

Arden Meyer Interview 02/28/2023

Arden Meyer Review of Draft Interview 06/01/2023

Interview conducted by Lauren Courter, Paul Willis

Present During Interview: Doug & Pat Meyer, Arden Meyer

When the Meyer family purchased their properties in Multnomah Co in the 1930s, a majority of 80 acres to the south of the previous Bull Run railroad (present day SE Dodge Park Blvd) were “stump-land”, including the ~40 acre property currently owned by the Portland Water Bureau (Figure 1). Ernest Meyer and Fred Meyer, Arden’s father and grandfather, respectively, owned property to the north of the previous Bull Run railroad, a single property on SE Carpenter Lane, and a ten acre parcel to the south bordering Johnson Creek in Clackamas County. Ernest Meyer owned other properties south of the Bull Run railroad, as shown in Figure 1. The following account largely relates to the ~40 acre parcel currently owned by the Portland Water Bureau.

Arden is Ernest’s son and when he was 6 years old, his dad used dynamite to help remove the tree stumps and roots. Following dynamiting, Arden and his sibling used tractors to pull stumps and roots from the property, which took approximately 4 years. Arden remembers the stumps and roots were up to 5 ft deep – as he remembers standing in the holes. Following removal of the stumps and roots, Ernest tilled and plowed 10-12 inches of the top soil to level the 40 acres and about 10-15 acres to the southwest of that property. As Ernest worked the soil, he started to uncover Native American artifacts. These artifacts included arrowheads, bowls, and “tomahawks”. Ernest continued to uncover similar artifacts as he farmed for raspberries and blueberries over the years. Arden says that his dad gained “an eye” for noticing artifacts and he would keep ones that were “perfect” looking and intact, leaving behind broken pieces. Ernest kept a display of the artifacts he collected (see photos).

Dr. Brown bought the Meyer’s 40 acres , who eventually sold it to the City of Portland in the 1970s.

Photos

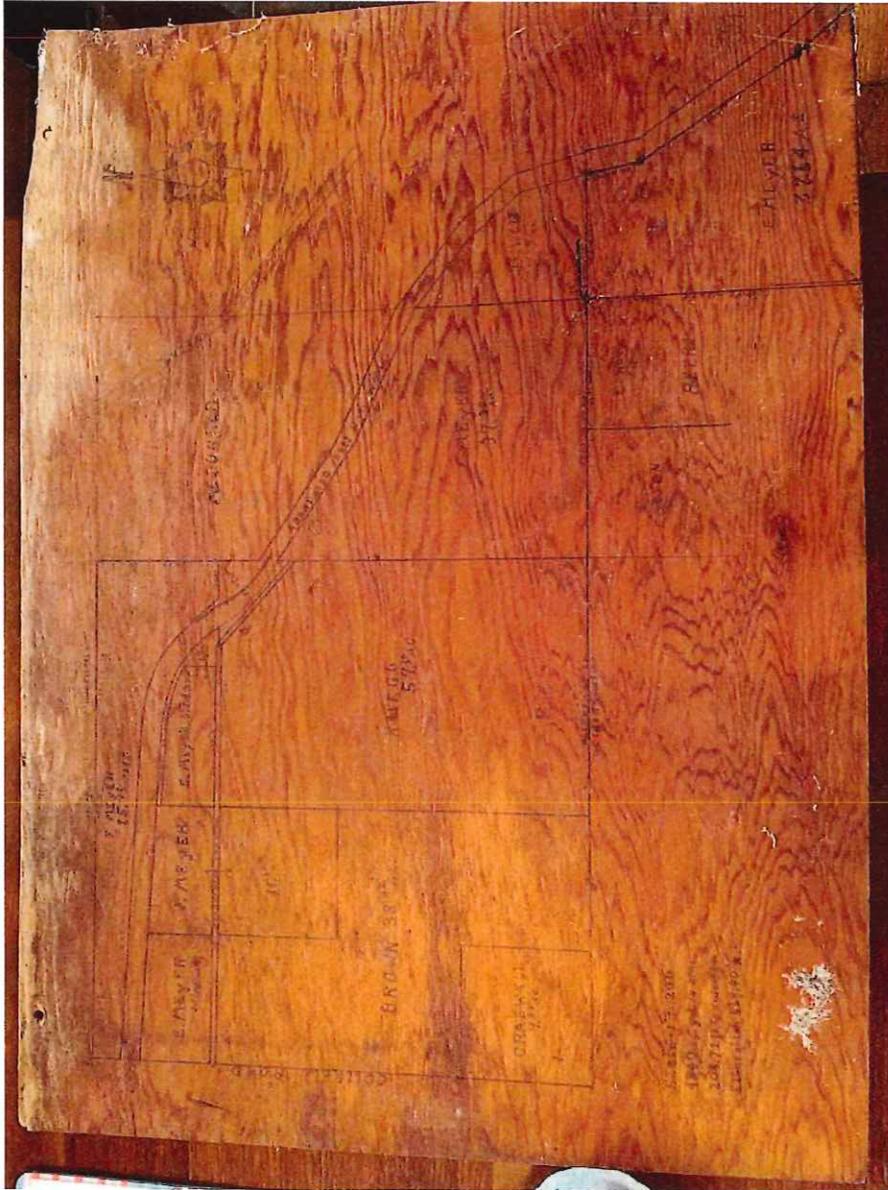


Figure 1. Hand-drawn map of properties owned by the Meyer, McDonald, Brown, Ruegg, Craswell, Colson, and Beers families at SE Cottrell and SE Carpenter Lane. The previous Bull Run railway (now SE Dodge Park Blvd) to the north and the Multnomah-Clackamas county line to the south. Map was created in the 1940s by Ernest Meyer, owner of the Meyer properties shown. The previous 57 acre Ruegg and 37 acre Meyer properties make up the majority of the current Portland Water Bureau property designated for the proposed Bull Run water filtration project.

HOHOKAM (the Ancient One)
An Introduction to the contrast of Ancient and Modern
Artillery Display. By Ernest L. Meyer.

The display of HOHOKAM, the Ancient One, was made in the early 1970's when I was recuperating from a sprained ankle.

The frame for the glass front was once a barnacled piece of mahogany driftwood, found on the beach near Westport, Wa.

Most of the Indian Artifacts were collected from 1930 to 1970, during 40 years of farming 80 acres, usually found after heavy rains on newly-plowed or cultivated fields or hosing row-crops. Exceptions are noted in the display.

Exceptions: #1 and 2.

(1) Miss May Turner, my 3rd grade teacher, mailed me this arrow-head that she had found in Colorado in 1915. As I lived in Raymond, Washington at the time, little did I realize that it was to become the nucleus of the HoHoKam collection.

2. My sister-in-law, Dorothy Naas, found this arrowhead during a fishing trip in the Wallow Mountains.

3. Fangs from a half-shepherd-half cyote dog killed by hound dogs at Smith Creek, Wa. 1913.

4. Rock Image

5 & 6. Rock weapons, #5 was picked up in the yard of the Methodist church in Boring, OR. #6 found on the 40-acre field when clearing land.

7. Grooved rocks — fishnet weights.

8. Hide Scraper.

9. Beverly Beach, Oregon — Clam fossils

and 10. Modern 20 MM Artillery & rifle shells, Camp Lewis, WA. found by Alfred Meyer.

11. Petrified Wood — Arizona, estimated 60,000 yrs. old.

12. Sliced agate, Carefree, Arizona 1986

13. Black Lava — Kilauea, Hawaii from Arden Meyer.

14. Stalactite — from Carlsbad Caverns, New Mexico, 1953.

15. Obsidian Rock from East Lake, OR; red iron oxide.

16. Alfred Meyer found this along the Willamette River (sandstone (petrified bar of soap??)) 17. Ellene's Baby Tooth.

18. Freshly baked Lava, 1980, Kilauea, Hawaii; "Madam Pelee's Angry Froth!"

19. JAR: Odds & Ends — polished AGATES and unpolished; E.L.&A.M.

20. Jeff Boden, a Coral, Island of Hawaii, 1980.

21. Paddle carved from scrap of Koa wood given to me by two natives making a dugout canoe from a log, in the city of Refuge, Hawaii, 1979.

22. Marble Rock; shore of Ukon R. Alaska 1983. 23. Arizona Petrified Wood — 1953.

24. This knife was acquired by Alfred Meyer, with a shipmate's help, when on shoreleave, in a skirmish with a belligerent Mexican. Time: 1918 World War One. Ship, U.S.S. Marblehead;

Place: Vera Cruz, Mexico.

25. Quartz-bearing gold; gift from Aunt Salena, 1924—1957.

18 Ellene Baby Tooth

Figure 2. Ernest Meyer's account of his artifact display. Artifacts were gathered from around the country. Items #5 and 6 were rock weapons gathered from the present-day ~40 acres owned by the Portland Water Bureau.



Figure 3. Inventory #5 on Ernest Meyer's artifact list in Figure 2. Rock weapon found on the grounds of the Methodist church in Boring, corner of SE Bluff Rd and SE Pleasant Home Rd.



Figure 4a. Inventory #6 on Ernest Meyer's artifact list in Figure 2. Arrowheads found on the current Portland Water Bureau property. Ernest found these artifacts while plowing, tilling, and farming the ~40 acres between 1930s and 1970s.



Figure 4b. Inventory #6 on Ernest Meyer's artifact list in Figure 2. Arrowheads found on the current Portland Water Bureau property. Ernest found these artifacts while plowing, tilling, and farming the ~40 acres between 1930s and 1970s.

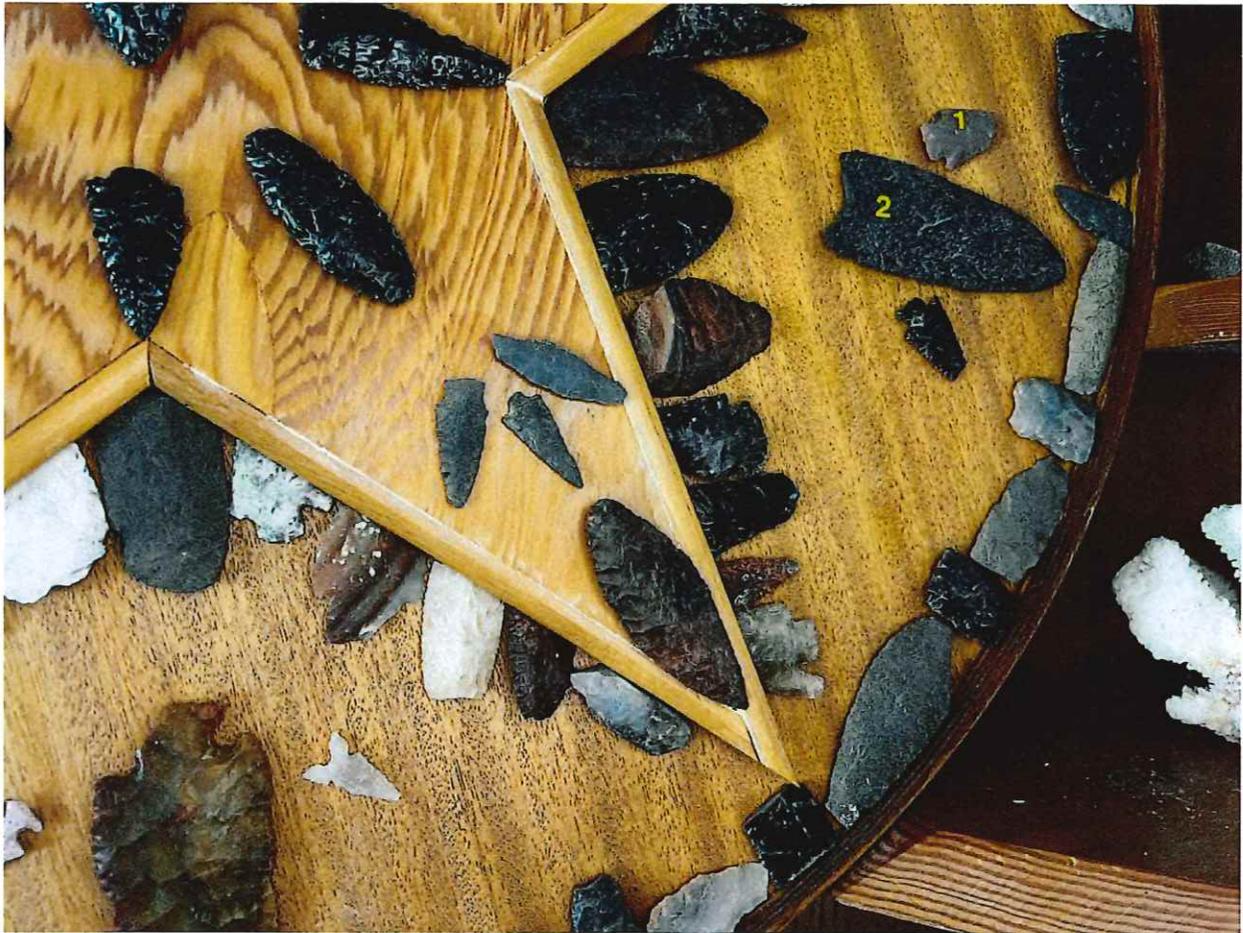


Figure 4c. Inventory #6 on Ernest Meyer's artifact list in Figure 2. Arrowheads found on the current Portland Water Bureau property. Ernest found these artifacts while plowing, tilling, and farming the ~40 acres between 1930s and 1970s. Artifacts denoted by "1" and "2" were not found on the property.

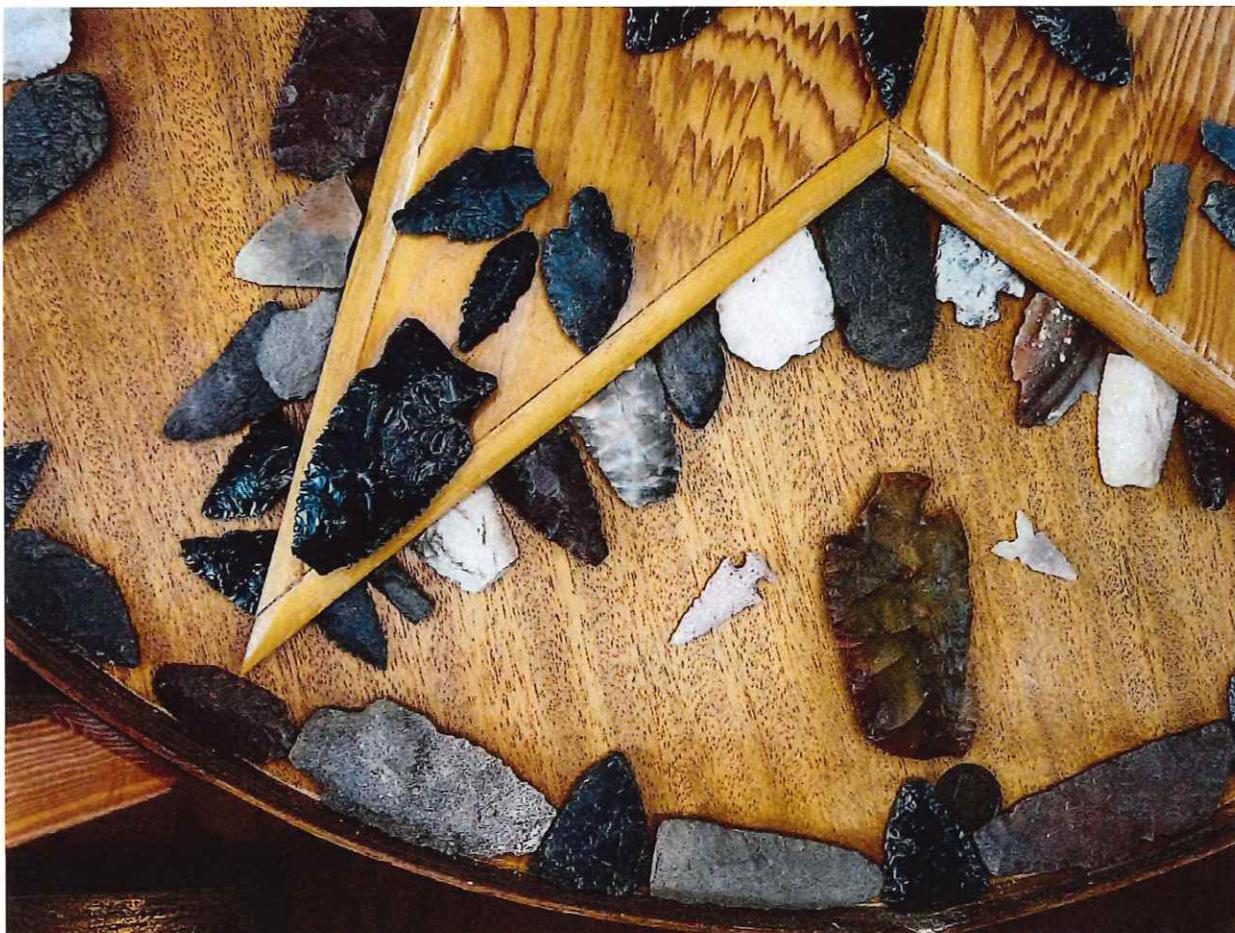


Figure 4d. Inventory #6 on Ernest Meyer's artifact list in Figure 2. Arrowheads found on the current Portland Water Bureau property. Ernest found these artifacts while plowing, tilling, and farming the ~40 acres between 1930s and 1970s.



Figure 4e. Inventory #6 on Ernest Meyer's artifact list in Figure 2. Arrowheads found on the current Portland Water Bureau property. Ernest found these artifacts while plowing, tilling, and farming the ~40 acres between 1930s and 1970s.

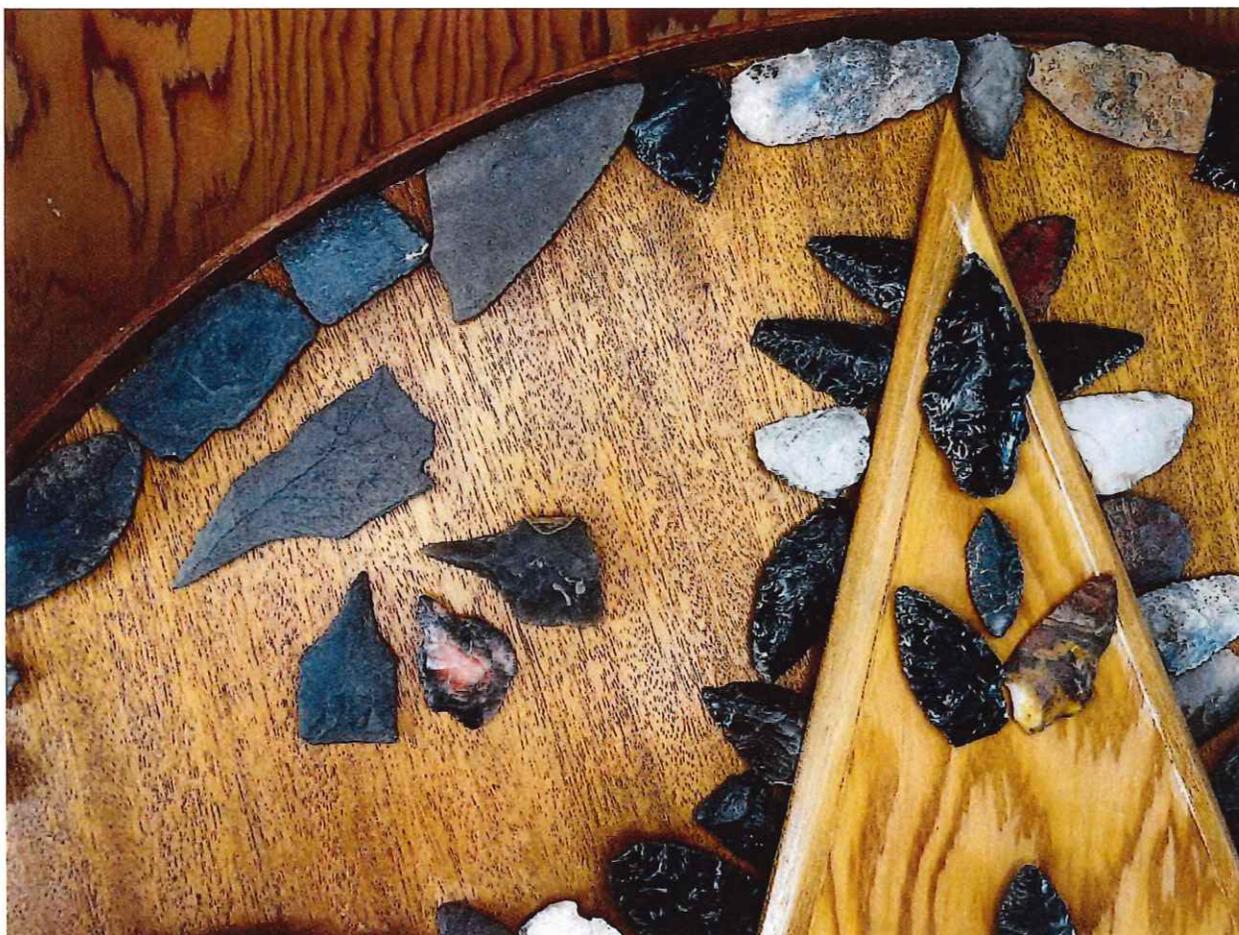


Figure 4f. Inventory #6 on Ernest Meyer's artifact list in Figure 2. Arrowheads found on the current Portland Water Bureau property. Ernest found these artifacts while plowing, tilling, and farming the ~40 acres between 1930s and 1970s.



Figure 4g. Inventory #6 on Ernest Meyer's artifact list in Figure 2. Arrowheads found on the current Portland Water Bureau property. Ernest found these artifacts while plowing, tilling, and farming the ~40 acres between 1930s and 1970s.



Figure 5. Artifact found on the current Portland Water Bureau property. Ernest found this while "discing" the ~40 acre farmland between 1930s and 1970s.