

HISTORY OF THE VALLEY FULL OF HUMAN INTEREST

(From THE OTTAWA CITIZEN, July 25, 1970)

The Upper Ottawa Valley,

by Clyde C. Kennedy; published by
Renfrew County Council, Pembroke,
Ontario; pp 242, and credits and
bibliography; \$3.95

By Ronald Grantham

Clyde C. Kennedy, it was noted on this page on July 4, has written an extraordinarily interesting history of the Upper Ottawa Valley, broadly conceived to include geological and archeological information and casting new light on many facets of its subject. "People who live and travel in the Valley will enjoy dipping into this wealth of information about their environment."

As a boy in Trail, B.C., Clyde Kennedy heard from his father the story of David Thompson's journey down the Columbia, and with his father hunted for arrowheads in the countryside. His interest in Canadian history continued to develop.

While living in Deep River, he steeped himself in the lore of the Valley. He has lived in Ottawa since 1965.

He has worked with National Museum field parties in the region, and has carried out contracts to dig sites, with volunteer groups of archeologists and anthropologists.

A stop press note at the end of his book reports that the National Museum of Man gives 5,240 years as the radio-carbon-determined dating on a human bone from the Allumette Island site.

Mr Kennedy opens his book with an account of the geology of the region. The last major advance of the ice sheet, two miles thick in places, occurred only 10,600 years ago; later the Champlain Sea flowed into the depressed land. Soviet scientists have just announced that the region is still rising (hardly news here, where occasional quakes give a reminder).

In an introduction to the Kennedy book, Harry J. Walker - who began his career as a cub reporter in Renfrew, and last fall climaxed his regional writings by producing, with his wife, Olive, the popular Carleton Saga - says that Clyde Kennedy has provided details about the culture of the native Indians never before available. These are summed up in a cultural sequence chart.