

## HOBBY ON THE ROCKS : CARROLL WAGNER, STONE-AGE MAN

What can you say about an arrowhead collection?

Of course! "How many do you have?"

And Carroll Wagner answers: "Oh, 14,000; something like that."

As you try to imagine that many arrowheads, he anticipates the next question.

"I've been interested in them for as long as I can remember. I recall picking them up in plowed fields when I was just a little boy—had a pretty good box full, then.

"But I sold those, and for a long time I didn't think about it very much. Then one day, I was in a field looking for fish bait, and found artifacts instead: arrowheads and spearpoints, even banner stones! I filled my pockets!

"And the old interest has been strong ever since."

For several years, Carroll and his wife, Carolyn, have taken the collection to their daughter's school for Indian Heritage Days. Carroll comes with his thousands of stones, bringing years of experience and gleanings from history to share with the kids.

"Most people would call this a tomahawk", Carroll tells a group of 4th graders, "But it isn't—it's a celt. This is a stone ax. It could be fitted to a handle, like this.

"But beating through a tree with a rock is hard work! When the



CARROLL and CAROLYN WAGNER, showing their collection of artifacts in the library of Dana School.

pioneers offered better tools, the Indians were ready to make a deal!

"Tomahawks came with the whites who traded for furs and such".

He shows fancy brass tomahawks, prized more for show than utility. Then, a toe tag, used for body counts in the Indian Wars.

The whites brought bad, as well as good.

"Did you know the Indians learned scalping from us?" Carroll asks. "History books usually don't mention that. Many Indian tribes were not warlike at all—they proved their bravery by 'counting

coups', tapping their adversary with a stick. Our people first took Indian scalps, to prove how many they had killed. The Indians started returning the favor before long."

Carroll's collection is part old, part new. He has learned, by reading and experimenting, to do the work just as prehistoric man did.

"All the Indians had to work with were rocks, sticks and bones," he tells the children, picking up a piece of flint and an antler. "So they did this..."

The young people watch wide-eyed as he quickly presses tiny flakes from the stone.

"And they kept on like that 'til they had something usable", he continues, soon showing the finished arrowhead. "This is a bird point, for birds, squirrels, maybe even a rabbit for supper."

It looks the same as one made centuries ago, but Wagner says the practiced eye sees a difference; there is an age layer on old work.

"My oldest arrowhead is a 'North Carolina Hardaway' point", he says, "It was made about 6,000 to 8,000 years ago."

The children walking around the display tables at Dana School are the last group of the day.

"Now to pack all this up and get it back home", Carroll laughs. "Would you believe Carolyn and I worked for two days moving it in?"

They share the moment as the last child leaves. It has been a long day.

Teachers and kids have both enjoyed their time with the modern man whose hands remember skills of centuries past.

Perhaps a few children have gained a real appreciation of ancient man. If they have, Carroll feels the work was worth the effort.

And, as with arrowsmiths before him, the work will endure in the stones he has shaped.



## HAVE YOU MET?



JULIE SMITH, Chemical Engineer, is on loan to Brevard from ESD, Wilmington. Julie works in Casting Technical; lives in Greenville, South Carolina.

## IT HAPPENED TO BILL BRANTON

"Look, I've been using chain saws since 1947," says Bill Branton, "And I never even had a close call before.

"But I was cutting little stuff, about this big..."; he makes a circle with his hands, "and all day I had kept my cutting area clean, throwing the cut piece on the pile every time I sawed one off—except this time, I didn't. I left it where it fell.

"The tip of my saw hit the stick on the ground, and — you may not believe this— I saw; I mean I could see the teeth on that chain coming right at my nose!

"It happened so quick! There was no time to get away from it, no way. I dodged to the right, sort of, and instead of sawing my face open, it took 2 hours and 35 stitches worth of me here, near my

neck and on my shoulder.

"I had a proper grip on the saw, had my feet planted firmly, all that stuff. Looking back, the only thing I can think of that might have helped would have been to try standing a little bit to one side.

"I don't even have much of a scar. The worst pain I remember is when they ripped that big wide piece of tape off my chest. But the doctor said I was mighty lucky it missed the big vein in my neck —by about half an inch.

"All I can figure is that God has something else for me to do.

"If it happens again, I think I'll throw the saw away from me—but you never know.

"It sure proves that 'it never happened before' is no sign it can't happen!"

## CAN YOU READ THIS?

IF YOU CAN READ THIS, you may not understand the frustration and embarrassment of the person who cannot.

Illiteracy can be as crippling as physical handicaps; but it need not be—it's correctable.

If you know an adult who cannot read and write, consider telling them about the program of the Transylvania Literacy Council.

The Council offers private free tutoring, scheduled for the convenience of the learner. Tutors are trained to make learning as easy as possible.

Twenty such instructors are currently working in Transylvania County; others are waiting for students. The program is also helpful for those who wish to upgrade reading or writing skills.

Call Jeanette Rowan, 885-2813, for more information. Henderson County residents will find similar assistance at 693-7482.