

of a substantial depth of fill in the original post-glacial drainage channel. Although the nature of the major portion of these buried sediments is unknown it is quite conceivable that the stratified fluvial sediments of the lowest part of the profile (Fig. 3) constitute part of this series. The presence of this well-stratified coarser material indicates that the valley may have contained a stream of much greater magnitude than at present. The implication is that a rainy climate would be necessary to provide such a great volume of stream flow unless the valley was still active as a glacial spillway. The profile reveals that the change from fluvial sediments to flood plain silts is so abrupt as to suggest sudden changes in depositional conditions. Perhaps this has considerable climatological significance. The presence of broad black zones (thick soil profiles), small concentrations of white mineral salts in the silt, leaching of only minor extent and the relative lack of coarse sediments and definite stratification suggest that arid conditions prevailed during the deposition cycle represented by the major portion of the terrace. Fortunately the time of the commencement of this cycle may be approximated owing to the fact that the hearth site, dated at 5200±130 years, lies only five feet above the base of the buff silt zones.

Postulations as to events responsible for the creation of the terrace are more difficult. Obviously, depositional conditions of a minor nature prevailed in the valley during the formation of the buff silt-zone. A subsequent erosional cycle is necessary to explain the reduction of the valley floor to a depth in excess

of 15 feet, creating the lowest terrace. Theorizing as to reasons for this change, we must consider such factors as an increase in stream gradient, a drop in base level, a break-through down-stream, a change in sedimentary load of stream water or increase in volume of water carried by the valley. The adaptability of the fourth and fifth factors, with emphasis on the fifth, may be a pertinent aspect in acceptance of any theory. Any increase in volume of water suggests, of course, a climatic change to conditions of relatively higher precipitation.

In order to gain a greater appreciation of the significance of the depositional sequence we must consider the conditions which are prevailing at present. The present-day rate of precipitation is so low in the upper region of the Souris drainage system that the meander channel, in the region of the site, is large enough to contain all but the severest seasonal floods. Without a substantiating study of the valley sediment we can state only that deposition of the flood plain variety appears to be taking place at a very slow rate. A brief perusal of the climatological studies of other authors (Antevs 1955; etc.) tends to indicate the probability of a direct correlation with the climatic history evidence in more southerly areas of the continent.

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## The Role of the Archaeological Society

by Henry W. Hamilton, Secretary. Missouri Archaeological Society, Marshall, Mo.

### INTRODUCTION

Henry W. Hamilton is a business man who has long been an amateur archaeologist and an active member of the Missouri Archaeological Society. He is secretary of this organization which is recognized as one of the most successful societies of its

kind. Mr. Hamilton is also a member of the National Committee for the Recovery of Archaeological Remains. He has kindly consented to write this article especially for the *Blue Jay*, in recognition of our own interest in an archaeological programme at the

Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History. In this regard Mr. Hamilton has written: "I notice that in your area the archaeological work is being done by a museum. Had it been a museum in our case, instead of the university, we would have supported funds for the museum. The important thing is that a society support whatever institution may be present in their area to do the work." Because of the tremendous amount of archaeological work to be done in the province, the Museum needs the active support of all interested individuals and societies. Public support is also needed for the establishment of an effective archaeological programme at the Museum. In view of the recent failure of the Department of Natural Resources to secure funds for an archaeologist and a programme at the Museum, we urge all readers of the *Blue Jay* and their friends, who are interested in promoting an archaeological research programme, to express their views in writing to the Editor.—Ed.

On a gray December day in 1934 about a dozen people from over the state met in a building on the campus of the University of Missouri at Columbia and organized what was to become the Missouri Archaeological Society. From this meager beginning 24 years ago a society of 1,400 members has grown.

The objectives of the Society, as stated in the constitution and by-laws at that first meeting, were to preserve the remains of the prehistoric people of Missouri, to study these remains scientifically, to publish information about them, to provide both amateur and professional archaeologists with opportunities to discuss their common interests, and to arouse public opinion to an appreciation of our prehistoric past.

Another objective, and a primary one although it was not stated in the written goals of the Society, was to get an archaeologist on the staff at the University of Missouri.

Up to that time the only archaeological work that was being done in the state, chiefly survey, was being uncorrelated and carried out by two university faculty members as a purely spare time activity, since they were in the departments of history and sociology. This work had, however, proved that amateurs and

those even slightly interested in archaeology could make valuable contributions to the knowledge of the subject if their work were given purpose.

But all these objectives of the new group took money and that was what the Society didn't have. With the growing support out over the state however, and some interest among the faculty members themselves, the President of the University soon scraped a small amount of funds together. Although these funds did little more than provide food for the season, in 1935 the first University of Missouri field party, consisting of two men, went to the country. They worked on survey and some excavation, and this achievement was met with enthusiasm by the members of the newly organized group.

It was quite evident, however, that one of the primary responsibilities of a state archaeological society was to take the lead in helping to provide funds to carry on the work, so the society did a little further organizing. University appropriations had to be supported before the Legislature in order to get an archaeologist on the staff. An item of Archaeological Research had to be supported and achieved in order to make possible the necessary field work. One objective was accomplished about two years later when an archaeologist was employed and field work started in earnest a little later.

As time went on it became even more apparent that the study of American archaeology is something that cannot wait, for civilization with its construction and business activities is rapidly obliterating all prehistoric evidence. One hundred years from now there probably just won't be any archaeology left. In time this problem was recognized nationally by the creation of the Inter-Agency Archaeological Salvage Program.

So now there was a federal archaeological salvage and research program to support, a program recognized by Congress, and the Missouri Society along with many other societies has given regular and consistent support.

During the year 1957, after 23 years of existence of the Society, the University of Missouri had five field parties at work. Some of these were quite small, some quite large. Some were purely the result of state effort and

some were almost wholly the result of the national Inter-Agency Archaeological Salvage Program.

But public support of archaeological endeavor is not a one-way street; it brings responsibilities upon the individuals who are working in the profession. The professional archaeologist must do for his business what all successful private businesses and most professions do. He must have the willingness, the ability, and the

stamina to do the extra work with the public in order to merit and keep this support. He must know his subject, as well as sufficient about related matters with which he must sometimes deal, so that he can speak and write "English" in his work and not fall into a general jargon of stilted terms from which it is impossible to get concise meaning. He must get a dollar's worth of effort for each dollar spent. This is particularly true since he is spending public funds.

## LETTERS

### Memorial to Eva S. Mudiman

While looking through my wife's notes I found two articles written on a trip we made to Dawson from Whitehorse on July 1st and 2nd, 1956 . . . I am sending them in as a memorial to Eva S. Mudiman. — Albert W. Mudiman, Whitehorse, Yukon.

**EDITOR'S NOTE:** We wish we could print the two articles in which Mrs. Mudiman describes the road to Mayo and Dawson, and Dawson City itself. Here is her colourful description of the flowers along the Dawson road: "Here on July 1, the wild flowers are growing profusely in the woods and bordering the highway. Nature has a lovely selection of colour in her summer garden. Violet-blue of Arctic lupin, forget-me-not colour of American bluebells mingle with snowy clusters of Labrador tea; wild roses shading from deep rosy red to the palest pink grow beside the greenish-white northern bedstraw and the common yarrow often takes on a delicate shade of pink or mauve. The campanula spreads its purple bells along the sandy ridges while bright yellow splashes of arnica, golden ragwort and cinquefoil highlight the scene. It is delightful to find the dainty plants of the wild bleeding heart, nodding in the breeze along the road nearing Dawson and the Klondyke river. The magenta of the brilliant vetch and the first blooms of fireweed add a rich final glow to nature's summer tapestry."

### Unusual Encounters

I hope some of the readers of the *Blue Jay* will be interested in a few of my experiences with birds and animals. One evening last summer when my brother-in-law and I were driving along at dusk in the car, we had the frightening experience of suddenly seeing a large pair of eyes pop up in the middle of the road about 100 feet ahead of us. I slammed on the brakes and we got out of the car to see whether we had run over some domestic animal. To our surprise we found absolutely nothing, not even a track in the dust on the road. It couldn't have been just our imagination because we had both seen the same large pair of eyes gleam at us for a second and then disappear. We went back to the car and walked around to the front, where we were greeted by a clap, clap, clap. They were lodged quite helpless in the grill, with a lovely large Great Horned Owl clapping his beak at us. We took the owl home and released it the next morning when we could see that it was unhurt.

A year ago last June, I was working up a stubble field for summer fallow when out fluttered a sharp tail from beneath the tractor. I investigated and found the nest, which the discer had buried deep in the loose earth. I dug out the eggs, finding that two of the 11 had been smashed by one of the discs. The remaining nine I placed in a slight depression that I made for them in the work soil of the previous round. When I came around to the spot again about fifteen minutes later there were