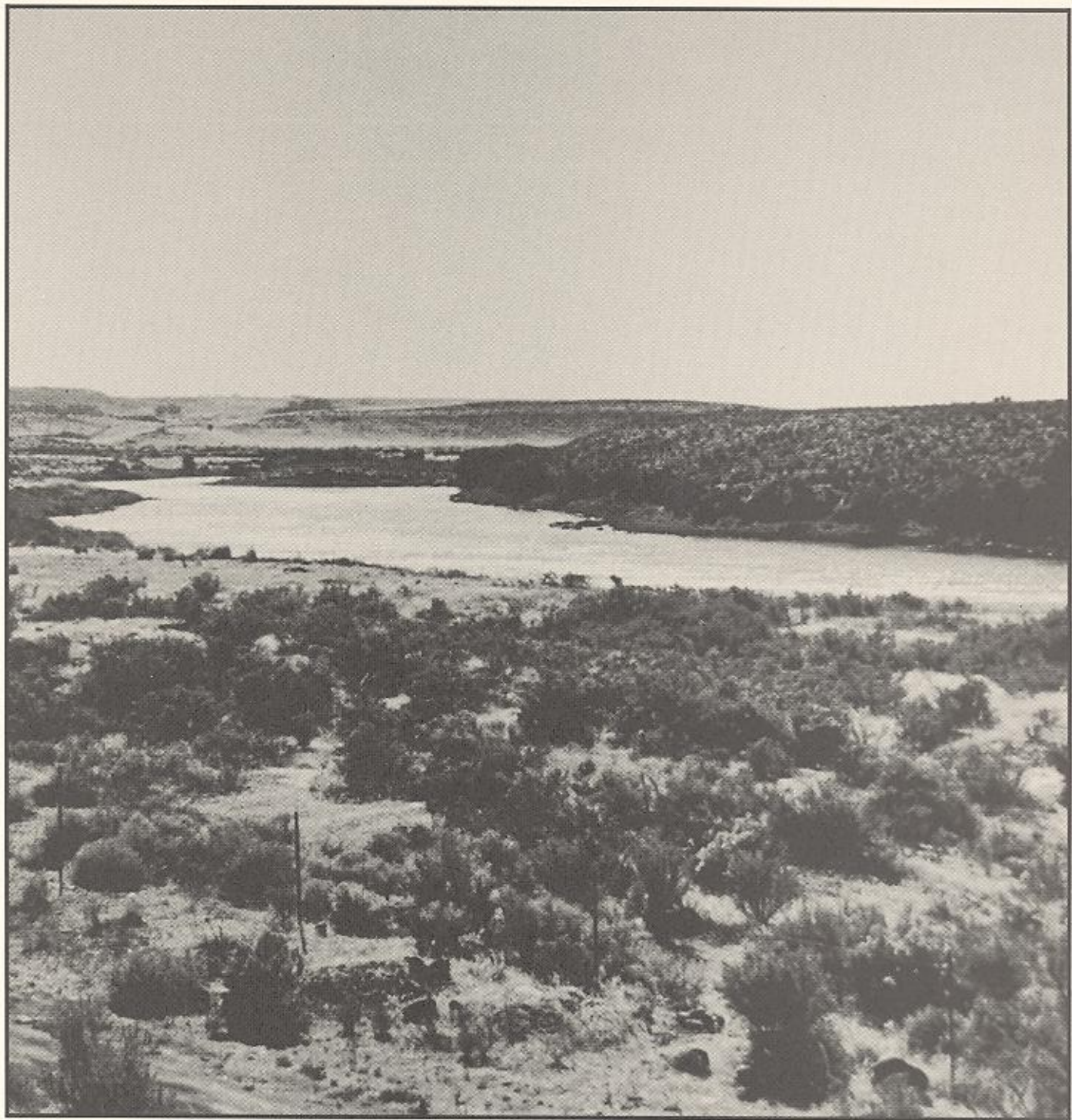


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Cover: Snake River near Clover Creek.
Photo courtesy Mark G. Plew

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ARTICLES AND REPORTS

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL TEST EXCAVATION AT THE CROMWELL SITE (10-OE-2792), THE MIDDLE SNAKE RIVER, OWYHEE COUNTY, IDAHO

James L. Huntley
Idaho Archaeological Society

INTRODUCTION AND PROBLEM

This paper reports on a test excavation of the Cromwell site (10-OE-2792), a small mussel-collecting station on the Snake River near Marsing, Idaho. The purpose of the investigation was to examine the nature of a small mussel collecting/processing site so as to gain greater insight regarding the use of the resource within extended catchments of larger riverine sites. Though major excavations and surveys conducted within the area (Ames 1989; Delisio 1978; Green 1982; Keeler and Koko 1971; Murphey 1976; Pavesic and Meatte 1980; Plew 1980, 1981, 1988) document long-term multiple resource use which includes mussel, the greater range of Archaic sites remains to be investigated. The test excavation sought to collect information regarding depth of deposit, the extent of mussel use, and the nature of associated material remains. Further, dating the site was important as a means of understanding when such small stations were utilized.

SETTING

The site is located in a gully entering Snake River about four hundred meters downstream from the Gem District Pumping Plant on property owned by Mr. and Mrs. Dean Cromwell (see Figure 1). On the north side of the gully, about three or four meters from the river bank and approximately four meters above the mean rise of the river, is a small, fairly level bench in the steep-sided gully. The bench area is about eight meters square and slopes gently towards both the river to the east, and the gully bottom to the south.

A small stream flows in the gully bottom. This water issues from some seepage springs adjacent to the bench. Being well watered by both the springs and river, the riparian zone along the river and gully is heavily vegetated, with willow (*Salix*), wildrose (*Rosa*), greasewood (*Sarcobatus*), saltgrass (*Distichlis*) being dominant (Figures 1, 2).

Due to its secluded position in the gully and the heavy vegetational cover, the site has been well protected and showed no damage from vandalism. Some natural erosion and sloughing had taken place on the edge of the

bench facing the river and gully, but was minimal due to the vegetational cover. The area of erosion on the outward perimeter of the bench disclosed the cultural features, i.e. discarded musselshell, firehearths, and firecracked rocks (Figure 4).

The site was well protected from the prevailing winds and commanded a good view up and down the river. Facing east and south, it received heat from the sunrise until late in the afternoon, which, together with its secluded position, would have made it an ideal late winter or early spring camping place for native inhabitants. The nearby shellfish beds in the river would have provided an easily obtained short-term food resource.

EXCAVATIONS

Excavation controls were consistent for all test pits. Datum stakes aligned to a magnetic north-south baseline were established along the upper, or west, side of the terrace at one-meter intervals. The east-west baseline was run at right angles from the northwest baseline stake, across the upper or north part of the site, to form an "L." This east-west baseline was also staked at one-meter intervals. This permitted a one-meter grid system to be laid out encompassing the areas where cultural materials were observed and establishing a grid control for test augering (see Figure 3).

A total of five 1x2-meter test pits were located where concentrations of cultural materials were observed. Excavations using 10-cm levels were conducted. Individual units were excavated to arbitrary depths to determine if deposits of greater magnitude were present. Of all the pits tested and excavated, 35 cm was the maximum depth of cultural materials. The scarcity of cultural remains halted excavations in all units. Excavation was by hand trowel.

Three-inch auger holes were placed in a number of the one-meter squares to test for cultural deposits and assess the greater depth of deposition. Only one test auger hole produced a few scattered fragments of musselshell at a depth of 7 cm. Light soil and some down-wash from the steep-sided gully had covered

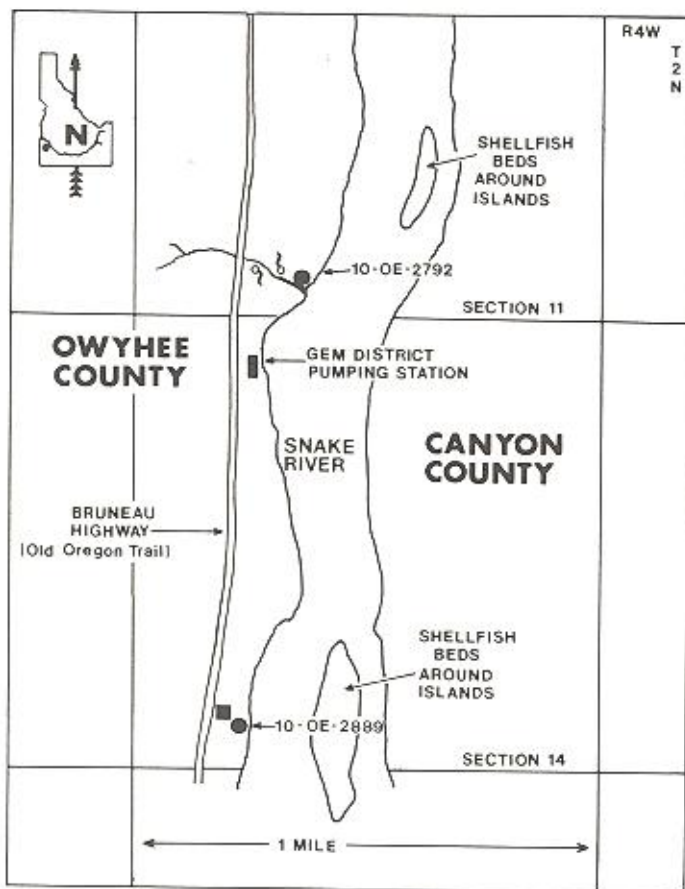


Figure 1. Map of Site Locations



Figure 2. Looking down gully toward river. Arrow points to site location.

Level 3, 20-30 cm: Soil consistency unchanged; decreasing amounts of musselshell; fire-hearth diminishing and fewer fire-cracked rocks; no bone or lithics.
 Level 4, 30-35 cm: bottom of cultural feature, sterile soil encountered.

Test Pit 3, (S6-E5-6)

Level 1, 0-10 cm: Sediment remains same in test pit area. Surface is slightly eroded, disclosing musselshell and fire-cracked rocks; also some small whole cobbles. There is evidence of a hearth in southwest corner of the unit. One flake of dendritic agate, small core of quartzite, no bone.

Level 2, 10-20 cm: Sediment remains unchanged; small shallow firehearth; pile, or cluster of well-preserved discarded musselshells in central part of pit together with small cobbles and fire-cracked rocks; a few slivers of poorly preserved bone fragments near hearth; one stemmed point fragment, but no flakes.

Level 3, 20-30 cm: Sediment remains consistent; cultural features decreasing; sterile soil at 30 cm. No flakes or bone encountered.

Test Pit 4, (S2-E5-6)

Level 1, 0-10 cm: Sediment unchanged; small, very shallow firehearth in central area of pit; some fragments of musselshell; a few fire-cracked rocks; no flakes or bone observed.

Level 2, 10-20 cm: Soil remains unchanged; firehearth and fire-cracked rocks decreasing in number; noticeable leaching of hearth area due to erosion from rain water and/or snow melt; scattered musselshell fragments; no flakes or bone.

Level 3, 20-30 cm: Soil consistent; remains of hearth and musselshell fragments diminishing; no flakes or bone; sterile soil encountered at approximately 30 cm.

Test Pit 5, (S1-2-E7) (see Figure 4)

Level 1, 0-10 cm: Sediment unchanging; firehearth near center of unit with fire-cracked rocks and fist-sized cobbles; pile of well-preserved musselshell and fragments near hearth; one basalt flake and a small core of Graveyard Point plume agate found just below the surface in the west end of this weathered unit; no bone was recovered.

much of the site to a depth of up to 5 cm.

Following are test pit and level descriptions of the excavations:

Test Pit 1, (S6-E1-2)

Level 1, 0-10 cm: Light tan sediment with some clay mixture. Scatterings of fire-cracked cobbles and broken and fragmentary musselshell; fire-darkened soil with charcoal flecks from shallow hearth in northeast corner of unit, no flakes or bone; some rootlets of saltgrass.

Level 2, 10-20 cm: Tan sediment with clay and some pea gravel; occasional musselshell fragments and small pieces of fire-cracked rock; firehearth diminishing; no flakes or bone; saltgrass rootlets still present.

Level 3, 20-30 cm: Soil unchanged, rootlets present; cultural items diminishing with soil becoming sterile at 30 cm.

Test Pit 2, (S6-E3-4)

Level 1, 0-10 cm: Tan sediment with clay mixture and pea gravel, fire-cracked rocks and small cobbles; broken and fragmentary musselshell abundant; reddish-brown fire darkened soil with charcoal flecks and small amount of burned musselshell; two small basalt flakes; no bone, one quartzite scraper.

Level 2, 10-20 cm: Sediment unchanged; firehearth in southeast corner of unit; scattered musselshell and fire-cracked rocks in hearth area; some charred musselshell; one point tip of green siltstone; one flake of tan jasper; one flake of white agate; no bone, some rodent activity.

Level 2, 10-20 cm: Sediment consistency and color unchanged; firehearth, fire-cracked rocks, and musselshell present but shallow and diminishing. No bone or flakes observed.

Level 3, 20-30 cm: Soil unchanged; hearth, fire-cracked rocks, and musselshell rapidly decreasing; sterile soil reached at 30 cm. No flakes or bone.

AUGER TEST HOLES

To determine if cultural deposits, other than those visible on the surface, were to be found on the site, a series of three-inch auger holes were placed in units adjacent to those containing hearths, shell, or other cultural materials. Only in one test hole was cultural material found. This was some fragmented musselshell in test unit S4-E5, at a depth of 7 cm.

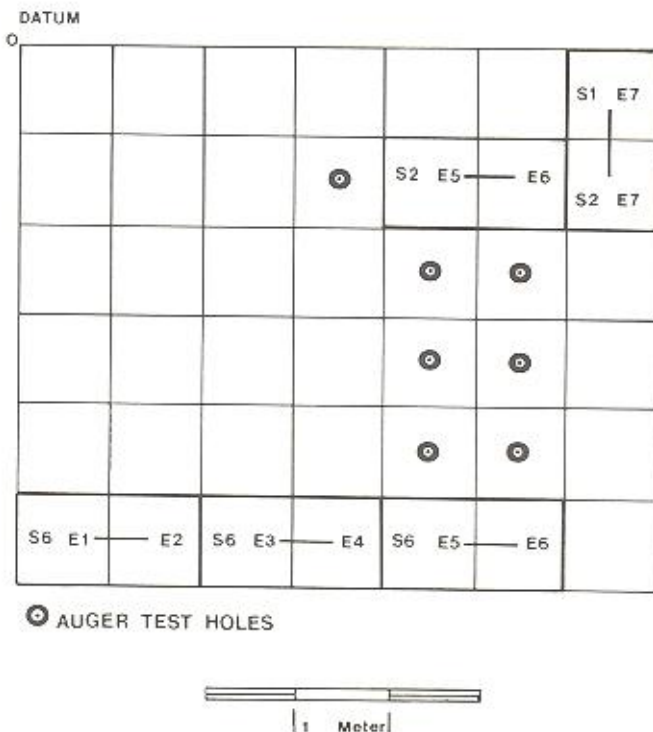


Figure 3. Grid system.

MATERIAL CULTURE

Typology

The material culture remains from site 10-OE-2792 were very limited. The entire cultural assemblage consisted of seven artifacts.

Projectile Points

1. Eastgate Expanding Stem Point (Figure 5.6)

Number of Specimens: 1

Description: Small triangular point made on a thin, slightly curved flake. Some cortex remains on the convex side. The short expanding stem is broken.

Technique: Pressure retouch along edges. Pressure also used to form squared tangs and stem.

Size Range: 1.9 x 2.2 x 2.3 cm.

Material: Obsidian

Provenience: Found on downslope surface about one meter south of unit S6-E6 from which it may have weathered out.

Comparable type: This short variant of the Eastgate Expanding Stem projectile point may be more often found in a surface context than in excavated sites. Many are found in amateur collections from the Owyhee area along Snake River and south into the Owyhee Mountains.

2. Tip of projectile point (Figure 5.4)

Number of Specimens: 1

Description: Point tip made from a thin, curved flake.

Technique: Pressure retouch used to form artifact and to straighten a slightly curved flake. Well-executed diagonal flaking on convex side of point.

Size Range: Point fragment is 3.4 cm in length.

Material: Light green siltstone with tan mottling.

Provenience: Test unit S6-E4, 20-30 cm.

3. (a) Stemmed Point (Figure 5.3)

Number of Specimens: 1

Description: Fragment of small stemmed point, split lengthwise. (Possible hafted scraper, knife or dart point).

Technique: Probable percussion

Size: 4.3 cm long.

Material: Tan siltstone

Provenience: Test unit S6-E6, 20-30 cm.



Figure 4. Test pit S1-2-E7 0-10 cm. Fire-cracked rocks, cobbles, and musselshell in hearth.

3. (b) Stemmed Point (Figure 5.7)

Number of Specimens: 1

Description: Fragment of stemmed point (knife)

Technique: Percussion

Size: 9.6 cm (estimated length).

Material: Cream-colored siltstone

Provenience: Test unit S6-E5, 10-20 cm.

Scrapers

1. (a) Small side scraper (Figure 5.1)

Number of Specimens: 1

Description: Utilized end portion of split quartzite cobble. Percussion retouch on end and side to produce scraping edges.

Technique: Percussion

Size: 8 x 6 cm.

Material: Quartzite

Provenience: Test unit S6-E3, 0-10 cm.

1. (b) Small "turtle back" scraper-graver (Figure 5.5)

Number of Specimens: 1

Description: Prepared core type with graver "bit"

Technique: Percussion

Size: 3.5 x 2.5 x 2 cm.

Material: Fine-grained basalt

Provenience: Test unit S6-E4, 10-20 cm.

Reworked flake (Figure 5.2)

One small flake of ignimbrite, pressure flaked along one edge, was found on surface where it had eroded out of unit S1-2-E7. Little debitage was recovered as is noted in Table I.

Fire-cracked Rocks and Cobbles

Fire-cracked rocks were generally associated with fire pits or hearth areas. Much of the rock was so reduced by heat and water, or juices from the mussels, that only a considerable estimate of the many small pieces was possible. Fist-sized whole cobbles, some scorched and darkened by fire, were also evidenced. Since these quartzite cobbles, laid down during the Bonneville Flood, are thickly embedded in the riverbank terrain on which the site is located, it is problematical how many were actually used by the natives. A majority of the cobbles were associated with test units S6-E5-6, S6-E3-4, and S1-2-E7 where hearth concentrations were heaviest.

Mussel

As with most aboriginal campsites found along Snake River, musselshell at site 10-OE-2792 was a distinguishing feature. To count, or even estimate, the number of valves involved in any site where they are present is extremely difficult if not impossible. The disintegrating characteristics of mussel, especially those that have been exposed to heavy weathering, make for a highly

Table I. Lithic Debitage¹

Material Type	Number of Items	Unit
Graveyard Point Agate	1	S2-E7
Quartzite	1	S6-E5
Basalt	3	S6-E4
Ignimbrite	1	S1-2-E7
Jasper	1	S6-E4
Dendritic Agate	1	S6-E5
White Agate	1	S6-E3
Total	9	

¹All debitage found 0-20 cm below the surface

inaccurate count. Counting those valves excavated and recognizable as whole units, it is probable that the mussels utilized at site 10-OE-2792 would number between 500 and 600 during the limited occupation. This number might also indicate a limited number of occupants.

A few of the valves found near the hearths were slightly burned or scorched. All of the mussels from this site were *Gonidea angulata*.

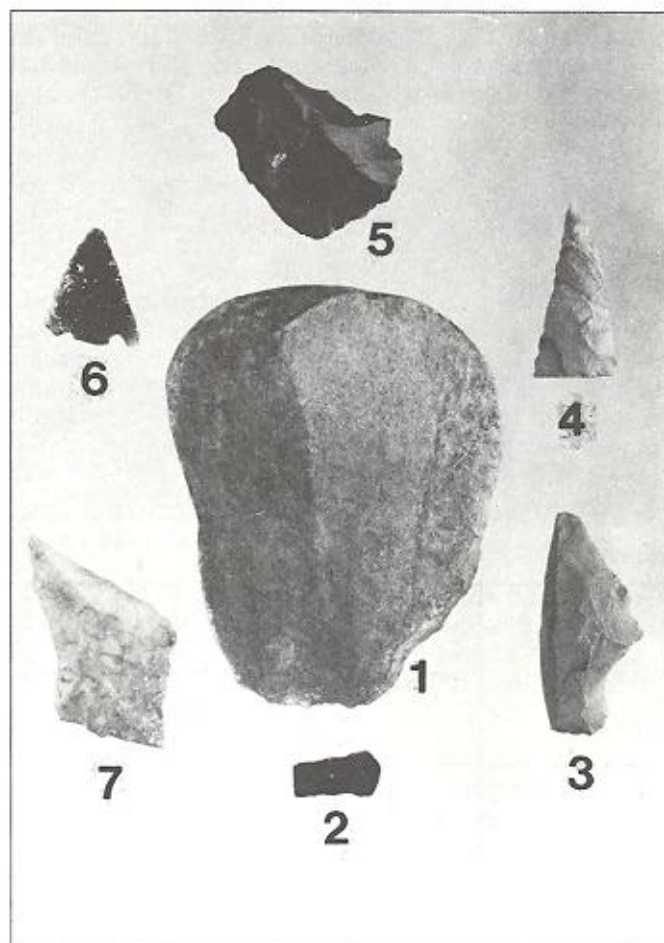


Figure 5. Artifacts from site 10-OE-2792; 1. scraper; 2. worked flake; 3. stemmed point; 4. point tip; 5. scraper-graver; 6. Eastgate projectile point; 7. stemmed point (knife).

Carbon Samples

Two samples of carbon from firehearths were collected, but have not been processed to date. A variety of reasons, including soil leaching, weathering and sloughing in hearth areas, and rodent activity, made collecting good carbon samples difficult.

Bone

Since mussel gathering, roasting, and consumption on a short-term basis seemed to be the principal reason for native occupation of the site, one would not expect to find much in the way of bone objects. The excavations have confirmed this assumption. Only one small piece of badly decayed and fragmented bone was discovered at the site.

SUMMARY AND CONCLUSIONS

The Cromwell site is the first small mussel collecting site tested along the Middle Snake River. It consisted of a shallow deposit 25-35 cm in depth which contained extensive mussel remains but little cultural debris. Indeed, the total assemblage consisted of seven artifacts of which five are projectile points. Additionally, only one item of bone and nine specimens of lithic debitage were present. The recovery of an Eastgate point suggests a general time range between A.D. 600-1200.

The excavation recovered a meager cultural assemblage which may typify small mussel collecting stations.

This may be particularly true if many such sites represent daily wandering within the extended catchments of larger base camps. Delimiting the range of Archaic sites is essential to identifying archaeological settlement-subsistence patterns along the Middle Snake River (see e.g. Plew 1988).

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The author would like to extend his thanks to Mr. and Mrs.

Dean Cromwell, and Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Mosier, whose property line bisected the land on which the site is located. Both parties graciously gave their consent for, and support to, the test excavations at the site. Thanks also to Roy Hines of Marsing, who discovered the site and brought it to the author's attention. Roy helped with the excavations and worked at the screen. My appreciation and thanks to Bill and Charlotte Norquist of Nampa. They worked on the screening and helped keep records at the excavations. My thanks to Tom Green, who inspected the site and gave advice and encouragement.

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SHORT CONTRIBUTIONS

ABSTRACTS OF THE XVTH ANNUAL IDAHO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY CONFERENCE¹

Nancy V. Anderson, Salmon District Bureau of Land Management, and Marion McDaniel, Challis National Forest

SOME UNUSUALLY LARGE BIFACES FROM THE CHALLIS AREA, CUSTER COUNTY, IDAHO: THE BENJAMIN S. BROWN COLLECTION OF EIGHT BIFACES

Fifty-four years ago in 1934, an early day resident of Challis, Idaho, collected eight large bifaces from an area of Tertiary volcanoclastic deposits southeast of Challis. After the death of Benjamin S. Brown in 1935, these artifacts were permanently displayed in the local library. In 1979, the library board gave them to the North Custer Historical Society. The use of these large bifaces in aboriginal society is not clear at the present time. The following presentation is designed primarily to acknowledge the existence of the eight unusually large bifaces found by Mr. Brown and the quarry area where these and many other bifaces and biface fragments have been collected over the last several decades.

Keo Boreson, Eastern Washington University

METHODS AND MATERIALS FOR MANUFACTURING PETROGLYPHS AND PICTOGRAPHS IN THE INTERIOR OF THE PACIFIC NORTHWEST, U.S.A.

The documentation of several rock art sites in Idaho and western Montana has led to some observations regarding the methods and materials related to the manufacture of petroglyphs and pictographs. Components of the study used to reconstruct the techniques of production include artifacts recovered from rock art sites, ethnographic information documentation of the micro details of rock art figures, and information derived from the mineralogical and organic analyses of pigment from pictograph spalls and excavated artifacts.

Sandi Broncheau-McFarland

THREE BASIC FOOD PLANTS OF THE NEZ PERCE: THEN AND NOW

The purpose of this paper is to describe three of the basic food plants utilized by the Nez Perce then, meaning preservation subsistence, compared with today. This presentation is to give an in-depth look at the economic usage of the staple vegetation not only as nutritional enhancement, conservation measure, but all aspects of the root harvest. This interpretation supports what is already known regarding the Nez Perce's processing of the plant food.

Mary Anne Davis, Idaho State Historical Society

RUNNING AMUCK AT INDIAN HOT SPRINGS

The Idaho State Historical Society recently investigated a site at Indian Hot Springs (10-WN-406) northwest of Weiser, Idaho. The owner of the site was concerned that land leveling of two pastures on the low terrace above the pool complex would destroy important archaeological information. Survey of the fields found numerous lithics and ground-stone tools within a 30-meter radius of a new well head on the southern edge of the terrace. One test pit and 23 large auger holes were dug across the site to determine the boundaries of the site and to check for any intact subsurface cultural deposits. The site was also monitored during the actual leveling activities. A total of 88 artifacts were found at the site. The road grader unearthed most of the artifacts during scraping swaths across the site. Flaked- and ground-stone tools were nearly equal in number among the collection. None of the projectile points were diagnostic. Of the ground-stone tools, 24 were pestles or various fragments of pestles and 12 were mortars and metates. No features or intact cultural deposits were found at the site. The numerous grinding stones in the collection suggests that the site was intensively utilized at some point in the past as a food processing center and returned to year after year. There is also evidence for limited tool manufacturing and reworking. Where this site fits into the cultural

¹Editor's Note: Beginning with this issue, the *Idaho Archaeologist* will publish abstracts of the annual Idaho Archaeological Society Conference. Abstracts are listed alphabetically by author. Papers without abstracts are listed by the title and authors only.

chronology developed for southwest Idaho will rely on future work in the remaining undisturbed fields where datable material may yet exist.

Jeff Fee, Payette National Forest

**THE DRAGON HAS AWAKENED:
EXCAVATIONS AT THE CHINESE TERRACED
GARDENS ON CHINA MOUNTAIN**

Payette National Forest excavations led to the reconstruction and interpretation of cultural resources associated with the Chinese terraced garden on China Mountain, Idaho.

Stan Gough, Eastern Washington University

**10-BV-93: A MIDDLE PERIOD BISON KILL/
PROCESSING SITE**

Test excavations conducted at 10-BV-93 resulted in the documentation of a significant bison (*Bison bison*) kill/processing site located in the foothills at the eastern edge of the Snake River Plain. Radiocarbon dated to $4,260 \pm 60$ years B.P., the site contains a single cultural component. The lithic artifact assemblage primarily consists of hunting and butchering tools and the well-preserved faunal assemblage almost exclusively of butchered bison bones.

Lithic artifact analysis resulted in the identification of two different tool manufacturing technologies utilized to produce largely mutually exclusive tool types. Faunal analysis indicates that at least four bison were killed and butchered.

Study of 10-BV-93 has yielded information including the content and manufacture of hunting and large game processing tool kits and the structure of a temporary kill/processing site from the Middle Prehistoric Period.

Russell T. Gould, Susan Forbes, and Mark G. Plew, Boise State University

**ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS
AT CLOVER CREEK**

Archaeological excavations of the Clover Creek site (10-EL-22) near King Hill, Idaho, document an early stage manufacturing locality dating to within the last 1,000 years. The material assemblage does not contain the diversity of other local riverine sites. Notable are projectile series largely atypical of the greater area. Little evidence of Fremont affiliation was noted (cf. Butler 1982), and the site does not appear to have been a major fishing locality. Our conclusions, however, are based upon excavations within the remaining intact portion of the site disturbed by previous excavations and vandalism.

S. Henrikson, Idaho State University

UPDATE ON THE BOBCAT CAVE ASSEMBLAGE

This presentation represents an update on the cur-

rent research being conducted with the unique elk antler artifacts recovered from Bobcat Cave in 1987. The focus of the research is not only to reproduce the antler tines using possible prehistoric methods but also to replicate the unusual usewear exhibited on the proximal ends of the tines. Experiments were conducted in an effort to test the hypothesis that the antler tines were used as "icepicks" in processing the ice deposits within the cave. The results were highly encouraging in that the experimental antler tines showed identical usewear to those in the assemblage from Bobcat Cave.

James Huntley and William Norquist, Idaho Archaeological Society

**THE CHIPMUNK-BIG HORN SHEEP SITE
(10-OE-858)**

The Chipmunk-Big Horn Sheep site is located in Shears Basin near Squaw Creek in Owyhee County, Idaho. The site is an open area exposed by a cutbank. The remains of two mountain sheep were recovered. The associated artifactual remains suggest use of the site sometime during the last 1,000 years as a butchering area.

Larry Kingsbury, Payette National Forest

**WICKIUP SITES IN
SOUTHWESTERN MONTANA**

Conical timbered lodges or wickiups are a common archeological phenomenon throughout the Northern Rocky Mountains. Most conical lodges appear to date to the protohistoric or historic periods, based on their natural state of preservation and associated artifacts. A few wickiups in southwestern Montana have been associated with the Northern "Lemhi" Shoshone. Cultural inferences will be suggested. Within nine sites, twelve conical timbered lodges will be presented in the slide show.

Daniel S. Meatte, Idaho State University, Gene L. Titmus, and James C. Woods, College of Southern Idaho

**INITIAL INVESTIGATIONS AT
KELVIN'S CAVE, 10-LN-93**

Archaeological test excavations at Kelvin's Cave on the Snake River Plain reveal a depositional sequence from the Pleistocene to the historical present. Faunal materials from this site include several extinct Pleistocene mammals and a large assortment of climate-sensitive microfauna. Cultural materials include a Late Prehistoric component, an Early Archaic component, and nondiagnostic lithic materials associated with extinct megafauna. The depositional history of this locale suggests a close affinity to the nearby Wilson Butte Cave and Wasden (Owl Cave) sites, offering the potential for refinement of the current model of Late Pleistocene climate and cultural activity on the Snake River Plain.

Max G. Pavesic, Boise State University, and Terry Zontek, Bureau of Reclamation

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EVIDENCE OF SHOSHONEAN STURGEON EXPLOITATION IN WESTERN IDAHO: PRELIMINARY FINDINGS

Archaeological study emphasizing the reconstruction and use of anadromous fish by prehistoric peoples has become a prime research objective throughout the Pacific Northwest. Within the geographic area of Western Idaho, research has focused on the time-depth, procurement technology and resource value of Chinook and sockeye salmon and steelhead trout. This study identifies the prehistoric exploitation of sturgeon (*Acipenser*), a previously unreported anadromous species in the archaeological record of Western Idaho. Recently discovered sturgeon remains from the Three Island site near Glens Ferry and previously recovered procurement implements from Schellbach Cave No. 1 are discussed. An overview will include the presentation of sturgeon distribution and habitat, the archaeological recognition of the species, an historic records search, and the aboriginal use of sturgeon in Idaho and the western states.

Brenda L. Ringe, Idaho State University

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS AT DAGGER FALLS

The Dagger Falls site is situated on two major terraces on the south side of the Middle Fork of the Salmon River overlooking an impressive series of low waterfalls. Near the edge of the river, granitic bedrock is exposed along a geologic fault zone, and the northern portion of the site is bounded by steep talus slopes. Archaeological excavation of the site by the 1988 Idaho State University Archaeological Field School revealed five stratigraphically distinct prehistoric occupation levels which overlie a culturally sterile layer of river-rounded boulders, gravels, and sands typical of high energy water flow. The artifact assemblage recovered from the site is notable for the presence of over 1,150 typeable projectile points which range sequentially from approximately 3,300-150 B.P. and indicate a strong cultural affiliation with assemblages from the Eastern Snake River Plain. Large bifacial knives, scrapers, drills, graters, and utilized flakes were also found in all occupation levels, but the extremely acidic soils on the site have destroyed all uncharred faunal remains. Evidence suggests that prior to approximately 3,300 B.P. the main channel of the Middle Fork flowed directly across what is now the high and dry terrace above Dagger Falls. At some time after 3,300 B.P. a geologic event, possibly a small earthquake, caused the local fault to slip. Following the path of least resistance, the river then migrated to the north and into its present channel, thereby creating waterfalls in the narrow gorge and leaving a high, wide terrace along its previous channel. Once created, this terrace became immediately attractive to prehistoric people who may have taken advantage of the salmon which must dangerously expose

themselves as they fight their way upriver through the falls.

Lawr V. Salo, Corps of Engineers

ALBENI FALLS DAM AND PEND OREILLE LAKE CULTURAL RESOURCES: A SYSTEMATIC APPROACH TO MANAGEMENT

The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Seattle District, has carried out a comprehensive inventory of cultural resources along the shores of Pend Oreille Lake and the Albeni Falls Dam reservoir. Over 350 sites have been identified within project impact areas; sites include historic transportation-related sites, prehistoric villages, rock art, fur trade era sites, and a large series of early prehistoric assemblages. Seattle District proposes a long-term management program to preserve scientific and humanistic values of these cultural resources. Selection of prehistoric habitation sites for further investigation is based on a systematic evaluation of their condition, potential age, and geographic location.

Roderick Sprague, University of Idaho

SILVER CITY 1988

The Alfred W. Bowers Laboratory of Anthropology, University of Idaho, held a three week field school excavating at Silver City in August 1988. The project was not only to further our knowledge of nineteenth century mining culture but also to help familiarize school teachers with archaeological method and theory. Work was concentrated at the Lincoln Mill site, a bachelor's living area, an early hotel trash dump, and an unidentified use area in the Chinese section of town. Of particular interest was the vast number of whole bottles which runs counter to the claim of the local house owners that the bottle collectors have destroyed all of the archaeological value of the area.

Kenneth J. Swanson, Idaho State Historical Society

CAMP THREE FORKS OWYHEE

The Idaho State Historical Society undertook a preliminary archaeological investigation of the site of the U.S. Army's Camp Three Forks Owyhee. The post was erected in the fall of 1866 in response to the use of the upper Owyhee River drainage as a sanctuary during the Snake War. The war was over by 1868 but the post was manned until the summer of 1871. The site was then used as a ranch until about 1920.

The immediate post-Civil War period was one of extreme change for the U.S. Army. Conflicts with the native populations were increasing throughout the western United States, yet Congress continually cut back funding for the maintenance of an effective military presence. Civil War supplies and equipment were being used up and new types of equipment were being introduced.

The site has been increasingly vandalized by artifact hunters during the last decade. The Historical Society

tested the site to see what potential it held for future research and to help formulate preservation plans for the site. The testing was accomplished in July, 1988, and less than five percent of the site was disturbed. The site appears to be rich in artifacts dating to the military period of occupation, and the analysis of the recovered artifacts is now taking place.

Jay Trowbridge, Idaho State University

***TEST EXCAVATIONS ALONG THE
MIDDLE FORK OF THE SALMON RIVER
TEN YEARS AFTER KNUDSON***

In August, 1988, test excavations were conducted by volunteers from Idaho State University at seven sites along the Middle Fork of the Salmon River. The artifact assemblages, consisting of projectile points, tools, and ceramics, indicate that the sites were occupied during the Late Prehistoric Period. The sites showed indications of heavy visitor use which contributes to the loss of site integrity. Of most interest was the fact that the pit depressions did not exhibit indications of living floors or central hearths. This raises questions as to either excavation techniques or cultural function.

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