



ARCH NOTES

Monthly Newsletter of

The Ontario Archaeological Society (Inc.)

No. 70 -- 2

EXECUTIVE

February 1970

President:

Dr. J. Norman Emerson
Dept. of Anthropology
University of Toronto
Toronto 5, Ontario.

Treasurer:

Miss Lorna Procter

Librarian:

Mr. Charles Garrad

Vice-President:

Mr. Peter Ramsden

Past President:

Dr. R. Dean Axelson

Recording Secretary:

Miss Pat Sutherland

Corresponding Secretary:

Office Vacant

MONTHLY MEETING:

The February meeting of the Ontario Archaeological Society will be held on Wednesday, February 18, 1970, at 8:00 p.m. This will be in the archeological lab, room 561, in the Sidney Smith building of the University of Toronto, 100 St. George Street, two blocks north of College St.

Speaker: Mr. David Stothers

Topic: Princess Point Complex (illustrated)

Mr. Stothers, a graduate student at the University of Toronto, will discuss a new archeological complex undefined in the literature. It will probably be of major importance in Ontario. In the early 1950's, in survey work in southwestern Ontario, it was mentioned by Mr. Tom Lee and Mr. Richard MacNeish in Iroquois Pottery Types in theory only, but was dropped because there was no proof. The dating is now recognized as 900 to 1,100 A.D.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL:

please pay your fees

LAST MONTH'S MEETING:

Mr. Clause Breede of the Royal Ontario Museum, in an illustrated lecture entitled "Under the Winnipeg River and Other Places", presented us with a delightful adventure story -- a welcome change for O.A.S. members. He started with the explanation that he was not an archeologist and any archeological interpretation was that of the men he worked with, one of whom is Walter Kenyon. Mainly, we were taken behind the scenes of underwater archeology, and we were shown the equipment and techniques and fun involved.

We started off in Newfoundland--along the coast of the Avalon Peninsula. At Christmas time of 1966, if you can imagine that! Mr. Breede showed us a map of the fur-trade route from Montreal to Fort Chipewan on

on Lake Athabaska. This whole route is currently the subject of a white-water archeological survey. The Winnipeg River, at least, from the Manitoba boarder to Kenora is now complete. In particular, we were shown slides of the Boundary Falls water containing two sites. Included were illustrations of such artifacts as axe heads, muskets, and musket balls, and shots of the divers in action.

From there, we flew down to British Honduras to look at an ancient and amazing Meso-American Indian water reservoir. Mr. Breede concluded with the pictures and story of the Vassal, a Swedish ship sunk in the seventeenth century. This was another ship raised from a body of water to become the central attraction of a special museum for public interest and education.

Many of us are rather envious of Mr. Breede's duties on the archeological scene. His job looks much easier than digging.

EXECUTIVE NEWS:

At the January meeting of the O.A.S. the annual elections produced a new president and vice-president. Dr. Norman Emerson of the University of Toronto and Mr. Peter Ramsden of the University of Toronto have now assumed the bulk of the O.A.S. responsibilities.

So that the general membership of the O.A.S. may become acquainted with them they have each prepared an address through ARCH-NOTES:

Fellow members of the O.A.S.: Presidential remarks:

"As your newly elected president, I shall look forward to working with you during the coming archaeological year. I am more than pleased at the continuity of the executive and the strength of the committee heads who have indicated their willingness to work with me. I hope that Mr. Ramsden's presence as vice-president will lead to increased student involvement which should work to the benefit of the society.

"I hope there will be no serious disruption in the society's established programs and shall accept every possible guidance here. I hope that the programs of publications, talks, lab sessions and digs will continue with their former vigour. I hope in my capacity I will be able to help the society by making laboratory space and facilities available at the university. I would hope this could relieve some of the pressure upon Dr. Axelson and Mr. Donaldson, should they so wish.

"I hope that I can give some guidance to those concerned with the increasingly great problems of salvage archaeology and to the concomitant problem of antiquity laws. There is increasing need to continue the work begun many years ago by Mr. Tom Lee and the O.A.S.

"I would also commend Dr. Axelson for his many accomplishments while in office and know that he will be missed by many members. This fact was clearly attested to by the very closeness of the presidential vote. I hope he will continue to contribute knowledge and continuity as a very experienced member of the executive committee.

"One last item of concern I would comment upon, the election of myself and Mr. Ramsden has raised some fear of an academic or professional 'take-over' of the society. Without going into great detail, I believe that those of you who know me well over almost two decades in some cases, as being given credit for founding the society as an outcome of a public

museum lecture series, will state that I have never made an issue of professionalism and have been constantly associated with non-professionals in many capacities.

"I believe I have gone on record as saying the problems of Ontario archaeology are greater than the capacities of any one university, let alone Toronto. The O.A.S. is the only legal body that is sufficiently widespread and diverse to offer any real control and this means the aim should be to develop the strength of the society, not a professional take-over. I consider it an honour to be the president of such a large and vigorous society and shall work towards its ends and aims.

Yours sincerely,
J. N. Emerson."

And, from Mr. Peter Ramsden:

"Since I have been elected vice-president of the O.A.S., and did not state my reasons for running before the election, I feel it might serve some useful purpose to do so now.

"My reasons for running for office were twofold: First, I felt that by so doing, I could help to foster student interest in the society. I think that having a colleague as vice-president may encourage other students to feel that they have something to gain from, and contribute to the society by active participation. Students tend to be a fairly apathetic group who, while they may be interested and concerned, rarely display the fact without some definite motivation.

"Second, I was of the opinion that it would be a bad thing for the executive to be elected entirely by acclamation. I had no great commitment to winning the election, per se, but only to the belief that there should be an election, and that the results should represent a statement of the wishes of the members.

"There is, apparently, a belief that my nomination, perhaps along with that of Dr. Emerson was a conscious effort on the part of the Department of Anthropology to 'take over' the executive of the O.A.S. As a result of this belief, there seems to be a danger that the society will suffer a split between its academic and non-academic members.

"I would like to make it clear that there was no connection whatsoever between my nomination and Dr. Emerson's. I decided to run more than a month before the election, and, until the day of the election, I was, as far as I knew, the only person contesting an office.

"Furthermore, there was certainly no departmental or organised student involvement in my nomination. In fact, I can't think of any reason for anybody in the department to want to 'take over' or 'control' the O.A.S.

"I sincerely hope that there will not be any kind of a split in the society, and I do not believe that many members intend that there will be. Amateurs, professionals, university students and high school students must all contribute if the O.A.S. is to represent Ontario archaeology, and I see no reason why this should not be the case.

Peter G. Ramsden."

*

*

*

Our past president, Dr. Dean Axelson, called ARCH-NOTES and asked us to thank everyone who worked with him in building the O.A.S. into what it is today. Once again he commented on the fact that he could never have

carried on the duties of the president without the co-operation and contributions of the rest of the executive and the people of all the committees. He said that he would also like to thank the general membership for their strong support and genuine interest in the O.A.S. over the past four years.

* * *

Meanwhile, Mr. Rollo McDonald, head of the Program and Publicity Committee has informed ARCH-NOTES that he has decided to resign. Our Corresponding Secretary, Mrs. Barbara McDonald has also turned in her resignation.

* * *

We are sure that it will be strange to many people to think of the O.A.S. without Dr. Dean Axelson. In his four years as president, the Society has grown from a point of collapse to its present membership of over 350. This is directly due to his strong and efficient leadership. He built around him a large group of dedicated and dependable committee people. He presented his own lectures, and organized others, to outside groups. And he saw that there was a regular program of labs and excavations. Even though his professional career obligated him to much evening work, he never once missed a general or executive meeting of the O.A.S.

Dean and his home and lovely wife created an ideal condition for the flourishing of our Society. The personal inconvenience of all the O.A.S. material stored there must have been provoking. We held our labs there, and we held many meetings there. And, of course, it was the scene of many social gatherings. We always looked forward to the June meeting which would be a bar-b-que at Dean's place, as we would up our season for the summer.

Dean's house was always open to us. This was of particular importance to ARCH-NOTES. We were always welcome there for a work session, even when the Axelsons were not going to be home. And we were well looked after at all times. Often the Gaucis and the McDonalds and a few other faithful friends would stay there with us until all hours, putting ARCH-NOTES together. Judy Axelson always kept up a steady flow of hot coffee and good food, lest someone collapse in the production line.

There was nothing impersonal or indifferent about the O.A.S. under Dean Axelson. His contribution to Ontario archeology can never be overlooked.

Dean has always said that he was lucky to have such strong supporters behind him. I'm sure that he would agree that two of the most important were Jim Gauci and Rollo McDonald. They were mainly behind-the-scenes men and trouble-shooters. It was admirable how they always knew what to do in a crisis--and how to do it, and where to get it done. We hate to think of what it will be like to put ARCH-NOTES out without all these people, for one thing.

* * *

LOCAL ARCHEOLOGICAL NEWS:

The following page is contributed to ARCH-NOTES by Dr. Axelson.

The two pages after that are from Mr. Charles Garrad, Library News, and new titles.

These two gentlemen have been the most consistent contributors to this thing, in the past. I am sure they know how much I appreciated their work.

THE CLUES CLOSET

By R. Dean Axelson, D. V. M.

BRIEF NOTES ON THE CARTON OSSUARY

The Carton Site Ossuary was excavated mainly by myself over a period of two whole summers during 1967 and 1968. Some much appreciated assistance was received from some of the University of Toronto post graduate and undergraduate students over a short period in the spring of the final summer of excavation. This site is located north - west of the town of Milton, about 50 miles west of Toronto. A village site is situated within 300 yards of the ossuary. This ossuary was of medium size and is thought to belong to the Neutral people. A tentative dating has been given of between 1580 - 1610 A. D. plus or minus.

A large amount of skeletal material in fairly good condition was removed with much difficulty from a very hard clay-sand soil matrix and now resides in the Dept. of Anthropology at the University of Toronto where it is being analysed by a number of individuals. They tell me that they have an approximate count of around 250 individuals of various ages from infants to old adults.

The ossuary was discovered in 1958 by myself and another person while we were both students at the Ontario Veterinary College in Guelph. It was observed that bones were being brought to the surface by the action of cultivating this particular field. Test excavations revealed the ossuary. No further work was undertaken until 1967 when I proceeded to excavate the burial.

Sparsely scattered throughout the skeletal remains were a spattering of minor artifacts, (but of major archaeological importance). Some of these, it was later revealed, are very scarce and may even be entirely new to the Ontario archaeological scene. A number of different types of native made brass rings were found, some of which were of the coiled wire type. The remains of some wide brass arm bands were also present. Various lengths of tubular copper or brass beads were found which were made from brass kettles. No ceramics other than 4 or 5 minor potsherds were found. The most common artifact was beads. Several hundred beads were uncovered. Tubular and disc-shaped shell beads were the most common but a number of glass trade beads were also found. Some of these glass beads are a little unusual for Ontario. The Royal Ontario Museum suspects that they may be of Dutch origin. Only a few very small pieces of unrecognizable iron was found.

A detailed report on this excavation is being prepared at present and will eventually be published in its entirety.

The osteological analysis will appear sometime I hope as a separate paper under joint authorship. This collection of skeletal material is one of the very few available on the Neutral people which has been removed under controlled excavation and is in a reasonably good state of preservation to allow a good analysis to be carried out. A lot of very good information is being compiled on the Neutrals from this work which was initiated by Pat Hartney and Jerry Cybulski, both of the University of Toronto. These two people were very good about donating their time to me during the summer of 1968. Their assistance is greatly appreciated.

- - - - -

ALABAMA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY "Stones & Bones Newsletter" February 1970.

Alabama leads the way in so many aspects of archaeology. For years they have had an incorporated fund-raising Association. Now, both funds and professional assistance are available to the amateur membership. Each Chapter is now supported by a statewide funded amateur/professional back-up for testing and evaluating site potential right through to excavation. A related system in Arkansas has that state divided into eight jurisdictions each under a professional archaeologist, each the nucleus of a flying squad able to check out reported finds within hours.

ALBERTA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY of. "Newsletter" no 21 Summer 1969.

Reprints in full the text of Dr. J.V.Wright's speech given last March here in Toronto at the Canadian Archaeological Association banquet.

(Ontario welcomes Newfoundland and Northwest Territories in being especially threatened with the looting of sites in the Future. However, this reviewer's senior farmer friends gave me to understand that digging up Indian relics (i.e. looting), was THE Sunday afternoon sport of the after-church buggy-drive set sixty and seventy years ago, as the condition of the Sites today testifies. The damage was done by our grandfathers in Ontario, so Newfy & N.W.T must go it alone.)

AMERICAN MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY "Natural History" January 1970

Usual collection of interesting articles and book reviews. Watch out ! The Naked Ape returns in a sequel "The Human Zoo".

DREIMANIS, A. 1967 "Mastodons, Their Geologic Age and Extinction in Ontario, Canada" a reprint from the Canadian Journal of Earth Sciences, vol 4, 1967, donated by the author, Professor Alexis Dreimanis of the University of Western Ontario.

The most up-to-date summary of present and earlier knowledge concerning the mastodon in Ontario. Four-fifths of the Ontario finds date at less than 12,400 yrs, the youngest being 8,910 +/- 150 years b.p. In all, 58 are known, largely concentrated between the Thames River and Lake Erie.

DREIMANIS, A. 1968 "Extinction of Mastodons in Eastern North America: Testing a New Climatic-Environmental Hypothesis", a reprint from the Ohio Journal of Earth Sciences, vol 68(6) November 1968, donated by the author.

Extends theories first expounded in his 1967 paper to cover the 600 known remains, 80% of which date 9,000-12,000 yrs. Theorises increasing dryness 10,000-11,000 yrs ago caused spruce forest to dwindle and finally disappear. Mastodon unable to readapt to other food or migrate to areas where spruce survived.

DUMOND D.E. 1969 "Prehistoric Cultural Contacts in Southwestern Alaska" pp 1108-1114 of SCIENCE vol 166. Donated by Dr. D.B.Shutt.

ROYAL ONTARIO MUSEUM "Archaeological Newsletter" no 55, "Godin Tepe 1969" by T.Cuyler Young jnr., and no 56 "Altun Ha: Sixth Season completed" by David M. Pendergast.

TENNESSEE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY "Tennessee Archaeologist" vol xxv no 1 Spring (!) 1969.

The exclamation mark appeared by magic as your reviewer heard the news that Zero degrees was the current Toronto temperature.

A rock overhang, of which there must be many in Ontario associated with the Niagara Escarpment, is shown to have sheltered "hundreds of families over a period of thousands of years". In the 3½' debris were over 875 potsherds alone on top of an archaic occupation.

SOME COMMENTS RECEIVED ON BEAR-JAW TOOLS

In our Society's most recent publication, ONTARIO ARCHAEOLOGY No. 13 there was a small paper concerning modified bear mandibles found on three historic Iroquoian sites in the Collingwood district. Some international comment has now been received.

THE INTERAMERICAN, newsletter of the instituto interamericano, published by Carl B. Compton, 5133 NT, Denton, Texas 76203, issue of January 1970 p3: "AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL MYSTERY: Ontario Archaeology, Publication no. 13, The Ontario Archaeological Society, Toronto, Canada. 60 pages, ill. No price given. C.B. Heidenreich, Editor, Dept. of Geography, York University, 4700 Keele St., Downsview (Toronto) Ontario. No, all of this is not the mystery. In one of the paper C. Garrad presents Bear Jaw Tools from Petun Sites. The mystery is to what use were these jaws put. These are halves of the lower mandible of bears. The ramus has a large hole which shows unmistakable evidence of having something drawn through it, gradually wearing away the ramus, at which time the tool was discarded. Several hypotheses as to use are presented. The one that seems most logical to us is that the tool was used to process rawhide in some manner, but this, obviously, is just our choice of the alternatives presented. We have never seen such tools before. The publication was published with the aid of a grant from the Dept. of Public Records and Archives of the Government of Ontario...."

Dr. Ronald J. Mason, from Lawrence University, Appleton, Wisconsin 54911, U.S.A., has not only seen such a tool but has recovered one from an historic site on an island in northeastern Wisconsin. Dr. Mason has sent both a description and a photograph, from which it is clear the Wisconsin specimen would be quite at home with our Ontario samples. The hole in the ramus has similar wear patterns especially toward the top, where it has worn almost to the dorsal edge, approaching exhaustion. The Wisconsin tool was found associated not only with European trade goods but cordmarked potsherds of undetermined Woodland affiliation. We note the three Petun sites from which bear-jaw tools were taken have also yielded cord-marked bodysherds.

QUEEN ELIZABETH WAY CONSTRUCTION

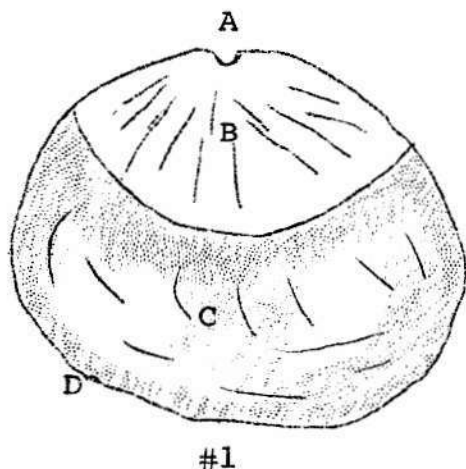
Construction of the Queen Elizabeth Way service roads proceeds through the winter. The numerous creeks are being bridged, with consequent destruction of the side banks for bridge foundations, knolls are being levelled and hollows filled. Each day's work is plainly evident, the fresh upturned earth contrasted by the snow-covered frozen areas. In one cut some 8' clay was observed imposed on several feet of sand. This is near Mrs. Honsberger's house, Jordan Station, where several archaic sites are thought to exist. The site Mrs. Honsberger reported as having been in her orchard is now buried by the south service road. Last year this column asked if it were possible that such a major road construction could be undertaken in modern enlightened(?) times without arousing the interest of any responsible institution. Apparently, it is.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TERMINOLOGY

Americans do not necessarily invent excessively long phrases terminologically-wise. While we still have Pottery Lab Sessions with Pottery Cleaning, the Montgomery Chapter of the Alabama Archaeological Society simple has "wash-ins".

BUST-OFFS (Conchoidal Flakes)--

by Fritz Knechtel



#1

- 1-A--point of strike
and shatter area
- 1-B--Bulb of percussion
note rays of force
- 1-C--Fraction area
- 1-D--Work edge--sometimes
modified or resharpened
(occasionally a saw-
edge made by chipping)

- 2-L--Broken side
- 2-R--Unaltered and rounded
cobble surface.



#2

(cross section)

--usually are made from quartzite, gabbro or other crystalline cobbles. They vary in size from 1 1/8 inches in diameter up to 4 inches or more. Most commonly they are 2 to 3 inches in diameter.

At first they were not accepted as a tool. They were shown to Thomas Lee who first viewed Inverhuron sites on a professional basis and were then accepted. They were introduced to Quimby and Ritchie. They were found in quantities on Archaic (preceramic) sites at Inverhuron in great quantities. They have also been noted at other Archaic sites in Bruce (Pine River, Schaeffer, etc.). These Archaic sites dated at 1,000 B.C. and earlier. They have also been found in greatly diminishing quantities on Early Woodland sites (Point Peninsula sites), (earliest pottery sites in Bruce), such as Inverhuron, Schaeffer, Pine River, etc.. Some were reported at Donaldson (Wright and Anderson). And they do not seem present on early Iroquoian sites in Bruce (Inverhuron, Port Elgin, etc.).

Archaic sites in Bruce County, Ontario, covered above, are noted for vast amounts of fire-stones, cooking pits, etc. It is suggested that this tool was particularly adapted to fish cleaning and filleting for possible smoke-curing.

Bust-offs seem most easily made by hurling with great force a cobble against a large stone. They can be made however with greater difficulty by using a hammer-stone against an immobilized cobble. Usually the bust-off seems to be made with one massive blow or strike. Their shape is usually as illustrated above, but they can occur in other forms.

See the Inverhuron Site, Walter Kenyon, Royal Ontario Museum. There are also specimens on view at The Simcoe County Museum and the Bruce County Museum. Many are in the possession of Mr. Fritz Knechtel.

If any of our O.A.S. members knows of other occurrences or anything else about bust-offs, he may write to Mr. Knechtel: Fritz Knechtel, P. O. Box 283, Hanover, Ontario.

ARCH-NOTES thanks you again Mr. Knechtel for letting us use this.

Enter these new members:

Mr. Wayne Cook	-- Toronto
Mr. James R. Ward	-- West Hill
Robert McMichael	-- Willowdale
L. W. Messenger	-- Ingersoll
Mr. Charles H. Brett	-- Lindsay
Mr. John Andriash	-- Windsor
Mr. Don Fuma	-- Windsor
Agnes Ananichuk	-- Windsor
Joan M. Bruno	--Windsor
Brian Fieldwick	-- Windsor
Paul Logan	-- Windsor
Dana G. L. Dean	-- Windsor

ARCH-NOTES extends a sincere welcome to you, new members. On behalf of the Ontario Archaeological Society, we wish the new people of the Windsor area success with their branch chapter.

These new members and the ones who have joined in the last couple of months will think that we are all crazy, after they read this issue of our newsletter. But don't worry. The O.A.S. has survived similar crises in the past (slow learners, aren't we...). This too will pass.

* * *

A GOOD OLD-FASHIONED EDITORIAL:

I promised myself that I wouldn't say a word. But my typewriter is out of control: Peter Ramsden's address to the members grabbed me the wrong way.

First of all, he states that "students tend to be a fairly apathetic group.." As an English student at this same University of Toronto, I would like to point out that this is not entirely accurate and too broad a generalization. Perhaps Mr. Ramsden meant to say, "Anthropology students are a fairly apathetic group.."; and who am I to argue with that.

Secondly, Mr. Ramsden indicates that there was no organized campaign to nominate him. That may be. It turns out however, that there was a quiet telephone campaign to elect him and Dr. Emerson. Three professional anthropologists have voiced great irritation to the past executive committee because of phone calls to solicit their votes in this election. We apologize to them and to anyone else similarly inconvenienced in our O.A.S. elections. The phone calls were not conducted by anyone on the past executive committee, the nominating committee, or anyone supporting Dr. Axelson or Jim Gauci.

Please notice also that Mr. Ramsden makes the astonishing statement that he was not interested in winning the election, actually, but only in preventing an executive election entirely by acclamation, to give the voters a choice. Such devotion to democracy is heartwarming. We question the validity of this "statement of the wishes of the members", however. If the complete story had been announced beforehand, in ARCH-NOTES, would the dreadful cold of that night have kept away the faithful members who know what the O.A.S. is all about? Not bloody likely! Even as it was--with the telephoning and the gang at the back of the archeology lab, some of whom we had never seen before, and some we had seen very seldom (such as Mr. Ramsden himself)--the election was very close indeed.

Everything was very legal of course. And we must emphasize the fact that we are not complaining of newcomers to the executive scene. God knows that we are ecstatic if we have a victim to fill each post every year. The point is that they did not have to act in such a tactless manner. You had to be there to see just how bad it was. If they were unhappy about something, they could have come to us and discussed it. Instead, they somehow turned what has always been friendly co-operation into a dirty political battle.

There is another practical point to be explained. The nature of these positions requires that the president and vice-president be groomed for their jobs at least to the extent that they know who their fellow executives are, what work there is to do, and with whom they have to work. That our two top executive positions be taken over by men unacquainted with us and our executive organization can only mean a great deal more work for us. And for most of us, we simply cannot afford more time. Nevertheless, our new president and vice-president ask for continuity and co-operation. Well, they should have sent out a few feelers before the election.

If the people who supported Dr. Emerson and Mr. Ramsden acted from legitimate concern for the Ontario Archaeological Society and archaeology in Ontario, they will now support them by filling all of these vacant positions to keep the Society running smoothly. It seems to me that they have a moral duty to do so. If they do live up to the responsibility they have assumed, I apologize sincerely for the tone of this editorial. After all our work over the last three or four years (I hate to keep harping on that), the last thing that any of us wants to see is another collapse of the O.A.S.

Anyway, perhaps a rest has been well-earned by Dr. Axelson and his crew. If Dr. Emerson and Ramsden and their supporters want the responsibility, I say let them have it. We have worried enough about this. How luxurious it will be, meanwhile, just to come to the meetings, enjoy the program, and leave, with nothing else to worry about...

So, there it is. For whatever the reason--we are still bewildered by it all--Dean Axelson is no longer president; Jim Gauci is no longer vice-president; Rollo McDonald is no longer head of the program and publicity committee; Barbara McDonald is no longer corresponding secretary; and the ARCH-NOTES editor has just quit.

--Ross Strain

--any Valentines for the ex-editor
may be mailed to:

3201 Lawrence Ave. E.
Apt. 903
Scarborough, Ontario.