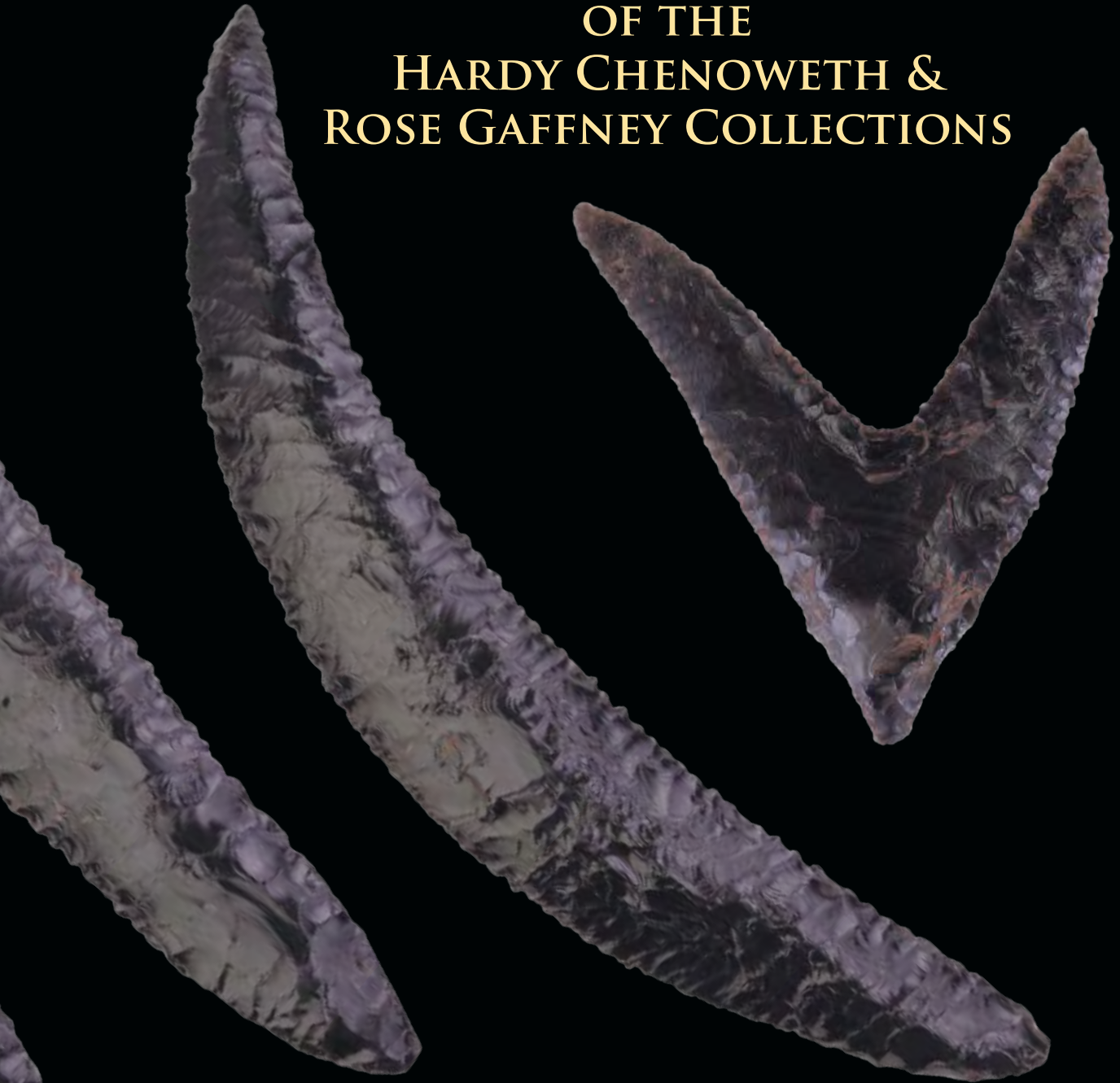


THE BODEGA BAY ANTHOLOGY

OF THE
HARDY CHENOWETH &
ROSE GAFFNEY COLLECTIONS



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RICHARD N. CORROW



THE KEE MOUND, (CA-SON-299) AT BODEGA BAY, AND THE MCCLURE COMPLEX, OF THE MIDDLE HORIZON, OF CALIFORNIA, AND; THE CHENOWETH ARTIFACTS IN THE CORROW COLLECTION

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THE KEE MOUND, (CA-SON-299) AT BODEGA BAY, AND THE MCCLURE COMPLEX, OF THE MIDDLE HORIZON, OF CALIFORNIA, AND; THE CHENOWETH ARTIFACTS IN THE CORROW COLLECTION

By Richard N. Corrow, © 2008
Photos by Mark Loper Photography, Mesa, Arizona



The Kee Mound on Bodega Bay during the 1949 excavations by University of California Archaeological Survey headed by Frank Fenenga. Robert Kee, the landowner, leased all digging rights to his friend, Hardy Chenoweth. Hardy, realizing the site as one of the most important sites on the West Coast, assigned a portion of the mound for UC Berkeley to excavate. Fenenga's crew lived in tents during this time. Barely visible, several men stand to the right of the foremost tent and three vehicles are to the rear, indicating the mound's scale. The light colored area to the right of center is sand and mud dredged from the bay to become fill for a new park and roadway to Bodega Head. The mound was over 300 feet long and 15 feet high. Hardy shows the mound as 250 feet long but Fenenga's notes indicate the mound tapers farther under the surrounding grade.

To My Fellow Artifact Collectors and **Prehistoric American** Readers.

Everything today seems to be political, and we collectors are not immune to controversy and must revisit *our* place in history. Political correctness has taken over common sense in much of our lives, and we collectors have not been untouched. New laws have affected every facet of our finding, collecting, selling, or keeping our “treasures”. Native American activists have sided with political parties who then have initiated new laws. A disinterested general public is unaware of all this and blindly soaks up government-fed news releases that collectors are evil. This has become quite evident to me as I tried to research this report.

At every turn, academic institutions rebuffed me in an effort to get information on the Kee Mound, or as known in California, CA-SON-299. We, meaning private citizens, are not allowed access to archaeological records or reports for the sake of preventing looting and to not offend Native Americans. I must first apply to a Native American group having influence over the geographical area of which I had interest stating what material was to be reviewed and what my purpose was. The Kee Mound was recorded to have as many as 200 burials. Need I say more about my chances of getting Native American assistance to accessing records at University of California Berkeley? I am grateful to several California archaeologists for their cooperation at completing this report. Many are not in sway with current trends in this arena. All of them now work

privately or are retired, but most indicated that they have had issues regarding UC Berkeley's lack of cooperation in sharing information. The new elitist academia is in control, and friends, it will get worse.

With the implementation in 1990 of NAGPRA, the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, much has changed. Our museums are being looted by Native American tribes claiming objects of cultural patrimony—sacred objects and funerary associated objects should be returned to the tribes. And museums are rolling over. Thousands of artifacts have been returned to tribes for installation in their own museums, destruction, reburial, or in some cases, resold. But individuals have suffered criminal prosecutions under NAGPRA by overzealous prosecutors. The “reverse looting” of our museums is a warning shot to private collectors as activist Native Americans get energized and look for more plunder.

We, as collectors, are now the caretakers of America's heritage. Any publicly funded museum can fall prey to this law and privately held collections may be next. We must be educated, alert, and active to protect our life-long efforts building our collections. This writer does not condone the digging of graves, but those artifacts that have been out of the ground for decades, and in some cases a century or more, should be exempt from this madness. All of the artifacts in the Chenoweth/Corrow collection were excavated over 50 years ago. My hopes are that they will be available for all to see for many more years.

Richard N. Corrow - July 4, 2008

INTRODUCTION

The story of the Kee Mound had an inauspicious beginning and sad ending. Since the mound’s demise in 1951, no formal report has ever been published, nor have photos of the artifacts been made public. It should not be underestimated how important this site was, and though not as well known as the great mounds of the Midwest, the Kee Mound has its place in California history. A unique culture once thrived at this site.

THE KEE MOUND

The West Coast of North America exhibits an extraordinary range of archaeological treasures. The focus of this commentary is a stretch of California coastline in Sonoma County, 50 miles north of San Francisco on beautiful Bodega Bay. This location is less than a mile north of the site of the cottage featured in Alfred Hitchcock’s movie thriller *The Birds*.

Here rose a great shell mound running 320 feet north and south and 140 feet wide, well-situated on the sheltered west side of the bay. The area enjoys mild, but wet winters, and pleasant summer days begin with morning fog. Nearby free-flowing springs provided ample water and the bay and coast an endless food supply. Truly a well-chosen home for a culture long since disappeared except for the secrets that lay up to 15 feet deep within the mound.

But this story begins when a young Hardin (Hardy) Talman Chenoweth began to develop his lifelong interest in Native American artifacts. Hardy was born in Occidental, California, May 9, 1885 and lived his entire life in Sonoma County. He was first employed by the county as a roads foreman and fire warden. He then became a lumberman and rancher, finally owning his own lumber mill and substantial forestland. He died October 11, 1957. Hardy had a massive collection. He was one of the first to dig at the Glen Cove mound (CA-SOL-236) near Benicia in Solano County and dug at several sites in Sonoma County. Part of his collection was exhibited at the 1915 San Francisco Exhibition. Hardy was often interviewed by the local media as an expert in local Native American cultures and featured in a Santa Rosa *Press Democrat* Sunday rotogravure section January 27, 1952.

Fortunately, Hardy developed the discipline of cataloging his collection and he did a short biography of his experience at the Kee Mound, an experience that lasted 50 years!

In his own words, here is an insight on this lifelong collector written circa 1953:

The first time that I ever saw the Kee Mound was in the year 1895. My father and I drove from Occidental with a cart and horse to get abalone. In driving around an embankment I noticed a projectile-point of obsidian where the tide had washed it out of the bank of a shell mound. We stopped and picked up eight net sinkers and some more pieces of obsidian but it did not occur to me at that time it was a burial mound.



This Santa Rosa, (California) PRESS DEMOCRAT Sunday rotogravure article on collecting artifacts featured several Sonoma County collectors and was published January 27, 1952. Hardy Chenoweth, shown lower left, collected a wide range of Native American material and amassed an impressive collection of artifacts from the local area. His granddaughter, Nancy Chenoweth, upper left at age eleven, is shown wearing Native American regalia from his ethnographic collection. Nancy inherited her grandfather's collection in 1957 and she passed it to Richard N. Corrow in 1993.

Later I told a man named Ike Button what I had found and he went down and found a mortar in perfect condition. From then on from year to year when we went down for fish or abalone I would find a few artifacts.

By this time the owners had planted the mound to carrots and I found a lot of artifacts where they plowed the top soil. Let me state here that I had a small collection so this interested me very much. One time when I was passing the mound I saw a human skull in the bank. I started digging and uncovered the balance of the skeleton but found nothing with it. I could not dig far because there was a picket fence between the plowed ground and the Bay.

In the early 1920s some people came from Los Angeles and paid Robert Kee \$20.00 to dig. They found some very valuable material but they would

not let anyone see what they had except a curved obsidian knife [sic] about twelve inches long which are [sic] very rare.(1) At this time I would like to say that I will have a lot of information in regard to the curved blades later.

Now I got interested and obtained the rights to excavate the mound and immediately ran into trouble for the Indians of Bodega Bay maintained that their people were buried there. I had no defense for they had the Supervisors of Sonoma pass a law forbidding anyone to molest the mound.

In 1947 I went to Robert Kee and obtained permission to remove the mound for I found out that if the owner desired to use a mound to fill joining land he had the right to do so. Still, it wasn't clear sailing, for the Indians made trouble in every way possible. They were misinformed because in all of my digging I found no trader beads and trader beads go back 200 years with burials and maybe more. Also, I did not find any arrow points, which in my book put this mound a minimum of 800 years old that is on the surface.

Anything that I could have said or done would not have accomplished what the University of California (did) toward making the excavating possible.

By some means Dr. (Robert) Heizer of Archaeology at UC Berkeley found out about this mound and sent a man by the name of Frank Fenenga to see me and I gave him the right in writing to work the mound. Mr. Fenenga started in 1949. He had about ten students on an average working for about three months but he ran into the same trouble that I had had with the Indians although with his background and knowledge of Indian culture he convinced them that the mound was too old to have any connection with late burials. I am convinced that I could never have accomplished what Frank did and I could not have gone ahead with the work regardless of the agreement that I had with Kee. From here we will call the mound SON-299. SON represents Sonoma County and 299 is the number cataloged by UC Berkeley The excavating by Fenenga was on the southern half, about 30 feet wide and 90 feet long east and west. They collected about 4,000 artifacts.

In my excavating I found most all burials on the eastern slope, in fact only five on the western slope. There are a

good many west of the datum line but that was when the mound was small and as it grew the mound naturally built east and in so doing the amount of graves was more and more to the east. From what I found out it looks as all burials were in the morning and I picture the people dressed for the burial facing the rising sun which gives one the thought that these people worshipped the sun three thousand years ago.

This is the first mention of the age of the mound, Frank Fenenga told me that the age was anywhere from 1,000

years to 7,000 years. This was before they had any Carbon 14 tests of the bone. This is considered one of the oldest coast mounds.

Hardy goes on to observe that artifacts had “workmanship of a higher standard” deeper in the mound than those found closer to the surface and describing a cache of mortars found near the mound.

This mound has been associated with a small number of nearby archaeological sites and given a cultural affiliation with the McClure Complex after the McClure mound, or CA-MRN-266 of the Middle Period of California (after

Jones and Klar figure 8.4 page 104). Excavated prior to SON-299, the McClure shell mound was an unusual site in both setting and content, ten miles south of SON-299 on Tomales Bay in Marin County. But SON-299, due to its greater size and contents, is perhaps more representative of the McClure Complex. The southern limits of the McClure influence appear to be the Ellis Landing site (CCO-295) on San Francisco Bay.

The McClure Complex is an isolated cultural phenomenon as evidenced by its primary diagnostic features. They include large curved eccentric blades of obsidian, human figurines of clay, woodworking, and perforated mica pieces probably sewn on buckskin garments. Other attributes include bird bone whistles overlaid with asphaltum and inlaid with *Olivella* beads, round bottom mortars, phallic charmstones, triangular shaped antler or bone spatulae, and ringed or “eyed” daggers or pendants. Red ochre seems to be associated with every artifact recovered.(6) Some of the earliest known worked abalone (*Haliotis*) in the form of pendants comes from these sites.

The extremely rare and long, curved, and serrated obsidian blades affiliated with the McClure Complex seem to be isolated within the Sonoma County and Marin County



From the second page of the 1952 PRESS DEMOCRAT article, Hardy stands next to a display of a portion of his collection that includes the large blades, a very unique obsidian V-shaped object, and bone artifacts. The longest blade at bottom center is just under 11" length.

area. There were two sets of four matching blades excavated by Chenoweth. Porter and Watson (1933) reported in their excavation of the Kee Mound, “In one grave, probably that of a medicine man since the bones and head were deformed, we found 24 beautiful spear heads averaging a length of 5", two 4 1/2" spears with the very ends sharply turned at right angles to the body of the spear.”(1) The closest type of blade one might compare to these is known as the “Stockton Curve” found in San Joaquin County of California, some 120 miles distant. Stockton Curves “exhibit an expert level of knapping skill” (Justice 2002:359) and are extremely rare themselves and probably less than 200 have been found, but they are less than 2 1/2" in length. Noel Justice indicates a Late Period association of “A.D. 700-1,100 to 1,500 and later”. The earlier of these dates seems to fall into the tail end of the McClure Complex. The Stockton Curves are almost exclusively from the Napa obsidian source. Most of the lithics found at the Kee Mound and one set of the long blades are of Napa obsidian.

California Indians may have made the largest, flaked obsidian blades in the world. Leaf-shaped specimens measuring three feet long have been found. Smaller blades up to two feet long were objects of wealth and used for ceremonial display in northwestern California.

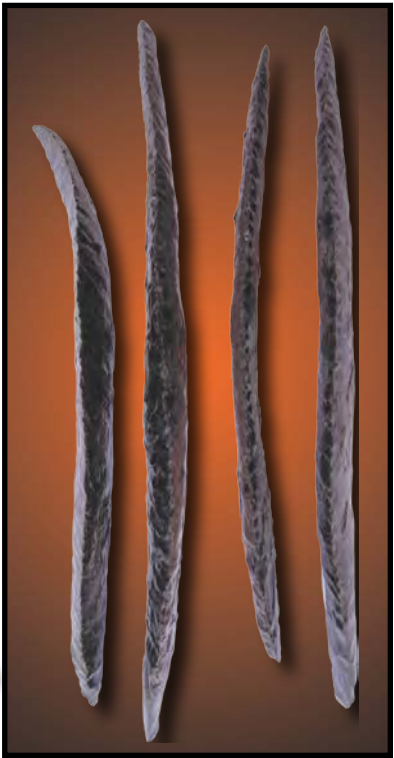


These extremely rare and beautiful serrated blades are excurvate in two planes (see side view), the longest being 10 3/4" and 1/2" thick. The obsidian used is from a source in Napa Valley and verified by X-ray fluorescence. They date 1,151 years before the present by obsidian hydration rim measurement. One of the unique features of the McClure Complex of the Middle Period of California archaeology, these long, curved blades were probably wealth objects and appeared during ceremonial activities. When discovered, they were covered with red ochre, another McClure attribute. The McClure Complex ranged from about 500 B.C. to 1100 A.D. and is named for the mound on the McClure Ranch on nearby Tomales Bay. These certainly are four of the finest artifacts recovered from the Kee Mound at Bodega Bay, California or the entire West Coast, for that matter. Pictured with the blades is a most unusual object. The “Wings of Stone” was found near the long blades in the proximity of where a headdress may have been. It measures 4 1/8" wide X 4 1/2" high. Red ochre stain is still evident. Headdresses of most California tribes consisted of a great variety of bird feathers—could this object represent a bird effigy? No other such object is known in northern California. Several unique eccentric artifacts were found at the Kee Mound. The Kee Mound became CA-SON-299, as recorded by the University of California Archaeological Survey in 1949. These four blades and the “Wings of Stone” are shown actual size on the cover.

For many California Indians, obsidian and obsidian blades were critical elements of shamanic rituals. The northern California Yuki had several kinds of shamans who all dreamed of supreme spirits, on whom their power depended. (Rust, 1905).

The obsidian (Yuki) shamans also treated diseases. Sometimes they built a kind of funnel of earth, perhaps two feet long. The patient reclined at one end and at the other, obsidian blades were set up. The doctor then blew tobacco smoke through the hole on the sick person. (Kroeber, 1925:193-8).

There are various descriptions of Central California Miwok and possibly Yokuts of “dance impersonators, not a bear doctor or shaman, (who) carried curved pieces of obsidian attached to his fingers in place of bear’s claws. He imitated this animal in his dancing.” (Kroeber, 1919). Also, the “Stockton Curves” were declared to be imitation bear claws worn on the left hand by the dancers of the *uzumati* or grizzly dance. Four of these curves were attached to sticks and these in turn lashed to the four fingers.” (Barrett and Gifford, 1933). “Funerary contexts have typically



produced Stockton Curves in groups rather than singly,” (Justice, *ibid*) supporting the theory they were not used as a singular implement.

These accounts and others recognize the importance of obsidian in California Native American culture. But the McClure Complex, of which we know only of their material remains, must have had its own obsidian obsession. The only similarities provided by Native American informants about “curved obsidian blades” seems to be as listed above, but no real comparison can be made. It is curious that both caches of these curved blades found by Chenoweth in the Kee Mound were groups of four matching blades. Trade with distant tribes using Napa obsidian may have had cross-cultural influence, but the McClure Complex culture remains unique in all of California.

A most interesting object found within the mound was a 27" whale rib bone spatulae (see page 13). The sheer quantity and quality of objects found in association with the long blades along with this object compares with a burial of a 30-year-old man in distant Livermore Valley. Along with a similar but shorter bead appliquéd spatulae were quartz crystals, and approximately 30,000 *Olivella* saucer beads, the largest documented California bead lot. (Wiberg, 1988). Comparisons of other important California mortuary patterns can be made with those of the McClure Complex.

Dr. Robert Heizer, considered the father of California archaeology, made an infamous appearance at the mound in 1949. There is ample documentation of Heizer’s visit both in oral tradition with the Chenoweth family and in written communications between Fenenga and his associates. It seems Hardy, working in one of his carefully laid-out grids, was digging deep in the mound and Heizer proceeded to drive a shovel through a packet of bird bone whistles. Heizer responded “They could be repaired back in the (UC Berkeley) lab!”(2) Hardy, rightfully enraged, threw Heizer off the mound.

It was Frank Fenenga who finally convinced Hardy to let UC Berkeley back on the mound. Hardy gave them a choice area in which to dig, some 2,700 square feet comprising part of the southern portion of mound. The agreement Hardy had with UC Berkeley was that Hardy would retain all of the artifacts after they were cataloged and studied. UC Berkeley has in fact several thousand artifacts from SON-299.

Frank Fenenga, (1917-1994) known fondly as “Finnegan” by his friends, was a noted California archaeologist with an illustrious career. He established a recording system for all state archaeological sites which was adopted by the Smithsonian Institution and is in use today. The Kee Mound, named after the landowner, Robert Kee, became CA-SON-299 in Fenenga’s system, referring to first state, then county, then site. Frank was the first to suggest that the bow and arrow were recent developments to the New World, a view now accepted by all scholars. Fenenga and a list of his associates reads like a who’s who in archaeology.

Among those exploring the mound in the summer of 1949 were Clem Meighan, Arnold Pilling, Robert Greengo, and Francis (Fritz) Riddell. This author is privileged to have received a copy of Frank Fenenga’s unpublished site report for SON-299 from his son, Gerrit L. Fenenga, Ph.D., Associate California State Archaeologist.(3) It is unfortunate that the report of several hundred pages, so near to final editing, was not completed. Very comprehensive, it has far more information and detail for this effort.



This 6" horseneck clam (Tresus nuttali) shell has been utilized as a storage container for asphaltum. A similar shell containing red ochre was found in the UC excavations. It was not until a later period that these shells were used for clam-shell disc beads. The charmstones, knobbed-stem type, have asphaltum remains preserved as found. Asphaltum was a universal adhesive for gluing and bonding. Found in naturally occurring seeps along the Pacific Coast, asphaltum held beads to ornaments, reinforced projectile point bindings, and anchored cordage to charmstones like those shown.

CHRONOLOGY

The McClure Complex of the Tomales Bay Pattern spanned the time period between 1,000 and 2,500 years before present (YBP). (Milliken et al. 2007). This dating is based on shell bead types, which are almost as useful to California archaeology as are potsherds in other parts of North America for analyzing culture processes.(6) SON-299 was a Middle Period *Olivella* bead production center and the abundance of saddle beads corroborate the ¹⁴C dates.(7)

Radiocarbon Dating (¹⁴C)

The earliest Carbon 14 date published for a McClure facies site, CA-MRN-115, (Meighan, 1953) “. . . indicates the McClure Complex to be something on the order of 800 to 1,000 years old”. However, Meighan acknowledged some issues regarding the sample used in dating the site. A ¹⁴C date of 2,700 YBP was obtained from MRN-138 on the bay side of Marin, also considered to be in the McClure facies.(6)

Michael Kennedy (2004) utilized 17 shells excavated by Fenenga in 1949 from CA-SON-299. The shells were

obtained from the UC Berkeley Phoebe Hearst Museum collection and produced a weighted mean ¹⁴C calibrated age of 2,017 +/- 126 YBP, well within the Middle Period established for the McClure Complex.

This author submitted a sample of an elk antler wedge to the University of Arizona Physics Department AMS Lab for Carbon 14 dating. A corrected date was obtained of 1,834 +/- 36 YBP. Several antler wedges are in Hardy's collection and his notes indicate this one was recovered from the six foot level. Woodworking was one of the attributes of the McClure Complex, and wedges were useful tools. Their primary uses were probably for prying bark from redwood trees for roofing material for semi-subterranean shelters and splitting the soft inner wood into useful shapes.

Obsidian Hydration Dating (OHD)

Obsidian Hydration Dating is a sophisticated method of measuring in microns the rind or surface band created on freshly exposed surfaces of obsidian when exposed to air such as when broken off or after a flaking process. Rind growth is susceptible to many variables and requires cross-referencing various tables to arrive at an accurate conclusion. OHD is useful in determining relative ages and can be converted into an absolute age.

Several Kee Mound blades were submitted for dating by the author to Origer's Obsidian Laboratory(8) for hydration rim measurement. The results for the four large blades, specimens 299- #12A through #12D measured 2.3 microns, and, when adjusting for the cool temperature of the site location, yield a date of approximately 1,151 YBP. OHD tests of two other blades, specimens; 299- #12E & #13A, also from Napa and, according to Hardy's notes, excavated from the same pit, measured 2.7 microns to yield 1,580 YBP. All of these blades were from the Napa County source and verified by X-ray fluorescence tests at Geochemical Research Laboratory.(9)

Hardy found four beautiful curved matching blades averaging nearly seven inches in length, some 45 feet away from the long blades. Excavated "ten to twelve feet deep", he goes on to say, "ground worked over too much to give a depth". Obviously Hardy had some difficulty with his techniques. These blades, 299- #47A-#47D, are verified as Annadel obsidian and measured 1.6 microns converted to 960 YBP when adjusted for temperature. This author is not aware of any other obsidian hydration dating being performed on artifacts from SON-299.

The three dating methods—shell bead typology, radiocarbon, and obsidian hydration measurements—all yielded dates in the 900 to 2,500 YBP range, within the ranges posited by Meighan (1953), and Milliken et al.(10)

MATERIALS AND SOURCES

Asphaltum is an excellent adhesive and mastic. UC Berkeley scientists have suggested asphaltum existed at one time at a seep in nearby Tomales Bay, just a few miles



Mica (Muscovite) sequins, usually found with red ochre stain, decorated clothing or were suspended as ornaments (a McClure feature). Chenoweth excavated several hundred pieces. They average 1 3/8" across and 1/16" thick.



Red ochre, a major trait of the McClure Complex, was found throughout the mound. Its value is quite evident as it must be traded from some distance. Used heavily in lining burials, all offerings were coated as well. Olivella beads, mica sequins, and obsidian eccentrics may have looked like this during excavation. Average bead size is 5/16" diameter.



Native tobacco (Nicotiana bigelovii) was smoked in pipes of steatite, or soap stone. They were shaped to this perforated bowl type during the Middle period. A stem of bird bone or cane was fitted into the bottom in the fashion of a tube pipe. When found it had several Olivella beads adhered to its rim with asphaltum. The pipe was found with the steatite "dumbbell" shaped object. Was it possibly a pipe tamper? Pipe diameter is 1 3/4".

to the south. Also likely, globs of the sticky substance may have floated great distances to be found along the coast. This happened before modern oil field pumping relieved natural stresses in the earth that once forced asphaltum to the surface.

Obsidian has two principal local sources. One is near present day Santa Rosa in Annadel Park—the stone is recognized by having faint but distinct striations. However, most of the blades found in SON-299 were made of a deep black obsidian, free of inclusions and discolorations, which was quarried in neighboring Napa County.

Red ochre or hematite (*ferric oxide*) and cinnabar are principal traits of the McClure Pattern. It was used ceremonially as face and body paints and often lined burials and coated artifacts. One source was the New Almaden mine near San Jose. In 1845, when a shaft was sunk, there was discovered an ancient tunnel some 50 or 60 feet in length at whose face, covered with caved roof material, were several Native American skeletons and rude stone milling tools.(4)

Steatite, or soapstone, primarily used for pipes during this period, was not found locally and was probably traded from distant sources in the Sierra Nevada and Coast Range mountains. Mica, actually muscovite, has a source to the south in neighboring Marin County on the Tiburon peninsula.

California prehistoric culture material is not as sculptural as the artifacts found in the Midwest. California Native Americans had minimal atl-atl weights, if any at all, and lacked the bannerstones, birdstones, spuds, and celts found in the East. Pottery was mostly restricted to the

southern part of the state and watertight baskets served as the primary cooking utensil, water being heated with hot rocks. Historically, local Native Americans made world class baskets which are highly sought after by collectors.

Lithics, however, may have less variety in material, but outstanding examples of workmanship can be found throughout the state. In much of northern California, where obsidian was readily available, artifacts of remarkable quality were produced. Other materials used included cryptocrystalline quartz, such as cherts and jasper, and basalt, schist, and metamorphic stones.

CONCLUSION

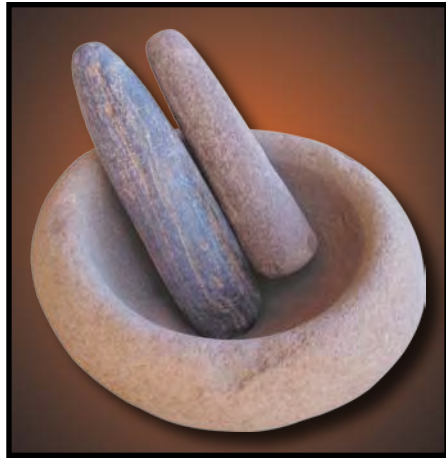
In introducing California material culture to an unfamiliar audience, the reader should bear in mind that the State covers a large area and encompasses many cultures. This is best summarized in *California Prehistory*, edited by Jones and Klar, 2007. Moratto and Chartkoff's contribution to this epic effort best condenses this reality:

As we are now aware, there is no single cultural sequence (i.e., chronology) for any region of California, and most regions encompass many localities and sequences. Moreover, each region has its own peculiar history and traditions of archaeological work so that theoretical orientations, research foci, methods, and taxonomic schemes vary enormously.

SON-299 is no exception to this statement. However, it may represent one of the most complex cultures in California prehistory as demonstrated by the wide variety of excavated material and diagnostic features.



The destruction of the Kee Mound, ca. 1951. After years of controversy with archaeologists, collectors, bureaucrats, and Native Americans, Robert Kee accepted an offer from a nursery in Santa Rosa for the mound to be used for compost and mulch. Sadly, this most important site was completely destroyed. Sifted piles left from pits dug the previous year can be seen, showing how little was actually dug during the latest excavation period. Porter and Watson were the first to excavate the Kee Mound in 1932, then Chenoweth, and lastly UC Berkeley in 1949 and 1950.



Round bottom boulder mortars with cobble and shaped pestles processed acorns and seeds. Acorns are clearly the most important and most characteristic California staple.(6) Mortars of this type appeared in the Napa Valley about 1,500 B.C. and the Santa Rosa locality by 1,000 B.C.

The author understands the importance of this collection from one of the most significant archaeological sites on the West Coast of the United States, and this collection will always be available for study. It is sad that, due to politics and ignorance, museums, academia, and Native Americans will not reciprocate in sharing their knowledge. Artifacts from CA-SON-299 in the collection of the Phoebe Hearst Museum at UC Berkeley—rightfully belonging to the Chenoweths—may be eligible for repatriation under the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act, (NAGPRA). The day may come when private collections shall be the keepers of America’s heritage.

Shown in the background of these pages, Hardy Chenoweth’s site map of the Kee Mound is exemplary of the efforts he made to document his collection. A self-taught amateur with no academic training, Hardy accepted remarkable responsibility excavating one of the major archaeological sites in California. His grid layout, though unique, was effective and placement of each artifact to its mound location was easily discerned by marking his artifacts with the grid number. Realizing its importance, Hardy shared a portion of the mound for excavation with the University of California Archaeological Survey conducted by Frank Fenenga. The approximately 2,700 square foot area is clearly outlined.

Editor’s Note: Just as Prehistoric American goes to press, we were informed that the Phoebe A. Hearst Museum of Anthropology, University of California Berkeley, has granted Richard N. Corrow and Hardy Chenoweth’s granddaughter, Nancy, full access to review the collections from CA-SON-299 on November 6-7, 2008.

This photo, taken in 2008 from the same sand dunes as the 1949 photo, shows that nothing remains of the former Kee Mound.



FOOTNOTES:

(1) *Hobbies Magazine* Excavating in California, Porter and Watson (July, 1933:131,132). This interesting article described many artifacts of the type described here, and they were the first to excavate the Kee Mound. Of note, they also found numerous quartz crystals with asphaltum residue and long obsidian knives at and below nine feet deep. Inquires by Fenenga, indicated in his 1950 notes, as well as inquiries by this author as to who Porter and Watson were and what happened to their artifacts, have been unfruitful.

(2) Correspondence; Clem Meighan to Frank Fenenga, (3/14/1951) within Fenenga’s unpublished site report

(3) Unpublished site report for investigation of CA-SON-299 by Franklin Fenenga

(4) *Geologic Guidebook of the San Francisco Bay Counties*, Bulletin 154, 1951, Page 39-56 “Indians of the San Francisco Bay Area” by Robert F. Heizer

(5) The large blades found in the mound follow the type defined by Fredrickson (1973:199) *Early Cultures in the North Coast Ranges, California*, Manuscript UC Davis

(6) *Handbook of North American Indians* Vol. 8, California, Smithsonian Institution, (1978)

(7) Bennyhoff and Hughes 1987:155

(8) Origer’s Obsidian Laboratory, P.O. Box 1531, Rohnert Park, CA 94927

www.origer.com/origer's_obsidian_lab.htm

(9) Geochemical Research Laboratory, Richard E. Hughes, Ph.D. Archaeologist. 20 Portola Green Circle, Portola Valley, CA 94028-7833

(10) Milliken et al. figure 8.4 page 104 and figure 8.5, Page 119

(11) Justice, 2002

(12) Bennyhoff, James *California Fish Spears and Harpoons*. Anthropological Records 9:4, UC Berkeley (1950)

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Richard N. Corrow, 67, lives in Apache Junction, Arizona with his wife Donna and his stepson, and has three grown children. His uncle, Bill Corrow of Plymouth, Massachusetts, amassed a large collection of local Native American artifacts and introduced Richard to collecting as a young man. Richard later inherited his uncle’s collection. Richard’s unique and varied background includes: successful chief mechanic in professional motor racing, master machinist and owner of two aerospace machine shops, general contractor of custom homes, craftsman of artifact display stands, and dealer of antique ethnographic Native American art. Richard has found and collected “arrowheads” for over 40 years and only purchased two important collections, the Chenoweth collection and the Miller collection of Great Basin artifacts. Richard attended some archaeological classes at Sonoma State University and Santa Rosa Community College in Sonoma County, California. Richard has one of the major American Indian and Eskimo bow and arrow collections in the country, including several rare cave bows carbon dated over 1,000 years old. He still searches for that elusive Paleo artifact.

RICHARD N. CORROW COLLECTION

APACHE JUNCTION, ARIZONA

(Mark Loper Photography)

Left: Fish spear points of bone, (type MM2B after Bennyhoff) (12) of the Early to Middle Period. Longest 3 1/8".

Below: Woodworking was a trait for the McClure Complex and elk antler wedges are often found in the mounds. Wedges lend themselves well to splitting soft redwood into shapes; however, no remains of such efforts have been discovered. They may also have been used to remove bark from redwood trees in large panels and used to cover semi-subterranean houses. Wedge at bottom right yielded a ¹⁴C date of 1834 +/-36 YBP. Largest 6" X 3".



Above: Phallic charmstones appear to have peaked during the Middle Period, ca. 500 B.C. to 1,000 A.D. Most charmstones are thought to be luck charms for hunting and fishing but these phallic types may have been for reproductive qualities. Longest 6 1/2".

Right: An early type of abalone (*Haliotis*) pendant, the longest 1 3/4", is a McClure feature. Ironically, McClure sites are remarkable for their general scarcity of abalone ornaments. Many species of mollusks, including abalone, are found in abundance nearby and there may be less interest in fashioning ornaments, whereas inland people had to import shell from the coast. (6) The three cruciform decorations were of interest to the UC Berkeley archaeologists who considered them to be a rare type. Many artifacts in Hardy's collection were sketched and in Fenenga's unpublished site report.



RICHARD N. CORROW COLLECTION

APACHE JUNCTION, ARIZONA

(Mark Loper Photography)



This extraordinary and very rare spatulae of whale rib bone is 27" long and believed to be the longest of its type found on the California coast. Whether used as a staff, wand, scepter, or strigil, its owner must have been a high-ranking individual. It still retains *Olivella* beads attached with asphaltum. It was found in four pieces and has less than 5% restoration.

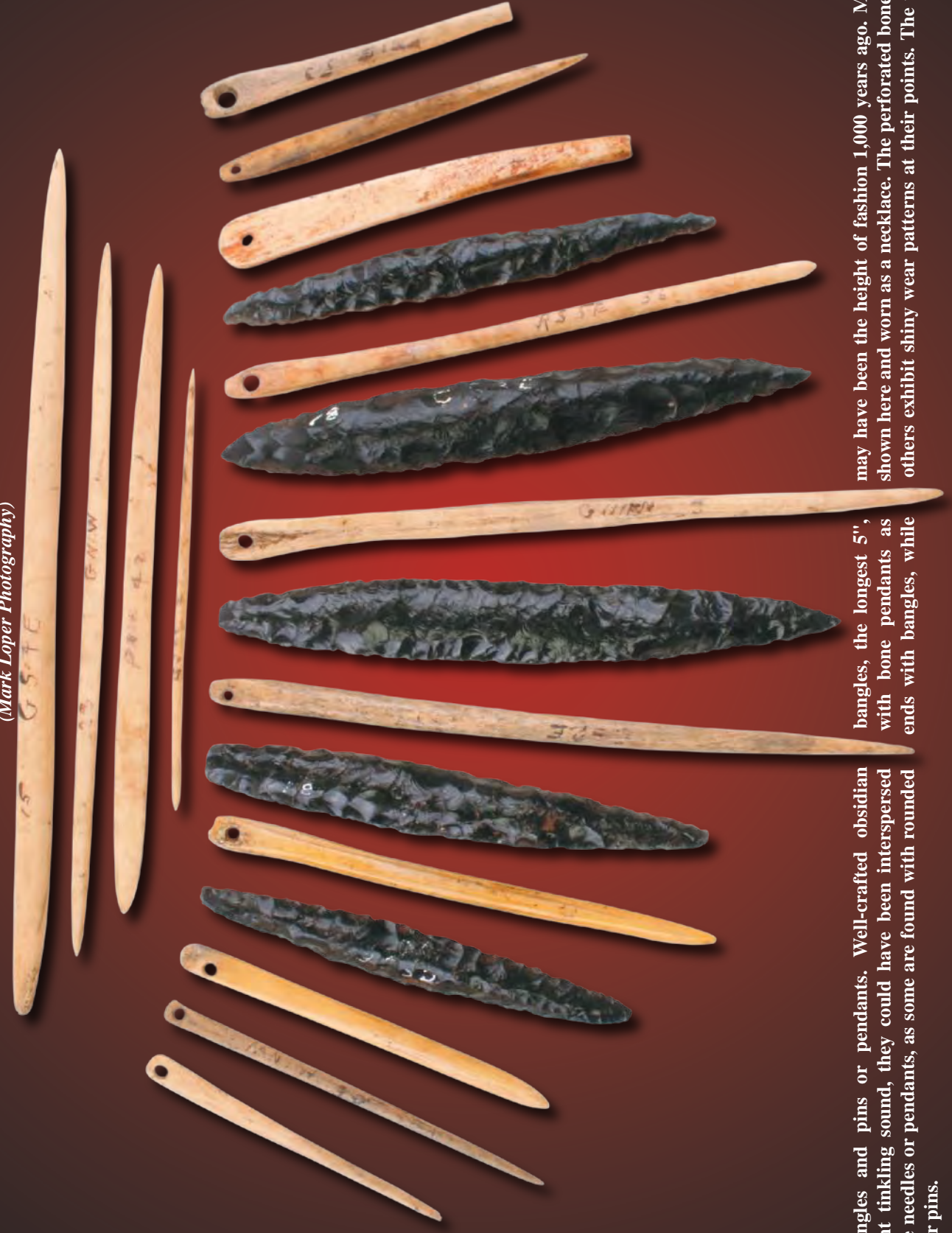
RICHARD N. CORROW COLLECTION
APACHE JUNCTION, ARIZONA
(Mark Loper Photography)



(shown actual size)

Few surviving bird bone whistles of this antiquity exist, but those shown here with *Olivella* shell beads still attached with asphaltum are nearly nonexistent. Some examples remain in the Phoebe Hearst Museum at the University of California, Berkeley, that were recovered by Frank Fenenga during excavations in 1949. The longest whistle is possibly made from the now endangered California condor.

RICHARD N. CORROW COLLECTION
APACHE JUNCTION, ARIZONA
(Mark Loper Photography)



Bangles and pins or pendants. Well-crafted obsidian pleasant tinkling sound, they could have been interspersed may be needles or pendants, as some are found with rounded are hair pins.

bangles, the longest 5", with bone pendants as ends with bangles, while

may have been the height of fashion 1,000 years ago. Making a shown here and worn as a necklace. The perforated bone objects others exhibit shiny wear patterns at their points. The top four

RICHARD N. CORROW COLLECTION
APACHE JUNCTION, ARIZONA
(Mark Loper Photography)



This group of lithics represents a cross section of the types found in the mound. The longest blade, probably a knife, thrusting spear point, or simply a wealth object, is 7" long and near perfect in symmetry and form. Most blades are of deep black inclusion-free obsidian from Napa Valley. The remaining points are of chert found in the area north of San Francisco Bay. The few concave-based points found deep in the mound are not Paleo in origin but represent types from the Santa Rosa locality generally falling within a period from 3000 B.C. and persisting as late as 1,000 A.D. (*White, Jones, Roscoe, Weigel, 1982*)

The remainder of the artifacts falls into the "Coastal Contracting Stem Cluster" and mostly Excelsior type (after Fredrickson 1973:199) and appear "after ca. 2,000 B.C. and extending as late as ca. 500 A.D. and perhaps later." (11) No projectile points considered to be arrowheads were found within the mound, an indication that the mound was abandoned prior to the introduction of the bow and arrow.

RICHARD N. CORROW COLLECTION
APACHE JUNCTION, ARIZONA
(Mark Loper Photography)



On the ends: A beautiful matched set of four serrated blades, the longest at 7", of Annadel obsidian and still retaining red ochre staining. They dated 960 years before the present with a hydration rim measurement of 1.6 microns. Center: Fashioned from bone, the objects fourth and fifth from the left are described by some California archaeologists as "ringed" or "eyed" daggers (6), the longest being 10 3/4". Note the inset showing asphaltum and beads still remaining. The others are thought to be "head-scratchers".



Shown lower row from left: A variety of personal adornments including various perforated bone, stone, and tooth pendants; bird bone beads; and mica decorations. The longest perforated stone pendant at center left is 3 3/8". Top row from left: A well-crafted, 2" wide obsidian eccentric of unknown use, four bone pendants (?) with *Olivella* beads held with asphaltum, and tinklers of naturally occurring obsidian columnar splinters that were probably suspended with asphaltum held cordage. Farther right, these knapped bangles of obsidian, like the smaller tinklers, made a desirable sound when suspended and worn together. Top right are three incised bone objects. The top two are possibly hairpins, but the bottom piece is identified as a "... die, with the only other known specimens coming from central California and the Interior Province of the Middle Horizon." (2)

BODEGA BAY REVISITED & THE ROSE GAFFNEY COLLECTION

Article & Photos by Richard N. Corrow, ©2010



The two blades were found together at CA-SON-300 as noted in the NCAS report. They are shown top right, on Plate 9. Obsidian hydration measurements were made, and based on Annadel as the obsidian source, hydration rim thickness averaged 2.0 microns. (16) (17) Analyzing these rim measurements, and allowing for corrections, gave an approximate age of manufacture estimate of 540 YBP. The longer blade is 7 1/4". Hafted knives are rare anywhere, but this one shown on Plate 5, is the only one from this area the author is aware of. Surely it is possible they were found together as the survival of antler wedges is evident. There appears to be no hafting glue residue such as asphaltum within the handle cavity, but the hafting matches well. The blade is curious though as its shape falls between a biface and a "bangle". Overall length 5 5/8".

The first European to sail into Bodega Bay was Sebastian Vizcaino in 1603; but a later visitor, the Spanish sea Captain Juan Francisco de la Bodega Quadra, gave his name to the bay in 1775. Russian traders, though, were the first non-Indian inhabitants of the area and apparently enjoyed a friendly relationship with the Pomo tribes who lived just to the north, and the native Coast Miwok tribe of the area surrounding Bodega Bay. An organization called the Russian-American Company was founded in 1799; and that same year, Tsar Paul granted the company a charter that gave it a complete monopoly over all Russian enterprises in North America. The company sent Ivan Kuskov on a voyage to locate a site suitable for a planned settlement. Moving southward on the ship named Kodiak, Kuskov arrived at Bodega Bay on January 8, 1804 and remained there until late August. He and his party of 40 Russians and 150 Alaskan natives explored the entire region and brought back more than 2,000 sea otter pelts. Kuskov returned in 1812 to build a colony; but after arriving at Bodega Bay in early 1812, he decided a more suitable location for the colony was the site of a Kashaya (Pomo) Indian village, 18 miles to the north. The local Pomo Indians called the spot *Meteni*, but the Russians named the fort “Ross,” an old name for Russia. According to one account, the entire area was acquired from the natives for “three blankets, three pairs of breeches, two axes, three hoes, and some beads.” (5)

Unlike the later arrival of the Spanish and the Americans, it appears the Russians enjoyed a friendly relationship with the coastal Native Americans by trading beads and ironware for pelts and game food, but did not advance inland. There are contradictory versions of this relationship from Native Americans, but certainly many of

them married the Russians and returned home to Russia with them. The Russian museums assembled fine collections of ethnographic material from the North American coast. A recommended stop for travelers to Russia is St. Petersburg to see, arguably, the best collection of Northwest coast ethnological artifacts in the world.

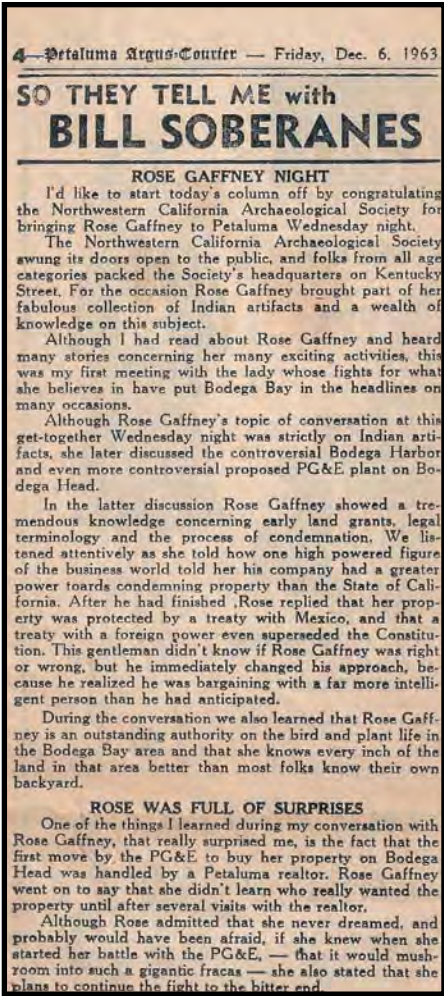
The political situation in California was changing dramatically. Mexico had won its independence from Spain in 1822 and opposed the Russians because they were allied with Spain against Mexico. The Russian American Company made little profit as sea otter population had been decimated, and their agricultural endeavors were not successful enough. By then the USA had made its claims on the Pacific coast, and by 1841 the Russians had abandoned the area.

The first European settler to the area was Captain Stephen Smith in 1841. He built the first commercial steam-powered saw mill on the Pacific coast. (6) Captain Smith had applied for and was awarded a Spanish land grant in the early 1840’s. He built his adobe on the site of the old Russian farm near the hamlet of Bodega, and he rapidly built roads in the area around Bodega Bay. In 1846, Captain Smith raised the American flag at Bodega only a few days after Lieutenant Joseph Revere raised the Flag in Sonoma. With the beginning of the American influence in Sonoma County, Captain Smith pledged his allegiance to the United States of America.

This is a long-winded way to get back to Hardy Chenoweth, but Hardy’s lumber mill stood on the same site as the original mill. We know what a treasure Hardy’s collection was – but there was yet another great and treasured collection of California archaeological artifacts from Bodega Bay: The Collection of Mrs. Rose Gaffney.

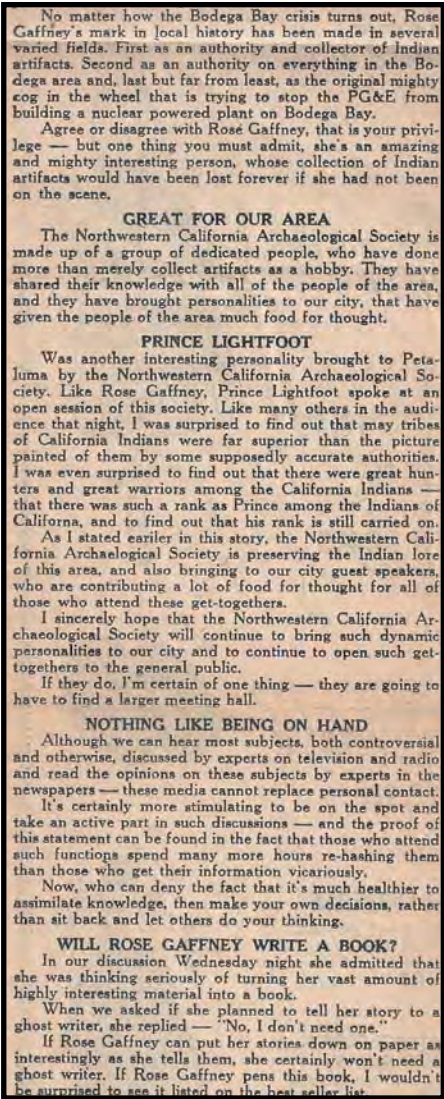


Cover of the NCAS Catalog



An article from the 1963 Petaluma Argus-Courier praised Rose Gaffney and the Northwestern California Archaeology Society.

Only a few decades ago, Americans had a greater interest in the ancient history of our country, attending public showings of artifact collections and enthusiastically learning about our country’s heritage.



Though dart points were common locally, apparently most atl-atls were used without weights. This 4 1/2" long atlatl weight is exceptionally rare for having been found in Sonoma County. It falls into Elsasser and Rhode’s “Principal Type – W” category and similar to their Figure D with the exception of having a single, centered groove rather than grooved ends. (15) Note the many tally marks on the sides. An identical artifact was in the Chenoweth collection but had no indication of provenance and was not included in the previous report. Having now observed this artifact and a second look at the Chenoweth artifact gives both more credibility. If only the stones could talk. (shown actual size)



“The Birds” Movie Marquee Lobby Card
Alfred Hitchcock’s thriller “The Birds” was filmed on the Gaffney ranch.



Gaffney Ranch House Converted For “The Birds”
The cottage featured in the movie was an 1840’s Russian barn, converted by the Gaffney family to a ranch house during the latter part of the nineteenth century then refaced for the movie in 1962.



LEFT: The Russian traders carried flintlock firearms and a loose “cock-hammer” clamp may account for these lost flints. “Flints” are actually chalcedony, a form of quartz. But these shown are not from the area and may be of European origin. The bottom center is 1 3/8" square. CENTER: Cobble choppers are common in the Bodega Bay area. Nicely made by percussion to a point, they may have been a multi-use tool, but opening clamshells could be a primary use. The longest is 3 3/4". RIGHT: Elk antler tools were not uncommon around Bodega Harbor. Thought to be used as wedges for splitting wood (18), an alternative use may have been as a digging tool for clams. The longest is 4".

ROSE GAFFNEY: “THE BELLE OF BODEGA BAY”

Rose Gaffney was an enigma and bigger than life. She has been called the “Mother of Ecology” (7) and became nationally famous in 1964 as the winner of a showdown with the largest private utility company in the world at the time, the Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E).

Rose was a Polish immigrant and came from Canada to the Bodega Bay area around 1911. At the age of 16 she went to work as a maid for the Gaffney brothers who owned a big portion of the middle part of Bodega Head. She was engaged to be married to one of the brothers, but the day before the wedding he was shot and killed in a barroom brawl. Rose was pregnant at the time so the other brother, Bill, married her. She remained with him until he passed away in 1941. (8)

At first, Rose and her husband lived on the Bodega Head ranch featured in Alfred Hitchcock’s thriller, “The Birds.” The former Russian ranch had been in the Gaffney family since 1862. The ranch house had been converted from a Russian barn. For the movie, the ranch house was refaced and was a refuge from the attacking birds to the “Brenner family”: “Mitch”, played by Rod Taylor; his mother “Lydia”, Jessica Tandy; his sister “Cathy”, Suzanne Pleshette; and the movie’s star Tippi Hedren as “Melanie”.

Bill’s death created a void in her life so just after his death she moved permanently two miles north to Salmon Creek. She and her husband had built the Salmon Creek home in 1923 and she remained there the rest of her life. All who new Rose believed she missed Bill dearly. Rose kept the property on Bodega Head and leased it in the late

1940’s to the Mann family who were local sheepherders. It was a strange “change of heart”, as she had been known to dislike sheep and to shoot them on sight when on her land. She once said, “damned if I didn’t accidentally shoot one hundred sheep in one day”. (9)

Rose had only an eighth grade education but was intelligent, self-taught and a voracious reader. Rose was a pioneer in her own way and met with many of the California archaeologists of her day. She was also knowledgeable in other fields such as botany, zoology, geology and “can talk easily with scientists - at some she scoffs.” She was a big woman, over six feet tall. She surface hunted more than half a century for the countless artifacts in her collections and became as weather-worn as the bluffs of Bodega Head. She was not an attractive woman, but topped her sense of humor with a boisterous laugh. She could be gruff and dramatic and embellish the facts; but she was simple in style, always appearing in dresses and often an apron and heard to say, “I could buy new clothes, put on the dog, but what the hell, why should I?” She “don’t drink or smoke, but I can swear.” At church, if someone sat in her pew she would ask them to move; but always a philanthropist, she would pay to send kids to camp and tell the preacher not to divulge her gifts.

The area around the bay was sparsely settled and as Rose put it, “having 350 souls and a few heels.” Few others had interest in picking up the artifacts that lay about in this pristine prehistoric habitation area; thus, as practically the only surface collector, her assemblage of artifacts grew steadily until she passed away after a short illness in 1974 at the age of 79.

Rose was the central figure in the “Battle of Bodega Bay”. PG&E attempted to build the largest nuclear power plant in the western United States - and wanted to build



This is Page 2 of the 1952 Santa Rosa *Press Democrat* article shown previously in *Prehistoric American* within the Hardy Chenoweth story. Here we see Hardy and Rose Gaffney showing their collections at a collectors gathering. It appears all of the artifacts shown are from Bodega Bay/Harbor area.

it on HER property near Bodega Head, which ignited a confrontation with national repercussions. She opposed the plant on moral grounds saying her land and that of Bodega Head would be better suited for conservation purposes. We have no positive evidence that she objected to the nuclear power aspect as her reason for refusing to sell. PG&E was interested in over 400 acres of Rose Gaffney’s 600-acre ranch. By way of eminent domain, the power company was able to have 64 acres of her land condemned, and she was forced to sell. Her ferocious fight to preserve her land led to a unique expression of local environmental activism, which became part of the template of grassroots anti-nuclear movements in the United States from then on. She wrote countless letters to editors, made appearances at public

meetings, and was constantly vigilant and ordered company officials off her land. It would take until 1964, when the Alaskan earthquake occurred, for PG&E to realize it is not a very good idea to have a nuclear power plant on top of an earthquake fault. When Rose was ill, a highly placed PG&E official, who fondly called her “Aunt Rose”, sent her flowers. She told him it was too soon – “I ain’t dead yet!” (10)

Rose was strong, intelligent, fearless, perceptive, and insightful, “I guess I haven’t grown up; the world still thrills me with its mysteries and wonder. I find a blade of grass as much of a miracle as anything.” This page in her life is a fascinating story in itself. There is much more, but it must be abbreviated here.

THE GAFFNEY COLLECTION

“It’s so fantastic, it’s pathetic.”

Through the years, a parade of California’s greatest names in archaeology passed through her home to admire her collection. Among them were Frank Fenenga, the lead archaeologist at the Kee mound excavations, Robert Heizer, Clem Meighan, Arnold Pilling, Dave Fredrickson and others, including Tom King. As a young man, Tom King founded the Northwestern California Archaeology Society (NCAS). He helped organize the Society for California Archaeology and went on to be very involved in trying to influence plans to preserve sites under the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) through “cultural resources management” or CRM. Through Tom’s foresight, during his tenure as president of NCAS, he was responsible for the photographic preservation of the bulk of Rose Gaffney’s collection. This was the only full documentation of Rose’s half century of collecting. In 1970, Tom and other NCAS members spent several days with Rose querying her to recall the location of many of her finds. The NCAS newsletter, *The Digger’s Digest*, Vol. 1 No. 4 featured the first of several articles about the Gaffney collection. The article’s title proclaimed, “It’s so fantastic, it’s pathetic.” In recent correspondence with Dr. King, he recalls, “Some of our tasks were to try and match up the locations where she recalled finding things (or concentrations of things) with the recorded sites. I remember her shaking her head and saying, “Oh, if only Dr. Kroeber had told me how to record these things!”

Rose had displayed her artifacts by tying them onto pieces of cardboard then thumb-tacking them onto twenty large, two-foot by three-foot frames; some two inches deep, others three. Two boxes were hinged together on their sides so as to close and latch. There were originally twenty frames and numerous boxes of larger artifacts such as mortars and pestles. The taxonomy, or classification is entirely typological. This is natural enough when one realizes that Mrs. Gaffney is a surface collector. She takes a certain amount of pride in the fact she has never dug and did not even own a screen. She had at least one class of artifacts sorted and classified years before their existence in California was even realized; referring to micro-drills and the platform cores from which they were struck.

The artifacts that stand out in this collection are the beautiful arrowheads assigned to the Rattlesnake Island Cluster. (13) These points are found throughout Marin,

Sonoma and Lake counties and attributed mostly to the Miwok, Wappo and Pomos tribes. Surviving arrowheads of these delicate, lethal, and outstanding examples of aboriginal flintknapper art are rarely seen from such a small geographical area. It may be that “missed shots” were embedded in the sand that abounds in the area, lessening impact breakage. These are true arrowheads, weighing less than 3.5 grams and rarely greater than two inches in length.

Many efforts were made from different quarters to house and display her collection for the enjoyment of future generations. Her collection included scores of Native American baskets and included some Pomo baskets which are considered to be among the world’s finest. The University of California, Berkeley, the California Division of Beaches and Parks, the Bodega Marine Biology Lab, and other local organizations could not put together the resources to create a permanent home for her collection.

Rose passed in 1974. In 1980, the famed wine vintner, August Sebastiani, a long-time friend and fellow arrowhead collector, bought the collection from her heirs. He displayed the collection in his wine tasting room in Sonoma for several years. During that time, occasional Indian activists would make visits to the winery complaining about the exhibit until it was finally taken

down in 1987. The collection was split in half with most of the stone artifacts going to an associate of the Sebastiani family. In 2010, after years of tracking down the collection, I obtained twelve frames of the stone artifact portion of the collection. The balance of the collection, mostly bone and shell artifacts, will be retained by individuals who wish to remain anonymous.

I wish to thank two true professionals: Tom Origer for tolerating my endless questions and David Fredrickson for whom I have the greatest respect.

NORTHWESTERN CALIFORNIA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The bulk of the Rose Gaffney collection now has a new home that it shares with the major part of the Chenoweth collection. Bringing these two great collections together is the beginning of what is hoped will lead to the establishment of a new Northwestern California Archaeological Society (NCAS). The original NCAS was disbanded in 1971. This author and others are developing a new mission statement

for the organization. Initially, our goals would be to gather important artifact collections from whatever sources through donations or purchase, carefully preserve these collections for the future of ALL Americans, keep them safe from repatriation eligibility and destruction; and make these collections available for public viewing and scholarly research.

FOOTNOTES

- (1) California Civil Code § 1899.10
- (2) Kawahara, Saichi, 1970. *Contributions To The Archaeology Of The Point Reyes National Seashore, Treganza Museum Papers No.6*, Editor Robert E. Schenk, Randall Milliken, Richard Fitzgerald, Mark Hylkema, Randy Groza, Tom Origer, David Bieling, Alan Leventhal, Randy Wiberg, Andrew Gottsfeld, Donna Gillette, Vivana Bellifimine, Eric Strother, Robert Cartier, and David Fredrickson,
- (3) Kelly, Isabel, *Isabel Kelly’s Ethnographic Notes on The Coast Miwok Indians of Marin and Sonoma Counties, California*, in *Interviews with Tom Smith and Maria Copa*, Compiled and Edited by Mary E. T. Cooper and Sylvia B. Thalman, MAPOM Occasional Papers, Number 6, Miwok Archaeological Preserve of Marin. 2003
- (4) Milliken, Fitzgerald, Hylkema, Groza, Origer, Bieling, Leventhal, Wiberg, Gottsfeld, Gillette, Bellifimine, Strother, Cartier and Fredrickson. *Punctuated Culture Change in the San Francisco Bay Area*. In *California Prehistory: Colonization, Culture and Complexity*. Terry Jones and Kathryn Klar editors. Altamira Press, Lanham, MD, 2007.
- (5) History of the Russian Settlement at Fort Ross, California, <http://www.parks.sonoma.net/rosshist.html>
- (6) Sonoma County Historical Society Journal, 1962, First Edition, Vol. 1 NO. 1
- (7) Bir, Sara, *Bodega’s Belle*, North Bay Bohemian, Oct. 16, 2003, <http://www.metroactive.com/papers/sonoma/10.16.03/gaffney-0342.html>
- (8) Arnold, Annette and Wild, Cathy. *Rose Gaffney “The Belle of Bodega Bay”* a documentary by Annette Arnold and Cathy Wild, A Homespun Production, courtesy of the Sonoma County public library. http://www.sonomacountymuseum.org/exhibits/archives_2005/2005_sonoma_confidential.html
- (9) Hillinger, Charles, *Belle of Bodega Bay*, THE SACRAMENTO BEE, January 23, 1972 <http://northbaydigital.sonoma.edu/cdm4/document.php?CISOROOT=/Lebaron&CISOPTR=927&REC=11>
- (10) Ibid
- (11) Site Locations – Bodega Bay Region, NCAS map, Drawn by Frederick C. Hahn, 1970, Within the “*Catalog of the Rose Gaffney Collection*”

- (12) *The Digger’s Digest*, Vol. 1 No. 4, 1962, Northwestern California Archaeological Society.
- (13) Justice, Noel, 2002, *Stone Age Spear and Arrow Points of California and the Great Basin*, Indiana University Press, Bloomington, Indiana
- (14) NCAS, *Catalog of the Rose Gaffney Collection*, 1970. Sonoma County History and Genealogy Library, Sonoma County Library, Santa Rosa, California.
- (15) Elsasser, Albert B. and Rhode, Peter T., 1996, *Further Notes on California Charmstones*, Archives of California Prehistory, Coyote Press, Salinas, California
- (16) Report AM-10-19, Average Rim Value 2.0 Archaeometrics, Inc., Obsidian Hydration Laboratory, P.O. Box 1762, Davis, CA 95617-1762
- (17) Report 2010-64, Geochemical Research Laboratory, 20 Portola Green Circle, Portola Valley, CA 94028-7833
- (18) Type HH, Gifford, E.W. 1940, *Anthropological Records 3:2, California Bone Artifacts*, University of California Press

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Plate No. 1



Plate No. 2



Plate No. 3



Plate No. 4



Plate No. 5



Plate No. 6



Plate No. 7



Plate No. 8



Plate No. 9



Plate No. 10

The Northwestern California Archaeological Society, NCAS, took these (and many more) photographic plates of Rose Gaffney's frames in 1970 during the only full documentation of her outstanding collection. Rose developed a tedious, but effective, way of mounting her artifacts by arranging them according to a general shape, outline, or type, then tying them onto pieces of cardboard. She then thumb tacked them into custom 2'x3' frames two inches deep.



Plate No. 11



Plate No. 12



Plate No. 13



Plate No. 14



Plate No. 15



Plate No. 16



Plate No. 17



Plate No. 18



Plate No. 19



Plate No. 20

Rose identified the location of objects found in her collection for the NCAS, a number was assigned to an artifact then numbered on the plate. That number was indexed in a column and located the site. The Index is not shown. Hinges mounted on the sides made Rose's frames portable by closing and latching. Still, theft was a problem at the many public events where she displayed her collection. Hundreds of larger objects other than these frames were contained in boxes and not shown. Only a limited number of the catalogs were made, possibly as few as five. (9) Some artifacts in the author's collection were left on the cardboard mounts for demonstration just as Rose left them. The bulk of the collection with the wood frames, though, has been committed to the new NCAS for permanent preservation.

Indian Artifact 'Treasure' Needs Sonoma County 'Home'

Mrs. Rose Gaffney Collected Items

By BOB WELLS

A "private" collection of about 10,000 Indian artifacts gathered in Bodega Head during the past several decades is in danger of being lost in Sonoma County forever.

It could even be sent out of the United States, unless a lawsuit is filed to prevent its exportation for the impetuous foreigner.

The owner is Mrs. Rose Gaffney, who lived much of her life working in a dairy region on the mainland, now in retirement, the late William Gaffney.

The items are in a small frame house in Sonoma Creek, where the owner has lived since 1950. The collection is of archaeological items.

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MRS. ROSE GAFFNEY FOUND THESE VALUED ARTIFACTS IN BODEGA BAY AREA
Top Center Object Is Indian Calendar Made of Shells

It is a small, one-story house in Sonoma Creek, where the owner has lived since 1950. The collection is of archaeological items.

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MUSEUM

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THIS IS SITE OF OLD GAFFNEY RANCH HOUSE
Machines Prepare Area for University Dormitory



UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA BUILDING MARINE LABORATORY
Mrs. Rose Gaffney Views Construction from Hillside at Horseshoe Cove

THE PRESS DEMOCRAT Empire Living

Santa Rosa, California, Sunday, October 31, 1965



FINE INDIAN HANDICRAFT SEEN IN BASKETWORK
Mrs. Gaffney Found One Basket at a Public Dump

Hard, But Colorful Life For Mrs. Rose Gaffney

Mrs. Rose Gaffney, 74, of Sonoma Creek, is a woman of many talents. She is a collector of Indian artifacts, a writer, and a publicist. She has been collecting artifacts for over 40 years.

Mrs. Gaffney's collection includes a wide variety of items, from simple tools to elaborate ceremonial objects. She has been instrumental in bringing attention to the importance of these artifacts.

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Indian Kitchen Middens in Foreground Full of Artifacts



Indian Kitchen Middens in Foreground Full of Artifacts



STRONG SURF ROLLS ACROSS SAND AT MUSSEL POINT
Indian Kitchen Middens in Foreground Full of Artifacts



Perfect Stockton points are sought after by northern California collectors to almost mythological proportions but those shown here are but field grade. Believed to be "the first arrow-sized projectile point types in the Bay area . . . a unique central California type," (4) first appearing in the Central Valley about 700 A.D. (13) A notch form of serration that tapers to an unserrated point easily identifies these "lethal-lithics". These points are rarely over 2 1/2" long. (shown actual size)



Fish effigy: This is the only "effigy" in Rose's collection. Just under two inches, it exhibits an all-over patina and appears to be crafted intentionally into a fish likeness. The five points around it lend credit to Rose's great eye at spotting even this 5/16" long perfect arrowhead third from left at top. (shown actual size)



Eccentric crescents are rare and only known from California and the Great Basin. They are diagnostic of a possible former Paleo presence in the Bodega Bay area. This one, shown in a close-up in the NCAS newsletter in "Digger's Digest", went missing from the collection. It can be seen in the lower right of Plate 2. It may have been removed prior to the collection being sold to the Sebastiani Winery. (shown actual size)



Are these five bipoints bangles or projectile points? Similar to those accessioned in Hardy Chenoweth's collection, they seem to be more prolific at coastal sites than they are at inland sites. Knapped to be diamond shaped or nearly round in cross section, they probably were bangles, and having been made of obsidian or volcanic glass, they made a pleasant sound when hung together. Longest 4 1/4". (shown actual size)

RATTLESNAKE ISLAND CLUSTER ARROWHEADS (Overleaf) ➤

As thin as an Indian head penny! These points from the geographical Bodega Bay area are fine representations of the flint knappers art. Most known sub-types are represented and fall into the Rattlesnake Island Cluster (Justice 2002).

"The North Bay was the seat of innovation during the L2 Horizon (about 500 YBP) in the Bay area." And "Simple corner notched points replaced Stockton serrated points in the North Bay". (4) The longest is 2". (shown actual size)

Rose Gaffney was featured in many news articles for her famous collection but also her fight to preserve her lands from eminent domain by Pacific Gas and Electric. PG&E, wished to build a nuclear power plant on her land at Bodega Head. It appears she opposed the plant on moral grounds saying her land and that of Bodega Head would be better suited for conservation purposes. PG&E withdrew the project when it was determined the plant would sit DIRECTLY on top of the feared San Andreas earthquake fault.



EXCELSIOR POINTS
*Most dartpoint and knife forms from the Bodega Bay area fall into the Excelsior type under the Coastal Contracting Stem Cluster.
 (Justice, 2002) Longest shown is 4". Excelsior points seem to appear "sometime after 2000 B.C." (shown actual size)*



NON-EXCELSIOR POINTS

Biface blades shown above fall into clusters and types other than Excelstior. But obvious similarities exist and may fall into the same type within the Coastal Contracting Stem Cluster. Some types not shown but included within the collection are: Willits Side Notched, Pinto, McGillivray Expanding Stem, Vandenburg Contracting Stem, Mendocino Concave Base, Borax Lake Wide Stem, Northern Side Notch, and others. The lower left point is probably a Houx Contracting Stem, 2 1/2" long. The Houx Contracting Stem type, appearing about 2500 B.C., preceded by about 500 years, and probably developed into, the Excelstior type.



The Gaffney collection had just about every charnstone type represented from the Sonoma County area, following Elsasser and Rhode typology. (15)
These are all from Plate 13 of "A Catalog of the Rose Gaffney Collection". Many more broken charnstones were in boxes mixed in with the many grooved net sinkers that are found at most Bodega Harbor sites. The longest phallic type is 6".



FOR MORE INFORMATION OR SALES INQUIRES
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