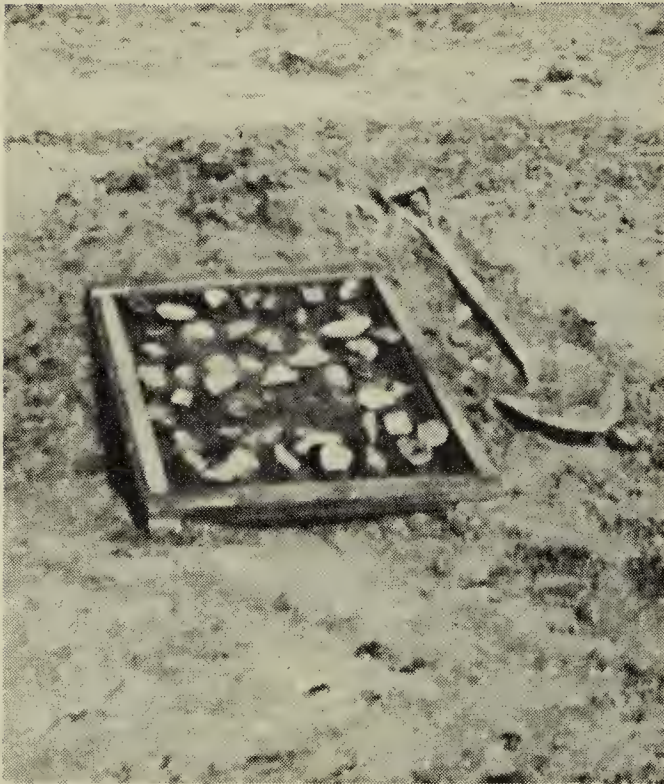
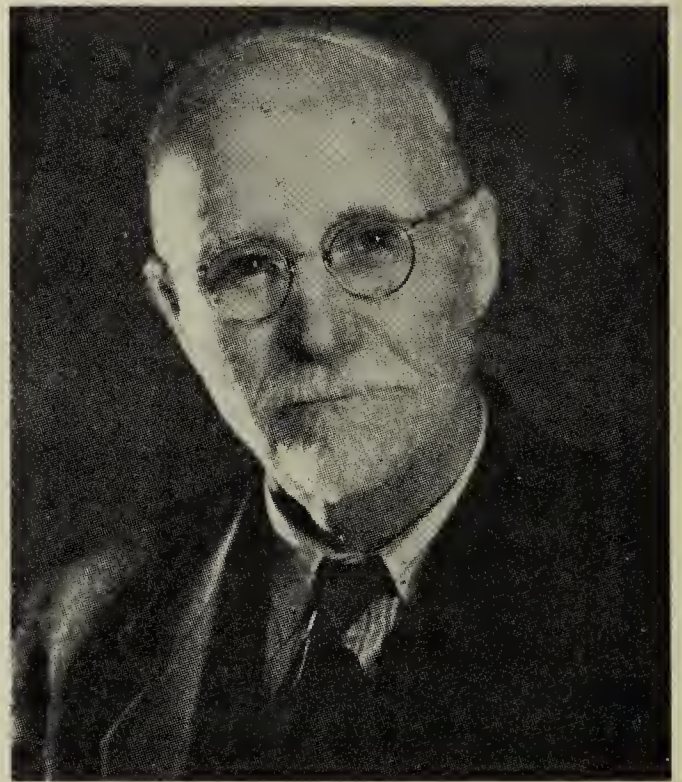


Spade and Screen

By FRED S. ROBINSON



SPADE and SCREEN



Mr. W. I. ORCHARD
Author of
"Stone Age on the Prairies"
and "Saskatchewan Middens"

All members who in years past belonged to the Saskatchewan Archaeological Society will recognize the above title, for it was the name of their quarterly publication from the years 1944 to 1950. The society had been founded in 1934 and Mr. W. J. Orchard was its first President. It was one of his ideas that a publication should carry items of interest in archaeological research to all the members. Mr. Orchard wrote two books on Saskatchewan Stone Age and during his life did much to bring attention to the finds of this region.

In Saskatchewan's Jubilee year when the pioneers in all phases of our development are being honored, it is, fitting to again bring to life in the pages of the "Blue Jay", one of Mr. Orchard's archaeological interests "Spade and Screen." These pages can be a record place for current items of interest from the Stone Age world of the past.

Before his death in 1948 Mr. Orchard placed his large collection of Saskatchewan Stone Age artifacts in our Provincial Museum. Many of the relics he had collected are the best quality of their kind ever found

in the Province and will remain forever in the Museum as a tribute to his keen foresight. We remember him as Saskatchewan's Pioneer Archaeologist.

An excellent article appears in a recent issue of the Journal of the Iowa Archaeological Society, written by Mr. Robert Nero, entitled "The Surface Collector." The author very clearly defines the relationship that should prevail between the Professional Archaeologist and the amateur Indian relic collector. "Arrowhead Collectors" have often ruined valuable sites by quickly removing all the surface relics without carefully keeping them separate and labelled to later identify them from the rest of their collections. Pieces not of interest to the amateur are often discarded and therefore lost to Professionals who later check over the discovery. While it is true that most Archaeological Sites are discovered by the amateur, it is the Professional who must be relied upon to do the subsurface research and put together the complete story of the site. The amateur therefore has much to gain by taking exceptional

care of material found in order to get the most and best information from the Scientist who will later visit and work on the discovery. Facts learned from one find will help in locating and appraising many more finds. Co-operation between, and appreciation of each others' interest will lead to greater knowledge.

In the next issue a short article on "Midden Points" by A. J. Hudson, Mortlach, will be featured. Also some information from Ed Robinson, Wawanesa, Manitoba; about his Indian Relic discoveries.

EDITOR'S NOTE

The "Spade and Screen" will now become a regular feature of the "Blue Jay." Two pages will be devoted to the material, which will be edited by Mr. Robinson.

Please send all contributions for these pages to:

Fred S. Robinson,
2100 York St., Regina.

The Spring Dispersion of the Boatman

By RONALD HOOPER, Somme, Sask.

It had never occurred to me before how the interesting little bug that is called the Boatman becomes so well distributed from its wintering quarters to every little slough, puddle and ditch until I took a walk along Snipe Lake on April 16. Along the west shore there were thousands of Boatmen in the water, so I stopped to watch them. To my surprise they were climbing out of the water onto the rocks, where they would sit for a moment to dry off. Then they would spread their wings and make a leap towards the east. If a gust of the west wind caught them, away they would go, high up in the air, headed for their new spring quarters. If they didn't catch a gust of wind they would go about a foot, and fall back into the water.

It is strange that they should need the wind so much in the spring, because they have no trouble flying

about lamps and light-bulbs in the summertime. Perhaps it is for a more efficient dispersal.

The Backswimmer is another interesting water-bug. These insects are diverse from most other water-life in that they are light coloured above and dark coloured beneath. Ducks, snipes, fish, boatmen, diving beetles and many other water creatures are light coloured beneath, so they will match the sky, and dark coloured above to match the mud and water. In order for the Backswimmer to match his surroundings, he swims upside-down. He might be called the nuthatch of the water.

A few Backswimmers were also climbing up the rocks. Before they attempted a take-off, they would scrape the water from their forewings with their hind legs. None of the Backswimmers, that I watched, succeeded in making a take-off. This is probably because they are bigger than the Boatmen and therefore need a stronger wind to help them.

Plan to Attend —

The Saskatchewan
Natural History Society
SUMMER MEETING

At Fort Qu'Appelle —
June 18 and 19

For details see inside of
back cover.

DID YOU KNOW . . .

THAT a 55 page booklet, entitled "Echoes of the Qu'Appelle Lakes District" has been recently written and published by T. Petty, of Indian Head. It is a valuable guide to historic sites, old trails and pioneers of the area. Copies may be obtained for one dollar per copy from Mr. Petty.