

PROFESSIONAL
ARCHAEOLOGISTS OF
NEW
YORK
CITY



NEWSLETTER NO. 37
 January, 1988

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Material for the PANYC Newsletter may be sent to Celia Orgel, acting editor, 360 Cabrini Boulevard, #3-G, New York, New York 10040. Please submit material at least 10 days prior to the next scheduled meeting.

Minutes of the PANYC General Membership Meeting

CUNY Graduate Center, Room 1126, December 2, 1987

Cantwell called the meeting to order at 7:00 PM

Secretary's Report: Minutes of the September 30, 1987 meeting were corrected to read "Native American Affairs: Cantwell...NY Learning Alliance..." and accepted.

Treasurer's Report: Winter reported that the balance in the PANYC account is \$1,514.15.

President's Report: 1) The new Director of Arts and Antiquities for the Parks Department is Adrian Benepe. A meeting will be scheduled with Benepe to discuss PANYC concerns regarding parks. 2) A joint PANYC - NYAC meeting was set for Saturday, January 23, and details were discussed [meeting announcement enclosed in this mailing]. It was proposed that PANYC offer NYAC members copies of the PANYC newsletter at this meeting. 3) The nomination committee for upcoming elections will include Leslie Eisenberg and Diana Wall.

COMMITTEE REPORTS

Action: Letter from Silver to the Municipal Art Society expressing concern for archaeological resources that might be impacted by restorations of the Atlantic Ave. Tunnel, Bowne House, Sycamore Ave. Historic District, and the Valentine-Varian House is in the Newsletter.

AIA Participation: Winter noted the upcoming meeting of the AIA in New York City at the Marriot Marquis, December 27-30. Marshall requested that the membership contact Geismar to submit photos for PANYC archaeology exhibit on NYC archaeology for the AIA meeting.

Awards: Salwen reported that this committee will be do something next summer/fall

City Agency Policy: No report.

Curation: No report.

Election: Pagano will send mailing to membership soliciting nominations to PANYC Executive Board.

Legislation: Salwen reported that the NPS issued draft regulations for curation. The SAA Shipwreck Bill will have to wait for the next congress.

Museum: No report.

Native American Affairs: Cantwell reported that a joint committee meeting will take place with NYAC on Saturday, January 23, 1988.

Newsletter: Orgel prepared and Rothschild photocopied the November 1987 Newsletter. Winter will copy the January Newsletter.

Public Program: Rubinson volunteered to consolidate, update and prepare the mailing list for the next public program announcement mailing. The program for archaeological talks to be presented at the Museum of the City of NY appears in the November Newsletter.

Research and Planning: No report.

Standards: No report.

OLD BUSINESS: None.

NEW BUSINESS: 1) Cantwell noted in order for PANYC to fulfill its obligations it would be helpful if members would report on their current activities at membership meetings. 2) Valerie DeCarlo, archaeologist for Wave Hill, reported on recent activities in Riverdale Park. Riverdale Park includes 97 acres of which 57 are woodland. Wave Hill has a 25 year history of stewardship in the park as part of its environmental programs. In conjunction with the Parks Department capital improvement of Riverdale Park, DeCarlo is preparing an archaeological sensitivity plan with maps indicating sensitive archaeological areas in red. DeCarlo indicated that Parks would not conduct improvements that would destroy archaeological sites but would integrate provisions for protection of sites in their plans. Seven archaeological sites have been identified to date. Reports of work conducted to date are on file with the Parks department. In addition to preparing a management plan for Riverdale Park DeCarlo is developing public programs and a school curriculum in archaeology.

Membership: New members approved by the general membership include Sarah Bridges and Valerie DeCarlo.

Respectfully Submitted, Daniel N. Pagano, PANYC Secretary 1987/88

MEETING NOTICE - NEXT PANYC GENERAL MEMBERSHIP

JOINT MEETING WITH NYAC

JANUARY 23, 1988

NYU, MAIN BUILDING, WASHINGTON SQUARE EAST, ROOM 520

MEETING SCHEDULE

10:00 A.M.

Standards Committee - Lynne Sullivan, Chair

10:00 A.M.

State Plan Steering Committee - Ed Curtin, Chair

1:00 to 3:30 P.M. - Program

1) Lynne Sullivan, curator of archaeological collections at the NYS Museum in Albany, will make a presentation on a new project funded by NSF to inventory the Museum's collections. Her assistants, Ed Curtin and Elizabeth Chilton, will discuss the specifics of the inventory and collections management.

2) Nancy Demyttenaere, conservator for the Historic Sites Bureau, NYS Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation at Peebles Island, will discuss archaeological collection conservation.

3:30 P.M.

Human Remains - Co-Chairs: Louise Basa, Chuck Vandrei

REMINDER

Upcoming Lectures

At the Museum of the City of New York:

1/24/88 At Home in New York: An Archaeologist's Perspective on Changes in Family Life in the 18th and 19th Centuries.
Diana diZerega Wall, New York University.

The late 18th and early 19th centuries saw the development of the kind of family life that we look on as "traditional" today. Using both archival and archaeological sources, these changes are described and illustrated for the middle class and the elite of New York City.

New York's First Suburb: The Archaeology of Greenwich Village in the 19th Century. Bert Salwen, Professor of Anthropology, New York University.

The archaeological evidence for the development of the Greenwich Village suburb in the vicinity of Washington Square Park will be discussed and illustrated.

1/31/88 Industrial Archaeology: A Look at the Artifacts of the Industrial Revolution. Ed Rutsch, Industrial Archaeologist.

Manhattan's industrial development from an archaeological perspective.

At the New York Public Library:

Tuesday, February 16 at 6 p.m.

NAN A. ROTHSCHILD

History Under Ground: Archaeology in Lower Manhattan

Nan A. Rothschild thinks of lower Manhattan, with its crowded streets and skyscrapers, as the site of an archaeological dig. As the Curator of New York Archaeology at the William Duncan Strong Museum at Columbia University, she has been the principal investigator on a number of archaeology projects in and around New York City. She has uncovered 17th-century garbage dumps, studied the fossilized fauna of colonial Manhattan, and excavated at 85 Broad Street, 7 Hanover Square, and 64 Pearl Street. Professor Rothschild teaches at Barnard College and Columbia and has published her findings extensively.

All programs take place in The Celeste Bartos Forum, located inside the 42nd Street entrance of The New York Public Library at Fifth Avenue and 42nd Street.

Lectures, \$5.00; films, \$5.00; concerts, \$7.50.
Please enclose a self-addressed, stamped envelope.
Limit: four tickets per person per event. Requests are filled in the order in which they are received. Those without a stamped, self-addressed envelope may be delayed.

Make checks payable to The New York Public Library and send them with this order form to The Public Education Program, Room M-6, The New York Public Library, Fifth Avenue and 42nd Street, New York, NY 10018.

Tickets can also be purchased at The Library Shop beginning January 4, 1988. The Library Shop is located on the first floor of the Central Research Library at Fifth Avenue and 42nd Street. Hours: Monday-Saturday, 10 a.m. to 6 p.m.

Soil Removal at Trump Site Draws Concern Over Relics and Wastes

By DAVID W. DUNLAP

NYT 12-30-87

A kind of unofficial groundbreaking for Donald J. Trump's Television City development — the removal of 60,000 cubic yards of soil and rubble from the Upper West Side riverfront site — has been greeted by city officials and neighborhood opponents with concern.

On the environmental side are fears that the soil might be contaminated, given that the area was in industrial use for decades. On the archeological side are fears that the remains of an Indian fishing camp or a 19th-century forge might be disturbed.

But executives of the Trump Organization said that such concerns were unwarranted, that the soil is not hazardous, that it does not require special handling and that it has not been taken from areas where archeological artifacts may exist.

"It is a site that everyone is looking at," said Norman C. Levin, senior vice president of the Trump Organization. "It's in a fishbowl. We wanted to be extremely careful that everything we do on the site is proper and lawful."

Material Is Isolated

The earth moving and grading, which began in mid-November and ended within the last week, was concentrated in the middle portion of the site, which runs from 59th to 72d Streets along the Hudson River. This is where Mr. Trump would build his enormous project, pending city approval.

About 2,000 truckloads of soil and rubble were taken to Staten Island to

be used as cover material at the city's Fresh Kills landfill. But a spokeswoman for the Sanitation Department said yesterday that it had been isolated pending tests by the Environmental Protection Department.

That was because some of the material had darkened since its arrival, said the Sanitation spokeswoman, Cynthia Hallex. Exactly what, if anything, is signified by the color change is not yet known, she said.

As described by Mr. Levin and Robert C. Davis Jr., of the law firm Crowell & Moring, the purpose of the work was to remove mounds or ridges, some of them 15 feet high, from an area between 64th and 69th Streets, making the site more "attractive" and accessible.

'It Was Not Hazardous Waste'

Mr. Davis said, "A soil sampling over the whole site identified some materials in the mounds that caused us to ask, 'Do we have to handle it in a special manner?'; that might have been classified as hazardous waste."

Those materials, Mr. Davis said, were lead and polycyclic aromatic hydrocarbons. Tests and analysis were performed by two private concerns. The first round was done by Fanning, Phillips & Molnar of Ronkonkoma, L.I.; the second by Dames & Moore of Trevese, Pa.

"They came to exactly the same conclusion," Mr. Davis said, "that it was not hazardous waste and that it could be properly disposed of in a sanitary landfill."

The private Westpride group, which is opposed to Television City in its currently proposed form, is concerned about possible soil contamination, said Joyce Matz, a spokeswoman. "And we are concerned that anything of archeological significance might be removed."

76 Hudson 64 x 69 W
see file

Landmark Site Endangered?

Trump Project Worries Agencies

By Michael Moss

Donald Trump is digging improperly in his Penn Yards site on the Upper West Side, possibly ruining such archaeological treasures as remains of the Leni-Lenape Indian tribe, the city Landmarks Preservation Commission has charged.

In a letter to Trump's environmental attorney dated Dec. 24, the commission's director of operations, Joan R. Olshansky, said the commission had been informed that "excavation of soil has been initiated." She asked Trump to stop the work "until we have had an opportunity to review the documentary study of this site, and all archaeological work has been completed and signed off

by our agency."

The Trump Organization denied the charge, saying it was aware of the site's history, and that to date it has disturbed only the soil surface. "I certainly understand their concern," Anthony Gliedman, Trump's spokesman, said yesterday. "There is no danger to archaeological relics whatsoever."

Meanwhile, the city Department of Sanitation said it has become concerned that the soil from Trump's site contains PCBs or other hazardous materials. The department has purchased the soil to cover garbage at its Fresh Kills Landfill.

Noticing that recent truckloads were darker in color from the earlier

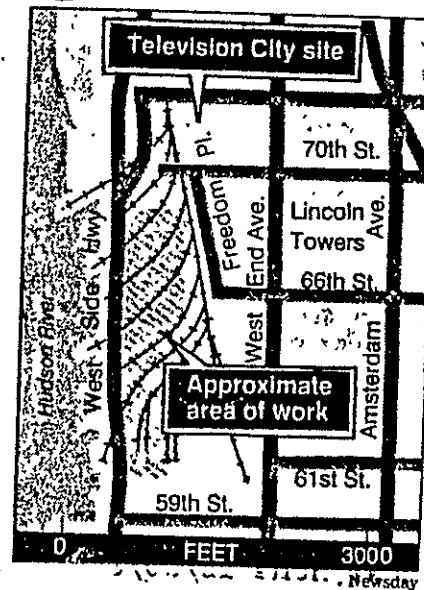
shipments that were tested for contamination, the sanitation department has segregated all 50,000 cubic yards of the Trump dirt, about 2,000 truckloads, for further testing.

The city, which passed up opportunities to purchase the site before Trump bought it, is paying him \$425,000 for the soil, sanitation department spokesman Vito A. Turso said yesterday.

Also, Trump's attorney Steve Kass who was previously involved in the site and its archaeological matters suddenly quit or was fired last week. Kass refused to comment.

"There were a variety of reasons,"

Please see TRUMP on Page 21



Digging Worries Several Agencies

TRUMP from Page 3

Gliedman said when asked why Kass was no longer working for Trump. "But basically, he left with a good feeling all around. It was time for a change for both."

The landmarks commission said it sent its Dec. 24 letter to attorney David Paget, who now represents Trump. Paget said yesterday that he has not received such a letter.

Public concern about Trump's work on the site stemmed from telephone calls to the environmental group, West-

pride. Executive Director Sandor Katz said callers reported "three bulldozers and truck after truckload of dirt leaving the area."

Katz called city officials, but immediately ran into a snarl of involved agencies, all with an apparent lack of enforcement powers.

Interviews indicate that none of the key city agencies involved in the Trump site — the Planning Commission, Buildings Department, the Department of Environmental Quality, or the Landmarks Preservation Commission — can prohibit Trump from working on the

site as long as he doesn't begin actual excavation.

A permit is required only if Trump files plans for construction, said Vahe Tiryakian, spokesman for the Buildings Department. He said his agency inspected the site about five weeks ago after receiving calls from concerned citizens, but found "no excavation work" under way.

Gliedman said yesterday that at most the contractor has dug down 8 to 10 inches.

The vast site is of immense interest to historians because it contains origi-

nal Manhattan shorelines, several streams, and thus is likely to have been used by the Lenape, said Daniel Pagano, urban archaeologist for the landmarks commission.

The site also contained the Haddersely Forge, which, established in the 1840s, was the first forge to use steam hammers, he said.

Trump has agreed to study the site's archaeological significance through literature surveys. But it's the interim earthmoving until that study is complete that concerns the Landmarks commission, Pagano said.

Pagano said that although the commission cannot force a developer to preserve ruins, it has successfully forced a developer to pay for razing ruins. He cited the recently completed 17 State St., where the developer is building a \$200,000 museum of archaeology because the city found that he bulldozed a Jewish merchant's home and ignored the commission's request to spare the site.

Gliedman yesterday said the work at Trump's site definitely was not in the forge's vicinity.

But the Planning Commission said it was considering a request by the landmarks commission to send Trump a letter similar to its correspondence about the site.

The sanitation department said it would likely get results of its new soil testing early next week.

NEWSDAY, WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 30, 1987

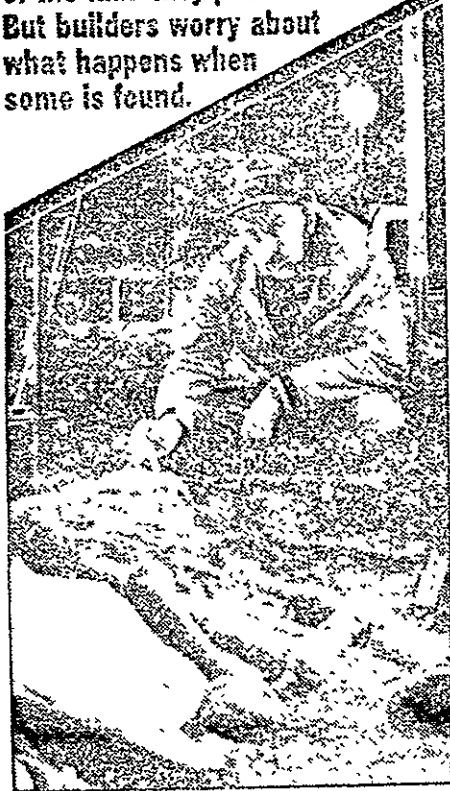
NY

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The Globe and Mail

144th YEAR, NO 43,070 ■ METRO ■ MONDAY, DECEMBER 21, 1987

Developers are turning to archeologists to review the 'heritage potential' of the land they plan to use. But builders worry about what happens when some is found.



JAMES LEWCUN The Globe and Mail

Near Fort Erie, Ronald Williamson checks skeletons thought to be remains of soldiers who fought there in War of 1812.

Concern over roots gives diggers bonanza

BY MARINA STRAUSS
The Globe and Mail

Construction manager Kevin Bechard of Cambridge, Ont., routinely hires archeologists when he embarks on major development plans.

The archeologists — signed on for anywhere from \$1,000 to \$250,000 — are engaged to scout out hidden, historical artifacts as governments across Canada increasingly require builders to review the heritage potential of their land.

Just recently, archeological consultants discovered an Iroquoian village dating back to the 15th century under three acres of a 20-acre site where one of Mr. Bechard's clients — Groupwell Estates Ltd — wants to put up a multi-million-dollar subdivision.

The remnants of the village, on the outskirts of Cambridge, include 100-foot-long, bark-covered structures surrounded by a wooden fence.

The bill for the archeology will come to about \$30,000, and the developer feels the Ontario Government should pay half of the excavation costs. Otherwise, the extra expense could be passed on to the home buyers.

"If the province is going to establish that kind of priority for the preservation of heritage resources, it creates a responsibility to offset at least a portion of these costs," said Mr. Bechard, a planning con-

sultant and Groupwell's project manager. The development industry contends that the work is a new wrinkle in the subdivision approval process, he said. "The bottom line there is a dollar cost."

The bottom line has also meant a new growth industry in Ontario for archeologi-

ARCHEOLOGICAL — Page B10

Archeological consulting for developers found its market in the '70s

● From Page B1

cal consultants — an industry that has seen its heyday in other provinces, such as Alberta, in previous years, when development there was moving quickly.

"The entire industry has just exploded," said Dana Poulton, a partner with a Toronto archeological consulting firm "And all the indications are that next year will be busier, if anything."

The burgeoning industry has also meant new job prospects for graduates in the field, an outlet that "lets people combine their love of archeology with their need to make a living," as Mr. Poulton put it.

Yet, as developer Bruno Pen finds, it's all "a bit of a headache

"It may be just a little bit of overkill by people who are concerned about the preservation," said Mr. Pen, executive vice-president of Anprop Investments Inc., which has had two archeological surveys done for two different subdivisions in Oakville, Ont. — adding a total of about \$3,500 to the construction tab. Nothing of significance was unearthed.

"It's like you take a shotgun and if you shoot it up in the air, you're going to hit something that's up there," Mr. Pen said. "I don't think the people involved in this really know enough about it."

They had me plow up farm fields. Of course, you're not going to find anything in a farm field."

Last month, the discovery of about 28 skeletons near Fort Erie, Ont., at the site of a U.S. gun emplacement from the War of 1812, received considerable attention. The skeletons are believed to be the

remains of U.S. and British troops.

"We're talking about the most significant archeological find of the century, perhaps," said Ronald Williamson, the scientist who led the excavation. He is president of Archeological Services Inc. of Toronto.

The U.S., Canadian and municipal governments have agreed to contribute to the costs — which will come to more than \$200,000. The Ontario Government is still looking into the matter.

The town of Fort Erie had initially hired Mr. Williamson to see if a cemetery extended on to a plot of land that had been subdivided for a housing project. He is now exhuming the bodies and performing some skeletal restructuring before shipping them to the United States.

Archeological consultants first found their market in the 1970s when provinces got serious about environmental and heritage laws to protect, among other things, archeological keepsakes. Alberta's economic boom in the latter part of the decade prompted a blossoming business for the experts.

Although no figures are available, there are probably about 100 archeological consultants across the country, said Gloria Fedirchuk, a Calgary consultant and president of the Association of Consulting Archeologists.

"Most developers are quite interested in what we find and the information that is going to be retrieved," Ms. Fedirchuk said. In Alberta, however, only about 30 proposed developments were required to have archeological reviews this year, in contrast to about 300 in Ontario, according to govern-

"It has slowed down in Alberta," said Martin Magne, assistant director of the Alberta Government's archeological survey. "But there is work."

Ms. Fedirchuk's firm recently excavated a 50-square-metre patch of land in Hardisty, Alta., for Interprovincial Pipe Line Ltd. of Calgary. The findings appear to go back to 3000 or 4000 B.C.

The consultants found many bones and tools on the site, as well as projectile points (arrowheads), leading the scientists to believe that the natives who inhabited the land were of the "mummy cave" culture, Ms. Fedirchuk said.

Interprovincial, which is replacing some of its pipeline between Edmonton and Regina, Man., will probably pay about \$30,000 for the excavation.

In Alberta, developers found the archeological digs a nuisance at first, said Mr. Magne, who used to

work as a consultant in British Columbia.

"We often encounter resistance in small subdivisions where a person is dividing up his section of land into housing," he said. "This is all new to them. On the whole, the public is not informed of the existence of this kind of business."

It's rare for a government to issue stop-work orders or cause delays for builders because of archeological surveys, Mr. Magne said.

Yet this is precisely what developers worry about. The Urban Development Institute, which represents builders, has asked the Ontario Government to find some way of sharing the expenses when a significant excavation must be undertaken. The province says it is trying to come up with guidelines for the archeological searches.

This is something that Fraser Nelson, general manager of Metrus Management-Land Development, would appreciate. He has been

obliged to have four archeological assessments carried out in the past three years, including one in Markham, Ont., that cost him "tens of thousands of dollars" over budget because a tenant had to be moved off the site so that the assessment could be done early enough.

"The headache is the unknown of what is required," Mr. Nelson said. "We certainly don't budget for detailed archeological investigations."

William Fox, Ontario's senior archeologist, said that in the past there have been several grants to developers aimed at matching their financing for archeological work. The Government has no consistent policy on the grants, but this is under review.

To try to minimize costs, Ontario is urging municipalities to draw up archeological master plans that would pinpoint for developers the location of potential sites — a move that has received the blessings of

the Urban Development Institute.

Mr. Williamson, whose consulting firm has nine full-time archeologists and 30 part-timers (because little can be done in winter), said that if a developer wants to destroy the resource, he or she should at least pay to detect it. But the province should pitch in if extensive excavation is needed — which is the case about 10 per cent of the time.

"The Ministry (of Culture and Communications) is playing a very dangerous game in not having a funding program in place for developers," said Mr. Williamson, whose firm also discovered the Iroquoian village in Cambridge. "Smaller developers are ticked off."

In the meantime, project managers such as Mr. Bechard continue to hire archeological consultants before they complete their plans. "If you don't anticipate it and you're caught with your pants down, there can be a significant penalty."

JUST BENEATH THE SURFACE

Archaeology accorded a new role in region's future

Albany

By Judy Shepard

Staff writer

Sunday Times Union
Aug 30, 1987

If we think of archaeologists at all, it's usually as romantic adventurers seeking treasure in Egyptian tombs.

But these diggers of the past are at work across the street, around the corner and in our own backyards.

"People are more attuned to what can be saved through archaeology," says Paul Huey, a senior scientist for the state's Bureau of Historic Sites.

As a result, upstate archaeologists accustomed to working in a climate of benign neglect are finding themselves in demand.

In the Capital District, there are digs in Albany, Troy, Rensselaer, Saratoga Springs, Ballston Lake, Ballston Spa and Saratoga National Historical Park.

Both Huey and Charles Gehring, director of the New Netherland Project, a local history research endeavor focusing on the early Dutch period, attribute some of the interest to Americans' growing sensitivity to the value of their history.

Other archaeologists and historians say the immediacy of local and social history and the hands-on approach of archaeology are more exciting to most people than the less-accessible stories of America's great men and first families.

"Until recently, history was boring," says David Starbuck, the RPI archaeologist who has led excavations at the Revolutionary War battlefields at Saratoga National Historical Park for the last three years.

But the compelling factor in many of these projects is not the past, but the future.

"We are seeing so much development in the cities,"

says Huey. "And people now know what can be lost"

In the past 15 years, the pressures of growth, combined with the requirements of conservation, have brought about a new form of the science -- contract or compliance archaeology.

The client may be a city such as Albany or Saratoga Springs grappling with a building boom in its historic section, or a community group desperate for ammunition to battle an unwanted landfill or toxic waste disposal project; it could be a developer facing federal or state environmental standards for review of archaeologically sensitive locations as a condition to build.

"There are an amazing number of community groups that are seizing on archaeological sites to block highways and other projects," Starbuck says.

Last April, the Committee Opposed to the Dump included a prehistoric Indian meeting place among its list of "good, sound reasons" to stop a 1,000-acre regional landfill in Coxsackie, Greene County.

The town of Ballston recently hired an archaeological firm to excavate the remains of Eliphalet Ball House in the backyard of a local homeowner. The dig at the earliest structure in the town was undertaken partly in search of a weapon to fight Saratoga County's proposal to build a trash facility within Ballston's borders.

All this may be good for business, but archaeologists are troubled by some aspects of what's happening to their pure science.

"I would like people to defend these sites on their merits," Frank Schieppati says drily. The state Department of Environmental Conservation archaeologist investigated an Indian camp near the proposed PCB

encapsulation project near Fort Edward in Washington County.

"It muddies the water for archaeology if it becomes the excuse to stop a project," says Dean Snow.

A professor at the State University at Albany, Snow is president of the New York State Archeology Council, a professional organization representing contract archaeologists as well as university and museum scientists.

Besides, says Karen Hartgen, president of Hartgen Archeological Associates of North Greenbush, turning up a valuable find doesn't guarantee an unpopular project will be halted.

"That's hardly ever the case," she says. "Seventeenth century Dutch is one of the few things that might stop a project and that certainly didn't stop the city of Albany."

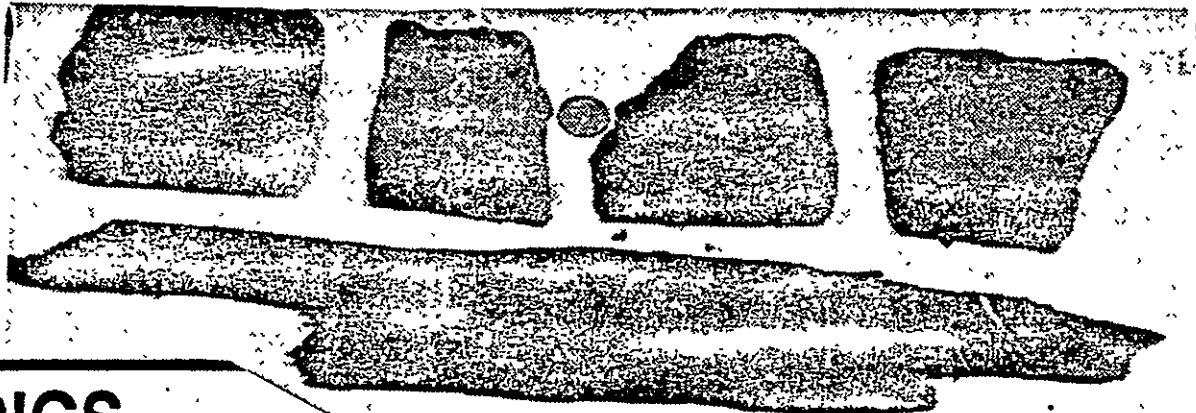
Construction of KeyCorp Tower was held up for three weeks last year after an amateur digger found remnants of a 17th century Dutch home at the site in downtown Albany.

KeyCorp Tower illustrates many of the problems developers, municipal governments and archaeologists need to work out before the system can run smoothly.

As a condition of building, the city required the developer to arrange for an archaeological assessment of the site. Hartgen Associates came in and dug four backhoe test trenches. One passed five feet from the Dutch house.

Site preparation was already well under way when the house was found. Hasty talks were held; the developer agreed to pay for the first week's excavation,

See DIGS / G-6



DIGS

Continued from G-1

excavation, while Key Bank, the city and state shared the bill for the remainder of the dig.

To Hartgen, that was an object lesson in how things *shouldn't* happen.

"If developers are hit with it late in the game like this, they consider it a hardship and conflict arises. When it's dropped on you late, it becomes an investment of thousands of dollars," she says.

"It takes getting laws on the books and procedures into the hands of the regulatory agencies so this becomes just another part of the approval process. Then I think some of the controversy will die down."

Lacking their own ordinances, most communities rely on the guidelines in the State Environmental Quality Review Act, known as SEQRA. The act requires review of a project's impact on cultural resources, including archaeologically valuable places. It sets forth certain procedures which are to be followed if there is such a site, and what is to be done if it is determined to be significant.

The range of responses runs from avoiding a valuable spot altogether to mitigating the project's impact by planning the project around it to merely excavating a sample.

"We never dig 100 percent of what's there," Hartgen explains. "Not every site is significant and needs additional work, but at least there is some documentation and some history."

George Hodgson, director of environmental planning for Saratoga County, says many projects fall into SEQRA's "gray area," in which it is up to the regulatory agency to decide if a review is required and if so, how extensive it should be.

The problem with this is, as Snow points out, "Unless there is someone on a town board or a planning board who says, 'Hey, wait a minute, there's a site here,' it's catch as catch can."

And Willard Bruce, director of planning for the city of Albany, says, "We don't have the expertise to tell them how many holes to dig."

Times Union photo
FOUND OBJECTS — Bricks, top, and wood were uncovered at KeyCorp Tower site.

Bruce says the city looked for examples of local ordinances governing development in historic zones, but came up with very little. "We tend to deal with it through SEQRA."

Archaeologists have other problems with state's guidelines.

"SEQRA leads to a lot of 'ad hocery' down the road," Snow says. "People feel they have taken care of their obligation simply by getting the stuff out of the ground. Curation and report writing are neglected."

In the KeyCorp Tower case, thousands of artifacts and floorboards from two 17th century buildings were salvaged by Hartgen's crews.

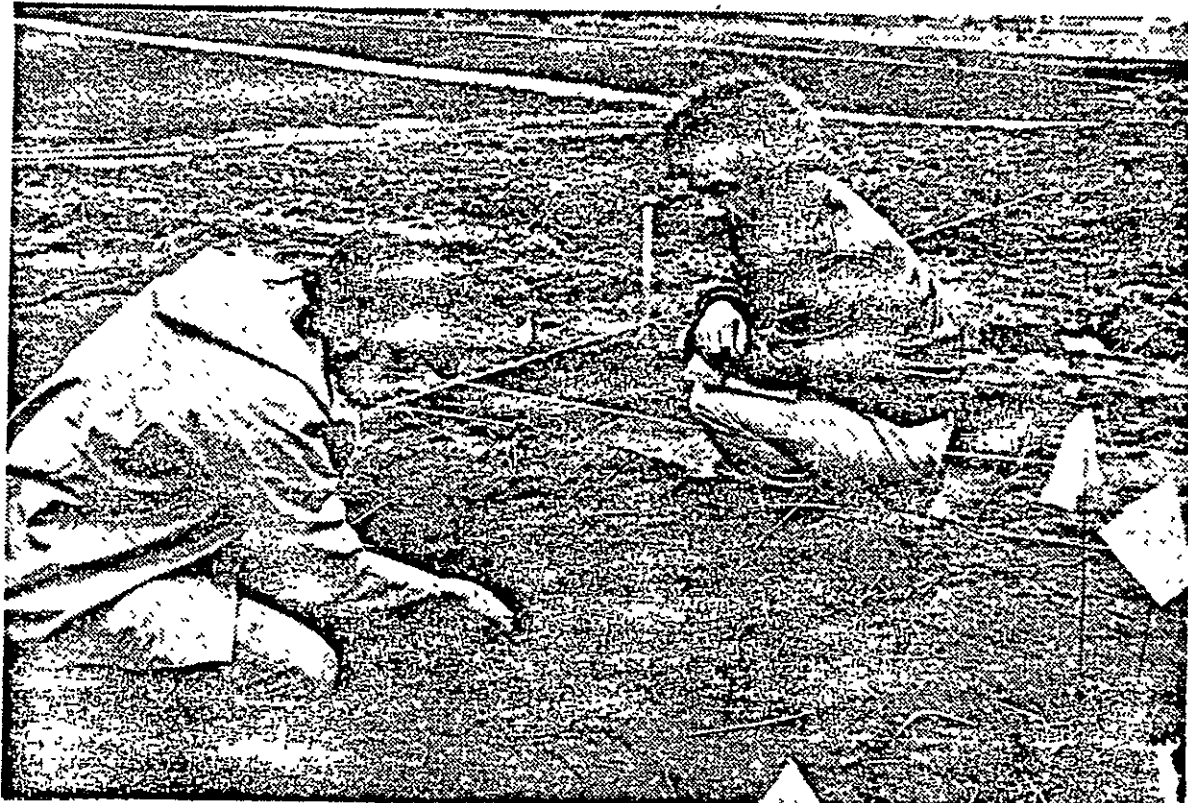
However, no money was available to catalog the findings. Says Hartgen, "Where's the enthusiasm now that we have all these boxes?"

Historians and archaeologists would like to see Albany and other municipalities take an aggressive approach to guarding their historical resources.

But Bruce points out that from the municipal point of view, it's not that simple: "It's like everything else: We could be doing more; we could be doing less. We are trying to strike a reasonable balance."

One thing is clear. In an area as rich in Indian, Dutch, Revolutionary War and industrial history as Albany and the area surrounding it, the subject is unlikely to be laid to rest.

"It's not just Albany; other communities are struggling to enforce the procedures," Hartgen says. "There's a long way to go, but I think we've come a long way."



Times Union photo

INDIAN EXCAVATION — Archaeologists Gerald Baldwin of Greenhouse Consultants of New York City and Frank Schieppati of the state Department of Environmental Conservation look for artifacts at the site of an Indian camp near Fort Edward in Washington County in March 1986.

Albany, NY Sunday Times Union Aug 30, 1987

Uncovering the region's past

Judy Shepard

Staff writer

Archaeological activity abounds in upstate New York. Here are just some highlights of digs and discoveries:

- This summer, archaeological work at the site of a 17-story office building planned for 102 State St. uncovered remnants of earthenware and roof tile dating to 1660.

- This year's "quite exciting and unexpected find" was at Schoharie Crossing State Historic Site near Fort Hunter, west of Amsterdam. The fort, a remote 17th century outpost in Indian country, was built by missionaries from the Anglican Society for the Propagation of the Gospel in Foreign Parts.

Paul Huey, archaeologist for the state Bureau of Historic Sites, says workers unearthed 18th century clay pipes, stone walls and foundations, pottery, trade goods and coins. It was Huey who led the excavation of Fort Orange, the 17th century Dutch settlement, prior to construction of Interstate 787 in the 1970s.

- Saratoga National Historical Park has completed its third year of an archaeological project on the Revolu-

tionary War battle that turned the tide of the war.

RPI professor David Starbuck, who led the dig, said the work concentrated on the American headquarters, a British campsite, an early Schuyler house and an Indian site next to the yards.

The Indian site yielded "very rich material," but diggers were unable to locate the mansion.

- Hudson Valley Community College, and RPI are conducting an industrial archaeological dig at Burden Iron Works in Troy.

- A project directed by State University at Albany archaeologist Dean Snow is continuing in the Mohawk Valley near Fort Plain and Canajoharie. Snow is studying pre-Columbus Mohawk Indian society, tracking the consequences of epidemics and warfare on population.

- In June 1986, a 17th century Dutch cemetery turned up at the location of KeyCorp's garage on South Pearl at Beaver and Green streets.

- In March 1986 the "very important discovery" of Dutch bricks dating from 1652 halted construction of KeyCorp's 14-story corporate headquarters off South Pearl Street.

- Saratoga Springs is conducting archaeological tests in Congress Park, where the city is planning storm drainage works near the location of early buildings, a bottling plant, a hotel and a church.

- A state dig at Crailo State Historic Site in Rensselaer turned up some 17th, 18th and 19th century remains, including Dutch pottery and a cobblestone courtyard.

- Soil surveys are under way at Castleton Island in the Hudson River south of Albany. Once a Mahican Indian meeting place, the area is slated for development as a state park.

- The town of Ballston excavated the site of its first settler, Eliphalet Ball, this summer.

- A prehistoric Indian camp near Fort Edward, Washington County, has been determined eligible for the National Register. It is near the site proposed for encapsulation of PCB-laden sludge from the Hudson River clean-up project.

- Coxsackie residents have seized on the National Register paleo-Indian Flint Mine Hill in Greene County in their fight against a proposed 1,000-acre regional landfill.

Despite Considerable Risk, Many Investors Sink Cash Into Hunts for Sunken Treasure

YOUR MONEY MATTERS

By JOSEPH PEREIRA

Staff Reporter of THE WALL STREET JOURNAL

When a friend suggested earlier this year that John Ropes invest in sunken-ship treasure hunts, he scoffed at the idea. "I don't know how anyone in their right mind could get involved in something that risky," Mr. Ropes, a 38-year-old Florida businessman, recalls saying.

A few days later, Mr. Ropes invested more than \$25,000 in a limited partnership searching for gold that purportedly sank with the British luxury liner R.M.S. Republic 55 miles off Massachusetts' Nantucket Island in 1909. "Underwater treasure is adventure," he says, explaining why he changed his mind—without even reading the prospectus.

Dreaming of long-lost riches, thousands of investors are putting money into treasure hunts despite overwhelming odds against success. Although tens of millions of dollars have been spent on some 30 treasure hunts off American shores in the past five years, only one has recovered any substantial riches. "It's called gambling, and all the odds are stacked against you," says Charles Harper, associate regional administrator for the Securities and Exchange Commission in Miami. "The treasure hunt is today's siren song."

'No Treasure and No Hunt'

It may also be the latest occupation for some swindlers. "We're looking at blatant frauds where not only is there no treasure, there is no hunt," says Lawrence Fuchs, Florida's deputy comptroller.

Five salvage companies, which have collected \$1,000 to \$10,000 from a total of 1,000 investors, are under investigation in Florida, and four more may soon be added to the list, Mr. Fuchs says. In addition, investigators are examining whether salvagers are inflating the values of potential discoveries, adequately informing investors of risks and backing claims with historical research.

Still, many investors are undeterred. "It beats talking about HMOs and malpractice with my colleagues," says Richard Brunelle, a 39-year-old Florida surgeon who has also invested \$25,000 in the Republic search. "Besides, I made the 7 o'clock news with Dan Rather," when the salvage efforts were filmed recently.

Interest in treasure hunts has surged since 1985 when salvager Mel Fisher—fol-

lowing 20 years of futility—recovered a trove off Florida's coast that he estimates is worth \$400 million. (Its commercial value has yet to be determined). New technology that permits searchers to scan ocean floors and lower robots to probe wrecks have also raised hopes.

Indeed, many salvagers have little trouble finding investors. To raise \$5 million to search the wreckage of the S.S. Central America off South Carolina's coast, ocean engineer Thomas Thompson says he only had to approach 120 investors; 106 put money in the venture. The ship, a gold carrier, was destroyed by a hurricane in 1857. Investors put in money even though "they were told that there was only a 10% chance of finding the gold," Mr. Thompson says.

Investors haven't lost interest even though the 1986 tax act has limited the deduction of losses from passive activities such as limited partnerships. (Most trea-

**'IT'S CALLED gam-
bling, and all the odds
are stacked against you,'
says a regulator.**

sure hunts are structured as limited partnerships.) Those losses may be deducted only against income from like investments and not from salary income or gains on investments in stocks and bonds.

Finding investors may be easy. But finding treasure isn't. Whether it is because the ships really weren't carrying riches or the salvagers can't find them, there is a litany of failures. The S.S. Central America's treasure hunters, using remote-control cameras, have taken 2,000 photos and hundreds of hours of video film footage, but there's been no sign of gold. Salvagers have spent \$2 million looking for \$500 million in gold that reportedly went down with the British warship H.M.S. De Braak off the Delaware coast in 1798. They did find 23,000 artifacts—but no gold.

"From a business point of view we fought the good fight and lost," says John Davidson, chief executive officer of the project. But the group may resume its search if it can find suitable electronic sensors—and more money. "My better business judgment tells me stop," he adds. "But my personal judgment tells me the treasure is down there."

The hunt for \$1.6 billion in gold that supposedly sank with the Republic off Nantucket has been similarly discouraging. With money running out, the group might try to raise an additional \$250,000 to con-

tinue the search for another month. (Republican investors still could get back 60% of their money if the partnership sells the ship and salvage equipment, claims Michael Gerber, chief financial officer for Sub-Ocean Salvors International Inc., which is conducting the search.)

One problem is that deep-sea searches are expensive. Sub-Ocean says daily operations cost \$8,000 to \$10,000. The process is even costlier in deeper waters; the S.S. Central America project, probing depths of more than a mile and a half, has cost \$2.5 million so far this summer.

In fact, other than Mel Fisher, who is hunting for artifacts from nine vessels, no treasure hunter has recovered significant amounts of gold or silver. And not all of Mr. Fisher's investors shared in the treasure, which comes from the Atocha and the Margarita, sister Spanish vessels that went down off Florida's coast in the 1600s. For the most part, only those who invested in 1985, the year the valuables were found, received some of the treasure.

An Investor's Booty

Mark Hyhnd, 33, who invested \$10,000 in the Atocha in 1985, was lucky. His share: a seven-carat emerald, a 21-ounce gold bar, two silver bars, each weighing 83 pounds, eight silver coins and a silver salt shaker. He says he is having "a million dollars worth of joy, right now," but is wary about redeeming his booty. "I have no idea how much it's worth," he says.

It may not be worth as much as some think, cautions James Williams, editor of Treasure Magazine, a trade publication. "Treasure hunters hype the value of the treasure at the beginning to gain investor interest," Mr. Williams says. "Then the values do a slow descent. They get lower for the IRS, and even lower when it comes time to cash in the loot."

Until now, the exact market value of Mr. Fisher's find is uncertain because government claims to the treasures, which largely have been denied by the courts, have limited their sales. Since February, Treasure Coins Ltd. of New Jersey has sold 80 silver "pieces of eight" from the Atocha; the coins have fetched \$350 to \$1,250, with most selling in the lower range. A clearer picture of the treasure's value will emerge when more objects are auctioned Sept. 26 in Las Vegas, Nev.

Investors' interest, however, may soon be curtailed by something other than their losses: passage of a bill, currently in Congress, that would make all wrecks in U.S. waters prior to the Civil War government property. Says Charles Taylor, a backer of Mr. Fisher, "Let's face it, we're in this as capitalists, not donors."

Wall Street Journal Sept 2 1987

Follow-Up on the News

About That Gold In the East River

WHAT glitters in New York's East River is usually the sun dancing off polluted debris, but a treasure hunter said in September 1985 that he had struck gold.

The salvager, Barry L. Clifford, reported that by using side-scan sonar — the type that pinpointed the Titanic earlier that month — he had spotted the wreckage of a Revolutionary War frigate, H.M.S. Hussar. According to some historical accounts, the 26-gun ship was carrying a British army payroll in gold coins when she sank off the South Bronx in 1780.

Mr. Clifford said he "wouldn't dare to guess" how much the gold might be worth. Based on the reports, a numismatist estimated its value at half a billion dollars.

But after a half-dozen visits to the site and "many dives," Mr. Clifford says, his organization, Maritime Explorations Inc. of South Chatham, Mass., has yet to find the Hussar.

There are seven shipwrecks in the area, he reports, and his divers have examined six. The remaining one is buried in "very hard mud," and it "could be the Hussar — we think it is," Mr. Clifford says.

A report filed by Maritime Explorations with the New York State Archeologist in Albany mentions three expeditions to the site in the last year.

"So far," says Philip Lord, a senior scientist in the state office, "they've only brought up a few fragments of china from a 19th-century vessel. They haven't encountered any 18th-century vessel yet."

Mr. Lord describes the china as "the kind of thing you find almost anywhere on the bottom there."

Mr. Clifford says he will try to iden-

tify the seventh wreck in the fall. The river is contaminated with such curios as abandoned cars and washing machines, he notes, and the visibility — well, "you can close your eyes right now; it's like that."

It "clears up a little bit when the weather gets cooler," he says.

Coming from Cape Cod, where he is retrieving valuable artifacts from the sunken pirate galleon Whydah, Mr. Clifford calls the bottom of the East River "a real culture shock."

**PROFESSIONAL ARCHAEOLOGISTS OF NEW YORK CITY - PANYC
MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION**

Membership in PANYC is open to any professional archaeologist who subscribes to the purpose of the organization and who meets the following criteria for Education, Training and Professional Activity:

a. Applicants must have been awarded an advanced degree, such as an M.A., M.S., M.Phil., Ph.D., D.Sc., or official A.B.D., from an accredited institution in archaeology, anthropology, history, classics or other germane discipline with a specialization in archaeology.

b. Applicants must have had at least six weeks of professionally supervised archaeological field training and at least four weeks of supervised laboratory analysis and/or curating experience. Requirements for both field and laboratory experience will be considered to have been met by attendance at an archaeological field school which meets the guidelines set forth by the Society of Professional Archaeologists.

c. Applicants must demonstrate professional experience in one or more areas of archaeological activity, such as: field research and excavation, research on archaeological collections, archival research, administration of units within public or private agencies oriented toward archaeological research, conduct of cultural resource management studies, review of archaeological proposals and/or cultural resource management studies for public agencies, or teaching with an emphasis on archaeological topics. Applicants meeting the education and training criteria and having other professional interests related to archaeology will be considered on a case by case basis.

d. All prospective applicants must be approved by a majority of members present at a regularly scheduled meeting of the general membership. All members receive the Newsletter and other PANYC publications.

The 1988 membership dues are \$12. Non-member subscriptions to the Newsletter are \$6. If you are interested in applying for membership in PANYC or subscribing as a non-member to the PANYC Newsletter, complete the form below and mail it to: Daniel N. Pagano, 315 Avenue C, #1A, New York, N.Y. 10009, (212) 777-3449.

Name _____

Address (Business) _____

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Address (Home) _____

Telephone (____) _____

Please indicate preferred mailing address.

Are you a member of the New York Archaeological Council? _____
or of the Society of Professional Archaeologists? _____

Please Attach Curriculum vitae or resume.

✓ Shipwreck
Bill S 858 - Senate Bill

write Congressmen - support effort to pass
A... legislation re Shipwreck bill

"Abandoned Shipwreck Act"

7.1

Decisions re changes to Transition to National Register

John Knevel - let them know before start it

State SOPRHP - workshop -

Env Quality Bond Act - 2 rounds of grants

Mike Lynch - needs a... -

conservation bill to be listed in

Amend. National Register??
~~bill~~ to



Env - Historical Interpretation =

Listing of CRM reports in Brown's Interac - 4th out by April

Indiana Law 12A - formal, recognized cemeteries covered under law; others do not. 12A introduces idea of penalties.

Fri Apr. 8. 9. 10. 11. 12. 13. 14. 15. 16. 17.

Sept 17th - Rochester