An End....
And A Beginning....

Elsewhere in this issue, Institute President Edmund Swigart reports, with hard-earned and well-deserved pride, that "the American Indian Archaeological Institute is now completed." In an important sense, then, an end has been reached—a vantage point from which to pause, look back, and thoroughly enjoy the thrill of pleasure from a job well done.

Without meaning to diminish the joy of the moment, I must gently but most earnestly point out that the pause should be only momentary. For implicit in every end is a new beginning, and our beginning is a persistent, importunate, almost palpable presence in everything we do, or say, or write. The Institute as a building has been created; building Phase I has been completed. A perfect gem of a building has appeared in the heart of a spectacularly beautiful woodland glade where just over a year ago many of us witnessed the first literal spadework, executed by Adelphena Logan, an Onondaga, and Irving Harris, a Schaghticoke.

But the Institute as a living, moving, creative education center—that is our new beginning, and that is what preoccupies us, motivates us—and alternately delights and disappoints us. We are started now, engaged in our primary mission. We have the place, the ideas, the sense of urgency and the will to succeed.

We need one more precious element, and I turn to you—all our members, all our readers—to provide it. It is that same magic quality that created the building: a happy blend of personal enthusiasm, intellectual involvement, and a conviction of the worth of the undertaking. The forces generated by these human conditions are needed as much now as they have ever been, and perhaps even more, for this new beginning has no neatly defined end, like driving a last nail or handing over a key. Its demands and its opportunities are as boundless and self-generating as is the process of education everywhere. I believe it is harder to sustain a commitment in these circumstances—and therefore more important to work at it.

There are some very specific ways in which we need help—material things and specialized skills. These are explained in another part of this newsletter. As important as these are in helping us to develop our promise as an educational center, they are secondary to your good will. If you will continue to give this as generously as you have, our programs will grow and proliferate as will our strength, our reputation, and—our membership!

You must continue to carry the good news, as you have—vocally, articulately, convincingly—that important work is being done in this quiet part of the forest—that unless this work is sustained and reinforced, knowledge will be lost forever; and that is a shameful tragedy wherever and however it is tolerated.

And so the work is not completed—not yet, not ever. The operational machinery is beginning to turn. And all that has passed is the base for this new beginning. Courses are being prepared for presentation at schools and at the Institute; talks, tours and special programs will be offered at the museum to classes from public and independent schools; university students will be offered instruction in archaeological method, data analysis and interpretation; schools are being invited to encourage students to undertake "independent" or "alternate" study programs with the guidance of Institute staff members; plans for the expansion of the newsletter into a full-fledged quarterly journal are being considered.

In everything we do, everything we plan, professionalism and scholarship will be the guiding principles. Archaeologists and anthropologists in many parts of the country have noted with approval and appreciation the work here that we have begun. They will be watching closely the progress of the next few years—to see whether we can, indeed, sustain the momentum and make the contribution to scholarly research and education that our beautiful facility promises to the world.

The degree to which we succeed will be directly proportional to the forces you are willing to marshal in continued support. Ned Swigart started with his "Stalwart Seven." We have now exceeded seven hundred; let us strive for seven thousand members to create here not only the most surprising new archaeological success story in the Northeast, but also the region's most aggressive, most versatile, and most scholarly program of research and education in our field.

R.W.D.
After Hours

We now begin our fifth year of official operation and our first in our new home. What a meteoric four years we have experienced together, and what an exciting year lies ahead.

It is with considerable pleasure and pride that I can report to you that the American Indian Archaeological Institute is now completed and has been paid for in full. As we promised you, we have also kept intact the $100,000 of endowment to furnish the nucleus of a fund to provide income to operate the Institute independent of the vagaries of annual giving. Already we are beginning to receive generous memorial gifts for endowment as well. The Althea Marsh Russell memorial has been established by her husband, Lyent Russell, to provide an annual fund for the construction of a new traveling school exhibit. A recent anonymous pledge was received to begin to endow the Joan Hardee memorial, an annual special day to celebrate by ceremony and demonstration the native people of America. A number of friends from many parts of the country have established the Sidney A. Hessel Memorial Fund to begin to endow the Institute's research room which was dedicated in his name at our opening ceremonies May 10th. All of these specially designated gifts will result in the addition of another $10,000 to our overall endowment, and are obviously a vital step in our future financial planning.

I am also very pleased to announce that we have met the $7,000 Reader's Digest Challenge Grant by raising $20,099 of new operating income between April 4 and our deadline of July 31st. The challenge grant was offered to aid us once again to operate financially in the black, as the $20,000 figure was the difference between our projected income of $20,000 from dues and endowment, and our operating budget for 1974-75 of $40,000.

This remarkable achievement was made possible by 194 new membership contributions, including 11 in the $1,000-and-up "patrons" category. Seven private foundations participated in this challenge.

In addition, during this challenge period we received a $10,000 grant from the Kresge Foundation to help us meet our modest additional building costs in adding 800 square feet of storage space, and a generator to ensure uninterrupted temperature and humidity control even during power failures. Thus we have raised close to $140,000 in new money for the Institute since a year ago last June.

As we near our new fiscal year beginning October 1, 1975, we are in a remarkably sound financial position, considering the youth of our organization and the accomplishments of the past year.

We must continue this sound fiscal policy, while at the same time meeting the tremendous challenges which this coming year will offer us if we are to fulfill the immense responsibility which our Institute and you, our membership have placed upon us. For the building must now be utilized to the fullest extent possible if, indeed, it is to become the center for northeastern Indian studies that we currently envision for it.

This will obviously cost money. Our budget only three years ago was $5,000. This next year it must go to $83,000 as an absolutely minimal figure. In addition to the Institute and its precious contents which must be treated with such tender care, we now have five staff (our 'experts' predicted two staff by 1985) and ambitious education, exhibit, publication and research plans.

This is also the year in which we must balance our budget without the significant help of private foundations which have been so generous to us in our early years. We must prove to ourselves and to them that we are now able to operate on sound business principles.

In order to do this, we must accomplish three things during 1975-76. First, we must broaden dramatically our base of financial support. We must attempt to double our membership again in 1975-76 as we have done almost every year since our inception, and must strive for a total of 5,000 members within the next three years. This would ensure a minimum of $50,000 in dues and go a long way toward meeting our annual budget needs. This can only be accomplished if each current member not only renews (and please consider raising your category of membership) but also goes out among his or her friends to solicit actively at least two additional new members. We shall be glad to furnish you with any material you wish; and remember, the best publicity we shall ever have is by word of mouth. If we must rely on a mail campaign, we can expect no more than a 2% return for our efforts. With personal contact, this return can be as high as 50%!

The second major way of meeting our 1975-76 budget is through the creation of our category of membership entitled "Patrons of the Institute." These are friends who are willing and able to make a contribution of $1000 or more during our fiscal year. Operating under the normal statistics of private charity donations where 90% of the contributions come from 10% of the donors, we will need approximately 66 patron members this year, if we hope to raise the necessary $83,000 from membership contributions.

Last year we had 36 donors in this category. We shall hold a special dinner on October 14, at the Institute with a program to honor these donors. Our featured speaker will be Professor Michael Coe of the Yale Anthropology Dept. and the Peabody Museum. Obviously we urgently need patrons, and any suggestions you, our membership, might have of friends who might be interested in becoming patrons will be greatly appreciated.

The third and last category of ways to meet our budget in 1975-76 is through income other than private membership contributions. With approximately $110,000 in endowment, we can expect $6,000 in income from this source to help us to maintain the institute. The other major source of funds in this category would be income from programs offered by the institute, and income from the small Institute store. While these items will hopefully become important sources of revenue in 1976-77, such things as adult courses, school programs, group tours and store items are currently only in the planning stages and we do not expect them to be significant revenue producers for 1975-76.

Thus the challenge to all of us is obvious. If we are to continue to conduct and to expand our research and educational programs and to operate on the same sound financial base we have always adhered to, we need your help to increase dramatically our membership and, in particular, our $1,000 yearly membership contributions.

We have met every challenge in the past, and with your continued loyalty and commitment, we shall meet this one.

E.K.S.
The author of this article, Dr. Roger W. Moeller, is Curator of the AIAI and will be a regular contributor to ARTIFACTS. His personal involvement in the flotation technique of soil analysis will be of particular interest to students in his courses (see special notice of evening courses offered each semester at the Institute Center), and a continuing source of important new archaeological discovery in our area. Ed.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL TECHNIQUES: FLOTATION

This short paper will present an overview of the history, procedures, and importance of flotation in archaeological research. Flotation is a water separation technique employed in the recovery of small-scale archaeological remains including seeds, bones, stone chips, and other artifacts and ecofacts which might have been missed by troweling or sifting.

HISTORY

Stuart Strouver (American Antiquity 1968:353-362) is often credited with bringing flotation to the attention of American archaeologists. Before this time, flotation was in extensive use only in Europe. Despite the initial excitement, many archaeologists have never used flotation. Of those who have used it extensively and systematically, few have analyzed the data recovered and fewer still have published their findings. The reasons for this are that flotation and the subsequent analysis are time consuming and can be quite tedious.

PROCEDURES

In its most common application flotation is conducted in a swiftly running stream or river. A metal wash tub with the bottom replaced by a window screen or finer mesh is placed on cinder blocks in the river to allow the water to fill the tub to within three inches of the brim. The excavated dirt is then carefully and slowly poured into the tub in measured quantities.

The tub is repeatedly agitated to force the dirt through the mesh and to allow the organic materials to go into suspension. While in suspension, these particles, or the light fraction, as they are called, are scooped off by use of a tea strainer and placed onto a pan for drying. The light fraction contains seeds, bones, nuts, roots, charcoal, and small creatures of the earth.

The dirt washing through the screen would soon build up beneath the tub if it weren't for the swift current. Shallow pools or eddies are not the ideal place to do flotation, since the tub has to be moved often or the dirt dug out from under. A way to avoid the problem of dirt removal is simply to hold the tub and move to a new location when build-up occurs. Holding the tub quickly results in extremely tired arms, which leads to the possible loss of data when the tub is dropped!

When all the dirt has been floated from a given provenience unit, the residue trapped on top of the mesh, or heavy fraction, is dumped onto another pan for drying. Heavy fraction contains everything which did not go into suspension and did not fall through the mesh: stone chips, pottery sherds, gravel, and saturated charcoal, seeds, and bone.

There are two options in the initial analysis phase. The first is to let the light and heavy fractions dry, and then sort them by hand. Using a small paint brush or dental pick, the seeds, bones, and artifacts, when dried, may be separated from one another and from the gravel, charcoal and roots.

The second option is to pour the light fraction into a chemical solution, such as zinc chloride. Because of the differential specific gravities and absorption rates, bones, seeds, and roots and charcoal form discrete bands in the solution and can be scooped out separately. The accuracy of separation is said to approach 90% when the wet technique is employed.

The advantages of one separation technique over the other depend upon the quantity of light fraction; relative frequencies of seed, bone, charcoal, and roots; and the availability of laboratory technicians.

IMPORANCE

In 1972 at the Faucett site in Bushkill, Pennsylvania, Moeller and Handsman floated twenty tons of dirt from Late Woodland pits and Middle Woodland living floors. Thousands of man hours were spent floating, separating, and analyzing. The result was 12,650 seeds and nuts, 300 identifiable bones, and hundreds of chips, sherds, and other artifacts too small to have been caught in the troweling and sifting.

Flotation was employed as an integral part of the excavation plan and was not an "extra" done whenever we felt like it. Because of this many interpretations could be made which would not have been possible otherwise. Without flotation no seeds, nuts or small mammal and fish remains would have been recovered. Flotation showed that every pit actually contained seeds or bones missed by the other excavation techniques.

Seeds in conjunction with associated artifacts told us the seasons of occupation, the duration and purpose of each occupation, areas exploited by the camps' inhabitants, some of the activities undertaken at the camps, and aboriginal non-food uses of plants.

Faunal remains not recovered in troweling and sifting aided in completing the picture of Indian subsistence patterns in the Upper Delaware Valley. They did not live entirely by the large animals such as deer and bear. The smaller animals, fish, reptiles, amphibians, and shellfish played a more important role in their diet than was previously thought. Flotation was an absolute necessity to obtain evidence of the magnitude of these roles.

In 1975 during the excavation of the Kibler-Funk site in Washington Boro, Pennsylvania, Moeller and Kinsey floated several hundred pounds of pit fill from a Sheneck's Ferry village. The result was a few quartz flakes and some bone. Most of the flotation samples yielded nothing at all. The difference in recovery compared to the Faucett site might have been due to poor preservation or the absence of anything to have been preserved at Kibler-Funk.

This example is given to show that flotation is not a panacea. It will not permit the recovery of remains not there to begin with. It is merely a tool to recover the most data possible from an excavation. One will never know what is being missed until flotation is attempted.

Try it, you may like it.

R.W.M.
From the First SVAS Research Monograph:

INDIAN PREHISTORY Part IV

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 in the fall of 1974.

The previous installment in the December, 1974 issue of ARTIFACTS related that between 1850 B.C. and 1500 B.C., the small-stemmed, side-notched, and small triangle projectile points cease to appear in western Connecticut. These were representative of probably the most numerous people to inhabit the state until recent times, and yet they seem to have vanished without leaving any trace or reason yet known.

Sometime shortly before 1715 B.C., a distinctly different tradition appeared in the study area. The most accepted theory is that this late Archaic hunting-gathering culture spread up the Hudson River valley into western Connecticut from eastern Pennsylvania and New Jersey and perhaps down from Massachusetts. In weighing all of the evidence concerning the origins of this new broad flint culture, it would appear that this western Connecticut, Snook Kill culture was either an amalgam of traditions arriving in this area almost simultaneously from both the north and the south, or was the result of an extremely rapid, northerly movement of the Lehigh broad point culture, experiencing an area influence which caused the modifications listed as being Massachusetts-oriented. Snook Kill-type points are numerically the fourth most abundant form after the small-stemmed, the side-notched, and the Levanna, and small quartz triangle styles; and they suggest the third highest relative population in this study of the prehistory of the area.

Unlike the small-stemmed, side-notched and triangle cultures directly preceding them, Snook Kill points were made of foreign lithic materials rather than the locally available quartz. It is interesting to note that no particular habitat appears to be preferred; these points are scattered evenly over the entire region. Surprisingly, six of the 15 sites studied show direct evidence of occupation in the form of work areas, tools, and even dwelling plans.

Two C-14 dates have been acquired for this culture, but both are on the small-stem/large-flint blade contact level and therefore probably date only the earliest Snook Kill occupation. One is for a major river site component at the confluence of the Housatonic and Still Rivers and is dated at 1715 B.C. A second pit occurred on the Snook Kill component level at a small stream site and was dated at 1710 B.C.+150 years. The pit appeared to have been used for two purposes. A pile of quartz and flint debitage three inches high was in the cup-shaped bottom of the pit. Above that was an almost solid layer of charcoal with occasional quartz and flint debitage. Thus it would appear to have been a refuse pit which, perhaps later, was used as a firepit or as a receptacle for firepit ash. There was a sizeable amount of flint debitage in the pit but no identifiable projectile points. On this site, flint was an almost totally unknown material to the small quartz triangle people. Therefore the hearth is assumed to date the Snook Kill component during its earliest presence, since this is the first level at which Snook Kill-like points occur and several were found in the immediate area of the pit. While any one of the seven sites showing Snook Kill occupation might be described as typical in terms of material and artifacts, the three-terrace Shepaug River site may best serve as the model to use for this culture.

The major Snook Kill occupation was on the second of the terraces that compose this site. In this very small and narrow area (35 to 50 feet wide by 200 feet long) 51 4-foot squares were excavated. One hundred eighteen verified post molds were found, arranged in two likely dwelling patterns in the black stain and orange podzol. The average diameter of 2 1/8 inches, the average depth of three inches, and the possible arrangement of these molds into a circular pattern nine feet in diameter were similar to results found in Pennsylvania. The other possible dwelling pattern is an oblong shape 12 feet long by eight feet wide. A gap in the molds indicated that a door may have been placed at one end. No less than four oblong, nor more than six round, occasionally overlapping, plans were recorded. The angle, spacing, and small size of the molds, together with the overlapping nature of the dwelling outlines, indicated a rather flimsy, temporary, Quonset-hut style of building made of saplings pushed into the ground, then probably bent and tied at the top. Later, Indian wigwams were constructed in much the same way. These structures would have had to be repaired or rebuilt at rather frequent intervals. Probably no more than 10 to 20 people, an extended family group, ever occupied these dwellings at any one time. This method of construction, together with the fact that no identifiable hearths were found inside the shelters would tend to corroborate the hypothesis that this was a summer, berry camp. The presence of carbonized "berries," identified variously as "fruits" and "blueberries," strengthens this hypothesis. During the summer, the people would not have needed substantial shelters, nor substantial fires inside these shelters.

Shards from two coarsely made, thick, straight-sided pots were found on the dwelling floor area. Both were tempered with small pieces of quartz and were of coil construction. Twenty-two shards of one pot were found over an 80-square-foot area. Cord markings were present on both the exterior and interior of the pot. The deepest markings were toward the rim and ran vertically on the inside and horizontally on the outside. While shards from the first pot have been identified by two authorities as Vinette I, a very early form of northeastern pottery, others maintain that Vinette I pottery probably should not be associated with Snook Kill material, as the time of occupation for this culture is too early for pottery in New England. From excavations of the Snook Kill components on several sites, it is evident that these people were in western Connecticut for what might prove to be a considerably longer period of time than is now realized. Study of the soil formation of this site suggests that it might have been occupied by Snook Kill people for as long as 1,200 years, but more likely for about 600 years. This would place the most recent occupation of the Snook Kill people in western Connecticut at approximately 1,200 B.C., well within the outer limits assumed for the possible acquisition and use of Vinette I pottery.

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A typical “tool kit” of the Snook Kill level taken from the site contains the following: large spearheads made entirely of flint; a large, crude, expanded-base flint drill; several large quartz and flint, hafted scrapers; a flint engraver; a crude, chipped traprock adz; flint-flake tools; granite and quartz hammerstones; quartz humpback scrapers; and several large teshoons, (crude flake tools). While most of the excavated projectile points were made of flint, the on-site quartz ratio for tools was almost exactly one to one. The lithic preference of Snook Kill people shows a remarkable shift from the very heavy utilization of locally available quartz by the small-stem, side-notch and triangle people who directly preceded them. Once again the question arises as to how and where the Snook Kill people obtained so much flint, an essentially foreign lithic material. Areas for the construction of artifacts appear to be in the immediate vicinity of dwellings. However, because of the overlapping of some of the post mold patterns, no conclusions can be drawn about whether the major work areas were inside or directly outside and adjacent to the dwellings.

More is known about the cultural life of this group than of most previous ones. In addition to the dwelling plans and other characteristics already mentioned, a cremation burial from a high hill on the east bank of the Housatonic River and others from Wallingford and Windsor point to a highly developed religious tradition, culminating, apparently, in a belief in life after death. A date of ± 1700 B.C. has been arbitrarily assigned to the Connecticut burials, based on dates already available in western Connecticut for similar material. The Housatonic River burial was on the westerly side of a 390-foot hill, 100 feet above the river and was discovered by William Carlson and Andrew Hartwell after a bulldozer had scraped the edge of it in cutting an access road. According to the two men, the pit was approximately 15 inches below the surface, cylindrical in shape, 18 inches wide by 18 inches deep, with a flat bottom. Artifacts had no apparent arrangement; they seemed to have been poured into the hole along with small pieces of charcoal and calcined bone and a black substance extremely greasy to the touch. No carbon sample was salvaged from the burial.

Over two-thirds of the grave offerings were broken, and almost one-half do not have all of the necessary pieces for reconstruction. Some reconstructed artifacts had pieces of a different color, indicating that they may have been deliberately broken or “killed” before the actual cremation took place. Others did not show this and were thus probably broken during the cremation process.

At the Center-

After the dedication of our new Center on May 10, a period of intense activity followed during which volunteers from schools and from the adult membership set to work to prepare the building for opening. Artifacts and exhibit materials were assembled from places of safekeeping in Washington and from bank vaults in other communities. Literally hundreds of thousands of objects, from the society’s own digs, from several private collections from Gunn Memorial Museum exhibits, and especially from the Edward H. Rogers collection were brought together. The volunteers began the seemingly endless process of systematic sorting and storage.

John Pawloski, with several helpers, but most particularly the loyal, regular assistance of David Pokrywka, has worked from long before the dedication, and with intensified effort through the summer, to produce our temporary but effective exhibits. No written expression of gratitude would suffice to recognize John’s investment of time, creative talent, and manual skill in providing an interesting, attractive sequence of educational displays. Almost as often in evidence, and ever-ready to respond to our cry for their special skills have been Mr. and Mrs. Frank Piliero who have translated text and caption into precise, professional lettering on the exhibit panels.

Through the efforts of these members and almost thirty others who have given their time, our Institute center has become, in two short, crowded months, not only a research facility but also an attractive, effective small museum. We invite all members and friends - in fact, everyone who shares an interest in archaeology and ethnohistory to visit, to listen to our story, and to join with us actively in this important work.

In the Field-

From July 2 to August 3, Ned Swigart conducted the summer dig. Work was in progress from Wednesday through Saturday at the Woodruff rock shelter, the site of last summer’s dig. It is early to comment specifically on results of the summer’s work which involved veteran field workers and newcomers who learned under the watchful eyes of experienced people and the dig-master himself. It can be said, however, that the large concentration of mammal bone reveals further useful information about diet, climate, and seasonal occupation.

Several impressive implements and a large number of projectile points were found. Mr. Swigart will present a detailed report on the results of the dig at the January 8, 1976, meeting.

Again this summer, Dr. Philip Salkin of the University of Wisconsin spent two months in this area with approximately 25 young men and women and several assistants. Representing the North Eastern Archaeological Research Foundation, the group, many of whom were undergraduates of the University of Wisconsin, excavated the Squash Cave and Lovers Leap sites.

They lived at Wykeham Rise School and with extraordinary fortitude endured some of the most unpleasant and inhospitable summer weather our state has experienced in a long time. Dr. Salkin used our laboratory facilities, briefly, and will eventually turn over to us the artifacts his team discovered. His particular concern is for the disclosures from the soil samples he will analyze during the academic year. We may anticipate some important revelations when his research is published.

R.W.D.
INDIAN PREHISTORY cont. from page 5

during interment, or possibly, in rare instances, during the excavation of the burial. The number of fragmented and missing pieces and the lack of any apparent arrangement have led to the theory that cremation took place elsewhere, possibly in a special crematorium hut, and that the remains were then transported to this site and placed in the hole for interment. This interment was probably for more than one person and represented a seasonal or occasional ceremony.

In addition to the carbon stain and small fragments of human calcined bone, many artifacts were present. There were 64 identifiable Mansion Inn-type blades, made almost entirely of felsite or a low-grade flint. Sixty-two of these broad five-sided points were not readily broken down into the large Watertown and small Dudley varieties as in eastern Massachusetts. They ranged in size from 5 5/32 inches long by 2 7/16 inches wide down to 2 5/32 inches long by 1 7/32 inches wide. The remaining two Mansion Inn blades were of the long thin Coburn variety. One boat blade was also present. The blades with notched bases did not have this continuum of sizes. The patterns much more closely followed the Massachusetts examples. Of the ten Wayland notched points (Mansion Inn with a notched base), four were of the large Watertown variety. Two of these very closely resembled the Perkiomen point of the Lehigh River valley and the Susquehanna Broadpoint tradition. Six additional Wayland notched points were of the Dudley type. Other identifiable styles were a small quartz side-notch point and felsite small-stemmed variety, resembling a Stark point. Three large-stemmed points and a large stemmed knife were made of Normanskill flint and were typical of the Snook Kill type of artifacts found in western Connecticut.

Other artifacts found in the burial included one large felsite knife 6 3/4 inches long by 3 1/8 inches wide; two flint flake tools; one small felsite knife, three large quartz and felsite scrapers; five felsite Mansion Inn scrapers; one expanded-base drill; one flint rounded-end scraper; four flint triangular-end scrapers; one quarry block; one cobble pestle; one bevelled cobble abrader; and four traprock adzes.

Important because of its absence from all of the excavated Snook Kill sites in western Connecticut is any sign of stone bowls or steatite shards from them. Important because of their presence here in western Connecticut are dwelling plans, dug pits, and flint flake tools. No dwelling plans had been formally recorded, to this author’s knowledge, for this group of people until the SVAS.

HELP! FOR A SMALL MUSEUM

Even with our superb new Center and our full time staff, we continue to need volunteer assistance. We are finding gaps in our equipment, in our operational facilities, and in our own skills. Our problem is that everything must begin to work from the opening of our doors — not, of course, with the polish and proficiency of years of experience; nobody expects that, but at least recognizably and well enough to fulfill minimal expectations.

July 1 came, and suddenly we were open! Real people began calling and coming. "I read the article in the paper... "I heard Mr. Swigart’s talk... "I’ve been watching this development for years... "I was just driving by and saw the sign... "I’m a fourth-grade teacher and would like to bring my class in October... "I have a collection of arrowheads. Would you like to see them? "Could you come to our October meeting and talk... ?"

All at once our exhibits seemed less than what we have wanted them to be, our library a bit thin; our ability to handle the correspondence, greet visitors, process acquisitions, and write guide brochures, was found wanting. We needed help. We still need help. Loyal, generous volunteers have been helping us with some of the pressures, but we need more — we need things, time, and talent. In the hope that “somewhere out there” are people who can and will respond to some of those needs, a list has been compiled and presented here, not necessarily in order of priority.

TALENT and TIME

Design Advice - we need the experienced, practiced eye of a graphic designer - for exhibits, publications, mailings, even stationery.

Patient Versatility - those who will continue to do what our summer volunteers have done: greet visitors and guide them as needed or desired. Study the collections and become proficient in the field, catalogue our collections, process accession records, and in a hundred different, original, personal ways, help us to improve in everything we try to do.

THINGS

1. BOOKS, Books, books! - to build our library into the research tool it should be as soon as possible. We are looking for books, journals, monographs, documents relating to the native people of North America in both the historic and prehistoric periods, as well as works on New World archaeology. While we would welcome recent publications, of course, we are also especially eager to have Smithsonian papers, American Museum of Natural History (and other museum) publications, and works printed and published by the Bureau of American Ethnology. If you have anything you think might be appropriate, please be assured that your gift would not only be appreciated (and tax deductible!) but also preserved, cared for, and put to good use.

E.K.S. continued on page 7
2. A cassette-tape dictating/transcribing system to facilitate office procedure and speed correspondence. Our need is for a true dictating/transcribing combination: cassette style would be the most versatile, but any other would be welcome.

3. **Darkroom Equipment:** An enlarger, a print dryer, a dry mounting press, an automatic timer; and of course, wash trays, a darkroom light, chemicals, and floodlights for artifact portraiture.

4. **A Polaroid camera** - for quick, sure, on the spot visual recording of accessions to supplement and improve our cataloguing techniques.

5. **Projectors** - a 35 mm. color transparency projector - especially carousel-style - for slide lectures and informal talks.
   - a lightweight portable 16 mm. self-threading movie projector
   - a portable screen on tripod mount.

And there it is. We hope it doesn’t sound greedy. It is now a case of moving this superb study center into full, effective action as quickly as possible. Until adequate operating funds are available from membership fees, we must at least make known our needs and our hopes. If you can supply any of them, you will be rendering valuable and deeply appreciated help. — R.W.D.

**NEW COURSES**

The American Indian Archaeological Institute announces two 8-week sessions in Archaeological Method, Museum Science and Data Analysis, and Interpretation. Dr. Roger W. Moeller, director of research and curator, will conduct the classes twice weekly from 7 to 9 P.M. at the Institute Center in Washington, Conn.

The first session, on archaeological method and museum science, will begin the first week of October and run until the third week of November. The format will be one of short lectures followed by informal discussions.

The topics will include why we dig, how to select an excavation plan appropriate to a given site, how an excavation plan permits and limits what we recover, flotation, sophisticated technological aids in site location, dating methods, typology, cataloguing procedures and rationales, computers in archaeology, and the "New Archaeology."

From February through March, the second 8-week session will cover the procedures for the Analysis and Interpretation of Archaeological Data. Topics will include the use of descriptive statistics. This is not a math course and learning a lot of formulas is not a requirement. The stress will be on practical applications. Other topics are: library research techniques and available resources, seed analysis, ceramic and lithic typologies and description, the use of laboratory equipment, and what to include in a site report. The stress in the second session will be on practical experience.

It is strongly recommended that the fall Archaeological Methods and Museum Science course be taken prior to the Analysis and Interpretation of Data. In neither course will a textbook be used. Instead a series of very short, topical articles, written for the layman, will be suggested prior to each class. The rationale is to present an overview of as many facets of archaeology as possible. A bibliography will always be available for students who wish to pursue a topic in greater detail.

Excavation experience is not a prerequisite.

For information on registration, fees, etc., please contact the A.I.A.I., Box 85, Washington, 06793, or 203-868-0518.

— R.W.M.

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**Siftings**

On Saturday, May 17th the Connecticut League of Historical Societies presented an Award of Merit for "Outstanding Contribution to the Development of Interest in Local History" to our President, Edmund K. Swigart.

**Avella, Pennsylvania.** Readers of the A.S.C. Newsletter may remember an article on page 1 of the September, 1974, issue: its title, "13,000 B.C. Site In Southwestern Pennsylvania." Watchers of CBS television and readers of almost any newspaper in mid-August may have been startled and delighted by further news from this town southwest of Pittsburgh. A year ago Dr. James Adovasio, anthropologist from the University of Pittsburgh, announced a radiocarbon date of 13,000 B.C., earlier than any previous carbon date associated with man east of the Mississippi River.

Again this summer, heading a team from the University of Pittsburgh, Dr. Adovasio has made national news with an announcement of a date of 16,000 B.C. derived from charcoal found at the Meadowcraft (sic.) rockshelter. The site is reputed to be well-stratified and the charcoal was found accompanied by stone tools. Dr. Adovasio views this evidence as strong support for the theory of a Beringia migration into the New World as early as 20,000 to 30,000 B.C. And back we go, closer and closer to Richard MacNeish's estimates of 40,000 to 100,000, and even to the late Louis Leakey's more extreme speculations.

**Rogers Collection.** Through the hot, wet weeks of summer, more and more units of the Edward H. Rogers collection were brought to the Center, and for its new Director the full grandeur of this extraordinary collection was revealed for the first time. Box after box of pottery and pestles, bannerstones and birdstones, points and pendant were unpacked. One of the priority tasks of this fall, for volunteers and students, will be the systematic renumbering of the Rogers artifacts and their proper cataloguing. Mr. Rogers, whose brief biography will appear in the next newsletter, kept a careful catalogue, in notebooks, of all his acquisitions, often including interesting insights into their discovery and subsequent passage from owner to owner before coming to Mr. Rogers. Some examples:

- "Tube-soapstone-5 1/2 inches long, end square- Cockposnett, Killingworth, Ct. Found by a C.C.C. boy in 1939 while building a highway near Saket's Cave. Secured from Lauretta Plumley, Clintonville, Conn. Boy gave piece to her."
- "Bannerstone-Wisconsin winged type-green and black granite. 'Found while dredging the Meramec River In St. Louis County, Missouri. The foreman of the dredging gang noticed it on top of the dredging bucket as it was lifted out of the river, stopped the dredge and picked it out. He sold it to Ed Richter of Milwaukee from whom I bought same in 1914. Signed Joseph Ringeisen, Jr., Milwaukee, Wis.' Purchased from Joseph Ringeisen Jr., 1940."

Possession of this magnificent collection of artifacts in itself would distinguish our center as a museum and research facility even if we had no others. Every member should make a point of seeing these archaeological treasures.

— R.W.D.
THE BIRDSTONE

An appropriate symbol of a center for the study of early men in New England, this strikingly beautiful, exquisitely crafted little sculpture symbolizes also the compelling mystery of New World archaeology.

Found throughout central and eastern North America, they are, nevertheless, sufficiently rare to be considered treasures.

Varying in shape from short, fat, and stubby to slender, graceful and ornate, all bear a decidedly animal resemblance, and most particularly that of a flying or swimming bird.

They represent, like their equally mysterious "cousins," the boatstone and the older and more ubiquitous bannerstone, some of the finest and aesthetically most pleasing evidence of the Adena-Hopewell cultures. Some may date from as early as 1000 B.C., others from as late as A.D. 700.

Thought by some specialists to be weights or handgrips for atlatls (dart throwers), by others to be personal ornaments, and by most to be fetishes or to have only ceremonial significance, they defy analysis and remain appealing little enigmas. Whatever their purpose and function, there is ample evidence that they were as highly valued by the people who created them as by us who find them, hundreds or thousands of years later. It is intriguing to speculate that our wonderment, our sense of mystery, and our awareness of the object as a tangible link with the unknown may be little different from their makers', those ancient mound builders who rested so long on this land but so lightly that we cannot, with all our wisdom and technology, see very clearly who they were.

Like so much of the evidence of the earth, the birdstone reveals only the tantalizing tip of the iceberg: only a tiny fragment of the infinitely complex, endlessly diverse human story of Early Man in North America.

R.W.D.

The meetings of the Shepaug Valley Archaeological Society/American Indian Archaeological Institute are held in Bryan Memorial Hall in Washington Depot on the first Thursday of the month, October through May, at 8 p.m. (Special note: December meeting at AIAI Center, and January 1976 meeting will be on second Thursday of the month.) The programs for fall and winter of 1975 and January, 1976, are as follows:

MEETING PROGRAM

October 2, 1975: Talk with slides, "Paugussetts and Pootatucks." Mr. William Alpern will present an illustrated lecture on the people inhabiting this area, and further south, at the time of European contact and after. Mr. Alpern's research traces the continuing effect of White pressure on identifiable individuals as well as an entire people.

November 6, 1975: Film, "The Hunters." A documentary of a giraffe hunt by Kalahari Bushmen of Southwestern Africa. The locale and the game are vastly different from the Paleo-hunters of northeastern North America, but the parallels are clear. Members are urged to read, in advance, The Harmless People, by Elizabeth Marshall Thomas, a Vintage book (paperback, $1.95).

December 4, 1975: "Workshop." A meeting at the American Indian Archaeological Institute center and museum. A brief explanation and discussion of the exhibits and the laboratory. Primarily this is a meeting to which members are urged to bring part or all of their own collections for the interest of all, and perhaps for the solution of special problems of identification.

January 8, 1976: (Note, this meeting will be held on second Thursday.) Talk, "1975, Summer Digs." President Edmund K. Swigart will report on the 1975 summer dig, showing the major artifacts and discussing the important inferences of the summer work.

ARTIFACTS

Richard W. Davis, Editor

The American Indian Archeological Institute
The Shepaug Valley Archeological Society

Edmund K. Swigart, President; Tate Brown, Vice President; Mrs. John M. Sheehy, Secretary; Elmer T. Browne, Treasurer.

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A quarterly newsletter of the Shepaug Valley Archaeological Society  Washington, Ct. 06793