

Professional Archaeologists of Kansas Newsletter

Number 4, June 1999

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Annual Meeting Summary

The PAK annual meeting was held on February 19, 1999 at the Kansas Museum of History, Topeka. Treasurer's and Secretary's reports were followed by a Nominations Committee report. Committee chair Brad Logan reported the committee's two charges were to determine the staggered rotation of terms of office and to develop a slate of candidates in keeping with that rotation. He then presented that slate of candidates. The election is to be conducted by mail ballot with results published in the Newsletter [see below].

Virginia Wulfschle discussed Kansas Archaeology Week and PAK's participation in it [see related piece by Virginia below]. She indicated that more material had been prepared than could be covered by monetary contributions. Al Johnson suggested that PAK contribute \$100 to help cover the cost over-run. It was so moved, seconded, and passed on a voice vote without dissent.

Donna Roper discussed the December 1998 excavation in Arkansas City, presenting the background to the project, the project's operation, and the results [see also

Newsletter #3, p.2]. She highlighted the generous assistance of the City of Arkansas City and the exceptional cooperation of professional archaeologists from around the state in completing the excavation in a timely manner.

Discussion turned to the proposed amendment to the Kansas Antiquities Commission act. Virginia Wulfschle presented the details and the membership discussed them at some length. Al Johnson asked the Action Committee to look into both this and the Kansas Unmarked Burials statute and draw up suggestions for improving them.

Barry Williams led a discussion of peer review of crm projects, a matter of concern to many members. He said there is peer review of Phase 4 projects. There was considerable concern expressed about the need for review of Phase 3 projects because it is at this level that decisions are made about what is preserved and what is written off. A further matter PAK members wished to discuss is that of survey coverage. This was tabled due to time constraints.

Several members made announcements, then the meeting took a short break. It reconvened elsewhere in the building for a GIS demonstration.

Except for this, due to the Kansas Antiquities Commission meeting that followed, the PAK meeting never reconvened and never was formally adjourned.

As always, formal minutes will be circulated at the next meeting. Follow-ups to several items are included in this Newsletter.

Elections

The Nominations Committee of Brad Logan, Myra Giesen, and Virginia Wulfkuhle determined a staggered rotation for terms of office—this was conflated with Chris Schoen's resignation as Treasurer and the need to elect a new Treasurer—and presented a slate of candidates, consistent with the proposed rotation. The committee's recommendations, made with the consent of the named persons, were:

that the current President, Al Johnson, be retained for one more year, with the election of a successor in 2000;

that the current Secretary, Donna Roper, be retained for two more years, with the election of a successor in 2001;

that a new Treasurer be elected for a full term, with the election of a successor in 2002: nominees were Mary Adair and Bob Ziegler;

that Board Position #1 be filled by election to a term of two years with the election of a successor in 2001: the nominee was Janice McLean;

that Board Position #2 be filled by election to a term of three years with the election of a successor in 2002; the nominee was Randy Thies.

As per the By-Laws, the election was conducted by mail ballot within the next 30 days. Ballots were counted by Brad Logan, Lauren Ritterbush, and Donna Roper. And the winners are ...

Al Johnson will continue to serve as President,

Donna Roper will continue to serve as Secretary,

Mary Adair is the new Treasurer, Janice McLean will occupy Board Position #1, and

Randy Thies will occupy Board Position #2.

McLean and Thies formally join the Board on July 1. The current Board appointed Treasurer-elect Mary Adair to fill out Chris Schoen's term before taking up her new term on July 1.

Treasurer's Report

Mary Adair has provided an updated Treasurer's Report to supersede the Treasury statement in the Annual Meeting summary above.

Treasurer's Report, June 11, 1999

The previous treasurer's report was submitted on November 6, 1998. Since that time, the Association of Professional Archaeologists of Kansas (PAK) has received 16 regular memberships dues (\$15 each) and 4 student memberships (\$10 each), for a contribution of \$280.00. Expenses since November 6, 1998 have totaled \$252.63.

A breakdown of assets and expenses are:

Previous balance	\$382.21
Assets:	
Deposit of membership dues, 4/1/99	\$280.00
Total	\$662.21
Expenses:	
Donna Roper, Secretarial expenses	\$132.63
KSHS, Kansas Archaeology Week	\$100.00
Annual Report fee	\$20.00
Balance	\$409.58

Treasurer's Report submitted by

Mary J. Adair
Treasurer, PAK
June 11, 1999

Kansas Archaeology Week

PAK PARTICIPATES IN KANSAS ARCHEOLOGY WEEK Virginia Wulfkuhle

The Professional Archaeologists of Kansas joined the list of sponsors for Kansas Archeology Week in 1999. In addition to a contribution of \$100, a special project was undertaken by the PAK Education Committee, consisting of Celia Daniels, Jennifer Epperson, Nancy Pearson, Virginia Wulfkuhle (chair), and Bob Ziegler. Committee members solicited entries for a calendar of events, covering the period March through May. This six-page calendar was distributed in 7,180 poster packets, and later an updated

version was posted on the Kansas State Historical Society homepage.

A wide variety of events across the state included talks, exhibits, and conferences. PAK members who organized or presented programs are Mary Adair, Don Blakeslee, Marsha King, Brad Logan, Janice McLean, Lauren Ritterbush, Donna Roper, Randy Thies, Virginia Wulfkuhle, and Bob Ziegler. One highlight was an Archaeology Field Day hosted by KU undergraduate and graduate anthropology students on Sunday, April 18, at a park in Lawrence.

The KSHS continues to evaluate its role as lead agency in the Kansas Archeology Week observance. A key element in the decision to continue in years to come will be the response to the evaluation, which was designed to assess if the poster packet materials are being used. Preliminary results show that an overwhelming majority of the respondents found the calendar of events useful. If you have not yet completed an evaluation form, please do so. Copies of the questionnaire may be obtained from Virginia A. Wulfkuhle at 785-272-8681 ext. 268 or vwulfkuhle@kshs.org.

PAK Action Committee Mary Adair, Chair

The PAK Action Committee, which consists of Mary Adair (chair), Donna Roper, Myra Giesen, Don Blakeslee, Randy Thies, and Brad Logan, met several times over the past months to discuss issues raised at the last two meetings. The committee sent a letter to Ramon Powers, expressing some

concerns about the status of the identification and preservation of cultural resources within the state and requested a meeting with him to discuss the concerns in greater detail. The letter highlighted three concerns: 1) there appears to be a difference between Kansas and surrounding states on the amount of area surveyed for compliance projects; 2) the Cultural Resource Division is not adequately staffed to meet all of its responsibilities; and 3) there is an appearance of a conflict of interest between compliance review and the in-house performance of some compliance projects. Committee members Donna Roper, Mary Adair, Brad Logan, and Myra Giesen met with Ramon Powers and Cathy Ambler on June 14th.

The general impression was that the meeting was positive and that some changes may occur, most probably with the scope of Section 106 projects and less so the other issues. This probably reflects the fact that most of the conversation centered on compliance projects and less time was devoted to the other issues. The committee expressed great concern on the number of vacated positions within the Cultural Resource Division and focused on the need to create a collections manager position. The committee also asked about the

number and scope of projects completed within the past 15 months, and questioned why outside reviewers are not sought for Phase III and Phase IV reports. The committee stated that if such reports were reviewed within the KSHS, such a practice gives the appearance of a conflict of interest between compliance and in-house performance on projects.

One of the major accomplishments was educating the SHPO about PAK's concerns and the seriousness of them. While Ramon Powers may have been aware of them before, we had not pushed them persistently. More importantly, we had not made him aware of what SHPOs in adjacent states are doing with regard to Section 106 compliance projects. For example, in Nebraska and Colorado, the scope of surveys is a bit broader and based on more recently and purposefully acquired data, while in Iowa, the compliance officers are presently addressing similar problems raised by a parallel professional organization. That is, they also are questioning an existing procedure that requires survey of only pre-selected areas within a right-of-way.

Ramon thanked us for the meeting and said he would look into the issues we raised. He promised he would get back to us within a month.

▶ ▶ ▶ **Legislative Matters** ◀ ◀ ◀

In response to the events in Arkansas City, reported in Newsletter #3 and discussed at the February PAK meeting, Representative Joe Shriver, D-Arkansas City, introduced an amendment to the Kansas Antiquities Commission statute. The amendment, as originally proposed by Shriver, is reprinted below. Italicized text represents proposed changes.

House Bill No. 2368
by Representative Shriver

AN ACT, concerning antiquities; amending K.S.A. 74-5403 and repealing the existing section.

Be it enacted by the Legislature of the State of Kansas:

Section 1. K.S.A. 74-5403 is hereby amended to read as follows: 74-5403. No individual, institution or corporation shall excavate in, remove material from, vandalize or deface any site or area set out in K.S.A. 74-5401 *and amendments thereto*, on lands belonging to or controlled by the state of Kansas or any agency thereof, to any county or municipality in the state, or on lands in which a qualified agency is conducting scientific archeological investigations, without specific authorization, *unless the preservation of the life or health of persons residing near such site or area requires the excavation, removal of*

material from or defacement of such site or area in which case the site or area may be excavated, material removed from or defaced but only to the extent necessary to preserve the life or health of such persons.

Sec. 2. K.S.A. 74-5403 is hereby repealed.

Sec. 3. This act shall take effect and be in force from and after its publication in the statute book.

The bill was considered by the House State and Federal Affairs Committee on March 10, 1999. At that time, Ramon Powers, representing the Kansas State Historical Society, presented a revised wording suggested by the Kansas Antiquities Commission and refined with the help of Steve Phillips of the state Attorney General's office; viz.,

If, in the opinion of the Kansas Antiquities Commission of the commission's designee, any survey, excavation, or construction is necessary to prevent the immediate threat to life or health of persons near a site or area, an exception may be allowed by the commission or the commission's designee.

Powers also represented the Society by testifying in favor of the bill.

Donna Roper testified on behalf of PAK. Officially, PAK was listed as a proponent of the bill, although we indicated we were neutral when we called to be put on the schedule to

testify. Roper's testimony was circulated to the Board and several other members a few days before the hearing, and was refined with the input of several members. It was presented with the concurrence of the Board, and is printed below as presenting orally and in writing to the committee.

Statement to the House State and Federal Affairs Committee hearing on House Bill 2368, by Dr. Donna C. Roper, representing the Association of Professional Archaeologists of Kansas, March 10, 1999

Recent events in Arkansas City tested portions of the Kansas Antiquities Commission Act in new ways. All parties to those events now agree on one point—the statute needs amending. We, therefore, welcome the effort by Rep. Shriver to amend the act to better serve the needs of all interested parties.

The Association of Professional Archaeologists of Kansas (PAK), however, believes that the proposed amendment does not go far enough. The act as it now stands was drafted and passed at a time when the goals of archaeology and antiquities protection were considerably different than today. In the three-plus decades since the passage of the act, archaeology has matured from a discipline concerned with assigning sites and artifacts to a specific culture and period, to one seeking also to document the lifeways

and historical processes that have formed the archaeological record. In this same interval, American archaeology has taken on a conservation and preservation ethic, now encoded in Federal and state cultural resources legislation, most of which was enacted since the 1967 passage of the Kansas Antiquities Commission act. Archaeologists also have come to work more closely with Native American peoples, who are increasingly asserting a right to preservation and study of the sites and objects that constitute their heritage. Kansas, too, has changed in these decades. Parts of the state now are experiencing marked growth and development, leading to conflicts with the preservation goals just mentioned.

The Kansas Antiquities Commission act as it presently stands, and as it would be amended by House Bill 2368, inadequately addresses current needs. One of the serious defects, and one that could be exacerbated by the passage of House Bill 2368, is that the act constitutes an unfunded mandate. There are other defects too, including emergency situations, standards for performance of investigations, and designation of approved curatorial facilities.

It is PAK's position, therefore, that the Kansas Antiquities Commission Act needs a top-to-bottom revision. To this end, the PAK President at the February 19, 1999 Annual Meeting directed our Action Committee, a standing committee under the Association's By-Laws, to identify problems with the act and propose some solutions. These would include the concerns raised by Rep. Shriver, as well as those of Native

Americans and the members of the archaeological profession. PAK is willing to work with Rep. Shriver and other members of the Legislature to develop an amended antiquities act that will balance the needs of preservation and development, and better serve the State of Kansas.

We thank you for the opportunity to present this statement.

Following the presentation of the amendment and the various oral

presentations, Shriver indicated to the committee that he would accept the KAC wording. The committee then accepted then KAC wording and approved the amendment on March 10. The bill passed the full House on March 19. A Senate committee considered and approved it on March 31. The full Senate passed it on April 10. The bill was sent to Governor Graves on April 13. He approved it on April 17.

▶ ▶ ▶ **Research News** ◀ ◀ ◀

NSF Grant
Mary Adair

I was recently notified by the National Science Foundation (NSF) that my research proposal had been funded. As part of ongoing research on prehistoric Plains agriculture, my proposal requested funds for 40 accelerator mass spectrometry (AMS) dates on cultigens recovered from 11 central Plains archaeological sites. These sites range in age from late Archaic to Plains Village. Directly dating the plant remains would help establish a temporal and spatial pattern for the emergence of agriculture in an area where subsistence research is still heavily dominated by faunal analyses. Understanding the role to which domesticated plants contributed to the diet of prehistoric central Plains populations must begin with an

undisputed association of when, where, and what crops were grown. A sequence of direct dates on cultigens from sites that span a spatial and temporal dimension will go far in helping to establish how and when agriculture developed. Such patterns become more obvious with a substantial number of direct dates on a variety of domesticates. This grant requested funds for 40 AMS dates on maize (*Zea mays*) cupules or kernels, cucurbit rind (*Cucurbita* sp.), common bean (*Phaseolus vulgaris*), sunflower (*Helianthus annuus* var. *macrocarpa*), and marshelder (*Iva annua* var. *macrocarpa*).

Despite the years of past research, there remains considerable question as to when cultivated crops were first introduced in the Central Plains and through what process they become important contributors to the diet. The few available AMS dates have

provided only limited guidance because they have addressed isolated problems rather than contributed to a better understanding of the pattern of agricultural development. In addition, many of the complexes from which the archaeobotanical remains have been retrieved are themselves poorly dated, with only one or two dates available for the entire complex. Don Blakeslee (WSU) has also convincingly demonstrated that the radiocarbon dates run by the Gakushuin laboratory in Japan, which was used by Plains archaeologists for decades to establish chronologies, are unreliable and should not be used. The exclusion of these dates renders many sites without any direct temporal placement. Directly dating the annual specimens would not only help date the site/complex, but more importantly would help establish a framework from which future paleoethnobotanical research could be conducted.

Part of this research can be considered collaborative in that some of the remains to be direct dated were excavated by institutions other than KU. The Kansas State Historical Society and the Nebraska State Historical Society both allowed plant remains from their collections to be included in the grant. Information gained by this grant will not only benefit my research, but will help clarify subsistence patterns on a broader scale that may be used in modeling prehistoric Plains adaptive patterns.

Webster and Kirwin Reservoirs Survey Brad Logan

The Museum of Anthropology at the University of Kansas will conduct a comprehensive survey of Webster Reservoir, Rooks County, Kansas and initial survey at Kirwin Reservoir in neighboring Phillips County. Both are Bureau of Reclamation properties, though the latter is now a National Wildlife Refuge maintained by U.S. Fish & Game. Approximately 2,000 acres at Webster require survey and about 2,500 acres at Kirwin will be surveyed this summer. Survey of the latter will be completed as part of a multi-year project. Both reservoirs are on the Solomon River, Webster on the South Fork and Kirwin on the North Fork. Like Norton Reservoir, a Bureau of Reclamation property in Norton County, Kansas that was surveyed by KUMA last year, they are in that part of northwestern Kansas where Niobrara jasper outcrops and, like Norton, prehistoric sites providing evidence of the exploitation of that lithic raw material are anticipated.

Medicine Creek Project Donna Roper

Work in Nebraska's Medicine Creek valley will continue in the summer of 1999, as part of an on-going cooperative agreement between the Bureau of Reclamation and Kansas State University. This year's work will feature a variety of activities. A portion of an eroding feature at 25FT167, which we think is an Upper Republican phase house, will be

excavated. Some additional work also will be conducted on a portion of 25FT39. The area to be investigated will be part of a feature partially excavated in 1998. Emphasis in this area will be placed on stratigraphy; it is not anticipated that excavation will be complete by the end of this season. Some effort also will be directed toward completion of the inventory of cultural resources on Harry Strunk Lake lands, and on several smaller tasks. With the exception of the survey, all investigations are directed toward Upper Republican phase sites.

Donna Roper also is editing a volume of papers resulting from the Medicine Creek Conference in 1997. The papers cover both the Paleoindian and the Upper Republican phase occupations. Some papers are personal reminiscences by personnel of the River Basin Surveys investigations of the 1940s and 1950s, some are history of archaeology papers, and some are new (and often on-going) analyses of data from the old excavations. We have attracted the interest of a university press acquisitions editor and hope to get the book into review this fall—pending receipt of the last of the papers this summer.

St. Joseph Museum Receives Rare Collection

Note: The following was received from Jim Feagins and is reproduced as received.

St. Joseph Museum, June 26, 1999
— The St. Joseph Museum has been chosen by the daughters of the late J.

Mett Shippee to be the repository for the extensive collection of archaeological artifacts which their father gathered throughout his life. Joan Wagner, Barbara Shippee-Larson, Helen Raven, and Jane Rhule spent several years researching various museums and universities before choosing one for the collection's permanent home. They are very proud of their father's contributions to archaeology and prehistory, and their objective was to choose an institution with a reputation for excellence.

Mett Shippee, who died on March 26, 1985, at the age of 89, was the authority on archaeology in Kansas City for more than half a century. However, his career and discoveries far transcend that local area and even the boundaries of the state of Missouri. Mett Shippee's career as an archaeologist took a dramatic turn in 1937 when he wrote to the Smithsonian Institution describing his archaeological finds in the area. His correspondence resulted in Waldo Wedel, a Smithsonian archaeologist, coming to Northwest Missouri to conduct digs in 1937 and '38, and led to important discoveries and contributions to knowledge about the prehistory of the area. The data resulted in the identification of two important cultural occupations in the area—Kansas City Hopewell (0 to A.D. 600) and Steed-Kisker (A.D. 1000 to A.D. 1300).

Mr. Shippee continued working with Waldo Wedel until 1953 when he accepted a position with the Nebraska State Historical Society. The next year, he began a long association with the University of Missouri. He was a member of the University of Missouri

team that worked with the St. Joseph Museum in 1961 to excavate the Oneota midden site on King Hill in St. Joseph. He retired from MU at the age of 77 and then worked part time for the Kansas City Museum.

Mett Shippee's contributions to Missouri archaeology have been recognized many times with numerous awards: among the first was one from the Missouri Archaeological Society in 1953 when he received a life membership in the society; the Kansas City Museum Association made him a fellow of anthropology in 1972; he was presented an honorary Doctor of Science degree by Park College in 1983.

The collection, which was amassed over a period of nearly 80 years, is fully documented, making it an extremely valuable contribution to science. The major portion is Archaic period material dated 7500 to 600 B.C. Mett Shippee is noted for the identi-

cation of the Nebo Hill phase (3000 B.C. to 1500 B.C.) of the Archaic period. He wrote about that discovery in an article in *American Antiquity* in 1948. The Woodland period (600 B.C. to A.D. 900) and the Mississippian period (A.D. 900 to historical contact) are also well represented in the collection.

During the coming year, the J. Mett Shippee collection will be cataloged by adjunct archaeological staff members Mike Fisher, Ed Barlow, and Jim Feagins. After cataloging, they and other members of the museum staff will design and construct an exhibit relating to the material and J. Mett Shippee. Also after cataloging is complete, the collection will be available for study by interested scholars.

▶ ▶ ▶ NAGPRA News ◀ ◀ ◀

NAGPRA Grant Mary Adair

As many of you know by now, the KU Museum of Anthropology received a NAGPRA grant from the National Park Service. The title of the grant is "A Joint Collaboration between the University of Kansas, the Kansas State Historical Society, Fourteen Tribes, and Three Federal Agencies." The primary objective of the grant is to develop a Memorandum of

Understanding between participating Kansas institutions/agencies and tribes concerning the manner of disposition of culturally unidentifiable Native American human remains and associated funerary objects from Kansas. To achieve this, the grant calls for a one day planning meeting this summer and two consultation meeting later this year. At the planning meeting, representatives of KU, Kansas State Historical Society, Bureau of Reclamation Great Plains

Region, Kansas City District Corps of Engineers, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service Mountain-Prairie Region, and Haskell Indian Nations University will meet to review NAGPRA compliance, identify consultation protocols, and plan for the consultation meetings with tribes. I have asked Tim McKeown, NAGPRA Team Leader at the National Park Service, to attend and provide a review of NAGPRA compliance. For the consultation meetings to be effective, it is critical that we understand the law and the procedures for compliance and eventual repatriation.

The two consultation meetings will be attended by tribal representative from the Pawnee Tribe of Oklahoma, Wichita and Affiliated Tribes, Kaw Nation, Osage Nation of Oklahoma, Three Affiliated Tribes, Sac and Fox Nation of Oklahoma, Sac and Fox of the Mississippi in Iowa, Sac and Fox Nation of Missouri, Prairie band of Potawatomi Nation, Citizen Potawatomi Nation, Kickapoo Tribe of Kansas, Iowa Tribe of Kansas and Nebraska, Iowa Tribe of Oklahoma, and the Otoe-Missouria Tribe. They will be given the opportunity to

examine the collections at KU and the KSHS and review museum and agency records at the first consultation meeting. Although an exact date for this has not been set, I anticipate the 3 day meeting dates will occur in early November. At the second consultation meeting, which will occur over a 2 day session, tribal representatives will consult with institutions/agencies about the disposition of the culturally unidentifiable remains from Kansas. If a consensus plan on the disposition of the remains and associated funerary objects can be reached, KU, KSHS, and tribal representatives will travel to the spring 2000 NAGPRA Review Committee meeting and request guidance in implementing the plan.

The new principals of agreement concerning the disposition of culturally unidentifiable Native American human remains, recently drafted by the NAGPRA Review Committee (published in the Federal Register, June 23, 1999), may provide the framework from which we can begin developing a workable repatriation plan.

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Personnel Changes

Kansas State Historical Society:

Barry Williams left the review and compliance office and now is with the

Bureau of Land Management in North Dakota.

Wills Banks has been hired as the new review and compliance archaeologist. He began his new duties in mid-July.

Verna Detrich now has retired (officially at least) from her laboratory position.

Bureau of Reclamation:

Bob Blasing recently transferred from the Nebraska-Kansas Area Office (NKAO) in Grand Island, Nebraska, to the Oklahoma-Texas Area Office in Oklahoma City.

Nancy Pearson also left the NKAO and moved to Arizona.

Tony Scott is minding the store in Grand Island until the position vacated by Bob can be filled. Tony is a seasonal employee, however, and will begin graduate school at Wichita State University this fall.

Calendar of Upcoming Events

September 23-26 - Santa Fe Trail Symposium, Council Grove - among the many speakers are Tom Witty, Bob Blasing, and Donna Roper - for information, contact the Kaw Mission historical site at Council Grove

October 20-24 - Plains Conference - Sioux Falls, South Dakota

A few parting words

Note the size of this Newsletter, and particularly note some of the topics covered here, especially our testifying to the Legislature regarding

legislation affecting our profession and the Action Committee meeting with the Executive Director of the Kansas State Historical Society. To me, and I would hope others, this signifies that PAK is not simply a nice excuse for the state's archaeologists to get together to trade information twice a year, but in addition is an organization committed to making the voice of the professional archaeological community in the state heard in places where it counts. Those who read the State Archaeologist job description will have noted that PAK is listed in a couple places as an organization involved in the on-going evaluation of the performance of the State Archaeologist. Clearly, then, the existence of the association is being noticed.

Once again I am finishing a PAK Newsletter from a field camp and find myself missing a few details I would like to include—but there's a lot here as it is. I thank those who have contributed information for this issue. For the next issue, I look forward to hearing from them again, as well as from others with more research news, listings of reports, and so forth. During the Action Committee meeting with Ramon Powers, the question was raised as to how we can better communicate. This Newsletter was suggested as one medium. We will try from our end to make sure that this comes to pass—stay tuned.

Meanwhile, hope you are all having as productive a summer field season as I am!

---DCR