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Editor

THE MIDDEN

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SUMMER EXCAVATIONS

Digs galore! There are a large number of excavations being conducted in the province this summer, and some may be glad of volunteer help from Society members.

One who has already asked for help is Gordon Hanson, working again at the Katz Reserve site to beat the Agassiz-Rosedale Highwaymen.

Mr. Hanson specifically requested experienced diggers, and says he only needs help on weekdays. The diggers do not work on Fridays there; in addition they take off every alternate Thursday, i.e. June 10, June 24, etc. This dig may not last more than a few weeks, as the highway will demolish the site very shortly.

Provincial Archaeologist Bjorn Simonsen has provided the Society with a list of other projects, but suggested anyone wanting to help should first write to the supervisors.

VANCOUVER AREA

Noons Creeek (DhRqI), Port Moody,
Dr. H. Alexander, Archaeology Division,
Simon Fraser University

Pigeon Cove, Port Moody,
Mr. Alan McMillan, Liberal Studies Dept.,
Douglas College, New Westminster

Belcarra Bay, Indian Arm (at end of Bedwell Bay Rd, thru IOCO),
Art Charlton, SFU, directing.
(The Arch.Soc. has pledged special help at this site,
and may put in an extra trench of its own there.)

ELSEWHERE

1. Fort St. James. Reconstruction of Historic Fort Site.

Mr. Donald A. Harris
National Historic Sites Service
Ottawa, Ontario

2. Libby Dam Pondage salvage project.

Mr. Wayne Choquette
Box 9, Crawford Bay, B. C.

3. Kamloops Industrial Site salvage project.
(A large pit house site, already partially bulldozed.)

Dr. H. Alexander
Simon Fraser University

4. Continuation of Prince Rupert Harbour Project.

Dr. George F. MacDonald
National Museum
Ottawa

5. Excavations of a house-pit village site near Lillooet, B. C.

Mr. Arnoud Stryd
Department of Archaeology
University of Calgary

6. Excavations at Tezli and Kluskuo, Chilcotin Plateau.

Mr. Paul Donahue
Department of Anthropology
University of Wisconsin
Madison, Wisconsin

7. Archaeological projects to be carried out in Provincial Parks.

Mr. Donald Abbott
Curator of Archaeology
Provincial Museum
Victoria, B. C.

Two of these digs are being conducted by SFU under their \$50,000 Opportunities for Youth Program. Under the same scheme seven SFU workers will join a PGE survey crew going 460 miles north of Takla Lake, where there have been reports of large rock paintings being threatened by the railroad extension.

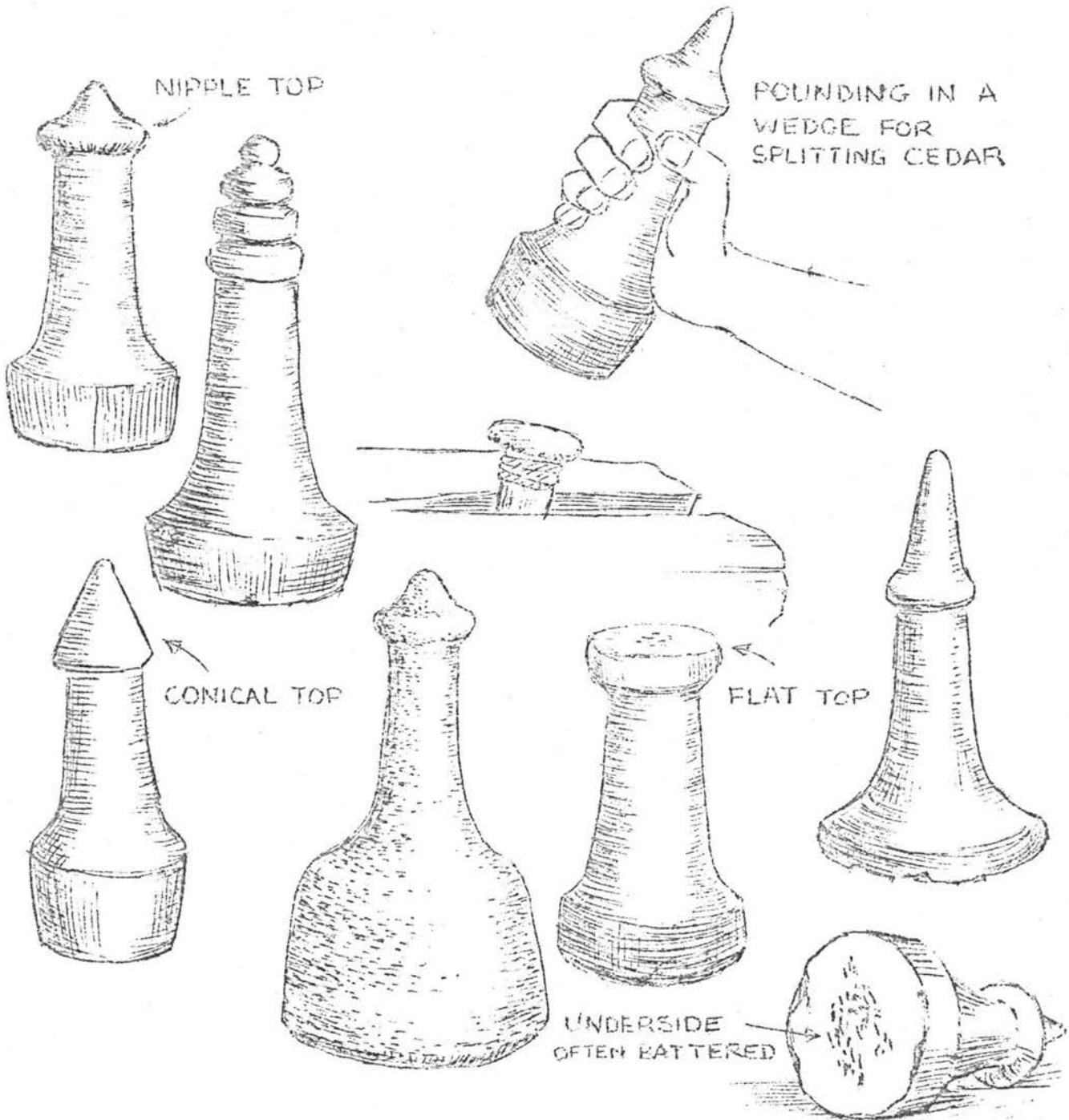
SFU's Dr. Carlson will be at Kwatna Bay and Professor Hobler will also be in the Bella Coola area at a site called Kimsquit.

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WEEKEND DRIVE RECOMMENDED

A weekend trip of possible interest to our members would be to see the American Stonehenge and the Museum of Fine Arts at Maryhill, Washington. To make a varied "circle" tour one could take U.S. Highway 30 East along the Columbia River from Portland, Oregon. This is a freeway but offers a wide diversity of beautiful scenery and at several places there are loop roads where one can get off the highway and closer to the countryside. About 70 miles along the way is a town called The Dalles which makes a good stopping-off place if one wanted to stay overnight. The Winquatt Archaeological Museum is there, featuring petroglyphs. The river can be crossed from The Dalles to the Washington side (50¢) or about 20 miles upstream at Biggs, but there the toll is \$1.00. The replica of Stonehenge (as it is presumed to have been originally, not as it is now) is close to this latter bridge, high on a hill overlooking the river. It was built by one Samuel Hill as a memorial to the men who lost their lives in World War I. A few miles West on Highway 830 is the Maryhill museum, well worth a visit, particularly for the excellent display of Indian artifacts and petroglyphs. Open March 15 through November 15, daily 9 a.m. to 5:30 p.m. The trip back to Vancouver, Wash. is a pleasant drive on a good, two-lane highway.

G.G.



THE HAND MAUL, made of tough stone in a wide range of sizes and styles, is often mistakenly identified as a "pestle for grinding corn". The Indians of British Columbia never knew corn, but they did know wood. The stone maul, in abundant use along the coast (and also found in the interior), indicates a widely established woodworking industry. It was used to drive wedges of antler, bone or wood into a cedar log to split off a plank or board, and it pounded the end of a chisel for shaping wood. The maul and the wedge, together with the adze, were the principle tools of the woodworker and enabled construction of the huge plank houses, large dugout canoes, wooden storage boxes, elaborate masks, feast bowls and so on.

A man's wife might borrow his maul to mash salal berries to make a salal and elderberry cake - but (among some tribes) a woman may not see a stone maul being made, or this would cause it to break!

(Hilary Stewart)

PROBLEM-SHOOTERS DEPT.

Watch for a sharp increase in the newly-fashionable hobby of petroglyph-rubbing, with problems right behind.

B. C.'s answer to brass-rubbing is proving very popular, but there are already some reports of damage to soft rock carvings because of the large number of people trying to take impressions, and the different tools and methods used.

And mass production is never far behind the fashion. One Victoria woman is retailing rubbings she has produced "on heavy duck canvas . . . for a mere \$4.50", according to the Victoria Times.

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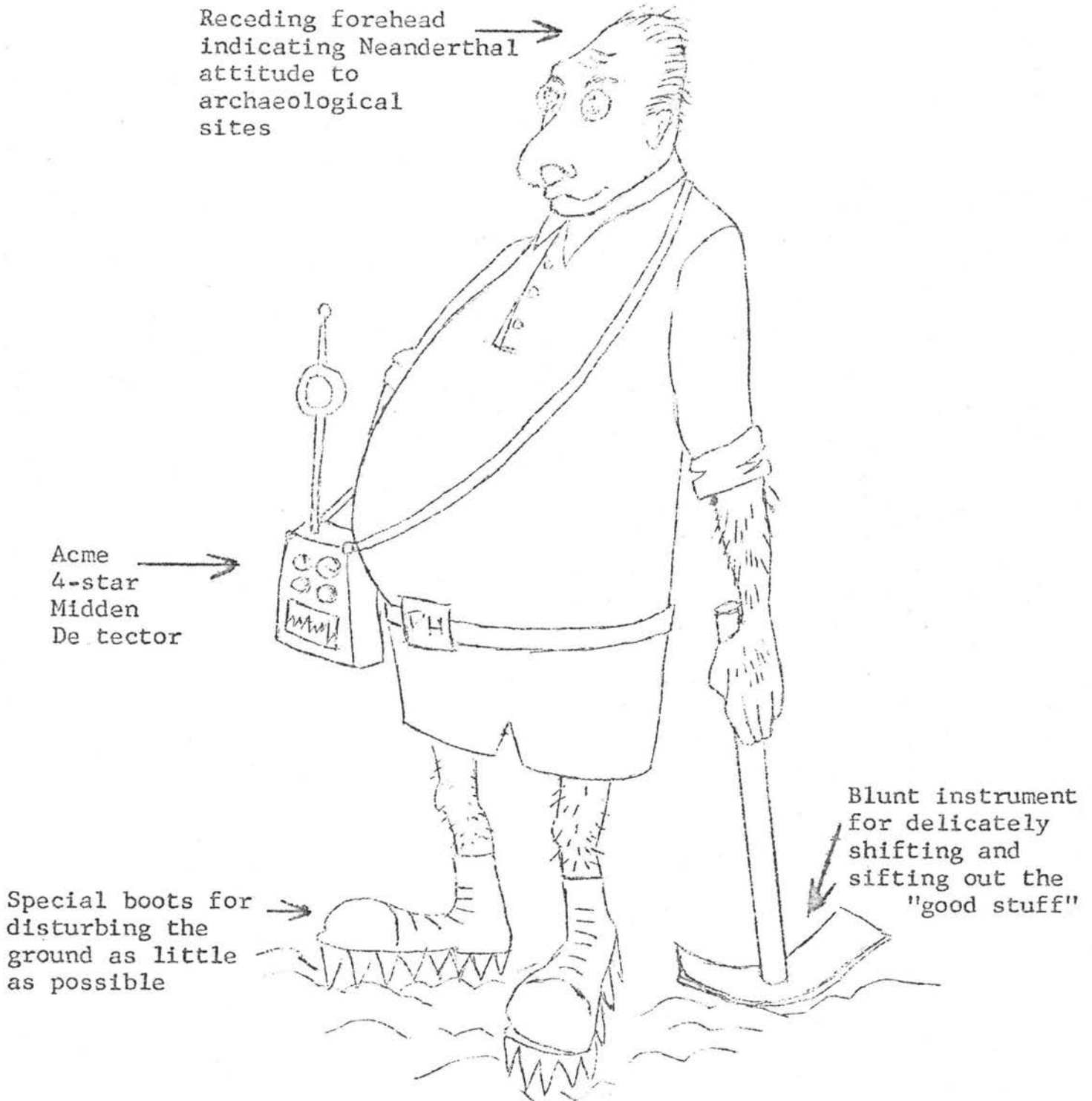
A FIRST AT THE MUSEUM

The Provincial Museum in Victoria has just scored a first, though perhaps a little late: the first Indian students hired as official guides.

The three are all students at the University of Victoria. One of them, Margaret Vickers, 21, of Kitkatla on Dolphin Island, was recently named Miss Victoria.

Asked by the Victoria Times about her summer job (she is a student of P.E. and counselling) she remarked that although most people are genuinely interested, "there is still the small number who don't really feel we're all part of the human race -- all homo sapiens.

"You don't see them often but when you do you feel tempted to kid them along -- tell them you live in a tepee and chew hide for diapers!"



GENUS POTTUS HUNTERIS IDIOTICUS GRASPINGUS

(From an original drawing by Robert Watt)

Unfortunately not yet threatened with extinction, both the male and female of this destructive species will be found all across the country this summer.

BRITISH LAUNCH ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE DRIVE

(from The Observer, London, England,
24 January 1971)

A campaign to save thousands of archaeological sites from destruction was launched in London yesterday.

The threat to archaeology comes from agricultural deep ploughing, afforestation, the building of new towns, airports and motorways, and gravel and stone quarrying. The campaign, called Rescue, will try to give archaeologists an opportunity to survey and excavate sites before they are lost for ever. It hopes to raise money through members' subscriptions, donations and an appeal fund.

The campaign's organisers include Professor Barry Cunliffe, of Southampton University; Professor Charles Thomas, of Leicester University; and Mr. Martin Biddle, head of the Winchester archaeological research unit. They claim that some types of site are now extinct in this country. But, unlike extinct flowers and animals, they cannot be 'bred back' from existing stock elsewhere.

Each site destroyed, they say, is a unique document destroyed; the present havoc is comparable to the destruction each day of a shelf of documents in the Public Records Office.

Some 300 deserted medieval villages have been destroyed in England in the past 20 years -- as many as were destroyed in the previous 450 years.

In South Dorset 870 Bronze Age burial mounds have been recorded, yet only one-twentieth of them remain undamaged. In Wessex as a whole not a single Iron Age farm of one well-known type now survives as a visible monument.

Archaeologists estimate that, if a new airport is built at Cublington, Buckinghamshire, over 100 sites would be destroyed.

The enormous increase in knowledge of archaeological sites is partly the result of development schemes themselves. For example, 124 sites have been found on the route of the M5 through Gloucestershire and North Somerset.

Mr. Biddle stressed that archaeologists did not want to halt all development and did not expect to excavate every site.

'We only want to excavate a sample that will give us a proper understanding of the past,' he said. 'And we only want permanent preservation for a very small sample of sites of really outstanding historical importance.'

At Rescue's inaugural meeting yesterday, there were several calls for stiffer legislation to protect historic sites. At present the maximum fine for destroying a scheduled ancient monument is only 100 pounds!

A message from Mr. Peter Walker, Secretary of State for the Environment, read at the meeting said he fully shared archaeologists' concern about the threat to field monuments and that he was 'carefully considering' new legislation.

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SOME READING FOR THE SUMMER

(From an excellent reading list on Fraser Delta issued recently by the Simon Fraser University archaeology department.)

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|--------------|--|
| Barnett, H. | <u>The Coast Salish of B.C. (U. of Oregon).</u> |
| Borden, C.E. | <u>Anthropology in B.C. magazine, No.1 (pp.13-26) and No.4 (26-32).</u> |
| "" | <u>B.C. Geographical Series, No.9 (pp.9-26).</u> |
| "" | <u>B.C. Studies, No.6 & 7.</u> |
| Calvert, G. | <u>B.C. Studies, No.6 & 7.</u> |
| Drucker, P. | <u>Indians of the Northwest Coast (American Mus. of Nat. Hist., 1955).</u> |
| "" | <u>Cultures of the North Pacific Coast (Chandler, 1964).</u> |
| Wiley, G. | <u>Introduction to American Archaeology (1968), esp. Chapter 6.</u> |

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