

The Ontario Archaeological Society



ARCH NOTES - edited by Nancy Powell

No. 63-4

NOVEMBER 1963

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THE NOVEMBER MEETING

DATE: November 13, 1963
TIME: 8:00 p.m.
PLACE: Room 1074, Sidney Smith Bldg., St. George Street,
University of Toronto
SPEAKER: Mr. William C. Noble
TOPIC: Archaeology in Alberta, 1963

Our speaker for this month has had considerable experience in the field of archaeology. For the past four years he has worked in the field, sometimes as a field director, under the University of Toronto, the National Museum of Canada, Canada Council and the Glenbow Foundation. During the summer months of 1960 he worked under Dr. Emerson on the Pic River Site, The following summer he was a lecturer at the University of Toronto Field Training School at Cahigué. The next summer he worked on three Ontario sites. With Jim Wright under the National Museum of Canada he worked on the Bennet Site. Then he acted as Field Director on the Sopher ossuary. Later he again acted as Field Director at the Rock Lake Site.

This past summer Mr. Noble has been working in Alberta. He was the Field Director on two sites there including two months at Rocky Mountain House and one month on the Brocket Site. It is of his experience there that Mr. Noble will be discussing. As I think that most of our members are not familiar with the archaeological

work being done out west this talk should prove to be unusually interesting.

OUR LAST MEETING - Last month's meeting saw us building for the future. For many weeks there had been difficulties in finding a regular meeting place for the Society. Eventually the University agreed to give us a home again for the year in the Sidney Smith Building.

Then having found a place to gather there was an executive problem to be solved. Our president, Dr. Paul Karrow, as you know took up an appointment at the University of Waterloo. Obviously it would be impossible for him to attend to all his presidential duties. The suggestion was raised at the meeting that reluctantly we would have to accept Dr. Karrow's resignation. This raised the possibility of electing a completely new slate of officers.

The meeting eventually solved this problem when Dr. Churcher's suggestion was accepted that Dr. Karrow continue in office for the remainder of the year as our official president but Dr. Churcher himself would combine the working duties of president and vice-president. This is the position at the moment but we will have to think seriously about the division of labour for the future.

December is the month for our annual meeting and it is the hope of the present executive that following such an interesting year more members will come forward to help in the many duties necessary to run our society. Among the many jobs involved with which we would like some assistance there is the Publications Committee which is hard worked to bring out our reports. Our Librarian would also like some help in cataloguing and classifying our growing collection of publications both our own and those of other organizations. Bill Donaldson has a host of material collected from various digs to be cleaned and analysed.

Another point to be discussed at our meeting this month is where we should hold our annual December meeting this year. Traditionally we have usually had a Chinese dinner but perhaps the members would like to try somewhere quite different this year. Anyone for haggis?

Our speaker last month was Miss Pat Gall, an anthropology student at the University of Toronto. This past summer she was working on the Fort Albany Site under Walter Kenyon. Her talk on the work being done there was most interesting and was amply illustrated by slides.

The site has been dug for a few years now but until this summer a lot of questions remained unanswered. The fort was known to be a major source of furs for the Hudson Bay Company in the eighteenth century. However this year they were able to prove that this was the fort captured by Detroit in 1786. Excavations were carried down to the final habitation level and an adequate floor plan and some architectural features were discovered. Work will be continued on this site next summer.

OUR FALL DIG - This year we chose Thanksgiving weekend for our fall dig. The site was near the edge of a small escarpment near Barrie. With three days of warm sunshine to encourage us there was a pretty good turn out, including a number of our new members, and some industrious digging was done.

At this stage no analysis has been made of the results of the dig except in a most cursory manner. Thus, these remarks must be regarded more as the words of an enthusiastic amateur rather than a factual report from an expert.

Earlier finds of pottery had indicated that this was the site of a former Indian camp site rather than a true settlement. Plowing had seemingly removed much of the evidence years ago, but even with two or three squares opened it was soon evident that we were in the right place.

On the first day of digging squares were opened at the southern end of the site. The experts in the group were soon in agreement upon such items as post moulds and fireplaces. The less experienced had no trouble recognizing pottery when they saw it although the finds were generally too small to identify clearly.

The next day squares were opened at the northern end of the site and immediately we hit the jackpot or to be more correct a cracked pot. Miss Bowland was the happy discoverer of some very large pottery fragments. These were extracted with loving care...and it was with difficulty that we persuaded her to halt her efforts at the end of the day and continue on the next. At this end of the site we discovered a lot of pottery, plus some animal bones, pipes, pieces of corn and other pieces of evidence. The pottery seemed to be mainly high collared Lalonde and Ontario Horizontal although all the artifacts are now awaiting clear identification. The material is being stored at Bill Donaldson's and there is some hope that Bill may be able to restore a complete pot from some of the larger fragments.

It was an extremely successful dig. It has been reasonably established from the pottery that this was a thirteenth to fourteenth century Indian habitation. We may be able to find out more about this in the spring because the site was carefully marked after the squares were filled in and there is every hope that we may be able to return to dig there again.

WATCH FOR THESE DATES IN NOVEMBER - Most important of the dates coming up is the Eastern States Archaeological Federation Annual Meeting on NOVEMBER 9 and 10 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Attached you will find an information sheet and reservation form for the conference. At least two of our members are planning to attend, Mr. Bill Renison and Miss Phyllis Bowland and no doubt they will be giving us a full report when they return. Incidentally, I would like to point out that these are not appointed representatives but the Conference is open to all members who wish to attend.

A number of interesting papers are going to be presented on such subjects as prehistoric settlement patterns, fort excavations and mounds that have been opened up in the Central United States. All the other information including cost and how to make your reservation will be found on the attached sheet.

NOVEMBER 1 - Dr. William Taylor of the National Museum of Canada will speak on "Arctic Archaeology" in Room 2118, Sidney Smith Building at 7:30 p.m.

NOVEMBER 28 - Dr. William Mayer-Oakes, Head of the Department of Anthropology and Sociology, University of Manitoba, Winnipeg will deliver a lecture entitled "Early Man in South America ."

NEW MEMBERS - In our last month's issue we promised to give you some information about our new members.

Mrs. JUNE BIRD, housewife by profession gives us the fascinating information that she has done some "uninformed wandering around Ur and Teotihuacan". This we would like to hear more about!

Miss CAROL SPIVACK, a skilled and enthusiastic member of our crew at the fall dig has had considerable field experience in Manitoba, working under Dr. William Mayer-Oakes.

Finally we are extremely glad to welcome back Mr. P. SCHUYLER MILLER to our Society. Mr. Miller is the distinguished editor of the excellent Pennsylvania Archaeologist. He has very generously offered to try and get notices or possibly reviews of any of our forthcoming reports in his publication. Our apologies for giving an incomplete address for Mr. Miller. Please add Pittsburgh, Pa.

Another name to add to your list:

WAUDBY-GRANGER, Mr. William E.
Apt.409, 4 Overland Drive, Don Mills. 447-4541.

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ΔΕ ΔΙΟΙΚΗΤΙΚΗΣ ΥΠΗΡΕΣΙΑΣ
ΔΕ Β. Ο. ΠΡΩΤΟΒΟΥ