

VESTIGES



November
2011
Volume 31
Number 11

Monthly newsletter of URARA, the Utah Rock Art Research Association

Table of Contents

Annual December URARA Meeting.....	1	Dell Crandall and Gus Scott at URARA	
2012 URARA Board of Directors.....	1	Auction.....	4
2012 URARA Symposium	1	Board of Directors 2011.....	4
2012 ARARA Conference.....	2		
THINK ABOUT IT!	2		

Annual December URARA Meeting

By Barbara Saxon

Our annual Salt Lake City meeting this year will be on Friday December 2nd at the usual facility, First Unitarian Church, 569 South 1300 East, Salt Lake City. The event will be a potluck meal with a honey-glazed ham supplied by URARA. We will need desserts and side dishes to go with the ham. Barbara Saxon will call members a few days before as a general reminder and to coordinate food selections. For more information contact Barbara Saxon at 801- 262-4432 or fredbarb100@aol.com

2012 URARA Board of Directors

By Jeff Allen

Francois Gohier and Joe Brame were elected to the 2012 URARA Board of Directors. Both are outstanding individuals with a strong commitment to rock art and to URARA. Troy Scotter, Diane Orr and Margaret Grochocki were relected to the Board for another twoyear term. Nina Bowen, Ben Everitt and Jeff Allen are completing the second year of their current term.

2012 URARA Symposium

By Jeff Allen

Vernal will be the location for the 32nd URARA Symposium. The dates are September 21-24, 2012. The Vernal area is rich in rock art as is the neighboring areas of Western Colorado. We look forward to working with our local partners in Vernal and Colorado. More information will appear in subsequent issues of *Vestiges*. Stay tuned. Volunteers welcome.

November 2011

2012 ARARA Conference

By Jeff Allen

The American Rock Art Research Association (ARARA) will hold its annual conference in St George during Memorial Day Weekend (May 25-28, 2012). ARARA officers will be working with members of URARA and the Dixie Archaeological Society (DAS) to make local arrangements. Fieldtrips will be held in many locations throughout the area: Gold Butte, St George, Cedar City, Zion National Park, northern Arizona. More information will be available on the ARARA website (www.arara.org).

Think About It!

By Steve Robinson

URARA President Jeff Allen invited us to prepare a Think About It! piece for *Vestiges*. For those new URARA members who are not familiar with this feature, it was something we prepared and included in *Vestiges* for the several years we served as the editors. We are pleased to do so again.



This time we decided to bring to your attention an excellent new book, *The Life and Unsolved Disappearance of a Legendary Wilderness Explorer: FINDING EVERETT RUESS*, Broadway Books, 2011. Though there is very little in the book that deals directly with rock art, for the most part it takes place in the rock art country we all know. The author is David Roberts who has written extensively about rock art in the general four corners area. This includes books and magazine articles. Several things he has written we have referenced in *Vestiges* over the years. The last one was *SANDSTONE SPINE--Seeking the Anasazi on the First Traverse of the Comb Ridge*.

This book does include discussion of the rock art including, for example, The Procession Panel, which he considers a stellar rock art feature. (We note that we were unsuccessful in finding this site on our first effort. A year later, we did succeed. It is indeed very interesting and well worth the effort to find.) In his book Roberts often references the seminal Ruess book by W.L. Rusho, *A Vagabond for Beauty*. It was published in 1983 by Gibbs Smith, Inc. He also references a very interesting video titled, *Lost Forever--Everett Ruess*. This is a "One Hour Documentary Drama" produced by our multi-talented URARA member, Diane Orr, in 2000.

Returning to Roberts' book, it is obvious he has carefully researched the available material regarding the Ruess mystery, and mystique. This included the Ruess family papers archived at the University of Utah, Marriott Library. In notes on resources, Roberts states the best source regarding Everett's writings is the compendium in Rusho's book. Incidentally, this book was our first introduction to the dramatic mystery of Ruess's life and disappearance.

Roberts' book title seems most suitable. We would agree with the author of the book flap which states, "When he vanished without a trace in November 1934, Ruess left behind thousands of pages of journals, letters and poems" and "a Ruess mystique began to build, initiated by his parents and soon enlarged by readers and critics who, struck by his remarkable connection to the wild, likened him to fledging John Muir." It also comments on Roberts' research into his life and death and "journeys into the remote areas explored by Ruess, interviews with old timers who encountered the young vagabond, as well as Ruess' closest living relatives and a deep immersion in his writing and art work. It is an epic narrative of a driven and acutely perceptive young adventurer's expeditions into the wilderness of landscape and self-discovery, as well as absorbing investigations of the continuing mystery of his disappearance."

It is not our intention to write a "book review" of Roberts' excellent new book. He writes very clearly and interestingly and brings new material to our attention. We hope this will intrigue those *Vestiges* readers who are interested in Ruess' disappearance and his somewhat portentous "NEMO" sobriquet rock face inscriptions which some might characterize as rock art.

Ruess' last known location was a visit to Escalante. This was the site of the 2008 URARA Annual Conference. This town, though small compared to other southern Utah Communities, still reflected the environment which Ruess would have experienced when he visited there for a few days in the early 1930's. Thinking about Ruess in that area came quickly to mind during that conference.

About his visit there, Ruess writes in a letter to his brother, "I stopped a few days in a little Mormon town and indulged in family life, church going and dances. If I had stayed longer I would have fallen in love with a Mormon girl, but I think it is a good thing I didn't. I've become a little too different from most of the rest of the world." It was dated November 1934, Escalante Rim, Utah.

This is an excellent book. The 367 pages provide very interesting page-turning information and the material is well documented, referenced and indexed. The author provides seven pages of careful Acknowledgements and is very thorough in his Notes and Sources.

In Epilogue, Roberts states of Ruess that, "As a precocious artist, a writer of promise, a romantic visionary verging on the mystical, a bold and resourceful solo explorer of the beautiful Southwest for its own sake, Everett traces a unique and meteoric path across the American landscape."

We, in turn, thought of the poem that serves as the Afterword in *Vagabond for Beauty*:

A Sonnet for Everett Ruess

You walked into the radiance of death
through passageways of stillness, stone, and light,
gold coin of cottonwoods, the spangled shade,
cascading song of canyon wrens, the flight
of scarlet dragonflies at pools, the stain
of water on a curve of sand, the art
of roots that crack the monolith of time.

You knew the crazy lust to probe the heart
of that which has no heart that we could know,
toward the source, deep in the core, the maze,
the secret center where there are no bounds.

Hunter, brother, companion of our days:
that blessing which you hunted, hunted too,
what you were seeking, this is what found you.

Edward Abbey
Oracle, Arizona
1983

Dell Crandall and Gus Scott at URARA Auction



URARA Contacts

Utah Rock Art Research Association: Box 511324, Salt Lake City, UT 84151-1324.
Address membership applications to URARA, Box 1351, Washington, UT 84780.
www.utahrockart.org .

Board of Directors 2011

Jeff Allen, President	435-986-0977	allenjeffrey@beyondbb.com
Bob Reed, Vice President	801-566-0741	bobreedclyartist@hotmail.com
Margaret Grochocki	801-282-5850	mgrochocki@ymail.com
Diane Orr	801-231-2065	beecherllc@aol.com
Troy Scotter	801-377-6901	troyscotter@gmail.com
Nina Bowen	801-499-0585	nina_bowen@comcast.net
Ben Everitt, Treasurer	435-986-0075	rockdoc@xmission.com

Lois Mansfield, Membership 435-634-1787 lem@virginia.edu
Vestiges staff : copy editing, Bob Reed; proofing: Nina Bowen, proofing, printing and mailing:
Barbara and Fred Saxon, fredbarb100@aol.com 801-262-4432; website: Tom Getts,
tomgetts@gmail.com , 970-533-1861.