

Obituary

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Marshall T. Newman (1911–1994)

SERIALS DEPARTMENT

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Marshall T. (Bud) Newman was born on July 15, 1911, in New Bedford, Massachusetts, and passed away on December 13, 1994, after a series of strokes. He is survived by his third wife, Mabel, three sons, four grandchildren, and two stepsons. He had retired from the University of Washington in 1979 after a career spanning almost four decades.

Newman's early academic interests can be traced to his being a son of an eminent human geneticist at the University of Chicago. Newman received his undergraduate training in biology (mostly zoology) at Dartmouth College and in physical anthropology and archeology at the University of Chicago (Ph.B. 1933). At Chicago his interests in skeletal biology developed, and he spent three summers excavating Indian burial sites in central and southern Illinois. His interests in skeletal biology further crystallized following eight months of fieldwork in archeology, excavating Indian skeletal remains in Florida for the Smithsonian Institution. In 1935 Newman received his Master's degree in anthropology from the University of Chicago.

Newman acquired hands-on training in osteology and anatomy before entering the Ph.D. program at Harvard. During the academic year 1935–1936, Newman was the Bolton Fellow in Anatomy and Physical Anthropology at Case Western Reserve University, working with a group of orthodontists on facial growth research. He received further training in osteology under the supervision of Ales Hrdlicka in the Division of Physical Anthropology at the US National Museum. In 1937 Newman began his studies at Harvard University, at that time the one place where formal training was offered in physical anthropology. From 1938 to 1940 he assisted E.A. Hooton in his course on human evolution and Carelton Coon in general anthropology. He received his Ph.D. from Harvard in 1941 and immediately went to Peru as Coordinator of Project 8 for the Institute of Andean Research. He spent almost one year in Peru, excavating skeletal materials for the reconstruction of the ethnic history of the central coast.

Upon his return to the United States in 1942, Newman assumed the position of Associate Curator of Physical Anthropology at the National Mu-

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seum, Smithsonian Institution. Except for almost four years of active military service in Panama and the Pacific, Newman remained at the Smithsonian until 1962. His ascribed duties as Associate Curator involved research on human skeletal materials and curatorial work on various collections. He occasionally taught at the University of Maryland and at George Washington University and in 1958–1959 had a one-year sabbatical at the University of Michigan.

After his experiences at the University of Michigan, Newman felt “restrained by the narrowness of researches on human skeletal materials at the Smithsonian.” In the five years that followed, his research emphasis shifted from osteological studies involving biological distances between populations to human population genetics, stress physiology, nutrition, and ecology. During this period of transition, Newman’s research at the Smithsonian was based primarily on either library compilations or laboratory measures. Newman’s best known research from that period was the classic paper published in 1962 in the *American Anthropologist* on the application of Bergmann-Allen rules to the distribution of Amerindians.

To apply some of his newly developed concepts on human adaptation to the field situation, Newman collaborated with 10 other North and South American scientists on the Vicos Project. This study measured the extent and direction of physical and clinical changes in Indian schoolboys with vastly improved nutrition. With the cooperation of Cornell University’s field staff, large free school lunches were provided to the participants for four years. The physical status of the boys before the supplementary feeding (1956) and after the feeding (1961) were compared. In 1965, after the Vicos fieldwork was completed, Newman performed his final field research on an Indian isolate in Guatemala. He focused on body composition in families, using x-ray methods, and measured lung capacity and blood volume associated with workload.

Marshall Newman’s active research was brought to a halt by a series of events. He accepted a professorship at Portland State University in 1962, followed by a stint as Chair from 1964 to 1966. The administrative duties required of the Chair plus health problems limited his research at Portland, and in 1966 he moved to the University of Washington in Seattle. It was during this time that I got to know Bud Newman. He kindly became chair of my doctoral committee in 1967, when my primary advisor, Arno Motulsky, went abroad on a sabbatical. In 1970 Bud’s second wife (Judy) was diagnosed with emphysema and its cardiovascular sequelae. Until his retirement her deteriorating physical condition prevented him from leaving her bedside for more than a few days at a time. Newman followed in his father’s footsteps and terminated all professional activities on the day of his retirement in 1979. He told me that he did not want to “hang on” and produce inferior quality research in his dotage.

Newman’s contributions to physical anthropology were recognized by the membership of the American Association of Physical Anthropologists, who elected him Vice President for 1962–1964. He also served as Associate

Editor of the *American Journal of Physical Anthropology* for a four-year term (1958–1962). He was elected President of the Anthropological Society of Washington, DC, and served in that office from 1952 to 1954.

Bud Newman will be missed by those of us whose lives he touched. He was a gentle man who had few enemies and many friends.

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