

depend not only on the courts, however, but also on the attitude of the Canadian public, which this book is intended to inform. The development of the theory of aboriginal rights, and the history of dealings with native people, demonstrate that such rights as native people have been granted stem not simply from abstract, idealist thought on the part of the conquerors, but more significantly from a careful assessment of power relationships. Where the demand for Indian land has been great, and the potential resistance of the Indians weak, the land was taken with little regard to aboriginal rights. This was true in the Maritimes in the early 19th century (see p. 105), and it appears to be happening again today in the James Bay region of Quebec. It was less true on the Prairies in the late 19th century. This book may well help to alter that power relationship in favour of native people. Those Canadians who are swayed by moral arguments will find here a strong case for native rights. Those who are moved only by power will find that native people may indeed have the law on their side.

Peter J. Usher

THE ALASKA-YUKON WILD FLOWERS GUIDE. *Anchorage: Alaska Northwest Publishing Company, 1974. 8½ x 5½ inches. 218 pages, colour illustrations (photos). \$7.95.*

It is no criticism of photography to say that it is a realistic medium. When photographing flowers, most cameramen, including those whose works appear in this book, seem to become carried away by the beauty of the subject, and use the medium as an artistic form of display. This can be most frustrating to the flower lover, but in the present guide the problem has been neatly overcome by Virginia Howie with her delicate and faithful line drawings. These accompany and complement the 164 photographs of wild flowers in the Alaska-Yukon area. Each drawing is explicit, yet simple, while the photographs gave this reviewer an immediate desire to spend some time in the area. Short descriptions of the flowers are given, but unfortunately no dates for when they are in bloom. The cottongrass shown in its own habitat with snow-capped mountains beyond, the water-lilies in their indescribably blue ponds, the fields of pink and white fireweed, and the groups of flowers growing together among the pebbles, all tell their own story. There is an interesting collection of saxifraga and another of the fascinating figwort family. The artistic presentation of his favourite flower and namesake would certainly have given as much delight to Linnaeus as to anyone

today. The guide is small for its price, which is undoubtedly due to the number of coloured illustrations included. However, anyone interested in wild flowers should be delighted to have a copy of this book.

Katherine Mackenzie

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RECONNAISSANCES NORTH OF THE BROOKS RANGE IN NORTHEASTERN ALASKA. BY RALPH S. SOLECKI, BERT SALWEN AND JEROME JACOBSON. *Calgary: University of Calgary, 1973. 6¾ x 10 inches, 105 pages, 28 figures, 3 maps, 11 plates, 5 tables (Department of Archaeology Occasional Paper no. 1). \$5.00.*

In 1961 Ralph Solecki and William F. Farrand, with three Columbia University graduate students, carried out six weeks of air-assisted ground surveys in parts of unglaciated northeastern Alaska in order to test the hypothesis that early man travelled that way from the Bering Strait towards the Mackenzie Corridor. The field results and laboratory analyses are fully reported in this first descriptive paper on the archaeology of the region. There are also informative descriptions of the terrain and the itinerary of the field party, an appendix by Farrand on the glacial geology, and another by Isabel Drew on the mineralogy of specimens attributed to the British Mountain Complex.

This is a worthy first volume of a new series, and a welcome addition to the literature on an area which is of increasing interest and concern because of impending pipeline construction and related activities. The volume is dedicated to the late William Duncan Strong. The surveys were supported by the U.S. Office of Naval Research through its laboratory at Barrow, and the Arctic Institute of North America.

Eighteen sites which yielded primarily lithic artefacts, and twelve tent rings which yielded no artefacts, were found in the Shubelik-Sadlerochit Mountain area and at Franklin Bluffs on the Sadlerochit River. The sites and tent rings are described carefully with the aid of photographs and well-executed plan drawings and sketch maps and, in a few cases, cross sections. The writers report that "every scrap of material evidence was collected", amounting to 2028 specimens, including debitage.

The great majority of the sites were found on terraces overlooking a lake or stream valley. As one who searched for sites in part of that area for ten days in 1952, with disappointing — although not entirely negative — results, I can applaud the effective dili-

gence of Solecki's party, and point out at the same time that recent surveys through similar terrain along the route of the Trans-Alaska Pipeline have led to the turning up of important buried sites in swales and on hill-sides where the archaeologists of 1950 and 1960 were not likely to look. Therefore, although this report is useful, it should not be regarded as a definitive inventory of the archaeological resources in the areas surveyed.

The authors recognize 26 separate archaeological components, or periods of occupation on the basis of typological analysis. All but seven of these they assign to one of three categories: the British Mountain Complex, the Denbigh Flint Complex, and "unspecified Eskimo affiliations"; the remaining components could not be classified. They note that three of the Denbigh components occur on terrain glaciated during the Wisconsin stage, whereas the two British Mountain components were found outside the glaciated area.

The authors note that the Denbigh Flint Complex is indicated by the presence of distinctive burins, retouched burin spalls, small bifacially chipped specimens, and microblade cores. However, they refer their sites also to the broader concept of Arctic Small Tool tradition. This is prudent because the geographical and typological ranges of Denbigh have not been defined clearly, and may conceivably exclude some or all the material of northeastern Alaska when they are. The authors do not discuss the possible occurrence of Norton, Ipiutak or Pre-Dorset, all of which contain some of the distinctive features of Denbigh.

The Eskimo components present problems, inasmuch as most of the chipped stone material attributed to them is far from diagnostic. High-powered rifle shells, caribou bones, and a few items such as a ground slate ulu support ethnographic statements that the area was visited in the eighteenth and nineteenth centuries by Eskimos. But for the rest, the authors resort to such statements as "like generalized Eskimo remains common to the inland Arctic". There are a great number of chipped stone complexes known from the inland Arctic that are not Eskimo, in the sense that the authors use the term, and there

is no large body of published material on Eskimo chipped stone available for comparison, so little significance should be given this attribution.

The twelve tent rings, many of which were associated with caribou and fish remains, probably are recent and Eskimo. One (no. 5) probably is recent and half Eskimo, inasmuch as it appears to be one made by Aivik Tukli of Barrow and myself on 13 August 1952 — the day before we tested at Solecki's site 11, as the writers correctly surmise.

The British Mountain Complex receives the fullest analytical and comparative treatment. Richard MacNeish at one time thought that it dated to 23,500-25,500 BP. Recently Brian Gordon of the National Museum of Man, Ottawa, working as an associate of MacNeish, radiocarbon-dated to 4500-5500 BP a British Mountain component excavated at Trout Lake in the Yukon Territory. The authors attempt to work with MacNeish's original definition of the complex, and review the present status of other collections that have been compared with it. They conclude that typologically the British Mountain and the Denbigh Flint complex seem to belong to separate traditions, and they question Gordon's evidence that both were present in northeastern Alaska at about the same time — give or take 1000 years. The authors would like to give a much earlier date to British Mountain, but acknowledge that neither they nor anyone else has presented convincing evidence for their view. This is clear from their competent reviews of the literature; it is also clear that the concept "British Mountain" is badly in need of definitive treatment, and that it should be used with caution until this has been given.

The Department of Archaeology of the University of Calgary is to be congratulated on the inauguration of their new series. The printing, binding, maps and half-tones are good, and there are few technical errors. The artefact drawings are blurred, partly because the illustrator, who otherwise did very well, used too many different widths of line. Readers of *Arctic* will want to encourage Calgary to continue publishing useful monographs on the North.

William N. Irving