



Vol. V, No. 2  
April 1973  
Editor  
N. Russell

# THE MIDDEN

PUBLICATION OF THE  
**ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF BRITISH COLUMBIA**

Published every two months by the Publications Committee. Contributions should be addressed to: Miss G. Groves, 504 - 2005 Pendrell St., Vancouver 5, B. C.

## REGIONS FAVOUR PROTECTION

A number of B. C. Regional Districts have accepted an A.S.B.C. suggestion that they go on record as wanting to protect archaeological and historic sites within their jurisdiction.

It all began in late 1972, when the Society executive, concerned about damage to petroglyphs caused by developers near Hedley, wrote the Okanagan-Similkameen Regional District. The letter suggested the District should resolve to protect archaeological and historic sites in its area. The District accepted the idea with a formal resolution to that effect.

The opportunity was too good to miss: the executive wrote to all the other 27 Regional Districts in B. C. commending the O-S resolution, and suggesting they should act similarly. The response was remarkably friendly. At press time some Districts still had not replied, presumably because the matter had not yet come up on their agendas.

Of these, an impressive eight reported that they had immediately voted to endorse the O-S resolution. A few others wrote asking for more information or at least expressed sympathy with our aims. Only one - Kitimat-Stikine - rejected the idea out of hand.

It would be optimistic to hope this will spell any immediate stop to the destruction of archaeological sites, but it is at least one more round in the continuing battle.

Editor



REPORT ON SEVEN EXCAVATIONS  
IN SOUTH-CENTRAL B. C.

---

by  
Sharon Johnson Fladmark  
University of Calgary

During the summer of 1972 a crew of six investigated seven sites in south-central B. C. under a salvage contract from the Archaeological Survey of Canada. Sites tested were EfQv 4, 5, and 19, EeQw 6, 15, and 22, and EfQu 10. Four were housepit sites.

EfQv 4 is a hunting/fishing camp which, based on projectile point styles similar to those found by Sanger in the Locknore-Nesikep locality, may date as early as 4,000-5,000 years ago. EeQw 22, located on a bluff overlooking the South Thompson River, represents a short-term camp and chipping station. Only eight artifacts were found; none were chronologically diagnostic. Numerous small flakes were recovered from the four 1 x 1 m. test units excavated, including a wide variety of lithic materials for which there is no known local source. One small blue trade bead was found on the surface.

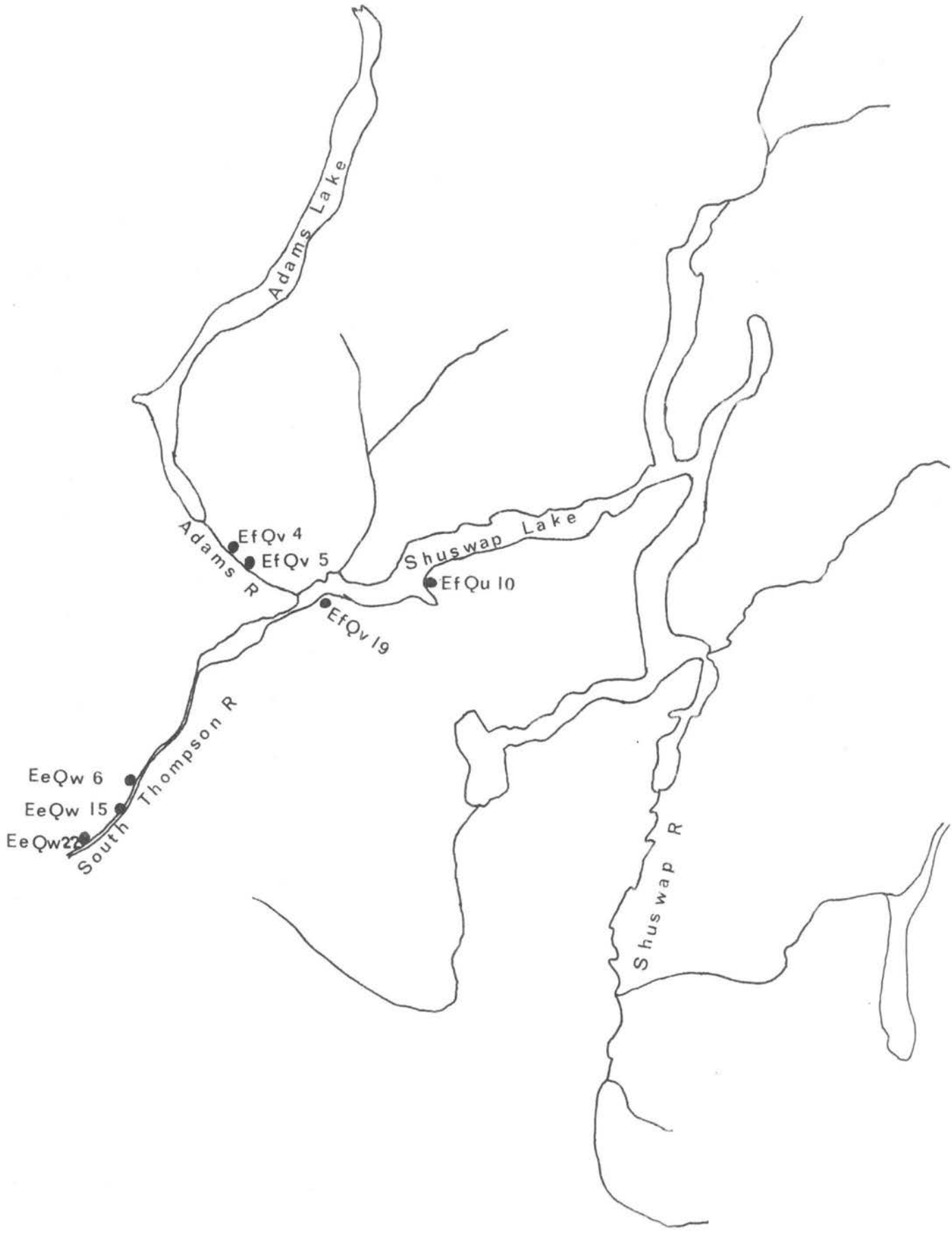
— — — —

The Blind Bay Rockshelter (EfQu 10) had been partially destroyed by the highway and the remainder was completely excavated. The lowest cultural level is directly associated with a shingle beach gravel. This gravel was probably deposited during the Blind Bay Stage of Glacial Lake Shuswap 8,900 years ago. The small sample of artifacts (18) makes further estimates concerning the antiquity of this site difficult. However, a stemmed and a lanceolate point suggest a possible early occupation. Final dating must depend on the results of several charcoal samples which have been submitted. This rockshelter is one of the first excavated in British Columbia. Joe D. Stewart, Department of Archaeology, University of Calgary, is conducting analyses and preparation of a report on this site.

— — — —

The most extensively investigated site was EeQw 6 where a total of seven housepits and eight storage pits were tested and one burial salvaged, producing approximately 2,000 artifacts.







Work at this site was hindered by a record flood stage of the South Thompson River. Small side-notched points, diagnostic of the Kamloops phase (A.D. 1250 - A.D. 1800) were present in all of the housepits. Faunal remains include deer, fish, elk and river mussels.

A pit burial of a child was accompanied by 23 artifacts, including one side-notched point, several items of engraved bone, and dentalia. The chest region was covered with red ochre as were many of the artifacts. A horse mandible in the upper section of the pit fill indicates a probable historic age.

A rectangular housepit at EeQw 6 probably represents the remains of a mat lodge. Artifacts, including several side-notched points, trade beads and one square nail, as well as bifaces and use/retouch flakes, indicate a post-contact occupation. Of interest is a flaked basalt artifact in the shape of a cross and a chipped tear-shaped "pendant". One circular housepit containing trade beads, metal, and side-notched points also dates to the post-contact period.

— — — —

Excavation at EfQv 19 was limited to one housepit and two adjacent house rims. Cultural features at this site include 26 housepits and over 100 storage pits arranged in a non-random pattern. The distribution of the cultural features can be divided into two categories: 1) storage pits clustered outside the region of the housepits, and 2) storage pits distributed among the housepits. One housepit contains a double component occupation.

— — — —

EeQw 15, on a small island 60 m. long and 7 m. wide, has at least 21 housepits and over 200 storage pits. Limited test excavation of two housepits yielded approximately 50 artifacts. Artifacts from one housepit include side-notched points and point fragments, one drill, several bifacially worked artifacts, several use/retouch flakes, a piece of ground slate and a geometrically decorated steatite pipe fragment. Both housepits are being destroyed by erosion and vandalism.

Information on house structure and subsistence base during the Kamloops phase is one result of this project. The absence of microblades and microblade cores from any excavated site or surface collections is of particular interest and suggests a cultural variation from the surrounding regions. It is felt that





a local cultural sequence may tentatively be developed on the basis of the material from these seven sites. However, a definite chronology must await the results of radiocarbon analyses.

This project was an initial investigation of an important archaeological region. Additional work is vital if sites are to be salvaged before destruction by development and natural processes.

\* \* \* \*

#### FIRST ASBC CHAPTER PLANNED

The first official Chapter of the Archaeological Society is in the process of being set up.

Enterprising Chilliwack-area residents have applied to the ASBC for help in creating a local branch. The Society executive was glad of the opportunity as it was felt that ultimately the province should be completely serviced with local chapters.

So a statement of ASBC philosophy has been provided to the Chilliwack group, and if they feel they can subscribe to it, they will become full ASBC members. In return for their small fee, the Society will provide the Midden to each chapter member, and send occasional speakers to the area. The local members will also be invited to the Society's annual meeting in May.

Excerpts from the ASBC "Philosophy for Chapters":

" The Society encourages the membership of any person interested in archaeology with a view to co-operating with professional archaeologists at all levels by helping in any way possible, either through political pressure (always with the knowledge and consent of the professional body and the Provincial Executive) or with actual volunteer physical help at excavations. We have worked and will continue to work with national, provincial and civic museums and professional archaeologists within each of these.



" The Society will not concern itself with attempting excavations on its own. However, we will continue to give full support to professionally administered digs being carried out throughout the Province (usually under the auspices of accredited educational institutions).

" The Provincial Executive will begin to look for provincial or private monies to instigate professionally headed excavations in areas that the Provincial Archaeologist indicates need attention, with the volunteer assistance of Society members, possibly including lab work, cataloguing, etc., with all reports being the responsibility of the professionals."

\* \* \* \* \*

#### GOVERNMENT EXPANDS ADVISORY BOARD, HONOURS SOCIETY

Ron Sutherland should be congratulated on his appointment to the B.C. Archaeological Sites Advisory Board.

The provincial government had invited the Archaeological Society to submit names of potential candidates. From them they chose Mr. Sutherland, an ASBC past-president and now University Co-ordinator and chairman of the Personal Collections Committee.

Simultaneously, the government has appointed two other people to further expand the ASAB: Della Kew and Ardyth Cooper, both representing the Union of B.C. Indian Chiefs.

-----

#### SPEAK OUT

The Society executive has been concerned about its isolation from the general membership and is anxious for members to speak up with ideas for meetings ... problems of importance to the Society ... information that has been overlooked ... anything.

-----



## THE SEVEN WEDGES of the CANOE-MAKER

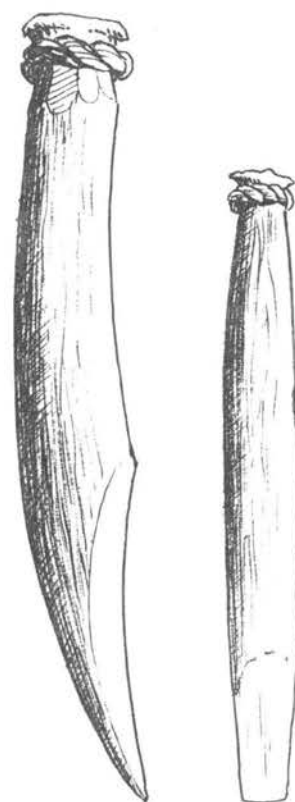
by Hilary Stewart

Among the Kwakiutl Indians of Vancouver Island, a man who made a canoe also made the wedges he used for splitting out the wood from the log. He made them in a set of seven, most were curved, some were straight, and each one had a name.

In our computerized culture where almost everything is reduced to numbers, codes and initials; where steel tools are stamped out in the thousands by other steel tools, and sized, packaged and labelled; where a No. 316-K is shipped by the gross according to the model number, the order number and the invoice number, I felt a warm compassion for a draftsman who made his own tools and had names for them.

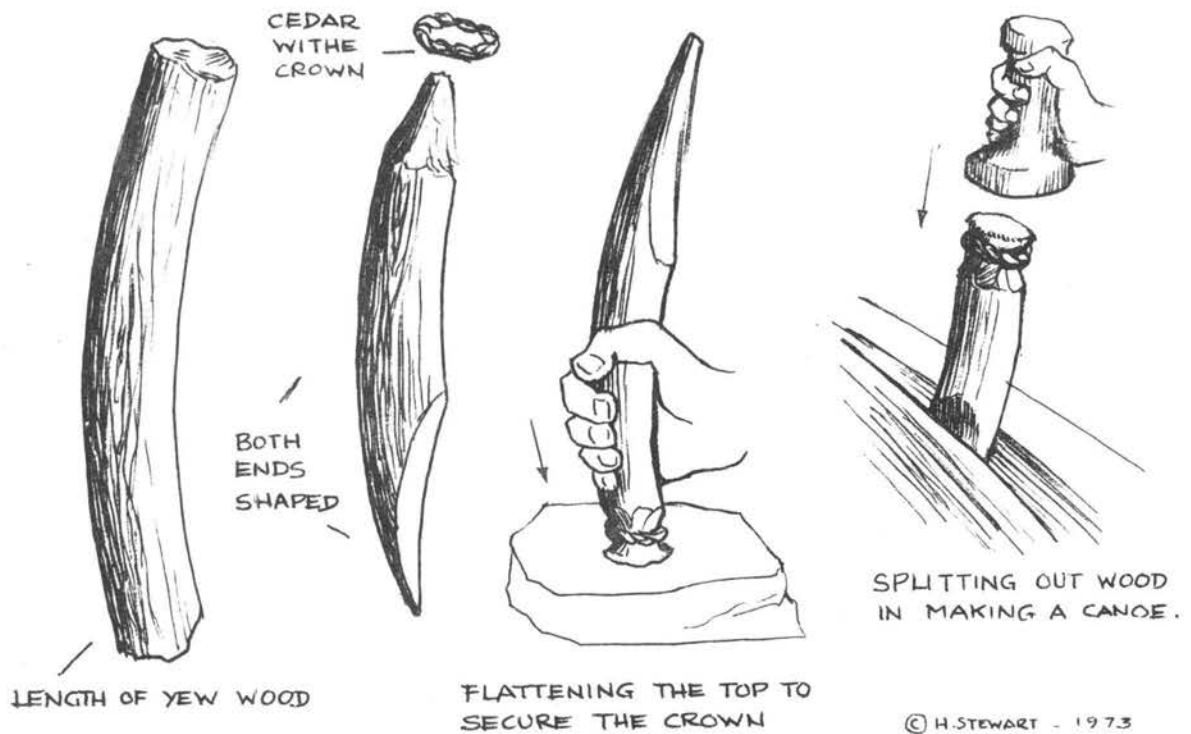
To the canoe builder, each wedge was different from the other six in its shape and size, the feel of it and the way it handled. And because of this they each served a particular function in the making of a dug-out canoe.

The canoe-maker made his wedges with skill and care. He cut wood from the yew tree, and for the curved wedges he took a section of the trunk where it curved to just the right amount. One by one, with adze and abrader, he shaped the point to the right taper. Next, he sharpened a short point at the top, made a "crown" of twisted cedar withes to go over it, and then pounded the point on a stone and worked it on the abrader, until the point flattened and spread and held the crown securely.



MARKING-WEDGE, RIGHT.  
LENGTH .25 CM  
AFTER BOAS, 1905





After letting the wedges dry out by the fire for a few days, the canoe-maker heated each one again in turn and sharpened the tapered end to a point. Each was reheated again to harden the wood. While it was still hot, the long slender point was rubbed with deer tallow until the wood was a rich glowing colour, until it became strong and resilient and less likely to split or crack.

When all seven wedges were finished he made a leather bag to put them in. And just as he had made them in sequence, always starting with the largest first, so he put them away in a special order when the day's work was done.

Because each wedge was different and possessed its own special characteristics, they were all named individually, and the names were descriptive of the part they played in transforming a large and solid log of cedar into a delicate and perfectly balanced craft of great beauty and grace.

English words seem awkward when they are used to translate the subtleties of the Kwakiutl language, which can express so much in just a single word. Yet, in spite of this, the lengthy names devised to achieve that translation somehow take on a poetic quality.





These were the names of the seven wedges of the canoe-maker:

- \* marker-wedge
- \* starter-of-the-end-of-the-inside-of-the-canoe
- \* lifter-of-the-end-of-the-inside-of-the-canoe
- \* one-like-the-lifter-of-the-end-of-the-inside-of-the-canoe
- \* small-lifter-of-the-end-of-the-inside-of-the-canoe
- \* imitation-lifter-of-the-end-of-the-inside-of-the-canoe
- \* crack-opener

And that was the order they were put back into the wedge-bag.

---

#### APPOINTMENTS ANNOUNCED

Two friends of the Society are moving to Victoria to swell the growing museo-archaeological staff.

Gordon Hanson (Katz, 1970-1) has been appointed as assistant to the Provincial Archaeologist, Bjorn Simonsen.

Shirley Cuthbertson (Junior Museum) has joined the Provincial Museum's education department.

\* \* \* \* \*

#### Additions to Publications Files

The following papers are available upon request to G. Groves:

Archaeological Society of Alberta Newsletter No. 28  
 Archaeology of the Cormie Ranch Site: an  
 interim report by Timothy C. Losey

Canada Before Cartier - revised version to appear in  
 the Canada Year Book, 1973 prepared by the officers  
 of the Archaeological Survey of Canada, National  
 Museum of Man

\* \* \* \* \*



CANADIAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION CONFERENCE

a first-hand view, by Eileen Sutherland

A recent issue of Saturday Review has an article called "Memoirs of a Conference Voyeur" (by Daniel S. Greenberg) -- I wish I had thought of that title first, because I have just enjoyed three days of a most interesting and informative archaeological conference at Simon Fraser University. As Greenberg aptly put it: "... a scientist who would not walk across campus to confer with an assemblage of visiting colleagues in many instances will feel impelled to be present if the meeting is set in the vicinity of the Adriatic Coast, the hills of Jerusalem or the wintertime waters of the Caribbean." SFU must have provided just as attractive a setting, for over 300 registrants from all over Canada and the U.S. attended the meetings and the social events.

The papers presented were grouped under themes such as Archaeology of B.C., Canadian Archaeology, Canadian Research in the Mediterranean, Physical Anthropology, Methodology, Bioarchaeology, and Antiquities Legislation, as well as a symposium on the final day entitled "Indians and Archaeology". The wide range of topics gave students and professionals a chance to keep abreast of the latest researches in many sites and areas of interest. Two sessions were scheduled simultaneously for all three days, but were so well organized and regulated that it was possible to follow the timetable and move from session to session as one chose. Between papers, and at the social events in the evenings, the registrants met old friends and made new ones, exchanged ideas or just gossiped. Although a member of an older profession attracted the largest crowd, most of the papers were very interesting indeed.

A reception at the Centennial Museum on Thursday evening, sponsored jointly by our Society, the Museums Association and Simon Fraser University, provided a chance for visitors to see the Museum galleries and the Planetarium show, and to get better acquainted while they enjoyed the refreshments and the lovely view of the West End and North Shore skylines. At the banquet on Saturday evening, sponsored by the B. C. Government, Dr. Richard Daugherty of Washington State University gave an extremely interesting talk on the Ozette site and showed slides of some of the many artifacts excavated there.



The many favourable comments heard on all sides attest to the excellent preparatory work done for the Conference by the students and archaeological faculty (and their wives!) of SFU, and I hope we shall have other opportunities to be a part of such a conference in the future.

\* \* \* \* \*

### Stand on Conservation Urged

#### DEVELOPMENT 'THREATENS' ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES

By Marian Bruce

(reprinted from Vancouver Sun, March 1973)

British Columbia's 5,000 recorded archaeological sites should all be viewed as "an endangered species", provincial archaeologist Bjorn Simonsen said Friday.

Simonsen told an archaeologists' conference at Simon Fraser University that more of these sites are being endangered yearly by the effects of rapid development of industry and communications networks in the province.

He said archaeologists should join forces with the environmentalists and take the stand that the sites must be conserved.

"Individual archaeologists must accept more responsibility for the conservation of archaeological resources in general and not only express concern when their favorite site is threatened," Simonsen said.

Simonsen, of the B.C. Archaeological Sites Advisory Board, was speaking at the annual meeting of the Canadian Archaeological Association. About 300 delegates are attending the four-day conference.

Simonsen noted that U.S. archaeologist Charles McGimsey has predicted that archaeology will be doomed in the U.S. in 25 to 50 years if land continues to be developed at the present rate.

"Why? There simply will not be any archaeological resources left for us to exploit.

"More important than viewing the alarming rate by which archaeological sites are being destroyed as a threat to our bread



and butter--which it is, after all--is our responsibility to the native people whose past cultures provide us with this rather fortunate existence."

Indians today, Simonsen said, are concerned not only with keeping tabs on work archaeologists do, but also about the destruction of prehistoric sites by other sources.

One goal archaeologists should set, Simonsen said, involves public education on the value of archaeology to society.

"Many people do not know that legislation exists making it an offence to disturb certain archaeological remains.

"The most effective way to deal with these problems is through an effective program of public education. Such a program is yet to begin on any large scale in British Columbia."

Simonsen noted that the Archaeological and Historic Sites Protection Act sets a penalty of a \$1,000 fine or six months in jail, or both, for disturbing certain categories of archaeological and historic sites.

These include burial grounds and Indian rock carving or painting located on private property, and other remains of Indian habitation on Crown land.

The act does not bind provincial government departments or corporations, Simonsen noted. This means that the Archaeological Sites Advisory Board must actively seek the co-operation of such agencies as the department of highways, the water resources branch and B.C. Hydro in protecting archaeological resources.

"Most such organizations will co-operate if it is shown that archaeology poses no real threat to their development-oriented activities," Simonsen said.

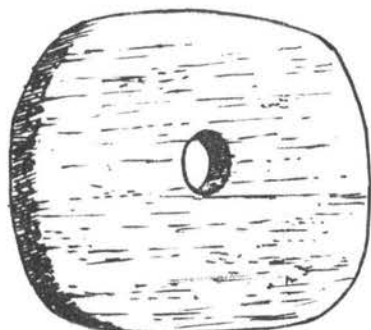
In dealing with private industry, he said, the best approach is to persuade governments to issue development permits on condition that an archaeological reconnaissance--and salvage excavations if necessary--must be provided.

\* \* \* \* \*

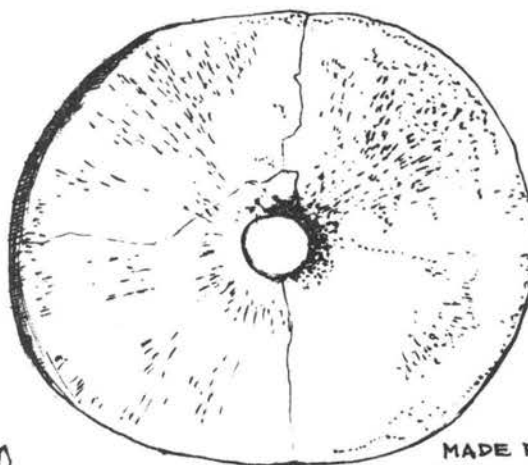
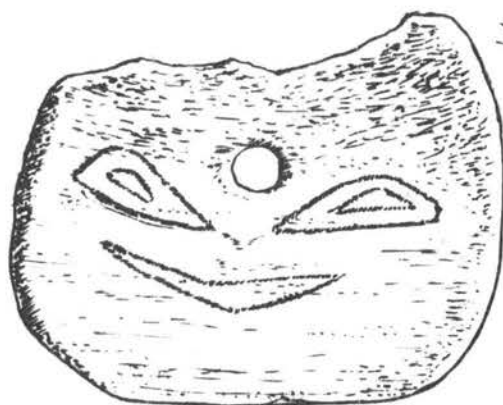
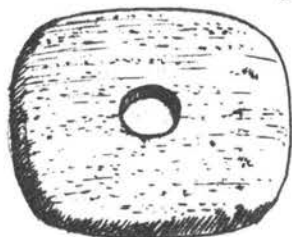




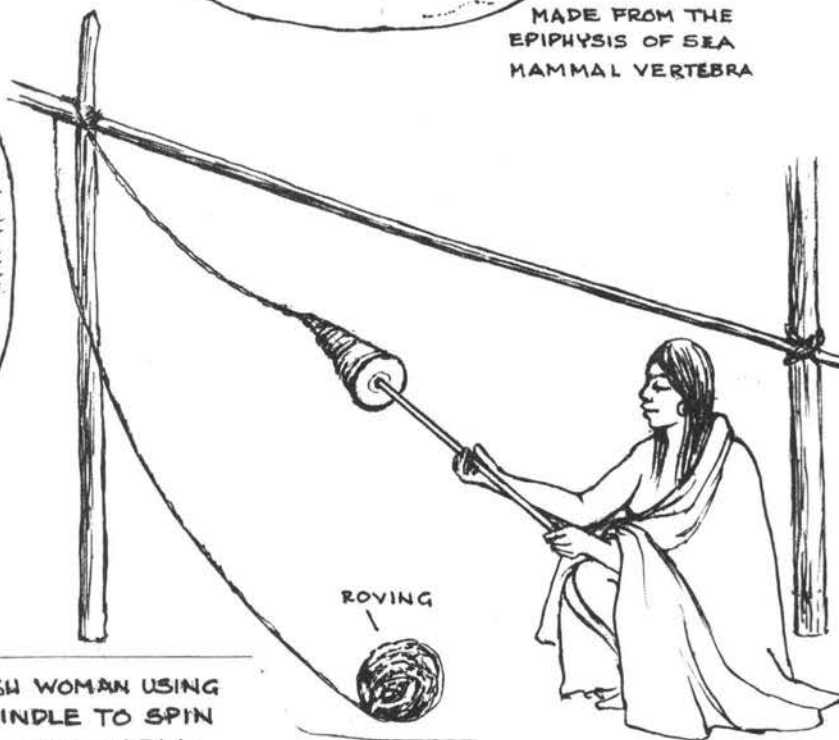
## SPINDLE WHORLS.



WHALE BONE

MADE FROM THE  
EPIPHYSIS OF SEA  
MAMMAL VERTEBRAWHALE BONE - INCISED DESIGN ON  
BOTH FACES.

ANTLER.

SALISH WOMAN USING  
A SPINDLE TO SPIN  
WOOL INTO YARN -ARTIFACTS COURTESY PROVINCIAL MUSEUM & SIMON FRASER UNIVERSITY  
© HILARY STEWART '73

Wherever there was weaving there was spinning, and with spinning was to be found the spindle whorl. It acted as a fly wheel to the hand-twisted spindle, giving it weight and momentum to constantly revolve, and thus twist up the wool into yarn.

The majority of spindle whorls were carved from hardwood, but of those found archaeologically, the large ones are of whalebone and were used for spinning wool. Smaller spindle whorls, usually made of antler, were used for spinning more lightweight yarns, such as that made from nettle fibre. This finer yarn was made into fish netting and fine twine.



## Efforts Continue to Save Prince Rupert Middens

The Prime Minister has still not replied (at Midden press-time) to a plea from the Archaeological Society for intervention in the Prince Rupert midden catastrophe. Our letter followed a decision by the Canadian Archaeological Association to cable the Minister of Transport with a similar appeal. This, too, has not been answered.

The C.A.A. - at its immensely successful annual conference in Vancouver last month - cabled Mr. Marchand after learning of the National Harbours Board development plan for Prince Rupert. The N.H.B.'s proposal threatens two huge middens.

The C.A.A. conference was told the A.S.B.C. has written to a number of federal and provincial ministers, and received polite replies.

The meeting voted to wire Mr. Marchand as follows:

"A Resolution Regarding Salvage Archaeology at  
Prince Rupert B.C.

Whereas:

The Canadian Government has consistently proclaimed its dedication to the preservation of Canadian heritage including that of the Canadian native peoples; and

Whereas:

The Canadian Archaeological Association are dedicated to the preservation of Canadian archaeological sites as a non-renewable resource of Canadian cultural heritage and scientific value of both national and international significance; and,

Whereas:

National Harbours Board activities in connection with the construction of a harbour at Prince Rupert, B.C. will destroy two archaeological sites including one which contains over 500 graves; and,

Whereas:

The 5,000 years of human history buried in those two sites exceeds that of many of the great classical sites of the Old World:

Be it resolved that: The Canadian Archaeological Ass'n joins with the Archaeological Society of British Columbia,



the Government of British Columbia, and the Archaeological Society of Ontario to urge the Minister of Transport to direct the National Harbours Board to fund archaeological rescue operations required to salvage these two sites."

\* \* \* \* \*

#### CBC FEATURES ARCHAEOLOGY

West Coast freelance writer Ben Metcalfe has been investigating the archaeology scene recently. The result is a series of three radio programs.

One three-minute news feature was aired on CBC April 3. A second was prepared for the International Service of the CBC to tell foreign listeners about the growth of the science in Canada.

The third will be heard on CBC's "B.C. Folio" program. The exact time slot has not yet been allocated, but the program runs on Sundays at 1:03 p.m. (B.C. time). The item will last either 30 min. or 60 min., and will include a series of interviews with top Canadian archaeologists. So tune in one Sunday soon!

\* \* \* \* \*

#### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Plan to attend the Annual General Meeting on May 9th. There will be a short business session followed by guest speaker Tom Loy of U.B.C. on his work at the Glenrose Cannery site.

This illustrated talk will serve as an introduction to the site which we are tentatively scheduled to visit on a field trip in late May or early June. Full particulars will be mailed to all members.

\* \* \* \* \*

Miss Gladys Groves  
504 - 2005 Rendrell St.  
Vancouver 5, B. C.