

NAPA



Nebraska Association of Professional Archeologists

Vol 6. No. 1

NEWSLETTER

SUMMER 1990

PRESIDENT'S VIEW

The 1980s saw the start of the Nebraska Association of Professional Archeologists. We enter the 1990s with a membership of over 90 individuals, a viable journal, and ongoing projects in public education. We thank the outgoing leadership of NAPA--President Bob Hassler, Vice-President Cathy Masters, Secretary/Treasurer Doug Bamforth--for leaving us in a strong position to face the '90s. Also we thank the outgoing committee chairs, Peter Bleed (Legislature), Becky Otto (Education), Cathy Masters (Publication), Anne Wolley (Membership), and Don Clark (Finance), because we know that in an organization such as this, most work is done in Committee.

We look forward to a lot of exciting projects in the near future. The most exciting is the planning of a 'Nebraska Archeology Week' for late summer, 1991. We hope this will be a week long celebration of Nebraska archeology including field trips, tours of sites and working labs, lectures, and presentations.

This project is a direct manifestation of our need to improve our relations with the Nebraska public. Over the past several years, the Nebraska press has portrayed archeologists as insensitive, grave-robbing scientists with a single-minded drive towards goals too esoteric for the public to understand--or care about. NAPA is the best organization in the state to promote our need to preserve the past for the future--and we will do so.

Another major goal of the organization, of course, is to promote communication among archeologists ins the state. Towards this end, we give this newsletter and Central Plains Archaeology priority. We will also sponsor a picnic this fall, which I hope will promote less formal communication.

As members, your input on the goals of the organization and how to achieve them is important. We need all the creativity we can get--so if you have ideas or opinions, please tell me (402-437-5392), the Board members, or the new committee chairs. The new Committee chairs are: Tom Theissen (Legislature), Terry Barton (Membership), Cathy Masters (Education), and Peter Bleed (Publication). John Ludwickson is continuing as Editor for the journal. We thank these people for volunteering their time--and hope they know what they're in for!

Melissa Connor

GOINGS AND COMINGS

Nebraska archeology has seen a couple of personnel changes in the past months. First, **Doug Bamforth** has departed the state to accept a position as Assistant Professor of Anthropology at the University of Colorado, Boulder. Many NAPA members may have heard of that institution. The good news is that Doug intends to continue his research in the Medicine Crow area. The UNL Anthro department is hoping to conduct a search for Doug's replacement as early as this fall. In mid-August, **Chris Schoen** will be leaving God's country to become the historic archeologist for the Kansas State Historical Society. Chris leaves Nebraska with best wishes and fond regards. **Terry Barton** will be replacing Chris as a research archeologist in the Anthro department.

NEBRASKA STATE FAIR 1990

Preparations are currently being made for N.A.P.A.'s first exhibit at the Nebraska State Fair. Nebraska Game and Parks has generously offered us a spot (the white gazebo) within their area and we are busy creating exhibits, scheduling demonstrators and N.A.P.A. volunteers to man the booth, designing hand-outs, and arranging for media coverage. Our participation at the fair will run from Friday, August 31 through Tuesday, September 4.

Some of the special educational activities we are planning to attract the public include: scheduled hours for artifact identification, flintknapping and pottery demonstrations, desktop slides of Nebraska excavations, a small artifact display (created by the NSHS), and a lightboard matching game for children. We are also preparing an excavation exhibit showing a profile and floor of a sample unit set up with several stratigraphic layers. The excavation will be created in a four foot square sand box that is conveniently located immediately adjacent to the gazebo.

We are very excited to have this opportunity to present a positive image of archeology to the public. Hope to see you all in Lincoln at the Fair!

Cathie Masters

PAPERS NEEDED FOR 1991 JOURNAL

As you write up your 1990 fieldwork, or polish off that paper you've been working on, think about submitting it to Central Plains Archeology. We presently have enough material for the 1990 issues, but have nothing so far for the 1991 issues. Submit two paper copies and an electronic copy to John Ludwickson at the Nebraska State Historical Society.

THE HISTORIC PRESERVATION ARCHAEOLOGIST IN NEBRASKA

by

Terry L. Steinacher
Historic Preservation Archaeologist
Nebraska State Historic Preservation Office

The State Historic Preservation Officer (SHPO) for Nebraska is Dr. James Hanson, who is also director of the State Historical Society. As Preservation Officer Dr. Hanson directs a staff of professionals in the fields of architecture, history, and archaeology. The main office is located in the old State Historical Society building at 1500 R Street in Lincoln, Nebraska. A secondary office is located at the Fort Robinson Museum near Crawford, Nebraska. This is where my office (Historic Preservation Archaeologist) is located.

This article might have been better titled the velvet glove and the iron fist since the SHPO is both an assistant and a watchdog to federal agencies. The SHPO provides aid to federal agencies in their compliance with historic preservation matters in Nebraska. However, the SHPO is also a reviewer of those actions taken by federal agencies in order to ensure compliance with relevant historic preservation laws and regulations.

In addition to the compliance and review functions associated with federal projects the SHPO is also responsible for the State Historic Preservation Plan, identification of historic properties in the state, public information programs, preservation tax benefits, and maintenance of historic preservation information files.

The location of my office in western Nebraska comes attached with two other responsibilities. Besides the historic preservation functions I also serve as the western archaeology representative for the State Historical Society and with my office located on the Fort Robinson State Park, I have become the unofficial Post Archaeologist.

The majority of work carried on in my office is dealing with the review and compliance actions of federal agencies under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act. I process between 600-700 reviews a year. This varies from a one time review taking about 30 minutes to lengthy information requests and consultation processes.

Another major task is the designing, writing, and administration of historic preservation matching grant archaeological surveys in the state. Current survey funding has been limited to approximately \$10,000.00 per fiscal year. The historic preservation office has devoted the majority of survey funding to a complete architectural reconnaissance of the state. It is anticipated that beginning in 1993 a larger portion of the matching grant funding will be devoted to an archaeological survey program, which I am at present developing.

Finally, a number of information files are maintained in my office for use by persons working in historic preservation. These include a set of survey reports dealing with reconnaissance and intensive surveys that have been conducted in the state. A set of county highway maps on which all the surveys are plotted and cross referenced to a computer database listing the survey and other information about the survey. I also maintain a computerized master site file listing providing basic management information on all reported archaeological sites in the state. Another database maintained in the office is the National Archeological Database (NADB). This is a bibliographic database established by the national Park Service listing archaeological reports that have been sponsored or generated by federal agencies. Nebraska was one of the pilot states in the establishment of the database and as a result has over 550 entries. All new archaeological reports concerning Nebraska resources, that are received by my office, are entered into this database. Finally, a contractors listing is maintained by the SHPO office that is available to persons interested in hiring consultants. Persons wishing to be listed can request a form from my office or the Lincoln office. Currently, there are 49 individuals/firms listed that are advertising archaeological expertise.

1990 UNL ARCHEOLOGICAL FIELD SCHOOL

The 1990 field school was conducted at two locations. During the first four weeks, under the direction of Terry Barton, testing was done at 25CC230 the Tritsch Lindsey Quarry Site (TLQ). The second four weeks, under the direction of Doug Bamforth, investigated several sites in the Medicine Creek Reservoir area. Stan Parks was the field assistant for the entire season.

TLQ, located four miles north of Nehawka Nebraska, was found in 1989 during a survey done by the UNL Anthro department of possible flood control dam sites in Cass County. Support for the survey came from the Lower Platte South NRD. Not surprisingly, several sites were discovered. The most significant of these was TLQ where extensive lithic scatter and surface depressions indicated the existence of a prehistoric quarries on a hillside approximately 1/4 mile east of a tributary of Weeping Water Creek. Since the site is in an area that will be directly impacted by a flood control dam, it was selected as for the field school. The hope was that the 1990 test results will help to make a case for full excavations of the site during 1991.

Work at the site this year consisted of mapping, surface collecting, and test excavations. Although analysis is not yet complete, preliminary indications are that there are a complex of quarry features on the site. Coarse flake debris made up the bulk of what was recovered from the site, but a few finished tools and at least a few small sherds of prehistoric pottery were also found. The material being extracted was an exceptionally fine grade of Nehawka chert. In early September the results of the 1990 testing will be presented to the NRD together with a proposal for the 1991 field work and analysis. Wish us luck!

The Medicine Creek work was a continuation of Doug Bamforth's work in that region and was supported in part by the Grand Island office of the Bureau of Reclamation. The crew tested a couple of potential paleoindian sites and salvaged several features that were actively eroding into the reservoir. The rich archeological resources of that part of our state proved to be an excellent focus for the field school. Doug Bamforth prepared for his portion of the field school with a trip to visit archeological sites in Guatemala!

ARCHEOLOGY AWARENESS WEEK

Sometime late in 1991 NAPA will co-sponsor with other organizations a statewide "Archeology Awareness Week". By intensely publicizing archeology, we hope to increase public knowledge of and appreciation for our discipline. Similar events have been held in many other states already, and have met with great success. As yet, no dates have been picked, nor have specific activities been selected. Possibilities include speakers in museums and schools, a booth at the State Fair (which could be independent of the Awareness Week), a gubernatorial proclamation, a Nebraska Archeology Hall of Fame, "canned" slide programs that can be given by anyone (such as school teachers), open houses at field projects, museums, and laboratories, workshops, posters and brochures, technology demonstrations and artifact identification sessions, educational packets of information for schools, and so forth. Our imagination and money are the only limiting factors. If you have any ideas to contribute, please pass them along to Melissa Connor (4021-437-5392).

Although several organizations have expressed an interest in cooperating in this venture, planning and conducting the Archeology Awareness Week will be lots of hard work for everyone involved. WE WILL NEED YOUR HELP. If you are willing to contribute time and effort toward planning the event, developing materials, tending the State Fair booth--whatever and however you can help--please let Melissa know of your interest as soon as possible. Your support and involvement will be the key to the success of Archeology Awareness Week.

A BOOTH AT THIS YEAR'S STATE FAIR

Also--it has been suggested that NAPA man a booth at this year's State Fair. The Game and Parks Commission has generously offered space for this purpose. There is not sufficient time to plan anything elaborate, but perhaps we could put up a small display, show videos such as "Assault on Time", talk to interested folks, and just plain increase our visibility. Practical experience with a booth this year might help us to forestall some problems at next year's State Fair. If you would be willing to help set up and man the booth, please contact Cathy Masters.

NAPA POSITION ON REPATRIATION AND REBURIAL OF HUMAN REMAINS AND MORTUARY ARTIFACTS

Archeology is the scientific study of the tangible evidence of past human life. Such evidence includes artifacts made by man, as well as the physical remains of deceased persons. Archeological sites and remains, including burial sites and mortuary artifacts, are an irreplaceable and diminishing resource.

Excavation of burial sites is not a central part of modern archeology in Nebraska. Burials do, however, deserve respect and careful preservation. Human remains and artifacts that were buried with the dead constitute a unique record of the conditions under which human populations lived and died in the past. Study of human remains offers the potential to answer important questions about human demography, diet, disease, genetic relationships, and the degree to which man's past influence on the natural environment has affected our physical well-being of today. Biological and medical research on archeological human skeletal remains can contribute to the future resolution of health and disease problems which afflict living human populations.

All racial and ethnic groups are of value to archeological and anthropological research. Research on skeletal remains from around the globe have greatly increased medical knowledge of diseases that occurred prehistorically and still occur today, such as tuberculosis, leprosy, fungal infections, and spinal and other degenerative diseases. Tissue from Egyptian mummies is currently being used in genetic research on the origin of AIDS. People from many nations have long marveled at the fabulous art objects that were buried with Egyptian pharaohs such as Tutankhamen and Ramses; the dynastic rulers of ancient China; the Mayan kings of Central America; and the prehistoric Indians of the American Southwest. Study of the dead in many places on the globe has already enhanced our lives in many ways.

Archeology and physical anthropology are not static disciplines. Research problems and methods are constantly changing and evolving, thus offering the potential to answer new and important questions about the human condition that are undreamed of today. Skeletal remains that cannot be linked, on the basis of historical, archeological, and biological evidence, to living descendants constitute an irreplaceable resource for future study and should be preserved because of their scientific importance.

The Nebraska Association of Professional Archeologists (NAPA) is comprised of practicing archeologists as well as persons with an avocational interest in the archeology of Nebraska. NAPA recognizes that all human remains deserve dignified and respectful treatment. The wishes of living biological descendants of past human populations regarding the treatment and disposition of the physical remains of their ancestors should be honored whenever reasonable and lawful. Every effort should be made to identify the closest living relatives of exhumed archeological human remains and

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solicit their wishes regarding treatment and disposition of such remains.

Human remains that are to be returned to living descendants for reinterment or other lawful disposition offer the potential to answer important questions about past conditions of human life. These remains should receive appropriate scientific study prior to ultimate disposition. The timeframe and conditions under which scientific study of such remains may proceed should be resolved on a case-by-case basis through mutual agreement between the descendants and researchers with legitimate scientific interest in such remains.

Mortuary artifacts, or objects intentionally placed with the dead, also constitute part of the unique and irreplaceable record of past human life. They may consist of objects of obvious religious symbolism, such as crucifixes, religious medallions, and medicine bundles, as well as mundane objects that were placed with the dead to provide for the spiritual well-being of the deceased in an afterlife. LB 340, passed by the Nebraska legislature in 1989, requires the reinterment of all objects reasonably believed to have been intentionally placed with the human skeletal remains of an individual at the time of burial and which can be traced with a reasonable degree of certainty to the specific human skeletal remains with which they were buried. NAPA advocates strict compliance with the requirements of LB 340.

Mortuary artifacts, whether of a sacred or secular nature, are part of the irreplaceable record of past human life. In light of their heritage value for all citizens of the State of Nebraska, they should be scientifically studied and documented before being returned to living descendants of the deceased persons with whom they were originally buried, if claimed by such descendants for the purpose of reinterment with the remains of such deceased persons.

One of the express purposes of LB 340 is to provide adequate protection for unmarked human burial sites and human skeletal remains located on all private and public lands in Nebraska. The law contains provisions which prohibit disturbance of unmarked human burial sites, human skeletal remains, and burial goods, and prescribes civil penalties for persons who knowingly violate its protective provisions. Archeological sites and remains, including burial sites and mortuary artifacts, are an irreplaceable and diminishing resource. Napa desires that the protective provisions of LB 340 be rigorously enforced as a means of preserving the archeological heritage of the State of Nebraska.

Approved by the NAPA Board of Directors, August 7, 1990.

NEBRASKA ASSOCIATION OF PROFESSIONAL ARCHAEOLOGISTS
PICNIC

Saturday, September 8, 1990 10 AM - 8 PM

At the Log Cabin on Old Cheney Road
1-1/2 Miles EAST of 84th Street
Look for the Signs

A \$2.00 Donation for Each Person is
Requested to Help Pay for Expenses.

DINNER IS AT 1 PM

BRING YOUR MEAT ENTREE GRILLING FACILITIES PROVIDED

Contact

Chris Schoen at: or Anne Wolley at:

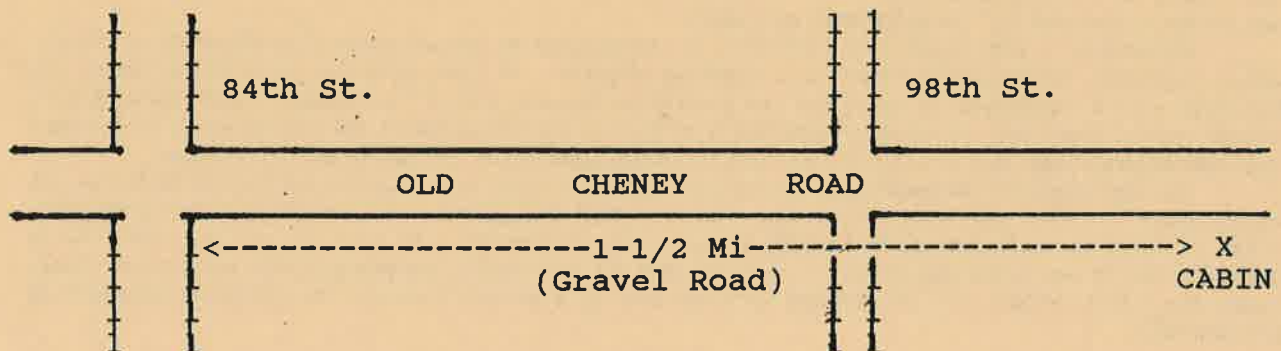
Work: (402) 437-5397
Home: (402) 464-0986

Work: (402) 437-5392

to arrange a dish to share.

There is some open grassy area around the cabin
so bring your frisbee, soft ball equipment,
football, etc. for recreation.

↑ North



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Commonwealth Cultural Resources
102 N. Durand Street
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Vol 6, No. 1 NEWSLETTER
Summer 1996
Hobart Association of Professional Archeologists



N A P A

SOPA Society of Professional Archeologists

The Society of Professional Archeologist (SOPA) was formed in 1976 by a Committee of the Society for American Archaeology who were concerned about the absence of standards in the fast-growing field of cultural resource management. In the decade since its founding, SOPA has established a Code of Ethics and Standards of Research Performance that have contributed to the professionalization of archeology. SOPA has also developed certification criteria that recognize eleven areas of specialization. The SOPA certification requirements are often used by state and federal agencies as the minimum qualifications for key personnel on contract archeology projects. Many universities, private firms and municipal agencies refer to SOPA standards when seeking applicants for teaching and research positions. Professional organizations in many states have adopted SOPA standards as their own. After 14 years of effective use, SOPA certification requirements have become a standard for the profession as a whole.

Membership in SOPA immediately identifies an archeologist as one who meets high standards of professional competence, having passed review by a committee of peers. It also identifies those archeologists who have made a firm commitment to advancing the profession through active involvement. SOPA members work through various committees to maintain high levels of quality and integrity in the archeological profession. They also devote themselves to enhancing the public's understanding of archeology and its purpose.

The approximately 500 members of the Society of Professional Archeologists invite and encourage all archeologists to join ranks with the growing number of SOPA applicants. The application for membership, though it calls for detailed documentation, is not a complicated one. It will, of course, take time to complete. But if you agree that there is a need to work for the ethical and professional practice of archeology, the initial effort will be rewarded by membership in a growing community of concerned and involved professionals.

Mark J. Lynott
President