

Third 'Dig' Begins In Old Umatilla

By FRANCES ROSE WILSON

The third archaeological excavation by the Mid-Columbia Archaeological Society is now in progress in Old Umatilla. Excavation for this "dig" was started on March 6 and is being done on F Street in the first block above the Columbia River. The first dig, of about 6 weeks' duration, took place in the spring of 1970 and was in a comparable location on E Street. The second was carried on in the fall of 1970 and was completed on C Street in November.

About the Society

The Mid-Columbia Archaeological Society is based in the Tri-Cities, and although the greater number of their members are from these and surrounding communities, many in the Umatilla-Morrow County area are affiliated with the group, whose president is Charles W. Carmichael. This Society is carrying on this part of the present scientific study under a permit issued by the National Park Service to the University of Idaho, Department of Anthropology at Moscow, Idaho. Dr. David Rice is responsible to the Park Service for compliance with provisions of the permit.

Under the Antiquity Act of 1906 digging for artifacts on Federal property is illegal and is prohibited unless such a permit is obtained. In order that all possible knowledge of the past contained in these areas be obtained and carefully documented, these permits are not issued to individuals. Rather they are given to institutions having qualified personnel to supervise the research areas and evaluate their findings. Since this particular project is on land controlled by the Corps of Engineers a permit was also obtained from them.

Finances

Normally this type of study is carried on during the summer months, financed by grants and utilizing students who are interested, or majoring, in the particular field involved. This is quite expensive and a project is limited in scope directly in proportion to finances available.

Under the present arrangement the same end results are obtained with small cost, much of which is borne by the clubs membership through dues and assessments. In order that proper control can be exercised in the work area, only members of the Society are allowed to participate. Information related to club membership is available at the dig site.

Mysteries of past regional cultures are thus being unlocked as, strata by strata in 6 inch levels, the workers excavate the 5 by 5 foot squares of the checker-board plot. All material taken out is carefully screened and objects found are catalogued. The various strata lines are traced on the 4 walls and recorded on graph sheets. This process is referred to as "stratigraphy". Readings from all sections on the graph sheets are later compiled and coordinated for each level and an accurate overall picture can thus be formed of the entire encampment, showing the location of house pits and storage pits.

Project Supervisors

A project supervisor is appointed before the start of a project. In the present case co-supervisors are Nick Paglieri and Ken DenBeese. The latter's wife, Lois, is in charge of the field-lab trailer, where glue is applied to artifacts that would tend to deteriorate when exposed to air after long confinement, and the many steps of cataloging materials are performed.

In addition a dig foreman is



WORKER BEGINS excavation on the first 6 inch level in a 5x5 foot square in Old Umatilla, as other amateur archaeologists work area in background.

appointed for each day, who furnishes supervision and assistance to those working. Club members are all required to take their turns at the different steps in cataloging.

The many artifacts that are unearthed are catalogued as to location found, finder, depth and type, all of which is reported on individual cards, along with a tracing of the object and other pertinent information.

Approximately 10% of the choice items are retained for display purposes and these will be returned to the area for permanent display when suitable housing is found.

Rare Items Uncovered

Some rare items have been uncovered to date in this third dig, which will continue up into May. Among them were several dozen flat bone beads of dime size and smaller, and several elk ivories, each pierced with a small hole for stringing and wear, no doubt, a complete neck piece in that long ago past. Another item generating keen interest was a black obsidian knife about 4 inches long and fitted with a handle fashioned from a section of antler. A complete stone bowl with detailed design worked on its outer surface was also found.

'Rich Discovery'

An added touch of excitement and intrigue was introduced the second week of the dig when a number of skeletal remains were unearthed. Although the previous two projects were rich in informational data and produced many artifacts of the era, this was the first dig in the ancient encampment to yield skeletal remains in any quantity. At one location there appears to have been a mass or vault burial including over 50 individuals. Projectile points embedded in the neck (thoracic vertebra) of one individual, as well as several fractured and dislocated skulls has led to the speculation that a portion of this burial could have resulted from prehistoric battle deaths.

Preliminary estimates place the time of the encampment as early as 2,000 years in the past. Some remains have been removed to the University of Idaho for analysis. It is hoped other types of organic material may be ob-

tained from the site for carbon-14 testing, an accurate dating within a few hundred years is difficult from bone material.

Educational Importance

Much emphasis is placed upon the educational importance of these objects, and although much personal satisfaction derived from individual participation in the effort has been expressed by members of the group, this is not the primary purpose or end intent of the project.

An open invitation from the Society is extended to groups and classes of the area to visit the site during dig periods. A guide will be provided to answer questions pertaining to the activities and point out areas of particular importance in reconstructing living conditions and customs of the camp. Digging is done only on weekends and holidays. The dig area is posted and is closed to all during the week.

Immunity Joins The War

Can the human body's own immune defenses help fight cancer? Support the research scientists seeking the answers, by giving to the American Cancer Society.

Public Notices

IN THE CIRCUIT COURT OF THE STATE OF OREGON FOR THE COUNTY OF MORROW

PROBATE DEPARTMENT
In the Matter of the Estate of
MARTHA B. LANE, Deceased

No. 1667
NOTICE TO INTERESTED PERSONS

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that the undersigned has been appointed executor of the above estate. All persons having claims against the estate are required to present the same with proper vouchers within 4 months of this date at the offices of Mahoney & Abrams, P. O. Box 428, Heppner, Oregon.

DATED and first published this 18th day of March, 1971.

s/ John Lane
Executor
Address: Heppner, Oregon
97836

11-13c

FOR INCLUSION OF LANDS WITHIN THE WEST EXTENSION IRRIGATION DISTRICT

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that on the 6th day of March, 1968, there was filed with the Board of Directors of the West Extension Irrigation District a petition for the inclusion of the following described lands within the boundaries of the West Extension Irrigation District, which lands are described as follows:

NE 1/4, SW 1/4, S16, T4N, R25E, W1M, consisting of 35 Acres more or less.

The name of the petitioners in said petition are Louis G. Kinkade and Annabell L. Kinkade, husband and wife.

The prayer of the petitioners is that the above described lands be included within the boundaries of the West Extension Irrigation District, and that the boundaries of said district be extended to include said lands.

All persons interested are hereby required to appear at

the office of the Board of Directors of the West Extension Irrigation District on the 5th day of May, 1971, at 7:30 o'clock p.m., which is during the regular meeting of the said Board of Directors next after the expiration of the time for the publication of this notice, there to appear and show cause, if any they have, why the petition should not be granted.

Any objections to the granting of said petition shall be presented to said Board of Directors in writing at or prior to the time set for said hearing.

The failure of any persons interested to show cause as here provided shall be taken as an assent on his part to the inclusion of the above described lands within the boundaries of the West Extension Irrigation District as prayed for in the petition.

DATED this 7th day of April, 1971.

Date of first publication: April 15, 1971.
Date of last publication: April 29, 1971.

WEST EXTENSION IRRIGATION DISTRICT
By Clarence R. Post
15-17c

Two Morrow County 4-H Posters Among Oregon Top Ten

By BIRDINE TULLIS

Posters submitted by two Morrow County 4-H girls were among the top ten selected in Oregon to be forwarded to Washington, D. C. to be judged in a nationwide contest.

Posters of Erin Evans, Irrigon, and Joan Partlow, Boardman, were selected. Erin's entry was entitled "We Need You", and Joan's was "Can I Join 4-H?"

The contest was started to give 4-H members a chance to express what they feel about 4-H and to illustrate that 4-H is for everyone. Art work selected for national honors will be used for 4-H display posters and leaflets. Final judging will be at the National 4-H Conference, April 18-23. Coats & Clark is sponsoring special awards for the top ten posters on a national basis.

April 4 is Skiers Fun In the Sun Day

As a salute to spring and the nearing end of a successful ski season, the Arbuckle Area will have a "Fun in the sun and snow day" Sunday, April 4.

There will be a regular day of skiing starting at 11:00 a.m. for everyone and at 2:30 p.m. various races and events will begin.

Bring a sack lunch or potluck and enjoy a fun-filled, action-packed day.

BIBLE CLUB CANCELLED

There will be no Thursday Bible Club at the Assembly of God Church today because of illness in the family.

Bob Allstott Here

Bob Allstott will be speaking at the 11 o'clock service at the Assembly of God Church this Sunday. He is a former resident of Heppner. Pastor Burwell says "He is an inspiring speaker".

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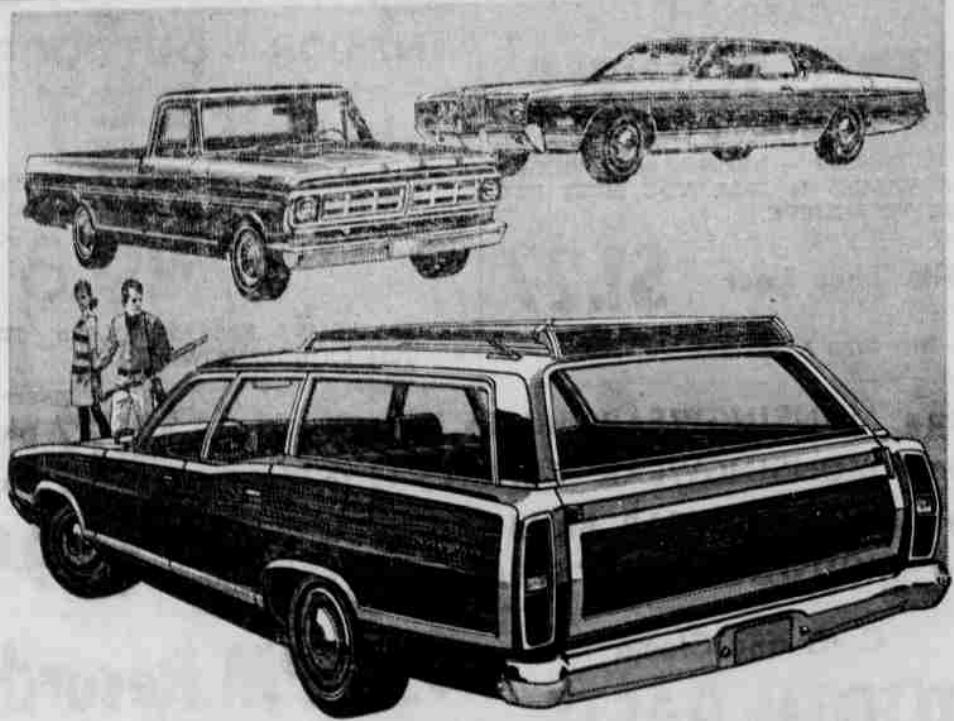
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WRANGLERS PLAYDAY

AT WRANGLERS GROUNDS

SUNDAY, APRIL 4

1:00 P.M.

SPECIAL OBRA

APPROVED
BARREL RACING
EVENT

Public Welcome — No Charge

APRIL 3 and 4, 1971

IN COVERED ARENA

MORROW COUNTY FAIRGROUNDS, HEPPNER

SATURDAY, 6:00 P.M.

SUNDAY, 9:00 A.M.

No Admission Charge