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Editor
N. Russell

THE MIDDEN

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SPECIAL FEATURES

- * Highlights of A.S.B.C. Brief to Government
- * Glenrose Early Carbon Dates
- * Millard Creek Site

E D I T O R I A L

The word "pre-history" has reportedly been ruled unacceptable by some Indian people. World history, true enough, did not start with the coming of white men. But the term is properly used for that period of time anywhere before written records began. In most places the beginning of writing has nothing to do with white people. It might equally easily have been brought to the Americas by some other culture. (Perhaps ultimately we will find it came across the Bering Strait from Mongolia?)

Meanwhile, there seems to be no better word, and euphemisms won't help us to understand the prehistory of the first citizens or of newer Canadians.

THE MILLARD CREEK SITENotes on a 1973 dig, by Katherine Capes

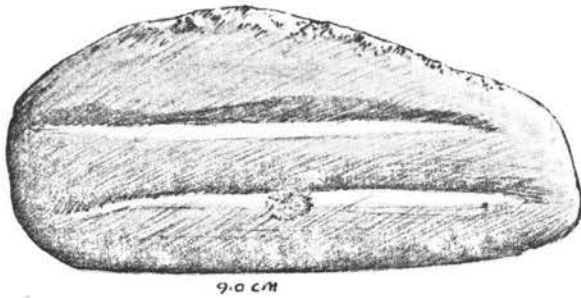
The Millard Creek site, situated half way between Courtenay and Royston on Vancouver Island, is located on either side of the highway and on both sides of the creek, which crosses the highway to enter the sea close by. Over the years several test-pits have been dug at different locations. Extensive midden, disturbed by subdivision activity, also lies closer to the beach but it is thought that the two middens are not related in time.

This surmise is based on the limited findings of one test-pit dug in 1960 near the mouth of the creek. This did not yield the innumerable obsidian and rock crystal flakes so characteristic of the higher elevation site.

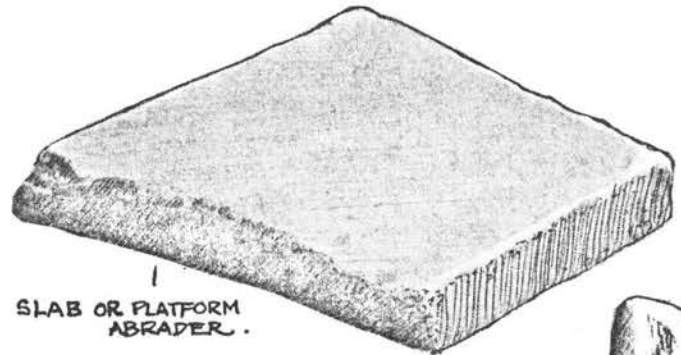
In the deepest part tested in 1973, the midden reaches a depth of nearly six feet. It comprises five layers: top soil, shell, black shell-sprinkled soil, thick shell, dark soil lying on light-coloured subsoil, known locally as hard-pan. The associated cultural material, limited in both type and quantity, is fairly homogeneous throughout. The bottom 24 inches of dark soil contained the most artifacts.

Most of the obsidian and rock crystal flakes appear to be detritus, but a few microblades and possible scrapers were found. For the rest, the site is typified by waste basalt flakes, some showing use; disintegrating slatey-shale, probably the remains of scrapers or knives, not ground; sandstone abraders; a little worked bone, including awls; one spall chopper from the bottom layer; and also from this layer some coal or lignite ornaments including a disc bead, an oval bead, and two fragments of a "whatsit". A chipped stone, stemmed, corner-notched point, 4 or 5 cm. long, was found near the surface. Ground slate was represented in the middle layers by three fragments of long, narrow, bevelled points.

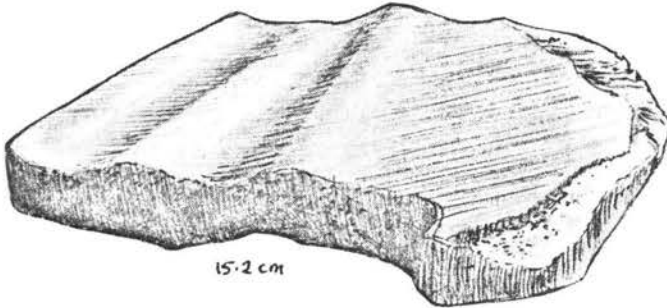
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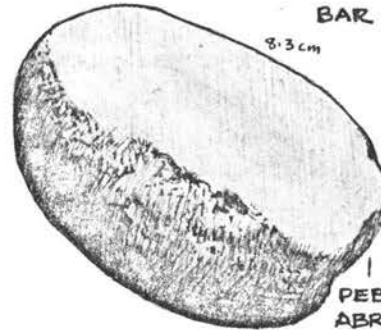
9.0 cm



SLAB OR PLATFORM
ABRADER.



15.2 cm

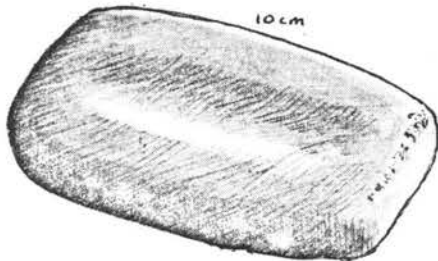


8.3 cm

BAR ABRADER

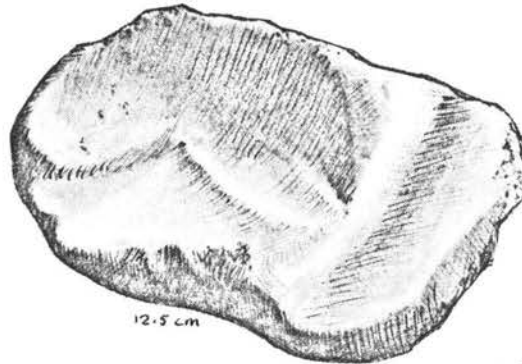
PEBBLE
ABRADER

23.5
cm



10 cm

SHAPED ABRADER OR WHETSTONE



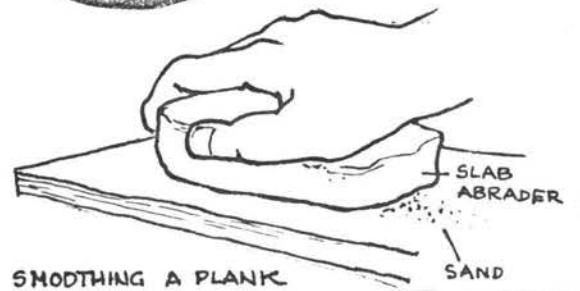
12.5 cm



Among the most frequently found artifacts of coastal sites are the abraders and whetstones, important implements that served three main functions: shaping, sharpening and smoothing. Made from slabs of sandstone, or other gritty stone, they were used in the natural slab, or shaped to a rectangle or bar shape. As with modern sandpapers, abraders were coarse, medium and fine - even super-fine. The craftsman used whichever suited his purpose best, or he progressed from one to another to achieve a fine finish before the final buffing and polishing. The bevelled edges of adze blades, chisels and slate knives were made on the abradar, and when dulled from use, were resharpened, with water or spittle as a lubricant.

Stone, bone, antler, shell and wood were all shaped, sharpened and smoothed by abraders. The artifact would be rubbed on the stone, or the stone applied to it, depending on its size and which ever worked best for the user. Shaping to a point was an important function of these tools, and they were used on needles, awls, blanket pins, fish barbs, bone drills and so on. Planks were smoothed to a fine finish by slab abraders being rubbed over them with sand for extra abrasion. Many abraders show a diversity of wear patterns indicating many different uses, some with bi-facial wear, some uni-facial.

In size these stones can range from a few inches long to large ten pound chunks of sandstone, but the average seems to be around four to six inches long by about one inch thick.



SMOOTHING A PLANK

SLAB
ABRADER

SAND

SHARPENING AN ADZE BLADE



EXCERPT FROM
"ARTIFACTS OF THE
NORTHWEST COAST INDIANS"
by HILARY STEWART © 1973
PUBLISHED BY HANCOCK HOUSE.

GLENROSE MIDDEN YIELDS EARLY C₁₄ DATES

By Thomas H. Loy

During June and July 1972 and June through August 1973 field excavations were undertaken at the Glenrose Cannery Site (DgRr 6) in Delta, B. C. The excavations were of a salvage nature and were funded by the National Museum of Man, Archaeological Survey of Canada, Salvage Section and the Canada Council. The dig was administered through the University of British Columbia Department of Anthropology.

In total eight 2 m. by 2 m. pits were started. These pits were chosen by a random sampling technique, in this manner 6% of the available 525 square metres of the site surface was sampled. Seven pits were excavated to the sterile underlying sand.

A total of about 4,000 artifacts was recovered during the two seasons and as of the present about 3,000 artifacts have been processed into computer programs that have facilitated analysis of the data.

The occurrence of bone artifacts was high owing to the large volume of shell present in the cultural deposits. In addition to the bone artifacts, many faunal remains and burials were encountered.

The excavation was done using trowels and digging within 10 cm arbitrary units; important or easily recognized strata were encountered at times and these strata were excavated stratigraphically. The deposit is 25 feet deep in its deepest part. At this depth artifacts in the form of tool flakes and pebble tools were still being encountered in fairly large numbers.

Currently in progress are a varied number of research topics; 17 burials were excavated and this material is nearing completion of analysis. Preservation of the bone was varied but on the whole was sufficient to allow aging, sexing and examination of the pathology of the individuals. Preservation of the faunal remains was good, and the preliminary division of the material collected from the arbitrary excavation units into fish, land mammal, sea mammal, bird and shellfish has recently been completed and detailed studies are in progress. Granulometric

and other forms of midden analysis (pH and Calcium content) as well as shell identification have been started. Also, lithic analysis and bone- and antler- working technology analysis have passed the planning stages and now are in progress. Computer assisted statistical analysis of the assemblage and of the stratigraphy, as well as the horizontal distribution of the artifacts, has been in progress during the excavation periods. The analysis of the collected materials has been done on a volunteer basis and a total of 4,815 man-hours was expended in August 1972 and February 1973.

The stratigraphy of the site is interesting in that there are two superimposed units of shell (both culturally deposited) overlying a non-shell-bearing unit of varying thickness. The middle unit (Unit II - the lowest shell-bearing strata) appears to correspond with the lowest cultural unit at the St. Mungo site (located about one-third mile downstream from Glenrose). That unit was dated at about 4,300 years before the present, thus the lowest unit (Unit III) at the Glenrose site appears to be the oldest cultural deposit yet known in the Fraser River Delta area.

First returns of Carbon-14 tests appear to confirm this.

The dates are:

GaK-4647 2030 \pm 95 B.P. (80 B.C.)

GaK-4649 7430 \pm 340 B.). (5480 B.C.)

The most recent date is from Unit I and was taken about 25 cm. below the surface. The oldest date is from the bottom of the shell portion of the deposit (Unit II) and was taken about 4.5 m. below the surface.

The date of 7430 B.P. for the bottom of the shell-bearing units apparently represents the oldest occurrence of shell deposits of cultural origin in B. C.

The lowest cultural unit (Unit III) remains to be dated and is expected to be considerably older at the bottom.

The occurrence of shelly and non-shelly cultural units indicates that at some time in the past a major shift in the resource utilization pattern occurred. In addition to the shift to shellfish, it appears that the earliest inhabitants at the site did not hunt sea mammals. The occurrence of sea mammal bones in the deposits is considerably later than the first use of shellfish. Salmon appears to have been taken throughout the site's occupation, as well as land mammals.

From the preliminary analysis of the date recovered, it appears that this site may be important in the establishment of the early environment and cultural sequence in the Fraser River Delta. In addition, it appears that we may be able to establish something of the nature of the early adaptations to the marine environment, the cultural nature of which adaptation is being recorded at other coastal sites in British Columbia.

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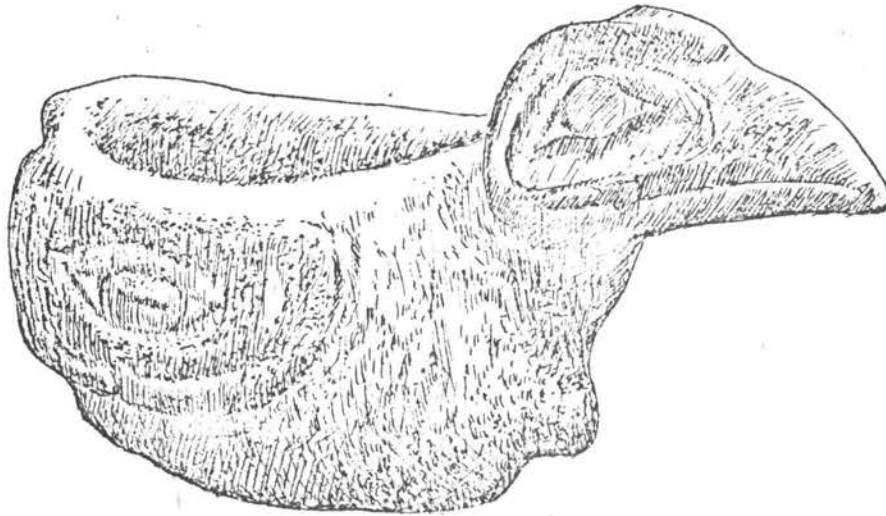
A.S.B.C. DIARY

- Jan. 9, 1974 - Centennial Museum Auditorium, 8 p.m.
Alan McMillan, Department of Archaeology,
Douglas College, "Alberni Valley
Archaeology; a Gulf of Georgia assemblage
in Nootkan Territory"
- Jan. 16, 1974 - Vancouver City College, Langara Campus,
8 p.m. (Room number will be announced)
A representative collection from a
number of digs around British Columbia
this past summer
- Feb. 14, 1974 - Centennial Museum Auditoriu, 8 p.m.
Colin McCaffery speaking on "Lubaantun"

* * * * *

THE FUTURE OF THE PAST

Highlights of the brief recently presented to the Provincial Government Caucus by the Archaeological Society of B.C.



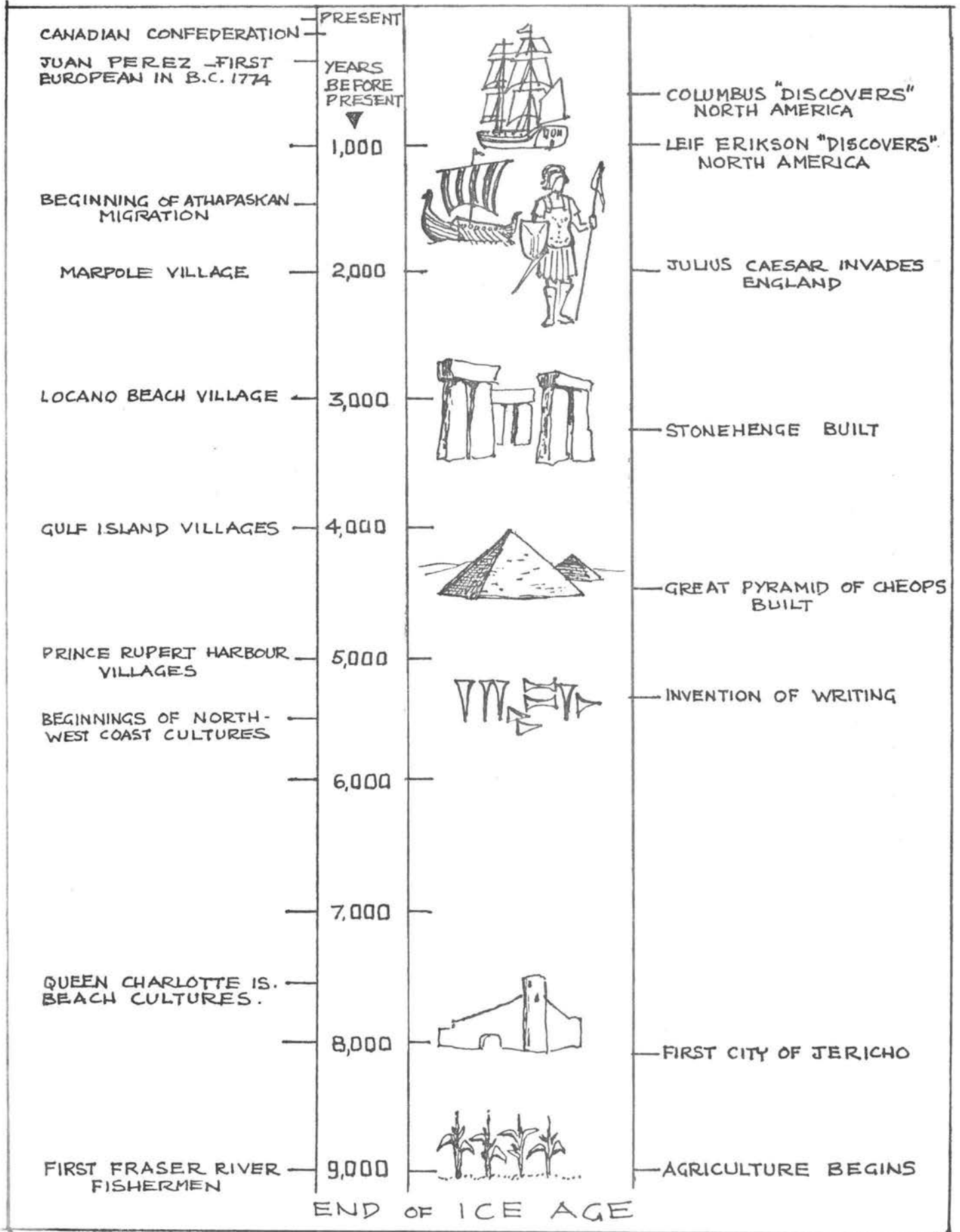
The Prehistory of North America and British Columbia in particular is long and rich. Nine thousand years ago, when ancestors of Europeans were roaming across the Eurasian plains, the forefathers of our Native people were fishing for salmon in the Fraser Canyon. Forty-five hundred years ago, as the great pyramids of Egypt were being built, the inhabitants of what is now British Columbia, in flourishing villages of plank houses, were beginning a tradition of artwork second to none in the world.

It is easy to visualize the suggested migratory route of Man into the Americas, across the Bering Strait land bridge, formed during the ice ages of 22,000 - 10,000 years ago and 50,000 - 40,000 years ago. The similarities of primitive stone tools found in British Columbia and Asia, such as the micro-blade, dated in Eurasia at 15,000 B.P. (Before Present), in the Yukon at 11,000 B.P., and in British Columbia at 9,500 B.P. - these are the clues.

TIME SEQUENCE CHART

BRITISH COLUMBIA

WORLD

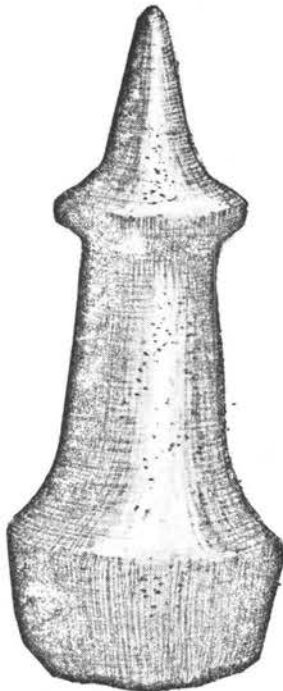


British Columbia's geographic location puts us right in the middle of that migratory route: there is evidence of Man 29,000 years ago in the Yukon, 12,000 B.P. at Yale, 15,000 in Idaho, 20,000 in Mexico. Somewhere there is a continuous thread joining these dates. We must stress that our Province is most significant, being the route for the peopling of all the Americas. This makes the responsibility of Archaeology in British Columbia of even greater importance.

The Archaeological Society believes there are four areas in which the Government can contribute to the understanding of this significance: Formal Education, Community Educational Resources, Legislation, and Funding.

I. EDUCATION

1. Teacher-training courses should include an introduction to British Columbia's prehistory and an awareness of the Provincial "Archaeological and Historic Sites Protection Act".
2. Expansion of Archaeological-Anthropological programs should be encouraged in Community Colleges and Universities.



3. The Provincial Department of Education and all schools should gather Archaeological teaching aids: such as films, slides and photographs.
4. Basic text books on British Columbia Archaeology aimed at different grade levels are urgently needed.
5. The Provincial Archaeologist in Victoria needs personnel trained in Archaeology, with duties including the following:
 - (i) Consultation and advice for members of the public who know of Archaeological sites or who wish identification of Archaeological materials.

- (ii) Assisting the establishment of credit and non-credit adult education courses or night school courses dealing with the prehistory of British Columbia. These should be particularly promoted in areas outside the Lower Mainland and Victoria.

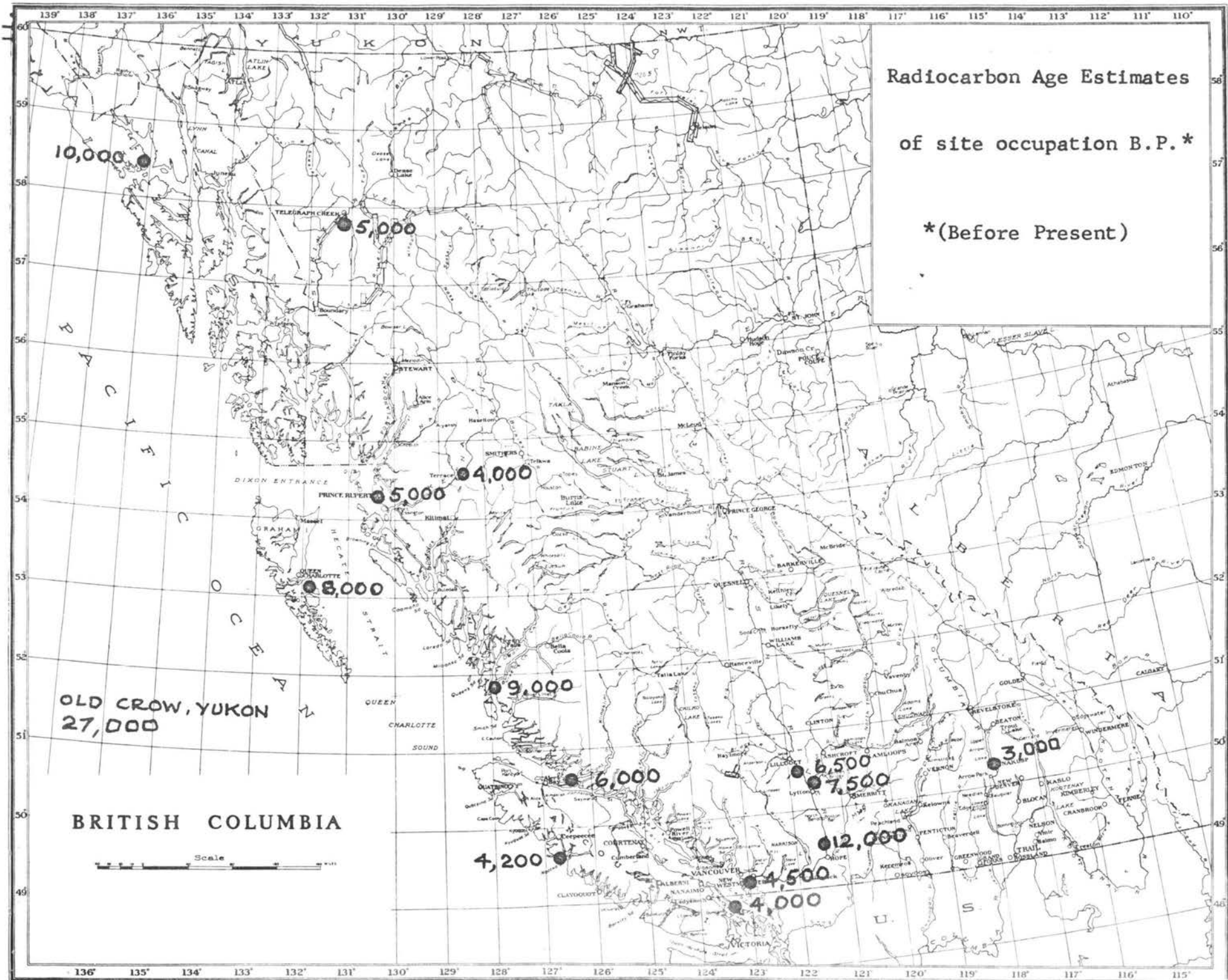
- (iii) Promotion and support of a popular adult television series dealing with the prehistory of British Columbia on all B.C. TV stations.
- (iv) Commercial ads. on television, radio and newspapers outlining key sections of the Archaeological and Historic Sites Protection Act.
- (v) More Provincial Museum travelling displays on Archaeology.

II. PUBLIC EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES



There is a great opportunity in British Columbia to increase public awareness of the richness of our heritage, and to make visitors to this Province appreciate that richness:

1. Small, public-interest displays at airports, bus depots and on government ferries.
2. Displays at excavated archaeological sites. The Prince Rupert area would be ideal for a reconstruction of a traditional Coastal village, and suitable sites exist around Lillooet and Hope for traditional Interior dwellings.
3. Other excavations with readily discernible stratigraphy and some features, such as rock-lined firepits, could be left open after excavation. Information signs and guides could



explain the excavation and interpret the findings to the public. The Katz site, near Hope, excavated in 1971, would have been ideal. The tourist return could offset the cost.

4. Development of an Archaeological Sites Service Branch, reporting to the Provincial Archaeologist, to protect sites from destruction and inspect all plans for new development. The recording and protection of sites at present is being co-ordinated by a staff of three people, responsible for over one-third of a million square miles: this is highly inadequate.

All these proposals are suggested on the premise that Native Indians would be consulted, employed on sites, and be part of any decisions made.

5. Provincial "Stop of Interest" signs should record B.C.'s earliest history along our highways; at present very few refer to Native Peoples.

IIIA LEGISLATION - IN B. C.

We have some very good legislation in our present Archaeological and Historic Sites Protection Act, 1972. We must now enforce that Act. An Archaeological Sites Service Branch under the Provincial Archaeologist would certainly help.

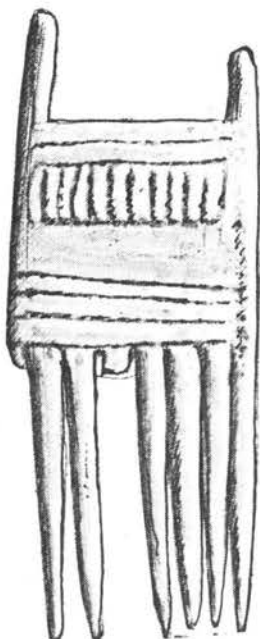
There is room for improvement within the present Act and we submit the following suggestions:

1. The Act should be made binding on all Provincial, Municipal and Crown agencies.
2. The sale of Indian artifacts should be made illegal except under permit from the Provincial Archaeologist (recent native art objects excepted).
3. Archaeological remains on private land should be protected by the Act, i.e. purchase of real estate should not include any subsurface resources; building permits should only be issued after clearance by the Provincial Archaeologist, who

may then limit construction on significant sites; tax incentives could be offered to property owners for protecting archaeological sites.

4. Land containing archaeological remains should not be re-designated by the British Columbia Land Commission until it is known that the archaeological interests have been satisfied.

IIIB LEGISLATION - BEYOND B. C.



We suggest the British Columbia Government make representations to the Federal Government regarding the following:

1. Have Canada sign the "UNESCO Recommended International Principles to Archaeological Excavations" of December 5, 1956. Canada is one of the few countries which have not honoured this international agreement.
2. Encourage the creation of strong federal antiquities legislation which would stop the export of Historical and Archaeological remains and retain these objects in Canada and especially in the Province of their origin.
3. Have all Federal Government departments recognize British Columbia's Archaeological and Historic Sites Protection Act.

IV FUNDING

There is a grave lack of funding for all aspects of Archaeology in B. C. Funding presently available is as follows:

- . Archaeological Sites Advisory Board: a very limited budget allowing for surveys only.
- . Public Universities: only a few thousand dollars a year for excavating.
- . Canada Council: only available for specific projects. Does not allow for salvage excavations which have been the majority of the excavations in B. C.
- . National Museum: very limited, and does not allow for laboratory work or publication of a report.

DISTRIBUTION OF RECORDED ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES IN B. C.
ACCORDING TO ELECTORAL DISTRICTS

ELECTORAL DISTRICT	TOTAL NO. OF SITES	NO. EXCAVATED	DESTROYED OR DISTURBED
N. Peace River	21		2
Omineca	255	15	8
Atlin	55	3	11
S. Peace River	13		5
Fort George	30	1	7
Skeena	72	5	11
Cariboo	529	10	74
Columbia River	96	1	21
Revelstoke-Slocan	80	2	26
Kamloops	80	3	23
Mackenzie	310	24	59
Shuswap	138	14	22
Kootenay	159	24	42
Nelson-Creston	49	2	28
Rossland-Trail	47	5	19
N. Okanagan	40		7
S. Okanagan	19		4
Boundary-Similkameen	122	5	22
Yale-Lillooet	276	38	65
W. Vancouver-Howe Sound	44		8
Dewdney	58	2	22
Coquitlam	25	5	6
N. Vancouver-Seymour	17		3
N. Vancouver-Capilano	1		
New Westminster	1		
Burnaby-Edmonds	2		1
Vancouver-Centre	7		
Vancouver-South	8	2	
Vancouver-Little Mountain	1		
Vancouver-Point Grey	27	5	1
Vancouver-Burrard	1		
Chilliwack	49		20
Langley	11		4
Surrey	3		
Delta	24	5	2
Richmond	4		
Oak Bay	40	5	16
Victoria	20		8
Esquimalt	193	6	60
Saanich & the Islands	210	14	55
Cowichan-Malahat	72	1	17
Nanaimo	165	8	55
Comox	222	10	112
Alberni	180	15	49
Prince Rupert	414	24	59
Total	<u>4,190</u>	<u>274</u>	<u>956</u>

. OFY and LIP: most uncertain and by brief only.

Archaeology in British Columbia exists therefore largely on a system of begging for grants.

At present most archaeological excavations in B. C. are of a salvage nature, one step ahead of a bulldozer. Only the bare essentials are being attended to, due to lack of time and funds. The team approach to Archaeology, using ethnologist, botanist, biologist, geologist and paleobotanist, is almost never possible. There are no funds for the laboratory work, analysis and writing of reports on the fieldwork. Very little has been published on the work done to date in British Columbia largely due to lack of funding.

This lack of planning due to lack of long-range funding has led to the piecemeal excavation picture we now have in British Columbia. There are vast areas that have not been touched. Of 4190 known sites in British Columbia, only 274 have been partially excavated, while 956 have been disturbed or destroyed.

A systematic Province-wide survey to locate and evaluate all archaeological resources should be made so that rational decisions and priorities may be made for the future.

Ideally, consideration should be given to setting up a Research Laboratory, quite independent of any existing institution, to carry out pure research on the Archaeology of this Province.

One possible solution to funding would be a levy of 0.5% or 1% on all development costs in the Province - Governmental, Municipal, Federal and Industrial.

Alternatively a Government Fund similar to the Cultural Fund might be established with the interest used as the yearly budget.

The native people of this Province are becoming increasingly aware of the importance of their past culture and their place in the broader historical framework. Indian participation in British Columbia's Archaeology is increasing at a rapid rate;

this trend is accompanied by a desire to assume greater control and responsibility for their cultural heritage. The Archaeological Society of B.C. hopes the Provincial Government will wish to preserve that rich heritage and provide, for mankind, the information regarding the past which brought about the peopling of the Americas.

* * * *

MILEPOST OF THE MONTH

The B. C. Department of Highways should be congratulated for instituting automatic archaeological surveys on all highway projects during summer '73.

Next challenge: to persuade B. C. Rail to follow suit.

BOOK TO LOOK FOR

University of Washington Press has issued a revised edition of Erna Gunther's Ethnobotany of Western Washington. Included in the volume - subtitled "The Knowledge and Use of Indigenous Plants by Native Americans" - are many new illustrations. \$5.00 Cloth; \$2.45 Paperback.

HELP WANTED

The Vancouver Museums and Planetarium Society is seeking hospitality hostesses for Special Events - No pay - Odd hours - Many thanks. Please apply to Mrs. Coles, 261-1175.

LAST REMINDER

This will be the last "Midden" you will receive if you haven't renewed your membership for 1973/74. Please send your cheque to Mrs. Marie Duncan, 4430 West 7th Avenue, Vancouver.

Bones may have been of historical value

by Diana French

Bones found on the construction site of Boitanio Mall near the Y in Williams Lake may have been of archaeological interest.

However, before word reached the provincial Archaeology Department, it was too late to study the find.

The bones were discovered August 28 when a machine operator excavating at the site unearthed a skull bone from a mound on which trees had been growing. Work on the project ceased and the authorities were notified.

The local authorities were not aware of all the implications of the Archaeological and Historic Sites Protection Act, and as the location was not known to be a burial ground, permission to proceed with the excavating was given.

Following a call last week from concerned local residents, the provincial Archaeology Department contacted the RCMP here. A Staff Sergeant Nelson, who acts as liaison officer between the department and the RCMP, happened to be in Williams Lake and investigated the incident.

It is not known how many bones, if any, had already been incorporated into fill behind the Tastee Freeze before the skull was discovered, and more bones may have been interred, with the fill, later.

According to the information received from Nelson, the archaeologists felt it would not

be worthwhile to study the site now.

A department spokesman, contacted by The Tribune, said this was a very unfortunate incident, and to prevent another one from occurring, "The public must be made aware of the importance of preserving such finds."

According to the Archaeological and Historic Sites Pro-

tection Act, it is an offense to knowingly destroy, deface, or alter a burial-place, or remove from it skeletal remains. There is a penalty of up to \$1,000 in fines or a maximum of six months imprisonment for the offense.

"What isn't always known is that the bones of even one body may constitute a burial place," he said.

He stressed that co-opera-

tion from citizens, property owners and construction companies is vital if historic sites are to be preserved.

As a result of this incident, he said, information regarding the Act will be sent to all coroners in the province, and the local RCMP detachment has received copies of the Act to distribute locally to all contractors.

THE TRIBUNE, Thursday September 13, 1973



*****What kind of fumbling, we wonder, took place recently when the human bones were found during the excavating for Boitanio Mall? A news story written by a Tribune reporter says that "local authorities were not aware of all the implications of the Archaeological and Historic Sites Protection Act...". It's difficult to imagine how this could be the case. On September 13, 1972-over a year ago-The Tribune published the highlights of the Act, in three column layout, seven inches high, in big, bold, type. Surely no one in authority could have missed it...or could they?

Williams Lake Tribune 18 Sept 73

