

# NAPA

Nebraska Association of Professional Archeologists

Vol. 1 No. 1

## NEWSLETTER

Spring 1986

### FROM THE PUBLICATIONS COMMITTEE

Greetings to all members of this new organization!

We want to take this opportunity to introduce you to the Association's first publication, the NAPA Newsletter. This initial issue is only one of many you will receive during the upcoming years. We hope that it will eventually be accompanied by a variety of archaeological publications issued by this organization. The publications committee intends to turn out the Newsletter on a quarterly basis with each issue appearing about one month after the quarterly meeting of the NAPA Board of Directors and the Annual Meeting.

The purpose of the newsletter is to provide a forum for communication among professional archeologists who are interested in research and resource protection with regard to the Central Plains with a special emphasis upon Nebraska. This means that we will often depend upon the membership, among other sources, for news that is critical to our understanding political and scientific issues that are pertinent today.

This issue may be seen as an experiment in that a diverse number of topics were considered for inclusion. From these, a few were selected on the basis of their timeliness or general interest to the membership. It must be admitted, however, that the desire to get this first issue out may have caused us to overlook some very important areas which could and should be included. Look over this issue closely. If you have suggestions about its content, please contact the publications committee and make your wishes known. After all, this is your newsletter.

Suggestions, remarks, or information, etc. can be sent to:

NAPA Publications Committee  
c/o Anthropology Department  
Nebraska State Historical Society  
15th & 'P' Streets  
Lincoln, Nebraska 68508

With this in mind, you can expect the newsletter's format to change somewhat at first. This will reflect an attempt to accommodate the readership and because the issues at hand for consideration will necessarily change.

Bill Hunt, Editor  
Cathie Masters  
Tom McGinnis

#### MINUTES OF THE FIRST ANNUAL MEETING

##### New Business

The meeting was opened on March 15, 1986, at 7:30 PM by acting Chairman Rob Bozell. The first order of business was the election of officers. The following were elected:

President: Steve Holen

Vice-President: Bill Hunt

Secretary/Treasurer: Tom Myers

Board Members: Don Blakeslee, Rob Bozell, John Weymouth, and John Ludwickson. In addition, Les Hosick will serve as the representative of the Nebraska Archaeological Association and Alan Smith will serve as NAS alternate.

Following the election Steve Holen took the chair and introduced the first item on the agenda, the discussion of two bills before the Legislature.

The first of these, LB563, is concerned with the preservation of the State's archeological and architectural resources. Note was taken of the fact that the Game and Parks Commission and the Department of Roads have opposed the inclusion of archeology in spite of the fact that the approach of the Department of Roads might be used as a model for the program. Peter Bleed moved that the bill be supported in its original form. Seconded by Don Blakeslee. The motion passed.

President Holen pointed out that a second bill on the floor of the Legislature, LB862, would bring various state agencies

under the direct control of the Governor. The State Historical Society is included in the bill so its Director would become a political appointee. Tom Myers moved that the officers of NAPA contact the Legislature to oppose the bill. Seconded by Bill Hunt. The motion passed with one abstention.

After consideration of the bills, the membership expressed concern about increasing support for the organization. The Peter Kiewit Foundation and the Woods Foundation were suggested as possible sources of funding.

There was also some discussion of the goals and principal concerns of the Organization and responses were quite varied. There was some concern with the dissemination of information about archeology to the public. Professionals agreed that amateur archeologists were frequently of great help in the identification of sites, in excavation and in many other ways which contribute to knowledge of and preservation of the past. They also agreed that amateurs and the general public were poorly served by the existing situation. The ensuing discussion identified several means by which the public could be better served.

Among the suggestions was the establishment of a public archeologist. There was general agreement that the appointment of a public archeologist would facilitate the dissemination of archeological information to the public. He/she could work with amateurs and professionals to give and get information from all parties. Peter Bleed suggested that this person be hired through an existing agency rather than by NAPA. On behalf of NAS, Les Hosick suggested that NAS might be able to provide some of the necessary funding. This was viewed as a working goal to strive for over the next couple of years.

Another major suggestion was the institution of an amateur certification project. Members were aware of the similar programs in Kansas, Iowa, and other states which have greatly facilitated communication and provided constructive archeological experiences for amateurs. Agreement was expressed that NAPA should look into establishing such a program.

Finally, there was general agreement that NAPA should be greatly concerned with State and local preservation laws.

#### Announcements

President Holen announced that Bob Patten, a flint knapper, will be at the Dawson County Historical Society on June 14, 1986. Members of NAPA and NAS are particularly invited.

There will be a Board meeting immediately following the general session.

Adjournment

The meeting was adjourned at 8:35 PM.

Respectfully submitted,  
Thomas P. Myers, Secretary

MINUTES OF THE BOARD MEETING

Present: President Steve Holen, Bill Hunt, John Ludwickson, Rob Bozell, Les Hosick (NAS), Alan Smith (NAS Alternate) and Tom Myers (recording).

The meeting was opened by President Holen at 9 pm.

Standing Committees

There was extended discussion about the committees necessary and their functions. Much of the discussion centered on the need for a Legislative Committee. While there was unanimous agreement of the importance of following legislation and contacting legislators, question was raised about the best approach. Ultimately, it was decided that NAPA members should contact legislators. The formation of a committee will be continued at the next Board meeting. President Holen will write a letter about current NAPA concerns to all legislators. Bozell and Hunt will send "Legislative Alerts" to NAPA membership. Blakeslee suggested a letter of appreciation be sent to Senators who vote our way.

The following committees were established:

1. Membership:

John Ludwickson, Chair  
Gayle Carlson  
Melissa Conners  
Chris Schoen  
Les Hosick (NAS representative)

2. Education:

Rob Bozell, Chair  
Don Blakeslee  
Tom Myers  
Alan Smith (NAS Alternate)

3. Publication:

Bill Hunt, Chair (as NAPA Vice-President), will seek help in the publication of a NAPA Newsletter.

There was brief discussion of the functions and goals of the Education Committee. It was suggested that informational exhibits might be constructed for the State Fair. A possible focus: What if you have a site on your land? It was also suggested that archeological press releases could be circulated through the Nebraska equivalent of UPI. The Historical Society is said to have the contacts necessary to circulate such a release.

There was unanimous agreement on the importance of establishing an journal for Nebraska archeology. Ideally, it would be a joint effort with NAS. Les Hosick will discuss joint support of such a journal with NAS membership. The meeting was adjourned at 10:35 pm.

Respectfully submitted,  
Thomas P. Myers, Secretary

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 30 through September 21: "Photographs and Plains Indians" exhibition at the State Museum of History, 15th & P Streets, Lincoln.

May 19 through ?: Excavation at the Lincoln Pottery Works by the Anthropology Department, University of Nebraska. If you are interested in volunteering, contact Chris Schoen (402) 472-5392 or Dr. Peter Bleed (402) 572-2439.

June 14: Flintknapping demonstration by Bob Patton at the Dawson County Museum in Lexington. Open to the public. Other flintknappers are encouraged to bring materials and their tools and participate in the demonstration.

CURRENT RESEARCH IN NEBRASKA

John Ludwickson and Rob Bozell (Nebraska State Historical Society) are conducting highway survey and monitoring near St. Edward and Neligh.

Gayle Carlson and Tom McGinnis (Nebraska State Historical Society) intend to some survey for Archaic sites in the southeastern portion of the state.

Don Blakeslee (Wichita State University) continues his work with materials recovered during last year's survey in Dixon

County. This was done under contract with the Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office. The survey resulted in the location of over 60 new sites, most of which are associated with the St. Helena phase. Part of the survey was conducted within Ponca State Park where 13 lodge depressions and a problematic fortification trench were known to be located. Testing of the trench indicated that the linear depression was not man-made but a probable eroded cow path. Don also tested an isolated St. Helena lodge near the park.

Peter Bleed (University of Nebraska-Lincoln) intends to begin excavation at the historic Lincoln Pottery Works. This is being done under contract with the State Highway Department. The university field school will also participate.

Dave May and Steve Holen (Dawson County Museum) continue their research on terrace development and climatic change within the past 1000 years in the Loup River drainage.

#### REQUESTS FOR INFORMATION

In future issues this section will be set aside for members involved in research projects who would like to contact others with similar interests. If you are involved in such a project, drop the Publications Committee a line.

Cathie Masters is interested in contacting persons with knowledge of prehistoric skeletal remains (especially from Nebraska) for her Master's Thesis project. She is in the process of dentition studies at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln and would like to expand her sample, if possible. Please contact Cathie at Box 352, Bennet, Nebraska, 68317.

#### EXCAVATION STOPPED AT KURZ OMAHA VILLAGE

For the last three years excavation has been carried on at 25SY14 by amateurs without the guidance or supervision of professional archeologists. The site, known as the Kurz Omaha Village, is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and is located on private land in Sarpy County. The landowner advertised in local papers for volunteers to excavate the site. This was brought to the attention of the Nebraska State Historical Society and the Nebraska Association of Professional Archeologists by calls and letters from citizens and professionals concerned with the unsupervised disturbance of this important site. The following letter was sent to the individual in charge of the excavation by NAPA president, Steve Holen:

I am writing on behalf of the professional archeologists of Nebraska to inquire about the excavation you are performing at

the Kurz Omaha Indian Village. I am certain that you realize that this site is listed on the National Register of Historic Places indicating it is one of the most important archeological sites in all of Nebraska. Sites on the National Register are the ones most deserving of preservation from all types of destruction.

First please let me ask if you have a professional archeologist in charge of the excavation? This is a very important concern to insure proper maps, photographs and records are kept to document the excavation. The most important information from an archeological site comes not from finding but from the context in which the artifacts and features are found. If the context is not well recorded and interpreted, the artifacts themselves are nearly meaningless and the site has been destroyed just as certain as if it were excavated by a bulldozer.

I would hope that if you do not have the services of a professional archeologist you would cease excavation until you have guidance and supervision to properly record all the types of information correctly. If I can be of any assistance please feel free to contact me at 308-324-5340. I am looking forward to your reply concerning this very important archeological site.

Sincerely Yours,  
Steve Holen  
President  
RR 2 Box 25  
Overton, Nebr. 68863

In response to Steve's letter excavation has ceased as of April 21, 1986. While digging has stopped, it appears the reasons for stopping are still misunderstood. There seems to be more concern over criticism by professionals than there is about the reasons for excavation or preservation. Understandably the situation has led to some hard feelings among those who wish to excavate and those anxious to preserve. This illustrates the need for more communication and interaction between amateurs and professionals in Nebraska. It is one goal of NAPA to provide guidance in this type of situation, as this is one area where we really need to work as a group in order to insure a good professional/amateur working relationship.