



THE

BULLETIN

November 1960

Number 20

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Can Spring Be Far Behind

As this number of THE BULLETIN reaches its readers the digging season for most New York archaeologists will be over for 1960. Come now the days of twenty inches of frost in the ground and twenty inches of snow on top of it--perfect weather for that other necessary activity of the archaeologist, the compiling of reports and the writing of papers. When the digging and the writing have both been conscientiously done in their seasons, and the spring follows, with the rendering of papers and the according of Fellowship status for major studies at the annual meeting of the Association, then we have had the perfect archaeological year.

But, as nearly everyone is aware who has had anything to do with getting papers and reports together for one Association purpose or another, the NYSAA has known few perfect archaeological years. Nearly everybody likes to dig; very few, in terms of the Association's total membership, show any inclination to report. But nothing could be more obvious than that anybody who treats himself to the pleasure of digging automatically undertakes the responsibility of reporting on what he digs. Otherwise he is not an amateur archaeologist and ought to be restrained from removing anything of prehistoric value from the ground.

Three important activities of the Association are specifically directed toward the encouragement of reports and must have them to function. These are: the Annual meeting, THE BULLETIN, and the Fellowship program. THE BULLETIN, at the moment, has enough material for its next issue, with a rather long and important piece by John Witthoft and a piece by Brennan, both on the Archaic, in reserve. But this is by current standards of size of THE BULLETIN. When the material grows more plentiful then some pressure can be exerted to expand it.

But the Annual meeting will be needing papers that ought to be in preparation now, and the Fellowship program is awaiting the papers that ought to be nearing completion because they should be received by the Fellowship Committee no later than February 1, 1961. The BULLETIN, of course, benefits from the papers delivered at the Annual meeting and, to some degree, from Fellowship submissions. Since your BULLETIN editor is also chairman of the Fellowship and Awards Committee and has served as program chairman for an annual meeting and would like to make it easier for the next program chairman, he has practically unanimous interest in promoting the production of archaeological literature. And this is the reason for the reminder that December, January, and February is the time to be productive. March is too late.

Information

The Fellowship and Awards committee consists this year, as last, of Earl Casler, RD 1, St. Johnsville 4 Dr. L. L. Pechuman, 7 Davison Rd., Lockport; Louis A. Brennan (chairman) 39 Hamilton Ave., Ossining. Those with Fellowship papers to submit or candidates for the Achievement Award to nominate may contact any of the above.

Prefatory

The following papers in New York Archaeology were read by the authors at the annual meeting except that by Roy Latham (NYSAA Fellow) which was submitted in absentia for presentation but was not read because of the tightness of the schedule. Dr. Ritchie's contribution to the Hudson River symposium was a talk and will not appear in THE BULLETIN. Alvin Wanzer's paper on the Chanler site, while promised to the editor, has not yet been received.

A Review of the Noyac Site

Roy Latham

Long Island Chapter

The Noyac site is four miles west of Sag Harbor in Southampton Township, Long Island, New York, at the head of Lapnace creek, which drains into Noyac bay on the north. The site stretches south from the upper end of the creek for 420 feet, in the lee of wooded hills on the westerly border. It is 375 feet across from east to west. These measurements are the outlying limits of shell and blackened soil of the village floor. Excavation covered 210 by 138 feet, the extent of pits and deep surface shells. In the swampy southern end of the creek are fresh water springs which do not run dry in prolonged summer droughts. In these springs the natives used sections of hollow logs set on end for curbs. The hills on the west are forested with hardwood and colonies of pitch pines, with a heavy undergrowth of mountain laurel, which sheltered the lowland of the village proper from the northwesterners over the sea. Features in the sandy floor somewhat different from those of the usual local sites were groups of shallow pits encircling a deep central pit in a sort of lodge affair, the smaller pits being used largely as cookeries with flat griddlestones in each, with a similar flat stone on edge at one side as a sort of fireback. Some of the griddlestones were shallow cupped mortars with fish bones and scales on them. These hearth-pits were 16 to 22 inches in depth and 4 to 8 feet in diameter. The central pits averaged about 4 feet in depth. Bone awls were common in the shallow holes; a dozen or more were

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in some of these, in association with the griddlestones. It is suggested that awls were employed to pick hot baked quahogs from the valves, as well as other hot foods, such as crabmeat.

The group pits were apparently Niantic remains. The Niantic evidence was stronger in the Noyac site than on most of the east end sites. The several sets of the above arrangement of pits were outside the central Sebonac concentration, with its usual large deep pits, where most of the Sebonac type of pottery was found.

Evidently during the summer season the Sebonac people moved to the higher northern side of the site, as recorded by remains of whelks, crabs, and summer species of fish. The most abundant winter food was the hardshell or quahog clam, with the softshell clam second. Two mollusk species, usually rare on our sites, were common here, the ribbed mussel and the oblong clam (Tegelus).

Along the western border of the site was a slight natural hollow where discarded shells and other trash had been deposited. This dumping place was 80 feet in length, six to eight feet in width, and 25 to 30 inches in depth. Such dumps are not unknown on Long Island sites. This ridge of shells was barren of artifactual remains except for an occasional awl, sherd of Niantic pottery, and one of the four pieces of worked graphite found on the site. This ridge of shells was probably of Niantic origin, for only Niantic sherds were intermingled among them. Sherds of nearly all of a small, delicate Niantic pot about six by six inches were found together. Unfortunately this little pot was overlooked on our departure that day and on our return a week later it had disappeared and was lost. In the sand, ten inches below the shells, a cache was uncovered which contained two harpoons of antler, with barbs gone, a small sharp stone celt, two complete antler flakers, four quartz blanks with worn edges and several unworked pieces of antler. Apparently the celt and blanks were tools for working on antler. These were probably overlooked or lost by the owner underneath the shells.

From a small pit just outside the ridge of shells was taken a thin claystone tablet three by three inches on which was neatly etched the likeness of an orb spiderweb, by some native with a naturalist's inclination.

In the bottom of a deep pit, in the so-called summer section of the site, was found part of the antler of a moose, considered the only record for this beast from Long Island. In another deep pit nearby was taken a section of a wapiti or elk antler and in the same pit the femur of a bison. This last noted specimen was inspected at the Smithsonian and reported to be either from a domestic cow or American bison. It was in the bottom of a deep undisturbed prehistoric pit: it could not have been from domesticated cattle and was probably imported, as were the moose and wapiti antlers.

One thing is certain: both elements, the Sebonacs and the Niantics, occupied the site during part of its period of occupation, the Niantics appearing while the Sebonacs were residing there. The puzzling fact during our excavating there was that no burials were found, nor could they, by testing, be located in the surrounding territory.

It was decided that the dead had been removed to some other favorite spot, contrary to the usual practice of interment on these coastal sites. However, years later, after the site was developed, a man building a greenhouse exposed the burial of a flexed middle-aged female in a shallow grave slightly north of our excavation line. The skeleton had been crushed by a bulldozer leveling the grounds.

No other culture was recorded on the site, except for five dark flint and two jasper arrowpoints of different types from the typical forms used by the inhabitants there. These flints were probably lost by wandering archaic tribes preceding the habitation of the site. All of the points found used by the Sebonac and Niantic people on the site were made of white quartz, a short triangular type $S/4$ by $3/4$ inches, with the extreme $3/4$ by $1\ 1/2$ inches. These points were common, 14 being taken from one pit and ten from another, all with one corner gone. Chips, blanks, and rough knives were everywhere. Judging by the worn edges, many blank forms were utilized for knives and scrapers. The small rounded scrapers of quartz were common. No scrapers of other material were seen. No drills of any sort were recorded.

The site apparently was in service over a considerable period prehistorically. No trade goods were found on the site. It was undoubtedly unoccupied at the time of the first white settlement of the township.

The lower east side of the site was formerly cultivated as a cornfield. During that period several large cedar trees were dug out and among the roots of one tree were found a complete bone fishhook. It was deposited in the collection of William Wallace Tooker, a druggist in Sag Harbor, who had a local surface collection and who was the noted author of Indian Place-Names on Long Island, and other titles. We found only two other fishhooks, both with barbs gone, one having a shank of $3\ 1/2$ inches. It was in the bottom of a Niantic pit. The harpoon points, in the cache mentioned above, are also considered Niantic without positive proof. The Niantic people were heavy users of bone and antler on eastern Long Island.

The skeleton of a dog pup was taken from a shallow grave near a pit, with a long slender bone awl or pin between the ribs. The pin was either to hold wrappings together or an instrument to cause the death of the animal.

When the road was cut through the east side of the site from Bridgehampton to a junction with the Pine Neck road from Sag Harbor westward, four celts were found by William D. Halsey of Bridgehampton and on the surface a large jasper blade six inches in length, which he called a spade.

On this site, as on other east end sites, the distinction between the Sebonac and Niantic pottery is clear. A small, entire vessel, size and shape of a pipe bowl, was found and considered Sebonac by its association in the pit. Pipes were common on the site, mostly in fragmentary condition, some with interesting designs engraved on the bowls. A partial bowl of a steatite pipe was found, the only soapstone in the site. A few miles east of the site a perfect steatite pipe made to represent a beaver in form

was found on the surface.

Small sites are scattered along coves in the vicinity of Sag Harbor. The Noyac site was splendidly situated in a rich fish and game region. Shellfish, crabs, eels, and other fishes were abundant. Deer, furbearers, turkey, grouse, heath-hen, wild fowl, and other birds were also abundant. Whales were stranded on the ocean beach a few miles to the south and were used for food. Ground-nuts and other edible vegetation were likewise common in the region.

The site was excavated by the Long Island Chapter of the N.Y.S.A.A.

Permit was granted to excavate the site October 28, 1928. Excavation started November 4, 1928 and concluded August, 1930.

One hundred fifteen pits were dug out, of which at least 75 were Sebonac. Pottery was found in 28 pits. One hundred ten Sebonac and 35 Niantic pots were represented by sherds.

A list of articles recorded from the site follows: arrowpoints, all triangular of quartz, 160; scrapers, circular type, all quartz, 106; knives, including blanks used as knives, 42; Gorgets, very rare and crude, 2; celts, 11; mullers, 6; Sharpener-stones, 3; hammerstones, plain, 17; hammerstones, pitted, 2, hoe-blade, 1; mortars, 18; griddlestones, flat stones without cups, 17; sinkers, side-notched, 3; pestles, rough, 2; claystone tablets, with etching of spider-web, 1; graphite, worked pieces, 4; hematite paintstones, 24; worked stone, a flaker-like piece, 1; claystone disk, grooved, 1; beaver teeth, worked, 2; turtle, cups and ladles, 8; flakers, bone and horn (2 unused in cache), 16; awls, bone and antler, 291; needles, all of deer ribs, 17; beads, bird bones, tubular, 6; antler arrowpoints, socket type, 7; fishhooks, bone (including one taken by Tooker), 3.

Also harpoons, antler (2 in cache), 2; cut antler, unfinished or rejected parts, 58; cut bone, rejected portions, 12; pipes, pottery, mostly broken, some decorated, 24; pipes, steatite, fragment of bowl, 1; pottery vessels, Sebonac, 110; pottery vessels, Niantic, 35; deer bones, common; raccoon remains, common; dog or wolf remains, common, wild cat remains, one skull; bear, one tooth; fox remains, common; moose, section of antler; wapiti or elk, section of antler; bison, one femur bone; dog burial, with awl or pin, one; human burial, after excavation, one flexed female; stone fireplaces, common; ash hearths, numerous; charcoal, common; shellfish as food in order of abundance in species, quahog, soft clam, scallop, oblong clam, channel whelk, knobbed whelk, surf clam, ribbed mussel, and deckershell.

Found on surface, probably of archaic origin, black flint arrowpoints, stemmed, 5; jasper arrowpoints, stemmed, 2; large jasper blade, 6 inches found previously

Bannerstones in the Lower Hudson ValleySigfus OlafsonMid-Hudson Chapter

During the excavation last spring of the entirely preceramic Parham Ridge shell midden about two miles above Croton point on the Hudson River, there was recovered a side-notched river pebble that we believe throws new light on the kinds and relative chronology of bannerstones in the Hudson valley.

The stone is 3 1/2 inches long, is flat on one face and convex on the other and is ovoid and symmetrical in outline. The notches are in the sides of the least length, so that the artifact seems, at first glance, to be a hafted ax or hammer head. Though there is a chip out of one of what would be the striking edges or bits, if it were a club head or ax, these edges retain their pebble roundness and cortex.

The most likely perfunctory identification would be that it is a net sinker, if not a club head, but there is good reason for characterizing it otherwise. In some ten years of experience in digging in Lower Hudson riparian occupations, we have never discovered a net sinker and are convinced that they were not made by the local Archaic peoples, who have left no artifactual evidence behind that they fished at all. But our ruling out this find as a net sinker rests on stronger evidence. Faintly but discernibly marked, across the flat side only, between the notches is the outline of a haft or handle. It seems to be partly scored, partly produced by the play of the handle, and partly by acid decay of the material of the handle. But that it was not a handle is indicated by the fact that there is not the slightest trace of hafting on the convex side. The flat side has, moreover, been ground to flatten the face.

The conclusion has to be that this stone was in contact with a shaft on the flat side only and that the notches served to secure the lashings by which the stone and shaft were fixed together. But the only tool or devise which fits this description is an atlatl weight which has been bound tightly to its stave.

The acceptance of this artifact as a tie-on bannerstone leads us beyond, however, the mere notion of the presence of this trait in the lower Hudson valley. It brings within the necessity of re-examination many of the artifacts heretofore called notched net sinkers. There is no reason whatever to doubt the validity of the artifactual category of net sinkers, but we question that all notched pebbles, particularly any that are uniaxially flat either naturally or artificially and are symmetrical are net sinkers. Flatness on either one face or both obviously is advantageous in a net sinker, making two notches rather than a groove sufficient for holding the ties, and so flatness alone is not a determinant. Neither is symmetry, since there is no reason why a net sinker should not be symmetrical. But these two, taken together with the third factor of weight make it thinkable to segregate a class of notched pebble tie-on bannerstones.

Our Parham Ridge specimen weighs about 7 ozs. and though there are no figures, as far as we know*, on what net sinkers should weigh, one would guess that this is

*Guthe, viva voce, has informed us that an analysis of net sinkers done on a northern New York site shows them to have weighed 13 oz. there.

rather light. Even closely spaced, stones of this weight, when water displacement is subtracted, would hardly hold a net of any size. There is no attempt here to lay down a dictum about the size and weight of net sinkers, there being many kinds of nets, but a stone weighing less than half a pound seems to have been selected for lightness or for limited weight rather than for its gravitational effect.

The factors of unifacial flatness, weight, and symmetry in our Parham Ridge specimen have been mentioned because it is these, along with its side notches that cause it to resemble that kind of artifact found recurrently in this area and called a spool stone.

Our immediate guess as to the use of the spool stone on our first discovery of one was that it was a specialized kind of bannerstone. On each end two planes had been packed to form a sort of prow. There were also two pecked notches opposite each other midway of the length. A meticulous hammerer might have shaped the ends of a pebble into a prow by striking alternately from either side, but there seemed to be no reason for hammering with the stone's midriff. These indentations now seem quite clearly to be notches for lashing, and the end pocking was done to produce symmetry and balance. In our area, at least, spool stones are made of a selected gray sandstone, light in weight, which pecks easily. All these evidences of purpose add up to something more than a casual use, and we believe the use that these spool stones would best serve is as tie-on atlatl weights.

There is certainly nothing unique about tie-on atlatl weights, though ungrooved and notched bar weights seem rather more common in the east than notched ones. They have even been made of laminated plates of shell. The latest, and perhaps the best series of tie-ons for purposes of comparison with the spool stones of our area, is treated and illustrated in the October 1959 number of American Antiquity, in a paper entitled "Archeological Evidence for the Use of Atlatl Weights in the Northwest", by B. Robert Butler and Douglas Oaborne. Type III weights as classified in this study are usually well-polished, three-quarter grooved, and run to as much as about 10 or 11 oz. in weight, with the average about half that. That our much less carefully made Hudson valley spool stones would serve exactly the same purpose as these weights is evident on inspection.

Until a thorough study of notched pebbles in collections of Archaic materials is undertaken with the disinterested objective of separating out possible tie-on atlatl weights, there is no telling how deep in time the trait may be. Our guess is that it is quite ancient in the east. Ritchie, in his Frontenac Island report, listing Lamoka Focus, Brewerton Focus, and Frontenac Island Focus materials, comparatively assigns 700 flat-notched pebble net sinkers to Lamoka, 148 to Brewerton, and 130 to Frontenac. In addition, he lists two grooved stones, one oval and one heart-shaped, as questionable sinkers at Lamoka and another grooved stone, from a biface miller, as a questionable sinker at Brewerton. Three other grooved stones at Lamoka are given as questionable club heads. A re-evaluation of the artifacts in these categories may very well establish that tie-on atlatl are found among them and are not only old

in the east but also a traditional form.

Unfortunately there was nothing decisive about the provenience of our Parham Ridge tie-on specimen. There are two pre-ceramic horizons at Parham Ridge but in the place where the specimen was found there was no way of telling whether these two horizons were present and the association disposed us toward placing it with the later occupation which has an Orient Focus character and should therefore be dated at about 3000 B. P., in accordance with the cluster of dates reported by Ritchie in his treatise on Stony Brook and other Orient sites. Our pebble specimen is of a sandstone of somewhat the same character as the type usually selected and what may be an unfinished specimen of the usually selected stone was found with it.

Spool stones in this area are consistent finds at the sites of our second ceramic tradition people, found at Crawbuckie Beach, about three and a half miles down-river from Parham Ridge. This second ceramic tradition pottery is authentic looking Point Peninsula dentate stamped and plain wares but other traits, including the spool stones, relate it to the upper occupation at Parham Ridge.

The spool stone is found at Crawbuckie above the Vinette I pottery horizon, the projectile point inventory of which is quite different from that of the Point Peninsula pottery makers. These Vinette I people seem to have introduced two new kinds of bannerstones into our vicinity, the drilled type and the type we call, whether correctly or incorrectly, the slip-in.

The slip-in type is thin and semi-lunar in shape and could have been slipped into the split distal end of an atlatl shaft and lashed on. The Vinette I people who introduced this type used small weights and their small side-notched projectile points seem to indicate why. But in possible association with a Point Peninsula locus at Crawbuckie there was found a large rubbed red slate, kidney-shaped bannerstone flat enough to have been slipped in. It would seem to be an adoption of the slip-in atlatl weight trait and an adaptation of the earlier slip-in form by the later people.

The only large atlatl weight found with the Vinette I people was a drilled one, of fire clay, which makes for unusual lightness. A fragment of a drilled type of a denser stone in this association was small. Our one find of a both large and heavy drilled atlatl weight was half of a rectangular type found in the same midden with the large kidney-shaped slip-in specimen.

Our deductions, then, concerning bannerstones or atlatl weights in this area are these:

1. The notched pebble tie-on type was the first used in this area; its use began early, perhaps by 6000 B. P.
2. This notched pebble type became somewhat standardized, though not much improved, in the spool stone. Both the notched pebbles and the spool stones are relatively heavy, ranging from a half to perhaps a full pound.

3. The tie-on bannerstone is the traditional early form of atlatl weight of the proto-Lamokoids in the Hudson valley, taking such forms as the winged bannerstones of the Harris site, the notched bannerstones of the River site, the grooved wing type of the Bannerman site, and the spool stones of the South Crugers Island site, all listed by Ritchie in his An Introduction to Hudson Valley Prehistory.

4. The small slip-in, semi-lunar weights were introduced by Vinette I pottery bearers with a mixed inventory of points. Our specimens of this type come from the lower level of Crawbuckie I.

5. The drilled type was introduced by a group related to the Vinette I people by a common projectile point inventory but who we believe for other reasons to have been another branch of the family. The smaller and/or lighter drilled specimens were found at Crawbuckie 5 and 7.

6. Point Peninsula pottery-making people adopted the slip-in and drilled types of atlatl weights but made them larger to suit their needs. They continued the use of the tie-on spool stone weight.

7. Slip-in and drilled atlatl weights are no older in our area than Vinette I pottery, which we believe is about 3500 B. P.

8. Atlatl weights were being used as late as about 2500 B. P. and perhaps later.

A Vosburg Site on Barren Island

Excavated During the summer of 1959

R. Arthur Johnson and Edward B. Christman

.....Van Epps-Hartley Chapter

A number of years ago the citizens of Albany could enjoy a boatripe of some twelve miles down the Hudson River, land at Barren Island, opposite the quiet town of Coeymans, and participate in the entertainment offered by the amusement park which occupied the northern third of the island.

Several thousand years before the Dutchmen had heard of the area, dugout canoes, eased along by the incoming tide, stopped to rest on the mainland terrace near the mouth of a strong flowing stream meeting the river in its westward bend. The shad were running, and food was plentiful at the moment.

When time permitted, a short paddle to the small island, standing prominently a few hundred yards off shore, disclosed that some game had been marooned when the ice disappeared from the river. True, there wasn't much; the forest hadn't started to provide good cover yet, but what there was provided an easy addition to the larder. Further, there was a nice level spot on the northern tip where a fellow could make a small fire to roast his kill.

Thus, long before the ancestors of Mr. Briggs constructed their icehouses to serve urban New Yorkers with refrigeration, the island was the scene of minor

activity by nomads in their search for game in the wake of the Wisconsin withdrawal.

Barren Island, a contorted rock and shale outcropping, stands well above the present flood stage of the Hudson River. The northern tip of the island presents a slightly sloping terrace of some 1200 to 1500 square feet, standing about eleven feet above high tide level. This terrace is overlooked by a small hill on the south and a higher hill from the southeast. When this tip area was visited initially, the explorer found a bare shale exposure, several feet wide and probably sixty feet long. A deposit of yellow soil, resting against the eastern edge, sloped down into the glade between the two hills.

Probably to keep his fire, a hunter dug a small pit into this yellow soil, oblivious of the fact that milleniums later one Dr. W. Ritchie, New York State Archaeologist, would request scientists in faraway Michigan to analyze this now cold fire and ascribe a date to this event.

Through the years the same succession of events occurred: the small hunting group visiting the island, roasting game over tiny fires, first on the bare shale, later on the talus from the hill, and departing when game resources were exhausted.

The early arrivals discarded a broken atlatl weight, left a ground slate ulu and lost a few scrapers. They were near their mainland location and it is apparent most of their manufacturing activities were carried on elsewhere than on the island. The few projectile points, discarded because the tips were broken when the hunter missed his throw and struck the rocks or had inadvertently left them behind on the surface, were oldfashioned side notched or stemmed, usually of poor material.

The little hill continued a slow but persistent chore of trying to occupy the small terrace. It moved down broken rock and small pieces of shale, to mix with the stone debris left by the hunters. For a long time it was well ahead in the competition; the hunters did not come in sufficient numbers or frequently enough to account for the first ten or twelve inches of overburden.

However, as today, populations increased, activities were greater and the pleasant little tip was occupied much more frequently than in the past. Manufacturing moved in and the debris of flint chippers began to litter the area. Possibly some kind of a sapling shelter was erected, because there was an area where an inch or two of fine beach shale had been deposited, presumably as a floor covering. It is odd that no flint chips or artifacts were found in this deposit. Probably any chipping at the time was done outside the shelter, but one would think that eventually either chips or artifacts would have been trodden into the shale.

These artisans used a better quality of material than their predecessors and produced harder, sharper, pressure flaked projectile points. They deviated from the old side notching and introduced a neat oblique notch on a fairly thick well-proportioned point. Later they improved with a thinner point, wider in proportion than the earlier

version and with a pronounced oblique corner notch. These craftsmen have been designated as "Vosburg", from the farm on the Normans Kill where their technique was first identified as being unique and meriting individual attention. Further, they decided that grinding the base lessened the chances of its cutting the bindings when it was-mounted on a shaft.

These "Vosburg" people were not alone by any means. Many travelers from all directions frequented the area. It is quite evident that the Orient fishtail, and a larger, wider version of the same, was extant in the Hudson valley. Points from the Susquehanna, a nice stemmed chalcedony point from Maine, small Lamoka types and many variations of side notched and stemmed were intermingled. Someone brought a steatite pot from Connecticut, broke it, and apparently threw all of the sherds except one into the river. These people had no clay pottery. There was no evidence at any time that there was any smoking on the site. There were mullers and fragments of metates. A few fragments of pecked pestles were found; no mortars. One New England style sandstone axe turned up. A small polished celt and a broken polished edge axe remained.

Activities lapsed for a period and the little hill was able to creep ahead of its competition. It added a few inches when few people were around and now had approximately eighteen inches of accumulation over the original bare rock.

Then a new disturbance moved in. The fresh water clam addicts arrived and proceeded to pitch their empty shells into a midden area near the base of the hill. They brought clay pottery for the first time. They prepared more hides, if the larger number of scrapers is any evidence. They left many more animal bones in their middens than earlier inhabitants. They seemed to have had more need for drills and perforators.

These "Shell Horizon" people may have buried one of their numbers. Whoever did the job selected a location on the southern part of the terrace near the crease of the hill. They managed to make a small excavation in the contorted shale which is rather rotten near the surface. Inasmuch as the grave was only about 36" by 20" and only 12" deep they found it necessary to seat the body in the hole and apparently bended the trunk forward across the knees. The skull is missing. One of our ethnologists, Kenneth Mynter, told us that legend indicates that for some of the burials in this locality the head was taken along when the people travelled elsewhere. Future archaeological work may verify this. For the time being the writer prefers to believe that from the position and location of the burial it is likely that wild animals unearthed the skull and probably disturbed other parts as well. We feel that the burial was made by the "Shell Horizon" people for two reasons: the shell layer contiguous to this portion of the site did not appear in the vicinity of the grave and the soil in the grave appeared to have been mixed with darker upper soil, probably midden soil and charcoal.

However, the little hill was not discouraged by this late interruption and again

managed to deposit two to four inches of clean trodden shale over the shell. The treading was largely done by the amusement seekers who undoubtedly visited the lookout point in numbers. Following the departure of the Albanians the hill had some three decades of peace. It proceeded to build up a nice clean sod level, believing, if a hill can think, that at last quiet had descended on the little terrace and a green carpet would look nice to dress up the front yard.

Obviously, from the contents of this paper, this was not to be. Two new interlopers arrived with pick and shovel and proceeded to disturb all of the work of centuries. However, they did have consideration for the little hill and smoothed the landscape out to its pleasure. They hope the little hill will have the satisfaction of knowing it contributed its small part to the story of the ages and can now enjoy its declining eras in peace and reverie.

Steubenville Type Points In The Mid-Hudson Valley

E. B. Christman and R. Arthur Johnson

Van Epps-Hartley Chapter

On the northwest corner of a farm in North Germantown occupied by Mr. Floyd Ford is a twenty-five acre field surrounded by heavy woods on three sides. This is the Ford site, located on a plateau one hundred twenty feet above the high tide level on the southeast confluence of the Roeliff Jansen Kill and the Hudson river. The plateau slopes steeply north to the Roeliff Jansen Kill and west to the New York Central tracks along the Hudson. The field slopes gently to the south and is under partial cultivation, planted mostly with raspberries and strawberries.

The authors first visited the site together on October 28, 1956, after Johnson had secured permission from Mr. Ford to excavate the site. The original plan was to excavate along a narrow fifteen foot wide shelf twenty-five feet below the top of the plateau on the north slope.

A north-south base line was established and five foot squares staked out along the shelf on both sides of the base line. More than twenty squares were excavated during the year of 1957. Many artifacts of flint, stone, and pottery fragments were found but because of the nature of the slope of the hill, no stratification could be established even though the material was intermixed to a depth of five feet.

After many discussions with Mr. Ford who is in his seventies and has spent most of his life on this farm, it was evident that a small portion of the site on top of the plateau had not been plowed or dug by others. In the spring of 1958 twenty five by five squares were staked out and excavated that year.

This small area is at the highest point on the plateau at the north drop-off just above the trenches excavated by us the previous year.

The soil formation consists of a dark 8-inch layer of topsoil over an 11 inch layer of broken stone, sand, and topsoil mix. Next, an 8-inch layer of hard-packed, fine windblown sand and clay mix is found. This totals a 27-inch stratified occupation level on top of a hard sand-gravel post-glacial deposit.

A reference horizon was established at 19 inches below surface, at the top of the hard-packed fine sand and clay. This was later to prove valuable as the contour of the upper layers changed or petered out. Very few artifacts were found in the upper eight inches of topsoil, establishing that this was a prehistoric site, since no evidence of trade goods, beads, or metal objects turned up.

Pottery fragments were prolific from three inches to eight inches above the reference line and were of coastal type, linear cord marked, rocker stamped, pseudo scalloped, lipped, and castellated. There was no evidence of incising, as all linear decorations except the cord marking were combed, brushed, or switched, and some criss-cross combed. The tempering consisted of crushed limestone sand and undetermined black crystals all thick and poorly fired. A few sherds of steatite were found intermixed with the pottery.

Steubenville type points predominated in this area and the ones excavated were found from one to three inches above the reference line. Some Vosburg points were found from one to three inches above the reference line. Lamokas and triangles turned up in equal amounts from reference line to eight inches below, with one Brewerton type at eight inches below reference.

Very little bone was found on the entire site, which led us to believe that if any burials existed, they were completely destroyed by the acidity of the soil. By the same lack of evidence of any pipe bowl or stem, it could be assumed that tobacco was not used.

No ornaments of any sort were found. If any shell beads existed they could have been dissolved by the acidity of the soil, as not even one particle of shell remained.

At the brow of the hill near the reference line a perfect three-grooved bolo stone and a well-grooved and worn abrading stone were among the first artifacts found. One grooved axe and several rough chipped stone axes, but no celts, gouges, or gorgets were discovered. The net sinkers of various types uncovered would lead us to believe that fishing was an important source of food. Hammerstones, both side and end-pitted were profuse, along with the many flint chips that would indicate that many flint artifacts had been made on the site.

Many of the flint chips and flint artifacts found were of the type and color of the flint found on Flint Mine Hill at Coxsackie. The drills and scrapers were of many types and shapes. On top of the plateau near the edge were small areas, five to six inches deep, of solid flint chips, and one pit was found, twelve inches wide and two feet deep, of solid flint chip fill. A layer of pottery sherds beneath several stones

was found at the bottom of the pit.

Johnson excavated trenches to the east of the north-south base line in the years 1956, 1957, and 1958 and found substantially the same artifacts. In 1958, Johnson excavated a trench five feet wide, three-fourths feet deep, and thirty-five feet long to determine the provenience of the Steubenville type points. This trench was extended from the baseline west along the outer edge of the trenches being excavated but produced nothing but a few fire broken stones.

It is proposed by the authors to further explore the possibility of other small sites of similar nature in this locality.

As this is a preliminary report a later analysis will attempt to identify the pottery and projectile points by numbers in the various types. The collections and notes of the authors will be turned over to Dr. Ritchie for further study and classification.

The (De-U-No-Dil-Lo) Fluted Culture *
from
Ten Thousand Years Along The Unadilla

Paul Van Hoesen

.....Chenango Chapter

For the benefit of those who are not familiar with the location of the Unadilla River and the valley through which it flows, I will map it as east of the central part of the state, south, of route twenty, and between the villages of Bridgewater to the west, and West Winfield to the east. The valley, at this point, is about ten miles wide.

From each side of the valley, a stream has its beginning, draining the dividing ridge between the Central Plateau and the Mohawk Valley -- thus starts the Unadilla River.

The two streams flowing south unite at the village of Unadilla Forks, and from there it meanders around low hills' criss-crosses the valley and at times almost meets itself. In its travels the river passes the villages, of Leonardsville, West Edmeston, and New Berlin, where it is joined by Wharton creek from the east. It continues through South New Berlin and Holmesville, where it gains Great Brook from the west. At Mount Upton it is joined by the Butternut from the northeast. Below here, the valley gets narrower, the hills higher, and the river wider and deeper, until it

* This piece constitutes No. 4, Vol. 1, (April, 1959) in the fine series on area archaeology published by the Chenango chapter of the NYSAA. A previous number in this (1) series was included in BULLETIN 18. A site map included in the original paper has been deleted.

finally flows into the Susquehannah River just west of Sidney.

"The Susquehannah valley contains the longest river in North America flowing into the Atlantic Ocean. Always a thorofare for Indian travel, the upper basin of this river covers an area of about 4300 square miles in New York State alone. There are about 6830 miles of tributary streams in the upper Susquehannah drainage, all within the borders of New York State." 1

"The Unadilla River from the earliest date was a favorite stream for the Aborigines and lay within the Oneida Nation. The Oneida Path which led to the river came into Brookfield from the southeast corner of Sangerfield (Called by the Indians Ska-Na-Wis or Great Swamp) and over the hills to Unadilla Forks, "2

It would be impossible in one short article to cover the Indian history of this entire valley from the Forks to the Susquehannah to say nothing of the waterways that branch from the main stream.

In this article I intend to write about my search and study of the upper part of the valley between Unadilla Forks and New Berlin. I will also restrict my comments to those artifacts that do not fit in any later culture patterns, the fluted points and associated artifacts. These points are known as Folsom, Yuma, Clovis, or Pre-Lamoka.

For the past ten years, I have spent all my spare time hunting for a camp or kill site used by the fluted point people. In my search I have used the artifacts in my collection and those in a friend's collection. By mapping, testing and finding, I have come to the conclusion that somewhere between Leonardsville and New Berlin there is such a spot.

In the Southwest, fossil skeletons of the Crest bison of the Pleistocene period have been found commonly resting upon fluted arrows or spears in such a position that the animals were killed by these weapons. In New York State, after the Wisconsin Ice Age had disappeared and the climate had become warmer and damp, the rivers became deep and wide. Large Ice-age animals moved in and were followed by the hunter with his fluted weapons.

In the past twenty years, I have found a large number of pieces of the fluted type, a number of which are shown on Plate 1 and Plate 2 of this BULLETIN. I have listed sites, one to five, and site X, which is the most promising of all. Included in this paper is a general map of a section of the Unadilla River with a general location of the spot where I have found the illustrated fluted points. On both sides of the river there are indications of this Paleo-Indian occupation but not enough to confirm the location of a permanent camp or village.

Site number one lies on the east side of the river between West Edmeston and South Edmeston and was owned by Lynn Howard at the time I found the pieces. It is

also known as the Berwick farm. It was here that I found specimens #1 and #80. Number 1 is not of native flint but is formed from a, dark gray chart. Number 8 seems to be of native flint.

From a site in the Butternut valley I obtained specimen #2. It is not of native flint and has a smoky grey butt and lighter tip.

Site number three is on the Earl Barrell farm on the east side of the river north of West Edmeston. Specimen #5 came from here. This is of dark native flint with small fluting.

Site number four is near the Sweet farm on the west side of the river between West Edmeston and New Berlin.

Site number five is on the farm of Harold Rogers, known as the Carr Farm. This site has a creek nearby in place of the swamp area found on the other sites. Piece number 7 of light grey flint came from here as did #3, also of local flint.

At the present time it would be unwise to give the exact location of site X. I have made only a few tests and have been unable to excavate it as I would like to do. This site covers about one-fourth of an acre and at times part of it has been under cultivation. The general location is similar to that of the other places given. I have about fifteen to twenty pieces from this site. Seven of them are illustrated on Plates 1 and Plate 2. To date, I have found nothing that belongs to any other later culture.

In 1957, I found artifacts #9, #10, #12 in one pocket and close by #4 and #6. In 1958. I found #11, #13 but had to discontinue digging because of the weather. Number 4 was of translucent smoky jasper, not native. Number 6 was of a dark native flint. Number 10 was of a native flint. Number 11 is of a lighter grey native flint, and #9, #12, #13 were of obtainable native field stones.

I am in hopes in the summer of 1959 that with help I will be able to excavate the whole site.

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1. From Moorehead's Susquehannah River Expedition, 1938.
 2. From History of Madison County, 1872.

The Discovery and Excavation of the Remains

Fort Clinton (1746)

Note. The following news note in historic archaeology, with the above title, by a Mr. Haven of Morgan Chapter was submitted to the BULLETIN by Charles Hayes Secretary of Morgan Chapter.

(turn to page 19)

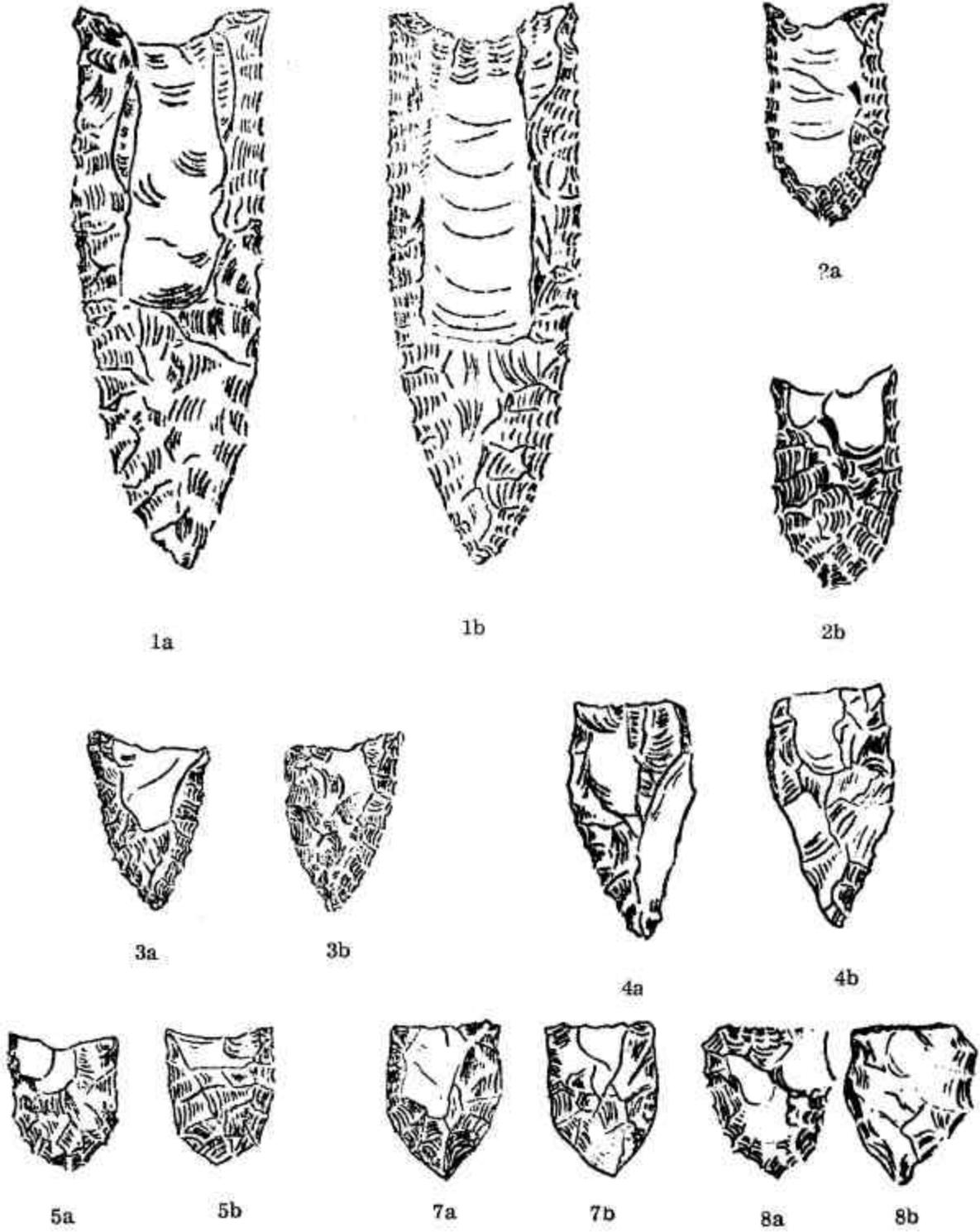


Plate 1

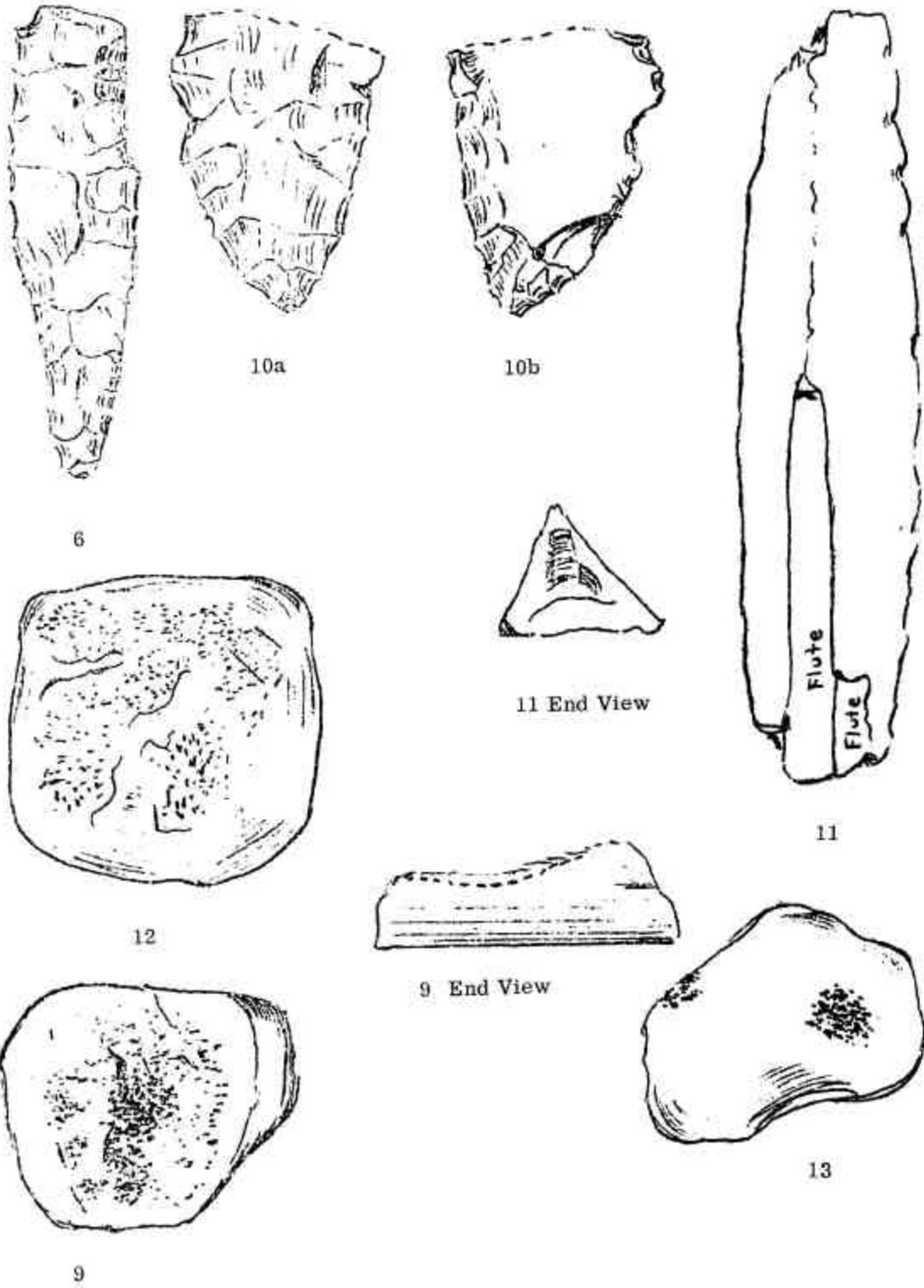


Plate 2 Scale #9, 12, 13 one-half

On a hot sultry afternoon in September 1960 on the west bank of the Hudson River, N. Y. about a mile south of the village of Schuylerville, N. Y., close to the bank of the river, I started an exploratory trench running at right angles to the river,

A short distance from the starting point, about thirteen inches below the surface of the old river silt, I came across two flat field stones lying close together. Suspecting that they might be part of a fireplace hearth, I proceeded, being careful not to disturb them. I soon uncovered what appeared to be a low wall or foundation 30 inches wide, about 18 inches high, by 24 feet long with two 12 foot return walls leading over the river bank. The river had washed away the rest of the foundation. I believe that this was a 24 foot stone foundation of one of the four block houses which made up the rectangular shaped log fort. It had 12 foot high log palisades connecting with the block houses. It was a large fort of about 135 feet by 165 feet, enclosing warehouse and barracks.

Under about 25 inches of old river silt, lay 6 inches of brick debris, ashes, charcoal, and old hand-forged nails. In this small excavation were found several clay pipe bowls, hand made hardware, pottery sherds, and an old copper coin.

Further excavations should produce some interesting military artifacts as well as evidence of the true dimensions of the old fort.

The fort is to be restored by Mr. Robert Lord, former curator of the Fort William Henry Museum.

Have You Heard?

The New York Times, on July 20, carried a front page story about the reporting from Mexico by Dr. Juan Armenta Comacho of the University of Puebla, of a find of incised mastodon bone and tools of both bone and stone near the village of Balsequillo. The age of the material was given as 30, 000 B. P. by the Abelson protein molecule replacement test, and Dr. Marie Wormington, an American early-man authority, confirmed the age of the culture unqualifiedly. This is confirmation of the report we brought you in last month's BULLETIN from the SAA Conference in New Haven of a momentous Mexican discovery.

(Your editor, author of "No Stone Unturned" is not at all unhappy about the announcement, since his prehistory of North America assumes such age for the human habitation of the hemisphere.)

Life magazine carried a picture two weeks later of a piece of the incised bone (it spelled the village's name Valsequillo) covered with sketches of animals and giving the discovery further publicity. This is the report we suspect most BULLETIN 'readers would have seen, and it is much the briefer of the two.

The New York Times account was the usual hash of half digested information that reporters always manage to make of such news. Unspecified was what kind of tools of bone and stone were in association, but the animal figures incised on the bone makes a hunting culture highly probable. This is going to throw the Old World Paleolithic into a tizzy. There is nothing like it in Siberia on the same time level to serve as a progenitor. And the information that has come to this reporter about the find is that 30,000 years may not be the half of it.

According to our informant at the SAA conference in New Haven last May, the report on this find at Valsequillo has been, shall we say, postponed for two years in the hope that something would turn up to deprive it of its apparent antiquity. The incised bone was then supposed to have been from the four-tusk mastodon, a form that paleontologists believe to have become extinct before the onset of the Wisconsin. Another informant, from the Southwest, where the find has been an open secret for quite a while, tells us that it is indeterminate whether the bone is mastodon or mammoth, but that it is of an archaic elephant species and not one that survived to the time of the great extinction. A dating of 60,000 years and perhaps 80,000 is more likely, we have heard from two practicing archaeologists, than the very conservative 30,000.

This comes at a time when Dr. L. S. B. Leaky has just announced the discovery of a 6,000,000 (pre-Pleistocene) man in Tanganyika. The fact that he names this new hominid *Zinjanthropus*--East Africa Man--makes it clear that this is no mere "missing link" or anthropoid ape form like the Australopithecines, but is truly human. The reconstruction we saw in print gives *Zinjanthropus* a very low but distinctly smooth-browed, be-chinned very long countenance, not at all like the beetle-browed, chinless Neanderthals.

Add to this the fact that at the International Conference of Archaeologists in Vienna this past summer a paper was delivered raising the probability that skulls that have turned up in South America may be Neanderthal hybrids and the whole of American prehistory begins to come into new focus. The Neanderthals are now thought to have been of Asiatic origin, from the stock of *Sinanthropus*-*Pithecanthropus*, and it is not surprising to find a strain of *Sinanthropus* in America. But a Neanderthal-*Homo sapiens* cross in America possibly before the Wisconsin is going to upset every present concept of the physical anthropology of the American. *Sinanthropus* sported the famous spade-shaped incisor tooth which is one of the mainstays of the argument for a Mongoloid ancestry for the Indian.

The Abelson protein test is new to us and the New York Times report gave no elucidation of what kind of results it gives. But whatever it does, it gives some reliable chronological hint, if Wormington is willing to accept a 30,000 year date on Valsequillo, and so must be numbered among the growing number of dating techniques. These now include the Rosholt uranium daughter products test, comparative mineralization tests, Phil L. Orr's speleotherm test (about which we have heard nothing lately) and the new obsidian tests discussed at great length in *American Antiquity* for April 1980. Incidentally, though obsidian is an extremely rare archaeological material

in New York, it was requested at New Haven that all archaeological obsidian; chips and all, be saved and submitted for dating.

The carbon-14 technique remains,, however,, the most useful and dependable of dating methods and everything that can conceivably be dated by it should be carefully saved. We have become increasingly aware of its successes and limitations and it is our observation that its usefulness can be extended if somebody in the field will do some work on the chemistry of it under natural conditions. There is no reason to suspect contamination of datable materials found in dry caves, but in New York the datable material found under such conditions is rare. The usual find is of charcoal or other organic substances in open sites under sod. What is the effect of leaching into very porous charcoal of the products of decay of younger organic materials? What is the effect on carbon molecules of weak but constant humic acids? In the Southwest the effect of the leaching of caliche on the C-14 content of materials in a caliche matrix is being widely debated. What is the effect of a soil or shell matrix?

Anybody who knows a chemistry major in search of a thesis idea might advance this one.

NEWS ITEM: The National Science Foundation has granted \$12,000 to the University of Oklahoma Research Institute for the preparation and publication of An Anthropological Bibliography of the Eastern Seaboard, Volume II. This will be published by the Eastern States Archeological Federation as Research Publication Number 2. The area to be included encompasses the United States bordering on the Atlantic Ocean, Alabama and Michigan, the maritime provinces of Canada as well as Ontario and Quebec. Principal attention will be given to publications in archeology, ethnology, and Indian history. References to publications issued between 1947 and 1959 are sought, especially those appearing in regional and local, or foreign journals. The editor, Alfred K. Guthe can be reached at the Rochester Museum of Arts and Sciences, 657 East Avenue, Rochester 7, New York, U.S.A.

Solecki at Shanidas

by Robert K. Plumb*

Three complete skeletons of prehistoric Neanderthal man, found within five days in Iraq last August, promise to shed new light on the puzzling relation between Homo neanderthalensis and modern man, Homo sapiens.

*This piece is reprinted, by permission, from the New York Times of October 89 1960. Dr. Solecki, our president, graciously wrote THE BULLETIN directly about his summer's work, but this piece from the Times is more detailed and expansive than his personal report. Mr. Plumb is a Times writer.

The skeletons were found in a cave that had been inhabited most of the time throughout the last 100,000 years, Dr. Ralph Solecki, assistant professor of anthropology at Columbia, reported last week.

In 1953 the skeleton of a prehistoric infant was found in the cave. The skeletons of three other Neanderthal men were found in 1957. An expedition led by Dr. Solecki has just returned from Iraq with a report on latest finds in the area, including a study of one of the earliest known instances in which man moved from cave to village life some 10,500 years ago.

The seven Neanderthal skeletons were found in Shanidar Cave near a small Kurdisy village of 150 persons. It is on a sunny southern slope in the Zagros Mountains, about 250 miles north of Baghdad, Iraq.

The Neanderthal men were probably killed by rock falling from the top of the cave, Dr. Solecki said. One specimen had a wound in the ribs, probably from a spear. This specimen, a victim of arthritis, probably was convalescing in the cave when the roof fell in. Another specimen had had its right arm cut off above the elbow with a stone knife in what must have been one of the earliest known surgical operations.

The significance of the find can be judged by comparing it with earlier Neanderthal specimens. Fragments of about a hundred individuals are known but complete skeletons are scarce indeed, Dr. Solecki said.

The age of the Neanderthal specimens was placed at 45,000 to 70,000 years ago. Near the top of the cave above the level where the youngest Neanderthal skeletons were found, the expedition located twenty-six specimens of modern man, buried in cultural debris that suggested they were about 10,500 years old.

The exact relation between Neanderthal and modern man remains uncertain, Dr. Solecki said. Probably there were many varieties of Neanderthal in Europe, Asia, and Africa, and perhaps *Homo sapiens* rose from one of them.

However, he added, there have been too few Neanderthal specimens to establish the exact relationship, if any. The new finds may help pinpoint variations in Neanderthals and their relation to modern man.

"Actually, what we're getting from Shanidar Cave is a small population of Neanderthals," he said. "Heretofore, we have had only scraps of local finds."

Dr. Solecki's wife, Dr. Rose Solecki, also a Columbia anthropologist, found evidence that modern man had changed from cave to village life in the area about 10,500 years ago. About two and a half miles from the cave she found remains of a village with artifacts akin to those found in the top layers of the cave itself. This she interpreted as evidence that the cave had been occupied during winter months by man between 10,000 and 11,000 years ago and that he moved to the village during the summer.