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CAMANCHE RESERVOIR LOCALITY, CALIFORNIA

by

Jerald Jay Johnson

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Coyote Cave (site 3-Y)

Miscellaneous

One fragment of large mammal bone has grinding striations on one side (#33). Another is polished with grinding facets on one end (#34). A third fragment has evidence of grinding on one side (#35). A small animal pelvis has incised marks across one side (#36).

Historic Materials

Trade Beads

Eight are of white porcelain and one is red with a black center. The white beads are less than .45cm. in diameter, while the other bead is .38cm. Five were found in the 0-3 inch level and nine from the 3-9 inch level.

Chipped Glass Fragment

This specimen has been pressure flaked over much of its surface and was made from dark green bottle glass (#37). It has a concavity which is bifacially chipped and is similar to the base of some Late Horizon triangular and side notched projectile points. It appears, however, that the concave edge has been used extensively and it may be a broken spoke shave scraper (Figure 39H).

Unmodified Rock

Stone which was not artifactual included sandstone, slate, quartzite, chert, andesite, basalt, quartz, and petrified wood. Some of the pieces were probably residue left from the manufacture of artifacts but, because of the manner in which they broke, this was not discernable. Other fragments were probably raw material brought to the site and not used. All of the materials found are native to the cave and its immediate vicinity except the slate and chert. The petrified wood is probably native to the site but its place of origin could not be located. Most of the stone was found above 30 inches. The material includes all small hand-sized or smaller rocks and does not include the large number of sandstone pieces of roof fall which are up to 45cm. on their largest side. Many small lemon-sized stones are not included either because they apparently were native to the site and were of little or no archaeological significance.

Big Cave (site 3-49)

Knappers

One piece of deer antler has been cut and scraped similar to tools used in stone flaking (#92). Another piece of antler has been worn flat on the end from use (#93). This specimen is burned and is broken on one side and the base.

Miscellaneous

This piece is roughly triangular in cross section and apparently tapered to a point. The grinding facets circumvent the fragment.

Historic Materials

Miscellaneous

There are three 22 brass cartridges and three buttons. One button is round, made of wood, has four small holes in a square pattern and one large central perforation. Another is white glass, circular, and has three small holes, while the other is roughly circular, made from shell, has four small holes in a roughly square pattern and a series of incisions on one side. It is apparently an attempt to duplicate a machine manufactured button by hand. Of the buttons the one made from shell is possibly aboriginal while the other two represent later additions to the midden.

Beads

Of the 25 beads one is hexagonal in cross section, dark blue, has a patina on the surface, and is .43cm. in diameter. Two beads are dark brown, translucent, .58cm. in diameter, and irregularly shaped on the ends. Nineteen white porcelain beads range in diameter from .34 to .45cm., while three large white porcelain beads are from .49 to .62cm. One bead is yellow on the outside with a red center and is .41cm. in diameter, while another is .37cm. in diameter, longer, and its original colors can no longer be determined.

Unmodified Rock

Three pieces of unmodified granular sandstone are not characteristic of the sandstone of the cave and were apparently brought into the site. The only other piece of unmodified stone is a piece of crystalline quartz.

Conclusions

Site 3-49 was used in a multiplicity of ways. The mortar pits and their position under the midden suggest use as a milling

Cut and Ground Sticks

Two pieces of wood may be gambling pieces. The largest has been split almost in half and is burned on one end (#142). Both ends have been rounded by the removal of several small fragments with a cutting tool and the sides were carved and then ground. It is round in cross section and made from oak wood (Plate 14B').

The second specimen has been shaped in a similar manner but is considerably smaller (#142). It is made of a soft wood and has been broken in several places.

Miscellaneous

Fourteen pieces of wood have only the bark peeled. In addition, five of them have been burned on one end. These pieces probably represent either unfinished implements or midsections of broken specimens.

Nine pieces of wood appear to have been cut with a metal blade. Two are chips of oak left from the use of an axe while the other seven had been whittled.

Another piece has a point which has been formed by cutting away four angled chips of wood (#144). The sides have been flattened by grinding and the unpointed end is actually a depression formed by the cutting of another point.

One fragment has been formed into a point on one end by whittling (#145). It is burned on one side.

Two other pieces include one that has a cut notch in one end. It is split and burned on both ends. The other has a carved shape on one end and is broken on the other end (#146). The carved piece is made from a small stem which had the leaf scars removed by cutting and grinding. It is round in cross section except on the carved end. A depression 1.32cm. wide has been cut around the piece 1.34cm. from the other end. At the depression's narrowest point the stem is .46cm. in diameter, while the end tapered from one side beginning at 1.14cm. (Plate 14W).

Five fragments have been ground on one end and some have been partially ground on the side. One is burned, three are midsections, one is pointed, and the other is a flat piece.

Historic MaterialsBeads

A single black bead is .43cm. in diameter; eight red with black center beads range from .36cm. to .51cm.; a dark

blue bead is .63cm., a light blue bead is .38cm., and six white beads range from .29 to .40cm. All were made from glass.

Ground Glass

Seventy-four pieces of a large broken Buffalo Brewery bottle were recovered. Six have been ground on one or more edges. The largest is 8.61cm. long, 3.62cm. wide, and .73cm. thick, while the smallest is 2.39cm. long, 1.83cm. wide, and .80cm. thick (Figures 39M, N). Three of the specimens also have unifacially chipped scraping edges.

Scrapers

Twenty-seven fragments from the same bottle were made into scrapers. These are very similar in form and method of manufacture to Type 3 flake scrapers. The largest is 8.61cm. long, 3.62cm. wide, and .73cm. thick, while the smallest is 1.55cm. long, 1.53cm. wide, and .31cm. thick. Two of these artifacts were spoke-shave-like.

Unmodified Glass

The remaining 41 fragments were probably not used as scrapers or for incising because of their generally small size and undesirable shape.

Miscellaneous

Other historic materials include one square iron nail, a piece of metal strap, one piece of wire, 15 brass 22 shell casings, one plastic button, one iron button, two round-headed nails, five flattened lead bullets, and some newspaper scraps. All of these materials except, perhaps, the square nail are probably residue left by visitors to the site since it was last used by the Indians.

Conclusions

Eighteen-fifty-five Cave was not particularly a favorable place for occupation. It is located at the top of a steep brush-covered talus slope: the nearest water is at the base of the hill some 250 feet away; the sandstone in the cave is very coarse and would make meal ground in the mortar pits very gritty. The deposit was shallow and it, plus the cultural debris, suggest the cave was utilized for a short period of time. The Buffalo Brewery was located in Sacramento and started production in the 1860's; thus, the artifacts made from the bottle fragments at the site had to be utilized after that date. It is possible the pieces of wood cut with the metal blade were made by an Indian but this does not seem likely. The ground stone and glass are probably the result of use as implements to inscribe the names and dates found on the walls.

Hole-in-the-Rock Cave (Site 5-194)

One Type 1 flake was found in the zero to six inch level in Area 1. It is similar in size and shape to those from 5-185, and the specimen has not been used as a tool.

Ground and Drilled Shell

Spoon

The only artifact of shell is a fragment of freshwater clam that has been ground on one edge. It might be a worn out shell saw (Olsen and Wilson 1964: 12) or an uncompleted shell spoon (Olsen 1963, Figure 17A and B). Unlike most saws and spoons the calus on the back side has not been ground off to leave a smooth outer side. It was found in the zero to six inch level in Area 1.

Ground and Split Bone

Bipointed Pins

A complete specimen is 3.74cm. long and .28 by .30 cm. in cross section (#245). One side is flat to give it a lop-sided appearance. The two fragments are similar in manufacture and size to those found in other shelters in the Locality (#'s 246-247). All were found in Area 1 in the zero to six inch level.

Historic Materials

Beads

Three faceted green glass beads were found. They range in size from 1.53cm. long and .56cm. in diameter to 1.69cm. long and .69cm. in diameter. All three examples were found in Area 1 in the zero to six inch level. They are similar in form to those illustrated by Olsen (1963, Figure 10: 68) who says they are frequently found in the foothills.

Unmodified Rock

Thirteen cooking stones were recovered. Most were whole quartz and quartzite fist-sized rocks which were burned on their surfaces. A few of the examples were thermal fractured fragments. None were below six inches and a concentration of nine on the surface may represent the remains of a fire hearth.

Conclusions

The excavation at 5-194 serves to substantiate the generally late use of the rockshelters in the Locality. The three

Cemetery One (Site S-218)

Retouched Flake

The edge of this artifact was formed by the removal of three percussion flakes. There is no evidence of use and it may represent an unfinished tool.

Cores

Seven of the 19 Type 4 specimens were of quartzite, six of chert, three of basalt, two of jasper, and one of quartz. The largest is of quartzite and is 9.65cm. long, 4.84cm. wide, and 2.75cm. thick, while the smallest is 4.10cm. long, 3.65cm. wide, 1.18cm. thick, and of chert.

Flakes

Of the 146 Type 3 flakes, 57 are of quartzite, 30 of quartz, 26 of basalt, 22 of chert, 16 of jasper, and one of petrified wood. The largest flake is 6.98cm. long, 5.71cm. wide, 1.37cm. thick, and of basalt, while the smallest is .94cm. long, .59cm. wide, .10cm. thick, and of quartz.

Ground and Drilled Shell

Beads

A rough disc Olivella specimen is biconically drilled and is characterized by having an unfinished edge (#260). A Type 3c saucer Olivella bead was drilled from one side and has a rather unevenly ground edge (#261).

Ground and Split Bone and Antler

Knapper

A broken, burned antler tine has scars on the end that were probably left from the use of the specimen as a flaking implement (#263).

Splinter

This artifact is a splinter of large mammal bone which has been partially ground to a point at one end (#262). It does not appear to have been used.

Historic Materials

Bead

This specimen is white glass and measures .41cm. in diameter (#264).

Dier Site (Site 3-91)

Historic Materials

Beads

One red with a black center glass trade bead is .37cm. in diameter.

Chipped Glass

Two pieces are unifacially chipped along one edge and may have been used as scrapers while a third has a bifacially chipped edge (#'s 454-456). One is from a clear glass mug, another from dark blue glass, and the third olive green glass.

Miscellaneous

There are 25 pieces of glass, 40 pieces of pottery, 63 square iron nails, four shotgun shell casings, one acid bottle stopper, two horseshoe nails, two pieces of rusted wire, seven fragments of rusted straps, a harness buckle, two pieces of lead, one round nail, one iron gear, one piece of plastic, and one shotgun shell plug.

Of the historic material found, 77.63% was found in the zero to six inch level, 12.50% in the six to 12 inch level, and only 9.87% between 12 to 30 inches with none below that depth.

Unmodified Rock

Several thousand fragments of quartz, quartzite, andesite, and basalt were discarded in the field after it was determined they were not cores, flakes, or some other form of artifact. There are four pieces of unmodified ocher, 13 pieces of slate, a red crystal of an unidentifiable material, and six quartz crystals. The latter were all small crystals and are broken on the end where they had been attached to the parent material.

Conclusions

Site 3-91 was situated in a place that was favorable for occupation. Permanent springs are present, adequate food supplies were apparently nearby, and its position on a small knoll protected the inhabitants from winter flooding.

The lower levels of the midden contain much less cultural residue and, perhaps, indicates the site was at first only used as a temporary camp. Furthermore, at most late habitation sites the occupation area also served as a burial place. At 3-91 this could not have occurred until sufficient midden had accumulated to cover the hard sandstone bedrock. As it was, most of

Old Bridge Site (site 5-237)

a base of what Gifford calls a Type MM2a barb or blade for a fish gig.

Both needles at 5-237 were with Middle Component Burials. This type of artifact was frequently found in Middle Components in the Central Valley and the Burial Caves (Lillard, Heizer, and Fenenga 1939; Johnson 1966b: 45; Olsen 1963; Payen 1965).

The serrated bone may have served as fleshers. This function has been attributed to similar specimens by Schenck (1926: 219) and Gifford (1940: 172).

The base of the trident is suitable for hafting and it is similar to specimens from Central California. Similar pieces of slate formed a trident at SJo-112 (Olsen and Wilson 1964).

Of the 234 bone artifacts found at the site, 60 were associated with burials, 170 were midden specimens, and four have no location. The occurrence of over 29% of these artifacts with burials is to be expected. The ratio of bone artifacts with burials to those in the midden in the Central Valley is even higher. Bone artifacts are found throughout the cultural sequence established for the Central Valley with the Middle Components having a higher incidence (Heizer 1964).

Because of the disturbance to the surface of the deposit, some Middle and Early burials were just under 30 inches from the surface. This makes it difficult to say which cultural component the deeper bone, stone, shell, and antler artifacts were associated with. The variety of utilitarian and ornamental bone artifacts is not unusual in light of the known use of bone by the ethnographic Miwok (Barrett and Gifford 1933). What is puzzling is the lack of quantities comparable to those found in the Central Valley. This difference is probably due to several factors: a smaller population, a local foothill expression, and the peripheral location in respect to the large Central Valley Cultural complexes.

Historic Materials

Twenty-nine specimens of glass may have been used by Indians at 5-237. One is a small clear glass bead (Figure 36J). It is hexagonal in cross section, being .53cm. long and .41cm. thick. Unlike any other bead found in the Locality, it is similar to specimens worn on strings as a decorative element on dresses in the late 19th Century (an example of this type of dress and strung beads was formerly on display at Sutro's Museum in San Francisco, California). It is possible this bead was used by an Indian, though a non-aboriginal use is more likely. This specimen was found in Unit 07C in the zero to 12 inch level.