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Thomas H. Lewis Archival Collection

Thomas H. Lewis, "the Freud from Boyd," was born July 28, 1919, in Boyd, Mont. He received a Bachelor of Science from the University of Washington and a medical degree from Duke University. Dr. Lewis worked at the U.S. Naval Hospital in Bethesda, Md., and later assumed the position of chief of psychiatry and neurology at Georgetown University.

Lewis also researched and published on religious practices of the Lakota Sioux, the history of Red Lodge, and Montana rock art. He published more than 350 articles on anthropology, archaeology, history, medicine, biology, ethnology, and anatomy in professional journals throughout the world.

The Thomas H. Lewis Archival Collection consists of documents dated 1964 to 2005, with the bulk falling between 1969 and 1985. The collection, now stored in the Billings Curation Center, includes his private research, photographs, correspondence, book collection, book drafts and manuscripts, newspaper and journal articles, rock art site forms, rock art tracings, and various pieces of material culture from his research on South and North American Indians.

Included in this collection are drawings and extensive notes from more than 100 rock art sites in Montana, oral histories from Lakota medicine men such as Frank Fools Crow, and research on the history of Red Lodge.

Want to know more? Call Museum Curator David K. Wade at (406) 896-5213.







Items from the Thomas H. Lewis Collection: (top) pipe; (middle) woven purse; (bottom) rattle. BLM photos

Located in the BLM Montana/Dakotas State Office, the Billings Curation Center is a repository that preserves the evidence of human occupation on the Northern Plains, from the age of Paleo-Indians to the era of homesteaders, miners, and their subsequent ghost towns.

The BCC has catalogued and preserved more than half a million archaeological and ethnographic artifacts recovered from lands administered by the BLM in Montana, North Dakota and South Dakota. Each item offers clues about the history and prehistory of life on the Northern Plains.

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