

NAPA

Nebraska Association of Professional Archeologists

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NEWSLETTER

Summer 1988

OPEN LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

The initial monumental task, led by past President, Steve Holen, to organize the Nebraska Association of Professional Archeologists, has left the organization on sound footings. Nevertheless, I feel that we are in danger of becoming too elitist, and thereby forfeiting our options to play a major and constructive role in the management, preservation, and analysis of Nebraska archeology. We must avoid becoming entangled within legislative actions, such as the current "reburial" issue, which will simply drain our meager resources at such a critical developmental stage. Through the Society of Professional Archeologists, the Society for American Archaeology, the Nebraska Historical Society, and as private citizens, individuals have avenues to become involved in this and other legislative issues. I am not advocating that NAPA bury its collective head in the sand and avoid controversy involving Nebraska archeology. NAPA does need to support, by whatever means, any attempts which will stimulate dialogue between professional archeologists and the general public concerning archeological resources. This, however, can be done in ways which can stimulate NAPA's growth and ultimately provide the clout needed to support sound legislative actions concerning Nebraska's antiquities and research freedom.

We must establish NAPA as the quintessential archeological organization in Nebraska. This cannot be accomplished overnight, but it can be done if we remain focused on specific and attainable goals. As such, for my first year in office, I have established four specific goals. These are:

1. Publication of the first NAPA Journal by the 1988 Plains Conference.
2. Liberalize and ease membership application while maintaining NAPA's integrity.
3. Standardize operations including meeting and publication schedules and membership solicitations.

4. Establish sound financial planning to achieve long-range organizational goals such as scholarship funding and research support.

It is easy for me to set these goals, but I cannot achieve them alone. To make NAPA successful, we must all become active. We must voice our opinions, submit our research, volunteer our time, and above all, recruit new members. I hope that I will have your support over the next two years as we continue to build NAPA.

Sincerely,
Bob Hassler,
President, NAPA

1988 SUMMER FIELD WORK

Salvage Excavations at the McIntosh Site

In mid-July the Historical Society discovered that the McIntosh site, 25BW15, had suffered additional substantial damage from borrow-taking activity. A brief archeological salvage program was implemented and in four days another five exterior storage/refuse pits, another possible work area including five additional pits, and the remains of a structure were excavated. Thanks go to all the volunteers who responded to our call on such short notice. Perhaps the most important new information relates to the structure. Really, nothing more than a posthole pattern enclosing another cluster of pits, it helps to answer one question about the site: what sort of dwellings were the people living in? The structure had no evidence of a hearth, nor of center posts, so it differs from typical Central Plains Tradition dwellings. As might be expected, there was a large sample of pottery, stone tools, lithic debris, and faunal remains. Expect a more detailed report at the Plains Conference.

Highway Archeology in Gosper County

Highway archeologists, John Ludwickson and Rob Bozell, spent brief periods at three archeological sites in Gosper county during the spring of 1988. The remainder of a storage pit exposed in a road cut was salvaged at a Central Plains Tradition (Upper Republican?) site northwest of Arapahoe; another storage pit was salvaged at a CPT site northeast of Arapahoe. The latter site seems not to have been Upper Republican in the strict sense, nor was it a dwelling area; rather the unusually large storage pit was virtually empty except for a deposit of charred maize, cobs, and a single scapula hoe which lay on the floor of the pit. Pretty clearly this must have been some sort of feature involved in horticultural field work, but just what function it played is not clear.

The last Gosper county highway archeology project involved the mechanical stripping of the right-of-way at a Lower Loup hunting camp site northeast of Elwood on Plum Creek. This site is mere yards from the site which was the scene of the University of Nebraska field school, and we thank Doug, Jim, and their crew for the help they provided. A number of small hearths were exposed by the machine stripping, but artifacts were scarce. We have recommended that the site not be considered eligible for the National Register. During our work two or three features which probably relate to the Woodland Tradition were encountered, and this unsuspected new information may change our opinion as to the eligibility of the site for the National Register. Again, look for a report on Gosper county highway archeology activities in Wichita.

1988 University of Nebraska Field School

A small Woodland site, 25G02, in Gosper County was the focus of the 1988 UNL Archeological field school. The project was directed by Dr. Douglas Bamforth and assisted by Steve Holen of the Dawson County Museum and UNL teaching assistant, James Winfrey.

The site is located in the Plum Creek Valley several miles from its confluence with the Platte River. This portion of the valley is fairly narrow with steep walls to the north and rolling hills to the south. The property owner, Clyde Wallace, discovered the site as a child when his family lived in a farmhouse near the site.

Excavation began after a surface collection isolated an area of concentration on a small rise in the middle of the milo field. A one meter grid system was set up over the site area and a thirty meter trench running north and south was excavated to determine the extent of the site. Soil cores were also used to determine the depth of the cultural deposits. Two areas of concentration were discovered with an area of very little material separating the two. While it is too soon to be certain, the northern concentration area may represent a midden deposit and the southern area a living surface.

The following students participated in the field school: Todd Ahlman (Wausau), Todd Butler (Lincoln), Todd Stuhmer (Omaha), Todd Smyth (Gibbon), Jacqueline O'Donnell (Lexington), Paul Stromberg (Omaha), Rebecca Hill (Giltner), Patricia Amgwert (Lincoln), Regina Strom (Omaha), Robert Jones (Lexington), Cheryl Edwards (Lincoln), Elizabeth Peterson (Lincoln), William Sabo (Yutan), and Dan Dennison (Sioux City, S.D.).

There were also many volunteers. Thanks Bridget, Robin, Cecil, Dan, William, Virginia, Bob, Jenny, Steve, Jess, Sean, and Chris. Also, a special thanks to Steve Holen and his wife, Elida, for all the extra help they provided.

Archeological Investigations at Scotts Bluff National Monument

On July 13th a crew from the NPS Midwest Archeological Center completed a month of testing at 25SF50 in Scotts Bluff National Monument. The site was recorded in 1975 by Marvin Kay during a survey of lands in the Monument. Kay described 25SF50 as a buried living surface exposed in the cutbanks of an arroyo, noting the site's potential to produce important information about the lifeways of prehistoric peoples in the area. Kay reported that the site was rapidly eroding and recommended its expedient salvage. In 1987, the management of Scotts Bluff National Monument proposed to sponsor archeological testing at 25SF50. The present project was initiated in response to that proposal. Goals of the project were to determine the extent and current condition of the site and its potential significance in accordance with National Register criteria. Testing demonstrated that significant portions of the site are intact.

The site is positioned on a broken alluvial Holocene terrace adjacent to the Brule Badlands, at the north base of Scotts Bluff. Kay estimated the site to be at least 200' (60 meters) square. Our investigations indicate the site is much larger, occurring within an area of about 300 meters NE-SW x 100 meters NW-SE. Within these 30,000 square meters are seven "mesa" formations that rise up to five meters above floors of the intervening arroyos. Discontinuously exposed along the banks of the mesas are up to three dark bands of sediment which contain bone, lithic debris, traces of ochre, and charcoal stained lenses suggesting hearths. Over time the banks of the mesas containing these intact cultural deposits slump and weather, exposing progressively more of the cultural deposits to view, and to erosion.

During the month of field work seven 1 x 2 meter test units and one 1 x 1 meter unit were excavated to the depth of ca. one meter. A systematic surface collection was made, profiles recorded along the mesa banks, a contour map compiled, and metal pipe placed at selected locations to monitor erosion.

The vast majority of material recovered from the site was chipped stone. Fire cracked rock was abundant in two features identified as hearths. Few cores, and no hammerstones, groundstone, or ceramics were recovered. Two projectile points recovered represent the only temporally diagnostic artifacts thus far collected from 25SF50. The style of these is typical of points found at sites assigned to the Dismal River cultural complex (ca. A.D. 1600-1750). The date seems late given the absence from the assemblage of ceramics and other classes of artifacts. Whether the assemblage reflects short term activity centered around the butchering of bison, or whether the assemblage is limited due to the small size of our sample will await further investigation to determine. Research and analysis, including processing of radiocarbon and thermoluminescence samples, will continue over the coming months.

Excavations at Fort Robinson

Excavation of the 1874 Cavalry Barracks at Fort Robinson continues under the direction of Nebraska State Historical Society Archeologists, Gayle Carlson and Terry Steinacher. This second season of excavation is being jointly sponsored by NSHS and Earthwatch, a non-profit organization headquartered in Watertown, Massachusetts, that provides volunteers for scientific expeditions. Three teams of Earthwatch volunteers, each working for two-week periods, are scheduled, as are two week-long sessions for local volunteers. Forty-six Earthwatch volunteers and over 50 local volunteers will participate in the project this season.

The primary reason for the excavation of the barracks is to obtain information necessary for its reconstruction. The reconstructed structure will aid in interpreting the Cheyenne Outbreak, which took place in 1879. One hundred and forty-nine Cheyenne Indians that had left the reservation and were finally captured in northern Nebraska were confined in the barracks for several weeks prior to their escape attempt, in which 64 Indians and 11 soldiers lost their lives. The barracks, which was being used as housing for married black cavalymen and their families at the time, was destroyed by fire in 1898 with the loss of two children's lives.

During the first five weeks of the 1988 season work has been concentrated in the western one-third of the barracks, which is now nearly complete, and the eastern one-third. In the remaining three weeks the emphasis will be on the middle portion of the barracks.

Much information relating to the construction of the log barracks is being recovered. The bottom log, which still survives throughout a large part of the barracks, was usually dug into a trench. In a part of the barracks, however, apparently because of problems in leveling the bottom log, it was raised above the ground surface on rock foundation piers. An interesting feature uncovered in the part of the barracks believed to be the kitchen is a rectangular wood-lined tank, apparently initially used for water storage. An iron pipe that supplied water to the tank is still present, but had been disconnected from the tank. The feature was finally filled with trash sometime before the burning of the building.

Archeological Activities of the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers, Omaha District

The Omaha District of the U.S. Army Corp of Engineers has been busy this summer managing cultural resource management contracts and conducting in-house compliance projects. The Omaha staff consists of Ed Brodnicki, Richard Berg, and Becky Otto. They are assisted by field archeologists, Virginia Gnabasile in Riverdale, North Dakota, and Tim Nowak, Pierre, South Dakota.

Contracts currently being completed are:

Project	Contractor	Status
Big Bend, Testing 3 sites	Univerisity of N.D.	Report Prep.
Lake Oahe, 8300 Acre Survey	Augustana College	In the Field
Oahe Survey, 1978-1979	University of NE.	Report Repro.
Chamberlin, Testing 4 sites	Larsen-Tibesar	Report Prep.
Dunn County, N.D.		
Testing 15 sites	Larsen-Tibesar	Contract Award
Mercer County, N.D.		
12,550 acre survey	Powers Elevation	Report Prep.
McKline County, N.D.		
36,000 acre survey	Augustana College	Contract Award
White Earth Bay, 2 sites		
tested	-	Report Prep.

For those who are interested, these reports will most likely be available in 1989.

In-house projects range from the completion of the Two Forks Environmental Impact Statement to various clearance projects for the National Guard. The staff is currently working on the following:

State	Project	Status
Wyoming	Camp Guernsey National Guard; Historic Preservation Plan	In Progress
North Dakota	Camp Graften, Devils Lake; Archeological and Architectural Survey	In Progress
Iowa	Camp Dodge, Des Moines; Archeological and Architectural Survey	In Progress
Wisconsin	Fort McCoy, Sparta; Archeological Survey	Report Prep.
Wyoming, Montana	Various Small Projects for Air Force	Completed
South Dakota	Burin/Analysis, 39HW10	Report Prep.

Feel free to contact Ed, Richard or Becky about these projects or other Corps activities. Their numbers are: (402) 221-4888, 221-4603, and 221-3070, respectively. If you are interested in activities for a particular state, their areas of responsibilities are: Ed (Iowa, Nebraska and Colorado), Richard (South Dakota, Wyoming and Colorado), and Becky (North Dakota and Montana).

One project which deserves N.A.P.A.'s praise and support is the volunteer program for the Fort Randall Archeological Project. This program has been a huge success. Becky estimated that they have close to 200 people participating. Excavation will be from August 1 - 14. N.A.P.A. commends the Corps activities and wishes them luck in the continued success of the program.

Investigations in Apache Culture History

Dr. James H. Gunnerson, Curator of Anthropology, Professor in the University of Nebraska State Museum, and Professor of Anthropology at UNL, will spend August in northeastern New Mexico, continuing his research on Apache Culture History. The Apaches arrived in the general area about AD 1625 but, so far, the earliest sites definitely identifiable with them date from well into the 1600s. Most of the Apache sites investigated date from the late 1600s, early 1700s, and mid 1800s. The emphasis this summer will be on attempting to locate earlier sites which might repay excavation. While in New Mexico, he will present an invited lecture at Pecos National Monument (Pecos Pueblo) on "Apaches at Pecos" as part of a two day observation of the 150th anniversary of the abandonment of the pueblo by the Pecos Indians. His "Ethnohistory of the High Plains is nearing completion as is his report of excavations directed by him with crews of UNL students at Apishapa phase sites (Plains Village tradition) in southeastern Colorado during the summers of 1985 and 1986.

STATUS OF THE REBURIAL ISSUE

Progress on the Burial Protection Issue by Peter Bleed

Conversations continue about a burial site protection law for Nebraska. Rob Bozell and I are part of an ad hoc "drafting committee" which also includes Reba White Shirt of the Nebraska Indian Commission and Walter Echo Hawk, a lawyer with the Native American Rights Fund, Boulder, Colorado, who is representing the Pawnee tribe. Mr. Echo Hawk has done an excellent job of bringing the committee together and creating a positive atmosphere in which both differences and solutions can be discussed. At a meeting, July 21, a draft version of a bill was discussed at length and major sticking points were identified. Walter and Reba believe it should be illegal to hold any previously buried skeletal materials or associated goods and that any and all burials disinterred in the future should be reburied. From the archeological point of view, reburial is not appropriate for at least some of the currently held grave materials, as well as some sorts of materials which might be excavated in the future. Conversation will continue in hopes that a way around these impasses can be found so that all sides can support a bill before the unicameral.

One option that is being discussed by some archeologists is for N.A.P.A. to propose its own bill modeled after the law which was passed in Oklahoma last year. That approach would allow archeologists to work positively for a bill that would preserve archeological sites in Nebraska. If the ad hoc drafting committee cannot prepare a suitable bill, N.A.P.A. should be

ready to take its own action by mid fall of this year. As a move in that direction we are printing a complete version of the Oklahoma bill. N.A.P.A. members should begin thinking of ways of strengthening the Oklahoma bill and adapting it to Nebraska's situation.

BURIAL DISTURBANCE LEGISLATION
HOUSE BILL 1110
Signed by Governor, July 12, 1987

SECTION 12. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1168 of Title 21, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

As used in this section and Sections 13 through 18 of this act:

1. "Human Skeletal remains" means the bony portion of a human body which remains after the flesh has decomposed;
2. "Burial grounds" means any place where human skeletal remains are buried;
3. "Burial furniture" means any items intentionally placed with human remains at the time of burial and shall include but not be limited to burial markers, items of personal adornment, casket and hardware, stone, bone, shell, and metal ornaments and elaborately decorated pottery vessels;
4. "State Historic Preservation Officer" means the individual of this title appointed by the Governor and employed by the Oklahoma Historical Society; and
5. "State Archaeologist" means the individual of the title employed by the Oklahoma Archaeological Survey.

SECTION 13. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1168.1 of Title 21, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

Anyone who knowingly buys, sells or barter for profit human skeletal remains or associated burial furniture, previously buried within the State of Oklahoma, shall be guilty of a felony.

SECTION 14. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1168.2 of Title 21, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

Medical Examiner, a professional archaeologist or physical anthropologist, or other officials designated by law in performance of official duties, shall be guilty of a felony.

D. Anyone not covered under subsection C, of this section who disturbs or permits disturbance of a burial ground with the intent to obtain human skeletal remains or burial furniture shall be guilty of a felony.

B. The law enforcement officer, if there is a reason to believe that the skeletal remains may be human, shall promptly notify the landowner and the Chief Medical Examiner. If remains reported under this act are not associated with or suspected of association with any crime, the State Archaeologist and the State Historic Preservation Officer shall be notified within fifteen (15) days. If review by the State Archaeologist and the State Historic Preservation Officer of the human skeletal remains and any burial furniture demonstrates or suggests a direct historical relationship to a tribal group then the State Archaeologist shall:

1. Notify the State Historic Preservation Officer; and
2. Consult with the tribal leader, designated by the Oklahoma Indian Affairs Commission, within fifteen (15) days regarding any proposed treatment of scientific studies and final disposition of the materials.

Accredited educational institutions, or officially designated institutions or museums as provided by Section 361 of Title 53 of the Oklahoma Statutes, coming into possession or knowledge of human skeletal remains or associated burial furniture from Oklahoma shall consult if possible with tribal leaders, designated by the Oklahoma Indian Affairs Commission, regarding the final disposition of said remains prior to any activities related to scientific or educational purposes. Where direct historical ties to existing tribal groups cannot be established, consultation regarding final disposition shall take place with the State Historic Preservation Officer, State Archaeologist, and the Director of the Oklahoma Museum of Natural History.

SECTION 15. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1168.3 of Title 21, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

Anyone who knowingly displays an open burial ground, burial furniture or human skeletal remains previously buried in Oklahoma for profit or to aid a commercial enterprise shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and each day of the display shall be a separate offense.

SECTION 16. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1168.4 of Title 21, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. All persons who encounter or discover human skeletal remains or what they believe may be human skeletal remains or burial furniture thought to be associated with human burials in or on the ground shall immediately cease any activity which may cause further disturbance and shall report the presence and location of such human skeletal remains to an appropriate law enforcement officer.

B. Any person who willfully fails to report the presence or discovery of human skeletal remains or what they believe may be human skeletal remains within forty-eight (48) hours to an appropriate law enforcement officer in the county in which the remains are found shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

C. Any person who knowingly disturbs human skeletal remains or burial furniture other than a law enforcement officer, registered mortician, a representative of the office of the Chief

SECTION 17. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1168.5 of Title 21, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

If the human skeletal remains and any burial furniture are not directly related to a tribal group or if the remains are not claimed by the consulted entity, the State Archaeologist and the State Historic Preservation Officer with the Director of the Oklahoma Museum of Natural History may designate a repository for curation of such skeletal remains and burial furniture for scientific purposes.

SECTION 18. NEW LAW A new section of law to be codified in the Oklahoma Statutes as Section 1168.6 of Title 21, unless there is created a duplication in numbering, reads as follows:

A. Any person convicted of a misdemeanor pursuant to the provisions of this act shall be punishable by a fine not exceeding Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00), by imprisonment in the county jail not exceeding six (6) months, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

B. Any person convicted of a felony pursuant to the provisions of this act shall be punishable by a fine not exceeding One Thousand Dollars (\$1,000.00), by imprisonment in the State Penitentiary not exceeding two (2) years, or by both such fine and imprisonment.

MEMORIAL

Dr. Robert Arthur Alex

Robert Alex (46) passed away unexpectedly on April 21, 1988, while participating in an archeological field training session in Badlands National Park. He attended the University of Iowa (B.S. and M.A.) and received his doctorate in anthropology from the University of Wisconsin-Madison in 1981. He taught at Fort Lewis College in Durango, Colorado, in 1972, and the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee from 1973 to 1975. In 1975 and 1976 he served as Chief Archeologist with the State Historical Preservation Office of Iowa. He assumed duties as the South Dakota State Archaeologist and Director of the State Archaeological Research Center in 1976, the position he held until his untimely death. Bob was a member of various state, regional, and national organizations and had served on the board of directors of the Plains Anthropological Society. He participated in archeological fieldwork in South Dakota, Iowa, Mexico, and Wisconsin. His Ph.D. thesis, and published articles contribute to the understanding of North American Plains prehistory.

Bob will be greatly missed by his family, friends, and professional colleagues in South Dakota and elsewhere. A memorial has been established for the education of his two young children, Allison, age 7, and Brendan, age 5. Contributions may be sent to:

Children's Education Fund
c/o Dr. J.R. Fishburne
Director, Office of History
South Dakota State Historical Society
800 Governors Drive
Pierre, South Dakota 57501-2294

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Election of N.A.P.A. Officers

Election of N.A.P.A. officers was held after completion of anthropology papers at the Annual meeting of the Nebraska Academy of Science in April. The newly elected officers are: Bob Hassler, president; Cathie Masters, vice president; and Douglas Bamforth, secretary/treasurer.

Some changes have also occurred in the positions of committee chairpersons. Ann Wolley will be the new chairperson of the Membership Committee and Cathie Masters will be the chairperson for the Publications Committee. Committee members for these committees will be announced at a later date.

Rob Bozell will remain as chairman of the Education Committee with Steve Holen, Don Blakeslee, Tom Meyers, Peter

Bleed, Ed Brodnicki, Al Smith, and Cathie Masters serving as committee members.

N.A.P.A. Board Meeting

A N.A.P.A. Board Meeting will be held September 16, 1988 at 3:00 P.M. in the Gilmore Room at the Nebraska Historical Society.

46th Annual Plains Conference

The 46th Annual Plains Conference will be held in Wichita, Kansas, at the Broadview Ramada Inn from November 2 to 5, 1988. The traditional Early Bird Party will be on the evening of Wednesday, November 2. Dr. William Bass will be the banquet speaker. The deadline for submission of contributed papers and research reports and for finalizing symposia is October 1, 1988.

Please send any suggestions, remarks, archeology news, or other information about past, current or upcoming activities, etc., to: Cathie Masters, Editor, N.A.P.A. Newsletter, c/o NPS-Midwest Archeological Center, Federal Building Room 474, 100 Centennial Mall North, Lincoln, Nebraska 68508-3873.



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