VAS NEWSLETTER

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PUBLISHED OCCASIONALLY BY THE VERMONT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

ANNUAL MEETING DATE SET

Bolton Valley Lodge proved a comfortable and economical place to have the annual meeting last year, but many members who did not come objected to the date and to the snow. Although the Bolton roads are cleared faster than the State highways, the Board of Trustees decided to avoid the problem by setting an earlier date. This year the annual meeting will be held on September 18, at the beginning of the foliage season! The site will again be the Bolton Valley Lodge. (The access road is off route 2, near the Bolton Valley School.)

Another innovation this year is the meeting organization. The program and business meeting will be held in a single day. For those who wish to stay overnight, accommodations will be available and a field trip is being planned for Saturday morning. A walk in the woods should be delightful at that time of the year. The cost of meals and lodgings will be about the same as last year. In two weeks you will receive the meeting program and news of the speakers, as well as meeting reservation forms. Please mark your calendar and keep an eye on the mailbox.

OCCASIONAL PAPER SERIES

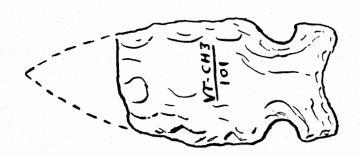
Speaking of the mailbox, you will also be receiving soon, our first Occasional Paper, a refreshing narrative by Lois Callan, of her first Field trip in the wilds of Canada. Your archaeological interests should get a boost also from reading the pamphlet, THESE ARE THE STEWARDS OF THE PAST, which is included with this issue of the NEWSLETTER.

VT/CH/3 PROGRESS REPORT

Members of the VAS, including Ken Varney, Ed Bacon, Sue Gates, Carl Swanson, John Pringle and Louise Bassa, developed the second "dig" in the Chittenden County area. (Pine Island was VTCH 1 and 2.) Because the site, near Shelburne Pond, is on private property and its owner is not an enthusiastic archaelolgist, the work had to necessarily be limited to a small number of workers. (One subject to be discussed at the upcoming annual meeting will be the problem of training site excavators and the development of new sites.)

VTCH 3 was begun in the Fall of 1969, when Bill Haviland laid out the site in about ten 5 feet square grids. Work continued until about November 2 when inclement weather called a halt. The site markings were found to be intact in the Spring and work began again in the third week of April (1970). The soil at the site, which has been plowed many times, is difficult to work unless the moisture content is just right. Mixed into the depth to which work has now progressed, artifacts from Woodland, Archaic and Modern periods have been found. About two hundred pieces have been found in the top layer (see the

illustration of an "Otter Creek" point), and careful records have been kept of each finding. The 5 x 8 card records include data about the site, location, depth, excavator, date, and description of the object. The card also includes a drawing or photograph of the object. As Ken says, "Digging is hard work and is only



occasionally rewarding. There is a lot of drudgery and even more record keeping." Perhaps the prize find at the site so far is a copper bead, a slate knife and other slate pieces found beneath the plow layer and dating from the Archaic period (about 3-4,000 BC).

Ed Bacon and Ken Varney will be available at the meeting on September 18 to answer your questions and to discuss the future of site excavation in Vermont.

MINUTES OF THE 1969 ANNUAL MEETING

Bolton Valley Lodge was the attractive (and, incidentally, inexpensive) setting for the Second Annual Meeting of VAS on December 5 and 6, 1969. The afternoon session opened with an illustrated talk by Bill Haviland on the Pine Island "dig", which took place last April, just ahead of the bulldozers constructing the Burlington Beltline. Bill was followed by Miss Louise Bassa, an instructor at the University of Vermont and graduate candidate at the University of Pennsylvania, who presented a slide showing and commentary entitled, "The Neolithic and Early Bronze Age in Slovakia: My Early Archaeological Experience in Czechoslovakia." The extended social hour in the lounge was enlivened by good conversation, and an entertaining view of skiers schussing and falling down the adjacent practice slopes.

After a gourmet dinner of which breast of chicken supreme was the piece de resistance, Dr. Dean Snow, Assistant Professor of Anthropology, SUNY, addressed the group, also using slides, on his recent experience in Indian exploration in Maine. The talk centered on his work in exposing a long-held myth about Red Paint People. Dr. Snow concluded that rather than being a separate culture, the "so-called" Red Paint People were part of a continuous development directly related to the widespread Laurentian tradition as defined by Ritchie.

The Trustees held a spirited 10:00 p.m. meeting, during which they re-elected the 1969 slate of officers: President, Joseph Popecki; Vice-President, Charles Morrissey; Treasurer, Durwood Smith; Secretary, H. N. Muller. The Treasurer reported a balance on hand of \$569.75.

Ken Varney, Activities Committee Chairman, regretted that the wetness of the summer and his preoccupation with the trefoil had prevented a start on the Shelburne Pond Site, which project has now been rescheduled for May, 1970. Other potential sites for the summer are near Otter Creek. There is a possibility that the old Tavern at Chimney Point might be the VAS headquarters, and several trustees have promised to visit both this spot and also the Daniels Museum. Since the treasury has such a healthy balance, it was decided to publish no fewer than three NEWSLETTERS in 1970, the first of which should include a report of the Second Annual Meeting, and a list of membership. Other features suggested were book-reviews, and notices of recent publications relating to Northeastern United States archaeology. is to be in charge of the physical production of the NEWSLETTER. Trustees also decided to publish OCCASIONAL PAPERS, the first of these to be the addresses to the Society by Dr. Dean Snow and Dr. Douglass Byer. Durwood Smith will investigate the possibility of a tax-free status for VAS.

The Saturday morning session ratified the action of the Board of Trustees. There was discussion of both timing and of place for the next Annual Meeting. It was announced that Dean Snow was awarded an honorary membership. Among the many ideas generated were a second meeting each year for the members to hash over their field work, a travelling archaeological exhibit that could be taken around the State, a speaker's list for interested organizations, and ideas about getting grants-in-aid. The membership present seemed agreed that too much of activities of the VAS revolved around a rather small group, and that it was vital to have groups throughout the state as a whole.

... And so our faithful little band of archaeologists, both pseudo and real, returned from prehistoric times to the present with a feeling of nostalgia. [Reported by Dr. Cole Twitchell]

SITE SURVEY

From Mount Desert, Maine, Bill Haviland reminds us that the site survey initiated in the Spring of 1968 is making good progress. However, Bill is certain that there are many sites as yet unreported and thus unclassified. He requests members to send any information on Vermont Archaeological sites to him at the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, University of Vermont, Burlington, Vermont

BOOK REVIEWS, BY DR. DURWOOD J. SMITH

HIBBON, Frank C. The Lost Americans. New York, Thomas Y. Crowell Company, 1968. xiii + 187 pp., illus. \$5.95.

The Lost Americans, first published in 1946, is the incredible story of the discovery of Stone Age man in America. This edition has been revised by the author to include up-to-date archaeological findings that throw new light on prehistoric American man. New chapters include detailed information on Old World progenitors, recent excavations, and the new knowledge that has been revealed through Carbon-14 dating. The story begins in 1925 when a lone cowboy spotted a heap of bones and odd-shaped spearheads half buried in the bank of a dry river near Folsom, New Mexico. He felt that there was something unusual about his discovery, and his instinct proved right. What he had found were the bones of ancient bison and flint points chipped by man more than 10,000 years ago. This discovery set archaeologists on the trail of the Stone Age Americana man they previously thought never existed.

JUDD, Neil M. Men Met Along The Trail. University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, 1968. x + 162 pp., illus. \$6.95.

Neil M. Judd's archaeological trail began in the summer of 1907 with an exploration of the Indian ruins and natural bridges in White Canyon, Utah. From there the trail led to other explorations in northern Arizona, southern Utah, New Mexico, and even Guatemala. Along the way he met the desert people and settlers living in the isolated areas where he worked. Some became co-workers; some simply wandered in and out of his camps. In this book, the well-known archaeologist describes the places he visited, his archaeological endeavors, such as the restoration of the prehistoric ruins known as Betatakin in the Navaho National Monument, and relates anecdotes about the wealth of people with whom he lived, worked, or spoke.

LEONARD, Jonathan N. Ancient America. New York, Time Inc., 1967. 192 pp., illus. \$6.60.

This volume is a beautifully illustrated and scholarly addition to the "Great Ages of Man" series published by Time-Life Books. The title is rather misleading in that it covers only civilization in Central and South America; ignoring the early inhabitants of North America. The index is superb. A selected bibliography is included.

MILES, Charles. Indian & Eskimo Artifacts of North America. New York, Bonanza Books, 1963. xii + 244 pp., illus. \$25.00.

In this primarily pictorial guide with explanatory captions, Charles Miles has organized photographs of over two thousand examples of all of the major kinds of North American native-made and -used artifacts, and presents them under several functional headings. Tools, weapons, pottery, basketry, clothing, boats, and ceremonial regalia are shown, often in close-ups which present technical details of manufacture rarely found in books on this subject.

ROBBINS, Maurice. The Amateur Archaeologist's Handbook. New York, Thomas Y. Crowell Company, 1965. xiv + 273 pp., illus. \$6.95.

This is a comprehensive handbook on the methods and techniques of archaeology for amateurs of all ages. It presents a brief introduction to the cultures of early man in North America and provides detailed information on the practical aspects of the fascinating and fast-growing hobby of archaeology. Photographs, maps, and drawings complement and explain the text. Step by step, in nontechnical language, this volume shows the reader how to locate and excavate an archaeological site. As an example of the mechanics of an archaeological survey, it analyzes an area of successful excavation near New Bedford, Massachusetts. It explains how to make a preliminary survey and where to obtain topographical maps, advises what equipment and precautions are required, and suggests how the techniques of prehistoric archaeology may be applied to the newer fields of historic and underwater archaeology.

ROBBINS, Roland W. and Evan Jones. Hidden America. New York, Alfred A. Knopf, 1966. viii + 264 pp., illus. \$5.95.

Many landmarks of the American past lie buried under the dust and rubble of the years. In <u>Hidden America</u> a remarkably successful pick-and-shovel historian, in <u>collaboration</u> with Evan Jones, tells how he applied the techniques of archaeology to the rediscovery of some of these lost landmarks. His successes include Thoreau's cabin at Walden, Thomas Jefferson's birthplace, the Saugus Ironworks in Massachusetts, a seventeenth-century Dutch port on the Hudson, and others. He also writes about Indian mounds, Viking encampments, buried forts, and other American sites that have been uncovered by others or await a skillful digger. This entertaining and informative book should appeal both to those with an interest in American history and to those lured by the romance and excitement -- and practical know-how -- of archaeological adventures.

TAYLOR, Joan du Plat. Marine Archaeology. New York, Thomas Y. Crowell Company, 1966. 208 pp. illus. \$9.50.

For readers whose imagination thrills at the prospect of treasure beneath the sea, this fascinating story of the wonders already uncovered by marine archaeology offers provocative clues to those still awaiting discovery. Drawn from the reports of famous scientist-divers, this splendidly illustrated volume presents for the first time an authoritative picture of the achievements and techniques which have distinguished marine archaeology's first six decades.

WHEELER, Margaret. History Was Buried. New York, Hart Publishing Company, 1967. 431 pp., illus. \$12.50.

In this superb source book of archaeology, Lady Margaret Wheeler has assembled the writings of some of the foremost archaeologists of all time. These men tell -- sometimes in breathless prose -- of buried cities, of royal tombs, of a fabulous treasure ship dug from the soil of East Anglia, of the complete body of a man preserved in a peat bog for over 2,000 years. The writers describe the findings of the Dead Sea Scrolls, the discovery of the caves of Lascaux with their walls decorated with pre-historic, colored drawings, how a ship laden with works of art was excavated from the bottom of the Mediterranean Sea where she foundered during the century before the Christian era. Here, too, is the story of the body of a frozen boy looking as if he were merely asleep, though he died in the 15th century.

August, 1970

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