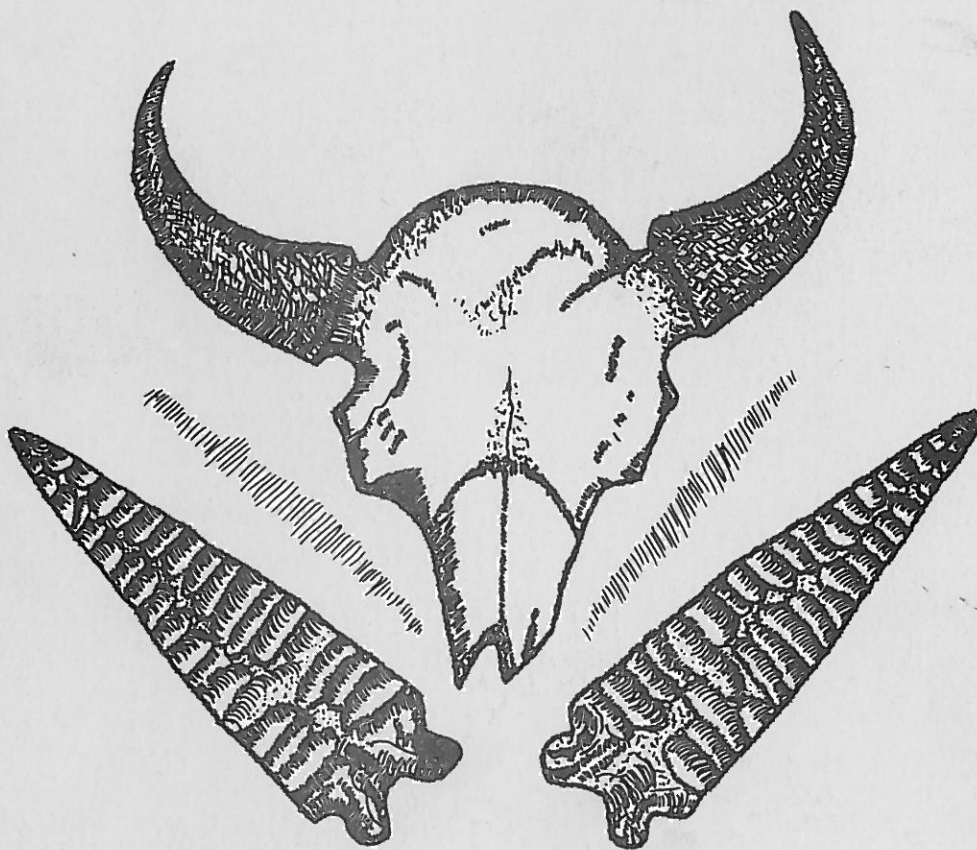


WYOMING
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
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THE WYOMING ARCHAEOLOGIST



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WYOMING
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INC.



May 7, 1979

Dear Fellow Members:

During every life, I'm sure, an event occurs for which a person is totally unprepared. Being elected as the President of the Wyoming Archaeological Society is such an occurrence for me. Especially is this true since I must follow in the footsteps of such a dynamic person as our Mary Helen Hendry; it will be difficult, to say the least.

However, since you have elected me as the President, I shall try, to the best of my abilities, to promote the one thing that is foremost to all amateur archaeologists: The preservation of Archaeology in general, but primarily the preservation of Wyoming Archaeology for those who truly love our Wyoming.

It is with this in mind that I fear Federal encroachment upon State's rights should the American Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979, H.R. 1825, be passed without amendments. While my thoughts are not necessarily yours, I sent the following letter to Senators Simpson and Wallop, and to Congressman Cheney:

"As you know, Congressman Udall and Senator Domenici are jointly introducing the American Archaeological Resources Protection Act of 1979, H.R. 1825, which will replace the Act of 1906. The Wyoming Archaeological Society is quite concerned in that H.R. 1825 does not assign any authority to the States. We feel that to be truly effective, the development of archaeology must be, for the most part, subject to the authority of each State Archaeologist. To further emphasize the danger of total Federal control, please note that part of the Bill which reads: "***Finally, information regarding the sites of archaeological ruins would be exempted from the Federal Freedom of Information Act, thus allowing federal agencies to keep the location of important sites confidential from unqualified people.***"

"Apparently, the Bureau of Land Management has already assumed this authority of determining who is qualified, and who is not. It is my understanding that the Bureau of Land Management is not furnishing information on sites to, or cooperating with Dr. George Frison, Wyoming State Archaeologist. If this is true, this is a definite infraction of State's rights and does much to destroy the total story of Wyoming Archaeology.

"You are aware, I'm sure, that Dr. Frison is one of the foremost authorities on High Plains Archeology, and that his qualifications in this field are far greater than most. It is in this respect that we question the qualifications

of the two Archaeologists with the Bureau of Land Management in the Casper area. One has a Doctorate in Missouri River Pottery, and the other is a Geologist with six hours of Archaeological field training. The Bureau of Reclamation also has two Archaeologists, one of whom has but two years of Archaeology; and the other, whose background in Archaeology is unknown, has a degree in Accounting.

"While the federal agencies have the authority, to be sure, they do not have the dedication nor the love for Wyoming as does Dr. Frison who has devoted most of his life to reconstructing the history of the early people in the High Plains.


"The void created by these federal agencies in failing to cooperate with Dr. Frison may well distort or destroy the total picture of Wyoming Archaeology. This may well be the result of the field survey that the Bureau of Reclamation is now working on: A survey of the North Platte River from Seminoe Reservoir to Gray Reef Reservoir, an area extremely rich in Archaeology. It is certainly going to be the result of the many sites located by the Bureau of Land Management, if they are not reported to Dr. Frison, and if he is not given the right and the authority to inspect and protect this valuable data.

"The people of Wyoming are just as concerned as are other citizens of these United States that the Federal Government is assuming authority that has not been granted as was intended by the original Constitution. We firmly believe in governing only by the consent of the governed.

"Your efforts in protecting Wyoming and Wyoming Archaeology with regard to H.R. 1825, will be most appreciated."

If you as individual members of the Wyoming Archaeological Society are in sympathy with this problem, I urge you to direct personal letters to: The Honorable Alan Simpson, U. S. Senate, Washington, D.C., 20510; The Honorable Malcolm Wallop, U. S. Senate, Washington, D.C., 20510; and The Honorable Dick Cheney, House of Representatives, Washington, D.C., 20515.

My appreciation and best wishes to all of you,



E. Grover Phelan
President

EDITOR ' S NOTES

The President's letter is quite definite in context and this is good.

Not all will view the proposed legislation and bureaucratic machinations from the same perspective, but this is also good, and could not be otherwise. How mundane this existence if all shared one perspective !

There does come a time in all our lives when it is necessary to stand and be counted. Personally, I support Grover's thoughts and urge each of you to follow with letters to all our elected officials, expressing your views, pro or con. Theoretically, we all voted one way or the other, what better time to express our feelings.

THE EDITOR

* * * * *

ARCHAE ANNIE

This is a preliminary definitive mini study or overview of an amateur's tentative hypothesis of the thirty-sixth Annual Plains Indian Conference held at the Denver Hilton, November 8th through 11th. The conference motto "Stewardship and Science in the Anthropology of the Plains" is clear cut and understandable. Much of the jargon used in presenting papers was horrific. We have learned from George Frison and others from the Anthropology Department at the University about postulate, component, debitage assemblage, chronology, stratigraphy and intrusive this's and that's. But for heavensakes, we were lost with paleopedology, resistivity surveying, demographic, taxonomy, macrostratigraphy, petrogenesis, petrogrephy, pedogenesis, craniometric variations, nonmetric cranial traits, cyclicity, dichotomy, epidemiology and, grab this one if you can, analysis of innominates. Perhaps we are prejudiced but when "our boys", Frison, Stanford, Albanese, Zeimens, Walker, Miller, Reher, Larson, and Peterson, gave their papers, we were able to follow what they were saying.

This Plains Conference was our first. Awfully glad we went. Would recommend attendance to any of the members of the Wyoming Archaeological Society who have the time and the interest. Were exposed to more than we could digest but think we learned a lot of useful and some not so useful knowledge of pre-historic man on the high plains.

Anthropologists from all over the United States read papers and participated in discussions. There were many students in attendance from the Rocky Mountain area. Usually there were four to six meetings going on at the same time with talks and papers presented on a tight schedule of 20 to 30 minutes. It was important to study the program well, to get to the meetings most important to you. Subjects of papers sometimes were quite difficult to become oriented to because of the technical terminology. Often, after slides, drawings and charts were projected and explained, understanding came.

Glimmers of things that surfaced we think we understand:

1. Many of the larger "fire pots" we find were stone-boiling pits for grease procurement in the Late Prehistoric Period.
2. There is a chert mine in Montana that has been intermittently mined and lived in

for 1600 years between 1300 B.C. and 300 A.D. 1887 mining and camp tools have been recovered from this site.

3. Large animals like the mammoth can be butchered successfully with only bone tools. Folsom points used as knives when butchering an elephant in the winter of 1978 remained sharp for 12 hours of use.
4. Many of the paleo-hunting bison kill sites in Wyoming may have been used in the fall and winter. Frozen meat is much easier to handle and surely to store.
5. In the vernacular of the pros, earthmovers are called Terrawrecks.
6. Agate Basin may be one of the most important sites in North America. It has a Folsom culture under Agate Basin and a Clovis site close by. Agate Basin and Hell Gap points have been found together in bison bones.
7. Dr. Wormington suggested Dennis Stanford will prove man here much earlier than we now know -- possibly 30,000 years ago.
8. Pride in our Wyoming pros and their obvious stature in Plains Anthropology.
9. How fortunate the Wyoming Archaeological Society is to be involved with the ever-growing knowledge of 30,000 years of man in Wyoming.

If you have information or questions concerning Wyoming Archaeology you are willing to share with your fellow members, please send it to Archae Annie, P. O. Box 703, Saratoga, Wyoming 82331.

* * * * *

The annual spring meeting of the Wyoming Archaeological Society was held in Casper April 6th and 7th.

Business meetings were limited to facilitate presentation of papers and a flint knapping workshop, which occupied a large portion of the day. The efforts and expertise of the assembled knappers was enviously observed and appreciated by aspirants and onlookers, and many fine artifacts were replicated.

Papers were presented by:

Julie Francis, Aspects of Hohokam Archaeology in Arizona.

David Reiss, Report on Warm Winds Hearth Site, 48 CR 501.

Paul Sanders, Excavations at the Hatwai Site, Idaho.

Charles Reher, Transect Survey in the Western Powder River Basin.

Judy Pinner, Recent Developments in C₁₄ Dating.

Constitution and By Laws changes were submitted, approved, and adopted and are published in this issue.

The banquet was highlighted by a presentation on flint knapping, with slides, by Don Crabtree. The program was well done and well received by all present.

The annual "bash" culminated in the usual gathering at the Albanese teepee, where the issues were really aired, decided, and settled.

The suggested summer meeting place is Agate Basin, with definite dates to be announced as soon as available.

* * * * *

WYOMING ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, INCORPORATED

CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I. NAME.

The name of this Society shall be the Wyoming Archaeological Society, Incorporated, a nonprofit organization incorporated under the laws of the State of Wyoming.

ARTICLE II. TERM.

The term of existence of the Society shall be perpetual.

ARTICLE III. MEMBERSHIP.

Membership shall be open to all duly organized Chapters in the State of Wyoming, to any person, persons, Societies, or Institutions upon payment of specified dues, and who subscribes to the purposes and abides by the rules of conduct of the Society.

ARTICLE IV. PURPOSES.

1. To encourage the preservation of archaeological materials and sites.
2. To disseminate archaeological information.
3. To receive, maintain and hold, by bequest, devise, gift, or otherwise, either real or personal, any fund or funds without limitation as to amounts or values; to convey such property and to invest and reinvest any principal or interest; to direct, manage, and expand the income and principal of the association, and administer any special funds for various purposes as agreed upon by the governing body of the Society, and for purposes and uses herein set forth, to buy, lease, hold, and exercise all privileges of ownership over such real or personal property as may be deemed necessary for the conduct and operation of the business of this Society or incidental thereto.
4. To promote scientific research and cooperation with scientific organizations to further archaeological studies.

ARTICLE V. OFFICERS.

The management of this Society shall be vested in the duly elected officers and appointive officers of the Wyoming Archaeological Society, Incorporated, and their duly elected successors. The elective officers shall include a President, First Vice President, and Second Vice President. The appointive officers shall include the State Secretary, State Treasurer, State Editor, and State Librarian, who shall be appointed by the President with the approval of the Board of Directors. All State officers, elected and appointed, shall be members in good standing of a Society Chapter. The appointed officers shall be appointed for an indefinite term of office. The elective State officers shall be

elected at the annual meeting by a majority vote of the qualified delegates or alternates.

ARTICLE VI. BOARD OF DIRECTORS.

1. The governing body of the Wyoming Archaeological Society, Incorporated, shall be a Board of Directors consisting of the elected and appointed officers, with the State Archaeologist acting in an advisory capacity.

2. The other member of the Board shall be the immediate past President of the State Society.

ARTICLE VII. EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE.

The Executive Committee shall consist of one member of each Chapter to act in an advisory capacity to the Board of Directors.

ARTICLE VIII. CHAPTER ORGANIZATION.

Ten or more people residing near each other may apply to the Board of Directors for a Chapter Charter, provided the aforementioned persons are paid-up members of the Society and their Chapter application is approved by the Board of Directors by a majority vote.

ARTICLE IX. AMENDMENTS.

Any proposed change in the Constitution and Bylaws of the Wyoming Archaeological Society, Incorporated, may be acted upon at any annual State meeting. An affirmative vote of two-thirds of the legal delegates or their alternates present at the meeting shall be required for any proposed change in the Constitution or Bylaws of this Society.

ARTICLE X. VACANCIES IN OFFICE.

All State Society officer vacancies occurring by reason of death, resignation, or failure to serve, for the duration of the term to which the officer was elected or appointed will be filled by appointment by the remaining members of the Board of Directors for the balance of the term, except the offices of President and First Vice President, which offices will be filled by the First Vice President and Second Vice President for the balance of the term.

ARTICLE XI. MEETINGS.

The Wyoming Archaeological Society, Incorporated, shall hold an annual business meeting in April of each year. Other meetings may be called at such times and places as may be determined by the Board of Directors. The Board of Directors shall be responsible for the organization of any meetings. A quorum at any duly authorized meeting of the State Society shall be a simple majority of those present.

ARTICLE XII. ACCOUNTING PERIOD.

The annual accounting period of the Wyoming Archaeological Society, Incorporated, shall begin on April 1 of each year and end on March 31 of the following year.

ARTICLE XIII. RULES.

The Wyoming Archaeological Society, Incorporated, shall be governed by the current edition of Roberts Rules of Order.

A MEMORABLE HUNT

by Mary Ann Mehle
1301 Liberty Drive - Rock Springs, Wyoming

The morning was cold and blustery. Heavy, dark rain clouds filled the sky that particular Sunday morning when the Sweetwater Chapter met at the west edge of Rock Springs prior to journeying into the Whiskey Basin area in April of 1971. And, like true hard-core artifact bluffs, neither the threatening skies nor the prospects of muddy, back-country roads could deter this persistent group as, one by one, each vehicle made its way onto the west bound highway.

The wheels of our small caravan of four-wheeled drives smacked sharply through the numerous puddles on the highway sending sprays of murky rainwater skyward.

I was eager to get to our destination to explore what was for me "new country". Consequently, the trip seemed lengthy. I was relieved when the Tyrrell's, in the lead, made a left off the highway and turned onto a high-centered, rough back-country road. The rain-soaked road posed no problem being primarily sand, however, our first major obstacle lay just ahead -- a rain-filled, sloping-bank creek. In four-wheel drive and geared low, the first vehicle rocked through the creek and, splattering its underside noisily with flying globs of mud, made its way up the mucky bank leaving deep, broad, wheel tracks upon the incline. One by one, the remaining vehicles followed suit with the exception of Gene Iverson who, with a defeated, "I'll never make it.", parked his truck along the trail, then joined the Larsons.

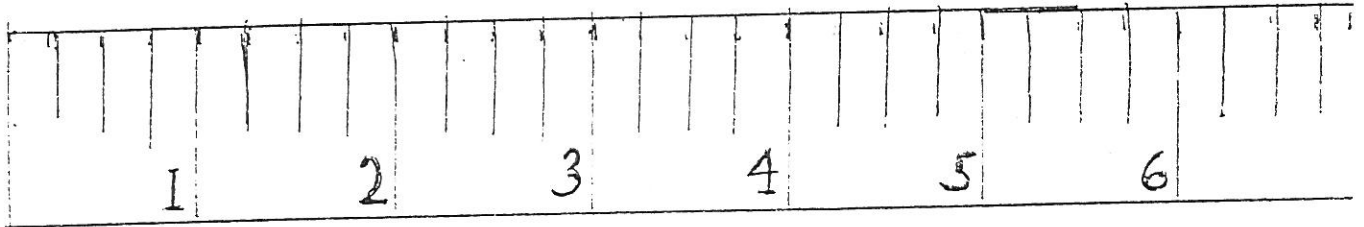
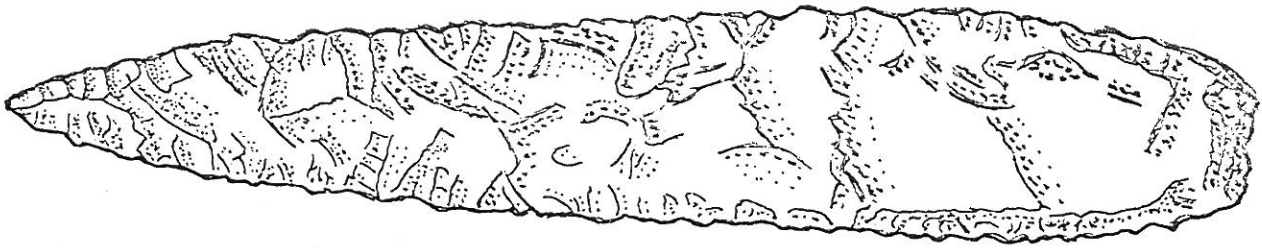
We continued on for two miles or so before making our first hunting stop. The Babel youngsters, oblivious to the cold, bounded from the family Wagoneer to hastily set up a rocket launcher upon a nearby rise. Sounds of "pop" and "whoosh" were soon heard as the rocket sped skyward.

Mrs. Tyrrell made the first find of the day -- a pretty, small arrow that lay a few feet from the parked vehicles. Her find prompted us all to fan out and make our way through the sage brush, eyes intent upon the ground. After hunting for an hour or so, it was mutually agreed to move on to another area, our second hunting stop. Up to that time, unlike other members, I had found nothing.

Once again, upon stopping, each member headed out to whatever direction his inclination dictated. To my left rose three sand dunes. I hunted at the base of the first dune and was happy to find a triangle "blank" of obsidian. The lugged sole prints of crossing members were impressed upon each of the dunes. In spite of this, I slowly and thoroughly crossed and re-crossed each dune feeling all the while my efforts were perhaps futile what with other members having obviously scanned the area before me. I gave an over-the-shoulder glance in the direction of a growth of sage brush that grew close to the top of the second dune. A second elapsed before I fully realized what I had seen. I quickly turned to double check over the scrub and stood wide-mouthed in awe. Before me lay a beautiful, undamaged artifact resembling a spear point that blended so perfectly with the sand that one had to be

immediately before it to see it at all.

The artifact appears to be a straight based Agate Basin Point that strongly resembles "Agate Basin Points", Fig. 71, "Ancient Man in North America" by H. M. Wormington. There are indications of grinding at the lower, lateral edges. This artifact is six and three-eighths inches in length and one and three-sixteenths inches in width at its widest point. (These measurements are close to accurate.) The material is a sandy colored chert, mottled with black.



UFO's FROM WYOMING

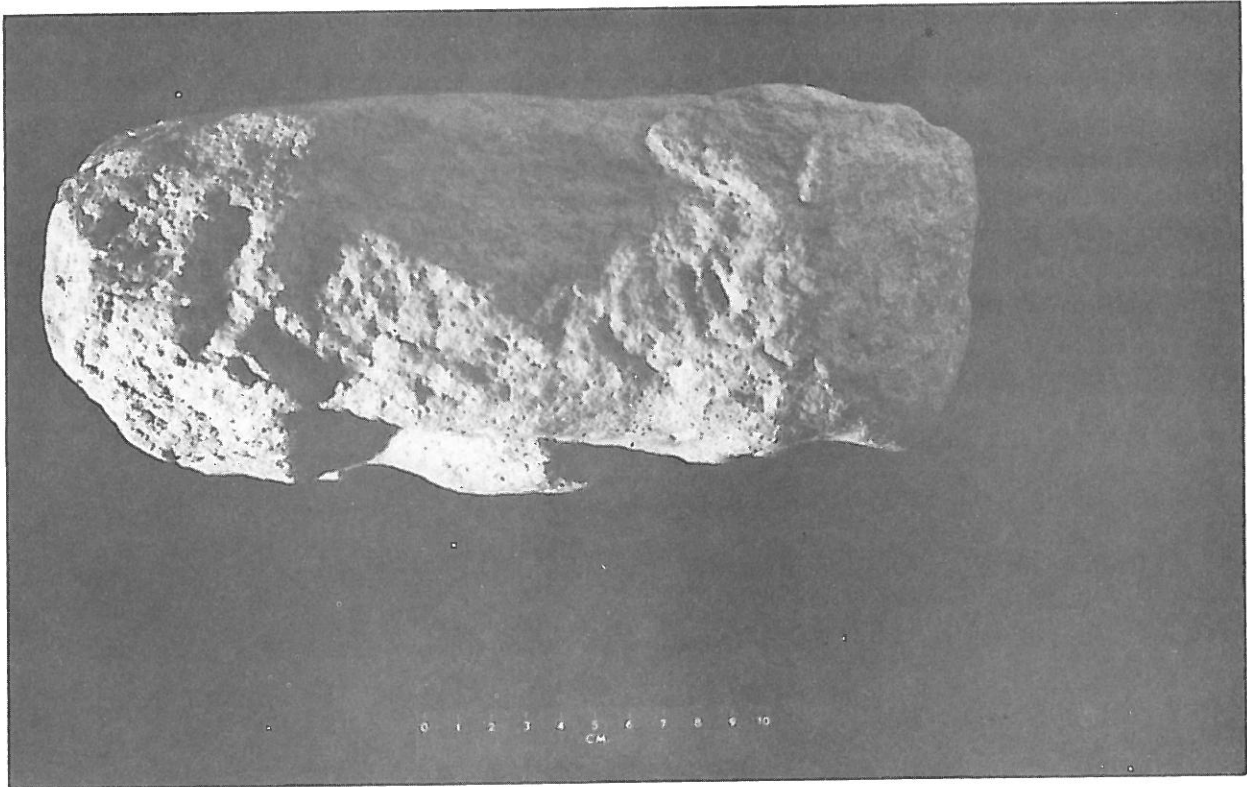
By Robert Peterson

Quite often personnel from the State Archeologist's Office are asked to identify an artifact or feature that someone has found or acquired somewhere in the state. In most cases we are able to give at least an educated guess as to the nature of the object. From time to time, however, someone turns up something which has us completely stumped. We shall refer to such objects as UFO's (unidentifiable found objects). Such unidentifiable objects tend to go unrecorded and often are eventually lost or discarded.

In a series of articles we will try to document a few of these items. Someone else may have found a similar object in context which will make it understandable or may be able to look at it from a slightly different point of view to make a better guess at what it is. It is also possible that items which have previously been thought of as unique or rare may be more common than had been thought. We will try to put a description of one or more such items in the Wyoming Archeologist on a regular basis and would invite contributions from the readers. If you know what such items are or if you have seen similar items we would like to hear from you.

Our first UFO was found by Tom Tisthammer near an irrigation ditch about one mile south of Cherry Creek, 7 miles southwest of Torrington. The object was found in the back dirt of the ditch. It is fairly large, 10x6.5x5 inch (25.4x16.5x12.7 cm), block of coarse sandstone on which someone has carved a face. It is not a pretty face but a face nonetheless. The block weighs approximately 14 - 15 pounds and is not something one would want to pack around too much. There are a few small lichens growing on the surface of the stone and about 1 1/2 inches of the back side of the block appear to have been buried and show a yellowish discoloration. It appears to have been lying face up on the surface.

The sculpture does not appear to be of Indian manufacture. There are no records of Indians in this area producing similar sculptures and it does not resemble the type of carving done by any of the aboriginal peoples in North America. It is not, however, impossible that it was produced by the prehistoric inhabitants. If anyone else has made similar finds or has any information about this one, we would like to hear about it.



PRELIMINARY REPORT OF
THE MUDDY CREEK STONE CAIRN

by

Julie G. Longenecker
University of Idaho

ABSTRACT

The Muddy Creek site, located in southcentral Wyoming, is a Besant bison trap dated at A.D. 230. Near the site is a large stone cairn which may have served as a meat cache. Several stone circles are also located near the site. The relationship between these features and the kill site is the topic of this paper.

Paper presented at the 11th Annual Chacmool Conference
October 18-22, 1978. Calgary, Alberta.

The Upper Muddy Creek site, site 48CR325, consists of a large stone cairn and several clusters of stone circles. It is located in southcentral Wyoming, approximately 50 miles southwest of Casper, Wyoming. The site is in the foothills of the Medicine Bow Mountains on a high, windswept ridge overlooking Shirley Basin to the east. The ridge top is relatively flat and gravel-covered with shallow soil deposits. The vegetation is characteristic of short grass plains.

Near the cairn, along the rim of the ridge are several clusters of stone circles. Some of the circles may be related to the cairn, others may not. Relationships between the features are difficult to determine at this time. Also present is a moderate concentration of lithics in and around the features.

The cairn can be described as a circular pile of stones with a hollow center. The rocks were randomly piled and not stacked or layered in any geometric fashion. The boulders used for construction were local granite and sandstone and average 35 centimeters in diameter. The cairn diameter is approximately 13 meters north-to-south and about 15 meters east-to-west. The projected height at the cairn center is approximately 1.5 meters above ground surface. The cairn has been partially disturbed as someone has removed some stones from the center exposing the original ground surface. The cairn was built on bedrock. There was no visual evidence of an aboriginal pit beneath the cairn. The cairn has not yet been systematically excavated, therefore it is not known at this time if it contains any cultural material. It probably does not.

Southwest of the cairn, approximately 122 meters below the ridge, is the Muddy Creek site. Muddy Creek is a Besant bison trap dated at A.D. 230 (Frison 1978:58). In

close proximity to the kill is an open campsite consisting of stone circles, firehearths and a moderate to heavy lithic concentration. The cherts found at the Muddy Creek site appear to be identical to those found near the stone cairn on the ridge top. This may suggest a relationship between the sites. The campsite near the bison kill has not been dated or tested, however, there is a good possibility that it is related to the bison trap. This is postulated due to the fragments of Besant projectile points found throughout the campsite.

DISCUSSION AND COMPARISONS

A definite relationship between the sites remains to be determined. However, presented here are three hypotheses concerning the stone cairn, its function, and some possible relationships with the Muddy Creek site. So far there is no direct evidence leading to the formation of these hypotheses. General observations have led me to believe that the features may represent a single complex relating to activities at one site.

The first hypothesis suggests the cairn was used as a winter meat cache by the aboriginals who operated the bison trap (Frison, personal communication 1978). The bison kill took place in the late fall (Frison 1978). After butchering, the meat was carried to the ridge top and placed in the cairn for winter storage. During original construction of the cairn, rocks were probably piled around the meat. Then, an animal hide may have been placed over the meat, and rocks piled on the hide, thus sealing the cache. Entrance was gained through the top. After use, the cairn was most-likely left open. Perhaps a wooden super-structure was built to cover the top of the cairn. Pine and aspen trees are available within walking distance. However, any evidence of a wooden super-structure would have long since disappeared due to exposure to climatic elements for almost 2,000 years.

The high, wind-blown ridge would be an ideal location for a meat cache. During the winter, the wind blows almost constantly; at an elevation of 7,700 feet, the meat would definitely stay frozen. If ice and snow were purposely packed around the base of the cairn, storage may last into the beginning of the summer. Among other things, the rock construction and tightly sealed entrance of the cairn would ward off any carnivores. Some Eskimo groups pile their stores of meat on tops of high stone piles or on scaffoldings, out of reach of dogs and other non-human meat-eaters (Weyer 1969:115). Again, there is no hard evidence that the cairn was a meat cache. However, there are ethnographic accounts of other groups, such as the Eskimos, who built and used meat caches similar to the one at Muddy Creek. In Northern Labrador, for instance, stone caches with hollow centers were built for the storage of surplus caribou meat (Hawkes 1916:33). Along the Arctic coast, the Netsilik Eskimos built stone caches for winter storage of fish.

"These oval-shaped caches were made of large boulders and it took two or three men working together to build one. First the floor was covered with a layer of gravel, then the fish piled inside, all laid in one direction. Once full, the cache was covered with stones, heavily pressing down on the fish. This covering was done with care lest some space be left open for a fox to get in. Predators

such as foxes and polar bears were greatly feared, since there were numerous cases of cache destruction" (Balicki 1970:37).

Frison emphasizes the need for food storage on the Northwest Plains. People had to be prepared for times when food was less plentiful. Methods of food storage had to be developed, as Frison observes:

"The situation on the Northwestern Plains was on a gradient somewhere between intensive storage of surpluses by the Arctic peoples and the lack of storage in those areas where seasonal conditions place essentially no restrictions on economic activities" (Frison 1978:365).

Binford and Bertram expound on the strategy of caching as a laborsaving procedure on the tundra (Binford and Bertram 1978:84). Yet, this strategy may, in fact, apply to the Northwest Plains. They note that animals are killed during the fall and stored frozen in field caches through the winter.

"By leaving the meat cached nearby or on the kill location, they can simply visit these caches regularly during the winter in conjunction with their trips out of the village for other purposes" (Binford and Bertram 1978:86).

This strategy may be similar to one of that at the Muddy Creek site. As previously mentioned, the Muddy Creek site was a late fall kill. Evidence suggests that the butchered meat was cached in this stone cairn which is near the site. And finally, there are sheltered areas nearby which would provide good places for winter habitation. However, it is interesting to note that similar cairns have not yet been found near other kill sites in Wyoming.

A second hypothesis is that the cairn served as a ceremonial structure. Ethnographic accounts, found in the literature, indicate that ceremonial and religious efforts were very much a part of a bison kill (Frison 1971). For example, the Ruby site located in the Powder River Basin of Wyoming, is similar to the Muddy Creek site in that it too is a Besant bison trap (Frison 1971, 1978). Both bison traps appear similar in structure, yield Besant projectile points, and are associated with processing areas. A ceremonial or religious structure is located adjacent to the Ruby site, but such a feature has not yet been identified at the Muddy Creek site. Frison believes

"The shaman's role in communal bison procurement was of considerable importance by at least 1800 years ago. . . . The religious structure at the Ruby site indicated that all possible help was also called upon to ensure the success of events that had a high probability of failure" (Frison 1978:223).

Since it is suggested that religion played an important role in bison kills, perhaps the large stone cairn above the Muddy Creek site served as a religious structure. Again,

there is no evidence supporting this idea other than comparing these two Besant sites and noting their similarities.

The general appearance of the stone cairn leads to a third hypothesis. Its size and shape are similar to small Northern Plains Woodland mounds (Larson, personal communication 1978). However, Woodland mounds are usually earthen; this one is stone. But, due to lack of soil and a great abundance of rock, piles of stone may have been used instead. The location of the stone structure may be significant. Northern Plains Woodland mounds are commonly found on hills or ridge tops, such as this one. Another point in respect to location is the cairn and its close proximity and possible relationship with Besant materials. Many projectile points from some Northern Plains Woodland campsites show a definite likeness to Besant points (Neuman 1975:82). In fact, at the Greyrocks site, a Late Prehistoric campsite in southeastern Wyoming, there exists a Woodland component dated at A.D. 200 (Frison and Zeimens, personal communication 1978). Here, Woodland pottery was found as well as projectile points similar to those found at the Muddy Creek and Ruby sites. Also, dates from some Besant sites in Montana, Saskatchewan, and Alberta fall into the same period of some Northwestern Woodland Plains sites (Neuman 1975:81).

However, other general characteristics of Woodland mounds do not hold true for the stone cairn. First of all, Woodland mounds are usually burial mounds with excavated pits beneath them. There is no evidence of a pit under this stone cairn. Also, most burial mounds contain much cultural debris. Finally, Woodland mounds usually appear in clusters. This structure is isolated.

These are only three ways of interpreting the stone cairn and its possible relationship with the Muddy Creek site. Other explanations are possible. The cairn may not at all be associated with the site below it. Perhaps it was constructed earlier or later. Another hypothesis concerning the cairn's function, suggests that it may be an eagle trap. The cairn, however, does not fit the typical eagle trap descriptions available in the literature. Many eagle traps used by the Sioux were simple. They consisted of men hiding in clumps of vegetation and covering themselves with branches. Some traps were more complex and consisted of earthen pits camouflaged with wooden poles (Hassrick 1964:172). The Mandan, as well as many other groups, also had trapping pits in which they hid (Kidwell 1969). Using the cairn as an eagle trap, the hunter would hide inside the cairn and partially cover himself with a hide or branches. A piece of meat would be tied to the covering. When the eagle alighted, the hunter would reach up and grab the bird by the legs.

Throughout Wyoming and the Northwestern Plains, small stone cairns, historic and prehistoric, are common features. Many historic cairns have been built by sheepherders for various reasons. Other historic as well as prehistoric cairns are thought to mark the way to some religious or ceremonial point such as to the Medicine Wheel in the Big Horn Mountains of Wyoming. Many others are thought to be Indian graves or grave markers. But, the actual function of most cairns remains a mystery.

CONCLUSIONS

Speculations concerning the functions of stone cairns are almost unlimited. Three hypotheses have been suggested concerning the Muddy Creek stone cairn and its possible relationships with the Muddy Creek site, a Besant bison pound. Formation of these hypotheses is based on general observation. The first hypothesis suggests that the cairn served as a meat cache for the nearby bison trap. A second hypothesis suggests the cairn to be a ceremonial structure in association with the bison kill. And third, because of its physical nature, the cairn is thought to resemble a small Northern Plains Woodland mound.

Before any of these hypotheses and other thoughts concerning the cairn can go beyond speculation, systematic excavations are needed. Although part of the cairn has been destroyed, a good portion of it remains intact. Also, the clusters of stone circles along the ridge top, as well as the campsite near the bison kill, need to be fully recorded and tested.

Hopefully, data gathered through further investigation will help determine the nature of the stone cairn and its relationship, if any, with the nearby bison pound and other remaining features.

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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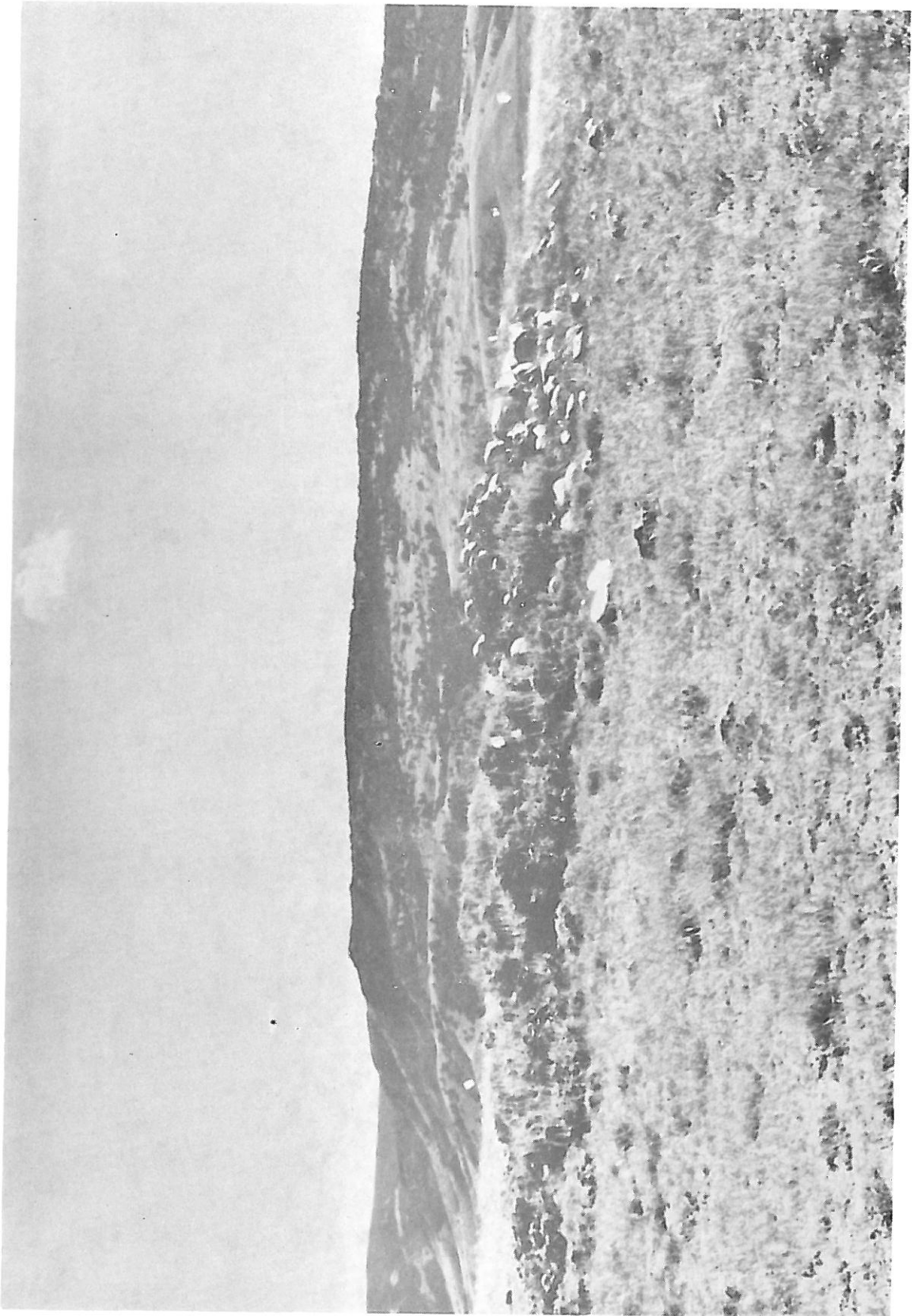


Figure 1: View of cairn from the south.

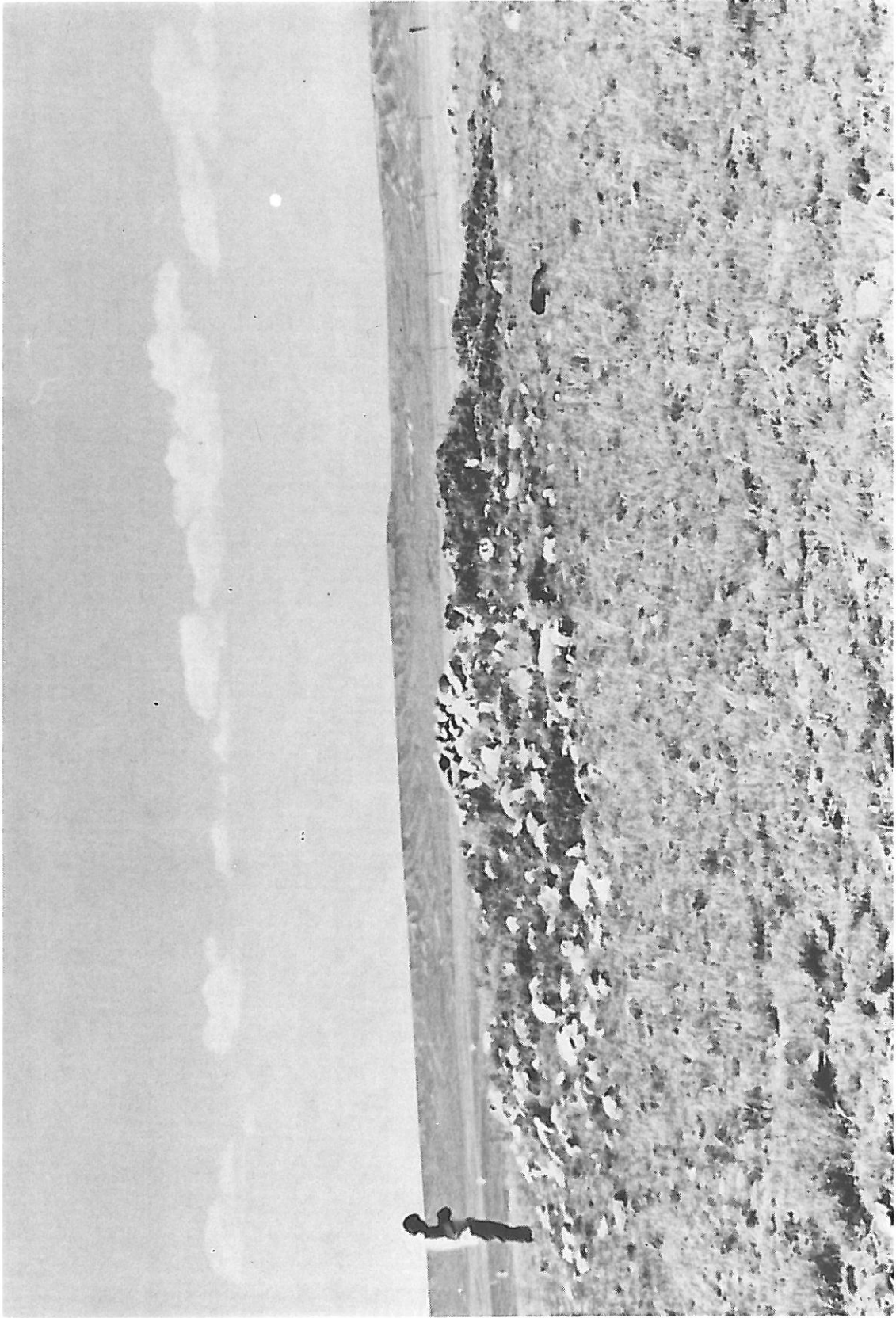


Figure 2: View of cairn from the east.

The Woodard Site:
A Preliminary Report of 1978

Test Excavations

by

George M. Zeimens

February 21, 1979

48FR528 was reported to us by Mr. Lonnie Woodard in 1976. Lonnie believed that this was an important site and expressed concern that it could be easily vandalized. Although the area serves as favorite hunting grounds for many collectors, the site had only been slightly disturbed by some unknown person who had scraped into the edge of the deposits with a shovel. I visited the site again in May of 1978 and found that the site had been extensively damaged. Two large areas had been destroyed by pothunters. The diggings had been screened and the back-dirt was full of artifacts, flakes, bones, and pottery sherds. Since it was obviously impossible to protect the site from further looting, we decided that it was imperative that we do some digging of our own both for evaluative purposes, and to obtain a site sample before 48FR528 became totally destroyed. We had a crew working nearby and it would be most expedient to take a sample while we were in the area. Several members of the Fremont County Chapter of the Wyoming Archaeological Society volunteered to assist us.

The site is located in the Wind River Basin about twenty miles east of Riverton. It is near a paved road but vehicles and people at the site cannot be seen from the road. The site is on National Resource Land and access to the area is not controlled. The cultural materials are contained in shallow Holocene sands which lie on top of siltstones and mudstones known as the Wind River Formation. Nodules of chert are eroding out of the edge of the formation. The chert ranges in color from almost clear to shades of blue and milky white. Much of this chert was used by occupants of the site for the manufacturing of stone tools. Vegetation at the site consists of sparse short grasses, sage, and small quantities of greasewood. It is several miles from the site to a perennial source of water.

We spent two days conducting test excavations in several areas, and part of a third day backfilling our trenches (Plate 1). We obtained only a very small sample which is not representative of all aspects of the site. It appears that much of the area has been eroded to bedrock. Cultural materials in those areas can be found scattered about on the surface. Several areas remain in a good state of preservation buried beneath several centimeters of sand. The preserved areas, unfortunately, were the object of heaviest depredation by looters. Preservation of portions of the site may be the result of circular arrangements of stone which appears to have trapped drifting sand and held it in place. These small discrete areas may represent lodges. The outer edges of these features are

deflated and exposed, but the interiors appear to contain an unmixed and well preserved single cultural level (Plate 2). We do not know if the level represents a single occupation or several brief occupations over a short span of time. A good charcoal sample from the level was sent in for dating but results will not be available for several months.



Plate 1: View looking south across the western edge of the site.



Plate 2: Profile showing dark cultural level.

A large amount of cultural material was recovered during our testing. The artifacts suggest two main activities; manufacturing of stone tools and hunting. As mentioned earlier, some of the chert used in the manufacturing process is available right at the site. The source of other cherts and some of the quartzites has not been determined. Some of the quartzite comes from the Morrison Formation and is available in large quantities in the Big Horn Basin, and in very small quantities in the Wind River Basin. Small amounts of obsidian were found and samples are now undergoing trace element analysis at the University of Idaho. Analysis of most of the data from the site is presently in preliminary stages and in fact, some materials remain to be cleaned and catalogued. This discussion presents only a cursory description of the site and cultural materials.

The projectile points are overall very small, thin, and delicate arrow points (Table 1, Plate 3). Breakage patterns leave little doubt that points were manufactured at the site. Breakage appears to be mainly the result of two processes; shaping and thinning of preforms which sometimes resulted in a break perpendicular to the long axis somewhere between the center and the distal end (Plate 4), and notching (Plate 3, r-s). Notching was apparently the last step in the manufacturing process and several specimens were apparently broken when the first notch was attempted. Removal of flakes perpendicular to the proximal end on both sides rendered the bases especially thin. The break usually extends from the interior end of the notch diagonally across the point. The same breakage pattern was noted for two specimens when the second notch was attempted (Plate 3, w-x). The notches themselves are very small and placement on the point varies from true side notches to almost side - almost corner, to true corner notches.

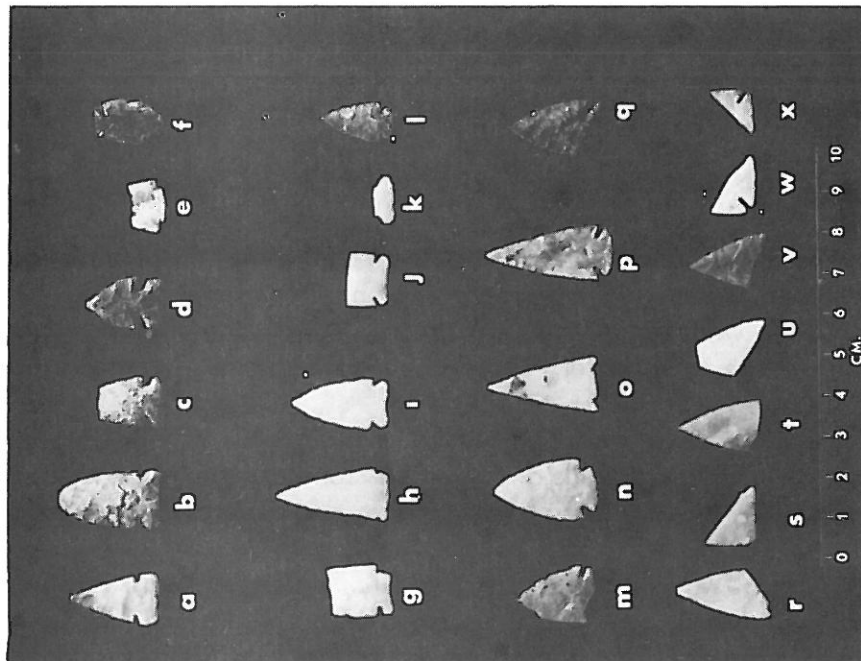
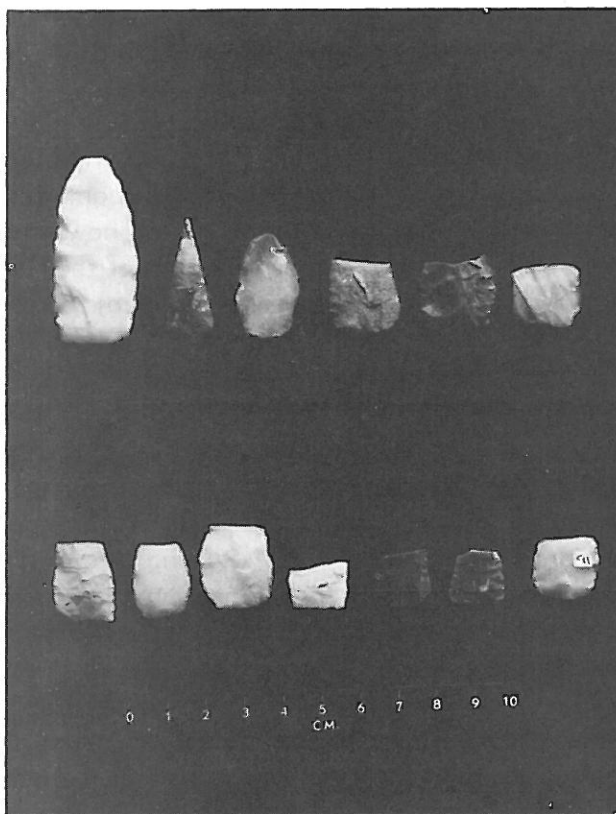


Plate 3: Projectile points.

Plate 4: Projectile point preforms.



A variety of bifacial cutting tools are also represented (Plate 5). Some appear to be finished products broken or discarded after usage, while others appear to have been broken during manufacturing. Material types represented include a variety of cherts and quartzites.

Also recovered during testing were many small, unifacial flake tools (Plate 6, a, c, d, e, f, g). Most of these display very little or no intentional shaping. Most show only a limited amount of what was probably fortuitous use on one or more edges. The edge of one specimen (Plate 6, h) is very smooth and it may have served as a notching tool for the projectile points.

Present also were the distal ends of two small stone drills. No end scrapers or side scrapers were found. Also lacking were manos and metates.

Several artifacts of worked bone were present. Four specimens (Plate 7, j-m) are bone awls. One specimen (Plate 7, n) is polished on both ends and may be a hafted awl. One specimen is a large long bone fragment (Plate 7, a) with a rounded and polished end which may have served as a knapping tool, or it may be the distal end of a chopper. Four beads (Plate 7, b-e) represent three separate styles. Two are short tubular specimens possibly made from canid metapodials, one is a flat, thin, drilled dish, and one made of

a cottontail rabbit tibia is also tubular. Three pieces of flat, polished and rectangular shaped bone (Plate 7, f-h) may be gaming pieces. Another ornamental item is a piece of shaped and drilled shell (Plate 7, i).

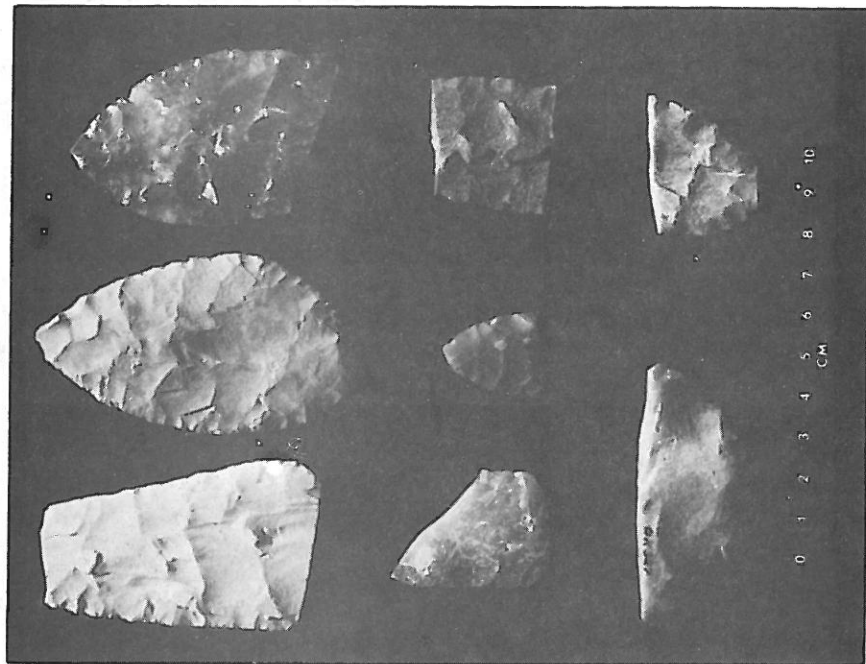


Plate 5: Bifacial cutting tools.

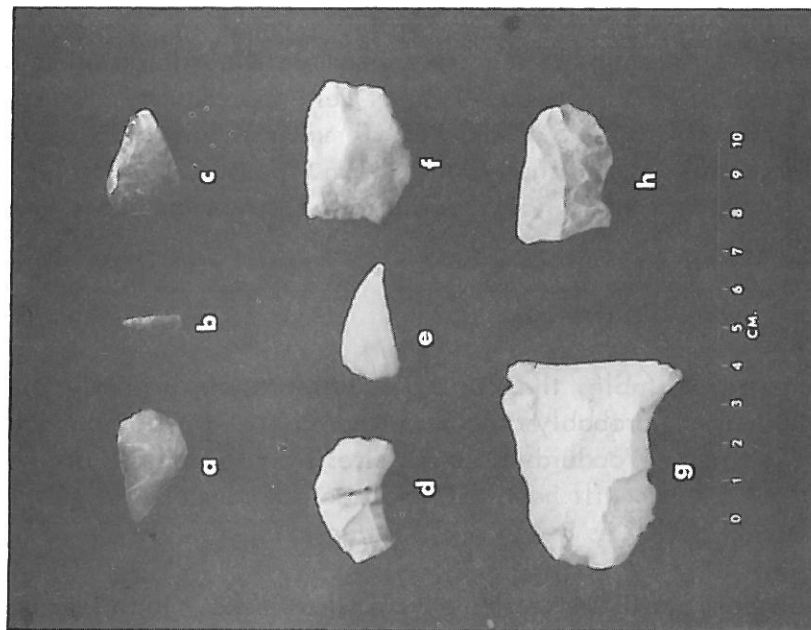
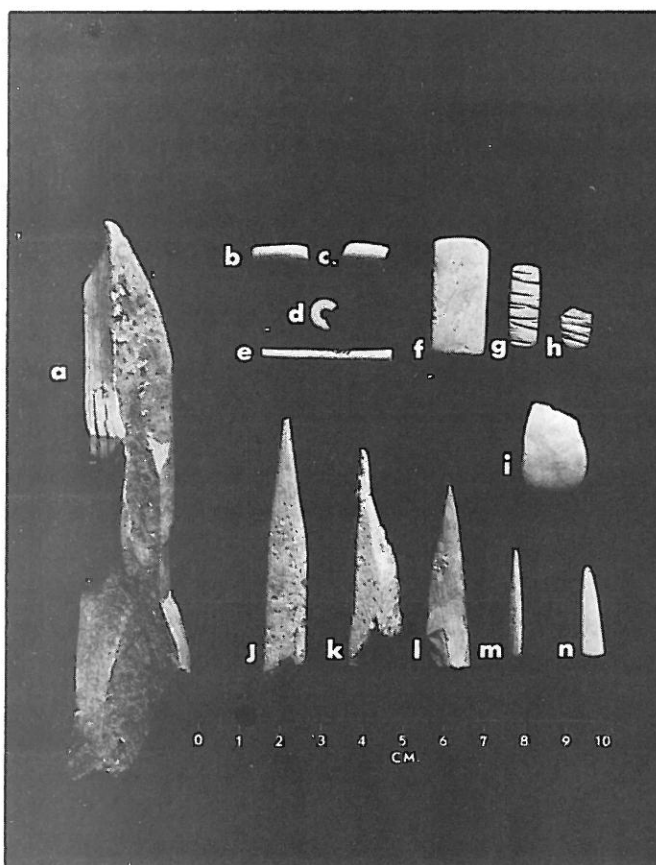


Plate 6: a, c, d, e, f, g, Flake tools; b, drill tip; h, possible notching tool.

Plate 7: Bone and shell artifacts.



Several pottery sherds were found but the present sample is not large enough for even partial reconstruction (Plate 8). The pottery is of very poor quality and is undecorated. Thickness of the sherds varies from 5.5 mm. to 8.0 mm. the surface is very rough due to large amounts of large pieces of crushed granite (1 m. to 3 mm.) which served as temper. The size and shape of the pottery is not discernible but it has some type of a rounded shoulder and a flat rim.

No firepits or hearths were discovered.

Although no date is yet available, the site probably represents an Early Late Prehistoric Period occupation, and will probably date somewhere between 1,000 and 1,500 years ago. Relationships between Woodard and other sites from this period are not yet clear. Final analysis of the materials will have to include close comparisons with sites such as the Wardell Site and several sites in the Big Horn Basin.

We have found that the majority of archeological sites in the Wind River Basin are eroded firepit sites common to all the interior basins of Wyoming. Sites like the one described above are extremely rare. Sites representing the Early Late Prehistoric Period are also extremely rare. Unfortunately, the site has been subjected to extreme looting.

Since no one has devised a way to successfully protect these kinds of resources, looting will continue. Therefore, we have verbally made application to the Bureau of Land Management for permission to enlarge our sample this year. We are also in the process of making a formal written application to the Bureau of Land Management.

Plate 8: Ceramic sherds.



Table 1. Projectile point descriptions (measurements to closest 1/2 mm., weight to nearest decigram)

CV - convex
 ST - straight
 S - side
 CN - corner
 S-C - side-corner
 CC - concave

| Specimen No. OK | Mx. Length | Mx. Width | Mx. Thickness | Notch Length | Width between Notches | | Weight | Blade Shape | Base Shape | Notch Placement | Material Type |
|-----------------|------------|-----------|---------------|--------------|-----------------------|------------|--------|-------------|------------|-----------------|---------------|
| | | | | | Notches | Base Width | | | | | |
| 301 | 25.5 | 15.0 | 3.5 | 3.0, 2.0 | 8.5 | 11.0 | 1.1 | CV | CV | CN | Grey Chert |
| 302 | | 13.0 | 3.0 | 2.5, 2.0 | 8.0 | | | CV | CC | S | White Chert |
| 303 | | 13.0 | 2.5 | 3.0, 3.0 | 7.0 | | | ST | | CN | White Chert |
| 304 | | | | 3.0 | | | | ST | | CN | White Chert |
| 305 | | 13.0 | 2.0 | 2.0, 2.0 | 9.0 | 12.0 | | | ST | S-C | White Chert |
| 306 | | | | 4.0 | 7.5 | 12.5 | | | CV | CN | White Chert |
| 307 | 27.5 | 13.0 | 2.5 | 1.5, 1.5 | 11.0 | 11.5 | .8 | CV | ST | S | White Chert |
| 308 | 31.5 | 13.5 | 2.5 | 3.5, 3.5 | 7.0 | 12.0 | .9 | CV | CV | CN | Clear Chert |
| 309 | | | 3.0 | 3.0 | | | | CV | | CN | Tan Chert |
| 315 | 25.0 | 14.5 | 3.5 | 1.5, 2.0 | 10.0 | 14.0 | 1.1 | CV | ST | S | Shale Brown |
| 316 | | 12.5 | 3.0 | 2.5, 3.0 | 7.5 | 12.5 | | ST | ST | S-C | Shale Brown |
| 321 | | 14.0 | 2.0 | 2.5, 2.5 | 8.5 | | | | ST | S-C | Brown Chert |
| 322 | | | 2.0 | 3.5 | | | | | | CN | Brown Chert |
| 337 | 24.0 | 15.0 | 2.5 | 3.5 | 7.0 | | .8 | CV | ST | S-C | Black Chert |
| 338 | 18.0 | 10.0 | 2.0 | 2.0, 2.0 | 6.0 | 7.5 | .3 | ST | ST | S-C | Obsidian |
| 341 | | | 2.0 | 2.5 | | | | CV | | | Tan Chert |
| 342 | 22.0 | 12.5 | 2.5 | 2.0, 2.0 | 8.5 | 11.5 | .5 | ST | ST | S | Tan Chert |
| 343 | 23.5 | 12.5 | 3.0 | 2.0, 2.0 | 9.0 | 11.5 | .8 | CV | ST | S | White Chert |
| 353 | | | | 3.0 | | 14.0 | | | ST | CN | Tan Chert |
| 367 | | | | 3.0, 3.0 | 7.0 | 11.5 | | | ST | | White Chert |
| 427 | | 13.0 | 3.0 | 3.5, 3.0 | 6.5 | 12.5 | | | CC | S | Brown Chert |
| 428 | | | | 3.5, 3.5 | 5.5 | 10.5 | | | ST | CN | Clear Chert |