

UI professor dies on Salmon River

By KARMA METZLER
Staff Writer

Dr. Frank Leonhardy, an associate professor of anthropology at the University of Idaho, suffered a fatal heart-attack August 19 while on an archaeology dig on the Salmon River. He was 56.

Leonhardy specialized in the research of high elevation sights. The study of these sights tell scientists about Indians who hunted in the mountains. Leonhardy's students will take over his research in the wake of his death.

Dr. Roderick Sprague, director of the anthropology laboratory, had known Leonhardy for 25 years. He described Leonhardy as a generous man who cared about his students. Sprague also said that as an educator, Leonhardy had a thorough knowledge of anthropology.

"He was a careful researcher," Sprague said. "Very meticulous. He was not quick to come to conclusions. He sorted out answers carefully."

Matt Tremayne had Leonhardy for Anthropology 100. He described the professor as informative.

"He was thorough in his discussions. We learned more than what was found in the book. He talked about his experiences and integrated them into class."

Tremayne said Leonhardy had firsthand experience with the material found in the books, and that made the

class more interesting.

"The thing that impressed me the most was the way he spoke," Tremayne said. "He spoke in different accents...I don't know if he did that on purpose, but he was very precise."

Leonhardy was born in Colorado but grew up in the Willamette Valley. He got his undergraduate and masters degrees in anthropology from the University of Oregon. He received his doctorate from Washington State in 1970.

"He was a generous man who cared about his students."

— Dr. Roderick Sprague
Anthropology Lab Director

Leonhardy started at the UI as a visiting professor of anthropology. He was hired as a full-time professor in 1981.

While at the UI he served on the Faculty Council. He also participated in the Letters and Science Dean's Advisory Council and the Council on Research, Scholarship and Creative Activity.

Leonhardy's ashes were buried near UI's Taylor Ranch research center. Leonhardy is survived by two sons.

Frank Leonhardy, 56, UI anthropologist

Frank C. Leonhardy, 56, a University of Idaho anthropology professor, died of a heart attack Tuesday at an archaeological site in Hell's Canyon near Cottonwood, Idaho.

He was a noted archaeologist in the field of stratigraphy, or the study of layers of soil formed at an archaeological site. "He was an expert at determining whether these layers were natural and which were cultural," said Roderick Sprague, a fellow UI anthropology professor and Leonhardy's colleague for over 25 years.

He had worked in the Frank Church River of No Return wilderness area looking for and surveying high elevation archaeological hunting sites. "It's a new area (of research) and he was a pioneer in that field," Sprague said.

He was born June 8, 1935, at Carbondale, Colo., to Ralph and Gladys Leonhardy. He grew up and attended schools at Willamette, Ore.

He joined the U.S. Army in 1953 and served in Korea until his discharge in 1955.

He married Lucille Hughes, Sept. 12, 1958, in Portland, Ore. They were divorced in 1988.

He received a bachelor's de-

gree in anthropology in 1959 and a master's degree in 1961, both from the University of Oregon at Eugene. He received his doctorate in anthropology from Washington State University in 1970.

During the 1960s, he worked in Oklahoma at the Dumbo mammoth butchering archaeological site. Later, he worked along rivers in Washington, Idaho and Oregon, particularly the Snake and Clearwater rivers, researching fishing archaeological sites. In 1985, he worked at the Dolores ceramic pottery sites in Colorado.

He was a member of the WSU anthropology faculty from 1970 to 1978, when he joined the UI anthropology department. He advised both graduate and undergraduate students, and taught a variety of classes in the department.

"He was versatile, and that is one of the reasons why his death is such a great loss," Sprague says.

He was a member of the Society for American Archaeology, Sigma Xi. He also was a trustee for the Amateur Radio Station WZYH at WSU, a volunteer license examiner for the Federal Communications Commission, and a member of the Washington Idaho Symphony Board.

He worked extensively with the Nez Perce peoples in Lapwai, Idaho, and drummed with them.

Survivors include two sons, Galen Leonhardy of Spokane and Duncan Leonhardy of Pullman; a sister, Adele Irwin of Dublin, Calif.; three brothers, Bruce Leonhardy and Carl Leonhardy, both of Sisters, Ore., and Jay Leonhardy of Ketchikan, Alaska; and one grandchild.

No funeral services are planned. The family suggests memorials to the Frank C. Leonhardy Endowment Fund in care of the University of Idaho Foundation.

Noland Funeral Home of Grangeville is in charge of arrangements.