

2015 LOVELAND STONE AGE FAIR

Biography

Dr. George Frison

Professor Emeritus
University of Wyoming



Born and raised in Ten Sleep, Wyoming, Dr. George Frison spent his early years working sheep and cattle. But he devoted his spare time to collecting arrowheads, exploring the many caves of the Bighorn Mountains, and developing a love for the history and prehistory of Wyoming. During World War II he joined the U.S. Navy and served in the Pacific. Encouraged by several professional archaeologists, he entered the University of Wyoming to study archaeology in 1962. He then attended the University of Michigan, obtaining his doctorate in a record three years. Dr. Frison returned to Wyoming in 1967 as head of the new Department of Anthropology. He became the first Wyoming State Archaeologist in 1968.

Dr. George Frison literally wrote the book on Wyoming archaeology. His many books and papers have made him an internationally-recognized figure in archaeology. He has received the lifetime achievement award from the Society for American Archaeology, the University of Wyoming's Distinguished Former Faculty award, and the College of Arts and Sciences Medallion award. When he retired, the state legislature celebrated George Frison Day to recognize his election to the prestigious National Academy of Sciences. His commitment to quality research, his selflessness, and quiet western manners have enriched the lives of all who have known him.

Title of Talk: ***Continued Investigations at the Powars II Paleoindian Red Ochre Mine In Southeastern Wyoming***

Dr. Frison and Mr Ziemens will give a presentation on the Powars II site located in Southeastern Wyoming. The Powars II site consists of multiple prehistoric cultural facies as determined by salvage investigations during the 2014 - 2015 field seasons. The Paleo red ochre mine exposed on a talus slope was dominated by Clovis people based on numerous projectile points and various stages of preforms collected from eroded deposits. Diagnostic artifacts for Goshen, Midland, Folsom, Agate Basin and Hell Gap cultural complexes are also represented. Several hundred stone tools were also collected from the mixed and eroded deposits at the bottom of the slope. A small test excavation in 1986 determined that intact cultural deposits are present on the slope above. A terrace located across from the mine was found to contain $\geq 2\text{m}$ of stratified

deposits representing Paleo, Early Archaic, Late Archaic and Late Prehistoric occupations. A very large deposit of high quality chert and orthoquartzite is present at another location on the same terrace and apparently was the main source of raw stone material, especially for the Clovis artifacts. Precise spatial and temporal dimensions of Powars II remains to be determined but it is a large site and affords a rare opportunity for multidisciplinary research along numerous lines of investigation.