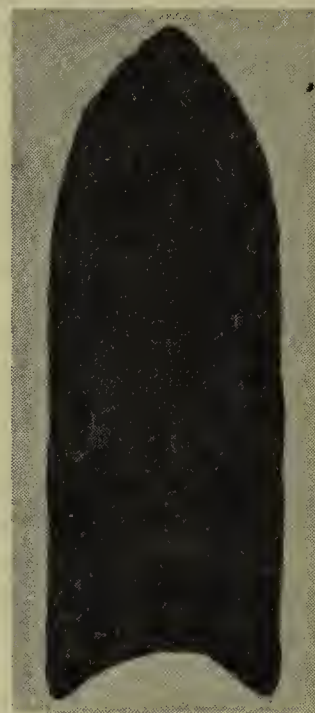


# Spade and Screen

By FRED ROBINSON, Regina



The above drawings were made in 1937 by Mr. Kenneth Jones, Mortlach, Saskatchewan. They are three of his early finds of stone age specimens, one of them an excellent Folsom Point.

## KENNETH H. JONES OF MORTLACH

Our series of tributes to men who pioneered in archaeology can hardly begin without a story on one of Saskatchewan's earliest collectors, Kenneth (Casey) Jones. In his youth in England he had become familiar with Stone Age relics in the British Museum and his interest was re-kindled by finding similar material as early as 1919 after the sandy land adjacent to Mortlach began to drift. From then on archaeology became his real interest in life. By diligent hunting he amassed one of the most unique collections of artifacts in Western Canada.

In 1919 no archaeologist of standing would entertain the idea of any earlier occupation of North America than two to three thousand years. But Kenneth had found projectile points quite different from the standard Indian Arrowheads. He found those now classed as Yumas and a special type known as Folsom. The significance of these latter had to await developments farther south. It was in the 1920's that the new style points were found at Folsom, New Mexico, associated with Mammoth bones. It had not been considered that the Mammoth had survived long

enough, or that man had been here early enough to be contemporaries. Ken's finds of several Folsom points fitted into the picture to show that Sask. was in the stream of early man's migrations in North America and Mortlach was definitely on the map archaeologically speaking, where it has stayed ever since.

Any collector who has experienced the thrill of finding a choice specimen will realize that Kenneth's collection represented the finest succession of golden moments that a man could live for. He found thousands of beautiful flint relics before there were other similar collectors to give competition.

Kenneth Jones has another hobby which many think is his greatest skill—that of painting and sketching. Several of his paintings are now in our Provincial Museum in Regina. His home is full of paintings done over the years of a wide variety of subjects. Many of his Christmas or Greeting Cards, mailed to his many friends, are made by a quick water color or pen ink sketch and folded for mailing. Two of these are shown above. It is hoped that some day Casey Jones will take time to write a book about his Mortlach finds with every other page a "hand done" illustration.

## AMATEUR ARCHAEOLOGISTS

The following letter was received from Mr. A. J. Hudson and we are pleased to publish it in its entirety. He comments on the amateur-professional relationship discussed in the *Blue Jay*, Volume XIII, Number 1, March, 1955.

The Editor, Spade and Screen.

Something was said earlier about amateur archaeologists and I'd like to add to it. Let's point out first that a related science, geology, is founded on the work of amateurs. The same is true of Saskatchewan archaeology. It wasn't very many years ago that it was believed elsewhere in North America that there was no permanent occupation in this province much over 300 years and even that there was no pottery here, but it was the interested amateurs who uncovered the evidence upsetting those beliefs.

It's also true that amateurs have wrecked sites by unsystematic digging. When the trained archaeologist excavates, he, of course, systematically destroys a section of the site but the purpose is to extract every scrap of knowledge that the excavation can yield. He is after knowledge rather than a collection, knowledge through his collecting. He is actually reconstructing history, of a very limited order, there being only tools and debris and no written word. All too often the amateur, by his unsystematic work, is limiting himself to just a small fraction of the knowledge that could have been gained. It all depends on the viewpoint. If the amateur is after a collection rather than knowledge, a collection is all he'll get and he'll destroy the site to no very good purpose.

On the other hand, when the professional lays down rigid procedures for excavating, he's dealing with a site already found and proved, which brings up the interesting question—how do you know where to dig? How do you find a site and prove that it is worth excavating systematically? That is where experienced amateurs are just as good as professional archaeologists and can do very useful work. There are millions of acres to hunt over and thousands of likely places suitable for occupation and they take a lot of hunting.

To put it baldly, our archaeological work involves destruction of sites. Our first finds were the result of destruction by wind. Some sites are

found because of partial destruction by machinery. Our Besant site was found as a result of destruction by stream action as the present creek was eroding into one of the fire-hearths and exposing bones on the bank. It's also true of proving a site that it is necessary to destroy a small section to find out what you've got, the more systematically it's done, the more valuable is the information obtained.

There's not only a useful place for the amateur in our archaeology but there would be considerable benefit from an organization and more inter-communication. We had a society when Mr. Orchard was alive but I think it was on too wide a basis, at least it didn't long survive his death. It would probably be better to begin with local groups of enthusiasts supporting local museums and later coming together every two years at the central Museum in Regina.

One item of my experience may be of interest. The common illustrations of Indians on horseback killing bison—the running kill—is somewhat misleading in a way. The Blackfeet, for instance, only got horses about 1730 and the Indians were around for about three thousand years living and working on foot. One of his favourite earlier methods of killing was the drop kill or fall, *not* over a high cliff but over a shallow bank. Whether he used a pound with the drop is hard to say. I can count up to eleven drop kills that I have known and visited, both in ravines and stream banks, and the drop was from 15 to 30 feet or so. As between two ravines alongside one another, the shallow one was preferred.

I discovered a new fire-hearth area in Besant, a year ago last fall and explored it last summer. While it didn't turn out to be what I hoped for, I did get a new style of point in the bottom layer different from any found previously in the sites. Actually the bottom layers fill in a gap that exists in the other fire-hearths.

Yours truly,  
Allan J. Hudson,  
Box 253, Mortlach.