

The Ontario Archaeological Society



ARCH NOTES - edited by Nancy Powell

No. 64 - 1

JANUARY 1964

EXECUTIVE

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"Blessed is he who expects nothing for he shall not be disappointed". So wrote Alexander Pope in a letter to a friend. The epistle might well have been addressed to the members of our nominating committee. For more than a month now they have pleaded, cajoled and even pressured members of our 70-strong organization to serve on the executive for 1964. The result is as you can see in the above space, a complete nothing.

Certainly I know that all our hard-serving members will be extremely disappointed with this unfortunate result of their labours. And it is hard to understand. In 1963 we recorded a membership that was up to our average. Indeed, it seemed that the association was on the upswing as we registered far more new members than we expected. And despite some severe blows as the loss of such members as Dr. Anderson, Dr. Karrow and Miss Soucy - they are still members but distance prevents their active participation - we rejoiced in a highly successful annual banquet in December.

Has the fellowship of that meeting disappeared so quickly? I don't really think so. The interest in our association shown at the dinner was too lively to be dissipated so soon, the enthusiasm too warm to have cooled in a few weeks. But perhaps in the joy of the season it has been forgotten that organizations cannot carry on without leaders.

In recent years we have had a succession of extremely good executives. But, as I say, some of our hard-working members have departed and others would like to rest a little easier after working so hard and so long on our behalf. Perhaps all that is needed is this reminder to invoke a response in the responsible members of the group.

We must have a full executive or we cannot carry on. We are on the fringes of some very exciting developments in archaeology. Perhaps you are the very person to help set our pace. May I ask you all to take up your responsibility in regard to the Ontario Archaeological Society.

WHAT WILL HAPPEN AT THIS MONTH'S MEETING? The question is particularly interesting in view of the above comments. But I have no doubt that we will finish the evening with a full executive. Between now and the meeting the nominating committee will be trying again. Of course, people may be nominated from the floor.

Please take note that this month's meeting is being held a week later than usual. The reason is that both Christmas and New Year's Day fell on a Wednesday and there was not time to get organized for the second Wednesday of this month. So, our January meeting will be on the 15th at 8 p.m. in the Sidney Smith Building.

While I don't intend to anticipate the various members of our executive in making their reports I would like to go on record in Arch Notes to say that 1963 was among our more successful years despite some problems that arose.

Our Treasurer, Miss Lorna Proctor, will be reporting on a fairly successful financial year during which we at least held our own in dollars and cents.

Our membership although not at a record high, is only a little below. One of the more satisfactory aspects of the year was the number of new members who joined our ranks.

I think that a word will be said about publications also. During the past year we have not had anything published but we have a number of papers almost ready for the printer. Also, we are looking for aid in our library. We have a growing stock of publications but there is need of work here in cataloguing and setting up these works so that they can be more easily available to members.

As Corresponding Secretary, I will be reporting on some of the letters of interest we have received over the past year. Remember that any items of interest to members will be published in Arch Notes whenever you drop me a line about them.

Our Recording Secretary, Mrs. Finnigan, will probably briefly summarize the events at our meetings last year as recorded in the minutes.

LOOKING BACK at our activities this past year as reported in Arch Notes has had a busy and productive time. Beginning with our meeting in February you recall we had Walter Kenyon of the Royal Ontario Museum deliver a fascinating and entertaining talk on a Point Peninsula burial mound.

The following month we listened with great interest to Miss Helen Devereux tell us about a dig she conducted on a Mississauga Indian site at Blind River. In April we welcomed the return of Mr. Paul Sweetman to our society to

deliver a very interesting talk complete with slides and artifacts on the Bristow site, Thorah Island, Lake Simcoe. We finished our spring term with a lively panel discussion on the topic "Digs of the Past and Future". Then came our Spring dig which we held on the May holiday weekend. Our site was on the outskirts of Hamilton in King's Forest Park. There we managed to collect a number of artifacts which are still awaiting further analysis.

Our Fall term began with an enjoyable pottery making session at BILL DONALDSON's home in Oshawa. Everyone struggled masterfully to produce something resembling a pot - unfortunately the results have never been fired! September also saw a few of our members led by Dr. PAUL KARROW investigate a small site near Terra Cotta.

In October we held our Fall dig on a farm just south of Barrie. Again we chose a holiday weekend and were lucky enough to have three days of fine weather. A number of squares were opened and a great deal of material was collected. In fact it was felt that the site should be further investigated on a future dig of the Society.

The speaker at our October meeting was Miss PAT GALL who gave us an engrossing talk on her work on the Fort Albany site. In November we were fortunate enough to hear WILLIAM NOBLE'S graphic talk on his archaeological work in Alberta.

Finally we wound up the year with our annual Dinner held this year at a Japanese restaurant - Nikko Gardens. About 50 were there to enjoy the Sukiyaki, Tempura and other exotic dishes, not to mention hot Sake to drink. Afterwards we listened to BRUCE DREWITT of the Department of Anthropology, University of Toronto, tell us about his field work at the ancient Mexican site of Teotihuacan. It was a fascinating talk well illustrated by slides.

FOR OUR JANUARY MEETING we are glad to welcome back as speaker Miss HELEN DEVEREUX who will tell us about her work last summer on St. Joseph's Island. She conducted a dig there for three months last Summer under the auspices of the Historic Division of the Department of Northern Affairs. The site is an English fort built in 1796 and destroyed in 1814.

Let's have a FULL TURN-OUT for this important meeting and don't forget

THE DATE: JANUARY 15
THE TIME: 8 p.m.
THE PLACE: SIDNEY SMITH BUILDING, St. George St.,
 just north of College in the Physical
 Anthropology Laboratory in the basement
 of the building.