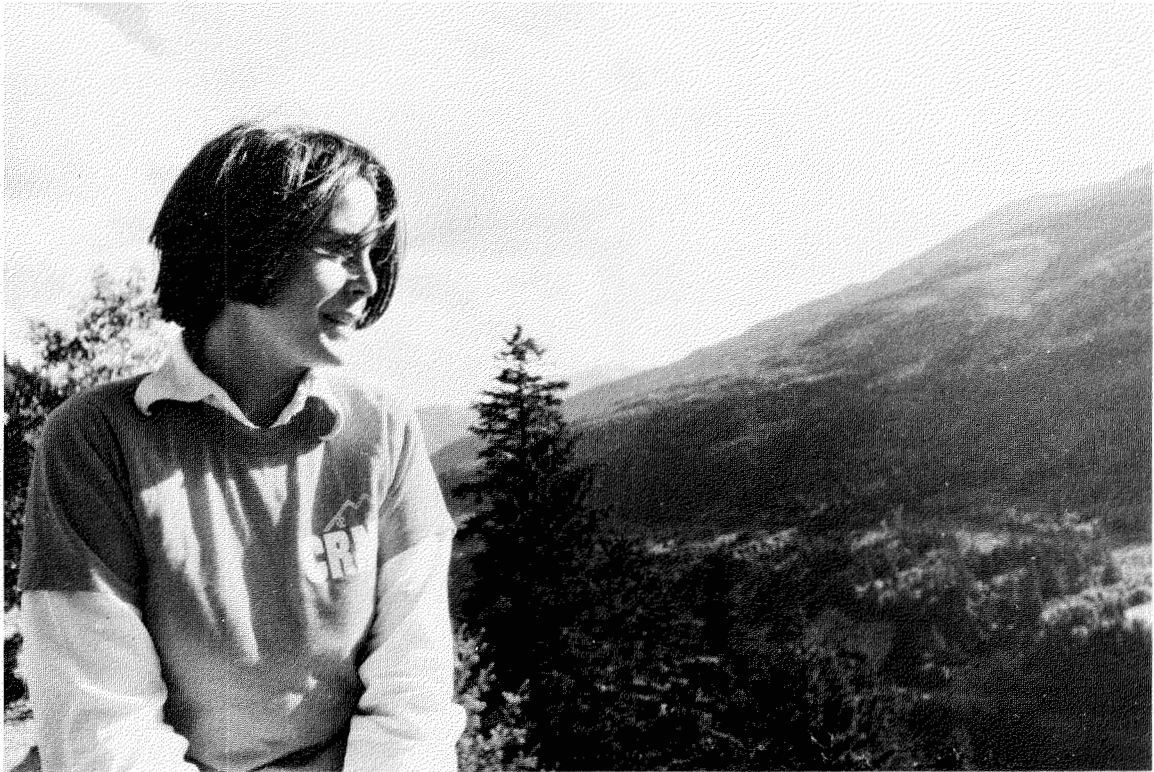


LEE PORTER
(1947-1989)



Lee Porter died unexpectedly in Seattle, Washington, on 18 January 1989.

Lee was born to a U.S. Air Force family and grew up in Japan, the British West Indies, Washington state, and four southeastern states. This nomadic life perhaps accounts for her later passion for travel and her flair for languages.

After training in journalism at the University of Washington, Lee worked as news programmer and reporter for the Associated Press and for television. After several years in journalism, her growing interests in archaeology, Quaternary geology, and vertebrate paleontology drew her back to graduate school. She received an M.S. degree in geology from the University of Washington in 1979 and, after a brief internship at the U.S. Geological Survey at Menlo Park, California, went on for a Ph.D. from Washington State University in 1984.

Lee became a specialist in the Pleistocene biostratigraphy of arctic regions, particularly Alaska and the U.S.S.R. Between 1976 and 1983, she mapped stratigraphy and collected vertebrate remains at several placer-mining sites in east-central Alaska. The results of her studies at Jack Wade and Lost Chicken Creeks were presented at several international conferences and resulted in two significant publications in *Arctic* (39:297-299 and 41:303-313). In 1982 and 1984, she worked in central Siberia and central Asia as a guest of the U.S.S.R. Academy of Sciences. Lee became fluent in Russian and developed many close friendships with Russian colleagues.

Lee's subsequent career took her to the British Museum of Natural History on a research fellowship, then to teaching and administration at Northern Arizona University. She also worked as a consultant for several engineering firms, applying her knowledge of Quaternary deposits to environmental problems, such as geologic hazards, site stability, and waste disposal. At the time of her death, she was working as an engineering geologist for the California State Department of Transportation.

Lee will be best remembered for her innovative Alaskan studies, which were carried out with a minimum of resources and a maximum of resourcefulness. Her interest in the large-mammal faunas of the Pleistocene world was in part an expression of her love and concern for the wildlife of the present world.

Lee's enthusiasm for life and for her profession will remain an inspiring memory for her many friends and colleagues.

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