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NOTE: If you move or have a change of address, please notify the Executive Secretary, Mimi Gilman, P. O. Box 1091, Saratoga, Wyoming, 82331. Your WYOMING ARCHAEOLOGIST will not be forwarded unless a payment of 50¢ is received for return and forwarding postage.

NOTE: Checks for Chapter Subscriptions and Renewals should be sent to the Chapter Secretary involved. All other checks, subscriptions, and renewals, should be addressed to: Milford Hanson, Route 1 - Box 1080, Cody, WY, 82414. Correspondence and orders for back issues should be addressed to Mimi Gilman, P. O. Box 1091, Saratoga, WY 82331.

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1982 MEMBERSHIP NOTICE

WYOMING ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

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TO ALL MEMBERS:

The Wyoming Association of Professional Archaeologists and the Wyoming Archaeological Society will hold a joint meeting April 23, 24, and 25, 1982, in Rawlins, Wyoming.

Business meetings of both groups will be held Friday, the 23rd. Saturday will be devoted to a day long symposium on archaeology in southwestern Wyoming. A banquet and program will conclude activities of the 24th.

Sunday morning will feature a no host breakfast meeting of the Wyoming Archaeological Foundation.

There exists a continuing need of materials for publication in the WYOMING ARCHAEOLOGIST, and since this is your "journal", you are all urged to submit your own efforts or the work of other people for publication. Nothing is presently available for the March, 1982, issue, and the bushes around here have been pretty well beaten down. If the ARCHAEOLOGIST is to continue, something has to be forthcoming for publication.
CALL FOR PAPERS

Archaeological Services of Western Wyoming College will join the Wyoming Archaeological Society in hosting the Spring 1982 W.A.S. and Wyoming Association of Professional Archaeologists meetings in Rawlins, on April 23, 24, and 25.

A symposium on the archaeology of southwest Wyoming will be held on April 24. Interested participants are invited to submit abstract for papers to:

Russel L. Tanner
Western Wyoming College
2500 College Drive
Rock Springs, Wyoming 82901

Please submit abstracts by February 1, 1982, in order that the symposium may be adequately scheduled.

A discussion of work planned for the 1982 field season will also be included and may cover areas other than southwestern Wyoming.

December 3, 1981
AN INTRODUCTORY REPORT ON THE ROCK RANCH
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE

By Donald W. Housh
Director - Homesteaders Museum

About three and one-half miles west from Torrington, along the south side of
the North Platte River, lies the Rock Ranch. Though called a ranch, it has
been a farm some seventy years. It is nestled at the foot of a small bluff,
and, according to the land survey of 1878, it had a good spring and fresh
water slough. Through the years several local stories have grown about the
"ranch" and several names have been used for the location. Much of the
local lore stems from a letter written (June 16, 1915) to an early Torrington
resident, Tom Powers. The author of the letter was an old timer who had
frequented the Fort Laramie area in the 1860's. In his letter he tells about a
"battle" between Indians and whites in the winter of 1867-1868 at the Rock
Ranch. He also tells about the "man from Missouri" who built the ranch and

General Rock Ranch Site--looking north to North Platte River.
Excavation AreaOutlined.
brought his negro slaves west with him. To date, this story has not been verified. He mentions a fort-like building that would not burn -- built of rock?

At one point along the bluff above the ranch it pinches down within several hundred yards of the River and, no doubt, gave rise to the term "the narrows" by which the site has been known since the late 1800's. Earlier than that (at least as late as 1860) the site was known as Ash Point (the origin of which still remains a mystery). And it is by the name Ash Point that we find the first actual mention of a trading post at the site. This was a business which John Richard had either built or acquired and sold to Seth Ward and Guerrier in 1850.

Recent archaeological and historical investigations of the Rock Ranch site by the Homesteaders Museum and a group of local Goshen County archaeological buffs have brought to light several interesting building foundations and a number of artifacts. The initial inquiry came about as an off-shoot of a project of the Homesteaders Museum to locate and document the past and present post offices of the county. In August, 1980, Museum Director, Don Housh, was at the Rock Ranch to locate the building which had housed the Banks P.O. in the early 1900's. Also fresh in his mind was the recent discovery, April, 1980, of a number of graves up the River eight miles at the Korell-Bordeaux site. While talking with the resident farmer, Housh learned that land surrounding the old set of buildings still standing was to be levelled to increase the size of adjacent fields. They also noticed a partially visible section of a stone foundation in an area to be levelled. After some consideration of the local lore and consultation with an archaeologist, the landowners were contacted and permission was obtained to excavate the area.

The initial field work was done in November, 1980. At that time the stone foundation remnant was excavated and found to be approximately 14'x22' and without a fourth wall at the east end. Also, running along under the double-course stone foundation was a log wall, four logs high. The soil removed from the center of the site contained materials indicating a dump of the 1930-1950 era. No datable historical artifacts were found. That is, with the notable exception of the skeletal remains of a single human body. This was
Foundation and log sub-wall of No. 1 Rock Ranch.

Skull fragment in Foundation No. 1 at Rock Ranch.
Skeletal remains in foundation No. 1 at Rock Ranch.

found inside the northwest corner of the stone foundation. The skull appears to have a bullet hole in the right temple and a lead bullet still remains in one of the lower vertebrae. No decision has yet been made regarding other details of the remains.

After the discovery of the body and reaching sterile ground at the base of the log under-wall, the site was closed. The skeletal remains were taken to the University of Wyoming for further study.
The log floor joists of Foundation No. 2 at Rock Ranch.

In February, 1981, the landowners decided to level more land closer to the west side of the old buildings -- removing a fenced corral and several sheds in the process. In doing so, they uncovered another stone foundation. The Museum and local archaeological group were allowed to again excavate at the site. Subsequently, they were to reveal four other whole and partial foundations. Several hundred artifacts were eventually recovered from these areas -- shoes, boots, bottles, metal and glass fragments. These items have tentatively been identified as coming from the 1890-1910 period when the ranch was leased by the Swan Cattle Company.

Near the end of these excavations, a group of bone fragments were discovered near one of the foundations by the consultant archaeologist, George Zeimens. He indicated he thought they were buffalo, and, perhaps, deer and/or antelope. The group dug the area and found not only more bones,
Rock Ranch excavation, Pit No. 4.

Working on Pit No. 4 at Rock Ranch.
but a serpentine ornament similar to those on Indian trade muskets and several gun flints. Later an eagle ornament such as those on military caps of the 1820-1830 period was found. As this spot petered out, three more to the south of it were found. These were approximately fifty feet to the south of the first and were approximately ten to fifteen feet in diameter and extended down to about two feet. In each of these pits were many bone fragments -- representing animals from buffalo to birds, to fish. In these later pits, the excavators began to find trade beads, glass fragments, several more gun flints and over a hundred pieces of clay pipes, both glazed and unglazed.

The amassed artifacts and bone fragments from these last pit sites number over 2,000. They are presently being curated and cataloged at the Homesteaders Museum in Torrington by a local archaeological group under professional direction.

In March, 1981, the site was given over to the land levellers. However, they were able to leave a wedge of undisturbed soil near the buildings in the location of the last pit dug. The local group was able to return in May and June to continue excavation. By this time, they had received a grant from the Wyoming Council for the Humanities and were able to secure the services of a full-time archaeologist and other consultants.

Further excavation at the ranch has helped to establish several strata and gather more artifacts. Work on the total accumulation of materials continues at the Homesteaders Museum and the Museum Director is conducting an historical documentation project -- also funded by the Wyoming Council for the Humanities. A final exploration of the Rock Ranch site is planned when the area is free of the present field crop.

Any absolute statement of conclusions regarding the site and its artifacts would be inappropriate at this time. However, the historical research does indicate a trading post in the area during the 1850's and the stratification, or lack of it, and the distribution of the artifacts seem to indicate garbage pits appertinent to such an establishment. Whether or not an actual foundation or site can be located for the original trading post remains to be seen. However, another chapter of lost history along this country of the Upper Platte has been opened for all.
Clay Pipe Fragments from Rock Ranch Site.

Sorting Rock Ranch Artifacts.
Trade Axes from the Rock Ranch Site.

Rock Ranch Materials.
ARCHAEO ANNE REPORTS

The Wyoming Archaeological Society Summer Meeting July 24-26 at Saratoga was a success from all standpoints in spite of Big Windy Wonderful Wyoming exhibiting even "wind-ier" than usual strong winds.

Friday morning friends, neighbors, and members of the Wyoming Archaeological Society started arriving at Camp Paleo five miles up the North Platte from Saratoga.

Soon after settling in Bruce Bradley, George Frison, and Dennis Stanford with our guests from China, Hu Chang-Kang and Gai Pei, had pre-dedication tours of the archaeology exhibit at the Historical and Cultural Center. They spotted a boo-boo in the chronology display. The Jimmy Allen points weren't. Bruce rectified the situation by presenting the exhibit with two of his Jimmy Allen points.
The flintknapping demonstration Saturday morning at the Folk Fair drew a large crowd. Flintknapping is a brand new word to many of the appreciative watchers of this ancient art of Early Man.

Bruce Bradley, Internationally recognized as our foremost flintknapper, had come from Cortez, Colorado. Chuck Reher, an experienced flintknapper, represented the Anthropology Department of the University of Wyoming. Charles Laster, an amateur archaeologist from Illinois had come the farthest to join this flint cracking group. Dennis Stanford, our Wyomingite from the Smithsonian Institute in Washington, D.C., did his rock-breaking with enthusiasm and expertise. There were five men showing the crowd how to make stone tools. We believe Keith Abernathy from Lakewood, Colorado, was the fifth.

Saturday Noon the Historical and Cultural Association presented special awards to Debby Chastain, Jill Crow, and Ada Bouril Jackson.

Dr. George Frison was the feature speaker for the dedication of the Katherine Bakeless Nason Archaeology Exhibit "Man Has Been In Wyoming For At Least 25,000 Years".

The Saratoga Lions Club put on an Old Fashioned Trout Fry for 350 happy eaters. They ran out of food before the big winds came.

The Antique Auction and the Atlatl Contests did not fair as well. Early in the afternoon the big Chautauqua Tent went down. The police announced over the P.A. system an 84 miles an hour wind was on the way. The Folk Fair ended abruptly. People were advised to go home. Twenty minutes later, for those still around trying to help, the announcement was to take cover in the Medical Building. The wind blew! And blew! And BLEW!

So ended the modern world's first Atlatl Contest.

Saturday evening, Camp Paleo, our free primitive camping spot on Debby Chastain's ranch had 72 people in 42 vehicles. Amateur and professional archaeologists from Wyoming, Colorado, Illinois, Washington, D.C., China, Montana, California, Nevada, New Mexico, Arizona, and all interested people
Terry and Don Gilman building archaeology exhibit.

Storm coming.
gathered together to get acquainted, exchange information, knowledge, and ideas and to have fun.

The BIG WINDS that stopped everything at the Folk Fair early Saturday afternoon did little damage at Camp Paleo five miles up the Platte. A few tents collapsed but did not run away. A few things left outside like folding chairs did, but did not run far. The camp was a bit damp and cool but Happy Hour complete with hors d'oeuvre caterpillar Early Woman bread baked by Merle Starr and Ruth Brock, helped warm things up. The Pot Luck Buffet with grill you own meat was tasty and bountiful.

After supper a group of Happy Hunters full of Happy Hour and steak grilled on sage brush charcoal discovered what they theorized was the perfect mammoth-bison procurement set up. Camp Paleo is situated above the North Platte River on a sand-gravel sage brush bluff about fifty feet above a meadow then filled with freshly cut baled hay. For the Happy Hunters the hay bales soon became bison. Small boys retrieved spears from below for small fees. Our mighty hunters found they were throwing spears about seventy feet. They were hitting the target below much more frequently than they had in the afternoon while practicing on the flat Atlatl Shoot Course. The effective hunting range of the spear thrower for big game is about thirty to forty feet, unless thrown into a herd of animals. Their spears now went sixty to seventy feet. How come? They happily postulated that gravity provided the power of the spear's thrust while accuracy was derived by concentrating on aiming. It seems to work very well. Surely Early Man must have used this type of set up to procure game?

Paleo Man sometimes had the meat to grill on sage brush charcoal. We wonder what they had for their Happy Hour?

After the campfire was going well, the warmly dressed group was treated to a very informative rap session concerning Paleo Man. Dr. George Frison, John Albanese, Dennis Stanford, and Chuck Rebar spoke of what is now proven knowledge and of the progress being made to push back the dating of Early Man in North America.

We wish we had taped this session so we could hand on the information to
you, but we did not — in 1982 we shall.

Sunday morning after the professionals finished their pseudo grudge match on the Shoot the Mammoth Course, George Frison lead a caravan to the Garret Allen Site. The weather was again threatening. Instead of driving down to the site, George had the group park off I-80 and walk quickly down to the dig. He showed the site, gave a brief resume of what has been accomplished, and hurried the people back up to the cars only a few minutes before the heavens opened up again with a most spectacular, dramatic and bad wind and rain storm.

Saturday morning several hours before the Dedication of the Archaeology Exhibit, a very thoughtful person placed a hastily made WELCOME sign printed in Chinese at the entrance of the Archaeology Room.

Dr. Hu Chang-Kang, vertebrate paleontologist, and Dr. Gai Pei, archaeologist, both from Peking, Republic of China, joined in the fun at Camp Paleo for two days. They were visiting Rocky Mountain archaeology sites with Dr. Dennis Stanford, curator, North American Archaeology, Smithsonian Institute, Washington, D.C. It was great to have visitors from Asia at the Dedication of our man out of Asia archaeology exhibit. Dr. Pei was observed for over an hour making notes of the displays. It tickles the exhibit developers to think that their dates could possibly be taken back to China.

Skip Neal, Denver Museum of Natural History, was in Saratoga for the opening of the Katherine Bakeless Nason Archaeology Exhibit. Skip had conducted a Museum Workshop in Saratoga several years before the Historical and Cultural Center opened. She designed the floor plan for the Archaeology Exhibit. It was a great pleasure to show her what has been accomplished at the Center. She sure started the Historical and Cultural Association off on the right foot. An excellent example of what cooperation between the professional and the amateur can achieve.

Lou and Lulu Steege, Cheyenne, sold their handcrafted silver, turquoise and coral jewelry at the Folk Fair.
Warmly dressed listeners around campfire rap session.

Hu Chang-Kang  Gai Pei
Ella Pitman, one of our guests from the Colorado Archaeology Society, demonstrated basket making.

There is always a crowd around Bruce Bradley's authentic reproductions of pre-historic polychrome pots and his diagnostic flint projectile points. Bruce reported he was very pleased with his sales. He will be back for the July 17, 1982, Folk Fair to do all of his things.

The Atlatl Contests and Flintknapping, organized and publicized by Archaeology and Historical and Cultural Center, will be an annual affair held in July during the Folk Fair. Primitive camping at Camp Paleo is offered to participants.

July 17th is the date set for the 1982 Historical and Cultural Association's Folk Fair. Anyone with arts or crafts to display and sell is welcome.

Our amateur spear throwers would like to throw with the pros. In 1982 we will not differentiate between professional and amateur.

The 1982 winners of Rod Laird's Sixth Grade Atlatl Contest will open the July 17th Atlatl Contest.

Most of the Archaeologists who participated in our first week end of fun and games indicated they would be back in Saratoga in July of 1982. Dennis Stanford cannot. Dr. Hu Chang-Kang, vertebrate paleontologist from Peking, China, and Dr. Dennis Stanford expect to work together the Summer of 1982 at a site in North China. Their findings could date back 20,000 to 50,000 years. This work could surely push back the possible dates of when the mammoth hunters from Asia crossed Beringia to North America.
Cultural resources are threatened today as never before. We are faced with the prospect that the next quarter century will witness the demise of our historical and archaeological data bases. Although non-economic in nature, these resources bring pleasure to all of us by revealing the activities of people here before us and in the process we learn also of past animal populations and geologic and climatic activities. Who among us can express disinterest in the hundreds of species of animals that became extinct here between about 15,000 and 10,000 or so years ago; of the changes in the landscape and plant communities brought on by changing climatic regimen. Above all, who among us can claim a lack of interest in the numerous small but viable human groups who were able to exploit this land by hunting and gathering for at least 12,000 years and probably many more thousands of years beyond that.

Bear in mind that what we know of these things and events is meagre indeed. Our present body of knowledge is only a progress report since we can only look at small remnants of the past. To the archaeologist, the unnecessary loss of data are a saddening experience. The solutions to these problems are never clear cut but only one thing almost universally agreed upon is that the proper dispersal of information or educaton of the people produces the best results toward the realization of the best possible conservation of our vanishing historical and archaeological resources. In the past decade we have seen education involving not only the young but it has been extended to those of all ages and life styles.

The archaeology exhibit being dedicated today is a community project. The museum is an interpretive center that is an integral part of the education of the young and old alike. It reflects the care and concern for cultural resources resulting from informative teaching beginning in the early stages of elementary education and extending to everyone in the community. It stems from strong and active archaeological and historical societies. It comes from a close cooperation and a feeling of mutual respect between amateur historian
and archaeologist and the so-called professional. It demonstrates that the two groups working together can produce worthwhile results. This is a model that other communities can copy and the results will be a better attitude toward cultural resources that, with the proper treatment, can enrich our everyday life. I am pleased to see the concern expressed here for our non-economic resources and I am confident that this community will continue to be a leader in these kinds of efforts.

Dr. George C. Frison giving feature speech at the dedication of Archaeology Room at Saratoga Historical & Cultural Center - July 25, 1981
ATLATL CONTESTS

The targets for the Atlatl Shoot were three and one-half feet by four and one-half feet with red and yellow bullseyes. Various materials for targets were experimented with. Six ply heavy cardboard was found the most satisfactory. They held up with repeated use and gave off any authoritative "thwack" when the spear entered.

For the mammoth shoot there were three large rolled hay bales, side by side, on a hay wagon with target propped against each bale. Below was a same sized cardboard skirt to keep the shafts out of the hay wagon tires and the ground.

The contestants threw from thirty feet and had five chances. The red bullseye scored three, the yellow circle scored two, and hitting the target scored one. High score won.

Three of the same sized targets were used for the Paleo Shoot, a stalking game. These targets were reinforced with wood, propped up by 2x4's and were fifty feet, 125 feet and 200 feet apart. Contestants kept throwing until the target was hit. Low score won.

Winners:

PROFESSIONALS
1. Bruce Bradley
2. Dennis Stanford
3. George Frison

AMATEURS
1. Rod Laird
2. Bob Randall
3. John Gilman

SIXTH GRADE
1. Jason Campbell
2. Bryant Chesbro
3. Bryan Chesbro
TIE:
(Mark Rohrbacher
4. (Randy Wagoner

-22-
KIDS MAKE ATLATLS AND SPEARS

Last Winter the Sixth Grade kids under the supervision of their teacher, Rod Laird, made atlatls and spears mainly from materials they found on a field trip to the mountains. Interested parents provided deer antler, elk, and moose sinew (the kids chewed it) and wild turkey feathers. In May they had their contest and the five winners opened the Atlatl Contests for amateur and professional archaeologists July 25, 1981.

Raw Materials Used by the Sixth Grade: Atlatls – cedar, cokecherry and alder; Spears – lodgepole pine and willow; Foreshafts – lodgepole pine and chokecherry; Deer Antler; Elk and Moose Sinew; Beeswax; Turkey Feather – latching; Lichens (for dye).
Tools Used:  Cutters and scrapers made of flint;  Deer antler hammers;  
Wood carving knives and pocket knives;  Saw - Rasp - Plane (all hand tools).

Girls had best form but couldn't hit the target.

Archaeology of the Historical and Cultural Center in Saratoga have a video tape "How To Make An Atlatl" to loan to Wyoming Archaeological Society members and other interested groups. This twenty-two minute film was produced last winter by Rod Laird's Sixth Grade kids while they were making atlatls and spears. They did a good job of showing how to use stone tools. The occasional appearance of an un-sixth-grade-ish looking hairy arm does not detract from the young people's efforts.

If you want the use of this video tape for two weeks, please send $3.00
Bamboo shaft is too flexible. This 6th grader's target. I like it.

to Archaeology, Box 703, Saratoga, Wyoming 82331. We will mail it to you. You pay return postage.

A sequel to this tape "How To Use An Atlatl" will be filmed this winter by the present Sixth Grade.

ATLATL INFORMATION

Miscellaneous information learned from the making and using of the spears and atlatls:
Need a heavy shaft to penetrate a thick hide. Spiral fletching help control the spear. Turkey feathers worked best. Breakage of spear, foreshaft and
point is a great problem. Spear needs strength, flexibility, and durability. Lodgepole pine breaks easily. Willow is much better, but must be straightened. Spear must be flexible to counteract the whipping motion of the release from the atlatl. The foreshaft must be tight in the socket. A short foreshaft stays in socket better. Long foreshaft tends to dislodge. An all wood foreshaft without a flint point works well. For target shooting, have foreshaft glued into socket. They are easily lost in the hay. A six-foot shaft, with spiral fletching and a six-inch foreshaft and point work well. Big "arrows" thrown by an atlatl are too light to accomplish much, especially in Wyoming wind. When using a long heavy spear an atlatl weight should be used to counterbalance the weight up front. This helps keep the spear steady before throwing. For competition, a one piece wooden shaft with butt end forward to serve as a blunt point works well. The single most important technological development Rod Laird came up with while helping the kids make their atlatls and spears was the use of a deer antler fork for his spear rest. The fork frees all of the fingers to grasp the thrower. Rod wants a Paleo Patent. The spear thrower is a very effective weapon. It flies far.
Charles Laster, an amateur archaeologist from East Alton, Illinois, has already written Archaeology -- he will be in Saratoga July 16-18 and to sign him up for flintknapping, the Atlatl Contest, and a spot at Camp Paleo. He reports he froze the two nights at Camp Paleo. In 1982 he will try to be prepared for High Plains weather. Perhaps he does not realize how different that is!
Deer antler fork for spear rest. Frees all of the fingers to grasp the Atlatl. Wild turkey feather fletching.

Speak play —— Stanford — Bradley — Frison.
OK to attach from rear.

PRIMITIVE CAMPING AT CAMP PALEO

July 16, 17, and 18, 1982. Saratoga, Wyoming. Fee: $2.00 per camp site. Camp Paleo will open for primitive camping at Noon, Friday, July 16, 1982. Register by July 2, 1982, to receive up to date information about Camp Paleo, Atlatl Contest, Flintknapping, and the Folk Fair Saturday, July 17, 1982, at the Historical and Cultural Center across from the airport in Saratoga. Clip reservation and send $2.00 camp fee to:

ARCHAEOLOGY
P. O. Box 703
Saratoga, Wyoming 82331

-30-
RESERVATION

NAME

ADDRESS

Number of People in Party

I will be in the Atlatl Contest

I will Flintknap

I will demonstrate or sell a craft at the Folk Fair: