



THE

WYOMING

ARCHAEOLOGIST

VOL. V
NO. 2
JUN. '62

Leath Burial

Page

C O N T E N T S

<u>TITLE</u>	<u>PAGE</u>
Letter from the President	1
Leath Burial	2
Casper Chapter Field Trip	9
Northern Big Horn Basin Chapter Report	10
Grapevine Creek Buffalo Jumps	11
Powers Figurine	12
Greater Precision in Excavating Techniques	13
Cape Krusentstern sites	14
From Your Editor	15

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Summer always finds us with more to do than we anticipate. Consequently, some of the things we like to do have to be left until we have time to do them. We had a very nice visit with Mr. Bob Stephenson of the Smithsonian Institution when he was here in June to direct the archaeological work now going on in the Yellowtail Dam area. We inspected several cave shelter sites in the Big Horn Canyon with Mr. George Frame, an old time resident of the area. Mr. Frame has given us permission to excavate what may prove to be a very important cave site on his property along the river which will be covered when the dam is filled. So far, we have been unable to make connections with the Smithsonian crew working the upper end of Big Horn Canyon, as they are having to move so often to get as much work done as possible in the time allotted. The crew is ably headed by Mr. Will Husted, and we hope later in the summer to be of more help to them.

Dr. David Gebhard gave a talk here in Cody July 21 on Wyoming petroglyphs. We were very fortunate to be able to take a few hours of Dr. Gebhard's time to go over the history, origin and types of petroglyphs here in our state. Dr. Gebhard spent several months working on the Dinwoody petroglyphs by themselves, and calls them some of the most important and best preserved Indian stone drawings in the West. He is trying to get the area made into a National Monument to insure their preservation, and I think the Society should endorse the project. Our petroglyphs are slowly but surely being defaced and destroyed by unthinking individuals. We must act to preserve them before they are lost forever. Anyone having photos, drawings, etc. on any petroglyphs heretofore unreported is urged to send the information to Dr. David Gebhard, Director, Art Museum, University of California, Santa Barbara, California. He will return any photographs sent to him. Dr. Gebhard is doing a book on Wyoming Petroglyphs and any information we can supply him with will, I am sure, be greatly appreciated.

Our Mulloy scholarship fund is sadly in need of refurbishing, and I would suggest that at our respective chapter meetings, we take up a collection to be used for the fund. Any individual contributions may be sent to Mrs. Florence Castle, State Secretary-Treasurer, 1438 Salsbury, Cody.

Plans for a summer meeting may have to be postponed or cancelled due to the press of present work. Perhaps in September we can still get together. Let us know your wishes on this subject.

At the next state meeting, I feel we should get the conflicting sections of our By-Laws straightened out. Any changes or deletions must be made by a vote of the members, not by the legal opinion of a local attorney. At the present, we are going by the intent of the membership at the winter meeting which was, in order to maintain more control over individual members, that all persons must be members of a local chapter. Perhaps our By-Laws are in need of a complete overhaul.

A notable burial site is located on the Bob Leath ranch on Powder River in Johnson County, Wyoming. Some six to twelve burials were removed by unskilled persons before the writer learned of the site. Historic items have been reported from some of these burials, but none of the previously excavated material is available for study.

Investigations in the area have not been completed and the exact geographic location of the site will be publicly disclosed only in the final report.

It is the writer's privilege to thank the following persons for their aid in this project: Mrs. Lena Leath, Mr. Allen Leath, and Mr. Bob Leath, who guided the writer to the site, granted permission for the excavation, and otherwise offered invaluable assistance. Dr. George Agogino, then Supply Assistant Professor of Anthropology at the University of Wyoming, examined the skeletal material. Dr. Hildegard Howard of the Los Angeles County Museum examined non-human bone material not seen by Dr. Paul McGrew, University of Wyoming. Winifred Galloway assisted ably with the excavation and field and final sketches.

Method of Excavation

The excavation proper was performed with ice-picks, one-inch paint brushes and laboratory spatulas. A three-inch mason's trowel was occasionally employed in clean-up work. After removal of the skeletal material, the earth beneath was screened through one-quarter inch wire mesh, as was all dirt moved. Photographs were taken at frequent intervals throughout the excavation. Twenty-two of the thirty stone artifacts and about eighty percent of the beads (including the drilled shell discs) were found in situ. The horizontal locations of each stone artifact found in situ was noted with reference to stakes or other known points. Vertical and horizontal position of the artifact was noted with reference to skeletal material.

The Burial

The burial is located just beneath the rim on the west side of a small butte. The skeleton lay about two feet from the edge of the cap-rock, just below and parallel to it, and between it and a series of sandstone blocks that had broken away from the rim.

The general line of the pelvic area and the vertebral column place the skull directionally north 4° west (magnetic direction).

Interment was accomplished by covering with dirt and small rocks. Sandstone slabs were then leaned against the west side of the

LEATH BURIAL (Cont.)

resultant mound, and the whole covered with more dirt and sandstone fragments. No prepared depression was evident, but a shallow one may have been made by scooping out the loose soil.

All bones are quite friable and many are missing entirely. The left radius, left ulna, right humerus and one clavicle are the missing large bones. The fragmentary left mandible, the only jaw structure recovered, was broken forward of the second malar socket. Three loose teeth were found. Two of these fit the existing sockets.

It is difficult to determine the nature of the burial. The general appearance is that of a flesh burial with the corpse placed upon its back and turned slightly to the left in a semi-flexed position. However, the nature of possible disturbing forces in this instance is difficult to visualize. Possibly it is a secondary burial, executed while at least part of the vertebral column and portions of the limbs were still articulated, and with some effort to place the skeletal parts in their proper relative positions. The latter interpretation avoids the necessity of explaining, among other things, the migration of part of the pelvis to the cranial area, and the near proximity of the right ulna and right fibula. No evidence of rodent activity or remains were found in the burial, although burrows may not have been preserved in the loose soil. There is no evidence of gnawing on any bone material.

Several small ribs and other bones were located at the position of the cross in Fig. 1. Dr. Hildegard Howard kindly examined this material and determined that the small bones were evidently those of a small mammal, perhaps prairie dog or cottontail. They are not from an individual immature enough to be foetal, and are too small to be human otherwise. They are too dense to be the bones of a bird or amphibian; ergo, they must be from a small mammal. Possibly they are the remains of food left in the grave.

Excavation

The surface material (Fig. 3) was discovered by Mr. Leath, and he and the writer were able to pinpoint the location of the burial by these artifacts. Excavation was commenced and the skull encountered at a depth of slightly over one inch. One projectile point (Fig. 2, no. 24) and one tubular bone bead were found about ten inches north of the cranium. The pelvic area was then located and excavation simultaneously directed from there toward the feet, and from the cranium toward the waist.

Artifacts were frequently encountered at all depths - from the surface to well beneath the skeletal material, a total depth of two and one-half feet. One of the photographs taken during an early stage of the excavation shows eleven artifacts in situ.

LEATH BURIAL (Cont.)

Artifact Distribution

Nineteen of the twenty-four projectile points were found in the abdominal, pelvic, and lower limb areas, the majority being from the abdominal area. One point (Fig. 2, no. 24) was found north of the skull, and five were recovered during the clean-up of the material from beneath the skeleton.

There seemed to be no central amassment of the tubular bone beads. These artifacts were scattered from one end of the skeletal area to the other, at all depths, some being as much as two feet away from the bones. The two drilled discs of Unio shell were six inches apart and in close proximity to the right fibula. Artifacts No. 25, 26, 29, 30 and 31 (Fig. 2) were located above and somewhat to the left of the abdominal area, in an area with a maximum depth and breadth of six inches. Possibly they represent at least part of the contents of a pouch.

Artifacts

1. Lithic: Projectile points display a high degree of similarity; quite enough, in fact, to have been produced by the same person. The outline is distinctly triangular; edges and bases vary from slightly concave to slightly convex. Two specimens (1 (Fig. 2, No. 22 and 23) display slightly more edge convexity than the others. Notch placement is highly standardized. The notch begins about .05 inch from the base and is driven at an angle of about twenty to thirty degrees from the general line of the base, and to a depth of about .1 inch. The projectile points are generally about .05 inch thick, and the flaking is quite good. Overall length varies from 1.4 inches (Fig. 2, No. 1, 2, and 19) to .83 inch (No. 24). Width at the shoulder varies from .55 inch (No. 23) to .4 inch (No. 24).

One projectile point varies enough to warrant special attention (No. 24). It is distinctly corner-notched and is the smallest and crudest point found; the base is lopsided but quite straight. It is fashioned from a black metamorphic glass common to the Red Hills area some 20 miles to the westward and in the Gillette area.

Fig 2, No. 25, may be a knife, although the majority of the flake scars along the edges exceed .1 inch in width and the edges and base are rather dull. This artifact is 1.95 inches long, 1.05 inches wide (est.) and .2 inch thick,

One leaf-shaped blade of metaquartzite (?) (Fig. 2, No. 26) is 3.3 inches long, 1.45 inches wide and .2 inch thick. The flake scars along the edge are about .1 inch wide. The tool is quite sharp.

LEATH BURIAL (Cont.)

- Fig. 2, No. 29: The broken end of a knife (?).
 Fig. 2, No. 30: A biface with slight retouch on one side near the end.
 Fig. 2, No. 31: "Odd piece of percussion flaked rock."
 Fig. 2, No. 32: Unretouched flake - apparently struck from a stream-worn cobble of metaquartzite.

2. Bone artifacts: Seventy-two tubular bone beads were recovered. These were made from what appear to be the long bones of birds.¹ Only ten of these beads appear to have been superficially ground after cutting. One specimen has been tapered from the center, but the ends are not ground. Cutting was accomplished by making a single cut around the bone and then breaking. There is no further incision or decoration of the beads.

Distribution of Tubular Bone Beads Leath Burial - 1959			
	Number	Average Length	Percent of Total
.8 to 1.15 in.	5	.95 in.	6.94%
.6 to .75 in.	9	.65 in.	65.28%
.5 to .55 in.	15	.53 in.	
.4 to .45 in.	14	.44 in.	
.35 in.	9	.35 in.	
.30 in.	8	.30 in.	27.78%
.25 in.	7	.25 in.	
.20 in.	3	.20 in.	
.15 in.	2	.15 in.	
Total	72		100%

Some of the smaller sizes were possibly lost in screening; therefore, this table may be biased toward the larger sizes.

¹ Dr. Paul McGrew, Professor of Geology, University of Wyoming, Personal conversation.

LEATH BURIAL (Cont.)

3. Shell artifacts: The two drilled discs of Unio shell (Fig. 2, No. 27) measure .57 inch x .075 inch and .5 inch x .075 inch respectively. Hole diameters are .2 and .15 inch. The holes appear to have been drilled from both sides of the shell, but they are string (?) worn and it is difficult to determine this.

Surface Material

Surface items believe to have been eroded from the burial are illustrated in Fig. 3.

- No. 1-3: Projectile points which conform closely to the style of those found in the burial.
- No. 4: Ovoid biface "block".
- No. 5: Retouched flake.
- No. 6 & 7: Rough bifaces.
- No. 8: Retouched biface.
- No. 9: Broken knife (?).
- No. 10: Odd piece of broken quartzite.
- No. 11: Blade-like retouched flake.
- No. 12: Unworked flake.
- No. 13: Unworked, patinated, translucent chalcedony nodule.
- No. 14: Tubular bone bead.

Lithic Types

Metamorphosed (?) mudstone or siltstone. Gray or brown. Some of this material is probably from the Red Hills area. Fig. 2, No. 2, 3, 5, 6, 7, 10, 11, 16, and 20. (Fig. 3, No. 2, black).

Chert, dull purple: Fig 3, No. 9 & 11.

Chert, white: Fig. 2, No. 19.

Chert, lavender with round green "spot" inclusions: Fig. 2, No. 8, 14, 21. No. 25 is very similar.

Chert, red and buff, mottled: Fig 2, No. 13. Fig. 3, No. 8.

Chert, dull red: Fig. 2, No. 30.

Chert, tan: Fig. 2, No. 17.

Chert or chalcedony, gray: Fig. 2, No. 18 and 22. Fig. 3, No. 3 and 4.

Chalcedony, brown: Fig. 2, No. 1, 4, and 9. Fig. 3, No. 6 contains white "spot" inclusions.

Chalcedony, white, with red "agate" inclusions: Fig. 2, No. 23.

Chalcedony, clear, with red "moss" inclusions: Fig. 2, No. 12.

Chalcedony, dull straw yellow: Fig. 3, No. 1.

Orthoquartzite (?), light gray, fine grained: Fig. 2, No. 29.

Metaquartzite (?), light brown: Fig. 2, No. 32. Fig 3., No. 10.

Metaquartzite, dull red: Fig. 3, No. 5.

Petrified wood: Fig. 3, No. 7.

Dull, bluish-gray "impure silica": Fig. 2, No. 31. Fig. 3, No.13.

LEATH BURIAL (Cont.)

Remarks

The burial with which this report is concerned is the only undisturbed feature thus far discovered at the Leath Site and the final report is expected to be chiefly concerned with the disturbed elements at this location.

No post-contact items were found with the burial here concerned, tending to indicate that burial occurred prior to 1800 A.D. Projectile point stylization may be regarded with relative safety as falling well within the range in common use during the Late Prehistoric Period (about 1500 years ago to the time of European contact), and probably is representative of the latest stages of this period. The deceased is thought to have been a member of one of the nomadic hunting cultures in the area less than 1,000 years ago.

THE LEATH SKELETAL MATERIAL

George A. Agogino

The Leath skeleton was a difficult specimen to study because of its weathered and fragmentary condition. Due to this situation no comprehensive osteological measurements were undertaken and the analysis was largely restricted to visual observation.

The remains are those of a middle-aged (36-55 years) male Indian of slight build (120 lbs.) and small stature (5' 3"). Because of the deteriorated condition of the bones no effort was made to determine the cause of death.

The fragmentary skull, little more than a calva, provided the best possibility for determination of sex because of the poor condition of the post-cranial skeleton. However, this skull exhibited both masculine and feminine characteristics. The mastoid process is rather small (female) while the styloid process, though broken, appears to be well developed as in males. The skull is so fragmentary that such sex determinants as the brow ridges, glabella eminence, slope of the forehead, and shape and size of the eye sockets and zygomatic areas could not be used. Final determination of sex was based upon the moderately prominent muscle tissue scars on the base of the occipital region, plus examination of diagnostic sections of the badly weathered post-cranial skeleton, and should be considered somewhat tentative.

LEATH BURIAL (Cont.)

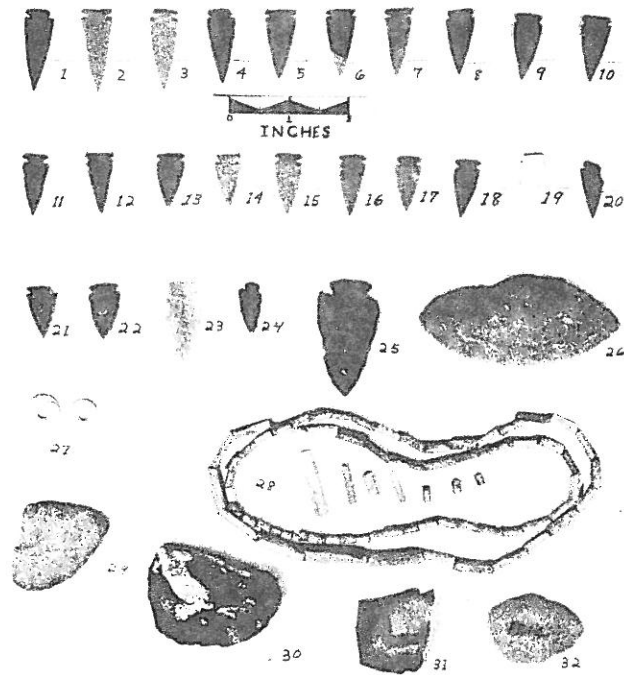
The age at death was estimated by examination of the sagittal, lambdoid and left circummeatal suture closing along with mandible tooth wear and observations of the scapula, femur, and pelvis. All evidence suggests an individual probably in the upper range of the 36-55 year group.

The estimate of size and weight of the deceased was based upon established long bone ratios in relation to total height and weight. While the weathered and fragmentary condition of the diagnostic bones may have reduced the accuracy of these measurements to some extent, it is believed that the slight build and small stature attributed to the individual in life is accurate.

An attempt was made to determine cephalic index from projected estimates of the missing sections of the partial skull. This procedure was difficult since the right side and the face and the entire frontal section of the skull was missing. In addition, the occipital and left parietal areas of the reconstructed sections showed considerable post-burial warping. Measurements based upon existing section of the skull seemed to suggest that the deceased was brachycephalic with the possibility of the individual being even hyper-brachycephalic.

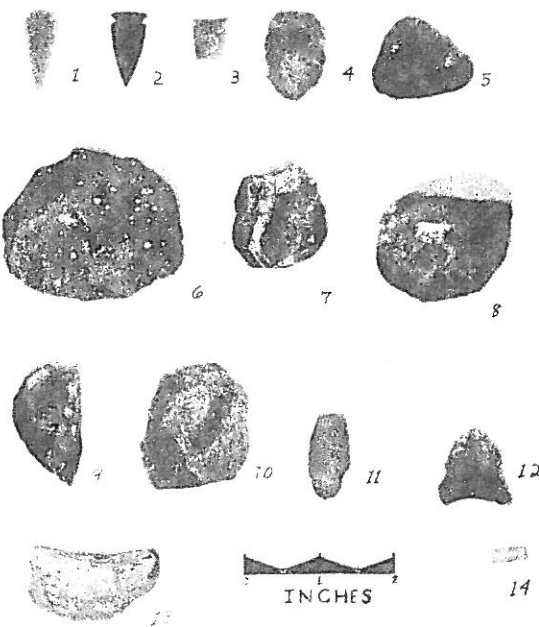
The ascending ramus and posterior section of the left side of the mandible was examined for pathologies as well as sex and age determinants. The available section of the mandible is small, and the only available teeth in place are full molars that show considerable abrasive wear. The second left pre-molar and the first left true molar are missing and the lipping over and almost complete closure of the root cavity suggests that these teeth were lost a considerable time before death. No other tooth or jaw pathologies were noted.

In brief, the skeleton was in such bad physical condition that only general statements could be made about it, and even at this level the possibility of human error exists.



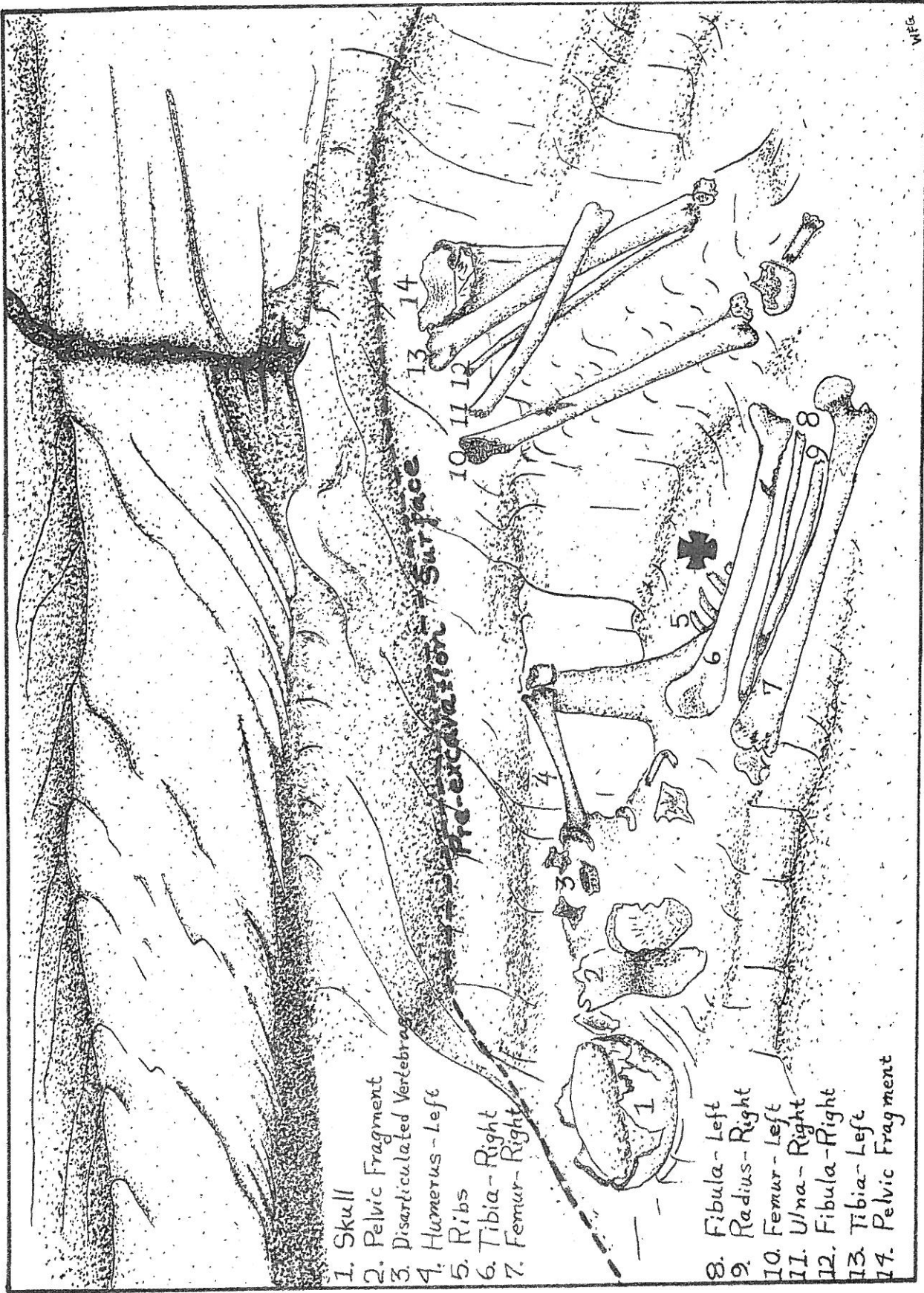
LEATH BURIAL—Figure 2

Material culture recovered from the Leath Burial.



LEATH BURIAL—Figure 3

Surface material almost certainly attributable to the burial.



- 1. Skull
- 2. Pelvic Fragment
- 3. Disarticulated Vertebra
- 4. Humerus - Left
- 5. Ribs
- 6. Tibia - Right
- 7. Femur - Right
- 8. Fibula - Left
- 9. Radius - Right
- 10. Femur - Left
- 11. Ulna - Right
- 12. Fibula - Right
- 13. Tibia - Left
- 14. Pelvic Fragment

LEATH BURIAL - Figure 1

WFG

Most of the members of the Casper Chapter met for a trip to an animal trap some 35 miles north and east of Casper. It was the most exciting trip in this reporter's experience - a beautiful day, good company, and an accomplished objective.

The trap has not been disturbed to any great extent. Erosion has caused some of the walls to fall and the bottom pit to fill in. Two great pine trees and some smaller ones are growing in the lower V of the chute making it difficult to photograph; however, the course of the animal drive is very clear. The walls of flat ironstone are laid about waist high along the front edge of a small steep mesa, with the opening going down hill at the steepest part. The walls lead down hill, narrowing rapidly and ending in an almost straight downfall to a pit at the bottom. Some of the stones used were so large and heavy that it would seem difficult for two men to lift them. The larger stones were laid first with graduating smaller ones placed on top. There is no evidence of mortar nor any attempt at regular masonry.

There were tipi rings, chippings, some cooking stones and scrapers found in the mouth of the chute. One would suppose that they were left there at a later date since a wild animal is very frightened of the smell of smoke or fire. Perhaps the people using the trap camped a distance away and later people used it as a camp site.

Surface finds were made but nothing unusual, with the exception of one small nicely ground stone bead or pendant. Side trips were made during the day with the jeeps and on foot. Miles were covered but no really large living sites were found, although many tipi rings were around in that country still intact.

I believe the most valuable part of the trip for me was being able to visualize some of the life of these people, seeing in my mind the planning for the drive - locating the herd, sending out the runners, and at last the excitement of seeing the animals being driven into the walls of the trap - the bravery of the men who had only clubs and spears in advancing on and killing the wounded animals, and finally, the feast, a celebration of a successful drive, providing food for winter, clothes, tools, and shelter.

For anyone who has not seen such an area, this trip is a must.

Juanita Hinthorn

THE NORTHERN BIG HORN BASIN CHAPTER REPORTS:

That at their March meeting John Neeley of Powell, formerly of Ohio, displayed a marvellous collection of artifacts. Many beautiful points, "turkey tails", stone birds, banner stones, knives, axes, etc. Most of these were collected in Ohio, but some from other places. Mr. Neeley spoke about the various pieces and answered questions from the group.

That in April they made plans for summer digs and exploration, including cooperating with the Missouri Basin Project on salvage work before the start of the Yellowtail Dam project in the Kane, Wyoming, area. A letter from Dr. Glenn L. Jepsen of Princeton University was also read, concerning the Horner Site near Cody. It was hoped that Dr. Jepsen might speak in Cody this summer.

Mr. Cliff Merithew of Powell showed slides of ruins excavated in Arizona, New Mexico, and Utah, and discussed them. He had personally worked on these excavations.

That the May meeting was devoted to plans for summer field trips and digs. Slides of a possible buffalo jump site in the Big Horns were shown and plans made to visit it. A dig in the Clarks Fork area was planned for the near future, weather permitting.

SHERIDAN CHAPTER REPORTS:

That a successful dig was held in June at a buffalo trap site some 30 miles east of Sheridan. The site appears to be similar to the Yonkee Site, also a buffalo trap, excavated last summer. A considerable number of artifacts were found in the bone layer. It is hoped that a preliminary report will be out before long.

In July members were invited to come to Cody to hear Dr. David Gebhard of the University of California discuss Wyoming pictographs and petroglyphs.

GRAPEVINE CREEK BUFFALO JUMPS

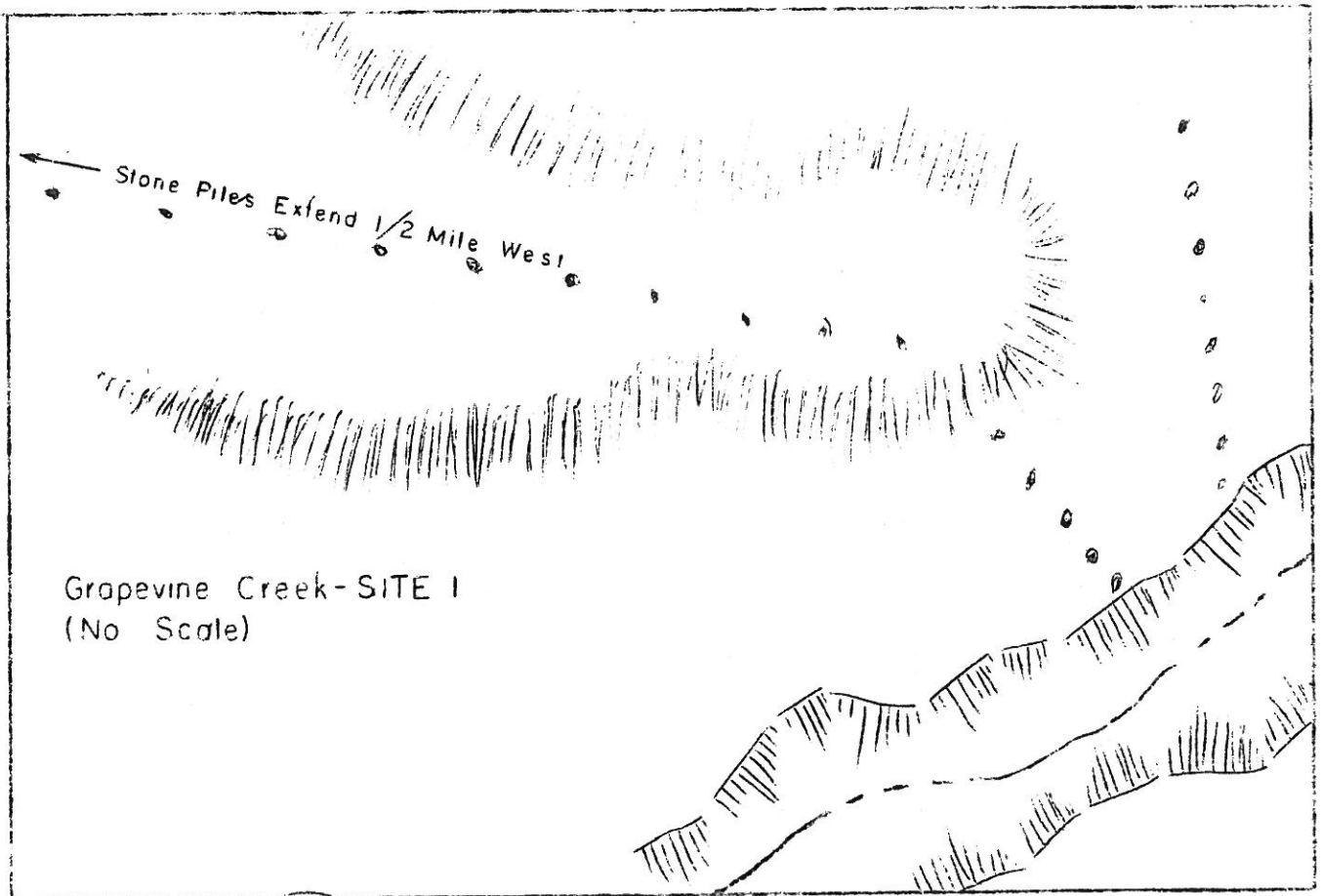
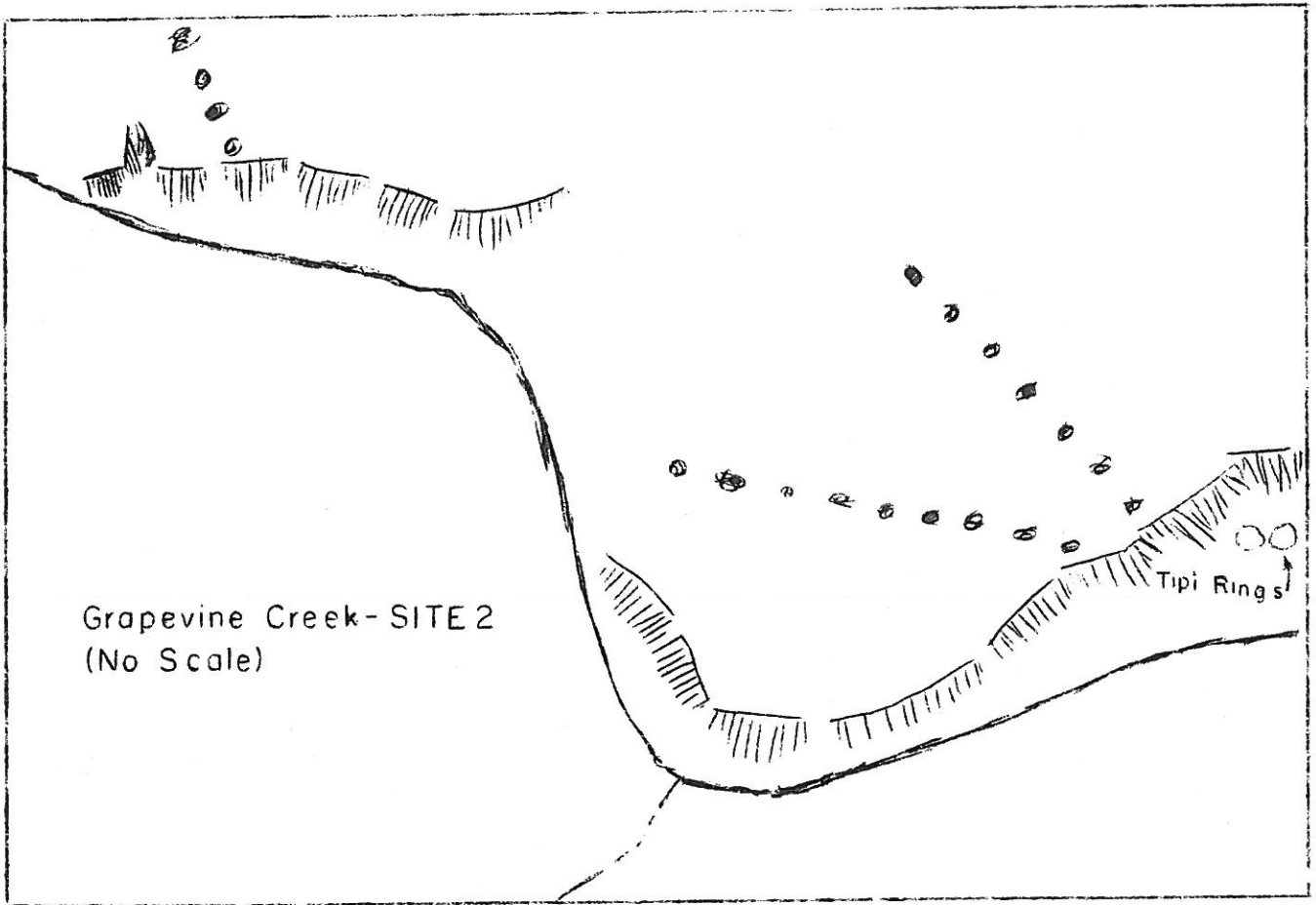
The May 6 meeting of the Sheridan Chapter consisted of a field trip to the Grapevine Creek buffalo jumps, at the invitation, and under the guidance, of Joe Medicine Crow of Lodge Grass, Montana.

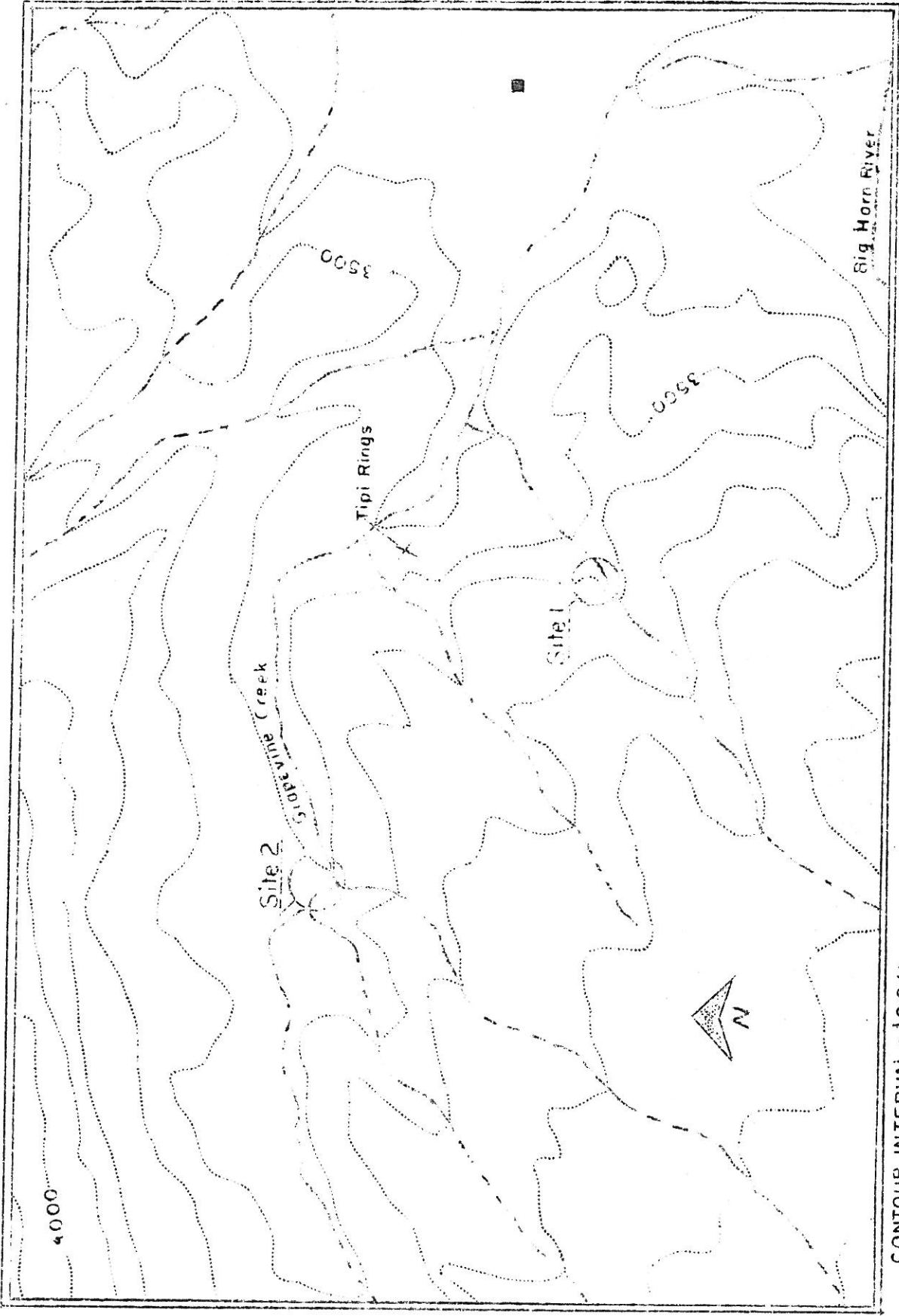
The sites are located in south-central Montana, near the Big Horn River. Grapevine Creek heads in the Big Horn Mountains and then swings to the south toward the river. It is bounded on the northeast by a high, steep, red ridge with cliffs along it, and with many small gulleys and washes running toward the creek. On the southwest the creek is bordered by rolling hills and long flat ridges that extend up into the Big Horns. Intermittent streams have cut narrow, deep canyons through limestone on this side of the creek. Limestone cliffs also extend along Grapevine Creek, generally on the southwest, but occasionally on the northeast side, and it is these cliffs which were used for the buffalo jumps. The jumps are in two groups, one on the southeast of the creek, and the other, further upstream on the northwest. Mr. Medicine Crow said that there was a third site still further upstream.

The first site, Site 1, consists of three rows of stone piles forming two funnels leading to one jump. One funnel is formed by the canyon of a tributary stream on the south and by a ridge on the north. A row of stone piles extends for about one-half mile along the ridge. As the ridge approaches the canyon wall at the lower end of the funnel there are two rows of stones leading from the canyon rim across the ridge at right angles to the main funnel. These two rows form a funnel in themselves, but they appear to have been built at different times. The row nearest Grapevine Creek is weathered about the same as the long row on the ridge, but the short row has larger stone piles which seem to be less weathered. Mr. Medicine Crow suggests that the longer of the two short rows was used as a cut-off barrier originally but was found to be ineffective so the shorter row was built.

At Site 2 there are also two funnels, here apparently forming two separate jumps. They are laid out so that if parts of a herd coming down the valley missed the first jump, they could be sent over the second one.

According to Mr. Medicine Crow, the Indians called this complex of jumps "Where Man Gets His Meat", and he compared this location to the Chicago Stockyard. If all of the jumps were in operation at one time, animals could have been gathered from all of the eastern slope of the Big Horns north of the Big Horn River and herded into the Grapevine Creek valley. Once started down the valley, the entire herd would be faced with at least one jump. It would require the cooperative efforts of many clans to man all of the jumps, but if successful, such a drive could provide a bountiful winter's supply of meat for all.





CONTOUR INTERVAL = 100 ft.

SCALE: 1 in. = 3 mi.

GRAPEVINE CREEK SITES



POWERS FIGURINE

My most unusual artifact is a clay figurine I found near 154 Swan Street, Sheridan, in 1913. There were few buildings in this part of town at that time, and the figurine was in dense underbrush, approximately six inches below the surface. With it there was also a small clay bowl. The figurine is of unglazed reddish clay. The torso and head are hollow, with the mouth, eyes, and nostrils pierced through the shell. The neck and arms are solid. The eyebrows project considerably with deep notches cut into them. The site was not carefully investigated, so I do not know whether other artifacts were present.

Margaret Powers

GREATER PRECISION IN EXCAVATING TECHNIQUES

Greater precision in excavating techniques is leading to reconstruction of the living habits of Paleolithic peoples in the most recent archaeological explorations of one of the well-known Stone Age sites at Les Eyzies, France. This village, located in the Dordogne region, is surrounded by hundreds of other Stone Age sites, including many of the famous prehistoric cave paintings.

A test excavation in 1953 revealed quantities of artifacts in the Abri Pataud shelter (which has been known since the 1890's). The expedition, which began in 1958, is a joint venture of Harvard's Peabody Museum and the Paris Musee de l'Homme. Harvard Professor Hallam L. Movius, Jr., and Professor H. V. Vallois are co-directors, with Professor Movius in charge of the field work. More work is planned for 1963.

In order to pin-point camping habits of the inhabitants, the shelter is being excavated in half-inch layers, rather than the 5 or 6 inch layers commonly used. Each artifact in each stratum is recorded as to type and exact location. A geologist, a paleontologist, and a paleobotanist complement the archaeological team, each examining the material which falls into his field.

A pipe gridwork suspended above the excavations, with plumb-bobs hung at each intersection, provides the reference points for each two meter square. Stratigraphic sections are provided by parallel trenches 1 meter wide on either side of the square.

From the types and quantities of tools found around the hearths in comparison with those more frequently found at the edge of the shelter, the archaeologists can determine which activities were commonly performed in which locations, which required daylight, perhaps, and which were possible by firelight at night.

So far, the different lives of two groups of Upper Paleolithic people have been detailed. The most recent group, some 20,000 years ago, seem to be a migrating hunting group camped at the shelter during the summers. The varieties and numbers of animal bones, teeth, and antlers provided clues to the seasonal occupation and climatic condition. At this time the climate was sub-arctic and damp, too severe for year-round habitation at this site. A few feet below this occupation level were artifacts and relics of inhabitants about 2000 years earlier when the climate was more favorable. The clues again lay in the different types of animals and the quantities represented. Solid, thick hearth layers contrasted with the intermittent hearths in the upper levels. Local types of flint were used in contrast to the types foreign to the site which the nomadic bands brought into their camp 2000 years later.

CAPE KRUSENSTERN SITES

A remarkable series of sites has been dug at Cape Krusenstern, Alaska, on the Bering Strait. A succession of beaches, 114 in all, stretch back from the present beach for a mile and a half. Some 300 sites have been located on these beaches during the course of excavations since discovery in 1958 by Dr. J. L. Giddings, Professor of Anthropology at Brown University, who has made many previous archaeological finds in the Arctic. The oldest beach probably represents the ocean level at the end of the melting period following the last glaciation. Wave action and smaller cyclic sea level changes are probable causes of the succession of beaches, which rise in height a total of only five feet. The site appears to provide the unbroken sequence needed to establish sea levels up to 6,000 years ago.

Eight distinct cultures have been identified at the Cape Krusenstern sites. Denbigh Flint culture remains (which Dr. Giddings originally identified at the type site) were found on beaches 78 - 104. Contamination of specimens by rootlets and such have prevented satisfactory radiocarbon dating of this complex, but it is thought to be from 5,000 to 7,000 years old. The artifacts are characterized by the finest of workmanship with extraordinarily fine flaking. Beach 105 - 114 were too swampy for investigation.

A whaling culture on beach 53 was radiocarbon dated at about 3,700 years old. The inhabitants had built sizeable houses of several rooms with upright poles. When whales ceased to frequent the adjacent waters the culture apparently died out. Each culture was totally dependent upon the ocean for food and transportation and lived immediately at the water's edge. Beaches 54-77 are relatively sparse in sites, indicating, perhaps, a shortage of food during these periods.

In one site, a culture dated about 2000 years ago, was found evidence of a gruesome family tragedy. Three skeletons, those of a woman and two children, were found in a charred house. Near them lay three bone-hafted adzes with which they had evidently been trying to burrow out of the burning house after the overhead exit was blocked, but suffocated in the attempt. Eskimo legend tells of raiding groups pouring oil down the smoke holes to make the fire blaze up, then clubbing the inhabitants to death when they tried to escape.

On a palisade cliff inland from the last beach are the remains of a culture which Dr. Giddings thinks may be even more ancient than those on the beaches. It may indeed have been occupied during the last ice age when a wide isthmus made a bridge out of the Bering Strait.

Dr. Giddings found no evidence of mass migrations across the Bering Strait during the periods covered by the Cape Krusenstern sites. Diffusion of ideas and techniques is, however, indicated. The Denbigh Flint complex here used bows and arrows some 4,000 years before their use eastward on the North American continent.

FROM YOUR EDITOR

At the annual state meeting in Cody last February a number of changes were made in our constitution and by-laws. A contradiction, however, was noted in the revised printing of the by-laws in the March issue of The Wyoming Archaeologist. In section IV, Membership: A. Qualifications; subsection 2, it now reads "There shall be no members at large other than those specified in line No. 3 below." Line No. 3 reads the same as before: "All out-of-state persons or institutions and all in-state institutions, such as colleges, universities, museums, etc., shall belong to the state society only." The revised sub-section 2 automatically eliminates sub-section 5, which stated, "Each member may elect membership in either the state society alone or in a chapter.--". Our Sheridan Chapter attorney, Mr. Phil Garbutt, has confirmed this in an opinion written March 5. So, please delete sub-section No. 5. From now on, all Wyoming resident members must belong to one of our chapters, and only non-residents may be members-at-large.

* * * * *

We are always on the look-out for ways of obtaining material for the Archaeologist, and Margaret Powers of Sheridan has made what we think is an excellent suggestion. Most of us have favorite or special artifacts, items which are a little out of the ordinary, and we would like to have descriptions and illustrations of these. With our present membership, we should expect to get at least 100 articles from this source. Mrs. Powers' contribution appears in this issue.

* * * * *

Our next issue, due in September, is to be devoted to pictograph sites in Wyoming, and we would like to make the coverage as complete as possible. If you have information or illustrations concerning pictographs in this state, please get it to us as soon as you can. We trust that Dr. Gebhard's recent talk in Cody has inspired everyone who heard him to get out and get looking.