



VERMONT ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER

Number 73

March 1994

VAS 1994 Spring Meeting to be Held Saturday, April 23 in Rutland

Celebrating the passage of twenty five years since the inception of the Vermont Archaeological Society, the Society salutes its 26th year with a special spring meeting. The event will be held on Saturday, April 23, 9:30 am to 4:00 pm, at the Franklin Center, near the intersection of Strong Avenue and Scale Avenue, in Rutland. Registration will begin at 8:30 am. The meeting will center on the diversity of archaeological sites within the state of Vermont, describe recent achievements regionally and locally, and discuss the possibilities for new studies. Papers are also designed to reflect goals of the first annual Vermont Archaeology Week, May 8-14 (see the article by President Rolando in this Newsletter). All papers will be arranged topically with the intent of stimulating a brief discussion at the end of each session. In addition to the paper presentations, a silent auction will coincide with the meeting (please see Announcement).

Coffee, tea and baked goods will be available during registration. A minimal fee will be charged for registration, and a buffet lunch will be provided at extra cost. Preregistration forms and further information is being prepared and will be sent out soon. Please be sure to check your mail! For additional information please call Robert Sloma, tel. 655-5480 (home) Or 862-5817 (work).

Announcement

As part of the 1994 Vermont Archeology Week, an auction will be held at the Vermont

Archaeological Society Spring Meeting on Saturday, April 23, 1994. Donations of goods and services are currently being sought for the auction. Items might include such items as books, maps, tools, or historical reproductions, and services might involve walking tours or restoration work. Creative ideas are welcome. For more information or to donate an item, please call (802) 660-9857.

Vermont to Celebrate Archeology Week

by Vic Rolando
VAS President

Plans for celebrating Vermont's first Archeology Week on May 8-14 are well underway at this writing. Events are going to be held throughout the state on many levels of interest and participation during the week. Under the enthusiastic leadership of Chairperson Kathleen Callum, the Vermont Archeology Week Committee has been meeting at various times and places throughout the state since last September. The committee is made up of many interested people representing the public, private, and individual sectors.

Immediate goals of the committee include finding funding sources, toward which the VAS Board showed its support by voting \$100 at its January meeting. Longer range objectives include choosing an Archeology Week theme, publishing an official Vermont Archeology Week poster, and scheduling events at various places throughout the state. Committee members are presently busy coordinating events in their resident counties, and information on

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General inquiries concerning the Society should be addressed
to the Secretary.

WRITTEN CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE VAS NEWSLETTER ARE DUE ON THE FOLLOWING DATES:

June Issue
Deadline is May 15

October Issue
Deadline is September 15

Send to: David Starbuck, VAS Editor
P.O. Box 147
Fort Edward, NY 12828
(518) 747-2926

these events will be forthcoming in local newspapers as they take shape.

The main thrust of Vermont Archeology Week will be to bring to the public's attention the rich diversity of our state's archaeological resources from the prehistoric to the historic periods. The VAS Spring Meeting in Rutland, chaired by Bob Sloma, will present speakers highlighting various epochs of Vermont's archaeological history. Television appearances by archeologists are also in the works.

All in all, Vermont Archeology Week should get a lot of attention both inside and outside the state. Further information will be available in local newspapers, but in the meantime contact Kathy Allum at (802) 247-8127 if you want to participate. We need ideas, but especially we need workers to help make the ideas become a reality.

Notes From the State Archeologist

Geovanna Peebles
Vermont Div. for Historic Preservation

Since fall, David Skinas and I have worked closely with the landowners, the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board (VHCB), and the Upper Valley Land Trust to develop a workable project for preserving the Skitchewaug site in Springfield through purchase of development rights. The Skitchewaug site is Vermont's first recorded farm: corn, beans, and squash were grown here by native people by 1100 A.D. A strong and pioneering preservation easement was worked out with the landowners to protect the site forever from future development and other disturbances. Just last week, the project received final VHCB approval for purchase of a conservation easement for the whole farm and a preservation easement for the site itself. Additional challenges now lie ahead in continuing to work with New England Power Company and others to stabilize the severe erosion at this site.

The importance of voluntary stewardship of archaeological sites cannot be overstated in a State such as Vermont where the great majority of archaeological sites are privately owned. One option for stewardship is to sell or donate the development rights for your land. This is accomplished through a conservation or preservation easement that can ensure the protection of important sites forever. In the last few years, David and I have been working more and more closely with organization such as the Vermont Housing and Conservation Board, the Vermont Land Trust, the Upper Valley Land Trust, the Addison County Community Land Trust, and the Nature Conservancy to plan and carry out projects that result in conservation easements for archaeologically sensitive lands and recorded sites. In addition to the Skitchewaug easement (reported above), conservation easements have recently been successfully worked out for an important 18th century French site in Addison, a distinctive prehistoric quarry site in New Haven, and a small prehistoric campsite in Charlotte.

The National Park Service has chosen the Basin Harbor Club in Ferrisburg as the site of their national training program "Archeology for Managers." This course, to be held during the week of July 11, is geared for non-archaeologists. It will be of special interest to state and federal agencies in Vermont and the Northeast who have no in-house archaeological expertise of their own but who manage, or otherwise effect, archaeological resources. Let me know if you are interested in knowing more about this special, nearby educational opportunity, and I'll make sure you receive more detailed information.

Dave Skinas and I are working closely with the Lake Champlain Maritime Museum and the Underwater Historic Preservation Advisory Committee to improve management and funding for the Preserve sites. Meeting monthly, the Advisory Committee is a volunteer group of highly motivated individuals with a professional or recreational interest in diving the Preserves. These sites are significant, fragile, state-owned, historic shipwrecks that require special manage-

ment; this is tough to accomplish without adequate staff and money. The Division will hold a public forum on the Preserve program in May to get input on increasing program funding from the site users themselves and on other issues.

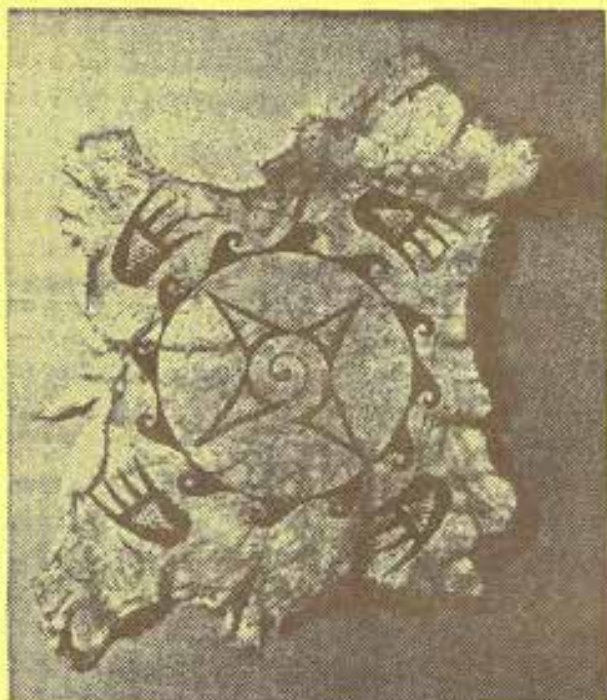
Developing and shepherding through the cultural heritage chapter of the Lake Champlain Plan, now being developed by the Lake Champlain Basin Program, has taken lots of time and dedication this fall and winter. Hopefully, the results will prove to be worth the effort. Working closely with Vermont and New York State government agencies and private and non-profit organizations involved in preserving and interpreting cultural heritage resources in, under and around Lake Champlain, we are about to finalize a draft of the cultural heritage action plan for the Lake Champlain Basin. One of the most successful aspects of this effort are the linkages that archaeological and historic resources have demonstrated with recreation, tourism, economics, agriculture and other vital programs. A second, and lasting, outcome has been the new working relationships that have been forged with New York State officials who are also entrusted with managing heritage resources. I will let you know when the Draft Cultural Heritage Action Plan is ready for distribution and public comment.

As a result of the very successful "Archeology on the Farms" project, carried out in 1992 and 1993, the Vermont Soil Conservation Service (SCS) is now seeking to hire a full-time permanent archeologist to take care of their cultural resource needs in Vermont. I have worked hard for several years and during two special, demonstration "farm" projects to help SCS understand the benefits of such a position so this major step is especially heartening. Many archaeological sites and historic farm buildings will be better considered and protected in the future. Also, some of our best archaeological site stewards—Vermont's farmers—will get more hands-on help in learning about and protecting their sites. Congratulations to the Vermont Soil Conservation Service for their string commitment to cultural heritage resources!

Chimney Point SHS Opens Season with Programs Celebrating Vermont Archeology Week

by Audrey Porsche
Regional State Administrator

Chimney Point will open early this season in celebration of Vermont Archeology Week. "Archaeology Across America," a poster exhibit of archeology week posters from states across the country will kick off the 1994 season when it opens on Sunday, May 8th. Roughly twenty-five states now celebrate their archaeological heritage, and one keystone of these celebrations is a proper reflective of the state's cultural resources. Poster themes range from anti-looting and preservation messages, to the archaeologists at work and their role as "detectives," to culture diversity and native peoples. Other archeology week activities include a pilot project "Live from the Lab," which will give students from an area school a hands-on opportunity to learn what archaeologists do with the artifacts and data they uncover in the field.



Painted deerskin by Tsonakwa.

Also during the month of May, "The Light of Dawn," an exciting exhibit of contemporary art by Abenaki artists Tsonakwa and Yolikia will open on Saturday, May 21st at Chimney Point State Historical Site. The exhibit will include over forty stone sculpture, bone and antler carvings, and wooden masks inspired by stories and legends from an Abenaki world view. Each story relates to the idea of Abenaki culture emerging out of the darkness and offering valuable lessons and practices that are relevant to the social problems and issues facing us today. Artist Gerard Rancourt Tsonakwa will be on hand for the opening festivities to tell stories and conduct a gallery talk.

For more information about these and other events scheduled for the 1994 season, please contact: Chimney Point State Historic Site, RD 3, Box 3546, Vergennes, VT 05491. (802) 759-2412.

Public Information Summary

Essex-Colchester

In 1992 the University of Vermont's Consulting Archaeology Program conducted an archaeological site identification survey along new sections of the western end of the Chittenden County Circumferential Highway in Colchester and Essex, Vermont. A survey in 1984-85 identified 26 prehistoric sites and two historic sites within the original alignment. By 1992, 3.7 miles of the proposed route has been moved. The 1992 survey was undertaken to identify any sites located within the new sections, to create a complete inventory of archaeological sites within the western alignment, and to recommend all additional work needed.

Twenty-one sample areas were selected for testing. Testing was not conducted in one because the landowner denied access. Three areas contained material related to previously identified prehistoric sites which are listed in the state archaeological inventory as VT-CH-202 and VT-CH-491. Four areas contained evidence of

previously unrecorded prehistoric sites (VT-CH-610, 611, 612 and 613). Another area which contained evidence of prehistoric activity also contained an unexpected cellar hole and historic period artifacts (VT-CH-609). One area contained evidence of charcoal kilns (VT-CH-617), and one area contained deposits related to a standing farmhouse (VT-CH-615).

Preliminary data suggest that the five new prehistoric sites contain important information about Vermont's prehistoric past. One site contains fragments of pottery vessels which may date from the late Middle-early Late Woodland period (A.D. 600-1300). Another site which can be dated to the Late Archaic period (2400- 1600 B.C.) contains two distinct areas where tools were made or reworked and used. A third site which cannot be dated at this time also contains artifacts related to making and using stone tools and to food processing. Two sites contain stone flakes produced during tool making or reworking. To determine if the sites contain enough information about early inhabitants to be eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places, more testing is required.

The 1992 testing at one of the previously identified sites expanded its boundaries. The site dates from the Middle-Late Woodland period and contains a variety of artifact types and hearths in several activity areas. It is particularly important because it is located on a high sandy bluff above the Winooski River Intervale, which is rare for this time period. It also has never been plowed, which means the archaeological data is remarkably intact. The recent testing confirms the earlier conclusion that the site is eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Extensive excavation to recover more information about the site will be required before highway construction starts.

The prehistoric artifacts recovered at a prehistoric site identified and partially excavated in 1990-1991 indicate that the site contained only small quantities of artifacts at several different locations. Further work was not recommended.

Three historic period sites were identified

which require further work (VT-CH-609, 615, 617). One contains a cellar hole and artifacts indicating a middle to late nineteenth century occupation. Another is a historic farm which still operates as a commercial garden. A house and four outbuildings remain at the site. The third historic site contains the remains of two nineteenth-century charcoal kilns. Additional excavation and documentary research is recommended to help determine if these historic period sites contain significant data about Vermont's rural past.

Three more prehistoric sites which were identified and evaluated in 1984-85—VT-CH-201, 240 and 241—are eligible for listing on the National Register of Historic Places. Final excavation must occur at these sites to recover important information about prehistoric occupations before highway construction begins.

Highgate-Franklin

In the fall of 1992 the Consulting Archaeology Program, University of Vermont, conducted a Phase 1 archaeological site identification survey along Town Highway 3 in Franklin and Highgate, Vermont. The Vermont Agency of Transportation requested the survey to insure that a planned upgrade will not destroy significant cultural resources.

The Consulting Archaeology Program selected 40 areas along the 5.65-mile alignment where there was a high potential for identifying prehistoric Native American sites, historic period sites, or both. Prehistoric sites were expected on the banks of the Rock River and next to the numerous drainages that cross the highway. Research suggested that archaeological data related to historic farms/residences, a mill complex, a school, and craft shops might also be encountered within the project impact limits.

Testing was undertaken to determine the existence and location of prehistoric and historic period sites and to collect preliminary information about any sites identified. Two methods were successfully used to locate sites—surface

collection in corn fields and subsurface excavation of small test units in vegetated areas.

Twenty-three sample areas were tested where background research suggested portions of historic period sites should be located. While structures remain at a few sites and a few contain visible foundations, most are not marked by any visible above-ground evidence. All but one sample area contained evidence of the anticipated sites. Historic deposits were also encountered in a sample area where prehistoric artifacts were expected. Eighteen of the historic period sites are farms/residences which date from the nineteenth century. A sawmill and a rural school were also located. Another sample area contained prehistoric artifacts and historic material. Some of the sample areas did not contain enough data to warrant more intensive testing. However, ten of the historic sites contained large quantities of varied artifact types and definite features such as builder's trenches, foundations or cellar holes. Additional testing is recommended for the portions of these sites which are located within the construction limits.

Only two sample areas contained prehistoric artifacts. Both of these were close to the Rock River and contained stone flakes produced during manufacture of stone tools. Additional testing is recommended at the two prehistoric sites to collect more information about site age, content, size, structure and integrity.

Additional testing will allow archaeologists to assess whether data from the sites can answer research questions about people's lives and activities during Vermont's past. The Vermont Agency of Transportation and the Vermont Division for Historic Preservation can use information gathered during the second phase of testing to determine if any sites are eligible for nomination to the National Register of Historic Places.

For more information about this project, contact the Consulting Archaeology Program, University of Vermont, 1700 Hegeman Avenue #2, Colchester, Vermont 05446.

Poultney

In August, 1993 the Consulting Archaeology Program, University of Vermont, conducted a Phase 1 archaeological site identification survey in Poultney, Vermont, where the Vermont Agency of Transportation plans to replace a bridge over the Poultney River.

Test units were excavated in four sample areas. No prehistoric or historic sites were identified on the north side of the river. One prehistoric site, VT-RU-268, was identified in two sample areas on the south side of the Poultney River, on both sides of Town Highway 4. In Area B., 61 prehistoric artifacts were recovered from 25 test units and limited surface collection. Six artifacts were recovered from three test pits in Area C on the opposite side of Town Highway 4.

The artifact assemblage recovered from VT-RU-268 includes bifaces, cores, flakes, utilized flakes and fragments of groundstone tools. Artifacts are made primarily from quartzite and chert. Quartz and slate are represented in smaller quantities. The cores, bifaces and flakes indicate that tool manufacturing was one of the activities undertaken. The artifacts were recovered across a broad area, suggesting that the site was used on more than one occasion. The flakes that show use wear may represent animal butchering. Although the site's age and the frequency of occupation cannot be determined yet, it appears to have substantial research potential.

The large prehistoric site will be adversely impacted unless the project can be redesigned. If construction can be limited to a narrow corridor along the existing road, VT-RU-268 may be avoided. If extended ditches and fill slopes are required, an intensive site evaluation is recommended to determine if VT-RU-268 is eligible for inclusion on the National Register of Historic Sites.

ISTEA Enhancements

By Duncan C. Wilkie
Transportation Archaeologist

ISTEA is a bureaucratic abbreviation for "Intermodal Surface Transportation Efficiency Act" which was passed in 1991 and has a six year life span. In other words, this funding ends in 1997, or at least the monies have to be "earmarked" by that ending date. As with any typical transportation project, the actual construction may be a number of years later. The public relation office of Vermont's Agency of Transportation (VAOT) estimates an average project to take about 13 years from original concept to completed construction.

When I was interviewed for the position of Transportation Archaeologist in May 1992 I raised the question to the Director of Planning, Jeff Squires, as to the proposed use of ISTEA funds. At that time I had a more personal motive for the question: Was this position funded by ISTEA, and if so would it end in six years? Mr. Squires' answer was negative to both questions. So, the follow up question was, what is VAOT planning to use ISTEA monies for? Mr. Squires replied, for bike paths. Those archaeologists who attended the December 17, 1993, meeting in Montpelier for public discussion and input on VAOT's draft for "Vermont Policy on Transportation Enhancement Activities" (ISTEA) will now understand the strong lobbying by "bikers" for the majority of monies under this act. It was also unknown to me at the time I arrived in the state that the present governor was a strong "bike path" supporter from his earlier political days in the Burlington area. Governor Dean back then supported the first bike path—Burlington Waterfront. The decision to spend ISTEA monies for bike paths was a political one. However, ISTEA clearly states that public input is required and desired. The logic for the lack of public input until the December meeting is more mechanic and practiced by a number of other states. For example, New York administratively

decided to allocate ISTEA monies for canals for the first couple of years until public input was formalized and created a mechanism to determine policy and priority listing of enhancement projects.

ISTEA states clearly that monies can be spent on all, or one, or a selected combination of the following. The following are "eligible enhancement categories." The order of the enhancements is not necessarily in order of importance, but just as it appears in most communications.

1. Provision of facilities for pedestrian and bicycles
2. Acquisition of scenic easements and scenic or historic sites
3. Scenic or historic highway programs
4. Landscaping and other scenic beautification
5. Historic preservation
6. Rehabilitation and operation of historic transportation buildings, structures, or facilities (including historic railroad facilities and canals)
7. Preservation of abandoned railway corridors (including the conversion and use thereof for pedestrian or bicycle trails)
8. Control and removal of outdoor advertising
9. Archaeological planning and research
10. Mitigation of water pollution due to highway runoff

As one can see, Vermont has politically chosen the first enhancement to accent. New York as another example has chose the sixth enhancement - "rehabilitation of canals". Rhode Island, like New York, selected number six, but in their case restoration of a railroad building for multiple functions - state curation center for archaeology/historic preservation, bus station, an state offices. Maine divided the ten enhancements into three categories: 1) bicycle/pedestrian, 2) historic preservation/archaeology and 3)

environmental/aesthetic. One of Maine's projects involved excavation of a shell midden which was next to a highway. Two-thirds of funding was spent in the first year on bicycle/pedestrian paths. Connecticut spent first year monies on "billboards" and some "landscape" projects. Other states like Missouri are using number nine to assist archaeological research and planning, which will indirectly help clear future highway projects.

The December meeting in Montpelier presented the "draft" policy, and then participants were broken up into three groups: 1) funding group, 2) organizational structure and 3) priorities within the ten enhancements.

As a member of the "funding group" I can't report on the others, except to say the outcome of each group will be sent out to all participants in February by Tony Redington, VAOT planner in-charge of ISTEA (828-2600). The funding group never got down to the issue of funding. And this was a major issue through the entire meeting. It was stated in the general meeting that funding was for 2.3 million over six years or 13 million total. However, it was also stated that 9 million (4.5, 1991 & 4.5, 1992) had already been allocated for bike paths. The funding group raised questions over how much money was really available. There was no clear answer to this question. Enhancements at the general meeting were divided into two categories: 1) free-standing ones (2.3 million per yr.) and 2) ones related to traditional VAOT projects (up to 10% of project cost). FHWA encourages VAOT to include the second type of enhancements on typical projects; doing more landscaping would be an example. This second category is not part of the 13 million. Archaeologists in general at the meeting expressed their frustration with funding in that most of the monies appear to be spent before any public input. In summary, Mr. Redington communicated to the author that archaeologists could at least expect a good chance of funding projects over the last two years of ISTEA (4.9 million) in the free-standing category.

Another general reaction from the archaeologists in attendance was the feeling that the "bike path" supporters had a stronger lobbying effort and were going for the whole pie. Bike path supporters stress their desire for separated funding under the STP (Surface Transportation Program) for fear of not being able to compete within other types of traditional transportation projects. This would also diminish competition within the free-standing enhancements (list of ten). Some archaeologists see this stance by bikers as dipping in both pies—free-standing and traditional enhancements.

In talking to other New England DOTs, most of the enhancement projects do originate with the public and then are reviewed by regional planning agencies and the highway department. Connecticut is into the second round of funding, and the prioritization of projects seems to be the most pressing issue. Projects are ranked in their category, say "historic preservation," and then ranked again with all projects. In some cases a project ranked 1st in one enhancement category is later much lower on the final priority list state-wide and enhancement-wide. Vermont might want to consider how Rhode Island is organized in that both are small states. Rhode Island has formed a committee composed of a representative for each of the ten enhancements which evaluates all projects. This committee replaces regional or metro planners which other states used to rank projects in their districts. All enhancement projects would be reviewed by VAOT once ranked by the committee.

It is fair to say that the "bike path" supporters have a lead and a stronger lobby from the start, but I encourage all Vermonters to participate in the next round. If you did not attend the December meeting and did not contact Mr. Redington, you will not have an opportunity to share your ideas on what and how ISTEA will do in Vermont. Call Mr. Redington. Soon you will receive a questionnaire and a summary from the December meeting.

Disclaimer: This short article is the view

point of Duncan Wilkie, as an independent citizen of Vermont, and not representing nor a policy statement from the Agency of Transportation.

Book Review

***Bottles and Business in Plattsburgh, New York: 100 Years Of Embossed Bottles as Historical Artifacts* by Gordon Pollard**

Robert A. Sloma, Reviewer

Clinton County Historical Association, Plattsburgh, New York, 1993. ii + 370pp., numerous figures. Paper, \$17.00, \$2.50 for shipping and handling, tax where applicable. Clinton County Historical Museum, 48 Court Street, Plattsburgh, New York 12901, tel. (518) 561-0340.

Bottle fragments form a large part of many archaeological assemblages. Despite widespread use of bottles, research by archaeologists, material culture historians and collectors, bottles remain poorly understood and underutilized as a source of information. This fact became apparent to Gordon Pollard when excavating an old farm site in Peru, New York.

Archaeological contexts usually produce bottle fragments too small to be accurately identified. Raised letters of other designs may exist on some fragments, but these are also often too small or incomplete to be used as a source of information. In an effort to attain the descriptive and analytical information necessary to properly identify embossed bottles, Pollard utilized Plattsburgh as the center of a study. This publication reports the results of his intensive four year study of Plattsburgh bottles.

Extensive research was conducted to document Plattsburgh bottles from nearly every source imaginable, as well as, record the historic context surrounding Plattsburgh bottle distribu-

tors. Text is divided into five chapters. The first chapter describes what inspired the bottle study and how it was conducted. Information regarding glass bottle production and various bottle descriptive categories is also provided. Chapters 2-3 are divided into bottlers, drugstores, and dairies and creameries. Numerous photographs and drawings accompany the text. Beside all illustrations are dimensions and other descriptive information. Estimating bottle size remains somewhat problematic due to the absence of measured scales. Chapter five presents conclusions and prospects. While, final synthesis appears somewhat deficient in this chapter, this is not altogether true since the study was never intended to go beyond descriptive and analytical information in scope. Expansion of conclusions in the final chapter and direct application of the data would, however, only strengthen subsequent editions.

The major strength of this book exists in the graphics and information associated with the bottles depicted. Embossed bottles and bottle distributors of Plattsburgh emerge wonderfully seriated like ceramics from a long lost ancient city. Years of research have resulted in information that can now be applied to a variety of research topics. These would most appropriately include social and economic systems focusing on the production, distribution, utilization and disposal of goods. Pollard produces an excellent example of archaeology centered on material culture and community research without having to lift a shovel.

Bottles and Business in Plattsburgh is a welcomed addition to the reference desk of anyone interested in 19th and 20th century history and material culture.

Center for Research on Vermont Appoints new Members

by Vic Rolando

Prudence Doherty and Robert Sloma, VAS past presidents, Geraldine Kochan, past

VAS board member, and Nora Sheehan of CAP were recently appointed members of the Center for Research on Vermont. The appointments were made by UVM College of Arts and Sciences Dean Howard Ball upon recommendation of the Center's Executive Committee. They were among the 15 appointments made for 1993.

The Center for Research on Vermont promotes and facilitates research, teaching, and related scholarly activities dealing with the state of Vermont or matters of interest to the state, particularly in, but not limited to, the disciplines of the social sciences and humanities.

Congratulations to all!

Mount Independence Visitor Center

by Marjorie Robbins

Vermont Governor Howard Dean has requested \$360,000 on the Capitol Budget to begin construction of the Mount Independence Visitor Center/Museum. The architectural firm of Truex, deGroot & Cullins of Burlington won the contract to design the building after a special competition in March of last year. The Vermont Division for Historic Preservation has been involved with the firm in the first phase of design plans for the building. The building plan includes space for permanent and temporary exhibitions, collections storage, auditorium and a gift shop. (See illustrations.) The Division staff has testified before the House and Senate Institutions Committees of the Legislature to urge the approval of the requested funding.

VAS members are asked to contact their legislators, particularly those serving on the Institution Committees (see list below), and voice their opinions about the planned project. Mount Independence is an important Revolutionary War site which is furnishing through archaeological research previously unrecorded information about the life of the Continental soldier. The Visitor Center and Museum can be a major resource for teaching

humanities, history, and archaeology to Vermont school children, and has the potential to stimulate the tourist economy by attracting more visitors to Vermont.

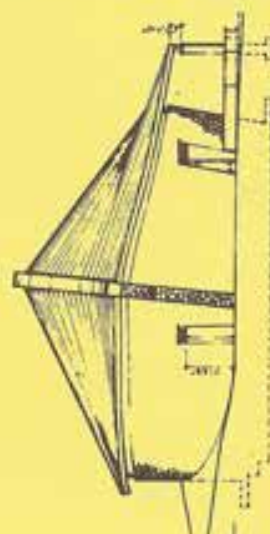
Institutions Committee Members

Senate

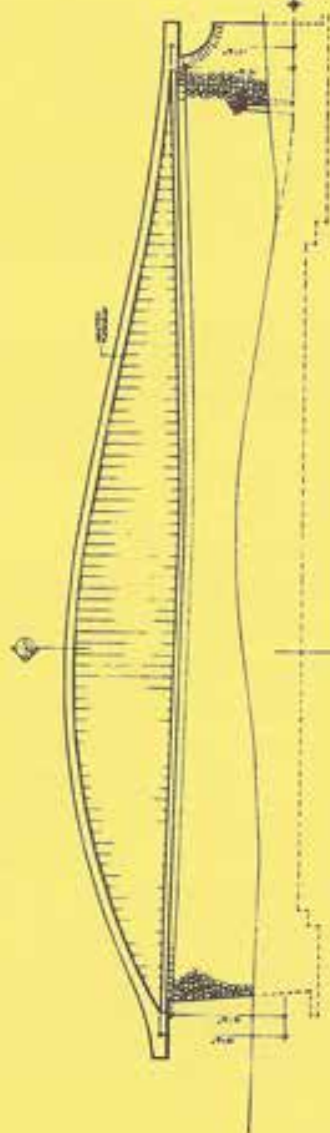
Vince Illuzi - Essex/Orleans
862-1067
Richard Mazza - Grand Isle
862-1067
Bill Doyle - Washington
223-2851
John Bloomer - Rutland
438-5500
Susan Bartlett - Lamoille
888-5591
Richard sears - Bennington
442-9139

House

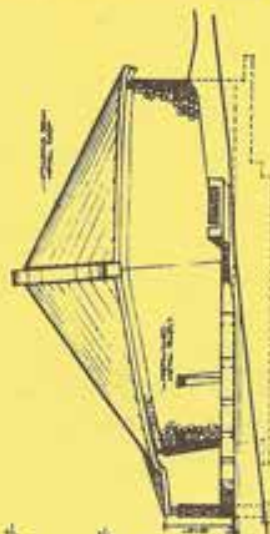
Robert Woods - Brandon
247-6630
Alice Emmons - Springfield
885-5893
George Crosby - St. Johnsbury
748-3653
Jack Daley - Rutland
773-8101
Steve Howard - Rutland
Dan Kane - Bennington
442-6255
Peter Mallary - West Newbury
429-2282
Peter Martin - St. Albans
524-4657
Curt McCormack - Rutland
775-1163
Ruth Smith - Barre
476-4483



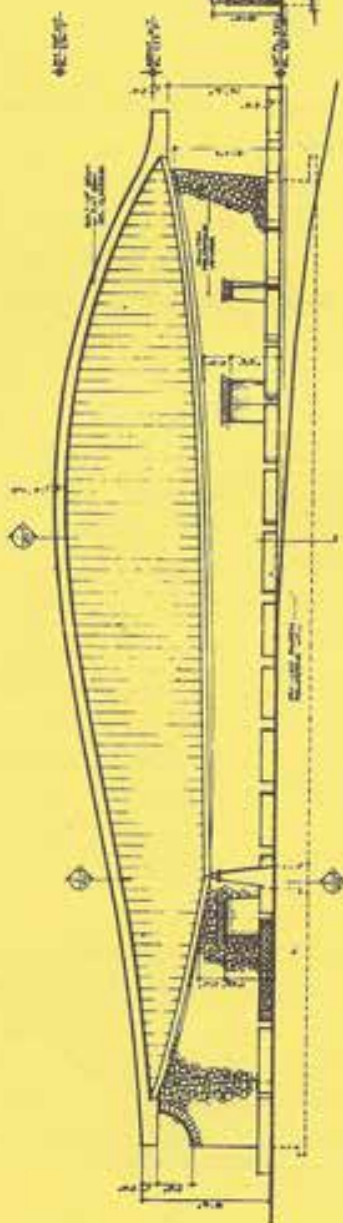
WEST ELEVATION



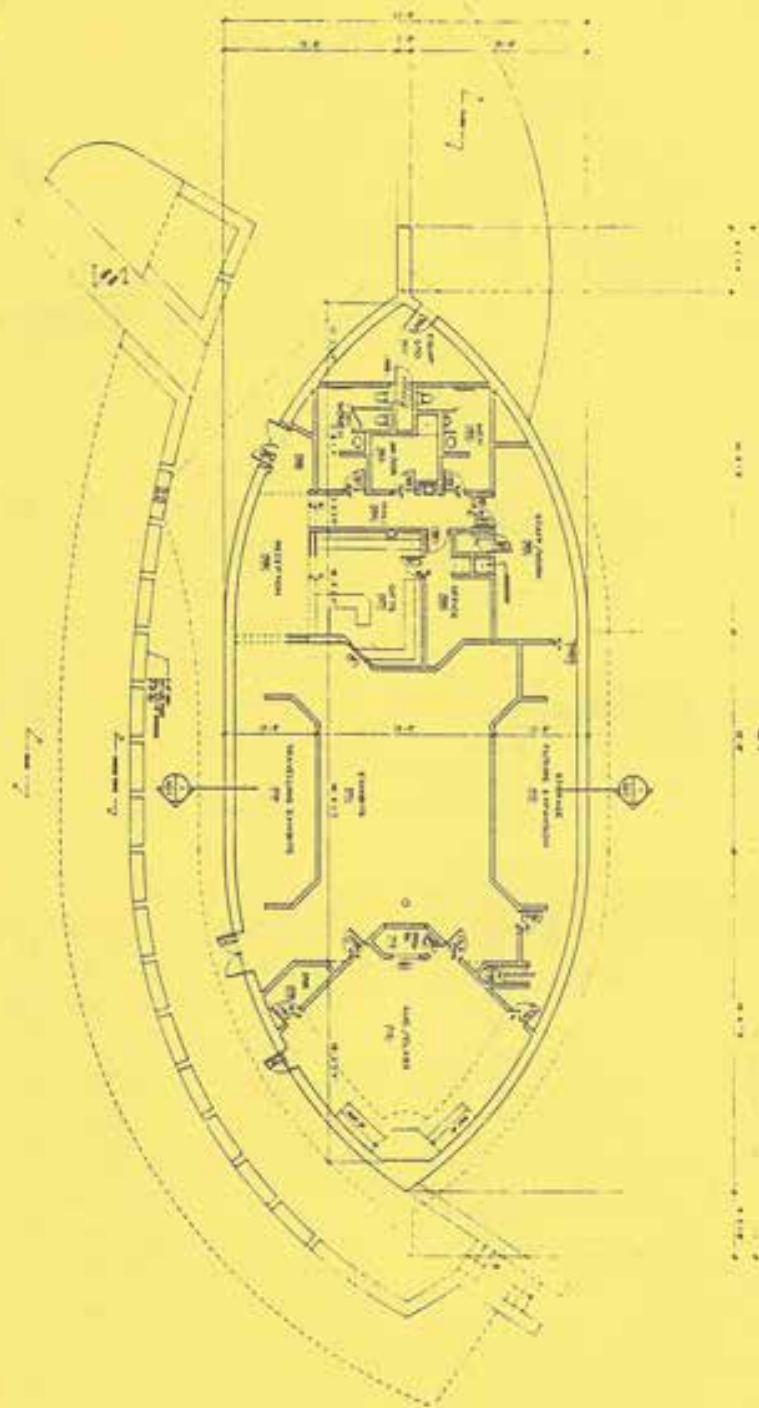
NORTH ELEVATION



EAST ELEVATION



SOUTH ELEVATION



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PROJECT
FLOOR
PLAN

MOUNT INDEPENDENCE VISITOR'S CENTER Orwell, Vermont

Truex deGroot Cullins

200 North Street, Arlington, Vermont 05448
 Design & King Engineering
 400-1-800-444-4444
 Design & King Engineering
 100 North Street, Orwell, Vermont 05490
 Robert and Francis, Inc.
 100 North Street, Orwell, Vermont 05490

Architect
 400-1-800-444-4444
 Structural Engineer
 400-1-800-444-4444
 Mechanical Engineer
 400-1-800-444-4444
 Civil Engineer
 400-1-800-444-4444

Update On the OCR Carbon Dating Procedure

by Douglas Frink
Archaeology Consulting Team

In the October 1992 issue of the *VAS Newsletter* the Archaeology Consulting Team announced the development of a new archaeological dating technique, the OCR procedure (Frink 1992a). We would like to take this opportunity to update the membership of the VAS on our recent studies and our progress with this procedure.

As outlined in the *VAS Newsletter*, the preliminary research for the OCR procedure was presented to the New York State Archaeological Association at the April 1992 meetings. This paper was subsequently published in *Archaeology of Eastern North America* (Frink 1992b). An updated paper was presented at the Eastern States Archaeological Federation (ESAF) meetings in November 1992 and recently appeared in *The North American Archaeologist* (Frink 1994).

Our research efforts during 1993 have taken the OCR dating procedure beyond the potential limitations postulated at the ESAF meetings. Archaeological feature soil samples from sites across the Northeastern U.S., and from Somalia in East Africa, were supplied by colleagues to the Archaeology Consulting Team for OCR (date) analysis. A very strong correlation was found between the OCR (date) age estimate and the expected age estimate, based on ^{14}C analysis or temporally diagnostic artifacts. OCR (date) age estimates for samples from cultural features ranged in age from 260 \pm 8 years before 1950 to 13,572 \pm 407 years before 1950. These dates are corroborated by a European-American pipe bowl manufactured 270 years before 1950, and a ^{14}C date age estimate of 12,915 \pm 180 years before 1950, respectively. Poor results were obtained from soil samples which had undergone increased decomposition due to improper storage conditions or were obtained from floodplain soils saturated within

the last 200 years. The results of this study were presented at the 85th Annual Meetings of the Soil Science Society of America as part of a Symposium entitled, "Pedological Perspectives in Archaeological Research" (Frink 1993b).

In another study, the Archaeology Consulting Team used the OCR procedure to obtain age estimates from tree root burn samples from a five-acre area to determine the frequency of major episodes of forest fires. The forest fire regime for the past 2,000 years was used to test a previously hypothesized pre-European American forest community model (Frink 1991, 1993a; Frink, Knoblock and Baker, 1992, n.d.; Baker 1993). Corroborating data for the hypothesized forest community was obtained through tree species identification from the charcoal found in the root burn samples (Frink, Baker, and Harris 1993). We plan to duplicate this study in other areas for presentation and/or publication.

Currently, we are also using the OCR procedure to determine the "Mean Residence Time" (MRT) of organic carbons in individual buried soil horizons (Sharpenseel 1971). The MRT represents an age estimate for the soil horizon during active pedogenesis (i.e., prior to its being buried). Soil samples from a stratified riverbank deposit along the Connecticut River, yielded OCR (date) "MRT" age estimates for several buried soil horizons which correlated strongly with temporally diagnostic cultural artifacts found within the horizon. A Paleosol (a relic, buried old soil surface) from Ohio with an expected age range of about 8,000 to 18,000 years ago returned an OCR (date) MRT age estimate of 7841 \pm 235 years before 1950. The preliminary results of the MRT studies will be presented in Columbia, South Carolina, during the Second International Conference on Pedo-Archaeology in April 1994.

While the cost of radiocarbon analysis has increased by about 10% over the past year, the cost of the OCR procedure remains at \$50.00 per sample. We invite our colleagues who may have an interest in this new dating procedure to inquire about sample preparation and sample context information required for each sample.

The Archaeology Consulting Team will be pleased to conduct the OCR (date) analysis. For more information on the OCR carbon dating procedure, contact the Archaeology Consulting Team, P.O. Box 145, Essex Junction, Vermont, 05453-0145, Tel: (802) 879-2017.

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Joe Popecki Awarded Honorary Life Membership

Founding member Joseph T. Popecki was awarded Honorary Life Membership in the VAS at the November 6, 1993 Annual Meeting. A life-long member of our Society since its founding, Popecki was vice chairman of the initial steering committee in early 1968 and was elected our first president at the Society's first annual meeting October 18-19, 1968 at the Sugarbush Inn. Members of the first Board of Trustees, in addition to Popecki, were Charles Morrissey, vice-president, Dr. Durwood Smith, treasurer, H.N. Muller, secretary, Mrs. Inez Harlow, Dr. M. Coleman Twitchell, Ralph N. Hill, and Ralph Roberts.

A few founding members have continued their memberships in the VAS down through the past 25 years, but only Popecki has remained officially active, serving many elected and appointed positions, on and off the Board since 1968. Joe currently serves the Society as treasurer, which he has continuously done since 1975.

The award reads: "The Board of Directors of the Vermont Archaeological Society, Wishing to Recognize the Many Contributions of Joseph T. Popecki, As a Scholar, Author, Teacher, and Founder of our Society, Does This Day of November 6, 1993 Hereby Grant Him Honorary Life Membership, With all Honors and Privileges Accorded This Award." It was signed by all 12 sitting board members and was presented to Joe immediately following his presentation on the history of the VAS. The board's efforts to make it a surprise presentation were apparently successful.

VAS Education Committee Seeking Members

by Audrey Porsche
Regional Historic Sites Administrator
Vermont Div. for Historic Preservation

During the November meeting the VAS board agreed to activate the Educational Committee as defined by the Society's by-laws. The Committee will be "responsible for education the public about a) the thousands of years in Vermont's past revealed by prehistoric and historic archaeology; b) the need for still more information and the methods used to acquire such information; c) the need for new ways to preserve and protect archaeological resources; and, d) the existence and activities of the Vermont Archaeological Society" (VAS By-Laws, Art. VII, Sect. 3).

We are currently looking for members and other interested parties to serve on the committee. To date, Sheila Charles (Historical

Archaeologist, Rutland), Scott Stevens (Director, Ethan Allen Homestead), and Richard Allen (Enrichment Teacher, Williston Elementary School) have agreed to serve on the committee. The first meeting was scheduled on Thursday, February 17th at Ethan Allen Homestead.

Anyone interested in joining the committee or anyone with ideas/suggestions for Education Committee projects, goals, etc. should contact Audrey Porsche, Committee Chair at Chimney Point State Historic Site, RD 3, Box 3546, Vergennes, VT 05491, Tel. (802) 759-2412.

It's never too late to join us —we need your help in this important mission.

Application for Membership or Renewal

☐ NEW ☐ RENEWAL

I SUBSCRIBE TO THE PURPOSES OF THE SOCIETY AND HEREBY APPLY
(OR REAPPLY) FOR MEMBERSHIP IN THE CATEGORY CHECKED BELOW.

Signature

Please print or type:

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY OR TOWN _____

STATE _____ ZIP _____

COUNTRY _____ PHONE _____

DATE _____ AGE _____ (if student
or senior citizen)

If you want a membership
card, include a stamped,
self-addressed envelope. You
may photocopy this form.

DUES SCHEDULE (please check one)

- ☐ Individual (\$12.00)
- ☐ Family (\$20.00)
- ☐ Student or Senior Citizen* (\$8)
- ☐ Contributing (\$50.00)
- ☐ Life (\$250.00)
- ☐ Non-profit Institutional (\$25)
- ☐ Institutional (\$50.00)

*Under 18 or over 65 years of age

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