II. EVIDENCE FOR THE EARLY OCCUPATION OF THE WASHOE LAKE BASIN

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The Washoe Lake basin, containing Washoe and Little Washoe Lakes, is situated in west-central Nevada a few miles south of Reno, and has been the scene of only sporadic archaeological investigation. Brief reconnaissance by S. M. Wheeler, G. Grosscup and others (notes on file at the Archaeological Research Facility, Berkeley) revealed the presence of a number of sites in sand dunes along the eastern margin of Washoe Lake (see also Carter 1958). Deflation has exposed abundant archaeological remains at these sites, including granite and basalt manos, metates, and hammerstones, animal bone food refuse (deer, rabbits, rodents, birds), lithic debris, and chipped stone artifacts such as drills, large bifaces, biface fragments (broken preforms?), and projectile points. Typologically, the projectile points include specimens of the Desert Side Notched, Cottonwood, Rose Spring, Eastgate, Martis and Elko series, and a possible Humboldt Concave Base B point (for definition and illustrations of these and other types see Hester and Heizer 1973. In general, these sites probably date after 2000 B. C., and the bulk of the remains may have accumulated in late prehistoric times. Other work in the Washoe basin has been briefly reported by Carter (1958), Tuohy (1967), and Elston (1971). Carter (1958) believed that there were extremely ancient cultural remains in the area. At a gravel pit in the basin, he collected a mano which he assigned to "early Wisconsin I" times.

Aside from Carter's unsubstantiated claims, we now have data which indicate occupation in the Washoe Lake basin at a relatively early time period. Several fluted points have been collected here. One of these specimens is in the Luke collection, Fallon, Nevada. It is 69 mm. long and 25 mm. in width. Since it was attached to a display board, the thickness of the specimen could not be determined, and only one surface of the point could be observed (Fig. 1a). The specimen is lanceolate in outline, with parallel lateral edges and a slightly concave base. The body of the point is marked by broad, parallel flake scars, and a long, narrow flute. According to George and Alfred Luke (personal communication), this artifact was collected from the "flats" on the eastern side of Washoe Lake.

Another fluted point from the vicinity of Washoe Lake is illustrated by Strong (1969: Fig. 29) and this specimen is shown in Fig. 1b. The point is approximately 64 mm. in length, with a maximum width of about 22 mm. Only one side of the specimen is shown in Strong's illustration. It exhibits broad, parallel flake scars on the body, and has been fluted by the removal of three side by side longitudinal flakes.

In general, both of these fluted points can be included in the Clovis type. The removal of multiple flutes, as on the specimen first reported by Strong, is known to

occur on other Clovis specimens (Leonhardy 1966), as well as on specimens of the Plainview type (cf. Sellards 1952). However, given the technological criteria outlined for both the Plainview and Clovis types (cf. Leonhardy 1966: 22-23), the Strong specimen fits more closely into the Clovis category. In previous publications, Tuohy (1965, 1967) and Warren and Ranere (1968) have mentioned the presence of fluted points in the Washoe Lake area, but have provided no documentation for these occurrences. It is difficult to ascertain the temporal range of fluted points in Nevada. Specimens typologically similar to Folsom and Clovis forms are widely distributed (cf. Davis and Shutler 1969), but most are from surface contexts. A single fluted (?) point was excavated from the base of the deposits at Fort Rock Cave, Oregon, and associated materials were radiocarbon-dated at ca. 11,250 B. C. (Gak 1738; Bedwell 1970). Since there are numerous fluted points in Nevada which appear to be in the Clovis and Folsom traditions, we can postulate that the bulk of these specimens date from roughly 10,000-8,000 B. C. (cf. Hester 1973).

Bedwell (1970) has recently defined a "Western Pluvial Lakes Tradition", representing an early lacustrine adaptation in the Great Basin and adjacent areas in the period between 9,000-6,000 B. C. This tradition encompasses several previously-defined manifestations, such as Lake Mohave, San Dieguito, Playa and Hascomat. Characteristic lithic traits include lanceolate, concave-based points (such as the Black Rock Concave Base type of Clewlow 1968), Lake Mohave points, Haskett and Haskett-like specimens (Butler 1965), perhaps some fluted points, and "crescents" which are also termed Great Basin Transverse points.

Evidence of the Western Pluvial Lakes Tradition has recently been found in the Washoe Lake basin. Two large basalt projectile points were collected by the second author at a spot between Washoe and Little Washoe Lakes, at a time when a part of this area was exposed by a low lake level in Washoe Lake.

Both of the specimens (Fig. 1c, c', d, d') have long, tapering stems, the edges of which are heavily dulled. The technological attributes of the stems of these specimens closely match those for "Haskett-like" points, as specified by Crabtree (in Warren and Ranere 1968: 14). They have broad, convex-edged bodies, with shallow, parallel flake scars on the larger specimen (Fig. 1c, c'). The smaller specimen is heavily eroded (probably waterworn) on one face and most flake scars are obliterated. The opposite face is less worn and exhibits irregular flake scars. The tip of this particular specimen appears to have been broken and subsequently reworked. The attributes of the major flake scars on both specimens, including broad outlines, shallow scars, and diffuse bulbs of force, suggest that they are flaked by well-controlled direct percussion (Crabtree, ibid.), possibly through the use of a cylinder-hammer. Both specimens have lenticular transverse cross sections.

Dimensions and weights of these two projectile points are listed below:

	Fig. 1c, c'	Fig. 1d, d'
Length	95.0 mm.	76.0
Maximum width	37.0	28.0
Maximum thickness	6.5	7.0
Minimum thickness	4.5	4.0
Stem length	46.0	46.0
Weight (grams)	24.0	15.0

Projectile points very similar to these are known from Lake Mohave and from the Sadmat site (Carson Sink) and are called "Haskett-like" by Warren and Ranere (1968: Fig. 2s, t; Fig. 3m-p). At both localities, they occur in assemblages containing Lake Mohave points, "crescents" and other lithic traits characteristic of the Western Pluvial Lakes tradition. These specimens also resemble the "Cougar Mountain" type of Layton (1972) which probably occurs in the same early context.

In summary, we have recorded the occurrence of fluted points reminiscent of the Clovis type dating perhaps as early as 11,000 years ago, and have also noted the presence of "Haskett-like" points, a trait of the Western Pluvial Lakes Tradition dating between 9,000-6,000 B.C. Archaeological research in western Nevada in recent years has revealed the repeated association of early lithic materials with lake basins and high beaches and terraces surrounding pluvial lakes (Tuohy 1970; Hester 1973). Though our current evidence for the early lacustrine-oriented occupation of the Washoe Lake basin remains meager, we believe there are sufficient data to at least hypothesize the presence of early components in this area. Additional work in this vicinity could test this postulate by concentrating investigations in the area between Washoe Lake and Little Washoe Lake (the place where the "Haskett-like" points were obtained) and in the area to the east of Washoe Lake where the fluted point in the Luke Collection was found. We further suggest that the proximity of these probable early projectile points to the present margins of Washoe Lake indicates that the lake may have had a similar configuration for the past 10,000 or more years.

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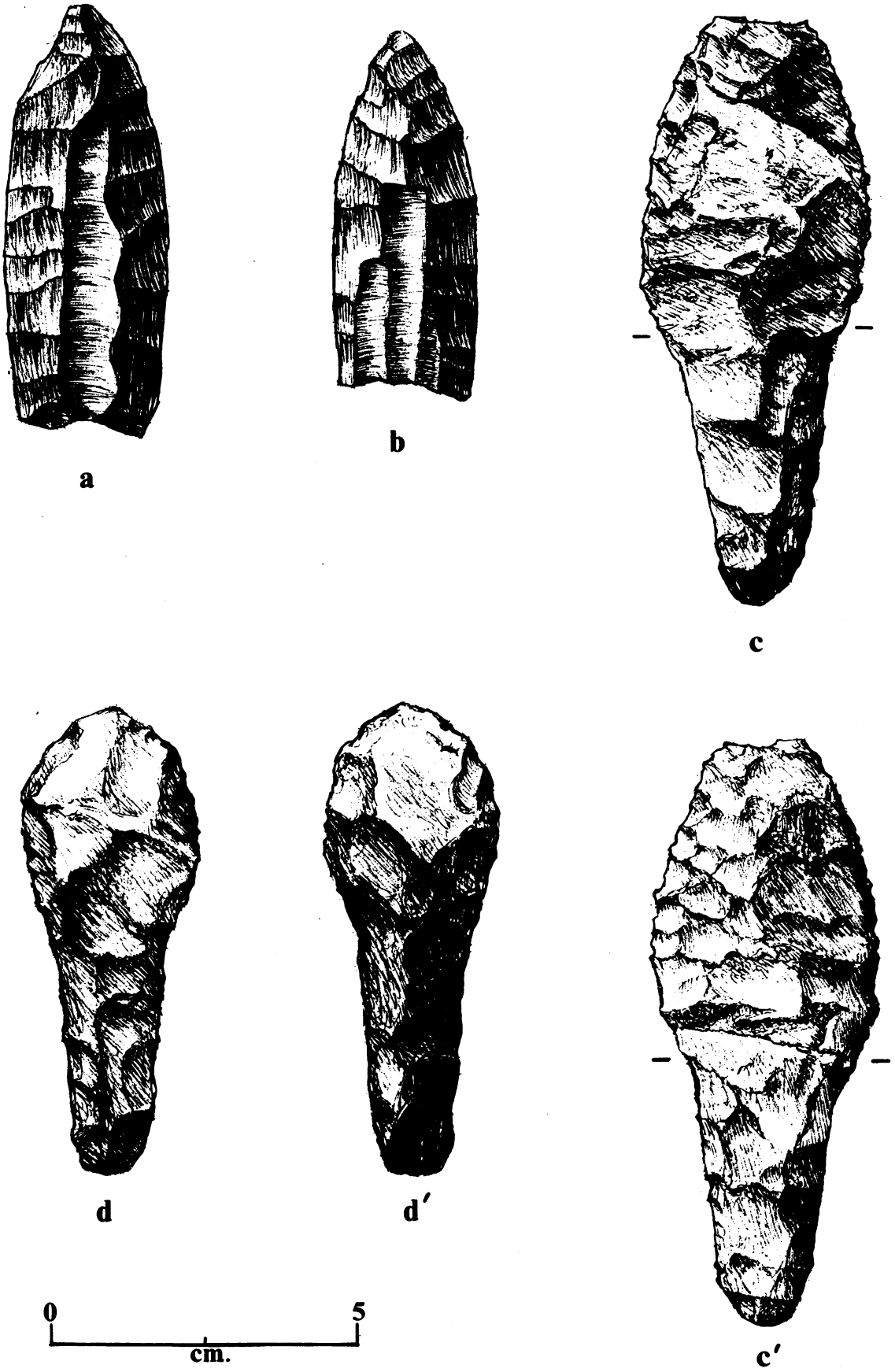

Figure 1. Projectile points from the Washoe Lake Basin. a, b, fluted points; c, c', d, d', "Haskett-like" point (lines indicate extent of lateral edge smoothing.