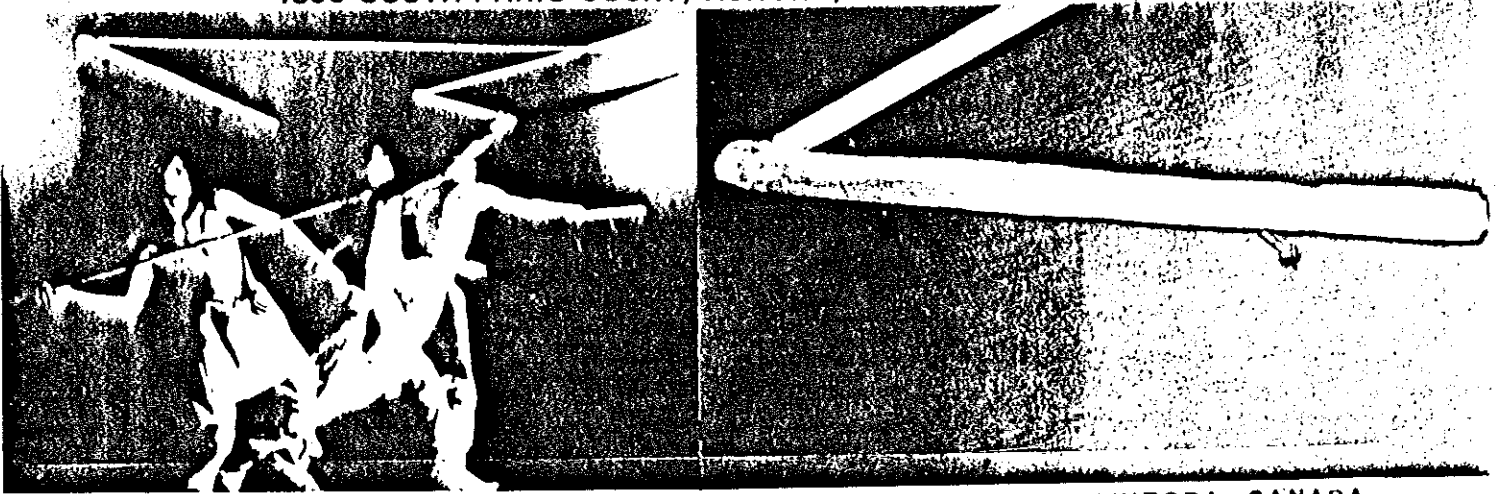


# The ATLATL

1992

VOL. 5, NO. 1

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE WORLD ATLATL ASSOCIATION, INC.  
1390 SOUTH PARIS COURT, AURORA, COLORADO 80012, USA



DISPLAY IN THE MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY, WINNIPEG, MANITOBA, CANADA.  
LENI CLUBB

## CALLING ALL ATLATLERS!!

THE WORLD ATLATL ASSOCIATION,  
IN COOPERATION WITH THE VALLEY  
OF FIRE STATE PARK, NEVADA,  
ANNOUNCES IT WILL CONDUCT THE  
SECOND ANNUAL ATLATL CONTEST AT  
ATLATL ROCK IN THE VALLEY OF  
FIRE STATE PARK, OVERTON,  
NEVADA, APRIL 11, 1992.

Set aside the weekend of April  
10, 11, and 12, 1992. MARK  
YOUR CALENDARS and polish up  
your throwing skills. We look  
forward to another wonderful,  
lively contest event in this  
magnificently beautiful park.

The huge red sandstone  
monoliths teem with Petroglyphs  
depicting atlatls and the game  
early inhabitants hunted.  
History abounds in the park and  
in nearby areas. Las Vegas is  
but 50 miles away with all it  
has to offer. Within the Park,  
camp sites are nestled in among  
the red rock formations giving  
all campers and visitors a  
spectacular place to view  
nature or to meditate. Weekend  
camping for contestants and  
their families has been  
reserved in Units Two and Three  
of the Beehive area of the  
Park. Non campers will easily  
find lodging in the Las Vegas  
area.

### THE CONTEST

FIRST, SECOND, AND THIRD PLACE  
AWARDS WILL BE GIVEN IN THE  
MEN, WOMEN, AND YOUTH (UNDER  
16) DIVISIONS. A SPECIAL AWARD  
HAS BEEN MADE FOR THE LONG  
DISTANCE THROW CHAMPION (BEST  
OF THREE TRYS). THE WORLD  
ATLATL ASSOCIATION WILL AGAIN  
PRESENT A GRAND CHAMPION AWARD.



Contest information and registration forms will be mailed to WAA members about the first of February, 1992.

Come early, or extend your stay and explore the Valley of Fire State Park with its 140 million year old "Aztec" Sandstone formations and fossil dunes. Visit the nearby Lost City Museum in Overton, and take in Lake Mead National Recreation Area and the glitter of Las Vegas.

For more specific information, contact:

Atlatl Contest information  
Leni Clubb  
World Atlatl Association  
P. O. Box 56  
Ocotillo, CA 92259  
ph. (619) 358-7835

Park Facilities  
Valley of Fire State park  
P. O. Box 515  
Overton, NV 89040  
ph. (702) 397-2088

**SEE YOU THERE!!!!**

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### ANOTHER WORLD'S FIRST

Elizabeth English, Leni Clubb's daughter has just mailed an atlatl, made by WAA member Lee Lacy, to Tom Arbogast in Antarctica. Tom works for the Antarctica Support Associates constructing communication towers on the McMurdo ice shelf in support of the scientists and the U. S. Navy. There is no prior record of any person ever "spear chucking" with an atlatl on that continent. We hope to get photographs of this history making event in a later issue of this publication.

THE PAST BELONGS TO THE  
FUTURE... BUT ONLY THE PRESENT

CAN PRESERVE IT.

Anon.

\*\*\*\*\*

A Letter To the Editor:

The Modern World's First Atlatl contest held in Saratoga, Wyoming in 1981 has expanded to many states in the U.S., to Canada and to at least one European country. This is great. It is gratifying that the majority of the contests require the equipment to be made out of materials available to the prehistoric spear-thrower hunters of the world.

Back in the early 1980's, there was confusion on how to pronounce ATLATL. Dr. Jane Day of the Denver Museum of Natural History researched the Central American name for the spear-thrower. Atlatl is an Aztec word and pronounced Aht-lahtl. We settled for at-latl and insisted and persisted for years at the "birthplace" of Atlatl Contests that that was the correct pronunciation.

Another bit of gratification is that the majority of Atlatl Contests follow the big game scene with the targets, painted cardboard animals and the short course as rugged as the available terrain can make it.

And now, we are going to have an actual atlatl big game hunt!!! Thanks to the vision and planning of Steve Coleman, Buckhorn Creek Ranch, Vedula, Georgia. Steve has a working bison and wild boar ranch and March 15-16, 1992 will have the "first atl-atl wild Boar hunt" since the stone age. In keeping with this prehistoric big game hunting weapon, he requires the atlatls and spears entering the hunt to be made of natural materials.

We in Saratoga, the modern Worlds Atlatl contest "birthplace," are pleased that natural materials are required. But

!!!! I think those readers of "THE ATLATL" who were participants at Saratoga's early "Archae Doings" will understand why I just had to write Steve the following: (I sure do hope he does not take offense.)

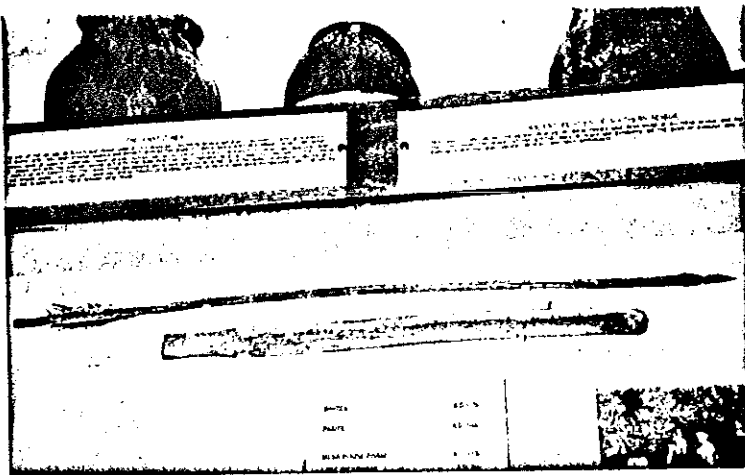
IF YOUR RANCH WERE CLOSER TO ATLANTA, GEORGIA INSTEAD OF VIDALIA, WOULD YOU HAVE AN ATL-ATL BOAR SHOOT AT ATL-ANTA, GEORGIA?

Ada Bouril Jackson  
Saratoga, Wyoming

For those of you who don't know her, Ada Jackson was one of the principals and the primary directing force in the organization of that first, and all of the subsequent World Atlatl Open contests held in Saratoga, WY. (Editor's note.)

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Atlatl and dart display at the Lost City Museum, Nevada.  
Photo by Charley Lilly



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SUPERSTITION IS FOOLISH, CHILDISH,  
PRIMITIVE AND IRRATIONAL, BUT HOW  
MUCH DOES IT COST TO KNOCK ON WOOD?

## MEMBERSHIP NOTES

New WAA member, Richard Vander Hoek of Anchorage, AK writes that he not only has a sports interest in spearthrowers, but is currently pursuing a thesis in "Spearthrower Technology." Members with help or special information on atlats and related materials may contact him at 11600 Mary Ave., Anchorage, AK 99515.

\*

WAA now mails newsletters to over six countries on four continents around the world. Our membership is growing.

Our officers have an obligation to meet the needs of our membership. If there is some way in which we could better serve you, please address communications to one of the following individuals for their action:

WAA President: Tim Boucher, PO Box 2508, Dillon, CO 80233-2508

WAA Secretary: Charley Lilly, 8800 State Hwy. #133, Carbondale, CO 81623

Newsletter Editor: Bill Tate, 1390 S. Paris Court, Aurora, CO 80012

We would like to make this organization what you want, so let us hear from you.

Newsletter articles are needed. We want to publish atlatl information from around the world. Help us by submitting it to the Newsletter Editor.

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## FLORIDA EXPERTS SPREAD SEARCH FOR ANCIENT AMERICAN SHORELINE

by  
Cindy Schreuder  
Orlando Sentinel

About 11,000 years ago, when the first Floridians walked the state, they had much more real estate to roam. Sea level was lower and portions of the Gulf of Mexico's coastline extended 100 miles beyond the modern shore.

Scientists are looking beneath the waves off Florida's Gulf Coast for that ancient shoreline. Archaeologists hope to find evidence of the Clovis people, believed to have been the first inhabitants of North America.

"Clearly they were here and they were here when the water levels were depressed," said James S. Dunbar, Field Supervisor for the Florida Bureau of Archaeological Research in Tallahassee.

The search for the Clovis shoreline, could help guide the larger scientific debate over when and how the Americas were first settled.

Little is known about the lives of the Mammoth-hunting Clovis. "What did their environment look like? What kind of artifacts did the people have, and what were they doing there?" Dunbar asked. He is studying submerged sites in the Aucilla River and off the shore of Apalachee Bay, both near Tallahassee, for evidence of the Clovis people and other prehistoric Indians.

Nearly 60 Clovis artifacts, many of them fluted stone points, have been discovered in Florida. All were found either on land or on the bottom of inland rivers and freshwater springs, which would

have attracted people.

At sites three to 6 miles offshore of the Aucilla River, scientists have found stone artifacts from prehistoric Indians who lived about 7,000 years ago.

Although those Indians lived after the Clovis people, researchers hope to find evidence of the earliest Indians as they press farther offshore, said Michael Faught, a doctoral candidate at the University of Arizona, who is studying early Indian sites off Florida's coast.

Federal researchers are studying a former sinkhole 21 miles offshore, and have found undatable stone artifacts, plus a piece of live oak which was found to be 8,200 years old. This means that the sinkhole was surrounded by dry land then. The pond probably attracted large animals, which in turn attracted prehistoric Indians.

A search for prehistoric relics is expected to continue next year at that sinkhole, and researchers are seeking additional spots, including rock outcroppings that were sources of the stone for the tools. Marine archaeologist, Rik Anuskiewicz said, "These sites are out there. It's just a question of when and how many more we're going to find."

The search for the Clovis shoreline in Florida feeds into one of the most important debates in archaeology: When did people first come to the Americas, and how did they get here? The most widely accepted explanation is that they crossed from Siberia into Alaska.

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WAA MEMBER, TROY HELMICK OF TOWNSEND, MT INTRODUCES THE ATLATL WEAPON SYSTEM TO OVER 350 7TH GRADE STUDENTS AT B-U MIDDLE SCHOOL IN WEST VIRGINIA 10/21/91

### AN ATLATL---A WHAT? By Dorina Helmick & Micaela Morrisette

Ever hear of an atlatl? Unless you are in Teams D, E, or F, the answer is probably "No." On the 21st of October, Mr. Troy Helmick from Montana, whose hobby is archaeology, came to the Middle School and used one of the Aztec weapons to direct a dart from one end of the football field to the other! Before that he talked a little about the purpose and history of the atlatl.

This guest speaker was here, thanks to Mrs. Stone who organized the event, and thanks to Mrs. Roianne Hackett who informed Mrs. Stone of the remarkable man.

After Mr. Helmick's demonstration, he allowed the teachers to try to launch the weapon. Well....good try, teachers. Students also gave it a try, and some students did very well.

This program was really cool, and the students are looking for many, many more like it.

Mr. Helmick is the grandfather of Team E student Laura Marple.

THE ABOVE WAS PRINTED IN THE BUCKAHNNON-UPSHUR MIDDLE SCHOOL NEWSPAPER, THE B-U BANNER, NOVEMBER, 1991.

Troy Helmick, states that although he was expecting to do a show-and-tell for a 4-H club and a Boy Scout troop, it turned out to be 354 kids and their teachers at the middle school. The following day he went to the Hodgesville grade school and had 30 2nd graders including his grandson, Brock Marple. Buckhannon and Hodgesville are in central West Virginia and may in the future contribute some competitors for the Eastern Seaboard Atlatl meet in Pennsylvania. THANKS TROY. NOTE THAT TROY HAS BEEN ACTIVE IN TEACHING ABOUT ATLATLS IN SCHOOLS IN HIS HOME STATE OF MONTANA AS WELL. LET'S ALL GET OUT AND SPREAD THE WORD.

4TH ANNUAL MONTANA  
ATLATL MAMMOTH  
HUNT

DATE: August 8, 1992, Saturday  
at 11:00 A.M.

PLACE: 3212 York (Lori) Road,  
across highway from Farm in the  
Dell in Helena, Montana.

ENTRY FEE: \$10.00 for adults,  
\$5.00 children under 16. This  
charge includes meal and soda.

PRIZES & AWARDS: Beautiful  
trophies for the first three  
places for men, women, and kids  
under 16. Large trophy for the  
"Mightiest Hunter" winner.

COURSE: Men: Three throws each  
at, 90M, 75M, 60M, and 45M.

Women, and Under 16: Three  
throws each at 45M, 40M, 30M,  
and 20M.

Mightiest Hunter: Top three  
qualifiers of Men, Women and  
Under 16, three throws each at  
50M, 40M, and 30M.

NOVELTY SHOTS: 1. Flight or  
farthest throw for distance  
only. (Bacon awards)

2. Round Robin at 20M. with  
one throw each at smaller  
mammoth or balloon. (Bacon  
Awards)

EXHIBITS: Atlatls and  
literature. Flint knapping and  
primitive fire making. Non-  
profit instructors available.

SPONSORS: Manuel & Helen  
White, Bob Perkins--"Atlatl  
Bob," and Dave and Dianne  
Schwab.

INVITED: Local Press, Montana  
Fish and Game, author of "The

Mammoth Hunters," Jane Auel,  
and all comers and observers.

Contestants are requested to  
register by August 1, 1992.

Contact Manuel White, P. O. Box  
5058, Helena, MT 59604, phone  
(406) 227-5020.

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PREHISTORIC BLOOD  
FOUND ON STONE KNIFE

Buffalo, NY -- Scientists  
have found human blood--  
possibly 11,000 years old--on  
a stone knife blade discovered  
at a site in Washington state  
used by some of the continent's  
first inhabitants, an  
archaeologist said.

"This is the blood of the  
Clovis," Buffalo archaeologist  
R. Michael Gramley said,  
referring to the culture  
believed to have populated  
North America just after the  
last Ice Age. "THE DENVER POST,"  
DEC. 10, 1991.

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MEMBERSHIP DUES \$10.00 PER YEAR

BACK ISSUES OF THE ATLATL ARE  
AVAILABLE FOR \$4.00 EACH.

VOL. 1, NO. 1 AND 2

VOL. 2, NO. 1, 2, AND 3

VOL. 3, NO. 1, 2, AND 3

VOL. 4, NO. 1, 2, AND 3

CONTACT: WAA Secretary, Charley  
Lilly, 8800 State Hwy. 133,  
Carbondale, CO 81623.

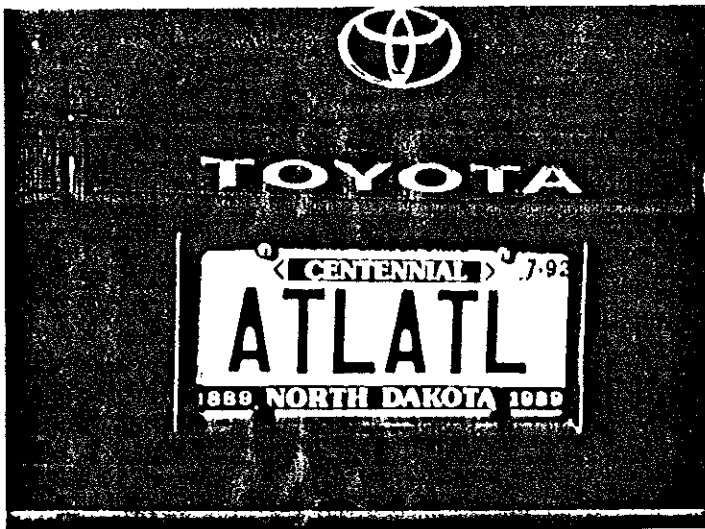
WAA T-SHIRTS DISPLAYING THE WAA  
LOGO, BLACK ONLY. \$9.00 PLUS

\$2.00 SHIPPING. (S, M, L, XL)

CONTACT: Bill Tate, 1390 S.  
Paris Court, Aurora, CO 80012



The World Atlatl Association, Inc.

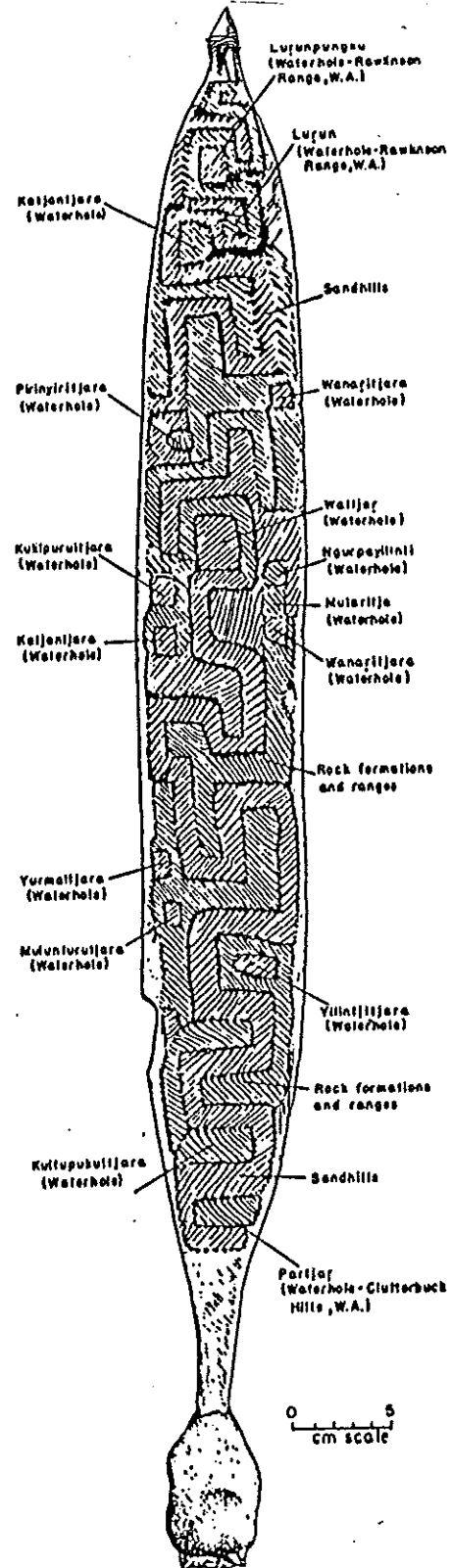


A new and very exclusive club is forming. Only 50 Americans can become members at any one time. (I am not sure just what can be done with auto licenses in other countries.) So far the membership is as follows: Leni Clubb in California, Bill Tate in Colorado, both pictured in a previous edition of "THE ATLATL." and now, Ken "Red" Gramstad in North Dakota, and Wayne Brian in Arizona have joined. Who'll be next??

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Australian speargrowers are commonly multipurpose tools. They also often serve as portable art, and occasionally even store information. The woomera shown below is such a device. In addition to its normal function of casting spears, it has a stone blade attached to the base of its handle for use as a cutting tool, and on its 66 cm. (26

inch) length a decorative map has been carved which represents some 150 miles of the Gibson Desert in Australia. SUBMITTED BY LENI CLUBB.

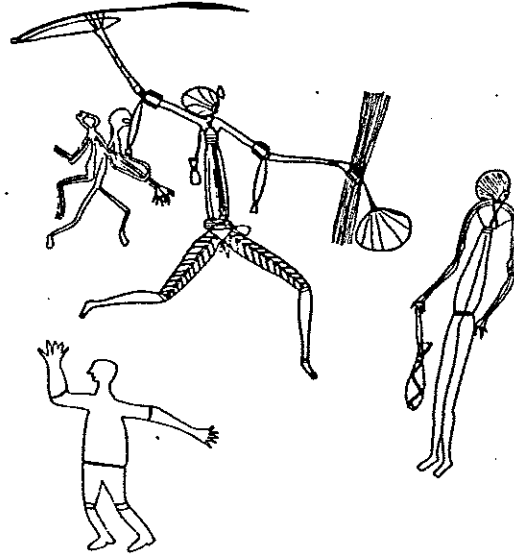


DICKSON MOUNDS -- LEWISTOWN, IL

The following photo of a statue in Dickson Mounds Museum, branch of the Illinois State Museum and a National Historic Site, was submitted by Robert Graham. The photo is on the cover of the Dickson Mounds Museum brochure, and depicts an Indian about to cast a dart with an atlatl. (Dickson Mounds is located in Fulton County, Illinois, on a bluff along the Illinois and Spoon Rivers. It is 60 miles northwest of Springfield and 35 miles southwest of Peoria.)



Leni Clubb sent in this rock art drawing from a poster for Kakadu National Park, Northern Territory, Australia:



The figures are explained as follows:

The running man holds a wooden bladed spear in a spearthrower and in the other hand a bundle of short bamboo "goose spears" tipped with a sliver of hardwood.

He is portrayed wearing three dilly bags, one on his head, another from his neck and the third from his hair belt. Pandanus leaf ornaments are suspended from his arms.

There are spirit figures to his left, and human female figures, one carrying a dilly bag in her hand is on his right. A post-contact figure of a European with an upraised arm, "the preacherman", is on the lower left of the painting.

\*\*\*\*\*  
MEMBERS GET A TEN PERCENT DISCOUNT  
FROM THE FOLLOWING FIRMS: BPS  
ENGINEERING, BOX 797 MANHATTAN, MT  
59741, TATE ENTERPRISES, BOX  
440003, AURORA, CO 80044,

\*\*\*\*\*  
BOWWOODS FIVE, 1821 REDWING, SAN  
MARCOS, CA 92069 BOWSPORT ARCHERY,  
5940 UBAN DR. MARINE CITY, MI 48039  
PRIMITIVE POTTERY PROC, 824 W. KIVA,  
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