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SHERIDAN CHAPTER PRINTS REPORT

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SOUTH AMERICAN FINDS REPORTED BY BUD CAMPBELL

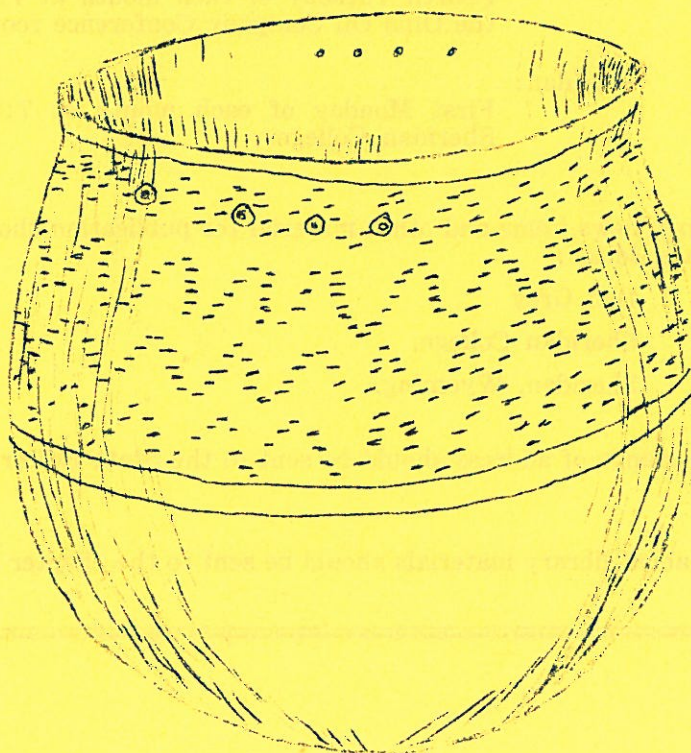
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SHERIDAN CHAPTER HAS BANQUET

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OVER THE CAMPFIRE

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SHERIDAN CHAPTER PRINTS REPORT

A report on the "Powers-Yonkee Bison Trap" was compiled and printed in time for the annual banquet of the Sheridan Chapter on November 18th. A number of drawings and half-tone pictures make the 16-page report quite attractive. The report sold at fifty cents per copy to those who were interested.

The report shows evidence of having been hastily compiled, and is quite incomplete, but a final report on the site will no doubt be prepared in the future. Chief among the faults of the report are several conclusions stated without supporting evidence. Among these is that of calling the site a trap rather than a kill, although no evidence is adduced to support the hypothesis. A statement that the gully in which the kill took place had "more or less vertical walls" seems to be ad hoc, since no stratigraphic evidence is supplied. The work at the site seems to have been carefully done, judging from the photographs, and this omission of evidence may have been an oversight.

Copies of the reports from the geologists, paleontologists, and archaeologists who studied the site and its materials were omitted. Summarizing statements of these reports are made, but lack the clarity and accuracy of professional reports. A carbon date from Isotopes, Inc. is included but, again, the original report is not reproduced. A nearby stone structure is called an eagle trap, and some stone circles are called tipi-rings; but no evidence is given to support these conclusions. It is stated that a surface collection of 31 stone artifacts from the vicinity of the stone circles correlates with that from the kill site, but the collection is not illustrated. Previous collections by Society members at the site over the past several years are not mentioned or illustrated. The discoverer of the site, who filed a report with the River Basin Surveys, is not credited in the report.

In spite of the shortcomings of the hastily written report, the site itself is quite important. The carbon age of 4450 plus-or-minus 125 years is interesting, and seems to correlate well with other dates obtained for related cultures at other sites. The site is one of the most significant dug by the Wyoming Archaeological Society to date, and raises some important questions. The date places the bison kill at a time when it was previously thought that foraging was the principal activity in the plains area.

SOUTH AMERICAN FINDS REPORTED BY BUD CAMPBELL

Bud Campbell recently brought in a collection of materials from the shore of Lake Colhue Huape in Argentina. The finds are surface materials exposed by the action of wind on the shoreline dunes. The materials were picked up by Bill Campbell during the last year.

While it may seem strange to report South American materials in a Wyoming journal, there are several reasons for doing so. First, the comparison with local materials is somewhat informative; and second, the homogeneity of the lithic materials indicates that probably a single culture is represented, although perhaps a wide time-span is indicated. If it is true that a single culture is represented, then the surface finds are much more informative than if several cultures were mixed.

Three groups of material will be discussed: osteological, ceramic, and lithic. These are represented respectively by a skull, portions of three ceramic wares, and about 200 pieces of stonework.

## The Osteological Materials.

The skull, illustrated in figure 1, appears to be that of a male of about 35 to 40 years of age. The skull is quite brittle, and some repairs had to be made. The mandible had been repaired prior to examination, with a slight decrease in width, but the fit of the teeth proved that the mandible belonged with the cranium.

Approximate measurements were made on the skull with the results in Table 1. The skull is moderately long, and moderately narrow. The cranial index of 76 indicates a tendency to dolichocephaly. The vault is rather high, and the sagittal contour rounded. The relative height is above average. The face tends to be somewhat long and narrow in appearance, with a facial index of about 90. The upper facial index, however, is 63, which is within the medium range. An orbital index of 93 indicates a high, narrow orbit, reflecting its almost rectangular appearance. The nasal aperture is of medium proportions with a slightly troughed lower margin.

Without other South American materials with which to compare these results, the writer is not in a position to say much about the skull, but some features of the skull would certainly be atypical in a local setting. The furrowed lower nasal border, and rectangular orbits are somewhat unusual, being typical Negroid features. However the lack of prognathism, the medium nasal index and certain other features are definitely not Negroid. The skull certainly does not fit into the typical Mongoloid pattern either, with its narrow facial features.

An expert opinion on the skull would be rather interesting. The writer is so ill-informed in anthropometry that the study made so far only leads to puzzlement.

## The Ceramic Materials

Figure 2 shows the first of the ceramic wares to be studied. About half of the total vessel was represented in the fragments. It was possible to assemble sufficient of these to obtain a very good representation of the complete object. The vessel is roughly spheroidal with wide top. The sides are slightly recurved to form a slight flare at the mouth. The lip is smooth.

The material is basically a tan color, although burning in the presence of organic materials has blackened portions considerably. The upper half of the vessel is uniformly darker than the lower part, indicating that some of the darkening occurred before abandonment. The various sherds are blackened to different degrees, indicating that some of the pieces were further blackened after the vessel was broken.

The paste is quite fine, and the tempering is with fine sand. The method of modeling is not apparent, although circumferential ridges might be remnants of coiled construction. The inside shows marks of paddle, or perhaps anvil, smoothing. The exterior is very smooth, and there are few marks to indicate the method of smoothing.

Decoration (see Figure 2) consists of a narrow scribed line roughly paralleling the rim, four zigzag lines stamped with a flat-ended cylinder held at an angle to the normal, and a pair of scribed lines below. The two lines at the bottom occur roughly near the center of the vessel. The pattern varies considerably in width on different sides of the bowl.

Table 1  
Osteological Materials

Subject: Colhue Huape Skull lent by Bud Campbell.

Sex: Male                      Age: 35 - 40

All measurements below are in millimeters.

Length:	184 mm	long medium
Breadth:	140	narrow medium
Height:		
Bregmatic:	141	high
Auricular:	113	
Cranial Index:	76	long medium
Relative Height:	62	high medium
Facial Height (total):	133	
Upper facial height:	79	high
Breadth:	148	very wide
Facial Index:	90	narrow
Upper Facial Index:	53	medium
Orbits		
Height:	38	
Breadth:	41	
Index:	93	high narrow
Nasal		
Height:	54	
Breadth:	26	
Index:	48	medium

Comments: Sagittal contour very round. Lower border of nasal aperture is furrowed or troughed. Orbits have rectangular appearance. Age is inferred from synostosis of cranial sutures.

Osteological Materials

Figure 1

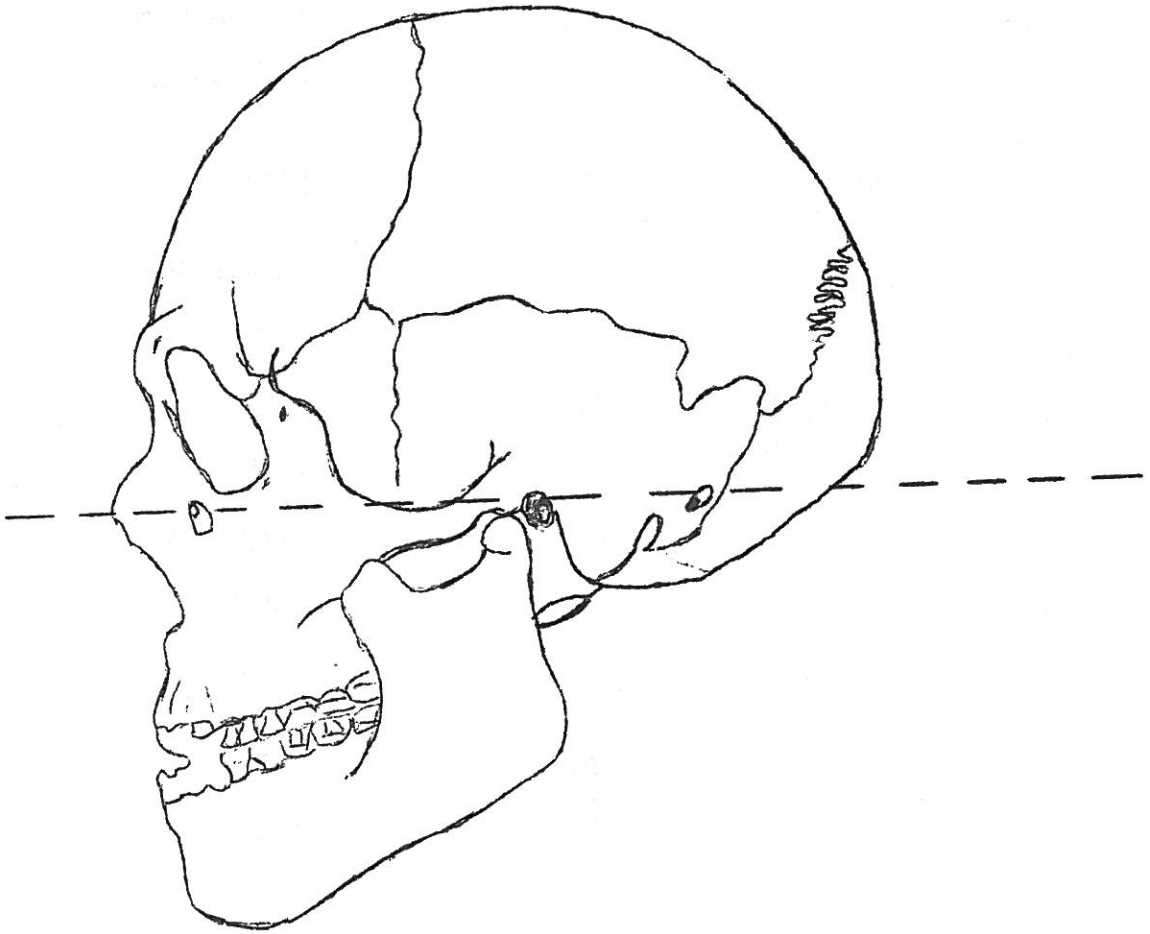
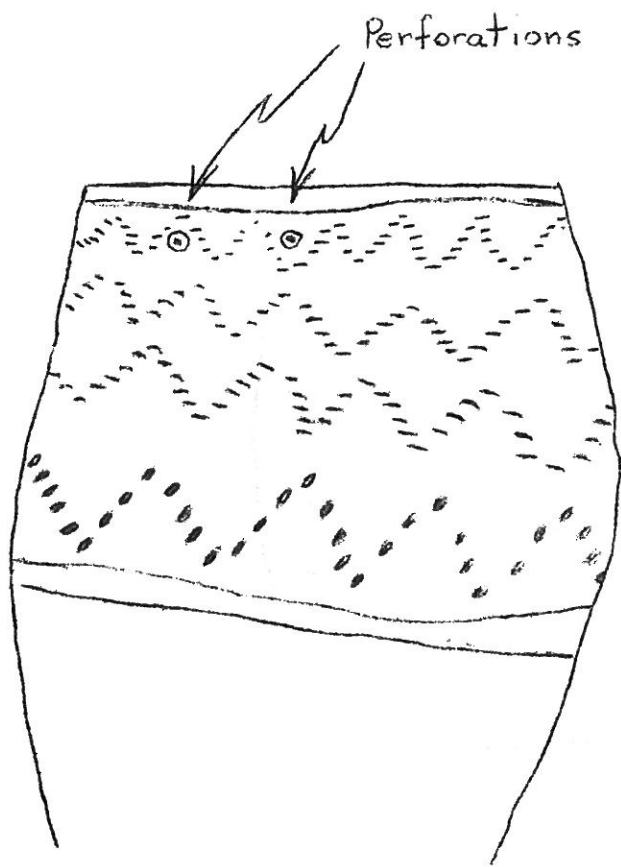
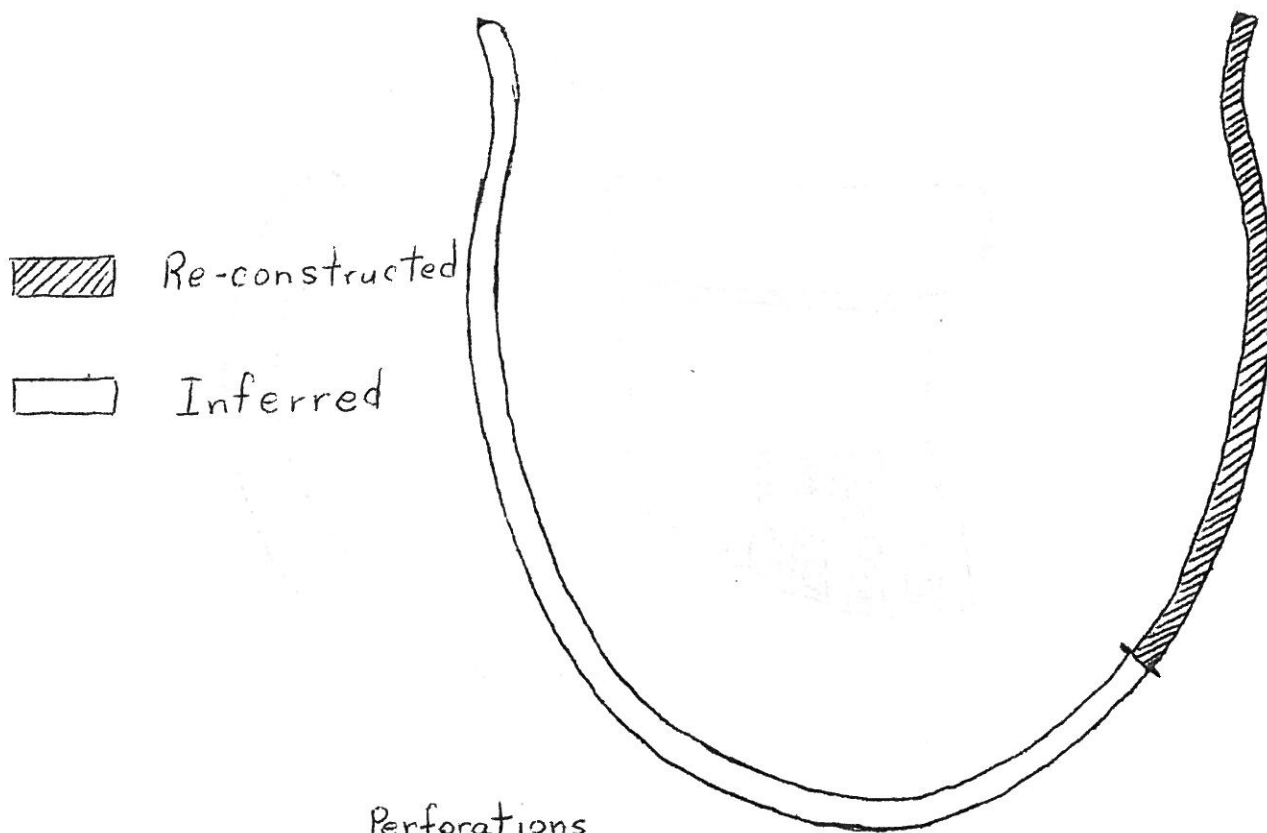


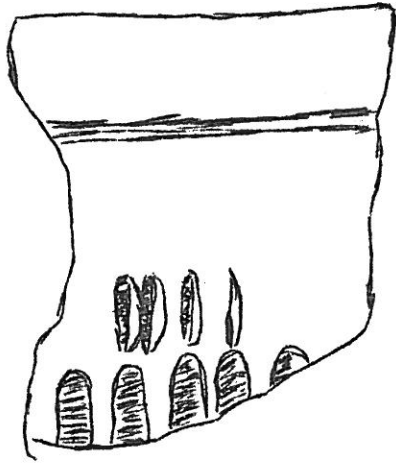
Figure 2  
Ceramic Materials 1



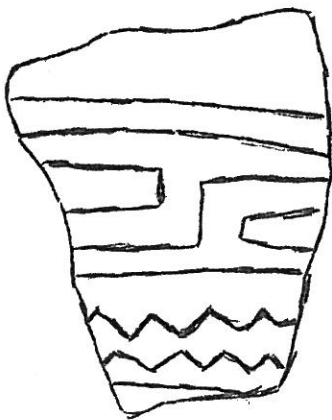
Incised Pattern

Ware No. 1

Figure 3  
Ceramic Materials 11



Ware No. 2



Ware No. 3

Near the rim are several holes which appear to have been drilled after the vessel was hard. The holes are conical in shape, and are drilled from the outside only. While the entire rim was not reconstructed, it appears that the holes were probably grouped on opposite sides of the bowl. Eight holes were found in the sherds present. Two of these are in a reconstructed segment of the rim. Two others are in a portion which, judging from the pattern, must also have occurred near the rim. One rim portion, constituting almost a third of the vessel, has no perforations. It is possible therefore, that the holes were either grouped at opposite ends of a diameter or were all on one half of the pot. It is hypothesized that there were possibly two groups of four holes diametrically opposed to each other, which might have served to lace on a handle for carrying purposes.

Figure 3 shows two additional sherds found in the collection. One is quite thick, and shows an interesting rim treatment. The pattern of decoration appears to have been made with a gouge or similar cutting instrument. This ware is gray, and has a very fine temper of sand.

Ware number 3 is a tan, sand tempered sherd showing what is probably the shoulder decoration of a vessel.

The presence of three different types of pattern on the wares is of some interest, contrasting with the marked uniformity in the lithic materials.

#### The Lithic Materials

The lithic materials from the Colhue Huape Site are quite interesting from one point of view. While they are of a vast range of sizes and materials, and even of shape to a degree, they all have a very similar stem treatment.

Points number 11 through 14 are characterized by very thick stems, well-worked blades, and heavily ground basal and lateral edges on the stem. About half the specimens in this general category, of which there are about 20, are serrated on the edges. A prominent feature of nearly all the points from this side, large or small, is the presence of prominent basal thinning flakes. In many cases these flakes were so large as to give a fluted appearance. Even the small thin points have these prominent thinning flakes.

Points number 7 through 10 have thinner bases, with flaring, rather than parallel, sides. Grinding is again present on the stem, at basal and lateral edges. Many of the specimens from this group would easily pass for McKean variants if found in this area.

Points 2 through 4 are characterized by small size, thin stems, parallel sided stems, and prominent barbs. The sides are straight or slightly recurved. Workmanship is excellent. Edges are predominantly serrated.

Points 5 and 6 resemble the 7 - 10 group except that the sides of the stem are more nearly parallel, the points are smaller, and the stems are thinner. Point number 1 is parallel-stemmed, serrated and has a long, parallel-sided blade.

The materials used in the manufacture of the various points vary widely. Flints of several colors, cherts, agate, obsidian, and a black colored material which resembles a basalt are all present, as well as a piece or two of more exotic materials.



Figure 4  
Lithic Materials 1

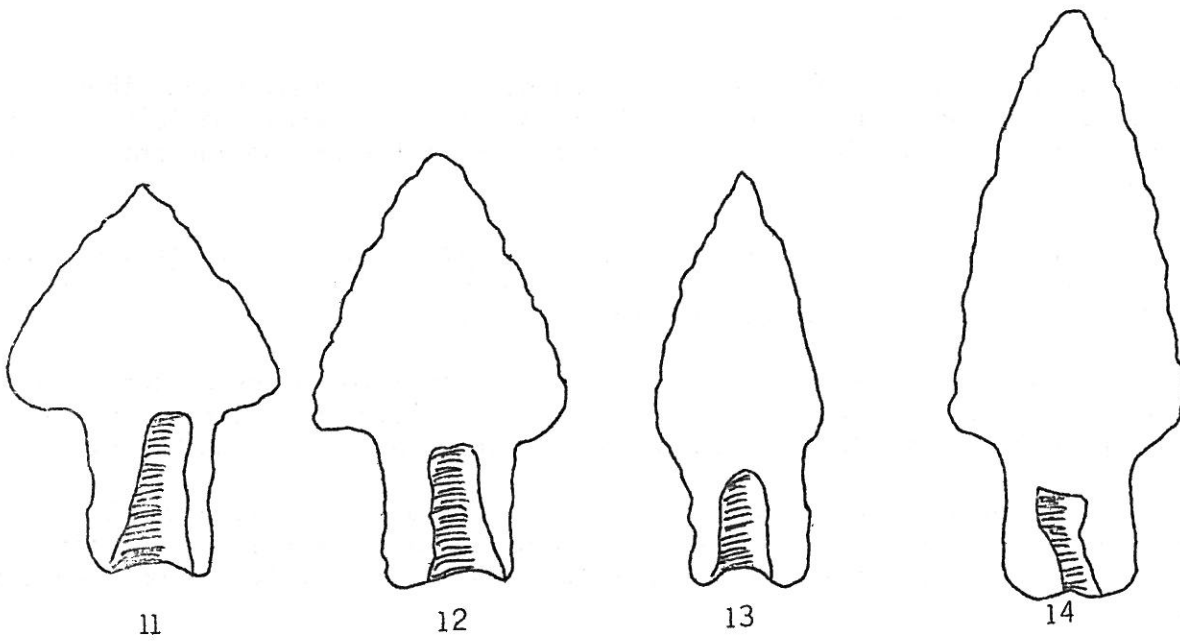
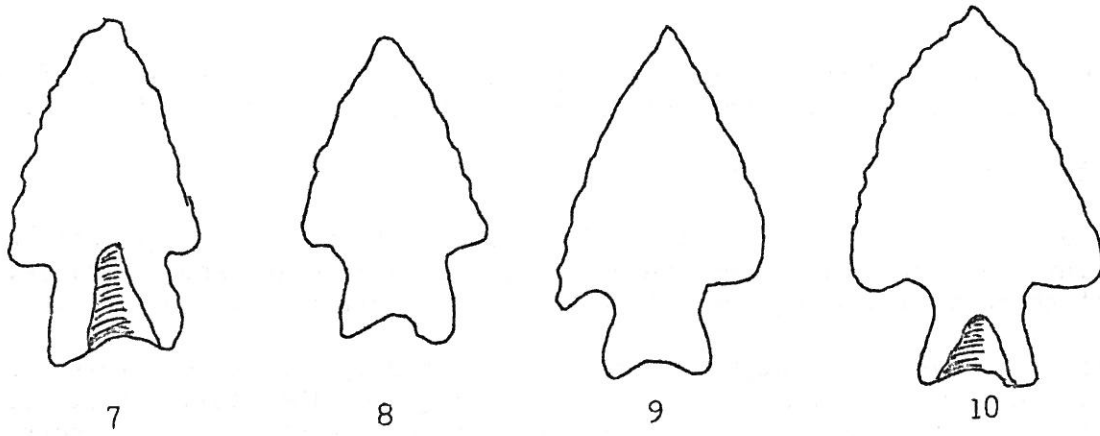
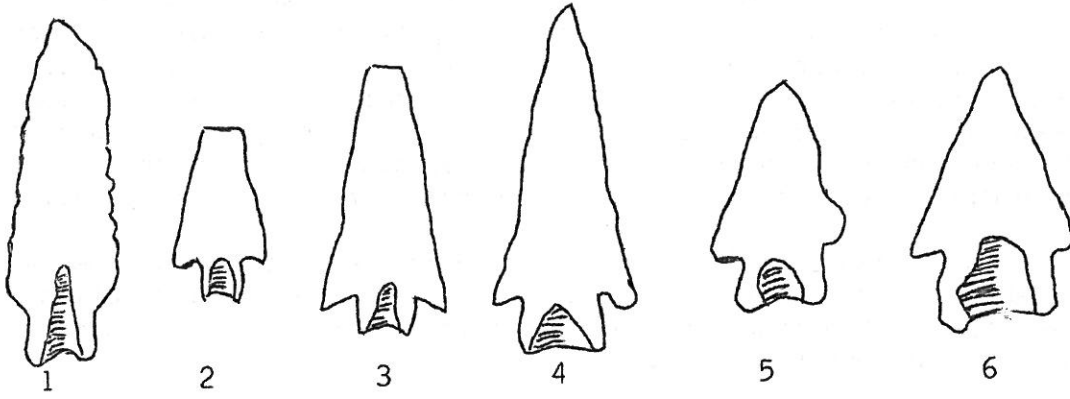
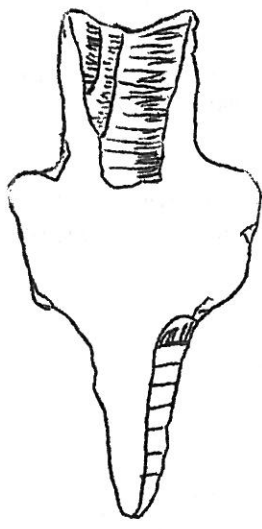
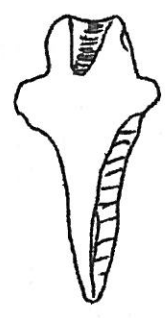


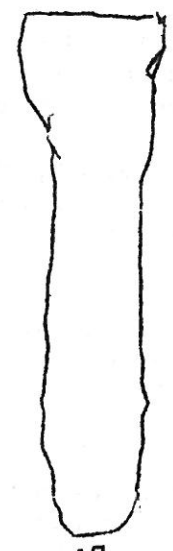
Figure 5  
Lithic Materials 11



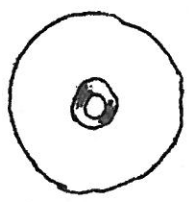
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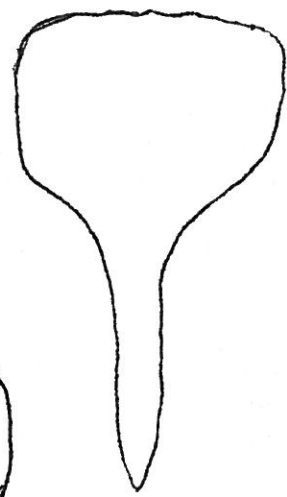
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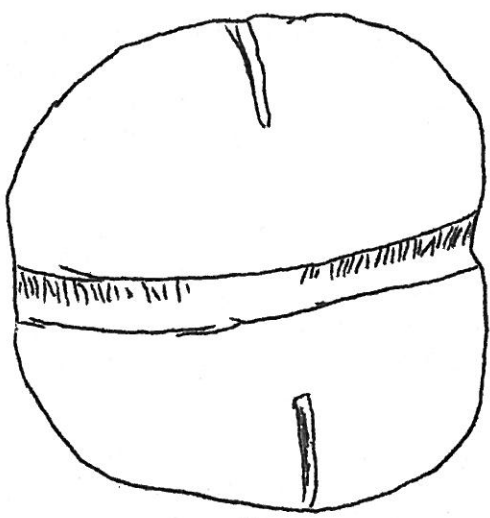
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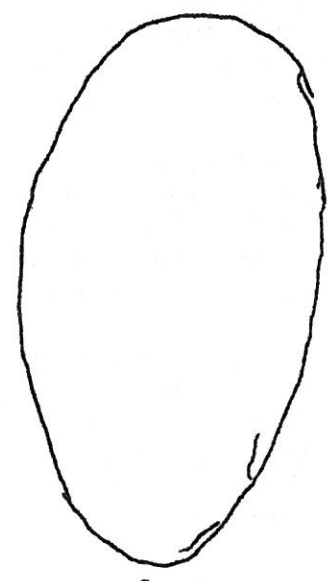
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20



19



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Figure 5 shows some of the non-projectile lithic materials. 15 and 16 are evidently drills or awls which have been worked from typical points, probably while still hafted, judging from the unifacial bevelling on the working edges. Artifact number 17 represents one of a group of 3 similar objects which might be punches. They are quite blunt and large in cross section.

One steatite bead, number 18, was present. The center hole is bi-conical, and the two portions are not accurately aligned. A disk of a low-density dark material which might be anthracite or gilsonite of about the same size was also present, but was not perforated. Instead, it had a circumferential groove. 7 awls like number 20 were present, and 16 knives resembling number 21.

Two spheroidal objects deserve mention. These were of sandstone about  $2\frac{1}{2}$  inches in diameter. One possessed an equatorial groove, and two small polar grooves. The other possessed only the equatorial groove. These may have been weights for a bolas.

Only one scraper was noted in the entire collection, although many of the knives might have been used as efficient scrapers.

### Conjectures

The Colhue Huape materials raise several interesting questions. First, the wide range of sizes and general shapes of the projectile points, coupled, however, with a very consistent base style, seems to suggest a more or less homogeneous cultural affiliation. Whether the range of point sizes represents a wide range of utilizations, or represents perhaps a wide time span, is not possible to determine. If found in the high plains of the United States, one would unhesitatingly conjecture that the thick-stemmed lanceolate points belonged to the Early Period, while the small barbed points belonged to the Late Middle Period. Whether a similar time span is represented at Colhue Huape is not known. Thus there is the question as to whether the points represent a contemporaneous usage for different purposes, or an evolution of a culture which perhaps did not receive much influence from outside contacts, cannot be determined from such a superficial study. The questions deserve investigation.

A second question of interest, and one which could probably be greatly elucidated by expert study, is that of the affiliation of the skull. It is quite possible that the one individual is atypical of course, and that others from the same group might fit a familiar norm, or that this individual is near the norm for peoples of that area. Expert study might easily clarify some of these questions.

The pottery variations would tend to indicate different cultural groups. The wide variation in rim treatment between ware 1 and ware 2 is more than is usually characteristic of a single group, I believe. There is also quite a variation in surface decoration. As mentioned before, there seems to be a wider variation in the ceramic materials than in the lithic.

The large number of projectile points indicate a fair degree of dependence on hunting, but the scarcity of scrapers, as such, indicates a lack of hide working. Knives are abundant, so butchering may have been widespread. Among animals that may have been hunted and butchered without hide working might be fish and birds. A study of osteological materials from such a site might be very informative.

As is often the case with surface collections, and sometimes, with the most carefully excavated sites, more questions are raised than are answered, but the speculations are interesting and might give rise to some guideposts for excavations to be done in the future.

## SHERIDAN CHAPTER HAS BANQUET

The annual banquet of the Sheridan Chapter was held on November 18th at the Stagecoach Room of the Sheridan Inn. This meeting served around a hundred and thirty people, as estimated by the editor's roving eye.

The guest of honor was Dr. William Mulloy of the University of Wyoming, who spoke on his recent expedition to Easter Island. Dr. Mulloy spoke of the tremendously significant place of the Easter Island civilization in the general picture of cultural evolution. The whole island is a single site which derives its importance from the fact that the site appears to be unique in the world in that an advanced civilization developed in this isolated spot almost without contact with the rest of the world. While most of the well-known civilizations of the world developed at natural crossroad spots where a number of ethnic groups met and exchanged ideas, the civilization of Easter has developed on one of the most remote spots in the world. The island is 2300 miles from the nearest neighbor, a distance which is formidable to primitive peoples.

Dr. Mulloy further said that there is little question that contacts with South America existed at one time, and that some cultural exchanges, although limited, did occur. He feels, however, that the basic ethnic origin of the Easter civilization is in Polynesia.

During his stay on the island, Dr. Mulloy's group managed to completely restore one of the ahus, or ceremonial platforms, and to erect its statues. Much work remains to be done, and Dr. Mulloy stated that he would like to return to the island for several years.

Dr. Bentzen gave a short report on the Yankee Bison Kill, and sold copies of a preliminary report on the site. Richard Martinsen, of the Sheridan College staff, entertained the group with vocal selections. A number of out of town guests were present, including George Frison, of Tensleep, and several Buffalo members.

## OVER THE CAMPFIRE

The students of Mrs. Allen's typing and machines classes at Sheridan College have been doing a tremendous job on getting out the Wyoming Archaeologist, and really deserve a big "thank you" for their work.

With the vast numbers of sites in this state, of all degrees of importance, and with increasing amounts of vandalism and pot-hunting, a near emergency will exist soon. Sites are now being destroyed at a rate of almost five for every one that is investigated by a professional or competent amateur archaeologist. That ratio is increasing. It will perhaps continue to increase, since it takes no education or conscience to be a pothunter, but requires months to even begin to be a competent amateur archaeologist. Do you have any ideas on how to combat this problem? The state meeting would be a good place to lay plans for action on ideas.

Next month is chapter election time, and February is state officer election time. Pick a slate that will do the job you want, and then get behind your candidates and help them in every way you can. There's a lot of work to be done, and no room for dawdling or nonsense.

EMBERS OUT