

# SAVE ALASKA'S PAST



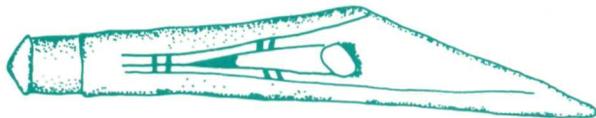
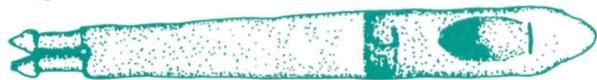
**The Archaeological  
Resources Protection Act**

## Why Archaeology?

It's exciting to hold a little piece of the past in your hand — to know that you have some connection with those who came before. The belongings, living quarters, and material objects of these people survive today as archaeological sites. An archaeological site can be anything from an isolated artifact lying on the surface of the ground to a village site many acres in area. Its significance is determined by what is there, how well it is preserved, and how rare it is. Archaeology represents our heritage and is therefore fascinating to many people.

## What About Alaska?

There are probably over 150,000 archaeological sites in the State of Alaska. They range in age from 11,300 years old up until the recent past, and are located all over the state. Separately, they are pieces of a puzzle. Taken together, they tell the story of Alaska's past, and the entrance of man into North America thousands of years ago.



## The Archaeological Site

The artifacts themselves tell us relatively little about an extinct culture. Of more importance is the artifact's **association** or **context**. This refers to its location or placement in relation to nearby evidence of human activities such as living structures, burials, storage pits, fire hearths or work areas. It is also important to know something about the environmental conditions at the time a site was occupied. This type of information can be obtained through the recovery of pollen, soil, food remains, shell and plant remains during an archaeological excavation. However, if a site has been disturbed through erosion, vandalism or looting much of this information has been lost or destroyed and the remaining pieces of the puzzle form an incomplete and occasionally inaccurate picture of prehistoric life.

If a site is found that is in danger or being destroyed, it is best to bring this to the attention of a professional archaeologist before it is too late.

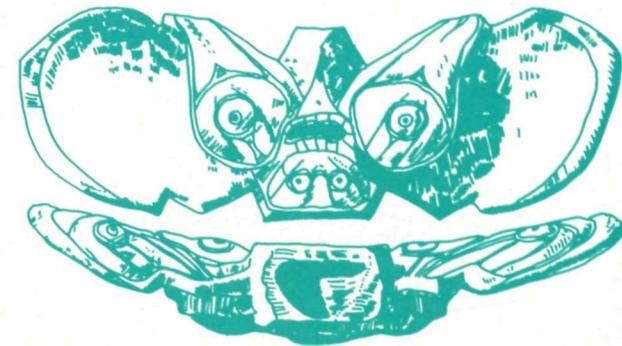
## Facts You Should Know

A large number of the archaeological sites in Alaska are on federal lands. These lands include National Parks, National Forests, National Wildlife Refuges, BLM lands, and any other lands managed by federal agencies.

**The Archaeological Resources Protection Act** of 1979 makes it **illegal** to:

- Excavate, remove, or damage protected archaeological sites.
- Purchase, sell, receive, or transport artifacts or other materials from a protected archaeological site.

It is a **felony** if violations to the law result in damage to a site or trade in artifacts in excess of \$500.



# SAVE ALASKA'S PAST

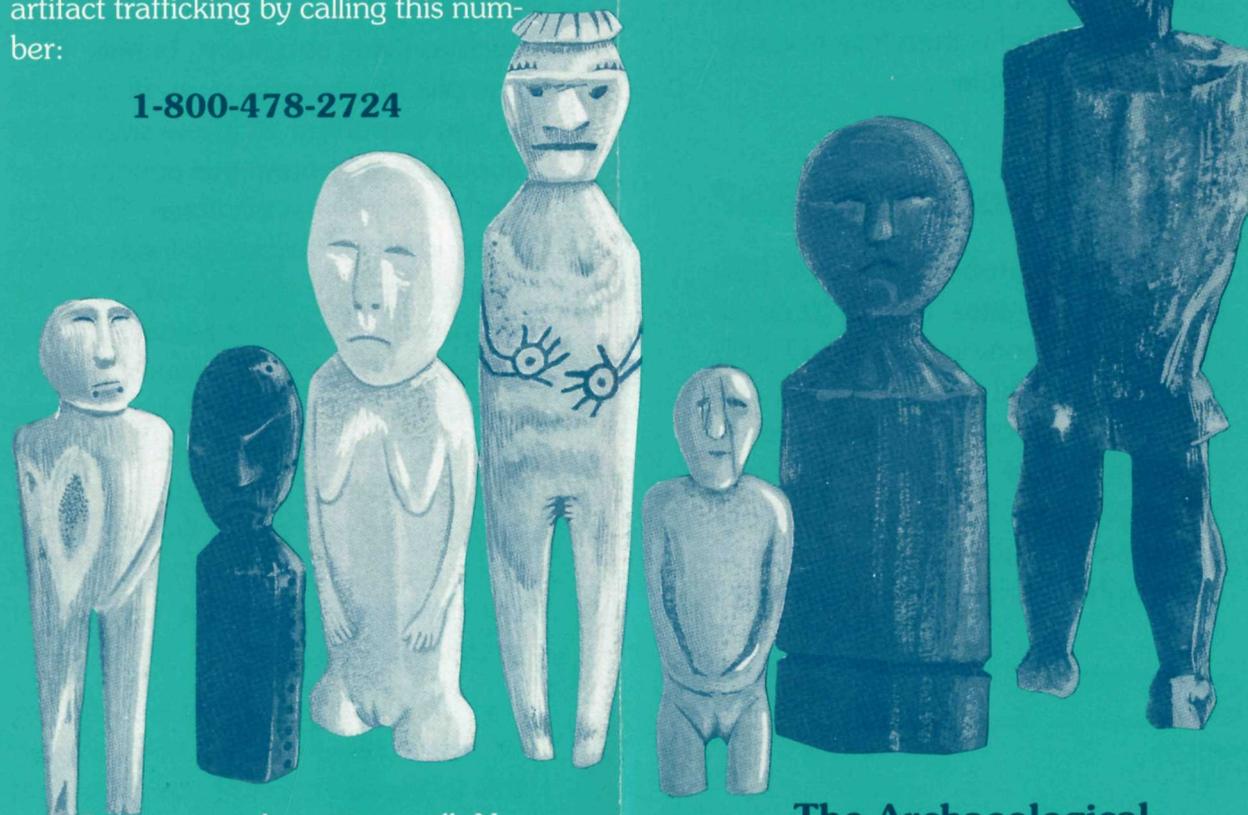
## How You Can Help

Rewards of up to \$500 may be awarded to any person who furnishes information which leads to the conviction of a criminal violation of the Archaeological Resources Protection Act.

This law will be aggressively enforced by Alaska's land management agencies.

You can help by reporting suspected archaeological site looting or artifact trafficking by calling this number:

**1-800-478-2724**



For more information call National Park Service at 257-2559.

**The Archaeological  
Resources Protection Act**

## Penalties

- Up to \$20,000 in fines and two years in prison for a first felony conviction and \$100,000 in fines and two years in prison for a second felony conviction.
- Seizure of any vehicles such as fishing vessels, airplanes, or ORVs that were used during such activities.
- Loss of Master's license, voting privileges and right to own and possess a firearm for a felony conviction.

**Enforcement of this law is receiving increased emphasis.**

