

arrow-heads that are peculiar in shape. These are round like a man's small finger, pointed like a projectile point and notched at the base by notching in the side. These points were probably used by Indians at a time before the horse had been introduced to the North American continent. Some of the points found here are made from chert, some from agate, and from various other fine grain stones. These Indians had developed a high skill in their ability to make a fine arrow-head. The points were thin and extremely sharp; some indicate that the men had the ability to roll out the point to a long, almost needle-sharp point. It is presumed that points found at these shallow depths were made by the Blackfeet who were known to be superior fighters of their day. Another point of interest for finding arrowheads in Pondera County is at a point downstream from the Sullivan Bridge on the south bank of the Marias River to a butte known as Chimney Rock. To stand and look down on this site it would not seem that there was even a buffalo jump here; however after digging into the sod to a depth of about three inches there is a deep layer of buffalo bones. Some screening done at this site and the arrowheads found here indicate that the site was used by a hunting group from the Columbia River area. It is known that the coastal Indians occasionally liked to come over into the plains area to join other tribes on a buffalo hunt

and the stone points that are found here indicate this is probably where they engaged in one of their hunts. Not many points have been recovered from this site, but those found indicate square notches in the ears and this was generally accepted as a method of making arrow-heads by the Columbia River Indians. It is quite likely this was done by a group coming through the Marias Pass, joining in a hunt in the area, and then returning. One arrow-head taken from this area is heavily encrusted with patina which would tend to indicate the hunt took place many years ago. Here again is a site that has hardly been touched by the arrow-head hunter.

Another interesting site that has produced some very fine points is to be found west of the railroad bridge on the south approach to Collins, Montana. A quarter of a mile to the west of the southern approach to the bridge is to be found the site where they drove the buffalo to the north and dropped them over a sharp mud bank. Arrow-heads found on this site have been made from flint and from obsidian and they also indicate a fine degree of workmanship. They indicate they were used by a tribe that also was hunting on the Dearborn and the upper Teton River areas. There are indications that this site has slid forward some hundred feet since the hunt took place – due, no doubt, to some earth disturbance.

Another productive site in the area is found on the Alzheimer ranch located approximately seventeen miles south of Conrad on the Muddy. Here again are arrow-heads made from a type of stone that seem to be different from those used by other Indians. Skinning knives and arrow-heads have been found in this area made from a blue, hard, fine-grained stone, also stone known as chert was used for a good many of the arrow-heads found in this area. This is a large slaughtering site which has produced many arrow-heads. It has been generally agreed that the last stone arrow-heads made by Indians in this area were made at approximately 1820 A.D. Shortly after that date the Hudson Bay traders were in this area trading iron points. They brought so many of them that the art of making arrow-heads from stone was discontinued at around that date.

The old Indians now living on the reservations, when asked how those arrow-heads were made, no longer have the slightest idea. It was believed to be almost a lost art, but recently there has been considerable study made as to how it was done. Some thought it was done by heating the stone and dropping cold water on it with a feather and somehow controlling the fracturing. However, in a recent demonstration, it is the opinion of the writer that the pressure system was the method used by practically all Indian peoples. The Indian would first obtain a piece of hard, fine-grained stone. He would then take a mallet, made out of a coarse-grained stone, and strike the harder stone at an angle until he had broken off a blank that was suitable to be used to make an arrow-head. This method was called spauling. After considerable practice some of them developed a high technique at spauling the piece they needed to



Mr. and Mrs. Carle Leavitt with some of their arrowhead collection. Mr. Leavitt had the Carbon Fourteen Test made.