

NEVADA

ARCHAEOLOGIST



Nevada
Archaeological
Association

Volume 2, No. 2, 1974

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VOLUME II No. II

1974

THE NEVADA ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

The Nevada Archaeological Association was organized in 1972 to provide a bond of communication between professionals in the field of archaeology and its allied sciences, members of various amateur organizations, and the people of Nevada towards the furtherance of public education and involvement in responsible preservation of Nevada's archaeological and historical resources.

The need for recording these finite relics of the past for the enlightenment of future generations grows more pressing with each day of development and progress. The goals of the Nevada Archaeological Association are to provide a central point for general information and study; a central recording point for collections in the Nevada and the verbal knowledge accompanying these collections, and correlation of this knowledge with that already recorded, for the benefit of the collectors and those in the research field; to provide assistance with education towards responsible Public Archaeology; to assist in preservation of sites by the establishment and maintenance of a registry of available, capable amateurs in Nevada who would be able to work with the professionals, particularly in the immediacy of salvage archaeology; and to provide a bond of communication between the professionals, amateurs, and the general public by publishing a journal, NEVADA ARCHAEOLOGIST.

To these ends, the Nevada Archaeological Association is incorporated, in the State of Nevada, as an educational, scientific and historic organization, with its organizational offices in Reno, Nevada, editorial offices in Las Vegas, Nevada and conference and meeting center in Tonopah, Nevada. Membership is open to all those interested in the archaeology, Indian pre-history, and history of Nevada.

COVER

EDITOR'S NOTE: Petroglyph designs used throughout this issue are taken from those found in Nevada and in Eastern California.

FRONT: Dorsal view of a carved and painted owl effigy from Hanging Rock Cave.

BACK: Ventral view.

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Amy Dansie



Nevada Archaeological Association

Logo design of the NAA by Robert Elston, Director, Nevada Archaeological Survey, UNR, from a Garfield Flat petroglyph.

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Active	\$5.00
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The N.A.A. is an incorporated non-profit organization registered in the State of Nevada and has no paid employees.

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*I hope to see your name here
one day*
Jean Myles

*Back up team & bar b.cue
Chet.*
"Remove not the ancient landmark
which your fathers have set."
Proverbs 22:28
My team

With pleasure & appreciation

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BEFORE ALL IS LOST...

This issue is dedicated towards establishing legislative support for the Nevada Archaeological Survey Program. Nevada is one of the very few western states which does not provide strong support to a program in archaeology. The existing cooperative survey program has functioned over the past few years through the efforts and dedication of professional anthropologists, archaeologists, and active amateurs who see the program as the only way to protect or preserve the rapidly diminishing archaeological resources in Nevada.

Two proposals have been submitted to the Nevada State Legislature, in 1971 and 1973, neither being accepted for a variety of reasons, including lack of significant institutional support. The proposal to be

submitted to the 1975 legislative session has strong support from both the University of Nevada System and the Nevada State Museum. Many Nevadans, those occupied in archaeology and its allied fields, and interested laymen, have added their thoughts and support to this proposal.

We ask that you read the enclosed proposal, and either talk with, or write to your legislative representatives. Letters of support should also be sent to the University of Nevada Board of Regents, Reno Campus, Reno, Nevada, the Nevada State Museum Board of Trustees, Carson City, Nevada and, to Governor Mike O'Callaghan, Executive Offices, Carson City, Nevada.

A list of Nevada's legislator's names and mailing addresses is enclosed in this issue for your convenience.

J.M.



(ALL THERE IS TO SAVE)...

Included with this issue is a proposal to establish the Nevada Archaeological Survey as a state-wide program of the Nevada State Museum. This proposal has been developing over several years and is the result of the thoughtful discussion by many Nevadans, lay persons as well as professional archaeologists.

The proposal is being made in order to create an effective means of protecting and salvaging the valuable and interesting prehistoric material contained in the State of Nevada. Over the past few years there has been a growing realization among prehistorians of the increasing rate of resource destruction while Nevada's population and intensity of land use are growing. Growth has its undoubted positive aspects, however, urban development, rural land modification, off-road vehicles and well-meaning relic hunters take a larger toll of archaeological resources each year. This toll is so heavy that several professional archaeologists believe it will be impossible to practice field archaeology in Nevada within ten year's time. We are told that there will be no Nevada archaeology left to study excepting those collected artifacts saved in the basements of a few

museums and universities. This may be a somewhat extreme view, but the consensus is that a definitely critical situation exists.

Unfortunately, not everyone is aware that Nevada has a prehistory or that prehistoric remains have any value other than as curiosities for the arrowhead collector. Reasonable, but uninformed, people will ask just what it is we want to save.

The architecture of the Pueblo settlements of the Colorado River drainage, the several styles of distinctive painted and pecked rock art, those perishable materials such as basketry and clothing occasionally preserved in dry caves, the Lovelock Culture effigy sculpture of western Nevada; all of these things have a high visual impact and are of obvious value to anyone. If this was all there was to worry about, we could simply exclude these classes of remains from development, fence the more fragile sites, and rest assured we had preserved what there was to preserve. This, however, is not the case.

In addition to the obvious aesthetic and cultural values, archaeological remains of Nevada constitute a unique and irreplaceable scientific resource, not only for

the archaeologist, but for many other scientists and land use managers as well. Because these values are so wide in range, and have the potential of practical application to current environmental development and management problems, it seems appropriate to emphasize them here.

The original inhabitants of Nevada were closely coupled with the natural environment, depending upon its resources to provide all of the necessities and luxuries of life. Most of these resources were scattered throughout the landscape and had to be gathered and brought to a central place in order to be used or consumed. The places where aboriginal Nevadans lived and worked are today's archaeological sites. Some sites are quite extensive containing hundreds, even thousands of artifacts; others are quite small, perhaps limited to a single artifact lost or set aside in the pursuit of some isolated task. Large or small, each site is a depository of information concerning various aspects of human adaptation to the environment, as well as information about the environment itself. Such information includes changes in plant and animal communities, water resources, rates of soil development and erosion, and so on. Information preserved in archaeological sites often spans several millenia and may occasionally include the entire period extending from the last Ice Age to the present (some ten or eleven thousand years) in a single site.

As stores of information, archaeological sites are unique. There are, simply, no other sources of data regarding human behavior from the vast time periods they represent, and nature rarely, if ever, concentrates data concerning environmental change and the means for dating such change in a single place comparable to an archaeological site. What the archaeological remains of

Nevada actually represent is a set of unconscious experiments in adaptation to changing environmental conditions which occurred over the entire state for thousands of years. The people who performed these experiments gained knowledge of the yields, seasonal change, and distribution of plants, animals and water which today's scientists and managers can well envy. Although archaeological sites have been compared to rare old volumes on natural history and custom for which no other copies exist, it seems to me they are more like notebooks; each time a site was used and a tool or other artifact discarded or lost there, another entry was made, another experiment recorded.

If positive action is taken soon, much of this information can be preserved for the present and future use of all those interested in environmental change through time: archaeologists, range managers, zoologists, soils scientists, foresters, climatologists, ecologists, wild life managers, geographers, land use planners, botanists, geologists, and hydrologists. I hasten to add that the Survey proposal is no panacea; it won't save every site or keep all information from being lost. But it will provide a base for study, preservation and interpretation of this data, and for dissemination of this knowledge to agencies and scholars throughout the state. I urge all those interested in archaeology, as well as those interested in keeping Nevada's growth and development from destroying the very environment which makes living in Nevada so worthwhile, to actively support this legislative survey proposal for the Nevada Archaeological Survey program.

**Robert Elston, Director
Nevada Archaeological Survey, UNR**

**“Antiquities are history defaced, or
some remnants of history which have
casually escaped the shipwreck of
time.”**

Francis Bacon

PRAISE THE LAWS AND PASS THE LEGISLATION

Charles R. McGimsey III



To the novice, passing laws is an awe inspiring process when in fact it is quite simple. It does involve conviction and a certain amount of work.

I won't attempt to define the specific steps involved, for they vary from state to state and community to community, but there are three basic stages common to the legislative process wherever it is found.

To meet with success when confronted with the legislative process you must: 1) prepare the ground; 2) learn the legislative process; and 3) shepherd your law at all times. Perhaps by giving some examples and general discussion from my own experience, I can illustrate what is involved in each of these processes.

Prepare the Ground

The first step in preparing the ground is to operate on a completely open basis. I am well aware from my own experience of the temptation to develop a total plan and proceed far along the road to passage or at least introduction of the legislation for attempting to consult others. The approach is dangerous, for even if your idea and your goals are above reproach, the mere fact that they weren't consulted will raise suspicion or at least caution in the minds of many and potentially, create unnecessary enmity. Furthermore, others may very well have worthwhile suggestions which at an early stage can be incorporated in your legislative package to its overall benefit, while modifications, however worthy, become increasingly difficult as the suggested legislation passes through the legislative process.

Insofar as is possible, you should early on in the developmental process endeavor to neutralize any significant opposition to the legislation. Simply opening it up for discussion as suggested above is perhaps the most potent weapon for accomplishing this particular goal, for you can discuss openly with all Doubting Thomases, incorporating any worthwhile suggestions and point out in a careful, calm, and hopefully diplomatic way the deleterious effects of the less worthy ideas put forward. If this course is pursued to its maximum ends, the legislation will not encounter any effective opposition, either in committee or on the floor during debate. It must always be kept in mind that archeology, like apple pie and motherhood, is likely to be adopted as a noble cause up to the point where adopting such a political stand begins to cost votes. And I'm not being sinical. One function of a legislator is to represent his constituents and if more of his constituents are telling him to vote against something than to vote for it then this is a fact that any legislator must keep in mind. Therefore, it behooves anyone concerned with archeological legislation to make certain that there are minimal number of people (preferably none) urging their legislators to vote against the archeological legislation.

Finally, in the other direction, it is helpful if you can

develop a fairly broad base of support. Talk to the editorial writers of key newspapers and, by whatever means appropriate, spread the word about what the legislation will accomplish, not only for the science of archeology, but for the public in general and particularly the people of the state.

During the developmental stages of the Arkansas legislation, we called a series of meetings with representatives of all the state colleges and universities, archeological societies, and the museums of the state. This group hammered out the precise wording of the basic legislation, a process which often involved consultation with the legal council of the various institutions during final development of the precise language. The end result, however, was a bill which all colleges and universities and related agencies were able to represent to the legislature with a united front, one of the few times in Arkansas history when this situation has been achieved. The legislature was, I believe, impressed. This process not only opened up our legislative development, but it served effectively to neutralize the opposition, because we were able to take into account all attitudes and concerns, and either incorporate language which met that concern or convince the agencies involved that their concern was not properly founded.

A broad base of support was developed in a variety of ways. The state archeological society, distributed to all newspapers in the state a colored brochure, explaining the need for the legislation and how it would benefit the state in general and individual citizens. The Society also saw to it that nearly every legislator was contacted by one or more constituents who were knowledgeable enough to explain the legislation and request the legislator's support. With the opposition neutralized, the legislator essentially heard nothing but positive comments with respect to the legislation.

Learn the Legislative Process

Many state societies make the mistake of feeling that if they design appropriate and proper legislation and see that it is introduced that their responsibility ceases. Nothing could be farther from the truth. The legislative process is a complex one and the legislators are extremely busy individuals. Even the sponsors of legislation can not be assumed to be aware of a law's situation and progress at all times, for they have many other responsibilities. They must and indeed should depend upon groups of citizens who are concerned about that legislation to keep them abreast of developments with respect to it. And they should not be criticized for their inability to be aware at all times of the legislative position of that legislation. I can't imagine anyone familiar with the legislative process who is not extremely impressed with the performance of the vast majority of legislators. None of them operate perfectly

all the time, and some of them don't seem to operate very well any of the time. But there is a very direct mechanism for dealing with the last category and it normally is exercised. The person who receives adverse comments in the newspapers or otherwise, but continues to be re-elected is doing something right as far as his electorate is concerned and, in my experience, these controversial figures are often the ones who have learned the legislative process best and know how to turn it to their advantage. This is not necessarily bad, the legislative process is basically an open and fair one and if it is misused, it often is because others are simply not as aware of how the system operates. Therefore, if you are really seriously concerned about getting legislation passed, it behooves you to become very aware of the process and how it operates, at all levels, at all stages.

At one point I can remember when we wanted to get some last minute changes in some legislation and the sponsoring legislator felt that perhaps it couldn't be done. Only after those of us involved from the outside outlined how it might be accomplished were we able, in fact, to do what needed to be done. Again, let me emphasize that I am not running down the legislators, but emphasizing the fact that we had nothing else to think about and were able therefore to think out all the ramifications and to present the possibilities. It also helps to be able to take preventive action. For example, in Arkansas, it is possible, once a bill has passed the House and Senate, to have it delivered by messenger directly to the Governor for immediate signature. In one instance, at least, because the Society was aware of this, it was able to forestall over hasty action on the part of the governor and ultimately more constructive action with respect to the archaeological resources. Had it not made itself aware of this possibility, Arkansas would have found itself saddled with legislation which would have been much less satisfactory than that which is presently law.

Shepherd the Bills at All Times

Basically this entails seeing that someone is paying attention to the legislation at all times. It can take many forms. In Arkansas during the critical periods of the legislative process one or another professional archaeologist or Society member was present during much of the legislative debate at any time when there was a possibility of the archaeological legislation being considered. At times this entailed the presence of two individuals, one monitoring activity in the House of Representatives and one monitoring activities in the

Senate. During the session which saw the establishment of the Archaeological Survey, these sessions were monitored over 60 per cent of the time. This has a variety of purposes. Not only is the monitor able to detect errors in the legislative process, which can perhaps be quickly corrected, but is also able to acquaint concerned citizens with the progress in order that they may have input at the appropriate time.

One element of this is seeing that legislators are informed about constituent concerns. Any Society can, as the Arkansas Society did, see to it that most, if not all, legislators are contacted by informed constituents with the legislation explained to them in detail. Thus when the professional members of the archaeological community appear as expert witnesses, they are assured that they have an informed, sympathetic audience. Certainly, this takes time and effort on the part of the concerned citizens who are members of the archaeological society or who are otherwise concerned, but it is the type of concern that pays off with effective legislation.

There is another element in shepherding the legislation, and that is simply insuring that there is someone in the right spot at the right time. There was one point in the Arkansas legislative process when a letter from the Governor needed to be in the hands of the legislature to be presented to the Joint Budget Committee for consideration. The Joint Budget Committee hearing was set earlier than expected and the Governor was not aware of this. If a Society member had not been aware of the change and had not acquainted the Governor so that the Governor was able to make the letter available, disaster might have resulted.

Finally, I would like to say that if you are not acquainted with the legislative process, you are missing one of the real thrills on the American scene. It can be extraordinarily frustrating because legislators are humans and subjected to uncounted pressures. It can also be extraordinarily rewarding, because if you are successful in getting your message across to a viable portion of the public, and they make their opinions heard by the legislators, the system works. If you aren't successful in making the public aware of the archaeology's needs, there is no reason you should expect the legislature to react. Getting both the public and the legislature to react responsibly toward the state's and the nation's archaeological resources, should be sufficient challenge to the most energetic and optimistic individual in our midst, and yet it is a challenge to which the most meek and humble can make a very real contribution. It is a challenge to which no one can say, "I can not contribute" for you can and indeed you must.

INTRODUCTION TO "THE LAST ARROWHEAD MAKER"

by Donald R. Tuohy

The following story, "The Last Arrowhead Maker," was written by Dr. Simeon Lemuel Lee, who was born in Illinois in 1844, and died in Carson City, Nevada in 1927. He served with the Union forces during the Civil War, then took his M.D. degree at the "Physico-Medical Institute" in Cincinnati in 1870, arriving in Carson City that same year. After practicing medicine in Pioche and Eureka, Nevada, 19th Century mining boom towns, Dr. Lee returned to Carson City in 1879 where he resided until his death.

Dr. Lee was an avid collector of rocks, minerals, Indian baskets, shells, wood and natural curiosities. Following his death, his widow, Lola Montez Lee, donated more than 7,500 specimens from his collections to the State of Nevada. These specimens are today housed at the Nevada Historical Society Museum in Reno and in the Nevada State Museum in Carson City.¹

The story, "The last Arrowhead Maker," was one of about twenty disconnected stories and legends found in the Lee collection. They were written over an interval of fifty years' contact with Nevada Indians. The stories and legends were originally published in 1934 by the Nevada State Printing Office. Two of Lee's stories, "The Last Arrowhead Maker," and "Legend of the Arrowhead," as well as a portion of a third, "The Noble Red Man," were annotated and reprinted as "Appendix D, Dr. S.L. Lee's Ethnographic Notes on Washo Culture," in "Some Archaeological Sites and Cultures of the Central Sierra Nevada," Reports of the University of California Archaeological Survey, No. 21, issued April 20, 1953, (now out of print), and authored by Robert F. Heizer and Albert B. Elsasser. As Heizer and Elsasser noted, the Lee collection of "Indian Stories and Legends," is an important source of ethnographic information. It is also a testimonial to late 19th Century racism in a frontier town.

"The Last Arrowhead Maker" story is important because it verifies the vicinity of Topaz, Mono County, California as a source area for obsidian used by Washo Indians in making chipped stone tools, and it tells how Charley made a pressure flaking tool from buckhorn and greasewood, and how he used this tool to make projectile points.

1. Biographical data from "Dr. S.L. Lee Collection," published by Nevada Museum and Art Institute, State Printing Office, Carson City, Nevada, 1939.



Figure 1. Dr. Simeon Lemuel Lee (1844-1927), author of "The Last Arrowhead Maker," dressed in his uniform with rank of colonel in the Nevada National Guard. The photograph was probably taken in the 1880's.



THE LAST ARROWHEAD MAKER
(Poker Charley died in January of the year 1934)
(date of article is unknown)



Figure 2. Poker Charley was born about 1830, and he claimed to have seen the snowbound Donner Party. The photo was taken about 1905.

Poker Charley is the only Indian I have ever known void of superstition, or willing to impart anything he knows concerning his people, whether of a religious, political or domestic nature. The only question with him being, "How much?" If I was willing to pay his price he would tell me what he knew of the subject in question.

He is very old, and now almost blind. I once asked him how old he was. Of course he did not know, but asked me, "You savve white man, heap starve long time ago at Truckee?"

I answered, "Yes," knowing that he was alluding to the Donner Party.

He said, "My brother, Jimmie, see him."

I asked, "Why did not Jimmie take them some ewah?" (water)

He said, "Him heap praid (afraid). He never see white man before."

I then asked him how old he was when those people died there and he said, "O, I'm big boy. I'm hunt deer." So he must have been at least 16. Assuming that such was the case, he must be at least 85 years old.

For a period of 30 years or more I had endeavored to ascertain from the Indians how they made their arrow and spear points from stone. I met with continual defeat

until I asked the question of Charley. He informed me that he did know, that he and Lame Tom of Markleeville, Cal., were the last of the Washo arrowhead makers.

When I requested him to make me some, he said he had no rock. Upon inquiry, I learned that he could get some at Topaz, in Mono County, Calif., 50 miles to the south. I asked how much he wanted to make the trip and was informed that \$2 would settle the bill.

The next day, however, he told me that he would require 50 cents more, as it would be necessary to get some sole leather to half-sole his moccasins.

In about a week he returned with about a pint of thin pieces of obsidian (volcanic glass). His next step was to make a "mo-get-sel"—so he named the implement with which he fashioned the points. To construct it he had me cut off a prong from a pair of deer horns in my office. He then quartered the piece lengthwise. When that was done he took them to camp and kept them in water for a few days to soften them. He then scraped with glass one of the pieces and reduced its diameter to that of an ordinary lead pencil. This piece of buckhorn was some six inches in length. Then he paralleled it with a piece of greasewood, a very tough, slightly flexible wood, of the same size as the horn, but an inch longer. He lashed the two together with buckskin, allowing the horn to extend an inch below the wood.

He placed a piece of buckskin in the palm of one hand, elevated the forearm to an acute angle from the body, the hand almost horizontal and the fingers pointing over the left shoulder. He then placed a piece of the obsidian on the buckskin, in his hand, closing his fingers upon it. Taking the "mo-get-sel" in his right hand he brought the rounded and protruding piece of buckhorn against the edge of the stone, getting the proper bite, as it were. With a quick downward motion he would detach acicular fragments from it, reversing the edges from time to time until the point was completed.

Sitting in my back office he made me several dozen of those beautiful points which are still in my possession. He charged me 25 cents apiece for them.

Dr. Otis T. Mason, Curator of the New National Museum in Washington, D.C., hearing through some unknown channel that I had such an implement, asked if I would loan it to the museum. I did not send mine, but got Charley to make me a pair of them, one large, the other small, and presented them to Dr. Mason. He informed me that it was the only implement for the making of arrow points that had ever been secured by the Smithsonian Institute. I afterwards sent a pair to the Richmond (Virginia) Museum.



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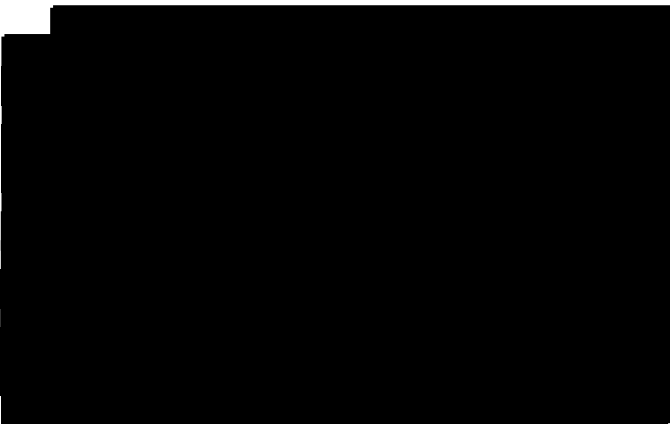
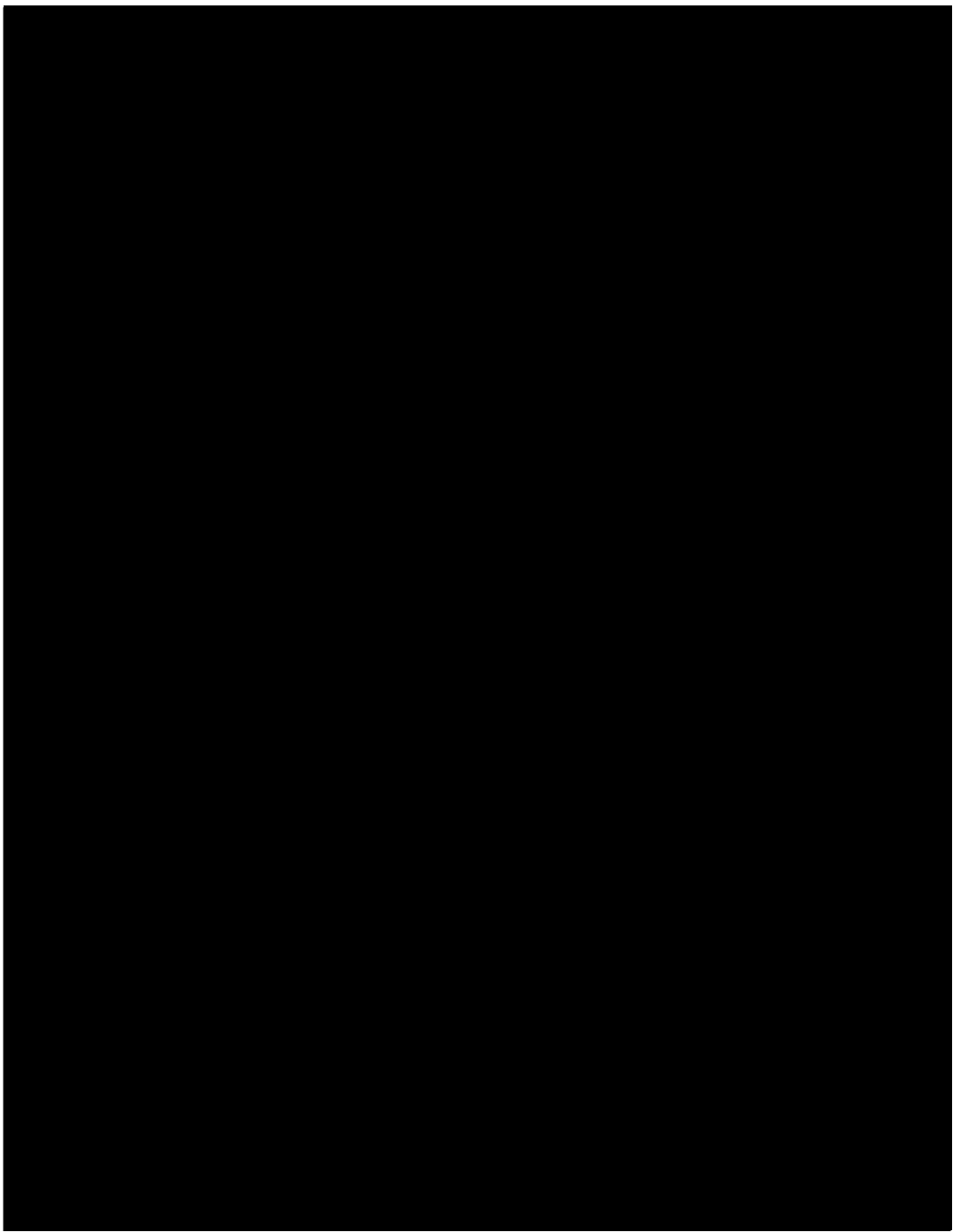
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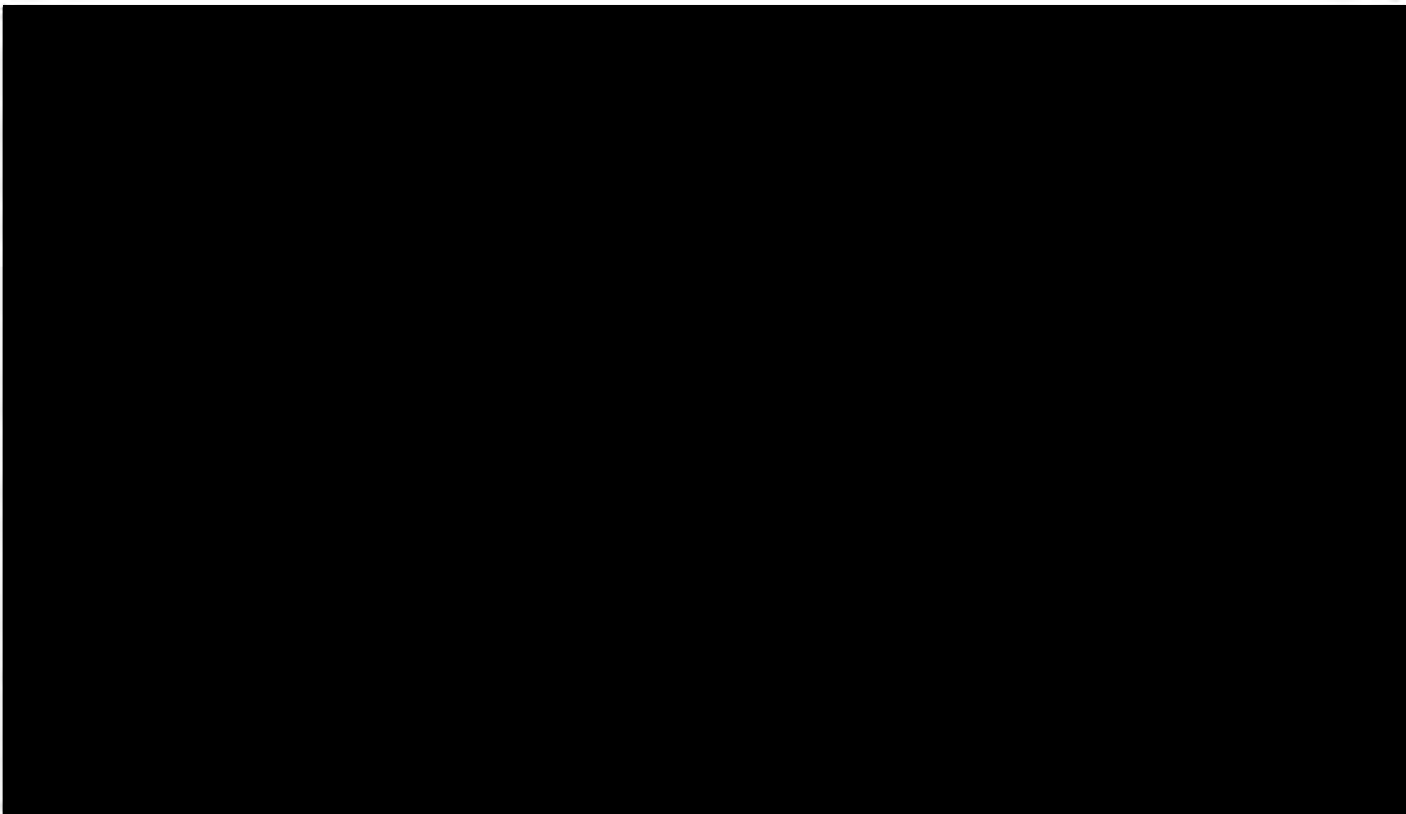
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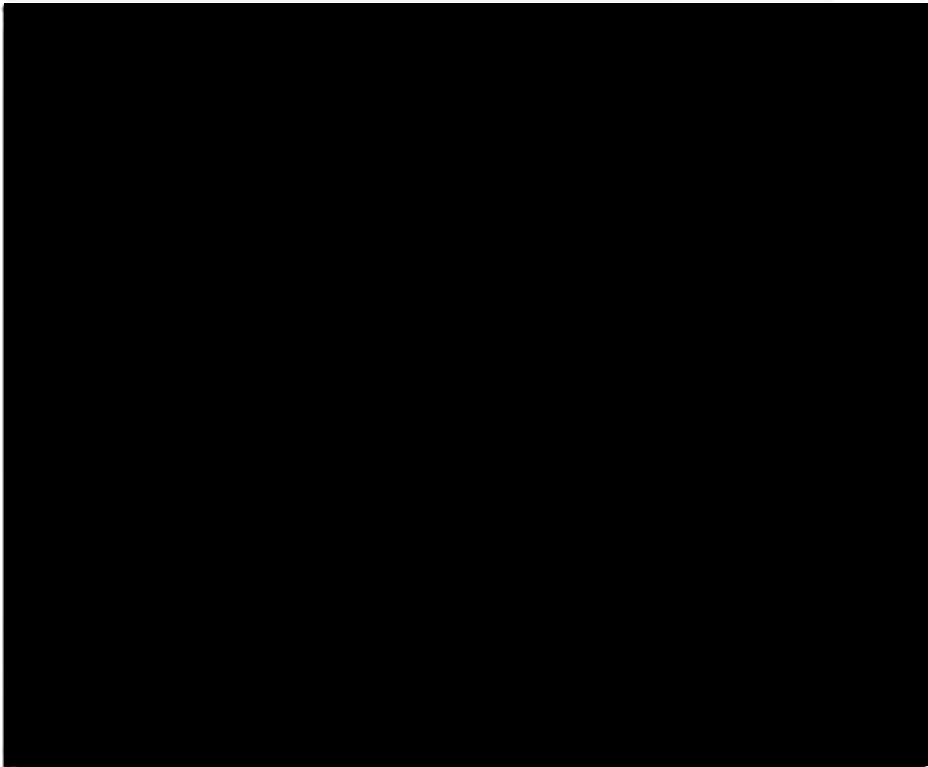
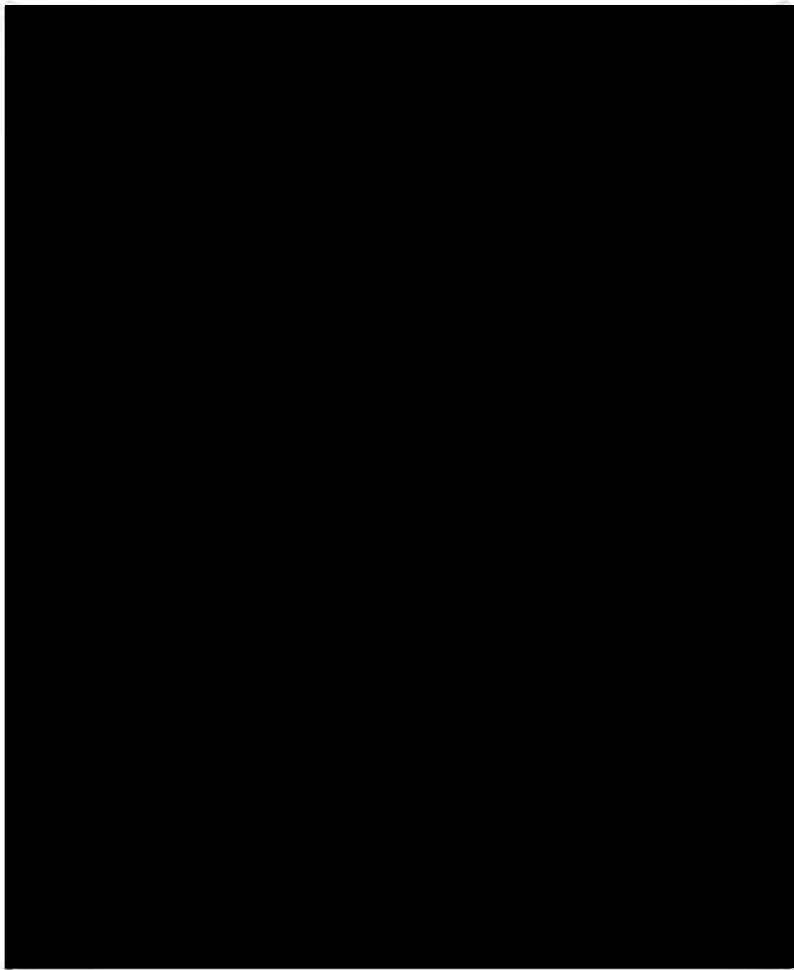
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