

# IDAHO ARCHAEOLOGIST



PHOTO BY JAMES HUNTLEY

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# A HOOF RATTLE FROM WILDCAT CAVE NORTHWEST OWYHEE COUNTY

By  
James L. Huntley

## ABSTRACT

At the time of the discovery of the hoof rattle in the early 1920s, this unique artifact was known to very few people in the area, mostly the relic hunters. There were no trained observers, or archaeologists, in Idaho and especially in Owyhee county. After a few years Frank Maxwell, the original finder, sold the rattle to an amateur collector, Karl Smith, who hung it on the wall of his Marsing service station where it was seen by the local patrons.

The author heard about this extraordinary find from Mr. Everett Clark, a personal friend of the Smith family. About three years ago the author was looking at some curios at a friend's home. To his surprise he saw among the artifacts a small section of a hoof rattle. Upon questioning his friend, he found it was part of the original artifact, which had been given him by Smith several years before. From this series of events the article here outlined was written.

Great Basin Chapter  
Idaho Archaeological Society

### *The Setting*

Wildcat Cave is located in a canyon of the same name on the north slope of the Owyhee foothills two miles (31 km) north of French John hill near Highway 95. Wildcat Creek is an ephemeral stream which issues from the canyon and flows north toward Snake River. It lies between Jump Creek to the west, and Squaw Creek on the east, but is closer to the Squaw Creek drainage. The creek gradient in its lower course is fairly flat until it reaches the foothills where Wildcat Canyon is cut from the rhyolite and basaltic intrusives. The canyon walls are quite steep and end in an almost vertical escarpment. Wildcat Cave is in Section 1, T 1 N, R 5 W, Boise, Meridian, and is on the 975 m (3200 foot) contour.

The cave was formed by a large vertical crack in the rock wall and faces toward the northwest. It is approximately 6 m wide at the bottom and tapers in as it gains height, with part of the fissure going outside the cave at the top—a distance of about 20 m. The floor of the cave is rough and very uneven due to massive roof-fall, either after the crack was formed, during formation, or both. It has been reported that someone set off a small dynamite charge in the cave some years past. This may be one of the reasons for the rough character of the cave floor.

Wildcat Spring is about three-quarters of a mile (1.2 km) below the cave on Wildcat Creek. There is a small rock-shelter nearby in a rock outcrop. A lithic scatter is found near the spring. It has produced some point types attributed to the late prehistoric. A local collector has a few of these points.

### *Finding the Hoof Rattle*

About 1920-21, Mr. Frank Maxwell, a sometime relic hunter who lived near Homedale, Idaho, went to Wildcat

Cave, which was then undisturbed. The inside of the cave was very dry with evidence of packrat inhabitation and the usual windblown debris. In the cave Mr. Maxwell found two logs, or poles, about 16 to 20 cm in diameter and 4 to 5 m long. They were smooth and worn, with a weathered look somewhat like beach driftwood. Maxwell took them home, where they were seen by Mr. Al Clark and his young son, Everett, among others. Soon afterward, Maxwell cut the logs up for firewood. What use the Indians made of these logs is not known. The cave is some distance from any timber of that size, even today. Maxwell did a small amount of digging in the cave, which brought to light a few stone artifacts (Clark 1976, personal communication). Also found in the cave, lying in the rubbish, was the hoof rattle, which will be discussed later.

Mr. Maxwell kept the artifact for several years—then sold it to an amateur collector, Karl Smith, of Marsing, Idaho. Smith hung it on the wall of his service station, where it was seen by all the local patrons. Mr. Paul Evans, a customer of Smith, was asking about the rattle one day. Smith tore off a short section of the rattle and gave the piece to Evans (Evans 1977, personal communication). It is the piece of the rattle illustrated here (Figure 1). A photograph of the rattle section is also shown (Figure 2).

After Karl Smith passed on, his widow kept his sizeable collection of artifacts, including the rattle. Mrs. Leona Smith now lives in Seattle, Washington. Dr. Thomas Green, Idaho State Archaeologist, corresponded with Mrs. Smith about selling or donating the rattle to the Idaho Historical Society so it could be put on display near where it was found. The result of this inquiry has, so far, been indecisive.

### *The Hoof Rattle*

This interesting and unusual artifact could only have sur-

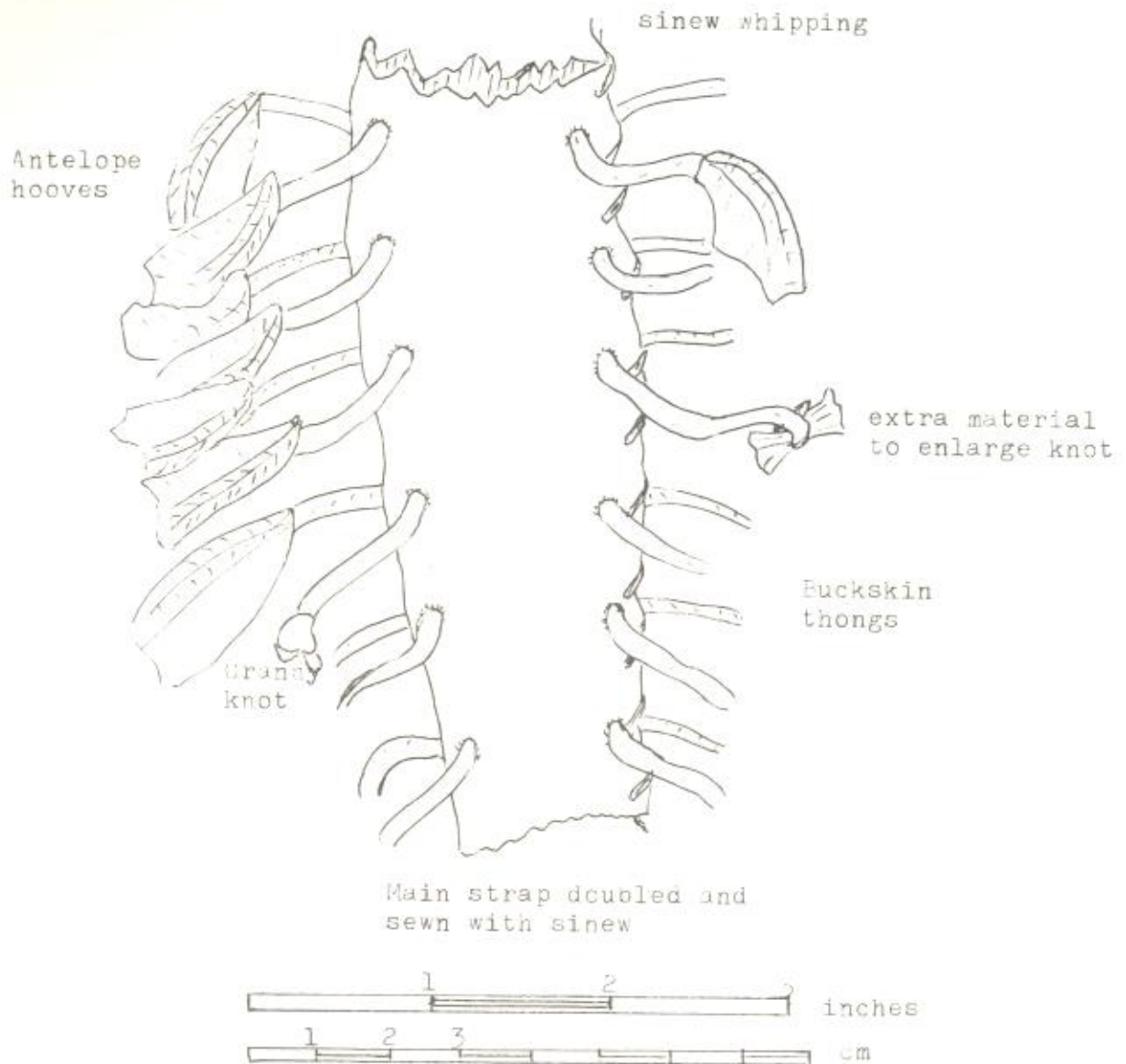


FIGURE 1  
Detail of the Hoof Rattle

vived in its present condition in a very dry cave environment. How old it is remains undetermined. It is, no doubt, part of the regalia of a shaman or medicine man. When found, the hoof rattle was approximately eight feet (2.62 m) long. It could be draped around the neck and shoulders and would reach almost to the floor (Clark 1976, personal communication) (Figure 3).

The rattle is made from tanned hide and antelope hooves. It is reasonable to assume that all parts are made from the pronghorned antelope (*Antilocapra americana*), which were common to the area before white contact (Gillette 1980, personal communication). The tanned skin in the main strap is about 8.9 cm wide. It was folded double and sewn down the open side with animal sinew in what is called a whip stitch (Huntley 1980, personal communication). When the main strand was finished, holes were made in the strap at

intervals of .63 cm from the edge and 1.9 cm apart on each side. Through each hole a thong of leather about 9 or 10 cm long was threaded. Onto each end of the thong, one-half of a hoof was threaded through a hole made in the toe of the hoof. A granny knot was tied at the end of the thong to keep it from pulling through. If the hole in the hoof was too large, an extra piece of material, also tanned skin, was tied into the granny knot to keep it from pulling through the hole. If the spacing of the hooves is consistent over the length of this artifact, it took at least 64 animals to produce the hoof rattle. Hoof size indicates that both adult and immature animals were used in making this artifact.

Maxwell's stone artifacts were given to the College of Idaho (Butts 1980, personal communication). According to college records, they were ultimately given to the Idaho Historical Society (Packard 1980, personal communication).

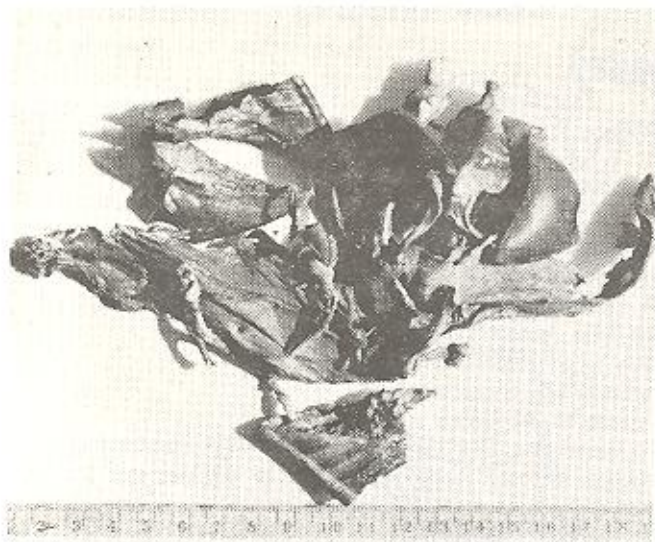


PHOTO BY EVERETT CLARK

FIGURE 2

This photo illustrates the desiccated state of the rattle but shows important details.

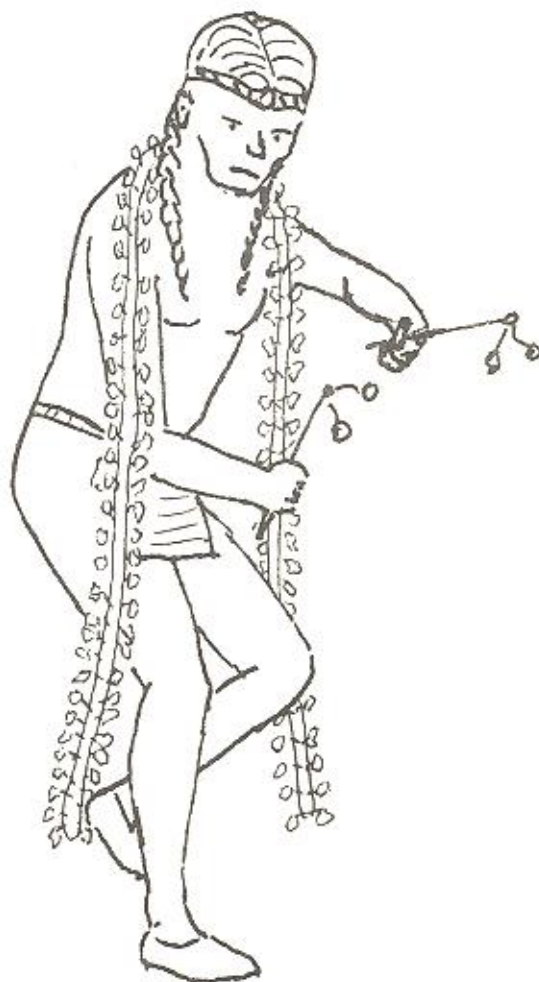


FIGURE 3

Showing how the rattle was probably worn or used.

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## EDITOR'S COMMENT

The following article, Plew's response to Harrison and Hanson (*Idaho Archaeologist* 3[3]) and Butler's answer to Plew (*Idaho Archaeologist* 3[3]) on page 11, are the last in the series engendered by Plew in *Plains Anthropologist* and by Butler in this journal on southern Idaho pottery. We ask that new papers on this topic, or which discuss these or other papers, include new data, new hypotheses or insights. A paper which contains only textual criticism will be rejected unless there is some overwhelming reason to accept it.

While pleased to see professional debate using this journal as a forum, we do not believe that further textual criticism alone will serve much purpose. We urge our colleagues to write and submit manuscripts to us on any topic. We also thank Messers Butler and Plew, who, between them, have provided this journal with most of its contributions in the first three volumes.

### THE USE AND MISUSE OF PUBLISHED DATA: A REPLY TO HARRISON AND HANSON

By  
Mark G. Plew

#### ABSTRACT

Harrison and Hanson (1980) have recently commented on an article (Plew 1979) dealing with Fremont-like pottery in Southern Idaho. This reply is intended to answer the questions raised by their discussion and to correct the misrepresentations in their presentation.

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The paper entitled, "Southern Idaho Plain: Implications for Fremont-Shoshoni Relationships in Southwestern Idaho" (Plew 1979) has engendered considerable discussion (Harrison and Hanson 1980). The paper has been most criticized for its supposed misuse of published data. In fact, the criticisms of this paper, which do not challenge the basic thesis, are largely invalid and in themselves constitute misrepresentations and misuse of data.

I would like to begin this reply with two brief comments. First, the implicit criticism of my causal approach is interesting in view of the authors' (1980:14) reference to the "complexities of archaeological systematics." Uncomplimentary remarks concerning my "informal analysis" and the "dubious value" of my "tentative proposal" suggest the authors have little familiarity with the underlying processes of scientific explanation in archaeology. They further fail to appreciate my attempt to be explicit regarding the nature of the study.

A second point concerns the temporal context of Southern Idaho Plain ware. The authors (1980:14) note the need for this ware to coincide with the Great Salt Lake Fremont dated ca. A.D. 400 - A.D. 1350 (Marwitt 1970). This occupation is approximate and may extend beyond A.D. 1350 as suggested by a number of dates for Great Salt Lake Fremont

occupations (see Table 9, Marwitt 1970:144). One would surmise that Fremont peoples or a Fremont culture would likely postdate A.D. 1350 in Southern Idaho. It is also interesting that the confirmatory nature of Madsen's (1975) data concerning the Numic expansion is slighted by the authors (1980:14). The following comments refer to specific criticisms concerning the supposed misuse of data in my paper.

#### 1. Wilson Butte Cave (Gruhn 1966)

I suggested a possible relationship between Wilson Butte Plain ware and the presence of a Sevier-Fremont tradition in Southern Idaho. In so doing, I emphasized the early end of Gruhn's (1961a) dating of this ware to suggest the plausibility of such a relationship. While Harrison and Hanson (1980:14) are correct in noting that Gruhn's (1961a:49) estimate was A.D. 1300 - A.D. 1700-1750, they ignore data supportive of Gruhn's earlier date of ca. A.D. 1300 (see e.g. Neudorfer 1976). Butler's (1968:80) reported C-14 date is ambiguous in so far as it could be as early as A.D. 1375 or as late as A.D. 1675.

#### 2. Saylor Creek (Bucy 1971)

In my discussion (Plew 1979:331), I noted that Southern Idaho Plain was found in several contexts with points of the Rose Spring-Eastgate series and noted that the projectiles were predominant types during the period A.D. 600 - A.D. 1100 (Hester and Heizer 1973). This dating suggested an appropriate time frame for a Sevier-Fremont technology in Southern Idaho. In this context, I noted sites recorded in the Twin Falls area by Bucy (1971). The pottery described by Bucy is similar to Wilson Butte Plain ware. I view the Wilson Butte pottery as more related to a Sevier-Fremont technology than other writers (see e.g. Butler 1979a). Unless Harrison and Hanson (1980:15) wish to suggest a much earlier presence for ceramics in Idaho, I suggest that their discussion concerning the range of Archaic types found on these sites is relatively moot. They also note that Desert Side Notched points were found at 10-TF-141 and correctly point out that such points are "hall-marks" of the Late Archaic (Butler 1978). They do not, however, note the early occurrence of such points in periods predating the Late Archaic (see e.g. Aikens 1970:56). The omission of site 10-TF-135 is an editorial error.

#### 3. Rattlesnake Canyon Cremation Site (Bonnichsen 1964)

Criticisms of my use of the Rattlesnake Canyon data are threefold. First, my reference to Rose Spring-Eastgate points is challenged. Harrison and Hanson (1980:15) observe that Bonnichsen (1964) recovered Columbia Basal-Notched (29); Wallula Rectangular-Stemmed (9); and Bliss points (31) (Bonnichsen 1964: 28-29). Columbia Basal-Notched and Wallula Rectangular Stemmed are the Plateau equivalents of the Great Basin Rose Spring-Eastgate series. Swanson (1965:36) cited the Rattlesnake Canyon cremation site as an example of Plateau influence on the Snake River Plain. Pavesic (1971:161) has criticized this hypothesis, noting that similarity in projectile point morphology does not suggest intrusive settlement and correctly notes that the distribution of Desert Side-notched points

throughout the plateau should then imply a Shoshonean occupation. The authors ignore or are unaware that these materials have previously been referred to by Great Basin type names (see e.g. Webster 1978). It is also noteworthy that Great Basin type names have been applied to archaeological materials throughout southern Idaho and in areas adjacent to the Rattlesnake Canyon site (see e.g. Butler 1978; Cinadr 1976:32; Metzler 1976:22; Neudorfer 1976:25; Webster 1978). With regard to Bliss points Harrison and Hanson (1980:15) write: "Bliss points are best known from south-central Idaho along the Snake River. Their temporal span is presently problematic." This enigmatic statement is curious since one has only to wonder how Bliss points could be better known than at the type site. Though the temporal span of Bliss points is uncertain, I observed that they do occur in the same contexts with Rose Spring-Eastgate points. (Plew 1979:331-332).

A second problem concerns my reference to "Fremont-like figurines" from the Rattlesnake Canyon cremation site (Plew 1979:332). This is one of several editorial problems which were not corrected prior to the paper going to press. The reference to figurines from this site should have read "Bonnichsen (1964:33) recovered three figurine fragments from a cremation site near the Snake River in Southwestern Idaho." If Harrison and Hanson had consulted the author, they could have been advised of a corrective note scheduled to appear in an upcoming issue of *Plains Anthropologist*.

The third criticism involves my failure to refer to supposed European trade copper from the Rattlesnake Canyon cremation site. Though these pieces were subjected to spectrographic analysis, Bonnichsen (1964:28) correctly notes that these pieces are *probably* European trade items (emphasis added). Harrison and Hanson's comments concerning the temporal span of the copper are irrelevant since my discussion was concerned with the presence of clay objects in Southern Idaho. Again, the authors are selective in criticizing specifics which are outside the scope of the hypothesis presented.

Harrison and Hanson (1980) have criticized my paper entitled "Southern Idaho Plain: Implications for Fremont-Shoshoni Relationships in Southwestern Idaho" for supposed misuse of published data. My comments demonstrate that the authors are guilty of the same kind of omissions and misrepresentations of which I have been accused. My intent was to generate a hypothesis concerning possible Sevier-Fremont incursions into Southern Idaho. This proposal has some apparent merit since it is of continuing scientific interest (see Butler 1979a, 1979b). Modifications and refinements in my thinking have occurred since the initial acceptance of the paper in 1977. This, coupled with the work of other scholars interested in the problem (Butler 1979a, 1979b), has prompted me to begin preparation of a more definitive statement. However, I do not believe that the largely unsubstantiated critique to which I have replied alters my original purpose or the interpretive potential of the hypothesis presented.

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#### ADDITIONAL NOTES ON THE OCCURRENCE OF FREMONT BASKETRY IN EASTERN IDAHO

By  
B. Robert Butler

In a comment on Plew's (1979) "Southern Idaho Plain Ware" which has been accepted for publication in the *Plains Anthropologist*, I mention that plans were underway to have Dr. James Adovasio, an authority on Fremont basketry, and Dr. Catherine Fowler, an authority on Paiute-Shoshoni basketry, examine the Idaho Museum of Natural History's collection of Northern Shoshoni basketry to determine if any or all of it was made in the Fremont-Eastern Great Basin tradition. The examination took place in the Museum of Natural History on February 9, 1980.

It quickly became apparent that none of the Shoshoni basketry in the Museum's ethnographic collections exhibited any Fremont or Fremont-like characteristics. It was typical of Paiute-Shoshoni basketry found elsewhere in the Great Basin culture area. A large part of the collection appears to have been made in the early part of the 20th century for purposes of white trade and it includes a number of wash and sewing baskets.

When it became apparent that there were no indication of Fremont-Shoshoni basketry continuities in the Museum's ethnographic collection, Dr. Adovasio and his wife, who accompanied him on this trip and also has extensive experience in the analysis of prehistoric basketry from the western United States, began examining all of the coiled basketry to be found in the Museum's archaeological collections from eastern Idaho. Most of this basketry had been studied ten years earlier by Dr. Adovasio and had been found to consist entirely of Fremont basketry types. The results of his study at that time were incorporated in his larger works on Western Archaic textiles and Fremont basketry (Adovasio 1970, 1975). The present examination of the prehistoric basketry remnants from eastern Idaho permitted obtaining additional technical data and refinement of the previous analyses. Dr. Adovasio and his wife are preparing a report on the results of their reanalysis of the prehistoric basketry from eastern Idaho, but the following, based on notes left by them and reassessment of the proveniences of the individual specimens by me, gives a preliminary indication of the findings.

First, all of the coiled basketry remnants recovered from archaeological sites in eastern Idaho (viz, Pence-Duerig Cave, Little Lost River Cave No. 1 and Jackknife Cave) are of Fremont types. No basketry of Paiute-Shoshoni character has been recovered from these sites, nor are there any indications that the Fremont basketry from these sites was evolving in the direction of Paiute-Shoshoni basketry.

Based on a recheck of the appropriate artifact catalogues, field notes and published reports, the Fremont basketry from Pence-Duerig Cave may be among the most recent of all the Fremont basketry found in eastern Idaho to date. Apparent associations include Desert side-notched and Rose Spring corner-notched points and a fragment of Intermountain ware pottery (Gruhn 1961, Butler 1979). The point types are characteristic of Fremont culture layers at cave sites in northern Utah, where they date ca. A. D. 830-1350 (e.g., Dalley 1976), while the pottery is commonly regarded as a Shoshonean type dating no earlier than A. D. 1200-1300 in northern Utah and southern Idaho (e.g., Madsen 1975). In southern Idaho, Desert side-notched and Rose Spring corner-notched points, together with Intermountain Ware pottery, are characteristic of the Late Archaic (post A. D. 1250) period (Butler 1980). Several pieces of the basketry from Pence-Duerig Cave are illustrated in Gruhn's 1961 report. Figure 5 in her report is the center of what Adovasio now refers to as "classic" Fremont half-rod and bundle, non-interlocking stitch, possibly from a Fremont parching tray. The rod and stitches are of willow while the bundle is of shredded juniper bark or yucca leaves. The fragments shown in Gruhn's (1961) figures 5K and 5M are of the same type found at the Swallow rockshelter in the Goose Creek Mountains of extreme northwestern Utah: "minority classic Fremont," half-rod and welt, triangular split-stitch; the material



in each case is willow.

The coiled basketry fragments recovered from previously undisturbed deposits at Little Lost River Cave No. 1 (Fichter, et al. 1954) and nearby Jackknife Cave (Swanson and Sneed 1971), based on the projectile point forms associated with them at these two sites, appear generally older than those found at Pence-Duerig Cave (Butler 1979). Collectively, the basketry from these sites, while definitely Fremont in character, is not as "classic" in appearance as that from Pence-Duerig Cave. Adovasio has tentatively referred to the Lost River Fremont basketry as "post-classic," which may be misleading, since it does not appear to be post-classic in age. In checking the field notes made during the excavation of Little Lost River Cave No. 1, it appears that all eight of the previously reported Fremont basketry fragments from this site may have come from the upper part of layer 3; only two pieces are noted as coming from mixed layers 2 and 3 dirt. Neither layer yielded Late Archaic point types. Among the Fremont basketry fragments noted as coming from the upper part of layer 3 is a rare example of Fremont-Anasazi type open coiling, a larger and also singular example of which was recovered from Hogup Cave (Aikens 1970: Fig. 101). The Lost River Cave fragment is the most northern ever found of that type of basketry, which is also true of all of the other Fremont basketry recovered from the Lost River Cave sites (Little Lost River Cave No. 1 and Jackknife Cave).

Two of the three known Fremont basketry fragments from Jackknife Cave were recovered from undisturbed deposits; the third came from layer 1, a disturbed deposit originating from previous excavations at the cave (Swanson and Sneed 1971). All three were illustrated in Swanson and Sneed's 1971 report. The fragment shown in their Figure 17f is from the disturbed layer, layer 1. The fragments in their Figure 17a were probably adjacent parts of a large Fremont parching tray similar to one of those found at Hogup Cave (Aikens 1970). These came from Layer III, Block C-4, excavated under my direction. Swanson and Sneed show this as Layer 3 in their report. Block C-4 was at the east end of the cave and, according to their report (Swanson and Sneed 1971: Table 5), a wide variety of point types, including a large number of Bitterroot side-notched points, were recovered from layers 3-7 at this end of the site. My field notes and the field catalogue show a substantial number of Bitterroot points having been recovered from Layer 3, Block C-4. Large side-notched points of this type occur in Fremont culture-bearing layers at a cave site in northern Utah (e.g., Dalley 1976: 23-26; Figure 15), but are more common in pre-Fremont layers (e.g., Aikens 1970: Figure 24). In southern Idaho, Bitterroot side-notched points are most common in Early Archaic deposits, less common in Middle Archaic deposits, and virtually absent from Late Archaic deposits.

Swanson and Sneed (1971:Figure 17e) also illustrate a fragment of Fremont basketry recovered by Rob Bonnichsen from Layer 4 of Test Pit 1, which was excavated a year earlier (1961) at the back of the east end of Jackknife Cave. This layer does not have a stratigraphic equivalent in the 1963 excavations made under my direction. Bonnichsen recovered a small side-notched and a larger corner-notched point from Layer 4 of Test Pit 1. The small side-notched point (Cat. No. 22118) appears to be of the Desert side-notched type, but is slightly thicker than most of this type.

Tentatively, Layer 4 of Test Pit 1 may be of Late Archaic age.

The picture that is beginning to emerge from the study of prehistoric coiled basketry in eastern Idaho is one in which the Fremont culture is definitely manifested here in Middle to Late Archaic deposits, and in the latter in association with pottery and projectile points often treated as indicators of a Shoshoni presence. Yet, in these Late Archaic deposits, there are no indications of Paiute-Shoshoni type basketry. From this, we could infer that the Shoshoni may not, in fact, have arrived in this region until well into the 17th century, as some writers (e.g., Wright 1978) have already suggested, but on the wrong grounds. Clearly, we need to find more examples of prehistoric basketry from this region in order to resolve the problem. Perhaps there are amateurs who already have good examples of such basketry in their collections and might be willing to loan them for study.

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# FIRED CLAY CYLINDERS FROM NAHAS CAVE, SOUTHWESTERN IDAHO

By  
Mark G. Plew and James Woods

## ABSTRACT

Recent excavations at Nahas Cave (Plew n.d.) recovered four fired clay cylinder fragments. These fragments and the results of experimental replication of fired clay cylinders are described.

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The occurrence of fired and unfired clay objects and figurines has been documented throughout the Northwest, the Great Basin and California (see e.g., Aikens 1970; Bryan 1958-59; Bryan 1964; Butler 1965; Caldwell 1957; Davis 1959; Heizer 1937; Jennings 1957; Layton 1970; Pendergast 1957; Stephensen 1968; True and Warren 1961). Of particular interest for this paper are those reported in the Great Basin and southern Idaho (see Figure 1). Clay objects have been recorded at several archaeological sites in Idaho, including the clay objects from Stratum A of Wilson Butte Cave (Gruhn 1961:100). These objects were believed to date to the period A.D. 1300 - 1400. Butler (1967:73) has more recently suggested that the Wilson Butte objects may more accurately date to ca. A.D. 1500 - 1600. In Idaho, clay figurines and figurine fragments have also been recovered at Columbet Creek Rockshelter (Lynch and Olsen 1964) and at the Rattlesnake Canyon Cremation Site (Bonnichsen 1964). While these finds occurred near the Snake River, an unusual unfired clay figurine was recovered from Dry Creek Rockshelter in the Boise foothills (Webster 1978).

Fired and unfired clay objects in the Great Basin and central California occur as early as 2000 B.C. (see e.g., Ragir 1972:122; Riddle 1960:58-61). A number of fired clay objects, including a cylinder, were recovered from the Karlo site in Lassen County, California (Riddle 1960:58-61). These were dated at ca. 2000 - 1000 B.C. as were clay objects from Lovelock Cave which date from ca. 1000 B.C. (Loud and Harrington 1929; Grosscup 1960). Specimens from the Northwest occur as late as A.D. 1300 - 1750 (Butler 1965:9-10).

Recent excavations at Nahas Cave (Plew n.d.) recovered four fired clay cylinder fragments. Nahas Cave, which is located in the Owyhee Uplands approximately 60 km east and north of the Oregon and Nevada borders, is an archaic hunting camp occupied during the period 5990 B.P. - 260 B.P. (Plew n.d.). The projectile point chronology includes Humboldt, Elko, Rose Spring-Eastgate, Cottonwood and Desert Side Notched series points. The cylinder fragments were recovered from levels 6, 10, 12 and 15 which were excavated in arbitrary 10 cm levels within four geomorphically distinct zones. Radiocarbon dating was obtained from a hearth in level 6 at 2920  $\pm$  70 B.P. (TX 3637). Though no radiocarbon determinations were obtained for levels

7-14, a date of 5990  $\pm$  170 B.P. (TX 3644) was obtained from a hearth area in level 16. The specimens date to a general range of 5900 B.P. to 2900 B.P. Similar specimens were not recovered above level 6, though one Shoshoni ware sherd from level 3 and two from level 2 were dated at 350  $\pm$  70 B.P. (TX 3635) and 260  $\pm$  50 B.P. (TX 3636).

The largest fragment is 34 mm x 27 mm having a maximum wall thickness of 6 mm (see Figure 2). The cylinder appears to have been modeled around a wood form having an approximate radius of 15 mm. The surface color is consistent with the core color and is beige with areas of heavy localized reduction. The temper consists of fine sand and there is evidence that fiber was added as an additional tempering material. The exterior of the fragment shows longitudinal striations adjacent to areas of relatively coarse surface. One marginal fracture revealed the impression of an apparent broadleaf grass. The interior of the fragment shows a distinct impression of woodgrain. Three smaller specimens measure 32 x 25 x 4 mm; 17 x 17 x 2 mm; and 13 x 10 x 3 mm.

To better understand the manufacturing process, experimental replication was conducted.

Local secondary clay deposits, closely resembling the clay of which the cylinder is formed, were used to model around sections of tree branches ranging in size from 30 - 40 mm in diameter. Though various firing approaches were tested, all were fired using a shallow open-pit wood and brush fire. Cylinders were fired on and off the wood form. Some were fired insulated in sand and ash, while others were placed directly on the source of heat.

Tests were structured to replicate the color, texture, and fracture patterns exhibited on the cylinder fragment 79-75-244. The following test results were noted:

1. Clay allowed to dry on the wood form fractured in a distinctive manner. Fractures obtained from thermal shock, crushing, and other forms of impact varied in pattern but appeared to be distinctive. It is probable that specimen 79-75-244 was fractured during the firing process and was probably fired while molded around a branch.
2. Clay readily picked up the impression of any form around which it was modeled. Within limits, the coarseness of the temper did not drastically alter the plasticity.

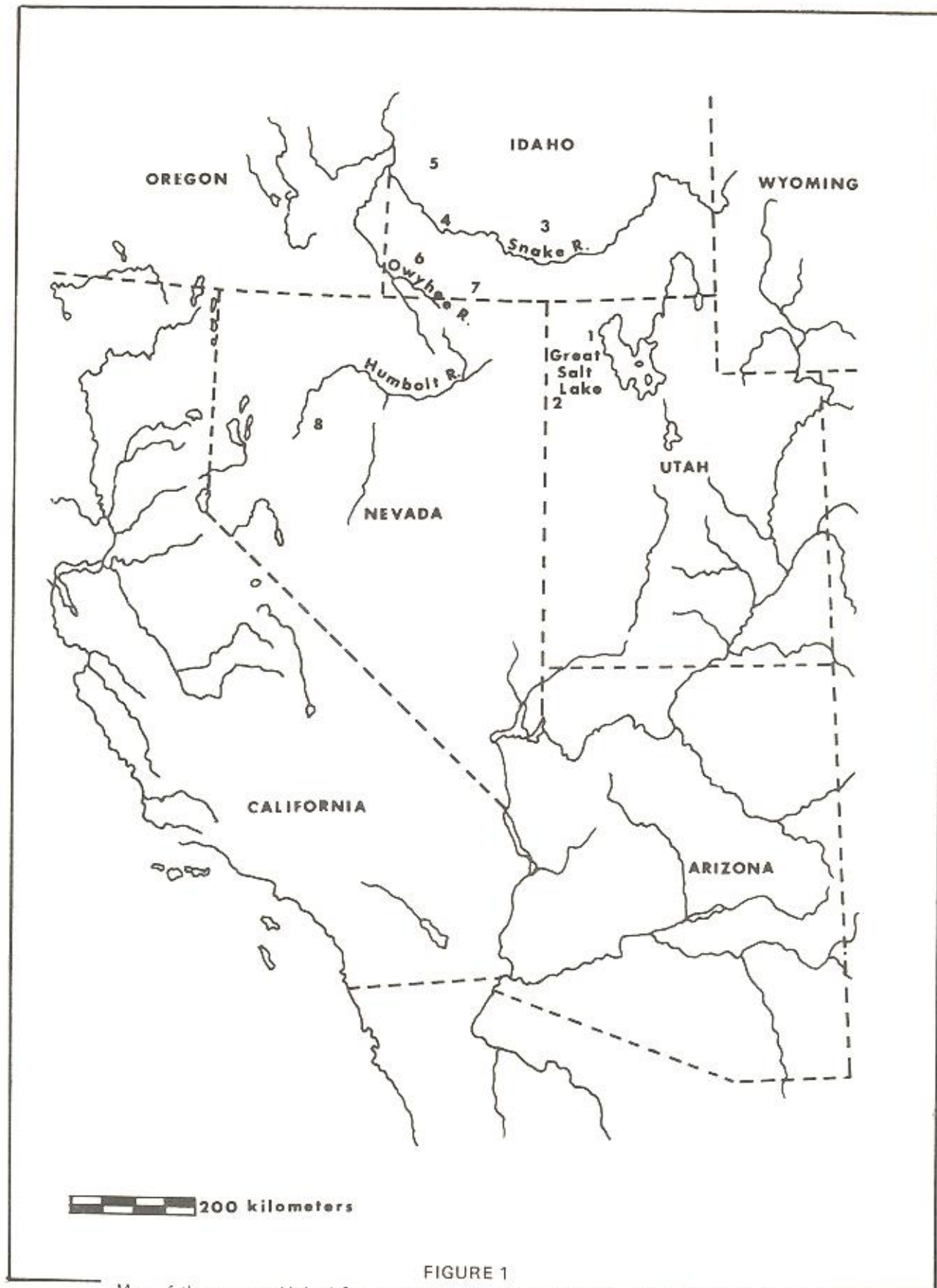


FIGURE 1

Map of the western United States showing the location of selected archaeological sites in the Great Basin and Idaho containing fired and unfired clay objects and figurines. (1) Hogup Cave; (2) Danger Cave; (3) Wilson Butte Cave; (4) Rattlesnake Canyon Cremation Site; (5) Dry Creek Rockshelter; (6) Nahas Cave; (7) Columbet Creek Rockshelter; (8) Lovelock Cave.

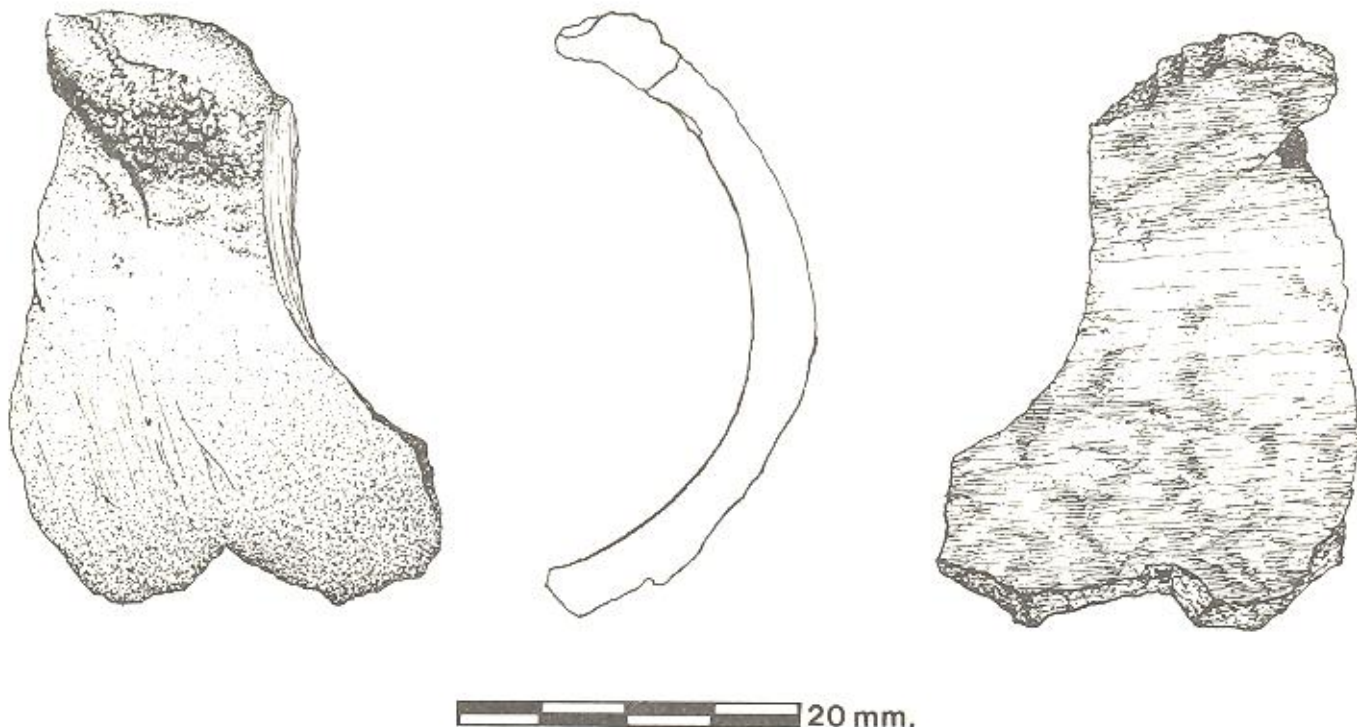


FIGURE 2  
Fired clay cylinder fragment (79-75-244) showing interior and exterior surfaces.

3. Cylinders fired on the wood form differ from those fired off the form, in that those fired on the form consistently show areas of heavy localized reduction resulting from the core burn-out. Reduction seems heaviest in the interior of the cylinders. This is similar in detail to specimen 79-75-244.
4. Exterior texture of the cylinders is dependent on the modeling technique used. Striations and areas of apparent coarse texture result from simple finger modeling. This is true even when temper texture is relatively fine as in the case of fragment 79-75-244.

In summary, experimental replication and firing of clay cylinders has provided some insight concerning their manufacture. The function of these objects is unknown, though they could have been used as pipes. The Nahas Cave specimens further document the local and regional distribution of fired clay objects. The cylinder fragments which are associated with the period 5900 - 2900 B.P. appear to be among the earliest fired clay objects in the region.

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TOWARDS A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF  
THE FREMONT PROBLEM IN SOUTHERN IDAHO:  
A REPLY TO PLEW'S COMMENTS

By  
B. Robert Butler

In his comments on my initial paper treating the native pottery of southeastern Idaho (Butler 1979a), Plew (1980) has taken me to task on a number of counts, correctly in the instance involving the provenience of sherd No. 137 from the Poison Creek site at Blackfoot Reservoir, but wrongly in all others. Rather than merely rebutting his comments, I would like to take this opportunity to clarify some of the difficulties in developing an accurate, coherent picture of late Fremont cultural manifestations in southern Idaho.

Chief among these difficulties is the absence of a reliable, statistically significant data base. For example, the great majority of pottery finds made in southern Idaho consists of a few sherds picked up from the surface of a site, usually in the course of random collecting. There are as yet only a few excavated sites that have yielded more than a handful of sherds. Only in a limited number of instances has it been possible to reconstruct a whole pot from the available sherds. To further complicate matters, nearly all of the pottery that has been found in southern Idaho is attributed to the Shoshoni. Yet, as Rudy noted many years ago, existing descriptions of Shoshonean pottery "are of little utility in studying types, distributions or relationships of [this] pottery" (1953:98). Thus, it is left to the contemporary archaeologist to establish the limits of what is to be called Shoshonean pottery. For this purpose, an enormous quantity of pot-

tery may be needed. Rudy felt that it was "impossible...to classify Shoshoni ware into types" on the basis of the 691 sherds in his possession when he completed his survey of the archaeology of western Utah (1953:98). I have come to much the same conclusion in my own studies. The so-called "Shoshonean" pottery of southeastern Idaho exhibits such enormous variability in form, finish, method of construction and materials used that valid types probably cannot be reliably defined on the basis of known collections. My approach has been to try to sort out the more clearly identifiable types of pottery from that collectively referred to as "Shoshonean" pottery. Even in this endeavor there are problems; errors or oversights made by previous researchers must be rectified before I can proceed.

Neudorfer's analysis of sherd No. 137 from the Poison Creek site is a case in point. She states that "in thickness and surface finish this sherd is comparable to Promontory Ware (Rudy 1953:93), although it lacks the characteristic thickened, punched, or incised rim (Steward 1937:43 and Fig. 17)" (Neudorfer 1976:53). In fact, sherd No. 137 is wholly unlike Promontory ware. The latter is constructed by a paddle-and-anvil technique which generally produces a thin (average 4.5 mm) undulating wall distinctive from that of the coiled and scraped types of Fremont pottery often found in association with it (D. B. Madsen 1979:95). Sherd

No. 137 from Poison Creek is obviously made by coiling. The coils are very thick and poorly fused, as shown in the accompanying illustration (Fig. 1a, taken from Butler 1979a). For purposes of comparison, I have included an illustration (Fig. 1b) of a fragment of Promontory pottery found at the foot of the Lost River Range (taken from Butler 1979c). This is the most northern known example of Promontory pottery to date and the only one in the Upper Snake River drainage. Other examples were recovered from a cave near Franklin, in the Bear River drainage, by a crew from the University of Utah in the early 1950s (Rudy 1953:93).

As to whether or not Promontory ware is specifically characteristic of the Great Salt Lake Fremont variant, the reader may decide for himself on the basis of the following quotes:

Great Salt Lake Gray and Promontory ware are the dominant types. (Marwitt 1970:145)

Promontory Gray ware is found almost exclusively in the Salt Lake Fremont area and therefore, as with Great Salt Lake Gray, may be considered a diagnostic ware for this area. (Fry and Dalley 1979:4).

Great Salt Lake Gray and Promontory Gray are both locally manufactured ceramic varieties and their distribution is basically restricted to the Salt Lake Fremont area. (D. Madsen 1979:98)

Although Promontory and Great Salt Lake and other Fremont wares are made by entirely different methods (paddle-and-anvil vs. coiling-scraping), there are difficulties at times in separating some of these wares, a point to which I shall return shortly. For the moment, I want to examine the date reported by Neudorfer for the earth oven in sample area 3 at the Poison Creek site and the provenience of sherd No. 137. Plew is correct in saying that sherd No. 137 was not directly associated with the earth oven, as implied in my paper. Sherd No. 137 came from the same sample area, however. The date for the earth oven of A.D. 1222 given by Neudorfer (1976:52) is incorrect. She should have subtracted the  $720 \pm 70$  years B.P. from the radiocarbon baseline date of A.D. 1950 set by the Fifth Radiocarbon Dating Conference, Cambridge, 1962. This yields a calendrical date of A.D. 1230 rather than A.D. 1222, a correction that I made but did not explain in my paper.

As indicated above, there are occasional difficulties in separating Promontory from some of the other Fremont wares. These stem chiefly from some of the criteria used in classifying these wares. For example, D. B. Madsen (1979:81) states that

Promontory Gray ware is distinguished from the coarser grades of Great Salt Lake Gray by the presence of angular calcite inclusions. These same inclusions, however, make it difficult to distinguish Promontory Gray sherds from some Uinta Gray material since both paste and inclusions are quite similar. The two varieties can often be distinguished only by differences in wall thickness and surface finish. In general, Promontory Gray is characterized by thicker walls (0.4 to 0.5 cm) and an undulating, rough surface. Uinta Gray has slightly thinner and much more uniform walls (0.4 cm average) and a smooth surface.

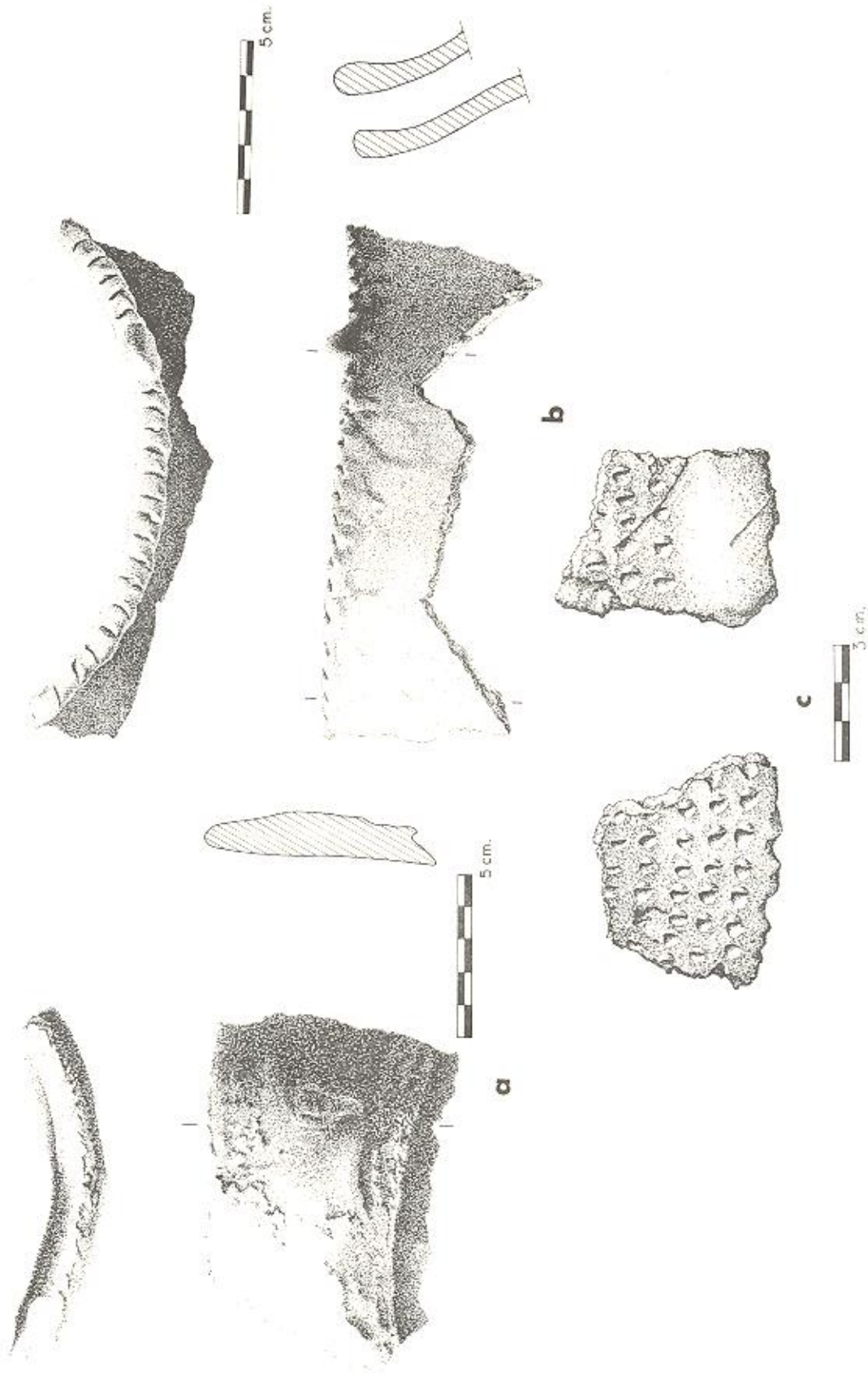
The Promontory ware illustrated here (Fig. 1b), from the foot of the Lost River Range, has no angular calcite inclusions. Instead, the temper or filler consists of equal amounts (10% each) of feldspar, quartz and weathered granite and

minor amounts of biotite and hornblende. The quartz and weathered granitic rock particles range in size up to 2 mm and more and are clearly evident (Butler 1979c). Thus, D. B. Madsen might not consider the Lost River Range specimen to be an example of Promontory ware. R. E. Madsen, on the other hand, notes that some Promontory ware sherds "have a mixture of various minerals . . . including feldspar, hornblende, mica (biotite and muscovite) as well as some rounded sand particles . . ." (R. E. Madsen 1977:23). None of the pottery from eastern Idaho that I have examined has contained calcite particles; however, large particles of various other minerals are not uncommon in the pottery of this region.

If the identification of Promontory sherds poses something of a problem, the identification of Great Salt Lake Gray sherds poses more of a problem. Most writers (e.g., Rudy 1953, R. E. Madsen 1977, D. B. Madsen 1979) recognize that this is the most variable of the Fremont wares, ranging from finely textured, smooth, thin, polished walls to coarsely textured, rough, thick, striated walls and encompassing a number of distinctive, but minor, variants. At least one writer, (Malouf 1946 and Malouf, Dibble and Smith 1950), claimed to have had difficulty distinguishing between some of the Great Salt Lake Gray and Shoshonean pottery sherds that he found in the Deep Creek region of western Utah, a difficulty disputed by the editor of one of his papers (see Editor's Note at the end of Malouf, Dibble and Smith 1950).

Malouf referred to part of the Great Salt Lake Gray sherds from the Deep Creek region successively as Plain Ware (Deep Creek) and Deep Creek Buff (Malouf 1946; Malouf, Dibble and Smith 1950), neither of which is given recognition at this time. However, Rudy did make passing reference to "Deep Creek Buff" in his personal communication to Ruth Gruhn dated February, 1961, concerning the pottery from Wilson Butte Cave. After examining the potsherds sent to him by Gruhn from Wilson Butte Cave, Rudy "informed her 'that all of the rimsherds are undoubtedly Shoshoni Ware, although the fingernail decoration on the lip is unique; some of the body sherds have a smoother finish than the others and contain more mica, and are reminiscent of [another] type, Deep Creek Buff'" (Butler 1979a:8, quoting in part from Gruhn 1961:99-100).

Despite Rudy's authoritative identification of the Wilson Butte Cave rimsherds as "undoubtedly Shoshoni ware," Aikens (1966:3) claimed, without justification, that "Fremont pottery has been found in Wilson Butte Cave . . ." This statement has puzzled me for years, not only because it contradicted Rudy's identification of the pottery as Shoshoni, but also because it ignored the whole context of this pottery, which is definitely much later than that generally accepted for Fremont manifestations in Utah. In looking for the most northern example of Fremont, Aikens (1966) could have and should have referred to the Fremont pottery recovered from Brown's Bench on the eastern side of the Owyhee Uplands by Bowers in 1955. Two sherds of Great Salt Lake Gray ware, clearly identified as such and decorated by a punch pattern often found on the neck and shoulders of Great Salt Lake Gray vessels (see R. E. Madsen 1977:20-21), were found with sherds of Shoshoni ware "in isolated spots from the surface to the 9-inch level" at Brown's Bench (Bowers and Savage 1962:18). The two sherds are



**FIGURE 1**  
 Examples of Fremont and other pottery types from Eastern Idaho: (a) Sherd No. 137 from the Poison Creek site (10-BM-50) on the Blackfoot Reservoir—note the heavy, incompletely fused coiling; (b) assembled Promontory ware rimsherds from the foot of the Lost River Range; (c) two Great Salt Lake Gray sherds recovered from Brown's Bench on the eastern flank of the Owyhee Uplands. Drawings by Frankie Forrest (a-b) and Peg LaPoint (c).

illustrated here in Fig. 1c.

Based on their apparent stratigraphic association, Bowers believed that these different wares, Great Salt Lake Gray and Shoshoni, co-existed at Brown's Bench as late as the end of the 18th century. However, he did not pursue the implications of this, and additional evidence pointing to the possible co-existence of Fremont and Shoshonean cultural manifestations has only been recognized rather recently (viz, Butler 1979b). Unfortunately, it is easier to speak of the possible co-existence of these different cultural manifestations than it is to prove their co-existence. For example, in each of the instances where there is indubitable evidence of Fremont basketry in southern Idaho, there is some uncertainty as to the exact association of that basketry (Butler 1979b). In the case of Wilson Butte, Cave, there is no doubt about the association of the pottery with the perishable materials found in Stratum A, but there is now some uncertainty as to the actual cultural identity of both the pottery and the perishable materials. The identity of the last is made especially difficult because no basketry was found and the other material remains are not clearly Shoshonean or Fremont. I am working on the pottery at present, and while I suspect that it is a variety of Great Salt Lake Gray (the rim decoration, hardness and wall thickness point in that direction), I have not been able to prove it convincingly to myself. Part of the problem involves establishing criteria for distinguishing between the various types of pottery found in the region and then deciding which of these types were made by the recent Shoshonean-speaking inhabitants, which were made by their predecessors, and which were trade items. Once some of these material culture matters have been settled, then we can begin working on the problems of the cultural dynamics involved. There are many interesting possibilities, but each requires, in the end, careful consideration of the material goods left by the late prehistoric residents of this region.

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## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

We encourage letters from our readers, whether to report on an interesting find, make comments on our publication or the articles therein, or to make announcements of matters pertaining to archaeology in Idaho. We ask that letters be held to 300 words or less and that they include the signature and address of the writer, which will, in all cases, be included. Since one of the primary objectives of the *Archaeologist* is to expand knowledge and awareness of archaeological matters in Idaho, we must publish names and addresses of correspondents in order to permit the exchange of information between the public and the professions in the field.

June 11, 1980

Dear Bill:

I would like to take this opportunity to inform the membership of the Idaho Archaeological Society that the National Forests in this state, and throughout the country, are in the process of preparing Management Plans for the lands they administer.

The regulations that describe the contents of Forest Plans (36 CFR 219) contain two sections that are of interest to the readers of *Idaho Archaeologist*. The first is a lengthy section that deals with public participation. Individual forests will be soliciting from the public the issues and concerns which the public feels are important. The second section is a very broad set of instructions which indicates the range of actions forests must undertake to manage the archaeological and historic resources on their lands. Taken together, these sections provide a great opportunity for concerned citizens to work with National Forests in developing cultural resource management techniques and priorities.

The plans now being developed cover the full range of forest management activities, and cultural resources are only one facet of the forests' responsibilities. This opportunity to work together with your National Forests can have a long lasting effect on the direction of National Forest management. We all have heard of the doings of Congress in providing policy direction, but during this present planning period the interested citizens of Idaho can affect the use of the lands in your own back yard.

I encourage the readers of the *Idaho Archaeologist* to contact your local District Rangers or Forest Supervisor's office and tell them you want to be involved.

If anyone would like a copy of the regulations, I would be happy to supply them a copy. Just drop me a line.

Sincerely,  
Joseph G. Gallagher  
Forest Archaeologist  
Sawtooth National Forest  
1525 Addison Avenue East  
Twin Falls, Idaho 83301

### FROM THE EDITOR'S DESK

For sometime now—in fact, almost since we began publishing the *Idaho Archaeologist* in March of 1977—we have been struggling with the problem of financing our publication and mailing costs, as well as determining a subscription price which is fair and equitable.

We have been receiving partial funding from the Idaho Historical Society, a good part of which involves Federal matching funds of one sort or another. As most of you are no doubt aware, these public funds have shown a strong tendency to dry up during the past several months, and it appears that the future will bring even more shrinkage.

As a result of this governmental funding, and in keeping with the policy of the Idaho Archaeological Society to further education in archaeology and archaeological conservancy through our schools, we have made one copy of the *Archaeologist* available to the librarian of all post primary schools in Idaho, and feel that we must continue to do so.

We are also faced with constantly rising costs of publishing and it appears that postage will increase in the coming year.

What this all boils down to is that this is the last issue to include complimentary mailing to individuals and organizations except the above mentioned Idaho schools. Future issues will go only to paid-up Society members and to subscribers. The subscription price will be \$7.50 per four issues. We are still working towards four issues per year or Volume, but have yet to receive enough manuscripts.

### IAS ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

The Board of Directors of the IAS met for the annual business meeting at the Elk's Rehabilitation Center in Boise on June 2, 1980.

Following presentation of the three reports of Chapter activities and plans, the Board noted with great interest and pleasure the chartering of the Panhandle Chapter at Couer d'Alene during the past six months. Particular satisfaction was expressed with the excellent report submitted by President R. T. Nelson of the Panhandle Chapter concerning their organization period and plans for the future.

No changes were made in the Society's by-laws or objectives.

The Financial Report, as presented by Treasurer J. Perry Silver, Jr., follows:

### FINANCIAL REPORT - June 2, 1980

Balance reported June 5, 1979		\$392.24
Correction reported Annual Meeting, October 4, 1979 (-\$10.00)		382.24
Income:		
Memberships	\$605.00	
Annual Conference	260.00	
Idaho Archaeologist	68.55	
Miscellaneous	43.83	
		\$977.38
Accounts Payable:		
Chapter Membership		
Refunds	\$182.50	
Annual Conference	328.15	
Miscellaneous	106.16	
		\$616.81
Balance on June 2, 1980		\$742.81

COMING EVENTS

The 1980 Great Basin Archaeological Conference will be held at the Tri-Arc Travelodge, 161 W 600 S, Salt Lake City, Utah, on the 5th and 6th of September, 1980. For information on program schedules, speakers and so forth, contact: Department of Anthropology, Stewart Building, University of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah 84112. There should be several papers of interest to those who are interested in learning more about the pre-history of the Great Basin area, including southern Idaho and southeastern Oregon. Make plans now to attend. Registration will be 6 to 8 P. M. on September 4th and 8 to 12 noon on September 5th.

The Eighth Annual Conference of the IAS will be held at the Liberal Arts Building, Room 106, at Boise State University on October 4, 1980. As in past years, there will be about 12 to 16 speakers on subjects of interest to Idaho residents. Registration will be from 8:30 to 10:00 A.M. and it is tentatively planned that a no host happy hour will be held the evening before with location to be announced. Hors d'oeuvres will be provided.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION – IDAHO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

- Regular Membership  
\$10.00 per year
- Student Membership  
\$5.00 per year

I PREFER TO BE A MEMBER OF:

- Intermountain Chapter, Boise
- Great Basin Chapter, Caldwell
- Panhandle Chapter, Coeur d'Alene

- Member-At-Large \$10.00 (For those who cannot attend chapter meetings)
- Affiliate Organization \$25.00 per year
- Contributing Member \$50.00 per year
- Life Membership \$200.00
- Corporation Membership \$250.00 per year

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