

Digs turn up WSU's artifacts

Archeology project aims at centennial

By Mike Stewart
of the Tribune

PULLMAN — It isn't the search for the lost ark of the covenant. Nor is it a dig at some ancient Egyptian tomb with the searchers looking for 3,000-year-old vases or masks.

Instead these diggers are finding milk-bottle fragments, hat pins, tax tokens, beer cans, cigarette butts and other "cultural artifacts" from the early days of student life at Washington State University.

Some might call these items junk but the lessons to be learned by the students participating in this summer's "Centennial Digs" at WSU are applicable to any type of archeological digging, according to Dale Croes. He is director of the Washington Archeological Resource Center based at WSU.

The artifacts being found do reveal some valuable information, he said.

"What we're finding are things that will give us another way of looking at WSU's history," he said.

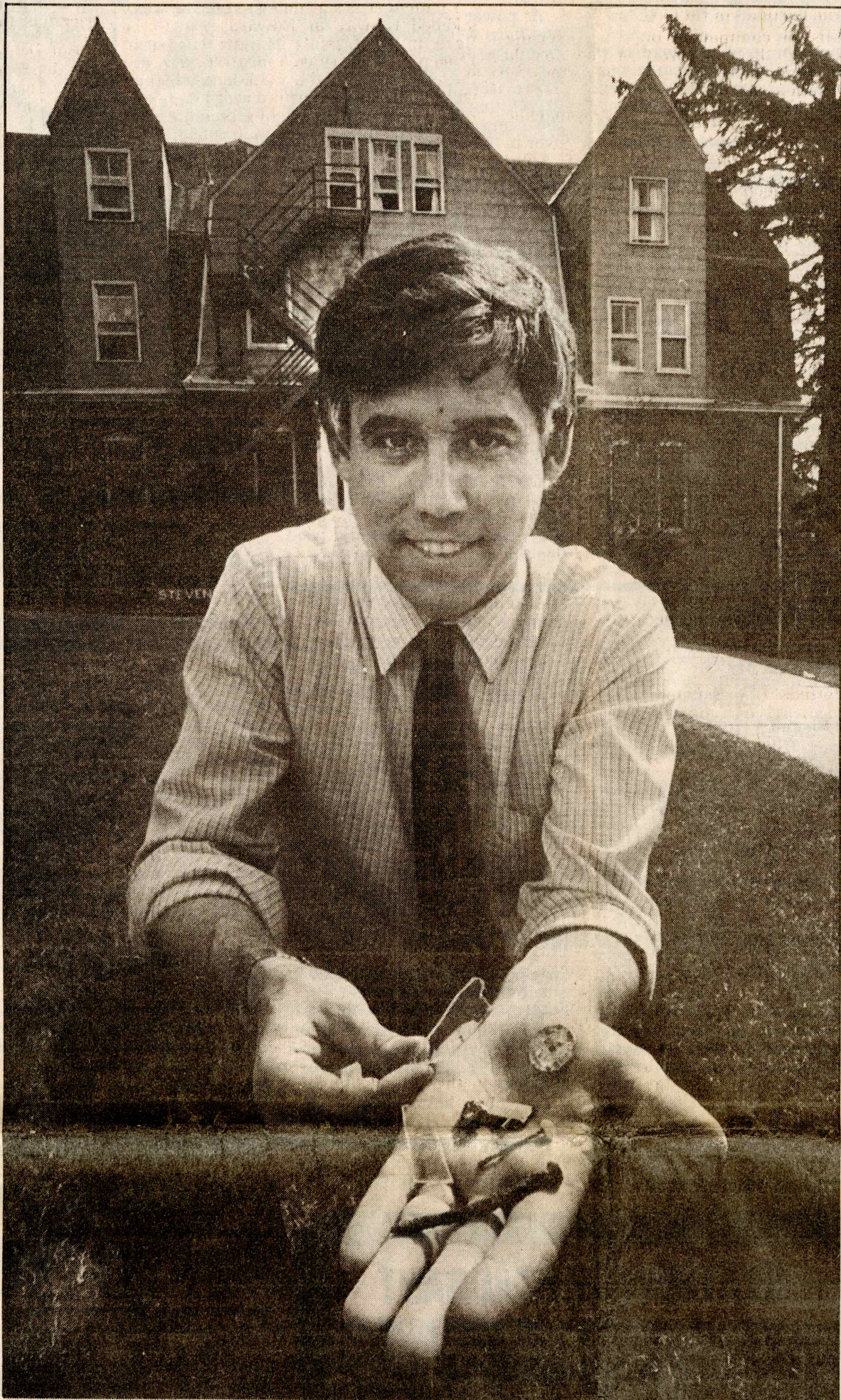
As part of the forthcoming centennial celebration at WSU in 1990, Croes has put together a summer course aimed at recovering artifacts from sites around campus in an attempt to better understand what university life was like during the past 100 years.

The digging is also a way to teach archeological techniques and digging methods to students and do it relatively inexpensively, he said.

"The same principals apply here as apply to a million-year-old site," he said.

As a prelude to the summer digging, archeology graduate student David Staley has been conducting exploratory digs at several sites around campus.

The test digs, which have taken place at four of the campus's oldest buildings — Stevens Hall, Stimson Hall, Thompson Hall and the Animal Science Barn — have already yielded some interesting finds and posed



Tribune/Chris Pietsch

Dale Croes shows off some artifacts found in digs on the Washington State University campus. Croes is director of the Washington Archeology Resource Center.

Dig

From 1B

some equally interesting questions.

In a 20-by-20-inch test plot near Stevens Hall, which was built as a women's residence hall in 1895, Staley and some volunteer diggers found a tax token from 1935.

What is a tax token? Croes said he wondered the same thing and had to do some asking around to find an answer.

It seems the state wanted to collect sales tax on items that cost less than 10 cents, and the tax token was the way to do it. With a value of one-tenth of a cent, Croes said a person would turn in a token when making a dime purchase.

Another Stevens find that turned out to be more than just a broken piece of glass is the shard of milk bottle.

Part of a very modern-looking Cougar insignia appears on the fragment, and it does indeed match the design on a half-pint milk bottle that is part of collection of milk bottles recently purchased by J.L. Ozbun, dean of WSU's College of Agriculture and Home Economics.

Croes said the symbol is similar to the cougar head made of the letters WSU that is found on T-shirts and sweatshirts today. However, the symbol is made of the letters WSC. That dates the bottle to sometime before 1959, when the school's name was changed from Washington State College to Washington State University.

The milk bottles were sold at Ferdinand's, a long-time campus store still popular with students wanting a scoop of ice cream, Croes said.

Ozbun's three bottles in half-pint, pint and quart sizes is the only collection known to exist, Croes said.

Things are happening so fast that students today would have a difficult time recognizing many of the artifacts, even though they're from a relatively recent period, he said.

Pieces of old 78 rpm records, hat pins, part of a nail brush made of bone, and other pieces of broken bottles have been found at Stevens, Croes said.

Identifying some of the items



Tribune/Chris Pietsch

Archeology graduate student David Staley sifts materials at an exploratory dig on the Washington State University campus.

found has tested the resourcefulness of Croes, Staley and the students involved.

Staley said one of the biggest differences between other digs and the type of archeology being practiced with the Centennial Digs is that "Here, when you come up with something, you know what it is, or you can go to someone and find out." Croes said some investigation is occasionally necessary.

As with the tax token, former WSU students and faculty of years ago are called upon to identify many of the finds. In fact, Croes said, WSU alumni will be invited to campus to participate in the digging this summer.

That technique — seeking the help of elders — is one he frequently uses at the 3,000-year-old Hoko site on the Washington coast where he conducts archeology digs during the summer.

Elder Indians can identify old baskets, tools and other artifacts

and their uses, he said.

Other surprising resources used by the diggers are old Sears and Montgomery Ward catalogs. A piece of nail brush with the bone handle uncovered near Stevens is similar to one found in an early 1900s Sears catalog, Croes said.

While the dig is directed toward the school's 100-year anniversary five years from now, Croes said the it is also a prototype for a state-wide dig planned in conjunction with the state's centennial in 1989.

The aim of that program will be to get similar digs started in towns all around the state. Getting people involved is the key, he said.

Recovered artifacts will give townspeople a very different kind of insight into their town's history, he said.

"They can say this is how I can get involved in the centennial," he said.

Chuck roast recipe wins contest for lawyer

CRAIGMONT — A Craigmont lawyer has won the Idaho State Beef Cookoff during competition Friday and Saturday at Boise.

Wilfrid W. Longeteig was awarded a freezer full of beef for his winning recipe, "Grilled Chuck Roast Curry."

Longeteig was one of 10 semi-finalists who cooked their recipes for a panel of three judges at Borah High School.

Longeteig will next travel to Wichita, Kan., in September to compete in the national cookoffs.

The contest, sponsored annually by the Idaho Cowbells and the Idaho Beef Council, originally drew 250 entries from around the state. Those were narrowed down to the final 10 who competed at Boise.

Longeteig said this is the first time he has entered a cooking competition.

Longeteig's wife, Beverli, was in a group of 25 semi-finalists earlier in the year for another beef recipe.

Judges for the contest were

U.S. Rep. Larry Craig, Ken Case, chef of the Sandpiper Restaurant at Boise, and Marie Galyean, food and lifestyle editor of the Nampa Press-Tribune.

Renaissance Fair

Couple toy

By R.C. Frisch
of the Tribune

MOSCOW — Drake and Sally Kiewit decided last year to make a career change.

He, manager of a nursery located in their hometown of Corvallis, Mont., and she, teaching their two children at home, came to the conclusion they wanted jobs that would earn them more money and give them flexible hours.

So they decided to make toys.

And decided to travel to the arts and crafts shows and fairs of the Northwest selling them.

"There is a freedom to this work, but we have ended up working hard, too," Drake Kiewit said. "It's a fun life, though. When we got started in this we thought the traveling would be the hard part, but that's been great. We get excited about traveling to new places."

The Kiewits are among nearly 110 business people who rented booths at the 12th Annual Renaissance Fair held at Moscow Saturday and Sunday.

In addition to the arts and crafts exhibitors, 20 food booths and daylong entertainment were provided for fairgoers.

No official estimate was available of how many people came to the two-day event, but organizers said there were more people than last year.

Sunday's warm, sunny weather brought about a third more people than Saturday, organizers estimated.

"It was a really nice day and that drew more people," said Jed Davis, one of the fair organizers. "Our only disappointment was Rosa the fire eater didn't show up."

Drake Kiewit agreed the fair was a success. He said Moscow's celebration has been one of the best of the four he's gone to this year.

"This has been less restrictive and the entry fee wasn't too high," he said. "They didn't tell us where to put the booth or how big."

Each space reservation at the Renaissance Fair cost \$25, compared to some \$1,200 for the Washington State Fair, he said.

The Kiewits had a friend who

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