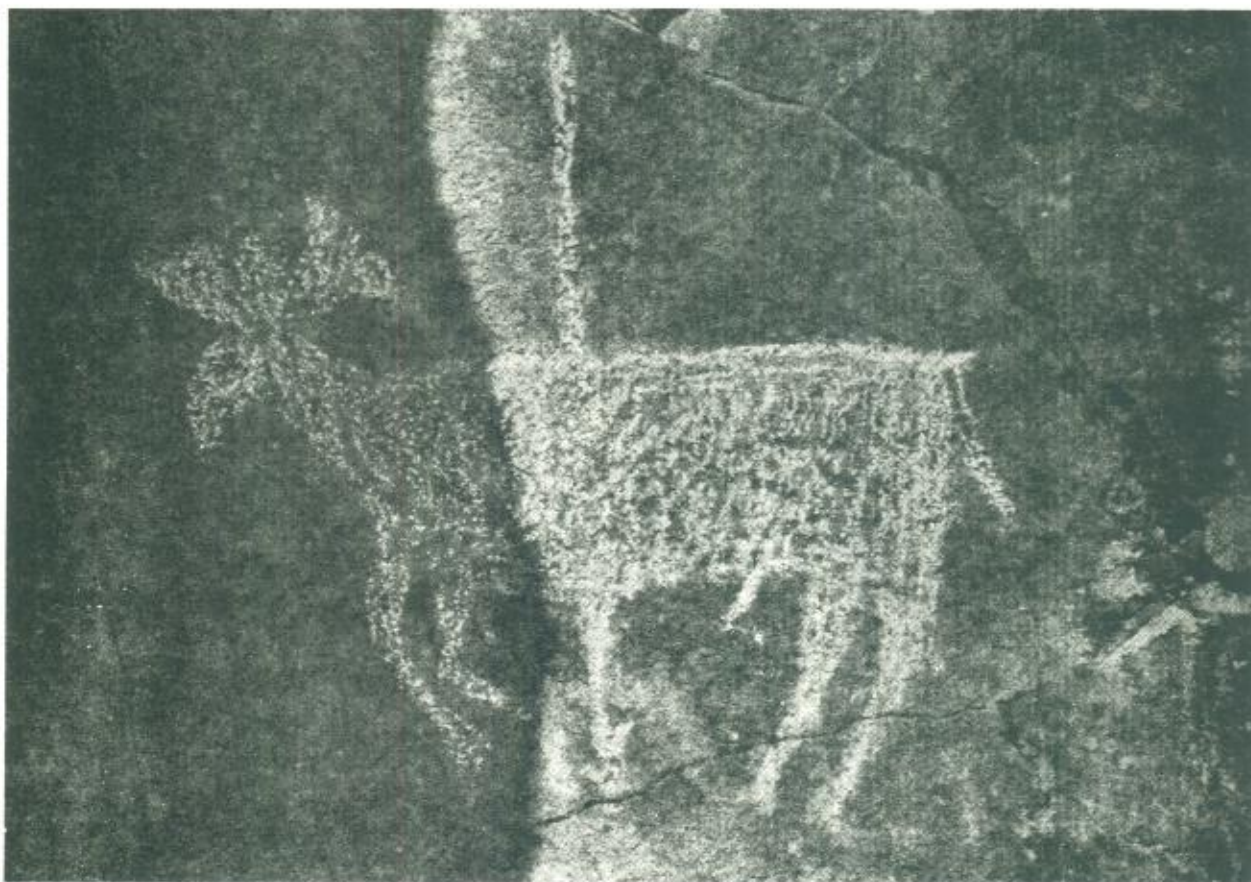


# IDAHO ARCHAEOLOGIST



**Vol. II No. 1**

# IDAHO ARCHAEOLOGIST

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## WHY DO WE DIG?

Stuart Struever, Director  
Archaeological Program  
Northwestern University  
Reprinted from *The American Archaeologist*  
Vol. 3, Winter-Spring 1978

## LOCATING AND RECORDING PICTOGRAPHS AND PETROGLYPHS

Bill Norquist

At the 1978 Annual Business Meeting of the Board of Directors, the long-range objective, "To gather and record by photograph or scale drawing petroglyphs and pictographs within the area" was upgraded to a higher priority requiring immediate action.

This change in priority had been suggested by Dr. Max Pavescic at the May Meeting of the Executive Board in his capacity as the Society's professional advisor. Dr. Pavescic and other area archaeologists are painfully aware that there are a great many such sites in Southwestern Idaho as well as throughout Idaho. These sites are extremely perishable and many are already reaching the end of their relatively short life-span. If the sites can be located, recorded and photographed or drawn, they will be, in many cases, almost as valuable for study as the actual rock-art itself.

Although there are now a good many professionals working in Idaho, they have so much salvage archaeology, EIS work and site sampling to do that PIC/PET work receives a relatively low priority.

The non-professional or para-professional can help on this project since it does not require a great degree of expertise (except, perhaps, with a camera), is not too expensive, and most of us already own cameras of sufficient quality to do an excellent job in this field. Those who have the ability can make scale drawings or tracings in lieu of, or in addition to, photos.

Besides completing photos or drawings, the recorder must complete "Idaho Archaeological Site Survey Form" or a suitable substitute. In any case, location should be given in standard legal map reference terms down to ten acres, i.e., Township, Range, Section Number and three quarters therein. Site Survey Forms are available through your IAS Chapter officers or, if you are not associated with a chapter, from the State Archaeologist at 210 Main Street, Boise, Idaho 83702 or the IAS at Box 7532, Boise, Idaho 83707. (A sample copy is inserted in copies of this publication being mailed to Idaho addresses.)

You can use the type film you prefer, but the cheapest and best all around is a relatively fast black and white. It is suggested that two shots of each panel or boulder be taken from different angles. Using a fast black and white should produce an adequate photo without chalking the objectives. Chalking, while not seriously harmful, does result in some damage each time it is done, thus contributing to an early demise of the PIC/PET. This occurs not only through damage, but by attracting attention to a display which otherwise might not be noticed by target shooters, vandals or thieves.

In conclusion, site reports, film rolls or photos and drawings along with descriptions you may want to include can be turned in to your Chapter officers, to Dr. Pavescic at BSU, or to the State Archaeologist's Office at the address above. Be certain your photos or exposures are coordinated with site reports, as they would be valueless otherwise.

Let's include this project in our family outings this summer, and we will organize field trips this Fall as Chapter projects.

A few months ago at a luncheon given on behalf of the Koster Project, I was asked: "What are you looking for at Koster and what have you found of significance? Why are the Koster excavations important to us today?"

It was a good question...the essential question. In fact if we archaeologists don't ask this question, then what we do may well be akin to flagpole-sitting and perhaps as useful. We are responsible to society no matter how intellectual or academic our goals. Our excavations must give us a clearer sense of the trajectory of human history of which we are a part. They must help us see ourselves better.

How does this apply to the Koster research? This past summer we obtained the most important information yielded by Koster to date. We discovered that the earliest villages at the base of Horizon II were rapidly covered by a sheet of soil washed down from the neighboring bluffs. House floors, fireplaces and other facilities were soon buried, not to be seen again for 8,400 years.

The analysis of these and other Koster ruins has proceeded far enough for us to make some interesting observations. I think we can say that diet, even by the time of the first Horizon II village (now carbon-14 dated at 6,400 B.C.) approximated a diet that might be designed by a knowledge of the nutritional qualities of the various wild food species available to these Indians at the time. How they learned this is anybody's guess. That they arrived at these understandings at such an early date should give us pause to reflect on our conception of the level of sophistication of these early human populations in the Midwest.

Today we equate success with size, which I believe is the key to the wide-spread view that the study of early peoples and their lifeways in the American Midwest can yield little of value for us today.

If we are to measure "cultural success" in part by the ability of a human population to establish an equilibrium with its environment that can be sustained over the long haul, then these Koster inhabitants were successful people, indeed. One may not envy their close-to-the-earth life, but it would be hard to improve on their formula for maximizing biological survival by sustaining the critical elements of the environment that insured that survival.

We today in the United States are the inheritors of a long tradition that says, first, man is a Special Creation, and therefore not part of the environment, and second, this separateness is expressed in the concept of "man against nature." The writings of pioneer Americans are laced with references to "conquering the environment", "bringing nature under man's control," etc.

We have been hard at it since we arrived on this continent a short time ago, shaping a culture that buffers us against the threats of human survival...and in the process have almost unconsciously destroyed the environmental foundations on which that survival must ultimately be built.

What we're seeing in the archaeological data at Koster, I think, are people with a qualitatively different view of their place in the order of things. They clearly did not have the technology or the organizational complexity to persuade themselves that they could actually control most of their physical world. There was simply too much contrary evidence around them. Rather they developed a sense of relationship with their

environment which was good enough to enable them to maintain a series of progressively complex cultural systems that spanned 300 or more generations in the Illinois Valley without cataclysmic starvation, population explosion, or warfare. If I'm reading the archaeological record correctly, that's a pretty good success record for people whose energy control was miniscule compared to ours.

We today are not prepared to mimic their lifestyle, but it might not hurt if we got inside their heads and absorbed some of the basic assumptions of their world view. These early people have a lot to tell us... if we can but learn to listen.

## AN EDEN POINT FROM SOUTHWESTERN IDAHO

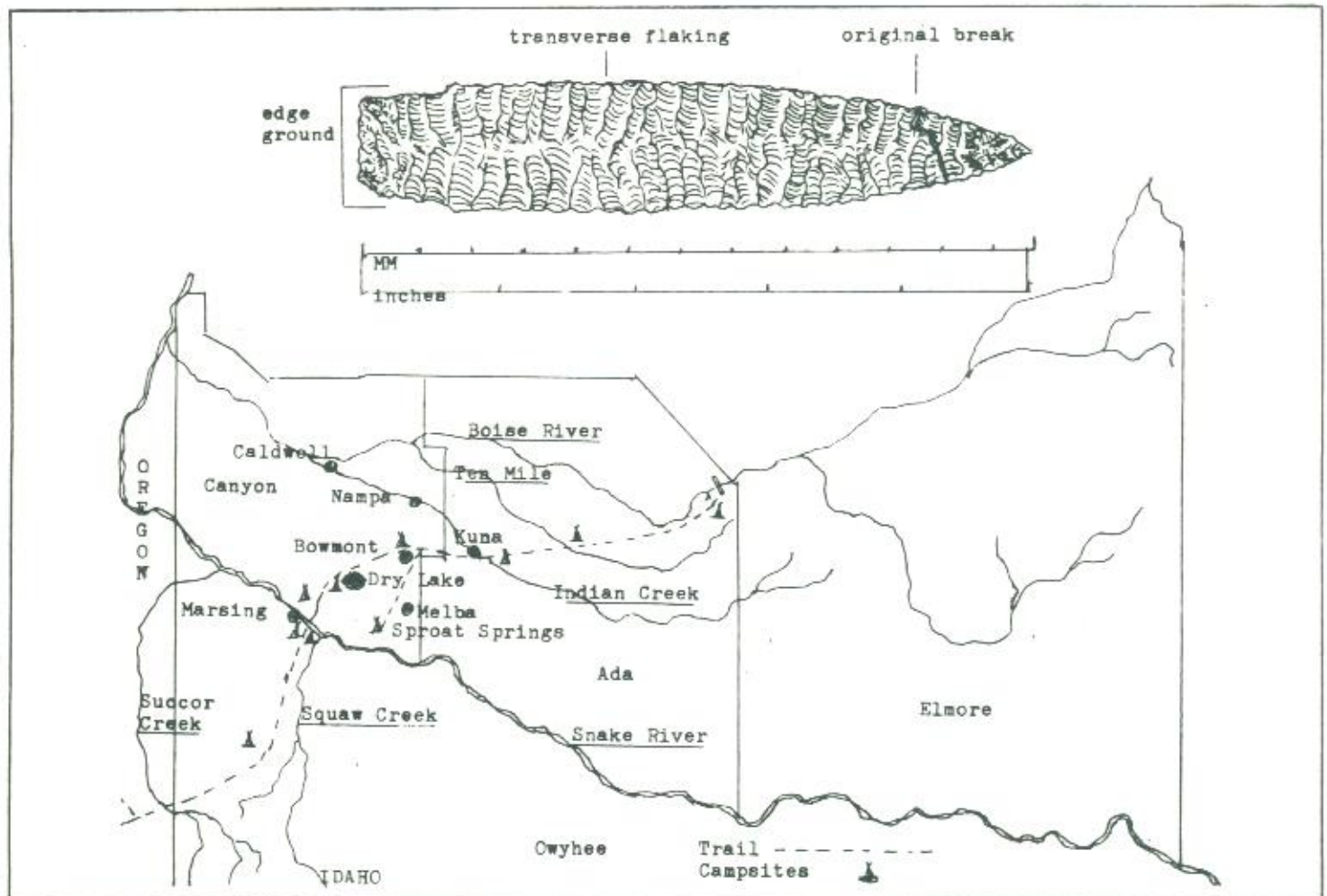
James L. Huntley

Eden projectile points are associated with the Cody complex, which also include the Scottsbluff point and what has been called the Cody knife. They are found on the high plains in Colorado, Wyoming, Nebraska, the Dakotas and in the adjacent Canadian provinces. The Eden point has been dated as following the Folsom in time, which gives it a date of 7000 to 9000 years. The people who made these beautifully chipped points were hunters of bison, probably of the "antiquus" form. There are two variants of Eden points, but the only difference is in the knapping technique, one being of the collateral type flaking, and the other called transverse flaking. (Wormington, H.M., *Ancient Man in North America*. 1939, 1949, 1957.)

According to early settlers and old-timers in the Bowmont-Melba area, a well-used Indian trail ran from near present day Lucky Peak Dam on the Boise River and continued almost due west. It passed south of Kuna in Ada County and entered Canyon County near the little community of Bowmont north of Melba. From here it continued on west, passing close to what is called Dry Lake, then on through Hidden Valley and finally passing down the break in the rimrock to Snake River across from the mouth of Squaw Creek. Crossing the Snake it followed up Squaw Creek taking the right hand fork, or Little Squaw Creek and entered Sands Basin. The trail here followed fairly close to Highway 95 and on to Succor Creek where it branched out in several directions. This route gave access to large areas on either side of the trail.

(This trail can be extended into western Montana through the following paragraph from an article, "A Name at Last—Lowman," author unknown, contributed by Truman Joiner to the Summer 1977, Special Edition of the Idaho World, Idaho City: "The old Lemhi-Snake River Indian trail from the Bitter Roots to the Snake came over the divide from Stanley Basin, followed the Payette for a few miles, crossing near the Kirkham Hot Springs and climbed over the hill to the Boise watershed.") (Added with the Author's permission—the Editors.)

Near Bowmont the trail forked and a branch went southwest to the large Indian campsite known as Sproat Springs below Melba. This was formerly the Pete McQuitt stage station on the road from Boise City to Silver City. The camp here at Sproat Springs was long used. Here were bedrock mortars and much camp debris. On the high rimrocks to the west of the springs several burials are to be found. Over the years, amateur col-



lectors and potters have found many artifacts on the surface at the springs. The burials have also been dug into. One known collection has some well-made knives and some large, triangular points as well as shell beads of olivella and dentalium.

That this was a well-traveled route is evident from the many campsites to be found along the trail. Any parties coming from the Boise River drainage had a good route into the eastern Oregon country. It had water, shelter and food sources. From the Boise River, water was available at Ten Mile Creek, Indian Creek and at several springs and small dry lakes that had seasonal water. Beyond Snake River the trail followed Squaw Creek where water was readily available. In Sands Basin several springs gave water in usable amounts. Food sources were antelope, small game and a variety of plant foods as well as fish, including salmon in season from the Snake River.

Many camps are found along the trail, some in the Lucky Peak area and where the trail crosses Ten Mile and Indian Creeks. Small campsites are found in the low sagebrush-covered hills north of Bowmont where there is evidence of old, extinct springs. Extensive camps were located at or near Dry Lake southwest of Nampa. This area has been heavily farmed in the past twenty or twenty-five years, the land being broken out of the sagebrush. Occasional chipping debris and mussel shell are still found close to the old lake bed. A local collector has a small collection of artifacts from these sites. Between Bowmont and Snake River several rock shelters and burials are to be found near the river adjacent to the trail.

Mr. Darrell Harms, whose father homesteaded in the Bowmont area, tells of living there as a boy. He describes the trail as being very distinct as it crosses through the low sage-covered hills. For the most part it followed the valleys and low places, perhaps to keep the users from being seen by game nearby, or possibly for protection. There were some small seepage springs close by where men and animals could find water. The trail here was beaten into the desert soil several inches and was described as being 35 or 40 inches wide. It ran east and west and as before mentioned, one fork turned southwest towards Sproat Springs. Mr. Harms has a small collection of points from this area, picked up in the course of reclaiming and farming the land. Some of the points are large lanceolate types of a silica material and some are small corner and side notch points of obsidian. About 1918, a neighbor found a (tomahawk?) hammerstone lying under some sagebrush. It still had part of the rawhide haft binding attached (Darrell Harms, personal communication, 1977).

Mr. Parsons, a longtime resident of the Nampa-Melba area, and an amateur collector, spoke of the old trail, as did other oldtimers. Mr. Milton Callaway, presently living in Caldwell, tells of working as a young man in the wheat fields on the flat across from the mouth of Squaw Creek. He describes the trail, where it came down the hill and across the flat, as easily seen even after being cultivated. Mr. Callaway was acquainted with Mr. Parsons of Melba. He recalls the large collection of Mr. Parsons, picked up in the Melba-Dry Lake area. In this collection were three hammerstones with the rawhide binding and braided hair strings still in place. (Milton Callaway, personal communication, 1978).

When "French John" Carrey put his ferryboat on Snake River at the mouth of Squaw Creek in the early 1870's, he used the old trail through Hidden Valley and the easy access to the river down the break in the rimrock. In advertising his route to Jordan Valley he spoke of it: "This route, following the old Indian trail, is the closest and best road to Succor Creek and Jordan Valley. It has few grades and water and grass is the best hereabouts."

The Givens brothers, of the Givens Hot Springs, ran many horses in the Owyhee Mountains. They told of camping at the old Indian campsite on the trail near the head of Little Squaw Creek. They would get lice in their blankets if they bedded down

too close to the old camp.

In the early 1930's, the author was bird hunting with a friend near the old trail at Bowmont. They were searching for pheasants in the sagebrush hills. It was here that he found what appears to be an Eden point lying on the surface. At that time he did not recognize the type. Several years passed before he read in the literature about some of the older point types. Remembering his find, he got the point out of his collection and decided that it was, indeed, a variety of Eden point. A small portion of the tip had been broken off, probably from use. It was such a beautifully chipped point that the broken tip was repaired. The artifact appears to be a typical Eden point. It is made of a grey-green stone, possibly flint or siltstone.

How this type point got into this area is pure speculation. It could have been carried in by its maker, perhaps from Wyoming, or have found its way here by trade with other peoples.

## THE ARCHIVES OF PACIFIC NORTHWEST ARCHAEOLOGY

Dr. Roderick Sprague  
University of Idaho  
Moscow, Idaho 83843

The archaeology of the Pacific Northwest, including the Plateau and Northwest Coast areas, has become known only recently; thus it is possible to acquire and maintain in one central location all published materials concerning the region. With this objective in mind a proposal was presented to the National Endowment for the Humanities for funding of the initial year of the establishment of such a collection. A grant of \$23,320 was made to the University of Idaho with me as principal investigator in August of 1975 for this project. The major portion of the grant monies was utilized to pay an archivist for one year and for copy costs of the materials.

The proposed area of concern includes the archaeological and ethnographic Plateau and Northwest Coast. In terms of political units this includes British Columbia, Alberta, Washington, Oregon, Idaho and western Montana. Because physical anthropological literature is very meager (120 items) and largely osteological data published as an adjunct to archaeological work, this subject area is also included in the archives.

Materials included are books, monographs, journal articles, abstracts, reviews, newsletters, brief notices, "notes and news," newspaper articles, press releases, texts of meeting papers, paper abstracts, theses, dissertations, manuscripts, research reports, research proposals, films, film reviews, tapes, slide collections, maps, notes (especially of early workers), correspondence files, reminiscences, and other ephemeral material.

The material is in two sets: one bound for use by researchers utilizing the facilities and a second set reproduced on looseleaf 8½ x 11 paper filed in a series of fireproof filing cabinets. The looseleaf format permits distortion-free copying for those requesting copies of materials contained in the archives. We are in no way attempting to compete with existing archives and special collections; for our purposes, copies are as useful as the originals.

The initial objective of the archives was accomplished through the hiring of Miss Mary Gormly, a unique person with training in both anthropology and library science. Miss Gormly prepared a master file of over 2000 subject heading cards, as well as determining and typing well over 7000 subject cards in relation to actual articles catalogued. Over 2000 shelf list cards were prepared on materials that were copied and placed in the archive facility. Almost 4000 author cards were prepared and an additional 600 newspaper clippings and 200 journal articles are currently in process. While on sabbatical leave in Washington, D.C. during half of the grant period, I was able to acquire, reproduce and forward to the archives over 200 additional journal

articles involving approximately 1200 pages of material.

Working with my personal library as well as the University of Idaho and Washington State University, Miss Gormly thoroughly processed all articles found in the following journals: American Anthropologist, American Antiquity, Anthropology in British Columbia, Archaeology, British Columbia Studies, Historical Archaeology, Idaho Archaeologist, the Midden, Science, Screenings, Syesis, and the Washington Archaeologist. Several additional dead journals were also processed in their entirety. Processing means that the material involved was copied, all call letter and subject headings assigned, labels with call numbers added to the item, and shelf lists, author, and subject cards had been typed. A grand total of over 16,000 library file cards were typed during this first year of the project. In addition to the author catalogue, there will be a series of card catalogues organized by title, year of production, and subject headings.

One area where the interested amateur can greatly aid the objective of the archive is by sending newspaper clippings for inclusion. Newspaper clippings are very important to understanding the development of archaeology in any given area. Unfortunately most libraries are not interested in this type of ephemeral material and do not make an effort to collect it. If the interested amateurs of Idaho could clip and forward this material to the archives, it would greatly enhance the archives' usefulness. Individuals who have maintained a collection of clippings over the years are encouraged to forward these to the archives, which, after copying, we will return. The more complete the references—that is, newspaper name, date and page—the more useful the clippings become. We are also interested in knowing of local publications that would normally not come to our attention.

The objective of the archives is for the dissemination of information among all interested parties, be they amateur or professional. It is only through the participation and support of these scientific amateurs that the archives can reach its fullest potential.

## BOOK REVIEW

### LOOKING FOR DILMUN

Geoffrey Bibby  
New American Library, 1969  
A Reader's Review

What combines a good, old-fashioned who-done-it with history? The many books on archaeological searches for ancient civilizations bring together the elements of a detective's search for a culprit with elements of mankind's history, resulting in readable books with a vein of excitement. Geoffrey Bibby's account of his search for Dilmun is in the genre that includes Schliemann's search for Troy.

What began as a confined objective to discover who built the grave mounds in Bahrain soon became a search to find and establish the boundaries of Dilmun, a civilization mentioned in the Gilgamesh epics and the records of Ur. The expedition spread to Qatar, Kuwait, Oman and Saudi Arabia and spanned fifteen years.

Looking for Dilmun is a readable book describing the surveys, the digging, the logistics of setting up a dig, the people directly involved, and the mistakes made. It emphasizes people rather than centimeters and is a book the amateur can easily understand.

## ANNUAL MEETING IAS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The Annual Meeting of the IAS Board of Directors was held at the Elks Rehabilitation Center in Boise on June 5, 1978. Fourteen of the sixteen members attended—the other two being out of town that evening.

The Financial Report for the year ending June 5, 1978, was given by Treasurer Max Burke as follows:

Balance in Bank on June 6, 1977	\$450.82
Income:	
Membership Dues	\$160.00
Annual Conference Receipts	287.00
Miscellaneous Income	102.00
Total	549.00
Accounts Paid:	
Annual Conference (Printing, etc.)	161.35
Idaho Archaeologist	269.54
Refunds of Dues to Chapters	30.00
Miscellaneous	154.58
Total	615.47
Balance in Bank June 5, 1978	\$384.35

In addition to the subject discussed in our lead/cover article, the following items are of general interest to our readers:

Max Pavesic, Ruthann Knudson, and Tom Green gave a report of professional activities going on throughout the state this summer. We won't attempt to list them here—suffice it to say they reported that, in spite of the number of archaeologists now scattered through the area, there are not enough to handle all the projects under way or scheduled. Several project managers have called for help from non-professional members of our society and have received a fair response. (If this works out to the benefit of all concerned this year we will offer a service next spring through out publication to get our members together with project leaders for 1979 projects.)

Dr. Ruthann Knudson, U of I, reported that she has "assumed" the position of liaison between the archaeological community and our Federal and State lawmakers—political coordination, if you will. As such she asked that the IAS designate someone in the amateur membership with whom she can work when political support in archaeological matters is needed. Perry Silver, IAS Education Officer, agreed to serve in that capacity.

Dr. Tom Green, State Archaeologist, reported that he has been giving some thought to a means of finding financial help for the Idaho Archaeologist. It is too early to inform our readers of the methods available, but there are several possible sources, including State or Federal Grants. When we get the details worked out, we'll let you know, hopefully in our next issue.

## COMING EVENTS

**IAS SIXTH ANNUAL CONFERENCE.** You are reminded that the IAS Annual Conference will be held on October 7, 1978, in the Student Union Building at Boise State University. Max Pavesic is currently putting together the program and has indicated that 14 to 16 presentations will be made.

**FALL MEETING OF IAAC.** The Fall meeting of the Idaho Archaeological Advisory Council will be held in Boise on October 6, 1978, in conjunction with the Annual Conference.

**CHAPTER MEETINGS.** All concerned are reminded that the Inter-Mountain Chapter meetings are held at the Argonaut Insurance Building on Vista Avenue in Boise on the third Thursday of each month. This season's first meeting will be held on September 21. The Great Basin Chapter meetings are held in the Library of Wilson School, Caldwell, on the second Thursday of each month, with the season's first meeting on September 14. Both meetings are held at 7:30 p.m.

**PROGRESS AT BACHMAN CAVE.** From time to time we have advised our readers of progress at Bachman Cave. The latest is that Sharon Metzler, with the help of Society members from both Chapters, completed her field work toward her Doctoral Dissertation at Bachman on June 7 and has returned to her present home near San Diego to complete laboratory work and write up the results. Hopefully, we will be able to publish parts of her dissertation in future issues.

## EDITORIAL

As you can see, we are continuing in our efforts to upgrade the quality of our publication. This issue, in our opinion, represents a new benchmark in our efforts to produce a truly professional quality publication for the professional archaeologist, the para-professional or interested amateur. Of course, this is a more expensive process than we've been using, but we feel it will be worth it.

You will note that we have included in our masthead, page i, the requirement that all papers submitted for publication should conform to AAS style. If you have something you wish to submit, please send it regardless of format and we will make needed changes, contacting the author prior to publication if there is any question about content.

Articles, pictures, or questions are warmly received and we'll do our best to use materials or ideas submitted to us. If you have ideas concerning articles or features you would like to see in the IDAHO ARCHAEOLOGIST, please let us know. We would like to express our appreciation to those of you who have taken the time in the past to help us with your constructive criticism. Please don't stop—we need the input from you if we are going to continue to grow and improve.

—The Editors

### WANT TO JOIN THE IAS? Cut out and mail this application.

- Regular Membership \$10.00 per year  
 Student Membership \$ 5.00 (Must be enrolled in school)

#### I PREFER TO BE A MEMBER OF:

- Intermountain Chapter, Boise  
 Great Basin Chapter, Caldwell
- Member-At-Large \$ 10.00 (For those who cannot attend Chapter Meetings)  
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