VOL. I, No. 12 December 1957

THE WASHINGTON ARCHAEOLOGIST

NEXT MEETING - - - December 11, 1957 - - - 7:30 P.M.

Walker-Ames Room, 3rd Floor Parrington Hall, University of Washington Campus

DONALD R. TUOHY will speak on Pipeline Archaeology in the Pacific Northwest at the December meeting. Mr. Tuohy, who is working on his M.A. degree at the University of Washington, has spent 18 months with the Pacific Northwest Pipeline Company. His experiences and findings should be of great interest to all our members.

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At the November meeting Dr. Massey spoke on Analysis of Excavated Artifacts -- the preparation and summary of material and site for publication. In other words, what happens to materials from the time they are taken out of the site until a paper or monograph concerning them appears in publication. First, there is a systematic handling of the raw data and materials. Included are maps, site materials such as profiles, soils, animal remains, data on proximity of water, climate, etc.; biological specimens such as bones, shells, plant fibers, and artifacts of stone, bone and shell. Historical information regarding the Indians who have lived in that area and their first contacts with whites is also gathered.

Aims in handling the material from excavation to publication are the reconstruction of pre-history and cultural developments of people in the area. Ways of handling the material are mostly systematic. There are differences which reflect the individual archaeologist. We now come to the actual handling of the data: The artifacts are cleaned, preserved and preliminary sorting done. The specimens are numbered and catalogued. Biological materials and soil samples which need to be identified are sorted out and sent to an expert in that line. An analysis of the artifacts with cross referencing now takes place. Dr. Massey emphasized that at this point the greatest care needs to be taken. The artifacts are sorted in catagories as to length, breadth, weight, type of material, etc. Materials from the site (raw data, photos, drawings and profiles) are brought together with the artifact analysis to determine if there has been more than one culture in that site. Cross referencing of the site and artifacts is now made. Following this, all published reports of the region or whole area need to be read and the data compared with these reports. Finally all the materials are brought together and are well written. The report is now ready to be submitted for publication.

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1958 DUES

Annual dues of the W.A.S. may be paid at the December meeting or any time thereafter. Those persons who have not paid by March 1, 1958, will no longer be eligible to receive this publication. Dues are as follows:

Senior Members	$ 5.00
Associate Members	2.50
Student Members	2.00
Junior Members	1.00
Family Memberships	5.00 for one Senior member, and other adults of the family of any number at the Associate Member fee of $2.50, the latter being considered Senior members.

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TREASURER'S REPORT

At the December meeting the W.A.S. Treasurer, Tom Beddall, will make the annual financial report.

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ACTIVITIES

Regular laboratory sessions are being conducted Wednesday evenings of each week (except the second Wednesday) for the purpose of classifying and summarizing the material from 45KT6.

In lieu of our December Society field trip, an all day session will be held at the Nelson home, 706 16th North, Sunday, December 15th. Come at 12:00 noon, bring potluck food for the evening meal and stay as late as you wish.

There is still much preliminary work to be done. It is interesting and educational. Anyone not availing himself of these laboratory instructions is missing a real opportunity to broaden his experience in the field of archaeology.

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FIRST MAJOR PUBLICITY

Many thanks to Charlotte Widrig for her fine article, "They Dig Up The Past" which appeared in the Magazine Section of the Seattle Times, Sunday, November 24, 1957. The article was illustrated with photographs taken by the Widrig's on our special dig the week end of September 28-29. Any time Mrs. Widrig feels inclined to do another piece on some phase of our Society activities, she will have our complete cooperation and sincere appreciation.

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EPHRATA CHAPTER

We regret that we have no news from the very new Ephrata Chapter this month. Perhaps when they get their activities program under way, their secretary will furnish us with news and reports for a regular "Ephrata Section" in the Bulletin.

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Reprinted from WSC REPORTS, Fall Issue, 1957:

ARCHAEOLOGISTS STUDY ANCIENT HOMES AT ICE HARBOR SITE ALONG SNAKE RIVER BANK

A college term where students used picks and shovels instead of texts, and lived in tents instead of dormitories has recently been completed at Washington State College. The venture was an 8-week archaeological research project along the banks of the Snake River nine miles south of Kahlotus. Eight coeds and seven male students received experience in archaeological field studies and at the same time picked up hours of scholastic credit by living and working at the site.

Water to Cover Site Dr. Richard Daugherty, WSC archaeologist in charge of the work, said the crew entered the isolated site in an effort to learn about the people who lived there hundreds and possibly thousands of years ago. This area will be covered by the Ice Harbor dam reservoir in coming years and, as with all such pre-historic sites that may become inaccessible, careful studies are desired by the National Park Service.

Digging at two large sites and a few other test points, the crew worked with extreme care. They noted the location of material and artifacts to the 10th of a foot, both vertically and horizontally. No mechanical aids were used since they would have destroyed evidence. It may be months before all of the laboratory work back at Washington State College can be completed but Dr. Daugherty feels fairly confident that they have all the information they need for an accurate analysis of their findings.

Many of the 1,000 interesting artifacts they located were found in two excavated houses. Materials found indicate that people who inhabited the area were at least semi-nomadic and relied on the river, wild plants and animals for their livelihood. The houses themselves were interesting to anthropologists. They were large circular holes dug in the ground and covered with a roof made from poles and mats of earth. Dr. Daugherty believes that two or three families lived in each of them. The people who occupied the houses were Indians but, so far, it has been impossible to specify them as any particular tribe. Over the years many different groups apparently lived at this same site. More details about them will come with laboratory analysis. Dr. Daugherty doubts, however, that the general living pattern of the people changed greatly over a period of several thousand years. They fished the Snake with nets, wore clothes made of animal skins and used the bow and arrow for their principal weapon.

Later on, the scientists hope to get radiocarbon dates on some of the material found. Until they do this, it will be difficult to pin down the exact dates of habitation. Now, when the water from Ice Harbor dam comes backing up to cover the land, scientists and historians alike can feel more assured they haven't lost forever valuable information about the past.

Washington State College, working with aid from the State's Department of Conservation, had three other archaeological projects going on this summer. Excavation was carried on at Fort Okanogan under the field direction of Dr. Earl Swanson. Dr. Allan Smith, another WSC anthropologist, did work in Pend Oreille County. Another phase of work being done through WSC is Highway Salvage Archaeology under the direction of Bruce Stallard.

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REMARKS ON THE CLASSIFICATION of PROJECTILE POINTS and "BLADE KNIVES"

By Dr. William Massey

On the evening of November 20, members of the W.A.S. began the analysis and description of artifacts from Site 45-KT-6. Most numerous among the categories of artifacts are projectile points and "blade knives." The apparently endless variations within this class of artifacts present a specific problem in analysis, which will be discussed in this and the succeeding issue of the Bulletin.

The experienced archaeologist knows that there is no easy road to success in working with great quantities of projectile points. If they are to be useful, classifications cannot take into account all features of each individual specimen; instead, they are sorting devices. The classification presented here is based upon form or shape of the projectile point. Since this is useful but insufficient, we must take into account all other types of pertinent data, such as material, weight, cross-sections, and location, as well as other individual peculiarities of each specimen. In dealing with this category of artifacts--as with all others--we must remember that we are bringing meaning to artifacts by identifying them within a classification, and by describing other meaningful features. A sorting classification is the first step in analysis, but it is not an end in itself, nor is it to be rigidly imposed on a collection of specimens. All possible methods must be brought to bear on the problem.

Classifications of projectile points based upon form or shape take into account a number of features which are illustrated in Figure 1. Three factors that are basic to such a classification are (1) general shape, (2) type of shoulder, and (3) type of stem or base.

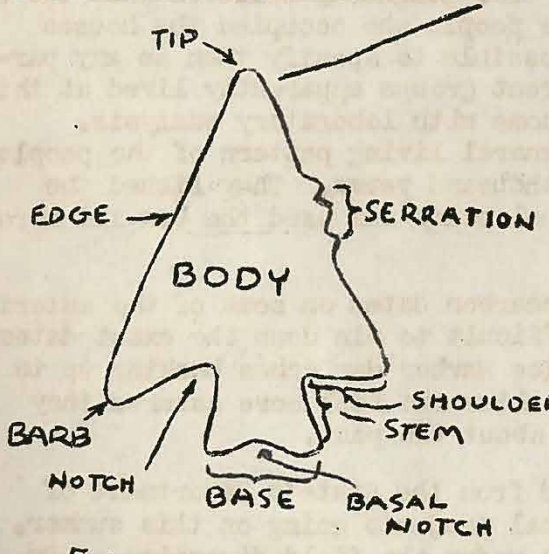

Figure 1.

The following factors are not taken into account, but must be described or measured wherever necessary: (1) size variation within a class; (2) presence or absence of striations, round edges, fluting, etc.; (3) distinction of bifacially-flaked knives from projectile points. Generally speaking, it is impossible to distinguish projectile points of certain classes, for example, leaf-shaped unstemmed specimens, from blades of the same size, because the two intergrade in size. Thus it is difficult to make a functional distinction. It will also be found that another "twilight zone" exists among certain classes of projectile points; only experience can lead to decision for placing a point in one or another adjacent class. These problems are inherent in classifications, and are familiar in physics, biology and other sciences.

The sorting classification we are presenting, and which will be illustrated in detail in the next issue of the Bulletin, is one generally used in various forms in American Archaeology. First of all, it distinguishes two major divisions: stemmed and unstemmed points. Within the simpler division of the unstemmed points, distinctions are made on the basis of form (leaf, triangle, diamond), and within each of these divisions on basal type (pointed, convex, straight, concave). Within the complex division of stemmed points a major distinction is made between those with stems wider than the body, and those narrower than the body. Subdivisions exist with regard to types of stems, shoulders and bases.

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SITE 45-KT-6

The present work in connection with this site is now concentrated on the classification of artifacts recovered; and with change in emphasis, it is important to review our permit to work the site--give special attention to Paragraph 8. To meet this requirement we need the cooperation of all members at the Wednesday evening sessions at the Nelson residence.

UNITED STATES
DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR
Office of the Secretary

PERMIT TO CONDUCT WORK UPON LANDS OF THE UNITED STATES UNDER THE ACT FOR THE PRESERVATION OF AMERICAN ANTIQUITIES APPROVED JUNE 8, 1906 (34 STAT. 225, 16 U.S.C. 432, 433) AND THE REGULATIONS THEREUNDER.

MAY 2, 1957

1. Permit issued to: Dr. Douglas Osborne, Secretary, Washington Archaeological Society and Curator, Washington State Museum
2. Name, address, and official status of person:
   1 - In general charge: Dr. Douglas Osborne
   2 - In actual direct charge: Same
3. Under application dated: April 1, 1957
4. Authorizes: you to conduct salvage excavations
5. On lands described as follows: Site 45-KT-6 or "the Hermits Site" on the bank of the Columbia River in Sec. 28, T. 16 N., R. 23 E, W.M.
6. For the period: Calendar year 1957
7. This permit is subject to the provisions of the Act for the Preservation of American Antiquities approved June 8, 1906, and the interdepartmental regulations promulgated thereunder (copies attached) as well as the following special conditions:
   a. Lot 3, Section 28, is included in Power Site Reserve No. 257 and Power Project No. 2114.
8. Within approximately 6 weeks of the conclusion of field work, a preliminary report of work performed under this permit, illustrated with representative photographs, and listing new and significant collected materials, should be furnished the Secretary, Smithsonian Institution, and three copies thereof should be forwarded to this Department.

(Signed) D. Otis Beasley
Adm. Assistant Secretary

(PUBLIC—NO. 209.)

An Act For The Preservation of American Antiquities.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That any person who shall appropriate, excavate, injure, or destroy any historic or prehistoric ruin or monument, or any object of antiquity, situated on lands owned or controlled by the Government of the United States, without permission of the Secretary of the Department of the Government having jurisdiction over the lands on which said antiquities are situated, shall upon conviction, be fined in a sum of not more than five hundred dollars or be imprisoned for a period of not more than ninety days, or shall suffer both fine and imprisonment, in the discretion of the court.

SEC. 2. That the President of the United Stated is hereby authorized in his discretion, to declare by public proclamation historic landmarks, historic and prehistoric structures, and other objects of historic or scientific interest that are situated upon the lands owned or controlled by the Government of the United States to be national monuments, and may reserve as a part thereof parcels of land, the limits of which in all cases shall be confined to the smallest area compatible with the proper care and management of the objects to be protected: PROVIDED, That when such objects are situated upon a tract covered by a bona fide unperfected claim or held in private ownership, the tract, or so much thereof as may be necessary for the proper care and management of the object, may be relinquished to the Government, and the Secretary of the Interior is hereby authorized to accept the relinquishment of such tracts in behalf of the Government of the United States.

SEC. 3. That permits for the examination of ruins, the excavation of archaeological sites, and the gathering of objects of antiquity upon the lands under their respective jurisdictions may be granted by the Secretaries of the Interior, Agriculture, and War to institutions which they may deem properly qualified to conduct such examination, excavation, or gathering, subject to such rules and regulations as they may prescribe: PROVIDED, That the examinations, excavations, and gatherings are undertaken for the benefit of reputable museums, universities, colleges, or other recognized scientific or educational institutions, with a view to increasing the knowledge of such objects, and that the gatherings shall be made for permanent preservation in public museums.

SEC. 4. That the Secretaries of the Departments aforesaid shall make and publish from time to time uniform rules and regulations for the purpose of carrying out the provisions of this Act.

APPROVED, June 8, 1906 (34 Stat. L. 225)

WASHINGTON: Government Printing Office: 1924

(Copies of Uniform Rules and Regulations mentioned above are on file with the President and Secretary of the W.A.S., and may be read by members at any time.)

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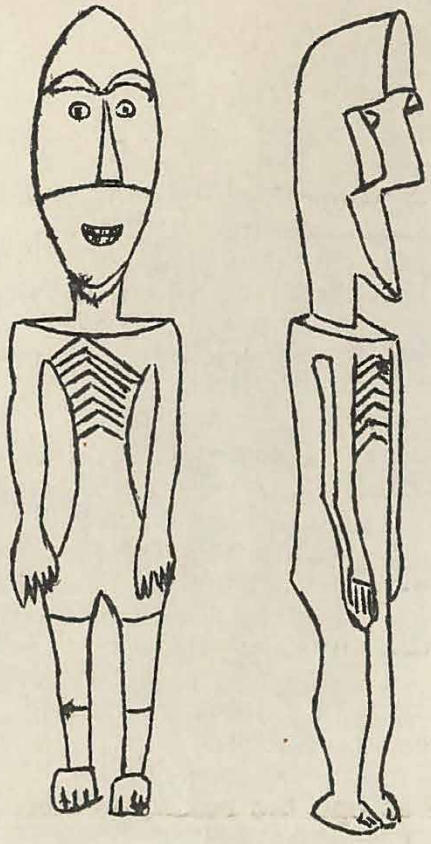

SHAMAN FIGURE - (two views)

QUINAULT

example in the

AMERICAN MUSEUM

of

NATURAL HISTORY

New York

This type of carving is common in Puget Sound. They are often carved on Shaman staffs as an ornament.

Del Nordquist

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W.A.S. LIBRARY STARTED

Dr. Douglas Osborne has presented us with two publications that form the beginning of our Society library:

Pottery in the Northwest - By Douglas Osborne. Reprinted from American Antiquity, Volume 23, No. 1, July, 1957.

Dr. Osborne discusses pottery from Kutenai, Sanpoil, Shoshone, Okanogan, Similkameen Valley, Cattle Point, Deep Creek Canyon, Cedar Cave, McNary Reservoir, Southern Idaho, Lower Columbia and Salmon Creek. Certainly there is a more extensive distribution of clay artifacts in the Northwest, especially the Plateau, than previous evidence has suggested. It will probably not be explained on the levels of ethnographic diffusion but rather upon the bases of more deepseated, old cultural relationships, presumably with representatives of the more ancient aspects of the Woodland pattern.

Anthropology in British Columbia - Wilson Duff, editor. No. 5, 1956 British Columbia Provincial Museum

Prehistoric stone sculpture of the Fraser River and Gulf of Georgia. Many beautiful illustrations of seated human-figure bowls.

Members of the W.A.S. may borrow these books by contacting Charles Nelson.

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