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The
**MAINE ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SOCIETY BULLETIN**

OCT 1964



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SEP 10 1965

A MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

As we look forward to our eighth year as an organized group with a common interest, it might be well to reflect on the progress made since the formation of the Society, where we stand at present, and what the future might hold.

We have grown. From less than two dozen members, we now number nearly one hundred and thirty. From a membership mostly concentrated in the Augusta-Gardiner area, we now cover the whole state, with some members from other states. Where first we were acquisitive and mainly were only interested in increasing our collections, we now try to approach archaeology more scientifically. We try to understand the significance of each artifact in its relation to its location, its position, its depth, and the items associated with it. We share our knowledge with others. Many of our members spend much time telling the story of Maine Archaeology to civic, school, and social groups. We share our collections by exhibiting them in museums and other places, increasing the pleasure, interest, and understanding of others.

A number of significant events have enhanced the stature of our Society. I have mentioned the increase in our membership to nearly one hundred and thirty. We are now a member of the Guild of American Prehistorians. This is an association of amateur and professional archaeological societies in Canada, the United States and Mexico. By this association we will be better able to understand the problems, the work and the plans of amateurs in other areas.

One of the most important events of course is the distribution of our first publication this Spring. Here is a chance for members to tell what they are doing. The first publication was a wonderful beginning. Let us try to make future ones even better. Work is continuing at the Basin in Phippsburg, albeit slowly due to weather and other commitments.

For the future we need to still further expand by making membership attractive to all interested in archaeology. We should study carefully the possibility of associating with other Maine Historical societies. We should work to create the best possible image for our Society in the minds of those who might consider our activities destructive or harmful. We should be alert as to what policies we should have in regards to possible state or federal regulation of archaeological activity. Finally we should strive to better know our fellow members. For the Maine Archaeological Society to be an important, vital influence in our State, we must work together, study together, play together, and stick together.

Harold E. Brown, President
Maine Archaeological Society.

A brief report of the activities in Maine as scheduled in, Vol. 1 No. 1 of the Maine Archaeological Bulletin.

Basin Site: Harold Brown, assisted by a number of members has recovered considerable pottery sherd, complete and broken points, many chips and the usual bone material such as has been reported previously. Harold has been giving numerous talks before Historical and other groups.

The Gordon Falls and Woodstock N.B. Canoe trip in June was carried out by Nicholas Smith and other members, but it was not possible to complete the trip as scheduled because of weather and other unforeseen conditions. The Indian Camping area at Kingman, Maine was located, but the insect population of the grown up fields kept the secrets of ancient man safe for the time being.

The Castine area was checked out with a visit to Sheep Island. This area would appear to have been well covered in past years as very little was found. From Castine a trip to Deer Isle put us in contact with an excellent member, who in past years has combed the Islands and land sites of early man and recovered much of interest. Good records have been kept by Mr. Allison.

The Boothbay site has been worked on by Harry Nickel with some excellent material located. Like all sites some squares are sterile others productive.

The following members have been active at the various sites:

Roland Allison, Deer Isle; Arthur C. Benner, Waldoboro; Maurice Blaisdell, Bangor; Harold Brown, Bath; W. G. Bruce, Ledyard, Conn.; Mr. and Mrs. Camp, Round Pond; Mrs. Elenere Doudiet, Castine; Gerald Dunn, Gardiner; Osborne Finch, and Mrs. Margaret Finch, Waldoboro; Norman Fossett, Riverside; Albert Foye, Castine; Mrs. Edward Hale, Castine; Francis Hatch, Castine; John Hill, Oakland; George Lacombe, Lincolnville; Harry and Jack Nickel and Maebeth Nickel, Boothbay Harbor; Warren Schofield, Sherman Mills; Nicholas Smith, Evans Mills, N.Y.; Lloyd Varney, Waterville; William Vaughn, Belfast;

There may have been many other members who have carried out interesting types of activities and WE PLEAD WITH YOU TO DROP A LINE AND TELL OF ANYTHING OF INTEREST THAT WE CAN USE IN THE SPRING PUBLICATION. Material should be in the hands of GERALD C. DUNN, RFD 1 A, Gardiner, Maine by March 1.

The Maine Society has been accepted as an affiliated group by the Guild of American Prehistorians. This is an organization made up of professional and non-professional groups, such as ours, in Canada, South America and the United States. Thus you as a member are gaining status in the field of Archaeology and Anthropology.

Shell Heaps Around Deer Isle
By Roland Allison

Roland Allison has dug in the shell heaps of Deer Isle, the mainland and off shore islands for 20 years. In this time he has found thousands of artifacts of stone and bone. He has kept a record of the locations where found, and is a member of a number of archaeological groups, as well as of the Maine Society. We appreciate his contribution for this issue of our Publication. (Editors Comment)

I do not know it all, and have an open mind as to what this and that artifact was used for. After much hard work and digging, I have learned a lot about our early Americans. I have outlined a few of the most unusual and interesting pieces found. No. 1 - This fine bone harpoon is made from the leg bone of a deer. It is the finest whole one that I have found. It measures 8-1/4 inches in length. I have found several with one or two barbs. Projectile points of bone no doubt were used in the taking of fish, also the plain bone points were probably used in the taking of sea fowl, rabbits, etc. Lengths up to 4 inches have been plentiful. Bone awls run from tiny to large. Most of these are made of deer bones, sometimes from the leg bone of a bird, such as the blue heron or goose. While on the subject of bones, I have found bones of seal, deer, rabbit, mink, fox, bear, beaver, porcupine, ducks, sea gulls, loons, moose and maybe the cougar. There have been teeth of large animals with which I am not familiar. On one site the jaw bones of dogs were an indication of there being used for food.

Of contact with the early settlers, there has been very little evidence. Three trade beads, a thimble, part of an old bottle, these may indicate that the Indians may have left these areas prior to, or soon after the whites began to settle along the coast.

-Burials-

In only one case was there any indication of grave goods being buried with them. In this case there were several drilled bones from what may have been a raccoon.

One interesting burial had in it an arrow point of felsite and on the left thigh bone a 13-1/2 inch metal knife. Does this indicate sudden death by an arrow, subsequent burial to cover the deed. Was it an Indian or a lonely French trapper, history has no record to tell, and we can only guess.

These lonely burials are not marked, one just stumbles on them while digging.

Another skeleton of what would seem to be an old person was found with three boulders, the size of a water bucket on it. This was a very shallow grave not over a foot deep.

A third burial in the same area only about 6 inches deep laid face down. Yet another skeleton for comparison with the shallow burials was in a fire pit four feet down. This was a mother and an infant. All burials were extended except one, which is called a bundle burial, with all bones together.

-Projectiles-

Arrows are of many different types, but similar to those found all along the Maine coast in shell areas. The most common are side notched made of local green rhyolite. Other types are, leaf, triangle and stemmed. Base notched seem to be the most unusual type.

No. 2 - A red agate point that was washed out in one of the winter storms. No. 3 - This is a fine thin knife. No. 4 - An excellent red jasper scraper. No 5 - A well made long slim type point. No. 6 - An excellent scraper. No. 7 - Fine black felsite war point. No. 8 - Only complete point of this type found. No. 9 - Triangle point not common. No. 10 - Leaf type. These are quite numerous

-Axe and Knives-

No. 11 is a medium sized axe. I have found many of these, some much larger. The grooved type axe is found only occasionally. Plain celts also are not found in good condition as they were much used by their original owners. Celts run in all sizes from a tiny two inches, up to a foot in length. These celts were made to fit the type of work being done at the time they were made. Large knives or spears were well made and are fine works of art. While quartz does not seem to have been much used, there have been a few points or scrapers found. Maine use of quartz does not compare with Massachusetts and Rhode Island, where this material was much used. No. 12 - This is a large heavy game arrow or possibly a small spear though I am inclined to believe it was a big game arrow.

-Pottery-

Pottery is found in all shell heaps always in fragments. This is due to shallow depth in some cases, but the action of water, frost and ice tend to break it up. Much of the pottery if not well fired reverts to clay again and mixes with the shell and fire debris. Some of the pottery is plain some with designs. It is tempered with shell, sand or grit. As is true of most other members reports on pottery, there has seldom been enough recovered to complete the reconstruction of a pot.

-Bone Material From Fire Pits-

Bones of turtles, fish of all kinds, sometimes as much as a half bushel of bone are located in one area, where they were discarded after use. Scallops were used but not in large amounts. I have never found any parts of lobster, oysters or snails. Parts of one horseshoe crab indicate that these had little part in the diet.

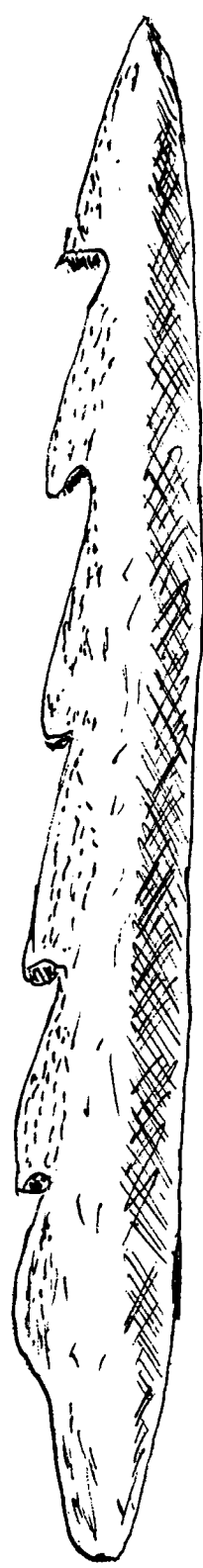
-Lack of Material-

I have found no plummets, or banner stones. A few pipe fragments, one amulet are all of this classification.

A trade or squaw axe, possible one Count Von Castine traded to some Indian around 1630 give or take a few years was dug up in one shell heap. They were not often lost as they were too valuable to discard.

The material found in these shell heaps indicates, what one might expect artifacts needed and used while the Indians were summering and digging clams on the coastal areas. The year round living tools and agricultural implements were inland at the permanent camp sites.

ALLISON PLATE, I
- all full size -



1
Harpoon



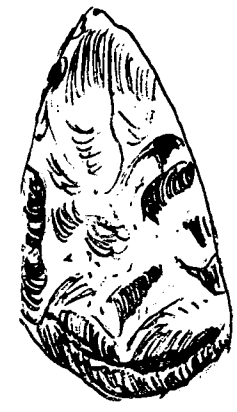
2
Red Agate



Black
Felsite



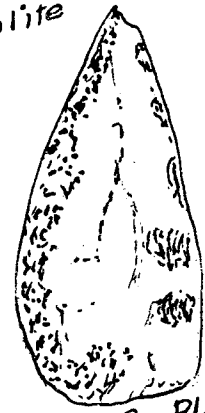
3
Fine Thin
Green Rhyolite



5
Scraper
Red
Jasper



6
Bluish
Flint



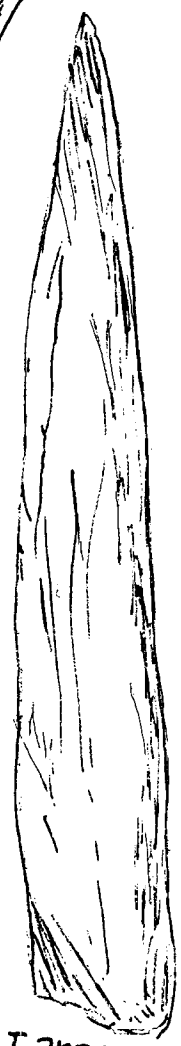
3
Black
war point



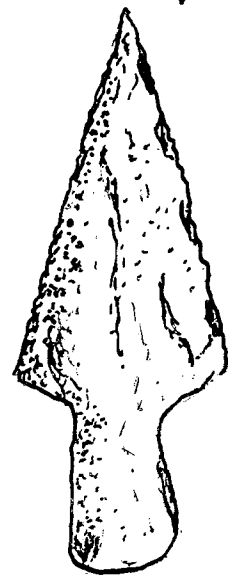
4
Green
Rhyolite



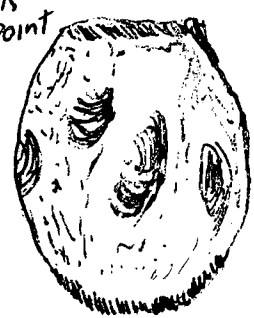
Antler
Flaker



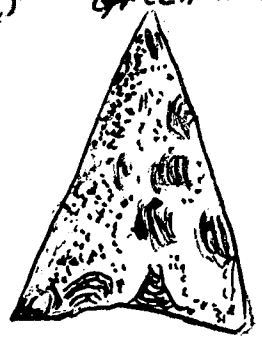
Large
Bone Awl



9
Green
Rhyolite

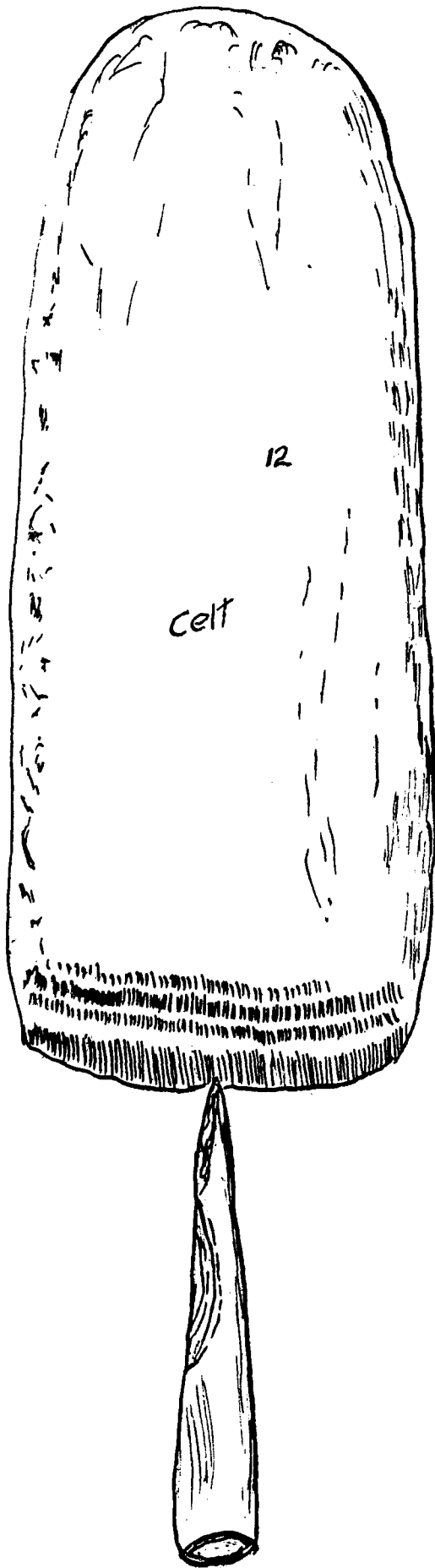


7
Scraper
Green Rhyolite



10
Triangle

ALLISON PLATE 2
-all full size-



Celt

12

Bone Point



11



Leaf



13

Corner
Removed



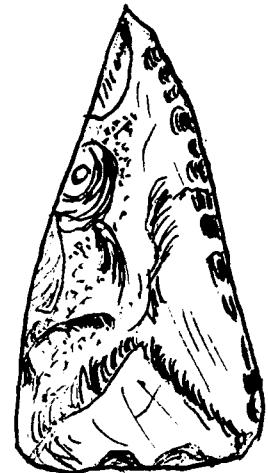
Bone Awl



Bears Tooth



Leaf



Stemless

Small
Celt



-Classification of Points-

The greatest number are side notched No 5 which put them in the late archaic and ceramic period.

Leaf blades and stemless were about equal in numbers. Ceramic period.

The large leaf knife reaches back to early and late archaic periods.

Triangle apper about the period of pottery making.

Corner notched also are in the ceramic period. These the Deer Isle area compares with Swans Island and other coastal areas which go back to late archaic - ceramic and up to contact with the white man. A possible period of 3000 B.C. to 1600 A.D. as a comparison will tie to the Carbon 14 analysis taken at the Damascotta Shell Heaps which show their origin some 1600 years ago or about A D 300.

Michigan says "Amatures Are Useful"-

Dr. Hatt remarked, "Michigan has an archaeological site law which is in the hands of the University of Michigan and the Museum of Archaeology and it is their practice to never try to apply it because they say the amateur archaeologists, despite the havoc they may bring about from time to time, are better than the bulldozers that wipe out whole records right away and at least they do point out sites and then the University at least has the opportunity to send a team in and see what information can be salvaged. The amateurs are considered more or less bird dogs and very useful ones."

ARCHAEOLOGY IN NEW JERSEY

By: Helen Camp

Archaeology in New Jersey is still a fascinating study in spite of the fact that many of the best sites are being sub-divided and houses are springing up where the Indians once lived. Even along the Delaware River, artifacts are becoming scarce, not only because of some of the problems of land development, but also because the countryside has been scoured by surface hunters. If one could but follow a bulldozer in these spots, artifacts could be found - and some lucky people have had good results. But that too will eventually come to an end, as digging in someone's new lawn or garden is hardly appreciated.

The petrology of the New Jersey material is somewhat different from that found in Maine. It consists for the most part of flint, argillite, quartzite, sandstone, slate, and some jasper. Argillite and quartz predominate in the more ancient sites.

The Archaeological Society of New Jersey sponsors summer digs. The State Museum joins with the different chapters in these projects, providing at least one professional archaeologist.

Some of the latest work has been done on Tocks Island in the upper Delaware River. It is important to proceed with this dig, as there are plans to cover this area with a reservoir in the near future. The National Parks Service, the State Museum, and the Archaeological Society are working together on this.

For the last several summers, work has been conducted at an Archaic site in Green Village, New Jersey, about 35 miles due west of New York City.

About ten miles northeast of this site is the Steppel site, which has proved to be one of the more important ones in the state. This whole section, for miles north and south was once the basin of the large Lake Passaic, formed in late Pleistocene times. The soil is sandy, with underlying sections of clay and gravel. Below this is sterile sand. It has recently been used as farm land, and has been known as an Indian site for many years.

About 70 years ago skeletons were uncovered when digging for the foundation of a house. In the spring of 1956 the owner of this land removed much of the topsoil with a bulldozer. Then, digging deeper to make a large swimming pool, human bones were uncovered. These were taken away by local collectors. More collectors came, and uncovered a perfect flexed burial with grave goods. The artifacts from this quickly disappeared. Someone notified the Museum and filled the grave. The Museum, after obtaining permission from the owner, sent two professional archaeologists to the site. All the bones that could be rescued were sent to the laboratory for analysis. Beneath the grave was a two inch layer of charred grass and fiber, later used for Carbon 14 dating.

The Museum felt that this was an important find in a little-explored section of the state, and decided to concentrate its summer work here. A datum point was established and 10 foot grids were laid out. Most of the grids were taken to two foot levels in the bulldozed area, and to deeper levels elsewhere. Levels were dug in 3 inch steps.

A few fire pits, post molds, some pottery, large pieces of worked chalcedony, and a few projectile points were found in what had been refuse heaps. Many evenings were spent around a card table trying to put pieces of pottery together, but with little success.

Due to lack of funds, the dig was closed for a little over a month. When funds again became available, it was reopened for another three weeks under the supervision of Dr. Ronald Mason.

During this second field session, two mortuary complexes were uncovered. These were completely undisturbed, and were adjacent to each other. All of the remains were secondary burials, except for one bundle burial. As far as could be determined by the scattered bones, at least 13 individuals were interred; males, females, adolescents, and one infant.

Grave goods were
a large quartz crystal
an ancient clay pipe
a winged slate pendant.

The burials uncovered earlier in the summer were about the same age. In this area were found

- 11 types of pottery
- 12 types of projectile points - in flint, jasper, quartz, quartzite, trap rock, chert, and shale - the latter predominating
- 61 scrapers of flinty materials
- 9 drills of the same material
- 3 gravers of flint
- 6 blanks
- 3 flaked choppers of quartzite
- netsinkers - bannerstones, 2 hoes, and 1 axe
- 1 small pestle.

All of the material was pre-contact. The Carbon 14 dating was difficult to contamination, but it is safe to say it was dated about 1500 A.D. - and perhaps earlier and probably Delaware tribe.

With the continued cooperation of the members of the Society, much work is still going on in New Jersey to uncover further historical data concerning New Jersey's earliest inhabitants.

THE OLD TRAIL
By Nicholas N. Smith
Evans Mills, New York

"'Mother,' she said, 'I know we shall die here anyway, for we can never get out of these dreadful woods.'" These were the words of tired nine year old Christiana Wormwood confronted by another portage on the "Old Trail" She was travelling with her mother, three year old sister and guide, Mr. Samuel Cook who was taking them from Alfred to Houlton where Mr. Wormwood had already cleared land and built a cabin.

The giant pines and cedars stretching on every side from the rivers and lakes creating a great green world must have been awesome to this youngster at her impressionable age. However, she was not the first white girl to go over this trail since John Gyles mentions several girls who were prisoners in the account of his Malecite captivity between 1689 - 1699.

French missionaries frequently used the "Old Trail" when seeking out members of their roving flock or visiting their brethren at the village at the other end of the trail.

In 1775 Washington's emissary, Col. John Allan, visited Passamaquoddy and Malecite Indians in order to obtain their services during the Revolution. He was successful and led about 500 Malecite from Meductic to Machias going the length of the Spednik Lakes and the St. Croix River to the ocean rather than branching off at the Baskeheganportage which would have taken him southwest to Old Town.

In 1800 Joseph Houlton made his first trip over the trail to the St. John River and then into the area which was later named for him, where he settled. Thirteen years later Christiana Wormwood's family settled in Houlton after making the long lonely trip from Old Town up the Penobscot River to the Mattawamkeag and on to the Baskehegan where they portaged to East Grand Lake paddling up the Lake, through the Thoroughfare and across North Lake where they portaged to First Eel Lake paddling up the Lake and into Eel River until they reached the present village of Benton. From here they hiked over the well-trod path, almost a straight line to the St. John River Indian Village of Meductic. From here they turned up the river to Woodstock and then south to Houlton, a rather circuitous route.

Joe Polis, who once guided Thoreau up the East Branch of the Penobscot, when a lad of about 10 had a memorable hunting trip to the Chiputneticook Lakes. An early freeze and snowstorm forced them to leave their canoes and hike with only what they could carry. They followed the slippery, rocky, river banks, which must have been slow going indeed. At the mouth of the Mattawamkeag Polis forded the river going up to his neck in the near freezing water.

In 1845 Abraham Gessner scientist and founder of the New Brunswick Museum was guided over the trail by some of his Indian friends. By this time roads had been cleared through the forests, the Maine - New Brunswick border settled, and the wars killed off many redmen so the "Old Trail" had reached a period of little use. Gessner relied on charcoal pictographs on split cedar posts or

birchbark markers which warned of dangerous rapids or portages. He had extreme difficulty finding the North Lake - First Eel Lake Portage since there was no clear cut trail through the tall grass. In other places he reported that the trail was worn into the rock.

A search through old maps gave additional proof that the "Old Trail" was common knowledge to earlier generations. After finding so much historic evidence concerning the "Old Trail" it was hard to believe that this important historical trail has been so neglected. Could the "Old Trail" with its several portages be located?

In 14 years of research little really concrete archaeological evidence of the portages has been found. At first it was rather discouraging but when one considers that in 1845 Gessner had difficulty in locating one of the carries, it should be much harder to locate the exact portages more than a hundred years later.

There is disagreement as to the height of the rivers and lakes in primeval Maine. Some stress that the numerous beaver dams and vast virgin forests with their spongy floors stored considerable water keeping rivers and lakes at a higher level than they are now; others believe that the numerous dams erected by the whiteman have increased the height of the water level.

An ardent group in Woodstock, N.B., was found who were also engulfed in rediscovering the "Old Trail". They were using the old Indian village of Meductic as their starting point and were attempting to locate the carry from the village, which Gerald Dunn believes was larger than any of the Indian village sites in Maine, to Benton where the Indians took to the Eel River.

For the past several years short overnight excursions were made on different sections of the trail and it was hoped that this spring the whole trip would be completed. Usually toward the end of May there is some good weather before the bugs get out and while the water is still high providing a helping hand with a good current. The 23rd was set as the target date. It was hoped that several canoes would make the trip and that there would be representatives from both Maine and New Brunswick. When the time came Peter Paul, a Malecite, and the writer were the only ones to canoe, although Gerald Dunn and Morris Blaisdell helped.

From that moment on it was as if the supernatural powers of Indian shamans who wished to retain the secret of the "Old Trail" did all they could to prevent a successful trip. Although it was unsuccessful, it will long be remembered. Even the 16mm motion pictures taken on the trip did not come out and the 35mm slides were lost in processing and at this writing have not been found. A wide range of weather sent hot humid blasts of near 90 degrees which turned to a cold 40 degrees with high winds kicking up white caps forcing a halt to the trip only 6 miles from Indian Island, Old Town. It is hoped to complete the trip over the "Old Trail" next August when others interested in reliving history will be able to go.

EPILOGUE AT OLD POINT

by L. H. Varney

The destruction of the Indian village at Old Point in Norridgewock, and the death of Father Sebastian Rale has long been thought to mark the end of the Catholic missions on the Kennebec. Anticlimax that it may be, the following account will help to make the story more complete.

In 1730, Father James de Sirene re-erected the cross over the ashes of the village at Norridgewock.

The presence of Father de Sirene among the Indians of the Kennebec has been attributed to the King of France. Following the destruction of the village in August of 1724, Father de la Chasse had been sent to Old Point to make certain that the body of Rale was properly buried and to console those Indians still living in the vicinity. His reports to his superiors eventually were brought to the attention of the kings who requested that a new priest be sent to replace Rale.

The mission continued for several years. Eight years after its re-establishment (1738) the French king gave the mission an outfit of plate, vestments and furniture for the chapel. This act may have been responsible for the fact that the Norridgewocks began to return to their old home on the Kennebec.

However, the governor of Canada, in order to prevent an exodus of the fighting men, recalled Father de Sirene. Thus ended forever the mission at Old Point.

In 1775, when Arnolds' army followed the old Indian route to Quebec, they saw " a priests grave " and the remains of the Indian village at Norridgewock.

OF INTEREST

In 1615, an extremely destructive Indian war broke out in Maine. Indians of the Penobscot and the country to the east were arrayed against those of the Kennebec and west. This savage conflict raged for two years.

Following the destructive war, pestilence immediately broke out among the survivors. Undoubtedly a white mans disease, the epidemic nearly depopulated many tribes in New England.

The numbers on the Allison plates, for the most part, and in the text do not correspond so disregard them. The captions should be sufficient to follow the text.

A N N U A L F A L L M E E T I N G

SUNDAY

NOVEMBER 15, 1964

1:30 to 4:00 P.M.

Howard Hall, Kennebec Journal Building,
Western Avenue, Augusta, Maine

Election of 1965 Officers

Movies of Swan's Island and Meductic Trips

A Good Way To Display Points, Norman Fossett, Vassalboro

Deer Isle and What I Have Found There, Roland Allison, Deer Isle

Castine Area and Deer Isle Bone Analysis, Mrs. Norman Doudiet,
Castaine

Down East Scratching, Mrs. Ruth McInnis, Portland

Report on Federation Meeting, Mrs. Helen Camp, Round Pond

Mexican Archaeology, Paul Ward, Auburn

Bring any material of interest for display, as all enjoy seeing your 1964 finds.