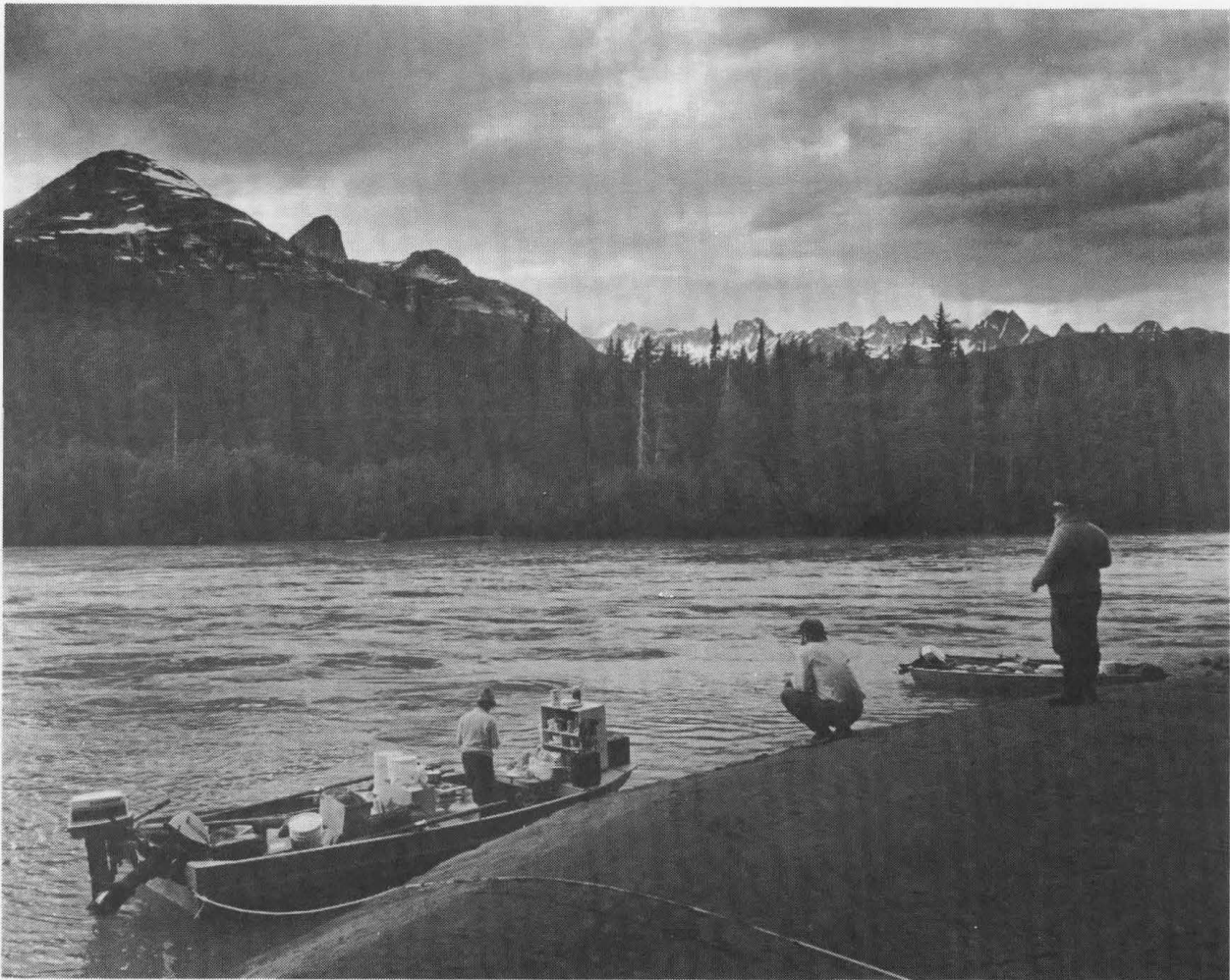


The Midden

ISSN 0047-7222

Vol. XVIII, No. 2

April, 1986



INSIDE: Why aren't there sites along the lower Stikine? . . . page 2. Revitalized B.C.P.M. publications . . . page 5. A zooarchaeological look at artifacts . . . page 7. Borden plaque . . . page 11. Book reviews . . . page 12. Egypt lectures . . . page 14.

The Midden

Publication of the Archaeological Society of British Columbia

Editor: Kathryn Bernick

Subscriptions and Mailing: Toni Crittenden

Submissions and exchange publications should be directed to the Editor. Contributions on subjects germane to B.C. Archaeology are welcomed: maximum length 1,500 words, no footnotes, and only a brief bibliography (if necessary at all). Guidelines available. Telephone inquiries: 873-5958.

The next issue of *The Midden* will appear mid-June, 1986.

Contributors this issue: Kathryn Bernick, Grant Keddie, Phil Hobler, Shelley Lugg, Terry Spurgeon, Mary Ann Tisdale.

Production assistance: Phyllis Mason, Yvonne Prudek.

Subscription is by membership in the A.S.B.C., or \$10.00 a year (5 issues). Overseas \$12.00 a year. Check or postal money order in Canadian funds payable to the A.S.B.C. Address to: *Midden* Subscriptions, P.O. Box 520, Station A, Vancouver, B.C. V6C 2N3.

The contents of *The Midden* are copyrighted by the A.S.B.C. It is unlawful to reproduce all or part by any means whatsoever, without permission of the Society, which is usually gladly given.

Publication of *The Midden* is made possible in part by a grant from the British Columbia Heritage Trust.

THE COVER: *Survey crew on the Stikine River. Photo by P. Hobler.*



The Society

The **Archaeological Society of British Columbia** is dedicated to the protection of archaeological resources and the spread of archaeological knowledge.

Meetings featuring illustrated lectures are held on the second Wednesday of each month (except July and August) at 8:00 p.m. in the Vancouver Museum Auditorium. Visitors and new members are welcome!

COMING TOPICS:

- May 14 Dr. R.G. Matson and Dr. Richard Pearson: Transoceanic migrations —an alternative to Thor Hyerdahl's views.
- June 9 Dr. Jack Nance: archaeology in the SE United States and applications of computer technology in archaeology.

President: Don Bunyan (321-8127)

Vice President: Colin Gurnsey (980-7429)

Membership Secretary: Molly Hay (738-1095)

Membership year runs September 1 - August 31. Fees: single - \$17.00; family - \$20.00; senior citizen - \$12.00; student - \$12.00. Membership includes *Midden* subscription. Address to: A.S.B.C. Membership Secretary, P.O. Box 520, Station A, Vancouver, B.C. V6C 2N3.

Affiliated Chapters: Fraser Valley, Kitimat, Victoria.

✓ **Note change of meeting day for June only:**
Monday, June 9 illustrated lecture preceded by Annual General Meeting.

The Lower Stikine Project

by Philip M. Hobler

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY DATA for British Columbia suggest that the lower reaches of coastal rivers decline in importance as loci of habitation as one moves north. Survey data concerning this point are relatively complete throughout the B.C. coast but become poor as one moves northward into Alaska.

The Nass, the northernmost of the major rivers entering BC coastal waters, has virtually no prehistoric archaeological sites along its lower 40 km. The Stikine River in Alaska, some 300 km north of Prince Rupert, is the logical next major river northward that could be investigated to verify (or refute) this apparent trend.

The Stikine is particularly suitable because Tlingit archaeological sites are known from near its mouth and because numerous prehistoric sites have been found in the upper reaches near Telegraph Creek. The question, then, concerns the intervening area, the 240 km of the lower river between Telegraph Creek and tidewater at Wrangell.

With this focus in mind we conceived of an archaeological survey project for the Stikine. The project was carried out jointly by myself and Jim Hester of the University of Colorado

during the summer of 1985. We were assisted by a crew of three. Funding was obtained from the SFU President's Research Grants Committee and from a similar source at the University of Colorado. I was responsible for the permits and other arrangements on the Canadian portion for the river, and Hester was responsible for the portion of the river that flows through Alaska.

Survey parties operated on foot while the camp supplies and gear, in two outboard boats, were drifted downstream. We covered the 240 miles of river valley between Telegraph Creek, BC, and Wrangell, Alaska, in just less than a month.

Extensive rather than intensive in coverage, our survey concentrated upon those few areas that are relatively immune to the regular flooding and channel change that characterize so much of the Stikine Valley. These terrain features include rocky points and flat ridges with elevations of some 10 to 30 m above river level especially when such features occur at creek mouths.

The results of the survey were surprising even to us. Prehistoric archaeological sites were only found in the uppermost part of our survey, along the 50 km of the river just downstream from

Telegraph Creek. The lower 190 km of the river valley produced no prehistoric sites whatsoever.

We had definitely verified the perceived trend. But what explanations are possible?

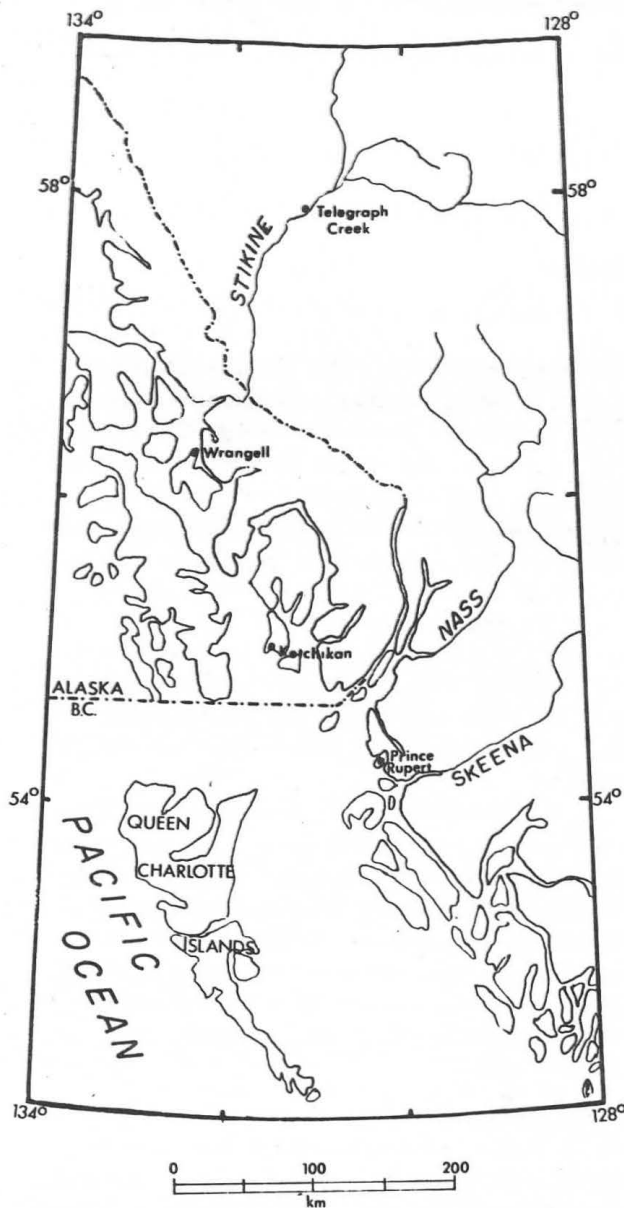
Ethnohistoric accounts repeatedly refer to Tlingit camps on the lower river located on low sand bars. Our own experience showed the advisability of just such a camp location—away from insects and out of reach of bears. The archaeological remains from such an occupation can scarcely be expected to last more than a season.

Another complex of factors may be equally responsible for the absence of earlier prehistoric sites. This is the rate of isostatic rebound (land uplift relative to sea level following the disappearance of the late Pleistocene ice load). This effect becomes magnified as one moves northward up the coast, particularly in Alaska. Within the span of human tenure on the coast the sea may have extended as a fjord a long way up what is now the lower Stikine valley.

In a late night campfire discussion Kevin Gilmore, one of our crew members, neatly characterized the effect of this land rise (emergence) on such a fjord by pointing out that it must have caused a rapid downstream migration of the river delta in response to the (relative) lowering of sea level. Such a process would have filled the narrow valley wall-to-wall with silt as it proceeded. In fact, the present situation on the lower river appears to show the results of just such a process.

A further consideration must be taken into account. Historic documents relate that glaciers in two or more places extended out of side drainages directly into the Stikine valley. Tlingit myths also relate the existence of glaciers blocking or partly blocking Alaskan coastal rivers. It is possible that in recent centuries temporary ice dams created by such glaciers may have obstructed the river's flow creating lakes for short periods.

Thus, on the northern Northwest Coast the factors of geologic instability (ice dams and isostatic rebound) combined with the historic Native pattern of locating camps on sandbars seem to have together resulted in the remarkable scarcity of river valley sites. Such a pattern is hard to believe for those of us accustomed to the more southerly portions of the Northwest Coast where major settlements are found at the mouths of major rivers. I suggest that this pattern should hold up as one moves even further northward on the Coast in southeastern Alaska beyond the Stikine. □



Dr. Philip M. Hobler is an Associate Professor in the Department of Archaeology, Simon Fraser University.

An earlier version of this article appeared in the Spring 1986 issue of Debitage, SFU Archaeology Student Society newsletter.

UBC digs close to home

ASBC MEMBERS may have the opportunity to participate in an archaeological excavation this summer.

Dr. Gary Coupland who will be teaching the UBC field school this summer (July 7 - Aug. 15), is planning a small-scale excavation at the Point Grey Site (*DhRt 5*) in Vancouver.

Coupland has asked the ASBC for assistance. Details have not yet been arranged, but are likely to include opportunities to excavate as well as to help with guided tours and lab work. Members will be notified as soon as plans are firm.

The Point Grey Site was tested by Borden in 1946, and again briefly in 1965. Shell midden deposits extend to a maximum depth of about one metre and appear to be from the Marpole Phase. Borden suggested that the site was a seasonal camping place rather than a village like other Marpole sites found along the Fraser River.

This summer's research will investigate the questions of site function and season of occupation. The analysis will include the artifacts and other data collected by Borden. □

SFU explores floors

A RESEARCH PROJECT at Keatley Creek near Lillooet is seeking criteria for identifying living floors in house pits.

Principal Investigator Dr. Brian Hayden (SFU) calls it a "methods and techniques type of excavation." He and a small team of specialists are spending April and May trying to figure out how one can reliably recognize a house floor during excavation.

The site, *EeRl 7*, features about 70 house pit depressions including some of the largest known in B.C. Hayden estimates that they are 1,000 years old. Little is known about the site since it has not been previously investigated. One speculation is that the village was an important link in the coastal-interior trading network.

Funding for the project is primarily from SSHRC (Canada Council), with support from the SFU Archaeology Dept. Public programming is contingent on receipt of a grant from the B.C. Heritage Trust, still under consideration at press time. □

LOOK FOR/Articles:

Culturally Altered Trees: A Data Source by Russell Hicks. **Northwest Anthropological Research Notes** Vol. 19, No. 1 (Spring 1985), pp. 100-118. The article describes field observations and dendrochronological analysis which testify to the scientific value of modified red cedar trees for culture studies. A brief version appeared in the Dec. 1984 *Midden* (Vol. XVI, No. 5:11-14).

"Ninstints" Village: A Case of Mistaken Identity by Steven R. Acheson. **B.C. Studies** No. 67 (Autumn 1985), pp. 47-56. Acheson argues that the village of Ninstints referred to in accounts of the maritime fur trade was not on Anthony Island, and that the official designation of Ninstints has been applied to the wrong site.

Provincial Museum Publications

by Grant Keddie

THE PUBLICATIONS PROGRAM at the British Columbia Provincial Museum has undergone a complete overhaul. In February 1986 the new General Publications Committee released an internal report on Publications Policies and Procedures. This article provides an overview of the report for *Midden* readers who are interested in the future of BCPM archaeological publications and the question of who will have access to this publishing outlet.

The aims and objectives of the Museum's publication program are:

1. To produce popular literature (including brochures and advertising) of high quality about the human and natural history of British Columbia, literature which stimulates interest in and extends knowledge about the province and the world. These publications will be designed for readers with little or no previous knowledge of the subject.

2. To produce scholarly literature of the highest standards reflecting the results of research by Museum staff and that commissioned by the Museum. These publications are for knowledgeable amateurs as well as for professional readers.

3. To provide an outlet for publishing the results of research carried on outside the Museum, and not commissioned by the Museum, when such research relates to and furthers the missions of the Museum, and when resources permit.

The General Publications Committee recognizes that every effort should be made to determine the need and marketability of the publications. In the meantime, eight specific formats have been selected, designed to provide a sustained and gradually increasing level of knowledge for a diverse readership from the least knowledgeable to the professional.

Popular publications will include: **Penny Folders**, **Companion Books** and **Introductory Books**.

Formats designed as scholarly are: **Handbooks**, **Contributions**, **Memoirs**, and **Heritage Records**.

The third category, **Special Publications**, may be either popular or scholarly, depending on the audience they are designed for. The

Penny Folders: *inexpensive publications that are the answers to frequently asked questions from the public or to the perceived needs of the Museum in supporting exhibits. They will be made available on request to visitors to the Museum or in answer to public enquiries by mail or telephone (2 to 8 pages).*

Companion Books: *designed to support and expand on information provided in exhibits—permanent, temporary, static, or travelling.*

Introductions: *full colour, magazine format introductions to any subject. Aimed at an uninformed audience and designed to encourage interest by using a highly readable style reflecting infectious enthusiasm for the subject. They need not reflect exhibits at the Museum, and therefore can be available through retail outlets (basically 40 pages).*

Handbooks: *will continue to be the field guides to the fauna and flora of British Columbia, and may also include suitable subjects in human history. The audience ranges from the informed amateur to the expert; the Handbooks are seen as an important transition between the Museum's popular and academic literature.*

Memoirs: *this series includes refereed (two outside reviewers) results of original research. Regularly more than 100 pages. Memoirs will be in the style of the former Syesis Supplement and will accommodate former Syesis Supplements, Occasional Papers and Cultural Recovery Papers.*

Contributions: *three refereed series for publication of academic papers regularly less than 50 typeset pages. Papers reporting on the results of original research in archaeology would be under Contributions to Human History. The format would be in the style of the old Syesis.*

Heritage Records: *will continue in the format of the past with some cost-cutting measures; an inexpensive format for publishing lists of data and bibliographies.*

Special Publications: *may be academic or popular, depending on their objectives. These will not be limited in format or colour content. One criterion might be a joint publication project with the private sector. For example: The Ring of Time (popular); The Magic Leaves (academic).*

Committee emphasizes that this list in no way limits the opportunities for other formats and styles as the need for them is recognized.

The General Publications Committee appointed by the Management Team, is responsible for implementing the publications policy and procedures; for identifying and filling the needs of the Museum's publishing program, receiving and acting on submissions to publish, establishing priorities and budgetary requirements, and ensuring that the highest standards of scholarly and popular publishing are met. The committee will comprise one permanent member (the Chief of Publications) and four rotating members who will each serve for two years.

As of now all Museum publications, including non-staff submissions, must originate as projects or components of projects approved by the Management Team of the Museum, and be developed from the operative strategy and guidelines for the Museum as established by the Management Team. This means that outside submissions will not be "caught in the machinery." Once an outside manuscript has been accepted a Publication Production Unit

will be responsible for assembling and coordinating all the stages required for publication and ensuring that deadlines are met.

Members of the archaeological community outside the Provincial Museum may now have a better opportunity to publish through the Museum, but the requirements for what is published will be more rigorous than in the past.

An up-to-date catalogue of Museum publications will be published annually. It will contain information on the context, cost, and ordering procedure for each publication.

A careful and selected advertising program will be aimed at the Museum's audience, and a questionnaire designed to elicit reader reaction will be included in Museum publications.

Anyone wishing details of the various publishing formats or answers to related questions should write to: The Chairman, General Publications Committee, British Columbia Provincial Museum, 675 Belleville, Victoria, B.C. V8V 1X4. □

ASBC member Grant Keddie is a Research Curator in archaeology at the B.C. Provincial Museum.

Conferences

B.C.H.F.

The British Columbia Historical Federation is holding its annual conference May 8-11, 1986, on the UBC campus. Sessions will be held at the Gage Towers Conference Centre, and will include scholarly presentations, an historic fashion show, a booksale, and social events. More information from the Vancouver Historical Society, c/o Jill Rowland, #203 - 1590 West 15th Ave., Vancouver, B.C. V6J 2K6 (734-1544 or 666-5868).

C.M.A.

The Canadian Museums Association will meet in Victoria on May 20-24, 1986. This year's conference theme is *Museums and the Political Culture*. For more information contact the B.C. Museums Association, 609 Superior St., Victoria, B.C. V8V 1V1 (Tel. 387-3971).

Heritage Society of B.C.

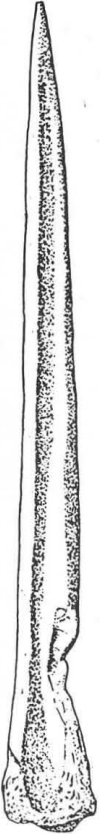
The Heritage Society of British Columbia's annual conference is planned for May 29 - June 1, 1986, at the International Plaza Hotel, 1999 Marine Drive, North Vancouver. This year's theme is *Our Heritage in Transportation and Communication*. For details contact Mary Liz Bayer, President, B.C. Heritage Society, P.O. Box 520, Station A, Vancouver, B.C. V6C 2N3.

Element and Taxon Identification of Bone Artifacts

A Case for the Zooarchaeologist

Drawings by Barbara Hodgson,
reprinted with permission from Percy, 1974.
Scale: 2:3.

by Shelley A. Lugg



*Deer
metatarsus
awl.*

FAUNAL ANALYSIS has become an important part of archaeological data analysis in British Columbia. Having a specialist (zooarchaeologist) examine the faunal assemblage recovered from a midden site contributes significantly to our understanding of prehistoric environments and culture on the Northwest Coast. However, often a component of the faunal assemblage is excluded from the analysis—the bone, tooth, and antler artifacts. These may only represent a small percentage of the total faunal assemblage, but if enough bone artifacts can be identified to element and species, then their inclusion in the faunal tabulations will influence the statistics used by the zooarchaeologists.

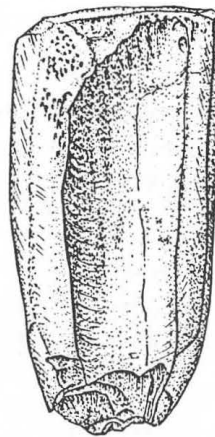
In addition to identification of the element and species from which the artifact was derived, a zooarchaeologist can assist the archaeologist to correctly assign artifact status, and provide information for artifact analysis (for example, more complete descriptions of bone element modification, observations on manufacturing techniques and use-wear). This information can be used to refine the artifact descriptions and artifact type categories presently used in the literature.

A sample of mammal bone artifacts recovered from a midden site was examined to see how many bone artifacts can be identified to element and species, and to reveal the types of problems encountered by archaeologists in classifying bone artifacts.

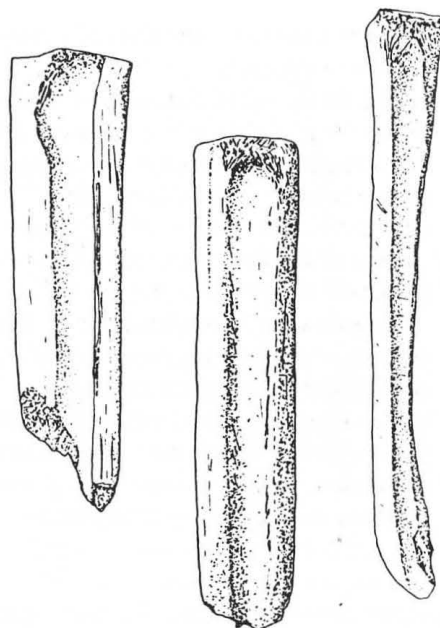
The Site, the Sample and the Methodology

The sample of mammal bone artifacts (antler and tooth artifacts were excluded) selected for this study was derived from the artifact assemblage of the 1972 excavations at the Crescent Beach Site (*DgRr 1*) (Percy 1974). The site is located south of the Fraser River on the eastern shore of Boundary Bay in Surrey.

The sample consists of 298 mammal bone artifacts. They were identified at the faunal lab in the Department of Archaeology at Simon Fraser University. Identification involved comparing the bone artifacts with the skeletal parts of the taxa present in the comparative



*Elk metatarsus
wedge.*

Deer metatarsus chisels.

faunal collections. Where possible, the element and taxon from which the artifact was manufactured was identified. Attributes recorded include: taxon, element (e.g. femur), part of element (e.g. shaft fragment, proximal or distal end), and information such as the ways in which the bone element was altered, morphological features which were altered or eliminated in the manufacturing process, and type of modification (e.g. ground, polished, burnt, cut, gnawed).

Results

Closer examination of the 298 artifacts revealed that 16 bone fragments originally described by Percy are not artifacts. Of the remaining 282 artifacts, element and taxon could be identified for seventy-six or 25.5%. The results are presented in Table 1. The artifact types used by Percy have not been altered.

The majority of mammal bone artifacts were derived from deer bone (*Odocoileus* sp.) and elk bone (*Cervus* sp.). The elements most commonly selected for modification were the metapodials (metacarpus, metatarsus), rib, ulna, tibia and radius. These elements were used to make tools such as awls, needles, chisels and wedges. Two dog ulnae (*Canis familiaris*), and one beaver ulna (*Castor canadensis*) were identified in the non-artifact group.

The results indicate that there was a selection of particular elements to make tools with a

specific function and a pattern was detected in the method of manufacture. For example, the size and shape of the deer ulna, which accommodates a gripping hand, required only minor modification to make an awl; deer metapodials were split into quarters or halves to be used as awls or chisels; each metatarsal was split longitudinally into medial and lateral halves utilizing the natural groove to produce two chisels; the proximal ends of elk metapodials, either split or left whole, were large enough to be used as wedges; the thin cortical bone of a split rib was sharpened to a fine point to be used as an awl or needle.

Factors Influencing Bone Artifact Identification

Identification of element and taxon depends on the presence of morphological features, and the degree of modification.

Morphological Features. The ends of long-bones contain a number of morphological features that make identification of elements possible and contain many diagnostic features that facilitate the identification of species. Thus, artifacts made from ends of long-bones have the greatest potential for identification. For example, an implement made from the proximal end of an ulna or metatarsus can easily be identified. Artifacts made from the shafts of long-bones are difficult to identify to element or

taxon but can be identified if a ridge, groove, or foramen is present.

The thickness of the cortical bone and the size of the bone element also facilitate identification. For example, ribs have thinner cortical bone and characteristic medullary bone. Also, large mammal can be distinguished from small mammal by the thickness of the cortical bone and the size of the bone element.

Degree of Modification. Bone artifacts undergo a varying amount of modification during the manufacturing process. The artifacts that were the least identifiable were those with the most modification. For example, barbed harpoons, barbs, valves, and points have been ground on all surfaces eliminating the diagnostic features that would have aided identification. Other artifacts made from the ends of long-bones, such as chisels and wedges, have been partially modified leaving only a few identification features visible. For example, the articular end is ground flat to produce an even striking surface (probably to reduce splintering

of the bone tool as the force from the blow is distributed evenly over the surface), and the circumference near the articular end is ground (probably to provide a smoother surface for a hand grip). Since the identification features of these artifacts have been modified partially by grinding, exact identification of the element is difficult.

Implements such as awls, made from the proximal ends of ulnae are only slightly modified. The shaft end is ground to a point and through use it is slowly shortened. An ulna awl that has been used extensively will also show polish and the articular surface will be worn down.

For artifacts made from rib, the amount of modification was not the factor that limited identification of species. Ribs from any one mammal come in a variety of shapes, sizes, and thicknesses and are difficult to identify to species. Thus, the classification of rib artifacts is limited to "mammal rib awls" and "mammal rib needles."

Table 1
Artifact Element and Taxon Identification

<i>Element and Species</i>	<i>Number of Artifacts</i>	<i>Type of Artifact (Percy 1974)</i>
Mammal rib	25	Awls, needles, pendant, blanket pins, unidentified worked bone objects
<i>Odocoileus</i> sp.		
Rt. Ulna	1	Ulna implement
Lf. Ulna	3	Ulna implements
Rt. Metacarpus	4	Wedge, chisels, unidentified worked bone object
Lf. Metacarpus	1	Awl
Rt. Tibia	1	Unidentified worked bone object
Lf. Tibia	6	Bone splinter awl, unidentified worked bone objects
Rt. Metatarsus	5	Chisels, awls, unidentified worked bone objects
Lf. Metatarsus	9	Chisels, awls, splinter awl, unidentified worked bone object
Metapodial	14	Awl, small bone gouge bit, unidentified worked bone object
Mandible	1	Ulna implement
<i>Cervus</i> sp.		
Lf. Metatarsus	4	Wedges
Rt. tibia	1	Unidentified worked bone object
Metapodial	1	Wedge
Total: 76		

Problems in Identifying Bone Artifacts

This study of the Crescent Beach mammal bone artifacts revealed two general types of error made in the original analysis. The first is incorrect bone element identification. Two deer mandible fragments and a deer thoracic vertebra spine were mistaken for ulna implements and many rib artifacts were not distinguished as rib.

The second type of error is in artifact recognition. The Crescent Beach sample includes two dog ulna fragments, a beaver ulna fragment, a deer thoracic vertebra spine, a deer tibia crest fragment, rib fragments, a deer metatarsus shaft fragment, and other miscellaneous bone fragments which were described as artifacts although they have no evidence of deliberate modification. They seem to have been included because of their general shapes.

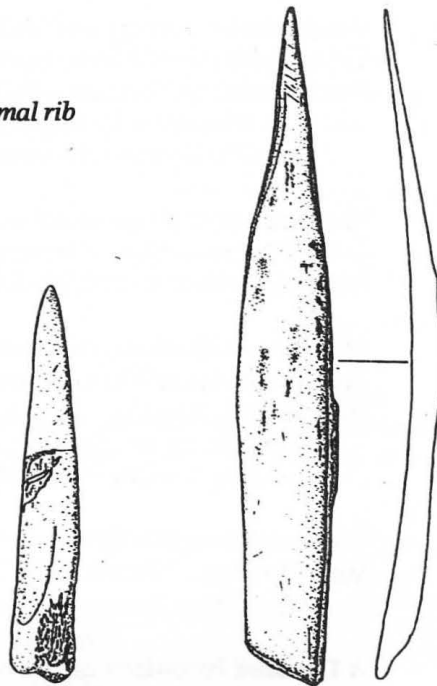
In addition, bones with butchering marks and gnawed bones were classified as artifacts although none had any other marks that suggested it was altered for tool use. Also, a deer mandible fragment and a beaver ulna were darkened by fire which resulted in what may have appeared as use-wear polish.

Percy began his analysis of the Crescent Beach artifacts in 1972, at a time when there was no faunal type-collection at Simon Fraser University with which to compare bone artifacts and there were few qualified people to undertake analysis of faunal remains. However, these types of error probably still exist when bone artifacts are not examined by someone who is familiar with the fauna used in artifact manufacture.

In order to include bone artifacts in the faunal assemblage, the faunal assemblage can be divided into three categories: 1) artifacts and artifact preforms (worked bone)—complete and incomplete; 2) non-artifactual modified faunal remains (including bones with butchering marks and chew marks); and 3) non-artifactual faunal remains (bones with no evidence of human or animal modification).

After these three categories have been delineated and the data have been included in the zooarchaeologist's tabulations of taxonomic abundance (MNI and NISP), the artifacts can be returned to the archaeologist. The archaeologist would have more detailed artifact descriptions to work with and the zooarchaeologist would have statistically accurate data to conduct his/her analysis.

Mammal rib awls



Conclusion

The present examination of the Crescent Beach mammal bone artifacts is in no way a criticism of the investigator's analysis, but a reflection of the increasing recognition of the importance of faunal analysis in archaeology. Despite the amount of modification that bone artifacts undergo in the manufacturing process, element and species were identified for 25.5% of the bone artifacts in the assemblage.

This study indicates that there are legitimate reasons for having a zooarchaeologist examine bone artifacts. Most important is the refinement of artifact descriptions and artifact type categories which can be used in future research. The bone artifact assemblage, like the lithic assemblage, is representative of prehistoric technology, and more can be learned from a thorough examination of bone artifacts. □

Reference Cited

Percy, R.C.W. 1974. The Prehistoric Cultural Sequence at Crescent Beach, British Columbia. Unpublished M.A. thesis. Dept. of Archaeology, Simon Fraser University.

Shelley A. Lugg is studying for her B.A. in archaeology at Simon Fraser University.

New Publications

Palaeoanthropology and Palaeolithic Archaeology in the People's Republic of China edited by Wu Rukang and John W. Olsen. Foreword by F. Clark Howell. Academic Press, Toronto. 1985. 293 pp., ill. \$75.75 (hardcover).

A collection of 15 original articles by Chinese scholars discussing human evolution and Pleistocene archaeology as it is understood in China today.

The Indians of Puget Sound: The Notebooks of Myron Eells edited by George Pierre Castile. Afterword by William W. Elmendorf. University of Washington Press with Whitman College, Seattle. 1985. 470 pp., ill. \$40.00 US (hardcover). See review.

Window on the Past, Archaeological Assessment of the Peace Point Site, Wood Buffalo National Park, Alberta by Marc G. Stevenson. Parks Canada, Ottawa. 1986. Studies in Archaeology, Architecture and History. 145 pp., ills. \$8.75.

Results of recent investigations at a stratified site in northern Alberta and the implications for northern hunter-gatherer culture studies.

The Devil and Mr. Duncan, A History of the Two Metlakatlas by Peter Murray. Sono Nis Press, Victoria. 1985. 341 pp. \$19.95 (hardcover).

A study of the career of the controversial missionary William Duncan.

A Detailed Inventory of the Barbeau Northwest Coast Files prepared by John J. Cove. *National Museum of Man Mercury Series, Canadian Centre for Folk Culture Studies Paper No. 54*. National Museums of Canada, Ottawa. 1985. 260 pp.

A list of materials about the Northwest Coast (primarily Tsimshian) in the Barbeau archives in Ottawa; arranged by data type and general topic. Includes a subject index to Barbeau's Northwest Coast fieldnotes.

Borden Commemoration Announced

THE VANCOUVER CENTENNIAL COMMISSION Plaque Committee will be erecting a plaque in recognition of the contribution to British Columbia archaeology made by the late Dr. Charles E. Borden.

The plaque reads:

Father of B.C. archaeology Charles E. Borden (1905-1978) investigated the prehistory of Vancouver and the lower Fraser valley. His famous excavation at Locarno Beach discovered evidence of human occupation dating back over 3,000 years.

The plaque has not been erected yet as a suitable site remains to be chosen. The ASBC has been requested to assist in selecting the location.

The various Centennial plaques to be erected by the City will be the topic of a book by Chuck Davis in which he will provide more details on the plaque subjects. □

- Terry Spurgeon

Book Reviews

Eells opus published

The Indians of Puget Sound: The Notebooks of Myron Eells edited by George Pierre Castile. University of Washington Press with Whitman College, Seattle. 1985. 470 pp., ill. \$40.00 US (hardcover).

MYRON EELLS wrote **The Indians of Puget Sound** during the last quarter of the nineteenth century when he was resident missionary on the Skokomish Reservation. Selected portions have appeared in print, but the complete manuscript—over one thousand handwritten pages—is published now for the first time.

Eells, himself a promoter of "civilization," recognized that the native people he lived among were undergoing a process of acculturation. He also saw the importance of describing the aboriginal culture in detail. Living on the Reservation and ministering to several tribes in the region provided many opportunities for first hand observation.

The Indians of Puget Sound is organized into 27 topical chapters with an emphasis on aspects of material culture and religion. The editor provides unobtrusive notes indicating the few changes he has made to the text, as well as occasional references to other more recent interpretations of particular customs.

An introduction, written by anthropologist and editor George Pierre Castile, gives a biographical sketch of Eells and a general account of the historical setting.

At the back of the volume there are several features which enhance its value as a reference tool: a bibliography of Eells' many publications on Indian affairs, an excellent index, and an appraisal of Eells' ethnographic work by the expert on Puget Sound Indians, William W. Elmendorf.

My major criticism is of the illustrations. Castile substitutes black and white photographs of the artifacts collected by Eells for the inexpert

drawings in the manuscript. However, none includes a scale, and no dimensions are given. Many are dark with deep shadows. The captions are minimal and sometimes misleading (the cattail rush mat illustrated on page 77 is not constructed like those Eells describes).

It's a handsome book, beautifully designed and printed. And it's readable. Anyone who has chased after obscure publications to read Eells will be doubly appreciative. □

- Kathryn Bernick

Midden Editor Kathryn Bernick is an archaeologist with a special interest in the Coast Salish area.

More about computers

Data Processing in Archaeology by J.D. Richards and N.S. Ryan. Cambridge Univ. Press, NY 1985. 232 pp., ill. \$24.95US (hardcover).

IN A WORLD seemingly up to its eyes in books, periodicals, workshops, and conferences on computer uses, we might wonder what sort of ground remains to be covered by yet *another* offering of this sort.

The authors anticipate this question in the preface, where they claim, quite rightly, that there is a crying need for an up to date guide to computer uses addressed solely to archaeological concerns. Even though archaeology is taught as a branch of the social sciences, its subject matter and methods are sufficiently unlike those of its sister disciplines to require separate treatment.

Data Processing in Archaeology is not intended to be an instruction manual in programming or a computer science text. Rather, it is designed to be a practical guide for the beginner, and a reference manual for those archaeologists who already have some experience in computer applications.

The book is carefully organized. For the beginner, the eight chapters are presented in a logical order. An introduction to basic concepts in data processing and a history of applications

in archaeology is followed by chapters covering technical terminology, definition and measurement of data, summaries of computer hardware types, programming languages, data coding and entry procedures, data file management, and a survey of currently available software packages and the range of data management tasks they apply to. Advances in word processing and computer graphics receive particular attention.

The text is supplemented with photographs of hardware components, examples of program files and data bases drawn from specific archaeological research problems. Computer jargon is clearly identified, and there is a glossary, which beginners will find indispensable.

The table of contents presents a detailed, hierarchical summary of topics. This plus the index allow the beginner as well as the experienced user to make selective use of the text for quick reference. Those wishing to refer to fully detailed case studies should consult the bibliography, since the examples used in the text are abbreviated.

Although Richards and Ryan seek to address the needs of experienced as well as hatching computer buffs, I think they only succeed in serving the latter group effectively. Anyone who has survived their initial dunking in the waters of computerese will find **Data Processing in Archaeology** too general and brief in coverage to be of more than passing interest.

Applications of computer technology to archaeological problems continue to expand at an overwhelming pace, rendering any attempt to present a "current" picture obsolete almost before it is printed. For this reason, I would recommend the addition of **Data Processing in Archaeology** to university, museum, and public libraries, but hesitate to suggest that we all rush out and get our own personal copies without having a good look through it first. □

- Mary Ann Tisdale

ASBC member Mary Ann Tisdale is a Ph.D. student in Anthropology at UBC, specializing in Canadian boreal forest prehistory and ceramic technology.

News Bits

Archaeologists return to South Moresby

The Kunghit-Haida project at the southern tip of the Queen Charlotte Islands will be going ahead with a third field season. This summer's work, scheduled to start in June, will focus on a continuation of the site testing program, with more detailed excavations at a small village site, time permitting.

Victoria mulls next move

Marcel Masse, federal Minister of Communications, has written to the provincial ministers stating that he wants to review the cultural property export and import legislation. Russ Irvine, Director of B.C. Heritage Conservation Branch, told *The Midden* that "in the meantime individual cases will be reviewed on their own merit." Irvine is preparing a response from the Ministry to the editorial in the last *Midden* (Vol.XVIII, No.1) which protested the recent export for sale of a designated artifact and demanded effective heritage protection legislation.

HCB taps land use expertise

The vacancy in the Impact Assessment Division of the Heritage Conservation Branch advertised in November, has been filled by Jim Pike. The position is a temporary replacement for Steve Acheson who is away on study leave. Pike has a B.A. in anthropology from UVic. For the past several years he worked for the Ministry of Lands Parks and Housing in Dawson Creek and Fort St. John, and was a Volunteer Regional Advisor for the Peace River area.

Vancouver sites need protection

The archaeological component of the Vancouver Heritage Resource Inventory has now been completed and a final report submitted to the City. Provincial Archaeologist Art Charlton is consulting with the Vancouver Planning Dept. to develop an effective site protection scheme.

Trust awards scholarship

The B.C. Heritage Trust awarded the Borden scholarship for 1986/87 to Mike Rousseau, an M.A. student in the Archaeology Dept. at SFU.

EXHIBITS

at the UBC Museum of Anthropology

HANDS OF OUR ANCESTORS: *The Revival of Salish Weaving at Musqueam*—until July 20. Weaving demonstrations every Tues. and Sun., 1:00 - 2:00 pm (demonstration days will change in June).

ROBES OF POWER: *Totem Poles on Cloth*. An exhibition of ceremonial button blankets made by Northwest Coast native artists. Until May 25.

JACK SHADBOLT AND THE INDIAN IMAGE—opening June 17, until Nov. 20. The exhibition will include 30 paintings by Shadbolt (10 are new) and 25 Northwest Coast masks in a theme of transformation and cross-cultural exploration.

OUR ELDERS SPEAK—a photo archival exhibit opening in June.

☆ Lectures on Egypt ☆

☆ Dr. Hanna Kassis (Dept. of Religious Studies, UBC) is giving a series of public lectures, *Ramses II: the Pharaoh and his Times*, illustrated with slides of the artifacts on display at EXPO:

- Wednesday, April 9 Vancouver Museum (ASBC and AIA meeting).
- Thursday, April 10 West End Community Centre, Vancouver (morning lecture series for seniors).
- Tuesday, April 15 Brock House, Vancouver, 10:30 am.
- Wednesday, April 16 Oliver Museum, 7:30 pm.
- Thursday, April 24 Delta Museum and Archives, 7:30 pm.
- Monday, May 12 Mission Museum.
- Tuesday, May 13 Maple Ridge Municipal Chambers, 7:30 pm.
- Thursday, May 15 Abbotsford-Clearbrook Library, 7:30 pm.
- Friday, May 16 Kamloops.
- Tuesday, May 20 Prince Rupert.
- Wednesday, May 21 Kitimat.

☆ T.G.H. James, keeper of the Egyptian collection at the British Museum in London, will be giving three public lectures in the Vancouver-Victoria area:

- Wednesday, May 28 *Ramses the Great*. 8:00 pm, in the Newcombe Theatre, Victoria.
- Thursday, May 29 *Temples and Pyramids of Ancient Egypt*. Images Theatre, Simon Fraser University, 7:30 pm.
- Sunday, June 1 *Ramses II*. 7:00 pm, in the Vancouver Museum Auditorium.

The Midden
P. O. Box 520
Station A
Vancouver, B.C.
V6C 2N3