sometime after the mid-1920s when manganese was first commonly used as a clearing agent in glass. This item seems to be part of an object that was broken and lay partially buried in an abrasive environment for a considerable time before being moved to the non-abrasive Seven Site environment where it was found. The crushing damage to one of the points is more recent than the abrasion damage and apparently occurred after it was “beachcombed.”

### Wood Artifacts

Samples from the remains of two wooden poles found beside the tank and a broken piece of finished wood (24 x 1.25 x .5 inches) were examined by Dr. Regis Miller at the U.S. Forest Service laboratories in Madison, Wisconsin. One of the poles, 2-6-SB-45, proved to be a local hardwood known as kanawa (*Cordia subcordata*). The other pole, 2-6-SB-46, and the piece of finished wood, 2-6-SB-13, were Douglas fir (*Pseudotsuga menziesii*). Of course, no Douglas fir trees grow on Nikumaroro but Douglas fir, imported from Canada or the American northwest, was a common building material throughout the Pacific. The Douglas fir at the Seven site might have come from either the Coast Guard station or the British-sponsored Gilbertese village.

In the next issue of *TIGHAR Tracks* we’ll report on what has been learned about faunal material (animal remains) found at the site and what they might tell us about the person or persons who dined there. We’ll also, of course, include an update on anything more we’ve learned about the artifacts still being researched.

### Planning Starts for Niku V

Earlier this year the TIGHAR Board of Directors authorized the establishment of an Earhart Project Advisory Council (EPAC for short) made up of selected scientists, scholars, professionals, and expedition veterans whose knowledge, skills, and expertise are particularly needed in evaluating the evidence and data collected to date and in planning the next expedition. A charter group of about 30 experts in a wide range of disciplines has been recruited. Most are long-standing TIGHAR members and all are donating their time and expertise.

Next month, through a generous grant from Select GIS Service, Inc., EPAC will convene a three day conference at the Oberod Conference Center in Centreville, Delaware to begin planning the Niku V Expedition, now scheduled to take place in the summer of 2004. We’ll report the results of that meeting in the August issue of *TIGHAR Tracks*.

Originally built in 1937 as a private country estate, Oberod is now operated as a conference center by the Episcopal Diocese of Wilmington, Delaware.