OKLAHOMA ARCHEOLOGICAL SURVEY
THE UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA

NEWSLETTER

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Completion of Packsaddle Survey

On August 31, 2000, the Packsaddle Wildlife Management Area Survey, a Historic Preservation grant project, was completed and the final draft of the completion report was submitted. This survey was undertaken by Larry Neal and Dave Morgan, and was an Oklahoma Anthropological Society (OAS) Fall Activity in October 1999. The survey was crafted to examine the land not surveyed by the 1995 OAS Fall Activity. A total of 33 OAS members participated in the survey in October, and Don Shockey, Reggie Hofmaier, and Charles Sanders continued to contribute time with Dave and I as we completed the survey of the wildlife management area in January and February of 2000. The survey recorded a total of 47 new sites. These were about evenly split between prehistoric workshops and historic dugouts/ homesteads.

The survey area was part of the Cheyenne-Arapaho lands opened to settlement by the government, but was among the last settled due to the relatively poor quality of the land. In addition, the locale was in the midst of a decade long drought during which the average annual rainfall exceeded 20 inches only one year. The lack of rain impeded agricultural development and many people noted that the men had to go further east in Oklahoma as seasonal workers to keep their families in food. Stone lined dugouts with cellars and other features were found on nearly every parcel of homesteaded land, and some of these also had later wooden structures erected. Only the foundations remained of these. One of the homesteads, the Alcorn homestead (34EL155), had a cellar and concrete and stone cistern next to the L-shaped house foundation, as

Figure 1. Dave Morgan at the Alcorn site (34EL155), a historic homestead in the Packsaddle survey area. Dave is kneeling by the cistern; the cellar remains as a depression in the center of the photo.

Figure 2. The cistern at the Alcorn site (34EL155).

well as a relatively large dugout that likely served as the first domicile. Few of the homesteads contained materials any later than the 1900-1920 period, with the most common and diagnostic item being the purple, solarized glass.

Records show that many of the initial homesteaders proved up on the land, sold it, and moved to more satisfactory areas. Others, such as the Orville Enfield family, bought part of the newly available land and continued to live there for some time. The Lone Bell community's school house, the Lone Bell community, and two cemeteries (Packsaddle and Lone Bell) were also recorded within the Packsaddle Wildlife Management Area. From 1903 to 1910, the Lone Bell community had a post office which apparently closed after many people had left.

The prehistoric sites, comprised of workshops exploiting the Alibates cobbles in the gravel bed sources, were consistent in their overall content. Using the bipolar flaking technique, the knappers left behind the core and flake residue, anvils (pitted stones), and hammerstones. Not all the sites were workshops only. A few also were associated with temporary camps; dart points or arrow points and broken preforms were recovered in addition to the knapping debris. Periods represented, based on the point fragments recovered, include Middle Archaic (Calf Creek points), Late Archaic (Palmillas, Edgewood points), Plains Woodland (corner notched arrow points) and Late Prehistoric (Fresno and Washita points). It was interesting to note that the prehistoric sites were located only at the gravel outcrops containing Alibates cobbles. Based on the scarcity of diagnostic items, we would say that the uses of the land by prehistoric groups was transitory, seasonal, and oriented toward obtaining raw material.

One large camp was reported just outside of the survey area on private land; this site has had a number of different occupations across its surface. The location was heavily collected, but no collections have been maintained to the extent that specific artifacts can be associated with this site. A second large camp, associated with perennial springs and gravel outcrops, is located near the eastern edge of the survey area. Small points are reported to have been found on this site, and debris from bipolar flaking is also present.

The completion of the survey of the Packsaddle Wildlife Management Area has met part of a long standing cultural resources management objective of the Archeological Survey, namely the survey of the archeological and historical resources of state owned and managed land. The participation of the Oklahoma Anthropological Society has been and is vital in this continuing effort. ***Larry Neal***

Caddo Conference and Flint Hills Conference to Hold Joint Meeting

From March 15th through 18th, the Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History (SNOMNH) will host a joint meeting of the Caddo Conference and Flint Hills Conference, sponsored in conjunction with the Caddo Tribe, the Wichita Tribe, and the Oklahoma Archeological Survey. Current plans are for paper sessions to be held at SNOMNH on Friday and Saturday, and possibly on Sunday morning. In addition to the usual archeological papers, these sessions will include a Traditional Wichita Singing symposium on Friday afternoon, and a symposium on Saturday (probably afternoon) with speakers from the Caddo Tribe. Registration fees are $7.50 ($5.00 for students). Those who are registered for the conference will have free admission to the exhibits.

For those who plan to arrive in Norman on Thursday, March 15, there will be an early bird reception for conference attendees from 7:00 to 10:00 p.m. Additional information about the location, etc., is available from the conference organizers. If you have not received a conference information packet and are interested in attending the conference, contact Lois Albert, Oklahoma Archeological Survey, 111 E. Chesapeake, Norman OK 73019-5111; (405) 325-7211;

lealbert@ou.edu or Sue Richter, Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History, University of Oklahoma, Norman OK 73019; (405) 325-1199; srichter@ou.edu.

On Saturday evening, March 17, the Caddo Tribe is generously hosting a dinner and traditional Caddo dancing at the Tribal Complex near the Binger Y for those attending the conference. A map showing the route to the Tribal Complex will be included in the packet attendees will receive at the conference registration desk. ***Lois E. Albert***

Spring 2000 Investigations at the Kubik Site, 34KA354

In late April and early May, volunteers from the Kay County (Ponca City), Tulsa, and Central chapters of the Oklahoma Anthropological Society (OAS) returned to the Kubik site to complete units left from the work carried out at the OAS Spring Dig of 1998. We reopened units S6E12, S0E8, S0W2, S2W2, and S20W6. The back-fill was cleared by the use of a precision backhoe in the hands of Jeff Kubik, and the unexcavated surfaces prepared for work. The cool spring weather decided to become dry summer, and the early drought resulted in the matrix being difficult to screen.

One Calf Creek base and stem was found by George Hanggi in unit 0W2 at level 2.2m below the laser datum (BLD). A Duncan style dart point (late Middle Archaic, or early Late Archaic) was found in level 1.2 m BLD of unit S6E12 at about the same level as a previous Duncan point from unit S2E6. A compact and intact hearth was found at level 2.9 m BLD of S6E12. Material decreased below the level of the hearth, until level 3.3 m BLD. At this point, the flake count again increased slightly, probably indicating another occupation below the well documented Calf Creek level. This finding confirmed indications of an earlier use of the site tentatively recognized in one of the deep backhoe stratigraphy trenches cut in 1998, in 1995 creek bank profiles, and in another creek bank profile cut by Jeff Kubik during the 2000 field effort. Whether these flakes were left at the site by earlier Calf Creek folks or other people is an area for future investigation.

The charcoal in the deeply buried hearth in unit S6E12 provided a conventional radiocarbon age of 5190 ± 60 yrs B.P. (between 6105 and 5760 B. P., calibrated). This date fits well with other dates recovered from the upper terrace area (see this newsletter Volume 19, #2 [October 1999] for a summary of other dates from the site).

Prior to the 2000 field season, visits to the site allowed recovery of two hearths exposed in the fast eroding creek bank. Plentiful charcoal for radiocarbon dates

OKLAHOMA CITY COMMUNITY FOUNDATION ANNUAL FUND RAISING EFFORT

A short time ago, I met with Gayle Farley of the OKC Community Foundation. Gayle, as some of you may recall, was a member of the Central Chapter of the Oklahoma Anthropological Society for a number of years. We discussed numerous issues about needs of the Survey and how to find funds to support these activities. These are basically the same needs that we have stressed in the past: support for students, funds for special analyses and materials, and publication efforts. In past years, the John E. Kirkpatrick Challenge Grant program has been very successful in helping the Archeological Survey develop the beginnings of a sound financial base. Unfortunately, Mr. Kirkpatrick became ill last summer and the challenge grants were discontinued. Thus, we must now use our own initiative to foster this same level of support.

With this newsletter, the Survey is beginning what I guess we would call our Annual Fund Raising Effort. Unlike other fundraisers, it doesn't have a special time window and we also don't promise a coffee mug or some other promotional item. All we can do with your help is continue to use your donations wisely and frugally to continue the work efforts that you can witness at the Survey – our research, our preservation of important sites, and our outreach to the people of Oklahoma.

I hope that many of you will contribute to the OKC Community Foundation at the address listed below (*please make sure to identify that donations are for the Archeological Survey*). Whatever you feel comfortable in giving will, as always, be gratefully appreciated.

Oklahoma City Community Foundation
1300 North Broadway Drive
Oklahoma City, OK 73103

Robert L. Brooks
Director/State Archaeologist

was recovered from both. One of these was just below the 1995 excavations at about 2.4m below datum, and was radiocarbon dated to 5380 ± 30 yrs. B.P. (between 6275 to 6035 B.P. calibrated). The other hearth was in the western Area "B" of the site, located almost 3.12 meters below datum, and this one, paradoxically, dated to 4850 ± 40 yrs. B.P. (5645-5485 B.P. calibrated).

Although we had hoped to complete the unfinished units left from the 1998 OAS dig, we were only able to get into the upper part of the Calf Creek levels in most of the units. We will need to try again to complete the units at the site, tentatively in mid-April 2001, in order to learn what archeological culture left the materials in the deepest levels. ***Larry Neal***

Soils Seminars to be Presented in Collaborative Effort Between OSU and OU

Dr. Brian Carter, Soils Scientist from OSU, will come to OU for two *Soils for the Archaeologist* seminars in March. Each seminar is a two day affair, the first day being a lab seminar and the second day a field trip to view soils. The first two day seminar and field trip will be in the Norman area, the second will include a field trip to northwestern Oklahoma to view the setting of Paleoindian sites. In addition to these seminars, Dr. Carter and Dr. Leland Bement will continue researching the late Pleistocene/early Holocene landscape along the Beaver River of northwestern Oklahoma.

These seminars are funded by the Big Twelve Faculty Fellowship Program which promotes inter-university collaboration, in this case between Dr. Carter at OSU and Dr. Bement at OU. This is the second Big Twelve Faculty Fellowship to promote collaboration with Dr. Bement. The other, in 1999, funded continued collaboration between Dr. Bement and Dr. Eileen Johnson, Texas Tech University. Both of these collaborative efforts stem from the excavation and analysis of the Folsom bison kills at the Cooper site in northwestern Oklahoma. ***Lee Bement***

Newsletter editors: Lois Albert and Marjy Duncan
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