



OKLAHOMA ARCHEOLOGICAL SURVEY

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LECTURE BY RICHARD LEAKEY CO-SPONSORED BY SURVEY

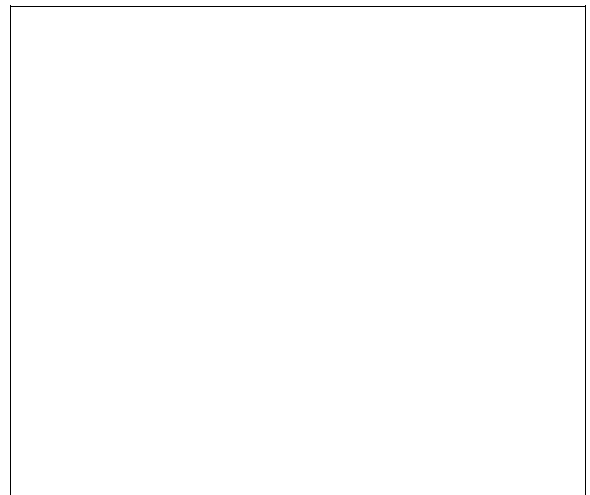
Richard Leakey, the distinguished paleoanthropologist, presented a lecture, "*The Origins of Man*" at the University of Oklahoma on October 5, 1998. Before a packed auditorium, he discussed the origin of humans, evolution, and some of his discoveries on the shores of Lake Turkana in East Africa. He also summarized some of the finds by other paleoanthropologists working in the area including his parents, Louis and Mary Leakey, his wife Meave Leakey, and his colleague Donald Johanson.

In his lecture, Richard Leakey showed slides and discussed the most important fossil discoveries of the 20th century. One such discovery was a nearly complete skeleton of a *Homo erectus* boy that lived more than 1.5 million years ago. From this and other discoveries, linked with his own loss of both legs in a plane crash in 1993, he spoke insightfully about human compassion and bipedalism. He stressed that in the African savannah, whether today or four million years ago, a fully bipedal human requires family or friends as care-givers in the event of foot or leg injuries. Fossil evidence shows that broken legs of our early ancestors healed in a straight fashion indicating that the individual would have had to have others bring food and water and provide protection from predators. Human compassion, he summarized, has been a trait for millions of years.

Richard Leakey has just accepted a position as the Director of Wildlife Services in Kenya and will be

spending his time managing and conserving the country's wildlife. Although he will no longer be active in paleoanthropology, his wife and middle daughter are continuing the "Leakey legacy" in the search for early human fossils.

During the day of his visit, he met with students and after the lecture, attended a dinner in his honor. The Survey was fortunate to be one of the sponsors of his visit along with the Oklahoma Scholar-Leadership Enrichment Program. Our thanks go to the Bank of Oklahoma who provided the funding to make this event possible. *Marjy Duncan*



Dr. Richard Leakey, Meacham Auditorium, University of Oklahoma, October 5, 1998.

State Fair 1998

The Survey sponsored a booth at the 1998 State Fair of Oklahoma (September 18 through October 4). This year's booth theme was "*Oklahoma's Past: Etched in Stone*" and concentrated on the petroglyphs of Oklahoma. The displays consisted of photographs and descriptions of petroglyphs and pictographs representing all areas of the state from the southeastern woodlands to the canyonland mesas of the panhandle. Since many of the sites are located on private land, this was the first opportunity for the citizens of Oklahoma to be exposed to this aspect of the archeological record.

In addition to the poster shown and the display of rock art, we also had a timeline display identifying many of the cultures found in Oklahoma. This display included casts of projectile points and other artifacts representing Clovis, Folsom, Dalton, Plainview, Calf Creek, Late Archaic, Wood-land, Late Prehistoric, and Historical cultural groups. Bookmarks describing four of these groups and their attendant artifacts were available for interested viewers. Information about the Oklahoma Archeological Survey, Oklahoma Anthropological Society, and Oklahoma Historical Society was disseminated. This year's booth was well attended (we gave away over 4000 posters), and we feel this effort will benefit our educational mission.

Thanks are offered to everyone who helped with the booth, and we hope to see you all next year!

Lee Bement

56th Annual Plains Conference

Despite being almost 850 miles from Norman, Oklahoma, the Archeological Survey was well represented at the annual meeting of the Plains Anthropological Conference in Bismarck, North Dakota. Lee Bement and Kent Buehler presented a paper entitled *Confirmation of a Southern Plains Late Archaic Bison Jump*; Richard Drass read a paper on *A Survey of the Washita River and Plains Village Settlements in Central Oklahoma*; Marjy Duncan presented a paper on *A GIS Application to Archaeology: The Two Sisters Site*; and Scott Brosowske and Lee co-authored a paper on *Plains Interaction During the Late Prehistoric: A View From Some New Sites in the Oklahoma Panhandle*. Bob Brooks and Kent Buehler co-chaired a session on *Sandman: A Cooperative in the Analysis and Repatriation of a Cheyenne/Arapaho Burial*. The session included papers by Bob and Kent as well as others by Candace Greene and Doug Owsley of the Smithsonian Institution.

In addition to the Survey staff, three additional papers were presented by students and faculty from the Department of Anthropology. K.C. Kraft and Warren Lail gave a paper on the *Geomorphology in the Upper Reaches of Sergeant Major Creek, Rogers Mills County, Oklahoma*; Susan and Rain Vehik, Pam Leader, and Leslie Rankin-Hill contributed a paper on *The Mackey Site (34LF29): Relative Chronology, Paleodemography, and Associated Funerary Objects*; and Jesse Ballenger presented his research on *Paleoindians, Lithics, Southern High Plains*. Congratulations are in order for Jesse who won the Best Student Paper Competition.

Approximately 350 people attended this year's meetings held at the Radisson. Next year, the conference will be held in Sioux Falls, South Dakota. *Robert L. Brooks*

Oklahoma Academy of Science Fall Technical Meeting at Northeastern State University

The Fall Technical Meeting of the Oklahoma Academy of Science will be held on Saturday, November 14, in the Practical Arts Building at Northeastern State University in Tahlequah. Among the sessions to be held during this meeting is Social Sciences, starting at 9:30 a.m. in Room 217 of the Practical Arts Building. Five papers, including four on archeology, will be presented. These include "*A Survey of the Washita River and Plains Village Settlement in Central Oklahoma*" by Richard Drass, "1998

Excavations at the Kubik Site, 34KA354, Kay County, Oklahoma" by Larry Neal, "A Survey of Cherokee Sites in Northeastern Oklahoma" by Lois Albert, and "Yesterday's Trash, Today's Archeology: The Assessment of Twentieth Century Archeo-logical Remains and a Growing Problem in Cultural Resources" by John Hartley (ODOT). Some sections start their sessions earlier. Registration for the meeting begins at 7:30 a.m. in the U. Center Lobby; the on-site fee for non-members is \$20 (students, \$10).

The Academy has two field meetings (spring and fall) each year, as well as the Fall Technical Meeting. There is

Kirkpatrick Challenge

We are fast approaching the deadline for the Kirkpatrick Challenge to the Oklahoma City Community Foundation. As announced in the July *Newsletter*, Mr. Kirkpatrick will double any donation to the Archeological Survey. If we raise \$2500.00, he will donate \$5000.00. Thus far, we are about \$1200 short of our goal. As the deadline for the challenge is December 10th, we encourage potential donors to send contributions in soon.

Robert L. Brooks

also a Junior Academy for high school students. Cost for an individual membership (1998) is \$25, \$30 for a family, and \$5 for students.

Lois E. Albert

Grant Projects Underway

Two projects funded by the State Historic Preservation Office, Oklahoma Historical Society, are currently underway at the Survey. Lee Bement and Scott Brosowski already have begun fieldwork in southern Harper County. They are doing pedestrian survey to locate paleosols and bonebeds, coring (using the Survey's truck-mounted coring rig) to study paleosols, and testing of known bonebeds in an attempt to find additional Paleoindian sites. They have completed the pedestrian survey portion of the project. Lois Albert and Shannon Freeman have been engaged in archival research at OU's Western History collection, Oklahoma Historical Society archives, Gilcrease Museum archives (Tulsa), Northeastern State University archives (Tahlequah), Delaware County Historical Society museum (Jay), and the Five Civilized

Tribes Museum archives (Muskogee). They will soon begin fieldwork to locate early historical Cherokee sites (through about the Civil War period) in Cherokee, Adair, and Delaware counties. This work continues a project begun in 1995.

Lois E. Albert

1997 and 1998 Oklahoma Anthropological Society Fall Surveys

An archeological reconnaissance of the Pontotoc Ridge Preserve, located in Pontotoc County, Oklahoma, began in November 1997 and continued in October 1998. These investigations were undertaken with the cooperation of the Nature Conservancy, the Oklahoma Archeological Survey, and the Oklahoma Anthropological Society. The setting is part of the Clear Boggy Creek basin in southern Pontotoc County, and includes some 3220 acres (9.2 square miles) within the preserve. Because this area had not been intensively investigated previously (original site density 0.2 sites per square mile), the objective of this work was a reconnaissance level pedestrian survey for cultural resources, which included a sample of the different physiographic settings within the study area.

Work began November 7 and 8, 1997. During this period, a total of 504 acres were surveyed by two Oklahoma Archeo-logical Survey archeologists and 18 volunteers during the Oklahoma Anthropological Society's 1997 Fall Activity. Nine new sites and four isolated finds were recorded, which resulted in a new site density of two sites per square mile. Field work resumed on October 16 and continued through October 19, 1998. During this period, 2346 acres were surveyed by one Survey archeologist and 33 members of the Oklahoma Anthropological Society. This increased the total area to 2850 acres, or 88.5% of the preserve. Twelve new sites and one isolated find were recorded, increasing the site density to 4.4 sites per square mile in the preserve. We now know of fifteen prehistoric (12 small to medium camps and three large camps) and seven historic (five homesteads and two historic trash dumps) sites. A Bonham point found at one of the prehistoric sites suggests that it was probably occupied during the Late Woodland to early Late Prehistoric period. Two of the historic sites contained materials dating to the 1920s to 1930s.

David Morgan

Radiocarbon Date From a Large Hearth at the Kubik Site

In the last newsletter, we described the May 1998

excavations at the Kubik Site (34KA354), including details about a large, deeply buried fireplace (Feature 1C) in a lower sloping terrace just southeast of the main block of excavations. We recently received a radiocarbon date from the charred materials surrounding and underlying the fire-cracked limestone of the hearth. An age of 4690 ± 50 years ago was reported by Beta Analytic (3630 to 3350 BC. calibrated; Beta 121354). The previous dates from the Calf Creek component at the Kubik Site were 4990 ± 100 years ago (3942-3662 B.C. calibrated; NZA 6601), 5020 ± 120 (3961-3669 B.C., calibrated; NZA 6602), and 5050 ± 60 years ago (3950-3775 B.C. calibrated; Beta-98146). Even though no diagnostic artifacts were found, and the radiocarbon date has only a tenuous overlap with previous dates, we consider the fireplace to be related to the Calf Creek occupation of the site. The sample for this date came from general charred material around and below the limestone rocks, which may have been produced by a mixture of woody and non-woody vegetal materials. The contents of the hearth include carbonized nut hull and possible wild onion bulbs, as well as skeletal elements of deer, buffalo, and well carbonized remains of small mammals such as vole. We plan to send another sample for dating, possibly the nut hull, to confirm the age of the hearth.

Larry Neal

New Students at the Survey

The Community Assistance Program is fortunate to have five exceptional graduate students employed this year. Funded by the National Park Service through the State Historic Preservation Office, the students are provided the opportunity to learn more about archaeology and cultural resource management. They learn how to review economic development projects and make recommendations to preserve Oklahoma's archaeological resources. This year we have three returning students, Kae Neustadt, Kris Dobschuetz, and Brice Obermeyer and two new students, Karin Rebnegger and Mic Stokely. Kae's research focus is on mobility of the people represented by the Pumpkin Creek material that dates about 8,500 to 10,500 years ago in south central Oklahoma. Kris is looking at social organization through pottery styles at Mesa Verde (Anasazi) in southwest Colorado. Brice's research is primarily focused upon eastern Tennessee, approaching it from an ethnohistorical perspective. Karin is just beginning her masters work and will probably concentrate on the greater southwest. Mic is a visual anthropologist examining the changing images of Native American women.

Working in the lab this year are Jesse Ballenger, Adam Graves, Lauren O'Shea, and Susan Curtis. Jesse is

finishing his masters thesis on Dalton period sites, and Adam, Lauren, and Susan are undergraduate Anthropology students who are interested in archaeology. Wanjin Kim, another graduate student, is also working in the lab and is reconstructing Choctaw ceramics for the Museum of the Red River exhibits.

Charles Wallis, Oklahoma Conservation Commission, has hired two graduate students, Chris Cook and Scott Sundermeyer, to work on some of his projects. Chris, a graduate student in physical anthropology, has worked for the survey in several different positions for the last five years. Scott is a new graduate student whose interest is Plains archaeology.

Marjy Duncan