

THE

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Kaufmann Cave

The Wyoming Archaeological Society conducted a very interesting and successful excavation of a cave over the 4th of July weekend. The cave is located on the Fred Kaufmann ranch between Ucross and Ulm, about 30 miles southeast of Sheridan. A pertinent feature of the cave was the presence in the middle of the floor of a large rock weighing many tons which had fallen from the ceiling. It was thought that any ancient culture which may have existed before the rock fell would be preserved intact because of the inability of vandals or relic hunters to dig beneath the huge stone. Such proved to be the case, and the archaeologists were able to redeem cultural materials left by the people who used the cave as a shelter in prehistoric times.

A large assortment of bones was uncovered including many species of birds, rodents, carnivores and game animals up to a large variety of bison. Several types of fossils were unearthed. One adult and two deciduous human teeth were recovered. Eight projectile points were screened out including typical examples of Allen and Pinto Basin styles which are credited with an age of 8,000 years. About fifteen firepits were excavated and recorded with samples taken of charcoal for possible future dating by the radio-active carbon 14 method. Pending future study of the recovered materials, it is thought that this cave has probably served as a shelter for many different peoples of prehistoric eras.

Our president, Dr. Ray Bentzen, was in charge of arrangements for the project. Don Grey served as foreman of excavation, assisted by Glenn Sweem. Louis Allen, Jr., supervised the contour mapping at an earlier

date. Other members who participated were Albert and Suzanne Dumont, Eileen, Herman and Mary Kusel, and David Scrutchfield of Sheridan; Mr. & Mrs. William Sands and Robert Frison of Buffalo; Joe Medicine Crow of Lodge Grass, Montana; Mrs. Helen Worden of Clearmont; Mr. & Mrs. Fred Hilman, Margaret Powers, Clara White and Irene Custis of Big Horn; and Louis LaToush and Hans Kleiber of Dayton. A number of visitors and guests also attended.

During the week of June 15-22, Glenn Sweem and son, Glenn Jr., Robert Sowada and Dr. Bentzen worked with the University of Wyoming Archaeological field crew under Dr. Mulloy at a site east of Glendo Reservoir doing excavations under the salvage program of the National Park Service. The fast-rising waters of the reservoir inundated some of the exploratory trenches by the end of the first week. Dr. Mulloy has done and is doing a fine piece of work in the archaeology of Wyoming, and we are fortunate in having him on the staff of our state university and as a member of our society. Another of our members, Louis Steege, archaeologist of the State Historical Society, whom many of our members heard when he spoke to us at a meeting last winter, is working the entire month with Dr. Mulloy's party at Glendo. He is anxious to work with us on the Medicine Wheel in August if he can get some more time off from his railway mail service job. We hope you make it, Lou.

We wish to welcome two new members into our organization: Anita Webb Deininger of Buffalo, and Mrs. D. P. B. Marshall of Sheridan. Your president would like to urge all members, especially those from the far corners of the state and the smaller out-lying communities, to be on the lookout for new members. We want people who are genuinely interested in archaeology, and age is no barrier. It is neither necessary to live

near enough to be able to attend meetings nor to have the physical stamina to be able to participate in a "dig". Contributing members are important in most organizations, and we can use a lot of them. Since our official organ, "The Smoke Signal", was brought into being, all of our members will be able to keep informed about our activities. If the mailing address on this copy is incorrect, please write your correct address on a postcard and mail it to our secretary, Frances Nantkes, 658 Monte Vista, Sheridan, Wyo.

All members of our society are invited to attend the annual state meeting of the Wyoming Gem and Mineral Society which will be held August 1-3 in Sheridan at the Exhibit Hall in the Fair Grounds. One of our members, Charles Comer, is president both of the Sheridan and of the state gem society, and he has invited any of our members who wish to exhibit their artifact collections at this meeting. He has assured us that a guard will be present day and night to protect all collections on exhibition. Let us help Charlie to have an interesting show and at the same time get some free advertising for our society.

August 2 to 16 are the dates for our big project of 1958, the mapping and study of the famous Medicine Wheel. To those of you who participated in the Little Bald Mountain dig last year, you know what to bring, wear, etc. The elevation is nearly 10,000 feet, so the air is cool in the daytime and may be cold at night. To reach the site, drive on U. S. 14 from Dayton to Burgess Junction on top of the mountain, then continue west on WYOMING 14 about 23 miles to the Medicine Wheel Road which turns off to the north. It is about $3\frac{1}{2}$ miles from the turn-off to the wheel. From the west side of the Big Horns, drive thru Lovell on WYOMING 14 to the top of the mountain. The Medicine Wheel road turns

off at the crest of the divide. Bring your own camping equipment and food, and stay as long as you wish, from a day to the two weeks. We shall try to have something for everyone to do. This will be primarily a mapping and contouring job, but we expect to do some exploratory digging and screening, so bring a shovel. Be sure to keep a clean camp and refrain from throwing out litter. One of the families who spent part of a day at the Kaufmann Cave left behind litter from their lunch which drew criticism from the ranch owner, and Glenn Sweem very kindly took his shovel and buried the litter. DON'T BE A LITTERBUG!

We'll see you at the Medicine Wheel.

July, 1958

EMBERS OUT.