# Cultural and Environmental History of the North Fork Eel River Watershed Trinity County, California

Thomas S. Keter solararch.org Three Rivers, Ca. September, 2016

The following features are listed in this section due to the fact that they have no formal name or other way to identify them except based on the location as plotted on the Base Map.

#### F01: Possible Prohibition Era Still

Map 4: T4S, R8, S5.

This is the site of what appears to have been a Prohibition era still. This site was recorded as part of the Lightfoot Timber Sale (CRIR on file HR SRNF).

The site is shown in the general vicinity on the Base Map and was not located precisely to protect cultural resources. I recorded this site in 1985--see site record 05-10-54-289 for its exact location. Given the lack artifacts (bottles cans, old nails, etc.) it appears this place was only occupied for a short time.

There was an adjacent spring that was running strong in August when the site was recorded. The area was in an oak woodland being over-topped by invading pole-sized Douglas fir. The remains included mostly metal parts including about 10 barrel hoops of various sizes. No evidence remained of a structure. There were also some pop-top beer cans dating from the 1960s on the site.

In talking to one of the cowboys who grew up in this region, he indicated that this was the site of a still. At one time there were various pots and pans etc. around the site.

Lee Stapp (A6: I#316) noted that:

"In the old days everyone in the mountains had a still and made their own whiskey. Some of it was "white lightening." All the old springs, and wet drainages had a still on it. Wherever there was water there was a still. People used to bootleg their homemade whiskey."

Ivan Jeans noted (TCHS 1987:18) that:

There was no marijuana, but there was plenty of boot-legging, beginning with the enactment of the Volstead Act and continuing through repeal in the '30s. The Mad River had three or four stills....The Zenia area seems to have gone at it a little more strongly...[the area was known as] the "10 families and 12 stills" ..segment of Southern Trinity County.

#### F22: Lumber mill

Map 3: T3S, R6W, S23

This location was plotted based on Garcelon (A5: ms01)--it is approximate. The original name of the lumber is not known.

The original name of the lumber is not known. Garcelon indicated that the mill was located at the headwaters of Yew Wood Creek:

There was an old time mill and cabins here before 1930 Leonard Bean [see F18] lived here. I don't know who owned the mill. There was an old steam boiler here for years. I first saw it in 1938. There was another mill across the road after the war in the 1950's owned by Wheelock. All signs of this mill are now gone. This area is just south of the Zenia-Hoaglin School on the Zenia-Covelo Rd. an just north of French Lake on Yew Wood Creek.

#### F24: Unrecorded and Unnamed Feature

Map 3: T3S, R7E, S18

Location is approximate based on Garcelon's map (A5: ms01). He notes that:

There were ruins of a cabin here just west of Little Round Mt. Albert Burgess ran stock here. I don't have any further information. There was a trail from Zenia Guard Station over the top of Little Round Mt. to the Double Gate-Hettenshaw [Begin page 22] trail at the North Fork of Eel. This property was claimed by Pitt White. This area is east of the Zenia Guard Station. Lots of grass.

# F30: Unnamed Feature Located along Trail HTNF-05 Spur A

Map 3: T4S, R7E, S27

This spur trail may have led to a homestead (F30) Garcelon (A5: ms05) noted the following for this location:

There was a home site here. It was down on ground after 2d war. I heard the name but have forgotten. Portion of fences-corrals--or, whatever, were still there that I saw. This place was near Hoaglin Creek just before it entered Salt Creek. Merlin Goodwin sub-divided this area but no takers. Simpson or L P now own it. This was possibly called the McCarthy place----Les James told me he thought it was the Joshua place. This name is not familiar to me, but Les built a drift fence adjoining this place.

# F31a, b, and c: Unnamed Protohistoric Features

Map 4: T3S, R7E. S14

[See Keter 2017. The paper Protohistoric and Historic Native American Sites within the North Fork Eel River Watershed, Trinity County, California was presented to the Society for California Archaeology: The paper summarized the information below and provided significant new information on these three sites. A pdf of this paper can be found on the solararch.org web site.]

These three features are not precisely located on the ground due to their cultural sensitivity. Authorized individuals should refer to the original site records for their exact location. In 1990 the author visited these three locations and undertook an in-depth surface analysis of each site. There is a copy of this report on file in the HR office SRNF. Portions of this report are included in the following sections.

# F31a: Protohistoric Feature (see also HF14)

What is significant about this location are the remarks recorded during the H.E. inspection. At the time the TNF MRRD ranger inspected the homestead in 1909, he noted that "the only improvement on the claim are [sic] an old Indian hut, probably 10' x 12' made of split boards and occupied by an Indian prior to 1904" (Homestead file H-54-106).

The rock alignments mentioned in the site record (see Appendix below) are the approximate dimensions of the "Indian hut" described by the ranger What is significant about this statement is the following information from an interview I conducted with Lee and Irene Stapp in 1991 (A6: I#448).

When I inquired on whether Lee had seen the site north of Raglan with the stone foundation (05-10-54-201) he indicated that it was probably on the Dobie Indian Allotment. Nancy Dobie (Dobey in ethnographic records) lived there at one time. Irene is an apparent heir and somehow is related to her (the connection appears to be via her great grandmother see B05). The subject of this Indian Allotment came up in the 1960's in relation to a timber company trying to buy land in the area. It

appears that under Indian Allotments--unlike homesteads--the title can revert to the Government in the case of no heirs. In the 1950's the Government investigated a number of Indian Allotments in the area and those with no heirs reverted back to the government.

When Irene was a child [living in Covleo] Nancy Doobie was very old perhaps 100.

Feature F31a was located in the vicinity of the Tusen Homestead claim HF14. The following information is taken from the site record by Mary L. Williams and James G. Maniery who recorded the site in September of 1981. This feature was described as a "rock alignment, boards, and historic and prehistoric artifacts." Refer to the site record for a list of artifacts recorded. There should be additional B&W photos with the site record. Also, refer to the Feature 31a site sketch map and artifact list below for more information.

In the fall of 1989, the author along with MRRD archaeologist Catharine Young removed all of the duff and leaf litter from the site. It was then photographed and mapped (see images, diagram of the feature, and artifact list below). This site was also visited by the author in 1984 in conjunction with authoring a SCA paper presented in 1985 (see also Keter 1990).

The section below is quoted from the 1989 report and provides additional data on this proto historical site.

Some remains of the wood structure were evident. There is a ponderosa pine stump approximately 20 meters northwest of the site with evidence it was cut by an axe. The wood within the feature is probably pine since Douglas-fir seems to decompose so rapidly in this area. The rock alignment (structure foundation) is somewhat irregular along the southern end (see Diagram below), but in general is "L" or "j" shaped. There are a number of cut and wire nails within the feature and they appear to be the same sizes as those from the pit feature (F31c, 05-10-54-273). It is worth noting that the location of the nails is not random, but rather the nails were nearly all located on an axis parallel to the north/south rock alignment and about 2-3 meters away (see Diagram 1).

A Peters 38-55 cartridge casing was located within the feature. This cartridge was introduced in 1884 by the Ballard Gun Company. Winchester was the last to drop that caliber in 1940 (personal communication Rollin Kehlet, Clearwater National Forest). From the location and context from which the casing was recovered it appears to have been directly associated with the site and belonged to the inhabitant. Other artifacts of note were a frying pan, sardine can, square meat can, hole-in-cap cans and glass from what appears to be a liquor bottle (see Table below). Groundstone artifacts were located both within the feature and in the area directly to the west. This included several women's tools including slab mutates and mano-sized river cobles.

This site may also have been related to the local livestock industry. Indians were often hired as sheep herders. Fenton's Ranch located in Southwest Trinity County had over 30 Indian families living there in the early 1900's. It appears that the area was not burned and no surrounding vegetation showed evidence of a wildfire since the time the feature was constructed. It is likely that this site was occupied by one individual or perhaps a man and wife. This can be surmised from the homestead record and the limited number of artifacts associated with the site. Usually groundstone artifacts are used by females for processing; however, in a subsistence situation this may not always be true. What is clear from this site is that Euro-American technologies and subsistence items was augmented and adapted to the more traditional Indian construction and subsistence strategies.

#### **Consultant Interview Information**

The following information was provided by Irene Stapp Willburn (Appendix 6: I#448).

When I inquired on whether Lee had seen the site north of Raglan with the stone foundation (05-10-54-201) he indicated that it was probably on the Dobie Indian Allotment. Nancy Dobie (Dobey in ethnographic records) lived there at one time. Irene is an apparent heir and somehow is related to her (the connection appears to be via her great grandmother. The subject of this Indian Allotment came up in the 1960's in relation to a timber company trying to buy land in the area. It appears that under Indian Allotments--unlike homesteads--the title can revert to the Government in the case of no heirs. In the 1950's the Government investigated a number of Indian Allotments in the area and those with no heirs reverted back to the government.

Nancy Dobie was a principal informant for Frank Essene –see Keter 2017 for more on this subject.

# F31a Images: all Photos by T. Keter 1989



F31a 01: to NW--rock foundation alignment.

F31a 03: same view SE-note young fir.



F31a 04: close up rock alignment and boards



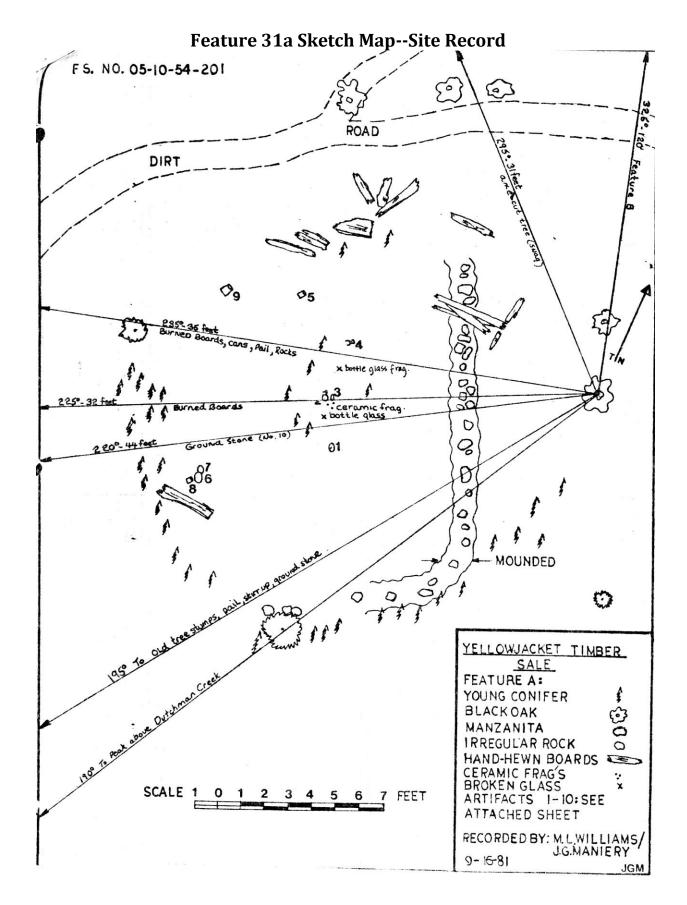
F31 05: general area of structure--view to E. Note young Douglas fir invading the site and old manzanita





F31a 02: frying pan and groundstone artifact.

Feature 31a 06: rock foundation to NW.



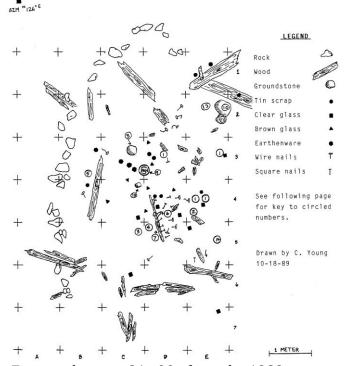
## **List of Artifacts Site Reocrd Feature 31a**

Continuation of site record (Feature A)

Artifact Number	Description
1.	Circular metate 20.2 cm by 21.5 cm.
2.	Nine inch circular cast iron pan bottom. The remainder of the pan is buried and size cannot be determined without excavation.
3.	Groundstone fragment 12.7 cm square.
4.	Brown glass bottle neck fragment. 2" in length, 1" in diameter, 4" thick. There are no seams or mold marks visible. Artifact was drawn.
.5.	Tin can. The bottom of the can is soldered onto the body of the can. Can has a 4" diameter.
6.	Circular metate 28.0 cm in diameter, 7.6 cm in thickness with scratch marks on one surface.
7.	Metate/mortar fragment 21.5 cm by 17.3 cm and 6.35 cm thick found partially under Artifact #6.
8.	Hole-in-top can 4" in diameter and 4 3/4" in length next to Artifacts #6 and #7.
9.	Square tin can (lard?) with a 10" square base, 14" tall. All seams are soldered and the can has a handle (minus the wooden grip) still attached.
10.	Mano fragment 9.5 cm long and 6.8 cm wide. The mano is broken at one end and has one ground surface.

# Feature diagram and artifact list

Duff was removed and the area was divided into 1 meter squares



Feature diagram 31a 00a from the 1989 report.

Key to circled numbers on Diagram #2

- 1 Hole in Cap cans. Some of these have soldered ends.
- 2. Possible square meat can.
- 3. Possible sardine can.
- 4. Center-fired rifle shell; Peters .38-55 caliber.
- 5. Intact bottle of amethyst-colored glass. Unembossed.
- 6. Lip and neck of brown glass bottle.
- 7. Board with nails in it.
- 8. Circular metate 20.2 cm by 21.5 cm.
- 9. Nine inch circular cast iron pan (no handle).
- Circular metate 28.0 cm in daimeter, 7.6 cm in thickness with scratch marks on one surface.
- Metate/motar fragment 21.5 cm by 17.3 cm and 6.35 cm thick found partially under artifact #10.
- 12. Groundstone fragment 12.7 square.
- 13. Hole in cap can 4" in diameter and 4 3/4" in length next to artifacts #10 and #11.
- 14. Square tin can (possibly lard) with a 10" square base, 14" tall. All seams are soldered and the can has a handle (no wooden grip) attached.

(Not showing on diagram-- Mano  $\,$  fragment 9.5 cm long and 6.8 cm witde. The mano is broken at one end and has one ground surface.)

General notes on artifacts in Diagram 2 .

- --All the brown glass fragments appear to be from one bottle; an embossed whiskey flask from a San Francisco distillery.
- --All clear glass fragments appear to be from a single bottle; no embossing is evident.
- --All earthenware fragments appear to be from one dish, or from several with a plain white design.
- --Wire nail are more common than square nails (6:5) ratio. Wire nails are more often bent than the square ones.
- --Boards anr hand hewn, probably ponderosa pine.

F31a: Artifact list from feature diagram

#### 

# F31b: Possible Refuge Site

Map 4: T3S, R7E, S23

The location for this site plotted on the Base Map with an "X" is fairly exact since, as noted below, the site was totally destroyed during a Timber Sale by the USFS.

This site was recorded in 1981 by Mary L. Williams Maniery and James Gary Maniery (site record 05-10-54-196). It consists of a pit-house sized depression on the edge of a large (over 10 acres) alluvial terrace; it is approximately 150 meters north and west and 75 meters above Raglan Creek--see site map below. Associated with this feature they recorded six chert flakes and one obsidian flake. The flakes were all located adjacent to the northwest side of the pit feature. Maniery and Williams noted that the pit measured 5.3 meters N/S by 6.2 meters E/W. The depression was 68 cm deep. They noted that "the

southern slope is mounded and moss covered. It is possible that the soil was piled into the bank during excavation of the pit."

During my visit to the site in 1984, the obsidian flake and several of the chert flakes were relocated. The pit feature was still relatively well defined--it lacked the buildup of understory debris and litter usually found under a mature forest canopy. Nearly all of the larger Douglas-fir in this area were about 110 years old--it was an even-aged stand invading an oak woodland (personal observation, see Keter 1995, 1997). There were also numerous young pole-sized Douglas fir crowding out the surviving oaks.

This in and of itself suggests the site has a shallow time depth. A core was taken from a Douglas-fir growing along the northeast corner of the pit. This tree was approximately 110 years old at that time.

This site was briefly described in a paper presented to the Society for California Archaeology (SCA) in 1985 (Keter 1985).

During the fall of 1989 an intensive surface examination of the site was undertaken. In 1990 the following information regarding this site was summarized in a paper filed with the site records (Keter 1990a). It is summarized (with minor editing) below.

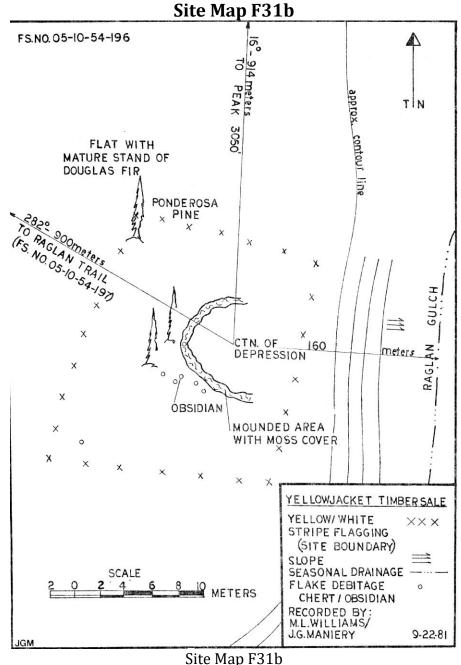
After all the duff was removed from the pit and the area immediately adjacent to the pit, it was carefully inspected. In addition to the shallow pit depression, five chert flakes and one obsidian flake were noted on the surface or below the duff layer. The limited cultural materials associated with the site and their limited spatial distribution is suggestive of short term occupation.

It appears that this site conforms quite well to Sonia Tamez's and Thomas Jackson's predictive models for refuge sites (See Keter 1990). The site is located in a rather isolated spot away from the main east/west trending ridge in very rough deep cut canyon country on the edge of an ancient alluvial terrace about 80 meters up a steep slope and 200 meters away from the nearest water source, a seasonal stream which is a marginal water supply at best; although it appears that some pools of water may remain into early August in some years.

The site location attributes outlined above, when considered with the lack of cultural materials, suggests that this site may be what is termed a refuge site or was used for a very short time (perhaps one season) just before the contact period. Another reason that this is likely is that, generally, pit features--given the dead fall and invasion of conifers on to flats and into oak woodlands in this area (see attached photos) -- do not last very long. Pit features are relatively rare in the North Fork of the Eel basin and are usually located in known late period ethnographic locations. The chance that this pit is older than 150 years (1989a) is highly unlikely.

Given the tenuous connections between the site referred to above and the refuge period, it is apparent that it will be difficult to identify with any certainty refuge sites.

Unfortunately this small compact site along the edge of an ancient river terrace was destroyed by the Forest Service. Despite my having flagged this site to protect it, it was near a timber sale unit and during logging operations the site was bladed and used as a landing. This took place in about 1990. Refer to the CRIR linked to the site record 54-196 for more information on this site and its location. The SHPO was notified at the time. [Not that anything happened to the contractor or the responsible Forest Service Timber Sale Administrator.]



The site map is provided since nothing remains of this site.

It was totally destroyed during the Yellowjacket Timber Sale.

# F31b Images

All Photos by T. Keter 1989

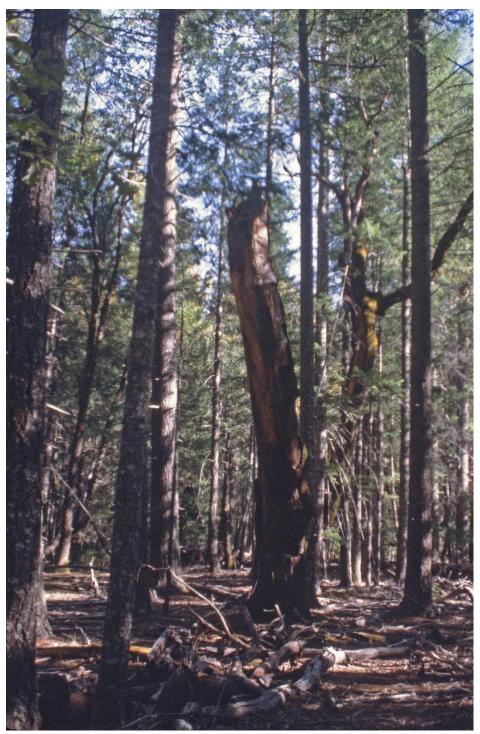


Image F31b 01a
View to west from pit feature.



Image F31b 01b

View to west from pit feature. Note dead and dying oak even aged pole-sized Douglas fir and the amount of dead fall on the ground in these two images.



Image 31b 02

View from edge of pit area that was cleared. This location was flagged and was supposed to be avoided by a timber sale. Unfortunately the site was destroyed during logging operations. SHPO was notified at the time.



F31b 03: View west to shallow pit feature cleared of duff.

#### F31C: Possible Dance House Pit Feature

Map 4: T3S, R7E, S 23

Exact location of this site is not provided. Unfortunately, this site and several others in the vicinity have been looted-including theft of many of the historical artifacts (personal observation over the nearly three decades that I have visited this area). See the Thomas Raglin (misspelled "Raglan" on USGS maps) and Sally Hoaglin Place entry B01 for the history of this area, a description of the Raglin homestead, and for more on the problem of looting including photographs. See Appendixes 1 and 2 below for a discussion of the Big Head Dance and information provided by consultants regarding chronology.

This site was recorded in November of 1984 by the author and a paper was presented to the SCA in the spring of 1985 (Keter 1985).

The site was visited in about 2002 with Wailaki who were living in the Round Valley area-including Coyote Fred Downey (a descendant of Mary Major) and also by a member of the Round Valley Indian Reservation Tribal Council. Coyote was very moved when he saw the pit. He went off into the woods and secured some sort of plant material and then walked around the outside of the pit dropping the crushed leaves from the plant as he was saying a prayer.

#### The following information is summarized from the site record with minor editing.

This location is dominated by a large pit feature and associated features as well as both prehistoric and historic artifacts. The eastern portion of this site contains a prehistoric flake and groundstone scatter [not shown on the maps below], and the western portion contains the remains of a possible dance house and associated features and artifacts dating from the late 19th or early 20th century.

The pit feature is 10m in diameter, excavated about 16 cm into the ground with a berm which rises about 46 cm from pit level on the inside and 30 cm from ground level on the outside. There is an entrance on the east where the berm drops to ground level for a distance of about 1.2 meters (refer to diagrams, artifact lists, and photos below).

There is evidence of a fire hearth including several stones in the feature about 2 meters directly in from the entrance (see Sketch Map and Images F31c 00a and F31c 05 below). This feature is well constructed and almost perfectly round. The pit retains a high level of integrity with the entire berm intact. Adjacent to the pit feature, there are also several more shallow depressions that appear to be cultural features (possibly smaller house pits or graves—see interviews below), but they are filling in with debris and are not as clearly defined. Refer to Detail Map F31c A below for their locations.

Directly to the southwest is an area where the ground has settled leaving a rectangle about  $1 \frac{1}{2} \times 1$  meter outlined in the earth slightly below ground level giving hints that this area

has been excavated. This may be a grave site see the interview section below in the Appendix.

Also, directly to the south and east of the pit is a pile of rock and dirt debris about 200 cm. high and about one square meter in area (Image F31c 12). This may have resulted from the excavation of the pit or the associated features. Southeast of the pit about 15 meters along the edge of the terrace in immature conifers is an area which appears to have been leveled into the slope.

Some evidence (including size of the pit and orientation of the entrance) suggests the possibility the pit is related to the Big Head Dance (cf. Dubois 1946). Anthropologist Virginia Miller (1976:73), who worked in the Round Valley area, notes that some forms of these cults persisted into the early twentieth century—see Appendix 1. See consultant interviews regarding the pit feature below in Appendix 2.



"Dancer with feather headress [sic] and elderberry clappers" C.H. Merriam Stony Creek, CA. 1923

**Environment** (Summarized from the site record with minor editing)

The pit feature is located on a trending ridge in a relatively remote setting and away from known ethnographic sites which are mostly along the North Fork of the Eel River. This area is a mosaic of open grasslands, with scattered stands of gray pine, white and black oak, ponderosa pine, and Douglas-fir (DF) in complex associations. No tanoak or buckeye was noted. Mixed in with the species listed above are areas of manzanita often along the edges of openings or mixed in with gray pine on some adjacent slopes with poor soils. The site sites on an ancient river terrace relatively flat and well defined. On the flat Douglas-fir have invaded what appears to have been in earlier times more open county. Directly to the northeast of the site, the stand of timber is composed mainly of pole sized Douglas-fir with only a very few widely scattered larger DF. The pole sized DF appear to be well under 150 years old (1984) and have crowded out the oak trees which are either dying, dead and still standing, or in many cases have already fallen to the ground and are decaying. Also, several areas have dead manzanita that the DF has crowded out. The DF in this area are usually concentrated in well-defined stands, many of even age (Image 31c 13).

Growing on the terrace are several widely dispersed large Douglas-fir with lower radial branches (evidence of open growth with little competition) and surrounding remnants of dying and dead manzanita under small (under 6" diameter) invading Douglas-fir and a very few oaks. The pit is situated in a small opening that has almost disappeared; with grasses remaining only in the remnants of the clearing immediately around the pit (see site map and photos below).

To summarize; it appears that the grasslands and oak woodlands in the area are rapidly being invaded by DF and the lack of wildfires has played an important part in changing the vegetation patterns in this area over the last century.

#### Surface inventory of the Pit Feature

During the 1984 field season an oak tree growing on the northwest portion of the berm was cored. The age of this tree was approximately 85 (+1- 5) years (in 1984). It was hypothesized at the time that this was a dance house dating to the late 19th or early 20th century based on the material record (artifacts) of the site, ethnographic data, and interview data (Keter 1985: 7-8).

In October of 1989 the author undertook a surface inventory of artifacts within the pit feature. The following information is from the original site record and the 1989 surface inventory project. Also included are maps and diagrams of the site, an artifact inventory list, and images of the site and surface collection activities.

During the field project, all duff and natural debris (limbs etc.) were carefully removed from the pit using a trowel. The interior of the pit was then divided into a grid of 1 meter squares using string. Portions of the berm along the southwest edge of the pit were also cleared of duff and vegetation. The entire area surrounding the dance house was

intensively surveyed frequently using a trowel to remove duff. Two of the three smaller depressions were also cleared of duff and inspected.

#### Results

Within the pit feature a number of artifacts were identified all dating from the historic period. The most common items were cut nails (sometimes referred to as square nails) and wire nails (round or round head nails). Cut nails are usually indicative of historic sites dating from the 19th century. Wire nails replaced cut nails for the most part in the 1890's although cut nails are still manufactured. These nails are the same size and kinds as those located at Raglan Flat where the barn appears to have been located. Further research is needed to determine whether the barn and homestead predate the pit feature.

There were 63 cut nails and 105 wire nails within the feature. The cut nails were nearly all 8.3 cm in length while the wire nails were 7.9 cm in length. Two wire nails were identified on the berm of the pit. Within the feature, the nails are not randomly distributed. As can be seen from the Pit Feature Sketch Map (below) most nails were located towards the center of the feature. Approximately 73% (122) of the nails were located within one meter of the center of the pit on an east west axis. Within this east west axis 64% were located within two meters of the center of the pit. In addition, another 18% were located just to the south of this area on the same east west axis and within two meters of the center. The distribution of these nails strongly suggests that during construction nails were used to tie the center supports and roof together. In addition, two locations near the center of the pit have a number of nails protruding from the ground point first in a circular fashion. The diameter is roughly 10-15cm. The location of these features is consistent with placement of center posts.

The remains of what appears to be a fire hearth was identified in the area between the entrance and the center of the pit (see Diagram F31c 00b). This hearth area contained some small fragments of charcoal and ash. Charcoal and partially burned fragments of wood as well as some unburned wood fragments from what appears to have been part of the original structure were noted throughout the pit although they seemed to be more common within the north half.

It appears from inspection of the oak tree (including the core), the surrounding mature oaks and Douglas-fir, and the remains of the split-rail fence (discussed in another portion of this report) adjacent to part of the site, that wildfire has been absent from the area since construction of the pit feature. The evidence strongly suggests that the structure over the pit was burned either intentionally or by accident. According to Lee Stapp (A6: I#448) the dance house was still standing when he was a young man roughly the 1930s (see Appendix 2 below).

A number of other historic artifacts were located within the pit feature. Among the most notable are red ocher which may have been used for ceremonial purposes and bottle glass that was worked into a "flaked" cutting edge (illustration in site record).

Adjacent to the pit feature were three smaller depressions which were only slightly dug out. Three cut nails were identified in the depression just east of the pit feature. Two sandstone river cobles were noted on the site. One is a probable slab metate (gray sandstone and the other is an oblong fragment battered at the end (see images below).

A cast iron pot was noted in the original sit record in the area to the south and west of the pit feature (F31c 06). This artifact was stolen from the site in 1985 by a hunter who was seen leaving the area with it (personal communication Bill Wilkerson, Forester, Mad River Ranger District).

After careful survey of the surrounding area it was noted that a split rail fence seems to have run along the northwest and northern side of the site approximately 10 meters from the pit feature (see image F31c 11). It is quite indistinct but some decaying wood rails and posts are visible in places. In addition, approximately 25 meters to the east of the pit feature are several standing split fence posts. It is not clear whether these are associated with the pit feature or the original Raglan homestead. A cut nail was noted in one rail north of the pit feature. No evidence of a fence was noted on the south side of the area.

It appears from the artifacts associated with the site and the tree core that the pit feature was used for a very short period of time during the late 1890's or early 1900'; probably sometime between 1895 and 1905.

#### **Listing of Artifacts**

Several cans (both machine made and hole-in-the-top) and metal containers were located below the primary datum in the drainage. This pit feature area contained numerous artifacts including cans and bottle fragments and some lithic materials. Below is a description of the most notable of the artifacts. Refer also to the site map and artifact lists below.

#### <u>Inside pit feature</u>

- Square nails.
- Round machine made nails.
- Several hole in the top cans.
- Small pieces of wood 30 cm. in length or under with charcoal on the edges possibly the remains of the structural part of the pit. Broken glass including green and purple fragments.

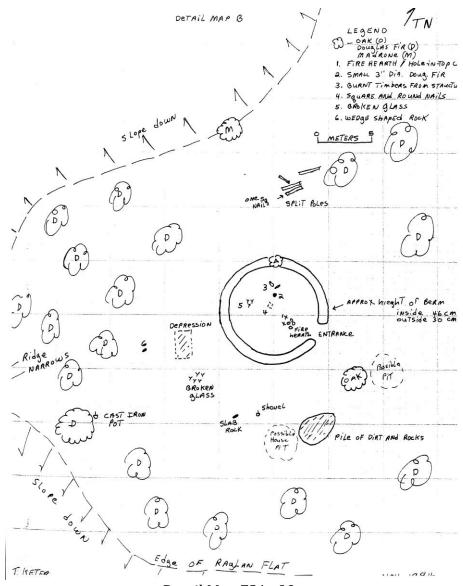
#### Adjacent to pit feature

- Cast iron cooking pot with wire handle (about 1 1/2 2 gallon) (Image F31c 06)
  - Note: this item was removed by a vandal from the site between October 22 and November 5, 1984.
- Broken glass including what appears to be a punch bowl as the glass is a lace type pattern,

also a bottle base with cut off scar.

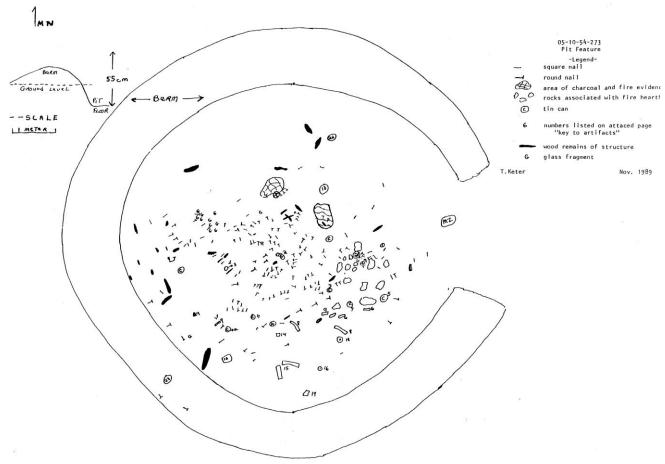
- Old type shovel head.
- Wedge shaped rock (possible wood driving wedge) battered on narrow end (Image F31c 08)
- Unmodified flat river rock.
- Split poles and boards about 1-2 meters in length and various diameters up to 8-10 cm. north of pit feature; one had a square nail in it. These timbers appear to have been used on some type of structure, perhaps the pit.

# F31c: Images and detail maps of the pit feature area of the site.



Detail Map F31a 00a

General area of the pit feature; note that the square depression area to the left of the pit feature may be a grave--see interview data.



F31c 00b: Pit feature and surface artifacts (see attached photo of the 1m x 1m grid)

#### KEY TO ARTIFACTS ON PIT FEATURE MAP

```
small (4" dia) Douglas-fir
1 2
      small piece of red ocher
      possible post hole with nail protruding from the ground
      same as above
3456
      large 6" nail-round head
      hole-in-top can-bottem portion and sides
      side pressed flat of tin can
78
      ceramic shard
      piece of metal band (from a hoop barrel?) 2 cm wide x 12 cm long
      patterned sheet metal fragment
small nail on washer (see photo)
9
10
11
12
       oval hole-in-top can bottem
       external friction lid
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
      flatten can side
      hinge with sq. nail (see photo)
metal bands similar to #8 but shorter
       tin can fragment
       hole-in-top can botem and sides
       bucket type can (see photo)
       charcoal/ash deposit within rock ring--probable location of fire pit
       sanitary can bottom
       worked bottle glass (see photos and sketch)
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F31c 00c Artifact list for pit feature.

# **Images F31c Pit Feature**

All photos by T. Keter 1989 unless otherwise noted.



F31c 01

Pit feature before vegetation remova-- note the young fir invading the opening. The surrounding flat is dense with young Douglas fir. (1984)



Image F31c 01a

View to south from invading Douglas fir to pit feature--before removing vegetation.



Image F31c 01b
View to west of pit feature--note the entrance facing to the east in the lower center of photograph.



Image F31c 02 TK on SW edge of pit. Note the manzanita is at the pit feature entrance.



Image F31c 03 Close-up of the pit feature prior to removal of surface duff and leaf litter.



Image F31c 04

Pit feature after setting out the  $1m \times 1m$  grid--entrance in lower center of photo. The oak on the berm far right center was cored and dated as approx. 85 (+1- 5) years (in 1984).



Image F31c 05
Possible fire hearth with charcoal near the entrance (see Detail Map B above).



Cast iron pot (1984): this artifact was stolen off of the site see Appendix below.



Image F31c 07 Groundstone artifact noted as "Slab rock" on Detail Map 31c 00a above.

Probable slab metate of gray sandstone--(above) and an oblong rock fragment (below) battered at the end--possibly a wedge). These are the only two traditional Native American artifacts directly associated with the pit feature.



Image F31c 08
See comments above.



Image F31c 09 Round nails near center of pit feature.



Image F31c 10

Square nail from pit feature.



Image F31c 11 Oak fence post to NW of pit feature.



Image F31c 12

Recorded as "pile of dirt and rocks" on Detail Map B F31c 00 above. There is a slight depression--a possible pit feature just to the right of the mound (lower far right)

Note the density of young Douglas fir trees in the background.

# F31c Appendix 1

The following information is related to the possible use of the pit feature.

#### The Big Head Dance

The Ghost Dance movement originated among the Paviotso of Walker Lake Nevada and quickly spread throughout California. Within a short time a version of this doctrine reached Round Valley (See Miller 1976 for an overview). The Big Head Cult was a version of the Bole-Maru Cult which took hold in Pomo Territory. In discussions with elderly Yuki and Wailaki Cora Dubois (1939) concluded that two separate manifestations of the Ghost Dance Cult had passed through Round Valley. The first was initiated by a Pomo named Santiago McDaniel. The second appears to have entered the valley via the Kato of Long Valley.

It appears from Reservation Records that some form of the Earth Lodge Cult had made its way to the Reservation by the spring of 1872 (Miller 1976:68). At first, the dancing and actions of the Indians were somewhat tolerated by the Round Valley Indian agent Hugh Gibson, a retired Methodist minister appointed under President Grant's Peace Policy (Miller 1976: 68). In October of that year, Gibson was replaced by another Methodist minister John L. Burchard. He implemented a much more forceful policy to discourage nativistic religious practices and banned dance houses from the reservation. The traditional dances and some form of the Bole Maru Cult, however, still took place on some of the local ranches in the valley.

The dancing continued through 1873 but in 1874 Burchard noted a big change or a "Great Revival" (Miller 1976: 69). The Indians on the reservation began to "convert" to Christianity in record numbers. For about one year religious fervor remained at a peak as numerous Indians were converted. However within a short time (by 1876) Agent Burchard wrote, "...a reaction has taken place. Scores are lost to the church-lost all their interest therein-and I fear will be forever lost." Miller (1976:71) theorizes that the "Bole-Maru doctrine prominent in 1873 resembled the preaching's that the Methodist agent urged on the Indians at the same time."

For this study the most relevant part of the coming of the Ghost dance was the Big Head cult. No specific date could be established for when it first entered the region but it was about 1873 0r 1874 shortly after introduction of the Earth Lodge Cult and Bole-Maru Cult which took place in 1872 (miller 1976:72). This manifestation of the Ghost Dance was not noted as occurring on the reservation. Miller (1976:69) notes:

..the Big Head Cult took hold most strongly among the Wailaki Indians who, although formally registered at Round Valley Agency, in reality shunned the reservation as much as possible and stayed in the mountains north of the valley, where they had lived before the whites came to the area...If the cult

did catch hold most strongly among the Wailaki, then Round Valley agents may never have seen a Big Head Dance and so had no opportunity to comment on it".

While the Pomo adopted the Bole-Maru and the Wailaki the Big Head Cult the Yuki seem to have never embraced either manifestation. DuBois 1939:19) theroized that the reason for this was "The Yuki had their god, Taikomol, who had a big feather horn, and they didn't like to represent him in that way. It was like mocking Taikomol".

# F31c Appendix 2

Consultant Interview Comments Regarding the Pit Feature

A6: I#356: Anonymous: see the HR SRNF interview files for the identity of this individual.)

He said the other site had been described to him by George Duncan, a part Indian local resident who died several years ago. George said that the earthwork [pit feature] was the remains of an Indian ceremonial site. This site was visited by the interviewers. We found a large (presumed) house or dance pit, at least two smaller house pits, and prehistoric and historic artifacts.

A6: I#448 Lee Stapp

Lee remembered when the pit feature (F31c) was still standing in about 1930. It had a peaked roof which came together in the middle and was made of shakes. Also, in the immediate area, just to the north and slightly to the east of the pit feature, he noted that there were some graves. There were no headstones on the graves but you could see the indentations (at least two) and some broken pottery in the area. He remembers that at that time there was almost no vegetation near the pit except for the small oak tree on the edge of the berm may have been about 6 feet hegh at the time. [This is the oak tree that was cored. The height of the tree in 1930 (given that it was growing somewhat in the shade) adds to the probablity that it began to grow sometime around about 1900.]

When I mentioned the Bighead dance both Lee and Irene agreed that this was a real possibility. Irene also remembers that at an earlier time possibly the 1870's (as told to her by her mother, Francis, who was Indian and a Wilburn) that a medicene man had told the people living at Blocksburg that the end of the world was coming. She said that a number of people then traveled to Forest Glenn to hide out in some limestone caves. She was not sure how long they

stayed there. When I mentioned the date of the pit as between about 1895 and 1905 both of them thought this this was a reasonable guess.

#### Interview A6: I#378, Dave Alby

The interviewee first learned of the pit feature about 20 years ago. He was told about where the Indians had built some "lodges, sweathouses, and a large ceremonial pit" by Lee Duncan. Lee (who died about 1964) and his brother Glen Duncan (who died about 1980) were brothers from the Long Ridge Country (see B06) and the interviewee believes they were the sons of Ben Duncan but is not certain. [This is correct see Ben Duncan HF17.]

#### Anonymous A6: I#356

The consultant indicated that the site had been described to him by George Duncan, a part Indian local resident who died several years ago. George said that the earthwork on the pit feature was the remains of an Indian ceremonial site. He found a large (presumed) house or dance pit, at least two smaller house pits, and prehistoric and historic artifacts. Although he does not remember the pit feature himself, he provides information that strongly suggests such a dance house was certainly possible given the remoteness of the area and the number of Wailaki still living in the area in the late 1890s and very early 1900s.

#### A:6 I#378 96 year old Wailaki Man

The interview took place at his home in southern Trinity County to discuss Indian dance houses and in particular a possible dance house pit that was located on Raglan Flat (see attached map and photo).

About round houses, or dance houses, he said that Indians built them on ranches owned by the whites if a lot of Indians lived on the ranch. Charlie Fenton, in Hull's Valley, is where his family lived along with other Wailakis. They had three dance houses on this ranch. They lived there because the men worked for Charlie Fenton, they herded his sheep, took them to summer on South Fork Mountain and brought them back in the fall. Indians would not build a dance house on white men's ranches unless they worked and lived there and that there was more than 1 or 2 Indians. He never heard of Raglan [Thomas Raglin] and never heard of any Indians working out there.

The following is the complete conversation regarding the pit feature with the consultant recorded in January of 1985.

Could have been before my time. There was no dance house there that we went to in my time, of been before my time. We had dances any chance we could get, even on white man's holidays like 4th of July and Christmas. The one everyone liked best was in the spring it was a coming out dance. And of course when the medicine man called one, we always danced.

By looking at the photo [of the pit feature], he could not tell if it looked like a dance house or not.

All of us Indians danced together, our best friends were the Yuki but we liked to dance with the Nomlaki too because all our dances and songs and dance outfits were almost the same.

Our dance house always were big, real big, not like the Yuki's. Ours was always big because we had lots of Indians at Charlie Fentons and our dances everybody come to. They always have center posts and most always had lots of center posts. Because if it big, it needs those center post to hold everything up.

When everyone from all around come to these dances, they all camp around there for days. A dance, even a doctor dance, has to have lots of people at it.

Yeah, dancing, dancing - good times. Us young men like to show off to the pretty women when we are dancing. We strut and stick our chests out and hear the music the way it is supposed to be heard and we catch their eyes. Then before you know it, the pretty one has your will and heart and you have little ones running around. Many a young dancer ended in this way. I was a good dancer and I got one of the pretty ones. Yeah, I got one of the pretty ones.

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXX End of Section on F31c XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX