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COVER DESIGN

The cover is a tribute to the enthusiastic devotion and judgement of the ten editors who for fifty years assembled and edited contributions to 39 reports. The Society hereby acknowledges with sincere appreciation the inestimable value of their work.

THE INKAMEEP ARCHAEOLOGY PROJECT

1973 & 1974

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Many individuals have contributed to this project. Some of them are: Chief Jim Stelkia, of the Osoyoos Indian Band, whose generous assistance and open co-operation were absolutely necessary to the success of the project. D. LaForest, of the Provincial Museum staff, who identified the identifiable faunal remains from DgQu 12 and DgQu 17. Grant Keddle also of the Provincial Museum, who sorted out and showed me the identification of the lithic materials. Bjorn Simonsen, Provincial Archaeologist, Don Abbott and Jim Haggerty, of the Provincial Museum Division of Archaeology, and Wayne Choquette gave me much needed advice and consolation over the duration of the project.

There were many people from the Osoyoos Indian Band and from the communities outside the reserve who contributed to or worked on this project. Their names are too numerous to list here but their contributions are remembered and appreciated.

INTRODUCTION

This project grew out of an apparent need for immediate salvage of archaeological resources on Osoyoos Indian Band Reserve #1. During the spring of 1972 it was brought to my attention that a major development was being planned for the southern portion of the Reserve. In September of that year I carried out a brief survey of the lakeshore property within the development area. This survey was completed in November, 1972. A total of nine occupation sites, three rock shelters and one pictograph were found to be within the proposed development area. A burial site recorded by Caldwell in 1953 is also within the proposed development area. Fortunately, this particular development was cancelled but, as the Osoyoos Indian Band is actively seeking a leaseholder for its lakeshore property, the archaeological project went ahead.

The project was set up with the express purpose of preserving archaeological material for the Osoyoos Indian Band. As a consequence members of the band were hired for positions on the excavation crew wherever possible. The number of band members hired was, of course, limited to the number who could be paired with experienced excavators. The crew at the end of August consisted of three band members and three experienced crew members.

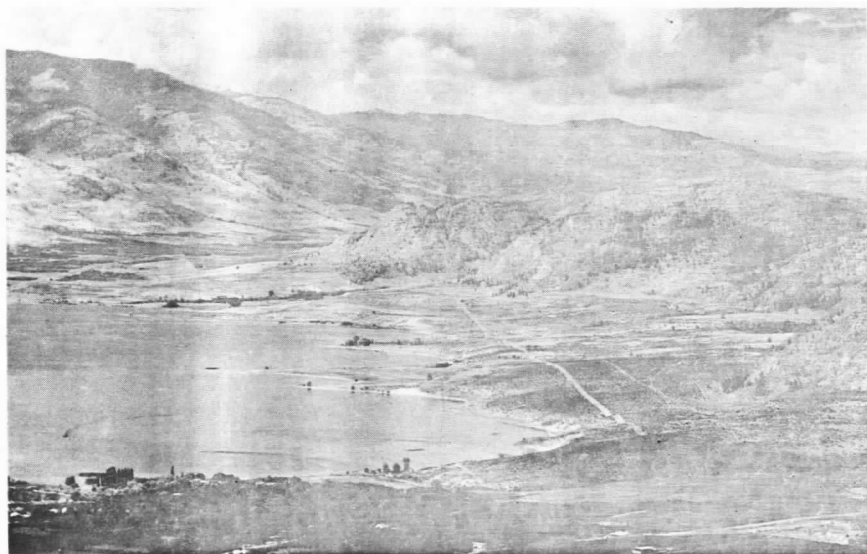
Excavations were initiated in June, 1973. In the first year of excavation the season was of four months duration. During September the crew had been reduced to three experienced crew members as the band members on the crew had returned to school. Four sites were tested in 1973, two on the lakeshore and two on small creeks running into Osoyoos Lake. In 1974

excavation was limited to two months and two lakeshore sites were tested.

At the end of two seasons, six occupation sites have been tested. The extent of this testing has been to establish the relative archaeological value of these sites. Although comparisons can be made between the materials recovered in this project and those recovered in more intensively researched projects, more comprehensive excavations are necessary before an absolute chronology can be established for this locality. At this time I feel that little variation will occur in the chronologies of this area and those established by Grabert and Sanger, for the American Okanagan and Lockmore-Nesikep locality respectively.

The basis of this report is the data recovered, how and where it was recovered. A preliminary analysis was conducted with the materials from two sites, DgQu 12 and DgQu 17, and has resulted in a catalogue of mammalian and aquatic food resources and a materials preference shown by the occupants of both sites. Further analysis of the recovered data from all the sites will no doubt cause some changes in the speculations I now hold concerning the archaeology of this area and will lead to more positive conclusions concerning the prehistory of the area.

THE SOUTHERN OKANAGAN VALLEY IN CANADA



The major geographical unit of this study is the Okanagan Valley, a major valley in the Interior Plateau of British Columbia and in the Columbia Plateau of North-Central Washington. The present U-shape of the valley is a result of glacial action during the pleistocene which originated in the Monashee Mountains to the northeast and terminated on the Columbia Plateau approximately 90 miles south of the 49th parallel. The localized geographical area is the area around Osoyoos Lake in Canada and particularly the east side of the lake.

Okanagan Valley soils are derived mostly from "glacial till composed of a Tertiary soil covering and a vast amount of debris abraded from a complex assembly of rock formations". The Osoyoos area is characterized by brown soils so named from the brown color of the slightly saline surface.

the conclusion that Zone II resulted from a downward sifting of cultural materials in the soft fill of the site, rather than resulting from an earlier occupation. The trade items consisted of bottle glass, multifaceted blue glass beads and rolled copper tubes or parts thereof. I have sought information on the historic items from three sources. All these sources were more or less in agreement on the dates but the most helpful response I received was from Lester A. Ross, director of the Archaeological Laboratory, Fort Vancouver, Washington. In part he states:

The Favell & Bousfields button and the wire nails represent the only datable items . . . Favell & Bousfields supplied the Hudson's Bay Company with clothing in both 1828 and 1846 . . . Wire nails do not become common until the last quarter of the 19th century, and the first mention of wire nail patents are as follows: Great Britain, 1867; USA, 1877; Canada 1886; (personal communication, December, 1973).

Ross also dates the multifaceted beads at later than the 1820's. Charles E. Hanson Jr., of the Museum of the Fur Trade in Chadron, Nebraska felt that the historic items appeared to be from the first two-thirds of the 19th century. Karlis Karklins, National Historic Parks and Sites Branch, Ottawa felt that the beads would not appear in this area until after 1830. All of the above interpretations were made from a list of the artifacts that I compiled. The intermingling of the historic material through all levels of this site indicate a single component site occupied well into the historic period but sometime before white influence caused a drastic change in house type.

The historic items that are datable through trade company records establish the occupation of this site as being between the 1820's and 1830's and the late 1800's. This date can be further refined by information, or the lack of it, that is available from members of the Osoyoos Indian Band. I found that band members, some in their seventies, remembered parents or grandparents occupying various sites on the reserve. I have not talked to any band members who remember occupation of DgQu 17 either by parents or grandparents. This lack of awareness of the site could suggest an occupation beyond the span of three or four generations, or sometime around 1850. Although this seems like grasping for a more accurate date the small size of the band and the "band memory," as evident from other instances, indicate that this site would be remembered if it had been occupied in the latter years of the 19th century.

In direct opposition to the above is the fact that one band member told me that his uncle had lived in this site area and had grown a garden. He also stated that the uncle had lived in a log cabin, and this may explain the rectangular depression, which was not tested. The fact that the uncle is still alive more or less eliminates the possibility that the "log cabin" was in fact a semi-subterranean house. Also, most of the Indians are aware that their ancestors occupied *kee-kwul-lies* (a Chinook jargon word meaning below, under, beneath, used throughout the interior of British Columbia to describe semi-subterranean houses by both whites and Indians) and I feel that they would know one if they saw one.

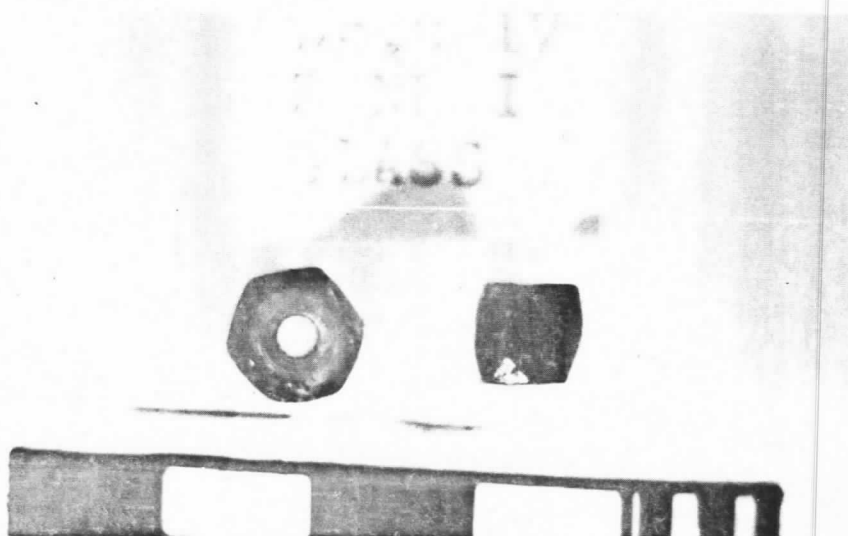
Thus the occupation date for this site is tentatively established for sometime around 1850. This date may be further refined by more comprehensive study of the historic records but at present this is the most positive date established for any of the excavated sites.

DgQu 12:

This is a large site located on a relatively level terrace one mile north of the southern boundary fence of Osoyoos Indian Band Reserve #1. This a



House posts and roof rocks in a house pit at DgQu 17.



Glass trade beads of the most common type found at DgQu 17.