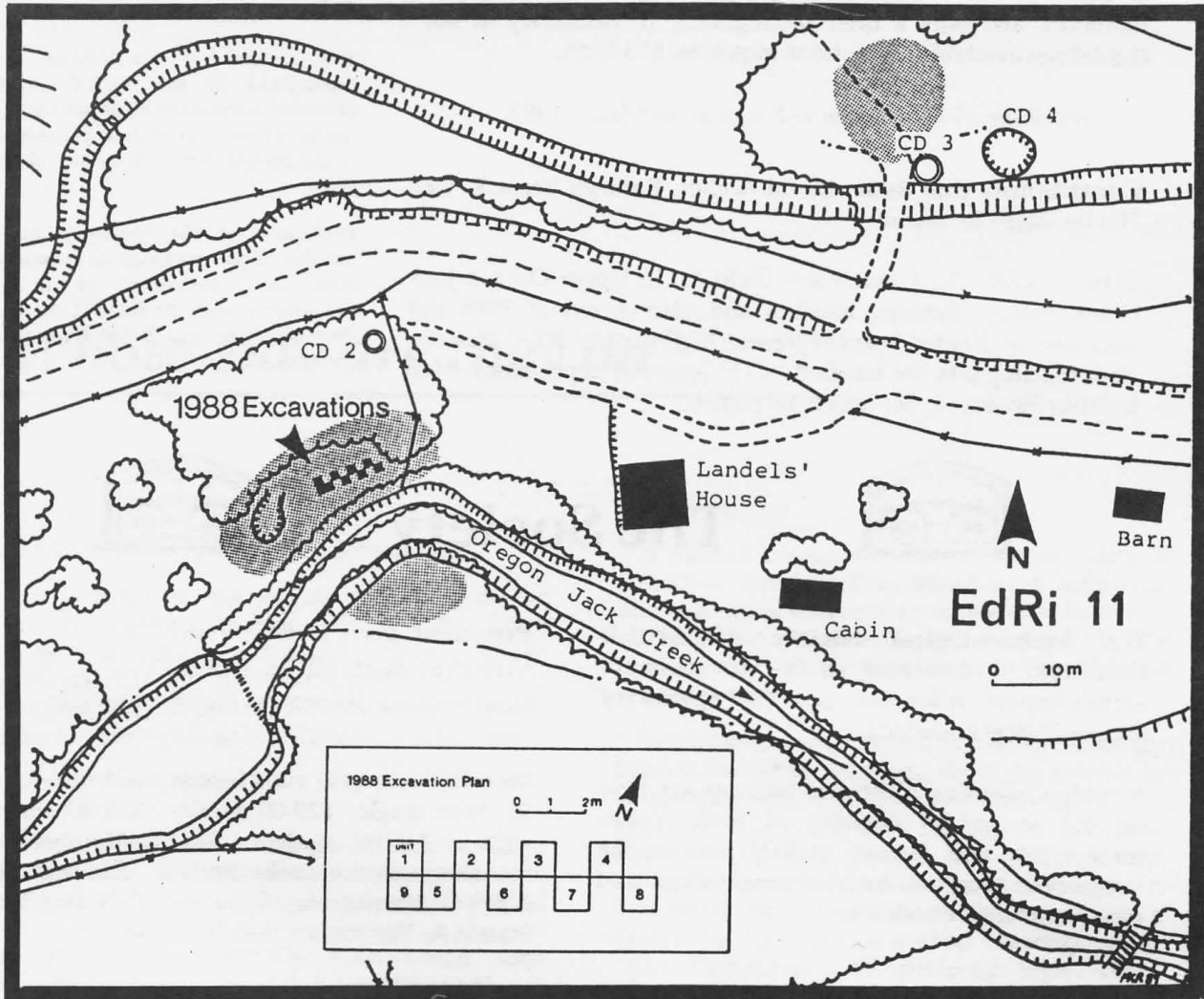


The Midden

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INSIDE: More on government secrecy . . . page 1. New publications . . . page 3. Book Review . . . page 4. News Bits . . . page 5. Ashcroft area rich in sites . . . page 6. Debitage . . . page 12. Atlatl comes of age . . . page 13.

The Midden

Publication of the Archaeological Society of British Columbia

Editor: Kathryn Bernick

Subscriptions and Mailing: Helmi Braches

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, 1989.

Contributors this issue: David Archer, Kathryn Bernick, Deb Hayles, Mike Rousseau.

THE COVER: The Landels site (*EdRi 11*) in Upper Oregon Jack Creek Valley, showing location and plan (inset) of 1988 test excavations. Shaded areas represent high density lithic scatters. Root-roasting pits are labelled "CD" (cultural depression). Map by Mike Rousseau. See article on page 6.

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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 10 Jim Placzek: overview of the pre-history of Thailand.
- June 14 Kathryn Bernick: perishable artifacts from the Water Hazard site in Tsawwassen.

President: Terry Spurgeon (464-1984)

Vice President: Bill Paull (980-5186)

Membership Secretary: Helen Smith (224-1426)

Membership year runs September 1 to August 31. Fees: single - \$20.00; family - \$25.00; senior citizen - \$15.00; student - \$15.00. 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. Meetings featuring illustrated lectures are held on the third Tuesday of each month (September to May) at 7:45 p.m. on the Fraser Valley College campus. President: Bill Koberstein (859-1921). Secretary: Andy Purdy (823-4920).

Victoria. President: Shirley Cuthbertson (c/o Royal B.C. Museum).

Editorial

Whose side are they on?

PLEASE TELL ME if I missed something.

In a letter to the editor published in the February 1989 *Midden* (Vol.21:1:2), Brian Aplan defends confidentiality clauses on the grounds that the Archaeology Branch has "a responsibility to protect the ownership rights to information"—for British Columbia taxpayers.

Protect from whom?

Am I so naive that I cannot see the bad-guys lurking in the shadows waiting for an opportunity to gobble up archaeological information, or is this mere rhetoric on the part of Mr. Aplan. Exactly how would such knowledge be used against the public good?

Assume, for example, that The Enemy eluded the ever-watchful Archaeology Branch staff and seized some morsels (a half dozen radiocarbon dates, a couple horizons, three phases, and a list of fish species that may or may not have been someone's dinner 2,000 years ago.) What would they *do* with that information?

If Aplan knows of a market for such data, it behooves him to tell us about it. A legitimate and honorable source of money would be useful to help fund archaeological projects. If it's unscrupulous, public awareness is the only sure way to overcome.

Instead of chasing phantoms, the Archaeology Branch should be worrying about the market in antiquities, which is alive and thriving in this province. Classified ads seeking to purchase arrowheads, trade beads, and other Indian artifacts appeared a few months ago in Vancouver papers, and according to rumor, a dealer has just opened a shop brazenly called "The Pothunter." All perfectly legal. Good money for archaeological artifacts, no questions asked.

Shouldn't the government be clamping down on unethical trafficking that encourages looting and destruction of information, rather than muzzling archaeologists?

- Kathryn Bernick

Historical Archaeology

Golden Burials

THE B.C. HERITAGE TRUST awarded \$27,000 to SFU for a second season of excavation and archive research in Golden, B.C.

The Golden Pioneer Cemetery Relocation Project was initiated in response to vandalism of an abandoned cemetery that was in use from 1882 to 1893. By combining archive data and skeletal analysis, project supervisor Dr. Mark Skinner and field director Lindsay Oliver hope to reconstruct biographical profiles of the burials they dig up.

Last year, five skeletons were removed—three adult males; a four-year-old child, probably female; and a newborn infant. Skinner, a forensic archaeologist, told *The Midden* that one of the adults was apparently murdered, in 1888 (there are bullet holes in his skull). Other

interesting details include the use of double coffins—some partly burnt, possibly while thawing the ground for a winter burial.

One of the more difficult aspects of the project is finding the burials. They are literally "six feet under"—much deeper than other burials of that era, Skinner says. This summer, fieldworkers will try to locate additional burials using subsurface radar, a technique employed by police in crime investigations.

The six-week field project will take place in June and July. When Lindsay Oliver finishes analyzing the skeletal remains (her M.A. thesis research in Archaeology, SFU), the bones will be reburied in Golden's modern cemetery—no longer nameless pioneers, but individuals with life stories. □

Crossroads of Continents

The UBC Museum of Anthropology and Centre for Continuing Education plan a bus tour to Seattle to view the *Crossroads of Continents* exhibit presenting the history, art, and traditional cultures of the Siberian, Aleut, Eskimo, and Northwest Coast peoples living in the Bering Sea and North Pacific region.

- Tour leader: Dr. David Pokotylo, Curator of Archaeology, MOA.
- Field trip: Wednesday, June 21 (to be confirmed).
- Cost: \$58 (\$52 MOA members).

For further information phone 222-5237.

Get ready for Site C

THERE IS NO OFFICIAL WORD, but if rumors and newspaper reports are true, B.C. Hydro's Site C dam project will go ahead soon, and that will mean work for archaeologists.

Provincial Archaeologist Brian Apland says that exploratory testing going on now in the Peace River area requires regular impact assessment. A decision to proceed with the dam would probably be met with a request that the entire area be checked out and threatened archaeological resources appropriately "mitigated."

The Heritage Conservation Branch's submission to the B.C. Utilities Commission hearing in 1982 emphasized that not nearly enough is known about prehistoric sites in the impact area to make rational management decisions. The Branch estimated that the 198 known sites represent only one-third of the archaeological resources in the area to be

flooded. Many of the sites are rated as having high scientific or interpretive potential.

Archaeologically, the bottom line is the 6,000 years (minimum) of human history and prehistory in a little-known area that formed a major communication link between the northern plains and boreal forests and the interior of British Columbia.

For B.C. Hydro, the bottom line is money. Current rumors put the price of doing the required archaeological work at \$4-6 million—about one-fifth of one percent of the dam cost.

The actual amount of money, and the scheduling of work, await formal decisions about Site C. In the meantime, the Archaeology Branch is gathering information. Another way to prepare, is to dig out your old copies of *The Midden* and read Nick Russell's excellent analysis of Site C in the June 1983 issue (Vol.15, No.3:7-12). □

New Publications

Microwear Patterns on Experimental Basalt Tools by Thomas H. Richards. British Archaeological Reports, International Series 460. 1988. L 18.00 (includes postage).

Richards' M.A. thesis (Univ. of Saskatchewan, 1988). Order from: B.A.R., 5, Centremead, Osney Mead, Oxford OX2 0DQ, England.

Cultures in Conflict: Current Archaeological Perspectives edited by Diana Claire Tkaczuk and Brian C. Vivian. Univ. of Calgary Archaeological Association, Calgary, Alberta. 1989. Proceedings of the 20th Annual Conference of the Archaeological Assoc., Univ. of Calgary. 302 pp., ill., bibls. (paper).

Thirty-one papers presented at the 1987 Chacmool conference dealing with warfare and culture conflict in archaeological contexts around the world.

Book Review

Tantalizing, but thin

Prehistoric Culture Change at Kitselas Canyon by Gary Coupland. Canadian Museum of Civilization, National Museums of Canada, Hull, Quebec. 1988. ASC Mercury Series No. 138. 382 pp., ill., bibl. \$24.95 (paper).

FOR WELL OVER A CENTURY cultural anthropologists have been fascinated by the rank societies of the Northwest Coast. Ethnologists have described how these societies operated in the recent past, and the functions of the potlatch and other related institutions are now fairly well understood. The outstanding problems at present concern the development of ranking—when, where, and how did such complex patterns evolve. These questions can only be answered through well designed archaeological research. One of the first excavation projects to focus specifically on the question of ranking was conducted between 1981 and 1983 at the Paul Mason Site on the lower Skeena River. The results of this important study are presented in the latest Mercury Series volume, **Prehistoric Culture Change at Kitselas Canyon** by Gary Coupland.

Based on his own work, as well as earlier excavations at the nearby site of Gitauas, Coupland develops a prehistoric sequence for the Kitselas Canyon area covering the period from about 5000 B.P. to 2000 B.P. Most archaeologists would agree that this is when rank societies first appeared on the Northwest Coast. Coupland suggests that the societies of this period passed through a series of

organizational stages—around 5000 B.P. they were egalitarian and non-corporate in nature; by 3000 B.P. they were corporate (i.e., exercised rights of ownership over their resource areas), but still egalitarian; and by 2000 B.P. they were corporate and ranked. This seems logical enough, although the details of his argument leave ample scope for debate.

Coupland then proceeds to evaluate the stage hypothesis against the actual data from Kitselas Canyon. For this he relies heavily on a series of house features dating to the Paul Mason Phase (3200-2700 B.P.). He notes that the features are smaller and more uniform in size than local native houses of the historic period. This is interpreted as support for the idea that the communities of the Paul Mason Phase, though corporate, were still egalitarian. The evidence presented is certainly tantalizing, but more prehistoric data are needed to confirm and flesh out the pattern.

Although the results of his study are inconclusive, Coupland does show that the analysis of house features is a useful way to investigate the origins of ranking, and this in itself is an important contribution. Professional archaeologists working in B.C. will undoubtedly want to add **Prehistoric Culture Change at Kitselas Canyon** to their bookshelves. Others may find it a bit technical, but still perhaps worth a few hours of their time at the local library. □

- David Archer

ASBC member David Archer is a Ph.D. candidate in archaeology at the University of Calgary, conducting research in the lower Skeena River area.

News Bits

Colleges join feds

Lower Mainland community colleges (Capilano, Douglas, Fraser Valley, and Langara) return to Fort Langley for a second season of archaeological work in association with the Canadian Parks Service. Excavations will focus on the kitchen building, behind the main house. The field school, scheduled for May 3 - June 28.

Archaeologists find skeletons

Arcas Associates salvaged five burials this winter from the *DgRs 2* Tsawwassen midden. They are separate interments, probably buried at different times, but were all in one pit on top of a mound of shell. There were no grave goods. The burials likely date to late Marpole times.

BCMA announces course

The B.C. Museums Association is offering a 3-day certificate seminar in basic museum studies. Topics include public relations, conservation, exhibition, and care of collections. Cost: \$55 (\$45 BCMA members). The seminars will be held in May, June, and July in various B.C. communities. Further information from Jacqui Gijssen at the Victoria B.C.M.A. office, 387-3315.

Profs share student crew

This summer, SFU fieldschool students will rotate between two archaeological sites—Dr. Brian Hayden's excavations at Keatley Creek near Lillooet and Phil Hobler's Bella Coola dig. Both are continuing research projects. Fieldwork schedules are not set yet.

Erosion claims famous midden

Morley Eldridge recently completed a detailed assessment of erosion-damaged archaeological sites in Montague Harbour Marine Park in the Gulf Islands. The B.C. Parks Branch is responsible for management of these archaeological resources, which include the Montague Harbour midden (*DfRu 13*) excavated in the mid 1960s by Don Mitchell and the basis of his Gulf of Georgia culture type scheme.

UBC digs Crescent Beach

Dr. R.G. Matson will teach UBC's archaeology field course this summer at the Crescent Beach site (*DgRr 1*), a multi-component shell midden spanning the period 2000 B.C. to A.D. 500. Excavation will take place in July and August and pending receipt of research funding also in May and June. Public tours are planned.



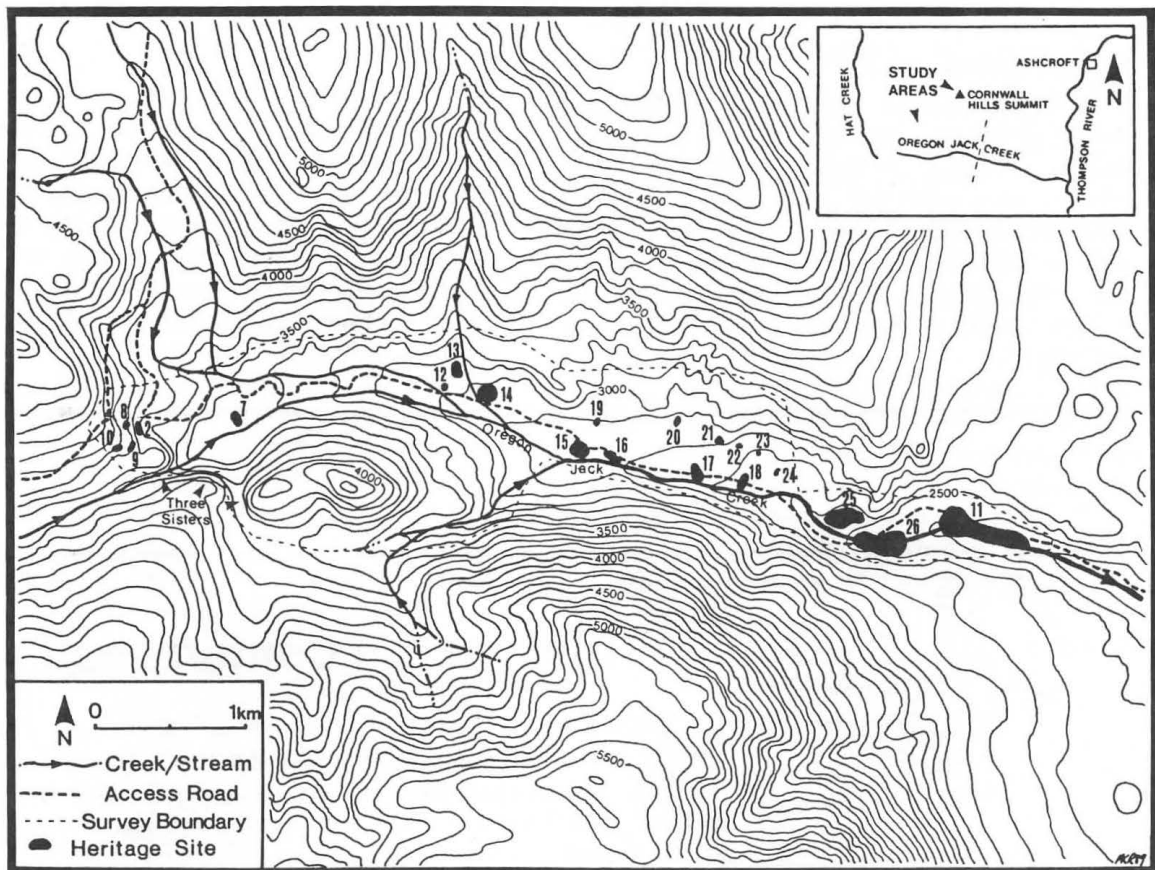
Underwater Conference

The Underwater Archaeological Society of British Columbia is holding its 4th annual symposium April 29-30, 1989. The program includes speakers on B.C. shipwrecks and Spanish galleons, a buffet dinner, and dive workshops. The lectures, all on the Saturday, are at the Vancouver Maritime Museum. For more information call Tom Beasley (734-2602) or Gwyn Shipman (987-9639).

Upper Oregon Jack Creek

Heritage Resources

by Mike K. Rousseau



Heritage resources in Upper Oregon Jack Creek Valley near Ashcroft. Borden block EdRi.

ek Valley

OREGON JACK'S REAL NAME was John Dowling. According to local folklore, he was a prospector from Oregon who sought his fortune during the late 1880s in the valley that bears his nickname. Frustrated with prospecting, he allegedly held up a stagecoach on the Cariboo Trail, shot one of the passengers, and fled into Upper Oregon Jack Creek Valley with an unspecified quantity of gold.

Eluding Canadian authorities, he returned to Oregon where he died in a nursing home during the early 1900s. Some years later, a map showing the approximate location of the buried loot was found with his personal effects. However, an attempt to locate the gold according to the map proved fruitless. If this story is true, the golden legacy of Oregon Jack's infamy is still buried somewhere in the valley.

Although less romantic, valuable heritage resources also lie within Upper Oregon Jack Creek Valley, about 15 km southwest of Ashcroft. Between August 21 and September 3, 1988, an archaeological project was conducted within the valley. The primary objectives were: 1) to locate and record all prehistoric and historic heritage concerns in the valley; 2) to conduct test excavations at Three Sisters Rockshelter (*EdRi 2*) and the Landels site (*EdRi*

11); 3) to reconstruct a general account of prehistoric and historic use of the valley based on the survey and excavation results; and 4) to offer recommendations that will ensure proper management and/or investigation of important sites threatened by potential development activities.

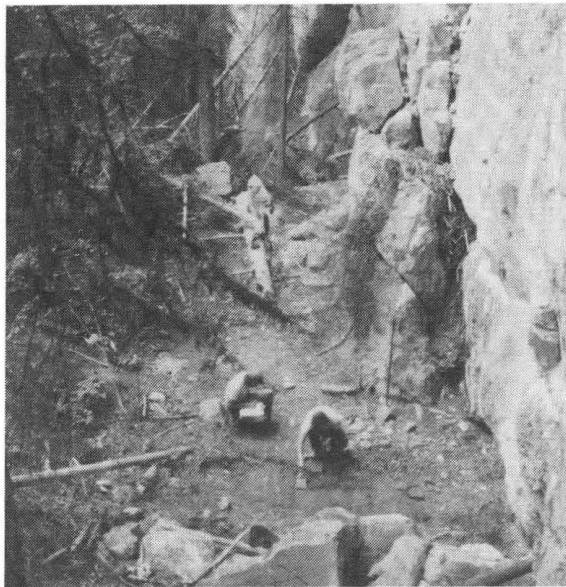
Survey Results

A total of 21 sites were identified and recorded during the site survey undertaken in Upper Oregon Jack Creek Valley. Prehistoric sites tend to cluster according to their primary function(s) (i.e., site type). Four rockshelter sites containing pictographs (*EdRi 2, 8, 9, 10*) are located in the western end of the valley along a once well-used prehistoric trail. The pictographs at Three Sisters Rockshelter are impressive and still in relatively good condition. However, mineral precipitate buildups continue to obscure the already faded figures at the other three sites, and they are in desperate need of attention if they are to be preserved.

Twelve prehistoric sites (*EdRi 7, 12, 13, 15, 16, 18-24*), containing small circular cultural depressions and/or small lithic scatters, were found in the central and eastern sections of the

valley bottom. Many of the depressions have heaped rims and are associated with fire-altered rock and charcoal-stained soil. On this basis they are interpreted to be earth ovens where roots and possibly other plant resources were processed. Balsam-root is abundant in this part of the valley today, and it may have been the primary resource that was being exploited.

A combined total of 32 oven features were identified at these sites; the average number of depressions per site is 2.2. Their mean rim-to-rim diameter is 3.8 m (mode = 3.0 m, range = 2.0 - 7.0 m). The mean rim-to-basin surface depth is 48 cm (mode = 40 cm, range = 20 - 80 cm). These values are roughly compatible with those determined by David Pokotylo and Patricia Froese for earth ovens in nearby Upper Hat Creek Valley, where most depressions date between 2250 B.P. and 1150 B.P. This temporal range corresponds with the Plateau horizon (2400 - 1200 B.P.). Given the strong representation of Plateau horizon occupations observed at several sites in Upper Oregon Jack Creek Valley, root roasting activities were probably most intense in the valley during this period.



Excavators at Three Sisters Rockshelter.

Three large prehistoric lithic scatter sites (*EdRi 11, 25, 26*) are clustered at the eastern end of Upper Oregon Jack Creek Valley, where it joins the Thompson River Valley. These sites are comprised of numerous superposed occupations representing base camps and/or processing stations related primarily to deer hunting and floral resource exploitation activities. Diagnostic artifacts suggest that they contain components belonging to cultural manifestations between about 5500 B.P. and 1200 B.P.

Most of the sites containing historic occupations predating A.D. 1950 (*EdRi 13, 14, 15, 17*) are located in the central aspect of the valley. All are small ranching homesteads that were established between about 1920 and 1940. Site *EdRi 7*, at the western end of the valley, was initially a B.C. Forestry Ranger station, in the late 1890s, but was converted to a ranch during the 1930s.

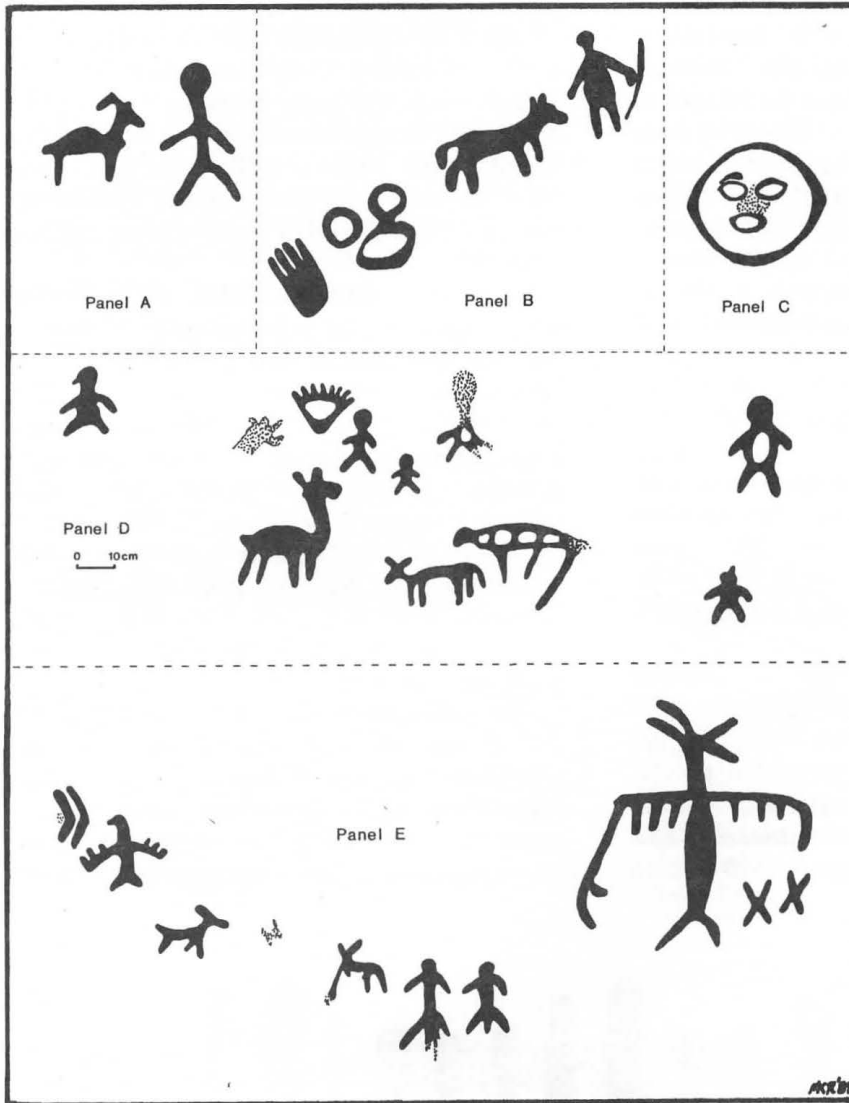
Excavations at Three Sisters Rockshelter

Three Sisters Rockshelter (*EdRi 2*) is located at the western end of the valley, at the base of a large limestone bluff. The floor area within the shelter's drip-line is quite large, and it is estimated that it could comfortably accommodate as many as 30 people. Red and orange ochre pictographs are located along the base of the back wall of the rockshelter. Five separate panels are evident; they depict primarily anthropomorphic and zoomorphic motifs.

Four 1 m² test excavation units were dug into the main floor area of the rockshelter to determine the nature of activities that once took place there, to reconstruct the prehistoric occupational history of the shelter, and most importantly, to ascertain whether it contains occupations dating to the Middle Prehistoric (7000 - 4000/3500 B.P.) or Early Prehistoric (11,000 - 7000 B.P.) periods.

The stratigraphy and cultural materials encountered during test excavation indicate that prehistoric use of the shelter occurred on at

Pictographs at Three Sisters Rockshelter.



least three, possibly four, separate occasions. Regrettably, the relative ages of these occupations could not be determined, but a microblade recovered from 35-40 cm below the surface suggests affiliation with the Middle Prehistoric period. The pictographs probably date to within the last few hundred years and may, or may not, be related to the occupations revealed by the excavations.

The nature and density of recovered cultural materials suggest relatively brief occupations, and it is inferred that the rockshelter was used periodically as a short-term resting place or encampment during passage from the Thompson River Valley to Upper Hat Creek Valley. A hearth containing a reasonable quantity of burnt bone, associated with the most recent occupation, indicates that deer and

at least one fish were cooked and consumed. The 45 lithic waste flakes recovered from the occupation levels suggest production and/or resharpening of bifacial tools that were probably used to process food.

Virtually nothing is known about prehistoric use-histories of rockshelters on the Canadian Plateau. For this reason, continued excavations should be conducted at Three Sisters Rockshelter to determine the relative ages of the identified occupations, and to further reconstruct activities associated with them. Additional investigations could also, potentially, provide important information concerning the very poorly understood Middle Prehistoric and Early Prehistoric periods.

Excavations at the Landels Site

The Landels site (*EdRi 11*) is a large prehistoric site located at the eastern end of Upper Oregon Jack Creek Valley. A low-density lithic scatter is represented over the entire surface, and there are also several large high-density lithic scatter clusters and seven small, circular cultural depressions.

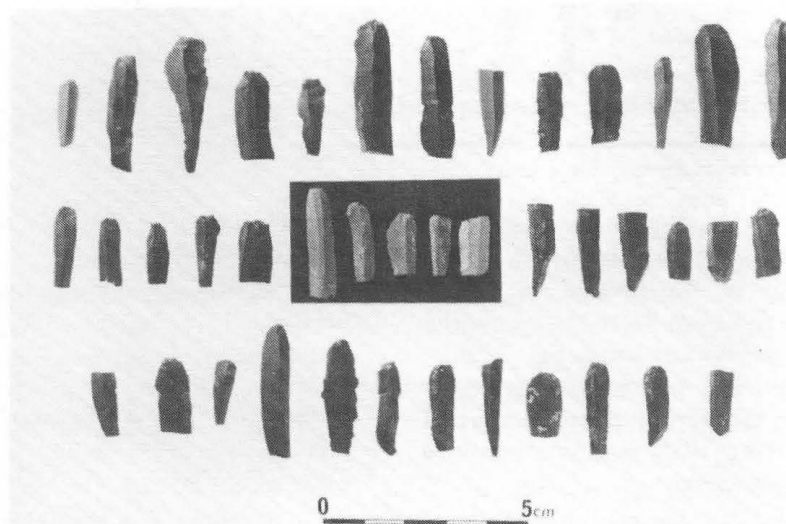
At the western end of the site, disturbance caused by construction of an irrigation pipeline revealed a buried lithic scatter containing an unusually high incidence of projectile points, formed and unformed tools, and microblades. The high frequency of microblades, and previous discovery of two edge-ground bifaces

from the disturbed areas, suggested that this section of the site contains at least one occupation belonging to the Middle Prehistoric period. Test excavations were conducted within intact cultural deposits in this area of the site.

Nine 1 m² excavation units were dug. A total of 434 lithic tools, 2,856 waste flakes, and 8,898 pieces of mammal bone weighing 4.367 kg were recovered. The greatest density of materials was found in the western end of the tested area. Two features were provisionally identified—a possible hearth, and a small pit of unknown function.

Diagnostic artifacts and their relative stratigraphic positions indicate that at least two cultural components are represented in the investigated area. The earliest component contained a remarkably high frequency of microblades, a microblade core, and a fair amount of fragmented deer bone that yielded a radiocarbon age of 3520 ± 70 B.P. With the exception of this date, there are no excavated occupations in south-central B.C. dated to between 3300 B.P. and 3900 B.P. Virtually nothing is known about this 600-year period of Canadian Plateau prehistory.

The radiocarbon date and well-represented microblade industry suggest that the basal occupation at the Landels site *may* be a component of the Lochnore phase, which is presently estimated to have begun around 5500 years ago and ended sometime between 4000



Microblades from basal occupation at the Landels site.

B.P. and 3500 B.P. However, confirmation of this cultural affiliation awaits the recovery of projectile points in styles diagnostic of this phase. A Lochnore phase component would suggest that the following Shuswap horizon commenced sometime between 3,500 and 3,300 years ago, rather than between 4000 B.P. and 3500 B.P. as has been postulated. Determining when the transition from the Lochnore phase to the Shuswap horizon occurred is of great importance to our understanding of Canadian Plateau prehistory. Further detailed excavations at the Landels site would undoubtedly help resolve the problem.

The most recent component at the Landels site belongs to the Plateau horizon (2400 - 1200 B.P.); several occupations relating to the early and late parts of this horizon are represented. A high frequency of lithic tools and debitage, and a substantial quantity of highly fragmented deer bone were recovered from this component. A large proportion of the bone had been boiled, presumably to extract protein and fat for consumption.

In summary, the excavations at the Landels site indicate that the tested area was initially occupied sometime around 3,500 years ago and was reoccupied intensively on a fairly regular basis until around the end of the Plateau horizon (about 1200 B.P.). Abundant faunal remains indicate that deer were being heavily exploited throughout the occupational history of

the site, which suggests that it may have served primarily as a base camp for this important subsistence pursuit. Locally abundant root and berry resources were probably also regularly exploited; root processing is inferred from the presence of earth-oven features at the site.

Further extensive, detailed excavations at the Landels site are very strongly recommended. They would provide data that will resolve when the transition from the Lochnore phase to the Shuswap horizon occurred, and would also provide valuable information concerning local resource use in the Upper Oregon Jack Creek Valley. Moreover, they would assist in further reconstructing prehistoric regional cultural adaptations and contribute to the development of a regional culture historical framework for the Thompson River region. □

The Upper Oregon Jack Creek Valley archaeological project was conducted under the auspices of the Department of Archaeology, Simon Fraser University, and was financially assisted by the British Columbia Heritage Trust. The project was directed by Mike Rousseau. Field crew included Diana Alexander, John Breffitt, Diane Cagnelli, Cindi Clark, Sean Dixon, Martin Handly, Geordie Howe, Gyles Iannone, Cheryl Jacklin, Margot Landels, Christian Lott, Bob MacNevin, Peter Merchant, Bob Muir, and Sandi Witt.

Mike Rousseau recently received an MA degree from Simon Fraser University. He has been actively involved in Canadian Plateau archaeology for the last 15 years.

Show Time/Current Exhibit:

Vancouver Maritime Museum

TREASURES OF THE KRONAN—an exhibition from the Kalmar Lans Museum, Sweden, displaying some of the fascinating artifacts recovered from the 17th century warship *Kronan*. March 21, 1989 to July 1989.

Ovens fuel dispute

A PROPOSED GOLF COURSE and small subdivision project are "on hold" while the Kamloops Indian Band takes the developer to court.

Recent assessment by Arcas Associates confirmed the presence of 28 archaeological sites on two privately owned lots slated for development. The lots are on Scheidam Flats, about 15 km northeast of Kamloops, and are surrounded by Kamloops Indian Reserve lands.

The threatened archaeological resources consist of clusters of roasting pit depressions recorded during a 1979 survey. They are the subject of an article by Mike K. Rousseau and Geordie Howe featured in the April 1987 *Midden* (Vol.19, No.2:7-10). □

Funds found for fauna

THE KUNGHIT-HAIDA PROJECT directed by Steven Acheson received a \$37,000 grant from the B.C. Heritage Trust for faunal analysis of samples recovered during Trust-supported fieldwork in the South Moresby area of the Queen Charlotte Islands.

The faunal analysis will be done at the University of Victoria and the grant will be administered by an independent non-profit organization—probably the Friends of the Royal B.C. Museum. The data, together with other results from survey and excavation conducted several years ago, will form the basis of Acheson's Ph.D. dissertation (Oxford Univ., England). □

Debitage

The Department of Archaeology at Simon Fraser University will soon have a new chair—**Dr. Jack Nance** begins his three-year term on September 1 . . . Advertisements for temporary jobs at Vancouver area colleges precipitated an avalanche of applications. The winners are **Malcolm James**, field school instructor, and **Mary Quirolo**, in charge of the field laboratory . . . ASBC member **Al McMillan's** book *Native Peoples and Cultures of Canada* is now available in paperback for \$19.95 . . . ASBC past-president **Colin Gurnsey** was recently appointed to the City of North Vancouver's Heritage Advisory Committee (which deals mainly with buildings because there aren't any archaeological sites left).

* * *

The Canadian Parks Service hired **Geordie Howe** to prepare an annotated bibliography of archaeology in the Queen Charlotte Islands and adjacent areas—background research in the event South Moresby actually becomes a national park. Copies will be available—

probably in a few months time—from the Western Region Office of the Canadian Parks Service in Calgary . . . **Mike Rousseau** recently completed his M.A. thesis, Dept. of Archaeology, SFU—*The Significance and Function of Key-shaped Formed Unifaces on the Interior Plateau of Northwestern North America*.

* * *

Archaeology grad students need to get their act together—for the second year in a row the **B.C. Heritage Trust** failed to award a Borden scholarship, apparently due to a more impressive showing of applicants for the architecture and history scholarships . . . **Archaeology Branch** publications in the works include a brochure, a handbook, a new edition of the guidelines for impact assessment, revised site forms and guide, and an annual registry of designated sites and objects . . . And then there's the survey in the **Khutzeymateen River valley**, just gone out for bids—which two archaeologists will the government send into the heart of grizzly bear country?

Ancient weapon gains popularity

ATLATLS may well be the coming thing in target shooting sports. Eldon Johnson of the Saskatchewan Archaeological Society is starting a "special interest group" in prehistoric weaponry. One of the goals is to include atlatl dart throwing in this summer's Jeux Canada Games in Saskatoon.

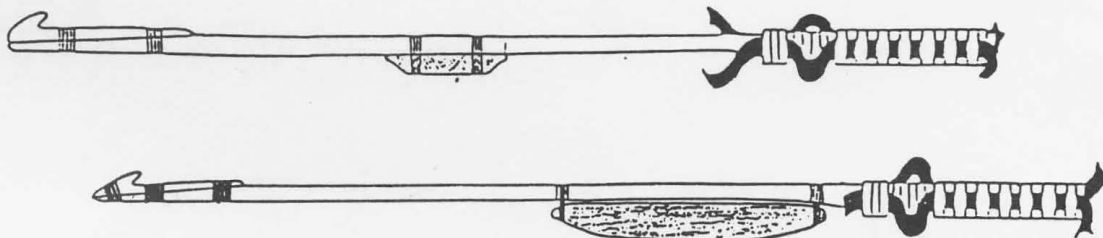
Although British Columbia archaeologists have not yet followed suit, it ought to be a cinch—after all, we have a long practice season on the coast and with former provincial archaeologist Art Charlton organizing B.C. sports events, it should be possible to get official recognition.

You might think the difficult part would be acquiring a functioning 2,000-year-old weapon. Not so. An enterprising engineer in Montana makes and sells atlatls that he claims anyone can learn to use in 15 minutes—to throw a dart 100 metres or more! Specimens on view at the recent Northwest Anthropological Conference in Spokane looked efficient and fun.

BPS Engineering advertises several types of atlatl. The Mammoth Hunter model, recommended for beginners, costs \$45 (\$67 with two darts—all prices in US dollars). The "smaller and faster" Warrior model sells for \$60 (\$82 with two darts). Both are made from maple wood with leather handgrips, hard-plastic spurs, and weights that function as timing devices. Single aluminum darts cost \$15.

A more authentic (and more expensive) model is made for use with wooden darts that come with stone points for show and steel archery target points for practice. Other options include carved effigy timing weights and museum quality authentic replicas complete with notes of the manufacturing process.

Shipping and handling charges for orders to Canada are \$8.00. For a complete price list and further information contact William R. Perkins or Paul B. Leininger, BPS Engineering, Box 797, Manhattan, Montana 59741. Tel: (406) 284-3307. □



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