

The MUSEUM of the FUR TRADE

QUARTERLY

®

Vol. 14, No. 1

ISSN 0027-4135

Spring 1978

Charles E. Hanson, Jr. Editor

Published by the Museum of the Fur Trade, Chadron, Nebraska, for its members. Membership dues are \$3.00 per year. Since space is limited, authors should write the editor before submitting manuscripts.

CONTENTS

COVER: Quaint woodcut of Mexican gentleman carrying a sword on his saddle. From **A New Universal Gazetteer**, New York 1832.

News and Views 1

✓ A Pre-Civil War Catlinite Pipe and Associated Material from Southeastern Wyoming, by Gene Galloway 2

The Espada Ancha, by Charles Hanson, Jr. 7

Book Reviews 12

NEWS AND VIEWS

Last year the Chadron community initiated a new and unique celebration, "Chadron Fur Trade Days," to commemorate its fur trade heritage. The event was a big success and this year's celebration on July 7, 8 and 9 will be even better. Another spectacular parade is in the making, local people are making colorful costumes depicting all phases of the fur trade and plans also include a buckskinners' rendezvous on Bordeaux Creek, buffalo barbecue, costume and beard contest, flea market, gun show, fireworks, demolition derby, country music entertainment and a host of other events. Details and accomodations lists are available from the Chadron Area Chamber of Commerce.

+ + + + + + +

The third North American Fur Trade Conference will be held in Winnipeg, Manitoba, May 4-6, 1978. Scope of the conference is very broad and the papers will appeal to participants interested in all phases of the fur trade. Final programs and information on registration, accomodations and activities can be obtained from: FUR TRADE CONFERENCE 1978, P.O. Box 835, Winnipeg, Manitoba R3C 2R1, Canada.

IN MEMORIAM

It is our sad duty to report the death of John R. Yack, Centre Hill, Pennsylvania, muzzle-loading shooter, outdoorsman and dedicated student of the fur trade era. Only thirty years old, John was killed in a hunting accident. A memorial fund in his honor has been established at the Museum of the Fur Trade.

A Pre-Civil War Calinite Pipe and Associated Trade Material from Southeastern Wyoming

By Gene Galloway

Several years ago, an associate was given a small assemblage of burial material from Albany County, Wyoming. These artifacts particularly interested me because of their apparent age, and they eventually came into my possession.

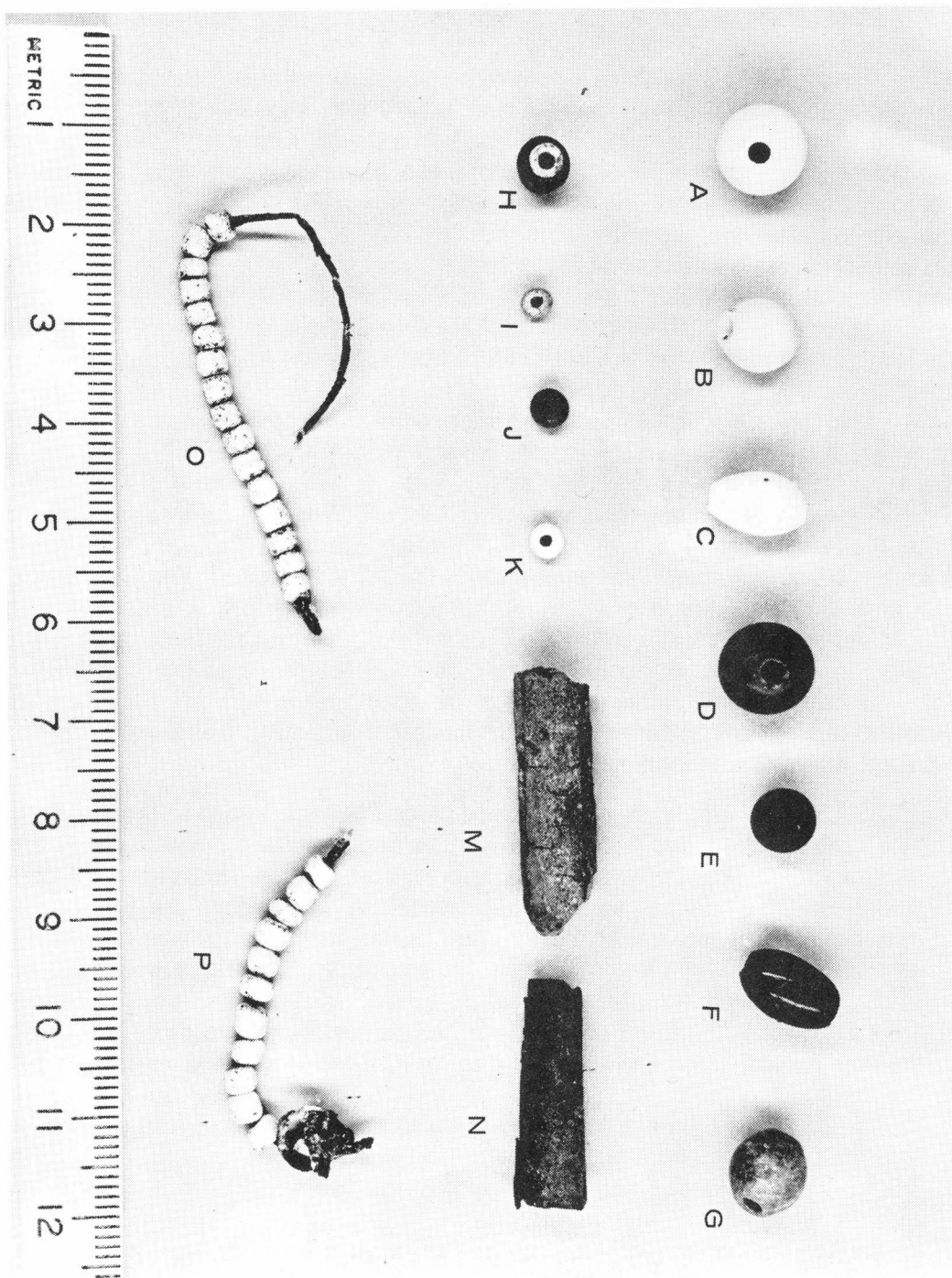
The burial in question was removed in 1962, by an artifact hunter, from a small cave about 17 miles north-northeast of the town of Laramie. He gave part of the recovered material to my friend. No photographs or notes were made at the excavation, and only sketchy reminiscences were noted. The burial apparently consisted of a fragmentary single skeleton located beneath some large rocks on the cave floor. The skull and many other bones were missing, the rest badly scattered by rodent activity. None were saved. Associated artifacts were grossly accounted for as follows:

- One elbow pipe, part of the stem preserved
- One tube pipe
- Half cupful of glass beads. Half the volume made up of "pony beads"
- Unspecified number of copper bracelets, flat, about one half inch wide.
- One artifact, probably a knife, made of Alibates flint
- Three or four scrapers
- One or more corner-notched projectile points

The writer made two short trips to the site about ten years later and worked a small amount of the loose back dirt through a fine-mesh screen. A few duplicate specimens of glass beads were recovered, along with three tiny fragments of cloth. These appear to represent (1) a red wool blanket, (2) blue wool stroud, and (3) white cotton. A small (1.8 x 1.1 cm) concave-based, side notched obsidian projectile point was also recovered by this means.

The other material available for examination is described as follows: One catlinite pipe, elbow type with slight "step" or projection in front of the bowl. Both bowl and stem portions taper from the outer ends to a smaller diameter at the point of juncture. The bottom is flat, allowing the pipe to stand upright. The pipe is boldly simple in form, fashioned by someone with a keen sense of line and balance. Both drillings are tapered, indicating the use of a stone drill. The stone is uniformly dull red with a small area on the left side of the "step" being a shade or two lighter. The surface was not polished, leaving a "matte" finish. The bowl is somewhat smoother from handling. There are numerous small scratch marks that probably occurred during use. One scratch mark at the top right front of the bowl has a fresher appearance and may have been made by the excavator. Dimensional data are:

Length of stem through the step	8.3 cm
Length of bowl to top of stem	3.4 cm
Length of bowl to top of step	3.8 cm
Diameter of bowl top	2.7 x 2.2 cm
Diameter of proximal end of stem	2.3 x 2.2 cm



Wyoming bead types as described in text. "M" is piece of arrow shaft. "N" is fragment of rolled bark.

End diameter of bowl boring	1.8 cm
End diameter of stem boring	1.4 cm
Width of bottom flat, rear	1.1 cm
Width of bottom flat, front	0.8 cm

The surviving portion of the round wooden pipe stem is in three sections and probably constitutes about one half of the original stem. It has not been examined by a botanist and the kind of wood is not determined. It is made from a straight natural limb. the smoke hole was fashioned by removal of the pith with a hot wire or by drilling in some way. The wood was not split, grooved, and glued. The total remaining length is 18.5 cm. One end is reduced in diameter to fit the stone pipe. This sharp-shouldered (90 degree) reduction is 0.9 cm long. Diameter shrinkage is estimated at 21 per cent, which would make the original around 1.8 cm. Condition of the wood is dessicated, eroded, and extremely fragile.

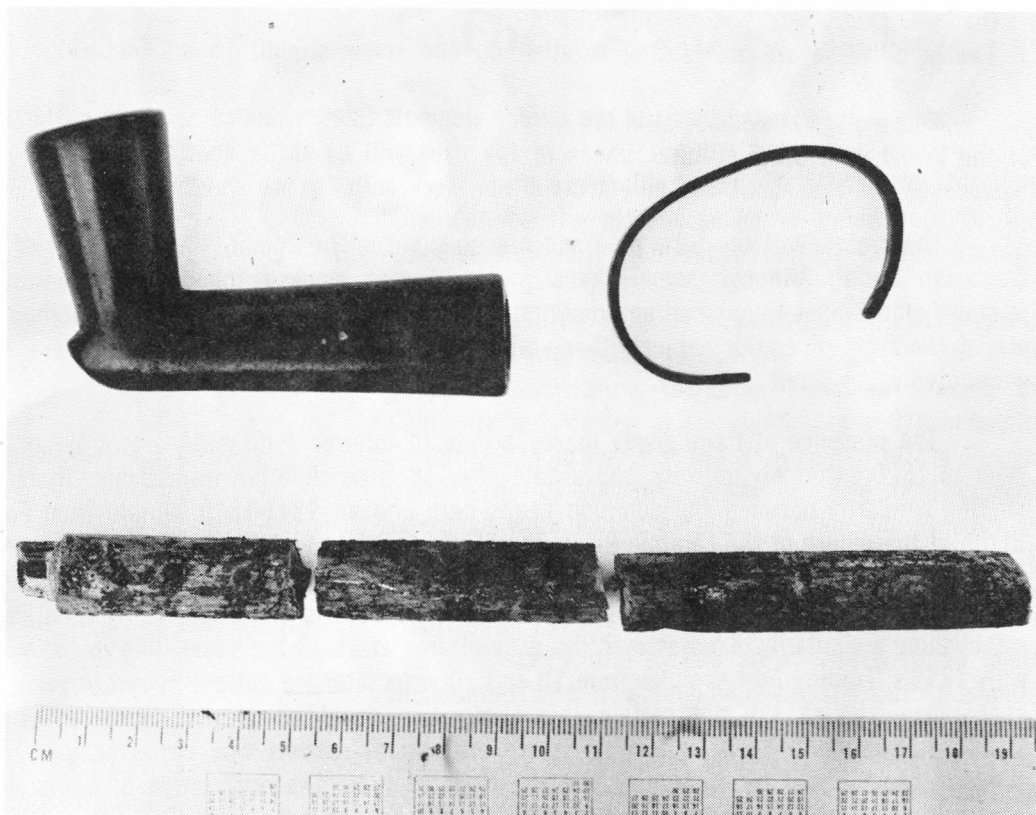
A grooved arrowshaft segment found in the loose dirt is in similar condition. It is 2.7 cm long, 0.7 cm in diameter. A small scroll of what appears to be rolled-up plum bark is about 2 cm long, 1.1 cm in diameter.

As in the case of the wood, charred or carbonized "tobacco" found in the pipe bowl has not been examined by a botanist. The specimen could be tobacco leaf or a kinnikinnik made up partly of an aromatic inner bark, possibly of willow or red osier.

The single bracelet available is of cast brass, uniformly 0.88 cm side and 0.15 cm thick. The overall length around the curve is 13.55 cm. The inside diameter of the formed bracelet is 5.5 cm, which would be rather small to fit most adult males. The ends are square, with slight rounding at the corners. The only decoration is an unprecisely filed "X" near each end. As viewed from the side, each "X" consists of three lines running from upper left to lower right, with two lines from upper right to lower left filed over the first three.

Glass beads make up the remainder of the assemblage in my possession. These are described below. The first number given is the number of specimens, the following numbers represent dimensions in centimeters.

- A. 7:0.85-0.95x0.70-0.75: White globular wound beads. One has broken in half parallel to the hole, revealing that it was made with at least six carefully placed "winds." The vitreous luster visible at the ends has apparently been removed from the circumference by wear during use. This type was evidently not reported by Murray from the Fort Laramie collection but does appear to be present at Bent's Fort. Fragmentary similar specimens in my study collection from the Fort Laramie trade region probably date between 1841 and 1855, and not later than 1868.
- B. 1:0.8 x 0.7: White "fat barrel" wound glass. Distinguished from the following type only by the more globular center and slightly higher luster. Dated specimen comparable to type "A" above.
- C. 12:0.9-1.05 x 0.6-0.68: White barrel-shaped wound glass. A ubiquitous form in the trade, apparently made to resemble the popular olivella shells.
- D. 3:0.9 x 0.8-0.9: Sky blue wound glass. Closely matches type "A" in size, form, and apparent wear. Another widespread type.
- E. 1:0.6 x 0.6: Translucent navy blue single turn wound glass. A long lasting and widespread type not represented in my dated study collection. Bent's Fort and Fort Laramie association is not clear but highly probable.
- F. 19:0.90-0.95 x .55-0.70: Barrel or "egg"-shaped translucent red ("dark wine") wound glass. Bubbles visible. Bent's Fort Association uncertain but reported at Fort Laramie. The



Calinite pipe bowl, brass bracelet and wood pipestem fragments from Wyoming.

only comparable specimen I have is undated and from the Northwest coast, where Woodward apparently classifies them as "modern." This could prove to be an important index type in High Plains when more is learned about it.

- G. 4 plus:0.8 x 0.78-0.8: Turquoise green or blue wound glass. Reported from Bent's Fort and known to have been traded in Fort Laramie area by the early 1850's. This type is distinctive in that copper salts were apparently used for coloration, and subsequent chemical change made the beads very fragile. Many are found broken in half, with the break parallel to the hole. This may be another important index type for the High Plains. I have no present evidence that it was available in the Fort Laramie area prior to 1849, though similar common beads were clearly present before 1845.
- H. 2:0.45-0.50 x 0.5: Translucent red beads with opaque white centers. Though represented infrequently, if at all, in the Missouri River trade, this type is common in the Fort Laramie trade region and is present at the Bent's Fort. The larger sizes were available no later than 1845; the smaller sizes suitable for embroidery were present no later than 1838.
- I. 11:0.25-0.35: Turquoise green or blue common beads of the same material as type G. Present before 1845.
- J. 178:0.2-0.4: Dark blue common beads. The vast majority are about 0.30-0.35 cm in diameter with very few specimens at the lower end of the size range. A few are difficult to distinguish from type I due to discoloration.
- K. 162:0.25-0.40: White common beads. As with type J, most are about 0.30-0.35 cm in

diameter, with very few ranging smaller.

Twelve of these are still strung together on one sinew strand, 16 on another.

Archaeological association of the various elements (stones, bones, soil, and artifacts) of the burial with other cultural traces in the cave will never be known. Conjecture is hazardous, but it's about the only tool left to work with, so we may as well try that.

The presence of the tube pipe and bracelets virtually eliminate any possibility of a Caucasian burial. Although some Plains Indian women smoked tobacco for pleasure, women's elbow pipes were small and distinctive. I am unaware of any reference to women's use of the tube pipe. Our subject, then, must be a male American Indian, and almost undoubtedly, an adult.

The presence of trade goods makes a date of interment in southeastern Wyoming prior to 1820 extremely unlikely, and a date after 1868 possible but improbable. There is striking similarity between the common beads here and an 1841-1845 sample from Fort Platte at the mouth of the Laramie River. The blue and white Fort Platte beads tend to be smaller. The founder of Fort Platte (Lancaster Lupton) was also involved with the South Platte trade at Fort Lupton. Trade goods at the two locations could be nearly identical, establishing a similarity of wares over the general area at about the same time in the very early 1840's. Trading post samples from 10 and 20 years later are quite different in general appearance, though I'm not certain this observation could be clearly supported with statistical treatment. Even if it could, there are several reasons why burial samples of common beads could be misleading. On the basis of subjective observation of numerous bead samples from the general area I would place the date of burial at not later than 1855 and not earlier than 1835. This gives me a date of A.D. 1845 + 10 years, which my crystal ball says is right on the nose. It is possible that I will alter my opinion when more sophisticated divining techniques are devised.

At the time indicated, this region was inhabited primarily by the Arapahoe and Cheyenne and to a lesser extent by the Sioux. Occasional Snake or even Blackfoot war parties might venture this far, but such adventures must have been quite rare. In all probability, the buried individual was a member of the Arapahoe, Cheyenne, or Sioux tribes. Cave burial would apparently have been acceptable under certain conditions with any of these tribes, but was by far the least common among the Sioux. Arapahoe or Cheyenne individuals would have been acquainted with Alibates flint, and one artifact made of this material was apparently associated. A Cheyenne man was buried with his pipe and all his weapons, whereas the Arapahoe custom was to place only the decedent's pipe and no more than a few minor personal items in the grave. No important tools or weapons were placed in the traditional Arapahoe man's grave.

There is little room for profit in more conjecture. The subject who once lived and died with these objects could have been a Cheyenne or Sioux who had little property—not even a steel knife or a fire steel—or an Arapaho with slightly untraditional relatives. There are few other possibilities. The crystal keeps trying to say something in the Arapaho language, but I can't quite make it out. Perhaps it is saying that only the pipes and personal ornaments were actually associated with the burial—the stone tools being accidentally mixed in from the surrounding dirt by the excavator.