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Editor:  
N.Russell

# THE MIDDEN

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

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be addressed to the chairman: Gladys  
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Vancouver 5, B.C. Next issues: December.

## HIGHLIGHTS OF THIS ISSUE

- \* Pollen analysis in B.C. archaeology.
- \* "Scrapers" drawn and described.
- \*Ksan, described by two visitors

(editorial)

### DID YOU READ THE SMALL PRINT?

Not everybody reads the small type when they are asked to sign something. Even those who did read the full text of their 1972 ASBC membership application form may not have got the full implication of what they were signing.

But it is clear enough. Paid-up members of the Archaeological Society of B.C. are committed to do no digging on their own, and to help only on authorized, permit-bearing digs. In addition, they are committed to make all surface finds available to the professionals for study--both items which they may find in the future and any they may already possess.

The wording of this statement

was arrived at by the executive in consultation with Dr. Carl Borden of U.B.C., and is an important milestone in the society's efforts to ensure its own house is in order.

The Society can only work to eliminate the moles in other people's eyes, if it doesn't have a beam in its own.

There are probably still many rockhounds, for instance, digging for Indian artifacts, but we will fail completely to convert them if they are able to reply "Physician, heal thyself".

That's why all members, old and new, are going on record from now on as honouring the Archaeological Sites Protection Act, 1972.



# SUMMER CLIPPINGS

VICTORIA TIMES, SATURDAY, JULY 29, 1972

## History Hunt in Garbage Dump

By **LINDA HUGHES**,  
Times Staff

You can learn a great deal about people from their garbage and that's just what a group of university students hope to do as they dig up the remains of a 1000-year-old garbage dump near Esquimalt Lagoon.

The site is believed to have been a summer clamming station for Indians living across the harbor in Victoria. By studying the refuse left behind, the five students say they hope to add to our growing knowledge of B.C.'s prehistoric cultures.

Financed by a \$8,125 Opportunities for Youth grant and

in co-operation with the Provincial Museum, the archaeological dig began on May 15 and will be completed Sept. 1.

The students are digging a series of square holes, four to five feet deep, and sifting out the shell and bone material as well as any artifacts they discover.

Besides an abundance of shell and bone material which will be analyzed to obtain information on the Indians' diet the group has uncovered knife-like tools and various sizes of fishing barbs made from sharpened bone points.

The students believe the site is a fairly recent one (archaeologically speaking) — probably 1,000 years old — but they

won't know for certain until after September when samples are sent to Japan for radio carbon dating.

The summer project will cover only a small portion of the entire three-acre site near Fort Rodd Hill but leader Ernest Oliver said they hope someone will continue the dig in the future, when more money is available and new digging techniques are known.

He said the provincial museum, which supplied them with equipment and advice, will be given all the project's findings, and museum curator of archaeology, Don Abbott, plans to use the information in a publication on all local digging sites.

THE PROVINCE, Tuesday, August 15, 1972

### Protection for artifacts

NELSON (Special) — B.C. Hydro has announced plans to construct a barbed wire fence around its three-mile long Kootenay Canal hydro-electric power development near here to prevent bulldozers and crews from crossing onto nearby archeological sites.

Seven sites housing ancient Indian relics and artifacts have been mapped in the area

by the Archeological Sites Advisory Board of B.C. They are downstream from the Hydro project.

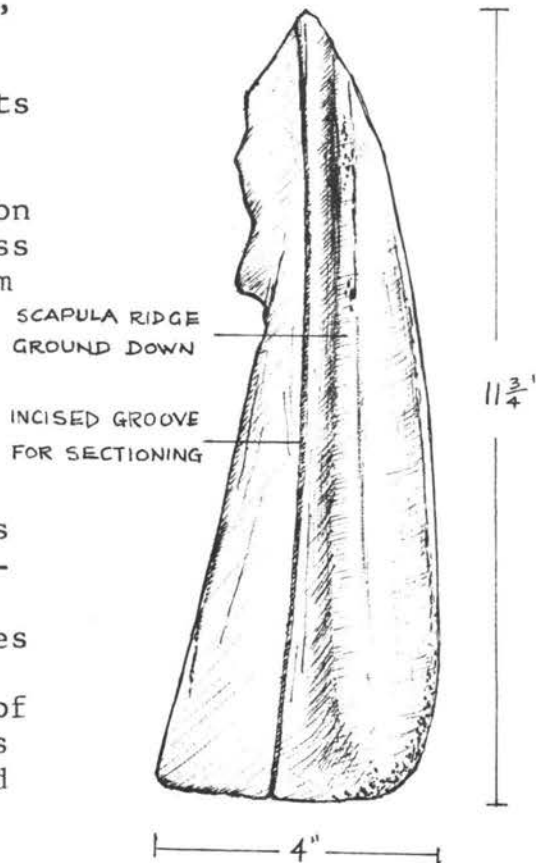
Ed Quirk, Hydro's construction manager for the project, also said deer escape ramps will be built in the lower end of the Kootenay Canal to permit deer attempting to swim the channel to reach shore.

BONING UP IN THE PROVINCIAL MUSEUM

by Hilary Stewart

Doing some research on Northwest Coast artifacts at the Provincial Museum complex in Victoria, I came across an interesting length of bone that had been abraded, and then incised for sectioning. I photographed it, and beneath a quick sketch of the bone I noted its size,  $11\frac{3}{4}$ " long and 4" at the widest point. I knew it was part of a mammal scapula (shoulder blade), but was unsure from what animal, so took it over to Chris Oliver, a petite, energetic young archaeologist busily cleaning and cataloguing artifacts from the Williams Lake dig of 1971.

Chris is part of a team of people on the 6th floor of the tall building across the courtyard from the Provincial Museum itself. The 14-storey structure, referred to as "the Tower", (happily Victoria isn't yet into 55-storey monstrosities) houses all the many departments associated with the Museum: history, ethnology, marine biology, paleontology and so on. Archaeology has two floors, the 6th floor and 6th mezzanine, and in addition to housing administration and other offices, it houses a vast amount of artifacts, all neatly catalogued and stored away in a series of drawers and shelves. Many are from digs in B.C., but many have been donated, and some of these were found as far back as the last century.



Chris couldn't positively identify the bone, and suggested I ask Jim Haggarty, who has a degree in zoology as well as archaeology. But Jim wasn't in his office so I asked Don Abbott, Curator of the Archaeology Division. He said he couldn't be certain, in all probability it might be elk, but if I wanted to be sure, I should take it to "Birds and Mammals" on the 3rd Mezzanine.

The elevator lowered me five floors and I walked straight into an incredible world of BONES! Five-foot-long bones, gigantic skulls, immense vertabrae, large black boxes brimful of bones,

tiny black boxes with strange looking bones; rows of skulls bearing all manner of horns and antlers, a 3 ft. tall jar of formaldehyde with something weird inside, gaping jawbones full of fearful-looking teeth, mammoth tusks and two 6 ft. narwhal tusks spiralling to a point. A gigantic 4 ft. wide scapula leaned against the wall...and then I suddenly remembered why I was here! Then I met two smiling girls, Betty and Livia, who eagerly attempted to match my fragmentary scapula to a particular specimen from the vast collection. It wasn't elk, it was too small for deer, and it wasn't moose. Chris had suggested that it might be from a sea mammal because of the porous structure of the bone at the worn edge, but the girls couldn't find a scapula that really matched up. Baffled, and with their department head not around, they suggested we try "Birds and Mammals Preparation" on the ground floor.

The elevator lowered us five more floors to ground level and again I found myself in the midst of an absorbing work area. Four white swans, looking very much alive, marched in static single file along a table top, nearby a horned owl and a bristling porcupine had been returned to life-like attitudes by the taxidermist, and an elk with a magnificent set of antlers peered down from the wall. All around were molds and plaster casts and various equipment, and a heavy door marked DEEP FREEZE.

A mammologist looked at the piece of scapula, wasn't sure of its origin, but thought it could be from a small whale, or perhaps a Steller's sea-lion, and why didn't we check it out with the Museum's whale exhibit. So across the courtyard with its gardens planted with B.C. wild flowers, through the impressively carved wooden doors, up the escalator to the natural history section and into the whale exhibit. But the whale scapula turned out to be too flat, and didn't have that characteristic ridge of my specimen. We considered the dolphin, also part of the exhibit, but that wasn't it either. We had drawn another blank. So it was back to the tower and back up to the 3rd floor, but by now it was long past lunchtime and we temporarily abandoned the bone hunt in favour of food.

After lunch I returned to the archaeology department to see what further information the catalogue might offer on the scapula, and luckily ran into Jim Haggarty returning to his office. He looked at the bone with much the same result - uncertainty - but with more determination. He came with me back down to "Birds and Mammals" for more detailed study, and had Betty and Livia digging out bones they never knew they had! After much careful comparison of size, weight, thickness and contour of various scapulae, Jim was prepared to declare the bone artifact as being from the left

scapula of a "eumetopias jubata". For simple people like you and me, that's a Steller's sea-lion, also known as a Northern sea-lion....Mission accomplished.

\* \* \* \* \*

(The eagerness and cooperation I encountered over the scapula identification typifies the attitude of the many people at the Provincial Museum complex with whom I have come into contact. May I add here my thanks and appreciation to all those who have so kindly helped, in many ways, to make my visits most rewarding and worthwhile, and my work there a pleasure.)

-- 30 --

### 1972/73 - Slate of Officers

The new executive and committee chairmen of the Society are:

Sheila Neville	President
Bill Lane	Past President
Nick Russell	Vice-President, Midden Editor
Mavis Balshaw	Recording Secretary
Joan Selby	Corresponding Secretary
Marie Duncan	Treasurer
Helen Smith	Programme Chairman
Alan McMillan	Projects Chairman
Hilary Stewart	Membership and Publicity Chairman
Gladys Groves	Midden Publisher
Ron Sutherland	Universities Co-ordinator
Anna-Marie Dahlke	Projects Assistant, Refreshment services
Jim Garrison	Equipment
Philip Seaton	At Large

Honourary Life Members:

Dr. Carl Borden  
Dr. Roy Carlson

#### MUMMY CASE KEPT UNDER WRAPS

The first prosecution under the 1972 Archaeological and Historic Sites Protection Act will start shortly. The case --involving a Tofino mummy which turned up in a Vancouver-area home-- was to have been held in Tofino mid-September, but the highway was washed out. Hearing is now slated for Oct.13.

POLLEN OFFERS USEFUL CLUES TO B.C. HISTORY

by Rolf W. Mathewes  
Dept. of Botany, U.B.C.

Since its inception about 60 years ago, pollen analysis as a guide to prehistoric environmental and cultural changes has enjoyed tremendous success. Thousands of pollen diagrams have been compiled from peat bogs, lakes, and archaeological sites in Eurasia, and the environmental prehistory of the American Southwest and eastern North America is also well known.

By comparison, pollen analysis in British Columbia is still in its infancy, even though our glacial history has endowed us with an abundance of pollen-bearing lakes and bogs. With this wealth of research sites to choose from, I began my thesis studies in southwestern B.C. with the aim of tracing the detailed post-glacial development of coastal vegetation, using palynology and radiocarbon dating.

I had planned to do all my research at Marion and Surprise Lakes in the U.B.C. Research Forest at Haney, but a call from Dr. Borden one morning resulted in a change of plans.

He told me of the Pasika Complex of pebble tools from the South Yale river terraces, and of his 9,000-year-old radiocarbon date from the Milliken site further upstream. Since no pollen analysis had ever been done in this area, we agreed that expanding my studies to include the Lower Fraser Canyon would provide useful information for both our purposes.

Sediment cores for pollen analysis and radiocarbon samples of the earliest organic lakebottom sediment were subsequently collected from Squeah Lake on the east side of the Fraser Canyon, and from Pinecrest Lake on the west. When the results of the carbon dating were finally available, Dr. Borden was delighted. The ages of  $11,000 \pm 170$ ,  $11,140 \pm 260$ , and  $11,430 \pm 150$  confirmed his theory that parts of the lower canyon were ice-free and probably inhabitable at this time<sup>1</sup>.

<sup>1</sup> R. W. Mathewes, C. E. Borden, and G. E. Rouse 1972. New Radiocarbon Dates from the Yale Area of the Lower Fraser River Canyon, British Columbia. Can. J. of Earth Sci. Vol. 9, No. 8, pp. 1055-1057.

The accompanying pollen analyses now are nearing completion, and they will indicate how the regional vegetation has changed in this area since the lakes were formed. It is in the nature and timing of these changes that the potential value of palynology to archaeology is realized.

If man was present in the Fraser Canyon area 11,000 years ago or earlier, he was ultimately dependent on the vegetation and climate of the area in terms of his shelter, much of his food supply, and his general lifestyle. Thus the rate at which various plant species arrived to colonize the deglaciated terrain would also determine when they were first available for food or manufacturing use by Indians.

For example, the presence of the important food plant Sagittaria (Wapato or Indian potato) is established at Squeah Lake by its pollen below the Mazama volcanic ash layer, a 6,600-year-old "marker horizon" found in all the lakes studied so far. Sediments from a foot or so above the ash to the present surface contain no pollen of this type and the plant no longer grows on the marshy lakeshore. Its disappearance may be linked to an environmental factor such as a fluctuating water level, but it is interesting to speculate on the possible role played by Indians in its demise.

Similarly, the pollen grains of hazel-nut bushes (Corylus) suddenly became abundant near the ash layer in the Pinecrest Lake profile, and thereby may indicate an abundant new food source near that locality.

Previous workers in B.C. have not included the pollen of cedar trees in their diagrams, although cedars are a very prominent component of the coastal vegetation. The pollen grains are very thin-walled and it seems were not preserved in the peats they studied. All my analyses, however, are carried out on fine-grained lake sediments, and I have encountered abundant and well-preserved cedar pollen in all my cores. Here again, the inclusion of cedar in pollen diagrams could conceivably aid archaeologists in establishing historical patterns of cedar utilization by the coast Indians.

If such potentially useful information can be gained through pollen analytical studies, why have they been neglected in B.C. for so long? There may be many reasons, but the primary one seems to be the non-agricultural history of our native peoples. Here we cannot expect to find the classical prehistoric patterns of Europe



and elsewhere, showing unmistakable evidence of land clearance, burning, and the subsequent increase in weed pollen and the first appearance of agricultural crop pollen. However, I am confident that as our knowledge of British Columbia's unique prehistory increases, new incentives will be found to apply pollen analysis and other paleoenvironmental techniques to the problems that will surely arise.

\* \* \* \*

# Fashion, past and present

*By our own Reporter*

**MUSEUM STAFFS** are worried that Britain's dinosaurs may drift abroad as more people all over the world follow a growing fashion for collecting geological specimens. A 20ft fossil ichthyosaur — a fish-like marine reptile — sold in 1970 by an Edinburgh museum for more than £1,000 is now said to be gracing the patio of a Swiss dentist.

The Museum Assistants' Group, which represents museum staff, wants export controls on natural history specimens as an extension of the present controls covering works of art, antiquities, and manuscripts. It points out that other museums often cannot afford to bid against wealthy individuals.

Under the present controls, administered by the Department of Trade and Industry, a museum could be prevented from selling a stone axe to the United States, but it could sell without hindrance the remains of a prehistoric animal killed by the same axe.

Miss Elizabeth Johnston, chairman of the Museum Assistants' Group, said members thought all sales of unique or significant natural history specimens from publicly-financed museums were unethical.

Guardian, London  
Spring, 1972

## Rare and Important Archaeological Finds

A more than 2,000-year-old tomb of the early Western Han Dynasty (206 B.C.-24 A.D.) was unearthed recently on the outskirts of Changsha in Hunan Province, central China. Workers, peasants and local inhabitants helped in the excavation work.

A fairly well-preserved female corpse was found in the tomb. Half the body was still immersed in a reddish fluid and the corpse was clothed and wrapped in about 20 layers of silk clothing. According to an investigation report, the fibres of the subcutaneous loose connective tissue are distinct and resilient. The colour of the femoral artery is similar to that of a fresh corpse. A subcutaneous injection of preservatives made the soft tissues swell immediately and then the swelling faded out. Most likely the wife of a 2nd century B.C. marquis, the woman is estimated to have died at about the age of 50.

Archaeological workers said that the reason the corpse, coffins and more than 1,000 burial accessories showed little signs of decay is due to the charcoal and white clay piled around the walls and on the top of the outermost coffin and other treatment. The burial accessories include silk fabrics, a painting in colour on silk, lacquer ware, bamboo and wooden utensils, and pottery.

These finds are among the most important and extremely rare relics discovered in China.

*Peking Review, No. 31*

August 4, 1972

ART DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM GROWS ASPACE

The INDIAN HERITAGE PROJECT underway in Vancouver's Centennial Museum has completed a productive year of work. It is now formally incorporated as The Coastal Indian Heritage Society, and has attracted the support of the Museums Association, the Thea Koerner Foundation and the First Citizen's Fund.

A workshop for male carving apprentices has been conducted by outstanding Kwakiutl artist Doug Cranmer. The button blanket program under Sue Davidson has seen eight superb button blankets nearing completion, with more underway. Language classes in Halkomelem are instituted for the people of Musqueam on the reserve. A photographic workshop has begun.

An appeal by the Society for shell buttons, made to the Whatcom County Museum of History and Art in Bellingham, resulted in an overwhelming gesture of generous support on their part. Fish and Wildlife agencies have been generous in providing deer hoofs, eagle down and feathers, puffin beaks and other necessary items for ceremonial regalia.

An expedition to the forest this Spring to strip cedar bark from the living trees in the traditional manner (by special permission) resulted in a good quantity of prepared bark now ready for the fall program of robe-making and basketry.

Persons either ethnically or legally Indian are invited to join The Coastal Indian Heritage Society which began its work again in mid-September.

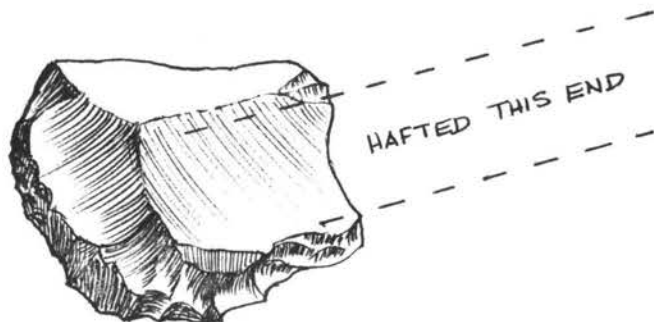
(Reprinted from Museums Association newsletter)

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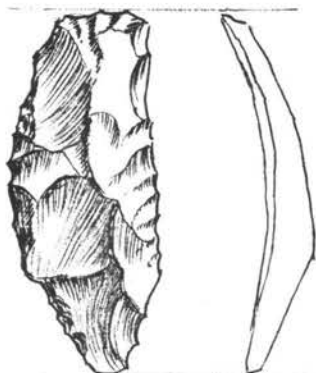
BOUQUETS

... to Peter Flagg for (if we might say) unflagging dedication. For much of two months this summer he cycled or hitchhiked from the North Shore to the Musqueam site, easily the Society's most conscientious digger.

SCRAPERS.



END SCRAPER - FOR USE IN SCRAPING SKINS.



FLAKE SCRAPER [CHALCEDONY]



POINTED SCRAPER



DISCOIDAL SCRAPER



THUMBNAIL, or SNUBNOSE, SCRAPER

ALL ARTIFACTS FROM ARCHAEOLOGY DEPT. UBC. COURTESY DR. CHARLES F. BORDEN.

© HILARY STEWART '72

Here is a tool of such variety and multiple use that the full range of its function is difficult to determine, without having lived and worked in the environment and life style of those who made abundant use of it.

From the neatly rounded "thumb nail" scrapers to the bigger, chunky tools, various scrapers would have functioned as a planer to shape wood, to shave bone to a point, to scrape fur from a hide or meat from a bone. A scraper would remove the outer skin from edible bulbs, the bark from spruce roots to prepare it for basket making and countless other everyday tasks.

Hafted and unhafted, the variation in size, shape and style indicates the wide scope of uses for this handy tool.

Hilary Stewart

A.S.B.C. DIARY

MONTHLY MEETINGS - 8 p.m., Centennial Museum Auditorium

- Oct. 11: Art Charlton, graduate student, Simon Fraser University Archaeology Dept. on the Belcarra Dig.
- Nov. 8: Dr. Alfred Siemens, Dept. of Geography, U.B.C., on Mayan Earthworks in British Honduras.

SPECIAL EVENT

- Nov. 1: 8 p.m. A tour of the Simon Fraser Museum of Archaeology. Dr. Roy Carlson, Chairman of the Archaeology Dept. and Mr. Rick Percy, Curator of Collections, will be on hand to show us representative artifacts from a number of archaeological projects.

Room 3145-A in the Northeast corner of the main concourse of the Academic Quadrangle. Park in free visitors' lot at East end of university campus.

FILMS - Centennial Museum, Oct. 20 and 21 - 8 p.m. - 50¢

THE DIG - field techniques at an Oregon archaeological excavation.

DR. LEAKEY AND THE DAWN OF MAN - a look at his search in the Olduvai Gorge for the origins of man.

UBC - CENTRE FOR CONTINUING EDUCATION

Archaeological tour of South and Central America - Dec. 15 to Jan. 7, including 8 orientation lectures starting October 5. For further information, call 228-2181, ext. 252.

Special arrangements have been made with the Centre allowing Society members to attend certain courses at the student rate.

Great Civilizations of the Andes, in cooperation with Centennial Museum. 8 Thursdays, Oct. 5 to Nov. 23, 8 p.m. at the Museum. Mrs. Frances Robinson, Dept. of Fine Arts, UBC. Student rate: \$12.00

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

Peoples, Culture and Places - co-ordinator Dr. Hanna E. Kassis,  
Archaeologist, U.B.C. 10 Wednesdays, Oct. 4 to Dec. 6, 8 p.m.,  
Rm. 202, Buchanan Bldg. Students: \$15.00

Archaeology of B. C. - Dr. R. J. Pearson, Dept. of Anthropology,  
U.B.C. - 8 Wednesdays, commencing Oct. 11. Archaeology Lab, U.B.C.  
Fees: \$25, husband & wife \$40, students \$17. No special rate for  
Society members. Class limited to 25.

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JOURNEY  
TO 'KSAN  
1972

-13-

The U.B.C. Continuing Education and Centennial Museum visit to the Hazelton area reported on by Eileen Sutherland, with sketches made on the journey by Hilary Stewart



The smoke from the fire in the centre of the long-house floor drifted slowly up and through the smokehole in the roof. Great carved figures on the houseposts gazed impassively down. Drums and rattles beat out the rhythm for the swaying dancers while the firelight glinted on the shining buttons on their blankets and the gleaming abalone shell inserts on their frontlets. Eagle down symbolizing friendship and peace floated gently down among the visitors ...

This potlatch was the climax of five wonderful days of the "Journey to 'Ksan" at the end of June. The tour started by bus and ferry from Horseshoe Bay to Nanaimo, up-Island to Kelsey Bay, then ferry again overnight to Rupert. Each evening, Professor Wilson Duff gave a slide show and briefing on the art of the Tsimshian Indians, whose villages and totem poles we would be visiting the following day.

Our first stop was a short visit to the Prince Rupert museum, crowded with exhibits which ranged from artifacts several thousand years old, interesting pictures of the time of early contact with explorers, traders and missionaries, to more recent art work and carving of the local people.



From Rupert our journey took us up the beautiful valley of the Skeena River, the traditional home of the Tsimshian, to Terrace. On a side trip to the Nass River, we passed across a valley filled with lava beds from volcanic action only a few hundred years ago. At New Aiyansh on the Nass, we were greeted by the Deputy Chief and other village officials in the moving and eloquent phrases of a traditional Tsimshian welcome. The women of the village had prepared a baked salmon banquet for us. After the feast, Percy Tate donned his blanket robe and regalia, and gave us a demonstration of Nass River drumming, in contrast to the modern "Hollywood beat" he scorned. The warmth and friendliness of the people made us hate to leave, and it was after dark before we got back to our hotel at Terrace.

Percy Tate -  
New Aiyansh.

The next two days were filled with visits to the "totem pole villages" of the Upper Skeena River. At Kitsequekla, as in all the other towns, most of the people were away at the canneries on the coast, but we were met and shown around by some of the Indians who had remained for the summer. The poles here were scattered throughout the village. Those of the original settlement on "The Flats" were either fallen or tilted and propped precariously, or had been re-erected at a new site in the village near the highway. Alone with more recent poles, they formed an interesting group among the houses.



Kitsequekla

The next morning we went to Kispiox, where we were fortunate to be met and shown around by Walter Harris, one of the carvers of the district. He showed us his old family poles, told us legends of the crests, and also the pole he had recently carved and erected. Another recent pole, called "Gitludathl", is a copy of a very old pole. Wilson Duff had told us the story of the "Hole in the Ice", and we were all interested to recognize the pole with this crest, at Kispiox.



Frog

Sitting on the edge of the cliff, high above the canyon of the Skeena River, we demolished a box lunch while Wilson Duff told us the legend of Temlaham, the original home of the Tsimshian.

"Food baskets were always full, life was easy and blessed in the homeland, as long as the people remembered the ancient law: 'Do not abuse animals, do not waste their flesh nor scatter their bones'. But the people of Temlaham grew careless, slaughtering the mountain goats and leaving the carcasses to rot in the sunshine on the hills, the bones scattered and unburnt. One day some boys captured a young mountain goat, played with it and tortured it until it was near death. A wise man of the tribe released it and rebuked them, prophesying death and destruction, but the villagers paid no heed. Then one day while they were carelessly feasting, a great mountain goat appeared and crashed his hoofs against the



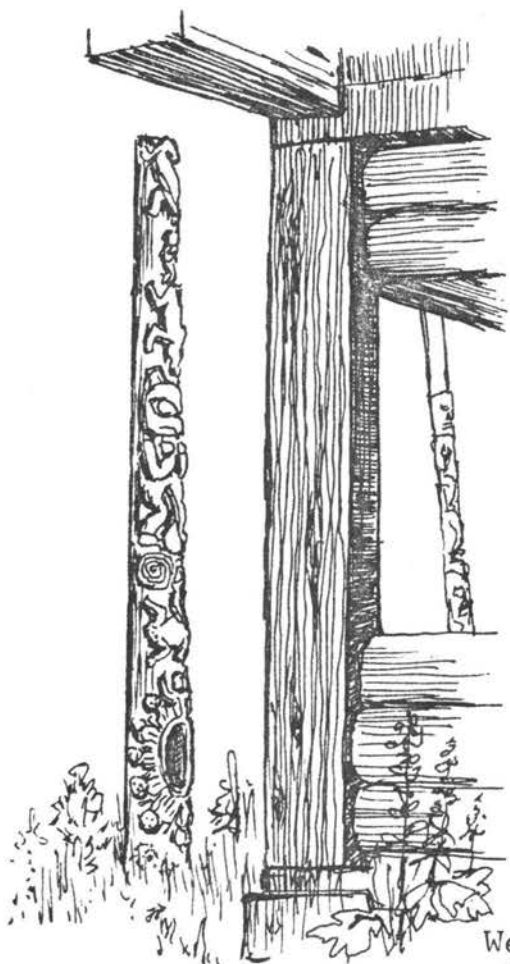
lodge and destroyed it. An enormous mountain peak grew higher and higher behind the village, and an avalanche roared down and overwhelmed them. Only a few escaped, to wander in the ruins.

"However, over the years, the land was restored to abundance again. The village was rebuilt and the people multiplied. But once again they grew careless in their observance of the laws and ceremonies. The salmon returned in such abundance year after year they no longer bothered with the ritual and the atonement to the Salmon Spirit. Again they were punished -- snow began to fall, day after day, week after week, until the village was buried in great drifts. The people began to die of cold for lack of firewood, and starve when the food trays became empty. The few survivors realized a curse had been put upon their land, and they scattered to new villages far up and down the river, leaving Tmlaham a barren stretch alongside the Skeena, a memory of an age-old life of peace and abundance. That was the Year the Summer Never Returned."

We were given a sample of the anger of the Spirits when a shower of hail drove us running back into our bus to continue our journey.

The people of Kitwancool formerly were noted for their hostility to the white people who came to their territories. Marius Barbeau spent one night at the village, but the sounds of gunshots and stampeding horses close to his tent made him decide to continue his studies from a distance. The tragic shooting in 1887 of the Indian Kitwancool Jim by a deputy-policeman added to the strain of Indian-White relations. Our group, however, was warmly welcomed at Kitwancool, as at the other villages, and we examined many beautiful old poles, as well as the more recent copies. In the year 1958, Wilson Duff had been able to save four of the important old Kitwancool poles which were rapidly decaying and falling, by offering to take them to Victoria and replace them with copies carved by Mungo Martin and Henry Hunt. The chiefs agreed, and the new poles were erected beside the highway at an impressive ceremony.

Our next stop was Kitwanga, where most of the totem poles have been grouped in a row along the highway,



Hole in the Ice pole,  
Kitwancool.



'Hsan.



and once more notebooks and cameras were busy trying to capture the awe-inspiring impression of some of these old carvings.

Our last evening, at 'Ksan, a potlatch had been prepared for us. To the beat of drums and the chanting of the welcome song, we were shown like visiting chiefs to our places around the fire in the longhouse. Chief Mary McKenzie welcomed us, told us a little about 'Ksan, and then the feast began. Young boys and girls passed around huge platters filled with pieces of wild rhubarb - crunchy and refreshing, something like celery. Then a bowl of fish chowder, flavoured with chunks of salmon and onions. Next came platter after platter of fried oolichans, partly-smoked pieces of beaver meat, fried bannock, boiled salmon, smoked salmon, barbecued salmon... We finished up with soopalallie berries, whipped to a bitter-sweet froth and eaten with a specially carved spoon.

When we could eat no more, "The songs and dances of our Grandfathers" were performed for us. Beginning with a group of young boys and girls, the dancers of all ages took us back with them to the past when such Winter Dances were an important part of the life of the Tsimshian. And we took part, too, dancing up to donate gifts to a young woman returned to her father's lodge, in the "Divorce dance". Later, as the "spirit of the dance" was thrown from person to person throughout the longhouse, each group in turn who caught it contributed to the entertainment of the others.

Only pausing from time to time to "tune" the drums by heating them over the fire, the dancers shared with us part of their heritage, and we felt with them their pride and delight that they were able to re-create something of their past culture. Many things will remain in our memory of our journey to 'Ksan, but especially we will cherish the warmth and friendliness of the people and their splendid hospitality.



\* \* \* \* \*

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