

ALASKA ANTHROPOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

NEWSLETTER

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ASSOCIATION NEWS

NEW NEWSLETTER EDITOR APPOINTED

No, no one has been tampering with your mail. Due to a burst of creative inertia by the present editor, this is the first newsletter to appear since Vol. 3 No. 1 back in December of 1977. Apologies are in order. We will attempt to do some catching up in this issue, which is being sent to members paid up for 1978-79 as well as those paid for 1979-80. Robert Shaw, archaeologist for the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Anchorage, has agreed to take over the editorship, starting with the next issue which is guaranteed to appear in a more timely fashion. With the help of the membership, Bob should be able to turn the Newsletter into the viable and useful means of communication it was intended to be. Those having news (research reports, personnel changes or additions, etc) are urged to contact him at the following address:

Robert Shaw  
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NEWS OF THE UPCOMING 7TH ANNUAL MEETING

The Seventh (!) Annual Meeting of the Alaska Anthropological Association will take place at the Anchorage Westward Hotel in Anchorage on Friday, March 21 and Saturday, March 22, 1980. If half the people from Canada and the Lower 48 attend who have indicated their desire to do so, it should be a lively one, so reserve the dates and plan to attend. Although etiquette and common sense preclude revealing the name of the Distinguished Guest Speaker before he/she has accepted the invitation, I predict that we have a special treat in store for us. See you there!

ASSOCIATION OFFICERS FOR 1979-80 (THIS YEAR)

In recently completed elections Karen Workman was elected President. Douglas Reger and Douglas Veltre each won three year terms on the Board. Anne Shinkwin won the one year term. Continuing members are William Workman and Linda Ellanna. The proposed constitutional amendment permitting the president to serve one non-succeeding two year term was overwhelmingly approved and takes effect with this election.

ADVANCE WARNING OF 1980-81 ELECTIONS

Elections will be held prior to the March 1980 Annual Meeting to fill three seats on the Board of Directors. At stake are two two-year seats (currently held by Ellanna and Workman) and a one year seat (currently held by Shinkwin). A formal solicitation for nominations for the vacant seats will occur in the fall of this year. Nominations for this association have historically been rather meager in quantity, so do some thinking now about whom you would like to see on the Board. Douglas Reger will supervise the elections, with nominations and ballots to be sent to Douglas Veltre. As in past elections, two nominees will be selected for each vacant position on the basis of number of nominations received.



DUES DUE - PAY YOUR DUES - DUES DUE

For reasons explained above, this issue of the Newsletter is being mailed to 1978-79 members as well as current (1979-80) members. We append a list of the 79 individuals whom our records indicate have paid their 1979-80 dues. Take a moment to inspect the list and make sure your name is there. If it isn't, remedy the situation by sending a check for \$10 (regular and Institutional) or \$3 (Student) to Douglas Veltre, Anchorage Community College, 2533 Providence Avenue, Anchorage, Alaska. We must drop individuals who do not pay from our mailing list. If you are sure you have paid your dues for the current year but our records, as reflected in the list, do not indicate this, contact Doug Veltre.

Individuals Paid Up for the 1979-80 Membership Year (N=79)

Ager	Hanson	H. Okada
Andrews	Holland	Oswalt
Arndt	Holmes	
Arundale	Hopkins	Pelkey
	Hulbert	F. Powers
Bacon	Hunston	
Beck		Rabish
Berger	Johnson	Reger
Bernet	Jones	Rhoads
Bielawski	Judson	
Black		Shaw
Boraas	Kelly	Sherrod
Brack	Ketz	Shields
	Klingler	Shinkwin
G. Clark		
	Langdon	Tarn
Dagon	Lange	R. Taylor
Dale	Larsen	Thompson
Dale	Ledbetter	C. Turner
C. Davis	Leistikow (NO ADDRESS!!)	
J. Dixon	Lobdell	Utermohle
Dilliplane	Lucier	
		VanStone
Eidel	McClellan	D. Veltre
L. Ellanna	McKay	M. Veltre
	Maciarello	
Fetter	Marquez	Wise
	Millheisler	K. Workman
J. Gal	Mishler	W. Workman
R. Gal	Moss	Worl
Gibson		
Goodfellow	Nowak	Yesner

SUMMARY OF THE 1978 BUSINESS MEETING

As a courtesy to absent members we present a brief summary of the 1978 Association business meeting in Anchorage. Since this information is not exactly fresh news, we confine ourselves to a summary of actions taken.

The Archaeological Advocacy Committee was appointed and Harvey Shields was elected chairman. Other members were John Lobdell, Douglas Reger, Douglas Veltre and Karen Workman. Since the appointments were late, the Committee was asked to continue unchanged into 1979-80. Chairman Shields reported that the Advocacy Committee sees its role as that of a resource advocacy supporting various appropriate legislation and not as an ethics committee. The membership supported the raise in dues to \$10 for regular and institutional members with the student rate remaining at \$3. The Board recommended a constitutional amendment that would increase the term of the President from one to two years. The President would be prohibited from succeeding himself. (This amendment was ratified overwhelmingly by the membership in the 1979-80 elections and takes effect.) Members present supported a recommendation by the Board that resolutions to be presented at the business meeting have to be submitted to the Board by 5:00 P.M. on the evening before the business meeting at the latest. The Board will then consider the resolutions in hand and report all resolutions to the membership with a Board



recommendation which the members are free to affirm or override. On a motion by Rosita Worl the President was instructed to convey a resolution from the Association supporting Article 7 of the D-2 legislation to Senator Stevens, who had opposed it. Steve Langdon proposed the establishment of an ad hoc committee to lay out procedures that members of the Alaska Anthropological Association feel uphold ethical standards for everyone doing social science research in the state. The deserving proposer of this action was appointed to chair the committee. The membership approved a motion by Rosita Worl to establish a section restricted to undergraduate student papers. The best paper would receive a prize commensurate with the modest financial standing of the Association.

#### SUMMARY OF THE 1979 BUSINESS MEETING

The minutes of the 1978 meeting were amended and approved. President Milan read the response he had received from Senator Stevens to the letter he was instructed to write by Rosita Worl's motion in 1978 (see above). He also read the reply received to a letter he and the Archaeological Advocacy Committee had written to the Alaska State Legislature protesting a proposed reduction in legislative support for the Historic Resource Management program. Treasurer Workman reported that the Association has \$1,084.38 in funds exclusive of uncovered expenses of the 1979 Annual Meeting. This vast improvement in financial outlook is due to the presence of c. 245 paid up members, the dues increase, the success of the 1978 conference, and the efforts of Linda Ellanna in rounding up a National Endowment for the Humanities Grant that covered some of the cost of that conference. Newsletter Editor Workman apologized for nonfeasance in getting out a record 0 copies of the Newsletter in the last year. A new editor will be appointed.

Linda Ellanna read the minutes of the annual meeting of the Board of Directors held the night before. It was noted that those who desire to have copies of papers they present at the conference filed in the archives will have to provide two copies, one for the UA Library in Anchorage and one for the Library in Fairbanks. The desirability of having an Alaska Anthropological Association Conference every year was reaffirmed by the Board, but it was noted that non-faculty members will have to help to bring this about. Douglas Reger and Douglas Veltre were put in charge of administering the somewhat belated 1979-80 elections.

Jean Aigner, conference chairman, reported that 105 people had pre-registered for the Fairbanks Meeting. She estimated that about 40 others (hopefully) registered at the event. Since \$1,700 was budgeted to be recovered from registration fees, about 150 registrants were needed to break even. It appears that the 1979 conference will essentially break even. The Vice Chancellor of the University of Alaska, Fairbanks was thanked for contributing a vital \$700 towards the expenses of the meeting.

Harvey Shields, Chairman of the Archaeological Advocacy Committee, reported on the letter protesting funding cuts in the maintenance level budget for the State Historic Preservation Office. This letter was sent to members of the State House and Senate Finance Committees. The budget items in question were reinstated prior to receipt of the Committee's letter. The second action taken by the Committee was to recommend to appropriate legislators a no pass action be taken on a proposed amendment to the State Historic Preservation Act. This amendment would have exempted fragments of fossil ivory which "can be removed without excavation" and "which are not located on state monuments or historic sites" from the protection afforded by the act. This exemption was viewed as unworkable and probably detrimental to the resource base by the Committee, and a telegram to this effect was sent to the Committee on Community and Regional Affairs. The bill was subsequently tabled and died.

No action was taken in 1978-79 on or by the Ethics Committee established at the 1978 meeting. Gene West of the University Museum, Fairbanks, reported that a new six million dollar facility will likely be finished ahead of schedule by late summer. E. James Dixon, Curator of Archaeology, credits persistent Association support in the early political stage of discussion of this project with being instrumental to the ultimate freeing up of funds. President Milan requested and received permission to suspend the Association bylaws for this year only so that a belated election of officers could take place.



John Lobdell, seconded by Richard Stern, moved that the 7th Annual Meeting of the Association be held in Anchorage in March, 1980 (see announcement above). Harvey Shields and Micheal Yarborough, assisted by Douglas Reger, have agreed to organize the meeting.

#### BOARD MEETING ACTIONS - JULY 1979

Taking advantage of the presence of Fairbanks Board Member Anne Shinkwin in Anchorage, four members of the Board met on July 27. It was decided at this meeting to leave the Association account in the National Bank of Commerce in Anchorage. Anne Shinkwin will open an account for Association funds at a suitable bank in Fairbanks. Robert Shaw has agreed to become editor of the Newsletter (see above). Rosita Worl will be asked to head a committee to organize the student paper competition she suggested two years ago (see above - Rosita has since accepted this plum). Glenn Bacon was appointed to the Archaeological Advocacy Committee to replace Karen Workman. During the fall 1979 absence of the Workmans to Japan, Douglas Veltre will serve as Acting President.

#### ADDITIONAL ACTION BY THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL ADVOCACY COMMITTEE

In July the Archaeological Advocacy Committee (Harvey Shields, Chairman), with the approval of the Board of Directors of the Association, wrote a letter to the Bureau of Land Management opposing use of all-terrain vehicles in the Tangle Lake Archaeological District. Off road vehicles appear to be incompatible with the fragile terrain and the rich but fragile archaeological record which give this area its unique character.

#### IN MEMORIAM

We note with sorrow the death of Charles Borden, dean of British Columbian archaeologists, on Christmas Day 1978. Although Borden was not active personally in Alaskan work, he was a member of the Association and supportive of and interested in northern work. He will be missed.

#### CURRENT RESEARCH

##### GENERAL

The outgoing editor has recently been appointed Associate Editor for the Far North for American Antiquity. It was thus necessary to systematically solicit information on archaeological fieldwork in the summer of 1978. If the response represents work done, this was quite a year indeed in the boreal forest and a silent one in the Aleutian Islands and along much of the Alaskan Coast. Reports of ethnological work and work in physical anthropology are, as has been the case through my tenure, minimal to nonexistent. If any archaeologists active in Alaska were overlooked in my 1978 mailing, please write me so that I can put you on the mailing list. Those active in other anthropological fronts are URGED to provide Robert Shaw, the new editor, with an account of your activities.

Christy G. Turner II (Arizona State) studied large series of Eskimo, Aleut, and American Indian dentitions in museums in 1977 and 1978. All New World series examined are much closer to Chinese, Japanese and Mongols than they are to Indonesians, Europeans or Pacific Islanders. Aleut Eskimo dentitions continue to show previously defined crown and root differences from all American Indians with the interesting exception of those of the Northwest Coast.

Charles Hines (UA-Anchorage), and seven student investigators under the supervision of Kerry Feldman (UA-Anchorage) have recently completed a study of the needs of elderly natives in Anchorage funded by a grant from the NSF student originated studies program. Eighty-five elderly urban natives were extensively interviewed. A relatively high level of life satisfaction was encountered despite problems attendant on very low incomes and difficulties in communication on all levels. A strong desire to retain traditional cultural ties and access to traditional native foods was encountered. A number of specific policy recommendations, including the need for better data on the survey population, were made.



#### SOUTHEASTERN ALASKA

The year 1978 witnessed exciting developments in southeastern Alaska. The USDA-Forest service became involved in a major mitigation project at Hidden Falls, Kasnyku Bay, 20 miles northeast of Sitka on Baranof Island. Stan Davis (Chatham Area Archaeologist, Sitka) supervised a crew of eleven working between May and October. A long sequence of cultures was revealed. The lowermost zone sampled has yielded a flaked stone inventory featuring microcores and a few microblades. Wood from a bog deposit of equivalent age has yielded dates of 9860±75 years: 7910 B.C. (SI-3776); 7175±155 years: 5225 B.C. (SI-3777) and 9410±70 years: 7460 B.C. (SI-3778). This occupation is overlain by what is interpreted as an ablation till, the upper portion of which (Zone G) contains a few flakes and microblades. Above this Zone F yielded a small sample of bone artifacts, finely polished slate implements, and quartz waste flakes. Sequent upon the lowest polished slate-bearing zone is Zone D which yielded a small but wider range of bone tools, polished slate, jade and pecked stone. Quartz debitage (but no finished artifacts) are again present. The final non-Western occupation is represented by hearth areas without associated artifacts under the forest litter. Preliminary analysis of the ground slate projectiles indicate primary ties with the Locarno Beach phase of southern British Columbia, and secondary ties with the western Gulf. Excavation at this most important site continues this year.

Gerald Clark (Regional Archaeologist, Juneau) supervised limited testing at Coffman Cove (49 PET 067) in the Tongass National Forest near Ketchikan, recovering a small sample of bone and polished slate artifacts. Significant portions of this site were destroyed by logging activities in the early 1950s and it was brought to Forest Service attention when a historic burial was encountered there. Three radiocarbon dates are available from testing in the undisturbed portion, with a date of 1430±70 years: A.D. 520 (SI-3787) from near the top and 3235±85 years: 1285 B.C. (SI-3788) and 3635±70 years: 1685 (SI-3789) from the base. The 1285 B.C. determination dates a stemless polished slate projectile point which is formally identical to many illustrated Locarno Beach phase specimens.

Katherine Arndt (Stikine Area Archaeologist, Petersburg) completed the initial phases of the cultural resource inventory of the central portion of Kuiu Island. Survey concentrated along the coast added several potentially important historic or late prehistoric sites to the inventory. Similar investigations were conducted on northern Chichagof Island under the supervision of Stan Davis (Chatham Area Archaeologist, Sitka). Joyce Rabish (Ketchikan Area Archaeologist) is completing final cultural resource inventories for a long-term timber sale near Ketchikan.

Dr. B. O. K. Reeves (Calgary) and two assistants (Lifeways of Canada Limited) made a study of the Shakwak Highway Improvement Project which includes the Haines Highway and portions of the Alaska Highway. Native residents assisted in identification and location of resources ranging from prehistoric sites to recent ground squirrel collecting localities. Part of the field studies were directed towards location and identification of materials associated with the Dalton Trail, a native trail which later became a major gold rush route of access to the interior.

Under the field investigation and certification phase of the Park Service ANCSA 14(h)(1) program Russ Sacket and Kathryn Koutsy investigated six sites near Haines and Juneau. Dok Point and Smokehouse Village are seasonal villages long used for rendering eulachon. The Lutak Inlet pictograph site and the Chilkat River Indian Doctor's Burial site are said to be unique shaman's burials. Auke Bay Village was a major winter village of the Auke Tlingit before the founding of Juneau.

#### GULF OF ALASKA

James Ketz (National Park Service, Fairbanks) and a crew of three surveyed on Hinchinbrook Island in Prince William Sound as part of the ANCSA 14(h)(1) field verification and certification program. Twenty-two sites are located within Port Etches; six of them are prehistoric. The most significant historic site is Nuchek, a Russian and later American fur-trading post established in 1793. Nine smokehouse locations and two Russian gardening



areas were located there, attesting to the role this community played in subsistence in Port Etches until it was abandoned in the 1920s. Other sites include a small brick works, a unique petroglyph and a legendary site associated with native copper. Survey was also undertaken at Alaganik Village and Rosenberg Trading Post in the Copper River Delta.

The Cultural Resource Management program on the Chugach National Forest (John Mattson) has been underway since October 1977, producing an additional 133 archaeological or historic sites, primarily through literature survey. Excavations were restricted to documenting the presence of human remains at the mouth of the Russian River and tests of a midden site at Cannery Creek, Prince William Sound which had been impacted by an aquaculture project.

John Lobdell (Anchorage Community College) and William Workman (UAA) directed a student crew in a seven week excavation of the Yukon Island Fox Farm Bluff site (SEL 041 Bluff). Large pits, hearths, an arcuate alignment of small stick emplacements and a small rectangular house with a stone slab box on its floor were encountered. Most of the 375 classifiable artifacts came from a dark soil dated at  $1090 \pm 195$  years: 860 A.D. (UGa-2339);  $1130 \pm 120$  years: 820 A.D. (UGa-2340); and  $1315 \pm 205$  years: 625 A.D., (UGa-2341). The collection is interpreted as a loose assemblage representing several hundred years of sporadic occupation of the site, although the house and a few associated artifacts may prove to be slightly older. The collection includes a significant percentage of flaked stone artifacts, a smaller number of ground slate and bone tools, two native copper artifacts (possibly postdating the main occupation) and about 75 potsherds. The pottery is fairly thick, gravel-tempered, and often decorated with curvilinear surface designs. Rims are simple and vessel forms were primarily globular. Although some continuity with the antecedent Kachemak tradition can be seen in the organic and slate artifacts the most striking similarities are noted with Norton-influenced First Millennium A.D. collections from the Pacific shores of the Alaska Peninsula. Apparently by 500 A.D. the 1500 year tenure of Kachemak tradition peoples in Kachemak Bay had weakened to the point where strong alien influences if not alien people could intrude there. The Bluff site material is clearly more closely related to the Alaska Peninsula than to Kodiak Island, where the closest affinities of the Kachemak Tradition lie. The subsistence practices of the Bluff site people did not differ significantly from that of the Kachemak tradition peoples, with seal and harbor porpoise being the main game animals. A spring to early summer occupation of the site is suggested on faunal grounds.

Three new radiocarbon dates have been obtained for the rich Chugachik Island site in Kachemak Bay (SEL 033). A bottom date was  $2740 \pm 75$  years: 790 B.C. (UGa-2343). A second date well beneath the surface of the midden was  $1940 \pm 90$  years: 10 A.D. (UGa-2342). A date near the top of the midden was  $1475 \pm 70$  radiocarbon years: 475 A.D. In conjunction with two earlier dates these new dates suggest that this important Kachemak II - Kachemak Sub-III site was occupied for much of the First Millennium B.C. and the first part of the First Millennium A.D. The oldest and youngest dates are not strongly supported in the collection typology however.

Frederica de Laguna (Bryn Mawr, emeritus) and Karen Workman tested a house-pit in the oldest portion of the main Yukon Island Fox Farm site (SEL 041), recovering material referable to Kachemak II and Kachemak I. The suggestion of a probable extensive Kachemak I occupation here was confirmed by further excavations by Karen and William Workman in 1979.

R. Greg Dixon (Alaska Division of Parks) reports on further excavations at the Moose River site, located at the confluence of the Moose and Kenai Rivers on the Kenai Peninsula. Work at House 1 has yielded artifacts suggestive of a late Kachemak III cultural placement. Two poorly preserved human skulls associated with the house have been identified by John Lobdell (Anchorage Community College) as young adults of Eskimoid stock. Two radiocarbon dates for the site,  $1515 \pm 125$  years: 435 A.D. (GX-5039) and  $1495 \pm 70$  years: 455 A.D. (WSU-1888) also fall within the Kachemak III range. House I is vaguely defined 10 x 13 meter depression with a unique gravel filled and stone and birch bark lined central hearth. Another apparently related site was discovered and tested on the south bank of the Kenai River directly opposite Moose Creek. More than 39 depressions were noted and notched pebbles, flaked chert and ground slate artifacts were eroding from the river bank. Testing revealed stratified deposits to a depth of 70 centimeters.



Douglas Reger (Alaska Division of Parks) conducted a survey of portions of the Willow-Wasilla area. The most significant find was the Deshka River No. 1 site (TYO 036) which extends eight-tenths of a kilometer along the bluff on the west bank of the river. Five housepits and over 150 cache pits were noted at this large settlement. The cache pits are frequently clustered, with one multicelled cache (ten paired cells) being of a type previously reported only for the late prehistoric Ahnna of the Copper River. Four other cache pit sites were located as well.

E. James Dixon and David Plaskett (University of Alaska Museum) and Robert Thorson (University of Washington) relocated and reexamined a site in Chinitna Bay where Hibben long ago reported an extensive site yielding fragments of a Yuma point and faunal remains, including mammoth. No prehistoric remains were found during the 1978 work and geological studies indicate the areal topography, including the humus reported to contain the cultural remains, are extremely recent. Radiocarbon dates of 375±120 years: 1575 A.D. (Gx-5655) and 300±130 years: 1650 A.D. (Gx-5656) from below the reported cultural stratum support this interpretation. Previous identification of mammoth bones from the site is questionable in view of the marine origin and recent age of the key strata.

Michael Nowak (Fish and Wildlife Service/Colorado College) and a crew of four continued survey of the Kodiak National Wildlife Refuge, inspecting all of Uganik Bay and the headlands between Uganik and Spiridon Bays. Further excavations were also undertaken at KOD 224, and Ocean Bay I site on Uganik Island. The site contains evidence for a diffuse Koniag phase occupation and a well-defined Kachemak tradition stratum extending down to 1.8 m. below ground surface and overlying an Ocean Bay I occupation. The Ocean Bay stratum was replete with red ocher, and four faceted grinding stones found in a 5 cm thick ocher deposit.

#### SOUTHWESTERN ALASKA

Robert Ackerman and a crew of two (Washington State) surveyed the Goodnews Lake and Goodnews River area, Kagati Lake, and the upper drainages of the Kanektok and Eek Rivers, Eek Lake and the foothills near the Eek and Kwethluk Rivers, locating 168 sites, including one stratified site near Kagati Lake. Several traditions appear to be represented in the surface remains. These include:

1. A microcore and blade industry with associated large bifaces and lanceolate to ovate projectile points. The microcores are variable but appear to resemble those from the Gallagher Flint station more than the Campus or Denali type. This complex is localized in a vast workshop near Kagati Lake.
2. Side notched points with scrapers and associated trimming flakes. These points were found at Goodnews and Kagati Lake on the same surface as early Norton or Choris points.
3. Denbigh Flint complex material (small bifacial endblades, an edge-ground end blade made on an obsidian blade) were found on a kame east of Eek Lake along with chipping debris of Complex 1 or 2.
4. An early Norton or Choris to Norton transition complex with lanceolate points with flaring concave bases and typical Norton bipoins found at Goodnews Lake and River and Kagati Lake.
5. Broad bladed side notched points with very short haft areas (knives?), semilunar knives or preforms, a lanceolate point and scrapers were found in a stratified site on a pond east of Kagati Lake which was part of a caribou pound. The investigators feel that this complex is perhaps late.
6. Highly weathered flakes and a lanceolate point of indeterminate age with basal grinding were found on an unglaciated surface on low hills overlooking the Kuskokwim River valley plain.



This work extends the range of side notched points from the coast (Security Cove) to the interior. The microcore and blade industry was found at Slate Creek in the Goodnews Valley and at numerous locations at Kagati Lake indicating a wide interior distribution for this industry. Microcores have yet to be found on the coast in this area. The cores are made on flakes commonly two or more, platforms. Core tablets and multiple flaking were used for platform preparation. Some are like Tuktu cores, but the author believes this is merely an expression of the range of variation. Resemblances are seen with the Sumnagin complex in Siberia.

#### NORTHWEST ALASKA

Russ Sackett and Kathryn Koutsky (National Park Service, Fairbanks) investigated 12 sites near Shaktoolik as part of the ANCSA 14(h)(1) field verification and certification program. Eight sites (shelters and corrals) were associated with reindeer herding in eastern Norton Sound dating from c. 1910 to the early 1940s. Three sites are natural landmarks used for orientation when traveling in the area and one site represents the early prospecting enterprises that had great impact on native culture during the early 20th century.

Dick Ping Hsu assisted by Craig Davis, Dana Linck, Kenneth Schoenberg and Harvey Shields concluded the second season of survey within the National Petroleum Reserve, an area about the size of the State of Indiana. The only area not surveyed on a judgemental basis over the two years was the Arctic Ocean littoral, where previous work had been done. A total of 728 sites ranging from villages to isolated finds were located. Lithic scatters were most common. The southern foothills exhibited the highest site density and the Arctic Coastal Plain exhibited the lowest site density. Most sites were found on ridges, terraces, knolls and along major creeks and rivers. Surprisingly, a relatively low site density was observed in Howard Pass, although the narrower Inyorurak Pass to the east yielded the highest site density within the mountain survey area.

One fluted point was found near the headwaters of the Colville River in a site with a strong Denbigh Flint complex character and two more fluted points came from uncertain context along the eroding shoreline of Teshekpuk Lake. Elements of the American Paleoarctic tradition were fairly common in the foothills province but rare in the Brooks Range and on the Coastal Plain. Northern Archaic tradition material, including side-notched points, were found well north of the Brooks Range along the hills and ridges bordering the Colville River. Denbigh, Choris, Norton and Ipiutak artifacts were abundant throughout the reserve as were later prehistoric and historic Eskimo sites. Many of the sites discovered merit further investigation.

Patricia Anderson (Brown) collected pollen cores from coastal and foothill lakes. Preliminary studies indicate significant changes in vegetation up to the arctic coastline during the Hypsithermal interval. Thomas Lyons used color infrared aerial photographs to correlate geomorphological features with vegetation cover and recorded archaeological features.

Richard Stern (Alaska Division of Forest, Land and Water Management) conducted a culture resources survey of the Ikipuk and upper Chipp Rivers of the Arctic Slope. A total of 17 sites were located. Three are currently being seasonally utilized by North Slope residents, 8 contain exclusively paleontological material, four date from the historic petroleum exploration near Umiat and the remaining two have both an historic and a prehistoric component. One (TES-002) contains an historic fish camp and evidence for prehistoric fishing activity. The other (IKR-058) is a possible human burial under a recently unturned whale cranium on a 25m bluff overlooking the Ikipuk River 130 km from the Arctic Ocean. The paleontological sites contain mammoth remains, all apparently in secondary deposits.

Edwin Hall (USGS/SUNY-Brockport) and Robert Gal, Peter Bowers, and Micael Kunz (BLM Fairbanks) continued a joint survey in the National Petroleum Reserve. More than seventy sites have been found over the past two summers in or near 17 proposed well sites. Impacts were mitigated in most cases by avoidance. Six sites were excavated. Two small Norton-Ipiutak sites, one of which yielded fragments of an historic sled and a human mandible in addition to sparse prehistoric remains, were excavated in 1977.



Efforts focused on excavation at a material source near Tunalik Well site (AI-091). The site is located on an old beach remnant fifteen miles southeast of Icey Cape on the Arctic Coastal Plain. Ten discrete concentrations were collected from the surface or excavated from within the gravel pavement over a linear area of c. 100 meters. Some concentrations contained core and blade material and notched flake and lateral burins as well as a small tabular core biface and large blades reminiscent of the American Paleoarctic tradition. Other elements recovered are reminiscent of Kayuk, Northern Archaic tradition (apparently associated with microblades) and the Arctic Small Tool tradition. Even if the Northern Archaic tradition elements are intrusive, their presence on the Arctic Coastal Plain 6.5 km from the Arctic Ocean requires explanation.

Two other sites along this beach ridge were examined in 1978. One (WAI-093) yielded a core and blade technology and large bifaces, the other flaking debris. Three sites located on the bluffs on the east side of Iteriak Creek in the Otuk-Iteriak Valley 30 miles northeast of Howard Pass were partially excavated and a fourth was systematically mapped and surface collected. KIR-100 was an extensive primary reduction workshop that yielded large crude bifaces and a rotated flake core similar to Gallagher Flint Station cores. Remains were extensive enough that this site was precluded for use as a material source. KIR-096 was a large workshop with four major concentrations of cultural material. Artifacts recovered can be related typologically to the American Paleoarctic, Northern Archaic and Arctic Small Tool traditions. A single fluted point was found.

#### INTERIOR ALASKA

E. James Dixon, and David Plaskett (University of Alaska Museum) tested cave deposits along the Lower Ramparts region of the Porcupine River. More than fifty limestone caves large enough to provide human shelter were located. Four caves, all located on or above the modern floodplain, were selected for testing. Cave 1 yielded over 3,000 bones including *Equus*, *Bison* and *Ovis* from a 2 meter section. The upper stratigraphic unit (not associated with fossil fauna) yielded a biface fragment, two microblade fragments and waste flakes. No unequivocal evidence of human presence was associated with deposits of 4 - 5.5m. Bedrock was not reached in either test. Small, medium and a few large mammal bones were recovered. With the exception of two possible flakes from 1.75 m beneath ground surface in Cave 4 no unequivocal evidence of human occupation was obtained. The fourth cave proved upon testing to be a solution cavity unsuited for human occupation. Ten surface sites with nondescript lithic inventories were also located.

Peter Bowers (BLM/W.S.U) excavated in 1976 and 1977 at the deeply buried Carlo Creek site in the upper Nenana Valley. The lower of two cultural components contains lithics and butchered caribou, mountain sheep and ground squirrel remains. Charcoal from two hearth areas yielded dates of 8400±200 years: 6450 B.C. (WSU-1700); 8690±330 years: 6740 B.C. (GX-5132) and 10,040±440 years: 8090 B.C. The assemblage consists of a small sample of percussion-flaked elongate argillite bifaces, blade-like flakes, edge-modified flakes, more than 7000 waste flakes, and 2 possible bone tool fragments. Heat treating of lithics is suggested in one firepit and there is no certain evidence of a core and blade technology. A small upper occupation consisting of rhyolite debitage underlies a tephra horizon dated to slightly younger than 3780±80 years: 1830 B.C. (WSU-1747). No definite cultural affinities can be established for either occupation.

Glenn Bacon (Fairbanks) undertook limited survey in the upper Susitna River basin, discovering four prehistoric sites. Limited testing indicated that all are of Holocene age. The most recent site yielded a hearth and well preserved bone and charcoal which was dated to 3675±160 years: 1725 B.C. (GX-5630). The other three sites were associated with a buried soil which lies slightly above glacial till. One of these sites yielded a triangular chipped endblade with a slightly ground, concave base. It was the only diagnostic artifact found.

David Yesner (Southern Maine) reports on a detailed analysis of exceptionally well preserved faunal remains from a protohistoric Athapaskan caribou hunting camp on Paxson Lake. Although over 99% of the 6200 bones were



caribou, a few furbearers were found. Only 114 individuals were represented, indicating a high degree of bone fragmentation. Shaft splinter tools were prepared and probably considerable bone grease was rendered. Tooth eruption and herd migration pattern, indicate a late winter-early spring occupation and dental wear patterns also indicate an unexpected concentration on the hunting of older caribou.

#### NORTHERN INTERIOR CANADA

Jacques Cinq-Mars (Toronto/Northern Yukon Research Programme) tested Bluefish Cave No. 1 located on a high limestone/dolomite bluff above a tributary of the Porcupine River. Seven stratigraphic units were defined. Paleobotanical evidence indicates that the oldest predates the demise of the Arctic Steppe vegetation c. 1400 years ago. Middle units reflect the rise of the shrub tundra and probable drainage of Glacial Lake Old Crow. The upper deposits are probably of Holocene age. Bison, horse, caribou and canid bones were found in the lower levels, along with a variety of small mammal remains, birds, fish, insects and molluscs. Sparse artifacts demonstrate the presence of man. The majority (7 large artifacts and over 30 tiny microchips) come from the late Pleistocene deposits. One microchip was found in association with fossil bones in the basal level and possibly predates 14,000 B.P. Two microchips probably date around 14,000 B.P., and 3 flakes and 28 microchips come from levels thought to date about 13,000 B.P. A burin spall associated with a possible disturbed hearth is the youngest artifact and is thought to be about 10,000 years old. Burin, microblade and biface technologies appear to be present although artifacts are sparsely represented. Work at this important site continues.

#### PROPOSAL FOR SYMPOSIUM ON MARITIME ANTHROPOLOGY

Steve Langdon (UAA) is organizing a session on Alaskan Maritime Anthropology for the Seventh Annual Meeting to be held in Anchorage next spring. Anyone wanting to participate in the session is asked to send an abstract to him at the following address by January 1st:

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