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OKLAHOMA ARCHEOLOGICAL SURVEY HOSTS
39TH CADDO CONFERENCE

The 39th Caddo Conference, held March 13-15, in Norman, Anadarko, and Binger, Oklahoma, was the result of several months of planning and work by Survey staff and the Caddo Tribe, under the leadership of chairman Vernon Hunter. This regional conference addresses the archeological and cultural heritage of the Caddoan cultural area, which is comprised of eastern Oklahoma, western Arkansas, northeastern Texas, northwestern Louisiana, and the far southwestern tip of Missouri. The conference is held annually, and rotates between the states of Oklahoma, Arkansas, Texas, and Louisiana.

This year's conference coordinator was Survey staff archeologist Lois Albert. She worked closely with Stacey Halfmoon, the coordinator for the Caddo's Resource Center, and with the Caddo Cultural Club, especially Pat Edmonds and Donna Spaulding.

The activities began with a preconference reception and supper buffet at the home of Lois Albert. Approximately 60 people attended this party. The "serious" side of the conference started on Friday, with papers and a business meeting on the University of Oklahoma campus. Almost 90 people registered for this year's conference, not as many as the record number the last time it was held in Oklahoma, but quite a respectable turnout, nevertheless. An open house was held at the Survey on Friday evening. We had moved into our South Campus quarters since the Caddo Conference was last held in Norman. Many of the attendees had never visited our new home. Additional papers and reports were given on Saturday at the Warrior Auditorium, located at Anadarko's high school.

On Saturday evening, a traditional Caddo meal and dances



Figure 1. Dancers at the traditional Caddo dances, March 15 (photo by Jane Menzie).



Figure 2. Singers at the Caddo Cultural Center, Binger, Oklahoma, March 15 (photo by Jane Menzie).

were held at the Cultural Center at the Caddo Tribal Complex east of Binger. The activities began with the Turkey Dance, followed by the traditional meal and, after that, additional dances. The Caddo Cultural Club served as hosts for the event. About 65 conference attendees, numerous Caddos, and other guests turned out for the evening's festivities.

Lois Albert

The Case for Attempted Bovicide

Bison kill sites indicate prehistoric Native Americans successfully hunted these large animals. Hunting techniques include stampeding animals over cliffs, running them into dead end gullies, herding them into corrals, or simply ambushing animals along a trail. Many of these techniques, along with similar methods using bogs, snow drifts, sand dunes, and shallow lakes, employ natural landscape features to aid in the capture of the animals. Once a herd is trapped, the hunters dispatch the animals by throwing spears, thrusting spears, shooting arrows, or shooting bullets.

One of many questions posed to investigators of these sites: What is the evidence for the method employed to dispatch the animals? ... or, where is the most deadly spot to shoot a bison? The recovery of projectile points, or fragments thereof, is usually interpreted as evidence for the method employed. The question concerning the placement of the spear, arrow, or bullet is less easily answered. Unfortunately, the soft body parts (heart, lungs, etc.) are not preserved at prehistoric sites. So, the only direct evidence of shot or thrust placement are the marks left on the bone by projectiles that well missed the mark.

At the Folsom age Cooper site — a gully kill — we have two ribs that not only have impact damage, but also retain small pieces of the projectile points. The first, from the lower kill, consists of an impact depression on the flat (lateral) surface of the seventh rib. The projectile shattered on impact, lodging a fragment of the tip in the center of the depression. Needless to say, this shot did not kill the animal.

The second instance is a sixth right rib from an animal in the middle kill. Here, the projectile penetrated the posterior margin of the outside (lateral) surface of the rib. The edge of the projectile shattered, embedding fragments into the rib. The rest of the point and spear probably continued into the chest cavity. This point may have led to the demise of this animal. The flight trajectory of this projectile was at a downward angle of 45 degrees, indicating that the hunter was probably on the gully edge above the animal.

The Late Archaic age Certain site, another gully trap, yielded two bones with embedded projectile points. One point was stuck in the lateral process of a thoracic vertebra. It was not a fatal shot. The second case is a projectile stuck in the side of the distal femur near the knee cap (patella). This shot probably affected hunter and hunted alike — it made them mad.

While these four examples are definitive proof that prehistoric

man impaled bison with stone-tipped spears, they only marginally suggest a kill zone — the chest cavity. And in response to the question of ... Where is the most deadly spot to shoot a bison? ... it is clear from these examples that the best place to shoot a bison is in the gully!!!

Lee Bement

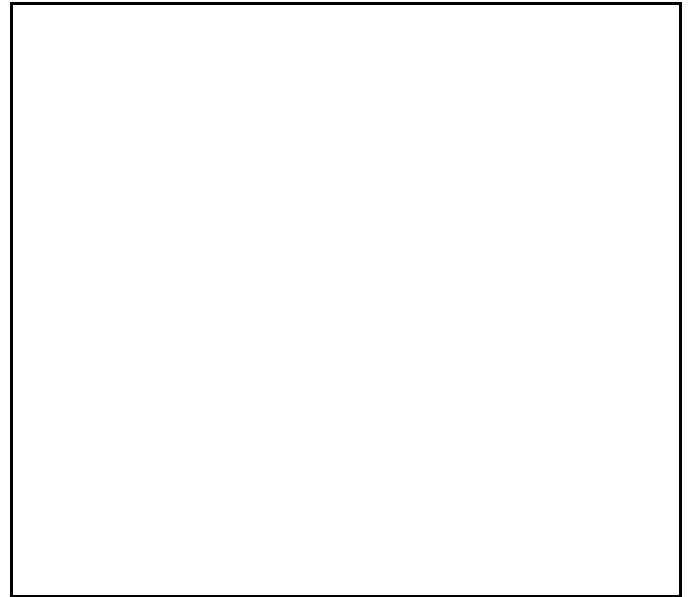


Figure 3. Projectile point embedded in bison vertebrae, Certain site (34BK46).

Construction of New Museum Progressing Well

The new, \$37.5 million home for the Oklahoma Museum of Natural History is rapidly taking shape on a previously vacant, 40 acre prairie lot at the corner of Chautauqua Avenue and Timberdell Road, west of the OU Law School. The major \$17.5 million drive for private funds was completed last fall, with large gifts from the Sam Noble family and associates, OU Regent Robin Siegfried and his wife Cherrie, and other companies, foundations, and individuals. In addition, bonds were approved by the city of Norman and the state of Oklahoma. The completed facility will be a 190,000 square foot, state of the art museum with space for exhibits, offices, public programs, collections storage and preservation, and research and teaching. The staff for the new building is expected to number about 100 people.

In preparation for the completion, four full-time mover/packers will spend the next couple of years readying the fragile and scientifically significant collections for a safe move to their new facilities. If all goes as planned, the materials will be ready for the move by August 1998. Literally thousands of truckloads will be needed to move all of the items currently scattered across campus. The first collections to be moved are those at greatest risk, the ones stored in buildings which don't provide adequate protection from weather, pests, or fire hazards.

At present, construction is three months ahead of schedule,

with plans to “top out” the concrete work about May 1. In addition to the concrete shell, progress on the mechanical, plumbing, and electrical systems has been made. The building is scheduled for completion in summer to fall, 1998. The move and exhibit preparations will take another year, so that opening of the museum is scheduled sometime in 1999. By this time, about 50 percent of the exhibits will have been finished, with the remainder to be done in about two more years.

Lois Albert

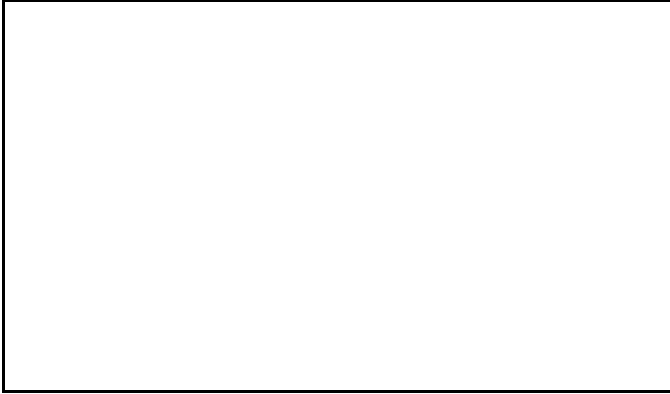


Figure 4. Construction at the new Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History, March 27, 1997.

OAS Spring Meeting to be Held in Norman

The Oklahoma Anthropological Society will hold its annual Spring Meeting in Norman. Dr. Robert Brooks is the meeting coordinator, assisted by the Survey staff, and OAS members from Norman and Oklahoma City. On Friday, April 18th, an Early Arrivals Reception will be held at the home of Bob and Pam Brooks, 4245 Willowrun Circle in Norman (south of Main Street, west of the Sooner Fashion Mall; turn south on Willoway Drive to Willowrun Circle). Registration for the meeting will begin at 8:00 a.m. on Saturday, April 19th, on the first floor of Dale Hall on the University of Oklahoma’s Norman campus. The registration fee will be \$2. The OAS board meeting will convene at 8:30 a.m. At 9:00 a.m., a minute of silence will honor the victims of the bombing at the Murrah Building, followed by opening remarks. A business meeting will follow at about 2:40 p.m.

Papers will begin at about 9:10 a.m. Topics will include: *Archeological Survey of the Washita River in the Arbuckle Mountains* (Richard Drass), *Archeological Investigations at the Yourman Site, Latimer County* (Chris Cojeen and Jesse Ballenger), *Current Research in Creek Archeology and Ethnohistory* (Cameron Wesson), *An Overview of Archeological Investigations of the Oklahoma Highway Archeological Program* (Robert Bartlett), *Archeology of the Ouachita National Forest - Weyerhauser Exchange* (Meeks Etchieson), *A Reexamination of Excavations at the Harkey Mound, McCurtain County* (Kenneth C. Kraft), *The McKellips Site: Dalton Occupations and Mobility in Eastern Oklahoma* (Jesse Ballenger), *A Review of Investigations Conducted at the Haley’s*

Point Site, Marshall County (Frank Winchell), *Kubik’s Kubes Again: Results of the 1996 Investigations and Plans for Future Work* (Larry Neal and Marjorie Duncan), and *A Review of Accomplishments of the Oklahoma Archeological Survey During 1996* (Robert Brooks).

Talks and Seminars Presented by Survey Staff

During the last several months, Survey staff and student workers have attended conferences, presented papers at meetings, and gave talks to avocational groups.

Plains Conference, Iowa City, Iowa: October 30-November 2, 1996

Several staff members and students gave papers at this meeting. They were: Robert Bartlett, *Investigations at the Shahan I/Hunt Site (34CU3/36), a Late Custer Phase Occupation in Western Oklahoma*; Leland C. Bement and Susan J. Basmajian, *Epiphyseal Fusion in the *Bison antiquus* Appendicular Skeleton*; Leland D. Bement and Kent J. Buehler (with Jack L. Hofman and Matthew E. Hill, Jr., University of Kansas), *Continued Investigations at the Waugh Folsom Site, Northwestern Oklahoma*; Robert L. Brooks and Richard R. Drass, *A Reclassification of Plains Village Cultural Complexes in Oklahoma*; Richard R. Drass, *The Little Deer Site and Protohistoric Complexes in Western Oklahoma*; Marjorie Duncan and Larry Neal, *Kubik’s Kubes in Kay County, Oklahoma*; and Scott D. Brosowke, *Identifying Relative Levels of Mobility for Selected Southern Plains Hunter-Gatherers: An Application of Shott’s Model*. Also attending the conference was the Survey’s volunteer extraordinaire, David Morgan, who presented a paper, *The Carpenter Site and Variation at Washita River Phase Sites in South-Central Oklahoma*.

Oklahoma Academy of Science, Oklahoma City, November 8, 1996

Several Survey staff members presented papers at this meeting including Leland C. Bement, *Recent Discoveries at the Waugh Folsom Site*; Marjorie Duncan and Larry Neal, *Calf Creek Occupations at the Kubik Site, North-Central Oklahoma*; and Robert B. Bartlett, *Calf Creek Caches of Frisco Chert: Their Relation to Mid-Holocene Hunter and Gatherers on the Southern Plains*. Also attending was Lois Albert, who was elected chair of the Social Sciences Section of the academy for the following year.

Oklahoma Anthropological Society Fall Meeting, Cheyenne, Oklahoma, October 5, 1996

Lee Bement delivered a paper titled *How to Kill a Bison*, and Richard Drass gave one on *Salvage Excavations at the Heerwald Site*. Several other staff members attended the meeting, which was held in the Cheyenne High School Auditorium.

**Oklahoma Anthropological Society Certification Program
Seminars (since September)**

The following Survey staff members have taught or been part of a team of teachers for the following seminars: *General Survey Techniques* (Lois Albert), *Historical Archeological Methods* (Lois Albert, Larry Neal, and others), *Specialized Techniques: Rock Art (lecture portion)*, (Lee Bement), and *Organic Remains: Faunal Remains* (Kent Buehler).

Folsom Conference, Austin, Texas, March 18-22, 1997

Survey staff member Lee Bement and student Scott Brosowske attended this conference, which brought together people working on various aspects of research into topics relevant to the Folsom period, about 10,500 years ago. Lee displayed the artifacts from the Folsom age Cooper bison kill site in Harper County.

Other talks presented

Richard Drass gave a talk, *Prehistoric Uses of Marsh-elder*, to the West Central chapter (Weatherford) of the Oklahoma Anthropological Society in September. He also presented one called *The Little Deer Site and Late Prehistoric Complexes in Western Oklahoma* to the Southwestern Oklahoma chapter (Lawton) in November, and another entitled *The Little Deer Site and the Protohistoric Period in Western Oklahoma* to the Kay County chapter in Ponca City in February.

Newsletter editors: Lois Albert and Marjy Duncan