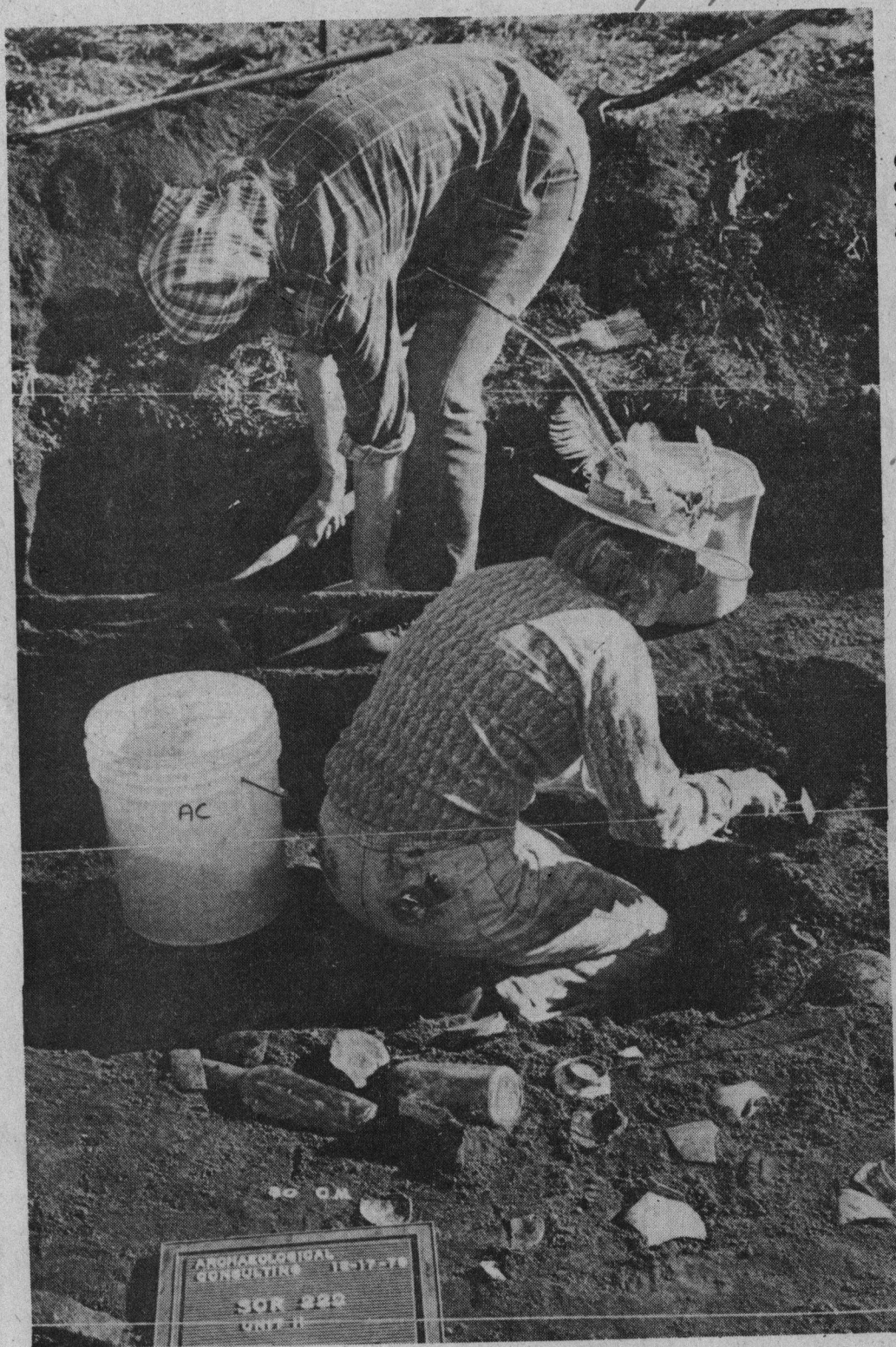


Green Sheet Archaeology
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Archeologists Jan Whitlow (foreground) and Louise Holmes dug through a treasure trove of turn-of-the-century crockery in Aptos this week, finding among other things an intact oriental pot (below) filled with fish and animal bones.





Clues to the past lie in Chinese trash pit

By CAROLYN
HEEBNER-SWIFT

Archeologists who previously had a sparse schedule of assignments suddenly found themselves buried in work this winter — and the heavier load of site tests is rapidly building the county's wealth of historical information.

Two weeks ago, archeologists Gary S. Breschini and Trudy Haversat directed archeological testing on the first of three parcels slated for development just west of the Bayview Hotel in Aptos Village. Historical material found on this assignment related to both the culture of the native peoples and the later era of railroads and lumber, but was judged to be of insufficient value to warrant historical preservation.

Last week the team was hired to begin another dig on an adjacent parcel for the Aptos Village project, and this time, the archeologists tapped

a rich deposit of artifacts connected to a settlement of Chinese who once worked in the village's apple industry.

Although the archeological firm has been hired to do testing on some 15 or 16 projects this month alone, it is this discovery that may be the most exciting, Breschini said, because it is one of very few undisturbed areas in which all of the material may be studied and then removed.

Sites of historical importance have usually been disturbed or destroyed, the archeologist added, by either previous work with heavy equipment or through the extraction of artifacts by bottle collectors.

The interest of bottle diggers in the Aptos site apparently equals the enthusiasm of historians and the archeologists themselves. A guard was posted at the site on Sunday night to insure the safety of the artifacts, and collectors were reminded random explorations and

unauthorized extraction of material are illegal.

Breschini explained Monday the discovery in Aptos Village is a particularly rich find because it is what was commonly called a trash pit — a place to dispose of garbage in the days before regular garbage collections.

This pit is located at the former site of the bunkhouse and homesite, apple dryer and vinegar works operated by Ralph Mattison and Lam Pon, a native of Canton, China. Chinese workers provided seasonal labor for the dryer during a period from about 1910 to the 1940's.

Archeologists Louise Holmes and Jan Whitlow were working at the site Monday along with Ms. Haversat and Breschini, and they eventually removed all of the material from the entire pit. The artifacts ranged from large bottles and intact pottery to tiny, thumb-sized medicine bottles and one extracted

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