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WASHINGTON ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
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SOCIETY ANNOUNCEMENTS

Please note that this issue combines numbers 2 and 3 of Volume 21. This leaves only one issue remaining to be printed to complete our quarterly for 1977.

In case you had not noticed on the cover of this issue, we have a new address for the Society. We no longer have our Post Office box at University Station. Our mail is temporarily being directed to President John Putnam at his home in Bellevue. His address is 9026 Northeast 14th Street and the zip code is 98004. You will be advised when another mailing address is established for the Society.

Your MEMBERSHIP DUES for 1978 are now payable. If you have not yet done so, please send in your dues as soon as possible. You can mail them to us at the above address or bring them to the next meeting.

Our next meeting will be held at John Marshall School at 7:30 pm. The room number will be announced later. The program for the evening will be a slide presentation by John Putnam about Northwest Coast Indian Art. This is a very good program for this December 9th meeting since we plan a field trip to the anthropology museums in Vancouver, B.C. for Saturday, December 10th.

In January, 1978, we must again elect a new set of officers for the WAS. At present we are looking for a nominating committee to guide the search for candidates. If you are interesting in serving on this committee, or if you know of someone to nominate for an office, please let John Putnam or Bob Beattie know immediately.

Occasional Paper No. 5 will be coming out in late December. It is a report of excavations at the Martin Site, 45PC7, along the southwestern coast of Washington. Living components at the site date from roughly 1950 to 1860 BP. Some rather nice artifacts were recovered from the site and a couple of structures were also excavated.

45SN100: REPORT ON LAB SESSIONS

by Ann Trynasty

The first and third Tuesdays during the past spring were lab nights for the excavators of 45SN100. The sessions were held at the Anthropology Laboratory at Seattle Central Community College. Under the guidance of Lee Bennett, we carefully cataloged all the artifacts and items of interest excavated at the Biederbost Site during the previous season.

The lab sessions were very interesting and informative, especially to some of us who have much to learn in this field. Some of the artifacts we have cataloged are as follows:

retouched flakes	chalcedony
scrapers	chert, jasper, petrified wood
retouched microblades	obsidian
cooking rocks	quartzite, granite(?)
sinker	lead
projectile points	obsidian, chert
cobble choppers	basalt
pecking tool	basalt

Some of our members had continued to work at the site during our enjoyably mild winter. Lola Lee Settle unearthed a cache of microblades, thirteen in all, of obsidian and chert. Some of the other things found have been crystal, bone, fish vertebrae, charcoal and coal.

The lab sessions have really been enjoyable, and we look forward to seeing more of our members attending future sessions. You do not have to be an active digger to join us for these workshops. We have become much more efficient and did our records and cataloging in the field this summer; we won't find ourselves so far behind as we have in the past! So far we have found no lack of work and are moving right along.

NORTHWEST ANTHROPOLOGICAL CONFERENCE

by Lee A. Bennett

Held in early April, the 30th annual Northwest Anthropological Conference at the Empress Hotel, Victoria, British Columbia, was a well-organized and well-attended series of meetings and discussions. Some three hundred individuals were present to deliver and hear the many papers on a wide variety of topics. Included among the chaired sessions were: Historic Archaeology, Cultural Resource Management, Linguistics, Physical Anthropology, and Coastal

Adaptation Systems. The abstracts had been assembled into a booklet which was available during conference registration.

Perhaps the best-attended sessions were those on Coastal Adaptation Systems. Papers focused on regional and local ecology, as seen most frequently through archaeology and technology. Many of the papers, however, included informative data on life styles. Several of our members had expressed a feeling that the cultures of the Northwest Coast of North America had a long archaeological past, an idea put forth almost a decade ago. From the presentations in these sessions it is apparent that the archaeological evidence supporting this hypothesis is now being assembled. Data from several sites along the coast, and from ethnographic studies, indicate that the life style had been established for at least one to two thousand years before Europeans arrived.

At the other end of the time scale were the reports presented at the sessions on Historic Archaeology. Frequent among the papers were military sites which had been occupied in the 1850's, a time of the "Indian Wars" in the Pacific Northwest. Archaeological evidence serves to substantiate many written documents, but also aptly demonstrates that we don't often record the more mundane aspects of military life. For example, excavations at a military post in Oregon revealed a large collection of Army artifacts in a much greater range of types than had been expected based upon written accounts of the doings there. By piecing together the materials it became evident that this was a place on the tailend of supply routes, receiving out-dated goods and "hand-me-downs" from other, more prestigious, forts. It was also a dead end assignment for the personnel. Interestingly, the written records for this post contained no references to these things.

Military activities were not the only victims of archaeological research. Also included in the papers were reports of sites belonging to defunct mining operations, sawmills, logging camps, and settlers' cabins. An interesting multidisciplinary dig of a site in northern California provided ample documentation for a once-thriving village and European settlement which had been lost to antiquity through both lack of archival materials and climate. It is a strong case for the argument that historians have something to offer archaeologists. The archaeological activities in our state, by the way, often make use of historians' skills when surveying and excavating historic sites.

At the dinner hosted by the Canadian government it was decided that next year's conference would be held in Pullman. It would be nice to see many of our members attend.

MAY MEETING REPORT

Our combination business and program meeting was held May 20th. Included was a report by our president, John Putnam, that successful negotiations had been completed with the railroad to lease a segment of their right-of-way adjacent to the Biederbost Site. The Society will test this property to determine the extent of 45SN100 and to examine stratigraphic profiles.

A most informative program on Northwest Coast Indian basketry was presented by John Putnam and Del Nordquist. Del has worked with Native American informants concerning raw materials for making baskets, weaving techniques and applications, and Indian names for types of baskets.

Together they showed us several examples of basketry and provided brief cultural backgrounds about the uses of the baskets. Numerous types of edging and decoration were also illustrated using items from their collections. Using an unfinished basket and a model they provided demonstrations of several weaving techniques.

OCTOBER MEETING REPORT

A large collection of artifacts from 45SN100 highlighted our meeting, held at John Marshall School, Seattle. It was an excellent opportunity to see several types of projectile points, drills, microblades and hammerstones. Of special interest was a cache of cooking stones which had been carefully excavated during the summer.

The activities during the past months at 45SN100 were discussed by Bob Beattie, John Putnam and Ann Trynasty. Testing of the railroad right-of-way was begun with a trenching operation, but interpretations must await further excavations.

It was decided by the members present at the meeting that a field trip to the anthropology museums in Vancouver, British Columbia, would take place in early December. John Putnam will coordinate the trip.

THE GLYPHS OF VERNITA

by Shirley Donner

(EDITOR'S NOTE: Over the past several years much interest has been shown in the numerous petroglyphs and pictographs along the Columbia River in Washington. Many individuals have spent much energy doing research into the origins and significance of this Native American form of written communication. Even with the technology of archaeological analyses available today there has been little consensus concerning the meanings of these glyphs. Mr. Donner has written the Society to express his ideas on this subject.)

All along the Columbia River in this state are Indian rock pictures. They have long fascinated me; I wish to share the ideas I have come up with about them. To begin with I have never believed that these drawings were done by the Indians just because they didn't have anything better to do. The theory that if an Indian wanted a deer, drew a picture of a deer, and thereby insured that he kill a deer, has never appealed to me either. I believe that many of these rock paintings are not attempts to influence a hunt, or wile away time. These pictures are the Indians' road maps.

The particular pictures I am concerned with here are a series of lines and dots. The first in this series is a line which resembles the german number "1". I call this the Key Stone because it can be seen even when wet. This would have enabled an Indian to go over it in his canoe during flood waters and know that other pictures were under the water. The second picture is a wavey line which I believe stands for "river". The remaining pictures are dots which probably stand for "villages" or "camps". Putting together this series I think it means that a number of villages or camps lie nearby, along the river.

Another picture in the same area contains five dots, arranged as on a dice, and three "X"s. A possible meaning for this picture would be a map indicating three places to cross the Columbia River. The dots would again indicate living areas.

I have shared my ideas with several people prior to writing this article. Although no one can say for sure, at least two individuals agree with my interpretations of the figures as maps.