# CADDOAN

## ARCHEOLOGY



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## Editor's Page



Surprise! Here is another issue of CAN, hot off the press (at least as hot as it can be, going through the USPS).

With this issue, we start reprinting articles from The Oklahoma Prehistorian. This publication was active between 1937 and 1941, and was published by the Oklahoma State Archaeological Society, based in Tulsa. Volume 1, Number 1 is reprinted in this issue (minus the cover illustration, which was an effigy pipe from Spiro). Publication was suspended in 1941 because of World War II, and the society apparently did not survive the war years. Three volumes, and one issue of a fourth, were all that were published (at least that I have been able to find thus far). In the issues that were published are several interesting articles. These are very hard to find, because few libraries have copies and even fewer will let them circulate. Thus, we will attempt to reprint them, one or two at a time, until at least the most important information is available again.

In addition, I will continue publishing the abstracts from previous Caddo Conferences, so that they are available for use as a research tool. With this issue, we have worked our way back to 1985. I have

copies of the abstracts (or schedules) back to 1980, with the exception of 1983. Does anyone out there have 1983? If so, I would greatly appreciate having a copy to reprint. I also have scattered materials for some years during the 1970s and 1960s (specifically 1979, 1976, 1973, 1970, 1968, 1963). Thanks go to Don Wyckoff and Hester Davis for supplementing my personal stash thus far, especially the earlier materials.

We also need news about everyone's projects. What have you been working on? Send me a paragraph or two (or more if you like!) telling about it. Most of us see each other once a year at the Caddo Conference, so it helps to have an outlet for keeping up to date.

I have papers from Jeff Girard and Jesse Todd for the next issue, but I need materials for ensuing issues. Keep this publication going by submitting articles and news reports. Also, send me information about meetings and events in your area. I am learning how to use a computer graphics program, so we should be able to scan in photos and other graphics if you send "camera-ready" items.

#### **EVERYONE WELCOME!**

### Caddo Culture Benefit Dance & Encampment October 8, 9, & 10<sup>th</sup>

Caddo Tribal Headquarters - Binger, Oklahoma (Binger "Y")

Tentative Schedule (9/10/99)

| Friday   | Saturday  | Sunday  |
|--|---|---|
| Campers sign up with Camp Crier<br>Flag Raising  | Rations issued @ 7:30 a.m. *One per camp  | 8:00 a.m. Flag Raising - Concessions open   |
| 8:00 a.m. Campers can begin to set up<br>Vendors can begin to set up   | Flag raising 8:00 a.m Concessions open - Vendors open   | - Vendors open  11:00 a.m 3:00 p.m. Activities  |
| 11:00 a.m. Concessions open  | 12:00 p.m. Memorial Dinner for Lowell "Wimpy" Edmonds   | <ul><li>tournament finals</li><li>speaker(s)</li></ul>  |
| 11:00 a.m 3:00 p.m. Various activities - Cultural Center tours - vendors/booths - visiting                                 | 11:00 a.m 3:00 p.m. Various activities - Cultural Center tours - vendors/booths   |   |
| 7:00 p.m. DANCE BEGINS<br>Flag lowering  | - tournaments (horseshoe & archery) - speakers in arena   |   |
| Caddo Flag Song Memorial Song Drum Dance Caddo dances to continue (Fish dance, bear dance, duck dance, stirrup dance, etc) | 4:00 p.m. Turkey Dance 5:30 p.m. Flag lowering Dinner 7:00 p.m. Dancing resumes: Inter-tribals Stomp Dancing War Dancing Caddo dances | <ul> <li>4:00 p.m. Turkey Dance Flag lowering Dinner</li> <li>7:00 p.m. Dancing resumes Inter-tribals Stomp dancing War dancing Caddo dances</li> </ul> |

<sup>\*\*</sup> Cake walks Friday, Saturday, & Sunday

\*\*\* Excellent raffle prizes Friday, Saturday, & Sunday

\*\* Visit the new Caddo Cultural Center

# PLEASE COME AND SUPPORT THE PRESERVATION AND PERPETUATION OF THE BEAUTIFUL AND UNIQUE CULTURE OF THE CADDO PEOPLE

For general information contact: Stacey Halfmoon (405) 656-2900 ext. 242 For camp space reservations: Camp Crier, Shirley Howery (405) 656-2344 ext 227

Sponsors: Caddo Culture Club, Cultural Preservation Department, Native American Church, and the Caddo Seniors Organization

<sup>\*</sup>No charge for vendors booths, just donation!

## Regional News

# Caddo Nation Cultural Preservation Department by Stacey Halfmoon

The Cultural Preservation Department has had an amazing year. It was almost one year ago that Robert Cast first came on board with the department as the tribe's Historic Preservation Officer. Since then Robert and I have been active with several major projects, including: The Walker Creek Project (Pilgrim's Pride development in East Texas); the reburial of 80+ Caddo individuals from the Tulsa Corps of Engineers; consultation with Barksdale Airforce Base and Fort Polk Military Base; and participation in the pilot Native American Historical Initiative program which is funded by the Louisiana National Guard. The Department of the Army Center for Environmental Research Laboratory (CERL), Haskell Indian Nations University, and the Caddo Tribe are working together on a unique GIS mapping project which entails loading archaeological data from the four state region of the Caddo homeland into a GIS system which will be maintained by the tribe.

The tribe has been awarded their third NAGPRA grant (1999-2000), which will focus on locating, documenting, and protecting unmarked Caddo cemeteries on

federal land. Dr. Timothy K. Perttula, the Tribe's Archaeological Consultant, will be assisting the tribe on this project. Intense consultation with federal agencies will be an integral part of this. The Repatriation Committee will continue to act as tribal consultants on this project. We would like to thank those of you who supported this proposal with letters of commitment. We look forward to getting started. Please feel free to call or forward information regarding a possible unmarked Caddo cemetery. The Project Director is Ms. Stacey Halfmoon.

The tribe as also been awarded their fourth Historic Preservation Fund grant which aims to train up to 35 tribal members in archaeological survey and cultural resource laws. The Forest Service will be coming to Anadarko, Oklahoma to conduct the first week of in-class training. The second week will be spent in the field and the tribe is working with the Ouachita National Forest who may host a training site in southeastern Oklahoma. In addition, Dr. Tom King will be brought to tribal headquarters to conduct a three day seminar on all applicable Cultural Resource and Historic Preservation laws.

Again, thanks you to those of you who supported our proposals; we look forward to working with you on this project. The project director is Mr. Robert Cast.

The Caddo Cultural Center has been completely refurbished and another building has been erected adjacent to it. The Cultural Preservation Department soon will be moving into the updated facility which was originally built in the 70s and includes an indoor dance arena. Museum exhibits will become a new focus and we hope to develop some unique dis-

plays from the collections we have acquired and plan on acquiring through NAGPRA. We hope to develop partnerships with museums and rotate artifacts and exhibits both into and out of the cultural center. We are in need of furniture, equipment, and supplies for the new endeavor and will gladly accept donations.

Everyone is welcome to attend the 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual Caddo Culture Benefit Dance and Encampment on October 8, 9, and 10! Caddo culture is the thread tying us all together – help support it!

## Upcoming Meeting and Events

#### October

1-31 Annual membership book sale, Oklahoma Historical Society Bookstore. Wiley Post Historical Building, Oklahoma City. 40% discount (to members) on all books published by OHS. (405) 522-5214.

**2** Trail of Tears Living History. Fort Gibson Historic Site, Fort Gibson OK. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. Free. For more information, call (918) 478-4088.

16 Annual Choctaw Cultural Festival. Fort Towson Historic Site, Fort Towson OK. Living history, Choctaw crafts, dancing, stick ball games, story telling. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. \$2/car. For more information, call (580) 873-2634.

**23-24** Fall Harvest Living History. Fort Gibson Historical Site, Fort Gibson OK. 9 a.m. - 5 p.m. each day, regular admission. For more information, call (918) 478-4088.

28-31 Clovis and Beyond – Peopling of the Americas Conference. Sweeney Convention Center, Santa Fe NM. Sponsored by: The Center for the Study of the First Americans, The Smithsonian Institution, and The Museum of New Mexico, Laboratory of Anthropology. Original Clovis materials from several sites, plus the bust of Kennewick Man, will be on exhibit. Talks by a number of well known Paleoindian researchers will be presented on Friday and Saturday.

Registration after September 15 \$125, students \$35, seniors \$75. Saturday banquet \$25.50. For more information contact: Clovis and Beyond, PO Box 8174, Santa Fe NM 87504; fax (505) 989-8446; phone (505) 983-8461. Web sites:

http://www.clovisandbeyond.org http://www.miaclab.org http://www.peak.org/csfa/csfa.html

#### **November**

**10-14** 56<sup>th</sup> Annual Meeting of the Southeastern Archaeological Conference. The Pensacola Grand Hotel, Pensacola FL. Deadline for preregistration is October1, 1999; rate \$40, students \$30. After October 1 \$45, students \$35. Reservations at the Pensacola Grand Hotel should be made well in advance of the October 10 deadline for conference rate (\$78 plus taxes double or single). All other motels and hotels are at a considerable distance. For additional information, contact Elizabeth Benchley or Judy Bense at (850) 474-3015; email ebenchle@uwf.edu or jbense@uwf.edu; SEAC web page: http://www.uark.edu/campusresources/seac/index.html

#### 2000

#### **February**

**25-26** (tentative) 42<sup>nd</sup> Caddo Conference, Natchitoches LA. It will be early this year because of an early date for SAA and conflicts at Natchitoches during March.

## CURRENT ARCHEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS AT THE PILGRIM'S PRIDE SITE (41CP304) IN CAMP COUNTY, TEXAS

Timothy K. Perttula

#### INTRODUCTION

The Pilgrim's Pride site (41CP304) is a large (12+ acres) Archaic and Late Caddoan Titus phase site on the crest of a projecting upland landform overlooking, and 18 m above, the Big Cypress Creek floodplain to the east and the Walkers Creek floodplain to the south. The site is marked by several concentrations of ceramic sherds, midden deposits, and various features (including burials) from the Late Caddoan Titus phase component, along with at least one area in the eastern part of the site with Middle-Late Archaic tools, lithic debris, and fire-cracked rock. No features of Middle-Late Archaic age have been identified at the Pilgrim's Pride site, and it is doubtful that intact archeological deposits or features of Archaic age are preserved on the stable upland landform. Consequently, our winter 1999 investigations in advance of construction of a rendering plant by Pilgrim's Pride Corporation were on the better preserved Late Caddoan Titus phase component. The initial analysis of the decorated sherds from the Pilgrim's Pride site suggests it was occupied primarily during the 15th and 16th centuries (Perttula and Nelson 1998a:30, 1998b:4), and this has been recently confirmed by three radiocarbon dates we secured on charred nutshells from three features (Table 1). Our temporal estimate of the occupational span of the site will be further refined following the completion of the ceramic analyses, along with the analysis of radiocarbon and Oxidizable Carbon Ratio dates from features.

The data recovery investigations were initiated on January 27, 1999, and completed on February 17, 1999. Members of the Caddo Indian Tribe of Oklahoma, specifically from the Historic Preservation Office and the Native American Graves Protection and Repatriation Act Office, were involved in all aspects of the proposed field investigations at the Pilgrim's Pride site. In particular, 4 - 5 tribal members participated in excavations efforts as members of the archeological team.

| Table 1. | Available Radiocarbon | <b>Dates from</b> | the Pilgrim' | s Pride Site. |
|----------|-----------------------|-------------------|--------------|---------------|
|----------|-----------------------|-------------------|--------------|---------------|

| Sample #    | unipie ii |              | Calibrated Age Ranges<br>(2 sigma) | Relative Cont.<br>to Probabilities |
|-------------|-----------|--------------|------------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Beta-125985 | I         | Fea. 3       | AD 1447-1642                       | 1.00                               |
| Beta-125986 | III       | Sheet Midden | AD 1471-1648                       | 0.98                               |
| Beta-125987 | II        | Midden       | AD 1388-1660                       | 0.97                               |

During the investigations, approximately 9450 m² were stripped with a bulldozer and backhoe in six different areas of the Pilgrim's Pride site, and 351 cultural features were identified and excavated in these areas. Monitoring of another 4000 m² area identified another 20+ features, including portions of a circular house pattern. Among the features identified and excavated at the Pilgrim's Pride site are 20

Late Caddoan Titus phase burials, a complete circular house pattern (House 1), and more than 90 pits. A 11 m long backhoe trench and a 1 x 2.6 m unit were excavated in the northeastern part of the site to investigate a possible Late Caddoan Titus phase earthen mound, and our work confirmed that the Pilgrim's Pride site contains an earthen mound built over a burned structure.

#### Area I

Area I, the northwestern site area, is apparently the most intensively occupied part of the Titus phase community at the Pilgrim's Pride site. Bulldozer-backhoe scraping and shovel skimming of 2300 m² documented 197 features, including a complete posthole pattern of a circular structure (House 1), one burial (Fea. 1-128) south of the structure that contained two whole vessels, and 41 pit features. These pit features are concentrated in two clusters south and west of House 1, and the south cluster of pits appears to have also been in a midden area. A third feature cluster in the southwestern part of Area I

has a number of postholes and one large basin-shaped pit, and may represent another household area in this part of the site.

House 1 is approximately 7 m in diameter, with an entrance facing south. The walls of the structure are defined by regularly-spaced posts about 15 cm in diameter. There are a number of interior posts, especially on the eastern side of the house, that may mark interior partitions or benches, as well as at least six smudge pits (Fea. 110, 111, 114, 188, 191, and 1-244) within one m of the house wall. Fea. 183

represents the central support post, and it was probably under a shallow hearth that would have been in the plow zone.

The majority (56 percent) of the pit features are relatively deep (20 - 40 cm) pits between 30 - 40 cm in diameter, and

they contain abundant nutshells, charred maize cupules and cob fragments, small pieces of bone, and ceramic sherds and an occasional piece of lithic debris. The shallower pits (less than 15 cm in depth below the scraped surface) have a dark carbon-rich fill, and may be smudge pits.

#### Area II

Two Titus phase feature clusters were identified in Area II, immediately east of Area I, during the machine scraping and shovel-skimming investigations. A total of 46 features were identified and excavated in the 1100 m<sup>2</sup> block.

Pit features were very common (representing 61 percent of the features), along with midden debris, suggesting that the archeological deposits here are primarily the product of outdoor activities

and trash disposal. Deeper pits (ca. 40 cm in diameter and 20 - 40 cm in depth below the scraped surface) are also notable in Area II, comprising 33 percent of the features, compared to 12 percent of the features in Area I and 6 percent of the features in Area III. The other features in Area III include 17 postholes, probably from outdoor racks or ramadas/arbors rather than a house structure, and one small clay-filled pit that contained a single sherd.

#### Area III

Approximately 2800 m<sup>2</sup> were stripped from Area III (about 50 m south of Area II) with a bulldozer and backhoe, and 40 percent in the central and northern part of the block was subsequently shovel skimmed and troweled to accurately identify cultural features. A total of 82 cultural features were identified and excavated in Area III, principally in two feature clusters on the highest elevation of the natural rise on this part of the Pilgrim's Pride site. The

features include 53 postholes, one possible hearth, 23 small, shallow pits, and five deep (i.e., >15 cm in depth below the scraped surface) pits with dark carbon-rich sediments and an abundance of charred nutshells and cultural materials. Although no clear house patterns were defined in this area, it is suspected that the feature clusters represent Titus phase household and outdoor activity areas.

#### Area IV

Area IV consisted of a 1500 m<sup>2</sup> block in the central part of the site (on a small rise) that was stripped with a bulldozer and backhoe, and then shovel-skimmed to look for cultural features. Only a single cultural feature -- a posthole (Fea. 401) -- was identified in Area IV. The excavation

of two 1 x 1 m units on the rise (see Figure 1) recovered less than 10 artifacts per unit, indicating a very sparse Titus phase occupation here. It is suspected that Area IV represents a centrally-located plaza in the Titus phase settlement.

#### Area V and VI

Area V is situated on the highest natural rise (330 feet amsl) on the Pilgrim's Pride site, more than 100 - 150 m south and southwest of Areas I and II, and west of Area III. Bulldozer and backhoe stripping of approximately 1150 m² identified a discrete Late Caddoan Titus phase cemetery on the southern part of the rise. A total of 19 individual burials were identified and excavated in the cemetery, and these burials are distributed in three roughly north-south rows. The southernmost burial (Fea. 70) was exposed in a road cutbank.

As part of the excavations of the burial and funerary objects, a Caddo Tribe of Oklahoma tribal member on the field crew conducted the necessary ceremonies as laid out by the Tribe's Repatriation Committee. The few human remains, the funerary objects, and any associated sediments have been kept together in a sturdy box during the analysis phase of the project, and these materials will be returned to the Caddo Indian Tribe for permanent disposition after the analyses are completed.

The burial pits are oriented east-west, with the head facing west, and the pits were excavated from 20 - 60 cm into a dense reddish-gray B-horizon clay. The majority of the burials did not contain any preserved human remains, and in the few burials that did have human remains, the evidence consisted of very poorly preserved skeletal elements and teeth.

The burials were accompanied by different kinds of funerary objects, including ceramic vessels (carinated bowls, compound bowls, jars, and bottles), celts, clay pipes, arrow points, bifaces, and other assorted items. A preliminary inventory of the funerary objects recovered from the Titus phase cemetery includes 100 whole vessels, 26 sherd concentrations (probably representing another 30 - 40 broken vessels), four celts, one clay pipe, 18 arrowpoints, three bifaces (including a two-beveled knife from Fea. 509), four smoothed stones, one mano, green pigment, and a piece of petrified wood with quartz crystals. Based on the funerary objects and the size and depth of the burial pits, there appear to be primarily two different kinds of burials at the site: (a) those in deep pits with celts, arrow points, and ceramic vessels (probably adult males) and (b) shallower and smaller pits with ceramic vessels (probably adult females).

The excavation of two 1 x 1 m units in Area V, as well as the scraping and shovel skimming work, indicate that there is little

to no Titus phase habitation debris on this rise. A 20 x 30 m area immediately west of the Titus phase cemetery (Area VI) was carefully stripped with a bulldozer and backhoe to the sterile B-horizon clay, and then shovel scraped, in this area of the site, along with a single 1 x 1 m unit. This work identified no features and only very sparse archeological deposits in this part of the Pilgrim's Pride site.

#### Area VII

Area VII consists of a small earthen mound in the northeastern part of the Pilgrim's Pride site. Based on our investigations and topographic mapping, the mound appears to have been approximately 6.5 m in diameter and 50 - 60 cm in height. This feature was not identified during previous test investigations by Horizon Environmental Services, Inc.

During our work, we excavated a 11 m long trench across the probable mound, and the profile of the western wall of the backhoe trench defined a buried yellow sand lens (zone 7) that was flat-lying and about 4 m in length, and of cultural origin; it contained sherds of Ripley Engraved and a few pieces of animal bone, along with charcoal flecks and small amounts of ash. It rested on a buried brown sandy loam E-horizon. The deposits above the lens were not disturbed -- and zones 2 and 3 were dark grayish-brown to dark reddish-brown deposits of mound fill with significant amounts of charcoal, ash, and some oxidized sand. The mound fill capped the yellow sand lens, and extended only a short distance north of the yellow sand lens, which we believe to be an intentionally-laid house floor deposit. Outside the mound, to the north in the profile, the soil zones appear to be from a deep natural profile of A- and E-horizon sandy loam overlying an orange clay B-horizon.

The eastern wall of the backhoe trench exposed in cross-section a large ash-filled hearth lying about 60 - 90 cm bs, and an irregular-sized unit (2.6 x 1 m) was excavated adjacent to the backhoe trench to expose the hearth and any associated features. The hearth (Fea. 71) appears to have been built on the surface of the yellow sand lens or floor, and it was heavily used. The hearth covers an area approximately 120 x 60 cm in size at 62 cm bs (where its top is first clearly exposed), and contains significant deposits of ash, oxidized sand, and charcoal that are a maximum of 40 cm in thickness above the floor. Midden deposits (zone 4B) and a concentration of large pieces of darkened or sooted daub (zone 4C) lie to the immediate south of the hearth; most of the bones of a single wild turkey were recovered in the midden zone south of the hearth.

Below the hearth and under the yellow sand floor, posts and pits were clearly defined in the buried E-horizon sandy loam. These include one support post (Fea. 75), about 30 cm in diameter, that extends to approximately 160 cm bs, more than 70 cm below the house floor. Fea. 76 is a pit about 50 cm in diameter that extends to at least 130 cm bs, and contains ash, charcoal, sherds, and animal bones.

There are several zones of mound fill above the yellow sand floor and Fea. 71, including zones 2, 2A, 3, and 4. All have significant amounts of charcoal and ash, particularly zones 2, 2A, and 3. The mound fill is approximately 50 - 60 cm in thickness overlying the Fea. 71 hearth. The amounts of charcoal and ash in the mound fill suggests that the structure under the mound had been burned after it was abandoned (deposits of ash and charcoal in the top of the Fea. 75 post suggests the post was pulled prior to the structure being set on fire), but the fire was extinguished by dumping the mound fill over the smoldering fire. The smothering of the fire also darkened the daub that was concentrated near the hearth (possibly part of a clay-lined screen around the hearth?).

After the structure had been covered by several zones of mound fill gathered in the vicinity of the earthen mound, a large post (Fea. 74) was then excavated by the Late Caddoan Titus phase people through the

mound and the center of the hearth. The post hole to hold the post or large pole was 80 cm in diameter, and extended to 170 cm bs; this is approximately 80 cm below the yellow sand floor. A pole about 80 cm in diameter must have stood at least 10 - 20 feet above the mound.

Historic Caddo rituals concerning the use of tall poles have been discussed by Carter (1995:90-93, 96-99). According to Casanas, who wrote these words in 1691, the Nabedache Caddo erected a pole in their village, and:

on it hangs a portion of everything they offering to God. In front of the pole a fire is burning. Near by is a person who looks like a demon. He is the person who offers the incense to God, throwing tobacco and buffalo fat into the fire. The men collect themselves around the blaze; each one takes a handful of smoke and rubs his whole body with it. Each believes that, because of this ceremony, God will grant whatever he may ask -- whether it be the death of his enemy or swiftness to run. On other occasions the incense is not offered by burning in this way. In this case a kind of a burned pole is taken and set up by the fire. This pole, and the fat for the incense -- which has already been burned -- they offer to God.

Whether the Fea. 74 post is an *Itcha kaanah* ('that kind of pole' [Carter 1995:92]) is unknown. However, its clear and intimate association with the large ashfilled hearth on the floor of the structure that was burned and covered by an earthen mound indicates that the excavation of the post hole and the erection of the pole was part and parcel of the mound construction

rituals employed by the Titus phase Caddo peoples at the Pilgrim's Pride site.

The Pilgrim's Pride Corporation will protect and preserve the Area VII mound within the rendering plant construction area. An approximate 10 m buffer zone has been established around the remaining portions of the mound where no construction activities are to be permitted, and this area will be seeded with grass for land-scaping purposes. The excavation areas have been filled in with a sterile red sand and clay mix.

#### RESEARCH ISSUES

There are two principal research issues concerning the Titus phase that our investigations will focus on: (1) establishing the settlement configuration of the community at the Pilgrim's Pride site; and (2) investigating the mortuary practices used by these prehistoric Caddo peoples. These are selected because the Pilgrim's Pride site is a habitation locale with associated burials and burial furniture, and the important information the site contains on these research issues will contribute to a better understanding of several of the study units proposed in the Historic Context on "The Development of Agriculture in Northeast Texas before A.D. (Perttula 1993:137-141). In 1600" particular, our investigations are designed to obtain extensive information on the character of Titus phase residential compounds -- the evidence of structures; the cemeteries and graves where the dead were buried; the middens where the animal and plant food refuse was discarded; and the material remains of tools and ceramics used in the procurement and processing of wild plant and animal foods and cultivated plants (i.e., maize, beans, and squash). We are also interested in determining the use of the small earthen mound identified during our investigations in the northeastern part of the site, particularly the sequence of use and destruction of the structure under the mound as well as its relationship to the remainder of the settlement and associated cemetery (well to the south of the mound).

### **Settlement Configuration**

While it is the case that the majority of the known Late Caddoan archeological sites are small settlements of farmsteads and hamlets with associated family cemeteries (Story 1990:338-339), few Titus phase residential sites have been investigated to ascertain their character (Perttula 1998:76-77). This is unfortunate because the individual Caddo household and hamlet are 'the most fundamental building blocks of the Caddoan settlement system' (Story 1990:336). To understand these building blocks, from the perspective of how a single Titus phase residential site was internally organized, extensive largescale excavations, such as we have completed at the Pilgrim's Pride site, are essential.

We know that the residential sites were occupied by sedentary populations, probably for 1 - 2 generations, and that they comprised dispersed communities along Big Cypress Bayou and its tributaries. The communities appear to have consisted of groups of households in small and large settlements that shared decision-making and frequently interacted socially. The settlements were probably composed of one to several family units or households, with house middens/daub concentrations, trash middens, and family cemeteries near the households. The bulldozer/backhoe stripping investigations we conducted at the site were designed to identify individual households and their associated activity areas, both within and outside of structures. Structures were recognized by circular patterns of postholes and interior support posts, along with possible interior benches and racks for sleeping and above-ground storage purposes, as well as interior smudge pits. We expected that there were other activities besides trash disposal that occurred outside the houses, including work and cooking areas, ramadas, and above-ground granaries that may be marked by trash-filled pits, hearths, and posts.

The distribution of the more than 350 features excavated at the Pilgrim's Pride site will be used to define individual households. In conjunction with the detailed stylistic analysis of ceramic decorative elements designed to isolate contemporaneous or sequent households in the large settlement, and the absolute dates from a variety of features, these data bases will be employed to determine the age and intrasite chronological relationships of components and ceramic assemblages at the site; the occupational history of the site during the Titus phase as reconstructed from ceramic stylistic analyses and feature patterning; and structure/feature relationships and community patterns through time. In essence, what the analyses are directed towards is establishing whether the Titus phase settlement at the Pilgrim's Pride site is one large contemporaneous and permanent settlement of several functionally equivalent households, or is instead comprised of a more complex mixture or related and/or unrelated households, burials, and mound center occupying an upland landform over several generations.

#### **Mortuary Practices**

The study of Titus phase mortuary practices at the Pilgrim's Pride site has the potential to contribute important information on the social differences that existed among these prehistoric Caddo populations. In particular, the examination of the complexity of mortuary behavior (i.e., the energy invested in the mortuary rituals, the amounts of grave goods placed with the dead, the kinds of grave goods placed with the dead, and the locale where the dead were buried) in family and community cemeteries indicates that the mortuary treatment of the elite and non-elite in Titus phase times was quite diverse (Perttula and Nelson 1998c:381-392).

The recent analysis of more than 116 Titus phase cemeteries in the Big Cypress Creek, Sabine River, and Sulphur River drainages indicates that they are not uniformly distributed across the basins; the sizes of cemeteries and burial grounds vary considerably by stream drainage; and the cemeteries are not uniformly concentrated on particular stream drainages (Perttula and Nelson 1998c:358). In the Titus phase heartland -- roughly the area of Big Cypress Creek between the confluence of Little and Big Cypress creeks to the southeast and the confluence of Brushy Creek and Big Cypress Creek to the west (Perttula and Nelson 1998c: Figure 159) -- Titus phase cemeteries (including family cemeteries and large community cemeteries) are much more prevalent along eastward-flowing tributaries of Big Cypress Creek (such as Walkers Creek) than they are on Big Cypress Creek itself. This probably reflects the overall density of Titus phase populations across the Titus phase heartland. From these data, then, we had every reason to expect that family and community cemeteries from a relatively dense Titus phase population would be present along Walkers Creek, and that cemeteries would be identified at the Pilgrim's Pride site during our investigations.

Because Titus phase burials have been identified at the Pilgrim's Pride site, our first concern will be to document the number of individual interments and whether they can be associated with individual households, the kinds of grave goods associated with the interments and the energy invested in burial (i.e., shaft tombs versus individual extended grave pits), the sex and age of the individuals should human remains be preserved, and the boundaries and orientation of formal cemetery areas. From this information, we can examine the social hierarchical character of the households within the settlement, as well as within the larger community, by comparison with other Titus phase family and community cemeteries (see Thurmond 1990; Turner 1992; Perttula and Nelson 1998c). The detailed examination of ceramic styles and Ripley Engraved rim motifs on the vessels placed as grave goods will also provide sufficient information to establish the broader social affiliations of the Pilgrim's Pride site households.

If the burials at Pilgrim's Pride represented interments in family cemeteries, then we expected to recover evidence of 10 - 30 individual interments from family groups -- both male and female, as well as juvenile and child burials -- with comparable quantities and kinds of grave goods, usually an assortment of whole vessels, along with pipes and celts in the graves of adult men. Although the absolute size of the cemetery is unknown because its southern end was disturbed by road construction, an estimate of approximately 30 burials in the cemetery seems reasonable based on the known distribution of the burials and burial rows. Titus phase community cemeteries should have more than 70 - 100 burials, the products of interments from a number of communities in the vicinity, and they must reflect a wider community-based participation in ceremonial and mortuary activities (Story 1990:338-339). The community cemeteries will not only have larger numbers of

interments, but they will contain the burials of the social elite in the community, typically adult males (Perttula and Nelson 1998c:381; Thurmond 1990). It does not appear that a community cemetery is present at the Pilgrim's Pride site. If there are probable high status Titus phase burials at the Pilgrim's Pride site, they ought to include one of the following, based on the 18 known Titus phase cemeteries (Perttula and Nelson 1998c: Figure 158) with presumed high status burials: burial in a shaft tomb; burial in a mound; burials with large chipped Galt bifaces (and possible ear spools?); individual extended supine burials with large quantities of grave goods, especially quivers of arrowpoints; and double extended supine burials with quantities of grave goods, particularly ceramic vessels. Based on these criteria, burial features 503 and 504 have been tentatively identified as high status burials in the Pilgrim's Pride cemetery.

#### **CONCLUSIONS**

During the course of 22 days of field work in January and February 1999, archeological investigations were completed at the Pilgrim's Pride site (41CP304) by Archeological & Environmental Consultants (Austin, Texas). The Pilgrim's Pride site is located within the proposed rendering plant area of the Walker Creek project being developed by Pilgrim's Pride Corporation, and the site will be destroyed by the proposed construction activities.

Our archeological investigations in-

cluded the extensive machine stripping of six areas of the site (totaling about 2.4 acres), followed by the identification and excavation of more than 350 features in these areas. The features -- including burials, structure posthole patterns, and numerous pits -- indicate that, during the Late Caddoan Titus phase, the Pilgrim's Pride site was a residential site that also had a large cemetery spatially segregated from the three rises (areas I-III) that did have substantial amounts of residential archeological deposits. Additional work

was also conducted in Area VII to investigate a Titus phase earthen mound capping a burned structure. The identification of an earthen mound at the Pilgrim's Pride site indicates that it was a center for civic and ceremonial rituals for the Titus phase community in the Walkers

Creek and Big Cypress Creek drainage. Archeological survey and shovel testing across the Walker Creek project area (Perttula and Nelson 1998a) indicates that there was a substantial Titus phase population in the area.

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## REPRINTS FROM THE OKLAHOMA PREHISTORIAN

Volume I, No. 1 (June, 1938)

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May 21, 1938

To Members and Prospective Members of the Archaeological Society

As a result of the exploration of the Spiro mound on the Arkansas River in LeFlore County, there has ensued a quickened interest in pre-historical research in Oklahoma. Need of investigations of areas along river valleys in advance of water-flooding from the construction of dams such as the Grand River project in Delaware County, and others under consideration, has added to the need of organized and cooperative studies in the field of archaeology over the state.

The Oklahoma State Archaeological Society during the past year, which was the first annual period of its existence, accumulated papers and data which are being published in future issues of *The Oklahoma Prehistorian*.

The Society is young, has a small membership and low annual dues which limit available funds for activity and publication at this state in its development. However, it is filling a useful purpose and all who have information to contribute are invited to prepare papers for delivery and future publication in *The Prehistorian*. The Society needs new members over the state and all who are interested are welcome to membership on the payment of annual dues. While the Society does not yet have sufficient funds to pay the expenses of distant travelers to come for special lectures or to the annual meeting, we welcome all opportunities to have them whenever possible; especially from adjoining states in the Plains Province and in the Ozark and Rocky Mountains areas, as well as the Gulf Coast.

Aims of the Society are to promote interest in archaeological research and to cooperate with other organizations and projects wherever and whenever they arise. We are interested in all possible discoveries of the records of prehistoric cultures in Oklahoma and evidences of early man in this region. The Society is eager to prevent the destruction of mound sites by unauthorized persons who destroy of scatter specimens to the four winds without authentic labels. Oklahoma has a law which requires the explorer to have a duly issued license for such work. The Society will uphold and defend this law at every opportunity.

We trust the reader of *The Oklahoma Prehistorian* will find features of interest in this issue and help to extend the work of the society.

Respectfully yours, James H. Gardner President, 1938

JHG:SS

## A REVIEW OF THE PAST — A PLAN FOR THE FUTURE

The annual report of the Oklahoma State Archaeological Society given at the Society's annual banquet by its first President — Alfred Reed, Jr.

The past year has witnessed notable progress in the field of archaeology in Oklahoma. An awakened interest in exploring the rich sites situated in the northeast section of the state, and an unselfish desire to rewrite Oklahoma history in the light of prehistory have brought about a close bond of association and friendly cooperation between four important agencies within the state, cooperating with the Federal Government. This bond of close association and friendly cooperation will carry much further on the road to successful archaeo-

logical work in the year now before us. We can justly be proud of the important part we have taken in the fine work already done.

To the Oklahoma State Historical Society, the University of Oklahoma and University of Tulsa, co-sponsors of the 1937 program of work which will be carried forward during 1938, we express our appreciation for their friendly cooperation. We believe that friendly cooperative action, with its close relationship, should continue. We pledge ourselves to that purpose.

Throughout the year, the Program Committee has kept you informed on the progress being made by trips to the field where work was actually being carried on, and by lectures at our various meetings. Most of you are familiar with the work done, and many of you know of the activity of your officers and other fellow members in securing sites which frequently required the unselfish advancement of money to get leases. Few, however, are familiar with the part played by the Federal Government in making funds and men available to carry on the work. More done than in a lifetime of individual effort.

Small projects under the CWA worked at Wagoner Site in 1933: Under FERA, Dr. Clements continued the work at Wagoner and on a large village site in Texas County in the Panhandle. This work employed 30 men during most of 1934. It demonstrated the lower Mississippi relations of the Wagoner site and the existence of a previously unknown type of Plains Prehistoric Culture, probably related to the Upper Republican River Culture of Nebraska.

Beginning in the latter part of 1935 with aid from the Works Progress Administration, work resumed in Wagoner County and continued until the summer of 1936. Sites in Choctaw County were also excavated. In the summer of 1936, the Spiro site became available and was included in the project. This project ran until February of 1937. It employed an average of 70 men, and the Federal share of the cost was approximately \$18,000.

In February, 1937, this project was suspended and followed by the present project. The Federal share amounted to \$75,000, and in addition, the sponsors,

University of Oklahoma and University of Tulsa, have contributed about \$11,000.

This project is working at the Spiro site and at sites near Grove in Delaware County, and sites north of Muskogee. Sites near Wynnewood and Pauls Valley were excavated and completed. Sites in Wagoner County and in Texas County are included in the project, but have not yet been excavated.

The project has employed an average of 100 men, all the time. At present, 140 persons are directly employed. Money enough remains to operate at the present rate until July 1, 1938, at which time the project authority expires.

Spiro, the most important archaeological work of the year, needs little discussion here, for you are all familiar with it. It appears to be the focal cultural center of the race of people inhabiting the Arkansas - Grand River basin territory about 900 A.D. Here specimens of lower Mississippi mound builder culture were found in close association with effigy pipes and conch shell gorgets, showing a distinct resemblance to Mayan art. We anxiously await the results of further study by Dr. Clements.

The Delaware County sites, though not as spectacular as Spiro, are none the less important. Here the central feature was a burial mound of Lower Mississippi mound builder culture. Surrounding this mound were 10 house site with from two to thirteen house structures to each site, superimposed one upon the other. It is quite probable this location saw continuous use over an extended period of time.

Excavation of the burial mound containing eccentric flints produced six new eccentrics, three of them beautifully worked specimens, but skeletal remains were so disturbed by previous excavations that definite conclusions will be difficult. The eccentrics still present an important problem to be solved. More work is planned at this site.

The Wynnewood and Pauls Valley sites have been terminated. Apparently these reflect southwestern Plains origin and culture. They are not related to the Spiro and Delaware County sites. Their cultural affiliations must be determined by more study.

Work on the Spiro site is being held up by our inability to secure proper leases. We are attempting to secure these; but if we fail, this project will be terminated.

Three new sites in Delaware County have been secured near the mouth and on the north side of the Elk River, and more sites have been located which we believe we can secure.

The important Muskogee site has been secured and work has started.

At the present time, the Federal Government, which has shown great interest in our archaeological subjects, is anxious to supply work for more men than we now are employing, and is pushing us to secure new sites to enlarge the project. We must make every effort to take advantage of the money now available. Our survey committee has evolved a plan to locate these sites, which will soon be

put into action. This plan will use some of the men now regularly employed, who have had training and know what to look for, as an independent survey crew to comb the bottom land of the main tributaries of the Grand River in Delaware County. These men will be supplied with County maps, with instructions to make field notes, collect surface specimens and mark locations on the map. New locations will be reported to the main work crew for exploration. Under this plan, we will be able to make an intensive survey of the Grand River basin, which is of great importance because our 1938-39 program of work will be based upon the sites located in the Grand River basin, to be covered by the Grand River Dam. We will be required to raise a small sum of money to pay gas and oil transportation costs of the independent survey crew, an items of expense which the Federal Government cannot assume. This should not be difficult.

Looking forward, we believe every effort should be made to enlarge our membership on a state-wide basis, and we should plan new projects in other parts of the state, especially in the Panhandle where there are men of national reputation as collectors, who are familiar with the Folsom culture.

In closing, we wish to pay tribute to Dr. Forrest E. Clements of the University of Oklahoma for his untiring energy in promoting the work, and for his friendly spirit of cooperation with us. He alone has made the work possible. Credit is also due to individual members of this society who have given their time and money to assist

Dr. Clements in locating sites and securing leases. I, personally, wish to express my appreciation for the assistance given me by the officers, committee chairmen and members of the society. We look forward to new accomplishments, confident

that our new officers will ably carry on the work so well begun. We, who are retiring, appreciate the honor you have conferred upon us. Our work has been real pleasure, our service in the future will be gladly given.

### PHILLIPS BEQUEST

Everyone concerned with Oklahoma prehistory will be interested to learn that Frank Phillips, of the Phillips Petroleum Company, has made a grant of \$6,000.00 to Dr. Forrest E. Clements of the University of Oklahoma to further work in

Oklahoma archaeology. This aid by Mr. Phillips will not only enlarge the scope of work and increase the efficiency of the projects now in operation, but will be most timely in assisting future project which have been planned.

#### **MESA VERDE**

Among the interesting papers to be reviewed in a future issue of *The Oklahoma Prehistorian* is one by B.A. Wetherill, discoverer of Mesa Verde. Mr. Wetherill's paper deals with the discovery of Mesa Verde and his work with Baron

Nordenskiold; the exploration, excavation and final work done on this site.

Mr. Wetherill now lives at Sand Springs, Okla. and is active in the Oklahoma State Archaeological Society.

### PONTOTOC BLUFF SHELTER

Discovery and excavation of the Pontotoc Bluff Shelter was described in detail at the Society's Jan. 16, 1937, meetings by H.R. Antle. Findings were of vital

interest to Oklahoma archaeology. Mr. Antle's paper will be reviewed in a future issue of the Oklahoma Prehistorian.

## THE GRAND RIVER SURVEY

by Chas. W. Grimes\*

The comprehensive survey now being made of the archaeological sites within the area to be submerged by the Grand River Hydroelectric project, in Northeast Oklahoma is one of the most important undertakings of its kind in the state, and we feel certain it will be followed with interest by archaeologists, generally. This survey is being conducted under the direction of Dr. Forrest E. Clements, Anthropologist of the University of Oklahoma, and his Field Supervisor, David Baerreis, at Grove, Okla., where archaeological "digs" are now being made. The Oklahoma State Archaeological Society is cooperating.

An enlarged detail-contour map, showing the area to be submerged in Mayes, Delaware and Ottawa Counties, has been set up. The survey crew, composed to six men selected because of their intimate knowledge of the Grand River Valley and their past training in archaeological work, operates daily out of Grove, covering second bottom and bench lands, collecting surface material and noting geographical locations of sites. Data thus collected is recorded and the sites located on the contour map. Surface material is sent to Dr. Clements for future study in the laboratory. It is possible for the main work crew employed on Delaware County "digs" to work continuously on important sites within the area to be submerged.

So great is the wealth of material and so numerous are the important sites along the

Grand River and its tributaries that we are forced to conclude the whole area was thickly populated by many generations of people prior to historic times. The material so far collected, by surface exploration and from sites excavated, shows such difference in cultural characteristics, that we are also forced to conclude that races of prehistoric people from the Mound Builders' culture down to the more recent Plains Indians, inhabited the valley.

Concentration of important sites is particularly noticeable at the confluence of Elk River, Honey Creek and Horse Creek, the principal tributaries to the Grand River. The Elk River sites are the most important so far discovered within this area to be submerged. Here a burial mound, rich in artifacts was excavated, and one burial site containing similar artifacts was dug. A number of house sites, mounds built over these house sites, containing deer bone refuse, charcoal, shell and a few stone projectiles have been found. Ten permanent village sites, two burial sites, one burial mound, two rock shelters, and numerous temporary camp sites have been located up the course of Elk River.

At present writing, the survey has located thirty permanent village sites, three burial sites, one burial mound, and four rock shelters, now being excavated by the main W.P.A. crew. Survey exploration has been confined to Delaware County, which will have the greatest area submerged. Work in

Ottawa and Mayes Counties will start later. The Grand River Dam Authority members who are now actively pressing construction work on the hydroelectric project, have promised to make available for excavation, without the usual lese formalities, all archeological sites, as soon as they acquire title to the land. We appreciate their cooperation and believe that thorough survey and exploration of the area to be submerged can be accomplished before completion of the power project.

\*Chairman, Survey Committee, O.S.A.S.

#### SURVEY MAP OF OKLAHOMA

Your Publication Committee had scheduled for this issue of *The Oklahoma Prehistorian* a survey map of Oklahoma showing locations of mounds, village sites, trails, shelters, quarries, caves, camps, etc. But our technical advisors cautioned against publication of such valuable information. Experiences in the

past, they said, proved conclusively that such information might be used by outsiders in an unscientific manner. This would have been a valuable contribution to science if published, but in the light of present conditions, that information will continue to be safeguarded in a strong box.

## Abstracts of the 27<sup>th</sup> Caddo Conference (1985) Norman OK

**Albert, Lois E.** Survey and Preliminary Testing in the James Fork Watershed, Le Flore County, Oklahoma

The James Fork begins on Poteau Mountain in Arkansas, flows north, then westward into Oklahoma and the Poteau River. It is roughly 10 air miles south of the Spiro site. A multiphase project was begun in 1981 to study this small, upland watershed in the northern part of southeastern Oklahoma. No systematic review of such an area had previously been completed. We wanted to determine and document the types of utilization along these higher-order streams by prehistoric people. We were also interested in studying these people's relationship to those living along larger streams such as the Poteau and Arkansas rivers. Currently, a second phase of pedestrian survey is underway. At its completion, we will have covered between 20 and 25% of the land in the Oklahoma portion of the watershed. Sixty-three sites, both historic and prehistoric, are now known for the study area. The prehistoric sites range from the Late Archaic through the Mississippian periods. Ten of these have been subjected to limited testing. Of the historic sites, at least three date back into the 1800s, including the location of a stage station on the old Fort Towson road. Several other phases of work are planned for the future.

Bennett, W.J., Jr., and Lawson M. Smith Recent Archeological and Geomorphical Investigations in the Red River Valley, McCurtain County, Oklahoma

This paper presents the results of investigations in the Red River flood plain sponsored in part by the Oklahoma Historical Society during 1983-1984. The investigations integrate a detailed geomorphological analysis of a portion of the Red River flood plain south and east of Tom, Oklahoma, with archeological data recovered from the same area.

**Brown, Heather A.** The Washington Square Mound Site, 1984

From May through the end of August 1984, archaeological excavations were conducted at the Washington Square Mound site under contract with the Nacogdoches Independent School District (N.S.I.D.). The investigations were to determine the amount and extent of cultural impact that the demolition of the 1916 school building would have on the site. Our excavations determined that significant portions of the site (on the east and southeast sides of the building) had been disturbed by previous landscaping and construction. The area north of the building, covered with fill from the basement, was virtually undisturbed, but

appears relatively sterile of cultural debris and/or features. The presence of large numbers of pot shards in the fill suggested that the construction of the 1916 building had impacted significant cultural remains. A concentration of aboriginal materials were discovered adjacent to the southwest corner of the building in a relatively undisturbed geologic context.

**Bruseth, James E.** A Twelfth Century Village at the Bird Point Island Site, North-Central Texas

Three extensive excavation seasons have been spent at the multi-component Bird Point site in Navarro County, Texas. The present paper discusses the methods and results of excavations on a small twelfth century village component of the site. Although the village was less than 50 km from Caddoan groups to the est and the artifacts from the site bear superficial resemblance to Caddoan assemblages, work at the site has demonstrated a localized adaptation to a prairie-forest ecotone that is distinct from Caddoan adaptations in east Texas. In particular, house styles, burial practices, subsistence strategies all argue for indigenous cultural development.

Corbin, James E. Excavations at Mission Dolores de los Ais, 1984

During the summer of 1984, Stephen F. Austin State University, under contract with the Texas Department of Highways and Transportation, renewed archaeological excavations at the eighteenth century Spanish mission to the

Ais Caddo. The excavations recovered significant structural details as well as artifactual data which may well lead to a better understanding of 1) the effects of Spanish contact on the local aboriginal population (particularly in terms of ceramic technology) and 2) the origins of the Ais Caddo and their relationship to other Caddo groups.

**Corbin, James E.** Experiments in Caddo Ceramic Technology

Experiments in the replication of Caddoan ceramics were conducted throughout the spring of 1984. The experimentation concentrated on clay sources, modeling techniques, and firing. Early results suggest that clay sources were probably varied and each may have required different tempering and/or modeling techniques.\* For local clays, proper drying and pre-firing and warming were found to be important. The actual firing appears to be less of a variable (and problem) than anticipated.

\* Experimentation with polishing and/or burnishing techniques indicates that methods for maintaining plasticity would be necessary, particularly with larger vessels.

**Dickson, Don R.** Continuities Between Woodland and Caddoan Occupations at the Albertson Site (3BE174)

A comparison of biface and ceramic categories found in the Middle and Late Woodland levels at the Albertson site (3BE174) with biface and ceramic types

recovered from Caddoan levels suggests probable continuities between these recognized components at the site. The role of the site in the settlement-subsistence system was different for each component, varying from occasional or seasonal usage by Woodland occupants to a year round usage by a Late Caddoan family.

**Hoffman, Michael P.** Pottery from the Arkansas Ozark Bluff Shelters Revisited

Whole pottery vessels from Arkansas Ozark bluff shelters first studied by Dellinger and Dickinson in 1942 are reexamined in light of contemporary archeological questions and comparative materials.

**Kay, Marvin** Excavation and Interpretation of the Caddoan Goforth-Saindon Mound 1

A detailed, albeit incomplete, cultural stratigraphy is now evident and partially radiometrically dated. This includes three major building episodes, or stages, beginning before A.D. 950 and lasting until later than A.D. 1300. Early Platform stage includes a prepared, fired-clay flattop mound surface and at least one pit house, whose construction most likely dates to about A.D. 1044 + 35. This structure is strikingly similar to a specialized mortuary house excavated at the Harlan site (unit 4, house 2), as described by Bell (1972, 1984). Intermediate stage mound construction postdates the house and predates A.D. 1300. This stage consists of several

distinctive mounds and possibly post structures. Late Platform stage postdates A.D. 1300 and consists of a series of at least four stratigraphically superimposed prepared, fired-clay flat-top surfaces. These mound architectural details have analogues at both Arkansas River drainage and White River drainage mound centers. There are also some sizable differences in constructional details among civic-ceremonial centers in this region.

**Lintz, Christopher** Status Report on Recent Excavations at 34Jn-67, Johnston County, Oklahoma

During December 1984 and January 1985, the Oklahoma Conservation Commission conducted test excavations at 34Jn-67. This upland multicomponent site is within proposed S.C.S. Impoundment 16, Lower Clear Boggy Creek Watershed, in Johnston County, Oklahoma. Forty 1 m<sup>2</sup> test pits placed across the site were used to delineate a number of stratified and horizontally discrete occupations. A large burnt rock cluster adjacent to a prominent granite dome near the western edge of the site was the focus of Late Archaic and/or Woodland period processing activities. Approximately 100 m to the east was found evidence of a late prehistoric shortterm campsite. Preliminary results of the on-going analysis and comparisons with similar sites in the region between the Ouachita and Arbuckle mountains are discussed.

**Martin, William A.** Discoveries in the Wylie Focus Pits of the Richland Creek Drainage

Two Wylie focus pits were discovered during the testing phase of the Richland Creek Archaeological Project in 1980 and a preliminary report was presented by L. Mark Raab at the Caddo Conference in Since that time, substantial excavations have been conducted within these large features in an attempt to establish their function and chronological placement. We now realize that these pits, measuring nearly 20 m in diameter and 3 m deep, were originally dug during the late Archaic period for use as cemeteries. Human and dog burials were found, along with human cremation. No debris typical of structures was found, dispelling the notion that these once served as pit houses.

McGuff, Paul, C. Reid Ferring, and Timothy K. Perttula Site Exposure Potentials, Survey Effectiveness, and Settlement Pattern Studies: Changing Perspectives on Woodland/Caddoan Occupations in the Western Ouachita Mountains

The relationship between site exposure potentials and the results of archaeological surveys is an integral aspect of settlement pattern reconstruction. At the McGee Creek Reservoir, a post-clearing survey of 4200 acres led to the discovery of 17 sites that were not detected by prior "intensive" survey. The set of newly located sites is functionally and temporally distinct from the previously known data base. In areas of heavy vegetation or rapid accumulation of sediments, even intensive survey, often termed 100% coverage, is a weak basis for settlement pattern studies.

Sites located in the resurvey are primarily derived from frequent Woodland and Caddoan occupations of short duration. The post-Archaic record at McGee Creek represents a continuing reduction in human exploitation of resources in the area by increasingly smaller groups.

**Miller, John E., III** More Insight on Caddoan Ceramic Technology

Three years of ceramic replication experiments have been aimed at producing durable, functional vessels similar to those made by the prehistoric/historic Caddo tribes. Problems involving various types of clays, tempering agents, decorative techniques, and firing atmospheres will be discussed. The development of coarseware (utility ware) and fineware pottery traditions will be explored from a functional and technological point of view.

#### Neal, Larry Clearcut Survey, Southeastern Oklahoma

A survey of recent clearcuts in McCurtain and Pushmataha counties, Oklahoma, was undertaken with Historic Preservation Survey and Planning Matching funds and the cooperation of the Weyerhouser company. Clearcutting involves selective cutting of desired trees, followed by totally destroying undesired natural tree cover. These downed trees are then stacked and burned, and the land is furrowed and planted in fast growing pine. The survey was undertaken to obtain an estimate of resource loss through clearcutting timber harvest, and to obtain

information on upland use by prehistoric populations.

The survey of some 3000 acres produced information on 50 archeological sites ranging from Early Archaic to historic deer hunting camps in use for the last 100 years. Clearcut practices destroy context and add and mix charcoal to the sites. Soils are typically medium to strongly acid, and bone is not preserved in the shallow sites. Preliminary observations of material from systematic collections indicate a high proportion of projectile points to other tools, and a high number of biface thinning flakes. Primary lithic resources used in the Little River drainage are quartzites, which may be affected by the limited local availability of other, more fine-grained materials. Elevations of recorded sites and topographic locations ranged from 600 feet (amsl) in narrow stream valleys to 1900 feet (amsl) on mountain ridges near ephemeral streams.

**Perttula, Timothy K.** The Late Prehistoric Period in the Western Ozarks of Southwest Missouri

The nature and character of the Late Prehistoric period (A.D. 900 - 1600) in the Western Ozarks of southwest Missouri is discussed, with particular reference to the Loftin phase (Wood 1984). Late Prehistoric populations in this area are but interrelated components within a larger regional setting of Caddoan horticultural groups inhabiting the Arkansas and upper White River basins. The Loftin phase dates between ca. A.D. 1000 - 1180, contemporary with innovations in

mortuary and civic-ceremonial activities noted in the Harlan phase and elsewhere in the Western Ozarks. Late Prehistoric adaptations in the area had a local character, but were affected by regional processes of change and interaction.

**Peterson, Dennis** Summary of the 1984 Survey of Spiro Mounds Area

During the summer and fall of 1984, six weeks of surface survey were undertaken within a mile radius of the Spiro Mounds State Archeological Park. Funded by a Survey and Planning Grant from the Oklahoma Historical Society and conducted through the offices of the Oklahoma Archeological Survey, this survey was the first intensive scientific investigation in the area outside of the Spiro Mounds Park.

This survey has attempted to relocated sites previously recorded, especially the WPA excavated sites, and survey areas on both sides of the Arkansas River for new sites. With more accurate data regarding site distribution in the area, the role of Spiro fro the Harlan through Fort Coffee phases will be better assessed. From the survey, eight sites were relocated and twenty-six new sites have been added to the Le Flore and Sequoyah counties site files.

**Rogers, J. Daniel** Social Relations and the Role of Mortuary Ritual: Three Narratives from the Early Historic Caddo

The structural analysis of mortuary ritual can offer important insights into the

organization of social relations networks and themes of unconscious social concern. These two general topics are considered through an analysis of three burial rituals available as narratives in the early historic documentation on the Caddo. It is concluded that ritual helps to illustrate the level of control society has over its own members. By the ritual manipulation and transformation of relationships, society and culture exert authority over the individual actors and thus help to negate the unpredictability of death by separating biological death from the culture's view of it.

## **Rohrbaugh, Charles L.** The Subdivision of Spiro Phase

Recent analysis of material fro the Geren site has led me to formulate a model of changing community patterns during Spiro phase in the Spiro locale. Different house styles in early and late parts of the phase are affirmed by subtle changes in the ceramic assemblage which can be seen in the stratified deposits in Craig Mound, and radiocarbon dates also support the model. These changes may be interpreted as resulting from systemic change in the phase which led to the consolidation of premier social position at the ceremonial center.

**Sabo, George III** Mound-Building as Material Symbolism in the Western Ozark Highland

Excavations at the Huntsville and Goforth-Saindon mound sites in northwest Arkansas have provided evidence of a striking pattern of ceremonial mound construction maintained throughout the 300+ year occupational histories of these sites. While some variation does occur. several elements of this pattern are persistent and apparently represent basic principles guiding the construction of ceremonial mounds throughout the Mississippian period. These elements include the intentional use of varied sediment colors and textures, specialized treatment of construction surfaces, and maintenance of certain spatial arrangements among stratigraphically discrete features. When evaluated in relation to ethnographic information on the Caddoan and other southeastern Indian cultures, these archaeological data can be interpreted as one means by which prehistoric Indians materially expressed key elements of their cosmology.

# **Vehik, Rain** DeHart II (34LF17): A Midden Mound in Le Flore County, Oklahoma

The DeHart II site is one of numerous dark midden mounds excavated by the WPA along Fourche Maline Creek and its tributaries in eastern Oklahoma during the late 1930s and early 1940s. Excavations at 34LF17 were conducted during the winter of 1941, but with the exception of curatorial organization for Stovall Museum and the display of two conch shell gorgets, nothing has been done with this collection. This paper presents the initial results of an analysis of these materials. Since very few records are available, attention will be paid to material culture items and skeletal remains. These

data indicate that even though Wister phase and Caddoan materials are represented, the majority of the material reflect a Fourche Maline phase use of the site. The results of a single radiocarbon determination of  $570 \pm \text{B.P.}$  (Beta-7357) will be discussed, and some of the problems of dealing with similar collections will be outlined.

**Vogele, Louis E., Jr.** Structural and Chemical Analysis of a Pit House from Mound 1, Goforth-Saindon Mound Site

Excavations in 1984 at Mound 1 of the Goforth-Saindon Mound site on the Illinois River in Benton County, Arkansas, unearthed the entryway and front portion of a structure dating to around A.D. 1040 in the lower level of the mound. This structure, a semi-subterranean pit house of probable specialized mortuary function, is characterized by outstanding preservation of structural details and form. Aspects of the house structure and construction are discussed, as well as the results of inorganic phosphate analyses carried out on sediment samples from the prepared pit house floor.

**Wyckoff, Don G.** *Grobin Davis Mound Group: Preliminary Testing and Current Status* 

For 11 days in the summer of 1983, a team from the Oklahoma Archeological Survey briefly tested the Grobin Davis site (34Mc-253) in McCurtain County. Situated on a high bank along Little River, at a point just south of where this stream flows out of the Ouachita Mountains, the Grobin Davis site constitutes the largest, best preserved Caddoan ceremonial center known for Oklahoma. The testing resulted in some stratigraphic clues for three large mounds and discovered four smaller, lower mounds. These latter appear built over the burned remains of buildings. Radiocarbon dates of 665 B.P. ± 70 (WSU-2854) and 720 B.P.  $\pm$  70 (WSU-2853) are believed relevant to the earliest occupancy and initial mound building. Pottery recovered from this site bears witness to McCurtain focus wares, some of which were probably used into the 1500s. The site has been nominated to the National Register and is presently under lease by the Archeological Conservancy.

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