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NUMBERS 1 and 2

	Page
WYOMING'S OLDEST DATED SITE	1
THINGS YOU MIGHT NEVER KNOW	1
DUES TIME AGAIN	1
CASPER CHAPTER ELECTS	2
SHERIDAN CHAPTER MEETS	2
THE BARLOW SKULL	2
PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST	3
ANTIQUITIES LEGISLATION PROPOSED	4
OVER THE CAMPFIRE	5

Published monthly by the Wyoming Archaeological Society, Inc., a non-profit group of amateur archaeologists dedicated to the preservation and scientific investigation of Western prehistory.

WYOMING'S OLDEST DATED SITE

The following news release was issued by the University of Wyoming with a January 13 date line.

A new Indian culture identified by a unique percussion-flaked spear point type is currently Wyoming's oldest dated Indian culture.

Located 20 miles north of Guernsey, the Hell Gap culture has been dated at 10,850 years old (8890 B.C.) by the radiocarbon method. The spear point found at Hell Gap is one of the four oldest spear point types associated with paleo-Indians of North America.

Dr. George Agogino, University of Wyoming supply assistant professor of anthropology, says the Hell Gap site appears to be one of the largest early man camp sites ever found, extending in length for over a mile.

It is a quarry site associated with Spanish Diggings, Dr. Agogino says.

Along with the special spear point type, the Hell Gap culture has produced the oldest Indian beads ever found in North America. The beads are of hematite, a form of iron ore.

The Hell Gap spear point, according to Dr. Agogino, was apparently used to hunt an extinct form of bison and the mammoth, an elephant-like animal that died out 10,000 years ago. The University of Wyoming expert places the spear points in age between the Folsom culture points (previously dated by Dr. Agogino and C. V. Haynes at 8820 B.C.) and the older Clovis and Sandia points found in New Mexico and believed to be about 12,000 years old.

The Hell Gap site is currently being excavated under Dr. Agogino's direction. Work is being accomplished by UW anthropology students, supplemented during the summer months by a field crew from the Peabody Museum at Harvard University.

Excavations are entering the third year of work.

In addition to the older Hell Gap culture, the site has produced ancient Indian remains from somewhat more recent cultures including Folsom (approximately 8,000 B.C.), Agate Basin (7,000 B.C.), Scottsbluff (6,000 B.C.), Jimmy Allen (5,000 B.C.) and McKean (3,000 B.C.).

THINGS YOU MIGHT NEVER KNOW

Science News Letter reports that the Yellowstone earthquake of August, 1959, changed the erosional pattern in Biscuit Basin and thereby produced an archaeological find. It seems that the erosion uncovered a deposit of sinter (siliceous geyser deposit) which showed the footprints of a moccasined Indian and those of a buffalo.

DUES TIME AGAIN

State Secretary Bob Brown has asked us to remind you that the deadline for paying dues is March 15. At that time a new tape will be cut for the addressing machine, and those not paid up will be out of luck until reinstated. Pay either directly or through the chapter secretary.

He also reminds us that donations toward the William Mulloy Scholarship Fund are in order.

Under the present constitution all dues moneys will be sent to the state secretary-treasurer. A refund of one dollar for each chapter member will be returned to the chapter secretary. This helps to make sure that the state secretary has a record of all members, and that each paid-up member will have his name on the mailing list for the society publication.

At the end of 1960, the state treasury had a balance of \$167.39. Most of this, and a good deal more as well, will be used for printing costs on the forthcoming memoir. Some of it will be used for publication of the monthly Archaeologist until 1961 dues are paid.

CASPER CHAPTER ELECTS

New officers for the Casper chapter are:

President: Al Singleton
Vice-President: Wally Alford
Secretary-treasurer: Bob Brown
Directors: Mrs. Juanita Hinthorn, and Richard Ecklund

The Casper chapter's December meeting was held at Casper College and was attended by 24 members and 4 guests. The guest speaker was Mr. John Sargent of Sargent Geochemical Company and his subject was "The Viking Influence on the Indians of the New England Area."

SHERIDAN CHAPTER MEETS

New officers for the Sheridan chapter are:

President: Margaret Powers
Vice-President: Louis Allen
Secretary-Treasurer: Hila Gilbert
Directors: Bud Campbell, and Byron Elmgren

Several committees were appointed by the new president, and those are as follows:

Banquet: Elaine Hilman
Historian: Alice Hilman
Program: The Buffalo members
Historical Committee: Glenn Sweem, Tris Colket, Thelma Condit
Committee on Legislation: Dr. Ray Bentzen, Bud Campbell,
Hans Kleiber
Trustees: Don Grey, Byron Elmgren
Fund-Raising: Dr. Dawson, Frances Nantkes, Goodwin
Librarian: Suzanne Dumont

THE BARLOW SKULL

Glenn Sweem conducted some detective work to run down an interesting rumor which he heard some weeks ago. The rumor was that a fossil human skull had been found by a construction crew in Idaho. Glenn hoped that this might be a break in the search for ancient man in North America and started out to run down the rumor. After a good deal of searching, and following the numerous transfers of the skull, Glenn found it in the

collection of a Mr. Barlow of Gillette.

The skull is not fossilized, and does not appear to be ancient, but does exhibit several interesting features. First, the skull has a very high frontal section, with a pronounced saggital ridge. The occipital and basal portions are missing, and there remained a great deal of dirt in many of the openings of the skull. The whole thing had been given a heavy coating of shellac or varnish which had to be removed in order to properly clean and observe the features.

Some reconstruction will have to be done in order to properly study the skull, but several observations can be made at present. First the skull is that of a female, probably, and a rather old one. Complete synostosis of all cranial sutures indicates an age of perhaps 60. Most of the molars and pre-molars are missing, having been lost ante-mortem. Considerable wear is present on those remaining, although not to the extent often present in Indians using ground meal.

Most interesting feature of the skull is the enormous frontal height. The bregma is also characterized by a protuberance of about 3/4 inch diameter. This may have resulted from a pathological condition at an early age. The skull appears to have been deformed in infancy perhaps, although there is some doubt as to the method employed. There are no flat areas which would indicate pressure from a cradle board or other flat device. The vertical elongation may have been due to some sort of circumferential binding, but it is difficult to see how this was effected.

The skull in its present form is clearly brachycephalic, although a specific measurement of this must await reconstruction of the occipital portion. The orbits are relatively high in appearance, and the nasal aperture is long and narrow.

Pathological conditions include the protuberance at the bregma, an apparent abscess in the region of the spheno-parietal suture, and two small ridge-like exostoses in the left ear canal. The skull is perforated by two small holes in the region of the abscess, and it is quite possible that this infection might have been the cause of death. The principal portion of the abscess is internal, and is only noticed by the two small holes from an external view.

When further measurements and observations have been made on the skull, the results will be reported.

The dirt from the skull is ashy, and contains specks of charcoal. It is possible that the individual may have been buried in a refuse midden, not uncommon practice, although such methods are usually only employed near long-term dwellings. If the site can be located, it might prove interesting indeed. It is tragic that some sort of salvage program did not exist that might have provided for a complete investigation of the discovery before it became impossible.

PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST

The best dollar's worth of archaeological publication available, in your editor's opinion, is called KATUNOB. While this mimeographed publication deals with primarily central American archaeology, it is of interest to all persons concerned with American archaeology. The

dollar brings a year's subscription. The publication is issued on a quarterly basis, and the last issue contained some 82 pages of tightly packed information. The publication is obtained by sending a dollar to Dr. George E. Fay, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Southern State College, Magnolia, Arkansas. Tell 'em we sent you.

Another publication now on the market is the slick paper SCIENCE OF MAN. This seems at present to be a mixed blessing to the serious archaeologist, amateur or professional. The magazine is a sister to some of the rockhound magazines, and may lean a little too much toward collecting rather than archaeology. Some good articles and some not-so-good in the first two numbers indicate that judgment should be reserved until the magazine is fairly under way. Dr. Agogino is Paleo-Indian advisor to the editorial staff, and has a very interesting article on Lindenmeir dating and general Paleo-Indian background. The second issue was an improvement over the first, and it is hoped that the magazine will continue toward a real asset to amateur and professional archaeology.

ANTIQUITIES LEGISLATION PROPOSED

Through the joint auspices of the Wyoming Historical Society, Wyoming State Archives and Historical Board, and the Archaeological Society, some amendments are being proposed in regard to Wyoming's inadequate legislation for the preservation of antiquities.

In broad outline, the proposed legislation provides for the creation of an Archaeological Board, composed of representatives of the University of Wyoming, the State Archives and Historical Board, the Board of Land Commissioners, and such other members as may be deemed necessary. The board shall function to control the issuance of permits for the investigation of natural scientific resources of the state, including paleontological, archaeological, historical or other materials.

Certain specific provisions are spelled out, namely, that the investigators must prove their qualifications in the science involved, that reports of all investigations must be published, that all investigations must be undertaken in the proper manner, and that copies of all published materials shall be furnished to the University library and the Archives and Historical Board.

Certain misdemeanors are defined, and punishments set forth. Among the misdemeanors mentioned specifically are the defacement, or removal, of pictographs or petroglyphs, the excavation of historical or prehistorical deposits without permit, the sale or display of improperly defined or described, or counterfeit, artifacts, and the misrepresentation of information recovered during an investigation.

The collecting of artifacts from the surface is specifically excluded from licensing or regulation. Only the disturbance of scientifically meaningful materials is regulated.

The bill also provides that the board shall have the power to enter into agreements with the highway department or other construction agency for archaeological salvage operations on sites that are endangered by construction.

It is hoped that Wyoming will become one of the first three states to have a really comprehensive and meaningful set of antiquities laws. Most other antiquities laws are aimed primarily at assuring the state a share of the loot from pothunting enterprises, and completely miss the importance of the information from the site. It is hoped that Wyoming will be among the leaders in the drive for the protection of its vast scientific resources. It has been abundantly proven in the last two years that Wyoming has archaeological resources in great abundance, and it felt that these belong rightfully to all men, rather than existing for the benefit of a few. To that end, the proposed legislation will assure recovery of the resources in the most meaningful possible manner, and will assure that the results are made public property, for the benefit of all.

OVER THE CAMPFIRE

The state board meeting has been tentatively set for February 11 at Thermopolis. It was felt that Thermopolis would be more convenient for the new Cody chapter than either Sheridan or Casper. The first state meeting was held at Buffalo as an aid to Sheridan, and the second was held at Casper. It was felt that the third should be held in a place more convenient for Cody.

It has become apparent that the operation on a state-wide basis has need for improvement, and for more precise delineation of operating methods. Perhaps the coming meeting will serve to iron out some of the liaison problems, and to clarify the way in which some aspects of administration of the society will be handled.

Let's all pull together for the best interests of archaeology and get ready for a productive and informative 1961 season. There's no problem confronting us that a little cooperation and earnest effort won't resolve.

EMBERS OUT