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SPECIAL NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

For only the second time in the ten-year existence of the Quarterly we are combining two issues so that we can bring our readers a complete report on a series of objects from two Paiute graves of the pre-reservation period in Utah.

The actual excavation of the graves was accomplished by parties associated with the Wheeler Survey party in 1872, hardly more than ten years after interment was made. This apparently didn't bother the frontier scientists of that period and all the material was promptly shipped off to Washington. Nearly a century later, George Metcalf of the National Museum staff, examined the collection of trade objects in storage and was impressed with their importance as dated historical specimens. Since his retirement, Dr. Metcalf has therefore written the article in this issue as a service to curators, historians and interested students everywhere.

The objects are certainly of broad historical interest. Since they were deposited only about fifteen years after the Mexican War it is not surprising to see "Spanish" items like a handmade bit and an early forged iron trade knife and awl. There are also British trade knives, glass beads, a steel arrow point, parts of an iron-mounted American plains rifle and some parts of a rifle that was originally flint lock. Examples of Indian craftwork include parts of an elkhorn saddle and a fine mirror board. All the important objects have been photographed and described in detail.

Little has been written on the Indian trade of the Nevada-Utah area because it was relatively minor in volume and documentation is very scanty. However, trade was a significant factor everywhere on our frontiers and no part of the story should be neglected. Too often we try to over simplify the study of objects associated with that frontier. Everything from the Spanish culture "belonged to a Conquistador" even if it is an old sword blade made into a lance head in 1850. Every Sheffield butcher knife, point blanket or English trade gun must be classified as a "Hudson's Bay" item even if it was really sold by the Chouteaus or the later Sante Fe merchants. Any piece of military-type equipment with Indian association immediately becomes "captured" material even if it was bought outright from an ordinary trader's store. The substitution of serious study for this kind of "shotgun scholarship" is the prime reason for this publication's existence.

Notes on Two Paiute Burials and Associated Artifacts

By GEORGE METCALF

A mass of material from two Paiute burials, now in the study collections of the Department of Anthropology, National Museum of Natural History, Smithsonian Institution, seems worthy of description since the burials can be dated to within a ten year period. This collection, consisting largely of glass and metal trade objects with a few pieces of worked wood and antler of native workmanship, is all under one catalog number, USNM Ethnology 12,235. The catalog entry calls for "one lot of miscellaneous material presented. . . by M.L. Severance in 1872," with the statement that "This material from the grave of the famous Ute Chief Wah-ker (Walker) was recovered, presumably from a cave, 10 miles from Fillmore, Millard Co., Utah, in Sept., 1872." Examination of the collection disclosed that it could not be from the grave of the celebrated Wakara, "Hawk of the Mountains," since one of the artifacts present, a coin, is dated 1861 and Wakara died January 29, 1855 (Hafen and Hafen, 1954, p. 257, fn).

The accession papers, filed in the Office of the Registrar, Smithsonian Institution, were checked for more information on this collection. Data on early collections are often scanty and sometimes non-existent. No accession number was present in the catalog and no additional information or letter of transmittal could be found in the Registrar's files, nor was the name of M.L. Severance present in their Records of Correspondence. Files of the former Bureau of American Ethnology contained no information. It was then discovered that the Division of Physical Anthropology contained human skeletal material collected by M.L. Severance in Utah and which had been acquired by transfer from the Army Medical Museum in 1898.

At this point Dr. Lucille St. Hoyme of the Division of Physical Anthropology became interested in the matter; contacted the Army Medical Museum and borrowed their original records. Among these is a letter from Dr. H.C. Yarrow, a member of the Wheeler Survey party, which recounts how he and Lieut. Mott of the 8th Infantry collected several skulls from a grave which he was told was that of Chief Walker. More interesting is a long report headed "Data on Crania and Skeletons Forwarded by Lieut. Geo. W. Wheeler to Army Medical Museum. Mark Sibley Severance, A.M., Collector. 21 Feby:-73." This is signed by Severance over the title of "Ethnologist to Explorations West of the 100th Meridian." A line has been scrawled through this signature and title. Pertinent parts of this document, quoted below seem to leave little doubt that he is describing the burials from which the artifacts in question were taken. Severance says:

"Museum	"Cranium—with apparently the perfect skeleton? of a pappoose, from a rock-grave, Beaver, Utah. On a hillside east of Beaver. . . is a collection of Indian graves of recent construction, half way up from the plain on which the town lies to the top of a barren hill, of volcanic nature. These graves are formed of vast piles of lava rock, heaped to great size. . . . They were mere piles of irregular stones thrown together. . . . A growth of stunted cedars covered the side-hill. . . and supplied the material for a part of their interior construction. . . .
Mark.	
No. 959	
and	
No. 964."	

The first grave opened was about ten (10) ft. long, eight feet wide and six

pierced with a perforation in each side, into which was hooked one end of a small round bar or heavy wire, the other end of which was hooked into the cheek-piece. One of these, 0.4 cm. in diameter is still present. The original hole on the right side has worn out and another has been drilled above it. The ends of the cross-bar, which is 12.7 cm. long, pass through slots in the cheek-pieces and then bend back in a loop. Each cheek-piece has a ring at the top for attachment of the head-stall and the perforated bottoms carry a swivel and four links of chain to which the reins are fastened. The left cheek-piece curves back below the cross-bar and then curves forward in a bow and all edges are rounded. At the bow it is 0.8 cm. wide but at the point where the cross-bar is attached it measures 2.0 cm. It is 14.5 cm. long and carries a simple decorative design of half-circles stamped into it, forming a pattern which may represent highly conventionalized flowers or foliage. The right cheek-piece is much simpler, flat and with unrounded edges, and the bow below the cross-bar is replaced by increased width and two perforations. The upper part is heavily rusted but the lower part is still covered with heavy silver or nickel plating. A fragment of the bridle, still attached to one cheek-piece, is a narrow piece of leather which passes through the hole at the upper end of the cheek-piece, with the ends then overlapped and sewed together.

The reins fasten into the chains attached to the bottom ends of the cheek-pieces, the one on the left by means of a short cut in the end through which the rein is returned, the one on the right by a series of overhand knots. The reins are broken in two places and joined by square knots to form a continuous loop from one side of the bit to the other. Due to the condition of the leather the length cannot be accurately determined but it does not exceed 95.0 cm., doubled. The material appears to be commercially tanned leather, one side having a smooth finish. Width varies from 0.75 cm. to slightly over 1.1 cm., with a width of 1.0 cm. most common. At the center is looped the remnant of a *romal*, a quirt which is fastened to the reins. This is made with a four-strand braid and is 1.0 cm. in diameter. Midway between this and the bit the reins have been fastened together with a band of thin leather about 3.0 cm. wide which is tied loosely about the reins in a simple overhand knot which, if the leather was in it's original pliable conditon, could be slipped along the reins to any desired position. This band is made up of two pieces sewed together with cotton or linen thread to form a single piece.

The head-stall is not attached to the bit but three straps and a keeper, dried and twisted, are believed to represent the cheek-straps and brow-band. The sides measure about 2.1 cm. in width; the brow-band, of lighter material, is 3.2 cm. wide. The latter is slit with two parallel cuts at one end and through these the narrower piece is woven and secured by sewing.

ADORNMENT AND DRESS: Among the objects which can be considered under this heading are twelve bracelets made of lengths of brass wire bent into open ellipses. The wire varies somewhat in diameter, most of it measuring approximately 0.4 cm., with a range of 0.3 - 0.5 cm. Lengths rather consistently fall close to 6.5 cm. with extremes of 6.2 and 7.3 cm. Widths, in most cases, fall between 5.0 and 6.0 cm. with extremes of 4.8 to 6.1 cm. A few simple file cuts present at the ends are the only decoration. These are in a good state of preservation with a few showing a spot or two of heavy corrosion (Pl. 7, H and I).

A crude pendant with two parallel sides, one end cut straight across and the other rounding, is formed of a thin piece of silver not exceeding a half-millimeter in thickness. The width is 3.4 cm., the length 6.5 cm. A hole 0.35 cm. in diameter has been punched in the rounding end and no attempt has been made to smooth away the rough edges (Pl. 7, D).

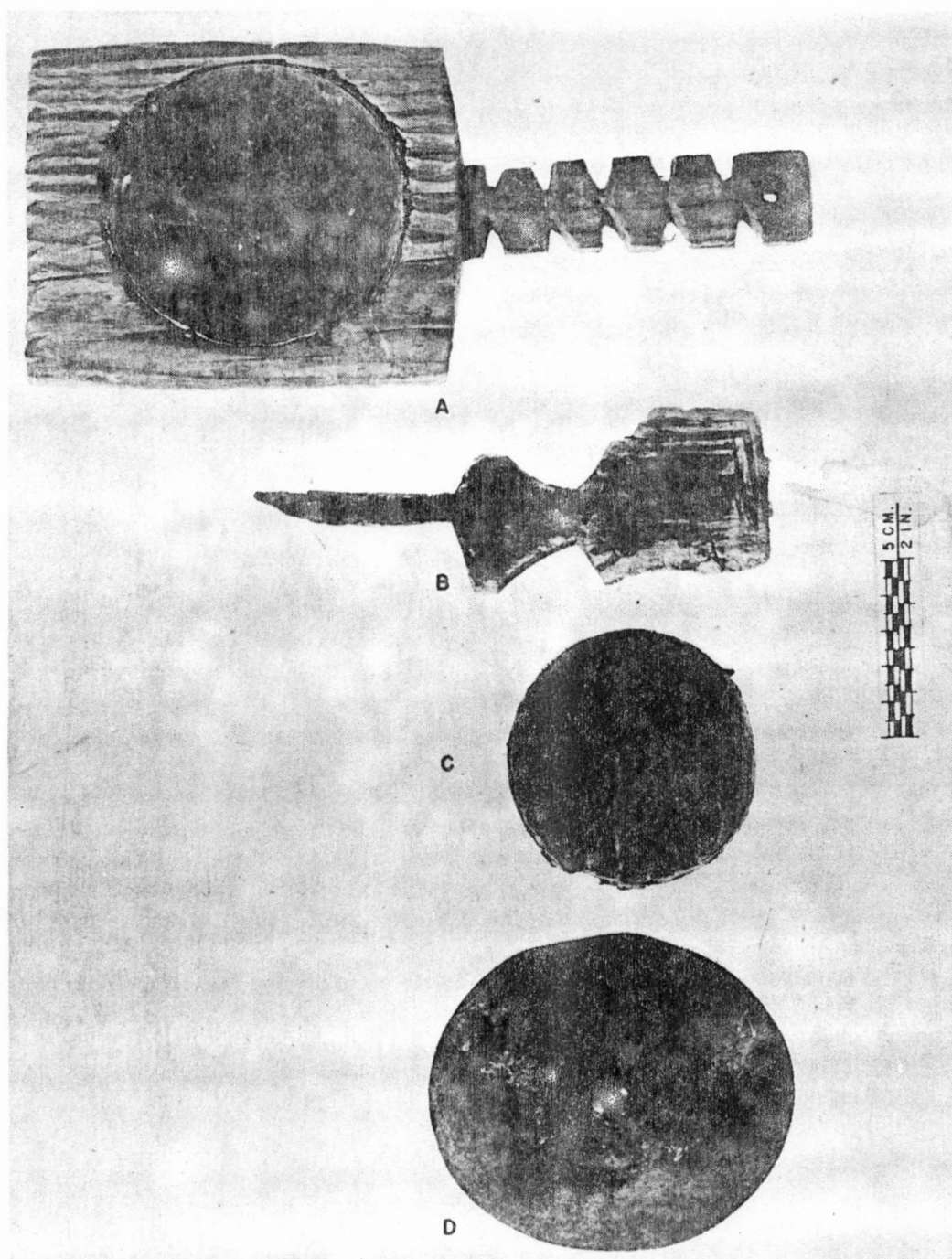


Plate 9. From top: mirror board, portion of unidentified wooden object, wooden powder horn base, brass disk.

Twenty large necklace beads are present, nineteen complete and one represented by fragments. Nine may be classified as white, seven being opaque with a pearly luster, while two are translucent. Four others are a shiny, opaque black, five are translucent amber glass and two are translucent green. In addition there is one large polychrome bead. Six of these

beads are strung on a thong resembling tightly twisted buckskin; it is not sinew or any vegetal fiber. This thong, which is 13.0 cm. long, has a square knot at one end and another knot is present 4.6 cm. distant from the first. In this space five beads are present in what may be presumed to be the original stringing order—1 white, 2 black, 1 white and 1 black. Excluding the polychrome item these beads range between extremes of 0.85 and 1.3 cm. in diameter with extremes of length ranging from 0.7 to 1.3 cm. The amber colored beads are the largest; the smallest is a black bead.

The elongated polychrome bead has a small amount broken away at one end. Broken, it measures 3.0 cm. in length with a maximum diameter of 1.1 cm. and tapers slightly from the center to the ends. The base color is a slightly translucent dark blue with the center striped with five encircling gold-colored bands, the material suggesting rhinestone. The outer pairs of these bands are wavy, extending in four points toward the ends. Between these points are small, circular light-blue spots in which are inclusions of white and yellow. In the central gold band are four evenly spaced red spots (Pl. 11, D).

A string of beads of the type commonly referred to as pony beads appears to have been strung by the collector or, more probably, after they reached the museum. This string is 185.0 cm. long and totals 872 beads. White beads number 455 (52.2 per cent). Dull turquoise blue comes next with 369 (42.3 per cent). There are 42 black beads (4.8 per cent) and 6 (0.7 per cent) are red with white centers. This suggests beadwork of blue figures in a white background. A check of Ute and Paiute beadwork in the study collections of the Department of Anthropology shows that white was the preferred background in the bulk of material collected before 1910. Black was little favored but a dark blue, almost black bead was very much liked. A specimen collected by Powell, probably in 1871, from the Uinta Utes is embroidered with pony beads, the pattern consisting of transverse bands of black and yellow in a white field. Lyford (1940, p. 56) says that the pony bead came into use on the plains from 1800 to 1840 and characterizes them as large, irregular and opaque, about $\frac{1}{4}$ th inch in diameter and that "white and medium sky-blue were the colors. . . commonly used. Black pony beads also appear in the old pieces." She dates the coming of seed beads to the Plains as about 1840; presumably they reached the Great Basin and Plateau tribes about the same time. A series of measurements of beads in this string gives diameters of from 2.8 to 3.5 mm. with a tendency to cluster at just over 3.0 mm. Thickness was not measured but a number of counts showed 11 beads per 2.5 cm. of length to be most common.

Three scraps of leather, probably buckskin, but now so stiff and hard as to more nearly resemble thin rawhide, have been cut from larger items and are embroidered with seed beads, largely white, with one carrying a trace of a pattern in black beads. They are strung on sinew and applied by the "lazy stitch" method in which the thread is pushed through a hole made horizontally through the leather with an awl. The beads, in this case to the number of from 13 to 19, but most commonly 15-16, are then strung and the thread looped back after being secured by again passing through the leather, and the process continued. In no case does the thread pass across the under side of the leather and the stitches do not show. The beads are secured only at the ends of each row, giving the finished product a ridged appearance.

One of the beaded leather specimens measures 1.1 by 1.9 cm. Fragments of 3 bands of beads are present with marks of two more visible. Another, measuring 3.8 by 4.2 cm. shows the remnants of three bands of beads. All the beads on these two pieces are white but 40 black beads are present on the third specimen. This is an irregular fragment with maximum measurements of 5.5 and 5.6 cm. Four parallel bands of beads are present, 1, 11,

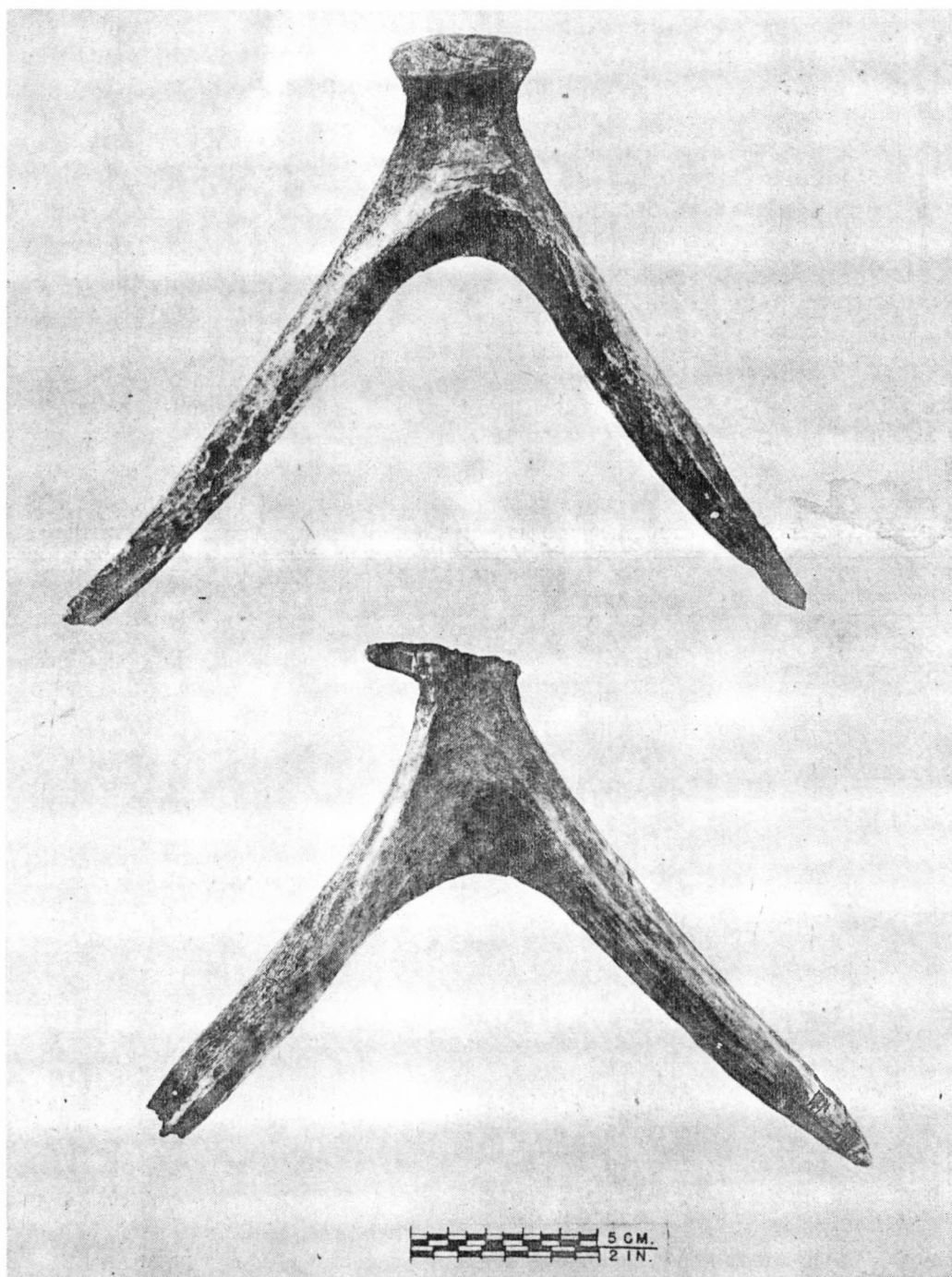


Plate 10. Elkhorn saddle bows.

23 and 18 rows of beads remaining in the individual bands. The majority of these are white but at one end four black beads have been strung in the center of each row in the band, to form a pattern. All that now remains of this are two rectangles, four beads wide and four long, with a single row present in each of the outer bands to indicate that at least four were formerly present (Pl. 11, C).

Ten seed beads, loose in the tray in which this material was stored, were measured with the following results: diameters were 1.85 mm. (6), 1.9 mm. (3), and 2.3 mm. (1). Thickness was not measured but appears more variable than diameter.

A white or copper-nickel American one-cent piece of the familiar Indian Head type bears a date of 1861. It has been perforated immediately back of the date but is otherwise little damaged or worn and the letters and design are clear and sharp.

A short length of leather carries sixteen conical sheet-iron dangles or cones and 32 loose and unattached cones are present. As with the other metal objects they vary greatly in degree of preservation. They are merely short lengths of sheet-iron rolled into a cone and almost invariably somewhat elliptical at the wide end. In use a thong of fringe was pushed through the opening in the small end, knotted, and the cone pulled down onto the knot (Pl. 11, A).

The strip of leather (buckskin?) to which a number of these objects are fastened is somewhat over 25.0 cm. in length by approximately 1.5 cm. in width. One edge of the material has been rolled and small holes punched in it through which short fringes are passed and secured by sewing. The thread passes through the end of the thong into the leather strip and is then brought back to secure the next. As with the beadwork the thread does not pass entirely through the strip and does not show on the opposite side. A count made on two sections of the strip shows, in each case, 11 thongs per 2.5 cm. of length. There is a strong suggestion that the strip was originally sewed to a garment and a pre-1910 photograph of a Paiute man shows him wearing a shirt decorated with a V-shaped ornament on the breast which could well be a leather strip of this sort (Holmes and Mooney, 1910, p., 186).

The cones used on this object are from 2.3 to 2.7 cm. long and 0.6 to 0.8 cm. in maximum diameter. Many of the fringe thongs are now bare and it is probable that 16 of the loose jingles came from it since they are nearly identical, ranging in length from 2.4 to 2.8 cm. with 2.5 cm. most common and with all falling into the same diameter range.

The remaining cones are larger and may be divided into two groups on the basis of size. Five range in length from 4.5 to 5.4 cm. with maximum diameters all exceeding 1.0 cm., the range being 1.1 - 1.4 cm. The remaining eleven are all under 1.0 cm. in diameter, with a length range of from 4.0 to 4.7 cm.

A small lump of red paint is present, the shade and texture suggesting trade vermilion. This appears to have been originally present in powdered form and to have compacted through contact with moisture. The lump measures 2.7 cm. in length with a diameter not exceeding 1.7 cm. and may have come from the bowl of one of the spoons since one was deeply crusted with this material and the lump would easily fit into the bowl.

One end of a horn comb is present. The end tooth is broken and is followed by 21 which are complete and the stubs of seven more. In its present condition, broken and warped, the fragment is 9.5 cm. long, 3.8 cm. wide and 0.45 cm. thick. The top edge is rounded; the teeth, 2.5 cm. long are beveled from both sides to form blunt points and where unbroken, are of even width. Eight teeth and eight spaces are present per 2.5 cm. of length. There can be no doubt that it was commercially made (Pl 11, B).

A circular mirror, 7.75 cm. in diameter and enclosed in a thin brass case has been set into a carved wooden frame of Indian workmanship where it is secured with five iron brads. The pine frame is rectangular, 11.5 cm. long, 9.6 cm. wide and 2.0 cm. thick. Projecting from one end is a handle carved as an integral part of the frame and giving the object an over all length of 20.8 cm. The sides of the frame are slightly convex. The edges are rounded, the

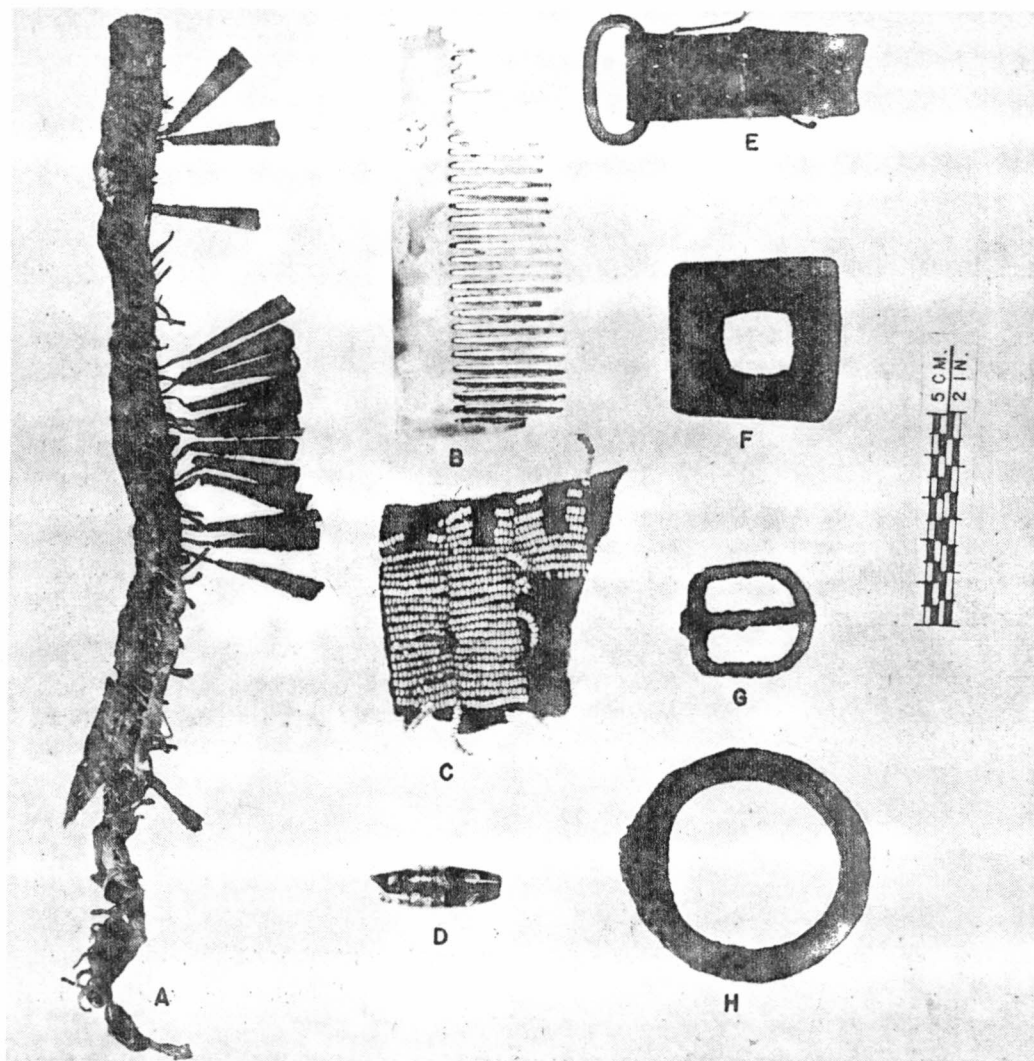


Plate 11. Left: leather strip with metal dangles. Center from top: horn comb, fragment of beadwork, polychrome bead. Right from top: strap with brass loop, unidentified leather piece, iron buckle, iron ring.

top is straight, the base slightly convex. The front is flat except for the cavity in which the mirror is placed. The back is markedly convex. The upper edges, both front and back, have been deeply notched, and grooves, fine and narrow on the back but deeper and wider on the face, extend from these notches to the lower edge. Traces of red paint are present on the edges and face. The handle has a maximum width of 2.6 cm. and a thickness of 1.5 cm. Five pairs of deep notches, oppositely placed, are carved into the sides of the handle and a hole, 0.4 cm. in diameter pierces it about 1.0 cm. from the lower end (Pl. 9, A).

MISCELLANEOUS: Among a number of objects which do not fall into the previous categories is a concavo-convex brass disk which has been bent into a slightly elliptical outline. The length, which approximates the original diameter, is 9.7 cm. The width is 8.8 cm., the maximum depth, 2.0 cm. A perforation, 0.5 cm. in diameter is present in the center and