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EXCAVATIONS AT SIL 54:

PROGRESS REPORT NO. 1

by

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DEPT. OF INDIAM AFFAIRS AND NOTHERN DEVESOPMENT

MAY 30 1078

MINISTÈRE DES AFFAIRES INDRINNÉS ET DU NORD CANADISM BIBLIOTHÈQUE



WINNIPEG MANITOBA OCTOBER 1975

VIII

HISTORIC MATERIAL

The site was being used as a summer fish camp when it was recorded in 1971 and it has been occupied at other times in the recent past. At least one winter trapping cabin was located on the site prior to the forest fire which destroyed the cabin and a bombardier parked nearby.

Tin cans, traps, broken glass, shell casings, plastic items, and pieces of clothing are scattered across the site. Most of the historic material recovered from the excavated units probably originated within the past thirty years. Almost all of it was found in the moss layer. Only 16 items (3.5%) from a total of 442 pieces were recovered in the sand of Level 2. There are 9 metal fragments (2 round nails and 7 fragments from a copper pot), a small unidentifiable strip of plastic, and 6 fragments of bottle glass which relate to similar items located in Level 1 of the same units. All were located in the most disturbed areas of the site. (See Table 19.)

Table 19 summarizes the historic material by class and level. The "other" class contains 2 pieces of aluminum foil

and one plum pit. Metal items range from tin cans to lumps of melted lead and shell casings. The 2 wood fragments were pegs which had been driven into the ground in Unit 245. The glass fragments were primarily from bottles and jars. There is one small fragment from a china plate and 3 pieces of rubber. The plastic consists of fragments from plastic bottles to toys and containder lids. The textile is a pair of rotten pants.

The four beads were located adjacent to hearth F1-73 (in Units 117 and 121). One is a small translucent aqua blue tube bead and one is a small opaque light ivory tube bead. The other two are small light ivory opaque tube beads (Kidd and Kidd 1970:46-89). A lead musket ball, a metal button, and 4 fragments of glass were associated with the beads as well as a few flakes.

The historic material is located in small clusters across the site, the largest concentration being towards the center of the excavated area. Table 20 summarizes the historic material by ten-by-ten meter blocks.