

THE WYOMING ARCHAEOLOGIST

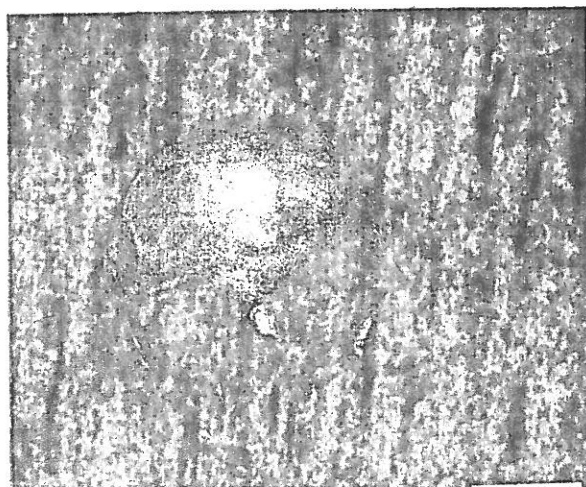
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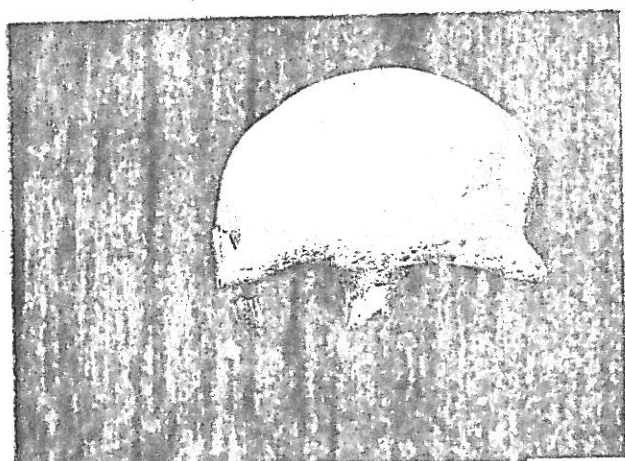
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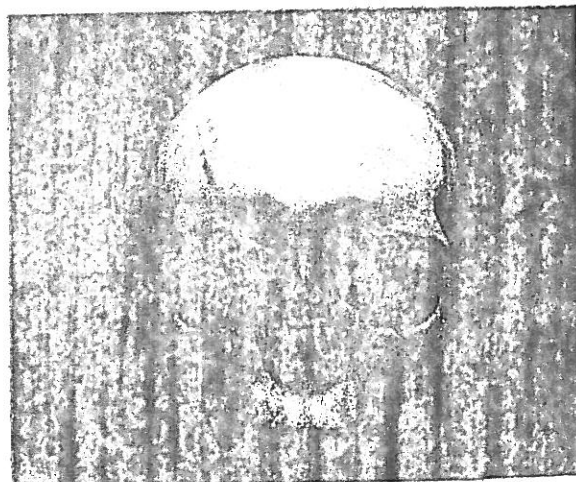
48-WA-301 A



48-WA-301 B



48-WA-301 C



48-WA-301 D

TURK BURIAL SITE 48 WA 301

This multiple burial site was reported to Glenn Sweem and Don Grey by Mr. B. E. Turk of Sussex, Wyoming, during the summer of 1960. He reported that he had uncovered the burial many years ago, but had recovered the burial after removing one skull. This skull was subsequently lost. Mr. Turk's son and another person had later uncovered the grave again, and had found four skulls. One of these had had an arrow point in the eye socket. This point was removed. The skulls had been replaced and the grave recovered. Presumably the grave had not undergone further disturbance.

In the summer of 1960, Sweem and Grey uncovered the burial a third time and found the four skulls previously mentioned, and fragments of a fifth. These were removed, along with a few other bones, for further study. At that time, it appeared that the grave might be rather extensive, and further work was postponed until the summer of 1961. Two points, two bone beads, a crude scraper and the bone materials were found in 1961. All of these were in disturbed earth, and little was learned about the manner of interment, or of the cultural affiliations of the people buried there.

The 1961 season found the burial additionally disturbed. It was subsequently proven that the grave was not much more extensive than the 1960 excavation. Additional artifacts and a few bones were found, but the incompleteness of the osteological collection makes difficult any generalizations about the stature of the people buried here.

Location: The Turk Burial site is located at latitude 43°38' north, longitude 107°09' west, on top of the peak known as Gray Mount. A graded road passes along the north side of the peak. This road connects the Arminto-Hazleton road with the Kaycee-Barnum road.

Description of Site: The Turk Burial site was a multiple burial or re-burial formed by placing remains in a natural fissure in the limestone caprock of the peak and filling the fissure with stones. Due to the extensive disturbances of the site, it was impossible to determine whether the site was a burial or re-burial, or even if all the remains were inhumed at the same time.

Osteological Materials: Table One lists the osteological materials from the site.

TABLE ONE

Osteological Materials from the Turk Burial, 48 WA 301

Adult Remains:		
Skulls	2 crania, Female; 2 calvaria, Male.	
Vertebrae		
Atlas	1	
Cervical	2	2 individuals
Thoracic		
Sacral	1	
Humerus	1 R, 1 L	2 individuals
Radius	1 R	Does not articulate with humerus above.
Phalanges	6	

Table One Continued

Pelvis	
Right half	1 Female
Left half	1 Male
Iliac crest	1 fragment
Femur	1 R Female 1 R Male 1 L Male, prox. end 1 L distal fragment
Patella	1 R
Tibia	1 R
Calcaneum	1 L fragment

Child Remains:

Skull	
Temporal bones	1 R 1 L small fragment
Sphenoid	1 L
Parietal	1 R
Condyles	1 R fragment 1 L fragment 3 unidentified fragments
Humerus	1 L
Scapula	1 R
Radius	1 R
Phalanges	2
Vertebrae	2 cervical, 1 atlas, 2 thoracic, 2 lumbar
Ilium	1 R
Femur	1 R Male?
Tibia	1 R, 1 L
Fibula	1 R

Table Two shows some of the pertinent cranial characters. The four adult skulls are represented by two calvaria and two nearly complete crania. The skulls were labelled A, B, C, D, and E. The table and figures are on the following pages.

Skull A appears to be that of a female about 20 years of age. The first and second molars are present and somewhat worn, while the third molar is about at the level of the gum line, and may not have erupted yet. None of the cranial sutures have been synostosed as yet. The skull shows considerable damage. The right temporal bone is largely missing. The petrous portion is missing.

The temporal portions of both zygomatic arches are absent, although the left temporal process is present. The incisors and cuspids appear to have been removed antemortem. The sockets are not filled, but the edges of the broken bone have begun

to heal slightly. The labial portions of the sockets are broken away, indicating that perhaps a blow on the mouth had driven the tooth crowns inward and had levered the roots outward through the socket walls.

TABLE TWO

Cranial Data for Turk Burial, 48 WA 301

Skull	L	W	CI	Cap	OI	FMI	H/L	UFH	BiZ	UFI	Wt
A	175	137	.78	1324	.97	.78	.58	61	125	.488	426
B	189	146	.77	1539	---	.76	.62	---	---	----	625
C	189	143	.76	1489	---	---	.51	---	---	----	625
D	182	146	.80	1675	.85	.94	.58	68	137	.496	540

The column headings above are defined as follows:

L Length in millimeters.

W Width in millimeters.

CI Cranial index--width divided by length.

Cap Cranial Capacity in cubic centimeters. Measured by filling brain case with fine dry sand. Estimated in the case of skulls A and C by mounding sand in broken openings to contours determined by symmetry with unbroken parts of skull.

OI Orbital Index. Orbital height divided by orbital width.

FMI Foramen Magnum Index. Ratio of width of foramen magnum to length. The value for D seems anomalous.

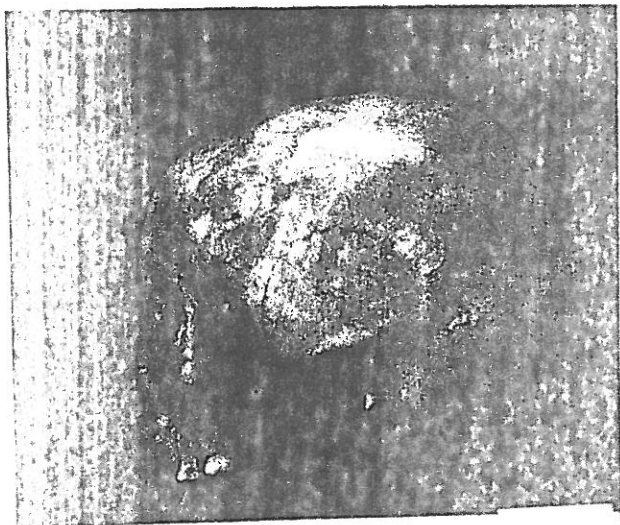
H/L Ratio of height of skull to length. Height is measured from Frankfort Plane to highest point.

UFH Upper Facial Height. Measured in millimeters from Nasion to Prosthion.

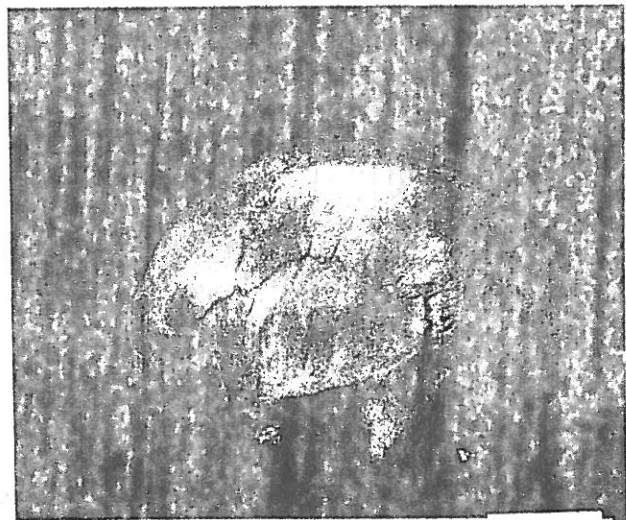
BiZ The BiZygomatic width measured in millimeters across the widest part of the arches.

Wt Weight of the skull in grams.

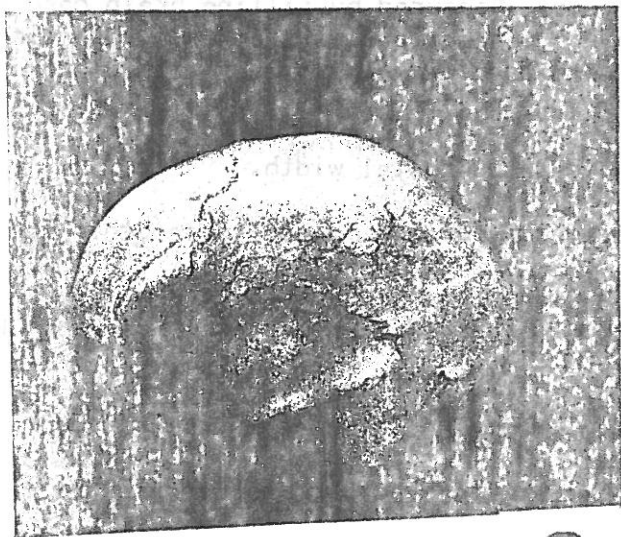
The left parietal bone shows a set of radiating fractures which may have resulted from a blow. The right orbit, near the lower dorsal border of the lachrymal bone, and at the medial inferior border of the orbit itself, shows what appears to be a puncture wound from a blade-like instrument. It is thought that this may be the place from which a projectile point was removed by one of the finder's boys.



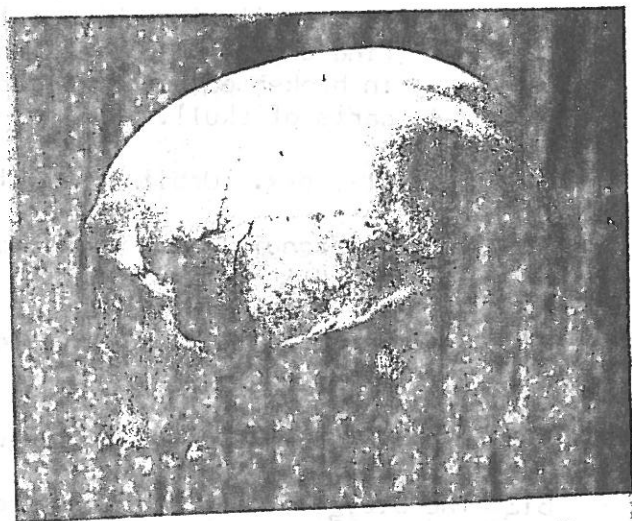
48-WA-301 A



48-WA-301 B



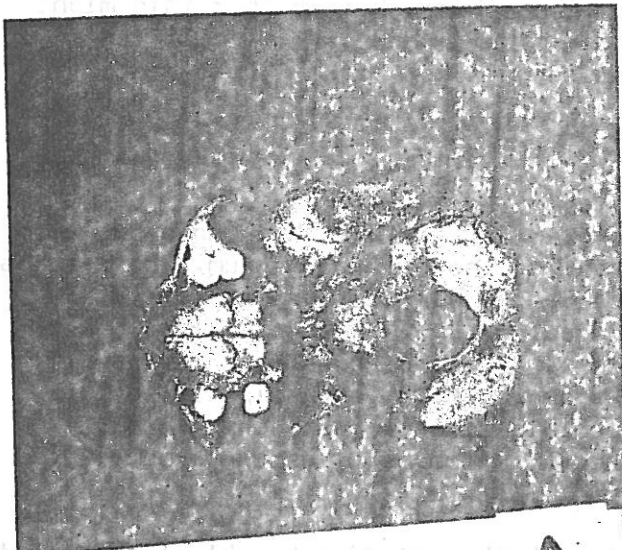
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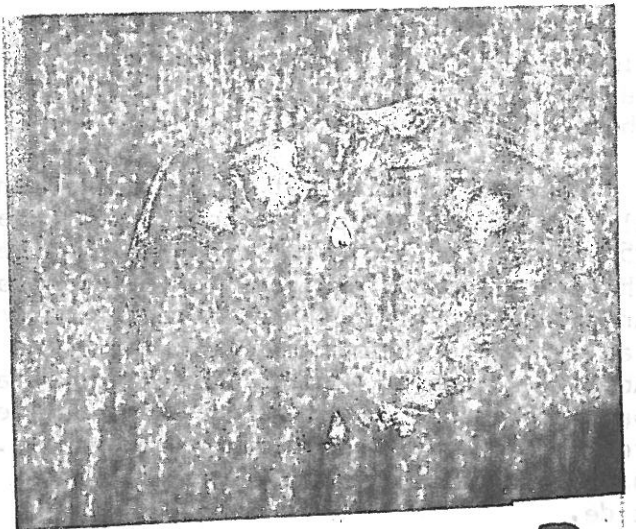
48-WA-301 D

Lateral views of the Turk Burial skulls.

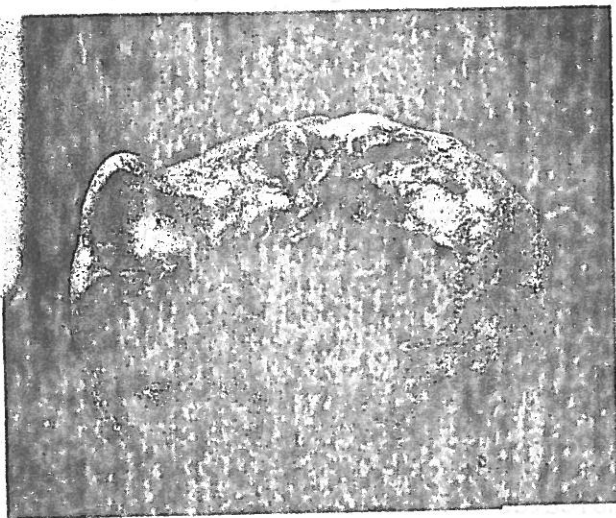
Figure 2



48-WA-301 A



48-WA-301 B



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Basal view of Turk Burial skulls.

Figure 3

The lateral portion of the right supraorbital border shows some damage. Immediately below the left infra-orbital foramen are two perforations which may have been caused by an abscessed wound some time previous to death.

Skull A is shaped rather differently from the others, but whether this might signify that this individual originated in a different group is difficult to tell. As can be seen from Table Two, the cranial indices are not markedly different from those of the other skulls.

Skull B consists of only a calvarium. The zygomatic bones are missing as are all the facial and palate bones. It appears to be the skull of a male of about 25 years. The occipital condyles have been broken off, with no healing evident. There are two perforations to the right and rear of the foramen magnum. Both holes are roughly oval in shape, with the major axes of the perforations approximately radial to the foramen magnum. The holes are about $1/2$ to $5/8$ inch in length and about $1/4$ inch in width. No healing is apparent. These perforations may have been the result of a blow or blows delivered from the right and slightly to the rear of the victim, and from a low angle. Such blows could most conveniently have been delivered while the victim was prone, with the head resting on its left side.

Skull C resembles Skull B generally, although the relative height of the vault is less, and the bone is thicker. This skull appears to be that of a male about 30 years of age. It is represented only by the calvarium. Much of the basilar portion of the skull is missing, including the condyles and much of the foramen magnum. The terminus of the right mastoid process is missing. The opisthion is present, as are the petrous portions of the temporal bones and the vomer.

The left squamous suture is somewhat spread, but this may be due to soil pressure during interment.

Skull D is nearly complete, lacking only the left zygomatic process of the temporal bone and most of the dentition. The first two molars on both sides are present, as is the second premolar on the left. Small sockets for the third molars indicate immature teeth and a young age for the individual. A complete lack of synostosis of the cranial sutures, with the immature dentition, probably places the age of the individual at about 20 years or perhaps less. The skull appears to be that of a female.

Those teeth that are present show marked wear, the dentine being exposed on both first molars. About one inch to the left of the saggital crest is a small callus about $1/4$ inch in diameter, which indicates a healed wound of some sort. To the rear of the right mastoid process, very near the masto-occipital suture, is a pair of foramina, the inferior of which is greatly enlarged, to a diameter of about $1/4$ inch. No pathological condition has been diagnosed to account for the enlargement. Both lachrymal bones are depressed, but this may well have been due to soil pressure during interment.

Skull E is quite fragmentary but appears to be that of a child of about three years. The right parietal and temporal bones are largely present, along with the left sphenoid, fragments bearing the occipital condyles, and a small fragment of the left temporal. Three additional fragments have not been identified.

Skulls A and D are quite thin, while skull C is very thick. Skull B is intermediate in thickness. It is interesting to note that B and C have larger weights

than A and D even though the former are represented only by calvaria. This is an indication of the generally heavier structure of the skulls which are adjudged to be male. B and C have pronounced supraorbital ridges, large mastoid processes, and heavy nuchal ridges.

The occipital condyles of A are larger and have a greater articular area than those of D. The zygomatic bones of A are less flared than those of D and the general facial appearance is more delicate. A has a pronounced occipital bulge as contrasted with the smoother profile contours of the other three. A has almost no supraorbital ridges, and the forehead is high and prominent. In contrast with the other three, A has no saggital ridge and is smoothly rounded in lateral section.

Although the cranial index of A is comparable to that of the two males, the smaller size and different contours make it appear quite different, and it is possible that A comes from a different physiographic group.

Lithic Materials: The lithic materials from the site consisted of the five points, blade end and scraper illustrated in Figure 4, in addition to a few fragments of imported material, and a stream-rounded pebble about an inch in diameter.

The scraper is of tan quartzite and is formed from a lamellar flake with a pronounced median ridge. In cross section the piece is triangular. One long edge and one end have been worked into a smooth working edge by a fine percussion retouch. No wear is apparent on the edges.

The four smaller points are all of excellent workmanship, and are formed of reddish to gray cherts. All have serrated edges and narrow corner notches. The large point is of rusty tan quartzite with black specks. The workmanship appears to be somewhat inferior to that on the other points, but this may be due to the nature of the material. The broad shallow corner notches differ markedly from those of the smaller points.

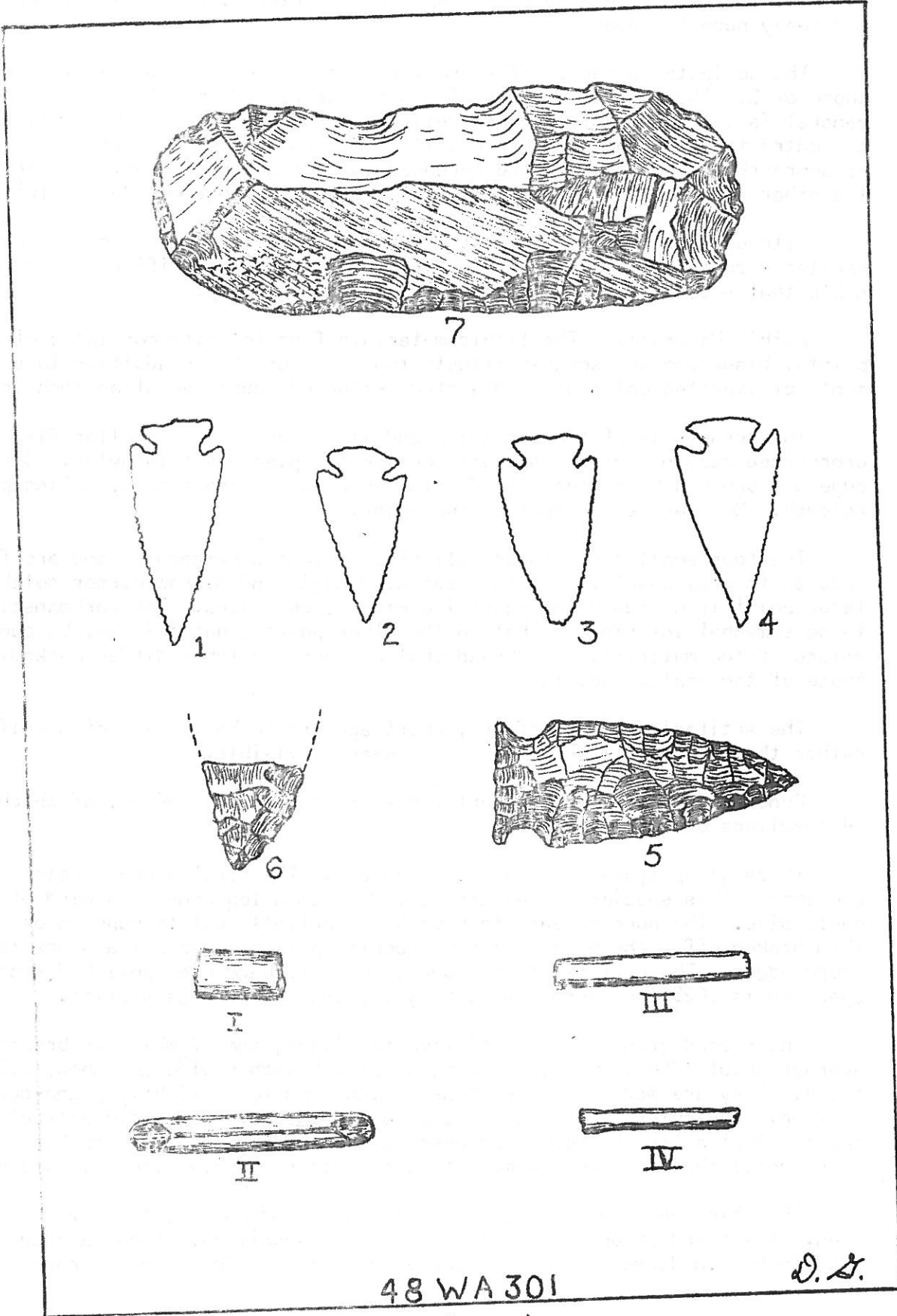
The artifact fragment of gray chert appears to be the end of a knife blade rather than a projectile point, but no wear is visible.

Bone artifacts: The bone artifacts are confined to beads, of which there are 14 specimens of four type groups.

These group types are shown in Figure 4. The first group consists of a single specimen. This specimen is evidently made from a leg bone of a bird of perhaps eagle size. The bone appears to have been partially cut through on one side and then broken off. The ends were subsequently polished against a stone to remove rough edges. The surface of the bone appears to have been polished smooth. This specimen is .625 inch long, and .25 by .31 inches in cross section.

The second group consists of five specimens, one of which is broken. These average about 1.56 inches in length, about .25 inches wide and about .13 inches thick. They are made of hollow bones which tend to a slightly plano-convex cross section. The chief feature of this group is the bevelled end construction. It appears that after the bones had been cut to length, they were rubbed against a stone until the end faces formed about a 30 degree angle with the axis of the bead.

The third and fourth groups are distinguished only by the size of the bones used. The third group is represented by four specimens. These average about .187 inches in diameter and are nearly round in section. The average length is



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D. S.

Fig. 4

1.31 inches. The end faces are at right angles to the axis of the bead and are ground smooth over the entire face. Group four consists of four specimens averaging 1.06 inches in length and about .046 inches in diameter. The section is nearly round. The ends are cut at right angles to the axes, and are only slightly smoothed to remove rough edges. The ends flare slightly as if cut close to the epiphyses.

Miscellaneous: A rim fragment of a metal can and a small fragment of stiff leather were found in the soil of the burial. The can fragment shows a rolled and crimped rim, which indicates a recent intrusion into the burial. It is possible the leather was included similarly.

Chronology: Despite the fact that the bones are interred in a soil derived entirely from limestone, there is no lime deposit on the bones.

While a rule of thumb generally assigns corner notched points to the Late Middle Prehistoric Period, such a broad rule cannot be applied to individual cases. Corner notched points are known to have been in use during historic times. The Gatchell Memorial Museum in Buffalo, Wyoming, has a point, somewhat similar to those from this site, which is stated to have come from the body of one of the victims of the Fetterman Massacre (1865 A.D.). Almost identical points were produced by the nearby Turk Fortification Site, which has produced some wood fragments which may be dendrochronologically datable. The presence of wood in this site argues for a comparatively recent age, and, while the association of the points with the structures is not absolutely established, it tends to support the idea of a fairly recent date for the burial site.

It seems reasonable to assume that the fragment of metal can is intrusive, since crimped rims post date the livestock industry in this area, and it is quite probable that the well-preserved leather fragment is also intrusive, since it would be difficult to explain the preservation of the one fragment while all other similar materials of the original burial have vanished.

Until a dendro-date is available for the Fortification site, it can probably be assumed that the burial is prehistoric, but not more than about three hundred years old.

Summary: While the extreme disturbance of the site precludes a more definitive study, several things are learned from the site. A method of interment by enclosure in a fissure and covering with rocks was studied. The method was not previously observed in this region, but may be common.

The youth of the deceased, including the child, indicates that some sort of disaster probably accounted for the deaths. If the presence of the arrow point in an orbit of one of the skulls can be safely assumed from the statement of the finder, then the disaster was very probably inter-tribal warfare. The killing of women and children as well as young men is an interesting note on the customs of the time. Had the deaths been by bullet, this might have been expected.

The thought that Skull A is that of a young lady from a different physiographic group might be indicative of a practice of capturing females, but this is tenuous inference.

While this site in itself is not highly significant, it may be that it will add to the information about recent prehistoric times if taken in conjunction with a number of others.

NEW ZINJANTHROPUS DATE

According to a recent press release of the National Geographic Society, the University of California has completed a potassium-argon date on the Zinjanthropus remains from Olduvai Gorge with the remarkable result of 1.7 million years. This is over twice the age of the deposits as estimated on the basis of the geology of the region, and is a far greater age for man's ancestors than had previously been considered possible.

Even more remarkable is the fact that Dr. Leakey has found the remains of a young child in a formation even older than that which yielded Zinjanthropus. The child seems to be even more modern than Zinjanthropus in its general features.

If this date is supported by further work on ancient remains, it will indicate that man has been on the scene for a considerable time, and has evolved much more slowly than was previously thought. It is to be expected perhaps that, once man had attained a state of development which enabled him to cope effectively with his environment, he would evolve less rapidly than had been the case to that time. In any case, some of the genealogists will have their work cut out for them if they hope to prove that some of our first families are really first.

MESSING AROUND IN THE HILLS

On a recent trip to the south end of the Big Horn Mountains, Glenn Sweem and Don Grey, in addition to investigating the Turk Burial Site mentioned herein, did additional work on the Turk Fortification Site, and did quite a bit of reconnaissance work.

Additional work at the Fortification Site consisted in obtaining additional dendrochronological materials and in excavating a fissure at the site which appeared to be a possible burial. After moving a couple of two-ton rocks, and mining out several tons of smaller rocks, it was concluded that the fissure was not a burial. Three projectile points found during the excavation are believed to have fallen down through the fissure from above. The area immediately above the fissure is the top of the fortified hill, and it is thought that the points might have fallen from this area. The points are essentially identical to those from the Turk Burial Site, and the sites are only about two miles apart, so it is thought that it might be possible to infer something about the age of the points and the burial from the dendrochronological work on the Fortification Site.

Some 23 caves and rockshelters were inspected during the trip, and about eight of these appear to have good potential as sites. Of these eight, two were severely damaged by vandals. The landowner provided some good clues to the identity of the vandals, and it is to be hoped that they can be prosecuted for their destructive work.

Much time was spent photographing and recording the pictographs at a site near the mouth of Buffalo Creek Canyon. These had been damaged by vandals, and scaling of the rock had removed a large number of the figures. Roughly half the pictures have been lost. Another pictograph site near the head of the canyon was also recorded, but this one was pretty well vandalized. A part of the display is well protected by a twenty-ton slab of rock which has fallen over it, but it protects the pictures from archaeologists as well as pothunters. This site is near a very interesting rockshelter and campsite which has been very badly vandalized by pothunters. Again, this was done without the landowner's permission, and it is quite

possible that the vandals will be prosecuted for trespassing as well as vandalism.

Two looted burials were inspected in addition to the Turk Burial Site. One of these, at Blue Spring, yielded two femurs apparently from a young man and a middle-aged man. One vertebra was also found. It is believed that the two mandibles on display at Lund's Garage in Kaycee came from this site.

The second burial yielded only a fragment of a human femur. This site was atop a rocky hill that was being investigated as a possible site of a battle between Indians and trappers which is rumored to have taken place in the area. No evidence of such a battle could be found, although abundant chips and flakes are to be found at the site. It was later learned that the battle had taken place atop a different hill.

Several wild goose chases were made, but time spent in searching is seldom wasted because an observant eye will usually turn up something, whether it is the object of search or not.

JOINT MEETING AT BEAR LODGE

Members of the Cody and Sheridan chapters met at Bear Lodge on the Big Horn Mountains July 22 and 23. A general exchange of gossip, news, views and tall tales took place. A business meeting was held at 10:00 on Sunday morning, July 23.

Among the items of business discussed were the ways of handling site reports, dues and membership cards, pothunters, and some new proposals for regulations.

It was felt that each chapter should keep a site report file and that duplicate copies should be sent to the state editor who has been handling the site number file and the correspondence with the River Basin Surveys of the Smithsonian Institution in connection with the site numbers.

Dues and membership cards are properly handled by the State Secretary according to the state constitution. Unless a change is contemplated, dues will be received by the State Secretary, who will issue all membership cards.

Mrs. Powers, Sheridan Chapter President, suggested that all in-state members of the society be forced to select membership in one or another of the chapters. Present laws state that a member may elect membership-at-large (i.e., a state member), or chapter membership.

Dr. R. C. Bentzen, state legislative chairman, has consulted an attorney to see if disturbance of burials is not against the law.

Mrs. Powers suggested that no chapter members participate in digs or engage in archaeological investigations without permission from the chapter president. Wonder who the chapter president asks?

Many of the items mentioned above will come before the regular state meeting this winter for discussion and possible action. Meanwhile members are urged to discuss the ideas and make their wishes known to the chapter officers so that they can act accordingly.

EDITORIAL NOTE

The combined circulation of the Wyoming Archaeologist and the New York Times

is a matter of several million people, and this makes the position of editor, on a publication such as this, one of a little influence and a lot of responsibility. It behooves editors to clearly label their opinions as such so that they will not become confused with the official dogma of the sponsoring organization. Thus, let it be known that the comments below are only the personal opinions of the editor, and they should receive no more nor less consideration than those of any other individual member of the Wyoming Archaeological Society.

First, it seems to me, is the matter of who should be a member of an archaeological society. It would seem, a priori, that this should be a simple question to answer--those persons should join who are in agreement with the principles and aims of the organization. The aims of the Wyoming Archaeological Society are clearly stated in its constitution. Briefly, these aims are to preserve and protect archaeological sites, encourage and aid scientific investigation of these sites, and to disseminate archaeological information to the public to whom it rightly belongs. A number of things are implied by such phrases as "scientific investigation" which must be carefully understood, but, briefly stated, the above are the aims of this organization.

Secondly, the matter of the operating rules and regulations under which a society functions must come under consideration. The criterion for a desirable rule, it seems to me, is whether it is in keeping with stated aims of the society. If it furthers the interests of archaeology, good; if not, let's do without it. Too many laws and regulations can strangle an organization. Only those which are necessary should be considered.

Probably much of the difficulty of operation of an amateur organization could be avoided if there were some way of making sure that all members were truly amateurs. People who are really dedicated to archaeology do not need rules and regulations any more than a law-abiding and moral citizen needs laws. All of the sciences, including archaeology, demand dedication of their devotees. The person who enters a science for personal gain or for publicity and reward is doomed to failure. If there were some way of screening people according to their real dedication to a science or art, the world would be spared much misery and the necessity for constant regulation and control.

Probably the membership of the Wyoming Archaeological Society could be divided into three groups--pothunters, dabblers, and amateur archaeologists. Our professional membership is excluded in this discussion of course.

Pothunters probably join an archaeological organization for two reasons. First, they probably do not understand the distinction between pothunting and archaeology and think they are joining people with similar interests. Once in, they hesitate to drop out for fear of recognition. They are, of course, doomed to disappointment unless they stop pothunting, for it is only a matter of time until they are caught in the act. The second reason for pothunters to join such an organization is for personal gain. They join to learn how to find sites, and to lend a cloak of respectability to their depredations by paying vocal tribute to archaeology and lip service to its ideals.

Dabblers are a peculiar breed. They like to pretend to knowledge in a number of fascinating subjects, but aren't really interested enough to read in the subject or invest time and money to learn something about it. They expound at length to those less knowledgeable than themselves, and give knowing looks and agreeable nods to those who know more. They seek to extend their personal glory by name-dropping, by association with people and sites of better repute, and by associating themselves

with a group where they can share the limelight with other people who actually do the work. They dream of someday making an important find, but dream is all they do. They affect snobbery and disinterest in sites less than several thousand years old, because the more recent ones are just too common.

Amateur archaeologists have been discussed before. They love archaeology, and they will study archaeology and will contribute what they can in spite of what the pothunters do.

Let's get tough with the dabblers and pothunters. Let's clean house before they destroy us. One pothunter with a membership card in the society is a serious menace to the existence of the organization. Let's make it plain that pothunting, in Wyoming or New Mexico, Pascua or Montana, is a crime against present and future society and will not be tolerated. We have rules--let's enforce them.

Before some innocent is ostracized, let me explain that the beginner, who is just learning something of archaeology, should not be penalized for past honest mistakes or for present ignorance, PROVIDED that he is now seriously interested in archaeology and is proving that interest. Bud deeds, not promises, are the measure of that interest.

Let's enforce the rules we have, and let's examine any proposed new ones in the light of what they will do for archaeology. Do they fill a fundamental gap in our regulations or are they artificial restrictions born of a particular circumstance or of some individual's personal pique? Let's be quite sure there are no sacred cows in our organization who are exempted from its rules. No person is above the rules, and should we ever find that we have a pothunter for a society officer, that person should be as readily bounced as the next. Let's all pull together--not because we are bound by rules, but because we have a common cause in the love of archaeology.

Test for pothunters: To determine a pothunter, find someone who has a collection, determine if he has ever dug for relics, and then ask a few simple questions about stratigraphy, carbon dating, mapping, field recording, and other basic field techniques. If he has a collection, has dug for relics, and doesn't know field technique, and if he hasn't published the results of his operations, he's a pothunter.

CODY CHAPTER REPORT

The June meeting of the Cody chapter was held on June 27 at the Ohio Oil Conference Room. Twelve members were present for the business meeting.

The program for the meeting consisted of a showing of slides and artifacts collected by Bob and Mary Burns on a recent trip to the Hole-in-the-Wall area.

The principal item of business was the discussion of the forthcoming joint meeting of the Society's chapters in the Big Horn Mountains.

Some of the memberships in the chapter have been confused on the mailing list and it is hoped that these can be straightened out before the next issue is mailed.

MEMBERS OUT!