

Association News

The 42nd annual meeting, held on the campus of Eastern Washington State College at Cheney, surpassed all previous meetings of the Northwest Scientific Association in number of registrants (434) and number of papers presented (192). Well-organized symposia in geology and social science were major contributors.

Dr. Helen Gilkey of Oregon State University and Dr. C. Les Hitchcock of the University of Washington were awarded citations in recognition of outstanding contributions in the field of science in the Pacific Northwest. Dr. Francis J. Schadegg was elected to honorary life membership. Research grants of \$125 each were awarded to the following graduate students: W. Mark Weber, University of Washington; Robert J. Carson III, University of Washington; J. A. Alwin, Washington State University; and Ron Campbell, University of Idaho.

The death of Dr. John R. Roberts, longtime member and trustee, and Association president in 1960, was reported.

Next year's annual meeting will be held at Oregon State University in Corvallis. Plan now to give a paper there on your results from this year's research.

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Fossil Insects of the Latah Formation (Miocene) of Eastern Washington and Northern Idaho

The purpose of this investigation was to collect, study, and identify fossil insects in the Latah Formation (Miocene) of eastern Washington and northern Idaho as a goal of learning more about the past insect fauna of the Tertiary Period in northwestern United States. Field investigations were carried out during the summer of 1966 and 1967 at three locations, two locations in Washington and one in Idaho. The Washington sites were both located near Spokane, Washington, one being an abandoned brick pit southwest of Spokane, and the other at Deep Creek northwest of that city. The Idaho site was 5.1 miles southwest of Juliaetta,

The name Latah Formation was given to a series of beds consisting chiefly of fine sediments of fresh water origin. It was originally thought that the Latah formations were laid down prior to the outpouring of the Columbia River Basalt, but field studies have shown that the Latah is more commonly a series of interbedded layers of fine sand and silt and clay with thin layers of basalt. With the initiation of volcanism and the extruding of basalt, the drainage of streams and small rivers became obstructed to form small lakes and ponds. Debris eroded from adjoining mountains and ash volcanoes accumulated in these shallow bodies of water to form the sediments. In addition, plant leaves, and other organic material were deposited in the soft clays to be preserved with time as carbonized impressions (Pardee and Bryan, 1926).

The age of the Latah Formation has been determined by the Potassium-argon method at between 12.1-21.3 million years (Gray and Kittleman, 1967). This indicates an age ranging from middle to upper Miocene.

The portion of the insect most often encountered at the digging sites is a carbonized impression of a wing only. Although a few complete bodies have been found, the majority of the preservations are of the wings.

Prior to this investigation, only 41 fossils representing six insect orders had been found. These included Odonata, Isoptera, Hemiptera, Hymenoptera, Coleoptera, and Trichoptera. This study added six additional orders of insects, which consisted of the orders Plecoptera, Homoptera, Psocoptera, Lepidoptera, Mecoptera, and Diptera. The orders previously encountered were also found in this study.

The following sections, dealing with the systematic descriptions, will include the 15 specimens that were described as new species.

The code references used in this paper designate the locality from which the specimen was discovered (J.=Juliaetta, Idaho; B.P.=Brick Pit near Spokane, Washi-