

# Archaeology--

By P. Smith, Sr.

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## The White Rock Mound

(Editor's Note: Beads and other artifacts from this mound are on exhibition at the Antelope Valley Indian Museum of Lancaster, California, which is open every day of the year to the public.)

This rich mound, located in Eldorado County, California, was once the burial grounds of the late Maidu tribe. A race of Indians who were experts in the art of chipping arrows and the like from almost any kind of material, cutting and polishing of Abalone shell, stone, bone, etc. Their arrows differ in shape and material from the rare obsidian Ceremonial curves, also known as Stockton curves, ceremonial spears and knives up to 16 inches in length to the small bird arrows. The material used in chipping them differs from common slate to agatized wood and agate.

The cutting of Abalone shells was a real art, taking into consideration that all cutting was done by hand with a stone implement. Disks and pendants were the most common. Breastplates cut from the Abalone shells, in the shapes of large disks and banjo shape forms was the pride of every Indian. The polishing of these items was of the finest.

Their carving of bone tubes, bone flutes, and other bone objects could not be surpassed by any tribe, all of which was more or less of geometrical designs.

The coming of the white man changed the living conditions of these Indians and the making of their implements and their use to some extent, but not as much as most collectors and historians would like us to believe. It is true that some of the items used by these tribes in primitive times were discarded with the arrival and barter of the white men, but only in a small way, and after the white men had, so as to say, taken full control over these tribes.

The White Rock Mound, one of the last burial grounds used by these tribes, has established this without doubt. I will give you here some interesting facts to prove that these tribes lived as primitive men to the end.

Of course the trade beads introduced to them by the Hudson Bay Fur Company in the early 1600's, and by the Spaniards in the early 1700's, as a medium of exchange, did away with most of their wampums which they made from different Clam shells. These trade beads covered the graves, as many as 25,000 in a single grave, most of the beads being of the white and red var-



—Sketch by P. Smith, Sr.

Types of Beads Found in the "White Rock Burial Mound," in Eldorado County, California.

ety. Here and there was found a rare type of trade bead and other items.

As all bodies were cremated, many fine specimens such as carved bone items, wood carving, and other fragile material was completely destroyed, only fragments showing what they once represented was left. Many of the finer types of beads, made from glass, etc., melted into large clusters.

I will give you here some data on one of the better burials in this mound, and at the same time show that these Indians were very slow in adopting the ways of the white man, and were still experts in the chipping of arrows and ceremonials, bone carving, bead drilling, stone polishing, shell carving, etc. Some experts claim that the items found in trade mounds were handed down to them by their forefathers. This statement wouldn't hold good when items such as arrows, chipped from old bottle glass; beads, made and drilled from old porcelain dishes; awls, made from the horn, or other materials covering the sides of old time knives and straight razors, etc., were found with their burials.

Burial No. 6 was found on the northeast side, about 25 feet from the center of the mound. After removing several layers of native stone slabs and digging down three and one-half feet we come upon the actual burial. A hole 3 by 4 feet,

and 4 feet deep, and filled of what was left after cremation. The body itself presented only bits of charred bones, here and there small parts of the cranium, humerus, femurs, etc., and a few finger bones.

Several different sizes of sieves were used in cleaning the dirt so as not to lose any objects or small beads. The drawing will give you some idea of the many different types of beads found in this particular burial.

Type No. 1—A bead about  $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch long, white and cream in color, with red and blue markings. A rare specimen.

Type No. 2—A bead about  $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch or less in diameter, grooved vertical, brown and light blue in color.

Type No. 3—A large tubular bead, up to one-inch in length, solid white, red, and red with yellow centers. Others are of rolled types. The above three types are made from a porcelain-like material.

Type No. 4—A very rare bead, made from cord like twisted glass, hollow inside, about  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch in length, of gray color. This is one of the rarest types known.

Type No. 5—A pendant-like bead,  $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch long, a flat type, also of glass in green and blue color.

Type No. 6—A rare slender tube bead,  $\frac{3}{4}$  to 1-inch long, of royal blue color, which are similar to the ancient Egyptian tomb beads, thousands of years old, made from porcelain-like material.

Type No. 7—A large faceted glass bead of many colors, from  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch in diameter.

Type No. 8—Faceted beads in light blue, green, yellow, amber, blue, red, opal, solid white, and all sizes from  $\frac{1}{16}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch in length, all made from glass.

Type No. 9—A decorated inlaid tube bead in gold and red color of porcelain-like material,  $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch in length.

Type No. 10—A pendant-like bead made from Abalone shell, used more for an ornament. One-inch in length.

Type No. 11—A large square, dark blue glass bead,  $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch in diameter.

Type No. 12—The well-known disk wampum, made from clam shell, white and pink in color, from  $\frac{1}{8}$  to 1-inch in diameter. This type and number 13 and 16 are found in prehistoric burials also.

Type No. 13—A cup-shaped bead of shell, perforated in center,  $\frac{1}{8}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch in diameter.

Type No. 14—Grooved glass bead,  $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch long, in blue color.

Type No. 15—The regular trade bead, red, green center and solid white porcelain-like material, in all sizes  $\frac{1}{16}$  to  $\frac{3}{4}$ -inches long.

Type No. 16—The whole shell bead, perforated on one end, from  $\frac{1}{4}$  to 1-inch in length.

Type No. 17—The button bead, a regular early made pearl button, with two perforations, traded to the Indians by the white man and used for necklaces, and decorating their dresses, etc. A fact few historians know.

Type No. 18—A small tubular bead  $\frac{1}{8}$ -inch in length, made from shell-like material. Very rare.

Type No. 19—Bottle shaped porcelain-like material pendant, white and red color,  $\frac{1}{4}$  to  $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch in length.

Type No. 20—A flat disk type of trade bead, white and red color.

Type No. 21—Large porcelain-like material ball bead, white and red color,  $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch in diameter.

Type No. 22—A red stemmed bead,  $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch long. Rare.

Type No. 23—A flat round disk bead, with two perforations, glass,  $\frac{1}{4}$ -inch in diameter.

Type No. 24—A prism cut glass bead, amber and red and white color, length up to  $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch. Very rare.

Type No. 25—A square glass bead, dark blue with metal eye, rare,  $\frac{1}{2}$ -inch in diameter.

Type No. 26—A curious shaped bead of glass, banded in geometrical design, in white and red color, up to  $\frac{3}{4}$ -inch, very rare.

Besides these beads listed many others just as beautiful and rare, were found in this burial, not to mention old jack-knives, U. S. coins, Chinese coins, old square nails, U. S. Army belt buckles, U. S. Army buttons, knives, etc.

Now let us see what we have from this burial in reference to primitive material and proof that the Indian, at that late date, still were experts in making and using their own material. Over twenty-five choice Obsidian ceremonial arrows were found, many fine bird arrows of quartz, agatized wood and obsidian, several stone perforators and drills, three highly polished pendants of muddled granite, a steatite tube pipe, many beads of steatite and red stone disk wampums, and whole shell beads of all sizes, Abalone shell pendants, gorgets, and breast-plates, most of these badly damaged by fire. Fragments of the finest carving in bone were also found.

(Continued To Page Nineteen)



# Abandoned Adobe Structures

By Erma Gier

In wandering over the highways one suddenly comes on a crumbled mass of mud walls which once had been an adobe structure.

If one by chance finds an adobe that has not from outward appearances fallen in utter decay, the inside of the house usually shows much worse from the desolation of time. Some itinerant human has carted away the lovely handmade brick that was once the fireplace, and left a gap in the wall. Holes dug throughout the building, for what purposes is a mystery, except looking for the ever concealed and buried treasures.

There is one on Marron Canyon road, between Oceanside and Vista, built by Silvestre Marron in 1853, that is still in evidence.

The veranda extends the length of the house, facing a wide expanse of land, edged by rounded hills, and running water bedded at the base. The walls of these houses are two to three feet thick, white washed inside and out.

When entering the rooms, there steals over one a heavy and depressed feeling, no doubt due to the thickness of the walls and the scarcity and smallness of the windows.

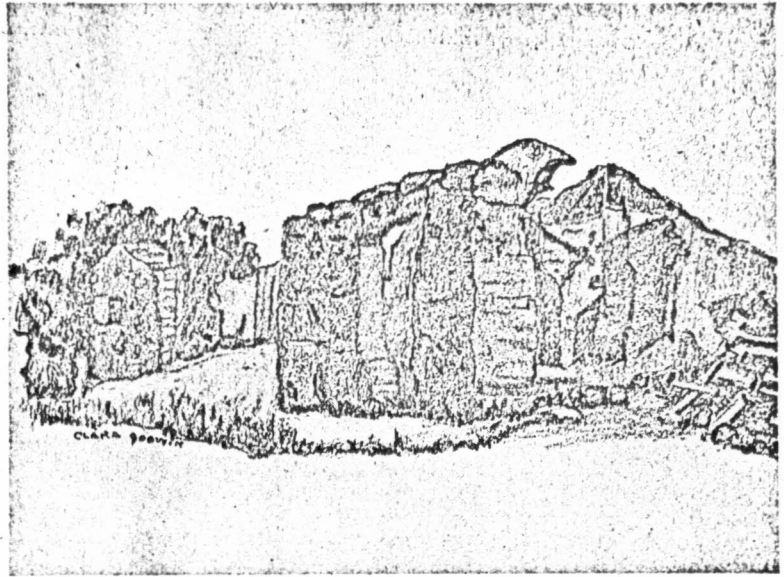
Making allowance for those facts, an atmosphere of romance permeates the premises. However, I love an adobe for it stands in commemoration of much planning, and a great amount of primitive labor. Those that have not fallen are lovely in rich tones, mellowed by age.

## HUGE INDIAN "SACRIFICE ROCK" FOUND IN PENNSYLVANIA

Finleyville, Pennsylvania. (Special) January 1, 1941.—Chief George S. Fisher of Union Valley, and a member of the Pennsylvania Indian Research, discovered recently near Saltsburg along the Kickeminet River, an Indian "Sacrifice Rock" full of holes apparently used as containers for blood.

The huge rock measured eight feet across and is twelve inches in thickness with seventy-six holes, each capable of holding a quart of blood. Also found in the same vicinity was a huge mortar weighing sixty pounds.

The Pennsylvania Indian Research is planning on sending an expedition to the site of the find to make a cast of the rock.



Ruins of Abandoned Adobe Structure.

## The White Rock Mound

(Continued From Page Six)

Toward the bottom of the burial two fine stone bowls with pestles and four flat stone hammers were found. The bottom itself was covered with acorns and a kind of grain resembling a small kind of wheat.

It is noteworthy that in each burial of this mound there were found types of beads not found in others, also, in some, cremation did not have the effect as in others, and fragments of cloth with beads still in place, were still well preserved. In another burial an old carpet cloth suitcase was found holding over 8000 of the white trade beads, unstrung, just as traded to them without any patination.

Of special interest to many collectors will be the fact that in this mound, like in the Cliff and Cool Mounds, many arrows came to light, which were made from old bottle glass, green, brown, white, and blue in color, a fact which is disputed by collectors.

Having given you a brief outline of one of the later trade mounds in this issue, I will give you some very interesting data on a prehistoric mound here in the Sacramento Valley in the next issue. So until then,

Yours truly,  
The Archaeologist.