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NEWSLETTER

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of the

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF B. C.

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Published every two months (except Summer) by the Publications Committee. Contributions should be addressed to Miss G. Groves, 504 - 2005 Pendrell Street, Vancouver 5, B. C.

Deadline for next issue: August 31.

- HIGHLIGHTS:
- \* Saturna Island: progress report on a midden excavation
  - \* St. Mungo Cannery dig: some notes
  - \* The Society: a definition
  - \* Delta midden saved

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N. Russell,  
Editor

### DELTA MIDDEN SAVED

A near tragedy has apparently been averted in Delta, in part due to Society efforts.

Delta Municipal Council has agreed to reverse an earlier decision which permitted a rockhound group to take over a midden in Grauer Park.

Last year the Archaeological Society was itself granted permission to dig the site, but was unable to because of the Musqueam emergency operation. As a result, when Delta rockhounds asked permission last month to sift the mound, it was readily given.

However, the rock club had second thoughts and called Dr. Borden for advice, apparently because they had received the Archaeological Society's open letter to B.C. rock clubs requesting help in preserving archaeological sites.

Society officers promptly got involved, and on April 30 Delta Council told the Newsletter it had withdrawn the permission, "pursuant to Council policy". The Council noted in a letter to the rock club that any future digs in Delta would be conducted by the Archaeological Society or a university archaeological team.

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### A PROGRESS REPORT ON DeRt 27

By Tom Carney

At least once daily, and often twice when the tide is right, a blue heron arrives in search of food at a muddy beach where a creek empties into the sea in a small, sheltered cove on Saturna Island, southernmost of the Canadian islands in the Strait of Georgia.

The heron, named Cathy several summers ago by a visiting five-year-old girl, knows well that the food is good at this particular section --the heel-- of Boot Cove.

Only feet away from Cathy's favorite haunt are the shell remains of millions of clams, taken from the same muddy-bottomed bay; shells heaped in a substantial midden.

Since 1965 a series of five test pits has been dug in this shell heap, registered as DeRt 27, Boot Cove. More pits must be sunk, and probably a central trench, before anything of a substantial, documented interpretation can be offered for this site.

Two of the five pits were beach pits and essentially sterile. The other three, however, provide the beginning of a pattern emerging on the southern end of the 250-foot-long heap, which has a known depth here of more than six feet. But at this stage any such suggestions as to patterns and significance are clearly, necessarily, speculative and subject to revision.

There appear to be at least three distinct cultural layers although it is too soon into analysis to suggest these will coincide with three distinct components. These layers range from a black, greasy mixture of dark soil and fragmented shell overlaying glacial till, through a pounded, fragmented shell zone to an overriding layer of large shell fragments and shells, topped with a thin layer of forest humus. There are remains on top of the midden of large stumps, residual of logging operations in the early 1900s. In between the layers so far delineated are three substantial ash layers; layers which puzzle this amateur since the volume of ash far exceeds the number of hearths found.

#### DeRt 27 by industry:

-- there is evidence of a substantial bone industry: at least ten and fragments of many more split bone awls made from deer metapodial were recovered. A human femur (left) was recovered. Other bone fragments included a deer ulna, bit missing.

-- substantial ground slate: at least three of the five items concerned are blades and the other two are blades or possible points. All are essentially ventricular in cross section. A small blade, 2.25 cm across, was obviously end-hafted, possibly as an incising instrument. One elongated blade is broken on the proximal end but seven cm long and 2.75 cm across at the break. The two triangular point/blades are again ventricular in cross section but finely faceted on both sides of the double cutting edges. The larger

of these two is four cm across at the break and 6.5 cm long from the tip to the break. The other is two cm across at the break, which occurs three cm from the tip.

-- chipped stone: evidence from six detritus flakes, all large, of a high grade of basalt which a geologist found noteworthy in its high crystal content, making a glassy type of substance close in character to obsidian. Some of these may have been used as scrapers.

-- shell industry: the prime specimen here is a knife-scraper of *Mytilus californianus*. There is also the shell of a butter clam with a central hole, directly down from the hinge.

-- antler industry: this may become more fully documented. To date, recovered have been only two small sectioned pieces, both under three cm and both only fragments of the original artifacts. One antler with a tyne removed (incisor marks extant) was recovered.

There is also an abundance at the site of hammer stones and abrasing stones of all grades.

The midden matrix itself shows the usual common coastal shell remains, including geoduck shell, barnacles, occasional cockle, horse clams and oyster drills. Remains of a rock cod were found in hearth situ.

Work is continuing on the analysis of the recovered data of DeRt 27 and a current hypothesis is that the lowest layer may prove to date from ca. 3,000 BP.

All of DeRt 27 lies on private property. Further field work on the site is needed and envisaged for this summer.

That's if the provincial government, my wife, and a blue heron named Cathy are all willing to grant their permission.

(Tom Carney read anthropology at U.B.C. before becoming a Victoria journalist. DeRt 27 is on his family property, and he has been digging virtually alone --aided last summer by his wife and by Archaeological Society members Nick and Sharon Russell-- but he has an official dig permit and the blessing of the provincial museum.)

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### ST. MUNGO CANNERY DIG

The dig was broken off temporarily in early April, not because of the foul weather but because of a money shortage. Supervisor Miss Gay Calvert told the Newsletter that the Museums Association --to which the A.S. of B.C. is affiliated-- has donated \$500, but this barely covers the salaries of professionals on the dig for work already done. However, she hopes to re-open the midden site early next month (June) and continue through August.

Meantime, Miss Calvert, apart from her regular museum work, is preparing an interim report which is likely to show that the site is, she says, "significantly different" from the nearby Marpole and Locarno cultures. Its lowest level has already been carbon-dated at 2,360 B.C. ( $\pm 110$ ), some 1,000 years older than anything else in the Lower Fraser Valley.

During the March dig 24 different Society members did a total of 35 days of work at the site.

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### MEMBERSHIP

At last count was 124. New members in March and April include:

William H. Ellis	Harold Griffin
Mr. & Mrs. J. Cherrington	Mrs. J. Blackburn
Mrs. Gloria K. Allen	Miss Patricia Clark
Mr. & Mrs. G. Arthur and Anne-Marie	Mr. & Mrs. H. Littler and Christopher
Mrs. Pauline M. Nielsen	Mr. & Mrs. J. S. Bean
Miss Sharon Proctor	James Garrison
Miss Shirley Cuthbertson	Reginald E. Hamlyn
Mr. & Mrs. G. D. Beard	John MacDonald
Edward R. Ciccone	Miss Vera L. Ransom
Arnoud H. Stryd	Mr. & Mrs. L. J. Rogers

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# DIARY

Thursday Lecture Program 8 p.m. Centennial Auditorium  
(Members free)

- May 15 Winner Takes All - gaming skills  
and betting among Coastal Indians, by Lynn Maranda.
- May 22 Open Air Museum in Zambia; a  
craft village near Victoria Falls, by Dr. Barrie Reynolds.
- May 29 From Whence They Come: arrival  
and contribution of various ethnic  
groups, by Willard Ireland.

Friday Film Program 8 p.m. Centennial Auditorium

- May 16 Journey to the End of the Year - B.C. wildlife  
through four seasons.  
Eskimo Artist Kenojuak - how prints are made  
by Eskimo women.  
Nahanni - true story of man seeking gold.  
How to Build an Igloo.  
Cariboo Hunters - Indian hunters of Manitoba.
- May 30 Drylanders - homesteaders of 1907 opening the  
Canadian West - principal roles played by  
Frances Hyland and James Douglas
- June 8 Indian War Canoe Races at Cultus Lake -  
An exciting annual event which will be held this  
year on Sunday, June 8. Festivities are  
scheduled to begin at 1 p.m. with Indian dances,  
followed by a variety of canoe racing culminating  
in the feature of the day - 50-foot war canoes,  
each holding ten men, which are entered from  
all over the Lower Mainland and Washington.  
There will be a salmon barbecue, and after the  
races the men settle down to games of Sla hal  
(see lecture above on gaming skills and betting).

This will not be an outing organized by the  
Society but it is highly recommended by our  
Projects Chairman, Hilary Stewart, who has  
attended the affair in former years.

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## FRAGMENTS

A new society has been formed for professional Canadian archaeologists whose interests are non-Canadian archaeology. The group will be named the Canadian Society for International Archaeology, with headquarters at Waterloo University, Kitchener; it will complement the American Institute of Archaeology, which is distinctly classical by nature, and the Canadian Archaeological Association, which covers archaeology in Canada (and which is open to non-professionals).

Next Newsletter: September 15

Tsawwassen: a considerable midden is being quickly eaten up by encroaching housing developments, and the Society is hoping to launch a rescue dig on the few remaining empty lots. A preliminary survey yielded surface finds --and neighbours eagerly displayed numerous fine artifacts found in their gardens. Members who have shown an interest in digging will be informed. If your name is not on the list, call Hilary Stewart, 731-7871.

A supervisors' course has been set up by Miss Calvert of Vancouver Museum to train a handful of interested members in minor dig duties. Ten members are already participating in a pilot course of three evening lectures, and if it is a success a further course may be arranged. Topics will include measuring, drawing, recording.

Two charter members will be leaving us: Harold and Mabel Cliffe will be retiring to Gabriola Island at the end of June. However, before they really settle down they are planning a Fall trip to Europe, North Africa and elsewhere. Harold and Mabel will both be missed, especially for their work as membership chairman and coffee hostess respectively. However, there is good reason to expect the early formation of a Gabriola Chapter of the Archaeological Society!

The Archaeology Laboratory at SFU was visited recently by some two dozen Archaeological Society members. Dr. Roy Carlson kindly threw open his facilities for an evening, and with his colleagues and students went to some trouble to display and explain a myriad of superb artifacts from all over B.C., the U.S. and North Africa.

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WHAT IS  
THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
OF BRITISH COLUMBIA?

A definition by founding president Alec Ennenberg

In the summer of 1966, the Extension Department of the University of British Columbia offered a course in archaeology, conducted by Dr. Roy Carlson, Professor of Anthropology at Simon Fraser University. The response was much greater than anticipated.

Out of this course resulted the present Archaeological Society of British Columbia, the first of its kind in the province. The Society arranges monthly illustrated lectures by authorities in archaeology and allied disciplines, carries out field trips to places of interest to members, and arranges for special guided tours of exhibitions relating to the field of archaeology. "Digs" are also arranged and members who participate gain first-hand knowledge and experience in the scientific method of excavation and recording.

Perhaps the most important benefit of joining the Society is the understanding that archaeology is not "pot-hunting" (the mere collecting of artifacts) but a serious, scientific study of early man from the always-meagre remains that have chanced to survive, and which can be, and all too often are, destroyed through ignorance and inadvertence.

In furthering the purposes of the Society, we make surveys and record sites, and also draw the attention of the proper authorities to cases where sites have been, or are about to be, destroyed through road-building, damming, subdivision or by vandalism.

In forming the Society and in formulating and pursuing our aims, we recognize the valuable assistance of Dr. Roy Carlson of S.F.U. and Dr. Charles E. Borden of U.B.C. To them, and to others who have helped and encouraged us, we are indeed grateful.

We look forward to a time when the size and influence of the Archaeological Society of British Columbia will be much greater, and when we shall be able to undertake ever more valuable activities.

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WATCH FOR the first edition of Syesis. The new journal, published under the auspices of the provincial museum and announced in the January Newsletter, is overdue because it is being printed by the Queen's Printer and clashed with the legislature. It will be out in two or three weeks, says the editor, Dr. Robert F. Skagel of U.B.C. (biology). The first issue contains two articles of particular interest to A.S. of B.C. members: "Salvage Excavations at Lillooet, B.C." by Mr. Arnoud Stryd and Mr. James Baker of S.F.U.,; and "Excavations at two trench embankments in the Gulf of Georgia", by Dr. Donald Mitchell of University of Victoria.

The editor hopes to get back on publishing schedule by producing the second issue also in June; it will include Dr. Charles Borden's seminal "Early Population Movements from Asia into B.C."

Already out is the first edition of another new socio-anthropo-econo-history journal, B.C. Studies. This thrice-a-year journal has on its editorial board representatives of all three big B.C. universities, though its co-editors are both U.B.C. -- Margaret Prang (history) and Walter Young (political science). Subscription \$5.00 a year from Room 203, Auditorium Building, U.B.C. First issue has a Dr. Borden article, "The Skagit River atlatl: a reappraisal". Also available at U.B.C. Bookstore.

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#### SUGGESTED REFERENCES

All the publications listed here may be obtained from your local bookstore, the publisher, or main branch of the Public Library.

FIGHTING WITH POVERTY, A STUDY OF KWAKIUTL POTLATCHING AND WARFARE 1792 - 1930, by Helen Codere, 1950. American Ethnological Society, Monograph No. 18. Re-issued by the University of Washington Press, Seattle, 1966. Hardbound \$5.95. 144 pp. This study provides much insight into Kwakiutl social and economic life, especially into one of its most remarkable institutions --the potlatch. It is a well-documented monograph, in which we find the whole history and psychology of the potlatch.

NORTHWEST COAST INDIAN ART, AN ANALYSIS OF FORM, by Bill Holm, 1965. University of Washington Press. Hardbound \$7.50, 144 pp. Bill Holm, a Seattle art teacher who has a deep knowledge and understanding of the Indian art, sharpens the focus on the northern style from Bella Coola to Yakutat Bay, yielding the most significant new insights since Boas' classic

study in Primitive Art. It is an excellent volume for it has numerous illustrations, full bibliography and index and a pleasing format and typology. A thoroughly illustrated examination of the use of line, colour, texture, space and form by the artists of the area.

THE INDIAN HISTORY OF B. C. by Wilson Duff, 1964, Vol. 1, The Impact of the White Man. Anthropology in B.C. Memoir No. 5. Provincial Museum, Victoria. Softbound \$1.00, 116 pp.

A comprehensive study of the Indian tribes and bands of the province, their population trend, and the effects of the arrival of the white man on their ways of life.

EXCAVATIONS AT NESIKEP (EdRk:4) by David Sanger, 1961-62. National Museum of Canada. Bulletin No. 193, Anthropological Series No. 61. Softbound. Free.

A preliminary report of a stratified site near Lillooet, B.C.

A GUIDE TO FIELD METHODS IN ARCHAEOLOGY by Robert F. Heizer and John A. Graham, 1968. University of California, Berkeley. Hardbound. The National Press, Palo Alto, Calif. \$7.95, 274 pp.

A new edition of this definitive work, superior in every respect as a basic text in archaeological methods. It contains 1,250 bibliographic entries, appendices on writing of reports, archaeology as a career, and regulations governing digging. I personally recommend this book as fascinating reading for the amateur archaeologist interested in the why's, how's and wherefore's of archaeology.

Compiled by Art Davies

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