News of Science

Scientists' Committee on Security

The Scientists' Committee on Security, Inc., an independent volunteer group formally organized on 1 Jan. 1956, is now planning to expand its activities in the area of science and security. The committee seeks to fulfill several functions:

1) To act as a clearinghouse for information and responsible scientific opinion on matters of information security and personnel security. The committee attempts to answer inquiries from individual scientists and others. Upon request, it will offer informal suggestions to help insure that individuals with clearance difficulties receive the full protection of existing regulations, but it does not judge the merits of individual cases.

2) To undertake, from time to time, special studies of particular, important issues of science and security and to prepare and make public appropriate reports.

3) To cooperate with and to assist Government agencies in establishing and maintaining realistic security programs that safeguard both the long-range security of the United States and the traditional rights of its citizens.

4) To stimulate constructive thought on questions of information security and personnel security.

5) To foster a better popular understanding of the true relationship of science and security.

Present members of the Scientists' Committe on Security are Ernest C. Pollard, chairman; Ralph S. Brown, Jr., vice chairman; John B. Phelps, secretary; Hans G. Graetzer, treasurer; and Earle C. Fowler, Robert L. Gluckstern, Samuel A. Goudsmit, William A. Higinbotham, Franklin Hutchinson, G. Evelyn Hutchinson, William J. Knox, Henry L. Kraybill, Lester Lewis, Theodore K. Osgood, George F. Pieper, Waldo Rall, Julian M. Sturtevant, and Hugh C. Wolfe.

For its expenses, the committee has a very small budget maintained entirely by voluntary contributions, chiefly from working scientists. SCS members have written several articles in the area of science and security. Members have conferred informally with Government officials and have presented formal testimony upon request. The committee has submitted documentary material, with examples and illustrative personnel security cases, to Government groups on other occasions. It is expected that all these activities will be expanded.

In recent months the committee has learned of many instances in which clearance problems have affected the ability of scientists and engineers to find employment, commensurate with their ability and experience, *outside* the classified technical areas where clearance is understandably required. This situation—clearly contrary to the intent of security policies—is manifested in a variety of individual cases and is believed by the committee to be serious.

The committee is now preparing a report on this special problem and will be grateful for any relevant information or examples. The committee is also assisting the Commission on Government Security and has an immediate need for detailed information on actual security cases involving scientists or engineers for use in formulating and supporting recommendations for changes in personnel security regulations.

All correspondence on individual cases is strictly confidential. The committee earnestly solicits the comments and suggestions of scientists and others, and will appreciate views and information on security matters. Communications should be sent to the Scientists' Committee on Security, Inc,., 2153 Yale Station, New Haven, Conn.

Oldest Traces of Early Man in the Americas

What are perhaps the oldest surely dated traces of early man in North and South America have been discovered near Lewisville, Denton County, Tex., by members of the Dallas Archeological Society. Charcoal from ancient campfires, associated with remains of extinct Pleistocene animals and a man-made flint spear point identified with the Paleo-Indian Clovis or Llano cultural complex, has been dated by the radiocarbon technique as being more than 37,000 years old. Wilson W. Crook, Jr., and R. K. Harris, both of Dallas, are responsible for the discovery; the membership of the Dallas society carried out the excavations, and the exploration department of the Humble Oil and Refining Company made the radiocarbon age determinations.

The Clovis-type spear point, as well as the Llano cultural complex containing it, has been recognized for some years, and the six previously established Clovis sites (Clovis, N.M.; Angus, Neb.; Dent, Colo.; Miami and McLean, Tex.; and Naco and Hereford, Ariz.) have contained "kills" by what were probably nomadic hunters. Thus one or more of the distinctive projectile points has been associated with bones of extinct Pleistocene animals, most commonly the mammoth. However, the Lewisville site is the first "camp" site of these people so far discovered; it has some 14 hearths where meals were cooked and around which, presumably, the hunters lived temporarily.

As a result, the remains of a great many food animals and sources, heretofore unknown for Clovis man, have been recovered. These include specimens tentatively identified as extinct and possibly extinct species such as elephant, bison, camel, horse, glyptodon, antelope, and bear. In addition, there are remains of deer (perhaps two types), wolf, coyote, badger, raccoon, skunk, rabbit, prairie dog, wood rat, field mice, birds, egg shells, snails, freshwater clams and mussels, terrapin, grass snake, mud dauber nest and larvae, and numbers of charred hackberry seeds.

From the excavations conducted by E. H. Sellards of the Texas Memorial Museum at Austin, it has been learned that Clovis spear points are stratigraphically older than the well-known Folsom type, previously dated at about 10,000 years ago. How much older was not known until the Lewisville dates were run. According to Crook and Harris, the apparent gap of 27,000 years between Clovis and Folsom may not be as great as it seems, since Lewisville is the only date for Clovis and the dating for Folsom is based on only two sites, Lubbock, Tex., and the Folsom layer at Sandia Cave, N.M.

The Lewisville site was exposed by the removal of some 25 feet of overburden to supply earth for the Lewisville Dam at the Garze-Little Elm reservoir. In 1951 Theodore E. White, then of the River Basin Surveys salvage group, collected paleontological specimens at the site and first noted the fire-burned areas. Since that time local archeologists have maintained a constant vigil as erosion produced the succession of finds that have culminated in the present discovery.

The Lewisville observations indicate that one other complex, that of Sandia Cave (lower, Sandia level) and Lucy, N.M., may possibly be equal in age to, or older than, Clovis. Radiocarbon tests on material from Sandia Cave have