Z. J. Nantkes

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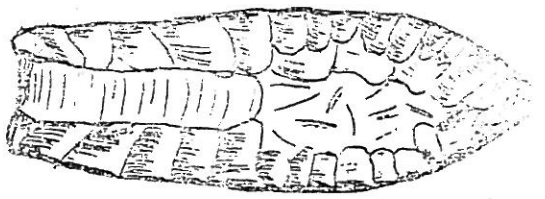

CLOVIS POINT

SANTANDER BULL

The SMOKE SIGNAL is published monthly by the Wyoming Archaeological Society, a member of the Society for American Archaeology. Membership dues are $2.50 annually including subscription to the SMOKE SIGNAL. Subscription without membership is $1.00 annually.

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There are active chapters of the Wyoming Archaeological Society at Sheridan, Wyoming and Casper, Wyoming. Prospective members in the Casper area should contact: Chairman, Albert E. Singleton, Box 1769, Casper, Wyoming.

The U. S. Corps of Engineers in 1949-1951 excavated a large borrow pit near the construction site of the Lewisville Dam, near Lewisville, Texas, in order to obtain gravel for their work. Theodore White, making paleontological collections for the River Basin Surveys, first observed signs of human inhabitation.

The borrow pit was dug some twenty feet below the surface of one of the many terraces of the Trinity River Valley. The removal of the surface materials exposed the deposits to erosion, and various hearth sites were thus exposed. These were subsequently excavated by the Dallas Archaeological Society. Some 21 hearths were located and excavated over a period of five years from 1952 to 1957. The hearths ranged from 30 inches in diameter and 8 inches deep to 8 feet in diameter and 2 feet deep. The hearths were plainly visible as red-baked areas in a yellow sandy clay.

Hearth number 1 yielded a Clovis type projectile point and a small quantity of datable carbon. Large quantities and many varieties of bone were found in the area, including extinct horse, camel, and mammoth. Hearth 8 yielded a greater amount of datable carbon than Hearth 1. Beside the partially fluted Clovis point, a chopper, hammerstone, scraper, and a few flakes made up the artifact finds.

The site is about 600 feet square, and lies on one of 6 terraces of the Trinity River Valley. These terraces are believed to have been formed during the pluvial periods of the Pleistocene or Ice Age. The site is on T-2, the second terrace from the present flood plain of the river. This indicates that at least one major ice advance occurred after the occupation of the site. All the geological and paleontological evidence indicates a date of origin in the Pleistocene.

When the first sample of carbon was submitted for dating, its age proved to be beyond the capacity of the instrument, which was 37,000 years. Thus the age was reported as greater than that figure. This caused some doubt among the investigators, but when the second sample was submitted and a similar figure obtained, the date was regarded as significant.

The site is related to three other sites in the same valley. About 25 miles downstream, a partial, highly mineralized human skeleton was found by Ellis W. Shuler in 1920, in a sandpit dated geologically to be equivalent to the same river terrace as the Lewisville site. The correllation is further helped by the occurrence of similar animal fossils in the stratum.

Another site is the Pemberton Hill gravel pit, also on the Trinity River. Here, animal bones of extinct species were found along with two artifacts and three flakes. One of the artifacts bears a resemblance to the Clovis form. Upstream from Lewisville is the third site--Hickory Creek, also a gravel pit. Here two flint flakes, plus some burned bone fragments and again an identical geological and paleontological pattern indicated man was there in the Pleistocene.

No other sites have yielded dates for Clovis man, although other sites have shown him to precede Folsom man by some time. The conclusion is that man was probably in Texas as long ago as 37,000 years B.P. It seems that he must have come across the Bering Straits before the last pluvial period. It may well be that Clovis man was the first migrant from the Old World.

The Lewisville site points out clearly the need for the use of geological information in interpreting early sites. Geology, paleontology and archaeology must go hand-in-hand when the early sites of man are investigated.

Sinanthropus pekinensis is still missing. Among the earliest men known, Peking Man was lost during World War II. Discovered in 1928, after a dramatic search prompted by some large human-like teeth in a Chinese apothecary's window, Peking man was exhumed from a limestone cave at Choukoutien, China, over a period of 9 years. All told, some 38 individuals are represented by bone fragments, including braincases, jaws, teeth, and some limb bones. Found with the bones were some stone artifacts, mostly of quartz.

The cave deposits in which Sinanthropus was found are believed to date from the Middle Pleistocene, and are given an age of about 300,000 years. It is evident that Peking Man is a valuable link in man's development.

When the Japanese forces entered north China in 1937, the remains were stored at the Peking Union Medical College, an American institution, and were thus preserved for a time. In 1941, the remains were to be shipped to the United States for safekeeping until after the war. Three cases, containing Peking Man and all the associated artifacts were loaded on the American liner President Harrison at Chinwangtao along with a unit of U. S. Marines. On December 8, 1941, the ship was run aground near Shanghai, and the Marines were captured, along the three cases of Sinanthropus. From there on, nothing certain is known about Peking Man.

Sinanthropus may be at the bottom of the Yangtze River. Perhaps he was destroyed, or perhaps he is stored in some dusty corner awaiting rediscovery. Some remains from the upper levels of the same cave, and younger than Sinanthropus, were found at Tokyo University. These were not part of the same shipment.

Excellent plaster casts of all the specimens are in existence, and can be studied, but are not as satisfactory as the originals, of course. The only hope at present is to some day resume work at Choukoutien and recover more specimens. Fortunately, the cave was not exhausted by the previous work. As long as the Reds are in charge of China, it does not seem likely that the West will hear much of Sinanthropus.

SOME FORTUNATE ACCIDENTS IN ARCHAEOLOGY

In September, 1940, five boys and a small dog were rabbit hunting near Montignac in southern France. One of the boys noticed that the little dog was not in sight and called him. The dog answered, but the boy couldn't see him--the barking appeared to be coming from under the ground. After some searching, the boys found where a tree had fallen and its roots had torn a large hole in the ground. In one side of the hole was a small opening. The boys enlarged this and crawled some 25 feet down into a large cave. Upon lighting some matches, the boys discovered paintings of deer, horses, and bulls.

An archaeologist in the area later visited the site, and then closed it up for protection until the occupation was over. After France was free again, investigation revealed the paintings to be probably 20,000 years old, certainly one of the oldest art galleries in existence.

The famous cave paintings of Santander, Spain, were discovered by a little girl seeking adventure. It is not likely that any adult would have crawled through the very small opening and discovered the painting of the bulls.

In 1947, an Arab shepherd boy, tired of herding his goats, was passing time by throwing rocks at windworn holes in the cliffs near the Dead Sea in Jordan. One of the rocks passed into a small cave, and there followed the sound of crashing pottery. The boy investigated and found a number of tall jars. He brought back an older friend later and they investigated further. They were disappointed when the the jars proved to contain rolled-up scraps of brittle leather instead of treasure. Biblical scholars were much more impressed by the Dead Sea Scrolls, however. They were mostly books of the Old Testament which dated almost a thousand years before any previously known versions, and are adding a great deal to our knowledge of the Bible and the people of whom it speaks.

STAR-DUST DATING ?

Don Grey has been corresponding with Dr. Crozier of the New Mexico Institute of Mining and Technology about some of Dr. Crozier's work in micrometeorite research. This research has revealed that definite quantities of tiny meteoritic dust are falling on the earth from space. Probably several hundred thousand tons of material fall annually. Some of the particles are magnetic and can be separated from ordinary dust by that fact and by virtue of their nearly perfect spherical shape. It is possible that there may be an annual fluctuation in the rate of fall, and also that there are periodic showers of particles over periods of several weeks. It was this variation that led Don to suggest that the concentration of micrometeorites in soil strata might be a guide to dating the layers. Dr. Crozier feels the idea may have some merit, but points out that a great deal of research needs to be done before the possibilities can be assessed.

MONTANA ORGANIZES SOCIETY

The Montana Archaeological Society has been organized, and Glenn Sweem has been corresponding with their president by way of offering our assistance and best wishes. They plan to publish a quarterly newsletter, and our organization will swap publications with them. We think that a mutually beneficial relationship is established. Their new officers are:

President, Francis L. Niven, Blackmore Apartments, Bozeman, Montana;
Vice-President, Albert J. Tartoll, Missoula, Montana;
Secretary-treasurer, Marion Stevens, 412 S. 9th, Bozeman, Montana; and
Editor, Dr. Dee C. Taylor, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Montana State University, Bozeman, Montana.

MISSOURI ORGANIZATION RECEIVES GIFT OF LAND

In a recent letter from Henry W. Hamilton, president of the Missouri Archaeological Society, he tells of a generous donor who deeded 41 acres to Van Meter State Park near Marshall, which is to be used for archaeological research and teaching. It has a house and barn and three ancient sites. It will be used for a summer field camp for students, and is also adjacent to a Hopewell fortification and the Missouri village. We congratulate the Missouri society on its good fortune.

Plants Used by Prehistoric Peoples, Part 2

In continuing the discussion of plant useage among the early Indian inhabitants of the New World we need to be reminded that the contemporary Indian, like ourserves, has succumbed to modernization and, has, for the most part, abandoned the 'primitive' useage of plants. Yet, in the modern scene, we still find some present day tribes using flora in much the same manner as did their early progenitors.

The conifers or narrow-leaved evergreens are used in a variety of ways by the various tribes. The common junipers (Juniperus scopulorum:of the rocks, and J. monosperma: one-seeded)have various uses. Appendix, The Old North Trail, 1910, by Walter McClintok lists juniper in the Materia Medica of the Blackfoot. It is given the name Six-In-Oko and its berries were made into a tea to stop vomiting.

This writer has a vivid rememberance of the pungent juniper smoke that hung like fragrant incense over the crowd of Navajos that had come for miles by car, pickup, or horse-drawn wagons to attend a 'yea-bŭ-chā'sing. These sings which last for several days are performed for the purpose of curing sickness. All cooking by the attending Navajos was done over small open fires of pinŏn and juniper and were maintained during the night-time hours of the sing to keep the lounging observers warm. Smoke from these fires mingled with the fat of frying mutton provides a redolent odor that persists in one's clothing for several days. Besides it use in campfires during the sing, the juniper is frequently used for decorating the customes of the dancers.

Various parts of the juniper such as bark, root, or leaves is mixed with wild alum to prepare the dyes that are used in producing the splendid examples of vegetable-dyed Navajo rugs. The soft, warm colors of these rugs lack the harshness that is so often seen in the cheaper analine-dyed products that seem to be on permanent display along U.S. Highway 66.

The Pueblos make use of juniper largely for firewood but find other uses for it, too. At the Rio Grande pueblo of Santa Clara, juniper is used in a variety of ways. ~~Leaves are used by women the third day following childbirth. The leaves are boiled in water and the decoction set beside the patient. She bathes herself with the decoction and also drinks a small quantity of it.~~ Juniper gum is used for filling decayed teeth. The berries are eaten by children and young people. Berries, as well as a brew of them, are considered an effective remedy for internal chill because they are 'hot'. They are said to be an effective diuretic.

~~At San Ildefonso, another of the river pueblos, the juniper is used after childbirth much in the same manner as at Santa Clara.~~ Its leaves are used for medicine while berries are eaten but not taken as medicine. Jemez and Cochiti Indians use the berries either fresh or cooked. The Acoma and Lagunas mix the berries with meat and roast it. This practice is quite generally used in seasoning meat. Juniper branches are used in some Pueblo ceremonies and dances.

Another conifer that finds widespread use in Indian economy is the pinŏn (Pinus edulis) or nut pine. This small pine is extensively used for fire wood. It is the commonest tree of the lower mesas and is one of the characteristic plants of the Upper Sonoran life zone where it is found in association with juniper and dwarf oak. After corn harvest the Pueblo people spend several days gathering nuts in the mountains. The Navajos bring them for sale to the Pueblos and the Indian traders also sell them. Gallup, New Mexico, is the center for the export of pinŏn nuts from the reservation. We are familiar with beet harvest vacations in Wyoming schools and can find their counterpart in the exodus of pupils from the day-schools on the Navajo reservation come pinŏn harvest in the fall. The sale of pinŏn nuts contributes to the economy of many Navajo families.

Glenn Sweem, Don Grey, Ray Bentzen and Al Dumont drove to Casper on March 7th and conducted a get-acquainted meeting with a group of prospective archaeologists. As a result of that meeting along with a second meeting the following week which the Casper folks had, our society now has 36 new members and a new chapter is being organized in the Oil City. We provided them with a copy of our flag which Mrs. Clifton Woods had so graciously made for us, and also gave each new member a fresh copy of our constitution and by-laws. We predict an active chapter and much development in archaeology in central Wyoming. It is hoped that we can operated a dig early this spring at some point between here and Casper which will serve as a get-together and perhaps as a means of illustrating excavation procedures. A list of Casper members is appended to this issue of the Smoke Signal.

MEDICINE WHEEL REPORT PUBLISHED

Through the kindness of Lou Steege and Lola M. Homsher, director of the Wyoming State Archives and Historical Department, an illustrated report of our Medicine Wheel project will be published in the April issue of the Annals of the Wyoming State Historical Society which publication has a wide circulation in every state in the Union and 9 foreign countries. Our pride is showing.

ERRATUM

We regret that we allowed a bad error to pass unnoticed in the printing of the excellent article by Lou Steege in the last issue. The last line of the next-to-last paragraph on page 2 should read, "Since they do occur in the same levels, ----." The artifacts do occur in the same levels. We tender our apologies to Lou for inserting the error. If he will send us another article, we'll try to do better.

OVER THE CAMPFIRE

The March 13 news release from the University of Wyoming gives official announcement of the granting of a leave of absence to Dr. William Mulloy so that he may continue his archaeological research on Easter Island and teach at the University of Chile from July 1959 to January 1961, after which he will spend 6 months preparing his findings for publication. It is understood that his leave includes a clause that he must return to the University of Wyoming for as long a time as his absence, so we haven't lost him permanently. We're happy for Bill because we know how much he is looking forward to this trip, but we'll miss him while he's gone.

The Smoke Signal is now being mailed regularly to the library of the Northern Wyoming Community College (now Sheridan College) and to the Wyoming State Archives where it is microfilmed for permanent record.

Members who have not paid their 1959 dues should do so at once, because this is the last issue of the Smoke Signal that will be mailed out to members who are not paid up. Any members not paid up by April 15th will be dropped from the rolls.

EMBERS OUT

MEMBERSHIP OF THE CASPER CHAPTER

Alford, Wally	2954 Imperial Place	Casper
Bain, Jim	2429 S. Coffman	Casper
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Behmer, Mrs. Leo	733 St. John	Casper
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Briggs, Mrs. George L.	Box 1843	Casper
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Carpenter, Mrs. Bob	1858 Wilshire	Casper
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Culver, Mrs. Pat	743 E. 5th	Casper
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DeLong, Jack M.	246 S. Nebraska	Casper
Eklund, Richard A.	Box 1787	Casper
Foster, Martha	Box 757	Casper
Goedicke, Miss Jean	242 Lark	Casper
Gunn, Mrs. Sidna L.	1044 S. Walnut	Casper
Henthorn, Mrs. Jerald	1131 S. Oak	Casper
Hodges, Harold E.	2646 E. 10th	Casper
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Netterstrom, Paul	Box 2027	Casper
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Potmesil, Miss Cleo	134 N. Jackson	Casper
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Shippen, Mrs. Pauline	213 Crescent Drive	Casper
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