

The Ontario Archaeological Society



ARCH NOTES edited by Nancy Powell

No. 64 - 9

December 1964

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OAS ANNUAL BANQUET

DATE: SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1964
TIME: Gather around 7:30 for 8:00 p.m. dinner
PLACE: Old Spain, 401 Bloor St. East, Toronto
SPEAKER: MR. WALTER KENYON, Royal Ontario Museum
TOPIC: A Burial Mound "Fraught With Mysticism"

Ole mes senors et senioritas! It's that time of year again when we get together for our annual dinner meeting - this year with a Spanish flavour. Old Spain is easy to find by car or public transport. Take the Bloor Streetcar three blocks east of Yonge to Sherbourne Street and walk west a few shops, and there you are. For drivers there is a parking lot right next door.

We're meeting around 7:30 and, for those interested, there should be some delightful Spanish wines to try before we sit down to dinner. The main dish will have the exotic name of Aroz con pollo which is Spanish enough to be interesting but close enough to Canadian to suit all palates. The price is right? Only \$3.00 which will cover the meal, tips, etc. Naturally, those who wish to sample the wines will have this as an extra charge.

Last year we had a wonderful turnout for our banquet. I hope we can do at least as well again this year. Our invitation is intended not only for our regular members but for our many friends who are with other organizations who receive Arch Notes, plus husbands, wives, girl friends, etc.

IMPORTANT - You will appreciate the fact that for booking purposes I must know as soon as possible how many will be attending. Will you let me know if you intend to come by phoning me either at 928-3673 during the day, or 481-9585 in the evenings. For out-of-towners there is an acceptance form on the last page of Arch Notes which you can fill and return to me. DEADLINE: DECEMBER 5TH.

Our banquet speaker is our old friend and honoured member, Walter Kenyon. Those of you who have had Walter speak before know of his great ability to make his talks both fascinating and entertaining. We have been hearing things about this mysterious burial mound Walter uncovered this past summer while carrying out excavations at Rainy River, Ontario. So we can look forward to having its mysteries revealed by Walter at our banquet.

OFFICERS FOR 1965 ...

Our banquet is the final event of the year so it is also the occasion when we try to present to the membership a slate of officers for the coming year. This slate is considered and other nominations are accepted before we actually vote in our new executive at the January meeting. One of our problems in the past has been finding new people to accept executive posts and this has been hard on the long standing members who have often been prevailed upon to run for another year. But now, thanks to the increasing interest in our Society shown in greater attendance at meetings, a number of new faces will be seen on our Executive.

I shall leave it up to our President to announce the new slate at our banquet. I should also like to take this opportunity to thank the present Executive and all those who have served so hard this past year.

NOVEMBER MEETING ...

There was another good turnout at our last meeting. Among the points that arose it was agreed that the Constitution should be given away free to members instead of charging 25¢ as in the past. Those who have already paid this charge can have their money refunded by contacting either the President or Treasurer of the Society.

We were also happy to report that our latest publication is now ready to go to press. Publication No. 8 will include papers by Father W. A. Russell, Mr. W. S. Donaldson, and Dr. C. S. Churcher.

Our speaker at the November meeting was Dr. Tom McFeat, head of the Department of Anthropology at the University of Toronto. His subject was settlement patterns among the Southwestern Pueblo Indians. After an interesting preamble in which Dr. McFeat discussed the development of settlement patterns in general, he went on to exemplify this change in the Zuni culture. He divided his talk into four main periods. Around 500 A.D. the Pueblo houses were separate dwellings, although they were clustered together in small communities. Each house had its own living area and religious

sanctuary. By 1200 A.D. communities had grown and the houses were joined together by subterranean passages. Religious ceremonies were now carried on in separate buildings of the older type. In 1700 A.D. there were immense gatherings of small houses all interconnected and arranged around specific sacred centres. Up to this time, the tight control of an organized priesthood had held back the development of the people. But with the coming of the Spaniards and the destruction of the priest's power, the old settlement pattern changes to one of very large communities haphazardly arranged and no longer centering around the old religious houses.

ESAF CONFERENCE ...

From the south west we now take you to South Attleboro, Mass., scene of the annual meeting of the Eastern States Archaeological Federation. Apart from the fact that I would not advise anyone to drive 1200 miles in one weekend, a good and interesting time was had by all of your four delegates to the Conference. A number of interesting papers were read, highlighted by the address given by Dr. Junius Bird on the Vikings in North America. For those interested in this subject, I recommend reading the article by Helge Ingstad in the November issue of the National Geographic. Mr. Ingstad and his wife who is an archaeologist have spent many years attempting to uncover evidence of any Viking occupation of America. His greatest success was the discovery of Viking settlement remains at L'Anse au Meadow in Northern Newfoundland. Dr. Bird had visited the site and examined the findings last summer.

Another paper, perhaps of particular interest to us, was a brief report by Dr. Marion White on the recently-discovered ossuary at Fort Erie. Unfortunately, there was not time to deliver this paper in person but copies of it were circulated to those attending the Conference. A copy will be available in our library for interested members to refer to.

Dr. White mentions the difficulties encountered on this salvage operation due to the lack of time and personnel needed to do a thorough investigation. However, she acknowledges the invaluable services of one of our own members, Mr. William Noble, and also the help of the Frederick M. Houghton Chapter of the New York State Archaeological Association for rescuing what material they could. This ossuary known as the Orchid Site contained over 300 burials of diverse types. This large number of individuals is unusual in the Niagara frontier according to Dr. White where, she says, ossuaries were never numerous.

No grave goods were found, to add to the problem of identification of these burials. However, a number of artifacts were found in the ossuary fill which have not been analysed yet, but it was noted in the field that incised pottery was absent, whereas Late Middle and Early Late Woodland types were present. She concludes her paper with the tentative observation that the ossuary would date around 900 A.D.

OTHER PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST ...

Bulletin 190 of the Bureau of American Ethnology published in Washington by the Smithsonian Institution is entitled An Ethnography of the Huron Indians, 1615-1649, by Elizabeth Tooker. This useful and much-needed work is a compilation of the ethnographic data contained in 17th century descriptions of Huron culture and is intended to be a convenient general introduction and index to a study of the Huron Indians.

The November issue of Scientific American contains an article by Dr. Richard S. MacNeish entitled "The Origins of New World Civilization". The article deals with Dr. MacNeish's work in the Mexican valley of Tehuacan where he has led four expeditions in the past four years on behalf of the Robert S. Peabody Foundation for Archaeology. Study on this site in conjunction with workers in other fields, such as botany, have resulted in interesting and well-documented discoveries such as one example of the origin of the domesticated corn and some studies of other domesticated plants. Dr. MacNeish also claims evidence at Tehuacan of the earliest village life in the New World around 3000 B.C. Tools of ground stone first occur there around 6700 B.C., but no pottery until 2300 B.C.

POTTERY LAB ...

Don't forget to keep in mind our pottery lab at Bill Donaldson's home in Oshawa, 111 Riverside Drive North, on Saturday, January 9th, starting at around 10:00 a.m. Start the New Year off right! And in case I don't see all of you at the banquet, I'll rush the season a bit by wishing you all A Very Merry Christmas Day and best wishes for the New Year - a year that I hope will be an active and interesting one for the OAS, perhaps with a new home, certainly with a new and vigorous executive and, last but not least, a lively and interested membership.

Adios,

The Editor

(definitely hopeful - in fact
downright optimistic)

ONTARIO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

ANNUAL BANQUET
SATURDAY, DECEMBER 12

I will be attending
Number of people in party

Please return this form to Miss Nancy Powell, Corresponding Secretary, Ontario Archaeological Society, Library, Royal Ontario Museum, 100 Queen's Park, Toronto 5, Ont. by DECEMBER 5, 1964.