



« Traveling cadaver show hosts blood drive for Haiti | Main | Weather: Little of this and that »



**Where was the first archaeological dig in the Puget Sound?**

Compared with the pioneering stomping grounds of the East Coast, it sometimes seem like the Seattle area doesn't have a lot of ... well, you know ... *history*. Take a step back, though, and we're teaming with it.

So locals might wonder:

**Q. What was the first archaeological excavation in the Puget Sound?**

Archaeologists at the Burke Museum respond in our fourth installment of Ask the Burke (got a question for next time? Send it [here](#)):

**Nice place you've got here**

A. Between 1897 and 1899, an archaeologist named Harlan Smith joined the Jessup North Pacific Expedition to conduct the first archaeological field work in Washington state. His research and interpretations were published and were widely referenced by archaeologists throughout the 20th century.



Chief Sealth

However, while archaeological field work was being conducted around the Puget Sound for many years following the Jessup North Pacific Expedition, the first modern, systematic excavation of a registered archaeological site in the Puget Sound region occurred in 1950 at a site known as "Old Man House."

[Old Man House](#) is situated at the northern entrance to Agate Pass, just south of the town of Suquamish, and is the site of a large longhouse that was once the home of Chief Sealth (for whom the City of Seattle was named). The longhouse was built in the late 18th-century, but the site was occupied for more than 1,700 years. The 1950 excavation revealed artifacts such as stone tools, harpoon barbs, grinding stones, antler wedges, and bone pendants, as well as an effigy pipe, and burials.

The ancient village site existed under the ownership of the Washington State Parks and Recreation Commission for many years, but was returned to the Suquamish Tribe in 2004.

To read more about archaeology in Washington State, visit the Burke Museum's Web site [here](#)

**More Ask the Burke**

- [Which state volcano is most likely to erupt next?](#)
- [What is the most abundant fish in Puget Sound?](#)
- [Why are the Quileute people werewolves in 'Twilight'?](#)

Posted by Monica Guzman at January 21, 2010 9:00 p.m.  
Category: [Ask the Burke](#)

**COMMENTS**

There are currently no comments for this blog entry

**SUBSCRIBE**

- RSS
- Headline widget

**MEET UP**

Join Mónica at her next weekly meetup:

- TBA
- Wed. 2/3, 5:30 - 7 p.m.
- See pics from past meetups

**RESOURCES**

- The Seattle Twitter Index
- Seattle News Twitter list

**FOLLOW US**

- View all contributors
- Got a tip or post idea?

Headlines on Twitter

**Follow Monica on Twitter**

**ACTIVE DISCUSSIONS**

Salinger death: Should there be a 'Catcher in the Rye' movie?  
(9 recent comments)

Dick's Drive-In to have 10-cent Cokes on Friday  
(8 recent comments)

iPad product launch: Did Apple really call it a 'pad'?  
(6 recent comments)

**SEND US A PHOTO**

Take a good news pic? Submit it to The Big Blog:

Click here to upload now.

**LATEST POSTS**

- Report: Older people send dirty text messages, too
- UW newspaper takes on TV
- The easiest way to follow news in Seattle
- Weather: Maybe a drop or two
- How should this park commemorate Jimi Hendrix?

**ARCHIVES**

Search this blog

Browse by month  
January 2010 go

Browse by category  
1000 Words go

Browse by author  
Andrea James go



**LINKS**

- Seattle City Blogs
- Citizen Rain
- Metroblogging Seattle
- Seattlest
- Capitol Hill Seattle
- West Seattle Blog
- Seattle Daily Photo
- Hillku
- Urblivn
- Slog

**ON THE WEB**

Metroblogging Seattle

**LOCAL HEADLINES**

- Seattle's neon signs pierce the winter darkness
  - Man killed in altercation with son, police say
  - Prosecutors: Man dismembered ex-girlfriend after killing
- more

Local advertising by PaperG

ADVERTISING



ADVERTISING

**SEATTLE BLOGS**

**Most recent posts**

- Strange Bedfellows: McGinn backs off from call to axe 200 senior city jobs
- The Writer's Block: Advice for fiction writers
- Book Patrol: Books on Shirts

Would you like to blog for us?

See all blogs go

**BLOGS**

**Seattle 911**

- Is it illegal to drive in bicycle lanes?
- Police investigate robbery near high school

**Strange Bedfellows**

- McGinn backs off from call to axe 200 senior city jobs
- Potential conflict leads Seattle to reopen seawall bids

**The Microsoft Blog**

- The Apple iPad, explained to geeks
- Google gives up on Internet Explorer 6

**Aerospace**

- Aviation Week points to 2010 outlook, trends
- Sukhoi files new PAK FA fighter

**David Horsey**

- Channeling Oprah in the state of the union
- Barack Obama in the land of disenchantment

**Seattle Transportation Watch**

- STITA taxi drivers suing the Port of Seattle over airport contract
- Wash St. gets \$590 million for high-speed rail

**Reader blog: Bus Chick**

- Score one for the bus ladies
- Speaking of trolleys...

**Reader blog: Ear Candy**

- Hard Rock Seattle to include city's newest music venue, but is it good for the scene?
- From Crosscut: Sub Pop's newest act

**MySeattlePix**



Most recent uploads  
View more photos

There are currently no comments for this blog entry.

ADVERTISING

! Login below to post a comment.

Registered users,

E-mail

Password

Remember me  
[HELP! I forgot my password](#)

Unregistered users, sign up now

#### metablogging Seattle

- Weekend Film Agenda January 29
- Rat City Roller Girls new season debut with discounts, donations

#### Seattlest

- Contemporary Hip-hop, Streetdance Converge at On the Boards
- Let's All Go to The Movies

#### Slog

- Yesterday The Stranger Suggested: Late Night Mass at The Transcendent Church of Bass
- Today The Stranger Suggests

#### Citizen Rain

- A new St. Patrick's Day parade option: Bellingham
- Mmm, you hungry to be a food blogger?

**Reader Services:** [My account](#) | [Mobile](#) | [RSS feeds](#) | [Follow us on Twitter](#) | [Facebook](#) | [E-mail newsletters](#) | [Corrections](#)

**Company Info:** [Advertise online](#) | [Contact us](#) | [Send us tips](#) | [Job openings](#) | [About the P-I](#) | [Hearst Corp.](#) | [Terms of use](#) | [Privacy policy](#) | [About our ads](#)

Send comments to [newmedia@seattlepi.com](mailto:newmedia@seattlepi.com)

©1996-2009 Hearst Seattle Media, LLC

**HEARST** newspapers