

Professional Archaeologists of Kansas Newsletter

Number 3, December 1998

PAK News

The fall PAK meeting was held at the Watkins Community Museum of History in Lawrence on November 6, 1998. Following brief Secretary's and Treasurer's reports and the introduction of all attendees, the major topic of discussion was concerns about what is happening with archaeology at the Kansas State Historical Society. Cathy Ambler, the newly-appointed Assistant Director of the Cultural Resources Division at the society attended the meeting, addressing the membership at some length. She discussed the mandate under which she was hired, the strategic planning process that has been initiated at the society, and the issue of the state archaeologist position. She also responded to many questions from the floor regarding the state archaeologist and public archaeologist positions, other vacant positions, the low level of pass-through money Kansas receives from the National Park Service, curation, and other related matters. Virginia Wulfkuhle discussed the plans for this year's Kansas Archaeology Week. Mary Adair discussed her application to the National Park Service for a grant to assist with NAGPRA compliance. Other matters concerned updates on the Arkansas City project report, the Kansas Archaeology Training Program, and various announcements. Formal minutes will be circulated at the February 1999 meeting.

As always, please make sure to keep the Secretary and/or Treasurer apprised of a current and preferred mailing address, telephone number, and e-mail address. An occasional mailing or e-mail message has come bouncing back.

There actually was no formal Treasurer's report at the November 6 meeting, but a bank statement current at that time showed \$382.21 in the account.

****Next PAK Meeting****

February 19, 1999

*1-3 PM, Kansas Museum of History
Topeka*

Personnel Changes in Kansas

Cathy Ambler has been hired as the Assistant Director of the Cultural Resources Division of the Kansas State Historical Society. She holds a Ph.D. in American Studies from the University of Kansas and was employed at the same university prior to joining the historical society staff.

Virginia Wulfkuhle has been appointed Acting State Archaeologist at the Kansas State Historical Society.

Chris Schoen left the Kansas State Historical Society in the fall of 1998 and now is with Louis Berger and Associates in Marion, Iowa.

The December Ark City Larcom-Haggard Site Excavation

Its almost a non-news item since so many members participated, but perhaps there are a few people who haven't heard about the December excavation at the Larcom-Haggard site near Arkansas City. The city recently revived plans for construction of a tie-back levee just northeast of the town. The Tulsa District of the Corps of Engineers disavowed any responsibility for the levee, leaving it entirely a city undertaking, in terms of both ownership of the property to be affected by levee construction and the construction activity itself. The property on which the levee is to be built contains the north end of the Larcom-Haggard site (14CO1), one of the cluster of Lower Walnut focus Great Bend aspect sites in the river valley just east of the city. The Kansas Antiquities Commission statute required the city to notify the commission of this action and required the commission to decide what sort of an investigation would be necessary and who would do it.

A ten-day (December 8-17) excavation was conducted jointly by the Kansas State Historical Society, the University of Kansas, Kansas State University, and Wichita State University, with additional assistance from other professional archaeologists in the state as well as two KAA members. Donna Roper directed the fieldwork as designated agent for the commission. A total of 21 other

individuals participated in the project and several would-be volunteers were waved off when it became clear that the work would be completed before they were free of other commitments and able to join the project. The city was not obligated to fund the investigation, but they provided housing and subsistence, as well as heavy equipment and other forms of in-kind assistance.

The investigated area measured about 175-x-16 meters. One bell-shaped cache pit, two basins, one small rock hearth, and additional scattered debris was found within this area; a second rock hearth was uncovered by a bulldozer clearing backdirt north of the stripped area. All feature fill was saved for flotation, to be done when warmer weather returns. Recovered debris includes the usual sorts of Great Bend aspect material: chipped stone tools and debitage, pottery, bison bone, and almost certainly vegetal remains. A report of investigations will be prepared as soon as flotation can be accomplished and the collections can be processed and analyzed.

21st Flint Hills Conference

The 21st Flint Hills Conference will be held on the University of Kansas campus on the weekend of April 10 and 11. An early bird reception is tentatively scheduled for the evening of Friday, April 9. The abstract deadline has been set at Wednesday, March 17. Abstracts should be 100 words or less. The organizers prefer electronic submission for the abstracts. Please send electronic abstracts to either Mary Adair (madair@falcon.cc.ukans.edu) or Myra Giesen (mgiesen@do.usbr.gov). Hardcopy abstracts can be sent to Myra Giesen at

3612 W. Timber Ct., Lawrence, Kansas 66049-2149. If you have special needs (lithic/ceramic exchange, posters, etc.) please let either Mary (785-864-2675) or Myra (785-843-0160) know the particulars by the March 17 date. A formal announcement and call for papers, along with more specific information concerning place and time for the meetings, will be mailed within the next few weeks.

**** Flint Hills Conference ****

April 10-11

*University of Kansas, Lawrence
(further details forthcoming)*

As part of the Flint Hills Conference, Tod Bevitt (KSHS) and Scott Brosowske (Oklahoma Archaeological Survey) are proposing an informal hands-on symposium, which would assemble representative collections from as many Central and Southern Plains Late Prehistoric culture complexes as is realistically possible. The goal is to provide an up-to-date overview of what is currently known about the various Plains Village cultures of the region, as well as to provide participants with a good understanding of what it is that makes each phase (focus, complex, etc.) distinct from and/or similar to other Plains Village phases. It would be ideal if participants could provide brief handouts summarizing ceramic, lithic, bone, etc. categories, as well as other visual aids such as maps, photocopied pictures, drawings of architecture and site features, tables, graphs, papers or other in-text descriptions, etc.

Those interested in this symposium should contact Tod Bevitt (785-863-3430; bevo@ruralnet1.com) or Scott Brosowske (405-325-7211; scottbro@ou.edu).

Janice McLean has also indicated that there will be a Lithic Material Exchange at the conference. Details will be announced later, but it probably will be held Saturday evening.

NAGPRA

Myra Giesen attended the December 1998 NAGPRA Review Board meeting in Santa Fe. She reports that much of the time was spent on disputes and public comments. No advances were made on the matter of disposition of culturally unidentified remains. She noted that the review committee has made a request of the Secretary of the Interior for more resources to investigate museums not in compliance with NAGPRA. Two review meetings will be held in 1999. The dates and locations of these meetings are as yet unknown.

Myra has promised to give a fuller summary of the meeting at the February PAK meeting. At that time, she also will update us on the recent problems at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln.

Research News

University of Kansas:

Field Notes from Solutre
Janice McLean

In July and August 1998, several KU Anthropology students participated in

archaeological fieldwork at the Middle-Upper Paleolithic site of Solutre, Saone-et-Loire, France under the joint direction of Dr. Anta Montet-White and Dr. Jack Hofman. The research goals of the fieldwork were to refine the site stratigraphy, obtain samples for radiocarbon dates, investigate changes in Upper Paleolithic subsistence patterns through time, and gain a better understanding of the taphonomic history of the archaeological deposits. In addition to the research objectives, several excavated surfaces were prepared for use as focal points in outdoor interpretive exhibits planned by the Solutre Museum of Prehistory. There are plans to make the results of the 1996-1998 research available through the KU Museum of Anthropology web site. Graduate participants from KU included: Will Banks, Jeanette Blackmar, Virginia Hatfield, and Janice McLean. Dan Pugh and Kate Evilsizer also participated with financial assistance from the KU Undergraduate Research Awards. Major funding for the 1998 research was provided by the National Geographic Society and the French government through the General Council of Saone-et-Loire.

Norton Reservoir
Brad Logan

An intensive reconnaissance survey of all Federal lands at Norton Reservoir, Norton County, Kansas was conducted from mid-May through June 1998. The project is supported by the Great Plains Region, Bureau of Reclamation and is the latest task of a continuing cooperative agreement between that agency and KUMA. Under the direction of Brad Logan and India Hesse, a crew of nine persons completed a circuit of that reach of Prairie

Dog Creek inundated by Keith Sebelius Lake. The team covered about 5,700 acres of uplands and lowlands. Of the 58 sites encountered, 52 are newly recorded, 51 contain prehistoric components, and ten contain historic components. Prior to the KUMA survey, the first systematic coverage of Norton, only 26 sites had been recorded and most of these are now inundated by the reservoir. Interestingly, only one of the sites recently surveyed yielded any ceramic artifacts, and that one yielded only a single body sherd. While most of the prehistoric sites are light lithic scatters or isolated finds, a few are extensive lithic scatters. All attest the popularity of the locally available jasper for manufacture of chipped stone tools. The most extensive prehistoric site was adjacent to a secondary outcrop of this material, suggesting that it served as a lithic workshop. Most enlightening is the high number of upland sites. Nearly every ridge along the northern side of the reservoir contained some evidence of prehistoric occupation. Most scatters reflect short-term stays, probably indicative of seasonal, or even shorter-term use, hunting camps. A report of this survey currently is being prepared by Brad Logan, Scott Bossell, and Dan Pugh.

Kansas State University:

Archaeological Field Methods Class
Lauren Ritterbush

Lauren Ritterbush's fall Archaeological Field Methods class conducted archaeological survey, artifact review, and test excavations in Clay and Riley counties. The survey recorded one historic artifact scatter along Wildcat Creek outside Manhattan in Riley County and a

prehistoric site along Five Creek in Clay County. Study of an extensive private artifact collection from the Fancy Creek valley in northern Riley County is leading to the recording of other new sites in that valley. Test excavations were started at the Meek site (14CY5) to attempt to gain more information about the White Rock phase. Limited cultural material, all of it from the plowzone, were uncovered. The low recovery most likely is due to extensive private collecting for at least seventy years.

Smoky Hill National Guard Range
Brad Logan

Brad Logan is serving as Principal Investigator of a survey on the Smoky Hill Air National Guard Range. The project is being conducted by Glyn Duvall Associates of Franklin, Tennessee through a subcontract from Peer Consultants of Oak Ridge, Tennessee. Fieldwork entailed reconnaissance survey of 3,400 acres of the 34,000-acre property west of Salina. The survey was conducted between October 28 and November 20. Twenty-two of the 45 sites encountered are prehistoric and nearly all of these are isolated finds or light, diffuse scatters. Selected tracts along Spring Creek, the major drainage of the property and a tributary of the Smoky Hill River, were inspected, as were fire-breaks and areas of recent burning. Most of the surveyed terrain is uplands or terraces high in the drainage network along intermittent streams. Sites reflect short-term occupation, in contrast to the more artifact-dense, ceramic period occupations of the valleys of the Smoky Hill River and its tributaries. The chipped stone debris at the small sites in this area reflects wide-ranging mobility or exchange.

Raw materials include a relatively low incidence of jasper and Permian cherts and a correspondingly high frequency of chalcedonies, Alibates agatized dolomite, and other exotic raw materials. Logan currently is preparing a report of this survey.

1998 Kansas Archaeological Field School
Donna C. Roper

The 1998 Kansas Archaeological Field School was directed by Donna Roper and was held at Harry Strunk Lake in the Medicine Creek Valley, Frontier County, Nebraska. In addition to university funds, support was received from the Great Plains Region of the Bureau of Reclamation, under a cooperative agreement between that agency and Kansas State University. Excavation was undertaken at 25FT39, one of the many Upper Republican sites in the valley. The feature investigated was originally recorded and tested by Roper in 1989 and appeared at that time to represent an Upper Republican house. Excavation within a 71 m² block dispelled that thought while leaving the matter of site function open. The feature clearly is Upper Republican but is of a type not previously recognized at Medicine Creek. Two outstanding characteristics of the site were the huge quantity of pottery recovered and the mixture of lithic raw materials represented. Flattop chalcedony, whose primary source area is northeastern Colorado, always appears in small quantities; in this site, however, it is the raw material used for around 1/3 of the tools and an unusually large amount of the debitage. Other raw materials from High Plains sources in Colorado and Wyoming also were found. The chipped stone tool

classes are those normally associated with Upper Republican sites, but the morphology of many specimens is anomalous for this valley. Animal bone was not particularly abundant, and with a soil pH of 8.0 it is highly unlikely that poor preservation is a factor. Flotation is not complete but the large quantity of *Chenopodium* in samples processes so far is noticeable. Sherd samples have been submitted to the Missouri University Research Reactor where they will be analyzed by neutron activation analysis as part of a master's thesis study of pottery from High Plains Upper Republican sites by Anne M. Cobry of the University of Wyoming. Quantification of lithic raw material utilization is being undertaken by Isaku Owada as part of an Independent Readings and Research project at KSU.

Kansas readers may also be interested to know that during the period of the field school, we had the unusual opportunity to dismantle the original Dancing Leaf Earth Lodge and study the deterioration it had undergone during the 12 years it stood. This demolition exercise was conducted jointly with field school students from Wichita State University. The form of deterioration of individual poles subsequently was evaluated. A preliminary analysis of the results showed that most center- and wall-support posts broke below the lodge floor; many leaners also broke below the ground surface. Differential deterioration by wood species was evident. The results are consistent with the scant ethnohistoric and ethnological record on what happens to an earthlodge over time. An as-yet cursory consultation of the engineering literature on mechanical properties of wood and wood deterioration seems to suggest that the

deterioration observed within the Dancing Leaf Earth Lodge (and which Gilbert Wilson reported for Hidatsa lodges) is entirely predictable. A fuller analysis of the data is underway.

From the St. Joseph Museum:

1998 Archaeological Activities by the
St. Joseph Museum
Jim Feagins

(adapted from the Missouri Association of Professional Archaeologists *Newsletter*,
Vol. 10, No. 3, Fall 1998, pp. 17-19)

Two projects in Kansas are of note. In one, twenty-eight miles of proposed rural water lines were surveyed northeast of Manhattan, in the Rock Creek, Vermillion Creek, and Cross Creek drainages. Six previously-reported sites were reinvestigated and seven additional sites were discovered and documented. The cultural resources included mounds, historic farmsteads, dugouts along the Oregon Trail, prehistoric campsites, and petroglyphs.

The rock art site, 14PO55, consists of two panels on a west-southwest-facing localized outcrop of channel sandstone in the Pillsbury shale member of the Pennsylvanian age, Wabaunsee group. A small spring and an abandoned meander scar form a modern wetland at the base of this sandstone bluff. The site contains both Native American and Euroamerican components. The most interesting motif at this site is that of a quadruped and four mounted horsemen, at least two of which appear to be carrying spears. None of the equestrian figures was within a group. Historic graffiti also appears in the form of initials, dates (1880 to 1953), and drawings of owl, flower, and squirrel. One

of the mounted horsemen does not appear to be a Native American drawing. The most likely candidates for carving the oldest equestrian figures would be the Pawnee or Kansa Indians, although the Pottawatomie are another possibility.

The second project was a survey of the proposed Cedar Creek Reservoir near Fort Scott, about 17 kilometers west of the Kansas-Missouri line. Fifteen archaeological sites were discovered and one previously-reported site was reinvestigated. Six sites contained prehistoric components, some of which represented Woodland and Late Archaic remains, and 11 sites contained historic materials or features. Site types included a lithic scatter, campsites, a village (?), historic farmsteads, dugouts, a school, a mill, and bluff structures.

Burns & McDonnell:

Mark Latham reports that Burns & McDonnell will during the first quarter of 1999 begin a survey along a 330-mile transmission line. The line comes out of Lamar, in eastern Colorado, runs just west of Garden City, Kansas, and continues south to Amarillo, Texas. Their client has requested that the entire route be surveyed, even parts for which survey will not be required.

Recent Reports

Prehistoric Settlement of the Lower Missouri Uplands: The View from DB Ridge, Fort Leavenworth, Kansas, edited by Brad Logan. University of Kansas, Museum of Anthropology, Project Report Series, No. 98.

Archaeological Investigations at Kanopolis Lake, Kansas: National Register Evaluation of 14EW3, 14EW6, and 14EW19 and Shoreline Survey (146301465 ft amsl), edited by Brad Logan. University of Kansas, Museum of Anthropology, Project Report Series, No. 100.

Calendar of Upcoming Meetings and Events

February 19 — Professional Archaeologists of Kansas meeting; 1-3 PM, Kansas Museum of History, Topeka

March 23-26 — Society for American Archaeology annual meeting, Chicago, Illinois

April 4-10 — Kansas Archaeology Week

April 10-11 — 21st Flint Hills Archaeological Conference, University of Kansas, Lawrence; see announcement

***** 1999 Dues are Due! *****

Send them (\$15 regular member, \$10 student member) to the President:

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