

## PIONEERS

*Pioneers features personal reflections on major figures, living or deceased, in the study of the indigenous cultures of the region. Pioneers shares candid recollections that convey insight into the personalities and the cultural context of anthropology that shaped the scholarship of these pioneers.*

### MEMORIES OF RUTH GRUHN (1935– ) AND ALAN BRYAN (1928–2010)

Steven R. Simms  
Utah State University

Passionate about archaeological science and convinced that the First Americans migrated throughout the hemisphere before Clovis, husband and wife archaeologists Ruth Gruhn and Alan Bryan kept up the search and turned out to be right. They were also early advocates for the concept of a Pacific coastal migration. Now that we have the power of sophisticated radiometric age calibration, and strong evidence from a suite of archaeological sites, the balance of credibility leans toward American migration at least 14,500 calendar years ago—an age likely to get older. Pacific coastal migration is now a routine topic, and we even have a name for it: The Kelp Highway! Skepticism is essential to science, hence the conservatism. Science is about questions more than answers, and as Bertrand Russell pointed out, less about truth than about varying degrees of probability. But the evidence for the unknown will never be found unless it is sought, and Gruhn and Bryan were dogged in their pursuit. They and other early advocates for hemispheric colonization before Clovis endured incessant skepticism, yet they pushed beyond the frustration with professionalism, a passion for scholarship, and a love of teaching.

Their list of publications is voluminous, and a sample is appended to this *Pioneers*. But their contributions go far beyond those. They worked across the Western Hemisphere from the Great Basin and Intermountain West, to Baja California, and Guatemala. Their career-long efforts in South America go well beyond the fieldwork. They developed relationships with South American archaeologists and became (as one colleague put it) “inter-continental ambassadors.”

They were among the founding members of the Department of Anthropology at the University of



**Ruth and Alan in 1963. Photo by Tom Kehoe.  
Courtesy of Alice Kehoe.**

Alberta. Their efforts ranged into museology as they built the Bryan/Gruhn Archaeology Collection and the Bryan/Gruhn Ethnographic Collection. Bryan was a curator from 1966 to 1993, and Gruhn from 1994 until 2009. They were also bibliophiles, and their library is legendary, as you will discover in this *Pioneers*. Ruth was honored at the Society for American Archaeology meetings in 2017 and at the Great Basin Anthropological Conference in 2021.

Professors Gruhn and Bryan mentored generations of students. While I was not one of them, I learned from afar. While at the University of Nevada Reno in

1974 working on a Master’s degree, I was Don Tuohy’s draftsman at the Nevada State Museum and Don was part of their Smith Creek Canyon work. The maps and profile drawings from some of the sites occupied me for several months, and I was introduced to Bryan and Gruhn’s publications. I ended up not analyzing the coprolites,

and Don conveyed Ruth’s displeasure to me. But a seed was planted by Alan’s notion that the Western Stemmed Tradition includes elements that pre-date Clovis. That has always remained with me. Recent work at the Paisley Caves, Oregon and at Cooper’s Ferry, Idaho moves the needle in Alan’s direction.

\* \* \*

### HOW A POORLY BOUND BOOK CAN JUMPSTART A CAREER

Ted Goebel  
Texas A&M University

I did not meet Alan Bryan and Ruth Gruhn until late in their long and storied careers, but they still guided my professional development from afar, literally from its very beginning. During fall semester 1985, my senior year at Washington & Lee University, visiting professor Michael Malpass suggested I write a term paper on the peopling of the Americas, a topic I knew virtually nothing about. To get me started, Mike handed me a book from his shelf entitled *Early Man in America from a Circum-Pacific Perspective*, edited by Alan L. Bryan and published seven years prior. Its spine was broken, and pages were falling out. Nonetheless, that moment, and that book, set my course for life. By the end of the semester, I had read every page (or at least looked at every picture) of the book, written my paper, gotten a good grade, and decided what I had to do next—go to graduate school and get involved in the study of the peopling of the Americas. I applied to two schools, the University of Alberta to work with Alan Bryan and Ruth Gruhn, and the University of Alaska Fairbanks to work with Roger Powers. Of all the many topics and chapters in Bryan’s book, which spanned geographically from China to Patagonia, the most intriguing related to the far north, an environment quite foreign to me but one that seemed to be the most important for settling debates concerning early human migration to the Americas. So, when acceptance from the University of Alaska arrived first—with an invitation to join Roger’s excavation at the newly discovered Nenana Complex site of Walker Road and the opportunity to learn Russian and eventually travel to the Soviet Union—I seized the opportunity. I immediately started making plans to drive the Alaska Highway, leaving the

day after graduation. I never looked back. Being handed that book of Alan Bryan’s was truly the transformational moment in my professional life. Without it, you might instead know me as the radio voice of the San Francisco Giants, or more likely, the Toledo Mud Hens.

Years later I learned of my other connection to Alan and Ruth through some academic genealogical research. In the early to mid-1960s, my Ph.D. advisor Roger worked for Alan and Ruth under the direction of Earl Swanson Jr. at Idaho State College (now University/ISU) in Pocatello, as their team was investigating sites like Veratic and Bison rockshelters, Jaguar Cave, Wilson Butte Cave, and Willow Creek Shelter. Claude Warren was on the team, as he was an assistant professor at Idaho State and the state highway archaeologist before he moved on to the University of Nevada Las Vegas. Rob Bonnicksen was also there—as the camp cook! It was in this milieu that Roger learned field and lab methods and became keenly aware of the importance of paleoecology in archaeology, a trait he passed on to me. Upon earning his Master’s degree, though, Roger left Alan, Ruth, Rob and the rest of the extended ISU family to pursue dissertation research in Siberia and Alaska at the University of Wisconsin. Despite this, his later excavations at Dry Creek in central Alaska were modeled after Swanson’s ISU methods and theory. Fast-forward three decades and an academic generation later to see how all this is connected to me. In 1993, I earn my Ph.D. at Alaska Fairbanks under Roger’s supervision, studying the Pleistocene archaeology of Beringia. In 1998, I filled Claude’s faculty position at UNLV, from which he had recently retired. In 2000, my colleagues and I begin excavating at Bonneville Estates Rockshelter, in eastern Nevada, about halfway between Wilson Butte Cave, Idaho and another important site that Alan and Ruth investigated, Smith Creek Cave, Nevada. Then in 2008 I become associate director of the Center for the Study of the First Americans at Texas A&M

University, which Rob founded. If there is a common thread to all of these connections, it is Alan and Ruth.

I do not remember when I first met Alan and Ruth, but over the years we became steadfast friends. We frequented the same conferences and field trips, spending much time together, whether at the Great Basin Anthropological Conference or some international congress in Latin America. During the Geological Society of America conference in Salt Lake City in 2005, they joined a field trip to visit our excavations at Bonneville Estates Rockshelter and Danger Cave. During the trip, Alan pointed out to me the strong similarities in the Paleoindian records of Bonneville Estates and Smith Creek Cave, where he and Ruth had excavated in the 1970s. Despite questions our team had raised a few years prior about the antiquity of Western Stemmed points at Smith Creek Cave, Alan still suggested we should consider going back there to take another look to help resolve the chronological controversy and see for ourselves the stratigraphic context of the site's artifacts and features. Unfortunately, Alan passed away before we could plan such an expedition. Alan was one of those rare archaeologists involved in research on the peopling of the Americas who did not let scientific disagreements interfere with personal friendships. This is an essential part of deportment in our field, one that I try to maintain in my own work, and one that I try to pass on to my students today.

Since Alan's passing in 2010, I have had the pleasure of getting to know Ruth even better than I knew Alan. Her enthusiasm for peopling of the Americas research is unparalleled, and her commitment to supporting Latin

American archaeology is unwavering. Every time I see Ruth, she is enthusiastically 'selling' a new site she has heard or read about in Mexico, Central, or South America. Imagine packing your family for a year-long trip in a Land Rover from New York to Santiago, Chile, and then back north to Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, along the way meeting archaeologists, surveying for early archaeological sites, conducting ethnographic research, and even participating in excavations in Ecuador, Venezuela, and Peru. Ruth and Alan did this in 1969, with a small child. Archaeologists in the Southern Cone, where Kelly Graf and I frequently visit, still talk about the feat, even though few of them were around then to witness it. Ruth and Alan's trip is folkloric. The friendships they forged, and the bridges they built between North and South continue to unite us to this day. Without Ruth and Alan's early support, not to mention Rob Bonnicksen's perseverance, I expect that the well-developed bond between the Center for the Study of the First Americans and the Latin American archaeological community would not exist.

Over the years I have learned to keep two copies of the important works of Alan and Ruth on my bookshelf—one I loan to students, the other I keep safe for the future—not just *Early Man in America from a Circum-Pacific Perspective*, but also *The Archaeology of Smith Creek Canyon and The Archaeology of Wilson Butte Cave, South-Central Idaho*. These books are frequently consulted and borrowed, so that now their spines are broken and their pages are falling out. "It's not the years, it's the mileage," Indiana Jones keenly said. May we all produce works that become as worn as those authored by Alan Bryan and Ruth Gruhn.

\* \* \*

## RUTH GRUHN BRYAN AND ALAN BRYAN

Alice B. Kehoe

Tom Kehoe and Alan Bryan were Master's students together at the University of Washington, and went on for doctoral work at Harvard. I had been admitted to graduate work at Harvard, married Tom, and we started together at Harvard. Ruth Gruhn completed her Radcliffe undergraduate degree and entered graduate studies at Harvard at that time, 1957. We four formed a friendship group, the men already close from their Seattle days,

Ruth and I close along with the few other women in our cohort. We had one basic thing in common—most of the elitist faculty had no interest in us. J. O. Brew, who wasn't wealthy or upper-class, was assigned as advisor to us *hoi polloi*, and we were grateful to him. Social class was blatantly more important at Harvard than any other quality. My experience at Harvard suggests that at that time, no professor ever thought that any woman would have a career.

The half-dozen or so women in our cohort ignored this. Besides Ruth and me, they included Dena Dincauze

and Cynthia Irwin, who became SAA Presidents; Betsy Garland, who led and mentored archaeology in western Michigan; Fumiko Ikawa, who carried out significant work in her native Japan; Hind Sadek, from Egypt, who would do her thesis work at a cave in Idaho; and Dolores Newton, who conducted ethnographic fieldwork in Brazil and, as a professor, served the museum at Stony Brook University. We, and the men who were considered lower class (that is, who were not wealthy), took the courses and exams, found fieldwork opportunities, wrote dissertations, and became Ph.Ds. Only years later did any of us see that those wealthy male students had been actively mentored by the professors, set up with fieldwork projects and dissertation supervision, and then jobs. David Browman discovered that those men were invited to weekly teas at the luxurious apartment of Professor Stephen Williams. We had no inkling of that. We only knew that Williams was rather clueless about the experience that many brought to his class on North American archaeology. J. O. Brew, in contrast, directed Ruth as an undergraduate student to field projects at The Dalles in Oregon and Yellowjacket in Colorado, and procured funds for her dissertation project at Wilson Butte Cave in Idaho.

None of us women had time for fashion. Dena and I were not only married, but each had a baby. We had been Barnard classmates, lectured by our college president that every woman has as much right to a career AND family as any man. Having to care for a baby interfered with the usual socializing and study groups, so Dena and I studied together in one or another's apartment, the babies sleeping in their baskets. Ruth could study with the other unencumbered students. (Well, Tom could have studied with Dena and me, but it never occurred to any of us that he might have.) Alan, like Ruth, was single.

Ruth seemed even more serious than we other women. She always wore a sweater and tweed skirt in order, she once explained, to cut down on having to waste time doing laundry. A nice sweater and skirt, and like the rest of us women, lipstick every day; but there was no mistaking how serious she was about learning to do the best possible archaeology and doing it. If she went to parties, I wouldn't know, I was home with the baby, but I doubt it. Still, she often smiled.

As months rolled by, Alan, who had been introduced to her by a mutual friend while he was passing through

The Dalles, became entranced by Ruth. He suggested they go for coffee or some such excuse for developing a friendship, but Ruth wasn't interested in pursuing a man. This was still the Eisenhower years with tremendous pressure on young women to marry by 19, have babies, and have a charming little Levittown house with frilly curtains. (After wars in which millions of men are killed, there is pressure on women to restore the population.) Alan would come over to our apartment, feeling down, confiding how deeply he desired Ruth for his partner in archaeology and life. Tom and I sympathized; Alan was such a good man, so honest and capable. Not especially good-looking, but fit. Like my husband.

We hatched a scheme. During the summers, we were on the Blackfoot Reservation in Montana, where Tom was Acting Director of the (federal) Museum of the Plains Indian. With first me, and then later a summer assistant, he found time to excavate a bison drive near town. Someone had to be in the field to supervise when he had to be at the Museum for his duties there, and I, with the baby, couldn't be full-time at the site. Tom asked Ruth to work as field supervisor. Ruth was delighted at the opportunity to learn. She would stay in the Museum and eat with us in the nearby cottage.

Everything worked out so well! Ruth was happy with learning to excavate bison corrals, see the High Plains, and meet Indian people. We enjoyed her company. Chatting over dinner or picnics, we would mention Alan, Tom would recount some of his fieldwork in Puget Sound, how excellent it was, how he surely would continue to do interesting, innovative archaeology...I would nod, yes, Alan sure was a good guy.... At the end of that summer, Ruth was invited by Alan to come down to Idaho to look for thesis sites, and he showed her Wilson Butte Cave. Back in Cambridge, Ruth seemed as serious as ever, smiling but not wasting time on idle chat.

Once Tom and I had completed the necessary courses, we left expensive Cambridge. We each could do a dissertation without assistance, while Tom was earning our living as Provincial Archaeologist for Saskatchewan. After her dig at Wilson Butte Cave, funded through assistance from Professor Brew, Ruth stayed in Pocatello to analyze her findings and finish her dissertation. The Bryans were married in Pocatello in May 1961, and during the summer worked for Earl Swanson, Director of the Idaho State Museum, in Birch Creek, Idaho.

Swanson obtained National Science Foundation funds for archaeological surveys in Idaho; these supported hiring Alan Bryan and Don Tuohy, and later B. Robert Butler, and cooperation with Ruth Gruhn in her excavation and analyses of Wilson Butte Cave. Swanson was part of a pivotal time that revolutionized techniques and interpretations.

Following Swanson's suggestion, Ruth applied for an NSF postdoctoral fellowship to study environmental archaeology at the Institute of Archaeology at the University of London, U.K., where Swanson had studied. We once went back to Cambridge for an exam, and stopping in the Peabody to check for mail, I found Alan opening a letter. Reading it. His face lighting up with joy! Eagerly he showed me a line in the long letter from Ruth—she told him that after their spring marriage and summer fieldwork in Idaho, they would be off to merry old England! I threw my arms around him. Wonderful! Wonderful! So began the lifelong, loving partnership of two of the most intelligent archaeologists of our generation.

Alan and Ruth of course are best known for their dogged, open minds about pre-Clovis people in the Americas. Their understanding of science, and scientific method, has always been firm. That led to a not-funny incident in 1984. Dena Dincauze published a paper in *Advances in Archaeological Method and Theory*, an annual volume edited by Mike Schiffer, in which she complained that projects outside the conventional practice of American archaeology—for example pre-Clovis research—are subjected to higher standards than is ordinary work. She discussed the Bryans' work at Taima-Taima as an example, concluding that it was usually dismissed as not credible. Ruth was shocked and very upset. She phoned me; how could Dena sabotage them? The attack was bad enough, those dismissals were *pro forma*, but she and Alan thought Dena was a friend!

I at once phoned Dena. How could she attack our colleagues, how could she disrespect Alan and Ruth's work? Dena was surprised. She said she had used Taima-Taima because *the Bryans' work was excellent archaeology, a model for research*. Didn't everyone know that? I reread the article, and I could see that she had made that assumption, but she hadn't spelled it out. Readers who took for granted that the continent was empty before Clovis would infer that Taima-Taima was another



**Ruth Gruhn in 1958 as field supervisor, Boarding School Bison Drive, on the Blackfeet Reservation, Montana. Ruth (straw hat) is listening to Theodore Last Star (with clipboard) as he interprets the excavation of the bison corral as he heard his grandparents describe the drives. The man next to him is translating. Mr. Last Star was a leading Elder in the 1950s for the *Amskapi Pikuni*, the Montana Blackfeet. Ruth Gruhn epitomizes the effort to nurture healthy relationships with Native American elders. Photo courtesy of Alice Kehoe.**

suspicious claim—few archaeologists would realize that Dincauze, editor of *American Antiquity*, was *accepting* the Bryans' claim for greater antiquity. After our phone call, Dena apologized to Ruth. The incident powerfully illustrated the barriers the Bryans faced throughout their careers—no matter how many data, no matter how meticulous the work, no matter how clear the logical inference from data, any archaeology outside mainstream orthodoxy will be denigrated and likely rejected.

Tom and Alan are gone; Ruth and I remain close friends. We two are fortunate to live long enough to see some of our work at last accepted, at least by some, and

we are respected as professionals. From the perspective of the pre-Civil Rights days, Ruth and I were so very fortunate to meet two men who wanted us, the whole

persons, archaeologist and collaborators as well as wives and mothers of the children—despite the misogyny at Harvard in our day.

\* \* \*

### PIONEERS! RUTH GRUHN AND ALAN BRYAN

John W. (Jack) Ives  
University of Alberta

I first met Ruth Gruhn and Alan Bryan in 1975 when I came to the University of Alberta to begin a Master’s degree in the Department of Anthropology. Ruth taught a course, “The Scope of Anthropology,” which provided all incoming graduate students with foundational perspectives for a four-field approach to anthropology. Ruth and Alan were generous in inviting new graduate students to their home, which was a memorable experience. In a relatively large house, the entire basement had been given over to the most extraordinary library. Early in his career, Alan had acquired Daniel. S. Davidson’s library, for which Alan and Ruth had continued to collect—assiduously. Davidson was an Australianist, but had broad interests, including even a seminal work on snowshoes in North America. In Ruth and Alan’s home, there was row upon row of bookshelves, just like a floor in a major library... and so many early, original works that there was the scent of being in a genuine library. Alan and Ruth’s interest in library matters extended well beyond their own collection: throughout their careers, they paid close attention to acquisitions for the University of Alberta library. In fact, for one term, one of my graduate student tasks was to receive book and journal titles from Ruth and Alan and determine if these were included in University of Alberta library holdings. If not, Ruth and Alan would see about starting the acquisitions process, and of course, their interests too were extraordinarily broad.

In 1977, I left the University of Alberta to pursue a Ph.D. at the University of Michigan. There, I had access to what I understood to be one of the world’s largest and most comprehensive libraries. In 1979, I returned to assume a staff archaeologist position with the Archaeological Survey of Alberta, by then based on the University of Alberta campus. In an era where digital access has become so common and powerful, it may be difficult to imagine the card catalogue-searching

process libraries had until the 1970s and 1980s. Yet, the extent of a library’s holdings had a great impact on teaching and research. While I had completed my residency requirements and comprehensive candidacy exams at the University of Michigan, I departed without a clearly defined dissertation topic, and needed a major research library to continue my work. Perhaps the greatest compliment one might pay to Ruth and Alan’s decades of building the University of Alberta holdings in anthropology and related areas was that I scarcely noticed the difference between the Michigan and University of Alberta libraries. One rarely needed an interlibrary loan (something those of us of a certain age might remember), and even then, one might ask Ruth or Alan if they happened to have the work in question, new or old.

Eventually Ruth and Alan donated their massive personal library to the University of Alberta (now part of the University of Alberta holdings as the Bryan-Gruhn Library). While the connection may be somewhat attenuated, I have little doubt that the “card catalogue” analog version of the University of Alberta holdings provided the foundation for the extraordinary digital access we are so fortunate to enjoy to this day. And it was not simply Ruth and Alan’s library materials that were donated to the University of Alberta. During careers that carried them across the western hemisphere, Ruth and Alan had made significant ethnological collections that ranged from northern Alberta to South America. These now also grace University of Alberta Museum collections and include everything from glyptodont scutes to many instances of ethnographic clothing. These collections bear Ruth and Alan’s name, in honor of their generosity and vision. In one recent, small example of the continued use of these collections, one of our graduate students recognized intricate, plat sinnet braiding in both the Promontory cave collections from Utah (in Great Basin contexts where it had not previously been documented) and in a birch-bark basket handle Ruth had acquired from northern Alberta. Countless students have benefitted over the years from Ruth and Alan’s passion and foresight in these areas.

My other, singular memory of Ruth and Alan came during a field trip connected with the Arctic Science Division meetings of the AAAS in Alaska in 1994. Having stopped for one evening along a loop involving the Nenana and Tanana valleys, all of us were visiting in a motel room somewhere past the Tangle Lakes. As our conversation took a more philosophical turn, a younger student posed the question, “Why do we do archaeology, anyway?” One senior figure in the room answered quickly, with words to the effect, “Why, to find the truth about the past.” There was a lull, and then Alan spoke, and I recall him saying “Well...I don’t know about the truth...but *understanding* perhaps....”

\* \* \*

### AL BRYAN AND THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON

Roy Carlson  
Simon Fraser University

Al Bryan and I were students working on M.A. degrees in the Department of Anthropology at the University of Washington in Seattle in the mid-1950s. Al was doing thesis research on the archaeology of the northern Puget Sound and I was doing the same on the archaeology of the adjacent San Juan Islands, where Al was born. We got to know each other quite well and did some field surveys together. We had previously worked for Carl Borden of the University of British Columbia at different times on the Tweedsmuir Park survey and excavations, the first salvage archaeology done in British Columbia. The Dept of Anthropology at the U. of W. was at that time a vibrant and fascinating place with excellent faculty and numerous graduate students. One should remember that at that time the employment of archaeologists was mostly in museums and universities. Salvage archaeology was undertaken by universities and government agencies such as the River Basin Surveys, but cultural resource management was a thing of the future.

The Anthropology Department at the U. of W. in the 1950s was strictly Boasian in outlook. The department had been started by Leslie Spier, Erna Gunther, and Melville Jacobs, but Spier had long since departed and Gunther had become Head. She implemented the four-field anthropology curriculum, and hired additional

Those words reflect the measure of Ruth and Alan’s contributions as scholars. As another participant in that trip remarked, very, very few people had seen, firsthand, the full extent of early period materials in the Americas. And those experiences, carried out in a genuine partnership, led to the thoughtful and nuanced scholarship we associate with Alan and Ruth’s work. Of course, Ruth—who was also celebrated in a session at the 2017 Society for American Archaeology meetings in Vancouver as the “First Lady of First American Studies,” and the recipient of a Founders Lifetime Achievement Award at the 2021 meetings of the Great Basin Anthropological Association—continues to carry that work forward.

faculty. Gunther, Viola Garfield, D. S. Davidson, Paul Kirchoff, William Massey, and William Elmendorf covered socio-cultural anthropology; Fred Hulse, physical anthropology; Melville Jacobs, linguistics; and initially Arden King followed by Cal Burroughs and then Douglas Osborne, archaeology. Gunther, Garfield, and Jacobs had obtained their degrees under Boas at Columbia and were tenured. Massey, Elmendorf, and Osborne were hired in the mid-1950s, and were untenured. The curricular emphasis was cultural-historical with Boas as the “great god,” diffusion as the primary mechanism of culture change, and social evolution and functionalism as evil doctrines, although V. Gordon Childe was tolerated. Graduate students were required to take courses in all four fields and to specialize in one. Proficiency in reading two foreign languages was also a requirement for both the M.A. and Ph.D. degrees.

Our cohort of students specializing in anthropological archaeology at the U. of W. contributed to the expansion of archaeology during the late 1950s and 1960s: Bob Butler (M.A.), Bob Crabtree (M.A.), Warren Caldwell (Ph.D.), Richard Daugherty (Ph.D.), Tommy Kehoe (M.A.), and Earl Swanson (Ph.D.). At that time, the M.A. degree was a necessary step toward the Ph.D. rather than a consolation prize for failure, as at some universities. At its peak in the 1950s the Dept. of Anthropology at the U. of W. was ranked in the top four in the U.S. along with Columbia, Berkeley, and Michigan. This did not last long. Erna Gunther wished to step down as Head and D. S. Davidson was scheduled

to become her replacement. Unfortunately, Davidson suddenly died and the Dean brought in a non-Boasian social anthropologist to fill this position. He decreed that he would get rid of all non-tenured faculty, and in this he was successful. Bill Massey, Bill Elmendorf, and Doug Osborne were all denied tenure. Osborne fought this decision but lost. Gunther resigned and went to the U. of Alaska and Hulse went to the U of Arizona. The department changed almost overnight from one centered on culture history in a four-field context with the most expertise in Pacific Northwest anthropology, to one centered on social organization in New Guinea. Most of the archaeology graduate students decided to pursue the Ph.D. at other universities, with Roy Carlson, Bob Crabtree, and Don Tuohy going to the U. of Arizona, and Tommy Kehoe and Al Bryan to Harvard. Dick Daugherty, Earl Swanson, and Warren Caldwell

completed their doctorates at the U. of W. and had found jobs by the time of the purge.

While at Harvard, Al Bryan met Ruth Gruhn, who was also completing a Ph.D., and this began a life-long marriage and collaboration. They were hired by the University of Alberta in Edmonton and from there continued research in the early human occupation of the Americas that had been part of their doctoral dissertations at Harvard. They did further excavation at Wilson Butte Cave, Idaho, excavated at the Smith Creek caves in Nevada, and worked on early sites and collections from as far away as Venezuela and Brazil. Throughout his career Al held tenaciously to a pre-Clovis model of the peopling of the New World, even though most of his peers were highly skeptical because the archaeological evidence of chronology was so often inconclusive. In the end, Al was proven right and the rest of us wrong.

\* \* \*

### MEMORIES OF FIELDWORK WITH RUTH GRUHN AND ALAN BRYAN

Loren G. Davis  
Oregon State University

Ruth Gruhn and Alan Bryan greatly influenced my academic trajectory and helped to nurture my interests in the study of the First Americans. In the fall of 1997, I traveled with Ruth and Alan to work in the Laguna Seca Chapala basin of Baja California in northwestern Mexico to evaluate claims for great antiquity there made by Brigham Arnold. Before we arrived, Hurricane Nora had made landfall near our study area and the normally dry Laguna Chapala playa was covered with a shallow lake. During our stay, we experienced multiple smaller tropical storms that lashed our camp with rain and wind, driving waves of lake water into our tents. Later, Santa Ana winds howled relentlessly across the basin, rising above what must have been 60 mph for three days and nights. These conditions made everything more challenging and, on occasion, miserable. Throughout it all, as the crew fretted about the weather, Ruth would remind us that “the sun will come back” and that she wasn’t concerned about our plight. This helped to calm the crew and we all agreed that if diminutive Ruth wasn’t worried, we shouldn’t be either.



**Alan Bryan and Ruth Gruhn in 2006. Photo courtesy of Pamela Mayne Correia, University of Alberta.**

Ruth and Alan directed excavations at the Abrigo Paredón site, which lay buried at the base of a large granite boulder, adjacent to the Laguna Chapala playa. On the day that Ruth and Alan identified the location for their excavation units, I was puzzled about this selection and asked aloud what motivated them to choose that spot. While there had been some lithic artifacts scattered on the surface of the desert sands, I couldn’t see how that specific place was so attractive to warrant excavation. Ruth patiently explained that the large boulder, which had a pronounced vertical face on the lake side, and a



small overhang on its northern margin, probably offered shelter during the hottest part of the day and received the warming rays of the rising sun each morning. The rock also had several small depressions across its face, which gave it a unique appearance not unlike the wall behind a firing squad, motivating Ruth's clever naming of the site. They both thought that it looked like a good place for the basin's early peoples to have camped and left behind a record to find. Much to my surprise, their excavations produced a good number of lithic tools, including a buried component of foliate points reminiscent of the San Dieguito complex from the San Diego area. Radiocarbon dating of this site returned ages of ~9,000 years B.P., and it represents some of the earliest archaeological evidence of human occupation on the peninsula. In contrast, the multiple sites that I chose in the basin in hopes of finding late Pleistocene and early Holocene-aged archaeological evidence all dated after ~4,000 years B.P. I appreciated the fact that Ruth and Alan gave me the latitude to choose where to conduct my site testing and celebrated

the results, despite the younger ages. On this and other occasions when we worked together in pursuit of Baja California's earliest sites, they proved again and again to be great teachers and kind mentors.

I learned many important lessons about archaeology by spending time in the field with Ruth and Alan over the years, while conducting excavations and talking about the larger ideas of when and how people first came to the Americas. Most importantly, they showed me how to develop and maintain professional relationships with archaeologists in Baja California, which continues to support my research there today. Ruth and Alan were very important mentors and teachers who demonstrated the value of making careful observation of landscapes, applying care and patience in all aspects of field work, and maintaining one's persistence in the pursuit of research problems. They both influenced my thinking over the years and introduced me to the wonders and challenges of field work. I will always be grateful for their help, guidance, and friendship.

\* \* \*

## REFERENCES

- Bryan, Alan (ed.)  
 1978 *Early Man in America from a Circum-Pacific Perspective*. [Occasional Papers of the Department of Anthropology, University of Alberta 1.] Archaeological Researches International, Edmonton, Canada. (tDAR id: 109893)  
 1988 The Relationship of the Stemmed Point and Fluted Point Traditions in the Great Basin. In *Early Human Occupation in Far Western North America: The Clovis-Archaic Interface*, J. A. Willig, C. M. Aikens, and J. L. Fagan, eds. *Nevada State Museum Anthropological Papers* 21. Carson City.  
 2003 Some Difficulties in Modeling the Original Peopling of the Americas. *Quaternary International* 109(3):175–179.  
 2005 The Ignored Continent: South America in Models of Earliest American Prehistory. In *Paleoamerican Origins: Beyond Clovis*, B.T. Lepper, D. Stanford, and M. Waters, eds., pp. 199–208. College Station: Center for the Study of the First Americans, Texas A&M University.
- Bryan, Alan L., Rodolfo M. Casamiquela, José Maria Cruxent, Ruth Gruhn, and Claudio Ochsenius  
 1978 An El Jobo Mastodon Kill at Taima-Taima, Venezuela. *Science* 200:1275–1277.
- Bryan, Alan, and Ruth Gruhn  
 1979 The Archaeology of Smith Creek Canyon, Eastern Nevada, D. R. Tuohy and D. L. Rendall, eds. *Nevada State Museum Anthropological Papers* 17. Carson City.
- Gruhn, Ruth  
 1964 The Archaeology of Wilson Butte Cave, South-Central Idaho. *Occasional Papers of the Idaho State Museum* 6. Pocatello.  
 1987 The Settlement of the Americas: South American Evidence for an Expanded Time Frame. *Current Anthropology* 28(3):363–365.  
 1988 Linguistic Evidence in Support of the Coastal Route of Earliest Entry into the New World. *Man* 23:77–100. Reprinted in *The First Ones: Readings in Indian-Native Studies*, D. Miller, C. Beal, J. Dempsey, and R. W. Heber, eds., pp. 51–63. Regina: Saskatchewan Federated Indian College, 1992.  
 1990 Initial Settlement of the New World: The Coastal Entry Model. In *Proceedings of the International Symposium on the Chronostratigraphy of the Paleolithic in North Central East Asia and America*, pp. 20–24. Novosibirsk: Siberian Branch of the Academy of Sciences of the USSR.  
 1991 Stratified Radiocarbon-Dated Archaeological Sites of Clovis Age and Older in Brazil. In *Clovis: Origins and Adaptations*, R. Bonnichsen and K. Turnmire, eds., pp. 283–286. Corvallis: Center for the Study of the First Americans, Oregon State University.  
 1994 The Pacific Coast Route of Initial Entry: An Overview. In *Method and Theory for Investigating the Peopling of the Americas*, R. Bonnichsen and D. G. Steele, eds., pp. 249–256. Corvallis: Center for the Study of the First Americans, Oregon State University.

- 1995 Results of New Excavations at Wilson Butte Cave, Idaho. *Current Research in the Pleistocene* 12:16-17.
- 1997 The South American Context of the Pedra Pintada Site in Brazil. *Current Research in the Pleistocene* 14:29-32.
- 2020 Evidence Grows for Early Peopling of the Americas. *Nature* 584:47-48.
- 2022 To the End of the World: Southern Patagonia in Models of the Initial Peopling of the Western Hemisphere. In *Archaeology of Piedra Museo Locality: An Open Window to the Early Population of Patagonia*, L. Miotti, M. Salemme, and D. Hermo, eds. Cham, Switzerland: Springer Nature Switzerland AG.
- Gruhn, Ruth, and Alan L. Bryan  
1984 The Record of Pleistocene Megafaunal Extinction at Taima-Taima, Northern Venezuela. In *Pleistocene Extinctions*, P. S. Martin and R. G. Klein, eds., pp. 128-137. Tucson: University of Arizona Press.

