This is the third installment of an abbreviated narrative for the layman derived from The Prehistory of the Indians of Western Connecticut: Part I, 9000 B.C. - 1000 B.C., a major research document written by Edmund K. Swigart and published this fall by the SVAS.

The first two installments, published in the June and September issues, covered the retreat of the glacier, the arrival and departure of the earliest (Paleo) Indian people known to have lived in the 200-square-mile area on which this report is based, and the evidence of a warmer climate as the Archaic period (± 6000 - ± 2500 B.C.) progressed. This moderating environment resulted in a growing population of hunting and gathering people, whose large flint projectile points evolved into smaller quartz points as these people are believed to have stayed in the area and to have made increasing use of locally available materials.

This installment describes the possible coexistence of Indian peoples who used two distinctly different types of quartz projectile points and who were probably the most numerous people ever to inhabit western Connecticut.

The small quartz triangle complex, perhaps the final presence of the Laurentian tradition was found on 21 of the 25 major sites and yielded 244 points representing the third largest total of projectile points from the study area.

All but one of the ten excavated sites had a quartz triangle component. All sites that had this component also had a small-stemmed and side-notched point tradition. In every case where clear stratigraphic evidence was available, however, the small quartz triangles were underneath and mixed on the lower levels with the small-stem and side-notched material. This would indicate that the complex using the small quartz triangle points were present before, and probably co-occupiers later, of the excavated sites. Based on western Connecticut stratigraphy and projectile point analysis, therefore, it is reasonable to assume that these are two originally separate traditions that later shared cultural traits or even merged.

Carbon 14 dates obtained by the SVAS would indicate that the mixing of triangles and small-stem, side-notch points must have occurred after 2110 B.C., the most recent small triangle date, but before 1850 B.C. when both the small-stem and triangle cultures seem to disappear from the western Connecticut scene.

The small-stemmed and side-notched narrow point tradition appears to have entered the western Connecticut region around 2515 B.C. ± 240 years, probably moving north through New Jersey and southern New York from the Middle Atlantic States region. This tradition continues until some time between 1850 B.C. the most recent date for this point style, and 1715 B.C., the oldest date for the large flint blade culture that succeeds it.

It would appear at this stage of the SVAS research program that by far the greatest population of Indians ever to live in western Connecticut were people using the small-stemmed and side-notched point style. Nearly 1500 artifacts, or 49.4 per cent of all the projectile points recovered from approximately 10,000 years of Indian history, were lost by these people in approximately 700 years.

In other words, 30 per cent of the artifacts were lost in seven per cent of the time that people lived in western Connecticut from the dawn of human occupation until the coming of the white settlers in the late 1600's.

While most of the people preceding this group had a major waterway orientation, it is apparent, from the fact that 24 of the 25 major sites recorded in this study contained these points, that these people camped on or heavily hunted any suitable spot, regardless of the water source. This, however, is probably a factor of the far greater population density of this period.

Other evidence also suggests a very large population living in the study area around 2000 B.C. Nine of the ten excavated sites contain evidence of camping activity. Moreover, this is the only culture, or one of a very few cultures, that gives evidence of campsites on most small stream and upland sites. In ad-

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After Hours

Three years ago when we first published this newsletter, I can remember Norman Shidie, founded and first editor of ARTIFACTS, suggesting in his subtle way that "there ought to be a President's Column." I was dumbfounded. I actually couldn't think of what to say. Now I don't know where to begin; there is so much exciting news I wish to share with you.

First, the budget of the Society for 1974-75 will not be $22,000 as I had so confidently predicted. It will be nearer $40,000. The reason is that at the last meeting of your Board of Directors, it was their unanimous opinion that our "fledgling" organization had suddenly grown up. Therefore, this year our part-time secretary has become full time (as if she did not work full time already), and your President will have a full-time administrative assistant. We will also hire a professional archaeologist to run our summer dig program if the full-time administrative assistant does not have archaeological experience.

The American Indian Institute of Connecticut is progressing very rapidly. The outer walls and roof have been completed. The circular design and the adobe block construction make this facility blend in beautifully with its surroundings. Between Les Searle, our architect, and Bill Deacon, our contractor, they have tried to keep every tree pole; the result is there are trees within eight to 10 feet of the building.

The plans for the furnishing of the building are coming along nicely. Thanks to your generous response to our capital equipment appeal, we have acquired some of the necessary equipment for the research room. We will have movable tables to accommodate 15 students, with storage from floor to ceiling along the outside wall and above the entryway and the dark room. Special desks on either end of the research room will be for cleaning, reconstructing and cataloging artifacts, and for special testing and analysis of materials. Of invaluable assistance in laying out this most important area of the building have been three eminent archaeologists, Dr. Michael D. Coe, Curator of Anthropology at the Peabody Museum and SVAS Board Member; Dr. Fred Warner, President of the Connecticut Archaeological Society and a member of the SVAS Building Committee; and Dr. Richard S. MacNeil, Director of the Robert S. Peabody Foundation for Archaeology at the Phillips Academy in Andover, Massachusetts.

Dr. MacNeil was the first visiting scholar under the National Humanities Faculty Grant for the Gunnery-Wykeham Rise Pre-college Program in Archaeology. He is clearly one of the world's leading archaeologists, and among other great contributions which he has made to man's knowledge of his past was the discovery of the origin of corn. Dr. MacNeil absolutely enthralled everyone who came in contact with him. He was enthusiastic, articulate, and extremely sensitive to the needs of the Pre-college Program.

Edmund K. Swigert
President,
Shepaug Valley Archaeological Society

In Memoriam

SIDNEY A. HESSEL
January 5, 1907 - November 11, 1974
Founding Member, Director,
Trusted Friend, Wise Counselor,
Generous Benefactor.

The SVAS was one of Mr. Hessel's deep interests and to it he devoted much of his considerable talents, his time and energy. One of the important sites being dug by the Society is on his property. We shall sorely miss his guidance and support.

At the request of the Hessel family, memorial contributions may be made to the SVAS.

The Directors of the SVAS were deeply saddened to learn of the sudden death in August of Mrs. Covington Hardee, a former Director and enthusiastic member of the Society. A Joan Hardee Memorial Fund is being established, with the income to be used for an annual Special Event Day.

NOTE BENE!
The September and December issues of ARTIFACTS, and the Society's first research monograph are being published with funds from part of the Reader's Digest Grant which was announced with much appreciation at the Ground Breaking Ceremony in June.

BOOK REVIEW

Empire Over The Dam, Pequot Press.

This very fine resource publication is now available in Connecticut book stores. It was researched and written by Kenneth T. Howell and Einar W. Carlson, whose interest in the past was stirred by their participation in the Kirby Brook excavations and the formation of the SVAS. The book focuses on the history of a water-powered industrial empire which thrived for more than 175 years in northwestern Connecticut.

ERRATUM

In Vol. 3, No. 1 (Sept.) issue of Artifacts.

The reference to people from New York State who used the Otter Creek style of projectile point, and belonged to the Vergennes (early) phase of the Laurentian tradition, should have been credited to Dr. William A. Ritchie, recently retired State Archaeologist for New York, and not Dr. Robert Funk who is the current State Archaeologist.
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dition the Shepaug River, a major navigable waterway, would appear at this time to have an encampment of these projectile point users approximately every mile of its length in the township of Washington, while Sprain Brook, a small stream, has a double encampment every 2 to 2 1/2 miles. The firepits associated with the small-stem, side-notched people, all had rock cobbles suggesting a method of cooking by boiling, probably in bark containers. The almost total absence of preserved food remains, so much a part of the roasting pits of the triangle people, is consistent with this theory. The river cobbles could either be heated and then placed in bark containers filled with water and food to boil their contents, or these bark containers could be placed directly on the heated stones themselves. In either case, very little food would fall into the fire to be preserved in the charcoal.

One hearth consisted of three layers of charcoal and three layers of river cobbles arranged like a sandwich. A Carbon 14 date of 2405 B.C. was recorded for the middle layer of charcoal. This hearth was removed and is currently on exhibition in the SVAS room in the Gunn Memorial Museum.

Another firepit, excavated by Stephen Post and Douglas Jarvis, two Gunnery School students, has returned the oldest C-14 date so far recorded for the State of Connecticut—2515 B.C.

Shortly after 1850 B.C. and perhaps as recently as 1500 B.C., the small-stemmed and side-notched and the small triangle cultures cease to exist. Probably the most numerous Indian people ever to inhabit the state vanished from the western Connecticut scene without leaving a trace or a clue that has yet been discovered by the SVAS.

What, then, is known about the life of these two groups of people? A great deal is known about when they lived and what their stone work was like. Something is known about what they ate, how they prepared it, where they preferred to live, and what their relative population was. Very little is known about their society. Nothing is known about their dwellings or their political, cultural, and religious practices.

Many important questions remain unanswered in addition to the ones already mentioned. For instance, how did the environment support such large numbers of an essentially hunting, gathering society? This type of subsistence normally needs a far greater area per person to gather food than does the later agriculturally based groups. To support their large population, did these people really learn how to totally use the renewable resources available to them in their chosen territory as few other cultures have ever done?

How did two such essentially different cultures as the small triangle and small-stem and side-notch peoples live in such close proximity to one another in apparent peace for so long—or are the people not as different as their artifacts would indicate?

Why was their disappearance so relatively sudden and complete? Did the environment finally "give out"? No evidence presently exists of a human-inspired disaster, nor is there any evidence of climatic change, the key environmental factor that clearly influenced earlier population changes. The period of greatest warmth and dryness continues unabated for another 1,800 years.

The dramatic change in the artifact style and cultural practices may itself hold the key to this mystery. A new, broad flint blade tradition suddenly appears in the region at the same approximate time that the small triangle, small-stem and side-notched traditions disappear. Did these new immigrants, apparently fewer in number but with a new and perhaps more advanced culture, kill off, drive off, enslave, intermarry with, or absorb the people already living here?

Or did they simply move into a land already empty of human inhabitants?

Additional intensive research into the twilight zone of the specific contact period between the arriving flint culture and the disappearing quartz cultures seems at this time to offer the greatest possibility for providing answers to this great human mystery.

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Meeting Program

Meetings of the Shepaug Valley Archaeological Society are held in Bryan Memorial Hall in Washington Depot on the first Thursday of the month, October through May, at 8 p.m. The programs for winter and spring of 1975 are as follows:

January 2, 1975: Talk, "1974 SVAS Summer Digs" President Edmund K. Swigart will report on the 1974 SVAS summer digs. He will display artifacts uncovered and will comment on their significance.

February 6, 1975: Film, Basketmaking in Colonial Virginia Depicts all the steps in the making of a basket, from the splitting of the oak log to the completion of handweaving the basket.

March 6, 1975: Talk, "Above-ground Archaeology" Ronald Whittle will present an introduction, accompanied by slides, to the study of early Washington gravestones.

The designs carved on the stones will be interpreted in the context of social and religious history.

April 3, 1975: Talk, "Fort Stamford" Elizabeth Gershom, chairman of the Fort Stamford Committee, will present a program concerning archaeological work at this site of early Connecticut history.

May 1, 1975: Film, Exploring the Unwritten Past Shows how archaeologists and geologists use scientific methods to analyze objects associated with man in Great Britain prior to recorded history. Both the stratification and Carbon 14 methods are shown being used to date excavated materials such as pottery and tools. Organic remains such as bark, pollen, and grain are shown being used to gain information on the climate and vegetation of past times. The film uses models to demonstrate the orientation of Stonehenge and the structure of prehistoric mounds.
This year's goal is $100,000 by the tentative Institute dedication date of May 10th. We have $60,000 pledged. Do you know anyone who will help us over the top?

The Society now is two months into the new fiscal year and the return in membership dues is very heartening. One-third of those responding are new members — a vital part of the Society's lifeblood.

Reminders have been sent out and we hope our 'old' members will respond promptly and as generously as possible.

REMEMBER — share the excitement of our cause by giving a Gift Membership for Christmas.

See the November flyer or call the office, 368-7003, for further information.

The Society's first annual research monograph on the Prehistory of the Indians of Western Connecticut is now available free to members on request and is being sent to those who have made reservations.

The September request for donations of capital equipment or funds toward their purchase has resulted in $365 in cash, a Monocular Microscope, several excellent cameras and a 16 mm projector, for all of which we are very grateful.

At the Annual Meeting of the Federated Garden Clubs of Connecticut, held on October 16, SVAS President Edmund K. Swigart was among those receiving an Award-1974. Mr. Swigart was given a Certificate of Achievement in Conservation by the Federation.

SVAS President Edmund K. Swigart attended the Annual Meeting of the Eastern States Archaeological Federation in Bangor, Maine, October 18, 19, 20, where he gave a talk on "Discovering 10,000 Years of Indian Prehistory in Western Connecticut," and was elected Treasurer of the Federation.

On August 17 and 18, the Richter Association for the Arts of Danbury, Connecticut, sponsored a tribute to American Indians. The two-day event provided an opportunity for area people to talk, learn, and enjoy the rich culture of the American Indian through numerous activities conducted by Indians representing tribes from New England and other areas of the United States. Dancing, games, crafts, songs, and films were a few of the features.

Miss Adelphena Logan, an Onondaga, and SVAS board member, journeyed from Auburn, N. Y., to participate in this program. SVAS education committee chairman John Pawloski was in charge of the SVAS exhibit and lectured on "Ten Thousand Years of Indian History."

**ARTIFACTS**

The Shepaug Valley Archaeological Society

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