VOL. II, No. 2 February 1958

THE WASHINGTON ARCHAEOLOGIST

NEXT MEETING --- February 12, 1958 --- 8:00 P.M.

NOTICE: MEETING PLACE CHANGED TO THE HUB - RM 136S UNIVERSITY OF WASH. CAMPUS

DR. JAMES B. WATSON, Chairman of the Department of Anthropology, University of Washington, will speak on Stone Age Natives of Highland New Guinea.

MRS. ARLIE OSTLING presented an enjoyable and informative talk on Petroglyphs of the Priest Rapids and Dalles Area at the January meeting. The word petroglyph comes from the Greek words meaning stone and to carve. Although some petroglyphs in these areas were done on granite and river cobbles, most of them were carved on basalt which lends itself readily to this type of work.

During the summer of 1956, Mrs. Ostling was able to accompany Sari Dieness and Mark Heddon, who were taking impressions on many of the petroglyphs on Petroglyph Island in the Dalles region. Last summer under the direction of Dr. Robert Greengo, Mrs. Ostling took impressions of most of the petroglyphs on Whale Island in the Priest Rapids Area. A muslin type material is smoothed and fastened with scotch tape over the petroglyph then a block print roller with lithographic ink is used to make the imprint on the cloth.

Mrs. Ostling related a number of differences between the petroglyphs on the two islands. On Petroglyph Island, which in only an island during high water, the petroglyphs are distributed all over the area. Columns of rock up to 20 feet high are worked on the sides but little carving is found on the tops. The petroglyphs here are not affected so much by the inundation of water and there is little sand erosion. Nearby there are many pictographs as well as much other associated material. Whale Island, on the other hand is always inaccessible except by boat. Here the petroglyphs are concentrated in three groups on the south side of the island where the poorest type rock is to be found. On the north end of the island where the good basalt is located there are no carvings. Most of the rocks used are basalt three or four feet high and the work is on the top. A great many of these petroglyphs are badly abraded, battered, broken up and sand blasted by the wind. There does not seem to be any associated material nearby. Many have serrated edges while on Petroglyph Island only a few with serrated edges are found. Designs also vary. On Petroglyph Island, there are circles with rays and dots, bird and animal figures, and many hunt scenes. On Whale Island, the designs are simple featuring arcs and rays with few bird and animal figures and only two hunt scenes. Mrs. Ostling showed imprints she had taken and many beautiful 35 mm. slides of both islands.

NEW COMMITTEE CHAIRMEN

At the executive board meeting held January 5, committee chairmen were appointed as follows:

PROGRAM	-	Dr. Wm. Massey
ACTIVITIES	-	Lee Tracy
MUSEUM	-	Del Nordquist
MEMBERSHIP	-	Dr. Wm. Massey
PUBLIC RELATIONS	-	Charles Heller
PUBLICATION	-	Margaret Tracy

NEW MEMBERS:

The following new members were unanimously approved at the January meeting:

Mrs. Agnes E. Arnold
Mrs. Rita L. Terzian
Mr. & Mrs. Allen Ostling
Charles McCleod
Mr. & Mrs. Donald Moore
Marvin R. Perry

- - -

REMEMBER TO PAY YOUR DUES BEFORE MARCH 1ST.

- - -

COLUMBIA BASIN CHAPTER

The Columbia Basin Chapter of the Washington Archaeological Society proved itself much more proficient in excavating than in reporting on its activities.

The following is a brief thumbnail sketch of activities to date:

The Chapter was formally organized in early October and elected the following officers:

President	Nat W. Washington
Vice-president	William F. Loan
Secretary-Treasurer	Wallace Rutherford

Clay Denman, from the University of Washington, attended the organization meeting. In addition to showing color slides and giving an interesting account of the excavations being conducted by the University in the vicinity of Priest Rapids Dam, he made many worthwhile suggestions as to procedures which should be followed in carrying on an archaeological society excavation project.

It was agreed that the first project of the Chapter would be to excavate a site in the city limits of Ephrata.

State President, Chuck Nelson, attended the first regular meeting of the new Chapter. His extremely interesting talk and his outstanding color pictures did a lot to stir up genuine interest in archaeology as opposed to indiscriminate collecting. Chuck also explained the background and purposes of the Washington Archaeological Society and pointed out the many ways that our Chapter could profit by being associated with the statewide organization.

With the help of Clay Denman, the Ephrata site (45-GR-70), a lot in the City belonging to Chapter President Nat Washington, was laid out in 10-foot squares. Excavation work was carried out by Chapter members for four successive week ends, until frozen ground made further digging impractical. Three ten-foot squares were excavated to a depth of about two and one-half feet and one square to a depth of about eighteen inches.

Dr. Richard Dougherty, head of the Archaeology Department at Washington State College, attended the November meeting. He gave an excellent talk and showed slides covering the Lind Coulee site in southern Grant County. The excavation reported on by Dr. Dougherty was most significant in that it yielded evidence that man had lived in the Columbia Basin country over 8,000 years ago.

Dr. Dougherty and Clay Denman instructed the Chapter in the proper method of cataloging and classifying artifacts.

The December meeting was devoted to cataloging the artifacts from Site 45-GR-70. Since this was our first effort, we worked slowly and didn't get more than one-third of the artifact bags cataloged. The cataloging we did do, however, indicated that our excavation had been quite successful, since the few artifact bags we worked contained 74 chipped artifacts consisting of many perfect arrowheads, drills, scrapers and knives, together with a number of broken projectile points.

We found that it is much easier to get members to turn out for meetings than it is to get them to turn out with shovels, trowels and screens for actual excavation. The most persistent diggers were Ted and Jim Gimlin, Nat Washington, Jr., Nat Washington, Sr., Ron Douglas, Vina Johnson, Bill Garing, Tom Truax and Jay White.

Earl Simmons, who has one of the largest private collections of artifacts of the Northwest, was the guest speaker at the January meeting. Mr. Simmons exhibited a large number of his interesting artifacts and gave the membership many valuable tips on how to locate camp sites along the Columbia River.

Regular meetings of the Columbia Basin Chapter have been established for the last Tuesday of each month. Meetings are held at 7:30 p.m. in the auditorium of the Grant County Public Utility District.

Nat Washington
Columbia Basin Chapter

(Editor's Note to Nat Washington: Thanks for the fine report and keep twisting Herb Jenkins' arm -- You're off to a fine start, keep digging.)

POT HUNTING TAKES SAVVY

By Warren W. Caldwell

POT HUNTING, the digging in ancient Indian villages and burial grounds by amateur archaeologists is on the upsurge in the Pacific Northwest.

Hobby diggers are legion; every placid Sunday witnesses throngs of hopeful excavators, doctors, teachers, laboring men, wives and offspring, congregating at the places where the ancient Indian remains are known to occur.

The scientific worker, the professional archaeologist, on the other hand, is a scarce gentleman among the coulees and sand dunes of the Columbia Valley. He is a slow and selective digger, he is digging not for artifacts, objects of aboriginal manufacture, to grace his own collection; he does not have the collector-diggers point of view. To him the ancient Indian remains are a natural resource, a resource vital in the documentation of human backgrounds.

THE ARCHAEOLOGIST is primarily interested in man, not in artifacts. He is interested in everything about man. He wants to know why he thinks and acts as he does. He is interested in the human animal from the physiological, from the social, historic and psychological point of view. He wants to know how peoples live together, what are the causes of friction and what are the climates of good will.

Before anyone can act on any problem, be he a scientist, businessman or homemaker, he must have an understanding of the background; he must examine the facts. The human problem is vast. The knowledge vital to an understanding of the "whys" of man's life with his neighbors is to be found in many places, in the classroom, in the laboratory or in the give-and-take of everyday life. The historian uses written records, books, parchments and carved inscriptions to gain an understanding of the basis of current problems.

Many people, however, have no writing and left no documentary history; our only knowledge of them comes out of the ground. The archaeologist is attempting to write history. He is documenting the past where no documentation exists, all to the end of broadening our understanding of why man is as he is.

SCIENTIFIC archaeology is expensive and exacting. It requires long periods of careful digging, not with shovels and screens, but with trowels, brushes and sometimes even surgical instruments. Money for archaeology is scarce and always in small amounts. Archaeology is not a science that is immediately and directly productive in the sense that is cancer or polio research. The archaeologist's approach is one of "pure" rather than "applied" science.

Since funds are always in short supply, the professional excavator must dig only those ancient sites of greatest scientific value. He can only afford to dig a minute portion of the old villages so he must select those he thinks may be most productive in terms of time and money.

The past summer, the University of Washington, Department of Anthropology, working near The Dalles, dug in the old village mound called by the Wishram Indians "Wakemap." This great earth midden was chosen for excavation by the federal government because it was felt to be one of the two or three important

archaeological sites in the reservoir to be created by the construction of the Dalles dam. It was felt that an adequate scientific sampling was necessary before the scheduled inundation in 1957.

THE INTERPRETATION of all the human remains to be drowned by the rising waters will thus depend upon the digging at Wakemap and upon similar excavation carried out south of the Columbia by the University of Oregon. Hence in terms of the importance of the site and the delicacy of the techniques required, the University of Washington insisted upon controlling all digging at Wakemap.

The hobby digger was never excluded, on the contrary, he was sought out and welcomed provided he would utilize the same careful techniques of excavation and recording that are used by the scientific excavator.

Archaeological excavation is a destructive process. The digger destroys something that happened once and can never occur again. The archaeologist carefully records the position of every object and its relation to physical features within the site. He carefully records, through carefully constructed contour maps and stratigraph drawings, the life history of the site he is digging. He can recreate that site in his laboratory.

Many hobby diggers have claimed that their methods have produced the same result yet manifestly the techniques and thus the results are vastly different. Few pothunters are willing to undertake the necessary time and careful excavation and rigorous, exact recording insisted upon by the scientific digger. One might liken the hobbyist to a midwife, the scientist to a surgeon.

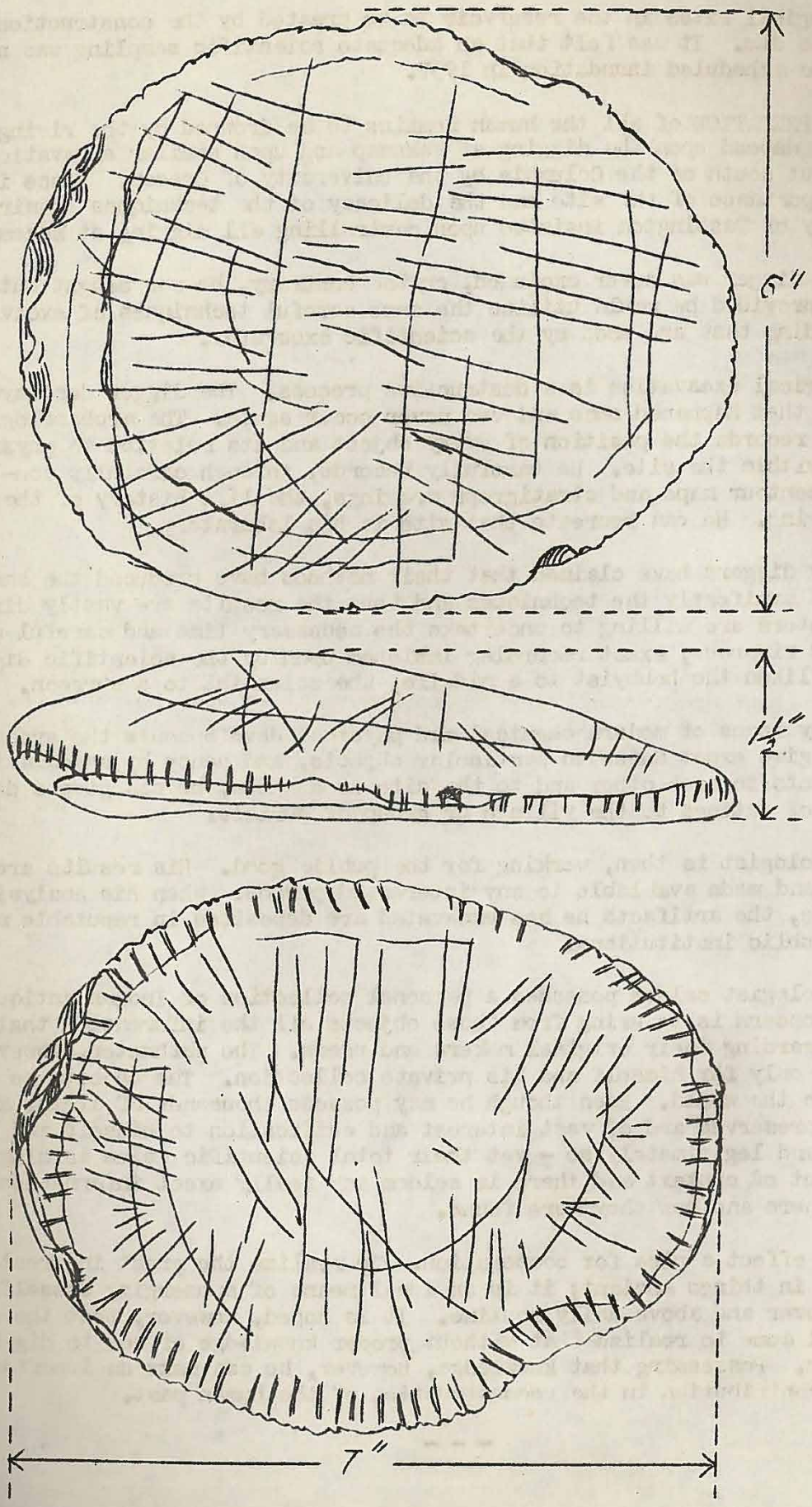
FURTHER, by means of modern chemical and physical developments the archaeologist can give exact dates to particular objects, and hence by associating those objects to each other and to the site as a whole, he can give a date or series of datings to the village or group of burials.

The archaeologist is then, working for the public good. His results are published and made available to any interested person. When his analysis is complete, the artifacts he has excavated are deposited in reputable museums or other public institutions.

The archaeologist seldom posesses a personal collection of Indian antiquities; his sole concern is to wring from those objects all the information that they possess regarding their original makers and users. The pothunter, however, is digging only for himself and his private collection. The objects he finds are lost to the world. Even though he may possess thousands of items, all carefully preserved and of vast interest and edification to himself and his friends - and legitimately so - yet their total scientific value is slight. They are out of context and there is seldom any really exact information as to when, where and how they were found.

This is in effect a plea for cooperation. We realize the great interest by the layman in things ancient; it is an ideal means of submerging oneself in something over and above daily routine. It is hoped, however, that the hobby digger will come to realize that without proper knowledge of how to dig he is a destroyer. Possessing that knowledge, however, he can make an important and valid contribution in the reconstruction of the human past.

- - -


6"
1½"
7"

INFORMATION PLEASE

Artifact 45KT6/683 is an elliptical shaped rock, the major dimension of the ellipse being 17.8 cm. (7"), the minor dimension 15.4 cm. (6-1/6"), flat on one side, convex on the other side with a maximum thickness of 3.5 cm. (1-3/8"), on which many lines have been incised. By definition this object is an artifact since it shows evidence of having been worked by human hand.

The problem is to determine what this object is, its use, its significance.

Further information concerning this unusual find--recovery was made from square 26R3, 36" North, 23" West, at a depth of 32" in association with a fire pit below. The material is a feldspathic sandstone. This same material has been observed in the Crab Creek Valley as float. Its origin is very likely from glacial deposition. The color is a light tan suggesting a ferruginous stain, however a closer examination shows feldspar particles cemented with quartz, the feldspar-quartz ratio being 20% to 80%.

The illustration of the artifact shows the pattern on both the flat and convex surfaces. The pattern of the serrated edge is carried to the flat surface. The lines on the flat surface are not radial but are grouped into parallel lines. Adjacent groupings form triangles pointing toward the center or body of the piece. The convex surface differs from the flat surface in that the lines are not grouped in the same order. On the convex surface there are a series of lines approximately 1 cm. apart running parallel to the long axis of the ellipse. A similar series of lines ranging from 1 cm. to 3 cm. apart are incised parallel to the short axis of the ellipse. There has also been an attempt to incise lines concentric to the circumference. These and other marks give a turtle-back appearance to the artifact.

Since this is the only incised rock of this sort found at 45KT6 and since it is obviously very unusual, we would appreciate any and all comments from our readers. Particularly we would like to know of similar occurrences. We are interested in your theories as to the use and significance of the piece--briefly, INFORMATION PLEASE.

- - -

CORRECTION: PROJECTILE POINT TYPOLOGY (Jan. issue - Page 6) *

	I. WITHOUT STEMS				
	BIPOINTED	CONVEX BASE	FLARED BASE	* STRAIGHT BASE	CONCAVE BASE
LEAF SHAPE	 IB1	 IB2		 IB3	 IB4

MUSEUM AND EXHIBITION COMMITTEE REPORT:

The Washington State Museum has given the Society permission to have a display. This constitutes a case which will be seen by all visitors at the museum. It will not only be of interest to our members to view results of the Society's work, but will advertise WAS to the general public.

The display now shows types of artifacts taken from site 45KT6. The "enigma stone" (illustrated in this issue) will also be there. It is the hope of the Museum and Exhibition Committee that the display can be changed periodically so that a continued interest in our work and organization will be forthcoming. With such a program of exhibition, it will be necessary to ask members to offer items from their collections to use. It is hoped that if the response to our present display is good that we can expand our activities to other institutions and places.

As the Society grows it becomes feasible that members of our other state chapters might allow us the loan of items which can be shown at the Museum. Naturally, should our friends in Ephrata or Spokane allow us to display their collections, we should reciprocate in kind. Such a program can help bring our members in Seattle and elsewhere closer together. The members should express their opinion about such an exhibition policy.

Good exhibitions can be made out of most anything, but with the aid of the better collections a show worthy of the Seattle Art Museum or the Tacoma Historical Museum can be assembled. As a starter do you have any of the following:

Haida slate (argillite) carvings
Eskimo stone carving
Eskimo ivory carving
Carved pipe bowls

Address your correspondence and suggestions to:

Del Nordquist, Chairman
Museum and Exhibition Committee
10421 26th Ave. S. W.
Seattle 66, Washington

- - -

THE CRAWLING COWARD

Rattlesnakes are not the dangerous, fierce reptiles that they are supposed to be. Men who have studied rattlers say that most of them are cowards, that they would rather run if they have a chance than fight. Even the bravest of the rattlesnakes give a warning in advance, hoping that the rattle will scare its opponent away. A rattler can travel only about two miles an hour (not as fast as a man can run), does not strike with deadly accuracy (they usually strike out blindly and miscalculate distance almost every time). Many animals can kill a rattlesnake easily. Deer cut snakes in half with their sharp hoofs. And the non-poisonous king snake will chase a rattler every time.

- - -