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AN INTRODUCTION
TO THE
ARCHAEOLOGY
OF
SANDHILL BAY
SOUTHERN INDIAN LAKE, MANITOBA

by

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excavated area, further indications of in situ prehistoric materials were found in 1975 through accidental exposure of ceramics in a small clearing used as a modern fish camp. This find indicated the possibility of another large site, but because of the thick forest and limited time available, this question could not be further researched.

THE FIRST NARROWS SITES

The First Narrows (Fig. 3) was the location of five sites, at least four of which were, like those at the mouth, multicomponent prehistoric and historic. Three of the sites, HfLp-1, 8 and 7, were contiguous to one another on the east shore. The other two, HfLp-2 and 5, were on the west shore but isolated from each other.

HfLp-8

HfLp-8, the "Garden Site", is located on the point of land which formed the northwest corner of the First Narrows (Fig. 3). Because of the generally high elevation favouring a reduction in inundation impacts to the site, limited testing was conducted voluntarily by many of the crew after a regular work day. The site was divided into two areas, again reflecting two judgementally defined sampling strata. Both areas were defined in 1973, but it was not until 1974 that it became known that prehistoric material was associated with the site.

Area 1

Area 1 is located at the extreme end of the point. It consisted of a recent grave (Fig. 16) which was tended by surviving relatives over

excavated down to 5 cm below surface, at which depth the humus-clay interface was encountered.

One feature ("Feature 1") was recorded in the excavation. It consisted of a faintly observable basin-shaped area of fired clay extending from 2 cm to 8 cm below surface. Irregular in plan outline, it measured 154 cm long by 95 cm wide. A number of body sherds were found in the burned clay matrix and more sherds and chert flakes were found adjacent to the feature, which may have been a shallow hearth.

Associated with this unit, but not directly with Feature 1, were 112 red seed beads. This find suggests that the occupation may relate to an early fur trade period contact. ✓

Test 2

The original garden plot was designated "Test 2". It measured 2.0 x 2.4 m by the time the first ceramics were noticed. Because of the disturbance that had already taken place, the fill from this unit was simply screened and recycled back into the unit, along with processed fill from Test 1. The floor of the unit was leveled by shovel-skimming in order to identify any more features. Bone as well as ceramics were recovered from the fill. Eventually, the plot was planted and a few vegetables were harvested.

An area of fired clay with fragments of burnt bone associated was found on the skimmed floor of Test 2 and recorded as "Feature 2". The feature, first recognized 4 cm below surface, was 125 cm long, 76 cm wide and varied in thickness from 1 to 6 cm.

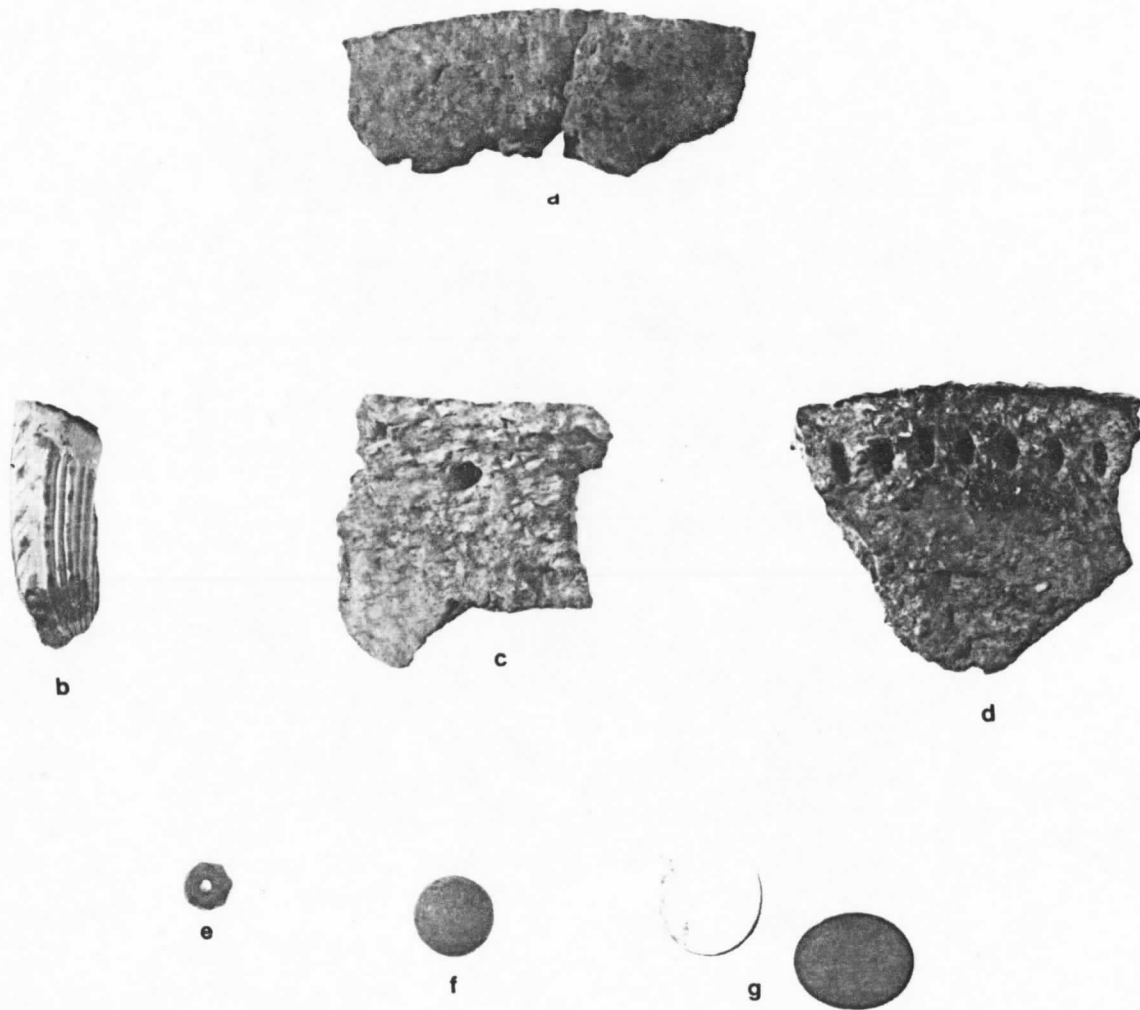


Fig. 44. Artifacts from HfLp-5 (SIL 130): a,c,d -- Clearwater Lake Punctate rim sherds; b -- trade pipe sherd; e -- blue faceted trade bead; f -- musket ball; g -- silver plate buttons.