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Editor  
N. Russell

# THE MIDDEN

PUBLICATION OF THE

## **ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA**

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E D I T O R I A L

Congratulations, Mrs. McCarthy! It's good news indeed that the Provincial Secretary recently stepped in to stop demolition of an important archaeological site near Kamloops (see "Village Site Threatened," inside).

We have been waiting with some concern for indications of the current government's attitudes to archaeology. The prosaic atmosphere of austerity boded ill for this science, whose tremendous long-term benefits are hard to define in dollars and cents.

However, Grace McCarthy, B. C. minister responsible for archaeo-

logy, acted quickly in the emergency (bulldozers were already at work), trusting the advice, presumably, of the Provincial Archaeologist.

Issuing a "Stop Work" order, however, was the easy part. We now look to the minister to back this up with financial support. If the site is as important as reported, the best move would be to buy it outright, so that future generations can see it, and learn from it.

It will be they who thank Mrs. McCarthy most warmly for her swift intervention.

NOTE TO LIBRARIANS

The National Library has recently assigned an International Standard Serial Number to The Midden. Henceforth, we will be known as 0047 - 7222 !

WATCH FOR:

Publication soon by the National Museum of a paper by Dr. Carl Borden on the early prehistory of British Columbia; also, articles on B. C. archaeology and the Archaeological Society in forthcoming issues of the Valley Magazine (carried in several Valley newspapers)...in Western Living magazine...and in Chuck Davis' massive Vancouver Book.

A Report on the 1975 Hope Salvage Project

by David Archer and Rob Whitlam

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During the 1975 field season, archaeological salvage operations were conducted in the vicinity of Hope with funds provided by the B.C. Department of Highways. The area under investigation consisted of a three-mile-long corridor between Flood and Hope, the proposed route for a new section of the Trans-Canada Highway. The objectives of the project were first of all to make an assessment of the extent and condition of archaeological sites within the study area and then to carry out excavations at those sites which would be endangered by the new highway construction.

SYSTEMATIC SURVEY      The first month of the field season was devoted to a systematic survey along the new highway right-of-way between Silverhope Creek and the town of Hope. The survey units were 100 x 100 metre squares based on a standard 1,000 metre grid. Teams of two people, spaced at 10-metre intervals, walked across each unit noting the presence of any cultural material or distinctive natural features. The effectiveness of this procedure was greatly hindered by dense secondary vegetation and in general the results were not particularly productive. Previously recorded sites were relocated, but no new sites were added to the inventory.

EXCAVATION      Throughout the remaining three months of the field season, salvage excavations were conducted at two of the five sites threatened by the construction: DiRi 39 and DiRi 13.

DiR 39

DiRi 39 is located on the east bank of Silverhope Creek, approximately 100 metres from its confluence with the Fraser River. The original dimensions of the site are estimated to have been at least 100 metres north-south by about 70 metres east-west. However, due to railway and pipeline construction the area available for archaeological investigation has been substantially reduced. During the 1975 field season the section sampled consisted of an undisturbed 30 x 70 metre strip between the CN railway tracks and the West Coast Transmission pipeline right-of-way.

The selection of pits for excavation was made according to a statistically valid procedure commonly known as stratified systematic unaligned sampling. The main advantage of this technique is that all areas of the site are evenly represented in the sample chosen.

Twenty-one 2 x 2 metre pits were initially planned and of these, 14 were opened and 13 completed. A total of 2,788 artifacts was recovered during the excavation. Associated materials included large amounts of lithic detritus as well as about 40 very small fragments of calcined bone. Other faunal remains were absent due to the acidic soil conditions at the site. The few features encountered include poorly defined rock concentrations, ash lenses and one rock alignment.

The initial impression of the assemblage recovered is that it represents the remains of a single culture type with strong affinities towards the Skamel (ca. 350 B.C. - 200 A.D.) or Emery (A.D. 200 - 1200) phases of the Fraser Canyon sequence (Borden, 1968: 16, 22). A major focus for the analysis of the material will be to ascertain some aspects of the range of activities carried out by the occupants of the site.

### DiRi 13

DiRi 13 is situated close to a large slough on the Fraser River about 500 metres southwest of Hope. It was originally recorded in 1956 as a large pithouse village site with 10 house depressions. However, subsequent road and pipeline construction destroyed most of the site except for a small segment now bounded on one side by a bulldozer cut and on the other by a steep bank of fill.

Three randomly chosen 2 x 2 metre pits were excavated in the remaining intact portion and a total of 256 artifacts was recovered. No recognizable features were encountered and there was a complete lack of any faunal material. The assignment of this assemblage to any particular time period has not yet been attempted.

FROTH  
FLOTATION

A novel aspect of the field work at Hope was the experimental use of a froth flotation unit, designed for the recovery of seeds and pollen from soil samples. The apparatus essentially consists of a 50-gallon plexiglass tank, a ring of copper tubing fitted with a series of bubblers, and a small air compressor.

In operation, the bubbler unit is attached by a hose to the air compressor and is then placed at the bottom of the tank, filled to the brim with water. When the compressor is started, a steady stream of fine bubbles rises through the water. The addition of a very small amount of detergent assists in the frothing process. After a few minutes, when the froth has accumulated, the soil sample is gradually poured into the tank. Seeds or pollen present in the sample adhere to the bubbles and remain at the surface, while the sediment sinks to the bottom. A second chemical additive in the water, naphtha, again in very small quantities, increases the tendency for the floral material to remain embedded in the mass of bubbles. After the entire sample has been fed into the tank, the surface froth is washed through a series of sieves, and the seeds and pollen are collected for later sorting and identification.

Soil samples to be processed in this way were taken from each 5 cm. level in all of the pits excavated. It was found that a sample measuring 100 x 50 x 5 cm. produced a sufficient amount of floral remains to be of value.

The analysis of this material is presently being carried out by Patricia Gerry at the University of Victoria with the objective of reconstructing prehistoric subsistence patterns.

#### Further Work Planned

Additional funding from the B.C. Department of Highways for a second field season at Hope has just been confirmed. This will allow for testing of other threatened sites along the highway right-of-way as well as completion of the sample at DiRi 39.

#### Reference

Borden, C. E.

1968 "Prehistory of the Lower Mainland," in The Lower Fraser Valley: Evolution of a Cultural Landscape, ed. A. H. Siemens. B.C. Geographical Series, No. 9. Vancouver.

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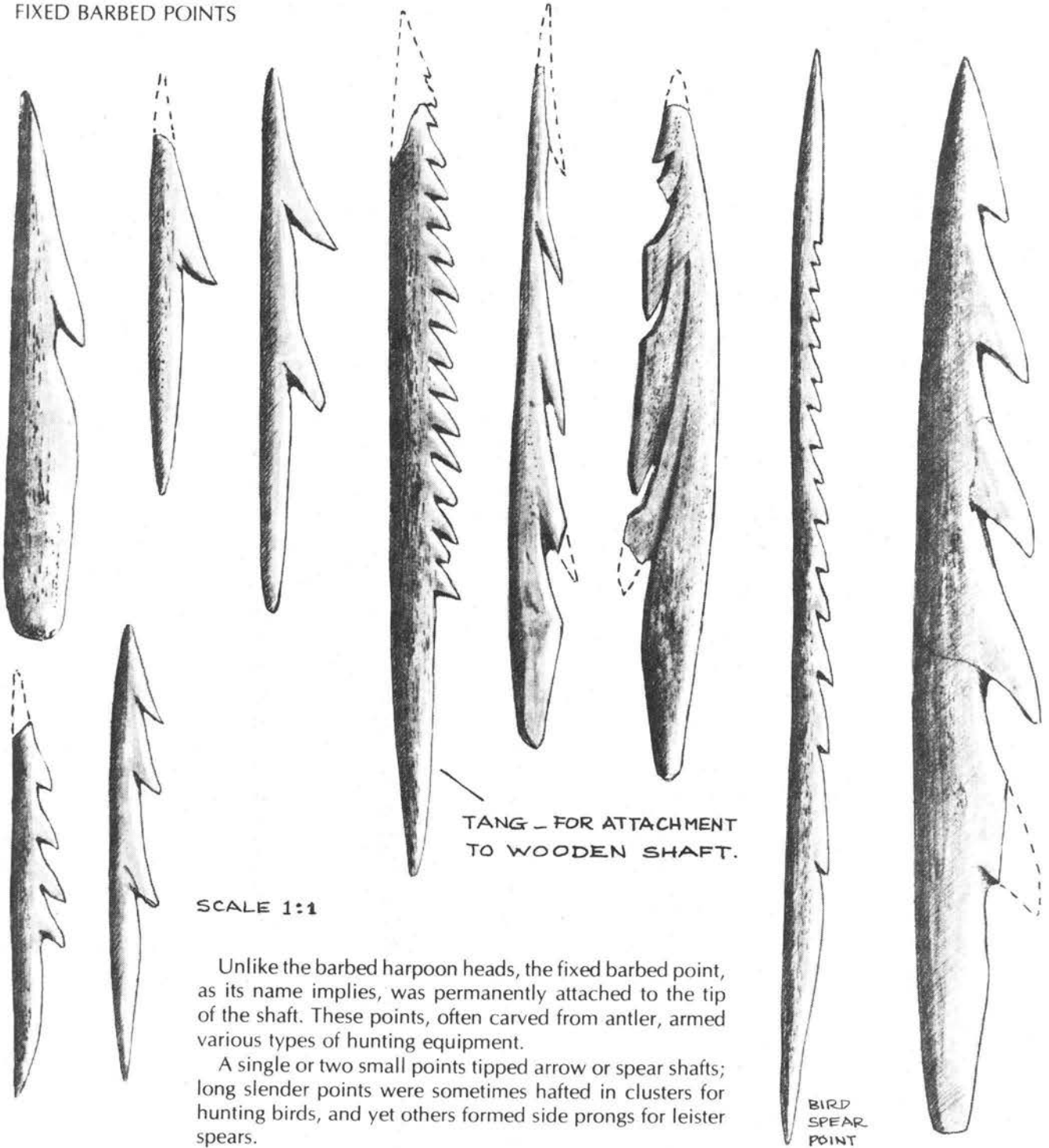
#### VILLAGE SITE THREATENED; GOVERNMENT STEPS IN

A Stop Work order has been slapped on a bulldozer operator who was carefully smoothing out an important pithouse site near Kamloops.

Site is a four-acre property recently bought for clearing as a small ranch. Some three housepits were flattened for a house and welding shop site before the Provincial Secretary could step in and order work to stop. Owner had planned to bulldoze entire site, comprising some 19 or 20 housepits with unusual side entrances and possibly connected by a unique tunnel system. There are also a large number of cache pits on the site.

Government now has to decide whether to buy entire property; launch a massive rescue excavation; abandon it entirely; or pay annual compensation to the owner until other alternatives are found.

FIXED BARBED POINTS



SCALE 1:1

Unlike the barbed harpoon heads, the fixed barbed point, as its name implies, was permanently attached to the tip of the shaft. These points, often carved from antler, armed various types of hunting equipment.

A single or two small points tipped arrow or spear shafts; long slender points were sometimes hafted in clusters for hunting birds, and yet others formed side prongs for leister spears.

EXCERPTED FROM  
 "ARTIFACTS OF THE NORTHWEST  
 COAST INDIANS"  
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 1973



## SOCIETY PRESSES FOR SITE DESIGNATION

A Report by Past President Sheila Neville

In March 1975 the Archaeological Society received a letter from Bjorn Simonsen, Provincial Archaeologist, asking for nominations of important archaeological sites that should be considered for the process of Site Designation. Such nominations go before the Designation Committee of the Archaeological Sites Advisory Board for acceptance or rejection.

Site designation effectively places a complete freeze on the area so accepted and is therefore a far-reaching decision that is taken with great caution by the provincial government and only after very serious deliberation. Designation of a site, especially when it is located on private property, will likely result in compensation to the owner, or outright purchase by the government.

The ASBC executive has long been concerned with lack of action in this area, so we immediately listed a few of the obvious lower mainland sites. I was asked to follow this up and do the necessary research and gather information on at least one of the suggested sites.

Our shortlist included Marpole, Musqueam, Liquid Air, Glenrose/St. Mungo, Milliken and Katz. We found that the Milliken site had already been designated. Musqueam and Katz are located on Indian Reserve land and our provincial Archaeological Sites Protection Act therefore has no jurisdiction. I chose to re-search the Glenrose/St. Mungo area first as it seemed to be less obviously commercial than the property on which the Marpole and Liquid Air sites are situated, and it is of course a very important site.

The Site Designation proposal forms require considerable research, including location with map, description of area proposed, history of the site, and significance of the site. They also ask three key questions: Is the site presently endangered? Has the local Indian Band been consulted? Has the owner been consulted?

The Glenrose Cannery and St. Mungo sites are located on the south side of the south arm of the Fraser River opposite Annacis Island. The site extends from the river bank back to the foot of the bluff. The lateral extent of the area is probably from the St. Mungo Cannery site to and including the Glenrose Cannery area and probably extending three lots east of the Cannery. There has been historical research done indicating historic relevance as well as pre-historic interest. The actual excavation site was used as a truck farm by Chinese employees of the Cannery and historic artifacts have been collected. The total analysis of the site has included fish and pollen analysis, faunal and shellfish material, plus a seismic investigation on the peat bogs around the site. (For archaeological reports on the site see Midden Index in December 1975 issue.)

The Glenrose Cannery site is the oldest known site on the southern B.C. coast, and possibly the Washington coast. There are known dates of 8,000-15,000 B.P. occupation on the Pacific Rim, from Ground Hog Bay and Namu south to Laguna Beach. The Glenrose site is one component of the "Rim" occupation. The site represents more or less continuous occupation from 9,000 B.P. to 2,000 B.P. It was a village site from approximately 7,000 B.P. to 2,000 B.P.



Some of the pits that have been excavated went down three metres with probably deeper sections just east of the deepest excavated pit.

There is a great possibility that three sites (the St. Mungo site, the Glenrose Cannery site and a further site east of Glenrose that could be even older) were linked. This led us to suggest in our designation proposal that this whole area should be considered with great care.

The site is not in immediate danger to our knowledge, but the area is developing and we suggested in the proposal that this property could very easily be considered by developers as potential industrial property.

The searching out of this information was fascinating. As in all case histories, one invariably becomes deeply involved in the specific subject and of course imagination begins to take over. What a marvelous area for the province to designate certainly, but then, to convert to a provincial park, develop an outdoor-indoor living museum, using the

old Cannery building itself with all its very real history, as well as the prehistoric evidence uncovered through the extensive excavation that has been carried out. Going to the area today one realizes that it is already becoming an urban area. There is a large population surrounding the sites which of course adds to the concept of developing a "people" place. The living museum concept could ultimately be extended to a complete arts centre. With planning and imagination it could enrich the lives of the whole lower mainland.

Our proposal of the Glenrose/St. Mungo site as a designated site was formally accepted by the Designation Committee. We are naturally very proud, and believe that once again the Society has proved its effectiveness in the growth of archaeological awareness in British Columbia.

Yes, we will continue to research other areas, and will prepare other formal proposals for the Committee. It just takes TIME, which seems to be in much shorter supply than exciting, worthwhile projects.

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WE ERRED...

...to spell "speleology" with an "i", in our last issue. Our thanks to Paul Sneed, Assistant Provincial Archaeologist, for pointing this out.

Mr. Sneed, himself a veteran speleologist, urges an increase in caving courses, so that the public may be better informed about the value of this non-renewable resource. And he calls for anyone knowing of the existence of caves anywhere in B.C. to report them to the B.C. Speleological Federation (3946 Emerald Place, Victoria). This group hopes to complete a province-wide inventory of cave resources.

Ed.

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THE PRIVATE COLLECTIONS COMMITTEE:

an ongoing A.S.B.C. project

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Archaeological laboratories and museums contain a substantial number of interesting artifacts, on display, under study and in storage; but there is also a vast amount of important material in the collections of private individuals. These may be items that grandfather ploughed up in the back forty, items that people found washed out of river banks as the water eroded the edges of old sites, even items purchased in antique stores.

Altogether a great deal of information is contained in these private collections, and in order to help make this information available to the professional archaeologists, the A.S.B.C. Private Collections Committee, supported by a small grant from A.S.A.B., has been working over the past three years to record photographically and in written detail some of the known collections in B.C. Some 20 such collections have so far been fully recorded, ranging from several projectile points kept in an old shoebox to thousands of varied artifacts housed in glass display cases. The information is transferred to special file cards, which ultimately will be kept at the Provincial Museum in Victoria for use of professional archaeologists; it will not be made generally public, so that the privacy of the owners will be protected. The information will also be included in the National Inventory of archaeological artifacts, at present being computerized for the National Museum in Ottawa.

There are many more private collections in B.C. which the Committee should record; the owners of some of these are as yet unknown to the Committee, others are known and will be contacted soon. If any A.S.B.C. members are aware of such collections, the Committee would be grateful to receive this information. Please inform either:

Derek Scrivener  
2558 Queens  
West Vancouver  
922-2298

or

Shirley Veale  
1406 Paisley  
North Vancouver  
985-2858

\* \* \* \*

LOOK FOR:

The December 1975 issue of Canadian Geographical Journal. Included is a six-page article entitled "5,000 years of history on the West Coast," written by Richard Inglis (Museum of Man) and Dr. George MacDonald (Archaeological Survey of Canada). Included is a description of Dr. MacDonald's Prince Rupert excavations and the re-creation of part of that site as a display in the National Museum.

The two men have completed a 100-page handbook called "The Dig" for publication shortly.

## Describing Artifacts, No.2

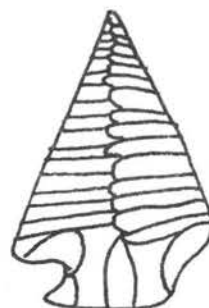
### primary flaking



A. contracting



B. expanding



C. lamellar

- A. contracting: scars contract as the distance from the lateral edge increases and generally terminate in a regular convex ridge scar
- B. expanding: scars expand rather markedly as the distance from the lateral edge increases and usually terminate in a random, ill-defined manner
- C. lamellar: scars have parallel lateral edges and generally terminate in angular fashion

### Edge retouch



A. continuous



B. discontinuous



C. random

- A. continuous: retouch along the entire edge is evident
- B. discontinuous: a regular but intermittent pattern of retouch is shown
- C. random: irregular, non-patterned retouch is shown

MUSEUMS TOLD TO "PLAY FAIR"

From The Toronto Globe & Mail  
31 January 1976

Too many museums display artifacts which perpetuate the myth that the past was filled only with rare and fine objects.

This approach was described yesterday as "good on the eyes and soft on the brain".

Freelance museum researcher Lilly Koltun of Ottawa, addressing members of the Ontario Museum Association, appealed to various curators, researchers, historians and volunteer workers "to play fair with the customers".

Visitors to a historic house, Miss Koltun said, should know that the furnishings of the period are not necessarily items that belonged in the house originally.

She warned researchers to look closely at the history of an artifact and never to depend on verbal claims of its authenticity.

It is important to keep artifacts in the context of the period, Miss Koltun said. But it is totally unrealistic to assume that all furniture in a house would be of the same period.

"Never take anybody's word for anything," she advised the audience. In answer to a question from the floor, she said that if a curator wants to record the oral history of a donated object, this can be added to the file, but it should be treated as "doubtful, a fairy tale" unless research proves its authenticity.

Miss Koltun agreed that curators of small museums are put on the spot by well-meaning donors. However, this only makes it more important for the curator to assert the right of selection for display.

She appealed to the audience to consider the study of overlooked artifacts such as tools. These objects have been neglected because they do not have the same esthetic appeal as fine china.

But the tools can provide more information about past history and tell the story of the technology and skills of Canada's pioneers.

There is a wide-open field for historians to delve into primary sources for a view of Canada's past, Miss Koltun noted. So far, only the opinion of specialists has been accepted.

There was some general discussion about how authentic a restoration should be.

John Dunn, head of interpretation and education for Upper Canada Village at Morrisburg, asked, how far "does one go the accuracy route?" He explained that research for the restoration of Louisbourg, N.S., showed that when the fort was in use the grass was never cut, and there seems to be a difference of opinion as to what course to follow.

Mr. Dunn urged that historians be tempted "out of dusty archives to analyse and document man's collections - the only surviving fragments of our forefathers."

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A.S.B.C. MEMBERS URGED TO OPPOSE BILL C-33

The Archaeological Society of British Columbia has for a number of years suggested the enactment of federal antiquities legislation to ensure the protection of the archaeological resources of Canada.

Such legislation has passed third reading and we have now succeeded in obtaining copies of the long-awaited document only to find that it is sadly lacking in protection of archaeology.

There are some very serious deficiencies in the legislation and we have therefore formed a Legislative Committee to organize and express our concerns to the federal government. Some of the reasons for our concern are as follows:

1. We believe the basic concept of the legislation is wrong as it relates to archaeology. A monetary value system is used throughout the legislation. There may be some merit to a monetary evaluation for works of art and antiques, which are also encompassed in the same bill, but it is an entirely wrong concept for the protection of archaeological materials.
2. We have questioned the wisdom of granting broad interpretative powers to permit officers to decide whether items are of archaeological or prehistoric interest and eligible or not for an export permit.
3. We have taken issue with the structure of the Review Board which is to consist half of dealers and collectors who we feel by the very nature of their business interests will too often favour the export of items.

We have submitted our criticisms on a clause-by-clause basis; however, the above gives you some of our main areas of concern. We feel Bill C-33 as presently constituted fails to protect the archaeological and prehistoric heritage of Canada. The bill is devoid of what would be considered as informed opinion on archaeological matters.

We feel the government has failed in its efforts mainly by trying to encompass too many disciplines within the same legislation. We suspect the legislation will be considered quite informed and good when seen from an art or antiques point of view but we cannot imagine anyone seriously interested in archaeology being in favour.

We telegraphed and submitted our written brief to Hon. Hugh Faulkner, Secretary of State, Parliament Buildings, Ottawa, with copies to Senator R. Perrault, Senate Leader, The Senate, Ottawa, and Hon. R. Basford, Minister of Justice, Parliament Buildings, Ottawa.

We urge all members and recipients of The Midden to similarly register their concern with the above and other members of the Cabinet. We have suggested that all references to archaeological and prehistoric items be removed from the legislation and an entirely new section be written.



Only if the government is aware of a wide-spread public concern can we hope that this legislation will be amended.

Please take the time to write and in this way you will be contributing to the protection of our archaeological heritage.

(If you wish any further information on this legislation, please feel free to contact Ron Sutherland, 4169 Lions Avenue, North Vancouver, V7R 3S2, phone: 988-0479.)

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#### A.S.B.C. DIARY

Regular monthly meetings held the 2nd Wednesday of the month at the Centennial Museum Auditorium, 8 p.m.

May 12 - Please note change of time and place for this meeting only:

8:30 p.m., Simon Fraser University - special programme in conjunction with Northwest Coast Studies Conference.  
Speaker: Dr. Richard Daugherty of Washington State U. on "The Archaeology of Ozette", illustrated.

June 9 - (Reported in last Midden to be held on June 2, now changed to June 9). Annual General Meeting. Guest speaker: Dr. Jack Nance, Simon Fraser U., "Fossil Man in Africa".

#### AT THE CENTENNIAL MUSEUM

Introductory Anthropology - 7 Thurs. Apr. 15 - May 17, 1 p.m., Junior Workshop. Anthropology theory through examples - Primitive Art, Plants and Man, Myth and Religion, etc. Co-ordinator: Carol Mayer, 736-4431. Affiliate members \$10.00, single admission \$2.00.

#### CENTRE FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION

The Anthropology of Vancouver - 8 Mondays, Apr. 5 - June 7, 1:30 p.m. Rm. 301A, Vancouver Public Library, 750 Burrard. \$25. Co-ordinator: Jake Muller, Graduate Studies, Anthropology & Sociology. Walk through Vancouver this spring and experience some of its varied ethnic richness. Two introductory lectures and six guided visits.

Underwater Archaeology Workshop - May 1976. Following last year's successful workshop in which participants explored the underwater wreck of the "Panther", interest has been growing in marine archaeology. For information phone 228-2181, local 237.

More Diary on page 13 ....



A.S.B.C. Diary - cont'd

Simon Fraser University - Summer Session '76 (July 5 - August 20)

Course No. ARC 101-3 "The Prehistoric Past", J. Nance

ARC 385-3 "Fossil Man" J. Nance

For bulletin detailing admission procedure and full information,  
please contact: Continuing Studies, S.F.U., Burnaby, B.C. V5A 1S6  
Phone: 291-4565.

"The Athapaskans: Strangers of the North" - an international travelling exhibition by the National Museum of Man, Canada and the Royal Scottish Museum, Edinburgh - at the Provincial Museum, Victoria until April 25 (with possible extension to May 15). Display open 12 noon to 5 p.m. daily.

Our members Helen and Michael Smith are spending a year in Cambridge, U.K. and have extended a warm invitation to anyone travelling in their direction this summer to visit them. The address is: 123 Long Road, Cambridge, and the telephone: 9821-3212.

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Publications Available

The following may be obtained from the Washington Archaeology Society, P.O. Box 5084, University Station, Seattle, Wash. 98105:

Nelson, <u>Sunset Creek Site</u>	\$ 6.50
Rice, <u>Archaeological Reconnaissance:</u>	
<u>South-Central Cascades</u>	3.00
Onat and Bennett, <u>Excavations at</u>	
<u>Tokul Creek</u>	3.50
Bennet, <u>Effects of White Contact on</u>	
<u>the Lower Skagit Indians</u>	3.00
<u>Washington Archaeologist: Vols. 13</u>	
through 16 complete	1.50 per vol.
Assorted volumes and incomplete sets	.50 per number
Vol. 5, Nos. 3,4,6,7	
12, No. 3	
17, Nos. 1,2	

Please send cheque or money order (do not send cash).

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GOVERNMENT MOVES TO PROTECT UNDERWATER SITE

The provincial government, acting on the advice of the Archaeological Sites Advisory Board, has "designated" the first underwater site in B.C. Protected is the wreck of the schooner "Hera", which foundered near Tofino in the late 1800s.

The action reflects growing concern about damage to underwater historic and prehistoric sites, both from divers and from the sea itself.

Local RCMP have been asked to keep an eye on the wreck site, and indications so far are that the wreck has not been tampered with.

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