

The **ATLATL**

APRIL 1994

"Too long have I hunted mammoth alone!"

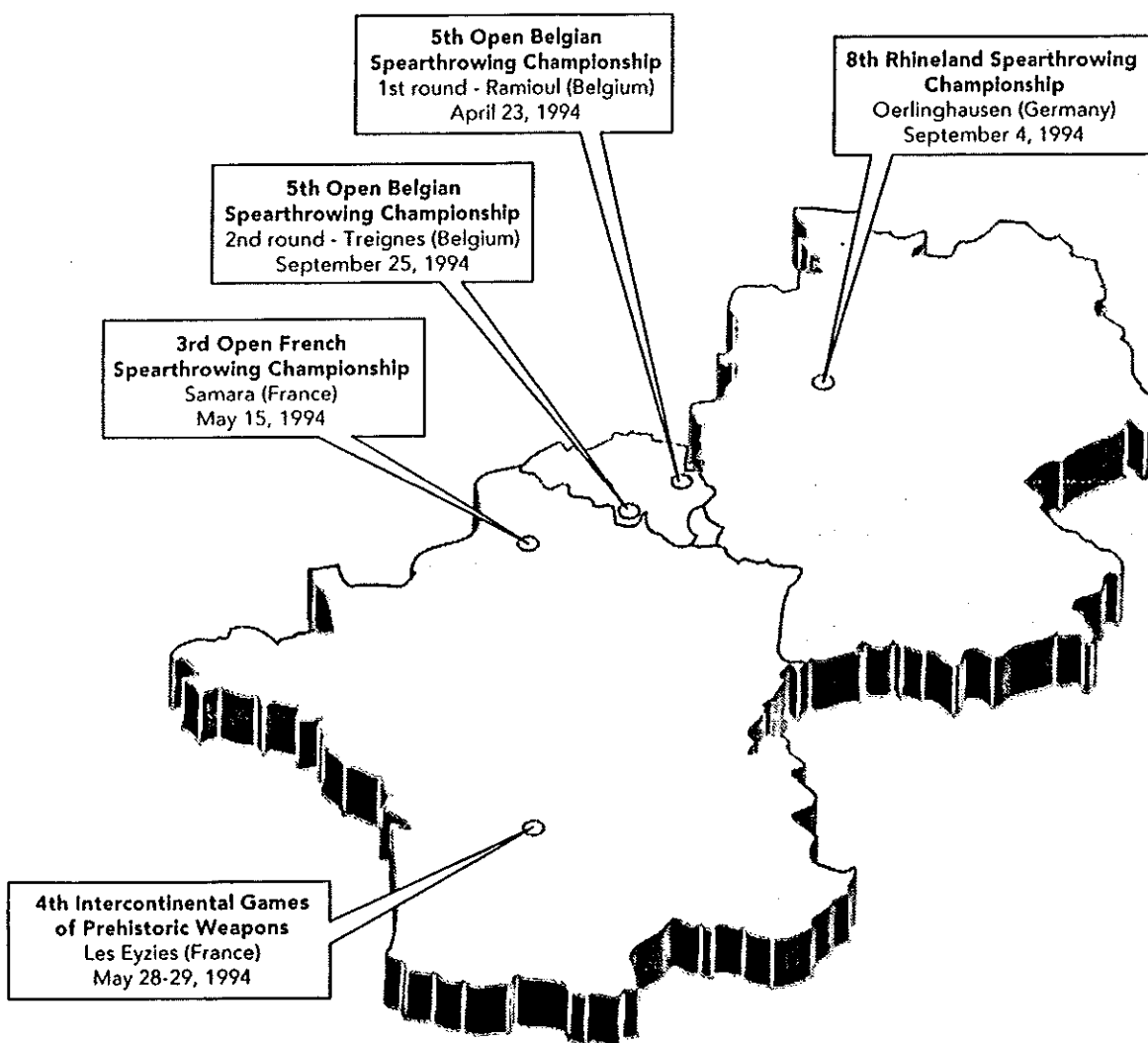
Rich McWhorter

VOL. 7, N. 2

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE WORLD ATLATL ASSOCIATION, INC.
1390 SOUTH PARIS COURT, AURORA, COLORADO 80012, USA

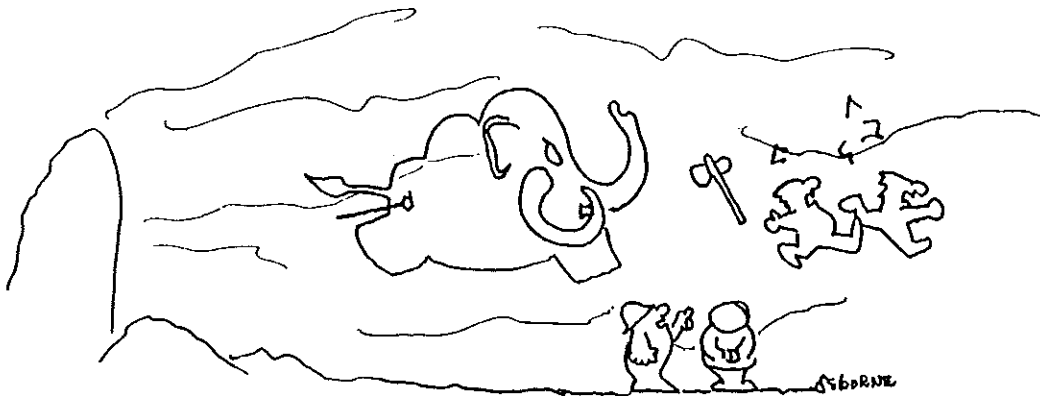
EDITOR: BILL TATE

THE 94 EUROPEAN SPEARTHROWING TOUR



***THIS IS THE YEAR TO TAKE YOUR VACATION
IN EUROPE!!!***

BELGIUM, FRANCE AND GERMANY ALL SPORT SPEARTHROWING EVENTS THIS YEAR. PLAN YOUR TRIP TO EUROPE WITH THESE DATES AND PLACES IN MIND. Thanks to Pascal Chauvaux, Avenue du Roi-Soleil, 1, B-5660 Mariembourg, Belgium for this timely information.



AS NEAR AS I CAN TELL, IT SAYS, "THERE'S GOT TO BE A BETTER WAY THAN POUNDING A SPEAR INTO THEM."

REMINDER OF ADDITIONAL ATLATL EVENTS HERE AND THERE:

The World Open Atlatl Contest is set for June 25th 1994 at Fort Caspar, in Casper, WY. Registration for the event is \$5.00 and competition should begin between 9:00 and 10:00 a.m.

Fort Ross State Historic Park, California LIVING HISTORY DAY is July 31st every year. WAA member, Steve Kaspar will be demonstrating the atlatl and aleut throwing boards in this year's recreation of life at the Russian-America Company settlement in 1836.

Tribe Gathering 1994 -- This South Carolina primitive technology outing is set for May 27-29 at Musgrove's Mill Historical Site. Expect all kinds of outdoor experiences from falconry, making felt, primitive shelters, flint knapping, and of course their Abo-Olympics and Primitive Hunting Weaponry. Contact Bee Muse at (803) 631-4233 for charges and specifics.

Received too late for the January issue of "THE ATLATL", The Oregon Ridge Nature Center's Primitive Technology Weekend in Baltimore County, Maryland was scheduled Apr. 30th and May 1st. WAA Member Tom Hartmann says there was an atlatl demonstration at last year's event.

To go along with our "fleet" of runners, "raft" of survivors, and "drove" of cars atlatl contest, you will remember that in the last issue I suggested a "cast" of atlatlers. We have had two further suggestions entered in this T-shirt contest:

WAA President Boney Cosyleon says it should be a "flight" of atlatlers.

From Dr. Will B. Good of West Virginia I received the proposal that it can only be a "handful" of atlatlers.

There is still time before the July 2nd, 1994 cut-off date to offer your suggestions. SEND IDEAS TO BILL TATE, 1390 SOUTH PARIS COURT, AURORA, CO 80012.

THIS 'N THAT By Wayne Brian

Just a note to bring everybody up to date on my long distance throwing, keeping in mind that my current Guinness record is 638 feet, 8 inches. (209.53 M) I recently broke that record with a toss of 660 feet 3 inches (216.62 M) witnessed by four people, and a "one witness-throw" of 699 feet (229.33 M). My personal best on that same day in September last year was 727 feet (238.52 M) with no witnesses--wouldn't you know.

Wayne, keep on practicing there is a new long distance thrower on your heels. He is David Engvall, a hydraulic engineer from St. Joseph, Missouri. Dave appears on the same page as you do in the

Guinness record book for a record throw of 1565 feet 4 inches with a sling. That's 513.56 meters. He has also hand thrown a weight 1266 feet or 415.35 meters. For the time being, Dave's 435 foot, (142.72 M) atlatl cast doesn't approach your distances, but he wants you to know he's back there and moving up.

SOUTHEASTERN MOUNDBUILDERS
ATLATL CONTEST AND CLINIC
from Lloyd Pine

An atlatl clinic and contest were held at the Marksville Mound site near Marksville, LA on March 26, 1994. Nine people took part in the morning clinic, where each built and learned to use a primitive atlatl and dart. A total of 21 people took part in the afternoon competition. The contest course and rules were similar to those in use at the Colorado Archaeological Society's annual Encampment. First-place winners in each class were:

Men	Douglas Rossman
Women	Terri Draeger
Under 16	
Boys	John Poche
Girls	Davina Jackson

This was the second atlatl program to be held at Marksville and sponsored by the Louisiana Parks Service. Participation exceeded the October 1993 event.

DON'T BE FOOLED BY THE REAL
THING! INSIST ON A GENUINE
SUBSTITUTE!

Our reporters are of all ages and walks of life. The following was written by seven year old Alicia Coleman.

MY FIRST ATLATL HUNT by Alicia Brandon Coleman

Sunday evening December 19, 1993, my Daddy asked me if I wanted to go hunting. I said yes, so I got ready. We went out into the shop and got our atlatls and spears. Then we went out into the field. We saw a hog at the end of the road, but he was too far away to shoot at, so we went on ahead to our blind. We waited and waited and finally some hogs came out. As they got closer I shot at one but my spear hit some branches and missed the hog. The spear stuck into the ground right behind the hog and the hog ran off into the woods. We waited some more. I thought I was seeing a big owl down by the edge of the woods on a stump, but it wasn't an owl. From our blind it just looked like an owl. I was beginning to think we weren't going to see a deer. A little while later my Daddy said he saw a deer. I thought I saw him too, but what I saw was a big shadow in the woods. Finally the real deer moved and I saw him. We watched the deer move down the edge of the field. It was getting dark so we went home. On the way home my hands got cold.

The End

Thanks, Alicia, for that report. Alicia is the daughter of Steve Coleman who recently held the Third Annual Wild Boar Hunt near Vidalia, Georgia. That hunt should have been held last month, but so far no report on it has come in.

FROM THE OLD MAIL BAG....

Dear WAA,
We heard of your organization through an article in an issue of Field & Stream, and consider an association based on a neolithic weapons system to be truly marvelous. We would be proud to be members of such a group. Enclosed is a check for two memberships.

James A. Renn, Manchester, NH
and Paul Rainey, Dover NH.

Dear Bill,
.....My goal is to hunt large dangerous game, which I cannot do with a bow and arrow as I have a shoulder problem from an old injury. My right shoulder is fine, however, and I prefer the atlatl anyway.

Three months ago I drove over 200 miles to a library that said they had all the needed information about atlatls, but when I got there they could not find even one book talking about them. Help!

...I can see myself now, alone, followed by a large pack of half-wild wolves helping me trail game so I can get within 20 yards for sure kills. I must bring meat back to the village so no one will go hungry this winter. Oh, well, it is 1:00 am and in four and a half hours I have to go to work--guess this hunt won't last long. Don't matter, the people next door always complain over the smell when I bring home a mammoth anyway. Plus the fact that, I have one helluva time getting the damn thing out of my S 10--breaks down the shocks.

Thanks for the info...
John McGinnis, St. Cloud, FL.

Dear Bill,
This paper, 80 pages long, cost about \$6.00. It's worth looking into.

The University of Kentucky Occasional Papers in Anthropology No. 2.

The Development of the Spearthrower

*by William S. Webb Emeritus
Publications of the Department of Anthropology, University of Kentucky, Lexington - 1957*

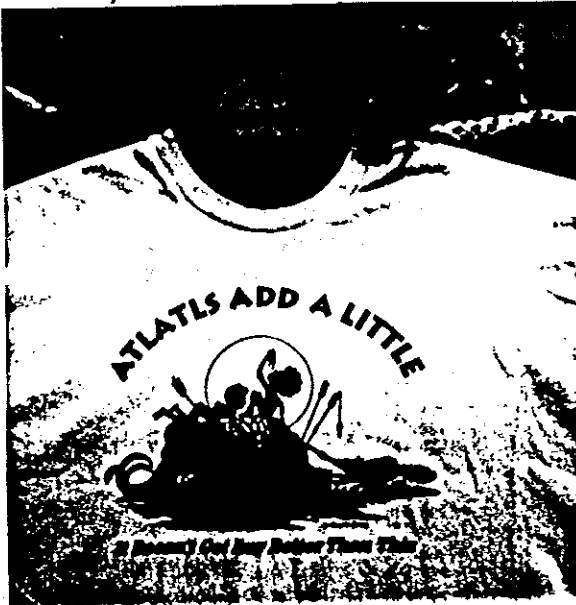
Try your library, they will send for it.
Bernard Novy, Manitowoc, WI

EDITOR'S NOTE: I agree with Mr. Novy. I studied the publication a couple of years ago. It is well worth obtaining. It primarily focuses on Professor Webb's views of the purpose of atlatl weights stemming from his studies of Archaic peoples of the Southeast. He describes how they just never quite got the hang of them, and left it to the later Basketmaker people of the Southwest to perfect atlatl weights. This paper was published after his death in the '50s. Although well thought out, I must stress that his is only one of many very differing views of the purpose of atlatl weights.

**UNTIL EVE ARRIVED, THIS WAS A
MAN'S WORLD.**

N O T I C E
NEXT ISSUE WE WILL PUBLISH A REPORT BY VIRGIL HAYES OF CHILLICOTHE, MO, TITLED TUNING WEIGHTS. LOOK FOR A WELL DOCUMENTED NEW IDEA ON ATLATL WEIGHTS. ALTHOUGH OUTWARDLY SIMILAR TO A PAPER BY PERKINS WHICH WE PUBLISHED ON THE SUBJECT SEVERAL YEARS AGO, IT GOES WELL BEYOND PERKIN'S THEORY AND MAY LEAD US MUCH CLOSER TO THE REAL ANSWER TO THIS ATLATL MYSTERY.

Speaking of the devil, note the dummy used by Wayne Brian to display his new T-shirt below. (Shirts available from Wayne, 824 W. Kiva, Mesa, AZ 85210)

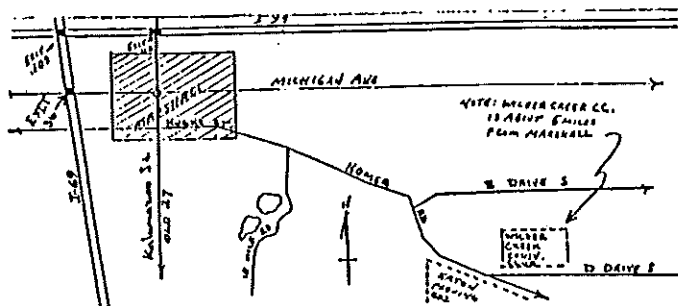


UPCOMING EVENTS AROUND THE COUNTRY.....

The First Annual Michigan Primitive Rendezvous and Atlatl Tournament will be held Sat. and Sun., May 28 and 29, 1994 near Marshall, Michigan. This event is being hosted by the Wilder Creek Conservation Club in Marshall.

Costume dress is encouraged. Camping space is available and lots of motels are nearby. See map below. For more information contact Linda Sanders or Carl Ruddock at (616) 781-3568.

MAP TO CLUB GROUNDS FROM MARSHALL CITY



FREMONT INDIAN STATE PARK
Second Annual Atlatl Competition -- June 11, 1994 at 10:00 am.

Set aside June 10 through 12 to participate in the contest and enjoy beautiful central Utah. Fremont Indian State Park is located on I-70 (exit 17) 21 miles southwest of Richfield. Campsites number 21, 22 and 23 have been reserved for participants and their families at no charge. Other sites may be reserved by calling 1-800-322-3770 or can be arranged for when you stop at the Visitors Center. Motels are available in Richfield.

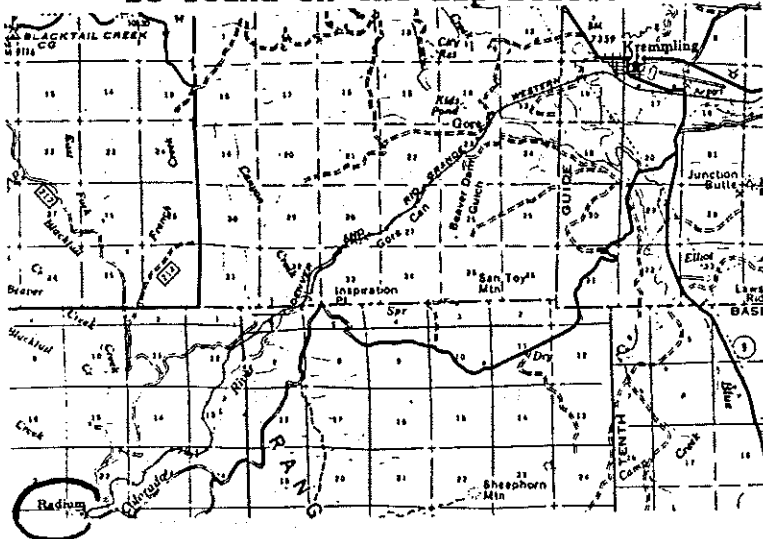
The contest will be conducted by The World Atlatl Association. Categories will be Men, Women, Youth (11 to 16) and children (10 and under). Two Grand Champion categories have been established--one with modern equipment and one using primitive equipment. Additionally there will be a distance throw open to all participants.

The contest is open to all WAA members, as well as others, whether they have ever thrown before or not. Members of the Association will be on hand to explain the basics to any interested person, and "loaner" equipment will be available for a small deposit. You are invited to come early and spend time on the practice range. For information contact:

CONTEST: Leni Clubb, PO Box 56, Ocotillo, CA 92259
PARK: Pete Weimer, Fremont Indian State Park, 11550 W. Clear Creek Canyon Road, Sevier, UT 84766, ph. (801) 527-4631

COLORADO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY NINTH ANNUAL ENCAMPMENT AND ATLATL CONTEST.

This roving annual event will be held at a special-use BLM campground near Radium, CO. The general location can be found on the map below.



The atlatl contest will be held Sunday, July 3rd promptly at 10:00 am; however, other events from river rafting to Indian games and talks by noted archaeologists, along with tours of nearby archaeological sites, will be conducted all weekend long.

Rules for scoring will be as in previous years. Atlatls and darts must be made of natural materials. Artificial sinew and modern glues may be used, however. Plaques will be presented to the top three place winners in three categories: Under 16, Women, and Men. If enough young children attend, an Under 10 category will also be included. Following the contest, a "Free-For-All" contest with special awards will be held. Either modern or primitive equipment may be used for this event--so long as it resembles an atlatl and dart.

5TH MONTANA ATLATL MAMMOTH HUNT

Saturday, 11:00 am, July 2, 1994 at Whites throwing field, 3212 Lori Road (York Rd.), East-central Helena Valley. This is just six miles east of Shopko on Montana Ave. and Custer Blvd. in Helena, Montana.

CATEGORIES: Men, Women, and children under 16.

FEES: Adults \$10.00, children under 16 \$5.00.

AWARDS: Large trophy for the " Mightiest hunter," trophy for first place in the three categories, and medals for 2nd and 3rd place.

COURSE: Men: three throws each at 90, 70, 60, 50, 40 and 30 meters at a large mammoth target. Women and under 16: Three throws each at 45, 35, 30, 25, 20, and 15 meters at a smaller mammoth.

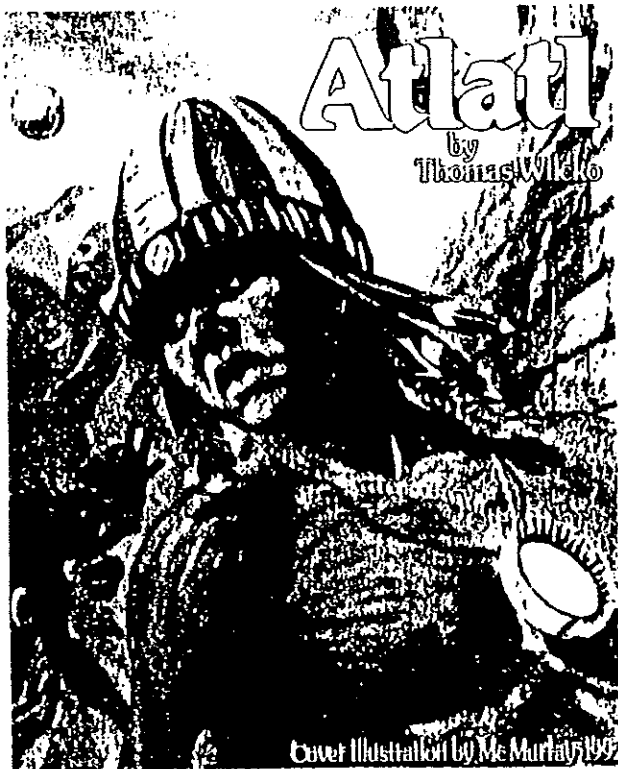
MIGHTIEST HUNTER COURSE: A throw off between the top three in each category.

There will be atlatl exhibits, primitive fire-making, flint-knapping, throws for distance, balloon and round robin throws, etc.

Coordinators and sponsors: Manuel and Helen Whit P. O. Box 5058, (3212 Lori Rd.) Helena, MT 59604--phone (406) 227-5020. Manuel says, "Our Montana mammoths fattened up as a result of the extremely mild winter."

A gentleman is a man who can play the accordion, but doesn't.

What do you give a man who has everything: PENICILLIN.



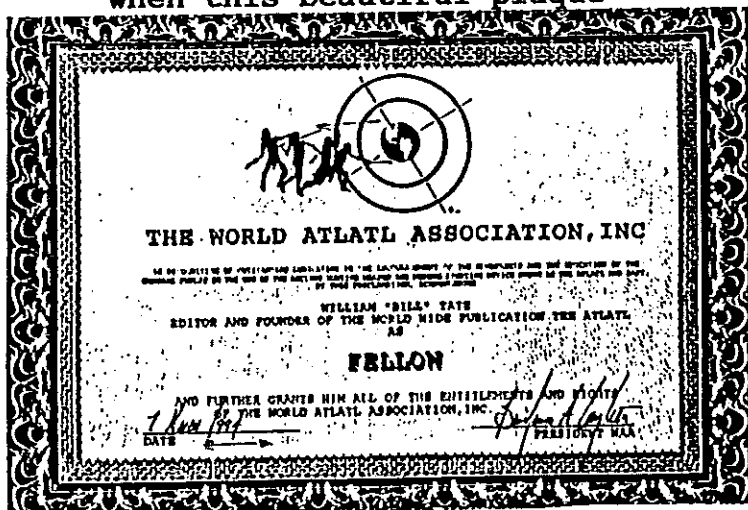
The above is the cover of a new screenplay sent to this editor by WAA member Tom Wilcko of Erie, PA. Tom's story deals with "Maiziotec" (Aztec) tax collectors and marching armies, and moves through time to a relatively modern U. S. military munitions test facility, and the family of a grandfatherly Native American.

It was a "fun read" and is now a proud addition to my atlatl bookcase. Who knows, perhaps one day we will get to see it on the big screen.

PROUD AS PUNCH

Bill Tate

No one could have been more surprised or pleased than I, when this beautiful plaque



was presented to me at the special WAA Board of Directors meeting held at the Valley of Fire State Park on April 8, 1994. It reads:

THE WORLD ATLATL ASSOCIATION, INC IN RECOGNITION OF OUTSTANDING DEDICATION IN THE ENCOURAGEMENT OF THE MEMBERSHIP AND THE EDUCATION OF THE GENERAL PUBLIC IN THE USE OF THE ANCIENT HUNTING WEAPON AND MODERN SPORTING DEVICE KNOWN AS THE ATLATL AND DART, BY THIS PROCLAMATION, ACKNOWLEDGES WILLIAM "BILL" TATE EDITOR AND FOUNDER OF THE WORLDWIDE PUBLICATION THE ATLATL AS "FELLOW," AND FURTHER GRANTS HIM ALL OF THE ENTITLEMENTS AND RIGHTS OF THE WORLD ATLATL ASSOCIATION, INC. SIGNED: BY PRESIDENT BONEY COSYLEON AND DATED 7 MARCH 1994,

Excerpts from the minutes of the Board of Directors Meeting of April 8, 1994:

1. A discussion was held concerning the possibility of giving financial assistance to Lorenz Bruechert, of Vancouver, BC, Canada, regarding publication of his extensive bibliography and research references titled "Old and New World Spearthrowers and Related Topics." Although the Board felt generally favorable, additional, more specific information regarding his intent must first be obtained from the author.

2. A draft copy of new safety rules for atlatl contests was presented to the Board by Marcia Tate. These will be further distributed for opinions and suggestions and a final version will be voted on at the July annual meeting.

3. WAA has received a request from the Idaho Convention and Tourist Bureau in Boise to conduct contests at Celebration Park near Melba. There will be further discussion on this request at the July Meeting.

4. Members only may obtain membership lists. See ON TARGET.

5. This is an information-starved subject and we receive requests for information on atlats and how to make them. See ON TARGET.

Several other more individual-related subjects were discussed which are not being kept secret, but do not pertain to the membership as a whole so are not covered in this brief report. For a full copy of the Minutes of the meeting, contact Secretary Leni Clubb, PO Box 56, Ocotillo, CA 92259.

on target

by LENI CLUBB



You will soon receive information and a registration form from the Fremont Indian State Park, Sevier, UT, regarding their Second Annual Atlatl Contest to be conducted by the World Atlatl Association June 11, 1994. Last year, thirty-seven people participated and it was a great event for this beautiful area of Utah. WAA will present a Grand Champion Award for both primitive and modern equipment categories. Plan to attend. If you don't have equipment, or are a beginner, there will be equipment to loan for a small refundable deposit.

We have had requests for membership lists and the Board of Directors had decided that

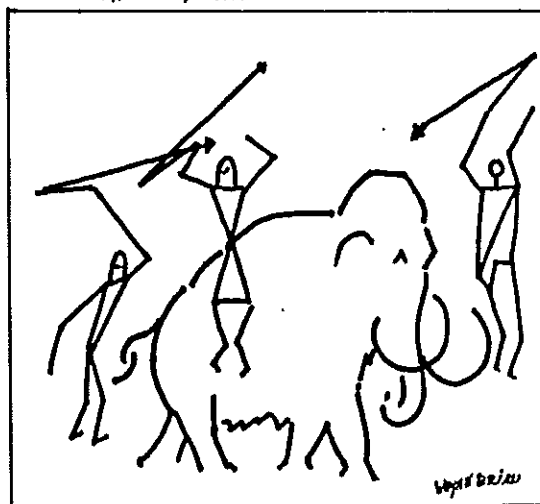
members only may purchase the current list for \$2.00 plus \$.50 shipping and handling. Make requests to the Secretary. Lists are not to be resold or distributed.

As of our current April 30th membership list, we now have 207 members. Don Cook of Ocotillo, CA was our 200th, and received a WAA T-shirt. (It took only a "little" pressure from your faithful secretary to persuade him to join.)

We receive many letters requesting information on how to build and throw an atlatl. The Board of Directors discussed publishing a booklet of helpful ideas and we will let you know when and if it becomes available. Watch this column. If you have any ideas for such a booklet, please write me and we will include your name as a contributor.

Until next issue....

THIS AND THAT BY WAYNE BRIAN



We have all heard our share of elephant jokes, but would you believe, French archaeologists exploring a remote area of France have chanced upon heretofore undiscovered cave paintings depicting what appear to be woolly mammoth jokes. One in particular was deciphered to say: "What do woolly mammoths find easy to hide in? (Continued on page 11)



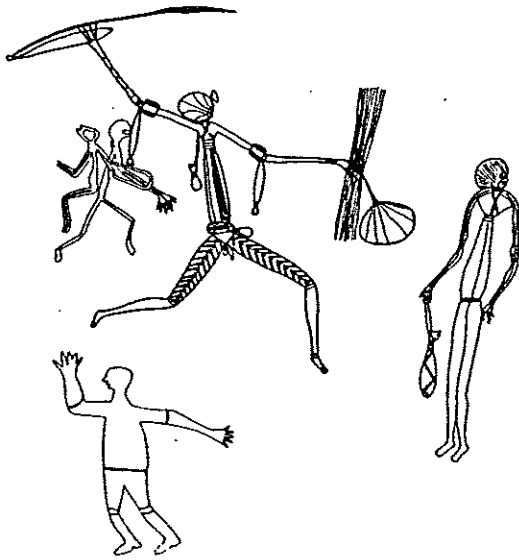
FROM ALBERT ABRIL



WINNERS OF THE VALLEY OF FIRE ATLATL CONTEST SHIVER IN THE COLD WET WIND. THEY ARE, FROM LEFT TO RIGHT: CHRIS JUDSON, BRENT HARDY, RED GRAMSTAD (SOMEWHAT ALOOF), LENI CLUBB, NICHELE LUNEAU, SHIRLEY HELMICK, TROY HELMICK, AND RAY FERGUSON.

Windy weather with chilly intermittent rain didn't deter the atlatlers from competing at Atlatl Rock in the Valley of Fire State Park, Nevada on April 9, 1994. Twenty-three contestants from six states participated in this years first event. Colorado, California, Arizona, Utah, Montana, and New Mexico were represented. Awards were presented by Park Ranger Jack Tribble:

YOUTH	1st	Brent Hardy of Utah
	2nd	Michele Luneau, California
WOMEN	1st	Chris Judson, New Mexico
	2nd	Leni Clubb, California
	3rd	Shirley Helmick, Montana
MEN	1st	Troy Helmick, Montana
	2nd	Ray Ferguson, Arizona
	3rd	"Red" Gramstad, California
GRAND CHAMPION (MODERN)		Troy Helmick
GRAND CHAMPION (PRIMITIVE)		"Red" Gramstad
"SUPER" GRAND CHAMPION		Troy Helmick

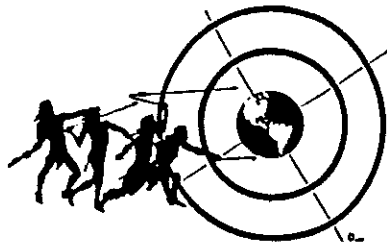


Art from Kakadu National Park,
Northern Territory, Australia.
From Leni...

SEND ATLATL RELATED
ARTICLES TO NEWSLETTER
EDITOR, BILL TATE, 1390
S. PARIS COURT, AURORA,
CO 80012. KEEP THIS
PAPER ALIVE.

**WAA MEMBERSHIP IS STILL JUST \$10.00 PER YEAR... SEND ALL INQUIRIES
AND MEMBERSHIP DUES TO THE WORLD ATLATL ASSOCIATION SECRETARY:**

LENI CLUBB
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Q. Do you like Kipling?
A. I don't know, I've never
kippled.

