

THE S M O K E S I G N A L

A WORD OF WARNING

Perhaps a little discussion at this time would not be amiss on the subject of our archaeology of Wyoming and more particularly to our Wyoming Archaeological Society, and our present laws and proposed laws. As most of you are aware, the big archaeologists of our country are a group of trained scientists who have spent much time and money in fitting themselves for the responsible positions most of them hold today. Therefore, it is only reasonable to suppose that they might, as a body, slightly or otherwise frown upon any group of amateurs who might invade their chosen field, and justly so for in many instances through our entire country much valuable scientific data has been completely destroyed by the so called "pot hunter" or by those worst of all dispoilers, who completely wrecked many mounds and habitations, of our pre-historic dweller purely for obtaining whatever monetary value they could get for whatever artifacts they obtained and sold.

I hereby mention the above facts for the purpose of bringing before our group a very specific point. Namely, we have had rather hard going as far as breaking the ice of recognition is concerned, up to last year, when our president, Dr. Bentzen, at Lincoln, Nebr., last Thanksgiving, delivered before a most august assembly of noted archaeologists a complete report on our diggings in the Big Horns. Since that time we have been in the lime-light, but there is still a specific catch to the problem. I think I have noted a proposed trend of unity between some of the archaeological societies and the historical societies of our own state, so let it be remembered that we as an archaeological group are still a minority group and if we were to unite with any larger group, we would then in all probability be swallowed up by the larger one, and in the end lose our identity or our ability to fight an legislation that may be proposed that would impair our serious effort toward obtaining valuable archaeological data or scientific research work within our state of Wyoming.

This is the note of warning I sound to each and every member of our group. Let us, each and every one, acquaint ourselves with our present archaeological laws, both State and Federal, and then determine whether or not we need legislation. When you do, I think you will find our present laws are adequate in every way with possibly one or two exceptions, and in my opinion the exception would be to further tighten and regulate the taking out of the state of any and all artifacts gathered within our state by out-of-state institutions and individuals, and furthermore, the governing body or representative at least should be one or more of our own group. There is much scientific work to be done here in our state of Wyoming, along archaeological lines, and in all right-thinking, our own Wyoming Archaeological Society group should be the right one to do this job, so let all contribute our bit. Let us not have our group purely a social one. Let us build for a good sound institution of archaeological science.

Written by Fred Hilman

On May 17, a group consisting of Glenn Sweem, Don Grey, Robert Sowada, Ray Bentzen, Louis Allen and daughter Shirley, drove out to Kaufmann cave and spent the day surveying and contouring the contiguous area.

In spite of a high wind and the presence of rattlesnakes, (Jerry Kaufmann killed a big one near the cave that morning, and Shirley nearly stepped on a snake), everyone had an enjoyable time and acquired varying degrees of sunburn. Mr. Allen, who is a professor of engineering and mathematics at NWCC, used the very fine transit and level of the college to implement our work. He regrets that he will be tied up with summer school at Laramie at the time of our excavation.

Don Grey, who is professor of physics and math at NWCC, is a new member of our society, and we are happy to add his talents and enthusiasm to our group.

On the afternoon of May 25, Louis Allen and Ray Bentzen mapped the interior of Kaufmann cave, so now we are ready to proceed with the excavation. This will take place on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, July 4, 5, and 6. All members are welcome to participate for all or any part of this time. A map of the cave location, which was prepared by Don Grey, is attached to this issue. Jeeps or pickup trucks can be driven to the site, but those who drive sedans should not attempt to drive past the third and last gate. It is only a short walk from there. Bring your own sleeping equipment and food, but sleeping on the ground is not advisable because of snakes. A long handled shovel, leather gloves, and a supply of drinking water should be taken along.

Our June meeting was postponed until Sunday, the 15th, so it could be held in the form of an all-day picnic for those who so desired. Tris and Trudy Colket have opened up their beautiful ranch at the mouth of Big Goose Canyon, just below the city water intake, for this meeting. Members may take picnic lunches, go early in the day, hike, explore, etc. At 3 p.m. a regular business meeting will be held, after which the membership will be guests of the Colkets and Mrs. Wolf for refreshments.

Don't forget that all members of our society have been invited by Dr. Mulloy to visit or participate in the University field party excavation at Glendo from June 15 to July 15. Dr. Bentzen, Glenn Sweem, Jr., and Robert Sowada are planning to work the first week with Dr. Mulloy's crew.

Part II

The Wyoming Archaeological Society, which was organized in 1953, has had three presidents. Past presidents were Fred Hilman and Robert Frison, and our present president is Dr. Ray Bentzen. Secretaries were Mrs. Pauline McIntosh Yost, Mrs. Vic Powers, and Mrs. G. L. Nantkes who serves as our present secretary.

Second place in the KWYO "unusual conditions under which KWYO was heard" contest went to Fred Hilman. He related how he heard KWYO while digging for artifacts on the society's dig last summer on Little Bald Mountain - - - thus linking the old with the modern.

OVER THE CAMPFIRE, Continued

Mr. Hilman won an album of phonograph records.

Two new members of our society are Miss Vivienne Hesse of Buffalo and Mrs. Pauline Yost of Ten Sleep, Wyoming.

A group of fifty people from the Beckton area recently visited Mr. and Mrs. Fred Hilman to view their Indian artifacts. They were the children and teachers of Beckton school along with the mothers who accompanied the group. At noon a picnic lunch was eaten on the patio. The teachers of the Beckton school are Mrs. Chester Marquess and Mrs. W. H. Kendall. Others in the group were Mrs. Waldo Leach, Mrs. Don Cox, Mrs. Virgil Nelson, Mrs. William Alderson, Mrs. Sally Forbes, Mrs. Don Davies, Mrs. Robert Tate and Mrs. John Landon.

Now that summer is nigh many an ardent archaeologist will take to the hills to search out artifacts hidden these many years from the eyes of the world. Remember, we are interested in these excursions and would like to hear of them. Send information to Mrs. Zane Hilman, Rt. 1, Sheridan, Wyo. The Smoke Signal is your paper so let us hear from you and the very best of luck to you during your summer outings.

CASA GRANDE MONUMENT

The Casa Grande, which is located two miles north of Coolidge, Ariz., is the name of the ruin of a four-story watchtower-apartment house of which it is the most dominating feature of the group of pueblos which surround it. Casa Grande is 40 feet wide, 60 feet long, forty feet high and it contains 11 rooms in all with the outside walls made of adobe containing calich which are 4 feet thick at the bottom and 18 inches at the top. The Pima Indians who inhabited the place when the Spanish came attributed the building of the pueblos to the Hobokam (the ancient ones) who farmed in the Gila Valley. It was built in the 14th century.

Investigations conducted by J.W. Fewkes of the Smithsonian Institution in 1892, 1906 and 1908, and later studies show that the builders created quite a complex culture. However, they were forced to leave when their irrigation soured the land and also flooded them out.

That's it for this time.

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