


THE WASHINGTON ARCHAEOLOGIST



NEXT MEETING: SEATTLE CHAPTER - FEBRUARY 11, 1959 - 8:00 P.M.

MEETING PLACE: Room 122 1915 Terry, Seattle, Washington

"Ethnological View of Northwest Archaeological Problems" will be discussed by DR. VERN RAY at the February meeting of the Seattle Chapter. Dr. Ray is a native of Washington State, a graduate of the University of Washington, and received his doctorate at Yale. As an anthropologist he is most noted for Plateau work and as an ethnographer of the Columbia River Valley. Dr. Ray has been president of the Seattle Anthropological Society and editor of the Pacific Northwest Quarterly. At present he is with the Department of Anthropology at the University of Washington.

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For the January program of the Seattle Chapter, members were asked to bring any unusual artifacts from their private collections with special emphasis on pipes and gaming pieces. Following the business meeting we gathered around the display table while the respective owners told a little about their exhibits and answered questions concerning them. Since it would be impossible to describe all the artifacts which were brought, we will briefly note only a few of them.

Mr. Conover brought a number of interesting items, among them some bone gaming pieces, which seem to belong in pairs, one having a hole drilled through it while the other one is intact. These came from the Columbia River near Rock Island Dam. He also showed us a bone marrow spoon from the Teiton River, a fire drill and a number of drilled elk's teeth which were no doubt used for personal adornment. Another thing of special note from this collection were several pieces of steatite in various stages of completion showing how the Indians made pipes from this material.

The Weld's also brought some bone gaming pieces found at Wakemap Mound and similar ones from the upper Columbia area. Among the paint pots which they showed us was one with some of the red pigment that had been in it at some much earlier time.

Among the artifacts brought by Mr. Heller were a nicely made clay pipe from Hood Canal and a banner stone which had come from the Central Kentucky Mounds. The Nelson's displayed an assemblage of stone pipes from an area ranging from the Midwest to the Pacific Coast.

About once a year this type of program has proved quite successful in the Society since it presents an opportunity for the members to make comparisons and classifications of various types of questionable articles.

HONORS FOR DR. ROYS

Dr. Ralph L. Roys, research associate in anthropology at the University of Washington, has been elected an honorary fellow of the Royal Anthropological Institute of Great Britain and Ireland, it was announced recently.

Dr. Roys is a leading scholar of the Mayan Indians. He did field work in Yucatan in 1933, 1935, 1937, and 1939. He also did research in Guatemala in 1942. He previously served on the staffs of Tulane University and the Carnegie Institution of Washington, D.C.

THE 12th ANNUAL NORTHWEST ANTHROPOLOGICAL CONFERENCE will be held at Portland State College, Portland, Oregon, April 17 and 18, 1959. (Friday & Saturday) Past conferences have included sections on archaeology which have been very worthwhile. W-A-S members are urged to attend at least some of the sessions. Further information concerning accommodations or program may be obtained from Charles G. Nelson, EA 3-7215, or from Charles Brant, Program Chairman, Division of Social Science, Portland State College, Portland, Oregon.

MR. DELMAR NORDQUIST was appointed Executive Secretary of the Seattle Chapter at a recent Board of Directors meeting. Mr. Nordquist is a graduate of the University of Iowa in Art and Art History. He has done graduate work in anthropology at the University of Washington, has worked for the State Parks and Recreation Commission as Curator of the Ginko State Park Museum, and has also worked at the State Museum in Seattle. He is now teaching art at West Seattle High School. Mr. Nordquist is the designer of the W-A-S membership cards and of the Society exhibit that appeared in Seattle banks and at Sun Lakes State Park during the past year.

ATTENTION OF THE MEMBERSHIP should be directed to an article in the January, 1959, issue of Natural History magazine. This issue contains the first of a series of excellent articles on prehistoric stone implements which have very clear drawings illustrating stone working techniques. The article is entitled "First Tools of Mankind" and was authored by Jacques Bordaz, instructor in anthropology at Columbia University.

PALUS CHAPTER NEWS

Reported by Pat Allured

The Palus Chapter spent Sunday, December 28th, checking on some rock overhangs. One looks very promising; however, a break in the weather will be necessary for the beginning of excavation.

DR. R. D. DAUGHERTY, of the W.S.C. Anthropology Department, gave a very interesting talk on "The Problems of Archaeology," to the Palus Chapter meeting of Wednesday, January 28th, in Todd Hall. He told how the archaeologists attempt to reconstruct the Indians' way of life working backwards chronologically, where the written historical documents of the white man leave off.

Many Indians of the Southwest and Pacific Coast had isolated techniques of weaving, pottery and carving and it enabled the archaeologist to establish a relatively accurate chronology of the past history of these Indians. They were also sedentary and were inclined to maintain large permanent villages. Thus the archaeologist was able to excavate these ruins and find layer upon layer of cultural debris, and through the aid of various methods of dating, establish an accurate chronology of the past history of these Indians.

By contrast, the Indians of this area were migratory in nature. They had temporary camp sites for hunting, fishing and for gathering roots and berries. They more than likely would not inhabit the same camp twice. Also, they did not develop specialized skills of weaving, carving and pottery. This creates a tremendous problem for the archaeologist, and he must compare the cultural materials of one area with another in order for him to establish a relatively accurate chronology.

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HISTORIC SITE ARCHAEOLOGY

John M. Henry, Montana State University

(Abstract of paper read at Eleventh Northwest Anthropological Conference)

With the growing awareness on the part of the general public for the historic heritage of the United States, there has been an increasing interest in historic forts, ghost towns, missions, trading posts and sites of all sorts. The people want information as to exact locations, uncovering actual physical remains, the display of artifacts recovered from these sites, and restoration of the buildings. Due to the complexities of the culture of the last century, the actual excavation of historic sites is a tedious business, for even the smallest scrap of paper must be removed with care. Excavation must be done by people who possess knowledge of the material culture of the era, and they must be familiar with methods and techniques of digging. The historic site, like the prehistoric site, is there but once and excavation can occur but one time.

Excavations of historic sites will continue with increasing rapidity. I feel that it is the duty of the archaeologist to conduct, or at least direct, these excavations, for if they do not then amateurs, historians, and people with only a smattering of excavation technique will surely attempt to do so, with, I believe, irretrievable loss to the American public.

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THE GOLDENDALE SITE: RESULTS AND INTERPRETATIONS

Claude N. Warren, University of Washington
Donald R. Tuohy, Pacific Northwest
Pipeline Corporation

(Abstract of paper read at Eleventh Northwest Anthropological Conference)

The Goldendale site was one of the more significant sites salvaged on the right-of-way of the Pacific Northwest Natural Gas pipeline in Washington State. It was a small campsite located 2 miles north of the Columbia River and 14 miles southeast of the city of Goldendale in Klickitat County, Washington.

A majority of the 277 artifacts recovered in the salvage excavation came from a culture-bearing stratum which extended from 0.5 to 1.5 feet below the surface of the site. With the exception of two bone awl fragments, all artifacts were made of stone. The chipped stone forms include projectile points, knives, blades, choppers, gravers, drills, and a variety of scrapers. Ground stone forms include edge-ground cobbles, oval manos, and flat-slab metates.

The rather restricted occurrence of edge-ground cobbles in the Columbia Plateau suggests a surprising antiquity for the Goldendale assemblage. The internal evidence from the site itself neither supports nor refutes this suggestion. Only two stratified sites in the Columbia Plateau have yielded identical cobbles with ground or polished edges. In both sites, Cedar Cave, and Five Mile Rapids, the specimens were found in cultural strata which were dated, by different methods, at 8000 to 9000, and 6100 to 8700 years, respectively. Since these tools have not yet been found in more recent Plateau assemblages, it appears, on present evidence, that the Goldendale site may be tentatively aligned with a northern expression of a basic Basin culture underlying the more recent Plateau cultures. General resemblances between the Goldendale assemblage and the cultural materials from the Lind Coulee site support this hypothesis.

On the northern Plains, identical cobbles with ground edges are known as "tanning stones". Those found in context are associated with the Early Archaic period (Pictograph Cave I), and with the "Late Middle Culture" of the latter part of the Forager Horizon (500 A.D. to 500 B.C.). A cultural relationship on an early time level between the northern Plains and the Columbia Plateau is implied.

Identical edge-ground cobbles are known as "pebble grinders" in Panama and Puerto Rico. They are a diagnostic trait of the Preceramic Cerro Mangote and Monagrillo cultures of Panama, and of the West Indian Archaic cultural tradition in Puerto Rico.

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DJRI:3, AN EARLY SITE IN THE FRASER CANYON

Charles E. Borden, University of
British Columbia

(Abstract of paper read at Eleventh Northwest Anthropological Conference)

Site DJRI:3 is situated in a rock-rimmed embayment low on the east wall of the Fraser Canyon, about three miles north of Yale, B.C. This recess is filled with a deposit of stratified sands and gravels more than twenty feet in depth. The sands were laid down by the Fraser at flood stage when the embayment was

occupied by a back eddy of the river. This deposition occurred when the flood levels of the river were some fifty feet above normal high water of today. The gravels, on the other hand, were laid down by a small stream flowing off the hillside to the east.

These geological strata, which were exposed by work on the Canadian National Railway, are interlaced with a series of occupational horizons containing artifacts, detritus, and charcoal. The earliest habitation level, which is enclosed by the lowermost sand deposits, has been dated at 8150 plus or minus 310 years B.P. by radiocarbon measurement. The series of occupations is capped by the cultural remains of the recent Upper Stalo Indians. Site DJRi:3 thus promises to yield an intermittent record embracing more than 8,000 years.

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THE PREHISTORIC POSITION OF THE LOWER CHINOOK:
SOME IMPLICATIONS REGARDING ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONNECTIONS
BETWEEN THE PLATEAU AND THE NORTHWEST COAST

James M. Alexander III, University of Washington

(Abstract of paper read at Eleventh Northwest Anthropological Conference)

The historical relationships between the Plateau, particularly the Dalles-Deschutes region, and the Northwest Coast are well established. The Lower Chinook served as middlemen in an extensive trade network between these areas. These relationships are here examined in the light of recent archaeological work in the Willapa Bay region of southwestern Washington.

Two prehistoric sites in Willapa Bay revealed a bone and chipped-stone industry. The economic base was littoral, largely confined to beaches and bays or rivers, and stressed the use of shellfish, land and sea mammals and fish. It is suggested that the people of Willapa Bay and the mouth of the Columbia shared an older cultural tradition and essentially the same environment with the more northerly Northwest Coast. Certain later elaborations on this culture base in the north seem never to have reached as far south as the mouth of the Columbia, or at least came very late in the archaeological sense. Plateau influence is not indicated in the materials recovered from these sites. There is, however, evidence of such influence in certain sites known to have been occupied historically. It is thus suggested that classical Northwest Coast and Plateau traits do not occur around the mouth of the Columbia River until historic or protohistoric times. Further, until this time the incentive to trade, in terms of goods available, would appear to be minimal.

The historically recognized intensive trade relations in these areas can be viewed as a fourfold product of: 1) a cultural florescence on the North and subsequent aggressive sea voyaging down the Washington and Oregon coasts, especially by Nootkan-speaking peoples; 2) introduction of new goods, especially metals, beads, blankets and guns, into the economy; 3) general stimulation of interior trade resulting from acquisition of the horse; 4) establishment of permanent fur trading centers which tended to crystallize trading patterns.

Although this paper does not presume to take issue with the concept of long-standing Coast-Plateau connections, it does indicate that such connections via the mouth of the Columbia River have yet to be substantiated, and that some evidence to the contrary is available.

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ASIATIC ORIGINS OF THE WOODLAND BURIAL MOUND COMPLEX: A REEXAMINATION

Chester S. Chard, Berkeley, California

(Abstract of paper read at Eleventh Northwest Anthropological Conference)

The concept of an Asiatic origin for the Woodland ceramic tradition of the eastern United States has become widely accepted. The associated burial mound complex has often been ascribed to the same source, since it also appears suddenly at this time without apparent local antecedents. But this latter hypothesis requires reexamination in the light of the fuller data now available, lest what was originally a mere suggestion become, through sheer repetition, an entrenched dogma.

The evidence is conclusive that burial mounds were not in use in northeastern Asia at a date early enough to have been ancestral to the New World complex as exemplified in the Adena culture of 800 B.C. Always associated with metal, they are characteristically a steppe trait and in form and construction bear little resemblance to their American counterparts. They do not occur in the forest zone of Siberia at any time, nor in any place closer to the New World than Japan. They are not associated in the Old World with any traditions that have American analogies -- and least of all with the Asiatic roots of the Woodland ceramics.

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AN ANALYSIS OF EXCAVATIONS BY THE UNIVERSITY OF OREGON
IN THE DALLES DAM RESERVOIR AREA

David Cole, University of Oregon

(Abstract of paper read at Eleventh Northwest Anthropological Conference)

In six years of work in the reservoir area of The Dalles Dam, several sites were excavated which produced data in great quantity and diversity. In the interpretation of this data there were a number of problems which will be discussed in this paper.

The two major sites had similar geological stratigraphy, but the cultural materials related to each stratum was not always comparable, even though the materials from each site were, for the most part, the same.

Each site excavated had artifacts, in quantity, which were peculiar to the particular locality, yet the distances between the sites, in some cases were near enough to consider them extensions of a single site.

The problems of classification were complex because of variation in form as well as technique.

Also discussed are burial practices as seen in the disinterment of remains from Upper Memaloose and Grave Islands, fossilized infant remains in the lower levels of Site WS-1, burials in the talus or near the bluffs adjacent to the other sites, and the associations of cremation with burials.

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