You are probably aware that this is not September! When ARCH NOTES 72-5 was printed, we did not plan on publishing another issue during the summer. However, here we are - so read and enjoy!

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APPOINTED POSITIONS

Editor - ARCH NOTES
Mr. J. Reid,
66 Roe Av.,
Toronto 320, Ont.

Editor - ONTARIO ARCHAEOLOGY
Dr. W. M. Hurley,
Department of Anthropology,
University of Toronto.

Librarian: Mrs. B. Gummow,
121 Sheppard Ave.,
Pickering, Ont.
The O. A. S. field activities during June and early July have continued to gather momentum and go well, thanks to our field crew, supervisors, member volunteers and well-wishers. As noted elsewhere in this issue, salvage excavation at the MacLeod Site extended from 23 May to 27 June 1972. The high point of human brain and brawn effort was reached on Saturday 17 June, when over 75 excavators moved great quantities of tough sod plant growth in exposing clusters and long rows of post moulds.

The O. A. S. is particularly grateful to Dr. Wm. Taylor and Mr. Jim Pendergast, of the National Museum of Man, Ottawa, for their interest and active assistance; to Dr. Wm. Noble, of McMaster University and his six seasoned field crew members; to members of the Ottawa Chapter of the O. A. S.; to the Peel High School, and other groups; and to all who aided in the day's work. Press visitors to the site included representatives from CFTO-TV, the Oshawa Times, and the Oshawa This Week, all of whom contributed time and space in their media. The evening social activities were sparked by Dr. Norman Emerson and his guitar renderings. Even the Northern Lights put on an unparalleled display above us. All in all, it was a good gathering.

On the organizational side, I am happy to report that contractual agreement between the National Museums of Canada and the O. A. S. - via its president - for its summer salvage project - has been finalized. The salvage project of the O. A. S. would not have been possible without the guidance and financial assistance of the National Museums of Canada and its Section, the Archaeological Survey of Canada.

The Legislative Committee of the O. A. S. put the finishing touches on its comprehensive, 13 page brief "Legislation for Protection of Archaeological Resources in Ontario: Proposed Guidelines", and delivered it to Mr. D. F. McOuat, the Archivist of Ontario, on 9 June, 1972. The volume of this brief would make its mailing to all O. A. S. Members a costly proceeding. However, interested members may obtain a copy from the O. A. S. Treasurer for the asking.

The first six months of 1972 have been a productive and activity-filled half-year. Further excavations and the laboratory analysis of all material recovered, should make its second six months an even busier one. The information we want lies waiting in the field notes and laboratory findings.

Howard Savage,
President.

P.S. News of receipt of the initial installment of our supporting grant from the National Museums of Canada has been greeted with the heartfelt cheers of our field crew and supervisors alike. HS.
The following report is "the final version of the 'Boomcamp-1 Site', which answers the query you ran in the May issue."

Clyde C. Kennedy,
June 6, 1972.

THE BOOMCAMP-1 SITE

"This small site near Arnprior, Ontario, is a further suggestion of widespread trade and cultural relationships of the early Indian occupants of the Ottawa River Drainage Basin (Kennedy, 1960, 1962, 1966, 1970; Ritchie, 1969). The single burial found to date yielded copper, probably from Lake Superior; marine shell, from the Atlantic coast or the Gulf of Mexico; and green slate, apparently transported a considerable distance.

"During road construction a bulldozer cut into a red ochre burial which was subsequently noticed by high school student Morris Vermette. While his understandable curiosity and his lack of training led him to further disturb the burial, Mr. Vermette co-operated fully in our salvage and in our area study which continues. Mrs. Muriel Saunders, curator, Arnprior Museum, informed me of the discovery and her quick action allowed me to collect from the burial pit: four shell disk beads; samples of red hematite stained sand; samples of the fist-sized glob of clay which were apparently part of the burial ceremonialism; and remnants of the skeleton for study end for radiocarbon dating. Tons of fill brought from elsewhere now cover the area where we carried out urgent testing, by shovel-shining at first and later with a bulldozer, which showed conclusively that more burials did not lie there.

"With the apparently flexed burial were two green slate bayonet blades, 10 inches and 10.5 inches long, and each just over one inch wide. The blades, which are about one-half inch thick, are asymmetrically diamond-shaped in cross section and have bevelled bases (see drawings of somewhat similar blades in Wright, 1962). Fine Indian craftsmanship is shown particularly by the longitudinal symmetry of the blades. A bone blade 10.5 inches long and made with equal skill has a maximum width of about one inch and a maximum thickness of about three-eighths of an inch, is rounded-triangular in cross section and has an upturned base shaped somewhat like a snake's head. Lashing marks are prominent toward the base. The three blades were broken, perhaps as part of the burial ceremony.

"Other objects from the burial include: an extensively corroded native copper knife nearly six inches long; a marine shell pendant 5 1/8 inches long with a maximum width of 2 1/2 inches toward the top where there is one suspension hole; a somewhat rounded-triangular marine shell pendant 2 1/8 inches long with a maximum width of 1 5/8 inches near the top where there are two suspension holes (one damaged); and 25 shell disk beads.

"The slate bayonet blades and the shell pendants are much like some from burials at the Port au Choix-3 Site of the Maritime Archaic in Newfoundland, radiocarbon dated between about 4,300 and 3,700 years ago (Tuck, 1971; and personal communication). Ground slate blades of a variety of forms are widely distributed in Ontario (Wright, 1962), but their cultural affiliations are
generally vague. On slim evidence, some from minor occurrences of material in Ontario and Quebec (Kennedy, 1960), I expect the Boom camp burial to date about 3,500 years ago. A radiocarbon date (GSC-1394) on bone, kindly arranged for by Roscoe Wilmeth of the Archeological Survey of Canada, gave an age of 440 years ago, which I consider to be erroneous.

A slate bayonet blade much like the Boom camp blades was found in Wilberforce Township (Wintemberg, 1931: plate 5, fig. 9) at a locality where our searches were negative; and I am aware of whole and partial bayonet blades from other locales, including the Charles Kent farm. At the Kent Site ploughing subsequent to Norman Emerson’s studies of Point Peninsula there (Emerson, 1955) has revealed a Vergennes complex component (with Otter Creek projectile points, ground slate points, gouges and semi-lunar knives) that probably has an age comparable to the 5,240 years ago date for the Allumette Island-1 Site (Kennedy, 1970: 187, 255), and other, yet-to-be-defined Archaic components.

Adjacent to the Boom camp burial we have found a small Archaic site which may not be related to the burial; it has yielded quartz flakes, pieces of hemmed quartz, a projectile point preform and calcined bone. Materials found to date are much like those from numerous small sites in various parts of the Ottawa River Drainage Basin; in two cases I have found debris of these "Quartz Workers" below that of Middle Woodland pottery makers. I expect the Quartz Worker complex to date later than the Brewerton complex found throughout the Ottawa Valley and for which a radiocarbon date of 4,700 years ago was obtained at the Morrison’s Island-5 Site (Kennedy, 1966).

The Boom camp burial cannot yet be readily assigned to any particular Archaic complex, though contact with the Maritime Archaic is suggested. The burial may be another indication that the Archaic in Ontario and Quebec is going to be shown to be a very complex series of groupings, some inter-related and some not; some (like Vergennes) with relationships to the south in Ohio, Illinois, Indiana and Kentucky; and others (like Brewerton) with strongest relationships in the Lake Forest region of the Great Lakes and eastward. I have not seen any conclusive evidence that pottery (none of which has been found at the Boom camp-1 Site) was simply acquired by Laurentian complexes to give a 'continuity' into Middle Woodland cultures (Kennedy, 1970: 64).

Limited space has required these notes to be brief and the references incomplete; more detail will be presented elsewhere. I thank Morris Vermette, Mrs. Muriel Saunders, Clayton Kennedy, James V. Wright, James A. Tuck, Roscoe Wilmeth, Allan McLaren and William McMillen for assistance of various kinds.

References:


Many thanks, Clyde, for an excellent report. Keep up the good work.

BOOK REVIEW


This book is the result of a most intensive study into the current U. S. Federal and state legislative machinery associated with the cultural heritage of the United States. I use that well-worn cliché intentionally, for although the book is written by an archaeologist, with a strong emphasis on archaeology, McGimsey has amassed information far beyond what is normally considered the domain of archaeology — nor is it written primarily for the archaeologist.

The author begins on a note of urgency. We must save (salvage) more of our prehistory while we still can. This note is sustained throughout the book, coupled with a plea for professionals, amateurs and legislators to work together. He calls on archaeologists to accept the responsibility of leadership in developing a greater public awareness. A greater public involvement, he claims, leads to acceptance of more ambitious programmes and more financial support. Most significantly, he shows how and describes in detail, the genesis and ongoing success of many such programmes.

For Ontario readers, one of the most interesting things about this book is that it is virtually a do-it-yourself handbook for creating an office of the Provincial Archaeologist. This, he insists, is done more effectively by "amateurs" than by professional archaeologists, though this is by no means a call for the exclusion of professionals.
McGimsey outlines the design and basic requirements of a state-supported programme: Adequate financial support, an effective medium for greater communication, local resources and experienced auxiliary forces. A corollary of the latter would be that non-professional archaeologists must be given similar opportunities to advance their knowledge, status and pocketbooks to those already afforded professionals.

To give one example of this in practice: The Arkansas Archaeological Survey (of which the author is Director) has an educational programme in which a lay member may do a course. The course includes designing a survey, surface collecting, interpretation of material, and required reading. On completion, the member becomes a certified archaeologist. Through similar processes, members may also become certified crew members or laboratory technicians. As such, they may be contracted out for archaeological work. This, I would suggest, is a far cry from our own rather tardy recognition of the worth of the amateur. The workable programme which McGimsey describes for Arkansas took more than ten years in the making. Canadian provinces, hopefully will take a few shortcuts. It should be remembered that in Canada, we are only just beginning to develop a concern for our disappearing heritage.

A great deal of the book is concerned with legislation. McGimsey outlines a design for a State Antiquities Act and the dangers inherent in such an act. It must have an adequate research and preservation programme; the public must have a right to all information contained in the site (I shall return to this point shortly); and the police (or others) must be in power to protect this right. In short, such an act must be: (a) constitutional, (b) enforceable, and (c) desirable (a prerequisite brought about through adequate education). It should be possible to extend the protection of such information to private land by eliciting the cooperation of the land owner. The book outlines many ways in which sites on private lands can be protected, e.g., blanket reservations, easements (in which the responsibility for the sites is shifted from the owner to the state), statutes, zoning laws and condemnation.

The book raises in my mind a number of very fundamental questions.

Is it true that the information contained in sites is public information? Is it desirable that it should be? Many archaeologists would argue strongly against this. At a recent conference, it was suggested that all Canadian sites could be locked into a central computer. The first question was, "Who has access to the information?".

It seems to me that each country must decide for itself. Certainly, reasons for and against this have varying degrees of validity. But McGimsey puts up a strong argument for access for anyone genuinely interested. I think he is correct in this. It is high time we realize that our sites are not protected by hiding them in the sand.

Another question is of an even more fundamental nature.
Implicit throughout McGimsey's book is the suggestion that as much money and public support and involvement as possible is the answer to the archaeologist's dream. This is certainly true for salvage archaeology, but we should not be misled into believing that it isn't necessarily good for all archaeology. Techniques for excavation and analysis always lag behind the rapidly unfolding realization of just how complex a site is. If there were ten thousand archaeologists in Ontario, fully conversant with the latest techniques and analytical tools, we would lose a great deal of valuable information. In sites not endangered, there is still a strong case for the modest stillness and humility.

McGimsey's book is, I believe, a must, not only for archaeologists, but for the public at large. It is fascinating, not pedantic, and not without humour. It lists budgets and legislation for each state, the issuing authority for permits and, especially for Arkansas and the Federal Government, the history of the development of programmes, institutions and legislation. It is in reading these that one is startled by the number of decades it took for this development. The question arises, will Canada take as long? It is to be hoped not. Even if bureaucratic hurdles have become no less complex, we Canadians are surely more understanding and more sympathetic toward our cultural heritage.

We thank John Holland for the foregoing - with honourable mention to Victor Konrad for his revisions. We would be very interested to hear from those of you who have read PUBLIC ARCHEOLOGY any comments you might like to share with the rest of the membership.

Note-worthy news of fellow members....

Any O. A. S. member camping in or near Craigleith Provincial Park, west of Collingwood, on Sunday July 30th at 2:30 pm. is welcome to attend an unveiling ceremony by the Archaeological and Historic Sites Board of a plaque commemorating the "MARY WARD", an early steamer ship-wrecked nearby 100 years ago. The key speaker will be Charles Garrad of the O. A. S., who has researched the topic, and through whose efforts the plaque is being erected.

Conrad Heidenreich has won Ontario's major history Prize. The Sainte-Marie Prize in History, including a cash award of $1649., and a publishing programme, is given annually for excellence in original research and/or interpretation of 17th Century Canadian History. Conrad's work - "A study of the Geography of Huronia during the first half of the 17th century" is a detailed investigation of the Huron Indian Confederacy and the lands and environment in what is today Simcoe County, Ont., some 90 miles north of Toronto. (excerpted from GEORGIAN HOLIDAY, June 28/72)
And now, for your information and enjoyment, we present a summary of the talk given to the O. A. S. General Meeting of April 19, 1972.

"In my talk to the O. A. S. I attempted to present a visual and verbal impression of the pleasures, potentiality and problems of prehistoric investigations in the Republic of Lebanon as well as to describe specifically the University of Toronto's research program in the Bekaa Valley. Despite its remoteness in time and space from the work of the O. A. S. in southern Ontario, research in both areas share common goals and problems. And, of course, in both there is still much to be done and to be learned about the nature of human presence. For example, many sites in Lebanon are known only from surface remains and these are badly disturbed. The earliest sites in Ontario and Lebanon are still to be discovered, and while it happens that evidence of men in Lebanon could extend back one half million years or more (a bit longer than we expect for southern Ontario), the establishment of a complete chronological sequence in both regions is a priority objective.

The area of Lebanon in which we are carrying out our investigations is the Bekaa Valley, a narrow interior plateau (average elevation ~ 2700 feet) which extends in a narrow trough between the 10,000 ft Lebanon and 7,000 ft. Anti-Lebanon ranges. From abundant surface indications (mounds, stone foundations, etc.) we know the valley has been occupied from the late Neolithic (5000 B.C.) onwards. The Roman period occupation (0-400 A.D.) was especially heavy (and destructive of Paleolithic sites). The location of evidence of earlier sites extending well back into the Pleistocene is one of our objectives. The major difficulty in accomplishing this is the erosion of the last 10,000 years which, under the influence of nearly complete deforestation has either destroyed or buried large numbers of Paleolithic sites. The best chance we have of locating intact prehistoric occupations is in those situations where they have been offered a measure of protection such as in caves or rock shelters. Consequently, this is where our search has been concentrated, though these are by no means the only places where early man lived. Recently an Upper Paleolithic site was discovered in the alluvium of the floor of the valley under three meters of deposit. It was found quite by chance when several villagers were digging a cistern. (From now on all cuts into the earth will be searched whatever their original purpose!)

Ultimately we hope to locate as wide a range of sites in as many different environmental situations as possible. Excavation of a sample of these should give us a much better picture of how hunting and gathering nomadic societies patterned their exploitation of a region (the Bekaa) than would be possible by concentration on just one or two sites no matter how rich. Thus far we have made test excavations in one late Paleolithic cave terrace (Mughara et-Joubane) and in one Mesolithic-Natufian open site (Jebal Saaide)."

H. B. Schroeder.

Thank you, Bruce.
The Ontario Archaeological Society's Salvage Project officially began on Tuesday May 23, 1972. Funded by the National Museum of Man, this project is aimed at retrieving as much information as possible from as many sites in the (proposed) "Pickering Airport Area" before they are destroyed. Upon examination of the Milroy Site which had undergone recent destruction and was in crop, it was decided to eliminate this site from our priority list and to concentrate upon one of our second priority sites instead. The MacLeod Site (AlGr-1) was soon to face destruction and it was to begin the season there.

The MacLeod Site was originally discovered by Mr. James McRae in a garden fill area. The site appears to be 2.5 acres in size, and lies around and under the intersection of Rossland and Thornton Roads in northwest Oshawa. The two major portions, on the northeast and southeast corners, are presently owned by Traders Realty of Toronto and the Banfield Construction Co., of Oshawa respectively. Both portions are to be developed within a year, plans having been accelerated partly in response to the prospect of the new Toronto Airport being developed nearby.

Extensive, and relatively undisturbed midden areas on the northwest corner of the intersection have been excavated by the O.A.S over four years with supervision by Mr. W. Donaldson and Miss J. Holloway, and assisted by Miss L. Murray, a member of our present crew. For the past two years, the O. A. S. membership and the University of Toronto have co-operated in the salvage of this site. Weekend digs, however, have been insufficient to expose settlement patterns to any extent, although they have provided an ample artifact sample. It was the feeling of Mr. W. Donaldson, Dr. J. N. Emerson and Mrs. M. Latta that settlement patterns presented the most valuable information that remained to be retrieved from the MacLeod Site.

The Occupation probably dates from around 1475 ± 25 A.D. and falls within the period of ceramic development characteristic of the Black Creek Site. Extensive testing has not shown any strong evidence of a palisade on the site. The edge of the village however, appears to be covered by Rossland Road to the north and probably by the Church of Jesus Christ of the Latter Day Saints on the southwest corner. Trenching and test squares along the north side of Rossland Road showed few artifacts, with the concentration always greatest nearest the road. We therefore moved to the southeast corner portion.

The site lies within the South Slope physiographic region and the soil is characteristically compact, very fine silt and grey clay with a heavy admixture of grey Dundas and red Queenston shales and a large amount of dissolved limestone from the bedrock of the Trenton Formation. When dry, this mixture strongly resembles concrete in texture and workability, a difficulty which was enhanced by the layer of tough alfalfa sod on the site. Various methods were attempted for removing this overburden which contained some artifacts but which had been very extensively and deeply ploughed. These methods included the use of shovels and finally mechanized equipment.
The O. A. S. held its annual Spring Dig at the MacLeod Site on June 17, and with the help of the membership, a larger area was opened. But the obvious solution was a bulldozer, and on June 23 Mr. B. Maurer took time from his busy construction schedule and cleaned two extensive areas where lines of house posts had been exposed. This method worked so well that by June 28 when we left the site, one whole house was outlined and half of the interior features were exposed and mapped. This house measures 195 feet long and averages 25 feet wide. Two central hearths have been uncovered as well as side-bench support posts, a probable porch area in the end and several storage pits.

Although our work was greatly facilitated by the bulldozer operation, the O. A. S. dig saw many members actively engaged in excavations on the site. Members, and other interested persons, were given the opportunity to learn and practice archaeology. They also had the chance to discuss their interests with each other and our guests such as Dr. W. Taylor and Mr. J. Pendergast of the National Museum, Dr. W. Noble of McMaster University, Dr. J. N. Emerson of the University of Toronto and many more. A social evening topped off a full day of archaeology.

Mr. L. King of the Royal Ontario Museum has taken samples from several of the pits at MacLeod for floatation treatment. He will analyse any plant remains or pollen found. Dr. H. Savage of the Royal Ontario Museum has been examining the faunal remains. Mr. V. Konrad has collected soil samples for laboratory analysis, supervised the photography and arranged the public relations.

Grade 8 students of the Etobicoke School District visited the site on June 21 and 25. They were given a tour of the excavations and a brief talk on the nature of the site and the artifacts in the displays. Finally, they were invited to take shovels and trowels and try their hands at archaeology, and they responded with enthusiasm under the close supervision of the crew. In addition, students and faculty from several surrounding schools in Oshawa dropped in and were also introduced to the project. We were visited at various time by representatives of the Mormon Church, the King County Historical Society, the Oshawa Historical Society, the Ontario provincial Police, the McMaster University archaeological crew supervised by Dr. W. Noble and the Metropolitan Toronto Planning Area Archaeological Survey directed by Mr. Konrad, all of whom were very helpful and most welcome. We are particularly grateful for all the advice and support from the neighbouring farmers, who collected and relayed reports of the burials once present in the vicinity. Unfortunately, we are unable to substantiate any of these reports at this time. Special thanks go to Mr. & Mrs. S. Hoag, who gave us water, encouragement and a great deal of history on the site location.

The Summer and Fall field courses from the University of Toronto and Scarborough College will complete excavation of both houses since Oshawa Planning assures us that most of the southern portion of the site will not be destroyed until next spring.

On June 28, the crew and equipment were moved to the Boys Site, on Lot 16, Concession IV, Pickering Township. This site, tested and reported by Mr. F. Ridley in Ontario Archaeology No. 4, 1958, p. 18 is located on an Ontario Hydro "right of way" on a sandy
interfluve. The Canadian Pacific Railroad runs 200 yards to the south and has dammed the creek which now forms swamps to the southwest and southeast of the site. The centre of the site has been cleared by the Hydro and the level ground back from the ravine has been reported by Mr. Ridley to have been ploughed. The gentle slope into the southwest ravine is only moderately disturbed; much cultural debris has, however, spread over the surface. A very soft, fine, loamy sand, with sparse ground cover provides ideal excavating conditions and work is progressing rapidly. About 450 square feet have been opened over the weekend and at that rate we can hope to finish excavating much of the hillside within another two weeks. Unfortunately, most of the flat area has been covered by back fill from the bulldozing operations on the neighbouring horse farm so that the total extent of the site will probably never be known. One side of the interfluve on which the site is located is thickly covered with vegetation, particularly poison ivy, and this will hinder explorations in this area. Within these limits we will excavate, photograph and map as much of the site as possible.

We will also attempt to remove the last remaining hillside midden portions at the nearby Carleton Site, which was located on the site of a gravel mining operation to the north of the Boys Site. This site will provide some valuable photographs of midden stratigraphy and a common type of site destruction. On July 18/72 we plan to move to the Draper Site in Pickering Township. Following is a map that points out the location of both the Boys and Draper Sites.

Martha Latta,
Archaeological Supervisor

Victor Konrad,
Project Co-ordinator.
PICKERING TOWNSHIP - The Location of the Boys and Draper Sites