

IDAHO ARCHAEOLOGIST



Vol. I, No. 1

FROM THE EDITORS

A FIRST

This modest beginning of what we hope will develop into a very valuable communications tool has had a long gestation period. As is often the case an error did creep in and we owe an apology to Everett Clark for writing "one thousand years" where it should have read "one hundred years". Please correct this for us at the top of the eighth page.

NEXT TIME

Now that we have worked our way through the process once, we are ready to turn out our second issue. We will have it out by midsummer and it will show some improvements. (We are learning.)

Next issue will have an article by Mark G. Plew on "A Notched Stone Cobble from Southwestern Idaho". A book review or two and several other articles by various professionals and amateurs across the state.

If you're a professional, amateur, or student and have material to submit the deadline for our second issue is June 24th.

ANGELS WANTED

The cost of publishing this issue has been kept amazingly low, in fact the postage equals the printing and paper. Those of you who are financially able to send from \$1.00 to \$10.00 to help keep us solvent would be greatly appreciated.

COPIES:

A copy of each issue is being mailed to all paid members of the Idaho Archaeological Society and school libraries.

Single issues are not currently available.

We hope you have enjoyed reading this as much as we have enjoyed putting it together.

T. Moore
Bill Norquist
Editors

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Idaho Archaeological Society
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THIS, THE FIRST ISSUE OF THE IDAHO ARCHAEOLOGIST, IS PUBLISHED BY THE GREAT BASIN CHAPTER, CALDWELL, IDAHO, WITH THE SPONSORSHIP OF THE IDAHO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, A NON-PROFIT ASSOCIATION OF AMATEUR AND PROFESSIONAL ARCHAEOLOGISTS.

COVER: REMAINS OF OLD NAMPA FERRY ON SNAKE RIVER.
PHOTO BY JIM HUNTLEY

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE:

First I would like to express my gratitude to the Great Basin Chapter that undertook the publication of this newsletter. We should all realize that such a task takes a great deal of time and effort by all members of the chapter.

Looking back on the past five years that the Idaho Archaeological Society has been in existence, progress has been quite remarkable. This progress hasn't necessarily been because of the Idaho Archaeological Society alone, but I like to think that maybe we did help in some respects to give Idaho Archaeology a little push now and then. During the past five years we have been able to establish an excellent rapport with the professional archaeologists of Idaho. The professionals have been very unselfish in their efforts to help the amateur. Their assistance, guidance and patience have been of much value.

Probably the highest point of success for the Idaho Archaeological Society has been the success of our annual conference. Interest and attendance at the conferences has more than doubled. This interest is due primarily to the variety and caliber of the papers presented. Our conference last fall was more interesting and educational than some nationally recognized Archaeological conferences.

We hope to see the conclusion, this year, of the prehistoric dig at Oreana and the historic dig at old Fort Boise. Completing these two projects will be a big undertaking and if we reach our goal, it will mean many donated hours at the digs by all concerned. If we can contribute something to the future understanding of Archaeology, it will be worth the effort.

New membership is always welcome. Anyone who would like to become a member of one of the two chapters may contact Mrs. Max Burke, 8460 Golse Drive, Boise (Intermountain Chapter) or Bill Norquist, 423 7th Avenue South, Nampa, Idaho (Great Basin Chapter).

John H. Schaertl
President
Idaho Archaeological Society

MEET THE IDAHO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

THE IDAHO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY IS A NON-PROFIT, TAX EXEMPT ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL AND AMATEUR ARCHAEOLOGISTS. IT WAS ORGANIZED IN 1971 TO PROVIDE AN ORGANIZATION DEDICATED TO THE PRESERVATION AND INTERPRETATION OF THE CULTURAL HERITAGE OF IDAHO THROUGH THE MEDIUMS OF ANTHROPOLOGY AND ARCHAEOLOGY. THE SOCIETY HAS A GOVERNING BOARD OF SIXTEEN DIRECTORS, THE EXECUTIVE BOARD OF WHICH MEETS MONTHLY IN BOISE.

THE SOCIETY HAS CHARTERED TWO CHAPTERS: THE INTERMOUNTAIN CHAPTER WHICH MEETS ON THE FIRST TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT THE ARGONAUT INSURANCE BUILDING IN BOISE, AND THE GREAT BASIN CHAPTER WHICH MEETS THE SECOND THURSDAY OF EACH MONTH AT THE WILSON INTERMEDIATE SCHOOL IN CALDWELL. BOTH MEETINGS CONVENE AT 7:30 P.M. AND ARE HELD SEPTEMBER THROUGH MAY. THE PUBLIC IS ALWAYS WELCOME TO ATTEND.

THE PURPOSES OF THE SOCIETY INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

1. TO UNITE INDIVIDUALS WHO ARE INTERESTED IN THE HISTORIC AND PREHISTORIC ARCHAEOLOGY OF IDAHO AS WELL AS THAT OF THE SURROUNDING AREA.
2. TO PRESENT PAPERS, MOVIES AND OTHER EDUCATIONAL MATERIAL IN AN INTERESTING MANNER TO MEMBERS BY BOTH PROFESSIONAL AND QUALIFIED AMATEURS. FURTHER, IT IS PLANNED THAT SEMI-FORMAL EDUCATIONAL SERIES WILL BE PRESENTED IN A CLASSROOM SETTING UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE SOCIETY OR THE CHAPTERS WHEN JUSTIFIED BY SUFFICIENT NEW MEMBERSHIPS.
3. TO FURTHER THE RECOGNITION, PRESERVATION AND DISPLAY OF INDIAN AND OTHER CULTURAL ARTIFACTS AND SITES IN ACCORDANCE WITH EXISTING FEDERAL AND STATE LAWS. IN FURTHERANCE OF THIS OBJECTIVE, MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY ARE PARTICIPATING IN ON-GOING SITE SURVEY PROGRAMS IN COOPERATION WITH VARIOUS PROFESSIONALS.
4. TO PROMOTE THE SCIENTIFIC STUDY, INVESTIGATION AND INTERPRETATION OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND ETHNOGRAPHICAL REMAINS, MEMBERS OF THE SOCIETY ARE ACTIVE IN CATALOGING PRIVATE COLLECTIONS. YOU WILL BE PRIVILEGED TO JOIN IN FIELD TRIPS CONDUCTED BY THE SOCIETY AND TO PARTICIPATE IN EXCAVATIONS AND STUDIES BEING MADE BY PROFESSIONALS.
5. TO FOSTER THE DEVELOPMENT OF A GREATER PUBLIC INTEREST IN AND APPRECIATION OF OUR CULTURAL HERITAGE.
6. TO PUBLISH OR DISSEMINATE INFORMATION CONCERNING IDAHO ARCHAEOLOGY BY MEANS OF:
 - A. AN ANNUAL CONFERENCE, USUALLY AT BOISE STATE IN LATE OCTOBER, AT WHICH PROFESSIONALS AND AMATEURS ARE INVITED TO PRESENT REPORTS ON VARIOUS STUDIES, PROJECTS OR EXCAVATIONS. (OUR 1976 CONFERENCE WAS ATTENDED BY 86 PEOPLE AND 15 PRESENTATIONS WERE MADE.)
 - B. PUBLICATION OF A NEWSLETTER OR OCCASIONAL PAPER, OF WHICH THIS IS THE FIRST, ON A SEMI-ANNUAL BASIS INCREASING TO A QUARTERLY AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. COST IS INCLUDED IN YOUR MEMBERSHIP.

A LOOK AT MORTARS AND PESTLES.

By EVERETT CLARK.

THE NEED TO EMPLOY SOME TYPE OF GRINDING TOOL AROSE, NO DOUBT, WHEN MAN FIRST BEGAN TO SUPPLEMENT HIS DIET WITH SEEDS, ROOTS, BULBS, BERRIES, ACORNS, AND PINE NUTS.

I BELIEVE IT IS GENERALLY AGREED, BY THOSE WHO HAVE DONE RESEARCH ON THE SUBJECT, THAT THE FIRST GRINDING STONE WAS SIMPLY A FLAT ROCK HELD IN THE HAND AND RUBBED AGAINST ANOTHER FLAT ROCK LYING ON THE GROUND.



FIGURE 1. THIS GRACEFULLY SHAPED MORTAR, ALTHOUGH BADLY BROKEN, MEASURES 27 CM. IN LENGTH BY 16 CM. ACROSS THE TOP. IT HAS A SMALL FLATTENED BOTTOM.

THIS HABIT OF USING WHATEVER WAS HANDILY AVAILABLE HAS PERSISTED DOWN THROUGH THE ENTIRE SPAN OF TIME, RIGHT UP TO THE COMING OF THE WHITE MAN. THESE WERE TOOLS OF EXPEDIENCE, TO BE USED MOMENTARILY AND CAST AWAY. BEFORE MUCH TIME PASSED, HOWEVER, THESE EARLY PEOPLE WERE MAKING WELL SHAPED METATES, EITHER ROUND, OVAL, OR RECTANGULAR IN SHAPE, WITH A GROUND-OUT DEPRESSION IN THE CENTER, TO BE USED OVER AND OVER AGAIN.

IT'S STYLE AND APPEARANCE VARYING GREATLY ACCORDING TO THE WHIMS OF THE MAKERS, CHANGING FROM GEOGRAPHICAL SECTION TO GEOGRAPHICAL SECTION OF THE COUNTRY AND FROM ONE CULTURE OF PEOPLE TO THE NEXT. THE END RESULT THEN, WAS THAT IN TIME, A GREAT DIVERSITY OF STYLES, MANY WITH FINGER GRIPS, THUMB DEPRESSIONS, KNOBS, GROOVES, AND HANDLES, EVOLVED. THE METATE AND MANO, IN VARYING SHAPES AND SIZES, WAS BY FAR THE MOST ABUNDANT OF ALL MILLING STONES.

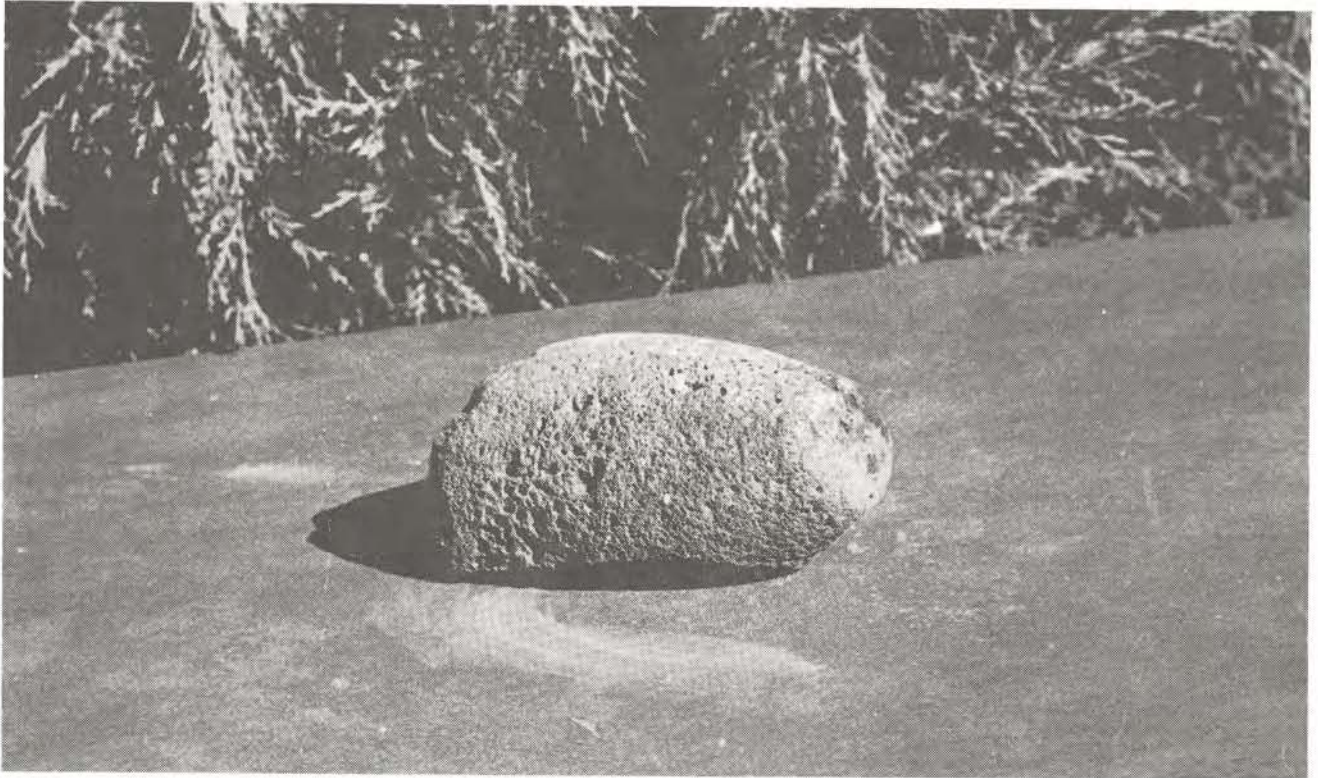


FIGURE 2. THIS SMALL MORTAR IS THE SAME SHAPE AS FIGURE 1. IT MEASURES 15 CM. IN LENGTH BY 13 CM. ACROSS THE TOP. IT TOO IS BADLY BROKEN.

AT WHAT PERIOD IN TIME THE MORTAR AND PESTLE APPEARED IS NOT CERTAIN, ALTHOUGH IN SOME EXCAVATIONS THE MORTAR APPEARED AT A VERY EARLY DATE.

IN ORDER TO SHAPE ONE OF THESE LARGE STONES, THE MAKER MUST FIRST SELECT A STONE LARGE ENOUGH TO DO THE JOB, THEN WITH SOME SORT OF SHARP IMPLEMENT, CAREFULLY PECK AWAY SMALL CHIPS UNTIL THE DESIRED SIZE AND SHAPE IS ATTAINED. SINCE THIS REQUIRES A CERTAIN AMOUNT OF SKILL AND A RATHER EXTENSIVE AMOUNT OF LABOR, AND SINCE THE METATE AND MANO WORKED SO WELL, WHY WAS THE MORTAR AND PESTLE MADE AT ALL? IT CERTAINLY POSES SOME QUESTIONS. IS THE MORTAR AND PESTLE, THEN, SIMPLY A GLORIFIED METATE AND MANO? WAS IT TO FULFILL MANKIND'S DESIRE TO CREATE SOMETHING BOTH BEAUTIFUL AND USEFUL?

MORTARS VARY GREATLY IN SIZE AND SHAPE FROM SMALL ONES NOT MUCH LARGER THAN A TEA CUP, PROBABLY USED AS PIGMENT GRINDERS, TO GIANTS UP TO A FOOT AND A HALF IN LENGTH AND A FOOT IN DIAMETER. SOME AUTHORS BELIEVE THESE LARGE POINTED BOTTOMED ONES WERE BURIED IN THE GROUND WITHIN A FEW INCHES OF THE TOP. THIS PROVIDED SOME STABILITY TO THE MORTAR SO THE PESTLE COULD BE ROTATED AROUND IN A CIRCULAR MANNER. THE FLAT BOTTOMED ONES WERE SIMPLY SET ON THE HARD GROUND.

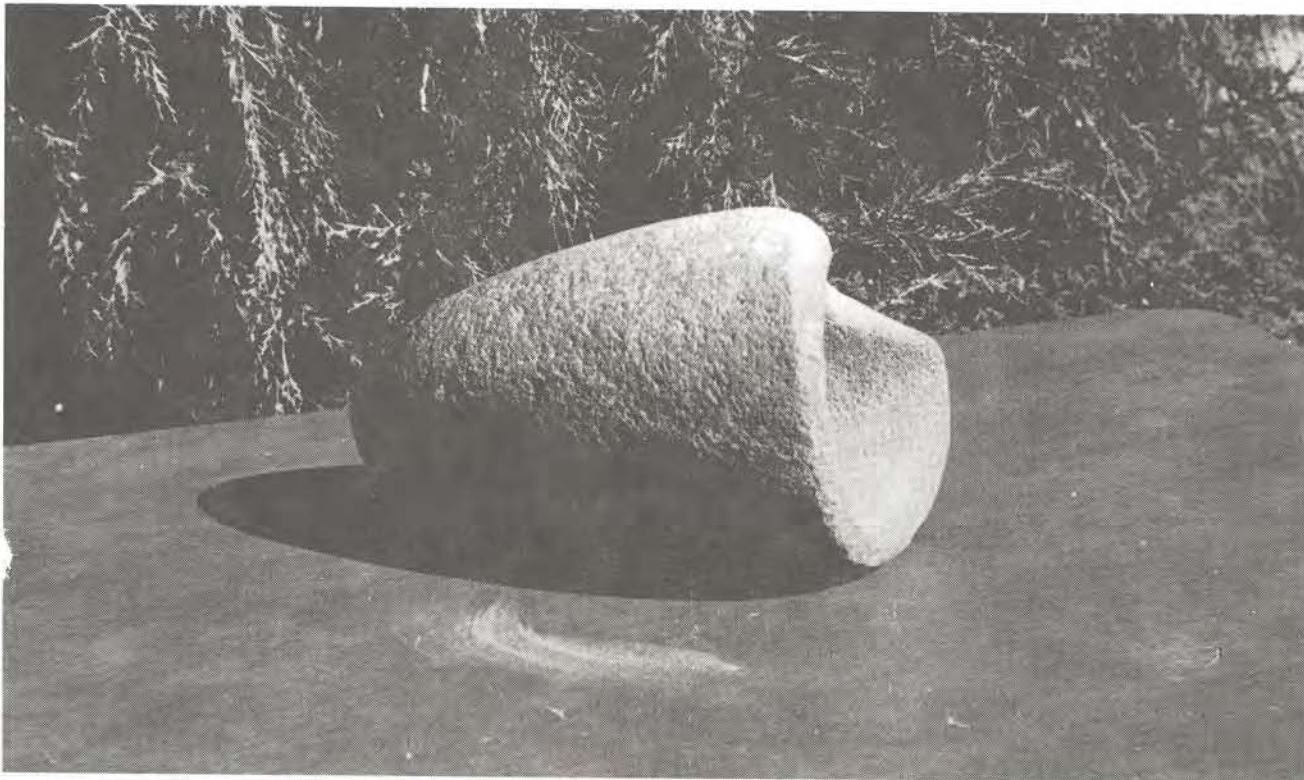


FIGURE 3. THIS LARGE POINTED-BOTTOMED MORTAR MEASURES 26CM. IN LENGTH AND 17 CM. ACROSS THE TOP.

THESE STATEMENTS ARE, TO SOME EXTENT, SPECULATION. THE USE OF THE EARLY MILLING STONES IS NOT A MATTER OF WRITTEN HISTORY. HOWEVER, THE INDIANS OF THE SOUTHWEST AND ALSO THE MEXICANS ARE STILL USING THE METATE AND MANO. ONE WOULD EXPECT THIS MILLING TECHNIQUE AND TRADITION TO HAVE BEEN CARRIED ON FOR CENTURIES IN MUCH THE SAME MANNER.

THESE LARGE BEAUTIFULLY MADE, EASILY SEEN, MORTARS SO ATTRACTED THE ATTENTION OF THE EARLY SETTLERS THAT VIRTUALLY ALL WERE PICKED UP AND PACKED HOME. NEARLY ALL EARLY HOUSEHOLDS HAD ONE EITHER AS A DOOR STOP, FLOWER POT, OR SIMPLY STOWED AWAY IN THE SHED WITH THE "STUFF THAT WAS TOO GOOD TO THROW AWAY".

THIS HAS GONE ON FOR MORE THAN ONE THOUSAND YEARS, SO AT THIS PERIOD IN TIME, THE ONLY ONES LEFT ARE THOSE BURIED AND UNCOVERED THROUGH LAND-LEVELING, DITCH DIGGING, ROAD BUILDING OR OTHER EARTH DISTURBING ACTIVITIES.

SOME OF THE EARLY FINDS MADE THEIR WAY INTO MUSEUMS, SOME REMAINED NEAR THEIR ORIGIN IN PRIVATE COLLECTIONS, BUT MOST WERE SCATTERED NO ONE KNOWS WHERE.



FIGURE 4. THIS IS A ROUND BOTTOMED MORTAR. IT MEASURES 14 CM. IN LENGTH BY 14CM. IN WIDTH.

PICTURED HERE ARE THREE DIFFERENT TYPES OF MORTARS. THE SMALL ROUND BOTTOMED, THE LARGE CONE-SHAPED MORTAR WITH THE SMALL FLATTENED BOTTOM, AND THE LARGE CONE-SHAPED-SHARP BOTTOMED MORTAR.

THESE WERE PLOWED OUT OF THE FIELDS AND DITCHES IN THE OPALENE COMMUNITY SEVEN MILES SOUTH OF MARSING, IN OWYHEE COUNTY, IDAHO BETWEEN THE YEARS 1952 AND 1965.

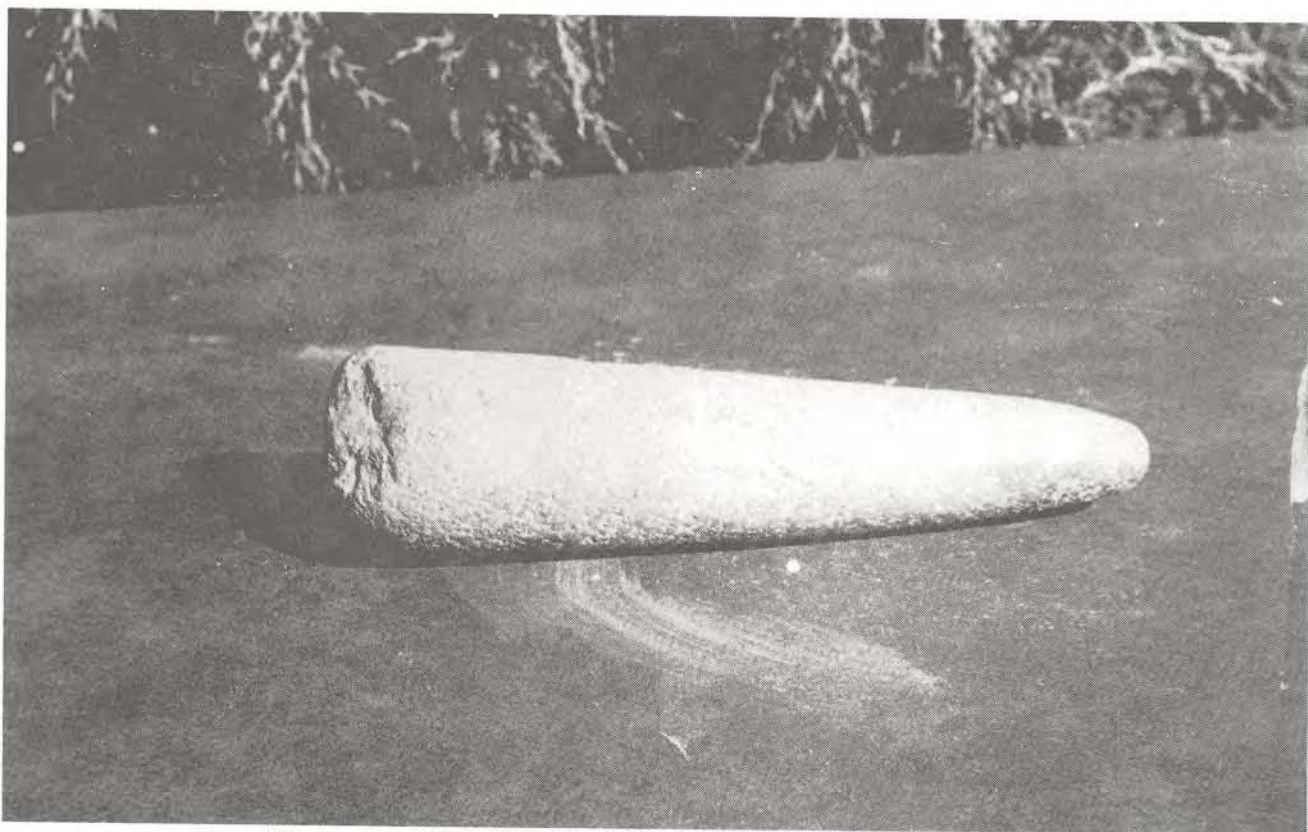


FIGURE 5. THIS LONG SLENDER PESTLE WAS FOUND ON THE BANKS OF SNAKE RIVER SEVERAL YEARS AGO. IT IS QUITE HIGHLY POLISHED FROM USE. IT ALSO SHOWS HAMMERING MARKS ON THE LARGE END. IT MEASURES 26 CM. IN LENGTH BY 6 CM. IN WIDTH AT THE LARGE END.

ALL STONES PICTURED HERE ARE MADE OF VESICULAR BASALT.

EARLY AMERICAN FERRYBOATS

BY
JAMES L. HUNTLEY

FOR CENTURIES BEFORE THEY WERE DISCOVERED BY THE EUROPEANS, NATIVE PEOPLE OF THE AMERICAN CONTINENT WERE USING VARIOUS FORMS OF WATERCRAFT. NOT GENERALLY KNOWN IS THE PART PLAYED BY THE INDIANS IN THE USE OF EARLY WATER TRANSPORTATION IN THE NEW WORLD.

SHORTLY AFTER THE DISCOVERY OF THE NORTH AMERICAN CONTINENT IN 1492, THE SPANISH EXPLORERS WERE LANDING IN THE AMERICAS. AS THE SPANIARDS WERE THE FIRST TO LEARN, INDIANS LIVED IN SCATTERED VILLAGES. MOST OFTEN THE SETTLEMENTS WERE BESIDE RIVERS. THE EXPLORERS GENERALLY FOLLOWED THE INDIAN'S TRAILS, AND WHEN THEY CAME TO A STREAM TOO LARGE TO FORD, THERE WAS LIKELY TO BE A VILLAGE NEARBY. IF AN AGREEMENT COULD BE REACHED, THE INDIANS WOULD CROSS THE EXPLORERS ON THEIR "FERRIES". IN THE YEAR 1540, HERNANDO DE SOTO IN HIS SEARCH FOR RICHES IN WHAT TODAY IS ALABAMA, FOUND THE NATIVES USING "GRAPEVINE FERRIES", BOATS WHICH THEY PULLED ACROSS THE STREAM BY MEANS OF GRAPEVINE ROPES STRETCHED BETWEEN THE BANKS. THE INDIANS WERE QUICK TO LEARN THE FERRYING TRADE.

IN THE EASTERN PART OF WHAT IS NOW THE UNITED STATES, THE INDIANS USED DUGOUT AND BIRCHBARK CANOES. IN THE GREAT PLAINS AREA, WITH ITS VAST HERDS OF BUFFALOES AND SCARCITY OF TIMBER, THE NATIVES USED WHAT WERE CALLED "BULLBOATS". THE BULLBOAT WAS A SKIN CANOE, FASHIONED BY STRETCHING UNTANNED BUFFALO HIDE OVER A FRAMEWORK OF GREEN SAPLINGS. AS THE HIDE DRIED IT SHRANK MAKING A BOAT THAT WAS ALMOST AS LIGHT AS A BIRCHBARK CANOE AND MUCH LESS FRAGILE, THOUGH BECAUSE IT WAS BULBOUS RATHER THAN SLENDER, A PADDLER COULD NOT HANDLE IT AS WELL. ONE JOHN BRADBURY AND A PARTY OF MOUNTED ADVENTURERS, CAME TO THE JUNCTION OF THE MISSOURI AND KNIFE RIVERS LATE ONE AFTERNOON IN THE EARLY 1800'S, AND SAW ACROSS THE RIVER A VILLAGE OF PLAINS INDIANS. THEY HAILED THE INDIANS. A FEW OF THE NATIVE MEN CAME OVER TO PARLEY. WHEN A PRICE HAD BEEN AGREE UPON THE INDIANS CALLED THEIR FERRYMEN, THE SQUAWS. SIX SQUAWS CAME ACROSS, EACH IN A BULLBOAT.

THEY STOWED THE WHITE MEN'S GEAR IN THEIR BOATS AND PADDLED BRADBURY AND HIS COMPANIONS ACROSS, WHILE THE INDIAN MEN SWAM THE HORSES OVER. PAYMENT WAS IN POWDER AND BALL.

FURTHER WEST, ACROSS THE CONTINENTAL DIVIDE IN THE GREAT BASIN, THE INDIANS USED SMALL RAFTS MADE OF THE TULE OR CAT-TAIL PLANT. THESE LIGHT REED BOATS COULD BE MADE IN A FEW MINUTES BY GATHERING ARMLoads OF DRY TULES AND TYING THEM TOGETHER WITH WILLOW STEMS. DURING THE HIGH WATER OF JUNE, 1878, BRUNEAU JOHN, A SHOSHONE INDIAN FRIENDLY TO THE WHITES, CROSSED THE SNAKE RIVER WITH HIS LITTLE WIFE SALLY. THEY FERRIED ACROSS ON A HASTILY MADE TULE RAFT TO WARN THE SETTLERS OF THE WAR-PARTY OF BUFFALO HORN AS HE RAIDED DOWN RIVER AT BRUNEAU.

ON THE PACIFIC COASTLINE FROM BRITISH COLUMBIA TO THE BORDER OF MEXICO, THE COASTAL INDIANS MADE LARGE DUGOUT CANOES, ELABORATELY CARVED IN SOME INSTANCES. WITH THESE OCEAN-GOING BOATS THEY COULD FISH OFFSHORE AND INHABIT THE COASTAL ISLANDS.

THE EXPLORERS AND EARLY COLONISTS, AND LATER THE WESTWARD BOUND EMIGRANTS MADE FULL USE OF THE EARLY INDIAN WATER TRANSPORTATION SYSTEM.

BOISE RIVER DRAINAGE SYSTEM ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY

By
MICHAEL OSTROGORSKY
CONSULTING ARCHAEOLOGIST
IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY

THE STATE ARCHAEOLOGICAL OFFICE OF THE IDAHO STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY IS ENGAGED IN AN INVENTORY OF CULTURAL RESOURCES ALONG THE BOISE RIVER DRAINAGE (AND ADJACENT AREAS SUCH AS INDIAN AND TEN MILE CREEKS) FOCUSING ON THE AREA FROM LUCKY PEAK TO EAGLE, THIS BEING THE GREATEST DEVELOPMENTAL AREA IN IDAHO.

THE SOCIETY ESTIMATES (REF. SERIES, No. 299) THAT BY 1800 THE INDIAN POPULATION OF IDAHO REACHED A MAXIMUM OF 10,000. TODAY, THE BOISE VALLEY ALONE SUPPORTS A POPULATION OF CLOSE TO 150,000, MOST OF THAT GROWTH HAVING TAKEN PLACE IN THE LAST FIFTEEN YEARS. THE ADVERSE IMPACT OF THE GROWTH ON ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SITES NEED NOT BE DETAILED. THERE HAS BEEN LITTLE EFFORT OR INTEREST EXPRESSED IN MITIGATING OR CATALOGING FOR MANAGEMENT THE VAST NUMBER OF SITES WHICH EXIST (ED). CONSIDER, FOR EXAMPLE, THAT NEARLY 1000 SITES HAVE BEEN RECORDED IN OWYHEE COUNTY, BUT JUST OVER 100 SITES IN ALL OF ADA COUNTY. EVEN ALLOWING FOR DIFFERENCES IN SIZE AND INTENSITY OF EFFORT, THE DISCREPANCY IS STAGGERING.

CONSIDERED AND RECORDED ALONG WITH ABORIGINAL SITES WILL BE THE LOCATION OF DESTROYED HISTORICAL SITES WHICH HAVE DISAPPEARED AT AN EVEN GREATER RATE THAN THE FORMER. THE BOISE VALLEY HAS FOR CENTURIES SERVED AS A TRADE CENTER (STEWART, 1938) AND PRESENTS A CLASSIC OPPORTUNITY FOR A STUDY OF THE EVOLUTION OF A MAJOR URBAN CENTER. NINETEENTH CENTURY BOISE, HOWEVER, HAS ALL BUT FALLEN VICTIM TO THE TWENTIETH. URBAN RENEWAL IN LESS THAN TEN YEARS HAS NEARLY DESTROYED 100 YEARS OF BOISE'S PHYSICAL HISTORY (THE CHINESE QUARTER BEING A PRIME EXAMPLE) WITH LITTLE REGARD FOR MITIGATION. HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY CAN HELP EDUCATE THE PRESENT POPULATION TO APPRECIATE ITS CULTURAL AND HISTORICAL HERITAGE, AND CAUSE ITS RECOGNITION AS AN IMPORTANT ADJUNCT TO URBAN PLANNING.

THE RECENT GROWTH IN BOISE VALLEY WILL NOT ABATE IN THE NEAR FUTURE. RECOGNIZING THIS ADVERSE IMPACT ON SUCH ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES AS YET REMAIN INTACT REQUIRES THAT THEY BE INVENTORIED AND MANAGED FOR MITIGATION BEFORE THEY ARE GONE. THIS WILL ALLOW MITIGATIVE EFFORTS TO BE MOLDED INTO A REGIONAL FOCUS ON PROBLEM ORIENTED- AND NOT JUST SALVAGE - ARCHAEOLOGY.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY IN AN URBAN AREA PRESENTS VARIED PROBLEMS, PRIMARILY REVOLVING AROUND THE PRIVATE - RATHER THAN PUBLIC - OWNERSHIP OF LAND. USUALLY, MORE TIME IS EXPENDED IN LOCATING OWNERS ABOUT ACCESS TO THEIR PROPERTY THAN IN SURVEYING THE PROPERTY. THE RECEPTION VARIES FROM INVITATIONS TO LUNCH TO OUTRIGHT HOSTILITY. LEARNING OF MY INTEREST IN AN HISTORIC SITE LOCATED ON HIS PROPERTY, ONE RANCHER'S ALMOST IMMEDIATE REACTION WAS: "YOU'RE NOT GOING TO TAKE IT FROM ME?" INSIDE CITY LIMITS EXIST METHODOLOGICAL PROBLEMS OF PRIORITY AND DEFINITION.

MANY SITES, EITHER ON PRIVATE OR PUBLIC LAND, EXIST PRECARIOUSLY IN A RAPIDLY EXPANDING URBAN AREA, FALLING BEFORE "PROGRESS" OR THE HAND OF FATE. EXAMPLES INCLUDE THE STRAWBERRY GLEN BRIDGE WHICH RECENTLY COLLAPSED AS THE RESULT OF A FREAK AUTO ACCIDENT. TWO OTHER STEEL GIRDER BRIDGES ON EAGLE ROAD ARE SCHEDULED FOR REPLACEMENT BY THE STATE HIGHWAY DEPARTMENT, ALTHOUGH WE HAD ONLY RECENTLY RECORDED THEM. EVEN AFTER THE DEMISE OF WAGON TRAINS TRAFFIC CONTINUED TO FOLLOW THE OLD OREGON TRAIL OUT OF BOISE, EVENTUALLY NECESSITATING THE PAVING OF CHINDEN BOULEVARD TO ACCOMODATE IT. A LOCAL LANDOWNER, UNABLE TO SELL AN 1867 THREE STORY STONE MILL HOUSE, DISMANTLED IT TO INCORPORATE THE BUILDING MATERIALS INTO ADJACENT RANCH HOUSES. PROVISIONS DESPERATELY NEED TO BE CONSIDERED TO ALLOW ADQUISITION OF OR EASEMENT TO ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SITES IF ONLY TO ALLOW THEM TO BE MITIGATED. PAUL E. NESBITT, AN HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGIST WITH THE CALIFORNIA STATE PARKS, WARNS (NORTHWEST ANTHROPOLOGICAL RESEARCH NOTES, 1975):

THE COMBINATION OF BUILDING ACTIVITIES OF OUR PRESENT POPULATION AND LACK OF AWARENESS OF THE IMPENDING DESTRUCTION OF VITAL INFORMATION BY SUCH CONSTRUCTIONS IS SUCH THAT THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF THE HISTORIC PERIOD MAY DISAPPEAR BEFORE WE HAVE AN ADEQUATE CHANCE TO FULLY COMPREHEND THE DYNAMICS OF THE PERIOD.

IN THE BOISE VALLEY, UNFORTUNATELY, THE WARNING APPLIES EQUALLY TO ALL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES. THE SAME CAN BE SAID OF SEVERAL OTHER AREAS OF THE STATE, INCLUDING POCATELLO AND LEWISTON.

BEGUN IN 1976, THE SURVEY, IN COOPERATION WITH GARDEN CITY, HAS FOCUSED ON THE AREA AS FAR WEST AS EAGLE ROAD. MOST OF THE BOISE RIVER CANYON, ABOVE DIVERSION DAM HAS BEEN SURVEYED. GARDEN CITY, PRESENTLY DEVELOPING A COMPREHENSIVE URBAN PLAN ENVISAGING AN ULTIMATE POPULATION OF 45,000, HOPES TO ENCOMPASS INTO A PLAN OF DEVELOPMENT AND PRESERVATION ANY EXISTING ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND HISTORICAL SITES. HOWEVER, NO ABORIGINAL SITES HAVE BEEN RECOGNIZED IN THE AREA SURVEYED TO DATE, AND HISTORICAL SITES IN A VILLAGE INCORPORATED IN 1949 ARE FEW AND FAR BETWEEN (A MAJOR EXCEPTION IS AN EXTANT PORTION OF THE OLD OREGON TRAIL).

UPRIVER, ABORIGINAL SITES HAVE BEEN RECORDED, INCLUDING ROCKSHELTERS, SURFACE SCATTERS, MIDDENS AND TOOL MANUFACTURE SITES. A HIGHLY SIGNIFICANT HISTORIC ABORIGINAL CAMP SITE - POSSIBLY THE ONLY ONE IN THE AREA - WITH A KNOWN CHIEFTAIN, WHICH MAY HAVE CONTAINED AS MANY AS 300 INDIVIDUALS, WAS LOCATED WITH THE AID OF AN 1893 IDAHO STATESMAN ARTICLE, AS WAS A RELATED PROBABLY BURIAL SITE. HISTORICAL SITES RECORDED INCLUDE HOMESTEADS, WAGON ROADS, HISTORIC PETROGLYPHS AND STONE QUARRIES, AND, AMONG MANY OTHERS, A CIVIL WAR PERIOD MILITARY DUMP ON THE FORT BOISE MILITARY RESERVE PARK. HISTORICAL SITES (AS DO ABORIGINAL) VARY AS GREATLY AS DO THE ACTIVITIES OF MAN.

ANYONE HAVING KNOWLEDGE OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITES IN THE STUDY AREA, A GENUINE DESIRE TO ASSIST IN THE PROJECT, OR TO INITIATE COMPREHENSIVE SURVEYS ELSEWHERE, IS REQUESTED TO CONTACT THE STATE ARCHAEOLOGIST'S OFFICE.

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