



# Newsletter

**VOL V    ISSUE III**

**FALL 1977**

## Fall Issue

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## 1

# AUCTION REPORT

J. POPECKI

The 1977 Auction for the benefit of the Smith Fund for Publication was held at the St. Paul's Cathedral on October 1. Although there were only 255 items, as compared to over 400 last year, the final audit will probably show a net profit of about \$1,000. That's about \$100 more than the 1976 auction produced.

Recognition should be given to those who worked the long hours to make the project successful. The promotion work, advertising, gift solicitation and pickup, facilities arrangements, signage and auctioneer arrangements were largely done by JEAN BERGMAN, CARL SWANSON and JOE POPECKI. The cataloging and sorting of gifts was handled by SUE SMITH, DEE MARTIN and JANE GIBBONS. Assistance at the auction and moving of articles from storage to the auction site was performed by BILL BAYREUTHER, JEAN BERGMAN and JOHN, MARK and JUDITH POPECKI. The storage facilities were provided again this year by CLARK HINSDALE, JR.

Montpelier publicity and gift solicitation and pickup were done by DAVIS KOIER and GIOVANNA NEUDORFER. Rutland publicity was handled by JIM GRIFFIN, while BILL MURPHY did the same for the Middlebury area. Assisting briefly in the Burlington area were CHARLES PAQUIN, JIM PETERSON and JEAN SBARDELLATI.

The following members donated articles to the auction: GIOVANNA NEUDORFER, FRANK and JEAN COWAN, JEANNE and JOE POPECKI, BILL MURPHY, LOIS CALLAN, BOB and SHIRLEY JOHNSON, NICK MULLER, ANITA HAVILAND, ARMAND BELIVEAU and MARJORIE POWER. Lois Callan sent a donation of \$50.

That was the positive side of the auction project. The other side of the coin isn't as interesting. About 90% of the work was done by two trustee members and a friend of the VAS. Unless there is some positive assurance of reversing this situation, there will likely not be another auction. This is unfortunate because the auction offers an excellent fund raising technique, drawing largely on the financial resources of non-members. It does, however, require the coordinated efforts of a much larger number of members if an unfair burden is not to fall to a small core of workers who must then take an unreasonable amount of time from

their business and personal needs. Only ten members donated articles and two members, not actually working at the auction, attended the event. This is basically a repetition of the 1976 experience and has been most discouraging to the auction committee.

A final note of thanks is due the auctioneer, CHARLES BARSALOW, who stepped in to do an excellent job for VAS when the scheduled auctioneer withdrew just a week before the auction.

## **MEMBERS AT LARGE**

### **J. POPECKI**

At the invitation of VAS member, Lois Callan, several VAS members attended the summer meeting of the Compton County Historical Museum and Society in Sawyerville, Quebec. Those gathered for the October 8 meeting saw the sound-slide film produced by Joe Popecki for VAS, entitled "An introduction to the archaeology of Vermont". The text of the film was written by UVM anthropologists and VAS members, William Haviland and Marjorie Power.

Charles Paquin demonstrated his almost unique skills of manufacturing Indian tools and weapons, using the same materials and techniques as did our early Americans. The audience of over forty deluged Joe and Charlie with questions for almost an hour. John Popecki and the Cowans of Canaan, Vermont also attended the meeting. Lois Callan provided the hospitality for the members who presented the program.

## **ANTHRO CLUB**

### **J. PETERSON**

The UVM Anthropology Club will be presenting "White Roots of Peace" on thursday, October 27. "White Roots of Peace" is a group of Native Americans who will discuss issues related to Native Americans. They will also have a

craft sale and exhibit, and will conduct a social dance in the evening( the public is invited) For further information, contact the Anthropology Dept. at UVM- 656-3884.

## **BCVAS**

## **F. COWAN**

### **HISTORY AND PRESENT STATUS OF THE EWING SITE INVESTIGATIONS**

This October marks the end of four years of Burlington Chapter fieldwork at two prehistoric sites in Shelburne, Vermont. The chapter wishes to extend its great appreciation and thanks to all those who in one way or another helped to make this fieldwork possible. We are especially indebted to Mr. John Ewing, the landowner of these sites, and Dr. Carl Reidel of the UVM Environmental Program, which now controls this Nature Conservancy protected area. To both these men, we are immensely grateful for their cooperation and assistance. We are also grateful to Mr. Kenneth Varney for his enthusiastic cooperation, and for making his collection available for research. Continued thanks to Dr. William Haviland for the use of the Anthropology Department's Archaeology Lab.

VT-Ch-5 was discovered in about 1960 by Mr. Kenneth Varney, a UVM agronomist and, later, one of the founders of the VAS. From August, 1962 to September, 1967 Mr. Varney, with the cooperation of the landowner Mr. John Ewing, devoted free time to the excavation of a portion of VT-Ch-5. Among the recovered artifacts were 206 projectile points and bifaces, 1102 body sherds and 176 rim sherds, scrapers, drills, bone and antler awls, antler projectile points, beaver incisors hammerstones, a bone bead, a celt or axe bit, a pecked and ground gouge, a plummet, and two possible ground whetstones. Faunal remains included bones and teeth of deer, moose, muskrat, beaver, bear, dog (wolf, coyote ?), fisher(?), and fish, shell of turtle and mussels.

Mr. Varney reported in a 1963 letter to Dr. William A. Ritchie, then New York State Archaeologist, that the site was stratified into at least two definable components, with a layer of intermixing between the two.

"In general, the site is composed of a stratum of very black soil about 8" deep, pH of over 7.0. The artifacts occur in the 2" to 8" layer. Below this, from 8" to 14" (more or less), the soil is of a brownish to reddish-brown color and contains considerable stone-- some obviously fire-cracked. Artifacts are fewer in number. A third layer, 14" to 28", is again blackish in color, pH above 7.0, and relatively stone-free. It lays on a white-grey, marl-like, sterile soil."

(letter from K. Varney to Dr. W.A. Ritchie, dated December 17, 1963)

In this letter, Varney characterized "Zone I" (2"-8") as yielding triangular points 10:1 over stemmed points, quartzite artifacts 10:1 over chert, a great deal of bone, and most of the pottery. "Zone II" (9"-14") had a triangular to stemmed point ratio of 1:3, a quartzite to chert ratio of 1:1, some bone, and only occasional pottery. "Zone III" (14"-28") points were all stemmed, and primarily of chert (3:1 over quartzite). This stratum contained polished slate an axe bit, a plummet, and a gouge. No pottery was found in this stratum, but a few pieces of bone persisted.

Between 1967 and 1974, a portion of the site was trenched by an unknown pot-hunter(s). No information is available for that area.

In 1974, Burlington Chapter members test pitted the site to determine its probable extent, and found it to have a greater north-south extent than was previously known. Test-pitting also revealed two near-by, but topographically discrete sites, which were designated VT-Ch-5A and VT-Ch-5B. A limestone outcrop to the north of the site was discovered to contain small pockets of chert, and

may have been utilized to a minor extent as the stone for some small projectile points.

The Burlington Chapter started in 1974 a program of excavation at VT-Ch-5, which continued for four years, ending in October, 1977. Excavation was conducted under the direction of Mr. Ed Bacon, with Ms. Louise Basa as professional consultant. Excavation participants were Burlington Chapter members, with Anthropology students from UVM and Johnson State College, and VAS members-at-large as occasional volunteers. In 1974 and 1975, the Chapter hosted Dr. Mark Cohen's archaeology field schools from SUNY at Plattsburg. Throughout the four years, the chapter provided guided tours and talks on and about the site for a number of local elementary, junior high, and high schools.

In July, 1975, Louise Basa conducted a two week Johnson State College archaeology field school at VT-Ch-5A. This field school, and the work that followed that summer, defined VT-Ch-5A as a probable single component Archaic site, characterized by small-stemmed projectile points, and a virtual absence of pottery. The cultural and chronological placement of this site is, at present, undetermined beyond inclusion in the Archaic Period. The "Small Stemmed (or narrow stemmed) Tradition" is an ambiguous cultural phenomenon in the northeast with a wide range of dates in New England and New York. Organic remains at this site are practically non-existent with small fragments of calcined bone as the only recovered faunal material. Features recorded include dense concentrations of fire-cracked rocks and reddened soils, interpreted as hearths and possible roasting platforms.

In the summer of 1976, Ed Bacon and Louise Basa moved to New York State, and Frank Cowan assumed the on-site and laboratory direction of the Chapter's work at Ewing. During the Spring of 1977, a National Register nomination was prepared for a Shelburne Pond Archaeological District, a district which would include the Ewing sites, and protect them from any disturbances involving

Federal monies or licensing. The current field season, 1977, has been primarily aimed at finishing of open excavation units, preparatory to site closure. This has been hampered in recent weeks by complex data associations and rotten weather. By the time this report goes to press, we hope to have closed the site, and established some permanent reference markers on both VT-Ch-5 and 5A.

Since 1974, the Chapter has spent approximately 60 days at the site, and has excavated approximately 25 square meters to various depths at VT-Ch-5, and approximately 13 square meters at VT-Ch-5A. No further fieldwork is planned by the Chapter pending completion of data analysis and publication of a full Ewing site report.

1974-1977 excavations have been, for the most part, more northerly of Varney's excavations. In this area, the stratigraphy is less clear than that which Varney found. Specifically, while Archaic projectile points have been recovered they do not seem to occupy a horizon distinct from that of the later Late Woodland Period. Artifact inventories have been similar to, though not identical to Varney's. We have not encountered any Archaic heavy stone tools. While bone preservation has been found to be generally good in most of our excavation units, pH samples have been significantly lower than Varney's 7.0 and above; ours have tested at a much more acidic 5.2 and 5.6.

In general, Burlington Chapter excavations, preliminary data analysis, and inspection of the Varney collection point to a predominantly Late Woodland occupation of VT-Ch-5. Archaic points recovered at VT-Ch-5 are largely identical to those recovered from VT-Ch-5A, suggesting that the two "sites" were but parts of the same occupation complex during the earlier period.

Much of the primary data cataloging has already been done, not including the data collected from the site this year. Cataloging of 1977 data, and completing a comprehensive data inventory are the next major tasks in the Ewing site investigation. This, and the summarizing of site maps and records, will be started this winter. Ceramic analysis of the Burlington Chapter's and Ken

Varney's pottery sherds has already been started by James Peterson as an independent studies project for the Anthropology Department. Results of that analysis are anticipated in December.

## **NOMINATING COMMITTEE**

**G. NEUDORFER**

The Nominating committee has come up with the following slate of nominees, Please select five and return your selection on the form provided.

Cynthia Hermes- Originally from Connecticut, a resident of Putney until recently when she moved to Worchester, Vermont. Has a B.A. degree in Anthropology from U. Cal., Berkeley. Participated in the Ft. Dummer excavation at Brattleboro in the fall of 1976. Has been the chief researcher to the State Archaeologist on the Stone Chamber Project. Has been a member of the VAS for one year.

Marjorie Power- Asst. Prof. Anthropology at UVM. Has been engaged in field and contract work for 10 years. Primary training in prehistoric archaeology in the mid-west, altho has been actively involved in the study of Vermont prehistory and in local excavations. Most recently, Dr. Power was awarded an NFH fellowship to participate in a summer-long(summer 1977) seminar on historic archaeology in Colonial America at the University of Florida.

Bill Murphy- Vocational Coordinator for the Addison County Vocational Center. VAS member for six years. Has been particularly active in historic archaeology, having excavated the John Deere Blacksmith Shop, assists currently in the Hubbardton project, exploratory dig in 1975 for the DHP at Mt. Independence to locate the new visitor's center, has presented a number of papers at scholarly meetings such as the SHA Conference, Ottawa, 1977, and the Dublin Seminar on NE Folklife.



Gordon Nielsen- Member of the VAS for seven years. Currently works as an entomologist and Pestiole Coordinator with the UVM extension service. Maintains the VAS site survey files and probably knows more about the location of sites in the Champlain Valley than anyone. Dr. Nielsen is a resident of Hinesburg, Vt.

Gary Phelps- Currently manager of manufacturing engineering at Sprague Electric in Barre. Has been a member of the VAS for one year. Mr. Phelps lives in Essex Junction, Vt.

Carl Swanson- A member of the VAS for seven years. Carl has his own interior design business in Burlington. Has worked on the various Burlington Chapter excavations, notably Ewing and Winooski Sites. For the past two years Carl has served untiringly on the VAS auction committee.

Donna Jerry- A recent member of the VAS, Donna is currently working as an historic researcher for the DHP on the Chittenden County Archaeological Survey. A graduate of Johnson College, she received her degree in Anthropology/Sociology. A member of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, the Vermont Historical Society, and the Northeast Folklore Society.

Davis Koier- A member of the VAS since 1975. Mr. Koier holds no degree, barely has a pair of pants to sit in and his left shoe is untied. He is currently employed by the DHP as an assistant for the State Archaeologist. Editor of the VAS Newsletter, and member of the Vermont Historical Society.

(Please select five on the enclosed form)

# Annual Fall

Location: Sheraton, South Burlington, Vermont.

Time and Date: Saturday, Nov. 12, 1-9 PM

Program: 1-1:45 PM: Registration. (Fee, \$1)

1:45-4:30 PM: Business Meeting

Reports of the President

# Meeting

Treasurer

Secretary

Nominating Committee

Auction Committee

Chapters

# Program

Greetings and report of the State Archaeologist

(including the "Ancient Vermont" Conference)

Report from the Board on the Publishing Program  
for 1977-78.

4:30-5 PM: Annual business meeting of the Board.

Election of officers

General agenda for 1977-78.

5-6:30 PM: Cocktails and conversation (Dutch Treat)

6:30-7:45: Dinner

7:45-8:45: Speaker:

Prof. James Tuck of the Memorial University of  
Newfoundland.

Topic: Newfoundland and Labrador prehistory.

(Dr. Tuck was the feature speaker several years ago and  
was one of the most interesting and dynamic ones we've  
ever had)

## RESERVATION FORM

The menu will include: Cranberry Shrub, Salad, Turkey and dressing, Mashed potatoes, peas and mushrooms, apple pie and beverages (coffee, tea or milk).

Price: \$6.30 , including tax and gratuity. Dinner may be paid for in advance with the reservation; make checks payable to: Vermont Archaeological Society, Inc.

Guests are most welcome but reservations must be made for them.

Reservation form for dinner should be returned no later than November 8.

I plan to attend the VAS Annual Fall Meeting, please hold reservations for \_\_\_\_\_ people. Enclosed is a check for \_\_\_\_\_.

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## TRUSTEES BALLOT

FOR FIVE OF THE FOLLOWING NOMINEES:

- ☐ CYNTHIA HERMES
- ☐ MARJORIE POWER
- ☐ BILL MURPHY
- ☐ GARY PHELPS
- ☐ CARL SWANSON
- ☐ GORDON NIELSEN
- ☐ DONNA JERRY
- ☐ DAVIS KOIER

FROM:

(RESERVATION-BALLOT)

THE VERMONT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

BOX 663

BURLINGTON, VERMONT 05402

ATTN: VAS CONFERENCE CHAIRMAN

**CH. CO. SURVEY****J. PETERSON**

A nine-person crew has been employed during the 1977 field season by the Division for Historic Preservation under the direction of Giovanna Neudorfer, Vermont State Archeologist, primarily for the purpose of conducting a systematic archeological survey in Chittenden County. This is the first part of a long-term statewide effort to identify, locate and evaluate archeological sites in Vermont. Due to the rapid residential and commercial development of the Burlington area, Chittenden County was deliberately chosen as the first focus of the statewide survey. The data from the Chittenden County survey will be used locally as a supplementary planning tool by municipal and regional planning agencies, state agencies, conscientious developers and others interested in protecting the area's fragile and non-renewable archeological resources.

Because of the need to examine areas both of high and low potential sensitivity and the impossibility of examining the entire county on foot, a sampling procedure was devised that would be efficient and yet provide actual and predictive data on the area's archeological sites. The Phase I work of site identification was carried out June through September by the members of the field crew. Working in two-person teams, 29 1 km<sup>2</sup> units were examined, representing seven environmental zones in the defined sampling universe of Burlington, Colchester, South Burlington, Essex, Winooski and Williston. The seven environmental zones were distinguished primarily by the presence or absence of water and type of watercourse located within the 1 km<sup>2</sup> unit area. Primary drainage units were recognized as those lands directly

adjacent to the Winooski River, the primary waterway in the survey area. Secondary drainage, upland units, were those lands dissected by streams or creeks, above approximately 400 feet; secondary drainage, lowland units were dissected by a stream or creek but primarily lying below 400 feet. Undissected lowland and undissected upland units were similarly distinguished as below or above 400 feet but without any dissecting stream or creek. Lacustrine  $1 \text{ km}^2$  units were those containing a pond or lake shore environment, and swamp units were characterized as being long-term swamps or areas of standing water as shown on United States Geological Survey (U.S.G.S.) maps. A unique number was assigned to each  $\text{km}^2$  unit and units were then randomly selected to establish which  $1 \text{ km}$  squares would be examined.

In every case, the field work began only after all landowners in the respective  $\text{km}^2$  unit had been consulted and permission obtained. In almost every case, permission to conduct the survey was granted, although landowners frequently requested that areas such as lawns or standing crops be left undisturbed. A  $1 \text{ km}^2$  unit was ideally sampled by means of ten transects, 1000 m long and spaced 100 m apart. The transects were walked with compass in hand and test pits were excavated at 150 m intervals along the transects. Test pits were similarly of an ideal standard -  $40 \text{ cm}^2$  and dug to a depth of 75 cm. Fifty percent (50%) of all the soil excavated was screened through a  $1/4$  inch mesh screen; care was taken to note soil type, variation and stratigraphy - these data were recorded as part of the file on each  $1 \text{ km}^2$  examined. This standardized methodology varied depending on environment

and topography - extremely rocky or very wet soils did not permit us to excavate every test pit to the 75 cm standard. Similarly, disturbance from building or other development often prevented any digging at all. In those cases and where considered necessary, intuitively located test pits were substituted in the sampling procedure.

Using these field techniques, nine previously unknown prehistoric sites have been located in Chittenden County. Twenty additional archeological sites have also been identified as a result of the many landowner contacts and the archival and literature research conducted by the crew's historical researcher. Phase II of the survey will be conducted during October and early November for the purpose of confirming rumored sites and further testing positively identified sites to better assess their size and characteristics. Over the summer, the crew has been graciously permitted to photograph thirteen Chittenden County artifact collections belonging to private collectors. This photo documentation has proven to be an important part of the survey work in providing supplementary data on a number of sites and previously unknown information on others.

In addition to the sampling of 1 km<sup>2</sup> units, the survey crew completed archeological surveys for the State Highway Department in South Burlington, Burlington and Colchester, two Bureau of Outdoor Recreation surveys for the towns of Burlington and Essex, a survey for a Housing and Urban Development project in Essex and a survey of the proposed Pyramid Mall project area in Williston. Survey and testing was also conducted along the East Creek in Orwell as preliminary work for the nomination of the East Creek Archeological District to the National Register of Historic Places; ten previously unrecorded

sites were discovered in the course of the work along East Creek confirming the archeological richness and significance of this area.

The Chittenden County Survey Team consisted of:

Antonia Rosencrantz - Lab Supervisor and Data Analyst; Donna Jerry - Historical Researcher; Jim Petersen - Field Supervisor; and Field Surveyors, William Bayreuther, Michael Cohen, Kevin Crisman, William Noel, Jean Sbardellati and Mark Wesner.

## **TRUSTEE'S MEETING SEPT. 12, 1977**

Certification Program- Giovanna suggests monthly seminar-workshops in Archaeology

to be offered in three locations around the state. She suggests Saturdays. Registration fee approximately \$3 per person to cover xerox'd material, transportation, and other expenses. Newspapers in Burlington, Rutland and Brattleboro could carry announcements. The teachers would be drawn from VAS membership and other specialists. She will make necessary contacts and try to be ready to announce it at the annual meeting.

Membership- At present we have 77 active membership units, up considerably from the Summer Newsletter report. The membership policy was restated:

- a) New memberships received after August 31 shall be given membership priveleges to run through the following year. They will receive the current Newsletter and following ones.
- b) For renewal memberships, Article I, Section I shall apply. The Newsletter subscription shall be cut off before the Summer (June) issue. The Winter issue should carry a notice of dues for the following year. If a renewal of membership comes in in the last six months of the year, the secretary should send the newsletters the member has missed. The renewal will be for the current year.

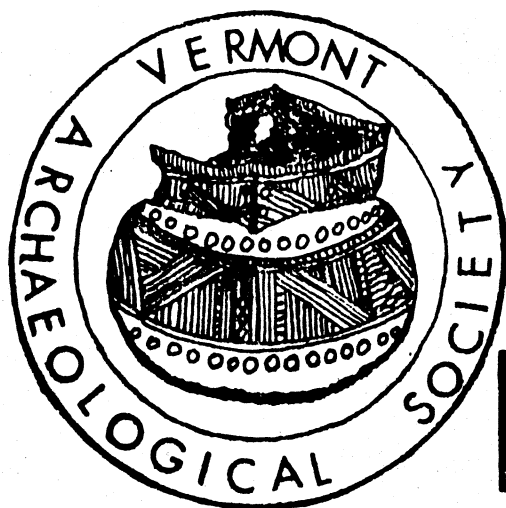
ByLaws Change- ByLaws Amendment Article I

Section I Paragraph 2, second sentence shall read:

Any member whose dues are in arrears six months shall cease to be a member.

The Change: "Arrears one year" has been changed to "arrears six months".





# APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP

"The objects of the Society shall be to stimulate the study of Archaeology, particularly in Vermont; to promote research; to conserve archaeological sites; data and artifacts; to disseminate archaeological information; to seek through education the promotion of intelligent archaeological activity; to prevent the commercial exploitation of archaeological sites and specimens; and to foster a public understanding of the aims of archaeological research."

-- Article 1, Bylaws.

I subscribe to the purposes of the Society and hereby apply for election as a \_\_\_\_\_ member.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Date \_\_\_\_\_ Age if student or senior citizen \_\_\_\_\_

## DUES SCHEDULE:

Individual.....	\$5.00
Family.....	\$8.00
Sustaining.....	\$12.00
Student.....	\$3.00 (under 18 only)
Senior citizen.....	\$3.00 (over 65 only)
Institutional.....	\$8.00
Contributing.....	\$25.00
Life.....	\$100.00

MAKE CHECKS PAYABLE TO THE VERMONT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.  
AND MAIL TO:

Secretary  
Vermont Archaeological Society  
P.O. Box 663  
Burlington, Vermont 05401

FROM:

Vermont Archaeological Society, Inc.  
Box 663, Burlington, Vermont 05402

FIRST CLASS

TO: