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Archeology of the  
Little Panoche  
Reservoir  
Fresno County,  
California

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and  
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# ARCHEOLOGICAL

## REPORT II

Archeological  
Resources Section

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MAY 1968

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are variable in form but tend to be oval to subrectangular with a thin flat cross section. Gifford (1947:16; Type Kle II) lumps these small beads as well as larger beads made of Haliotis epidermis in the same class, thus it is difficult to make comparisons. They are, however, more frequent in southern California with but few occurrence in the Sacramento Valley and Delta areas. In central California they occur in a protohistoric context (Late Horizon Phase II) but the total range of their occurrence is not known. Beads of this type did not occur at Mer-3 although the larger disc beads made of the iridescent shell did occur in a context suggesting the same period as is represented at Fre-128 (Pritchard 1966: Table 41 and 42) which is roughly coeval with central California Late Horizon Phase II (Pritchard 1966:157). They also are reported from the Southern San Joaquin Valley by Gifford and Schenck (1926:60-61).

#### Stone Beads.

Steatite Disc Beads (Fig. 13s). Two types of stone beads occurred at Fre-128. The most frequent type was a flat disc bead made of light to dark green or grey steatite. These beads were recovered from the fill in Houses 1 and 2 and from the midden.

Steatite disc beads are frequent in the Sacramento-San Joaquin Delta region where they are diagnostic of the Late Horizon Phase II period (Lillard, Heizer and Fenenga 1939:80). Here they are associated with Type 3al Olivella beads and clam shell disc beads. At Mer-3 they occurred with less frequency than at Fre-128, but the association indicates a late protohistoric temporal placement (Pritchard 1966:65-108).

Pebble Disc Bead. The second type of stone bead is a small roughly disc-shaped pebble with a drilled central perforation. For all intents and purposes it can be lumped with the steatite disc beads.

Glass Beads. A total of 28 glass beads occurred at Fre-128 including two forms and five colors. The first form is a small cylindrical-shaped bead. The single example of this form is made of pink glass and was recovered from the midden.

The second form includes the remainder (27) of the glass beads. All are small globular-shaped beads, usually slightly larger in diameter than in thickness. Though small (Table 1) they should not be considered seed beads on the basis of size. Four colors are represented in the collection, including light blue (15), light green (7), black (4) and clear (1). The House 2 fill produced 10 of the blue beads, three of the green and all of the black beads. The remainder were recovered from the midden. In House 2 they occurred to the bottom of the fill (Table 2) and were most frequent in the upper 40 cm. of the fill. They thus parallel the distribution of the other bead types recovered from the fill.

The recovery of glass beads from the site certainly indicates post-contact occupation at Fre-128. It is possible that this could have resulted from reoccupation in post-Mission times, but in view of the lack of other post-contact material objects this is unlikely. It is suggested that these beads are probably from the Spanish Mission period of pre-1800 since the

beads appear to represent an item introduced into a pre-contact cultural assemblage. Bennyhoff regards these beads as early Mission period beads (personal communication). On the basis of evidence presented earlier in this paper it seems possible that the site was abandoned between 1815 and 1830, at the latest, and presumably the aboriginal material culture complex was disrupted prior to this time.

#### Other Shell Artifacts.

Included in this category are artifacts made of Haliotis, clam shell, and freshwater mussel shell. Only nine artifacts of shell, other than the beads, were recorded from the site and the bulk of them are fragmentary. The description and provenience of these artifacts are presented in Tables 1, 2 and 3.

Haliotis Fragments. Six specimens of Haliotis were recovered from the site, only one of which showed evidence of function. This was a broken fragment from the midden which had evidence of a perforation on one broken edge. The original form of the ornament was not determinable. The remaining five fragments were all small broken pieces. They may represent waste material from the manufacture of the Haliotis epidermis beads noted previously.

Clam shell Disc.(Fig. 13u). A single imperforate clam shell disc was recovered from the fill of House 1. It is roughly circular with partially ground edges. It may be an unfinished bead, or may have been used as an appliqued decorative element (although no traces of mastic are now present). It apparently is made of Tivella; it definitely is not Saxidomus.

Mussel Shell "Spoons". Two edge-ground freshwater mussel shells were recovered from the fill in House 2. The larger is a Gonidea angulata valve which is slightly ground along the edges but it is otherwise essentially unmodified. The second is a Margaritifera valve which is extensively ground along the edge opposite the hinge. This specimen is rather small to have served as a spoon and may conceivably have functioned as a cutting or scraping tool.

#### Artifacts of Bone.

A total of 74 bone or antler artifacts was recovered from Fre-128, the majority of them from the fill in House 2. The great preponderance of the bone or antler artifacts are those items utilized in the day-to-day activities of the group. The only exception to this is a small series of bird bone artifacts which undoubtedly served decorative functions. Descriptive notes and provenience of the bone and antler artifacts are presented in Tables 4 and 5.

Bird Bone (Fig. 15g, j, h). Only nine artifacts of bird bone occurred, all but three in fragmentary condition. Four are split, probably fragments with one end neatly cut off and polished. Presumably these fragments represent plain tubes or whistles, but there is no evidence