

The preliminary report of our first official "dig", The Little Bald Mountain Site, will be published in full in the April issue of the Annals of the Wyoming State Historical Society through the request of Lola Homsher, archivist of the state museum, and Louis Steege, archaeologist of the historical society. This is a quarterly publication with a circulation which takes it to every state in the union as well as nine foreign countries, so our society will be well-publicized.

We regret that two of our members have had to endure sessions in the hospital recently, Jack Kerns and Louis LaToush, and we trust that their health will be much improved.

A new cave site with great possibilities has been made available to our society. It is a plains location close to Sheridan, and can easily be lined up for a 4th of July week-end expedition. More of this later.

Your president has been busy giving lectures about our society and last summer's dig. Among the groups entertained the past few weeks are the Izaak Walton League, Sheridan Lions Club, Story Lions Club, and Sheridan High School assembly. This totals about 1000 people. It seems that everyone is interested in our work, and our membership is steadily increasing.

We have received a request from the State Historical department to put them on our mailing list for our Society Publication, The Smoke Signal. It will be placed in the permanent files of the archives.

We wish to welcome the following new members who have joined us since the last issue: Dr. William Schunk, Mr. Harold Newton, Mrs. Wailes Wolfe, Bud Campbell, Dr. Richard McClain, Mr. George Roe, Mr. Charles Comer, Billy Moore, Mr. Albert Dumont, Susanne Dumont, Mrs. Alice Stolcis, Ronald Stolcis, David Scrutchfield, and Mike Montgomery.

A trip is a good time for anyone interested in archaeology to find out about and see the different cultures of the many tribes of Indians who once inhabited the land. The country is dotted with ruins of which many are run by the National Park Service. At these ruins, for a fee of 25 cents, a person (children under 12 admitted free) tourists receive a lecture or a tour by a park officer, receive free booklets, are allowed to take pictures or can buy slides, and have access to a modern free museum. In addition any questions will be answered, drinking fountains give out ice-cold water, and clean rest rooms are available.

On our trip we visited Casa Grande, Montezuma's castle, Montezuma's well, Walnut Canyon, and the Petrified Forest, all a short distance from one another in Arizona. We planned on visiting more but the weather was so bad we had to give it up. One ruin we especially enjoyed was Walnut Canyon, only twelve miles from Flagstaff, Arizona, but neglected by most tourists for the magnificent Grand Canyon.

Walnut Canyon, which is 400 feet deep, was selected by the Indians for the natural caves half-way down the walls, and for the permanent stream which existed at the bottom of the canyon. Too, there was tillable land beyond the canyon rim, where crops would mature without irrigation for the annual precipitation is about 20 inches. It is estimated that approximately 600 people lived here at one time.

Once an Indian family had selected a cave they had to do very little to enlarge it. Most of the cliff cavities are shallow and extend back into the cliff no more than 10 to 12 feet. The cliff dwellers closed these cavities with masonry walls and partitioned off the rooms. Walls were constructed from chunks of limestone laid up to form a double wall with the straight faces turned to the outside and the center filled with rubble. They used clay mixed with water to produce a satisfactory mortar and plaster. The floors were made from hard-packed clay and used in sufficient quantity to produce a fairly level surface. Some rooms examined were found to have as many as 10 thin layers, none of which exceeded three-eighths of an inch in thickness. Little wood was used in construction. There were pole lintels over the doors, and apparently a few pegs set into the walls for supporting garments or other paraphernalia.

These Indians are thought to be Pueblo Indians. Archeologists designate them as Sinagua (see-NAH-wah) and place them in a period which marked the zenith of the prehistoric Pueblo culture. They probably abandoned Walnut Canyon on account of drouth, enemy raids, and disease. The most probable cause was drouth as they found it necessary to augment their water supply by making earthen dams along the lower sides of natural pools. These people, however, are not entirely a vanished race as they are believed to be the ancestors of the Hopi and various things support this theory.

If you are ever in the vicinity try to see this ruin. You should enjoy it.

"We Found the Lost City," by Dr. James B. Pritchard, "the discoverer of fabulous Gibeon, ancient city of Solomon's dream and Josha's wrath," tells of his search and adventures in the February 8 issue of the Saturday Evening Post. This is both exciting and interesting reading which everyone should enjoy--even non-archaeologists.

The Saturday Evening Post had the following amusing item on Dr. Pritchard:

"When Dr. James Pritchard, the archaeologist of page 40, flies to the Holy Land, he carries so many cameras, films, tripods, filters, and whatnots that he has no room for clothes except those on his back. This worries his wife, but not him. He buys some work clothes in Jerusalem, lives in them ten weeks, and gives them to the Arabs. Doctor Pritchard, whose new book, ARCHAEOLOGY AND THE NEW TESTAMENT, will be published by Princeton University Press in the fall, doubted that the post would buy his article and told his wife unconfidently, "If they do, you can buy a Volkswagen." Mrs. P. named it "Postwagon."

This is the time of year when we all take to the hills. Let us respect the owner's property and do not trespass without first asking permission. Good Luck!

Remember anyone who has contributions to this publication, please send them in to Mrs. Zane Hilman.

Embers out.