

The next monthly meeting of the Ontario Archaeological Society will be held on TUESDAY, MAY 15th., at 8 p.m. at St. Paul's Parish Hall, 227 Bloor St. E. Toronto.

This will be an important business meeting. "Dig" time is slowly approaching and we must start planning for this all important phase of our activities. Therefore, on the 15th. plans must be discussed and formulated and the more members in attendance, the more decisive the plans will be. So please jot this date in your little engagement book.

CORRECTION: We should say that 'dig' time is FAST approaching!!!!

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Last month's meeting which featured Dr. "Ted" Guthe as the guest speaker was quite a success but, unfortunately the N.H. L. prevented a great many members from attending. Dr. Guthe's talk was very enlightening and he has the unique knack of delivering archaeological information in a scientific manner but with a flavouring of every day 'down to earth' words and anecdotes.

The O.A.S. is very grateful to Dr. Guthe and extends him an invitation to return whenever it is convenient to him.

For the June meeting we have a very, very special treat in store. The guest speaker will be Mr. C. A. Weslager, President of the Eastern States Federation and a member of the Archaeological Society of Delaware. This meeting will be held on SATURDAY, June 16th. If the weather permits it will held outdoors. Keep this date in mind and come and meet Mr. Weslager and hear about some of the archaeology in the Delaware area. More details later.

We, as a Society, are a member of the E.S.A.F.; for that reason and because you are a member of the O.A.S. Bulletin No. 15 published by the Eastern States Archaeological Federation is distributed to you. The bulletin makes very interesting reading - don't miss our report which appears on page 8.

Photography is essential to archaeology. The O.A.S. has an excellent photographic library as those of you who have seen the slides will agree. The Photography Committee feels that many members would like to have prints of digs in which they participated or others which may be of interest to them. These prints are available or will be, if enough members show interest and are willing to help in the developing of same. The request of prints will have to be great enough to make reproduction feasible and also to keep the cost down.

A production line must be formed; the members of the Photographic Committee have patience galore and will be only too pleased to impart their knowledge to you. As you can appreciate, chemicals are costly so the demand must warrant the expense. Please indicate your interest on the form which appears on Page 2.

This summer the O.A.S. has a very important aim in view and that is the survey of the Rouge River Valley. It is imperative that this be done as soon as poss-

WHAT IS YOUR PLEASURE!!! Shall the O.A.S. hold its monthly meetings on the first Monday, the second Tuesday - Wednesday or some Thursday????? This year we have held meetings on nights other than the usual second Tuesday of the month, not only to convenience our guest speakers but also to convenience those of our members who cannot attend on Tuesdays. And it was wonderful to see quite a few members who have prior Tuesday commitments come out once again.

Now, in the hope of holding monthly meetings on a night suitable to the majority of members, we would appreciate it if you would fill in the questionnaire below and return it to the Corresponding Secretary. We realize that we are asking you all kinds of questions this issue but your answers will direct us in planning activities for the remainder of the year. Your immediate reply would be greatly appreciated.

RESEARCH GUIDE NO. 1

CASTELLATION DEVELOPMENT AMONG THE IROQUOIS by Dr. J. Norman Emerson

This research guide is published by the O.A.S. and is being distributed to the members free of charge. This guide contains a wealth of knowledge for the novice, the amateur archaeologist and the professional. As stated above the first copy is free, but should anyone require additional copies the charge will be ~~_____~~.

Sorry! being recalled for reinsertion

NEW MEMBERS - This month we welcome two ladies to our fold -

Miss Eileen Bury and Mrs. Lorna Procter

It is our pleasure to have these two new members and we sincerely hope that they will be happy with us.

DUES: To date only a little more than one-half of the membership have paid their 1956 dues. The O.A.S. dues are very nominal and without them the Society finds it difficult to make ends meet. So if you haven't renewed your membership, please do so at the next meeting or by mail. REMEMBER YOU CAN'T DIG WITHOUT A MEMBERSHIP CARD!!

PLEASE COMPLETE THIS QUESTIONNAIRE AND RETURN TO THE CORRESPONDING SECRETARY --

Would like reprints of digs _____

Would like to work on developing production line _____

Am interested in Rouge Valley survey _____

Would prefer that monthly meetings be held on (indicate by 1, 2, 3 or 4 for the first, second, third, etc. Monday - Tuesday or -- of the month)

Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday

NAME _____

ADDRESS

Below are excerpts from a talk given by Miss Ruth Marshall before outside groups and the members of the O.A.S. The following will be of interest to all and particularly to our newer members -

"PRELUDES TO DIGGING"

"You may ask how to find a site. Well, there are several ways. One is through historical research - the reading of old documents. For example, in the Jesuit Relations of the early 1600's, the priests recounted to their superiors in France their experiences among the Indians in New France, and specified their camp and habitation areas. Another method is to make enquiries of farmers, country doctors, or from long-term residents in an area of particular interest. Still another way is to look for one - go "site hunting". This entails a knowledge of the Indians themselves, whether they were bands of roving hunters and fishermen, or a more established group who cultivated crops; also it involves the knowledge of what tribes lived in certain sections of Ontario. One would look for an Iroquois site on high ground - above a river, or a stream bed, with three sides of the site protected by forest perhaps, and of course a fourth side would be the river - for navigation and transportation purposes.

The methods of digging are varied, as are the types of sites themselves, After the site has been located, and the permission obtained from the property owners to dig there, we ascertain the dimensions of the site by "Test-pitting" - the insertion of one foot squares at regular intervals over the selected area - and the subsequent examination of the soil uncovered - whether rich humus from decayed vegetable material from refuse deposits; ash deposits from hearths, cooking fires, etc., and from any artifacts located --these are factors in determining both the extent of the site and also the productiveness of it.

By the use of surveyors' instruments we orient the site to its geographical location on a topographical map, and then lay out our squares accordingly. We use five foot squares on an Iroquois site - marked with pegs and strings. After removing the sod, or topsoil as the case may be, and having checked it for artifacts we proceed with the excavation of each square. An artifact may be defined as a tool or implement made by man. Do not take too literally the word "digging" we do not use shovels, but rather a 6" pointing trowel, a grapefruit knife, and a paint brush. It is only by the progression of working down slowly, level by level, by noting carefully any artifacts and ash deposits, etc; by written reports of each level in each square; by diagrams of these - drawn on graph paper to scale - and by photographs of any important feature, that any kind of an accurate final analysis may be approached.

Six inches in depth constitutes one level. After the sod has been removed, we scrape methodically with the trowel, keeping the level of the square as even as possible. Each item uncovered is carefully noted before removal from the ground and photographed, if of special significance, again before removal from its original place. It is very important not to remove an artifact before photographing, as it is its association with other artifacts, ash deposits, fire stones, etc., that is invaluable in the final analysis. Everything - each piece of pottery, each pipe fragment, arrow point, bone tool, etc., is kept and placed in a bag marked for artifacts from each level in each square. This again is for purposes of analysis."

This article "Preludes to Digging" will be continued in the next bulletin.

The post of Librarian is still open.