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WYOMING
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.

September, 1980



Fellow Members:

Summer is gone, and, as usual, our plans were only half completed. But, the highlight for Lori and myself, this summer, was the Summer Meeting at the Elk Mountain Site. Because of the tremendous turn-out (87 people), the State crew opened an area, which they hadn't originally planned, in order to accommodate so many. And, an exciting find was made: two Tang knives were found insitu and is the first such find in the State of Wyoming.

Again, sincere thanks to Norman Palm and his family for their generous hospitality. Thanks to Saratoga for hosting the meeting, and thanks to Cheyenne for the pancake breakfast.

The last week-end in September was another enjoyable experience for us. On Saturday, we joined the State crew, several members from Saratoga and Cheyenne to survey a tepee ring site just North of Laramie. The site is being partially destroyed by road construction through the center. On Sunday, Lori and I joined Dr. Reher and crew at the Willow Creek Bison Trap South of Laramie. The site is most interesting, and I truly enjoyed doing what I could in the time allowed. At any rate, thanks to all of you for a wonderful week-end.

The Spring Meeting will be in Sheridan again. The Business Meeting will be Friday evening, April 24, from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. So, please consider all of your problems carefully and plan to present them in a minimum of time, because if there is anything that cannot be accomplished within those three hours, it will have to be postponed until next year. Saturday, April 25, will be devoted entirely to a Symposium and student papers. Dr. Mark Miller is Chairman of the program, and the main topic of the Symposium is: "Prehistoric Settlement and Subsistence Along the North Platte River in Colorado and Wyoming." We hope to have all of the papers printed in a special issue of the Wyoming Archaeologist.

Jack Elliott is Chairman of the Nominating Committee. If any of you have a favorite son or daughter you wish to nominate for an officer, or to suggest for secretary, please call Jack at 674-6342, or drop him a line at 1922 Big Horn Avenue, Sheridan, Wyoming 82801.

Happy Holidays!

Lover

ARCHAE ANNIE - - -

Archae Annie reports briefly that all Wyoming amateurs must have really learned much this summer - no one seems to have any questions worthy of communication.

The Archaeology Exhibit, "25,000 Years of Man in Wyoming" will officially open July 25, 1981 with the Saratoga Historical and Cultural Association's Second Annual Folk Fair. (Say that in a hurry!)

As an added attraction, Cherokee Trail Chapter is planning an atlatl contest, and possibly a bow and arrow match.

It is hoped this will stimulate competition along these lines between amateurs in both Wyoming and surrounding states. Some people from the professional community have also expressed interest in such matches.

Cherokee Trail Chapter has three or four members who feel they may be reasonably good with the above mentioned weapons, so the gauntlet has been dropped for any who accept the challenge.

ARCHAE ANNIE

#

ONE DAY LAST SUMMER, OR IT'S BEEN A GREAT DAY

by Juanita Hinthorn

Virginia called me early one morning with an offer to take me "rockin' ". (In case that means nothing to you, it's artifact hunting.) She had her son's pick-up and a whole day to goof-off. She said that she would pick up Jean and be at my place about eight o'clock.

I was over-joyed at the thought of a day in the hills. The sun was shining, a slight breeze was blowing, God was in His place, and all was right with the world.

I'm not sure, but I think it is about sixty-five miles to the Coffman Ranch where we were going to hunt. The turn-off on the Buckman Road was our last glimpse of another human being, but who cared? We had each other and a wonderful day to be glad in.

I must describe my friends. Virginia is a beautiful, blue-eyed brunette, quiet, thoughtful, and gentle. I could go on about her for a paragraph or two.

Jean is a tall, long-legged blonde, lovely build, elegant, even in patched jeans

and sneakers. She's a wonderful friend and great in a pinch. Neither one has ever panicked when we've been in trouble, and that has been often. They both drive their four-wheel drive pick-ups to places that a deer would hesitate to try.

We gained our objective about ten or eleven o'clock that morning and parked the pick-up below the high plateau where the Indian camp was located. There was a small stream running down through the draw, and on both sides were steep (and I mean steep) sandstone bluffs with sliding sand and loose rock, snakes, ticks, and all the other goodies that try to discourage a person. Needless to say, if I had broken both legs, I still would have tried to reach the top. Going up wasn't really that bad, because scattered down the hill were beautiful ammonites, and lots of them were perfect. Virginia couldn't resist the fossils, so it slowed her down considerably. It didn't matter, though, because we all go our own way at our own pace; and, as a general rule, we don't see each other all day.

About four-thirty that afternoon, we straggled back to the pick-up; we were starved, thirsty, and tired. We ate our meager lunches (everybody brings their own), drank more water than it takes for a buffalo, and started home. Oh, I forgot to tell you that we spent quite a little time showing our finds and describing how much of it was covered, and if we were sun hunting, etc., etc. That's nearly as much fun as finding the artifact. Then, we checked for ticks and got on our way.

We hadn't traveled over five miles when Virginia announced loud and clear, "I think we have a flat." However, the road was so bad, just a trail I should say, two ruts with sagebrush between 'em. I don't know how she knew she had a flat, but she did. We piled out and started gathering tools to change that monster of a back tire before dark. We'd been there before and knew that it was a three-woman job, and that wasn't really enough. We found everything that we needed, but the jack. We tore that pick-up apart -- no jack. That "learned" us something. We look now before we take out.

We decided to hold a board meeting on our options. We could stay there, probably two or three days till they found us; drive on the flat, which was a bad deal we thought; or walk four or five miles for help.

We recalled that we had noticed, on coming in, some men building new holding corrals, but we hadn't determined if they were a camping crew, or driving to work in the morning, in which case they would be gone before we could contact them. The decision was unanimous: Jean and Virginia would walk, while I remained with the pick-up until they returned with help. They left me because I'm 76, got a hitch in my get-a-long, and besides that, I'm lazy and didn't want to make that long walk after dark. I figured those were reasons enough.

I watched the girls as long as there was a blur and I could no longer hear them talking. It was deep twilight when they left, but it was so clear, and the world was so quiet that it seemed almost light. I decided I'd radio awhile, but then I wasn't sure how much power the radio used, or if we might need it worse for some other

reasons later on. I didn't know what reason, but just that we might. I think I really wanted it for an overhead light, or headlights, if I needed to see something. I sat there by myself for about a year and a half, so it seemed; and, it got darker and darker. The stars came out one by one, and they danced and dodged and winked at me. It was quiet, so very quiet; there was no wind, no breeze, no sound. I could hear my heart beat, and I was alone. I would have welcomed a rabbit, a mouse, even a coyote howl, but nothing moved, and I was all alone. God was there, I knew, but I couldn't see him. I was getting cold, and the clock said I had been alone just two hours, though it seemed much longer.

I thought about freezing rather than venture out in that strange and eerie place. The pick-up was parked between two huge Cedar ridges. I could see the dark trees and rocks, and they didn't look as friendly at night as they had during the daylight. I knew the cozy little stream had lots of chips and fire rock around it, but even that thought didn't comfort me.

As I grew colder, I remembered that while we had searched for the jack I had seen a bundle behind the seat, and that it had looked like an old blanket. Finally, I decided to get the blanket to wrap around me and try taking a nap. The door of the pick-up stuck, but I got it open and pulled out the bundle. It was a blanket wrapped around two rifles and a hunting bow and arrows. I left the weapons leaning against the pick-up just in case Big Foot or Old Rawhead and Bloody Bones showed up. I locked the doors, wrapped myself in the blanket and tried to sleep. But, I couldn't help but worry about my friends. Were they lost? Was there anything to hurt them? Where were they? Etc., etc.

Then, I heard a woman laugh and a man's voice. I thought it was Jean and Virginia with help, but it would seem that they had ridden for I heard horses hooves on the hard bedrock.

Finally, I got out of the blanket and looked out. It was not my friends. It was a young boy on a paint pony, carrying what looked like a couple of rabbits. I tried to open the window to call to him, but he didn't seem to see the pick-up at all. He crossed over the little stream, slid off the pony, left it tied to the wind while he began to call to other people who appeared to be sitting or standing in front of a small fire. There were no flames in the fire, just a glow. The boy held up the rabbits and spoke to the others in a strange language, one I had never heard before. They seemed happy, and so was I -- there were other people. They must have been campers, I thought, who had arrived while I was sleeping. I started to get out to go over to them when I saw Jean and Virginia coming. I knew they hadn't seen the new people, so I started to tell the girls about them. But, I looked, and my people were gone -- there was no horse, no fire; nothing was there but the sagebrush and bunch grass that had always been there. I kept my trap shut and pretended that I had been asleep.

The girls had found the men at the corrals with no trouble, but none of them spoke English. Jean became leary the way those fellows began to look at them, so she and

Virginia turned around, went a little way, and hid in the brush. The men followed them in their truck, but gave up and returned to their camp when they couldn't locate the girls. Can you wonder that these fellows were a little curious when two lovely young women stepped out of the sagebrush about ten-thirty at night and started talking to them? Maybe they thought this was the way that Americans behaved. Who knows?

We held another board meeting and decided to sacrifice the tire and try going somewhere where there might be help come morning. I guess we were about fifteen miles from a graded road that was used by ranchers occasionally. We were wondering by then if our husbands had realized that we were not home, or if they did realize, would they look for us, and if any of the three men would look, would they know which direction we had taken? Virginia said that she had told her husband, and he would miss her, and he would come for us. She was right.

We crawled out of there at five miles per hour, or less, and it took forever. Just as we finally approached the graded road, we saw headlights. Sure enough, it was our husbands, sons, and three pick-ups, with jacks yet.

Well, I made it home about two-thirty that morning, sent my poor husband to bed, and laid me down. My last thought, you guessed it -- it's been a great day!

p.s. You are probably thinking that I had a dream. But, I think that I was caught up in a time warp and slipped back about two hundred years to see those happy, wonderful people going about their every day business.

#

CHAPTER NEWS - - -

The Cherokee Trail Chapter of the Wyoming Archaeological Society has been stirring more than just a little bit this year.

We have had several meetings which featured excellent programs, not the least of which was our annual dinner meeting, April 22.

George Zeimens, guest speaker, gave an excellent slide presentation on fire hearths, explaining this was a high plains phenomenon which was worthy of much research and analysis. Fire hearths are one of the more prominent and least understood archaeological features. He also touched briefly on the increasing significance of the Garrett Allen Site. This site is officially known as the "Elk Mountain Site", but we are prejudiced toward its discoverer.

The Elk Mountain Site was the location of the Wyoming Archaeological Society summer meeting, which proved to be an educational event for all in attendance.

We participated in field trips both archaeological and historical, with knowledge being derived from both sources. A good deal of enjoyment accompanied all of the excursions.

Dr. Mark Miller, who is a member of Cherokee Trail Chapter, conducted a course (Anthro 616) offered through the Wyoming University Extension Service. Of the thirty people enrolled in the course, fifteen were members of the Cherokee Trail Chapter.

Lectures, slide presentations, and the use of closed circuit T.V. all contributed to a well presented course. Dr. Frison's Prehistoric Hunters of the High Plains was used as a reference book concerning cultural patterns, food procurement, settlement patterns and various technologies. All who participated felt fortunate to have such instruction available.

We have experienced an enjoyable year, and look eagerly toward 1981.

#

SUMMER MEETING - - -

July 19 and 20 were the dates of the Wyoming Archaeological Society summer meeting at the Elk Mountain Site, which is of major importance in this sector of the High Plains.

Eighty-seven people, seven dogs, and one ferret reveled in getting completely dirty in an enjoyable weekend of basic archaeology.

Assorted types, sizes, and pleasing shapes indulged in exercising trowel and shovel in a controlled, supervised manner, and in so doing, became exposed to some good and sound methodology. (Unfortunately, this does not in any way deter heavy vandalism which persists at this site.)

Garrett "Digger" Allen, discoverer of the site, demonstrated the reason for his nickname. In so doing, he exposed a portion of the Cody Complex, some royalty from Casper, and underneath all, John Gilman, president of the Cherokee Trail Chapter.

People from the professional community most patiently supervised and controlled enthusiastic efforts in a direction that helped us all learn something. They also carefully explained that what we had found was "another one of those".

Dr. Frison had some pertinent comments and information on where archaeology now is in Wyoming and the High Plains, with some definite ideas concerning future direction.

George Zeimens added some thoughts along the same lines, and expressed gratitude to all in attendance. The Wyoming Archaeological Society is deeply grateful to all these dedicated people who continually give of their time toward making this Society the viable instrument that it is. Without this support, we would have faltered long ago.

Evening firelight ceremonies included presentation of a Wyoming Archaeological Society membership to land owners Carrol and Norman Palm. By allowing access to their holdings, they insured the success of the summer meeting. We offer them our sincere thanks, and are pleased to be able to share with them results of analysis of site materials as revealed in future studies. The membership is presented to Norman by the Cherokee Trail Chapter President, John Gilman, and witness by His Majesty Grover Phelan, State President.

George Zeimens was awarded a diagnostic knife which was water screened in a location adjacent to the site.

Material of importance for analysis was obtained as a result of the efforts of all involved. Some artifacts were recovered, including two "corner tang knives" in datable context.

Jim Kitching from Hanna provided some enjoyable toe-tapping banjo picking. Cheyenne Chapter fed us a fine "flap jack" breakfast that really "stuck to your ribs".

Name dropping is a good way to overlook people, so if I've dropped you, forgive me. You know you were there, and enjoyed everything right to the end.

GEORGE BROX, EDITOR



Assorted Types . . .

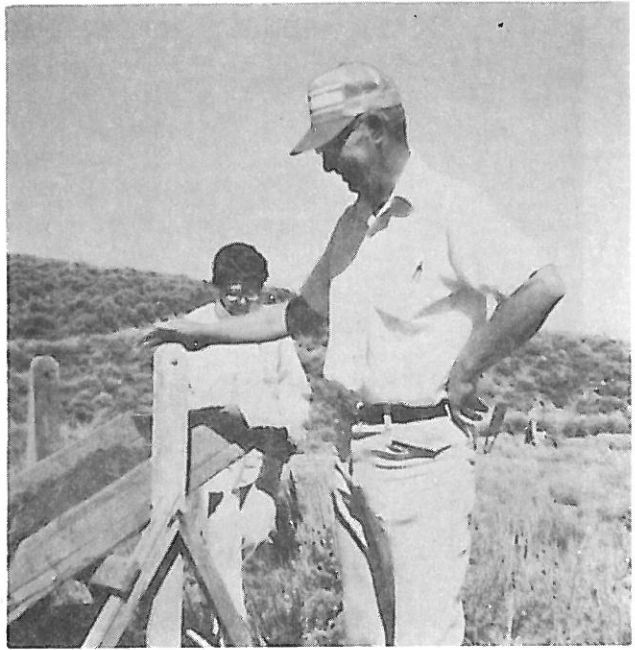
Sizes . . .



and Pleasing Shapes.



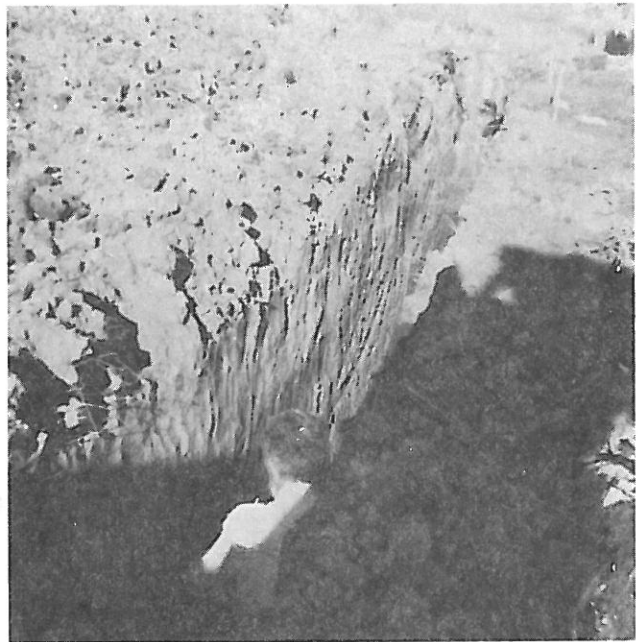
Garret "Digger" Allen, Site Discoverer



The "Cody Complex"
Milford & Imogene Hanson



Royalty from Casper:
Lori Phelan - Secretary
Grover Phelan - President
(Background - Mimi Gilman)



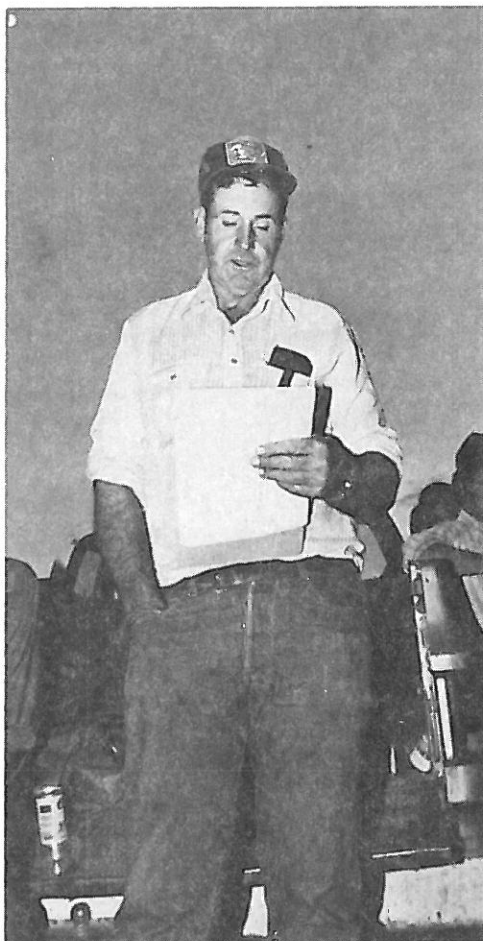
John Gilman, President -
Cherokee Trail Chapter



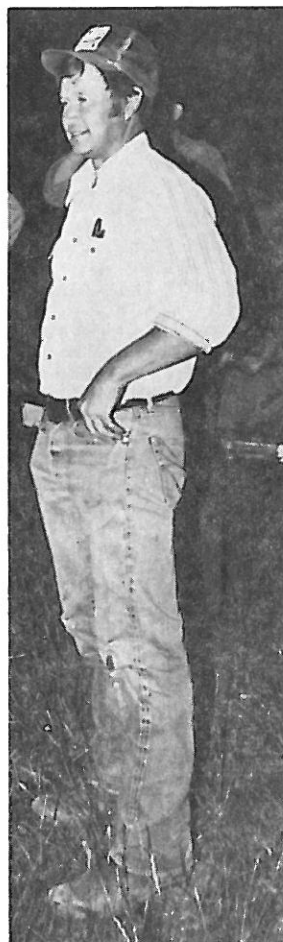
Careful Explanation



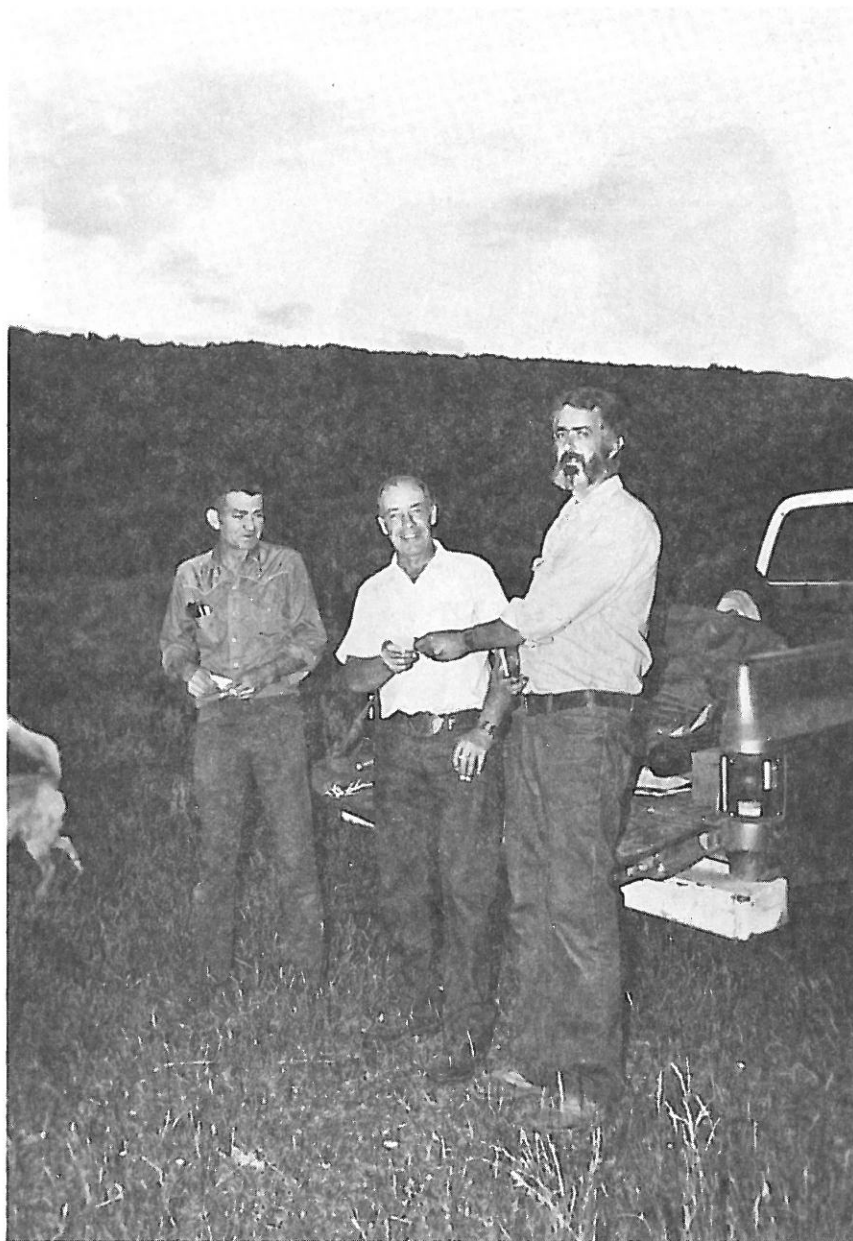
"Yep, it's another one of those."



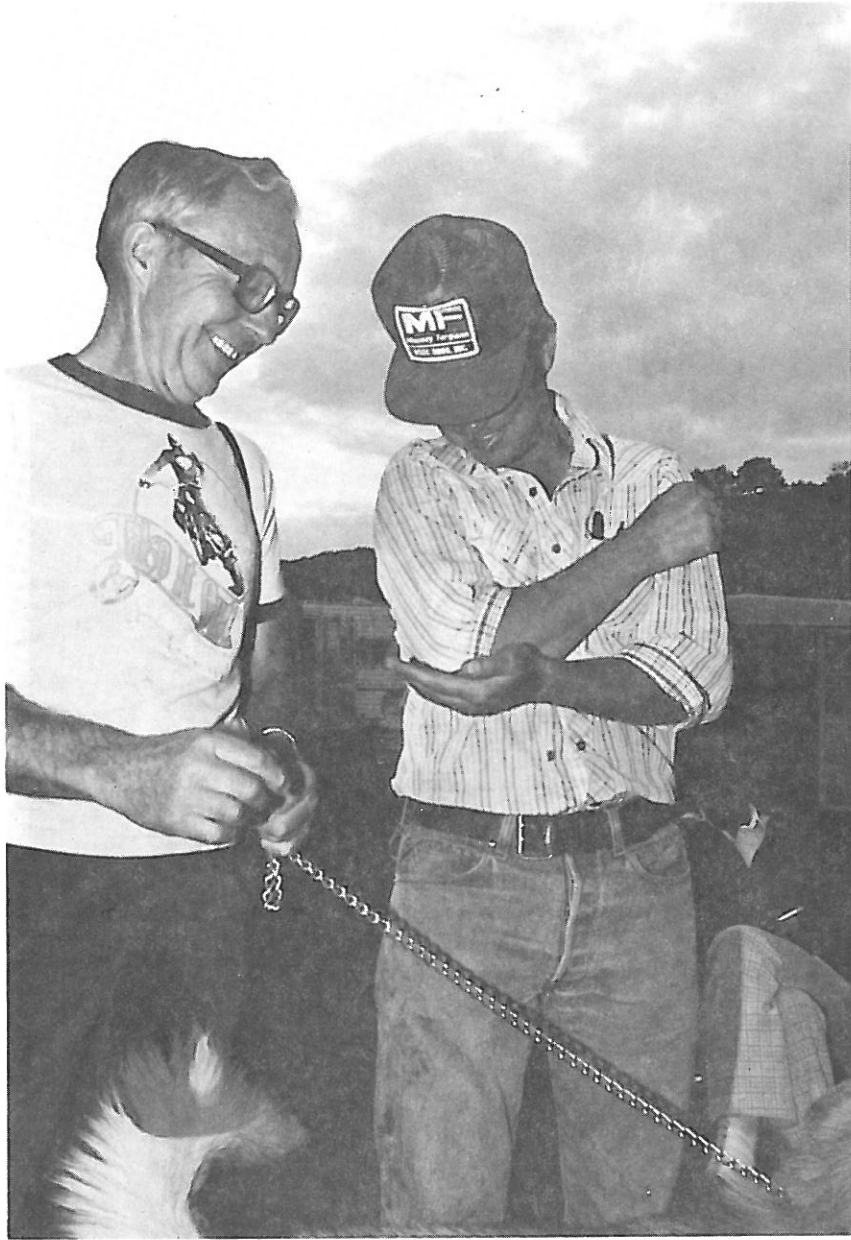
Dr. Frison had some pertinent comments.



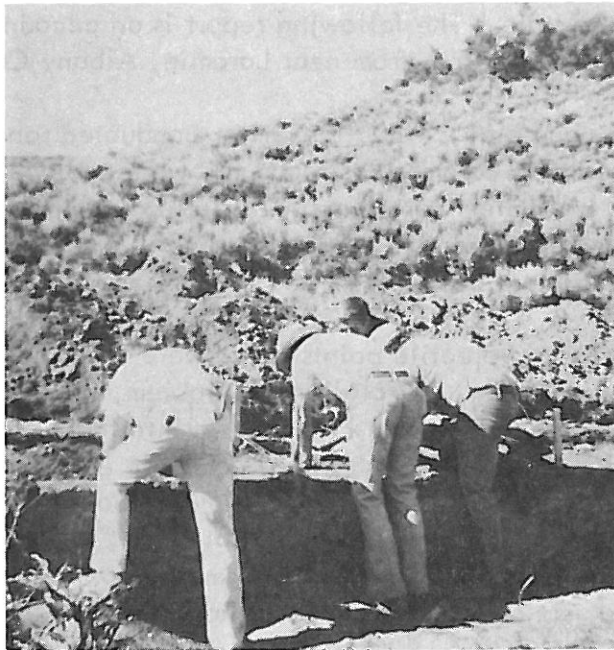
George Zeimens added some thoughts.



Norman Palm was presented a Wyoming Archaeological Society membership
John Gilman, right; Norman Palm, center; Grover Phelan, left



George Zeimens received a diagnostic knife.



- and enjoyed everything
right to the end -

RECENT PALEO INDIAN PROJECTILE POINT SURFACE FINDS
FROM ALBANY COUNTY, WYOMING

by Steven E. Lund

Of all Indian artifacts from the Northwestern Plains, Paleo Indian projectile points are perhaps the most interesting for both aesthetic and scientific reasons. Characteristically exhibiting excellent workmanship, such familiar examples as Eden, Agate Basin, Hell Gap, and others, although usually rare as surface finds, have been collected throughout the state. The following report is an account of recent Paleo Indian projectile point surface finds from near Laramie, Albany County, Wyoming.

Between August, 1978, and May, 1980, the writer conducted random archaeological investigations of the southern Laramie Basin and the western slope of the Laramie Mountains for some 48 kilometers north, and 32 kilometers south of Laramie (Fig. 1). Seventy-eight recognizable projectile points (ranging in age from Folsom to Historic) and numerous other artifacts were found.

Unfortunately, many of the projectile points found were incomplete which sometimes rendered identification difficult. To clarify this problem, Paleo Indian projectile points, and suspected Paleo points were categorized into three classes (Chart A). Class A includes confirmed Paleo points (points complete enough to be positively identified as Paleo). Class B consists of probable Paleo points (points too incomplete for positive identification, but which indicated Paleo). Class C is possible Paleo points (very fragmentary pieces having at least some Paleo point characteristics). Of the 78 points found, six are Class A Paleo Indian projectile points, five are Class B, and three are Class C.

DESCRIPTIONS OF THE PALEO INDIAN PROJECTILE POINTS

Text Descriptions accompanied by location map (Fig. 1), and illustrations (Fig. 2).

1. Harney Creek Site - Situated on a hill overlooking the Harney Creek Reservoir some 13 kilometers south of Laramie, the Harney Creek Site was apparently used as a compsite from the Folsom Period through the Late Prehistoric Period. Class A #1, a predominately complete Folsom, was found in a shallow ravine at the top of the hill. The 3.7 cm point exhibits fluting on both sides, although the flute on side B is wider than on side A. Made of a dull yellow chalcedony covered with heavy white patina, the point bears grinding on the lower 2.6 cm, and the top exhibits impact fracture flake scars.

A second point (Class B #1) was found some 25 meters from Class A #1. This point, due to its incompleteness, and also because of its apparent distortion by fire, presents identification difficulty. It is 1.7 cm long and made of a green quartzite. Side C exhibits typical Folsom type transverse flaking on the edges and narrow end, with a large flake scar or flute down the middle. Side D is not

fluted, but exhibits a large wide crack extending about 1 cm from the top down. It is also transversely flaked.

The main problem is determining whether this specimen (Class B #1) is an impact fractured tip of a Folsom or some other point, or the reworked base of a one half fluted Folsom point. The large scar or flute on side C is rippled from the narrow end toward the bottom, indicating removal from the narrow end. If the removal of the flake on side C was a deliberate fluting attempt, then the narrow end is probably the reworked base of a Folsom. Another possibility is that both the un-dislodged flake on side D and the flake scar on side C are impact fractures. Whether or not the flake scar and the crack are fluting attempts, the general shape and flaking pattern of this specimen indicates Folsom.

A tip fragment of a third point (Class C #1) was discovered near Class A #1. Although too incomplete to identify, this point tip could also be of Folsom age. It is made of a heavily patinated clear chert, the same material of which an eared scraper (characteristic of the Paleo Indian Period) and other broken tools and flakes from this site were made of. Two graters found resemble those from other Folsom sites. One is a retouched flake of yellow-green quartzite. The other appears to be a reworked projectile point fashioned into a grater. Made of white quartzite, the small specimen (1.7 cm long) has basal ears and a flaked tip. Heavy grinding on the entire object except for the tip has almost obliterated the flake scars. Seven broken projectile points of probable Archaic or Late Prehistoric Period age, several eroded fire hearths containing charcoal, and occasional scattered bone fragments were also found at this site.

2. Hutton Lake Site - Class B #2, a midsection of a projectile point with a diamond cross section, was found near a butte by Hutton Lake (13 kilometers southwest of Laramie). A probable Eden, this is the only Paleo Indian projectile point found by the writer in the Laramie Basin proper. It is 1.2 cm long and made of red and white striped quartzite. Eight Archaic period points, one Historic iron trade point, other broken artifacts, and two stone circles were also discovered here.
3. The Ninth Street Scottsbluff Point - Probably the base of a Scottsbluff point, Class A #2, was an isolated find with no evident association to any site. It was found at the base of a ridge roughly three kilometers northeast of Laramie on Ninth Street. Made of red and grey chert, the 4.0 x 2.3 cm specimen is transversely flaked. The point (lenticular in cross section) has light basal grinding on the shoulders.
4. The Rock Quarry Site - This productive site near a modern rock quarry, eight kilometers northeast of Laramie, yielded Class A #3, three Archaic Period projectile points, two Late Prehistoric Period projectile points, and other artifacts. Made of brown chert and lenticular in cross section, Class A #3 is tapered and

ground on the edges suggesting the upper base of a Hell Gap point. Side L of the 3.3 cm piece has a milky yellow patina and parallel oblique flaking, whereas side K has collateral flaking. Also on side L are two longitudinal basal thinning flakes.

The occurrence of three rock cairns and at least six large stone circles on the ridges either side of the stone quarry are important additional features of this site.

5. The Wallrock Creek Reservoir Area – The Wallrock Creek reservoir area, (about 28 kilometers north of Laramie) including the upper creek and canyon, and Bell and Horned Owl caves, are well known to archaeologists in the area. Previous excavation of the caves and collection of surface artifacts indicate extensive occupation from Folsom through Historic times (Zeimens and Walker, 1974; Zeimens, personal communication).

Two Class A, three Class B, and two Class C Paleo Indian projectile points, and 12 more recent projectile points were found here by the writer. Other artifacts including scrapers, flake tools, choppers and other tools made of chert, quartzite, and obsidian were also found.

Of particular interest was Class A #4, a piece of a Folsom, only the second confirmed Folsom point known to have been found here (the other was located in Bell Cave – Zeimens, personal communication). Discovered on the south slope of the canyon mouth, the 1.9 cm specimen is fluted on both sides, and made of clear chert covered with light patina. The size and angle of the collateral flake scars on the edge of the point are similar to the flake scars of Class B #3, a possible fragment of an unfluted Folsom. Also from the south slope, Class B #3 is made of clear chert without patina. Another Paleo point from the south slope (Class B #4) is a tip bearing oblique flaking on both sides. It is 1.5 cm long and made of yellow-grey quartzite. Two fragmentary pieces of possible Paleo points (Class C) from the south slope were too incomplete for identification, although visible flake scars suggest oblique flaking.

A red quartzite tip, Class B #5 was found near the edge of the reservoir. This point (2.1 cm) has a thin lenticular cross section and fine parallel oblique flaking. Class A #5 was found approximately one kilometer downstream from the reservoir. The 3.5 cm specimen is parallel obliquely flaked with slight uneven shoulders tapering into short ears at the base. Made of clear chert, the point is lenticular in cross section and lacks basal grinding.

6. The Sheeprock Site – A small campsite located on the bank of North Sybille Creek near Sheeprock, approximately 43 kilometers north of Laramie, yielded Class A #6. This broken specimen is characterized by a thick lenticular cross section, collateral flaking, a straight base, and evenly tapered sides. These traits, along with the point's basal grinding are indicative of Agate Basin. The specimen is 2.2 cm long and made of yellow quartzite. Additional artifacts

from this and other nearby sites include both Archaic and Late Prehistoric Period projectile points, scrapers, bifaces (including a 20 cm long biface made of volcanic rhyolite), retouch flakes, and broken tools and flakes.

COMMENTS

The total number of Paleo Indian projectile points (Class A and B) located during the two years of the investigation is 11, or 14% of the 78 points found. This is believed to be a high percentage of Paleo points for one collection in Wyoming. Observation of many projectile point collections from the state show that Paleo Indian projectile points usually comprise only a small percentage of any one collection. An example is the writer's collection of approximately 260 projectile points from central Wyoming. Only about 4.5% of these points are Paleo Indian, a figure probably resembling that of most projectile point collections from the state. Therefore it seems plausible that the Laramie area is one of the better Paleo Indian artifact producing areas of the state.

As indicated on the map, Paleo Indian projectile points tended to occur mostly along the western slope of the Laramie Mountains, or nearby ridges and buttes. With the exception of Class B #2, no Paleo points were found during the survey in the greater basin, although many later types were. This could suggest that Paleo Indian activity was concentrated near the mountains rather than in the basin. A more probable explanation is that the ridgetops, hillsides, and butte areas are places where geological conditions favor long exposure of Paleo points, making discovery of them more likely. This is particularly evident with the Paleo Indian projectile points from the south slope of the Wallrock Creek canyon, the rock quarry find, and others from rocky areas. The heavy patina on many of these points combined with their fragmentary condition attest to long exposure to the elements.

Undoubtedly, additional Paleo Indian projectile points will be found, which combined with the data presented here, with other previous surface found Paleo points, and with information obtained from excavated sites, will help to form a more rounded picture of the Paleo Indian Period in the area.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Grateful appreciation is extended to Dr. George Frison, Dr. Charles Reher, George Zeimens, Tom Larson, and other staff members in the Anthropology Department at the University of Wyoming who took the time to help identify the projectile points and certain other artifacts as they were found. Extra thanks is extended to George Zeimens who offered encouragement and advice in the project, and investigated the Harney Creek Site (where incidentally, he found the two gravers illustrated). Thanks is also extended to George Brox for helpful suggestions concerning the manuscript.

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Chart A

Classification of Paleo Indian projectile points	
Class A	Confirmed Paleo Indian projectile points
Class B	Probable Paleo Indian projectile points
Class C	Possible Paleo Indian projectile points

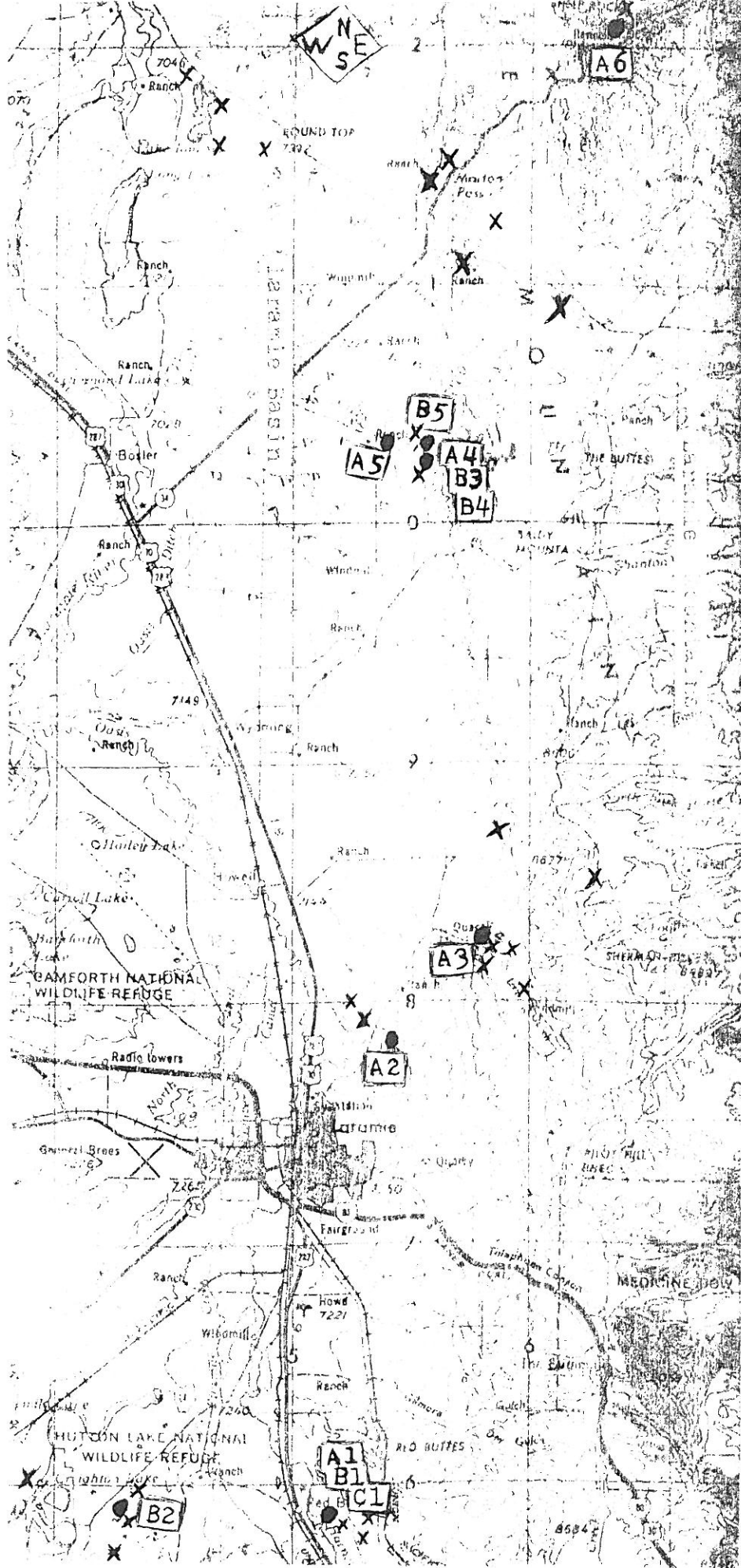


Figure 1. Map showing locations of projectile points found during the survey. Locations of Class A and B Paleo Indian projectile points appear as dark spots. Non Paleo Indian projectile points appear as X's. Beside each dark spot is the classification number for the Paleo point(s) found there. Example: The spot near the southern end of the map with the letters A1, B1, C1, means Class A #1, Class B #1, and Class C #1, respectively, were found there.

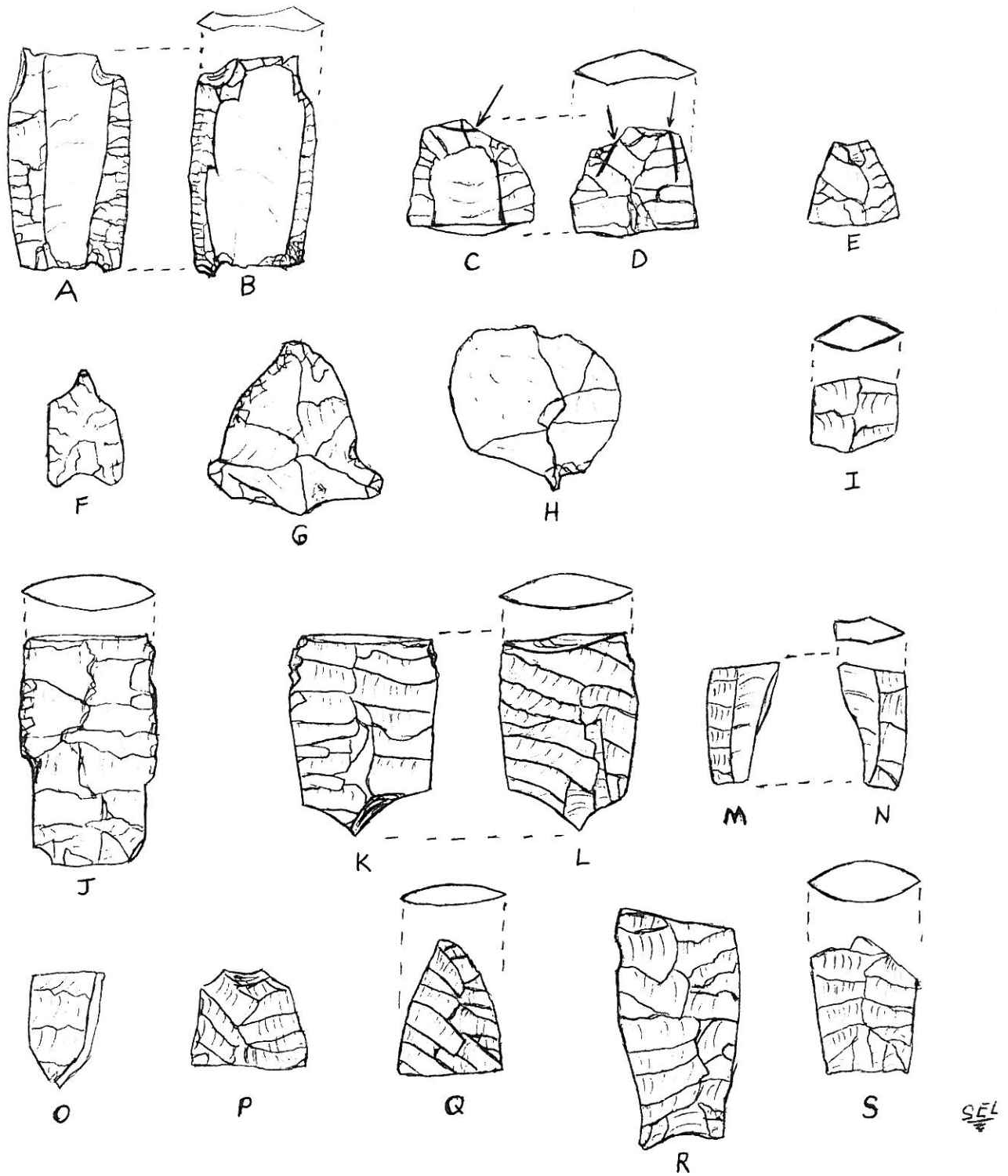


Figure 2 - Illustrations of Paleo Indian projectile points and other Paleo Indian artifacts (actual size). "A" through "H" are Harney Creek Site artifacts. "A" and "B" are Class A #1; "C" and "D" are Class B #1. "E" is Class C #1; "F" and "H" are graters; "G" is an eared scraper. "I" is Class B #2 from Hutton Lake. "J" is Class A #2, the Ninth Street Scottsbluff point. "K" and "L" are Class A #3 from the rock quarry. "M" through "R" are from Wallrock Creek. "M" and "N" are Class A #4; "O" is Class B #4; "Q" is Class B #5; "R" is Class A #5. "S" is Class A #6 from Sheeprock.

Date: July 9, 1980

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NEWS

WYOMINGBLM

United States Department of the Interior Bureau of Land Management 2515 Warren Avenue Cheyenne, Wyoming 82001

CHEYENNE--A cultural resource inventory of early day trails is now in progress on selected parcels of public land in Idaho and Wyoming. The inventory covers the Oregon, Mormon, Pony Express, Overland Stage and California trails between Fort Hall, Idaho and Fort Caspar, Wyoming.

The Idaho State Historical Society, in cooperation with the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) in Wyoming, is conducting the two-year study which is referred to as the Oregon/Mormon Trail Study. It covers three phases: (1) compiling existing information and documents; (2) aerial photography of trail locations, conditions and present land use; and (3) field inventory to include 1,700 - 40 acre survey units.

Results of the Trail Study will assist BLM in formulating trail management options. Eventually, these options will form the basis of a Trails Management Plan that will identify which sites should be protected, how they should be protected, which other uses are compatible along the trails and what values remain.

The first two phases have been completed. The third phase will begin in Wyoming in early July. A final report will be available to the public in 1981.

If amateur historians and archeologists have information concerning trail location, condition, present land use or knowledge of specific sites such as graves, stage stations, etc., they are asked to contact the Resources Division, Bureau of Land Management, P.O. Box 1828, Cheyenne, Wyoming 82001.

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In a contract with the Bureau of Land Management in Wyoming, the Idaho State Historical Society is now conducting a cultural resource inventory on selected parcels of public land along the Oregon, Mormon, Pony Express, Overland Stage, and California trails, between Fort Hall, Idaho and Fort Caspar, Wyoming.

LITHIC SCATTERS AND SITE VANDALISM: CAUTION IN SITE INTERPRETATION

Thomas R. Lincoln

ABSTRACT

Site vandalism is an on-going destructive process in the Northwestern plains. At four sites in central Wyoming, artifact clusters were identified as resulting from a specific type of vandalism rather than from prehistoric tool production activity. Several field analytical techniques are proposed to validate vandalism assumptions.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank Jeff Kenyon, Eddy Steuble, Jim Yahnke, and Teri Cunningham for reading and commenting on early drafts of this paper.

On the Northwestern Plains, the most frequent type of prehistoric archaeological sites are small surface scatters of chipped stone artifacts. These sites are referred to as lithic scatters, but are also commonly called chipping stations and lookouts. They are most often located near a bluff scarp and afford an expansive view of lower elevations. Structures are not usually found in context with lithic scatters.

Usually, lithic scatters are identified by the presence of 10 to 100 artifacts strewn about the surface in no apparent pattern; occasionally, the number of artifacts may be well in excess of 100. Raw material types usually number three or less and are most often derived from local sources. It is not rare to find discreet clusters of artifacts within lithic scatters. Such clusters are considered to have been produced by a single individual during core reduction and/or tool production and maintenance activities. Many archaeological reports from the Northwestern Plains contain references to artifact clusters (Munday 1978; Fox 1977; Lincoln 1977). However, care must be taken when identifying artifact clusters within chipping activity locales because of a specific type of site vandalism that occurs in central Wyoming and probably other areas of the Northwestern Plains.

At Pathfinder Reservoir, located in central Wyoming, the Water and Power Resources Service is conducting an Executive Order 11593 compliance survey of the lands it administers. Twenty-four cultural resource sites were recorded at Pathfinder Reservoir during the 1979 field season. Four sites contained small distinct clusters of chipped stone artifacts that apparently were produced as a result of prehistoric tool production activity. The quantity of artifacts from the clusters ranges from 10 to 75 within areas that ranged from 50 to 1000 cm².

However, the artifact clusters at Pathfinder do not appear to be the result of core

reduction or tool production behavior; they seem to have been produced by artifact hunters. The following scenario was outlined for me by a local collector who contended that there is a common method of artifact hunting for central Wyoming. He suggests that hunters indiscriminately collect a quantity of artifacts (cores, tools, and debitage) then sit down and pick through their collections looking for "arrowheads". In these cases, all discarded artifacts are tossed into a pile and abandoned. What remains is a recently discarded concentration of artifacts that resemble the remains of a chipping locale yet have no affinity to prehistoric tool production behavior. Figures 1 and 2 show examples of recently produced artifact clusters. Fortunately, for our survey, the culprit (or at least one of them) is known to me and has admitted to such collection practices. To say the least, these artifact concentrations confound an already confusing issue.

What can be done about this problem? Short of heavy handed law enforcement, there are several actions that can be taken by archaeologists. These can be done in the field and will help identify lithic concentrations that result from vandalism. First, one must talk with the locals. They are often very active conversationalists when it comes to their "arrowhead" collections. By establishing a rapport with these people, it is quite easy to get them to tell how they collect a site. This was the primary source of information we used to identify the vandalized sites in our survey area.

In the absence of local cooperation, there are several alternative analytical techniques that can be applied in the field. These techniques center around the premise that vandals will only collect obvious artifacts; e.g. diagnostic tools and artifacts made from exotic-looking raw material. Because of this, certain types of artifacts and artifact classes that one would normally expect to find in a chipping locale assemblage may be missing from vandalized collections. Because of the nature of tool production activities, small pressure flakes, bifacial thinning flakes, and shatter are always found at chipping locales. However, small indistinct artifacts are not found within recently produced artifact clusters because a collector would not pick up small pieces of debitage. Similarly, bifacial thinning flakes would not normally appear in a vandalized artifact cluster because they are not inherently diagnostic artifacts. Bifacial thinning flakes may, however, be present in vandalized clusters because of inadvertent collection. For this reason, they can not be considered clear indicators of site vandalism like the absence of pressure flakes and shatter. A third field analytical technique is the identification of raw material types. In central Wyoming, there were many varieties of raw material available to prehistoric inhabitants; in fact, most sites contain several raw material types. Chipping activity locales usually have three or less raw material types present (Lincoln 1977). On the other hand, all of the vandalized artifact clusters at Pathfinder Reservoir contained many raw material types; in fact, too many for the numbers of artifacts present. Following is a breakdown of artifact numbers and raw material types:

<u>Site</u>	<u>Artifacts</u>	<u>R/M Types</u>
48 NA 410	8	6
48 NA 411 (Feature 4)	75	9
(Feature 5)	19	8
48 NA 413	26	9
48 NA 414	19	6

These figures clearly show that either the sites were vandalized or a very inefficient flint knapper produced the artifacts.

Presently, the best advice I can give to Northwestern Plains archaeologists is to be skeptical. Vandalism in the Northwestern Plains is a highly destructive and ongoing process. Archaeologists should become aware of the techniques used by vandals. The suggestions given here may help in the identification of vandalized sites and give some insurance that data are correctly interpreted when added to the archaeological record.

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Figure 1. Vandalized artifact cluster from 48 NA 411, Feature 4.

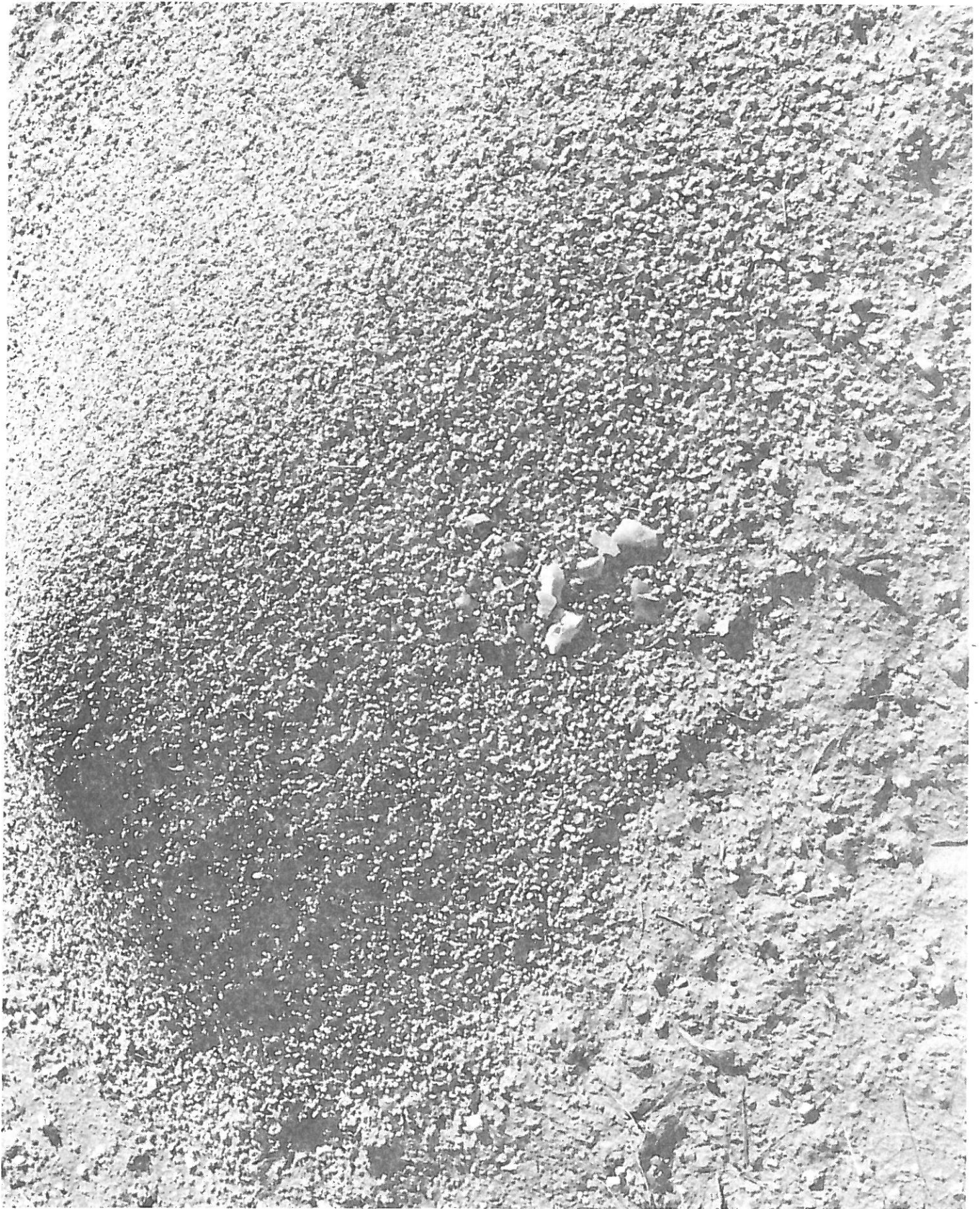


Figure 2. Vandalized artifact cluster from 48 NA 411, Feature 5.