

Oklahoma Archeology

Journal of the
Oklahoma Anthropological Society



Volume 51, Number 2

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Oklahoma Archeology, Vol. 51, No 2

From the Editors' Digs

Congratulations to Dr. Don Wyckoff, recipient of the Distinguished Service Award at the 60th Plains Conference in Oklahoma City in October 2002. The Plains Anthropological Society recognized Don's lifetime research in Plains archaeology. Another prominent Oklahoman who has received the Distinguished Service Award is Dr. Robert E. Bell. Don mentioned Dr. Bell in his acceptance speech and also recognized the importance of the many avocationalists who he credited with aiding archeologists in Oklahoma. The presentation of this award topped off an excellent conference that included the Society's Fall Meeting.

Our thanks go to Pete Thurmond for providing the Abstracts from the Literature feature in *OA* including his notes on the Abstracts.

We would like to take this opportunity to thank Dale McHard for his tenure as President of the Society. The Society's continued success as an organization dedicated to fostering archaeological research in the state is due to folks like Dale who are willing to give their time and effort to the mundane details of running the Society. Thanks also to Board members Bobby Nickey and Buck Wade who have served ably. Thanks Dale, Bobby and Buck!

Rich Drass
Mary Ann Drass

Welcome to the Society

New Members, 11/16/2002 through 02/15/2003

Life

Aaron L. Rogers, Marlow, OK
(Sustaining Member since 1991)

Sustaining

Boyd B. Forester, Kiowa, KS
Aralyn & John Williams, Pauls Valley, OK

Contributing

Bill Ross, Keota, OK

Active

Pic & Sharon Dorris, Mounds, OK
Rhoda A. Hensley, Norman, OK
Michael Lee, Edmond, OK

Screenings From The Bottom Of The Hole

It has been a privilege and an honor to be the President of the Society for the last four years. Those years have been both historic and productive for the Society. The Society celebrated its fiftieth year since Dr. Bell had the foresight to establish this group of folks as those who are concerned with the preservation of Oklahoma's cultural heritage through the practice of archeology. The Society has been involved in that preservation effort by participating in digs in McCurtain County for the Forest Service and at Jake Bluff on the Cooper management area. We have surveyed a rather large portion of land and recorded a sizable number of new sites that will in time add to our knowledge of the archeological treasures of Oklahoma. We have seen the turn of a century, and we as a nation have felt the pain of two national tragedies.

I hope that my efforts have contributed to the continued success of the Society in some small way. Much of any success that may be laid at my feet actually came about due to the individual and collective efforts of many people. Certainly, those members of the Board of Directors of the Society and those who worked in various ways to ensure the success of our meetings are due most of the credit.

I shall remember my tenure with a measure of satisfaction. I wish the Society much success in the future and hope that I can continue to be of service to my beloved State and to the Society in the furtherance of its objectives.

Dale McHard

Mark Your Calendar

2003 OAS Spring Meeting, April 26, 2003

2003 Spring Dig, May 24 -- June 1, 2003

OVERSTREET-KERR HISTORICAL FARM -- FLINTKNAPPING CLASS

The participants in this educational program will be given instruction on how to make stone arrowheads with the use of aboriginal tools. The class consists of two sessions (Sat., June 21, 2003; 9:00 to Noon ... Sat., June 28, 2003; 9:00 to Noon). The instructors

will be flintknapper Reece Hairod (Panama, OK) and flintknapper Neil Garrison (Yukon, OK). The cost is \$25.00. Advance reservations are required. Contact: Jeremy Henson, Education Program Manager, Overstreet-Kerr Historical Farm, Rt. 2 Box 693, Keota, OK 74941; (918) 966-3396; e-mail: okhfarm@crosstel.net Internet homepage: www.kerrcenter.com/kerrweb/overstreet/

LAKE THUNDERBIRD STATE PARK TO HOST FLINTKNAPPING EVENT

Friday, September 5, 2003 through Sunday, September 7, 2003 This "Stone Arrowhead Festival" will be an opportunity for flintknappers from all over the state to gather for comradery and to learn advance flintknapping skills. The public is encouraged to attend this event. Public education seminars will be offered throughout the day. The actual site of the event will be the Clear Bay entrance of Lake Thunderbird State Park (i.e., 8 miles east of Norman, OK). For further information, you can contact: Neil Garrison, (405) 373-0309; e-mail: atlatlgarrison@hotmail.com

NATIONAL PARK SERVICE'S 2003 ARCHAEOLOGICAL PROSPECTION WORKSHOP

The National Park Service's 2003 workshop on archaeological prospection techniques entitled "Current Archaeological Prospection Advances for Non-Destructive Investigations in the 21st Century" will be held May 19 through 23, 2003, at Cahokia Mounds State Historic Site, Collinsville, Illinois. The workshop covers geophysical techniques, aerial photography, and other remote sensing methods as they apply to the identification, evaluation, conservation, and preservation of archaeological resources across the Nation. There is a \$475.00 tuition charge. For further information and registration forms, contact Steven L. DeVore at the Midwest Archeological Center, National Park Service, Lincoln, Nebraska: tel. (402) 437-5392, ext. 141; email steve_de_vore@nps.gov Steven DeVore, Archeologist

Book Reviews

***THE ATLATL -- PRIMITIVE WEAPON OF THE STONE AGE* by Kris Tuomal**

Reviewed by Neil Garrison
12601 N. Cemetery Rd., Yukon, OK 73099; (405)
373-0309

This inexpensive little booklet is one that I would enthusiastically recommend as a welcome addition to your personal archaeological library. It gives step-by-step instructions on how to build a Basketmaker-style atlatl ("throwing stick" .. "spear thrower"). The publication is 62 pages of well-written text that is liberally sprinkled with black-and-white photos. This combination of pics and writing makes it very easy to comprehend each aspect of the atlatl construction process.

Also included in this same booklet are a couple of photos of a different type of atlatl -- the non-flexing variety. An Australian woomera and an atlatl that is fashioned out of a large bamboo stem are included in these photographs. Although the booklet's text does not go into extensive details on how to whittle these sorts of non-flexing atlatls, it would be fairly easy to just use the pics as a guide and proceed from there in your manufacturing process.

A list of helpful references is tucked into the back pages of the booklet. An atlatl, of course, would be of little use to you if you did not have any darts to complement it. Fortunately, this booklet has included a good section on how to make your own atlatl darts.

This booklet can be ordered directly from the author: Kris Tuomala, Walking On Old Ground (Publications Company), P. O. Box 251, Goodman, MO, 64843; phone: (417) 364-8806.

Yet another source for this booklet is the following: Missouri Trading Company, P. O. Box 130, Saginaw, MO 64864; phone: (417) 623-0106; www.missouritrading.com; e-mail: dbenson@juno.com

***Life Woven with Song*, by Nora Marks Dauenhauer.** University of Arizona Press, Tucson, 2000. 139 + xiii pages, including 13 b/w photographs, an "about the author" page, glossary, and acknowledgments. \$29.95 (cloth), ISBN 0-8165-2005-4. \$16.95 (paper), ISBN 0-8165-2006-2.

Reviewed by Jim D. Feagins
St. Joseph Museums, St. Joseph, Missouri

Life Woven with Song is a fresh, little volume that combines anthropology, Native American literature, and folklore. With a degree in anthropology from Alaska Methodist University, Nora Marks

Dauenhauer is a literary spokesperson for her people, the Tlingit Indians of southeastern Alaska. Not learning English until she started attending school at the age of eight, her growing up years were spent in salmon camps and on family fishing boats. Born in 1927, Dauenhauer has dedicated a lifetime to preserving her people's culture, especially the Tlingit's oral literature. For quite a few years, she was Principal Researcher in Language and Cultural Studies at Sealaska Heritage Foundation. Her modern, stories, poems, and plays reflect her background—the Tlingit culture, the rain forest, and the family's subsistence from the sea. Dauenhauer has received considerable national recognition for her writing.

This volume is divided into three parts—prose, poetry, and plays—all depicting slices of life from a Tlingit woman's perspective. The five short stories in the prose portion are titled: "Egg Boat," "Magic Gloves," "Some Slices of Salmon," "Chemawa Cemetery: Buried in Alien Land," and "Life Woven with Song: An Autobiographical Essay." They provide a good introduction to the volume and to the day-to-day lifestyle and the personal feelings associated with being a part of the Tlingit culture ever evolving in a modern world.

"Memorial Day in Kiev," "A Poem for Jim Nagatáak'w (Jakwteen)," "Migration Catalog," "Grandmother Eliza," "Totemic Display," "Salmon Egg Puller—\$2.15 an Hour," "Grandpa Jakwteen in Eclipse," "Angoon at Low Tide," "Storms from an Enemy Sky," "Crossing the Bridge," "Constellation Course: Hanging Loose" "From Camp Heaven," and "Tlingit Elders," are a few of the titles from the volume's 35 short poems.

The last part of the book contains three plays: "White Raven and Water," "Raven, King Salmon, and the Birds," and "Raven Loses His Nose." The central actor in these plays is the Raven, a culturally sacred clown and general "doofus," who craves Taco Bell and is always getting in trouble attempting to trick his friends. The Raven to the Tlingit can be compared in some ways to Old Man Coyote in Native American folklore from the Southwest. The Raven's trickster troubles add considerable humor to the plays while usually delivering a more serious message. Dauenhauer's modern folklore based plays have been presented worldwide, including the Kennedy Center in Washington, D.C.

Dauenhauer has presented a literary volume of the feelings of a young girl through most of her adulthood firmly based in the blending of Tlingit ways and stories with an ever changing world. Her real and fictional stories, poems, and plays reflect mostly happy (but some sad) moments. From serious to silly, these works give insight into the ways of her culture. *Life Woven with Song* is of interest to readers interested in American Indian cultural diversity and especially Native American literature. The volume is a quick read. It may be obtained from the University of Arizona Press, 355 S. Euclid Avenue, Suite 103, Tucson, Arizona 85719.



Spring Meeting 2003

April 26, 2003

Auditorium, Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum Of
Natural History, Norman

PRELIMINARY PROGRAM

8:00-9:00 a.m.

Registration
Greetings and Howdys
Coffee

9:00-10:00 a.m.

Meeting of the Board and Officers – all members of the Society are welcome to attend

10:00 a.m.

Report to the Society of activities/accomplishments of Oklahoma Archeological Survey office during CY 2002 -- Bob Brooks, State Archeologist

11:00 a.m.

General Session of the Society
Election of Officers and Directors
Golden Trowel Award

11:30-1:00 p.m.

Lunch

1:00 p.m.

"Manufacture of Protohistoric Scrapers – Heather Szarka, University of Oklahoma

1:45 p.m.

Florida Mountain Site – Beau Schriever, University of Oklahoma

2:30-2:45 p.m.

Break

2:45 p.m.

The First Ethnic Groups on the Southern Plains
Stance Hurst, University of Oklahoma

3:30 p.m.

Utility of Various Paleoindian Points - John Taylor-Montoya, University of Oklahoma

4:15 p.m.

Adjourn

Candidates for Election at the Spring Meeting

Where an * appears by a name, the individual is going out of office due to term-limits. Where an ^ appears, it means that the person named is up for re-election to the same office currently held.

President: Kathleen Gibbs (replacing Dale McHard*)

1st Vice President: K. C. Kraft (replacing Kathleen Gibbs)

At-Large Director:

Carl Gilley and Pat Gilman (replacing Buck Wade* and Bobby Nickey*) ----- Freida Odell^ and Byron Sudbury^



Abstracts from the Literature

Fiedel, Stuart J.

2002 Initial Human Colonization of the Americas: An Overview of the Issues and the Evidence.

Radiocarbon 44(2):407-436.

No abstract was provided by the author for this article, so here are some excerpts:

p. 408: A persistent faction of "Early Man" enthusiasts has chafed under the temporal constraints of the Clovis-first model. Claims for ages in excess of 11,500 BP have been advanced for numerous sites but have always foundered when the contexts or the often ambiguous artifacts themselves were scrutinized closely. The continuing absence of verified pre-Clovis sites has been attributed to drastic post-glacial transformation of the landscape, to a generalized and very simple lithic technology that is difficult to

recognize, or to a thin and transient early population. Pre-Clovis advocates do not explain why similar factors have not prevented discovery of indisputable Lower and Middle Paleolithic sites in Eurasia.

p. 413: The most precisely dated Clovis sites are Lehner and Murray Springs, both in Arizona. The 14C date for Lehner, averaged from 12 charcoal assays, is 10,930 +/- 40 BP. The date for Murray Springs, averaged from eight assays, is 10,900 +/- 50 BP... Based on the Cariaco Basin data, both sites would fit within a tight calibrated interval ~12,900-12,850 cal BP. This would put them about 100 years after the Younger Dryas onset. However, the most precise Folsom date is 10,665 +/- 85 BP from Agate Basin, and the average of six charcoal dates from the Folsom type-site is 10,890 +/- 50 BP. Thus, if the latest Cariaco calibration is correct, western Clovis would be contemporaneous with Folsom. This conclusion seems dubious on stylistic and stratigraphic grounds, so pending elucidation of the interval, I prefer a pre-LST age for Clovis of ~13,200 cal BP.

pp. 416-417: The available genetic data compel us to seek archaeological traces of Paleoindian ancestors in the Trans-Baikal region. Reliable early dates from Upper Paleolithic sites near Lake Baikal and the upper Lena River suggest initial occupation around 37,000 BP, and there are numerous dates of ~23,000-26,000 BP... About 900 km to the east, the Aldan River area of Yakutia...may have been occupied as early as 30,000-35,000 BP, but this dating is suspect. A more secure date for the initial settlement of this region may be the 18,300 +/- 180 date on wood from Verkhne-Troitskaya; after this isolated date, the next good dates are 15,200 +/- 300, on charcoal from Avdeikha, and 14,000 +/- 100, also on charcoal, from Dyuktai Cave, level 7b... Just east of the Aldan sites, the Verkhoyansk Mountains seem to mark an ecological boundary which apparently was not breached by western Siberian peoples until the sudden global warming at 12,500 BP (14,700 cal BP). Only two sites tentatively dated to about 13,000-11,000 BP are known from this far northeastern section of Siberia.

p. 418: In view of the oft-remarked similarities of the Zhoukoudian Upper Cave skulls to Amerinds, perhaps we should not exclude northern China from consideration as the Paleoindian homeland. Recent research there has shown that assemblages containing mainly macroblades and leaf-shaped bifaces...were present at 12,700 BP... Upper Paleolithic emigrants moving north from China...might have traveled

northeast through the Amur River basin in the Russian Far East and along the western side of the Sea of Okhotsk before arriving in Kamchatka... In sharp contrast to Clovis, there is no evidence of mammoth hunting at any of the early Alaskan sites... If mammoths actually had vanished from eastern Beringia before Nenana people arrived, it is reasonable to suppose that the invention of the Clovis point and its related delivery system (bone foreshafts, etc.) resulted from their initial encounter with living mammoths, south of the ice sheets.

p. 423: More than 30 genera of large-bodied mammals (megafauna) in the Americas became extinct around 11,000 BP (13,000 cal BP). These animals had thrived in the sustained warm climate of the last interglacial, and had survived many sudden temperature changes... The warm-cold oscillations that marked the final stages of the Pleistocene between around 17,000 and 11,500 cal BP were not markedly more severe than the earlier temperature spikes. The only obvious difference about this deglacial period was the arrival of humans at 13,500 cal BP...recent AMS dates on bone reaffirm that extinctions of all megafauna occurred abruptly between 11,400 and 10,800 BP (13,000 cal BP)... The overkill theory for American extinction has been strengthened by re-analyses of analogous cases... in Australia...(and)...New Zealand.

p. 424: Clovis expansion across the whole of North America was almost incredibly rapid. The earliest relatively precise charcoal-based dates yet obtained for North American Clovis are two dates of around 11,550 BP (about 13,300-13,400 cal BP) for the Aubrey site in Texas. The oldest of the amino-acid-based dates for the child burial at Anzick, Montana, is 11,550 +/- 60. However, the dates for most western Clovis sites cluster around 10,900 BP. New AMS dates from the Clovis stratum at Shawnee Minisink in eastern Pennsylvania (10,940 +/- 90 and 10,900 +/- 40) show that Eastern Clovis is as old as the classic southwestern sites...The fishtail (or Fell 1) points found in Central America ... Ecuador ... Chile...Patagonia...and the Pampas are clearly derived, with slight stylistic modification, from North American Clovis. Fell 1 fishtail points in the Southern Cone have been securely dated at ~10,300-11,100 BP or approximately 12,300-13,000 cal BP... Thus, the interval separating the initial inhabitants of the Southern Cone from the earliest Clovis hunters in Texas is probably only 400 years (13,400-13,000 cal BP).

Peterson, Bruce J., Robert M. Holmes, James W. McClelland, Charles J. Vorosmarty, Richard B. Lammers, Alexander I. Shiklomanov, Igor A. Shiklomanov, and Stefan Rahmstorf

2002 Increasing River Discharge to the Arctic Ocean. **Science** 298:2171-2173 (and see discussion under *News of the Week*, "River Flow Could Derail Crucial Ocean Current" on p. 2110).

Abstract: Synthesis of river-monitoring data reveals that the average annual discharge of fresh water from the six largest Eurasian rivers to the Arctic Ocean increased by 7% from 1936 to 1999. The average annual rate of increase was 2.0 +/- .07 cubic kilometers per year. Consequently, average annual discharge from the six rivers is now about 128 cubic kilometers per year greater than it was when routine measurements of discharge began. Discharge was correlated with changes in both the North Atlantic Oscillation and global mean surface air temperature. The observed large-scale change in freshwater flux has potentially important implications for ocean circulation and climate.

OA Notes: So what? Most general circulation models (GCMs) of likely climate response to greenhouse gas forcing show strong temperature and precipitation increases in the high latitudes of the Northern Hemisphere. Melting ice, higher rainfall, and warmer surface water temperatures are modeled to result in a sufficient increase in freshwater runoff into the Arctic Ocean to inhibit deep water formation, in which cold, saline (dense) water sinks and flows south deep in the North Atlantic. The other half of this "conveyor belt" is the Gulf Stream, which transports sufficient heat to the far north to give northeastern Canada, Iceland, and northwestern Europe their current amenable climates. Stop one end of the conveyor belt, and the whole thing shuts down, resulting in very rapid cooling of the North Atlantic and surrounding landmasses (*c.f.* "Warming's Unpleasant Surprise: Shivering in the Greenhouse?", Richard A. Kerr, 1998, **Science** 281:156-158). In short, global warming could result in an abrupt onset of glacial climate in our lifetimes. The study by Peterson *et al.* demonstrates that the predicted increase in freshwater discharge to the Arctic Ocean is already taking place. Other recent studies show that temperatures are rising five times faster in the Arctic than at middle to tropical latitudes, and that deep water formation off Greenland has declined by 20% in the last decade.

Journey Through Time

Allen White

In the fall of 2002, I had the privilege of joining an ongoing excavation in England. This adventure began on a cold, dreary day in early January of 2002 as I read an article in an archeology magazine, an article about excavation opportunities around the world, and I fantasized about taking part in one of them. One project in particular caught my eye, a Roman Fort excavation at Alchester, England. An e-mail contact was listed for anyone who might like to learn more about the ongoing excavation. So, I sent a hopeful message to the project leader along with a brief summary of my archeological training and experience, asking if it would be possible to join the 2002 season's work. To my delight, a reply came back overnight, asking for my mailing address so that an application could be sent to me. Within two weeks, the application had been received and returned to Dr. Eberhard Sauer of Keble College at Oxford University, and, by late February, he had informed me that my wife and I had been accepted. We had chosen a two-week period beginning on September 1, 2002 for our time commitment. It was very exciting to be making firm travel plans although September seemed such a long way off. An information packet arrived in March and we learned that a portion of the fort's gate

posts had been recovered and dated to A.D. 44, making construction of the fort very early in Rome's conquest of Britannia, their name for the general area we know as England. We also learned that we would be camping at the site which turned out to be an active sheep pasture.

Once we were on site, we were assigned to the field lab with the task of sorting artifacts and preparing them for permanent curation at the Ashmolean Museum located in Oxford. After two and a half days in the lab, we were moved to one of the five crews involved in the actual excavation work. The site had been occupied by Romans for some four centuries; about one hundred years as a frontier fort with the town that grew up by the fort surviving for another three hundred years. Four hundred years of occupation resulted in many artifacts and each year of the ongoing excavation about 7,000 artifacts are collected. Many bone fragments are found, mostly of sheep. Ceramic building material is the other type of artifact commonly found. The many potsherds that we unearthed had to be labeled, the single most tedious, time-consuming task at the field lab.



Trench 32. Looking north along town era wall. Road was right (east) of wall. One drainage ditch shows mostly in shadow about a meter left of wall. Another ditch breached the wall. Shield was found in far right corner area in what was likely another drainage ditch.

The site also yielded metal objects with the most common metal object found being the type of pin that held one's toga together at the shoulder. We also would find glass fragments from time to time. During our stay, the most exciting find was a shield that appeared to be substantially intact. My most exciting find was a complete spear point. The artifacts, however, were of secondary interest. The primary objective of the excavation was locating the site of the various structures typically found at a Roman fort of that era, and this meant looking for features in various trenches at the site. Previous years work had located the main road, the main gates, and a number of other features that were being more thoroughly studied this year. Two of the active trenches revealed the foundations of the fort's granaries. Two more of the trenches were in the area thought to be the main workshops. The fifth and deepest trench was alongside the main road where another set of gates, part of the town wall, and what appeared to be drainage ditches, were found. The shield, the major find while we were there, was found close to the set of gates. At the fort site, as at our excavations, structural features are located by fine trowel work. I thought they were kidding when our team was asked to fine trowel the unit I was working on, a unit that appeared to be a graveled floor of a work area that used or produced charcoal. This area was likely a metal working area as I had found the spear point, a knife blade, and a length of chain in close proximity to the graveled surface.

The reason I thought they were kidding was that the unit measured five meters in length by two and a half meters in width. They weren't kidding. Now it takes a while to fine trowel an area that big. But our team of trowelers was adequate to the task and we found evidence of some type of structure, which we thought might be floor support beams. I was asked to section one of these features. It turned out to be a Victorian era drainage ditch, complete with drainage tiles. Since it turned out to be a "modern" feature rather than one from the Roman era, most of the people involved were

disappointed. But to me, finding even a buried Victorian drainage ditch was fairly exciting. Since I had found the tile, I got to document the tile. Each participant was expected to do a fair share of the site documentation as well as part of the site mapping.

As we neared the end of our time at the site, I helped fine trowel an even larger surface, this one being ten meters by twenty meters in an area thought to be the location of the fort's main offices. Many features were found as the fine troweling progressed and I spent the final two days sectioning several of the features and then drawing profiles of the sections.

Our trip to England was not all work, so, in addition to the time spent at the Roman fort site, we also included visits to a number of significant archeological sites, including Avebury and the megalithic era long barrow burial chamber at nearby West Kennet, the unique site of Stonehenge, the Roman baths at Bath, two Iron Age structures, Dun Telve Broch and Dun Trodden Broch near Glenelg in northwestern Scotland, and, in the Orkney Islands, the Stone Age village of Skara Brae built a thousand years before the first of the pyramids was built in Egypt, and the burial chamber of Maes Howe and two nearby stone circles. There were also stops at many castles and castle ruins, some dating to the days of the Picts. One day, during our afternoon tea break, Dr. Sauer showed us a small mound in the field not far from where we were working and told us that the mound contained the ruins of the baths that had been built by the Roman villagers, that the mound was the site of the first known excavation at Alchester, and that the first excavation had been conducted in 1776. During our introductory tour of the site, we had asked Dr. Sauer how he knew to dig where he was digging. He told us that a few years ago, a strange rectangular shape was noted in an aerial photograph of a grain field. When the anomaly was investigated, it was found to be the parade ground of the fort. Five years later, the extent of the fort is still being explored and its place in England's history is gradually emerging.

Native American Club At Putnam City West High School

Kathy Gibbs

I don't exactly remember when I became sponsor of the Native American Club at my high school, Putnam City West. It just seems I have always been the sponsor, yet I can faintly remember a teacher who came up to me and asked if I would take over the club because she couldn't do it any more. Since I do have a great interest in Native American culture, I agreed to take on the club.

This accidental involvement has been one of the greatest and most rewarding experiences in my teaching career, for with my work as sponsor of this club, I have met some of the sweetest and most interesting students and adults and have had some of my most memorable adventures. I would like to share some of these.

The club last year and this year consists of a few young ladies who are more fun and full of energy than a cage full of monkeys. And last year we embarked on some of our own adventures and projects.

The Putnam City Indian Education Department is in charge of the large group of students who are Native American in our schools. Each month we have a Youth Night meeting for all the schools in our district at Johnnies Restaurant with a guest speaker. We eat hamburgers and visit and gossip before the speaker begins his program. Then we assemble in the back room and hear talks on being proud to be Indian, what the students can do to be successful after high school, goals to aim for, etc. Sometimes the speaker tells stories or we play games to get to know each other better or learn to depend on each other. Sometimes a dancer comes and shows the students fancy dancing and explains what he does to keep in shape. It is always a positive reinforcement evening.

In April every year the Indian Education Department puts on a Pow Wow at Putnam City Original. It is always a nice dance where many come in their beautiful regalia to dance in competition and for enjoyment.

There are also field trips to different places in the vicinity of the City. We have gone to the zoo south of Norman, gone to watch for Eagles and listened to a man explain about eagles while he showed us his bird, we have been to museums, to the Capitol for Native

American festivities, to the Omniplex, to the University in Chickasha for a tour, then to see the Christmas lights, and many other interesting trips. I am eager to see where we go this spring.

The two people who are in charge of this interesting program are Mona Gardner and George (Cricket) Shields. They have a special way with the students and are always thinking of ways to help the young people through their sometimes difficult growing up years. They have had workshops on beading, college information night, a program on how to deal with bullies, and many other learning events for the students. And they help with those who have problems at school or at home. I truly admire the work they do.

I was very fortunate to be sent by the Indian Education Department to attend the Johnson O'Malley Conference here in OKC this past fall, and hopefully will get to attend again this spring in Tulsa. The conference works on ways to encourage Indian children to learn, the problems they are up against, how to inform the teachers on understanding Native American culture which in turn will help them in interpreting the students' actions in class. Indian children are brought up differently and this affects their behavior in the classroom. Their heritage and history makes a difference in how they learn and participate.

My Club has gotten together after school in the past and made dream catchers and done beadwork. Last spring we made dance shawls in my room while we watched the movie, "Smoke Signals." Two years ago in January, we put on a Pow Wow at our school for a group who had no place to have their dance. My students worked the concession stand and got to keep part of the proceeds. That same year in the fall we had had our very first Indian taco sale and made about \$300. We opened an account with the school. In the spring, we had another Indian taco sale and gave part of the money to our big Cancer Fund Day. We still had a couple hundred left for our group. Cricket said for us to do something for us. We discussed what we might do, but came up with no good idea.

The next fall, I was thinking about what to do with our growing account and asked the students how we could help others with our money, that we already had so

much. They agreed and we began our search for a project in which we could make a difference. Mona suggested we contact the Indian Boarding School in Eufaula. I wrote to the director and told her our club had \$100 and wished to buy Christmas gifts for the children there. She said that would be wonderful, and she would bring a few of the students and come get the gifts after school. We planned a party for them; and on quite possibly the coldest, snowy night, my girls and I went to Venture and spent our \$100 on as many gifts as we could get. It was such a fun evening roaming all over the store looking for things for everyone. The girls were very price conscious and spent well. We had a basket piled high!! The next day we wrapped the gifts after school in my room. When the group came from Eufaula, we had our party. Everyone enjoyed it more than we realized they would. They invited us to come visit their school in the spring.

I also got a mail from a friend saying that a friend of his who was a counselor on the Sioux reservation in Fort Thompson in South Dakota needed some help. I wrote to her and told her we wanted to send them \$100 for gifts. She said they would love to have anything, for it looked like a war zone up there and many of the students had only one or no parent in the home. We sent our money and a few small gifts.

At Easter time we sent each place a card and \$25 for candy. And we had another Indian taco sale, now to keep money in our account for the next year's gifts. I think we had about \$400 or \$500 by now. This was much more enjoyable than spending the money on ourselves.

In the spring we went to visit our school in Eufaula. It was a wonderful, sunny day for our drive. We arrived during the daytime but missed all the students who were in school. The director took us on a tour of the school-we had never been inside a boarding school before. It was an eye-opener, to say the least. Many of the students had been going there for several years because they had no home life, many had traveled across the state and didn't get to go home but a couple of times a year. In some of the closets hung only one change of clothes-that's all the student had. A few of the students came to lunch with us, so we got to meet them. Everyone was so nice and appreciative. They invited us to come back and said come after school so we could eat dinner with them and meet the students, so we promised we would.

Last fall we loaded up early on a beautiful, warm morning in my Tahoe and drove first to Muskogee to visit the Museum of the Five Civilized Tribes. It was going to cost us to get in, and we had money only for lunch; but when they found out who we were, they let us come in and look around. After lunch we headed on over to Tahlequah to visit the museum at the Cherokee Culture Center. Again we didn't realize it cost to get in, so we just wandered around in the gift store, and then the lady said we could go on in when she found out our story.

About the time for school to let out, we drove down to Eufaula where the school was waiting for us. We visited and took another tour, this time with some of the students. We also presented them with a check for \$100 for Christmas. They wanted to take us to eat pizza, and we had an entertaining time swapping info and getting to know the students. Many of them exchanged e-mail addresses. Our drive home was full of story telling and comments about our interesting day. We also sent another check to South Dakota for \$100 for Christmas gifts.

Another adventure we had one day after school was our trip to Anadarko to buy supplies for our shawls. By the time we arrived in front of the store, they were closed. We were five minutes late. Disappointed, but hungry, we found a good Mexican restaurant and all crowded around a big round table and salvaged our trip by eating our disappointment away. I have learned more good information about young people at times like these, and it makes my heart glad to know how good-hearted these teenagers are.

The students have tried very hard to make our school aware of Native Americans. One fall we filled a huge display window with dresses, examples of feathers and beadwork on belts and pouches, blankets, moccasins, jewelry, baskets, pottery, and dance regalia. La Quita danced in our Multi-Cultural assembly one year, and she made quite an impression. La Quita was graceful and beautiful, and I was so very proud.

I must tell you about these memorable students. La Quita Harjo is a beautiful young lady who is mostly Cheyenne and Seminole. She was the one who really got us started on making our presence known to the other students in our school. She left us her senior year to attend the Indian school in Anadarko, but I see her at Pow Wows, and she still is the most graceful and beautiful dancer. Eli Schauer was in our club until

he had to move to the Norman area, and now he attends UCO in Edmond. Eli still calls me and tells me how things are going for him. He is a remarkable young man, very smart, with lots of potential. Maleah Slaughter is unique in every way. She is a very bright go-getter with lots of ideas and stories to entertain us on our trips. Her older sister is a professor at OU in anthropology, and Maleah and I talk about archaeology and history all the time. She will be going into the Marines this spring. Nancy Tucker is the sweetest young lady and such a good worker. And Cynthia Leal and Athena Gawf and Ashley Greene are more fun and also hard workers. Britanee Logan is amazing because she is deaf and still accomplishes so much and helps in so many ways. I remember her standing in front of my Ancient History class a couple of years ago and giving a report to the class with so much ease. Her interpreter, Kathy Hill, comes with us. Kathy is also a great asset to our little group. A new person has joined our group this year, Kogee Knight. She is on the newspaper staff, so we get more publicity because of her.

We still have several plans for adventures this spring. We would like to make a trip to the Choctaw Trading Post after school one day to eat buffalo burgers. A trip to the Cheyenne Cultural Center and the Mohawk Lodge Trading Post in Clinton will happen this spring. Of course, another Indian taco sale is a must. The Indian Education Department has also asked us if we would participate in the making a film for Native American teens on HIV-AIDS. We love field trips and learning about the native people and history. Our time is running out, because all but three are graduating seniors. I just hope we can recruit new young people for next fall so we can continue helping others and, at the same time, continue learning about things, places, and people around us.

One most important and meaningful evening I spent at the end of school last year was an awards dinner for the Native American students. It was put on by the Indian Education Department to recognize the outstanding students and their hard work. What a rewarding evening-- to hear all those names being

called to come to the front and be recognized and receive a certificate.

This is all extra duty for me, without extra pay. But I have been paid many times over in laughter, adventures, getting to know the young people, in having a genuinely fun time. I think I am the one who has benefited the most from this club-- the Putnam City West Native American Club.



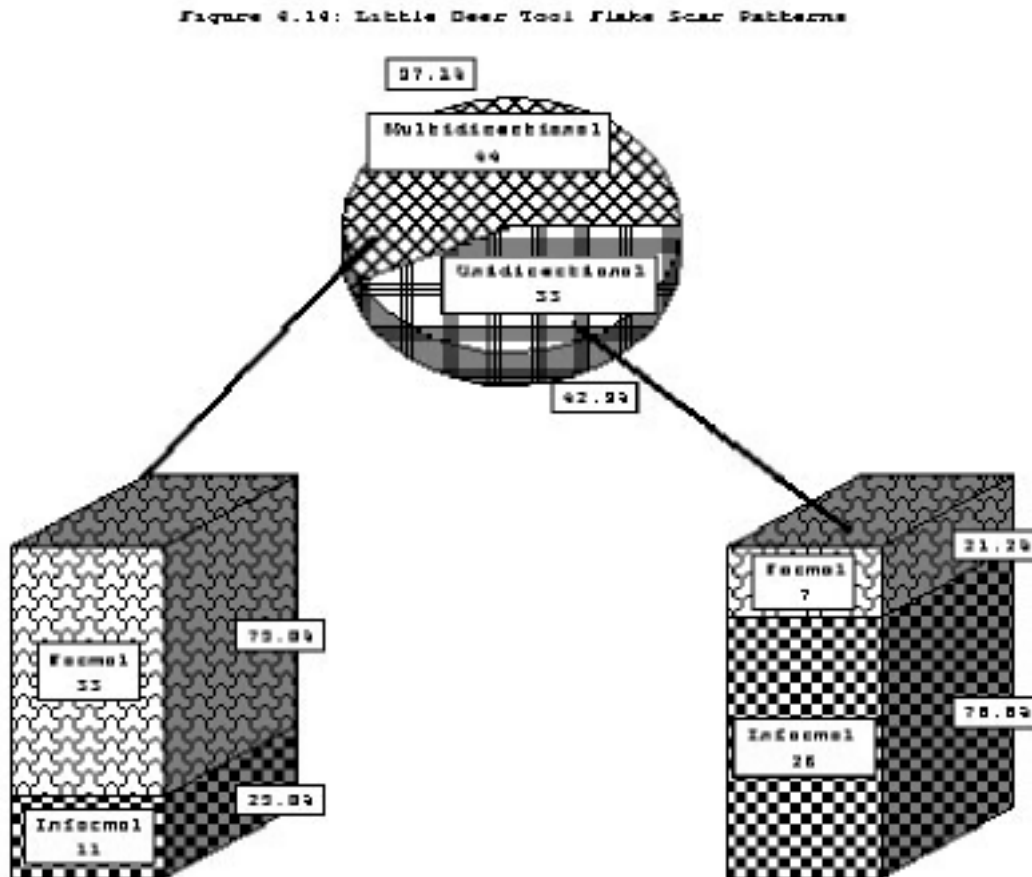
Front row: Britanee Logan, Kathy Hill
Back row: Nancy Tucker, Athena Gawf
Working on shawls

Errata for Burton Site Report, Vol. 50, No. 4.

Figure 15 Key. Ceramic temper distributions the labels for "Cord-marked" and "shell tempered" have been switched. Shell-tempered should go with the "star" symbol and cord-marked with the "dot" symbol.

Errata for Maechen Report, OAS Bulletin 50

Figure 21 (p.81) in the Bulletin is a duplication of Figure 20. The correct figure is shown below.



Books for Review

We have received the following books from University of Oklahoma Press. If you are interested in reviewing one of these books for Oklahoma Archeology, let us know. The book is yours to keep.

Bison Hunting at Cooper Site: Where Lightning Bolts Drew Thundering Herds
Leland C. Bement

Cheyennes at Dark Water Creek: The Last Fight of the Red River War
William Y Chalfant

Archaeology of Regional Interaction: Religion, Warfare and Exchange Across the American Southwest and Beyond
Michelle Hegmon

Ethnobotany
Paul E. Minnis

Biodiversity and Native America
Paul E. Minnis and Wayne J. Elisens

On Coon Mountain
Scenes from a Childhood in the Oklahoma Hills
Glen Ross

The Stamper Site, 34TX1, Texas County, Oklahoma

Part I: The Historical Context and Excavators

Christopher Lintz
Geo-Marine, Inc.

Introduction

Among the earliest archaeological projects conducted in western Oklahoma were the excavations of a substantial prehistoric village site on the Stamper Ranch, northeast of Guymon in Texas County, Oklahoma. C. Stuart Johnston directed the investigations during the summers of 1933 and 1934, with further minor work directed by Fred Carder in December 1934-February 1935, for the University of Oklahoma (O.U.). The initial fieldwork was sponsored by Oklahoma University. The Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA) program funded the subsequent two fieldwork sessions of 1934-35. The extensive fieldwork abruptly stopped during the late winter of 1934-35 when funding for that particular federal program was terminated. The artifacts and records of the Stamper site were eventually studied and published some 16 years after the fieldwork was completed (Watson 1950). But that study conducted more than a half century ago was handicapped by the misplacement of the original site maps and some of the field notes. Nevertheless, even before the formal publication of the Stamper site appeared, the rumors of materials from the site played an important part in influencing the perceptions about the prehistoric cultural relationships among the Central and Southern High Plains groups.

The importance of the Stamper site to Plains archaeology has long been overlooked, in part because its contributions have been based on scant remains from Stamper that have been distorted by prominent Plains archaeologists. The following is the first of a three-part paper concerning the historical significance of the Stamper site, written to accompany the first publication of the report, site map, and various artistic renditions of the Stamper village as compiled by the main field director, C. Stuart Johnston.

This first part of the present paper provides an historical context of the times and conditions of the Stamper site. It starts with a summary of the New Deal relief programs in general and with specific emphasis on how the program may have been run at the Stamper site. Next is an historical characterization of the field directors involved with the 1930s

excavations. Finally, Part I ends with a summary and critique of the 1934 Final Report, a description of both the 1934 site map and a crude sketch map of the site, and summaries of two early reconstructive paintings of the Stamper site, all created by C.S. Johnston. It is fitting to end this first report section with a summary of C. Stuart Johnston's work

I initially intended to write only a historical context for Johnston's (n.d.c) companion article on the 1934 FERA excavations at the Stamper site, which had never heretofore been published. However, as researched progressed, I discovered several tales worthy of reconstructing. The first involves the story of the economic conditions surrounding the excavations at the Stamper site and the academic pressures exerted on C. Stuart Johnston that led to the production of his manuscript of the Stamper site (as told herein). The second tale involves how the science of archaeology has correctly and incorrectly interpreted the materials from Stamper. This is especially true of models of Central-Southern Plains cultural interactions based on materials purported to come from the Stamper site. The models have been repackaged and peddled several times as new ideas, much like a wolf dressed up in sheep's clothing. I hope that the two parts of the Stamper site story coupled with Johnston's unpublished article, site map and illustrations provide important insights into the early archeology of the Oklahoma panhandle region. These papers complement the detailed study provided by Ms. Watson.

Many archaeologists and avocationalists working outside the Oklahoma panhandle may have never heard of the Stamper site, much less that it played an important role in the history of the region. But the purpose of the second paper (to be published in a later issue of *Oklahoma Archeology*) is to explore the intellectual impacts and significance of the Stamper site and its material remains to Plains prehistory. It traces the early studies of Stamper materials and shows that from the mid 1930s, the cultural terminology applied to the archaeological remains by some influential archaeologists paved the way for later misinterpretation of the prehistoric interactions of Central and Southern Plains cultures between the

1940s and the 1970s. The second paper also summarizes and critiques Watson's (1950) published description of the Stamper site materials, summarizes the nature of studies of other Stamper site materials subsequent to the publication of Watson's report and updates more recent field studies and legislative protection of the Stamper site.

A third installment in the series uses information from existing field maps, field notes and photographs to provide room-by-room architectural descriptions and interpretations of the 1933 and 1934 excavations at Stamper. Some of the information presented will provide different interpretations of architectural attributes from those published by Watson (1950) or mentioned by Johnston. I will also provide the rationale for documenting why such reinterpretations are necessary.

Due to the length of the articles, and coordination with the journal editors, this report is serialized. It is my hope that the presentation of this series of reports on the Stamper site stimulates other researchers to restudy the artifacts held in museum and private collections. It should become clear that despite the two available radiocarbon dates, the site contains deeply stratified deposits that have the potential for recording changes in the culture. Detailed material distributional studies from this site may hold tremendous potential for documenting culture change in the late prehistoric complexes of the Oklahoma panhandle. The present series of articles are intended to provide the necessary context for pursuing these studies and clarify some ambiguities of the existing records.

The Federal Relief Programs of the Depression Era

During the 1920s and early 1930, the heartland of America was gripped by two economic disasters. The 1929 stock market crash with its resulting Great Depression was a man-made economic tragedy only surpassed in the region by the natural tragedy imposed by prolonged droughts of 1931-1940 that turned the Southern High Plains into a great dust bowl (Kraenzel 1955:149-155; Green 1973:123). The agricultural practices of the 1920s, and especially those involving tenant and share-crop farming on lands exhausted by soil erosion and one-crop planting systems coupled with attempts by farmers to sell drought-reduced crops during periods of market instability, and the ways farmers used land as collateral to secure loans during

periods of high interest rates combined to cause extensive lay-offs and foreclosures across the region.

Many families became destitute. Despite attempts by such private charitable organizations as the Salvation Army and the Boy and Girl Scouts of America, it was clear that there were simply not enough private sector charitable programs to maintain the existence of families on farms in the region. Many families abandoned their land claims and the lucky ones had sufficient funds to pack up their household belongings and seek promises of a better life elsewhere. This resulted in the mass exodus of "Okies" in search of greener pastures in distance places as made famous in song and story by the likes of Woody Guthrie and John Steinbeck. But many people were simply too poor to leave.

Although in the late 1920s President Hoover initially resisted the establishment of federal relief programs, under pressure from Congress he eventually capitulated at the end of his term and created the Reconstruction Finance Corporation (RFC) in late 1931. This organization was to serve as a federal bank to loan funds to private banks, industries, and essential institutions to weather the depression (Steely 1994:55). Hoover's efforts were essentially too little relief too late, and in 1932 he lost the presidential office in a near landslide defeat to Franklin D. Roosevelt. The years marking the transition of the presidency (1932-1933) coincided with greatest depth of economic despair of the Great Depression. During these two years, 11.3 and 11.8 million employable people, respectively (nearly 30% of America's labor force) were out of work (Graham and Wander 1985:163).

President Roosevelt had the vision to create a series of "New Deal" public works programs to help unemployed people get back on their feet with a diversity of "make work" jobs. During the first 100 days following his assumption of the Office of the President in March 1933, Roosevelt pushed through Congress bills creating three major relief programs: The Civilian Conservation Corps (CCC) in March 1933, the Federal Emergency Relief Administration (FERA) in May 1933, and the Public Works Administration (PWA) in June of 1933 (Steely 1994; Leuchtenburg 1963; Graham and Wander 1985).

The Civilian Conservation Corps (1933 to July 1942) was set up under the direction of Robert Fechner to restore the nation's mostly rural resources by placing

young men 18 to 25 years old in work camps composed of 200 individuals under the direction of World War I veterans (Leuchtenburg 1963; Graham and Wander 1985). The main task of the CCC was initially to restore rural settings by building erosion control features, replanting the over-harvested forests and woodlands across America and developing trails and facilities in state and national parks. The CCC was used extensively to implement projects designed by the National Park Service, the Soil Conservation Service (formed in April, 1935), and other federal agencies. A few of the CCC projects conducted archaeological studies, but to a much more limited extent than the other early New Deal programs (Thiessen 1999:2). Eventually the CCC operated about 2,500 such camps, and volunteers were each paid about \$30.00 a month.

The Federal Emergency Relief Administration (1933 to May 1935) was directed by Harry Hopkins and was designed to provide cash relief as quickly as possible to unemployed people with the minimum amount of bureaucratic paperwork (Steely 1994:60; Leuchtenburg 1963:120). It was initially funded, (in part from the diversion of RFC monies) with half a billion dollars of which half of that was earmarked for use as matching grants for local and state expenses. But the other 250 million dollars was set aside as discretionary funds for use by the director, Hopkins (Hughes 1994:45). The FERA had essentially two programs of offering relief funds. The first was earmarked to the most desperately poor and "unemployable" (blind, crippled, elderly, mothers, children etc.). This form of relief consisted of a money stipend or "government dole" amounting to about \$6.50/week (\$26.00/month) that was paid to those that demonstrated the need (Leuchtenburg 1963; Graham and Wander 1985). The second offered matching funds to the richer states (on a preferred 3-1 State to Federal program ratio basis) to fund small-scale public works projects. Poorer states had their matching contribution requirements waived. The projects ranged from community infrastructure development (sewer pipes, roads, public buildings, bridges etc.) to scientific studies (including archaeology). In addition, the program hired teachers and doctors to improve the education level of the general populace and artists (painters, writers, companies of dancers and actors) to lift up the spirit of the nation.

The Public Works Administration (1933 to 1941) was set up under the direction of the Secretary of Interior

Harold Ickes. It was charged with funding longer term, primarily urban projects with matching state support. The program expected that the federal government would supply about 30% of project costs, and the remaining 70% was raised by communities from the sale of bonds. In contrast to the FERA, the primary public benefit from project development took a precedent over providing financial relief to workers. Even though \$3.3 billion eventually supported the program, director Ickes had a cautious and relatively conservative management style, and a strong commitment to fiscal scrutiny. So much so that often PWA projects were slow in being approved and starting (Leuchtenburg 1963; Graham and Wander 1985). Nevertheless, PWA projects included the construction of city sewer systems, hospitals, dams, bridges, lighthouses, ships, and a multitude of urban buildings ranging from city halls, exposition buildings and post offices.

Despite the efforts of these programs, Roosevelt and Hopkins realized that insufficient money was reaching the desperately poor to divert an economic crisis before the winter of 1933-34. So in October 1933, Roosevelt created the Civil Works Administration (CWA) under the direction of Harry Hopkins with a mission to stimulate the economy and place additional people back to work. Funding for the CWA was initially obtained from a transfer of four hundred million dollars from Ickes' PWA program, with additional support coming from Congress. In contrast to the make-work subsidies paid to unemployed FERA workers, the CWA was entirely a federal agency that obtained half of its federal employees from relief roll lists of destitute individuals and the other half from unemployed people who did not have to demonstrate their poverty status. As direct federal employees, CWA workers averaged about \$60.00 per month. The kinds of projects developed by the CWA included the construction of sewer lines, roads, sidewalks, playgrounds, libraries, airports, and also supported artists and teachers. In California and four southeastern United States, some 11 archaeological projects were run by the CWA (Wendorf and Thompson 2002:318; Thiessen 1999).

Mostly the CWA and FERA programs administered so effectively by Harry Hopkins were just stop-gap measures to get people employed through the winter of 1933 and into the spring of 1934 and to boost the economy. These programs employed almost 4,000,000 men and women in the first 30 days of their existence. But both Roosevelt and Hopkins also

realized that federal charity programs of the CWA and FERA, especially with their ideas of the government dole, rob people of their dignity and feelings of self worth. The dole was regarded as a “narcotic” that would disintegrate human spirit and morality leading to the destruction of the national fiber (Leuchtenburg 1963:124). So in the spring of 1935, both the FERA and CWA programs were replaced with the Works Progress Administration (WPA).

The Works Progress Administration (WPA) was placed under the direction of Harry Hopkins. The program operated from May 1935 until 1939, when its name was changed to the Works Projects Administration, which continued until its abolishment in 1942 (Leuchtenburg 1963; Graham and Wander 1985). The WPA program was funded initially by nearly five billion dollars, making it the largest single relief appropriation in the history of any world government. The main focus of the WPA projects was on publicly useful projects and local sponsors were required to contribute 25 percent of the project costs. Most of the appropriated money paid for labor wages and about ninety percent of the people eligible for participation in WPA projects were certified as people in need. Another difference in this program from the earlier projects is that people’s wages were determined by their skill levels. On average, unskilled people received \$60.00 per month while professional people were paid about \$ 100.00 per month. Members of local communities initially developed the need and proposed most of the WPA projects. The range of projects performed by the WPA included the development of sewer systems, roadways, playgrounds, parks, airports, public buildings and bridges. They also supported scientific studies including archaeology and paleontology fieldwork and material stabilization. WPA writers were hired to write chronicles of life, short stories, and travel guides; teams of artists were also employed to make public sculptures, murals and frescoes in public buildings, and even drawings of everyday objects. In Oklahoma and elsewhere, crews of artists made detailed sketches of prehistoric artifacts from WPA sponsored digs (cf. illustrations from Spiro Mounds in Brown 1971, 1976).

One final relief agency that developed during the New Deal was the National Youth Administration (NYA), which operated under the direction of Aubrey Williams and persisted between June 1935 and 1943. This program was designed for the unemployed young men and women between the ages of 16 and 24.

Unlike the CCC program, which targeted mostly men for rural construction projects, the NYA targeted work programs for both high school and college students, and vocational training for unemployed non-students (Leuchtenburg 1963; Graham and Wander 1985). Students were hired and encouraged to find work in their areas of academic interests; thus chemistry and pre-medical majors might be hired to work in pharmacies under the mentorship of established professional druggists. The primary purpose was to provide opportunities for people to gain experience and develop new skills so that they would become productive members in society. The termination of the NYA, along with the WPA, CWA, and CCC was caused by the diversion of funds to support the war effort in Europe.

The foregoing summary of the six major New Deal relief programs indicate that virtually all shared common goals of placing people back to work, stimulating the economy, and elevating the education and skills necessary for people to succeed and to raise the national productivity. At the same time, the artistic facets of the program were designed to entertain, inspire and beautify America. All were striving to heal the country from the depression and restart the economy. Many programs shared common kinds of construction projects and were designed to erect such public buildings as post offices, city halls, libraries, and improve streets, sidewalks, sewer systems, bridges, parks and playgrounds, and airports. The FERA, CWA, WPA and to a more limited extent, the CCC supported scientific studies, including conducting archaeological and paleontological studies.

Despite the similarity in the kinds of projects, each program had very important differences in the goals that ranged from passing out monetary doles to individuals to focusing on completion of projects for the good of the public. And there was also a wide range of age groups, educational backgrounds and skill sets involved with the various programs. One reason archaeological projects were so popular as public works projects is that they utilized large number of laborers without competing with private sector jobs and were perceived as contributing to the public good by providing new scientific information about past life ways.

From the previous summary, we can surmise that the excavations of the Stamper site in the summer and winter of 1934 under the FERA were primarily conducted to assist unskilled and unemployed people

in need to leave the welfare system and get back to being productive workers. The ratio of laborers to field director at Stamper is unknown. In many places the ratio was apt to be high, but the photographs from Stamper show that the crews consisted of between a half dozen and a dozen individuals. The field notes indicate that the archaeological crews were hard to fill, since the county directors sent most available relief laborers to work on county road-building projects that had higher public visibility and benefit. Most likely interests in the archaeological job held by many of the diggers were secondary to the desire to receive income. Under such circumstances, there is apt to be a wide range of attention of the laborers to the details of excavation provenience, and there is apt to be relatively constant theft of artifacts that might be marketed to others to supplement their meager incomes. Any documentation of the site most likely fell exclusively to the field director or a trusted assistant. These are not the best situations to undertake large-scale excavations, but nevertheless, they were probably the conditions under which the Stamper site was excavated.

The FERA Archaeological Program at the Stamper Site

The Stamper site is located a few kilometers south of the town of Optima in Texas County, Oklahoma. The site is on private lands settled by Charles Stamper from Missouri in 1886 along a broad higher terrace below the caprock escarpment south of the North Canadian or Beaver River (Wiesendanger 1975:7). The ruins of Stamper's homestead are located about 120 m (400 ft) southeast and across a minor gully from the main cluster of prehistoric house remains. The Stamper dugout is located on the west bank at the mouth of the above-mentioned gully. Local residents had known of the site for more than 60 years and called it an Indian Cemetery. But the site remained unmolested until about 1925 when curio hunters initiated excavations along the terrace edge for pottery and arrow points. Most of the 18 rooms visible on the surface, however, were reportedly not disturbed (Johnston 1933).

Paleontologist J. Willis Stovall from the University of Oklahoma is credited with bringing the site to the attention of the archaeological community (Watson 1950:8 footnote). Dr. Stovall learned of the Stamper site while visiting the Optima Paleontological Faunal Locale (Late Hemphillian Pliocene epoch assemblage) during or shortly after the 1929 excavations conducted

by the University of California (Schultz 1990:111). Alternatively, since the Stamper archaeological site is less than two miles from the Optima Paleontological Faunal Locale, it is equally possible that Dr. Stovall or his students found the Stamper site while inspecting other gullies in the area. Photographs among Stovall's files of the Western History Collection at the University of Oklahoma show Dr. Stovall conducting a small dig at the Optima Bone Bed with C. Stuart Johnston and L.I. Price in 1929 and again in 1931. Despite these initial testing efforts by O.U. following on the heels of the University of California work, the large-scale University of Oklahoma paleontological project did not occur at the Optima Faunal Locale until 1937-38, when a 20-month long WPA project was held at three closely spaced quarries. For reasons discussed below, it is even possible that C.S. Johnston became aware of both the Optima bone bed and the Stamper site while he was working in the region for the Carter Oil Company, and his geological background and prior regional knowledge provided an entree for him to participate on Stovall's 1929 and 1931 testing of the Optima bone quarry site. Although no records have been found resolving the issue, possibly Johnston himself may have told Stovall about the Stamper site in 1929, if he was doing oil field work near Optima.

The 1933 excavations of Stamper site were completely funded by the University of Oklahoma as a seed project to test the worthiness of the archaeological deposits for supporting a federally funded program. The University's initial Stamper site dig was conducted simultaneous with other excavations of a prehistoric village on the Boss Neff property (34TX4 [Neff site 1] or 34TX5 [Neff site 2]) located 17 km east of the Stamper site under the direction of Forrest Clements (Johnston 1934a). The records from the 1933 fieldwork indicate that the site has been known locally as an Indian burial ground since about 1875 but remained unmolested for nearly 50 years. Curio hunters had mostly dug along the terrace edge, although other records suggest that some rooms had also been vandalized.

During 1933, the excavations explored all or portions of three buildings: All of Structure 1 was exposed, including a large, stone lined circular cist with burials superimposed over the west wall of the rectangular structure. Structure 1 measured only 8 by 10 feet and had been severely vandalized; reportedly an earlier burial had been removed from the circular cist. Excavations in Structure 2 (the Big House) examined

the eastern two-thirds of the floor surface. The room had a central hearth with two remodeling episodes after the initial construction, and another hearth near the east extended entrance. Five human burials were found; two occurred just inside the entryway and two more were near the middle portions of the south wall. The third structure had several small contiguous rooms appended to the main room; but excavations only focused on exposing the first of at least two main floors. This burned house yielded quantities of burned logs, reeds, grass and daub on the floor in the southeast corner of the structure.

Based on this initial probing, the 1934 fieldwork was funded as a cooperative project between the Anthropology Department at the University of Oklahoma and the FERA¹. Dr. Forest Clements of the Department of Anthropology served as the project administrative director, and, again, Johnston directed the daily field operations of the federal program. (Johnston n.d.c; Watson 1950:7-8). The FERA project at Stamper was conducted between July 1st and September 6th, 1934 (Johnston 1934a, 1934c). The excavations focused on exposing other portions of Structures 2 and 3 from the previous season and excavating parts of five other structures, two burials and some exterior midden areas. As discussed below, Johnston was primarily a paleontologist, but he was pursuing a minor in archaeology as an adjunct to his Ph.D. in paleontology at the University of Oklahoma. Johnston's excavation at Stamper in 1933 and 1934 and the preparation of a descriptive publication on Ele Baker's WPA excavations at Antelope Creek 22 type locality as a class requirement for his doctoral degree in 1939 constitute the only archaeological work conducted by Johnston during his short, but distinguished professional career. He was most noted for his contributions to Pliocene and Pleistocene paleontology. Details of these excavations have been reported by Watson (1950) and Johnston (n.d.c)

A third brief excavation at the Stamper site was conducted as an FERA project under the field direction of Fred Carder during the winter of 1934. These excavations started on December 3rd 1934 and perhaps they lasted until the end of the FERA program in May 1935 (Carder 1934; Clements 1935). Very little has been published about the four structures excavated by Carder because the records are exceedingly difficult to understand. Carder's work did expand the sample of artifacts from the site.

The Stamper site was originally given the designation of TXSt-1, indicating abbreviations for the county, landowner and a sequential site number within the owner's property. This site referential system was commonly used before the availability of accurate topographic maps as a practical means of relocating a specific site. Before the mass exodus from the high plains, rural people knew the locations of ranching neighbors and could direct scientists back to a specific section or series of sections where sites had been recorded merely by knowing the names of the landowner or ranch name. Such systems of incorporating family names are less practical after the acceleration of family mobility from rural areas and the turnover in rural population. Accordingly the "Smithsonian" trinomial designation that incorporates the state, county and sequential site number was developed during their River Basin Survey studies in the 1930-40s and is the system commonly used today in Oklahoma and most other states (Hole and Heizer 1973:177).

The sizes of Johnston's FERA crews are unknown. He complains that due to red tape and competing road projects, he does not have a full crew until July 31st (Johnston 1934b). Presumably some fluctuation in crew size occurred on a day-to-day basis. Many of the FERA photographs only show a few workers present on the Stamper site. Fred Carder (1934:2) indicates that the FERA crew for two days in December 1934 only utilized five and seven people.

Little is also known about the mechanics of administering the FERA project at Stamper. Apparently the FERA program set up a project budget administered at the University of Oklahoma, and Johnston would periodically draw "expense money" from the account by writing letters to Clements (Johnston 1934c). The field director kept records of the worker's daily hours and a receipt book for tracking expenses (Johnston n.d.a). At regular intervals these documents were sent to Dr. Clements at the University for review prior to being passed on to the FERA program in Washington D.C. Much of the burden of the day-to-day operation fell on the field directors, C. Stuart Johnston and Fred Carder to track the dispersed funds. At this point, a review of what is known about the backgrounds of Johnston and Carder are summarized before returning to the records of the Stamper site.

C. Stuart Johnston

Claud Stuart Johnston was born in Belhaven, North Carolina on the last day of 1900. He was the son of an Episcopalian minister, Reverend John T. Johnston and Maggie Mae (Latham) Johnston and spent most of his childhood near Scotland Neck in the northeastern part of the same state. His family moved to the Appalachian Mountain region of Berkeley Springs in eastern West Virginia, near the Potomac River. C. Stuart Johnston graduated from the Bath District High School in Berkeley Springs in 1918. He served in the military for two years during World War I before enrolling at The University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill where he earned both his B.S. (1924) and his M.S. (1925) in geology (Joan Pendergraph, personal communications, 2002; Johnston 1926). He emphasized structural geology and wrote his graduate thesis on "The Orientation of Mineral Particles during Rock Flowage." During his senior year, he supported himself with an assistantship in geology and also worked as a janitor on campus (Johnston 1926). One unidentified newspaper clipping among his papers at the Panhandle Plains Historical Museum claims that he paid for much of his college education by working on a banana plantation in Honduras and as a lumberjack in Canada. If true, then from these jobs, he developed a strong work ethic, a love for out-door manual labor, and a set of useful skills necessary to later run field programs.

Upon graduation, he accepted a job at the School of Mines in Wilburton, Oklahoma, where he taught chemistry and geology (Johnston 1937a). He next taught chemistry and Spanish in a junior college in McAllister, Oklahoma. Each of these teaching positions only lasted for about a year, but it provided him with the classroom experience that would serve him well later at West Texas State.

Johnston then worked three or four years as a structural geologist for the Tulsa-based Carter Oil Company in a series of boom-towns across the state, although the exact locations are unknown. It is possible that Johnston worked during part of this period in the Oklahoma panhandle, perhaps even on the several gas wells within a mile of the Stamper site. He is photographed working on a small dig at the Optima Bone Bed (Late Hemphillian age, Pliocene epoch) with Dr. Stovall in 1929, which is part of the time interval that he claims to have been working for the oil company (Johnston 1937a). Johnston and Stovall may have been independently drawn to the

Optima Faunal Locality by the publicity surrounding the 1929 University of California excavations at the locality (Schultz 1990:111). And it is either during this visit or another trip that both men made together to Optima Bone Bed in 1931 that the existence of the locally-renowned Stamper site was passed on to Stovall, who is credited with the discovery of the archaeological site located less than two miles south of the paleontological bone bed (Watson 1950). With the deepening of the economic depression, oil and gas usage slowed and Johnston was laid off from the Carter Oil Company, possibly in 1930.

Johnston then used the credentials of his advanced degree in science to secure a temporary teaching position at Classen High School in Oklahoma City. But teaching in public schools required that he take four education courses to secure his Oklahoma High School Teacher's Certificate. He completed those requirements in the summer of 1931 at the University of Oklahoma.

While attending the university for the teacher's certificate, he reconnected with Professor J. Willis Stovall and he talked his way into receiving a paleontological assistantship starting the fall of 1931. Most of his assistantship involved laboratory work preparing and assembling invertebrate and vertebrate fossils for display at the University. In the area of fossil reassembly, he showed a natural talent. With his enrollment at the University of Oklahoma in 1931, he was able to successfully negotiate with the deans and faculty a custom program leading to a doctorate degree in geology with a second degree in anthropology (Registrar Records, O.U., 2002). That same year, he courted and married Ms. Margaret Counts, who had just graduated from Classen High School and was eleven years his junior. Over the next two years he continued taking heavy course loads of geology and anthropology in Norman to complete the residency requirement while working towards the dual degree program.

As a part of his dual degree program, Johnston was encouraged to undertake some archaeological fieldwork to gain experience in that discipline. He took a series of classes from Dr. Forrest Clements, who was trained as a physical anthropologist and was head of the Anthropology Department at Oklahoma University (Albert 1984:46). The circumstances for the selection of Stamper as a trial site to dig in 1933 probably relates to his knowledge about the locality during his trips with Stovall in 1929 and 1931.

Johnston initiated fieldwork at Stamper simultaneous with Dr. Clement's excavations at the nearby Neff site 1 or 2 village (34TX4 or 34TX5) located 17 km east of Stamper (Johnston 1934a). The initial fieldwork at Stamper documented the existence of numerous prehistoric structures, deep cultural midden deposits and human remains.

As the FERA program became established, Dr. Clements applied for funds to launch a more extensive field effort. Johnston's prior experience at the Stamper site and background and training in the geological concepts of stratigraphy, mapping, and provenience positioned him well to direct the FERA funded excavations at the Stamper site. In addition, Johnston was in his early 30s by then and had considerable maturity participating in, if not running, manual labor projects. During the FERA project, he and his wife renovated the ruins of the old Stamper dugout and lived on site for the duration of the project. By all accounts, he succeeded in demonstrating his ability to direct a field program during the 1934 FERA program at Stamper.

Simultaneous to Johnston's personal achievements, events were unfolding in the Texas panhandle. Despite the existence of a depression, the Panhandle Plains Historical Society in Canyon seized the opportunity for using New Deal programs and money. The society was in the process of completing construction of their showpiece museum. During the 1934 board of director's meeting, Floyd V. Studer², Director of Archaeology and Paleontology of the Museum gave a rousing talk about the national importance of archaeological resources in the Texas panhandle and drew upon connections he had established with two prominent East Coast archaeologists, Drs. J. Alden Mason (1929) and Warren K Moorehead (1931). So inspiring was his talk, that the Board members of the Society voted to approach the Board of Regents of West Texas State Teacher's College in Canyon and petition that they establish a teaching program in Anthropology and Paleontology with an offer that the collections and new facilities of the Museum would be made available for research purposes (Hill 1955:87-90). As fate would have it, Regent John Hill had planned a trip to Washington D.C., and, while there, he conferred with Smithsonian Institution officials about the Society's goals. Hill was delightfully surprised when the Smithsonian officials praised the work of Floyd Studer and reaffirmed the existence of important resources in the Texas panhandle area.

Regent John Hill returned from Washington D.C. enthusiastic to support the creation of a paleontology and anthropology department at the college. He argued that the college would be "guilty of gross negligence if it did not cooperate with the Society in this unusual public service" (Hill 1955:89). Accordingly, a new chair position was authorized. Studer immediately launched a candidate search to fill the new position and after consultation with Dr. Stovall at the University of Oklahoma, C. Stuart Johnston was offered the position.

The teaching opportunity at West Texas State Teachers College arose so quickly, that on September 6, 1934, Johnston and his wife shut down the FERA excavations, and moved directly from the Stamper site field camp near Optima, Oklahoma to Canyon, Texas to start teaching two classes later that same month. In the process, he stopped work on his graduate program at Oklahoma. In addition to his teaching assignments at the college, Johnston had ample opportunity to work with Floyd Studer, who was familiar with the various ranchers of the panhandle. Using his knowledge of the FERA program from his Oklahoma experiences, Johnston petitioned for and received FERA funding for paleontological work on a series of Texas Pliocene age sites in 1935 and for WPA funds thereafter.

Johnston's energies were boundless in this new academic position at the college. He was a man driven for his love of work. Even though he was hired as a teacher, he became consumed in setting up and administering for the new museum facilities a series of grants pertaining to surveying new fossil localities. Much to the frustration of the university administrators, he rarely kept attendance records and often when he failed to show up for class, his students would seek him out in the museum and the lectures were structured about whatever he was doing at the time. But he also maintained that students needed large doses of field exposure, and he often took them to the field to locate new fossil sites or work on the WPA projects. Over the span of five years, he developed 12 geology and 4 anthropology courses and he witnessed his teaching load rise five-fold from less than 20 to more than 120 students per 9-week session (Anonymous n.d.).

He became a master of securing WPA funds for a wide diversity of projects. Often he petitioned local county administrators on the importance of his paleontological work and secured the local matching

funds, which he then used to gain the state support. He directed FERA and WPA paleontological surveys and extensive excavations at Lower, Middle and Upper Pliocene and Lower Pleistocene epoch sites in Donley, Hemphill, Lipscomb, Randall, Briscoe, and Crosby counties (Johnston 1937a; Morris 1972; Gustafson, 1990). In addition, he had federal grants for the laboratory preparation of fossil displays, restoration and reassembly of paleontological skeletons, and reconstruction of life-size models of Pliocene epoch mammals. Other WPA crews under his direction built numerous display cases and dioramas for the museum's collection of modern stuffed animals, scale models of reconstructed Antelope Creek villages, and even a life-sized plaster cast of Chief Sky Eagle, a Plains Indians traveling model (Hill 1955). He may have also been involved in administrating the WPA grants for the wall-sized frescoes depicting the discovery of the panhandle. And even though Floyd Studer served as the supervisor directly overseeing the WPA archaeological work of Ele and Jewell Baker at the type-sites of Antelope Creek 22, 22A, 23, 24, and Alibates 28, 28A and 30, as well as Chimney Rock Ruins in the Canadian River drainage, C. Stuart Johnston was the university's scientific sponsor for these projects (Hill 1938). He also sponsored several students that helped him with secretarial and laboratory support that were funded by the National Youth Administration program.

If these activities were not enough, he maintained voluminous correspondence with other paleontologists working through out the United States. Over a span of five years he published some 20 scientific papers in such prominent journals as the *American Midland Naturalist*, *Journal of Geology*, *Journal of Paleontology*, the *American Journal of Science*, *Scientific American* and the *Panhandle-Plains Historical Review* on the paleontological discoveries that he was making in the panhandle. To further enhance the position of the department, he authored more than 25 newspaper articles in the "March of Science" Sunday supplement section of the *Fort Worth Star Telegram*, mostly on exotic extinct animals of the region (C.S. Johnston records on file at the PPHM). And, he and his wife were even featured on radio talk shows. Indeed, his wife, Margaret, supervised the administration of the district-wide paleontological program and participated in several WPA field projects. In April 1939, Johnston was awarded a membership in the University of Oklahoma

Chapter of Sigma Xi, the honorary science fraternity (the *Prairie*, volume 20, no. 28, April 25, 1939).

Even though he stopped enrolling in graduate courses when he moved to Canyon in 1934, the West Texas State College administration pushed him into pursuing his doctoral program shortly after his first son was born in 1937. The biggest impediment to securing his dream for dual degrees in geology and anthropology was a directive by his committee to enroll in nine hours in residence at some other university with an established anthropology program and abide with the wishes of the anthropology faculty. Accordingly, he spent the summer of 1937 at Berkeley California auditing anthropology courses and, later that fall, enrolled in a correspondence course from the University of Chicago (Johnston 1937b, 1938a, Clements 1937). But these efforts were not found to be satisfactory to the O.U. deans and faculty, and he was given no credit for these studies. The next summer he attended more anthropology courses at Harvard University and earned six of the nine needed credit hours. Clearly Johnston's choices of universities to satisfy his anthropological residence requirements were based in large part on his desire to make comparative studies and confer with paleontologists working with Miocene and Pliocene aged materials in both California and Massachusetts. His impending university-imposed deadline to complete his doctoral degree by June 1938 was successfully petitioned and extended until the end of summer 1939. But the stresses of keeping family life, teaching, projects, graduate classes and dissertation going were taking a toll. As a harbinger of things to come, in 1938 he suffered a severe "stomach disorder" that apparently required medical treatment (Hill 1939). Nevertheless, by March 1939, Johnston submitted four review drafts of his dissertation on the Descriptions of Pliocene mammals of the Cita Canyon locality for his doctoral committee (Johnston 1938c).

While the O.U. dean's mandates for residence graduate courses were being addressed at Harvard, Johnston was still three credits short. Dr. Forrest Clements insisted that Johnston demonstrate his anthropological capabilities by publishing a paper in archaeology. He was granted permission to prepare a paper in archaeology for the three graduate credit hours needed in anthropology to secure his degree. Since all the Stamper site materials were in Oklahoma, Johnston turned to the WPA materials from Antelope Creek Ruin 22 on file at the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum in Canyon, and

during the fall of 1938 he prepared a descriptive manuscript with photographs, maps and sketches (Johnston n.d.b). Unfortunately Johnston failed to obtain permission from Floyd Studer to use the Antelope Creek archaeological materials. Apparently, Clements knew of the political situation in the use of the Antelope Creek materials and became increasingly impatient with Johnston's effort to produce a paper (Johnston 1938b, 1939a, 1939b). Clearly frustrated by a series of impediments that Clements tried to impose, Johnston wrote letters to Dr. Stovall indicating that his supervision of Ele Baker's WPA archaeological work, his interpretative reconstruction of a scale model of the site for the museum, and his write-up of the Antelope Creek site should surpass Dr. Clement's expectations for credentials in archaeology. Nevertheless, with the graduation deadline looming, Johnston offered to collaborate with Clements on a report of the Stamper site (Johnston 1939c).

During the summer of 1939 while his wife administered WPA-funded projects in the panhandle, Johnston took a spring leave of absence from the West Texas College and went to Oklahoma to wrap up work on whatever remaining reporting requirements were necessary to complete his degree. It is quite likely that Johnston wrote the Stamper site manuscript based entirely on information contained in his field notebooks to attempt to satisfy his archaeological publication requirement. This supposition is based on minor errors in the report and the use of hand-numbering for room references, which suggests that he had forgotten the particular details of the excavations.

Considerable mystery surrounds subsequent events of that summer. On July 8th, he mysteriously abandoned all his clothes and drove from Oklahoma to Boston with an unidentified man with only a few dollars in his pocket. There Johnston and two other unidentified people checked into a "fifty-cent a night" room in a boarding house in Boston, Massachusetts. From Gloucester, he telegraphed his wife on July 20th saying only that he would not complete his summer course (Amarillo Times, July 24, 1939). Presumably that meant that he had a falling out with Dr. Clements that jeopardized successful completion of the collaborated paper on the Stamper site before the end-of-summer degree deadline imposed by the university. During his brief time in Boston, he hung out with his close friend, Edward Maisel, a Harvard graduate student Johnston knew from the classes taken the summer before. Four days later, in the early morning

hours of July 24, 1939, Ed Maisel found Johnston comatose in his boarding house room. He was taken to the hospital where he died later that morning (Anonymous 1939). The medical examiner ruled that he died of natural causes, primarily based on the lack of "signs of external violence" (Anonymous 1939). Some newspaper accounts claim that death was related to liver failure, and administrators at the university related the affliction to the same ailment that struck him the year before. Even though the reasons for his unannounced East Coast trip are uncertain, the panhandle newspapers widely reported that he must have been doing comparative research at Harvard University to put the final touches on his dissertation.

It seems that Johnston was the kind of man who repeatedly tried to manipulate and change the established requirements at O.U., as indicated by his attempts to circumvent the graduate class residency requirements and production of a publishable anthropology paper. But when he eventually failed to get his way, he became self-destructive in the most dreadful and complete way. As an ironic twist of fate, his paper on Antelope Creek Ruin 22 was published posthumously a few months after his death; but unfortunately, that article lacks the drawings prepared for the original manuscript (Johnston 1939d, n.d.b).

C. Stuart Johnston was buried in Dreamland Cemetery south of Canyon Texas in a grave designated for the next three score and three years after his passing by only the flimsy metal plaque issued by the funeral home to temporarily mark graves. For a man with so much potential, his passing at the premature age of 38 was a tremendous loss to the region. Mrs. Johnston and her two sons remained in Canyon until the end of the World War II. In 1946, she married Roy Edmund Harris and moved the family to North Carolina.

Fred Carder

Very little information has been obtained on the identity of Fred Carder, the man hired to run the winter 1934-spring 1935 FERA excavations at Stamper. The alumni records for the University of Oklahoma indicate that Carder graduated from a high school in Cordell, Oklahoma, and immediately entered the University of Oklahoma in 1931 with a major in anthropology. This would suggest that he was quite young (probably about 21 years old when he directed the FERA program). The records also indicate that he left the University in 1934 without

having completed his undergraduate degree. From this, I surmise that perhaps family pressures and economic conditions forced him to reevaluate his career goals towards something more practical and financially more secure—especially in light of the termination of the FERA program. Clearly he did not return to O.U. following the FERA excavations at Stamper.

What is interesting about Carder's short time at the Stamper site is that he used excavation grid designations that would become standard for the later WPA projects elsewhere in the state (e.g. for each house he dug, he established a north-south base line in five foot intervals from which an east-west grid was established; the grid coordinates were designated 0-R1, 5-L3 for the units placement right or left of the base line). And in contrast to the vernacular house names used by Johnston (e.g. Large House 3, Watch House 5, Dog House 6, Hotel 7, etc.), the four isolated structures Carder dug were designated in a manner commonly used in the Illinois valley region (e.g. structures Tx^vI A through Tx^vI D; referring to structures A through D at Texas County, village site I). The formal designation of grid units and features in such a manner suggests that Carder may have received some summer archaeological training in the Illinois region during previous years, or that Forrest Clements may have been more directly involved with directing the work, if not with the oversight of the actual field work for this younger and less experienced field director. Even though Carder left a relatively voluminous field journal, the lengthy narrative profiles (rather than actual drawings) make his documents exceedingly frustrating and difficult to use. I have been unable to obtain information about whatever happened to Carder, or how he earned a living following his departure from archaeology.

Johnston's 1934 FERA Report on the Stamper Site

The FERA final report is interesting for several reasons. For the reasons stated above, I believe that the report was written during the spring of 1939, nearly five years after Johnston completed the fieldwork. It documents the location of the ruins on a high terrace below the bluffs adjacent to the floodplain, and talks about the presence of 30 inches of stratified deposits and the occurrence of storage pits penetrating to depths of 55 inches or more (Johnston n.d.c). Whereas most of the materials from top to bottom represent a single culture as indicated by

similarities in pottery, arrow points, and bone implements, the basal layers contained larger "leaf-like" points (ibid:3). Indeed, the recovery of at least two Marcos dart points and a corner-tanged knife from the site suggests the presence of an earlier component on the terrace (cf. Watson 1950:Plate 3-I-X and 3-II-M, N). Johnston recognized that some walls and floors are built in cultural deposits indicating considerable time depth.

The village seems to have little overall plan or layout, other than most of the larger rectangular structures are oriented in the general cardinal directions. Even though the number of structures are not defined, the houses generally take three forms: large rectangular, small oblong, and small, rounded structures. Most often walls are made of vertically set stone slabs set in adobe, over which are layers of horizontal stones. But in the larger houses, double rows of foundations stones are used and in other structures, the walls are made of massive adobe or adobe blocks. Johnston's discussion of plaster in a room adjoining structure 2 most likely refers to burned daub that retained thatching and roof support impressions. Johnston's report mentions that some structures are multi-room buildings, but provides only limited information about these structures.

Other architectural details include notations that the structures may have had either rooftop entrances, or tunnel-like vestibule entrances extending to the east or south of the structures. Johnston is one of the earliest to report on the occurrence of central channel features (which he calls a central pit) that runs the full east-west length of the room. Smaller (storage?) pits occur most often near the corner of the structures. Fire pits tend to be basin-shaped inside the structures, but two rooms had raised collars around the central hearths. House floors in some structures reflect multiple plastering episodes. And roofs are typically layers of beams, brush and straw covered with a layer of earth.

Five (sic) human burials and perhaps one dog burial are reported. The human remains include three infants, one child and one man found in three rooms. However, on this point, the report is in error, since five burials were recovered from Room 2 (the Big House), and other burials were found in Rooms 1 and 3. Several of the children were buried with mussel shell and shell beads, but the man was only buried in a flexed position with a stone pipe. The intact portions of the dog found near Room 3 suggest that it was an intentional burial.

Piles of animal bones provide clear indications of reliance on wild animals ranging from bison to rabbit. The reported remains of a peccary are surprising, since no other prehistoric porcine remains have been reported in any other site of the culture. Even though duck bones were recognized, fish remains were reportedly absent from the assemblage. No evidence for wild plants is mentioned. However, corn is definitely present and beans and squash are suspected to be present.

The artifact assemblage lists a dominance of cordmarked pottery, a few sherd disc spindle whorls and the presence of three (sic) pieces of black-on-white pottery (the field notes clearly indicate that four B/W sherds were found). Artifact counts are generally not provided in the report. The bone tools mentioned consist of awls in various forms, bison scapulae hoes and scarpers, bison tibia digging sticks, deer/antelope leg bone sounding rasps, and evidently a shaft wrench made from a bison spinal process. Three varieties of metates and several kinds of hammerstones and red stone elbow pipes make up the pecked and ground stone assemblage recognized by Johnston. The chipped stone tools consist of small side notched arrow points, four-edged and “heart-shaped knives, and snub-nosed scrapers. Also mentioned are disc and *Olivella* shell beads, a microline pendant, and fragments of a charred coiled basket.

An interesting aspect of Johnston’s report is that it is universally vague about specific details of the excavations, and many traits of particular buildings and quantities of artifacts found. The lack of systematic and consistent room-by-room observations underlies Johnston’s decision to structure the report’s discussion about architecture by general attribute classes (wall, floors, etc.), and only anecdotal format is rarely provided to highlight examples from specific rooms. Similarly, when Johnston felt compelled to cite an example from a specific structure, he initially left a blank in the typed manuscript then latter hand-wrote in the room numbers. Most examples cited in the report mirror comments in his 1934 field journal. The reported error in the number of trade sherds and human burial counts are notable. This is not a typical process of writing that would have been followed had the excavation details been fresh in his mind.

The biggest hindrances that plagued Johnston’s reporting efforts, as well as all subsequent researchers, including the present study, involve the lack of

rigorous and standard observations, the piecemeal presentation of measurements, and the use of a vocabulary that lacks a precision to clearly convey what was found. Some terms, such as “fire pits” were applied to architectural attributes ranging from prepared basin hearths measuring a foot or two in diameter, to the central channel of a room that spanned the entire length of the building. Despite his familiarity with the concept of site stratification, most of the architectural feature types he found were new and unfamiliar to him. Nevertheless, Johnston was concerned more with reporting the archaeological record left by the Stamper site residents than was Carder. Indeed, Carder was fixated on documenting the grid system and verbally describing depth measurements of innumerable profiles without ever telling the reader what the contact line was separating at the expense of nearly all-usable cultural signs encountered.

Johnston’s Map of the Stamper Site

Two stylistically different versions of the original Stamper site map exist, but they faithfully provide the same information. The one I regard as the original has holes for the thumb-screws used to hold the map to plane table; has an elaborately drawn border; all notations are hand-written, and the terrace escarpment is elaborated by down-slope tick marks. The later copy is simplified, and all labels are inked using a Leroy scribe pen. The spatial distances and text are identical and the two can be considered as single map. The Stamper map is dated August 1934, but it shows the site datum and has the designations of the four structures excavated by Fred Carter in the winter of 1934-35. Since Dr. Clements wrote Johnston for the map in early February 1935 when Carder was still in the field, it is likely that Carder himself modified the original map to show the designation of the features he excavated (Clements 1935).

The map shows the 1) the floodplain-higher terrace escarpment defining the north edge of the site, and two gullies, 2) the route of an historic road or trail across the higher terrace, 3) the ruins of Charles Stamper homestead and dugout (the later was used as a field camp residence by Mr. and Mrs. Johnston during the FERA project), 4) 22 other apparent structures that are presumed to be prehistoric in age, 5) the distance and bearing from the southwest corner of the Charles Stamper homestead ruins to two other ruins beyond the margin of the map, 6) the locations of extramural excavation trenches and blocks, 7) the

areas of two prehistoric refuse middens, and 8) the site datum or reference point used by Johnston and Carder. The following discussion references building/room numbers that I have assigned to the map for the sake of clarity (Figure 1 and figure key).

Twenty-one of the 22 presumed prehistoric structures were probably demarcated by alignments of masonry wall rubble on the surface of the high terrace. But one circular structure (no. 29) is marked by dashed lines that suggest that it lacked masonry walls and may have been found during the extramural excavations of "refuse area A". Three structures (Rooms 5-6, 7-10, and 14) appear to be contiguous room buildings. But field notes suggest that Room 6 was built over an earlier structure, (Room 5) and reflects room superposition. And, of the four room series, Rooms 7 through 10, it seems that Rooms 7 and 8 are contiguous whereas Rooms 9 and 10 may be contiguous. The three rooms designated no 14 represent a minimal count, since the records indicate that other exterior walls are part of the room cluster.

While at first appearances, the Stamper site seems to represent an extensive village, the records indicate that numerous stratified floors are present in some areas, and the excavations in "refuse area A" encountered six feet (2 m) of archaeological deposits. This all suggests that the community has some time-depth. Some building superimposition is evident. But part of the confusion reflected in Johnston's notes stems from the fact that he never anticipated finding buildings of different construction episodes that may have been subsequently modified and scavenged of their construction materials. It is not possible to identify how many houses in the village were in use as any one time, but it is clear that the village represents a compilation of many structures probably from different occupational episodes.

All but four (nos. 8, 10, 11, and 29) of the 22 other structures are rectangular in form. Two rooms/buildings (8 and 29) are circular, another is circular with perhaps an extended entrance, and the last is rectangular with an arch-shape south wall.

The three multi-room structures and three isolated structures in the north-central part of the community are given vernacular names and were investigated by Johnston. In addition, two separate extramural excavation areas and at least three radiating trenches are depicted near these structures and are undoubtedly

the areas examined in the summer of 1934. One of the contiguous room structures (no. 6) is called the "Big House" (Watson's House 2) and has an apparent eastward-extended entrance. It is superimposed over a smaller room (no 5), which is depicted on the map as being bi-laterally symmetrical to the Big House, but field notes suggest that this may not be correct. A second structure (no. 14) was called the "Large House" (Watson's House 3, 3A, 3B), which has one large room and two smaller rooms appended to the north edge of the east wall and the west edge of the north wall. The third structure with multiple rooms is portrayed on the site map as a single contiguous room structure consisting of four rooms aligned north-south and designated as 1) the "Watch House" (Watson's House 5), 2) an unnamed house (Watson House 5a), 3) the "Dog House" (Watson's House 6), and 4) the "Hotel" (Watson's House 7). But descriptions and detailed sketches in the notebook suggest that several distinct building episodes are represented. The isolated structures with vernacular names consist of the Structure "1", the "Little House" (Watson's no. 4), and the "Kiva".

Four structures (nos. 13, 23, 24, and 25) are designated Tx-^v1A through 1D. One (no. 13) is another large rectangular structure in the immediate area of the cluster of rooms with the vernacular names excavated by Johnston. But three others are located about 100 m to the south. These are the single room buildings examined in part or in whole by Fred Carder during the winter of 1934-35. The map does not depict any external excavations in the south architectural cluster dug by Carder, but his convoluted field notes suggest that exterior areas might have been excavated.

The Stamper Site Sketch Map

The site records at the University of Oklahoma also contain a crude sketch map of the site that is interesting in that it seems to provide unique information about terrace-top topography, possible pothole locations and extent of prior excavations. The original map is quite crude and messy but depicts 18 rectangular and 18 oval symbols, with apparent orientation lines and distance values between the corners of most rectangular symbols, and a few of the oval symbols. The sketch map is clearly not drawn to scale, since the spatial distances between symbols on the map does not accurately reflect the distance

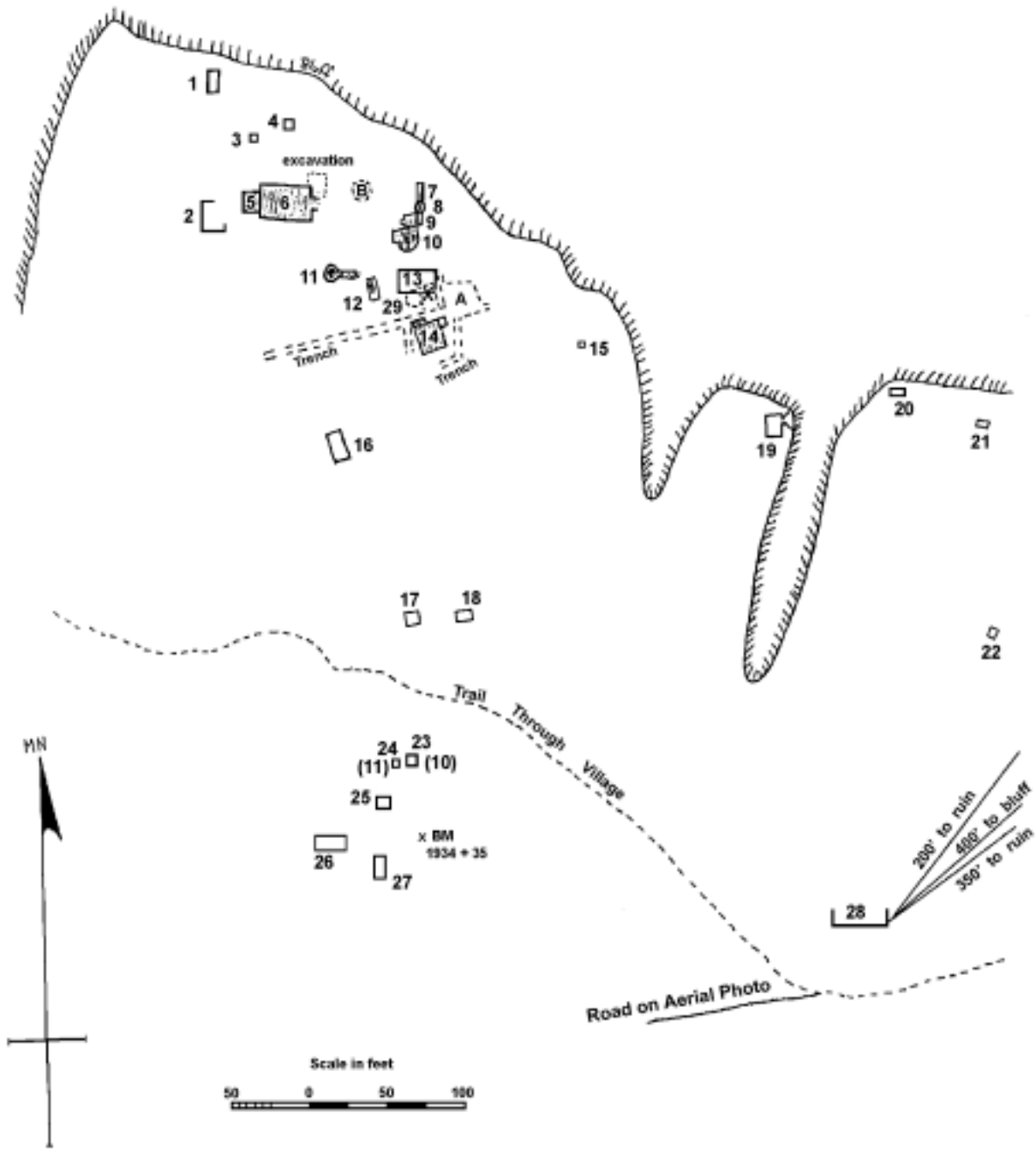


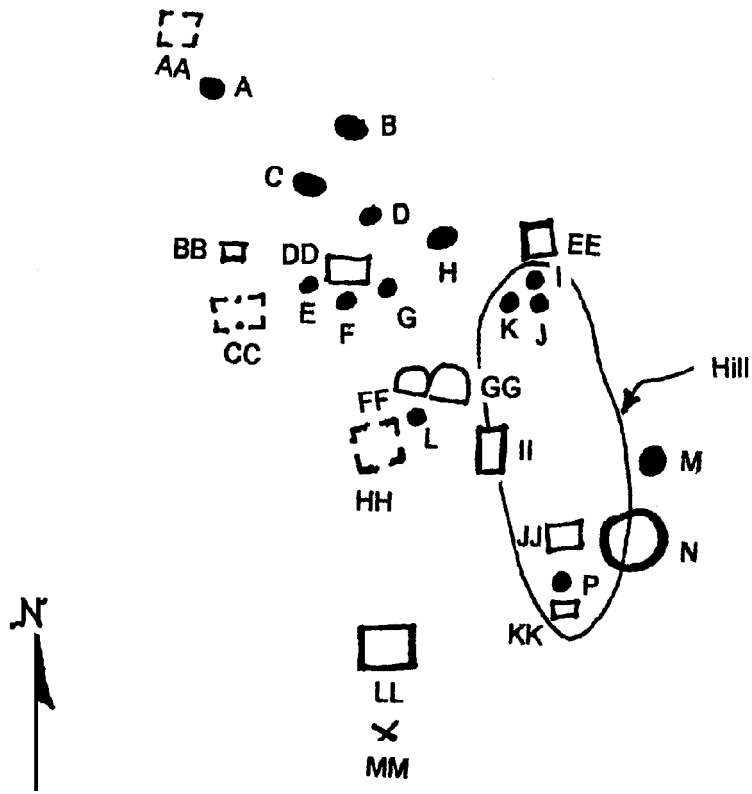
Figure 1. Map of the Slab-House Site Near Optima, Oklahoma. Surveyed by C.S. Johnston, August 1934. (Road on aerial photo added).

Stamper site (34TX1, Tx-St-I), Key to Map (Map traced from original map by Chris Lintz ca. 1977).

Reference Number	Original Map Reference	Watson's Reference
1		
2		
3		
4		
5		*2a
6	Big House 2	*2
7	Watch House 5	5
8	5a	5a
9	Dog House 6	6
10	Hotel 7 (Rm 1 & 2)	7
11	1	*1
12	Little House 4	4
13	Tx ^v IA	
14	Large House 3	*3 – 3a (NW) & 3B (NE)
15		
16		
17		
18		
19	Dugout (renovated and occupied by C.S. Johnston during excavations)	
20		
21		
22		
23	Tx ^v IB? (H-10)	
24	Tx ^v IC? (H-11)	
25	Tx ^v ID?	
26		
27		
28	Charles Stamper's old house abandoned and in ruins in 1933	
29	Kiva	
A	Refuse #1	
B	Refuse #2	
X	Stake "0"	

* indicates probable areas excavated by Johnston in 1933.

Note: Rooms designated "Tx-^vIA to TX-^vID" indicate a site or feature designation commonly used in the Illinois region. These rooms were dug by Fred Carder in the winter of 1934-35 and their designation was added to the map after February 1935.



**Not Drawn to On-Ground Scale
Symbol Size and Placement
Are True to Original Sketch Map**

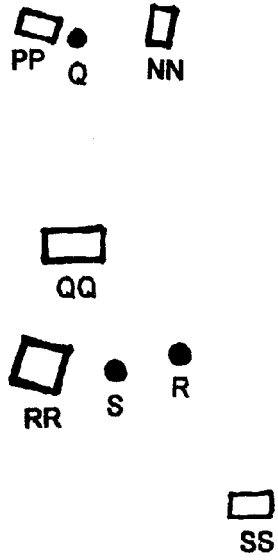


Figure 2. Sketch map of the Stamper site and table of annotations.

Stamper Site Sketch Map Notes for Figure 2

Annotations on Sketch Map				Reference Points Beginning-End Distances (in feet)	Probable Johnston/ Carder (Watson) Designations	Probable Correlations to Lintz Map Designation
Lintz Assigned Designations	Size	Comments				
Rectangular Symbols (Structures?)-- Double Alphabetic Designations						
AA	12' x 7'	indistinct house; Partly Excavated	A to se AA	2	-	1
BB	nd	indistinct house	nw CC to sw BB	4	-	3
CC	nd	indistinct house	se LL to sw CC	70	-	2
DD	33' x 23'	-	se CC to nw DD	20	Big House (2, 2a)	5 and 6
EE	15.5 x 7'	P.E. (Partially Excavated)	H to nw EE	24	Watch House 5	7 or 8
FF	7.5' x 6.5'	Exc. By Cl (Excavated by CL)	contiguous with GG	0	Cist next to 1	11
GG	9.8' x 8'	Exc. By Cl (Excavated by CL)	nw II to se GG	A?	House 1	11
HH	16' x nd	-	se LL to sw HH	27	-	-
II	6' x 6'	Exc. By Cl (Excavated by CL)	nw JJ to sw II	8	Little House 4	12
JJ	10' x 11'	P.E. (Partially Excavated)	se LL to nw JJ	34	Tx ^v 1A	13
KK	21' x 1x'	"X" House; Exc. By nd; filled	nd	nd	Large House 3	14
LL	17' x 20'	outline indistinct	X of MM to se LL	6	-	16
MM	nd	X symbol; indistinct house	e PP to X of MM	37	-	nd
NN	17' x 18'	-	Q to NN	4	-	18
PP	9' x 15'	-	se QQ to se PP	27	-	17?
QQ	19.5' x 12.5'	x -	se QQ to ne RR	10	Tx ^v 1B or Tx ^v 1D	25 or 23
RR	19.5' x 17.5'	x -	sw SS to se RR	111	-	26
SS	nd	SW Corner of Stone House	-	-	-	27
		-			Stamper house	28
Circular Symbols (Potholes?)-- Single Alphabetic Designations						
A	4'	-	nw CC to A	29	-	-
B	5' x 7'	Almost excavated	C to B	4	-	-
C	5' x 7'	P.E. (Partially Excavated)	sw CC to C	24	-	-
D	nd	Exc. Pit 3' dia.	ne DD to D	6	-	-
E	nd	-	E to DD	5	-	-
F	nd	?	nd	nd	-	-
G	nd	?	nd	nd	-	-
H	12' x 6'	Exc. Pit Partly Refilled	ne DD to H	6	-	-
I	nd	Diam 3', PE	nd	nd	-	-
J	nd	-	nd	nd	-	-
K	nd	-	nd	nd	-	-
L	nd	-	nd	nd	-	-
M	nd	"P"	ne JJ to M	20	-	-
N	20' x 2x'	Exe. By nd; filled	nd	nd	-	-
P	nd	-	nd	nd	-	-
Q	2'	-	Q to NN	4	-	-
R	5'	-	S to R	4	-	-
S	4.5'	-	se RR to S	5	-	-

values. Most rectangular and many oval symbols also have corresponding dimensions listed in feet. Only one structure is identified as “X-House” which is the designation used in 1933 by Johnston to refer to the Large House (Ruin 3). This is the only tangible evidence to suggest that the sketch map was made during the first field season before the FERA excavations. A number of annotations written at various orientations across the sketch map provides quite a bit of information, but the original map is quite difficult to read. No orientation is provided on the sketch, but, from a comparison of room distributions with the 1934 map, a north orientation can be ascribed to the sketch. Figure 2 provides the original shape of the symbols and their relative placement and size, but I have added alphabetic designations to the symbols, and grouped all dimensions, distances and notes in an adjoining table that is also correlated to Johnston’s terminology and the structure numbers that I assigned to the 1934 map. In comparing the sketch map to the 1934 site map, there is a reasonably good, but not a precise correspondence between the houses and rectangular symbols. The sketch map clearly misses the details of the Watch House-Dog House-Hotel series, but does include one structure (I call structure “II”) that does not seemingly correspond to anything on the 1934 map. Since none of the oval symbols appear on the 1934 map, I presume that most if not all of these symbols represent potholes. The annotations on the sketch map indicate that five structures are indistinctly defined probably from the occurrence of sparse scattered surface stones. The notes indicate that three or four structures were specifically excavated by “CI” (originally written in script, identity unknown). Two other structures and five oval symbols are also indicated as being excavated or partly excavated. I do not know why a few of the oval symbols are specifically mentioned as being excavated, if my presumption that all are potholes is true. Finally a large hill is indicated that encompasses the northeastern portion of the terrace top between House X/Large Structure on the south and perhaps the Watch House on the north. This hill is frequently mentioned in the field journals and is distinguishable on some site photographs.

Reconstructive Illustrations of the Stamper Site

Two interesting illustrations reconstructing the village life at the Stamper site exist that are quite similar to one another. One is a 48 by 28 inch oil color painting on masonite at the Panhandle Plains Historical

Museum in Canyon dated 1935 and signed with the CSJ initials of Johnston. The other is an undated, unsigned pen and ink drawing of the village on an 8.5 by 11 inch piece of paper on file at the Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History (SNOMNH) at O.U. in Norman. Due to the remarkable similarity in perspective, structure layout and the distribution of people, animals and objects in the two renditions it would seem that either the pen and ink drawing was a trial sketch made by Johnston and developed to elicit comments before undertaking the larger mural, or the pen and ink sketch was copied by somebody else directly from the larger mural.

The oil painting shows the elevated terrace containing some eleven structures (Figure 3). Based on the orientation of the higher bluffs, room configurations and gullies in the foreground, the picture depicts the portion of the village area dug by Johnston facing west from the vicinity of the historic dugout. The eleven structures are all shown to be rectangular buildings with multiple courses of horizontal masonry slabs and adobe mortar over a basal foundation of vertical slabs. None of the structures has adobe plaster over the masonry walls, so that the horizontal rock elements of the upper walls are exposed. Most of the structures are isolated, free-standing buildings, but two have smaller, contiguous rooms abutting them on the north, east and south sides. All structures have flat roofs, with smoke holes in the center of the structure. However, as depicted, a tremendous amount of wood would be needed to construct such buildings. None of the smoke holes shows entry ladders extending onto the roofs. Five structures have uncovered and unroofed parallel rows of masonry slabs extending from an opening in the middle of each house’s wall toward the east. These might be meant to show entrances.

In comparing the painting to the map, it appears that the three structures in the foreground of the painting have no corresponding structures on the plan site map. But most of the other eight structures portray configurations of many of the ruins dug by Johnston. The contiguous structure in the left center of the painting corresponds to the Large House (Johnston’s Structure 3), and the large building in the background corresponds to the Big House, 2. To the right of the Large House are probably structure Tx-^vIA and the contiguous room Watch House (Johnston’s no. 5/5a). Behind that row of buildings are two structures corresponding (left to right) to Johnston’s Little House and Structure 1. The structure left of the large House



Figure 3. Painting of the Stamper site by C.S. Johnston. Published with permission of the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum, Canyon, Texas.

3 is an unexcavated room depicted on the site map. The correlation of the structure right of the Big House is uncertain.

Regarding aspects of village life, Johnston shows corn growing in garden plots right next to four structures, and one patch is being tended by a woman using a scapulae hoe; a bison tibia digging stick lies near-by. The proximity of the fields to the houses seems curious, since undoubtedly considerable extramural activity areas and pedestrian trails might render such placement of individual family garden plots within the village impractical. Cultivation on the floodplain, near springs reported to be at the base of the terrace, or in fields along the base of the higher bluffs may be more practical, although no empirical evidence on where the crops occur are known. In the front of the right foreground structure are tools indicative of outside activities. These include a grinding basin, a coiled basket, and a globular pot over a hearth. Presumably the bison skull and adjacent leg bone are included to represent refuse areas and subsistence remains. The two men on the left are returning to the village with a deer carried on a pole litter; one of these men is carrying a bow and the other, a spear. Another man in the center foreground has a spear, and the

picture is rounded out by the presence of two children and two dogs.

The pen-and-ink drawing on an 8.5 by 11 inch paper essentially has the same exact village layout and replicates the perspective, people and objects in every detail (Figure 4). But the houses are depicted as being built completely different, with hipped roofs and essentially no walls. Instead, the vertical “foundation” stones serve as braces for the sloping roof poles. Stylized horizontal lines that perhaps represent thatch coverings vaguely depict the hipped roofs. Admittedly, this interpretation is quite speculative. The leaning rafters protrude from the upper part of the sloping roof in an area quite distinct from the small smoke holes.

Unlike the oil painting, the extended parallel slabs are covered with a low arched roof. An almost comical aspect of this reconstruction due to the portrayal of the structures without walls is the small contiguous rooms attached to the Large House and Watch House. These rooms appear as low domed attachments that seem to extend no more than half way up the height of the roof. The combination of no substantial walls and sloping roof rafters portray a very ineffective use of floor space near the vertical slab wall braces.

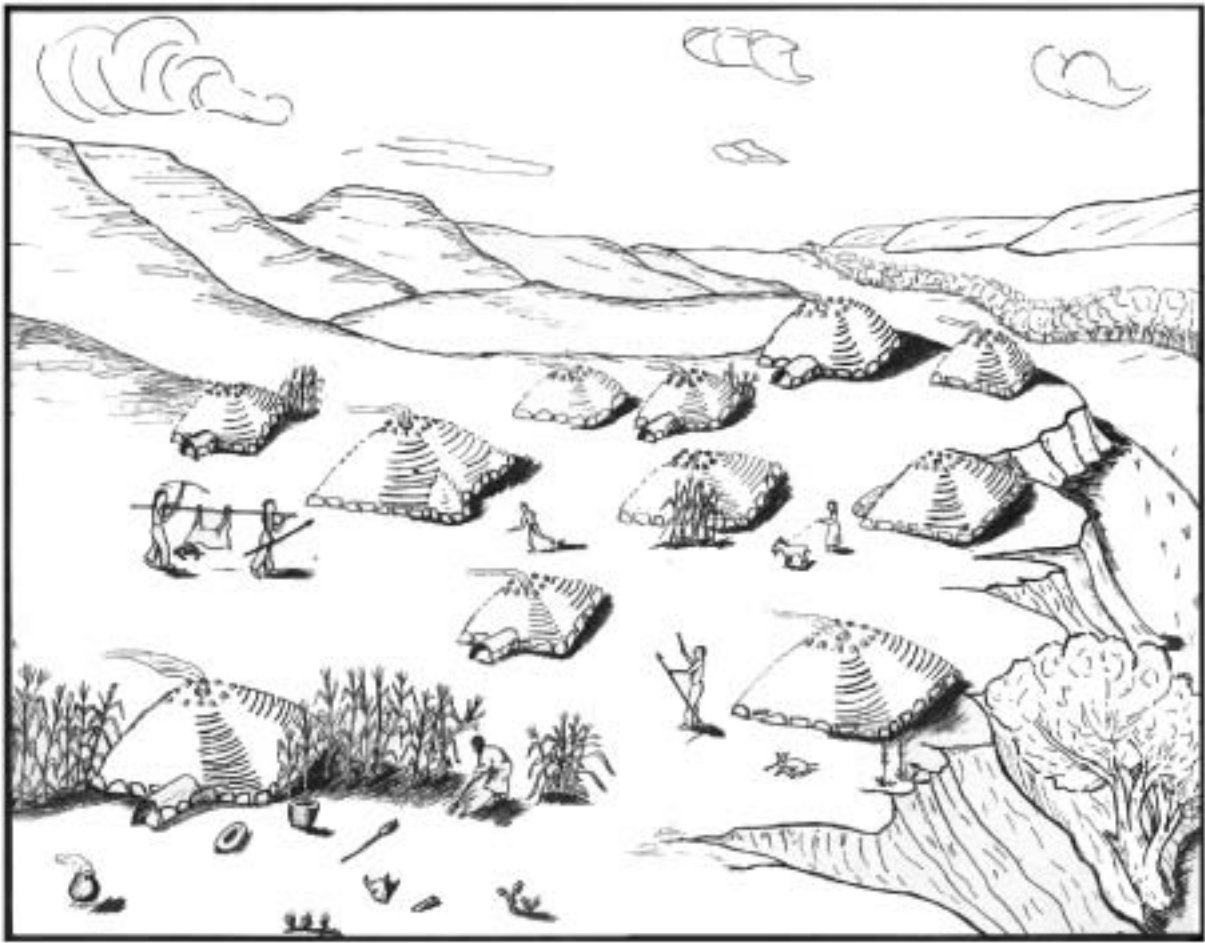


Figure 4. Pen and ink drawing of the Stamper site.

The two artistic renditions of the Stamper village convey a wealth of knowledge about village layout, architecture, subsistence practices, and material remains. Despite the efforts made to portray the village layout correctly, Johnston and/or the unknown artist have assumed that most houses were occupied contemporaneously. He/they intentionally took artistic license in showing the cornfields next to the houses and the range of other extra-mural activities as a means of conveying to the general public the rich lifestyle of Late Prehistoric people of the panhandle. The substantial difference in the roof configurations in the two drawings is fascinating. The horizontal wall masonry in the picture is a clear reflection of the wall forms encountered during the WPA projects at such sites as Antelope Creek 22 and Alibates 28, and such walls were actually reported at some of the Stamper houses. The distinctive flat roof structures in the rendition at the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum probably reflect the domineering influence that Floyd V. Studer exerted on the programs at the institution, as

reflected by the WPA model of the Antelope Creek 22 structure and the sketches of flat-roof Antelope Creek structures drawn by Studer in his personal papers and in his publications. This undoubtedly reflects influences obtained from communications between Floyd Studer and Frank Hibben at the University of New Mexico. In contrast, the thatched hipped roof portrayed in the rendition at the University of Oklahoma perhaps reflects Clement's influence based on the WPA excavations of numerous stockade post/wattle-and-daub wall structures from Plains Village and Caddoan sites in western and eastern Oklahoma. But it is intriguing that the pen and ink drawing does not depict any wall heights whatsoever. Perhaps the low walls reflect the sparcity of stone used primarily as foundations at Stamper and are in contrast to the abundance of stone rubble encountered by the WPA excavators at Antelope Creek Ruins 22.

Conclusions

This first installment on a series of reports on the Stamper site provides a historical context to the principal people and conditions of the excavation. The summary about the New Deal programs provides insights into the diversity of the archaeological programs conducted under the make-work situations of the early depression era. Dr. Forrest Clements of the University of Oklahoma used the federal program to amass quantities of artifacts from sites of an unknown prehistoric culture in the Texas panhandle and to support a program useful for evaluating the field and management skills of several students. Johnston used the program to satisfy the fieldwork requirement in a furtherance of his dream of acquiring dual degrees in archaeology and paleontology. And his success in the field positioned him well to take advantage of the research and teaching career at the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum and West Texas State Teachers College.

As a supplement to the publication of Johnston's report elsewhere in this volume, the present document critiques aspects of that document and elucidates the conditions under which it was written. Understandably then, certain errors exist in the document. Nevertheless, the structure of Johnston's report is historically important since some of it was replicated in Watson's report. And even though Watson elaborates and expands upon Johnston's report, some parts of the texts in her report are used nearly verbatim from Johnston's document.

Finally the discussion of the previously unpublished site map, the sketch map, and the two artistic reconstructions developed by Johnston round out the historical documents left by the principal fieldworker prior to 1940. These documents along with the field maps, journals, and artifacts form the basis for the contributions the Stamper site has made in the advancement of understanding Central and Southern Plains prehistory. A summary of those studies constitutes the next installment of this series of articles on the Stamper site.

Footnotes:

1. Simultaneous to the work at the Stamper site were two other FERA archaeological projects conducted in the adjacent Beaver and Cimarron counties. The Beaver County project was administered by Joseph Thoburn, historian and avocational archaeologist from

the Oklahoma Historical Society in Oklahoma City. Thoburn's FERA project primarily focused excavations on a natural sand dune south of Gates Lake, on removing some burials among rock outcrops in the far northeastern corner of the county, and at excavating within an historic corral and trenching across the adjacent contiguous room building at the Roy Smith site (34BV14) (Thoburn 1934, 1935; Lawton 1966; Schneider 1969). The second FERA project was directed by William Baker, Cimarron County Soil Agent and amateur archaeologists under the administration of Forrest Clements at one of the Kenton Caves, 34CI50, in western Cimarron County (Bell 1953; Lintz and Zabawa 1984).

2. Studer made his living as an insurance salesman, but he had a driving passion for archaeology and strong interests in paleontology and meteorites. In the course of running his insurance business, Studer befriended the ranchers along the Canadian River and throughout the 1920s he secured a series of "scientific lease rights" from the various landowners in the region. In retrospect, it is dubious that such signed leases carried any real legal authority to turn over exclusive scientific investigations to Floyd Studer, other than the landowners believed that they had granted such rights. The importance of these leases increased immensely when geologist Charles Gould identified that the Folsom points at the type-site in New Mexico were made of Alibates chert from the Texas panhandle. Following the 1927 demonstration that Folsom points were unquestionably associated with extinct bison, numerous prominent museums launched field surveys to secure their own examples of Paleo-points. But inevitably, these survey parties discovered that Studer controlled the scientific access to the Alibates quarry and other localities in the panhandle. In 1931, Studer traded these access rights to the museum for the honorary title of director of the newly created Department of Archaeology and Paleontology at the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum (Holden 1932:288).

Acknowledgements

The series of papers on the Stamper site evolved from conversations I had with Richard Drass. And I confess that the project grew much larger than anything that I had ever originally imagined. The historical journey has been an interesting adventure with unimagined turns and more than a few surprises. The preparation of these papers perhaps will

regenerate interests in conducting further studies of the Stamper site collections.

Preparation of this paper has benefited from the help of many people and it is appropriate that their help be acknowledged. I would especially like to thank Rolla Shaller and Peggy Rubenstein for helping me gain access to correspondence and records from various archives about Stamper. Thanks also go to Richard and Mary Ann Drass and Jim and Beverly Couzzourt for taking a special interest in this project and helping to run down leads. Drs. Nicholas Czaplewski and Gerald Schultz provided information about the early paleontological studies conducted by Johnston and others in the region. Other historical records were provided by Ms. Joan Pendergraph, Assistant to the Director, Alumni Records, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, for background information on Johnston's college work. Richard Drass provided many editorial recommendations to the report, which substantially improved the paper. All errors of commission or omission are the responsibility of the author.

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C.S. Johnston's FERA Report on the 1934 Excavations of the Stamper Site, 34TX1

Christopher Lintz
Geo-Marine, Inc.

The article following these comments is a previously unpublished report prepared by C.S. Johnston concerning part of the 1933 and 1934 excavations at 34TX1, the Stamper site in Texas County, Oklahoma. Johnston was a graduate student, field director from the University of Oklahoma who initiated excavations under the direction of Dr. Forrest Clements of the Anthropology Department in the summer of 1933. He also directed the first Federal Emergency Relief Administration-funded excavations at the site during the summer of 1934, with subsequent FERA-funded excavations conducted under the direction of Mr. Fred

Carder in the winter of 1934-35. I have prepared a historic context about this early work and the importance of the Stamper site that appears in this and the next few issues of the Oklahoma Archaeology Journal.

The date when Johnston wrote this report is uncertain. It is unlikely that it was written in 1934, since Johnston left directly from the Optima field camp to begin his teaching career two weeks later at West Texas State Teacher's College (Anonymous n.d.). Upon his departure from the site on September 6,

1934, he left the artifacts and field notebook with the Jansen family near Optima to be retrieved by Forrest Clements six days later who was returning to the University of Oklahoma in Norman. Since the report references sketches in his journals, and these notebooks were sent directly to Norman, it is unlikely that Johnston had access to the records necessary to prepare this report in 1934.

A more likely time frame for the creation of this document is probably within a few months before Johnston's death in July 1939. Johnston was primarily a paleontologist who was completing his doctoral degree at the University of Oklahoma with a minor in anthropology. Even though he had completed a draft dissertation on paleontological remains from the Texas panhandle in March 1939 (Johnston 1939c), his one final hurdle to achieve his degree in two fields was a requirement imposed by Dr. Clements that Johnston publish an article on an archaeological project (Stovall 1939a, Johnston 1939a). Through his affiliations with the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum, Johnston had ready access to Ele and Jewell Baker's 1938 Works Progress Administration notes and artifacts on Antelope Creek 22 and he prepared a manuscript concerning that project. However, he failed to obtain permission for the study from Mr. Floyd Studer, director of Anthropology and Paleontology at the Panhandle-Plains Museum, and a feud erupted over the use of the Antelope Creek materials (Johnston 1939b, 1939c, 1939d). Facing a University-imposed deadline to complete his doctoral studies, Johnston made four trips to Norman in the spring and summer of 1939 and offered to collaborate with Dr. Clements on a report about the Stamper site a mere month before Johnston's mysterious death (Stovall 1939b, Johnston 1939b, 1939c, 1939d). Thus, in early 1939, he had access to his field journals. The lack of specific quantification of artifacts in Johnston's report suggests that he was not analyzing the artifacts. The preparation of the report several years after the fieldwork is supported by his error in the number of B/W sherds present and the hand-insertion of room numbers throughout the report, which would have been unnecessary if the excavation results were still fresh in his mind (Watson 1950: 31). Even the title of the report, presented to the Department of Anthropology, rather than the Federal Emergency Relief Agency, suggests that the report was intended to fulfill a University-imposed requirement. Thus, I believe there is a high probability the Johnston report represents an early draft of the paper Johnston started to prepare to complete his

degree requirement in early 1939 and is not a document required by the FERA to satisfy their public funding requirements in 1934-35.

The copy of the original document that I used was obtained from the Panhandle-Plains Historical Museum in Canyon. It is typewritten with 1.5 line spacing and hand-made editorial comments in pencil, but the document lacks accompanying figures. All hand-written additions (not corrections) appearing in the original report are italicized in the following report. I have also added one figure on site stratigraphy interpreted from the narrative description, but other figures referenced in the manuscript refer to sketches in Johnston's lost field journal (Notebook I for 1934). Consequently it is not possible to supply the drawing for the other figures in the report. In the original Johnston manuscript, abbreviations for inches (") and feet (') are often used with numerals, but not when the numbers are spelled out. But, in the transcription of the present document I have chosen to spell out distance abbreviations. Similarly, the original report sometimes used fractions ($1/2$, $3/4$, etc.), but I have converted these to decimal numerals. Johnston's map of the Stamper site has never been published in its entirety and is not referenced in Johnston's manuscript. I have included in parentheses to Johnson's manuscript the structure numbers I have assigned on the Stamper map in the accompanying article on the historical context of the Stamper site. Finally, the pagination breaks of the original manuscript are noted in the body of the text in bold letters. Any errors in transcription are mine alone.

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1939b Letter to C. S. Johnston dated 3/3/39 on file at Panhandle Plains Historical Museum, Canyon.

Watson Virginia

1950 Optima Focus of the Panhandle Aspect: Description and Analysis. **Bulletin of the Texas Archaeological and Paleontological Society** 21: 7-68.

(P. 1, top)

Report to the Anthropology Department of The University of Oklahoma Concerning the Field Work Carried on in the Slab-House Site on the Stamper Ranch, South of Optima, Oklahoma in the Summer of 1934

by

C. Stuart Johnston

Introduction

Work was begun on this location in the summer of 1933 under the direction of Dr. Forrest E. Clements, Professor of Anthropology in the University of Oklahoma. The results of the investigation led to a more extensive expedition in the summer of 1934, which was sponsored by the University of Oklahoma, and organized by Dr. Clements in cooperation with the F.E.R.A. authorities. The work was carried on as a project of the Federal Government. The tools and equipment, however, were furnished by the University; and C. Stuart Johnston, a graduate student in the Anthropology Department, was in direct charge of the work.

Topography

The village is situated on a low bluff below the surrounding level of the High Plains, which is about fifteen feet above the level of the flood plain of the North Canadian River. At the foot of the bluff are numerous springs that flow constantly even in dry weather. The river flood plain is abundantly supplied

with moisture which insures a plentiful supply of grass, thus being an attraction for animals such as bison, antelope etc. The village location overlooks a wide expanse of the valley, thus **(P. 2, top)** making it possible for game or enemy to be seen from a distance. Indeed, with such a setting as this, there was little else to be desired.

Stratification

Definite levels of stratification were encountered on the north and east sides of Ruin 3 (#14 on map) although there appeared to be no difference in the culture from bottom to top, the same kinds of pottery, arrowpoints, and bone implements being found throughout.

From 0 to 15 inches down the surface soil was encountered (Figure 1). It is gray in color and apparently composed mostly of wind-blown material. Artifacts are very rare and are usually missing entirely from this layer, though bone fragments are frequently encountered. There is a thin layer of charcoal and ash

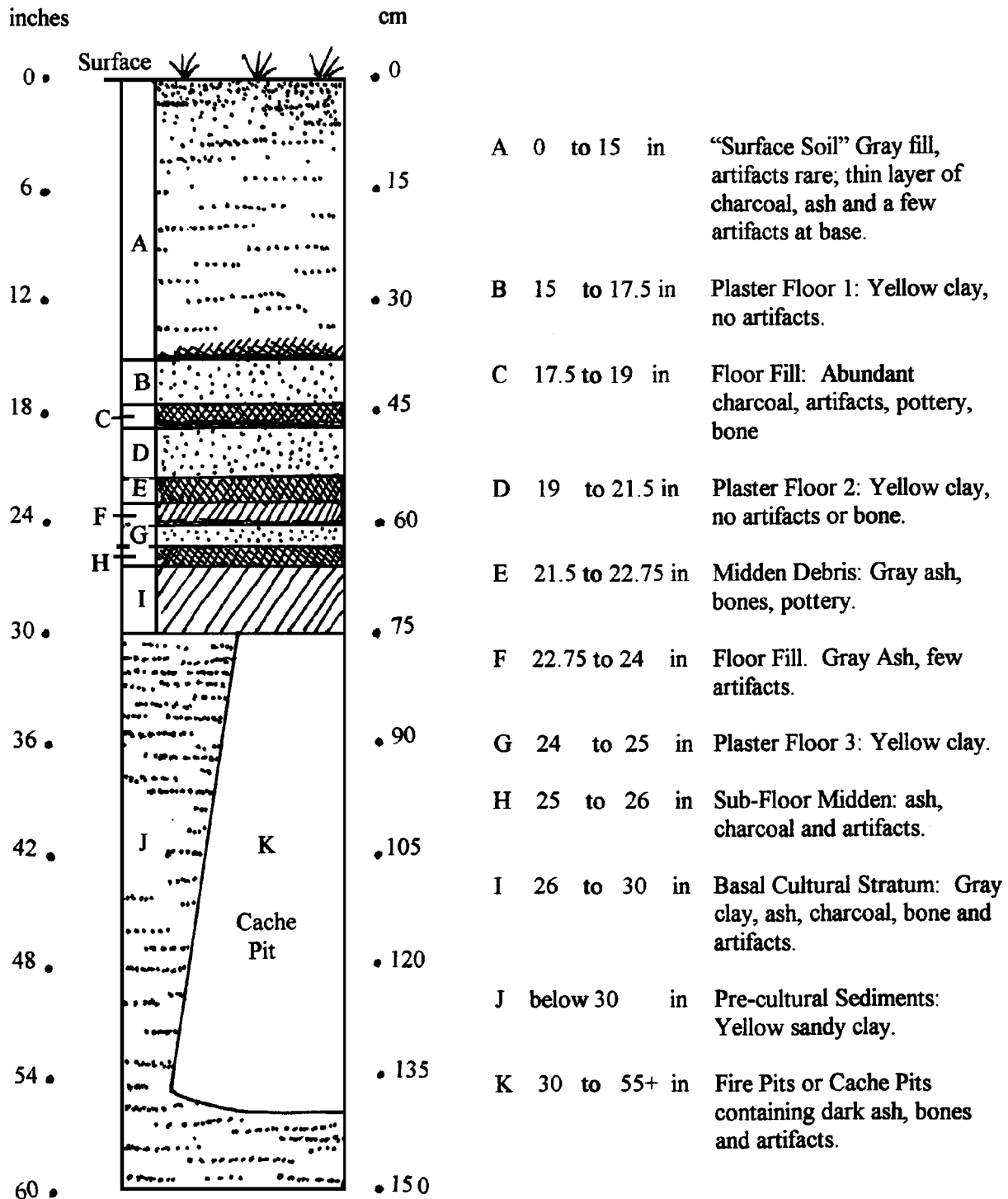


Figure 1: Soil profile from Johnston's notes.

at the base and a few artifacts, such as fragments of pottery, arrowpoints, scrapers, etc.

From 15 to 17.5 inches there is a tough layer of yellow clay containing no artifacts.

From 17.5 to 19 inches there is much charcoal, bone pottery and artifacts. The color is gray. This layer appears to conform in relative position to the first floor level of Ruin 3.

From 19 to 21.5 inches *there* is a second layer of yellow clay containing no charcoal, bone or artifacts.

From 21.5 to 22.75 inches *there* is a layer of gray ash and dirt with bone and artifacts. In this layer on the east side of Ruin 3, two pieces of black on white pottery were found. In this layer on the east side of Ruin 3 corresponds to the second floor level of Ruin 3.

From 22.75 to 24 inches contains gray dirt and ash, but less ash than the preceding layer containing artifacts.

From 24 to 25 inches there is a thin layer of yellow clay.

From 25 to 26 inches there is a layer of ash, charcoal and artifacts.

(P. 3, top)

From 26 to 30 inches is gray clay with ash and charcoal. It contains bone fragments throughout and scattered artifacts.

Below the depth of 30 inches the soil is yellow, sandy, clay devoid of ash, charcoal and artifacts, except in restricted localities where it may be penetrated by fire-pits or caches to a depth of as much as 55 inches or more.

Throughout this section the culture elements are the same and there is no noticeable variation in either the pottery or the arrow points. However, two rather unusual points were found near the bottom of the section, which were larger, and more leaf-like in shape (bottom, p 34, book 1¹).

This section is limited on the east by a refuse pile and an adjacent gully; its southern limit is not clearly defined. It appears to extend to the west about as far

as the west wall of Ruin 3, and its northern extension is not yet worked out.

The floor levels in Ruin 3 compared to the stratification outside of the ruin, and the walls of this ruin are so constructed that the stone slabs penetrate the stratified layers with part of the wall resting on the stratification as shown in the Figure at the top of page 26, Book 1¹.

House Types

The houses are of several types and not grouped together, but built separately. They may be rectangular with sides almost equal in length, or more or less oblong. The corners may be square or rounded. In association with these houses, and seemingly a part of the same structure, there is usually found a small circular room, probably a store room, though a burial was found in the floor of one of them *during the first season's work in 1933*. These rooms are usually about six feet in diameter and constructed against either the west, south or east wall of the main building. They have not been **(P. 4, top)** found on the north side of any building.

Some of the houses are large enough to have been inhabited by several families, while many were hardly large enough to accommodate more than one family.

None of the buildings appear to have been of a semi-subterranean type and the floor level in all cases could not have been far below the general outside level.

There is a rectangular room adjoining (*Ruin 2* [handwritten] #6 on the map) on the west, but no visible connection between the two rooms.

Holes for support posts, of course, are not found in the smaller buildings, but in the larger building they are numerous and arranged in rows for the support of the roof beams upon which there was a thatch of brush, straw and earth.

The houses, or rooms are of three kinds, large rectangular, small oblong, and small round. None are irregular in outline, and none have been found that could with certainty be called a kiva.

Walls

The walls of the buildings are of three main types. *First* they are made of a single row of vertically placed slabs set in a shallow trench. The space

between the slabs is filled with adobe or rubble. The height of the wall is attained by placing horizontally small slabs in a matrix of adobe. The large, flat slabs that constitute the foundation of the wall may be only 5 inches thick. The wall, however, which is considerably thicker than this, usually from 10 to 15 inches is given this added thickness by the addition of adobe to the outside near the base where the large slabs are placed and above these slabs the small horizontal slabs account for the normal thickness. A variation of this type was found in Ruin no. 2, (# 6 on map) which is the largest in the village, (P. 5, top) and since stronger and more substantial walls were needed we find the problem was met with a double row of vertically placed slabs at the base with a filling of rubble.

As the second type we encounter in the west end of Ruin 2 (#6 on map) and the adjacent room on the west, walls which are made of massive adobe. Adobe blocks are not in evidence, and the wall seems to be built up simply of adobe mud without the use of stone slabs.

As a third type there was found at the northwest corner of Ruin 3 (#14 on map) a small rectangular room, which from stratigraphic evidence seemed to be older than the ruin. The walls here were made of rectangular adobe blocks about 8"x10"x12". They were of a light yellow color and set in an adobe matrix of dark gray mud. This type of wall was also uncovered at the northeast corner of this ruin where it formed a small circular room. In this case, at least the adobe wall is older than the adjacent slab wall.

Plaster

In the case of the room adjoining Room 2 (#6 on map) on the west, we encountered plastered walls. The plaster appears to have been mixed with straw. It is from 0.25 to 0.5 inch in thickness, and was put in place by the hand being used as a trowel as is indicated by the surface markings. The plaster is of a light gray color on the surface but almost black below this as though made of dark mud high in carbon content. The unusual degree of hardness of this plaster may be due to heat caused by what seems to have been the burning of the building.

Entrances

Since erosion had reduced these ruins in most cases down to the foundations it is impossible to determine

the actual height of the entrances. In no case does it appear to have been (P. 6, top) more than one to a room, and where two rooms adjoin there appears to have been no connecting doorway between them. The small circular rooms are without evidences of a side entrance, which, however, may have been accomplished by means of a ladder through the roof. The large Ruin 3 (#14 on map) shows no place in either of its four walls where an entrance might have been located. Ruins 1 (#11 on map), 2 (#6 on map), & 6 (#9 on map) show a narrow gap in the wall, leading up to which, are two rows of slabs, which form a sort of vestibule. The latter may have been covered, making a sort of tunnel-like passageway to a low entrance. The floors of the rooms seem to have been on the same level as the outside. The type of entrance thus described is found on the east and south sides of the buildings but thus far none are known on the north and west sides, which is not surprising since the prevailing winds and storms would have come generally from the west and north.

Whether or not the entrance was achieved through a smoke hole in the roof can only be a matter of conjecture. It is more than likely that a smoke hole existed in the roof near the center as it is near the centers of the rooms that the largest fireplaces are found and the smoke hole may have been utilized as a mode of entrance, but this is only inference without substantiating evidence.

Roofing

The fact that several of the rooms were burned has resulted in evidence as to the nature of their roofing. In Ruin No. 3 (#14 on map), a great deal of charcoal was encountered and one rather large log about 6 inches in diameter in a charred condition was found. Also post holes averaging about 8 inches in diameter and containing fragments of decayed wood prove that the roof was supported by vertically placed posts. In other words, the problem of spanning (P. 7, top) space was solved by a crude sort of column and beam method. Over this was placed brush and straw and on this a layer of earth. The latter is evinced by the fact that large pieces of burned earth are frequently encountered in the ruins in which are the detailed impressions of twigs and grass leaves.

Arrangements of Houses

There appears to be no definite arrangement of houses in any particular village plan. While they are grouped

together into a village, there is nothing in the arrangement that would suggest the "unit type" of Pueblo construction. However, as before mentioned, we may find one large room with one or more smaller adjoining rooms. In general, the houses seem to have been located wherever convenience suited the purpose of the builder. It may be said also that of the ruins excavated the longer axes of these buildings is either in an east-west or a north-south direction, and not at various angles to these directions.

Fireplaces.

Although some fire pits were found outside of and near the houses, by far the greatest number were found in the houses. They varied in size from about a foot or less in diameter to as much as three feet. In nearly all cases they are characterized by their shallow basin-like shape, being only about four to eight inches in depth. They appear to have been scooped out of the general floor level, and the rim of the depression is, with two exceptions, almost flush with the floor level. The exceptions are found in Ruin no. 2 (#6 on map) and the adjacent Room no. 2a (#5 on map). Here there is a slight ridge several inches in heights surrounding the pit.

(P. 8, top)

The largest pits are about in the centers of the buildings, and other smaller ones are more or less scattered at random over the floor, but most often found near the corners of the rooms.

The pit in room no ____ (no room number in original²) differs from the others in that it runs the full east-west length of the room, is rather deep, appears to have been plastered, and its rims are raised above the floor level.

The fire pits are in no cases lined or faced with rock.

Floors

The floors in general are characterized by being made of a rather hard layer of yellow sandy clay. They are relatively level and smooth and usually more or less covered with a thin layer of ash and scattered flint chips, bone fragments, artifacts, etc. The materials of which the floors are made appear to have been brought in and perhaps plastered on in a wet or moist condition. One floor level might be separated from the one below or above it by a vertical distance of an inch or less to as much as five to six inches, or more; with

the intervening space occupied by soil, ash and charcoal. Different chronological periods of habitation are thus represented without an apparent change in culture. The different floor levels correlate, as before mentioned, with corresponding levels outside the house.

Village Life

Judging from the abundance of artifacts outside of and near the houses as compared to their comparative rarity in the houses, it would seem that most of the life and activity of the villagers was carried out on the outside, and that the houses were utilized mainly as shelter or sleeping quarters.

(P. 9, top).

Agriculture

The evidence of agriculture is limited to corn. Charred grains were found abundantly in several fire pits, also numerous cobs were encountered, one of which still had the grain still adhering to it. Charred corn stalks were also uncovered in the central fire pit of Ruin no. 3 (#14 on map). Nothing that would suggest squashes, beans, and other related products have been discovered, though their presence in the agricultural pattern may be assumed with some degree of probability.

Hunting

Second to agriculture, if not of equal importance, as a means of subsistence was hunting. In this the animal of outstanding importance was the bison. From the bones found in the refuse piles, scattered outside the houses, and even over the floors, a fairly good idea of the ethnozoology of the village can be determined. From these remains a list of animals which contributed to the food supply in order of relative abundance is as follows: Bison, antelope, deer, jack rabbit, cotton tail rabbit, turtle, ground hog, prairie dog, duck, peccary and other small game of lesser importance. No fish remains, however, are found.

Domestic Animals

The only evidence of domestic animals is confined to the remains of the dog. These were found in two places near Ruin 3 (#14 on map). In one instance the majority of the skeleton was found intact, suggesting that the animal had died of natural death and was buried, and not killed and eaten, in which case the

bones would have been scattered. Indeed, there is no evidence to indicate that the dog formed part of the diet. **(P. 10, top)**. These dog bones may, on closer examination, prove to be those of the coyote.

Burials

The burials have not been numerous. However, they have included those of three infants, a child about twelve and a man of mature age. They were all found inside the houses, just below the floor. The man, the child, and an infant were found in Ruin no. 2 (#6 on map), an infant in Ruin no. 1 (#11 on map), and an infant in Ruin no. 5 (#7 on map).

The man was buried in a flexed position facing the west; aside from an elbow pipe, no artifacts were discovered with him. The artifacts included in the child's burial consisted of a string of shell beads around the right wrist, and two muscle (sic) shells clasp in the left hand. The infant burial in the south end of Room no. 5 contains a number of muscle (sic) shells but no artifacts. Predatory animals had apparently disturbed the grave, and many of the bones were missing, and the remains scattered.

Ceremonials

Due to the nature of the archaeological evidence, it is not to be expected that ruins of this type would yield much in regards to ceremonial customs. In the summer of 1933, however, there was found in Room no 3 (#14 on map), at the bottom of a post hole which had probably held some of the column supporting the roof, part of a bison skull. This had evidently been placed there as a result of certain ceremonial observances.

Pottery

The pottery is all of the characteristic chord-marked (sic) type. **(P. 11, top)**. The bowls appear to have always been globular in shape and such variation in design as existed was confined to the rim. There seems to have been a large number of different types of pot rims considering the fact that there was so little variation elsewhere. The most characteristic rim was relatively low, thin and outward-curving. Secondary ornamentation is found on one specimen in the shape of a modeled design in low relief. After this was added to the rim, the pot was given its characteristic chord (sic) marking, as is indicated by the fact that the marking covers part of the modeled design.

Three (sic³) pieces of black-on-white pottery were found, two of which were considerably below the surface.

No whole pots have been found, and nothing suggestive of an effigy.

Several circular discs made of pottery with holes in *their* centers were collected. These may or may not have been spindle whorls.

Bone Implements

The most numerous bone implements are awls, which vary considerably in size and degree of sharpness. The most characteristic awl is long, slender, sharp-pointed, and made from the leg bone of an antelope. Scrapers, or perhaps hoes, are quite common and made from the scapulae of bison, and deer or antelope. Digging sticks are abundant, and in all cases, they are made from the lower leg bone of the bison, sharpened at the distal end to a chisel-like edge, and drilled in the proximal end to receive the wooden handle, which was about an inch in diameter. Sounding rasps are made from the leg bone of a deer or antelope by cutting *on them* a series of transverse notches. Made from a neural spine of a bison vertebrae a peculiar implement **(P. 12, top)** was found. In the narrower end there was cut a hole, as if for a cord, and the larger end was hollowed out, seemingly to hold some type of tool, perhaps a knife; on the other hand, this may have been a bone handle *designed for a fan*.

Metates

Metates are of two types: circular and elliptical on the grinding surface; with several suggestions in the way of smaller stones and fragments of metates that there was a third type similar to the Pueblo metate in which the motion of grinding was back and forth and not in a circular or an ellipse. No mortars and pestles were found.

Hammer stones

No stone axes, or hammers to which handles could be fastened around a groove were encountered. However, hammer stones of various sizes are numerous in the collection, and appear to have been held in the hand of the worker, and not hafted. No polished stone implements of any kind were found.

Arrow Points

With the two exceptions already mentioned, arrow points are characteristically small, v-shaped in outline, with notches coming in from the sides at right angles to the long axis of the point. The proximal end of the point is cut down to a slightly concave outline, and the sides are straight. The point is thin and very neatly worked. Variation from this one type is so slight as to be almost negligible.

Knives

The characteristic knife of this culture of which many fragments and a number of complete specimens were found is the so-called four-edge knife, roughly diamond shaped in outline with beveled sides, suggestive of an aeroplane propeller. They (**P. 13, top**) are usually about five or six inches in length, and show a rather high degree of workmanship.

One rather peculiar knife was added to the list of implements, which differed entirely from the type described above. It is about eight inches in length by two inches wide with almost parallel sides and rounded ends. It has a sharp cutting edge completely around it, and shown none of the beveling or shape characteristic of the four-edge knife. It represents an unusually high degree of stone workmanship.

Finally, may be mentioned a third type of knife, which is rather large and heart-shaped; only one specimen was found of this type, and one corner of this was missing; nevertheless, it differs entirely from those described in the preceding (sic) paragraphs. The workmanship in this implement is below the general standard observed in the other artifacts.

Scrapers

Stone scrapers are all rather small and are of the "snub-nose" type, and range in length from one to several inches. They are neatly made from long flakes of red flint.

A number of scrapers made from muscle (sic) shells were also collected.

Pipes

Pipes are not abundant, but one complete specimen and several fragments have been found. All of them

are of the elbow type, and one almost complete specimen is made of red catlinite.

Beads

Beads, while not abundant, are found throughout the village. They may be so small as to be only several millimeters in (**P. 14, top**) diameter to others that are considerably larger. *Olivella* shells were also used as beads. During the summer of 1933 there was found in Ruin no 3 (#14 on map), a small polished fragment of microline, which closely resembled turquoise.

Basketry

Several fragments of charred, coiled basketry were found in Ruin no. 3 (#14 on map) and north of this ruin pieces of cordage were recovered.

Conclusions

In conclusion, it may be said that the people of this village were sedentary and agricultural, and that their subsistence was also augmented by hunting. Their houses were constructed of stone and adobe and were well made. They were expert workers in flint, and their pottery, while not highly decorated in design, was not of an inferior type, and served a utilitarian purpose. Cooking was *probably* accomplished to a large measure by stone boiling.

The culture contains elements of both pueblo and plains origins, but it seems to stand in closest relationship to the Pueblo area, of which it is probably a marginal part. None of the elements found in the culture pattern are of post-Columbian origin. This means that the ruins are at least 400 years old and in all probably 800 years would be a conservative estimate.

Footnotes by editor

1. The figure cannot be provided, since the notebook containing the drawing is lost.
2. The description of the pit clearly refers to the depressed central floor channel that extends from the east to west walls across the middle third of the structure. Johnston (typed field journal 1 [pp 4, 11] for 1934) refers to two such features. One is in the room adjoining room (sic, superimposed) west of Room 2 (Big House) and the second is in the second floor of Room 3.

3. Field notes indicate that four Black-on-white sherds were found. (see Field Notes, Optima, Oklahoma Archaeology – Book I, CS Johnston – July 1, 1934, August 30, 1934, P 10 [typed version]; and discussions on page 31 of Watson, Virginia, 1950, The Optima Focus of the Panhandle Aspect: Description and Analysis. Bulletin of the Texas Archaeological and Paleontological Society 21:7-68.)



Abstracts from the Literature

Cifelli, Richard L., Kent S. Smith, and Frederick von Hofe Grady

2003 Dire wolf (*Canis dirus*) in the Pleistocene of Oklahoma. **Oklahoma Geology Notes** 62(3): 92-96.

Abstract - The only known occurrence of the dire wolf, *Canis dirus*, from the Pleistocene of Oklahoma was collected early in the twentieth century in the town of Marlow (Stephens County). The specimen is exceptional in its completeness, including a virtually complete skull and jaws, together with much of the postcranial skeleton; thus it ranks among the best-represented individuals of the species. Geological context cannot be established with the existing data, though preservation, articulation, and relative position of the skeletal elements suggest the hypothesis that the individual represented by this specimen may have died in a den. The specimen belongs to a mature (probably aged) individual and may be referable to *C. dirus dirus*, the subspecies that is known from late Pleistocene deposits throughout the United States east of the Rocky Mountains. However, the Oklahoma specimen is unusual in several respects: it is among the largest individuals of the species in some aspects of the jaw and dentition, yet its limb elements are rather short compared to other individuals of *C. dirus dirus*. Despite relatively good representation of *Canis dirus* in a narrow interval (Late Pleistocene - early Holocene) of the fossil record, this specimen is one of only a few known from the Great Plains. The significance (if any) of its unusual morphology cannot be evaluated with available data, but it is conceivable that it reflects hitherto unappreciated zoogeographic differentiation of the dire wolf in the Pleistocene of North America.

Pinson, Ariane

2002 Brazoria Woman, A Paleoindian skeleton from Texas. **The Quaternary Times** (Newsletter of the American Quaternary Association) 32(2):6-15.

Abstract: Brazoria Woman (BZT-1) was discovered during levee construction in April of 1999 in the San Bernard Wildlife Refuge, 70 miles southwest of Houston. An AMS date of 10,740 +/- 760 rcy BP (AA-45910) has been assayed on bone from the skeleton, which was buried within a soil that appears to relate to the Younger Dryas climate interval of 10,800-10,200 rcy BP. The bones are those of an adult woman who was 20-30 years of age at the time of her death. Immunoelectrophoresis of the soil surrounding the skeleton demonstrates that decomposition of the flesh occurred *in situ*. Carbon isotope analysis of her bone collagen indicates that Brazoria Woman spent most of her life under the canopy of a tropical rain forest. Her home must have been far to the south along the Gulf Coast, possibly as far away as the Yucatan. The setting is one of coastal lowland marshes cut by channels and sloughs. Brazoria Woman was found vertically oriented, encased in gumbo sediments adjacent to the bank of an Early Holocene slough. It is inferred that she slipped down the slough bank into quick mud, and unable to extricate herself, sank below the surface of the mud.



Rock Art

Seth Hawkins



Flick Pot from 34RM19, Allee Site

Richard R. Drass
Oklahoma Archeological Survey

In 1966 John Flick and Jane Bowen found pieces of a complete pot on a site along Big Kiowa Creek in Roger Mills County. The site had been deep plowed exposing pits, hearths and lots of artifacts. The pieces of the pot came from one location, probably a pit turned over by the deep plowing. Almost all of the pot was recovered, and John and Jane refitted the pieces to return the pot to its original form. Very few complete vessels are known for western Oklahoma; thus, this pot provides an example of the size and shape of one vessel. The site is a Late Prehistoric village, probably occupied during the Turkey Creek phase, A.D. 1250-1450. Numerous arrow points, knives, scrapers, drills, etc. have been found at the site. Below is a description of the vessel collected in 1966.

Pottery Type: Quartermaster Decorated.

Vessel Description: This is a roughly complete globular jar with a rounded base and constricted neck. The rim is direct to very slightly everted rising 3.5 to 4.1 cm above the rounded shoulder. The lip is rounded to slightly flattened and exhibits some slight polish, probably the result of modern storage on the pot rim but it could also indicate some use wear. The exterior is well smoothed with no indication of cordmarks. The interior is also smoothed although somewhat rougher than the exterior. The interior shoulder area is very rough in places with depressions, probably from finger pressure during construction of the shoulder and rim. The interior of the rim is well smoothed. Appliqué nodes are present along the shoulder of the pot and paired lip tabs extend above strap handles. The pot has four strap handles each having four pointed appliqué nodes extending vertically in the middle of each handle. The handles divide the pot into quarters and each quarter has three pointed nodes centered on the shoulder between two handles (nodes begin 4 to 5.5 cm from each handle). The paste is fine and compact. The pot is widest just below the shoulders and tapers gradually to the rounded base. The shoulders are abrupt and constrict rapidly to the rim. There are some small fire clouds on the pots exterior, probably from initial firing of the pot. There is no sooting visible on the pots exterior or interior.

Measurements:

Rim: 3.5-4.1 cm high. Thickness is 4.6 to 5.3 mm.

Lip: Thickness is 3.4 to 4.3 mm.

Base: Thickness is 5.0-6.9 mm.

Body: Exterior height to top of rim is 27 cm and interior height to rim top is 26 cm (excludes lip tabs).

Exterior height to base of rim (neck) is 22.5 cm and interior height is 21.5 cm.

Body Thickness: 3.5-5.1 mm (shoulders generally the thickest), body averages 4.2 mm.

Neck Diameter: Interior is 16.5 to 17.0 cm wide and exterior is 17.5 to 18.5 cm.

Orifice Diameter: Interior is 17.5 to 18.0 cm and exterior is 18.0 to 18.5 cm.

Maximum Body Diameter: Exterior is 26.5 cm wide at 19.5 to 20 cm above the exterior base. Interior is 25 cm wide at 18.5 to 19 cm from the interior base.

The vessel tapers gradually to a rounded base. The interior diameter is still 22-23 cm at about 10 cm above the interior base and at 5 cm above the base it is 16-18 cm in diameter. The bottom of the pot is roughly 10 cm in diameter on the interior.

Decorations: Appliqué nodes are present along the shoulder of the pot. The pot has four strap handles each having four pointed appliqué nodes extending vertically in the middle of each handle. The handles divide the pot into equal quarters (handles are 14-15 cm from each other) and each quarter has three pointed nodes centered on the shoulder between two handles (nodes begin 4 to 5.5 cm from each handle). There are two lip tabs (paired) extending vertically (7.4 – 9.0 mm) from the lip above each handle (8 total lip tabs). Although they are well-smoothed, these tabs were added to the pot and not drawn up from the rim. There is poor smoothing on one tab and the joint with the rim is apparent.

Temper: The pot had been reconstructed when examined, but a few relatively fresh breaks were apparent. Visible in these breaks is a temper consisting of small (0.5-0.9 mm) crushed stone and

small (0.4-0.7 mm), chunky pieces of shell. This is the fossiliferous shale temper described for Quartermaster type vessels (Flynn 1984). This shale contains fossil shell that breaks into blocky pieces rather than the plates that occur when fresh shell is burned and crushed. The temper is abundant with many very small pieces of shell visible along with small pieces of crushed stone. I would estimate about 20% temper.

Color:

Exterior: 7.5YR5/4 to 4/4 to 10YR5/4 = Brown to dark brown to yellowish brown.

Interior: 7.5YR5/4 to 4/4 to 10YR5/4 = Brown to dark brown to yellowish brown.

Core: 7.5YR4/0 to 3/0 = Dark gray to very dark gray.

Comments: The pot closely resembles examples from the McLemore site (34WA5) and pieces of pots found at Heerwald (34CU27), Zimms (34Rm72), and many other sites in western Oklahoma. One complete pot from McLemore (Pillaert 1963:Plate XVII:1) is virtually identical to the 34RM19 pot. The McLemore pot differs only in the presence of five nodes on the shoulder between the handles rather than the three nodes on the 34RM19 pot, and perhaps the absence of

nodes on the McLemore pot handles. Pillaert (1963:29) also describes rim fragments from several other McLemore pots that have the same decorations including handles with nodes plus lip tabs. The McLemore pottery is labeled as "Decorated Ware" (Pillaert 1963:27-30), but the characteristics of the pottery are identical to decorated Quartermaster Plain pottery defined by Flynn (1984:258-265). The 34RM14 pot appears to be a typical vessel for Turkey Creek phase groups in west-central Oklahoma.

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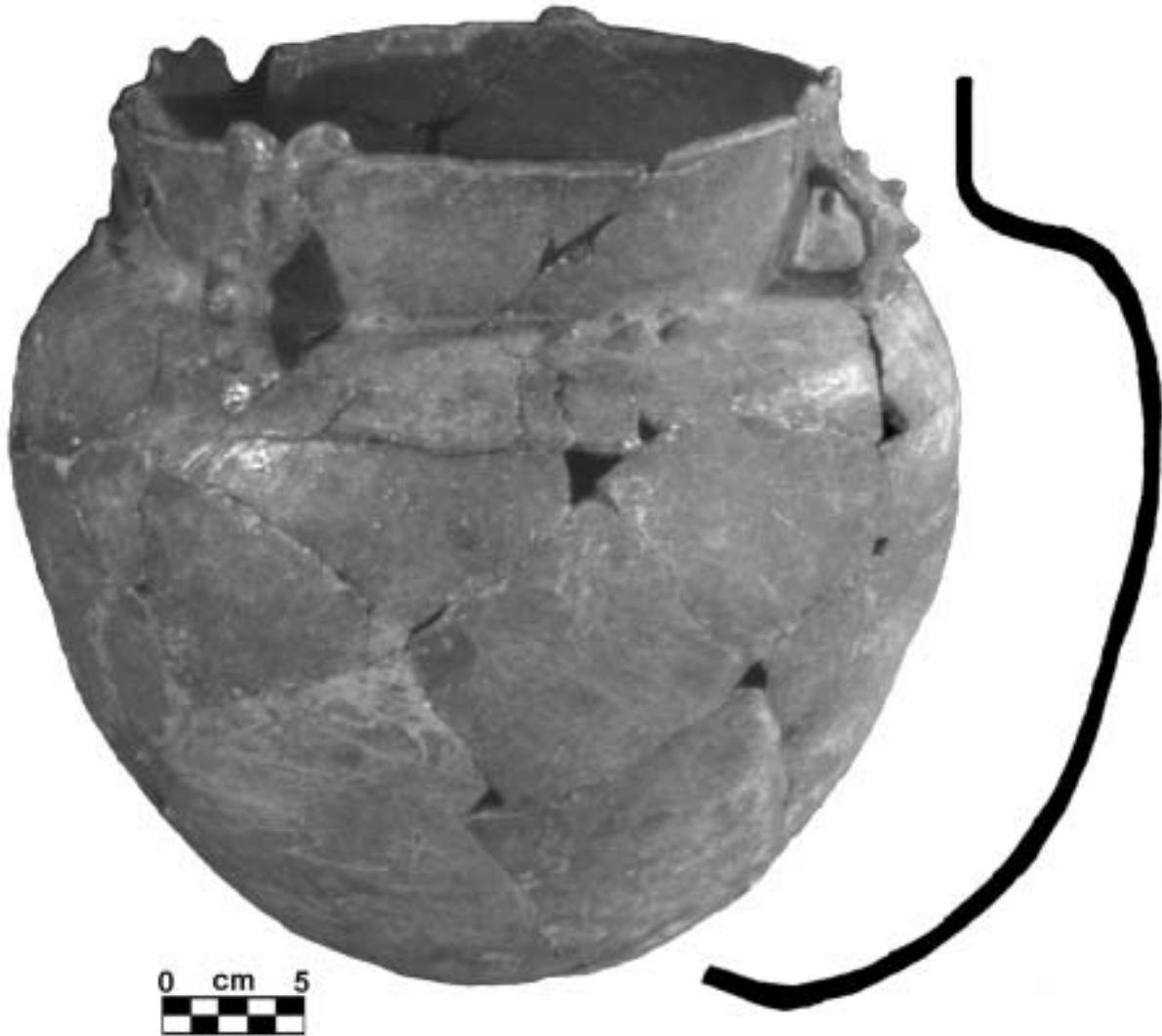
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Pillaert, Elizabeth E.

1963 The McLemore Site of the Washita River Focus. **Oklahoma Anthropological Society Bulletin** 11:1-114.



Decoration on rim of pot.



Complete pot from 34Rm19.

Abstracts from the Literature

Kozuch, Laura

2002 *Olivella* Beads from Spiro and the Plains. **American Antiquity** 67:697-709.

Abstract - Beads made from Gulf of California dwarf olive shells (*Olivella dama*) have recently been identified from the Spiro site in eastern Oklahoma. This is the first evidence from Spiro of culture contact to the west. The beads, previously identified as *Olivella nivea*, are important because *O. dama* originates in the Gulf of California while *O. nivea* is from the Gulf of Mexico. An overview of *Olivella* beads from Plains sites reveals a mixture of shell beads originating from the Gulf of Mexico, the Pacific

Ocean, and the Gulf of California. The presence of western *Olivella* beads at Spiro and other Plains sites support an intensification of trade between Puebloan and Plains peoples during Late Prehistoric times at about A.D. 1400 or slightly earlier, but there is no evidence for strong cultural ties to the west. *Olivella* beads occur at sites east of the Mississippi River and these need to be identified to determine coast of origin.

Kennett, James P., Kevin G. Cannariato, Ingrid L. Hendy and Richard J. Behl

2002 **Methane Hydrates in Quaternary Climate Change: The Clathrate Gun Hypothesis**. American Geophysical Union. Washington, D.C.

Excerpt from a book review by Gerald R. Dickens in Science 299:1017 (2003): "The late Quaternary climate record contains numerous brief atmospheric warming episodes that have eluded satisfactory explanation, but likely reflect some combination of changing ocean circulation patterns and elevated greenhouse gas concentrations. Notably, these events correspond to prominent highs in atmospheric methane. Although most all of the literature ascribes the methane peaks to increased emissions from terrestrial wetlands, there is *no* geological evidence for the requisite wetlands, and a different source must have supplied the methane. Enormous amounts of ¹³C-depleted methane exist in the pore spaces of sediment along modern continental margins as clathrate hydrates of gas (ice-like substances of gas and water). The stability of these methane clathrates depends on the external conditions, especially the temperature of bottom waters. Mounting evidence indicates that prior to the atmospheric warming events, ocean water at intermediate depths in many regions rose by several degrees centigrade. Presumably, these increases in bottom water temperature would heat sea-floor sediments, dissociate methane hydrate to free gas, and release methane to the ocean and atmosphere through sedimentary failure."

OA Note: Methane is a powerful greenhouse gas, that is, an atmospheric component that strongly contributes to the retention of solar energy, and hence "global warming". Several articles have been published in the scientific journals in recent years warning that atmospheric warming driven by carbon dioxide release from fossil fuel burning could warm near-surface ocean waters sufficiently to result in sudden, catastrophic releases of methane from continental shelf clathrates, resulting in rapid and severe climatic disruption. Kennett *et al.* argue that such events are fairly common in the paleoclimatic records of the last 2.5 million years.

Kirby, Matthew E., Henry T. Mullins, William P. Patterson and Adam W. Burnett
2002 Late Glacial - Holocene Atmospheric Circulation and Precipitation in the Northeast United States Inferred from Modern Calibrated Stable Oxygen and Carbon Isotopes. **Geological Society of America Bulletin** 114(10):1326-1340.

Abstract (abridged): As global climate changes because of anthropogenic influences, it has become critical to better understand past climate and its various forcing mechanisms as a baseline for future

comparison. To this end, we present a continental isotopic record that spans 14,600-3200 cal BP from an 11.2 m long wetland piston core sampled at 10-50 yr resolution taken from Fayetteville Green Lake, 15 km east of Syracuse, New York. We use a historically based correlation between stable oxygen isotopes obtained from individual varves and winter atmospheric circulation over the northeast United States to examine the way in which changes in winter circulation have influenced the isotopic composition of precipitation during the sampled time span. Our correlation suggests that in periods during which the circumpolar westerlies are expanded, storms track more frequently from the Gulf of Mexico. By contrast, contracted westerlies result in more frequent cross-continental storms. Using this relationship we model winter-vortex latitudes over the northeast United States for the prehistoric oxygen isotope record, focusing on millennial scale change, abrupt transitions, and multi-decadal to centennial scale variability.

OA Notes: Two interesting conclusions of relevance to Oklahoma prehistory/paleoclimate: 1) the jet stream storm track and polar front were generally far south of the 42 degree historical mean at 35-37 degrees latitude (the latitudes from Oklahoma City to the Kansas line) from 12,000 to 8,000 cal BP (Paleoindian times); 2) the strongest periodicity in the Fayetteville Green Lake record revealed by spectral analysis of the isotope data is 400 years, with a secondary harmonic peak at 200 years, in accordance with recent paleoclimate research in the Upper Midwest and on the Great Plains (*c.f.* <http://www.dempseydivide.org>, "Project Synopsis; The 400 Year Rainfall Cycle").

Certification Program Spring Seminars Scheduled

Lois E. Albert, Certification Council Chair

After a light schedule of seminars during the summer and fall of 2002, we are ready to swing back into action during the spring of 2003. Paul Minnis and Frieda Odell have graciously consented to teach, respectively, "Organic Remains: Floral Remains" and "Archeological Sketching". We also have a full lineup of seminars at the Spring Dig. Because we will be back at the Tiak Work Center, we will be able to offer "General Laboratory Techniques" as well as "General Excavation Techniques". In addition, Bob Brooks will present "Cultural Resource Management", and Jean

Sinclair will teach the postponed "Archeological Photography".

Jean Cochrane, with the assistance of Betty Flora, has been organizing the seminar records for everyone. She has already completed a record sheet for everyone, going back to the first seminars offered. As soon as I finish designing an Excel spreadsheet which incorporates all of this, she will enter it into the computer. After this job is finished, we will be able pull up information about who has had or hasn't had a particular seminar, which will help us in planning which seminars need to be given. It will also help us track who has had all of the prerequisites for a certificate. We can then prod them into requesting certification, so beware! There are a number of you out there who are eligible for certificates, but who have not sent in your requests!

Fill out form for Certification Seminars on page 51.

Spring Dig, 2003 **Herndon Site, 34MC576**

Dave Morgan, Dig Committee

The Oklahoma Anthropological Society Spring Dig site is located within a homestead allotment to Quintus Herndon. Quintus Herndon received this 160-acre allotment from surplus Choctaw lands as an intermarried white in 1904. The portion of the section immediately to the south of the Herndon Allotment was allotted to Scott Agerson, "Chickasaw Freedman", in 1905. Quintus Herndon leased the area to J. Y. Fuller in 1907 for 5 years. Fuller was to "keep in a state of repair all improvements and put land in cultivation by 1909". Quintus Herndon sold his homestead allotment and other lands to H.R. Yeager in 1910. The land went through a series of ownership transfers until it was acquired by the US Soil Conservation Service in 1937 and subsequently transferred to US Forest Service in 1959.

Historic records do not conclusively identify occupations at 34MC576. The historic site may represent occupation by either by the Herndon or Herron family prior to allotment in 1904. The Herron family refers to this site as their family homestead.

This site was tested in October 2002 by a Ouachita National Forest Passport in Time (PIT) archeological

project. Once the site was cleared of vegetation prior to the PIT project, two possible features were identified in addition to a known cellar/well depression. One of the newly found features consisted of a shallow depression that is believed to have been a below floor cellar. The second feature is what appears to be the outline of the house above the cellar.

The archeological investigation by the PIT project has revealed that the site predates the Herndon allotment by about 60-70 years. Artifacts recovered during the initial testing of this historic site indicate that it was occupied in the 1830s. Artifacts include numerous sherds of English-made ceramics - hand painted wares, blue and green shell edge wares, and numerous colors and patterns of transfer printed ceramics. Metal items and glass items do occur but are relatively scarce.

The excavations confirmed the shallow depression and it is still believed to be a cellar. A second trash-filled depression was located and tested. This is a shallow, roughly circular pit and was approximately 40 cm deep. Artifacts recovered from this feature included a two-tine fork, miscellaneous metal fragments, English-made ceramics, Choctaw-made ceramics, daub, charcoal fragments, a conical brass arrow point (?), food bone scrap, peach pits and a novaculite dart point.

A very interesting factor regarding this site is the abundance of Choctaw-made ceramics. Numerous sherds were recovered. These are very similar to ceramics that Larry Neal has recovered from other Choctaw sites in the region and also very similar to sherds recovered from Choctaw sites in Mississippi.

An entrenched wagon road passes by the site a few meters to the south. This may be the road that is shown on the turn-of-the-century GLO plats for this township. The initial testing suggests that Quintus Herndon's home was at some other location on the tract, since nothing dating to the allotment period was identified here. This site has the potential for providing very important information regarding the pre-allotment occupation of southeastern Oklahoma.

Directions, Facilities, Information

Camping at the Tiac work Center, located 3 miles south and 7 miles east of Idabel. From Broken Bow go 10 miles south then east on highway 3, follow signs 13 miles to camp. From Hugo follow highway 70 east to Idabel then go south on highway 259 two miles to

OAS sign then turn left to Tiac work center. Camping is free but electrical outlets are in short supply, please send application early and bring a long extension cord.

The dig is reserved for OAS members, but you can sign up at the dig. We will leave camp for the dig each day at 8:00 A.M. and car pool to the site. Campers should set up on Friday to dig the first day.

The Dig Fee is \$15 for the full 9.5 days or \$5 for a weekend.

Fill out form for Spring Dig on page 52.

Enrollment Form For Certification Program Seminars

ENROLLMENT FORM FOR CERTIFICATION PROGRAM SEMINARS

_____ S18 Archeological Sketching. Time: Saturday, March 29, 2003, 9:00 a.m. Place: Oklahoma Archeological Survey conference room. Instructor: Frieda Odell.

_____ S10 Historical Archeological Methods. Time: Saturday, April 26 or May 3, 2003. 9:00 a.m. [NOTE: TENTATIVE] Place: Oklahoma Archeological Survey Conference Room. Instructors: TBA. See next issue for more information. Please do not send money for this seminar yet.

_____ S3 General Excavation Techniques. Time: Saturday, May 24, 2003, 8:30 a.m. Place: Tiak Work Center (Spring Dig). Instructor: Lois Albert.

_____ S13 Cultural Resource Management. Time: Saturday, May 24, 2003, 7:30 p.m. Place: Tiak Work Center (Spring Dig). Instructor: Dr. Robert Brooks.

_____ S4 General Laboratory Techniques. Time: Sunday, May 25, 2003, 8:30 a.m. Place: Tiak Work Center (Spring Dig). Instructor: Lois Albert.

_____ S6 Archeological Photography. Time: Monday, May 26, 2003, 8:30 a.m. Place: Tiak Work Center (Spring Dig). Instructor: Jean Sinclair.

Please include \$2.00 per seminar as an enrollment fee (make checks payable to OU/Archeological Survey). In seminars with limited enrollment, preference will be given to members who are in the Certification Program. Some seminars may have an additional fee for reading or study materials; this is usually a nominal amount.

Indicate: ___ I am a current OAS member. ___ I am enrolled in the Certification Program.

Name: _____

Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Telephone: (____) _____ (W), (____) _____ (H)

email address:

Send this completed form with your payment (check/money order - make check to Oklahoma Archeological Survey) to:

Lois Albert, Certification Council Chair
Oklahoma Archeological Survey
The University of Oklahoma
111 E. Chesapeake
Norman OK 73019-5111
Telephone: (405) 325-7207; FAX (405) 325-7604
e-mail: lealbert@ou.edu

Oklahoma Anthropological Society Membership Form

- MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY DESIRED:
- () Active \$20.00 Receive 4 issues of Oklahoma Archeology, Journal of the Oklahoma Anthropological Society
 - () Contributing \$30.00 Receive 4 issues of Oklahoma Archeology, Journal of the Oklahoma Anthropological Society and any memoirs occasionally published by the Society at no additional cost
 - () Sustaining \$40.00 Receive 4 issues of Oklahoma Archeology, Journal of the Oklahoma Anthropological Society and any memoirs occasionally published by the Society at no additional cost
 - () Associate \$5.00 For one additional member of your immediate family \$10.00 for two or more
 - () Life \$500.00 Provides all benefits of a contributing membership throughout the lifetime of member
 - () Institutional – Domestic \$30.00 () Institutional – Foreign \$35.00
 - () OAS New Member Handbook \$5.00 (recommended to new members)

Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip+4 _____

Email _____ Phone # _____

Make check payable to:

Oklahoma Anthropological Society
Attn: Pete Thurmond
Rt. 1, Box 62B
Cheyenne OK 73628

2003 OAS Spring Dig Registration Form

List all members of your party: _____

Address: _____

Circle the dates you will attend: May 24, 25, 26, 27, 28, 29, 30, 31, June 1.

Enclose \$15 per person for the first two then \$10 each over two. \$5 each if attending for weekend only.

Make check to OAS Dig Committee and mail to OAS Dig Committee, 1049 SW 2nd Street Moore Ok 73160-2211