

NAPA



Nebraska Association of Professional Archeologists

Vol. 3 No. 1

NEWSLETTER

Spring 1988

 ***** ITS TIME TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!! *****

The Nebraska Association of Professional Archeologists is at a very crucial juncture in its work. We need your continued support to insure that N.A.P.A.'s efforts continue to represent your public, legal and professional interests. At this time, the organization is at a number of critical junctures in the development and promotion of Nebraska-oriented archeological research, public education, professional and amateur communication, book and journal publication, and cultural resource protection. Use the form at the end of the newsletter to renew your membership right away. If you are able, please make an additional donation to provide further assistance. It will be greatly appreciated and you can be sure that it will be put to a good use!

N.A.P.A. BOARD MEETING

A quorum of board members was attained on March 9, 1988. Members in attendance included President Steve Holen, Vice-president Bill Hunt, Secretary-Treasurer Tom Meyers, and board members John Weymouth, Melissa Connor, and Peter Bleed.

Old Business

LB-612: Peter Bleed informed the board about the progress of the burial bill in the Nebraska unicameral. There was some discussion about the need for the archeological community to prepare a draft bill on its own. A formal statement representing the position of N.A.P.A. will be presented to the membership for discussion at the annual meeting in April. The committee drafting this position statement includes Tom Meyers, Melissa Connor, John Ludwickson and is chaired by Peter Bleed.

State Archeological Surveys: There was some concern about the lack of funding by the Nebraska SHPO office for archeological surveys in the state. Nearly all funds for the next several years are being directed towards the survey of standing architecture. A motion was made and passed for the N.A.P.A. President, Steve Holen, to write a letter to the SHPO, Dr. James Hanson. This letter would address the establishment of archeological priorities (from the perspective of N.A.P.A.), inquire about the amount of funds available for archeological work, and offer to assist the SHPO's office in establishing a state plan for the conservation and protection of Nebraska's archeological resources.

Publications: A new journal, The Nebraska Archeologist, will be initiated soon. The Director of the Nebraska Historical Society, James Hanson, has agreed to fund the first issue at the society's expense so that N.A.P.A. can get the journal off to a good start. The Nebraska Archeological Society has also offered to put in \$200 toward the series. The only thing holding up the publication at this time is the lack of papers offered to the co-editors of the series, Eli Paul and John Ludwickson.

The current plans call for publication of one to two issues during the journal's first year with a potential for increasing this number in future years if the demand is large enough. It will consist of about 60 pages (printed both sides), be about 6" X 9" in size, have staple and stitched binding, and a light cardboard cover. Minimum numbers to be printed each time will be 500 with the expected cost being approximately \$625.00.

Plans to publish a book, tentatively entitled Nebraska Archeology, has fallen through due to a lack of interest by publishers and the inability of N.A.P.A. to find the amount of

funding it requires. Authors of papers submitted for publication in this book will have their articles returned to them with an offer to publish them in the new journal series.

Secretary-Treasurer's Report for 1987: Due to the overlap in responsibilities by the Secretary-Treasurer and the Chair of the Membership Committee, the tracking of membership has not been very efficient. A proposal will be made at the April Annual Meeting to combine these two positions. There is some concern that N.A.P.A. is losing members because of the lack of renewals. In the past, there has been no attempt to contact members who have failed to renew. This will be remedied by making a complete computer listing of all members. The Newsletter will announce that dues are to be renewed each spring. All members who have failed to pay their dues by six weeks after that announcement will be contacted by mail.

The N.A.P.A. finances, as of March 8, 1988, are as follows:

CURRENT ASSETS:	
Cash on hand (checks)	\$ 40.00
Checking account	55.54
Total	\$ 495.54
INCOME:	
Fellow Membership dues	\$ 300.00
Associate Membership dues	55.00
General Donations	70.00
Publication Fund Donation	100.00
Total	\$ 525.00
EXPENSES:	
Newsletter 2(1): Labels & Postage	\$ 36.46
Newsletter 2(2) Postage	21.60
Miscellaneous Postage	10.12
Stationary	58.62
Total	\$ 126.80
Excess of Income over Expenditures	\$ 398.20
Carry-over from 1986	97.34
Total	\$ 495.54

[Note: This does not reflect the money pledged by the Nebraska State Historical Society (\$625) and the Nebraska Archeological Society (\$200) for publications.]

New Business

Vacancy in the Board: Since the death of board member Tom McGinnis, the N.A.P.A. board has had a position vacant. Unfortunately the lack of a quorum at other board meetings has prevented its being filled until now. Following Section VI, Part C, paragraph 2 of the Bylaws, the board moved that a new member be placed in that position to fill the remaining portion of McGinnis' term. Gayle Carlson was nominated and accepted on the

board by a unanimous vote.

Board Quorum: The Bylaws (Section VII, paragraph 3) specifies that the Board of Directors shall meet quarterly. Unfortunately, the board has been unable to reach a quorum during its last two meetings due in part to a vacancy in its membership and the fact that several of its members were out of state for extensive periods in 1987. In order to prevent this situation from recurring in the future, a motion will be made at the Annual Meeting to amend the Bylaws to reduce the number required for a quorum from six (as mandated by Section VII, paragraph 4) to five.

Elections: The Board of Directors has three positions to fill at the next Annual Meeting. These include President, Vice-President, and Secretary-Treasurer. A nomination committee (John Weymouth, Peter Bleed, and Bill Hunt) was established to select candidates for this position. At a separate meeting, the committee agreed to place before the membership for their consideration, the names of Bob Hassler for President, Cathie Masters for Vice-President, and Doug Bamforth for Secretary-Treasurer. Other nominations will be accepted from the membership at the Annual Meeting prior to elections.

Annual Meeting: The spring annual meeting has always been held in conjunction with the Nebraska Academy of Sciences Annual Meeting. Although attendance at the papers has been good, there has been a problem of people drifting away from the room prior to the N.A.P.A. meeting at the end of the day. Therefore, the board decided to have a luncheon meeting at the Union College campus in the same room that the Anthropology papers are presented (see announcement below).

ANNOUNCING A NEW JOURNAL - THE NEBRASKA ARCHEOLOGIST!!

N.A.P.A. is ready to begin publishing a new archeological journal, The Nebraska Archeologist. Funding is currently available for the first two issues in the proposed series. Papers are needed now for publication in the very near future. Manuscripts submitted for publication should follow the citation and reference style specified in the Plains Anthropologist. Papers should be submitted in typed or printed form, accompanied by a diskette copy (if it is available), and sent to:

Eli Paul and John Ludwickson, Co-Editors
The Nebraska Archeologist
c/o Nebraska State Historical Society
P.O. Box 82554
1500 'R' Street
Lincoln, Nebraska 68501

THE REBURIAL BILL - LB 612 UPDATE

submitted by John Ludwickson

As many of you already know, there has been a great deal of activity on the proposed Nebraska reburial bill. On March 2, 1988, another meeting on LB 612 was held at the State Office Building. N.A.P.A. members present included R. Bozell, G. Carlson, E. Paul, T. Steinacher and Larry Zimmerman as well as myself and P. Bleed who have been present at earlier discussions of the bill. Due to recent newspaper stories about the bill, it was proposed that no more press be given the bill until another meeting has occurred. Respecting this request, I feel constrained to not go into further detail about the meeting at this time.

When LB 612 was reported out of the Government Committee early in the session, an effort was made to inform Legislators regarding the consequences to science and education should they pass the bill. The response from the professional community, both those outside (but interested in) Nebraska and those living here, was articulate, sensitive and effective. It is very unlikely that the bill will get to the floor, let alone be voted on, this session. I hope that a truly equitable bill can be passed next session.

ARCHEOLOGICAL VANDALS

It has recently come to the editor's attention that a very different kind of site has drawn the attention of recent "pothunting" activity. I have heard from a reliable source that at least two steamboats have been vandalized by several people in the Missouri River valley during the past year. My informant tells me that the upper deck and perhaps portions of the lower deck of at least one ca 1820s vessel have been destroyed. Though these activities are not very sophisticated, their interests appear to parallel those of commercial treasure hunters on the East Coast. Unfortunately, the Shipwreck bill before Congress does not address this kind of site since most such wrecks along major navigable waterways are either in silted in fields, oxbows, or have already been destroyed by dredging.

NEBRASKA ARCHEOLOGY: THE 1987 FIELD SEASON

Brown County - The McIntosh site is a Central Plains Tradition (A.D. 900-1200) component exposed in a buried soil horizon on a sand dune overlooking a large Sandhills lake. The site was threatened by road construction although no federal funding was

involved and the Historical Society turned to an all volunteer effort to recover data. Three days of excavations in the fall of 1987 produced some very important information.

Eleven cache pits, typical of eastern and southwestern Nebraska earthlodge villages, were discovered and excavated with all soil waterscreened through 1/16" mesh hardware cloth. This is the first documented occurrence of such features along Sandhills lakes, but their contents were even more surprising. A wide variety of food remains were preserved in the pits including bison, fish, waterfowl, fur bearers, turtles, corn, beans, squash, sunflower, domesticated sumpweed, and other wild floral species. The corn was manifested by kernels, cob and stalk fragments. This represents overwhelming evidence for on-site cultivation as opposed to transport of processed corn from distant earthlodge villages. In addition, a typical array of artifacts were recovered including stone points, scrapers, and knives, ceramics, bone awls and scapula hoes.

These conditions strongly suggest that McIntosh represents a habitation much more substantial than a transitory hunting camp - the accepted explanation for Plains Village sites in the Sandhills. Although no earthlodges were discovered at the site, and are not likely to be given the sandy soil conditions, we believe the site represents a (tipi?) village established by Central Plains Tradition groups who were abandoning communities in their traditional territory between May and October. The development of a summer village pattern along Sandhills lake shores and stream terraces probably featured organization of lithic raw material procurement trips to northwest Nebraska and eastern Wyoming quarries, local hunting and fishing, and lakeside horticulture. The reasons behind this newly discovered settlement and subsistence strategy are not obvious at this point, although Late Prehistoric frontier expansion or population pressure are research avenues currently being pursued.

McIntosh represents a new and exciting aspect of both Late Prehistoric and Sandhills archeology. Our work at the site could not have been accomplished without the participation of amateur archeologists. We would like to take this opportunity to thank the following individuals for their assistance: Loren Bentley, Dorothy Bentley, Louisa Brokering, Gene Fischer, Doc McKenzie, Todd Rivers, Mr. and Mrs. Fred Wales, Cecil Williams, Roberta Williams, Bill Muck, and Mary Muck. If outside funding can be secured, we would like to conduct additional work at the site in the fall of 1988.

Custer and Dawson Counties - During June of 1987, Augustana College of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, conducted a survey under a contract with the Nebraska Historic Preservation Office. Peter Winham, the project director, was assisted by crew members Ed Lueck and Kurt Watzek. This survey also utilized the expertise of Steve Holen archeological consultant and David May as the consulting geomorphologist. The focus of the work was upon the Buffalo and French Creeks, in both the loess hills physiographic

region and the Platte River valley. Although several prehistoric sites were located, most did not produce culturally diagnostic materials. For the most part, these appear to have been temporary, special use sites; possibly hunting camps. At least two Woodland sites were identified as were several historic Euroamerican settlement archeological sites, and one potentially significant architectural site. Laboratory analysis of the cultural materials is presently underway.

Dawes County - Gayle Carlson and Terry Steinacher, of the Nebraska State Historical Society, used a small volunteer crew to investigate the 1874 Cavalry Barracks at Fort Robinson. This building was the site of the Cheyenne Outbreak, which took place on January 9, 1879. That incident, which caused the death of at least 64 Cheyenne and 11 soldiers, resulted from the refusal of a captive group of 149 Cheyenne to return to an Oklahoma reservation they had left. The desperate escape attempt occurred after their food, water and fuel had been withheld to force them to reconsider.

The primary purpose of the work was to provide information necessary for the reconstruction of the barracks to aid in the interpretation of the Outbreak. It is also hoped that significant information will be recovered relating to the Cheyenne presence in the barracks, and its final occupation by the families of black enlisted cavalymen. Excavations in 1987 exposed most of the east end of the structure and revealed large pits below the floor which are believed to be Cheyenne defensive rifle pits. Archeologists also opened a number of test pits over most of the rest of the building which allowed them to clarify the location of the building's exterior log walls.

Greeley Co. - Gilbert/Commonwealth Inc. archeologists conducted an excavation at 25GY12, a Logan Creek complex campsite in 1987. This work was done under contract with the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, Missouri Basin Region. Donna C. Roper was Principal Investigator.

The site lies on an upland hill slope overlooking the North Loup River valley near the town of Scotia and is within the right-of-way of the Scotia Canal. It contains a scatter of heavily fractured bone, lithic debris, and occasional tools. A single McKean lanceolate point and several Logan Creek style side-notched points were recovered, along with several additional bifacial and unifacial tools and a quantity of debitage. Indications from testing in the fall of 1986 were that the spatial structure was far better preserved than might have been expected. Accordingly, the excavation included detailed proveniencing of all recovered debris, and analysis will include a study of internal site structure. A radiometric date will be obtained using accelerator dating on charred bone. Casual survey outside the right-of-way indicated the presence of a similar site nearby, although no diagnostics were observed.

Frontier County - A number of projects were carried out during

1987 relating to the archeology of Harry Strunk Lake on Medicine Creek. Archeologists involved in these research efforts represented Gilbert/Commonwealth Inc., the U.S. Bureau of Reclamation, and Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation.

Between June and October, Bureau of Reclamation archeologists Jeff Kenyon, Suzanne Kenyon, Brad Coutant and Bob Blasing conducted a number of surveys. Magnetometer mapping was done at three sites, and a number of previous excavations were relocated from work done by the Nebraska State Historical Society in 1947-1948. Most of these were Upper Republican sites although one was a Woodland site with a deeply buried Paleo-Indian component. Ten new sites were also recorded. The precise locations of several cutbanks were mapped relative to their positions in 1943. The objective was to determine the rate of shoreline erosion on the cutbanks and project future erosion near archeological sites. This projection will be used to predict future damage and improve management for known cultural resources.

In conjunction with this work, the Bureau of Reclamation is providing some funds to Marvin F. Kivett (Nebraska State Historical Society Foundation) to aid in publishing data from the 1947-1948 excavations at these sites.

Gilbert/Commonwealth conducted a field excavation under contract with the U.S. Department of the Interior, Bureau of Reclamation, Missouri Basin Region. Donna C. Roper was Principal Investigator. Archeologists completely excavated House 4 at 25FT22. This Upper Republican house was investigated because it was located near a steep and unstable bank of the lake. The house was oriented slightly clockwise from north-south X east-west. It measured nearly 9 X 9 meters and had an entryway slightly to the west of south. Fifteen pits, most of which were bell-shaped, were excavated with 100% of their contents subjected to flotation. Analysis of heavy and light fractions will reveal a wide variety of fish and bird remains in addition to corn, bison, and other mammals. Complete recovery will also permit detailed evaluation of chipped stone and bone tool technology. Adjacent to the house on the south is a large midden. Only limited testing was conducted in it, but the tests indicated a very high organic matter content with debris extending to a depth of about one meter. Although no flotation was conducted on midden fill, the testing established that a wide variety of faunal and probably also floral species are present and that preservation is excellent.

NEBRASKA ARCHEOLOGY IN 1988

Dawes County - Gayle Carlson and Terry Steinacher, of the Nebraska State Historical Society, will return to Fort Robinson in June to complete excavation of the 1874 Cavalry Barracks

associated with the Cheyenne Outbreak. Following the 1987 field season, a research proposal was submitted to Earthwatch for assistance with the 1988 field work. That organization has agreed to provide support for three volunteer field teams who will be working on site June 6-17, July 11-22, and August 8-19. Volunteers no associated with Earthwatch will have the opportunity of participating during the weeks of June 20 and August 29.

Dawson County - Doug Bamforth and Steve Holen are going to lead a University of Nebraska-Lincoln archeological fieldschool in survey, testing and excavation of several sites. Field work will begin on May 23 and end July 15 with the focus of attention being Plains Woodland (A.D. 1-1000) and Paleoindian (8000-6000 B.C.) sites.

Scottsbluff County - 25SF50 at Scotts Bluff National Monument will be the site of limited archeological testing by the Midwest Archeological Center for three to four weeks this June. This site is known to consist of three buried soil horizons, the latest of which has a potentially datable living surface containing lithic debitage, possible rock-lined hearths, and bone (bison is represented among the faunal elements). Positioned on an arroyo-cut Holocene terrace at the north base of Scotts Bluff, 25SF50 covers an estimated 500 square meters.

The site was recorded by Marvin Kay during his 1975 survey for the Nebraska State Historical Society. It is one of only three known locations of prehistoric activity within the Monument, and Kay characterized these as "potential occupation sites" likely to represent short term, seasonal encampments by small hunting parties with cultural material accruing over a long time span.

Only sites (25SF11), located on the crest of Scotts Bluff, has been tested to date. This work was done in 1941 and 1942 by A.L. Coffin. Among the objects recovered were a straight based side-notched projectile point, other bifacial stone tools, unifacially retouched flakes, a probable bone awl fragment, a grinding slab, possible hearths, and ceramics. The latter is tentatively attributed to the Upper Republican phase (ca AD 1000-1500).

Testing will focus on determining the site's extent, condition and potential significance. Information derived from this work will form the basis for the decision to salvage or preserve the site against continued loss to natural erosion. While site preservation is the desirable option, it may prove challenging, if not impossible. Whether 25SF50 lends itself to comparison with other sites in and around the national monument, or contributes to a broader understanding of prehistoric adaptation on the Northwestern Plains, will be determined with this season's testing.

UPCOMING EVENTS

March 22: Terry Steinacher will be speaking to amateur archeologists and others interested in Nebraska archeology in Alliance. This presentation is one of a series of educational lectures sponsored by the Nebraska Archaeological Society (N.A.S.), N.A.P.A., and the Nebraska Council for the Humanities (N.C.H.). His lecture is entitled "The Archeology of Fort Robinson." Sarah Fairbanks, a N.A.S. member serving as the local coordinator, has arranged for the meeting to take place at the Alliance Public Library meeting room at 7 P.M.

March 23: Steve Holen will be also presenting a public lecture in Ogallala as a part of the educational lecture series sponsored by the N.A.S., N.A.P.A., and the N.C.H.. The lecture, entitled "Pawnee Indians, From History to Prehistory," will be presented at the Occidental Savings and Loan meeting room at 7 P.M. The local coordinator for this program is Karyn Stansbury, a N.A.S. member.

March 25-26: 10th Annual Flint Hills Archeological Conference will be hosted by the Kansas State Historical Society. William Lees is the conference chairperson. All of the papers will be of interest to those involved in Nebraska archeology. Papers dealing specifically with Nebraska archeology include "A Site Catchment Analysis of a Single Upper Republican House, Medicine Creek, Nebraska" by Donna Roper (on the 25th), "Damage to Archeological Sites Caused by Shoreline Erosion at Medicine Creek Dam, Nebraska" by Bob Blasing (on the 26th), and "PaleoIndian Occupation of the TransMissouri Region" by Thomas Meyers (on the 26th). For further information, contact William B. Lees, 1988 Flint Hills Conference Chair, Kansas State Historical Society, 120 West Tenth, Topeka, Kansas or phone (913) 296-2625.

March 27: In conjunction with the educational lecture series sponsored by the N.A.S., N.A.P.A., and the N.C.H., Bill Hunt will be addressing people interested in archeology at Grand Island. The lecture is entitled "Historical Archeology: The Archeology of Us." Bob Carl, a N.A.S. member, has arranged for the address to be given at the Stuhr Museum at 2:30.

April 15-16: Annual Meeting of the Nebraska Academy of Sciences (Anthropology Section). This will be held at Union College Campus Center. Eight papers will be presented beginning at 8:30 AM and ending at 12:00. These will include:

"Geophysical Application at Knife River Indian Villages NHS" by John Weymouth

"Interacting with Ruth Benedict at the Office of War Information" by Peter Suzuki;

"Utilizing Autocad for Computer Enhanced Illustrations on Archaeological Sites: An Update Using the Lincoln Pottery Works Site (25LC42) Test Case" by Bill Chada

"Evolution of the Plains Earthlodge: Architecture and Archeology" by Steve Holen

"Cannibalism, Combat and Post Battle Mutilation: Observed Similarities Between Cannibalism Criteria and Human Remains from an Historical Battlefield" by Pat Phillips

"Using Autocad and Database Programs to Display Archaeological Information" by Jim Bennett

"A Great Oasis Fauna From Central Nebraska" by Rob Bozell and Mary K. Rogers

"A Radiocarbon Date From A Probable Late Archaic Site in Southwestern Nebraska" by Gayle Carlson

"Variability in Omaha Subsistence Economy, 1820-1855" by John Ludwickson

The annual meeting of the Nebraska Association of Professional Archeologists will follow immediately thereafter (see below). For further information, contact Gayle Carlson or Mary K. Rogers, Anthropology Section Co-Chairpersons, Nebraska Academy of Sciences, c/o Nebraska State Historical Society, P.O. Box 82554, Lincoln, Nebraska 68501.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL ARCHEOLOGISTS

The spring annual meeting of the Nebraska Association of Professional Archeologists will convene on April 15, at 12 noon following the Anthropology Section of the Nebraska Academy of Sciences. This meeting will be held at Union College Campus Center in Lincoln, Nebraska. A pizza and soft drink lunch will be available to those who are interested. People may also bring their own lunch if they so desire. If you intend to be on hand for the meeting, please indicate this on the membership form at the end of the Newsletter. This will give the luncheon organizers an idea of how much food and drink will be required.

On the agenda are the presentation of the first annual McGinnis archeology award, the reburial bill, the new journal, the developments in Nebraska archeological research, public education, and many more topics of interest to you as a professional archeologist. In addition, election of officers will be held. The N.A.P.A. nomination committee has selected the following persons as candidates: Bob Hassler for President, Cathie Masters for Vice-President, and Doug Bamforth for Secretary-Treasurer. Other nominations will be accepted from the membership at the Annual Meeting prior to elections.

Doug Scott and Melissa Connor have graciously invited all those interested in Nebraska archeology to get together at their house (1920 B Street, Lincoln) in the evening following the N.A.P.A. meeting. This is a B.Y.O.B. beginning at 5:30 and ending who knows when? Hors d'oeuvres will be served.

NEW PUBLICATIONS

Gunnerson, James H.

1987 Archeology of the High Plains. Bureau of Land Management
Cultural Resource Series #19. Denver.

The editor would like to extend his appreciation to the following for their assistance in making this newsletter possible: Robert Blasing, Rob Bozell, Gayle Carlson, Christin Griffin, Steve Holen, John Ludwickson, Cathie Masters, Tom Meyers, Donna Roper, and Terry Steinacher.

Please send any suggestions, remarks, archeology news, or other information about past, current or upcoming activities, etc., to: William Hunt, Editor, N.A.P.A. Newsletter, c/o NPS-Midwest Archeological Center, Federal Building Room 474, 100 Centennial Mall North, Lincoln, Nebraska, 68508.