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THE WASHINGTON ARCHAEOLOGIST

NEXT MEETING - - - August 14, 1957 - - - 7:30 P.M.

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

B. ROBERT BUTLER will speak on Art Styles and Antler Carvings from the Dalles Reservoir. The talk will be accompanied by 35 mm slides. Mr. Butler will discuss the relationship between the carvings and what is known or believed about the lower Columbia region.

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At the July meeting JIM GARNER, Assistant Curator of Anthropology at the Washington State Museum, gave an informative and interesting talk accompanied by slides about the Nespelem Indian burials he had been in charge of removing from a site about fourteen miles below Coulee Dam, which was to be inundated by the waters of the Chief Joseph Dam Reservoir.

With the aid of five local Indians, the stripping was carried out in 6-inch levels. The burials were 30 inches under the surface and 4' x 3' in size. Upright cedar slabs were placed in an oval around the bodies which were covered with loose grass or tule matting. The cedar was ignited and fill thrown in. Two or three inches over the body no charcoal would be found while above that level it was present. Large stones were generally placed on the top.

The bodies were buried in a flexed or semi-flexed position and although the heads were supposed to be placed facing downstream, it was found that 20 were placed with heads to the west, 9 to the east, 13 found north, and 16 faced south.

In fourteen graves artifacts were uncovered. In some were tool kits of flint, rough in workmanship, which were placed at the head. Adz blades were put at the waist and in one grave a knife had been placed across the head. A couple of pieces of turquoise were found and a considerable amount of dentalium was scattered through the burials. In two burials were small pieces of copper. Other articles found were an elk's tooth copied in bone, a small piece of red ochre, and four or five projectile points.

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THE STATE ARCHAEOLOGY OFFICE - PULLMAN

WAS members will recall that the Society discussed the plan prepared by Dr. Douglas Osborne for a state archaeology office and approved it. The plan was presented in Olympia to Senators Nat Washington of Ephrata and Al Henry of White Salmon by Dr. Osborne. These Senators, together with the Senator of Okanogan recognized the value of the plan and an appropriation of $20,000 for archaeological work in this state was made. When it became obvious that Dr. Osborne could not remain at the University he recommended that the responsibility of handling the work and funds be transferred to Washington State College where Dr. Richard D. Daugherty, of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, would be available to direct such activity. The following statement concerning the plans and program for the utilization of the funds has been prepared by Bruce Stallard:

With funds recently appropriated by the State Legislature to the Department of Conservation, Division of Mines and Geology, and granted to the State College of Washington, this institution has begun a limited program of archeological studies directed by Dr. Richard D. Daugherty, Department of Anthropology and Sociology.

The program is to run two years, from July 1, 1957, to June 30, 1959. For the current year it has been broken down into three projects that have been designated 1, 2, and 3. Project 1 is of a more permanent nature. Field work will be done on a non-seasonal schedule and is expected to continue through the second year. Projects 2 and 3 involve separate problems. Field work for these two will be completed in July and August of this year.

Project 1, coordinated with State and Federal Highway construction, is concerned with highway salvage archeology. Federal aid highway construction plans provide that Federal funds are available for the recovery of archeological material which may lie in the path of a proposed roadway. Bruce Stallard, Research Assistant in Archeology at the State College of Washington, has been assigned to survey highway projects before construction begins, check any finds reported by construction crews, and carry out such excavations as may be necessary.

Other states have employed an archeologist in this capacity for many years. The rapid growth of the State of Washington has been followed by an intensified program of highway construction which will destroy many archeological sites if appropriate action is not taken. It is hoped that when funds for the present work are exhausted in June, 1959, additional appropriations will be made which will give this project a permanent basis.

Project 2 is being carried out by Dr. Earl Swanson of the University of Washington under the direction of Dr. Daugherty. Dr. Swanson now has a crew in Okanogan and Grant Counties. Only a very limited knowledge of the prehistory of these areas has been at hand. His investigations involve both prehistoric and early historic sites. He is conducting work of an exploratory nature in connection with a number of prehistoric sites, and

in cooperation with the State Parks and Recreation Commission, he will excavate to determine the foundation outlines of historic Fort Okanogan.

Project 3, supervised by Dr. Allan Smith of the State College of Washington, involves a site survey in Pend Oreille County, historically an area occupied by the Kalispel Indians. The Archeology of this section of the State is virtually unknown. In 1936-38 Dr. Smith collected ethnographic data from aged Kalispel informants and has information on many sites which he plans to check during the month of August. Any data which Dr. Smith may obtain on this little-known area will be of immediate interest.

Bruce Stallard

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FIRST HONORARY LIFE MEMBERS

It was with a mixture of joy and sorrow that the Society unanimously bestowed honorary life membership upon Dr. and Mrs. Osborne. July was their last meeting before departure for the East. With them go our deepest gratitude for all their efforts on our behalf and our sincere wish for their early return.

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THE DALLES RESERVOIR

In the September issue we can expect the first of a series of articles by B. Robert Butler regarding types and classifications of various artifacts which were taken from The Dalles Reservoir Region. These articles will be in continuity and when compiled will consist of a complete field manual on these various artifact types. To our knowledge this is the first undertaking of such a project and promises to be a considerable aid to both amateur and professional.

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Fig. 1 - A THEORETICAL OUTLINE OF DALLES RESERVOIR PRE-HISTORY

Horizons or Periods	Sub-Periods	Suggested Dates
Modern or Ethnographic	. . . . .	1830 A.D.
Developed Ethnographic	Late	1600 A.D.
	Mid	1400 A.D.
	Early	900 A.D.
Proto-Ethnographic	Late	500 B.C.
	Mid	1500 B.C.
	Early	4500 B.C.
	Early Riverine	8000 B.C.
Pre-Ethnographic	----------*	---------*
	Early Lithic	???

* Probably a long break in occupation between Early Lithic and Early Riverine and no contact between them.

DALLES RESERVOIR PREHISTORY: A Preliminary Analysis*

By B. Robert Butler

University of Washington Archeological Director
in the Dalles Reservoir (1955-1957)

* I am very happy to express my gratitude to Dr. Douglas Osborne, Curator of Anthropology, Washington State Museum, for reading this paper and offering a number of constructive suggestions which have been incorporated in it. Dr. Osborne also obtained a $1,000 Agnes Anderson grant for part of the research upon which this paper is based. I should also like to express my thanks to the many other persons who made this paper possible, among them are many members of the Washington Archeological Society. And finally, I should like to thank the US National Park Service for its generous assistance and permission to dig in the Dalles Reservoir area.

Five years ago the Federal Government undertook the construction of a huge multi-purpose dam on the Columbia River a few miles upstream from the city of The Dalles, Oregon. Major construction work on The Dalles Dam was completed in March of this year. Subsequent closure of the dam that month created a 33 mile long "slack water" pool or reservoir which inundated a number of very significant archeological landmarks and sites. Among the former were the famous "Long Narrows" of the Columbia River and Celilo Falls, both of which were described in the journals of Lewis and Clark on their trek down the Columbia in 1805. Along the shores of these natural breaks or barriers in that mighty river, where the salmon had to swim hard and leap high to reach their spawning grounds in the upper tributaries, the Indian has left evidences of his art and way of life which may date back beyond 7,500 B.C.

While The Dalles Dam was under construction and before the creation of the slack water pool, archeologists from the Universities of Oregon and Washington had been gathering that evidence left by the Indian. Many of the more promising archeological sites in The Dalles Reservoir had been partially excavated and thousands of artifacts had been recovered. The archeologists have also recorded and photographed a large portion of the several thousand man-made rock carvings called petroglyphs which abounded in the area. Some of them are stylistically quite similar to many of the stone and antler carvings which have been recovered from sites in and around The Dalles Reservoir.

Among the artifacts which have been recovered and recorded are some extraordinarily well planned and executed sculptures in antler and stone which can best be described as Art. Certainly, the time, labor and mastery of technique which some of these artifacts entail can only be interpreted as an interest in form and embellishment above and beyond that required for purely utilitarian purposes. The accumulated evidence from The Dalles Reservoir suggests a long and fascinating history for that art and its creators.

In very broad outline, there is a history of perhaps more than 10,000 years of almost continuous settlement by the Indian near The Dalles, Oregon. It is a history characterized by rather gradual and generally progressive cultural growth based on a hunting, fishing and gathering economy developed or evolved within a relatively stable ecological environment. It is also a history of gradually shifting cultural affiliations with an occasional marked shift in population make-up. The most notable shift in cultural affiliation appears to have been from a predominantly Great Basin, Southwestern - Archaic California cultural base to that of a more northern Northwest Coast base with upstream and interior ramifications in rather late times. The Dalles Reservoir has long been considered a crucial point in the Northwest Coast-Interior Plateau cultural relations. For those archeologists particularly concerned with the movement of populations into and within the Pacific Northwest, the reservoir has a key geographic position in any theoretical formulation of those movements.

For convenience of presentation and theoretical purposes, I have divided the history of The Dalles Reservoir into four major periods called horizons (Fig. 1). Each horizon has a broadly distinct configuration of cultural traits which contribute directly and indirectly to what may be called the ethnographic present in The Dalles Reservoir. Simply defined, the ethnographic present is the way of life practiced by the living Indians. The horizons are oriented in terms of the ethnographic present on the assumption that archeology is a logical extension, backwards in time, of the ethnographic present. The chronology which I have suggested for the initiation and termination of the horizons is rather tentative. A few Carbon 14 dates are available for The Dalles Reservoir and I shall indicate these at the appropriate place in the text.

Ethnographically, The Dalles Reservoir was occupied by the Wishram on the north shore of the Columbia River, probably almost to Celilo Falls, with the Wasco just opposite on the south shore. The Wishram and Wasco are the most upstream representatives of the Chinookan speaking peoples who, until decimated by diseases introduced by Europeans, occupied both shores of the Columbia River downstream to its mouth. Immediately upstream and north and south of the Wishram and Wasco are the Sahaptian speaking peoples, such as the Klikitat who became the "Arabs" of the Pacific Northwest after the introduction of the horse around 1730 A.D.

The Chinookans were primarily a river people before the intrusion of Europeans into the Columbia Valley. They caught great quantities of salmon with harpoons, liesters, spears and nets; the salmon were smoked and dried and pounded with berries into a "Pemmican" bale which was traded for slaves and other goods. The position of the Wishram and Wasco astride the major portages around the "Long Narrows" gave them virtual command over all traffic between the coast and interior along the Columbia River. The ease of obtaining food and control of the commerce along the river combined with a pleasant climate, made this a gambling Mecca and slave trading center second to none in the Pacific Northwest.

What we have come to know of these people may be only a pale image of their immediate past. For they remember only that residue of the past which has

filtered through or survived the initial period of contact with the Europeans. It has been the tragedy of these once prosperous peoples that they had no natural resistance to certain epidemic and social diseases introduced by Europeans. It has been said that, during one of the plagues which swept along the lower Columbia, the screams of the dying and the wailing for the dead could be heard for miles down that river.

What was the immediate past of the Wishram and Wasco in terms of the archeology of The Dalles Reservoir? I call their immediate past the Developed Ethnographic horizon. It probably began around 500 A.D. and terminated about 1830 A.D. The archeology of this period in the reservoir's prehistory is spectacular. The very finest of bone, stone and antler sculptures were being created at this time. This horizon may have witnessed the arrival of the Chinookan speaking population in the reservoir from downstream. It saw a series of cultural developments which had been moving down the Northwest Coast become fused or blended with local developments and manifestations of the Greater Southwestern culture area. Something called a Desert Culture tradition, already fused onto an Early Riverine base, now becomes united with distinctly Coastal traditions. A long term cultural commerce with the Interior Plateau continues. The Dalles Reservoir was and had been a crossroad and meeting place of divers cultural ideas, traditions and art.

From its very beginning, the Developed Ethnographic horizon was characterized by three outstanding features: well developed fishing equipment, square to rectangular semisubterranean winter houses, and a number of sophisticated art styles. The fishing equipment included net shuttles of the open end type, rectangular or antler net gauges, compound harpoons, harpoon points of antler with lateral line guards and a variety of other harpoon forms. Evidently the contemporary method of fish drying was known then, for a quantity of wooden fish skewers or spreaders were found early in this horizon. It was during the latter part of the Developed Ethnographic (ca. 1400 A.D. - 1800 A.D.) that the stone and antler sculpturing achieved its apogee and classic form.

One of the most outstanding petroglyphs in the reservoir area is Tsagiglalal, "She who watches all who are coming and going..." The rock into which she was pecked was evidently coated with red pigment first and then the design was pecked through the pigment into the rock beneath. The petroglyph is about a yard wide and overlooks the "Long Narrows" from her vantage point above the Indian Village of Spearfish, Washington. The natives tell many stories about her, but most of these appear to be of recent origin or manufacture. There is a striking resemblance between this petroglyph and many of the Antler carvings recovered during the past year. Most of these carvings have come from cremations dating about 1600 A.D. - 1800 A.D. Cremation appears to have been a common, but not exclusive, method for disposing of the dead from the late Proto-Ethnographic horizon (over 1200 years ago) until the intervention of the missionaries in the early 1800's.

Carbon 14 dates for the Developed Ethnographic horizon were obtained from its Wakemap Mound components, of which there are two: Wakemap I and Wakemap II. Wakemap I has an early Carbon 14 date of 1090, plus or minus 200 years, before the present and terminal date of 530, plus or minus 200 years, B.C.

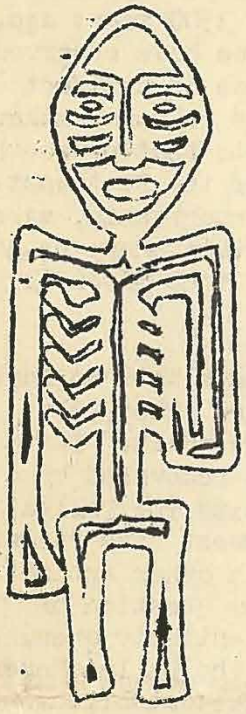
The Proto-Ethnographic horizon may have begun shortly after the eruption of Mount Mazama in southern Oregon and the onset of the great drought called the Altithermal. These two events, singly or together, may have driven peoples from the northern Great Basin region into the Columbia Valley. The Altithermal began approximately 7500 years ago and ended about 3500 years ago. Mount Mazama may have erupted about 7600 years ago. What we have observed in The Dalles Reservoir is an abrupt change in the artifacts or artifact assemblage which appears to coincide with these dates. The cultural makeup of the Proto-Ethnographic bears a very strong resemblance to that of southeastern Oregon, The Great Basin in general, Basket Maker of the Southwest and the archaic California horizons. Late in the Proto-Ethnographic, massive zoomorphic sculptures appear -- particularly stylized mountain sheep heads. With them we also find a wide variety of thick-walled sandstone pipes (squat "cloud blowers" elbow and straight tube.)

The Pre-Ethnographic horizon in the reservoir appears to have both an Early Lithic and an Early Riverine historical developmental stage. The Early Lithic stage is presently represented by a single, isolated trait. That trait is a well made Clovis Fluted type of point which was recovered by a surface collector on the banks of the Columbia River opposite The Dalles, Oregon. Other Clovis Fluted points from the Pacific Northwest have recently been reported upon, but none have been found "in situ" with other artifacts. The presence of Clovis fluted points in the area leaves the question of exactly when did the Indian first arrive in the reservoir entirely open. However, the Early Riverine stage is well established for The Dalles Reservoir. It may have begun more than 10,000 years ago with the establishment of a camp site at the head of the "Long Narrows" on the Oregon shore. Here thousands of fish vertebrae, bird bones and other faunal remains have been found in association with crudely formed man-made tools. These tools stand in remarkable contrast to the well made Clovis Fluted point, and to the tools which occur in the beginning of the Proto-Ethnographic.

There are several Carbon 14 dates for the Early Riverine; these run from over 7,000 years before the present to almost 10,000 years before the present. The Early Riverine cultural base may have had a more northern coastal distribution. It may represent an entirely distinct cultural base from that of the more southern coastal and Greater Southwestern areas.

The present archeological evidence from The Dalles Reservoir suggests that there have been several major population movements which have met and/or overlapped in the Mid-Columbia region of which the reservoir is a part. One of these movements appears to have been "down coast" and up river; i.e., the movement began somewhere up the Northwest Coast, upon reaching the Columbia River, part of it was diverted, ultimately arriving at The Dalles Reservoir. Coming from the opposite direction, that is, from the south and southwest, another population movement, probably stimulated by the dessication of the Greater Southwestern area during the Altithermal, arrived in the reservoir area to enjoin or displace a population already present there.

Confirmation of this hypothesis will probably come only with a region-wide, systematic and thorough going plan of archeology such as Dr. Osborne of the University of Washington has so well envisaged.



A SHAMAN INDIAN TYPE

Found in middle and lower Columbia. The example is from Chinook Bowl in the Chicago Natural History Museum.

The figure is more frequently found in the region of the Wasco. "Sally Bags" often display the design.

FROM:

Washington Archaeological Society
Washington State Museum
University of Washington
Seattle 5, Washington

TO:

Mr and Mrs C. G. Nelson
Charles M. Nelson
706 16th N.
Seattle, Wn.