

THE SMOKE SIGNAL

With Elaine being tied down cooking for a haying crew, your old prexy volunteered to get out this edition of the Signal, so please blame all mistakes in typing and editing on the old man.

The Medicine Wheel

The Wyoming Archaeological Society tackled a big job when it conducted and completed the field work, August 2 - 12, on the mapping and exploratory investigation of the Medicine Wheel in the northwest corner of the Big Horn National Forest. This ancient stone structure, which the oldest of present day Indians say was here before their people came, has baffled historians and visiting archaeologists alike. Because of much hard work on the part of a few of our members, we expect to bring forth a most complete set of detailed maps of the Wheel and its environs together with a report of the type of people who visited the Wheel, and----(hold everything) possibly the date at which the Wheel was built. During our excavations, in which we were very careful not to disturb any stones of the Wheel itself, we recovered some 80 stone artifacts, a number of large beads, a dozen potsherds, and bones and teeth of bison. One good sample of charcoal from a firepit and some sections of wood which were integrated with the lower stones of one of the cairns may prove to be valuable in pinning a date on the structure. Much work remains to be done in the laboratory with the recovered materials and on the drawing boards before our report will be complete and ready for publication, but I am sure that the finished work will justify the time and effort spent and that our society will receive proper acclaim for its contribution to the science of archaeology.

Member participation in the field work at the Medicine Wheel:

Ray Bentsen	15 days
Don Grey	11 days
Mr. and Mrs. Clifton Woods	3 days
Mr. and Mrs. Fred Hilman	3 days
Margaret Powers	3 days
Mr. and Mrs. Hans Kleiber	2 days
Mr. and Mrs. Louis LaToush	1 day
Mrs. Helen Worden	1 day
Glean Sween	1 day
Jay Nugent	1 day
Mr. and Mrs. Tris Colket	$\frac{1}{2}$ day

A number of friends who are not members of our society also assisted in the field work, including Harold Richardson and son, Mrs. Hayes (?), Byron Elmgren, Elizabeth Carlson, Marlin Sene, Bill Emery, Jon Brooker, and Mr. and Mrs. Mygatt. A great many visitors from all over the U. S., and Canada were able to view our work because of the new road which was finished to the site during the first week of our project. Visitors averaged about 100 per day.

OVER THE CAMPFIRE

We wish to welcome new members; W. C. Lawrence of Moran, and Wendell R. Smith of Casper.

Glenn Sweem and Don Gray have been doing quite a bit of exploring in the field this summer and have come up with a new and very excellent idea which it would be well for other members to follow. Briefly, here is how it works: They either locate a site or investigate a site which someone has told them about. Then they type a preliminary report about the location and surface features of the site including (1) date, (2) subject, (3) history, (4) location, (5) topography, (6) description, (7) work done, and (8) suggested work, including an estimate of man-hours needed. They have turned in five of these reports to date. These will be kept on file in our society library for future reference. If other of our members would do likewise, we would soon have a fine reference library of all types of sites from which we could choose the ones most desirable for society investigation projects.

Our thanks to Mr. and Mrs. Hans Kleiber for their kindness in hosting our society for the September meeting at their home in Dayton on Labor Day.

Your president recently sold his world-record elk head to the new Jackson Museum and personally delivered the trophy on August 23rd. This museum is privately owned by two men, Homer Richards and W. C. Lawrence, of whom Mr. Lawrence is a member of our society and a long-time friend of mine. He has a fabulous collection of Indian stone artifacts which is now on permanent display in the museum and I recommend a visit to the museum as a "must" for any of our members who journey to Jackson. While there, I also had the pleasure of renewing acquaintance with Charles and Otto Nelson, two of our members who worked on the Little Bald site a year ago.

We have recently received a report on the identification of the bones from the Little Bald Mountain site, which was kindly prepared by Dr. Paul McGrew of the University of Wyoming. This will complete our report which will soon be sent to the publishers.

The next regular meeting will be held on October 6th in the Hospitality Room of the Bank of Commerce.

Sept. 1, 1958

EMBERS OUT