

THE WASHINGTON ARCHAEOLOGIST

NEXT MEETING. JUNE 12, 1957 7:30 P.M.
Walker Ames room, 3rd Floor Parrington Hall, University of Washington Campus

DR. ROBERT GREENGO, archaeologist, who will be joining the U of W teaching staff this summer, is scheduled to be the speaker for our program as this paper goes to press. Since he has been doing work in Louisiana and Mississippi recently, Dr. Greengo will probably talk on Southeastern Archaeology.

PROGRAM COMMITTEE REPORT:

The MEMBERSHIP PARTICIPATION program which was held in May was most enjoyable with nearly everyone present bringing artifacts from their private collections, plus a display of those articles which have been excavated at The Hermit's (45KT6) on the numerous trips made there by Society members.

Ted Weld brought a nice collection of chipped artifacts, beads, sinkers, and a beautiful stone paint pot, all from different areas along the Columbia.

Several unusual articles from the museum which he as not been able to classify were brought by Dr. Osborne.

A guest, Mr. Eyerdam, who had been a member of the Harry K. Whitney Pacific Expedition, brought a fine collection of teeth and shell used as money by primitive people on some of the islands of the South Pacific he had visited prior to World War II.

A stone lamp from Kodiak Island was brought by a junior member.

Also displayed were quite a number of obsidian points and tools from Silver Lake Area in Oregon.

The above mentioned are only a sample of the variety of articles shown and we are sorry all our members couldn't have been there to take part. We hope to have a similar program in the future with more members present and participating.

MAY BUSINESS MEETING:

Several important matters were considered at the May Meeting, perhaps the one of greatest interest was the announcement by Dr. Osborne that we now have official written permission from Department on Interior to dig at West Beverly, Site 45KT6 for the year 1957. Excavation must be in accordance with the Antiquities Act of 1906, and in the July publication we will print a summary of the rules and regulations as outlined in this act.

The Membership Committee proposed the following Amendment to the By-Laws concerning honorary memberships: "Honorary membership in the Washington Archaeological Society may be conferred upon the recommendation of the Membership Committee and by vote of a quorum." A vote on this amendment will be taken at the June meeting. Please attend.

The President announced that Mr. Jack Lindquist had resigned his office as Treasurer and had returned the books. The new treasurer elected to fill the unexpired term was Mr. Tom Beddall. The books and funds have been turned over to Tom and he informs us that the Society bank account is now with the University Branch, Pacific National Bank.

The matter of discontinuing meetings and the publication for the months of June, July, and August was brought up and the discussion indicated considerable interest in holding meetings and having the publication during these ~~summer months.~~ When the matter came to a vote it was unanimously decided to continue meetings and the publication for the summer. No rest for the Publication Committee.

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Three families - Gent, Nelson, Tracy - are heading for the Silver Lake Area in Oregon this Memorial Day week end. They promise us a full report of their activities and finds. Don't miss their story in the July publication.

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At the May Meeting Dr. Osborne announced that Jim Alexander who is working in the Ilwaco area extended an invitation to our members to come down and help with the digging during the month of May. Jim will not be there after May 30th but will resume work in the fall. Mrs. Trick informs us that there are sleeping accommodations for a number of people in two houses in Ilwaco. As a result of this announcement, the Weld's made the trip down and sent us the following report of their expedition:

ILWACO EXPEDITION

By Ted Weld

Upon hearing that Jim Alexander, graduate student, was inviting help on a dig he is carrying on near Ilwaco, Willi and I spent the week end of May 11-12 with him. We set out on short notice without letting him know we were coming, and when we arrived Saturday morning, Mrs. Alexander told us he had gone to his site, on Long Island in Willipa Bay, 10 miles north of town. On hearing

this we regretted some unnecessary sightseeing we had done on the way, which had now resulted in our missing the boat. The problem was solved by a Mr. Twist who is in charge of the Federal Wildlife Preserve of which Long Island is a part. Mr. Twist loaned us a rowboat, and told us how to find Jim. We rowed across to the island, secured the boat where Jim had left his, and walked a half mile or more along the beach. I wondered why Jim had not rowed all the way, since he had a good small boat, but when all of the water ran out of the bay at low tide, I understood.

Jim had noticed a skull exposed in a shell midden at high water line, and started in to excavate the burial. He started a trench around the spot, planning to cut down to sterile soil on all sides, then to uncover the skeleton from above. But in so doing he had uncovered other bones, and was convinced that he had four separate skeletons. He said local people have told him that the main group of local Chinook Indians were camped on this site when the smallpox struck in the first half of the last century, and Jim's present theory is that he has a pile of skeletons that were thrown on the dump in that emergency.

Jim was working very carefully and slowly in the packed wet sticky black soil and shell, using principally an ice pick and brush. We helped a little by removing some sod and overburden, and Jim suggested that I excavate a short trench he had started down to sterile soil, since there were no bones there. I did so, carrying each screen full out into the bay to wash the muck out, and each time finding only shell and rock left in the screen, with an occasional chunk of stone that looked like a chip. Finally, while cleaning out the corner of the bottom of my trench with a trowel, I cut off the end of a shoulder bone. Jim looked at it, then looked at me and said, "Did you have to find another one?"

There is another site nearby, marked by an extensive shell midden $2\frac{1}{2}$ feet deep. We searched the beach thoroughly, and Willi found one very ordinary arrowhead and a broken stone tablet that showed copper stain, indicating that it had been sheathed with copper. The beach was surprisingly devoid of chippings or other signs of camp, to us who are accustomed to upriver sites. However, it is a tidal beach, subject to moderate wave action in stormy weather, and the banks do not indicate much erosion.

Jim had found one arrowhead and something he thought might have been a clay bead in his excavating, and after my visit he found two net sinkers, but the lack of artifacts was surprising to me.

The gratitude that Jim and Barbara Alexander showed at our attempt to help in the dig was rewarding, and their hospitality is the genuine spontaneous variety for which the South is famous. They are both from South Carolina.

Jim is going back in the Marine Corps for three months active duty June 1st, but will be back at Ilwaco in September. He asks that Washington Archaeological Society members drop down then to see and to help.

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(Our sincere thanks to Mr. Weld for this fine report of their trip. We would like to print many more like it from other members - just send in your copy or bring it to meeting.)

THE MADISON MEETINGS

Dr. Douglas Osborne

On May 2nd, 3rd, and 4th, the Society for American Archaeology, the Central States Anthropological Society, and the Society for Applied Anthropology held their annual meetings together in Madison, Wisconsin.

We are interested primarily in the meetings of the first, the SAA and the two persons who attended from Seattle, Carolyn Osborne and Dr. Douglas Osborne, attended these meetings more often than either of the others. The papers were of good quality and there was always the possibility of washing away the tiring microbes of conventionitis in the fine Rathskeller at the Student Union Building on the campus.

There were approximately 33 papers given; some variations from the program occurred. Those papers that could be said to discuss a specific area, or part thereof, numbered 28. Three were Southwestern, 1 was on California, 2 on New England, 8 on Central U.S., 3 on Mexico, 5 on the Southeast, 2 on Texas, 3 on the Northwest and adjacent Canada, and 1 on Alaska.

There were 19 papers given which could be assigned topically: 5 were on Early Man, 2 on the Relationships of Old Cultures to Climate and Natural Landscape or Climatic and Geologic Changes, 1 on Primitive Art Forms, 10 on Definitions of Problems and Theories. There were 12 descriptive of Excavations, and one on Technology.

The three papers given by the three Northwesterners were: 1) Dr. Richard Daugherty (Washington State College, Pullman) An Archaeological Survey of the Upper Peace River, British Columbia, 2) Carolyn M. Osborne (Washington State Museum) The Knight Island Blanket: Analysis and Significance, and 3) Dr. Douglas Osborne (University of Washington) Western American Prehistory, An Hypothesis. The local papers were well received.

It is of interest that one of the papers was given by an amateur archaeologist (Texas). An amateur was elected to the Executive Council and at least one amateur headed an important committee.

Of much interest was the excellent display of artifacts in the Museum of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin, including a display of Hopewell art and archaeology from burial mounds. The Hopewell were an agricultural population living in the Central States for some centuries around and after the time of Christ. There were amazing craftsmen and artists and their sites are often known as the better of the so called Mound Builders.

There was a display of Columbia River Gem Points which included all of the usual types of chipped projectile points from the Columbia, plus, unfortunately, a large number of the fancifully chipped faked pieces.

BOOK SECTION

A PICTORIAL HISTORY OF THE AMERICAN INDIAN. By Oliver La Farge.

Mr. La Farge covers the full sweep of Indian life in America including tribes that ranged over Canada as well as the present area of the United States. The Indian is not vanishing in America, he survives through the help of his humane supporters -- and his own wits. Dramatically illustrated with hundreds of pictures in color and black and white. 272 pages, 350 illustrations. \$7.50

IN SEARCH OF ADAM. By Herbert Wendt.

An authoritative but most exciting adventure story of modern man's rediscovery of prehistoric man. Popular science of the best sort, it deals with the earliest known human beings, their appearance, behavior and culture, and with the latter-day scientists, cranks, philosophers and hobbyists who have helped to solve the "riddle of Adam." 145 illustrations. \$6.50

Clark, G. 1947 Archaeology and Society. 2d ed., rev. London

Holmes, W. H. 1919 Handbook of Aboriginal American Antiquities. Part I, The Lithic Industries. BAE-B 60. (Chapter 9, Culture characterization areas, attempts to set up archaeological culture areas. Holmes establishes 21 for North and South America; of these 16 are North American.)

Piggott, S. 1948 Archaeology and the Amateur. The Archaeological News Letter, No. 1:1-2

Taylor, W. W. 1948 A Study of Archaeology. AAA-M 69

Woolley, C. L. 1931 Digging up the Past. New York

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From The Anaconda Wire - April 1957

ELECTRICAL ARCHAEOLOGY

At one time we imagined that archaeological treasures were discovered more by guesswork, luck, and a lot of energy applied to the end of a shovel. Now we learn that an Italian archaeologist, Carlo Lerici, has changed all that. Signor Lerici goes about his explorations electrically. Evidently there are slight differences in color between ordinary grass and that growing over an archaeological site, and Lerici uses a sensitive photometer to pick them up. He then plants metal stakes into the ground, passes current between them -- and the electrical resistance indicates whether there is an excavation and how best to reach it. Lerici then drills a small hole and inserts an electronic flash camera to find out what's inside. We applaud the methods of modern archaeology, but also regret that no one has any privacy at all these days.

FROM:

Washington Archaeological Society
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TO:

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