

THE OREGON ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY Purposes and Objectives

The OREGON ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY was formed early in 1951 for the purpose of preserving the archaeological material of the Oregon country by cooperating with scientific and academic organizations in their archaeological work, and by stimulating public interest in the romance and science of the studies of local ancient man. A regular monthly meeting is held with speeches and movies for education as well as entertainment, also, a bulletin of society news, "SCREENINGS", is sent each month to all members.

Few areas in the United States are as rich in archaeological lore as the Columbia River and adjacent areas. Since many rich sites are now rapidly disappearing under backwaters from dams and commercial enterprises, we, the members of O.A.S., feel that a great need exists to salvage all available material, to locate and map the ancient camp sites, and to dispense the knowledge and material results to the public.

We are "Pot Hunters with a Purpose", originally frowned upon by the professional archaeologists, but we have by our help and objectives, received the blessings of this select group. We believe the professional and the amateur can work together for the common good.

Being collectors, our main interest is of course searching for artifacts and the enjoyment of the search, but we believe that the enjoyment can be increased by knowledge. By knowing and understanding what we find and by analyzing its association, as our collections grow, we can very nearly read the past as an open book.

We do not condone hap-hazard digging or vandalism or the ruination of known sites of scientific value. We believe that the recovery and the fascination in digging are greatly increased by systematic excavating. The artifact in its self should not be the objective, but rather the knowledge attained with its recovery.

Our relations with the public are of paramount concern. We do not hunt or dig without the permission of the land owner. We fill in all excavated pits to avoid defacing the land and injury to humans and animals. In the past, some of the sites have been closed to all because of the vandalism of a few.

We are aware of a general public interest in archaeology and are therefore always ready and willing to show what we have found or display our entire collections. That which we find is usually ours, but the public has a legitimate claim to enjoy it as we do.

We welcome into our society all who are in sympathy with our aims and beliefs. As a society, may we help others by helping ourselves, and may we strive to promote more interest in a very much neglected field of endeavor--Archaeology.

No member of OAS shall without sanction and approval of the executive committee, process, negotiate or execute any dealings of any nature implicating the society or on behalf of the society or its members, or shall any member write or publish articles involving the society without similar restrictions.

This is merely a precautionary measure not intended to prevent or discourage. All submissions to this ruling will be most liberally reviewed, with an aim to assist rather than reject.