DEPT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY

Nine Mile Canyon

The Archaeological History of an American Treasure

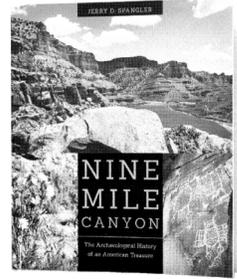
Jerry D. Spangler
Archaeology / Utah

With an estimated 10,000 ancient rock art sites, Nine Mile Canyon has long captivated people the world over. The 45-mile-long canyon, dubbed the “World’s Longest Art Gallery,” hosts what is believed to be the largest concentration of rock art in North America. But rock art is only part of the amazing archaeological fabric that scholars have been struggling to explain for more than a century. Jerry D. Spangler takes the reader on a journey into Nine Mile Canyon through the eyes of the generations of archaeologists who have gone there only to leave bewildered by what it all means.

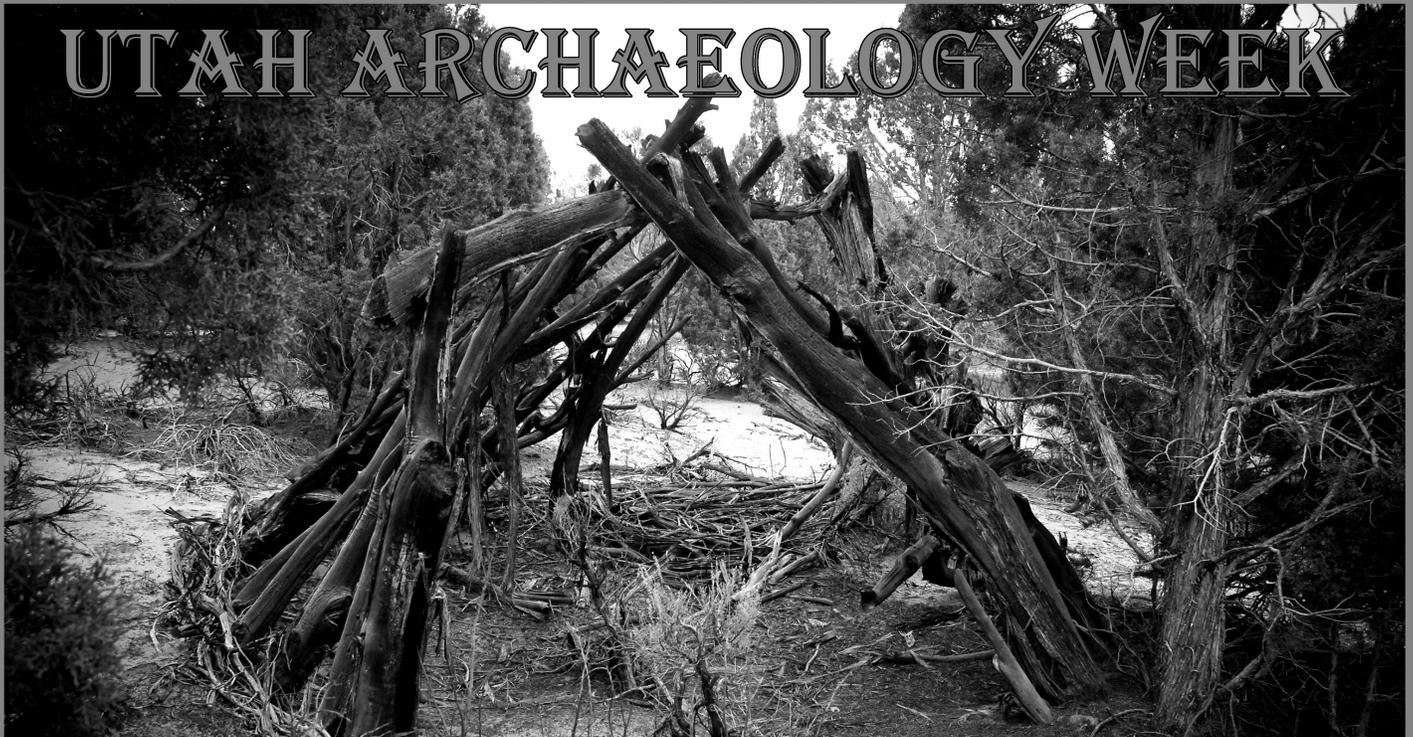
The early visitors in the 1890s were determined to recover collections for museums but never much cared to understand the people who left the artifacts. Then came a cadre of young scientists—the first to be trained specifically in archaeology—who found Nine Mile Canyon to be an intriguing laboratory that yielded more questions than answers. Scholars such as Noel Morss, Donald Scott, Julian Steward, John Gillin, and John Otis Brew all left their boot prints there.

Today, archaeological research is experiencing another renaissance—a new generation of university-trained archaeologists is determined to unravel the mystery of Nine Mile Canyon using scientific tools and techniques that were unavailable to past generations. Through the words and thoughts of the archaeologists, as well as the more than 150 photos, readers will come to see Nine Mile Canyon as an American treasure unlike any other. As the first book that is devoted exclusively to the archaeology of this unique place, *Nine Mile Canyon* will evoke fascination among scholars and the general public alike. Available at *The University of Utah Press* www.uofupress.com

NEW BOOK!



UTAH ARCHAEOLOGY WEEK

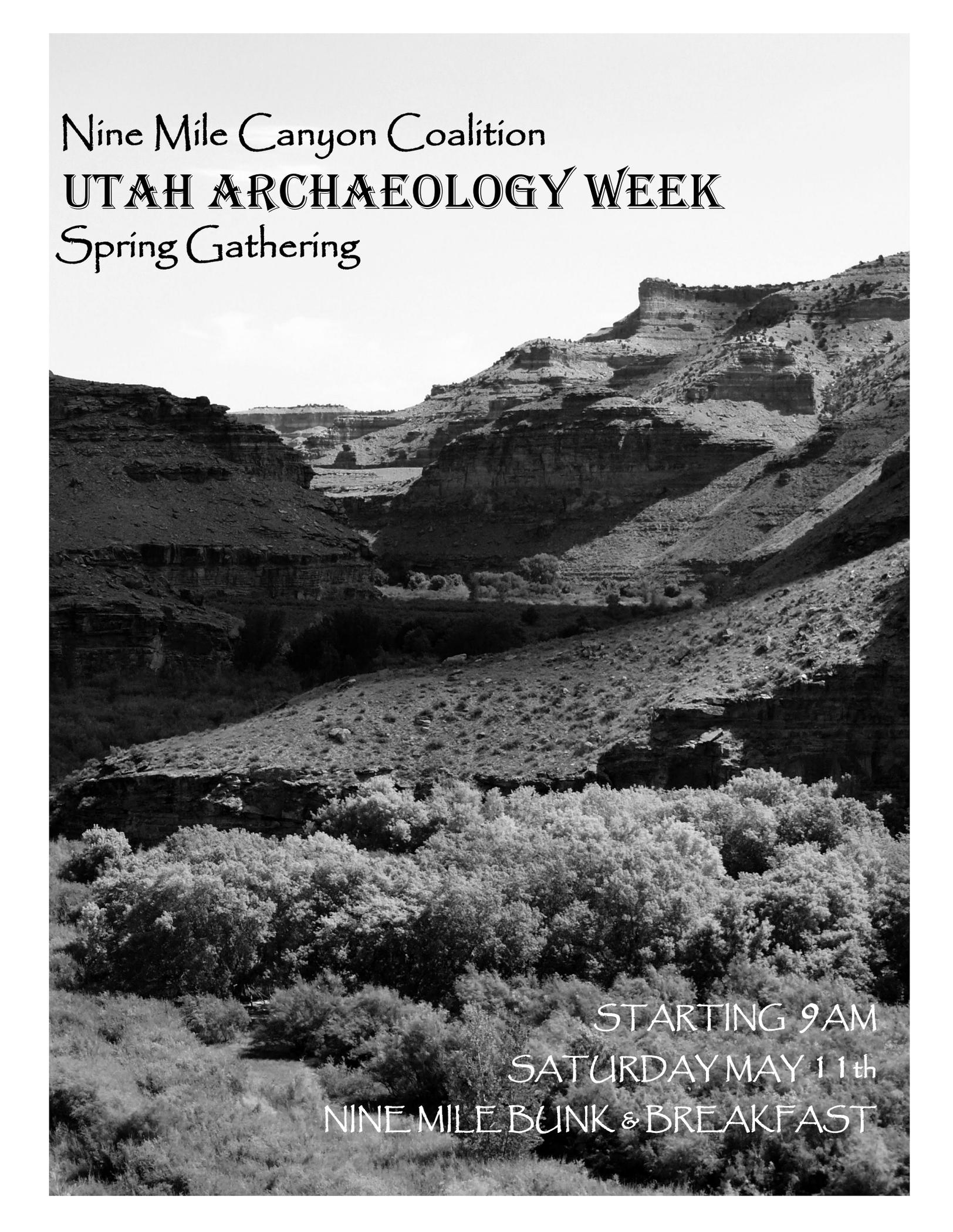


May 4-11, 2013

history.utah.gov

Sponsored by: Utah Division of State History, School and Institutional Trustlands Administration, SWCA Environmental Consultants, Weber State University, Bighorn Archaeological Consultants, City of Blanding, Cultural Resource Analysts, Castle Valley Chapter of Utah Statewide Archaeological Society, Environmental Planning Group, HDR, Logan Simpson Design, Sagebrush Consultants, USU Archaeological Services, Utah Statewide Archaeological Society

Navajo Forked Stick Hogan in Kane County, Utah Photograph by Andrew



Nine Mile Canyon Coalition
UTAH ARCHAEOLOGY WEEK
Spring Gathering

STARTING 9AM
SATURDAY MAY 11th
NINE MILE BUNK & BREAKFAST

The Nine Mile Canyon Coalition invites you to participate in our Spring Gathering as part of Utah Archaeology Week. The Gathering will be held at the Nine Mile Bunk N Breakfast on Saturday May 11th, beginning at 9:00 am. We hope you will join us for a fun-packed day of beautiful scenery, insightful canyon tours and educational lectures.



Guest Lectures 9am til Noon



Jerry D. Spangler is a professional archaeologist who has spent more than two decades researching the history and prehistory of Nine Mile Canyon. He is director of the Colorado Plateau Archaeological Alliance, a non-profit organization that works closely with government, industry, and conservation groups to further the protection of our cultural past to ensure they remain treasures for future generations. With his wife Donna, he published *"Horned Snakes and Axle Grease: A Roadside Guide to the Archaeology, History and Rock Art of Nine Mile Canyon"*, *"Treasures of the Tavaputs: The Archaeology of Desolation Canyon"*, and *"Nine Mile Canyon: The Archaeological History of an American Treasure"*.



Dr. Jody J. Patterson received his PhD in Anthropology from the University of Alaska-Fairbanks in 2010, after receiving his MA degree in Anthropology/Southwest Studies from New Mexico Highlands University. Dr. Patterson is Vice President of Research and Principal Investigator at Montgomery Archaeological Consultants, where he has worked for twelve years. His first archaeological survey was in the Daddy Canyon area of Nine Mile Canyon.

Over the past few years Dr. Patterson has managed archaeological excavations and research along the Nine Mile Canyon road that preceded road construction through the Canyon. He will be presenting a summary of the data and information this massive project has provided.



William Miller was raised in Price and has always enjoyed spending time in Nine-Mile Canyon. He received an Associates Degree from the College of Eastern Utah, a Bachelors in History from Brigham Young University and a Juris Doctorate from the University of Utah. To receive his history degree his final project was an examination of post Mormon colony settlement patterns in Utah using the settlement of Nine Mile as an example. At the Spring Gathering he will discuss some of his research on the settlement of Nine Mile as well as some of the material that is available for the study of historical Nine Mile.

Canyon Tours from 12:30 on



Various tours of prehistoric and historic focus will be offered.

Although most of the canyon's road is now paved, there are no services. Please come prepared with enough food, water and gasoline to get you through the day. Public restrooms are located in the Cottonwood Glen picnic area in the upper canyon, and the Daddy Canyon Complex in the lower. Good outdoor shoes, a hat, sunscreen and a walking stick are recommended—a camera and binoculars are a must. We hope to see you there!



For convenient overnight accommodations please contact the Nine Mile Bunk N Breakfast at 435-637-2572. The Bunk N Breakfast is located approximately 24 miles east of the Nine Mile Canyon turnoff in Wellington.



For more information email us: 9mcc@xmission.com
Or phone Diane at 435-820-1273 (10am to 6 pm please)

THE HARPER HOTEL



by Margene Hackney

Many tales, stories and adventures have been told about the happenings in Nine Mile Canyon throughout the past several years. During the fall of 1989, I had an experience that was so profound that I still shiver when I think about it. It has stayed in my memory and every year in October about the time Halloween comes around, I remember what happened and still wonder what it was that frightened me so much.

Harper, which is located just above the confluence of Argyle and Nine Mile Canyon was still in existence during the 1920's according to Chuck Zender's A Guide to Carbon County, Coal Camps and Ghost Towns. It started as an early freight stop with a stable. It eventually became a small town with two schools and a large community building where dances were held every weekend, a log post office, hotel, store and probably a saloon.

After most people left, the town finally died out and all that was left was the post office, the hotel and the stable area. It later became the property of the Wimmer family. Russ Wimmer, who was the President of the Nine Mile Canyon Coalition then, gave the Castle Valley Archaeological Society permission to survey the old town of Harper and the area around his property.

We all arrived at Harper early on a Saturday morning and set up our base camp in the parking lot of the old dilapidated hotel. Russ

had given permission for the team to camp there for the weekend, so some camp trailers were parked in the yard.

My husband Bob and I were not planning to camp overnight, we would drive home and back again the next day. The teams were divided up and sent to different areas, the three Carbon High School boys from the G.A.P. (Geology, Archaeology and Paleontology) club were sent to scout the high cliffs with archaeologist Blaine Miller. Bob my husband, Duane Taylor and Bob Powell were sent to record the pit house. And another team was sent across the creek to survey with Dr. Ray Matheny. Joan Taylor, Kaye Powell and I were asked to record the inside of the hotel and the outside buildings with Dr. Deanne Matheny and Pam Miller as supervisors.

The hotel was really in ruins, the whole inside had a damp musty smell to it. We began our recording by measuring the size of all of the downstairs rooms, closets, cupboards, windows and doors. It was a time consuming job. After we finished the first floor, we took a break and sat in the shade of the trees in the front of the hotel and ate our lunch.

After lunch we began again by measuring the creaky stairs, hoping that they would not collapse until we were finished. We went upstairs to the first room and found that it was a very cheerful room. It had colorful rose patterned wallpaper that was peeling

off of the walls. The only window was facing the hill where the pit house was. As we measured it, I waved to the pit house crew who was very busy with their work.

We then moved to the second room with a window that was facing the road. It had a peaceful atmosphere with some blue flowered wallpaper that was tattered and torn in some places. When we finished that room, the other two began to measure the hallway and I stepped into the third room. The room had a dark somber appearance to it. There was no wallpaper just dark paint. The window faced east and I looked out to the parking area where the trailers and cars were parked. I was in a very good mood and as I began to take measurements I was wishing that I was spending the night because it looked so quiet and peaceful there. But just as I was thinking about how pleasant it was the room became very cold, and I felt the hairs stand up on the back of my neck. Then I felt something touch me ever so lightly and I heard a voice in my ear.

"Don't stay here, leave this house and never ever come back" it whispered.

I was so frightened that I dropped my tape measure and rushed out

into the hall. My first thought was that if I told the others, they wouldn't believe me and would laugh at my foolishness.

So I just told them that I had to go and for them to finish and bring me my tape later. I rushed down the stairs and ran out the door into the sunlight. I immediately went to my Bronco and sat in the front seat for quite a while, shaking the whole time. Did I imagine

it? Was I paranoid? What would the others say? I took a drink of water and decided not to tell anyone what happened.

I was not going back inside that building. So I joined the crew that was working on the outside of the house and never said a word about the occurrence. On the drive home I told Bob that I was never going inside that hotel again because I had an uneasy

feeling that it may collapse on me. He told me if I felt the hotel was unsafe I shouldn't go back in.

The next day Joan invited me inside her trailer for a cup of coffee before work began. She told me that she did not have a good night. She did not sleep very well because yesterday afternoon while she was sitting in a chair by her trailer sketching the outside of the hotel, she looked up at the



Photo by Layne Miller

window and saw an apparition looking back at her. She had an odd feeling that it was something from another world. She could not stop thinking about it.

She also told me that the high school boys told her that when they were lying in their sleeping bags around the fire that night they saw movement from the upstairs window. They thought someone was trying to scare them and they went inside, but saw no one.

It was then that I told Joan about my encounter and why I left so suddenly. She said that she and

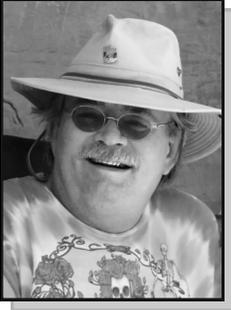
Kaye just thought I had to take a bathroom break. We talked about how mysterious it was and decided to tell the others. We told our stories at the first break. Whether they believed us or not is debatable, but I know that my episode was real. And I do believe Joan also saw something. I never went back inside of that hotel again.

Later, I told Russ Wimmer about my experience. He said that he believed me because his other family members have had similar encounters. They believed that a female ghost inhabited the place.

Why she was there they did not know. Maybe she died there waiting for a lover or maybe she killed herself. I couldn't tell if the voice I heard was male or female, I only know that it frightened me so horribly that I will never ever forget it, even after all these years. I have never experienced anything like it before and hope I never will again.

A few years later the hotel was set on fire by an arsonist and burned to the ground.

⋮ New Board Member - J. Michael Hansen



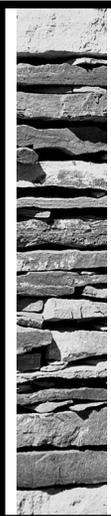
In the March 2013 meeting of the Nine Mile Canyon Coalition Board of Directors, J. Michael Hansen – “Mike” – was unanimously elected to serve as the Coalition’s newest director. He joins the Board after several years of involvement as an active protector of the Canyon and contributor to the Coalition.

Mike became fascinated with Nine Mile Canyon nearly two decades ago, when his “desert rat” instincts caused him to visit the canyon and camp on the edge of Horse Bench overlooking the canyon. Since then his younger brother Steven purchased property in Nine Mile Canyon, providing Mike and his family unlimited opportunities to explore the canyon. After countless weekend adventures in Nine Mile for more than a decade, Mike has grown to love and respect the canyon, and frequently volunteers his time and energy to preserve its seemingly unlimited cultural, scenic, and natural resources. He has participated in many Spring Cleaning and Fall Gathering events with the Coalition

over the years, and is pleased to have been elected to serve on the Board of Directors.

Mike was born and raised in Salt Lake City, where he attended Brighton High School. He graduated Phi Beta Kappa and magna cum laude from the University of Utah in 1974 and earned his Juris Doctorate degree from the University of Utah College of Law in 1979. He has served as President of the Salt Lake County Bar Association, Commissioner of the Utah State Bar Association, and Chair of the Granite Community Council. Mike is currently a civil trial lawyer practicing in Salt Lake City.

Mike is a voracious reader and enjoys music of nearly all genres – bluegrass being his favorite. He lives for time spent in Utah’s deserts with a good pair of hiking boots, a good book, and an ice-cold gin & tonic. Mike and his wife, Cassandra, live in Granite, Utah. They have a daughter, Kathryn (“Kappi”) who recently graduated from the University of Utah with a BS degree in Anthropology (Archaeology emphasis).



Nine Mile Canyon Coalition

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Please mail this form to: **Nine Mile Canyon Coalition, P.O. Box 402, Price, Utah 84501**

Please circle membership type:

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Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____

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Annual (\$25)

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Thank you for your support!