

Indian Artifact Presentation at Kraemer Library



On September 6, Thomas Pleger, Dean of the University of Wisconsin Baraboo/Sauk County, presented a slide program covering the entry of the first Americans into the North American continent through the land bridge that connected Asia and America by way of the Bering Sea Strait. The land bridge was the result of enormous amounts of water (snow and rainfall) being locked into glaciers, which covered much of the Northern Hemisphere. This was the last Ice Age when ocean depth dropped dramatically from lack of melt-water.

These first Americans were hunters and they followed their prey South and Eastward and eventually settled what is now Canada and the U. S. A. others followed the West Coast of America and settled both North and South America.

Archeologists have established several stages of early human habitation. These stages are identified by the differing types of artifacts, which then can be associated within a time frame.

Wisconsin Archaeological Time Stages

10,000 B.C.- 5,000 B.C.	Ice covered to Early Archaic
5,000 B.C.-1,000 B. C.	Middle Archaic to Early Woodland
1,000 B.C.-1,000 A.D.	Late Woodland to Aztlan
1,000 A.D.-2,000 A.D.	Historic

Professor Pleger's slides were especially interesting, as they depicted what happened specifically in Wisconsin during these time periods. Joe Wankler displayed an extensive collection of artifacts, which included examples from each of the Wisconsin Archaeological Stages listed above. Of particular interest were the tools such as axes,



awls, knives, scrapers, spear points, arrows and triangle points. Some of these tools were unique, since they were made from stones which are not found in this area. Some of the artifacts also came from the Wankler farm.

To contact Dean Tom Pleger, write to: Thomas C. Pleger, Ph.D.; 1006 Connie Rd.; Baraboo, WI. 53913.

By Joe Wankler

Joe Wankerl hesitates to talk about himself, but he has extensive knowledge about his collection and very generously gave of his time, working with Professor Pleger, to prepare this presentation and answer questions after it. We were pleased to have 30 people attend our first free presentation. There will be more in the future.



Also displayed were a Winnebago basket and artifacts found on the Herman Weiss farm, now owned by Mike Wittman. The Winnebago basket was given to one of Plain's early settlers, Michael Nachreiner. In the 1850's, an Indian appeared at his log cabin door, situated on the south of St. Anne's Hill, and asked for salt pork in exchange for the basket. This basket was handed down in the Nachreiner family from Michael, to his son, Joseph X, to his son, Albert, to his grand niece, Phyllis Liegel Dearborn, along with the story about it. This

basket is now a part of our society's collection. Lucy Herbrand brought the artifacts from her son's farm, along with an article about Chief White Eagle, who used to come to their farm and pick up arrowheads and other artifacts.

By Phyllis Dearborn

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