

# IDAHO ARCHAEOLOGIST



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# IDAHO ARCHAEOLOGIST

## FALL, 1981

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All manuscripts should conform as nearly as possible with the style established by the Society for American Archaeology. (See page 13, Vol. III, No. 1 and page 1, Vol. II, No. 2, *Idaho Archaeologist*). Manuscripts should be typed double-spaced with 1½-inch margins and submitted in the original and two copies. The *Idaho Archaeologist* will publish articles concerning archaeology in Idaho and those parts of abutting states and provinces included in the Columbia drainage and the Great Basin.

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# A POTTERY VESSEL FROM THE MUD SPRINGS SITE

By

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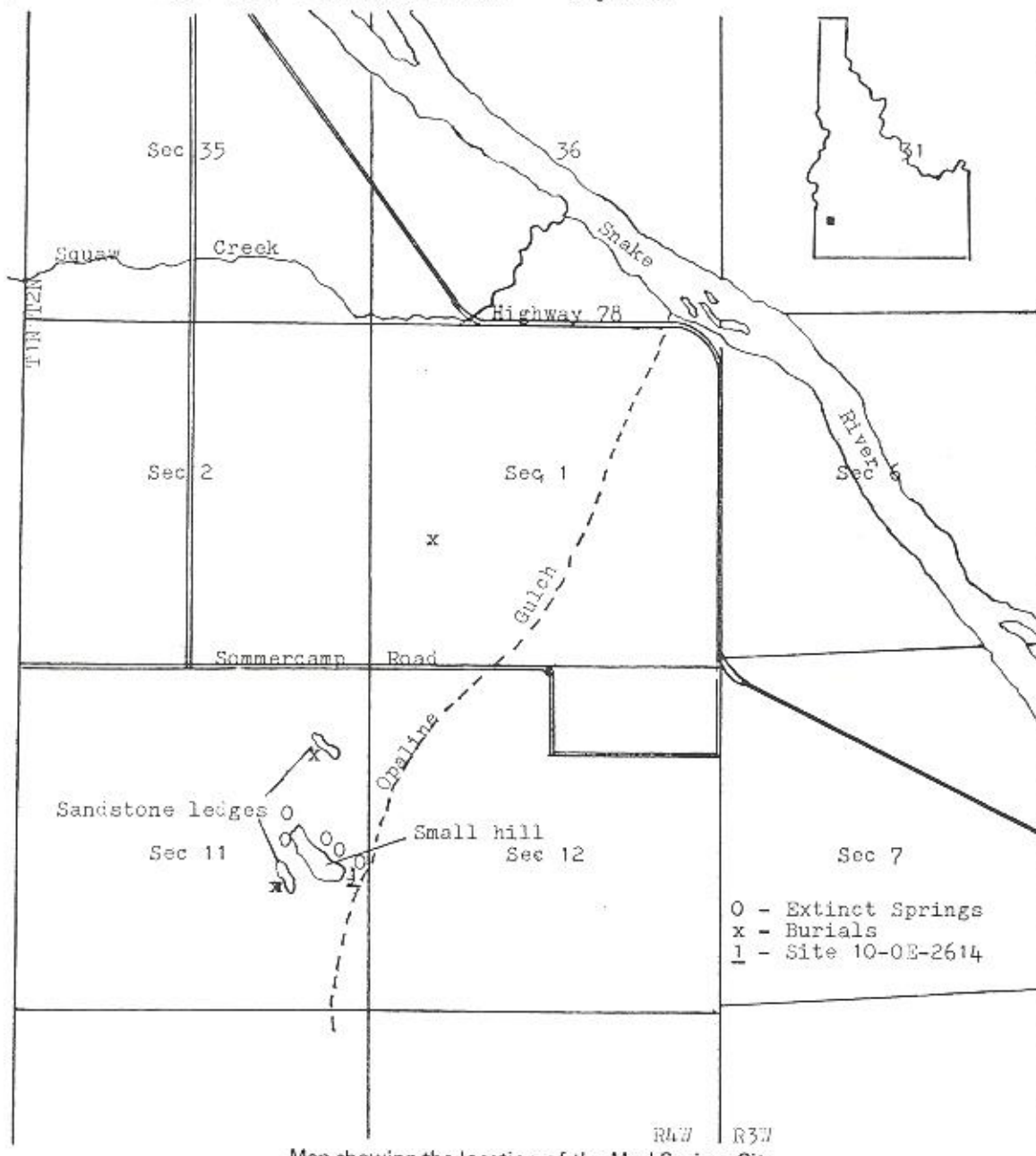
## ABSTRACT

An unusual Shoshoni vessel from Southwestern Idaho is described.

A number of recently published papers (see e.g. Butler 1979; Plew 1979) have focused on variations within Idaho ceramics. This paper contributes additional information concerning variation in Shoshoni Ware.

The Mud Springs are a series of heavily occupied aboriginal campsites surrounding a group of hot springs which

flowed into historic times adjacent to Opalene Gulch, near the northern edge of the Owyhee Mountain foothills and two miles west and south of the Snake River. The area is part of the lower Squaw Creek drainage system of the western Snake River plain in Owyhee County, Idaho. (Figure 1).



Map showing the location of the Mud Springs Site



During the last forty years, local collectors and relic hunters regularly visited the campsites, leaving only a few broken milling stones, fire-cracked rocks, large quantities of shattered mussel shell, small pieces of burned bone, and lithic debitage. Three burials are also reported to have been removed from the site area.

Recently, the senior author studied and photographed some of the Mud Springs collections. Among those collections was the pottery vessel herein described. The vessel was recovered at the east end of a small hill at Mud Springs, now designated site no. 10-OE-2614. The partially assembled vessel was very graciously given to the senior author by Mr. and Mrs. Burton Blades of Nampa, Idaho.

The pottery vessel described here is similar to other vessels recovered along the Snake River in southwestern Idaho. These are usually referred to as "Shoshoni" Ware (see e.g. Tuohy 1956). Shoshoni Ware is characteristically flat-bottomed, with slightly flaring, straight walls (see for type description Rudy 1953).

The vessel in question is unique in its variance from classic Shoshoni forms in that an incurving lip is formed approximately two-thirds up from the base of the vessel, with an indentation of the vessel wall of 5–10 mm. From the maximum point of indentation, the vessel wall flares outward to a relatively thin smooth rim. The following is a brief description of the pottery vessel:

- Construction: Coiling, molding, scraping
- Firing: Uncontrolled atmosphere (?)
- Core Color: Reddish brown to dark gray
- Temper: Sand, quartz, some mica
- Core Texture: Coarse to relatively fine
- Surface Finish: Relatively rough with undulations and uncontrolled striations; some surface exfoliations
- Surface Color: Reddish brown
- Lustre: Dull
- Vessel Wall: Relatively strong

- Wall Thickness: 7–10 mm average
- Rim Form: Flat-bottomed, straight flaring walls with mid-section incurvate lip
- Decorative Techniques: Finger impressions; no nail incisions or drill holes
- Comparable Types: Rudy (1953); Tuohy (1956)
- Comments: Unlike many Shoshoni vessels, interior walls show no evidence of carbonaceous buildup.

The recovery of the vessel reported in this paper is important because it provides an hitherto unreported variation in Shoshoni pottery from southern Idaho. It is particularly significant since vessel form has been used as a primary determinate of differences between Shoshoni Ware and Fremont type (see e.g. Butler 1979; Plew 1979) potteries. Such variation prompts caution in the use of vessel form as a primary indicator of major pottery types and traditions.

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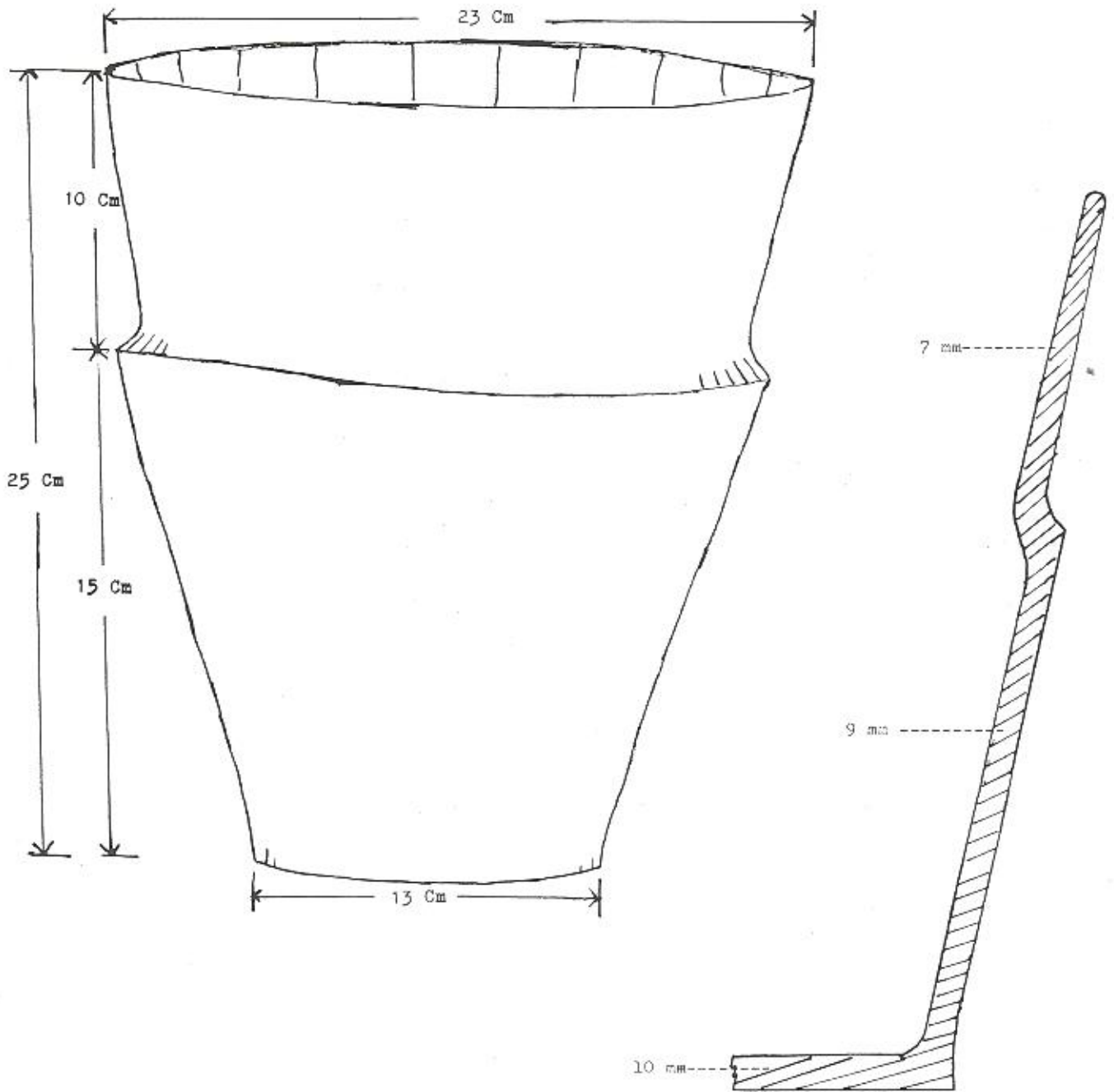


FIGURE 2

Exterior and cross-section views of Shoshoni ware vessel. Not to scale.

ADDITIONAL OBSIDIAN AND VITROPHYRE SOURCE  
DESCRIPTIONS FROM IDAHO AND ADJACENT AREAS

By

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ABSTRACT

Descriptions of some obsidian and vitrophyre sources prepared for Spring 1981 issue of *Idaho Archaeologist* were inadvertently omitted and are reported here. Additional information on more recently located sources and their archaeological significance is also presented.

Descriptions of a number of obsidian and vitrophyre sources prepared for the appendix in an earlier *Idaho Archaeologist* (Sappington 1981a) were inadvertently omitted from that article. These descriptions are presented immediately below followed by those for more recently characterized sources from Idaho and adjacent states. Where possible, mention of the archaeological significance of these new sources is also included. More specific archaeological discussions of these and other sources will be presented in future issues of the *Idaho Archaeologist*.

OREGON  
(Continued)

*SENECA*  
Grant County

This obsidian source is located along Bear Valley and samples from T16S, R32E, NW 1/4 sec. 31 WM were used to characterize it.

*SOUTH SISTER*  
Deschutes County

This source is located in an unsurveyed portion of the Three Sisters Wilderness Area. Samples were collected from the southern end of Moraine Lake.

*TUCKER HILL*  
Lake County

Samples of this obsidian source have been provided from T34S, R19E, sec. 24, 35, and 36 and T28S, R21E, sec. 15 WM and were used to characterize it.

*WALLOWA*  
Baker County (?)

This source exists somewhere in the area of the Wallowa Mountains but nodules collected from T11S, R41E, sec. 20, 21 WM differ from flakes collected in the same area. The flakes correlate with flakes from several sites in Idaho and Oregon and represent a different flow or source somewhere in the Baker area.

*WHITEHORSE*  
Harney and Malheur Counties

Obsidian and/or vitrophyre nodules occur in the vicin-

ity of the Whitehorse Ranch. Samples from the southwest corner of T36S, R37E, WM and the center of T37S, R36E, WM were used to characterize this source.

*YAMSAY MOUNTAIN*  
Lake County

Obsidian samples from T30S, R13E, SW 1/4 sec. 1 WM and T19S, R14E, SE 1/4 sec. 5 WM were used to characterize this source.

WASHINGTON

Obsidian is not a well-known nor apparently widely available resource in Washington. The first source reported was published 19 years ago (Weld 1962) and to my knowledge no subsequent reports have occurred. One area reported by Weld was collected by Mark Arnold in the vicinity of Brooks Memorial State Park in T5N, R17E, sec. 3 WM. Among the ten samples there are two distinct flows; further work is required in that area in order to delineate and characterize those sources.

BRITISH COLUMBIA

A considerable degree of interest in the sources of obsidian artifacts from sites in British Columbia during the past decade has led to the discovery of several sources. Cooperative efforts by a number of archaeologists from British Columbia have provided us with several samples from each of the known sources but at this point we have not yet received an adequate number to adequately characterize them, and likewise the locational information needs further refinement. Samples have been obtained from the Anahim/Obsidian Creek source, the Ilgachuz/Rainbow Mountains source, and Mount Edziza. References for this material include Apland 1979, Nelson and others 1975, Nelson and Will 1976, and Wilmeth 1973.

RECENTLY CHARACTERIZED SOURCES

IDAHO

*REYNOLDS*  
Owyhee County

Small obsidian nodules occur in the upper portion of the

Reynolds Creek basin in several sections near the north-eastern corner of T3S, R4W (Boise Meridian). This material is the major one for collections from sites located in the vicinity of Reynolds Creek, and will be discussed in detail by Jeanne M. Moe (n.d.). Beyond the immediate area of its availability, the Reynolds source does not appear to be very significant archaeologically; a single item has been identified at Lower Salmon Falls, while it is absent at sites in the Weiser area (Max G. Pavesic, n.d.).

#### *LIGHTNING CREEK/JORDAN CREEK* *Custer County*

This source was recently discovered and reported (Crist 1978:59) but samples have not yet been obtained. Its location in T13N, R14E, NE 1/4 sec. 14 BM (unsurveyed) makes it the northernmost source in Idaho and potentially it could be quite significant in central Idaho prehistory. This obsidian source consists of five intact plugs intruding through a rhyolite dome.

### WYOMING

#### *GRASSY LAKE RESERVOIR* *Teton County*

Samples from an intact vitrophyre flow located near the dam on the north side of this reservoir were collected in T48N, R116W, NW 1/4 NW 1/4 sec. 17. This material was reported in 1969 (Wright, Griffin and Gordus 1969:28) but its archaeological significance is not yet well known.

#### *YELLOWSTONE NATIONAL PARK*

Additional sources exist in Yellowstone Park in addition to Obsidian Cliff reported previously (Alt and Hyndman 1972:114-115; Griffin, Gordus, and Wright 1969; Wright, Griffin, and Gordus 1969). Much of this material is badly devitrified and unsuitable for knapping, such as that found in Hayden Valley and north of Lake Junction, but the obsidians from the vicinities of Kepler Cascade and Canyon Junction have been identified at sites in central Idaho along the Middle Fork of the Salmon River and in the Payette National Forest (Arnold 1981). At least three additional areas in Yellowstone Park have not yet been collected, so that the relationship of Yellowstone obsidians to Idaho archaeology remains to be demonstrated.

### NEVADA

Note: A number of the Nevada sources mentioned in the previous article that needed to be characterized have now been done including Crow Spring, Kane Spring Wash, Silverpeak and Vya. Additional sources were collected and analyzed during the spring and summer of 1981. All locations are relative to the Mount Diablo Meridian (MDM).

#### *ANCHORITE HILLS* *Mineral County*

Small obsidian nodules occur in the Anchorite Hills in a number of locations. Samples were provided by Joseph Moore, Nevada Department of Transportation (DOT), and

collected by the author from an area located approximately in T4N, R29E, NE 1/4 sec. 28 MDM (unsurveyed).

#### *DOUBLE HOT SPRINGS* *Humboldt County*

Samples from this obsidian source were provided by John Roney, Winnemucca District, BLM, from T36N, R26E, NE 1/4 NE 1/4 sec. 3 MDM. The archaeological significance of this material is not well known, but single items from Dirty Shame Rockshelter and the Aurora Joint Venture Project in southeastern Oregon have been correlated with this source; it does not appear in the Lydle Gulch collection in southwestern Idaho (Sappington 1981b).

#### *FISH LAKE VALLEY* *Esmeralda County*

This source was reported by Davis (1972a:42); two small nodules collected by the author from approximately T1N, R35E, SW 1/4 sec. 32 MDM (unsurveyed) are virtually identical with the Silverpeak source, indicating that this material represents another exposure of the same obsidian.

#### *FLOWERY RANGE* *Storey County*

The extent of this obsidian source has not yet been determined, but small nodules and flakes occur near an active perlite or pumice mine in T17N, R22E, in several sections and this area has been recorded as 26ST59. Samples were collected by the author so that this material has been adequately characterized, but the extent of the aboriginal redistribution of this source has not yet been determined.

#### *HAWTHORNE* *Mineral County*

Samples from this obsidian source were provided by Joseph Moore, Nevada DOT, and collected by the author east of Hawthorne in T8N, R31E, NW 1/4 SW 1/4 sec. 22 MDM. The presence of flakes indicates its use by aboriginal parties, but its regional significance remains to be determined.

#### *MT. HICKS* *Mineral County*

This obsidian source has been reported elsewhere (Ericson, Hagan, and Chesterman 1976; Jack and Carmichael 1969; Jackson 1974). Samples from T5N, R29E, sec. 34 were provided by Thomas L. Jackson, Archaeological Consulting and Research Services, Santa Cruz, in order to characterize it.

#### *PINE GROVE HILLS* *Lyon County*

This obsidian source has also been reported elsewhere (Jackson 1974:48). Samples were collected by the author at the mouth of Nye Canyon in T8N, R25E, SW 1/4 NE 1/4 sec. 8 MDM. It has been adequately characterized but its significance remains unknown at this point.

### QUEEN

*Mineral County and Mono County, California*

This obsidian source has been reported elsewhere (Ericson, Hagan, and Chesterman 1976; Jack and Carmichael 1969; Jackson 1974) and is a major source in the western Great Basin. Samples were provided by Thomas L. Jackson, Archaeological Consulting and Research Services, Santa Cruz, CA, from T1N, R32E, secs. 7, 8, 9, 17, 19 MDM SE 1/4 sec. 28 MDM in California.

### SARACOBATUS FLAT

*Nye County*

This obsidian source was reported to the author by Joseph Moore, Nevada DOT, who also provided samples. Additional samples were collected by the author in the vicinity of Scottys Junction in T7S, R44E, SE 1/4 NW 1/4 SW 1/4 sec. 28 MDM. The archaeological significance of this material is not yet known.

### SUMMIT LAKE

*Humboldt County*

Samples from two locations in the vicinity of Summit Lake in T42N, R26E SE 1/4 NW 1/4 sec. 23 MDM and T42N, R27E, NE 1/4 SE 1/4 sec. 29 MDM were provided by John Roney, Winnemucca District, BLM. Artifacts from this obsidian source have been identified at Dirty Shame Rockshelter and Lydle Gulch suggesting that this may be a fairly important source.

## OREGON

Note: All locations are relative to the Willamette Meridian (WM).

### DREWSEY

*Harney County*

Samples used to characterize this recently discovered source were provided by Duane Marti, Vale District, BLM, from T20S, R36E, SW 1/4 SW 1/4 sec. 31 WM and T20S, R35E, SE 1/4 SE 1/4 sec. 31 WM. This material has only been compared with samples from two sites near Weiser and was not present in those collections; its significance remains to be determined.

### EBELL CREEK

*Baker County*

This source was reported by Womack (1977:74-75) and samples were collected from T11S, R41E, secs. 20, 21 WM. This source has been identified at the nearby Stockhoff site (Sappington 1981c) and is present as a minor source at numerous sites across west central Idaho including Hatwai, Lenore, Lydle Gulch, and several in the Payette National Forest. It appears to have been quite important for aboriginal groups across this portion of the region.

### FORT ROCK LAVAS

*Lake County*

Several samples provided by William J. Cannon, Lake-

view District, BLM, from T24S, R16E, sec. 3 WM, appear to be unique in this area where obsidian sources abound. Additional samples should be obtained in order to characterize this material and to assess its archaeological significance.

### GUANO VALLEY

*Lake County*

Samples provided by William J. Cannon, Lakeview District, BLM, from T40S, R27E, NW 1/4 sec. 28 WM, have been demonstrated as being chemically unique from all others in that general area (Sappington and Toepel 1981). Guano Valley obsidian did not appear at sites located to the west of it in central Oregon, but its archaeological significance elsewhere has not yet been tested.

### NORTH SISTER

*Lane County*

Obsidian occurs in numerous locations in the vicinities of Obsidian Cliffs, Obsidian Creek, and elsewhere in an unsurveyed portion of the Three Sisters Wilderness Area in the Willamette National Forest in the central portion T16S, R7E, WM. Samples from numerous locations were provided by Claudia Nissley, Willamette National Forest, and Rick Minor and Kathryn A. Toepel, Oregon Museum of Anthropology, to characterize this source. It predominates at sites in the Willamette Valley (Minor, Sappington, and Toepel n.d.).

### SENECA

*Grant County*

Obsidian is common east of Seneca along Bear Valley and a number of workshop sites exist in the area (David H. Chance 1979: personal communication). Nodules collected by the author in T16S, R32E, NW 1/4 sec. 31 WM were used to characterize this source. It has been identified at several sites in central Oregon (Sappington and Toepel 1981) but is not present in collections analyzed from west central Idaho.

### SHUMWAY RANCH

*Malheur County*

Samples from this recently located obsidian source were provided by Duane Marti, Vale District, BLM, from two areas in the southern portion of T23S, R39E, sec. 16 WM. It has only been compared with samples from two sites in the Weiser area. It was not present in those collections; its archaeological importance remains unknown.

### SOUTH SISTER

*Deschutes County*

This source is located in the Three Sisters Wilderness Area. Samples were collected at the southeastern end of Moraine Lake from approximately T17S, R7E, NW 1/4 sec. 34 (unsurveyed) WM. This obsidian appears as a minor source at sites in the Willamette Valley (Minor, Sappington, and Toepel n.d.) but was absent at sites in central Oregon (Sappington and Toepel 1981).



**TUCKER HILL**  
*Lake County*

Samples were provided by William J. Cannon, Lakeview District, BLM, from several locations in T34S, R19E, secs. 24, 35, and 36 WM to characterize this source. It has been identified as a minor source at a number of sites in central Oregon (Sappington and Toepel 1981).

**WALLOWA**  
*Baker County (?)*

A location for this problematical obsidian source has not yet been found. Flakes collected from an area near the Ebell Creek source are distinct from that source; however, their exclusive presence there suggests a nearby location. These flakes have been used to represent this source; so far it has been identified at numerous locations across western Idaho including Lydle Gulch, Hatwai, Lenore, and sites in the Weiser area and in the Payette National Forest. Locating this source is one of the priorities of this project.

**WHITEHORSE RANCH**  
*Harney and Malheur Counties*

Obsidian is widely distributed at numerous locations in the vicinity of the Whitehorse Ranch. Samples collected from the southwest corner of T36S, R37E and the center of T37S, R36E WM by J. Jeffrey Flenniken and Alan Stanfill, Laboratory of Lithic Technology, Washington State University, were used to characterize this source. The Whitehorse source was the major one in the collections from Dirty Shame Rockshelter (Sappington 1980a) and the Aurora Joint Venture Project (Sappington 1980b) and it has been also identified as a minor source at Givens Hot Springs (Sappington 1981a) and at Lydle Gulch (Sappington 1981b).

**YAMSAY MOUNTAIN**  
*Lake County*

Samples provided by Hugh Bunten, Fremont National Forest, from T30S, R13E, SW 1/4 sec. 5 WM were used to characterize this obsidian source. It was used locally (Sappington 1980c, d) and was a minor source at several sites in central Oregon (Sappington and Toepel 1981).

**WASHINGTON**

Obsidian is not a well-known nor widely available lithic resource in Washington. The first source areas were reported nearly 20 years ago (Weld 1962) and to my knowledge, no subsequent reports have appeared. One of these locations in the vicinity of Brooks Memorial State Park in T5N, R17E, sec. 3 WM was collected by Mark Arnold, Laboratory of Anthropology, University of Idaho. Two distinct chemical groups exist in this sample, indicating that two different flows have been mixed together in this area. Further work is necessary to delineate these materials before their archaeological significance can be determined.

**BRITISH COLUMBIA**

Canadian archaeologists have expressed a considerable

degree of interest in the several sources found in British Columbia (Apland 1979; Nelson, D'Auria, and Bennett 1975; Nelson and Will 1976; Wilmeth 1973). Samples from all the known sources in British Columbia have been provided by Erle Nelson, Simon Fraser University and Morley Eldridge, Office of the Provincial Archaeologist. Additional samples are required in order to sufficiently characterize these sources by the methods employed here; at this point the importance of these sources for Idaho archaeology remains unknown, but none of them were present in a sample analyzed from Kettle Falls in north-eastern Washington (Sappington 1980c).

**ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

As the previous discussions have made obvious, this project has involved the cooperation of scores of individuals. Special credit goes to all the people who have collected and sent samples from the various sources as indicated above. Initial encouragement and support for this project was provided by Ruthann Knudson and Roderick Sprague of the Laboratory of Anthropology, University of Idaho, and by Thomas J. Green and Merle Wells of the Idaho State Historical Society. Charles R. Knowles of the Idaho Bureau of Mines and Geology permitted access to the x-ray fluorescence system and donated his services and a supporting grant. Kelly A. Murphey, archeologist at large, Castleford, Idaho, first guided me to the Timber Butte, Owyhee, and Browns Bench sources and his family provided me with their hospitality on a number of occasions. Caroline D. Carley has served as the crew for most of the collecting expeditions. University of Idaho Computer Services supplied funding for the discriminant analysis program and Dudley Forster made it work. More recently, David H. Thomas, American Museum of Natural History, supplied a supporting grant enabling the author to collect the Nevada sources discussed above and Lori Pendleton, also of the American Museum of Natural History, provided much of the information pertinent for locating those sources. Without the help of these people this project would not have been possible and whatever credit it has earned should go to all of them.

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NOTES ON THE USE OF SEVERAL SPECIES OF  
MYCOFLORA BY THE NATIVE INHABITANTS  
OF THE OWYHEE REGION

By

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Fairly well represented in the regional literature are the different species of food and medicinal plants found in the Owyhee area and used by the former native inhabitants. One finds very little in the literature, however, concerning the occurrence and native use of several species of higher fungi found in the Owyhees.

Mrs. Ellen Trueblood, mycologist of Nampa, Idaho, during the past twenty-five years has collected over six thousand specimens of a great many species of fungi (mushrooms) from the Owyhee sub-province. Many of these are poisonous. A few, however, are edible, and were used by the native Owyhee inhabitants both medicinally and as a food source. As a matter of fact, the native Americans over a great part of the United States and Mexico recognized and used a variety of mushrooms.

Generally, few people are aware of the hundreds of species of fungi growing in the area, some of which were used by the native population. To quote Mrs. Trueblood: "A casual observer would probably consider the region a hostile environment for fungi. This impression, plus poor roads, is probably why the area was previously unexplored mycologically." (Trueblood 1975).

Additionally: "Fossil records indicate *Fomes idahoensis*, a polypore, occurred near Bruneau probably no later than early Pliocene. Fossil wood collected with the specimen include fir (*Abies*), alder (*Alnus*), poplar (*Populus*), oak (*Quercus*), and hickory (*Hicoria*), indicating a much moister climate than today." (Trueblood 1975)

Mexican Indians used a number of hallucinogenic drugs. Some of these were obtained from mushrooms. Fray Bernardino de Sahagun, in the sixteenth century observed: "The first thing eaten at the party was a certain black mushroom which they called nanacatl, which intoxicates and causes visions to be seen, and even provoke sensuousness." (Vogel 1975)

The teonanacatl, a mushroom, was a bitter and caustic substance which "makes one besotted, it deranges one . . . it saddens, depresses, troubles one; makes one hide. He who eats many of them sees many things which makes him afraid, or makes him laugh. He flees, hangs himself, hurls himself from a cliff, cries out, takes fright." According to the priest, it was eaten in honey, and was used as a remedy for fever and gout. (Vogel 1970)

Plains Indians used mushrooms freely for there were

only a few easily identified species. These, notably the boletus, they fried, baked, or simmered into soup to which meat had been added. If there was no meat, a soup of fresh mushrooms and wild onions was equally savory.

The Indians of the Rocky Mountain area did not use mushrooms to any extent, and there is virtually no reference to them in the journals of those early explorers who partook of their hospitality. The reason is simply that there were too many mushrooms. Some species made delightful eating but some, almost indistinguishable, were fatally poisonous. The result was that numerous tribes forbade the use of mushrooms, unless they were approved by the medicine men, and a few tribes forbade their use altogether.

As a prophylactic and therapeutic measure, the Cherokees placed a puffball on the navel of a newborn infant and left it there until the withered remains of the cord fell off. Plains tribes followed a similar practice, while the Pimas applied the pollen of the *Tylostoma* fungus to the cord of the newborn infant, both as a preventative of inflammation and as a remedy when inflammation or suppuration developed. Powdered puffballs and scorched cornmeal were used by the Rappahannocks as a powder to prevent skin chafing. (Vogel 1970)

The Shoshone and Paiute inhabitants of the Owyhee region used fungi in much the same manner as did their neighbors in the surrounding areas.

Puffballs, *Calvatia booniana*, and oyster mushrooms, *Pleurotus ostreatus*, were eaten as food supplements. For medicinal purposes, puffballs were gathered and kept as a styptic for wounds, the dry powder being sprinkled on the ruptured skin. In its young stage, the fungus was gathered and sliced, when needed, as a dressing for swellings and sores. The powder was used for earache and was recommended especially for a broken eardrum. It was used

universally by most Indians as an application on the umbilicus of newborn infants. The dried puffball powder, mixed with animal fat, was used as an application for scalp infections and ringworm. The Shoshone and Paiute boiled the fungus galls of wild roses and used it as a poultice and drawing agent for boils. After the boil had opened, the Shoshone applied the boiled leaves of the phlox. (Scully 1970)

An additional use of mycoflora is mentioned by Miller: "The sweat lodge was universally used in healing ceremonies. Any illness might be cured by bathing the patient in the purifying smoke of a fire made from sweetgrass, sweet pine, juniper needles, pulverized mushrooms and powdered bitterroot. The ingredients might vary from tribe to tribe." (Miller 1963)

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Dr. Alfred W. Bowers receiving a plaque from Academic Vice President, Robert R. Furgason, of the University of Idaho, on which is inscribed "The Idaho Archaeological Society recognizes Alfred W. Bowers for his contribution to Idaho Archaeology through 30 years of unselfish devotion to teaching, research, and service, 3 October 1981."

#### ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY HONORS UNIVERSITY OF IDAHO PROFESSOR

A Professor Emeritus of Anthropology at the University of Idaho was honored Saturday, October 3, 1981 by the Idaho Archaeological Society during its ninth annual conference at the University of Idaho.

Dr. Alfred W. Bowers, who retired from UI in 1967, was honored for 32 years of unselfish teaching, research and service to the archaeological field in Idaho.

Bowers, who conducted extensive research on Indian tribes in Idaho and the Upper Midwest, taught at the UI for 18 years. His Idaho research projects included Browns Bench in Twin Falls county, the Sawtooth Mountains, Mann Creek, and Soda Springs. Bowers also served as anthropologist for the Coeur d'Alene Indian Tribe. He now lives in Moscow.

After graduating from Beloit College in 1928, Bowers obtained his master's and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Chicago. During this time he began excavations and ethnological field research of various Indian sites in North Dakota, South Dakota and New Mexico.

Following his retirement from the UI, he taught and established degree programs in anthropology and geography at California State College at Stanislaus. He received a distinguished service citation from that college in 1971.

# CRYPTOCRYSTALLINE QUARRY LOCALITIES IN THE OWYHEE RIVER COUNTRY

By

Mark G. Plew  
Idaho State Historical Society

James C. Woods  
College of Southern Idaho

## ABSTRACT

A green cryptocrystalline quarry source is described from west-central Owyhee County.

## INTRODUCTION

The occurrence and widespread distribution of green cryptocrystalline material in Owyhee County, Idaho, is well-known to those familiar with the area, and is noted in the regional literature (Plew 1976, 1980, Idaho State Survey Files, James Huntley, personal communication). The purpose of this note is to describe the location and nature of several recorded quarrying localities where this material occurs. The material described here was observed and collected at locations in the vicinity of Brace Flat, approximately eight miles north of the Owyhee River in west-central Owyhee County (see Figure 1). Two minor localities were noted by Swanson, Bryan and Tuohy, 1959 (Survey Files) and designated 100E91 and 100E92. A wide range of cryptocrystalline materials was observed occurring within veins 20-30 cm. in thickness. These veins were exposed on the sides of diatomaceous hillocks which characterize the area.

The material in question is often locally referred to as green "jasper," but is here referred to as cryptocrystalline. The artifacts and source materials were submitted to Dr. Marvin Strope, College of Southern Idaho, for identification.

## SOURCE MATERIAL

The quarry material is highly variable but is generally identified as a chert. The hardness for all samples is 7 on the Moh scale. Color varies from dark to light green with inclusions of yellow, brown, cream and white. Opaque as well as transparent examples are represented. The texture ranges from a very fine crystalline structure to very coarse. The chert was formed by the chemical replacement of limestone with silica. Some source samples were heat-treated by Mr. Gene Titmus. Materials heat-treated to 500-550°F showed no noticeable color change though some specimens did exhibit a marked crystalline structure change from dull to lustrous. Coarse-textured specimens did not respond to heat-treating.

## THE ARTIFACTS

Seven artifacts were collected, and are herein described (see Figures 2 and 3). All specimens constitute unfinished or early stage manufacturing forms. The materials were collected from the area which we believe to have been designated 100E92.

Specimen No. 1 — Biface Fragment. Dark-green, opaque chert. 5.47 X 5.30 X 1.35 cm.

Specimen No. 2 — Biface Fragment. Dark-green, opaque chert. 6.40 X 6.15 X 2.15 cm. Broken along a flaw in the raw material.

Specimen No. 3 — Biface. 9.06 X 5.59 X 2.49 cm. Dark-green, semi-opaque chert with orange banding. Waxy luster, possibly thermally-altered.

Specimen No. 4 — Backed Blade. Medium-dark green opaque chert. 8.83 X 4.50 X 1.24 cm. Made on a large trapezoidal percussion blade with steep-angle backing along the two longitudinal margins.

Specimen No. 5 — Biface. 10.72 X 5.75 X 2.27 cm. Dark-green, opaque chert.

Specimen No. 6 — Unifacial Preform. 106.9 X 62.2 X 2.87 cm. Semi-transparent, waxy chert. Color ranges from tan to medium brown to dark green. This artifact has been aboriginally thermally altered. The striking platform on the ventral face reveals impact of a very hard percussor possessing a well-defined tip.

Specimen No. 7 — Biface. 14.58 X 8.40 X 4.64 cm. Dark-green, opaque chert. Very coarse grained.

None of the artifacts reveal evidence of use. Abrasion, striations and polish are not present. There are no examples of pressure flaking on any of the specimens. In most instances it appears as if the percussor were a hard, dense material having a relatively small impact area. Edge grinding and intentional platform preparation are not evident on any of the specimens. The artifacts and associated debris, consisting of cores, exhausted cores, large reduction flakes and extensive shatter, are indicative of early stage manufacturing activities (see e. g. Crabtree 1972, Muto 1971) and support the contention that the localities are quarry sites.

This brief description of the Brace Flat quarry localities notes the only reported occurrences of green cryptocrystalline materials in Owyhee County. Further documentation of lithic source sites will enhance our understanding of the distribution and use of lithic materials throughout southwestern Idaho and adjacent areas.

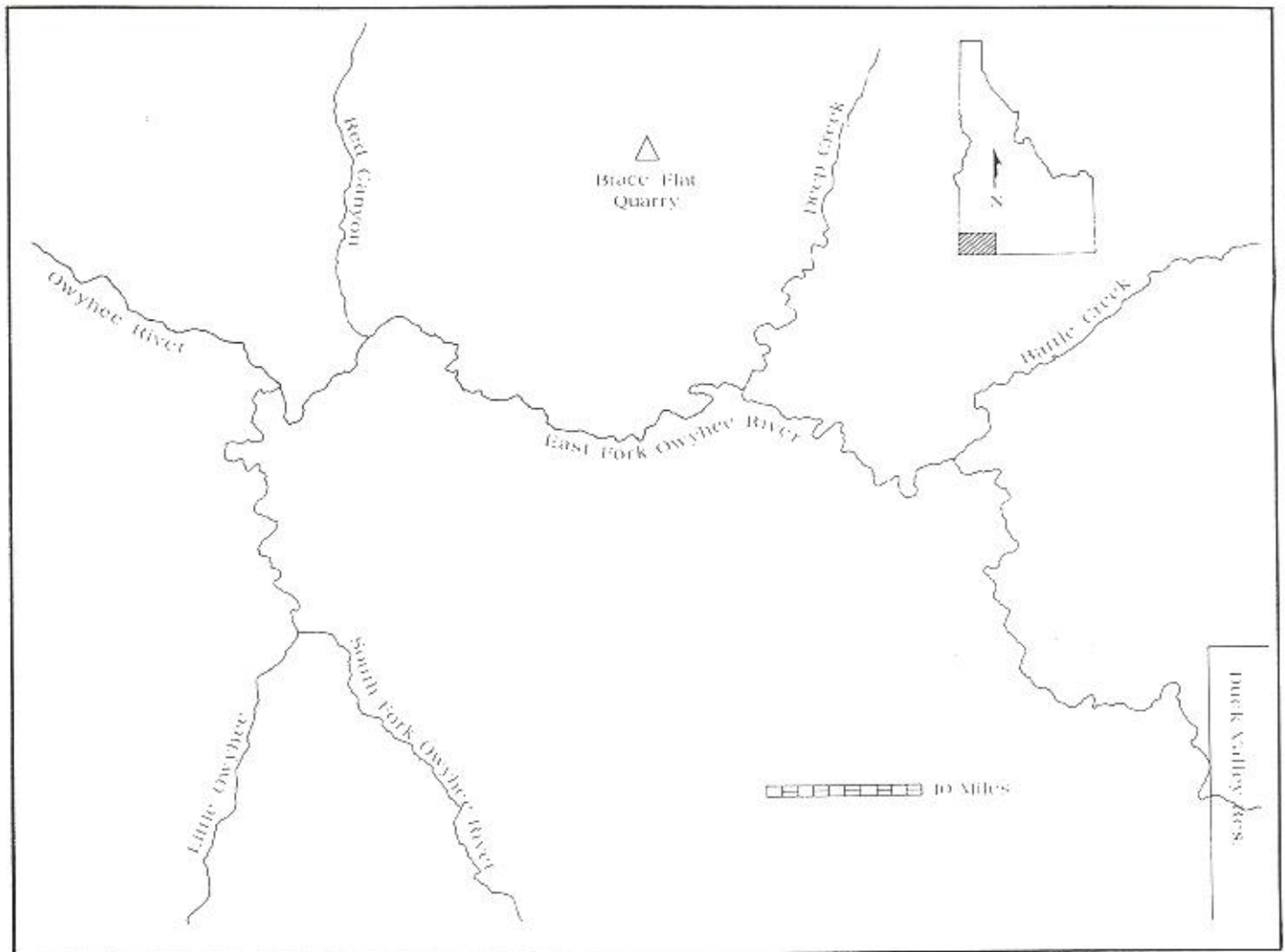


Figure 1  
Map Showing Location of Brace Flat

#### ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The authors wish to thank Dr. Marvin Strobe, College of Southern Idaho, and Mr. Gene Titmus, Research Associate, Herrett Museum, College of Southern Idaho, for their kind assistance in the preparation of this paper.

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|---|--|

Figure 2  
Artifacts from Brace Flat Quarry Area  
a-d, Specimens 1-4

5 cm

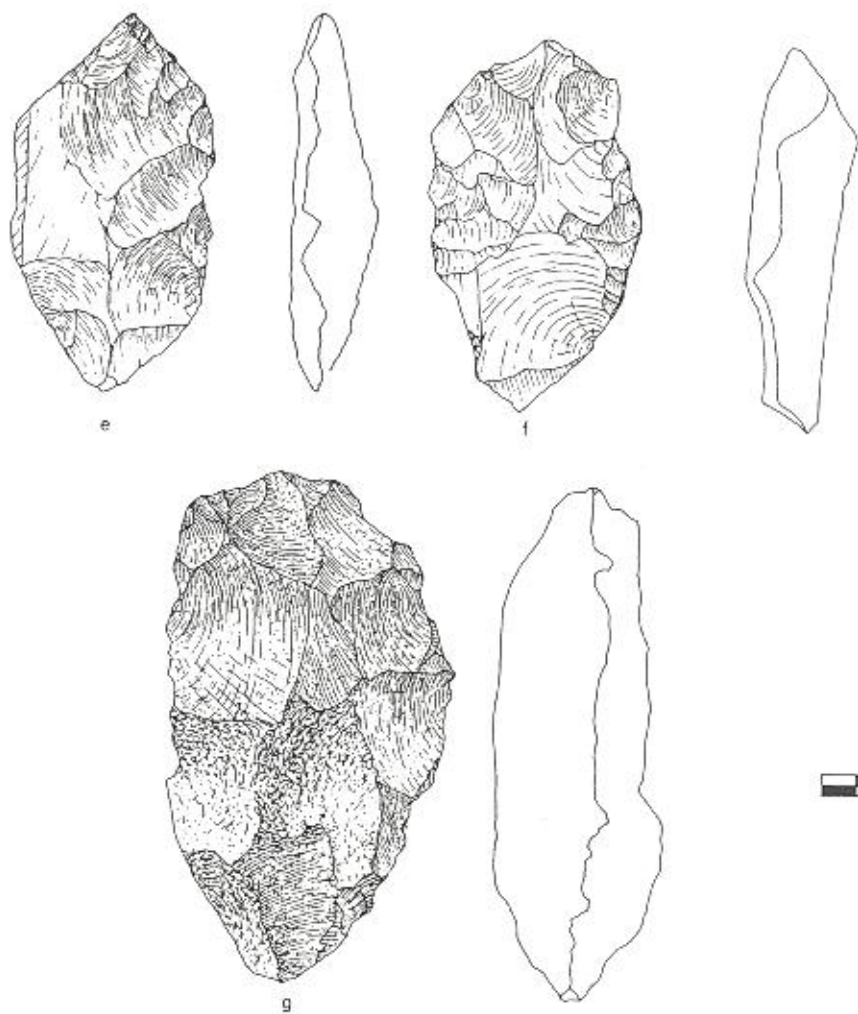
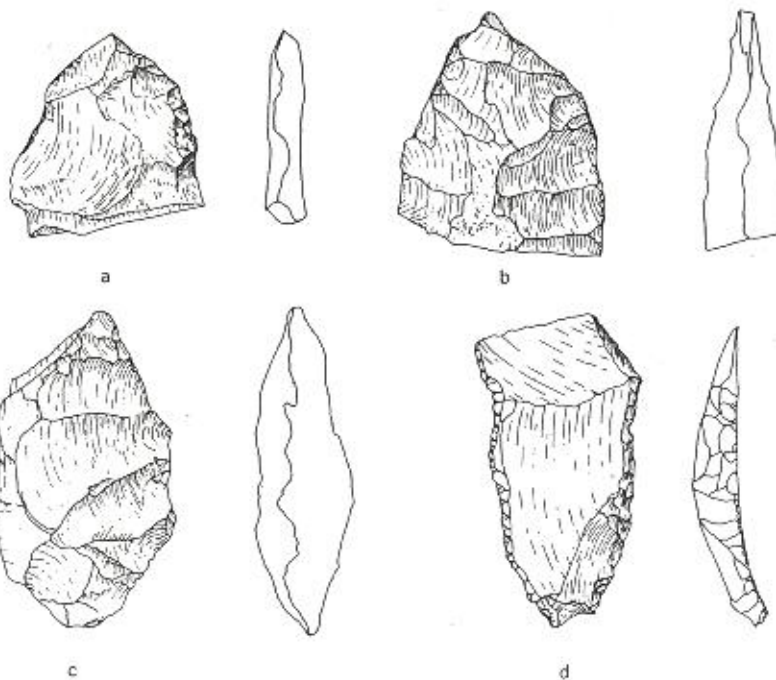


Figure 3  
Artifacts from Brace Flat Quarry Area  
e-g, Specimens 5-7

## ARCHAEOLOGICAL UPDATE

**Editor's Note:** Your editor(s) and others (See Item 4, *SHPO FUNCTIONS*, below) have from time to time discussed the need for a column or section or newsletter to keep all the professional archaeologists of Idaho as well as the IAS membership and the public at large informed. We all need to know what is happening and planned with respect to archaeology in Idaho. This column, then will endeavor to fill that need. Our primary contributor, since his office serves as the state clearing house or coordinating office, will be Tom Green of the SHPO. As a beginning, Tom has suggested publishing the minutes of the Fall 1981 IACPA meeting. Since they cover a fairly broad spectrum of what's going on or being considered, it seems like a good starting point.

We will accept items or up-dates from anyone in a position of authority or responsibility—academia, USFS, BLM, state agencies or contract firms. Please, however, keep it brief and terse. If you need more than 200 words, prepare an article or report for publication elsewhere in this journal.

**Minutes of the Fall 1981  
Idaho Advisory Council of Professional Archaeologists  
General Council Meeting  
October 2, 1981  
University of Idaho, Moscow**

### *Merle Wells, SHPO Funds*

Merle Wells (State Historic Preservation Officer) announced the funding for the current fiscal year which began October 1 has been approved by the full House and Senate Interior Appropriations Committee at a level almost as high as last year. The Reagan administration has proposed zero funding for the program, but this is not expected to succeed. The Idaho Historic Preservation program has a serious cash flow problem since funding, if approved, will not actually be received until sometime in the Spring. Surplus funds will carry the program only about two more weeks. Similar uncertainties and cutback were reported by representatives on the Council from the BLM, Forest Service, and Bureau of Reclamation.

### *River of No Return Wilderness*

The current status of the field work and overview to fulfill the cultural resource management goals of the Central Idaho Wilderness Act of 1980 was presented by Frank Elder, John Hoagland, and Hal Douglas Carr (U. S. Forest Service, Salmon). Elder summarized the provisions of the act and the funding problems. Hoagland reported that the overview is being prepared by Leslie Wildesen and that field work conducted this summer resulted in the recording of 118 sites. Joe Gallagher (U. S. Forest Service, Boise Zone) pointed out that survey attempts were concentrated in the main corridor because of the greatest impact in that area and because funding cutbacks did not allow complete inventory, as stipulated in the Act. A preliminary report on the test excavations conducted this summer was handed out

by Jerry Wylie (U. S. Forest Service, Ogden). Max Pavesic (Boise State University) questioned the objectives for test excavations that would only sample and not answer specific questions.

### *Computerization of Site Files, USFS/BLM*

The site files of Payette National Forest are currently being set up on the computer to serve as a guinea pig for the rest of the region. The first runs will be the end of November or early December, according to Lee Bennett (U. S. Forest Service, McCall). Jerry Wylie announced that the Idaho archaeologists would be consulted for their suggestions on appropriate artifact type names. The system, which will be accessible to all, should be functioning by the next IACPA meeting.

### *BLM Collection Policy/Fire Policy*

Richard Harrison (BLM, Boise) reported that Class III, or the most intensive, surveys are being conducted only on the first 5,000 acres of a fire rehabilitation project. The remaining land is surveyed using a much broader sampling method. There was some discussion on how to determine the amount of damage to cultural resources caused by post fire seed drilling. Harrison also reported that the BLM is now authorizing its people to collect diagnostic prehistoric material if it is in immediate danger of being lost. He stated that it is now unrealistic to think that pothunting can be controlled.

### *Northern Tier Pipeline*

Tom Green (State Archaeologist) explained that the Northern Tier Pipeline will ship Alaskan crude oil from Puget Sound to Minnesota. Memorandum of Agreements with the SHPO's of all affected sites and the BLM will provide for cultural resource overview, inventory, and mitigation.

### *SHPO Functions*

The SHPO as contractor and as clearinghouse and compliance monitor was discussed. Pavesic stated that there did not seem to be any management policy and goals for this organization nor are the archaeologists in the state being informed by the SHPO office on what is happening. Green and Wells indicated that a newsletter or regular section in the *Idaho Archaeologist* could provide information on on-going projects, available reports, and agency activities and policy changes. Mitzi Rossillon (Washington Archaeological Research Center, Pullman) stated that the WARC newsletter could be used until Idaho had organized its own newsletter. Frank Leonhardy (University of Idaho) pointed out that he had sent letters out for information on current research in the Northwest for *American Antiquity* and the response indicated work was being done in only British Columbia.

The morning session was adjourned.

The SHPO as contractor was addressed by Green who stated that the SHPO does have the option and will exercise it occasionally to do contracts. Generally, the SHPO does not want to contract on a regular basis. Wells added that with the current funding problems, the existence of the



SHPO office may depend entirely on contracts. It was pointed out that a conflict of interest problem exists for the SHPO contracts. Green stated that those reports prepared within the SHPO office that need review will be sent out to the Universities for that review. Wells explained that practically everything the SHPO office does in archaeology is on contract, including the funding the SHPO office provides to the regional curatorial centers. In order to have more stability and flexibility, the SHPO office is going to have to contract out with more funding sources than the National Park Service. Such contracting would provide more stable resources and be helpful to the entire archaeological council and all archaeologists in the state including the regional archaeological centers, as well as help maintain a staff for review and compliance. It was understood that if the SHPO office was not allowed to contract out, neither would the regional centers be allowed to do so since they receive SHPO funding. Wells stated that of course such an interpretation was not that of the SHPO office but that the reverse was true. And, in fact, there may be no SHPO office except through contracts. Pavesic questioned the legality of sole sourcing, specifically by the Walla Walla District of the Corps. Points brought up were that the SHPO could officially encourage a policy of competitive bidding by the Corps but that sole sourcing as discussed in the Hagerman project, was a legal procedure under military procurement regulations. The Hagerman project peer review procedure and the Corps' redesign and resulting extra cost in order to avoid involvement with archaeologists of southern Idaho was discussed.

*Federal Priorities*

The need to have some agreed-upon priorities as guidelines for federal agencies during the present and future budget cuts was discussed. Harrison said that very little inventory is going to be done this year on BLM lands with CRM the next to the lowest priority program and budget cuts possibly as high as 40 per cent. The BLM is losing WAE's and temporaries and with a 40 per cent cut would also lose some permanent staff. Managers in both the BLM and the Forest Service are asking their archaeologists what will happen if no cultural resource work is done on a particular project. Pressure from concerned citizens, the SHPO, SOPA, and the prospect of litigation will be needed to keep the agencies responsible.

*Twin Falls Pothunters*

Pavesic reported on pothunting taking place around Twin Falls which is led by one individual who has set up his own private museum and has armed guards at his excavations. Pavesic suggested that the archaeologists of the state coordinate their efforts and go after the most obvious offender in order to set an example. Needed are two individuals accompanied by a Federal agent to observe and photograph the act. But first the U. S. Attorney's support should be obtained. It was suggested that a committee of non-Federal archaeologists and amateurs meet first with Senator McClure.

*Eastern Idaho Oil Leases*

Green announced that the state has just auctioned off

oil leases for eastern Idaho and that private archaeological consulting firms who have worked for these oil companies in Wyoming are starting to call the State Archaeologist office. A list of the Idaho archaeologists will be made available to the oil companies in order to encourage quality work.

IAS FINANCIAL REPORT

Cash on hand, June 1, 1980		\$ 742.81
Income:		
Memberships	\$530.00	
Annual Conference	483.51	
Idaho Archaeologist	5.00	
		\$1,018.51
Accounts Payable:		
Chapter membership refunds	\$105.00	
Annual Conference	585.81	
Idaho Archaeologist	5.00	
Misc.	86.00	
		\$ 781.81
Cash on hand, June 1, 1981		\$ 979.51

Respectfully submitted,

*J. Perry Silver, Jr.*  
Treasurer

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