



*Students of the Aleutian Region School District participated in a week-long classroom experience of archeological investigation.*

Photo by Dr. Bill Laughlin

# 'We made survey marks and took compass bearings'

By Mable Stolberg, 8th grader  
for the Tundra Times

Dr. Laughlin got permission from the federal government to dig at Chaluka Mound. He is licensed for archaeology.

Chaluka is a National Historic Site, and it is 4,000 to 9,000 years old. We made survey marks and took compass bearings.

## EXCAVATION

First of all we located the grid and then measured and marked it. Then we removed the sod and stored it. Once we removed the sod we used shovels, trowels and screens. We looked at the sod and artifacts. We also used the auger.

We constantly measured, recorded and photographed artifacts we found. We dug 140 centimeters deep. We dug past the city water line pipe. Stratifications observed 5 or 6 layers.

## SELECTING ARTIFACTS

We looked to see if a found article

showed signs of being worked on or modified by man. We took soil samples for analysis.

There was chert, obsidian, flaked and worked on stones. Obsidian is volcanic rock, which is good for tools; as tools are made, cores and flaked are left. Obsidian is also good for decorations. We took photographs and brushed the artifacts.

## CLEANING, CLASSIFICATION

First of all we put the artifacts in bags and labeled their location grid. Then we washed them with toothbrushes and then dried them. Next we classified the artifacts. We had to measure, weigh, describe, conjecture use, make drawings and write down the date we found them.

## RESTORING THE SITE

We filled the excavation with soil, useless artifacts, stones and two dimes. Then we cleared the soil away from the surrounding grass, picked up to tools and then put the sod in its correct place.