

WYOMING
ARCHAEOLOGICAL
SOCIETY

THE WYOMING ARCHAEOLOGIST



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by
Casper Chapter

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Editor's Notes

As you see from the Contents, this entire issue resulted from a project successfully carried to completion by the Casper Chapter. While the project was not as demanding as a site excavation, it is fully as interesting. In a future issue will be published the results of a "Symposium on Tipi Rings". Even after a century of speculation, the only general agreement concerning many rock alignments is that they are mysterious.

In order to keep to a publishing schedule of March, July, September, and December, each Chapter will have to assume the responsibility for one issue of the Archaeologist each year. Only with a back log of completed projects can any schedule be maintained. A very needed project would be to identify, research, and map all occurrences of pottery within our state. All Chapters could cooperate by sending in pottery samples with exact locations, while one chapter assumes responsibility of a final report and map for our publication. Who will volunteer?

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I received a note from our Editor requesting a President's Message. This seemed unnecessary until the thought of the end of our pleasant outside activities initiated the thought that perhaps many of you were profitable in your weekend outings this summer. Does the thought occur to you that no matter the find insignificant to you, if it is unusual, it is worth mentioning and other members about the state would enjoy reading an account of it together with a sketch? Someone else may have an artifact similar and it would be fun to compare them. Also why not a little boast of something rare which you found? These items help to make our Archaeological Society interesting. Did you make a trip to some noted ruin, had a guest who gave you some valuable information? Let's share our news items. Send them to your State Editor.

Then, too, it is the time of the year for indoor meetings. Are you working on attractive programs, encouraging new members? Inviting guests to attend? Mr. Steege suggested a sketching session. Try sketching some of your artifacts and comparing your work with others. Then send the unusual ones to your Editor. The enthusiasm YOU show reflects on to your meetings. It's fun. Try it.

The attendance at the August meeting at Fort Laramie was short of what could be expected. Those of us who were there had a short business meeting followed by a detailed talk of the Fort by Eugene Galloway, who is one of the Park Rangers at the Fort. Gene seems to be wholly enveloped in his work and is doing a fine job. The program on the Piney Creek site was reported by George Frison Saturday evening, and even though it was a Sheridan Chapter project, we from Sheridan are quite proud of it. Representatives from various Chapters took the opportunity of the guided tour through the Hell Gap sites, Sunday. Many thanks to those who were in charge of the arrangements and especially to Lt. Col. Harry Palmer who had charge of the meeting at the Museum.

Margaret Powers

President

CHAPTER NEWS

Understanding Our Membership

The members of the Archaeological Society, although gathered together in a common cause, are none the less individuals. The work they can do as Society members depends a great deal on the work they do as individuals. The problem in achieving a well knit Society is in these individuals finding the jobs best suited to their knowledge and abilities and applying themselves. Most people are willing to work on Society projects if they have some idea what is expected of them as individuals.

As in most organizations, there are always a few people who know more about the subjects being dealt with and take a greater personal interest in the Society itself. Perhaps a little more patience and attempted understanding toward their fellow members would net these more active persons a better crew of helpers.

Then, also, too many people shrug off the possibility that a call for group participation necessarily means them, or feel the project lacks interest for them. Unfortunately this type of withdrawal causes the whole organization to suffer. The Society is cheated of the companionship and experience of the nonparticipants and the individuals have missed out on the knowledge and experience of the group.

It isn't fair that a few of the Society members should have to carry the load of work intailed by such an organization nor is it fair that all the members should not benefit from the pleasure of being a part of a rather important historical accumulation. Perhaps if the busier members were to look around them and say to some of the onlookers, "Say, could you give me a hand. . .", and lightly override the timid objections, and perhaps if some of the onlookers were to follow through those tremorous desires to be of assistance with a, "Well, if you will show me what to do. . .", a happier, more willing organization would result.

The Archaeological Society is not a social club, although it is a pleasure to share our collections with interested people and to visit over a cup of coffee after the meeting. The Society purpose is to study and preserve our history. Let's give a little more of ourselves to our local chapters for a better local team and a more profitable organization.

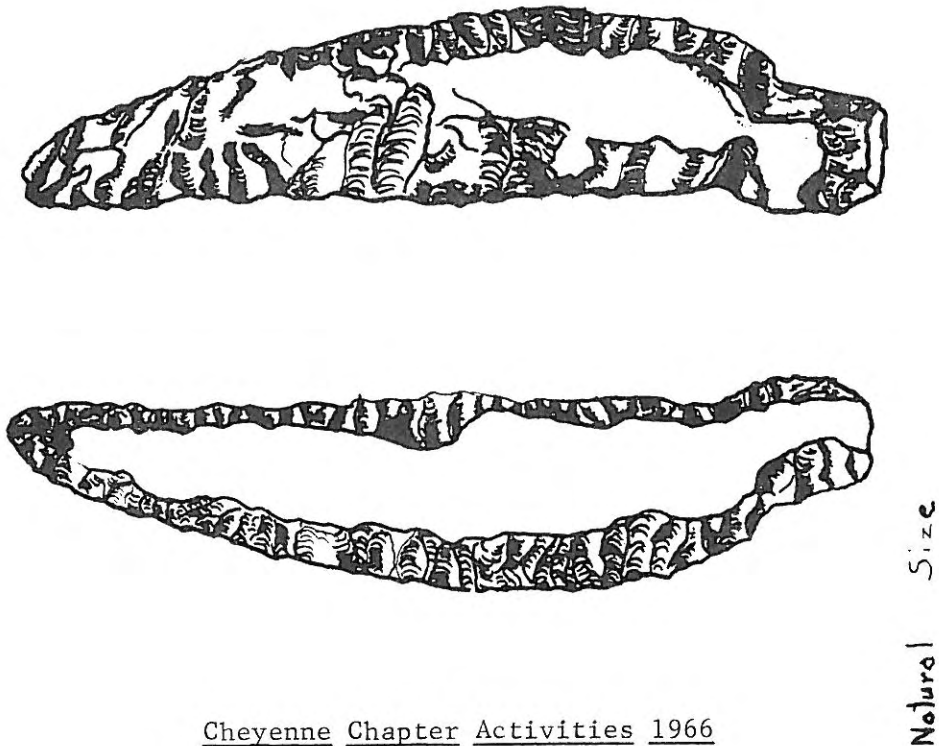
Anonymous

Sweetwater Chapter

This blade was found by Matt Tolar on March 20, 1961 about ten miles north of Rock Springs in the Killpecker Creek drainage area. It lay on a greasewood covered washout, only a few feet from the railroad tracks, which served one of the coal mining towns nearby.

The blade is made of a low-luster, gray stone, shading from a slate color to a very light gray, having black pencil-thin lines between the shades.

It is one of our most prized finds.



Cheyenne Chapter Activities 1966

The Cheyenne Chapter started into the new year with the feeling they had learned a lot, grateful for our new members, and with the realization the public as a whole is becoming more aware of what our aims are. I believe that good public relations will require more effort and work on our part as time goes on. It would be hard to find a group of people more dependent on good public relations than we are.

Since we were starting into our fourth year, it was decided we might spread our wings a little and have a dinner for the March meeting. Plans were made to try and finish up the work on the Happy Hollow artifacts.

Mr. James Wunnicke gave the program with slides, on the Maya and Toltec Indians of Central America. Jim tells us he went to Yucatan and Southern Mexico a tourist and came back an Archaeologist, and after making four trips back to the ruins there he knows his subject, and tells it very well.

The February meeting was busy finishing the plans for the dinner in March. Joe LaRue gave his own slide program on "A Look at the Sinaguas of North-east Arizona". Sinaguas, I can't pronounce that word either, but in Spanish it means "Land Without Water or Dry Hills".

The March meeting was held at the Sky Room at the airport. Mr. James Duguid of the University at Laramie gave a fine program on typology of artifacts. Good company, good food, and a very good speaker made for a most enjoyable evening.

At the April meeting Henry Lloyd, our president, gave a report on the state meeting at Casper. I have always maintained it would make for closer co-operation among the different chapters if there was one state officer elected from each chapter. I was glad to learn that will be tried out this coming year. Our faithful stand-by, Lou Steege, gave his report to the club on the "Happy Hollow Site". A number of different times Lou has had to fill in with a program on short notice and always comes through with something very much worth while. The chapter is beginning to make plans for field trips this coming summer.

This about wraps it up for this time, you know I have found "you meet the nicest people in Archaeology".

Ada Sigler
Ass't. Editor

Chapter News, Casper

Head for the Hills!

by Mary Garling

Jim Reynolds of Casper had not been out surface hunting for artifacts the past ten years. Prior to that time, however, he had spent lots of time in the hills with his family. But their magnificent collection of points (including two minute jewel like finely worked bird points of agate) and other artifacts had been stolen from their home in California. And that sort of took the fun out of it for Jim.

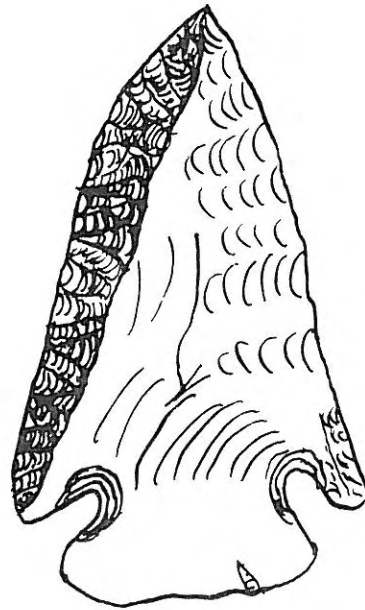
When his brother visited Casper recently, he suggested that they all (he and his wife, Jim and Ann and all four youngsters) spend a few days looking around the hills north of town where they'd spent many hours when

they were younger.

This spot was a good choice. In about twenty-four hours actual "walking time", the party produced nine perfect projectile points and some broken artifacts. And Jim has become interested again, as has Ann -- and for good reason! Jim came up with a perfectly formed "fish-hook" or "gaff" made of pinkish-grey chert! And a beautifully worked elongated Pinto Basin type (?) point from red-grey agate material.

Ann found a bi-beveled spear point made from white chert. Her piece shows a left-hand bevel on each side!

Gues who can hardly wait to get into the hills again?



Cutline only showing
bi-bevel of point...

SIGNAL HILL

by Mary Garling

Indian braves once guarded this plain
Where radar networks now scan the sky.
Electrical impulse carries the word,
Receives, diverts, repeats it again.
The tower is new, though the concept old,
(A man with blanket once played the part)
And covered here,
Beneath time's sandy sheet,
Charcoal of signalfires
Touches concrete.

Sheridan Chapter News

Several of the Sheridan Chapter members spent their free time this summer working on a dig at Arvada. Gary R. Fry gave a brief report on the completed dig at our September meeting. Jerry Carbone showed slides on the site.

Test Excavation on Camp Creek Site

Big Horn Mountains

On September 24, the Wyoming Archaeological Society, Sheridan Chapter, did a five grid test excavation on the Camp Creek Site, six miles N.E. of Burgess Junction off the Dayton-Kane highway. The site is on the north side of the creek about 1/4 mile below the head of Camp Creek. Three of the grids were 5' x 5' and two grids were 4' x 4'. All were dug down to the rock and gravel layer that underlays this terrain. The depth varied from eight to eighteen inches. Excavation showed this was not a stratified site.

There was very little bone in evidence. Chipping and flakes were found at all depths but most frequently in the top six to eight inches.

Grid no. 1	---	1 whole white agate point--depth 4"	(I)
		1 piece of broken knife---	" 8" (not shown)
Grid no. 2	---	1 base, clear agate -----	" 4" (2)
		1 thumb scraper of semi-	
		translucent gray agate ----	" 8" (3)
Grid no. 3	---	1 point of gray chert -----	" 4" (4)
		1 base of red jasper -----	" 12" (5)
		1 knife point, red jasper -	" 8" (not shown)
		1 thumb scraper red jasper	" 18" (6)

Also found in this grid Indian head penny minted 1906.

Grid no. 4--- 1 point red-brown jasper--- depth 14" (7)
8" (8)

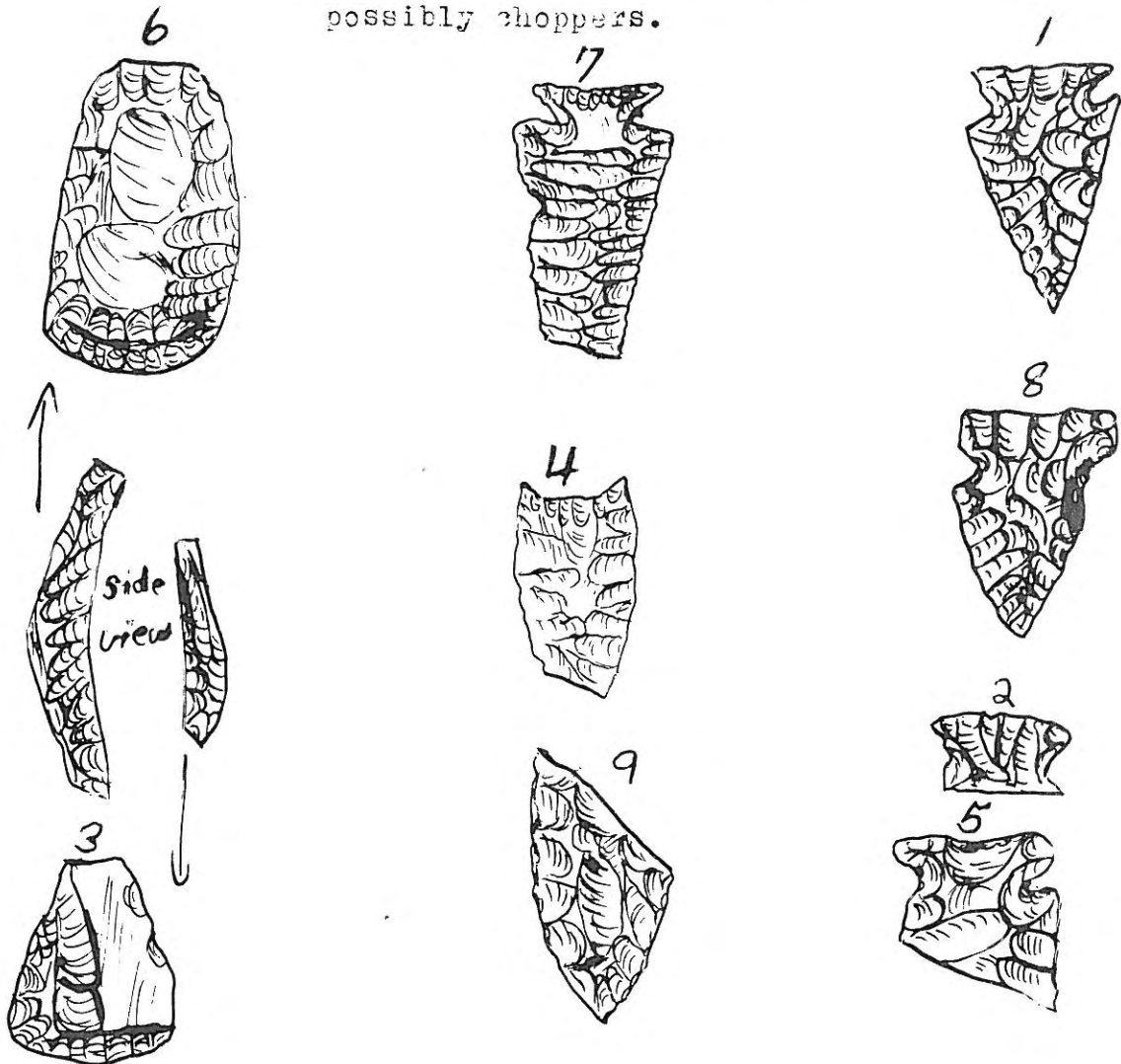
1 point red-brown jasper--- "

2 small worked pieces, possibly broken
scrapers.

Grid no. 5--- 1 broken point of light gray agate.

depth 2" (9)

Also found were two large broken chunks,
possibly choppers.



Due to lack of bones and the single level of occupation very little information was obtained from this site. The site was previously reported on to the Society by Dr. R. C. Bentzen, a former resident of Sheridan, and still a Society member. Dr. Bentzen had dug a small test hole and thought the site deserved further interest. His report was dated August 13, 1960. The Archaeological Society has kept open a forest service permit till this summer being unable to do test excavations until this time.

Reported on by Gary R. Fry
Drawings by Georgia L. Fry

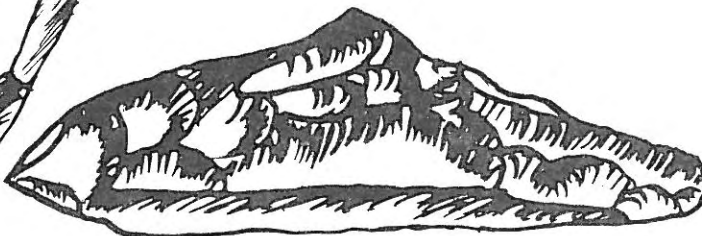
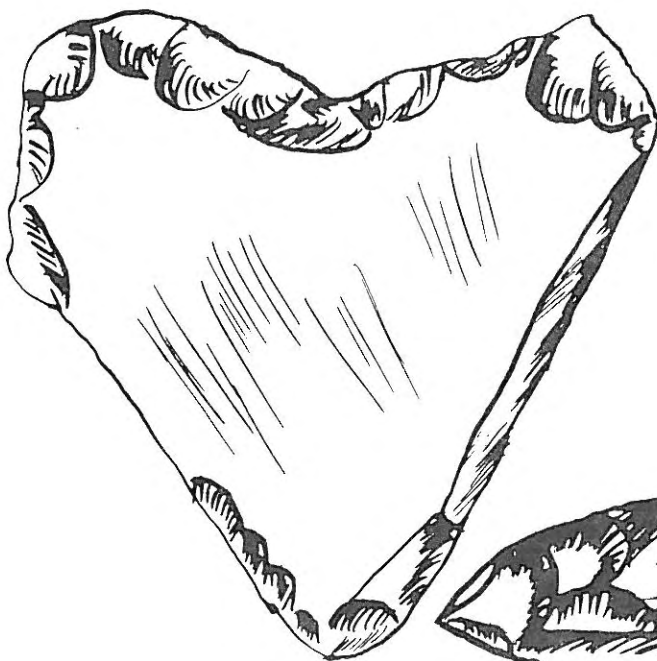
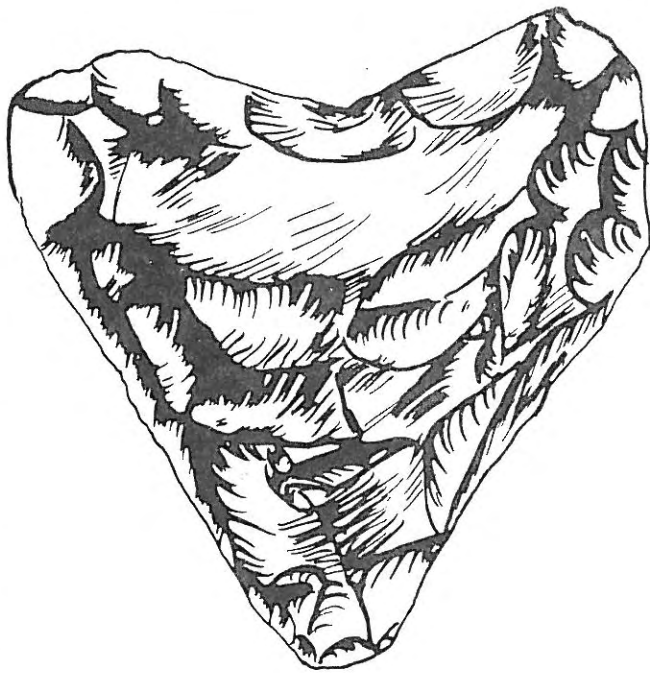
Artifacts Widow

I've married an arrowhead hunter!
Won't you hear my sad tale of woe?
He travels all over the country,
I'd follow, but where do I go?

I've called out the army and navy;
The F.B.I.'s hard on his trail.
I'm afraid by the time that they find him,
They're liable to put him in jail!
So, heed my sad story all women,
A lesson to children and wives,
If your man is an arrowhead hunter
He'll rate first his points, scrapers and knives!

G.L.F.

From collection of M. Powers
of Sheridan, Wyo. Rightside-Tang
knife; Left side and bottom right
guess anyone? Both are surface
finds and actual size. Drawings-
Georgia Fry



MINUTES OF THE ANNUAL SUMMER MEETING OF THE WYOMING ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

HELD IN "OLD BEDLAM", FORT LARAMIE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE

August 6, 1966

The meeting was called to order at 2:25 P.M. by the President, Mrs. Margaret Powers. There were 24 members in attendance with all Chapters represented except Northern Big Horn Basin and Sweetwater.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved. The Treasurers report, submitted by Mrs. Mary Garling, was read and accepted.

The following committees were appointed by the President:

Legislative Committee David Baskett and Henry Jensen of the Casper Chapter and Ralph Casner of the Cheyenne Chapter. This Committee is to work with the University of Wyoming and the members of the 1967 session of Legislature to insure passage of a bill to create the office of a State Archaeologist.

Mulloy Scholarship Committee Mrs. Helen Bryant of the Casper Chapter is to select her own committee to assist her in drawing up a list of qualifications which must be met before a recipient can be granted a scholarship.

There was some discussion on the binding of the Exchange membership publications of the Society. The Executive Secretary has agreed to place the publications in a binder by volumes. No action was taken on the establishment of a State Librarian.

It was suggested that different types of covers be placed on future "Wyoming Archaeologists" to insure less damage in mailing. Different types of mailing envelopes were also suggested. Since all involved a definite increase in publication costs, it was decided to continue with the present format for the time being.

All future copies of "The Wyoming Archaeologist" are to be available for resale as a Chapter project. Copies will be available to each Chapter Secretary for 50¢ per copy from the State Executive Secretary. The State Society will also furnish one copy of each future publication to every Chapter Secretary for the Chapter Library.

A motion was made by Henry Jensen to send a check of \$25.00 to Bob Edgar of Cody, Wyoming for the very fine program he presented at the Annual Meeting in April 1966 in Casper. The motion was seconded and passed.

Mr. Jensen reported that additional membership blanks for the Wyoming Archaeological Society are available from John Albanese, 114 Riverside Terrace, Red Buttes, Casper, Wyoming. If any Chapter needs membership blanks, please contact Mr. Albanese.

James Goodwin reported the Sheridan Chapter activities for the summer. Their "dig site" on the Powder River, supervised by George Frison, has produced an assemblage similar to that of the "Powers - Yonkee" site.

Harry Palmer reported on the research being conducted in a cave near Guernsey. No evidence of occupation has been found at present. Further research may uncover cultural deposits in other areas of the cave.

There was some discussion on whether or not archaeological rights could be retained on public lands sold in the future by the Federal Government. As soon as additional information can be obtained from the Bureau of Land Management, it will be passed to the Chapters for study and presentation to the Annual State Meeting in Casper in April 1967.

An invitation was extended to all members to join the Casper Chapter on their trek, August 14th. This included the Indian Trail, Battle Hill Site, and the Bridger Creek Site. The caravan will depart from Arminto at 10:00 A.M.

Dr. Schoondermark extended an invitation to all members to display and attend the Annual Stone Age Fair in Loveland, Colorado on October 1, and 2.

Eugene Galloway, of the staff at Fort Laramie National Historic Site gave an interesting and informative report on the historic sites and locations near Fort Laramie.

Meeting adjourned 4:30 P.M.

The Saturday evening program was held in the State Museum at Guernsey Lake State Park. George Frison gave an interesting and informative description of the buffalo jump and the butchering techniques of the Piney Creek site. He also commented on summer's excavations at the Powder River site.

At 10:00 A.M. on Sunday the members met at the Hell Gap Site for a conducted tour of site and a view of the artifacts recovered during the summer's research. Our apologies are in order for the slight mixup and misunderstanding of the date and time of this meeting. Our many thanks to the staff at Hell Gap for the wonderful tour notwithstanding complete prior arrangements.

Louis C. Steege,

Executive Secretary

F O R E W O R D

Exerpts from PREHISTORIC MAN ON THE GREAT PLAINS

by Waldo R. Wedel

Tipi Rings

"Among the most abundant and widespread antiquities of the Northwestern Plains are those commonly known as tipi rings. These are found in limited numbers in northern Colorado and extreme western Nebraska, more frequently in the Dakotas eastward approximately to the Missouri River from Fort Randall northward; but the greatest numbers appear to be in Wyoming and Montana, with many additional occurrences in southern Alberta and Saskatchewan. They are found on river bottoms, on stream terraces at varying heights, on the upland margins, and on elevated ridges and spurs, sometimes at considerable distances from visible existing sources of water and wood. Characteristically, they consist of boulders and field stones, from a few inches to a foot or more in diameter, placed at intervals to form circles from five to over forty feet in diameter.....The rings often occur singly but may be found in groups of almost any number up to two hundred or more.

These circles have been commonly designated tipi rings on the supposition that they were used around the edges of the tipis to weigh down the skin covers, functioning thus in place of, or in addition to, the wooden pegs.....

T. F. Kehoe has approached the question through a detailed analysis of tipi rings on the Blackfeet Reservation in western Montana and in adjacent Alberta, with which he combined comprehensive review of

ethnological data and early historical documents. He was shown typical rings marking the locations of tipis whose owners and builders were known to, and named by, his Indian informants; and he demonstrated convincingly that the use of boulders, or in their absence, of blocks of sod, to hold down tipi covers among such tribes as the Blackfeet, Crees, Crows, and Dakotas was common practice rather than an occasional incident.....

Mulloy has argued against their use (stone rings) as weights for tipi covers or otherwise in connection with ordinary habitations, and has included them under the rubric "Manifestations of unknown relationships." He points out that many of those along the Rocky Mountain front include far more stones than would seem to be needed for such use, that nearly all lack discernible fireplaces or packed floors, that they are often in locations poorly suited for camping from the standpoint of wood and protection, and that they generally lack the debris that would be expected if domestic pursuits had been carried out in or near them.

Another sort is a group of interesting stone structures I saw on a trip into the Pryor Mountains.....Along the rim of the plateau, irregularly spaced at intervals of twenty-five to seventy-five yards, were rudely laid structures of slabs. Each was in an elliptical, oblong, or horseshoe shape, open at the center and without a cover. Where one end was left open, as was the case with at least five of the structures, the open end was to the east.....

Local tradition avers that these structures once sheltered beacon fires used in signaling the Indian bands who were wont to cross the Bighorn Valley within sight of the plateau rim. I noted no evidence of burning, however, nor were there any artifacts in association. It is

perhaps significant that in most of the structures, the open space was large enough to hold a man lying down and the walls were high enough to have given some protection from the wind. It seems possible that these were fasting shelters used by young men in quest of visions. Considering the isolated and difficult location of these constructions in the Pryors and apparently elsewhere, and the solitude required by vision-seekers, this would seem to me a more plausible explanation than the view that they housed beacon fires."



SORRY ABOUT THAT, CHIEF.

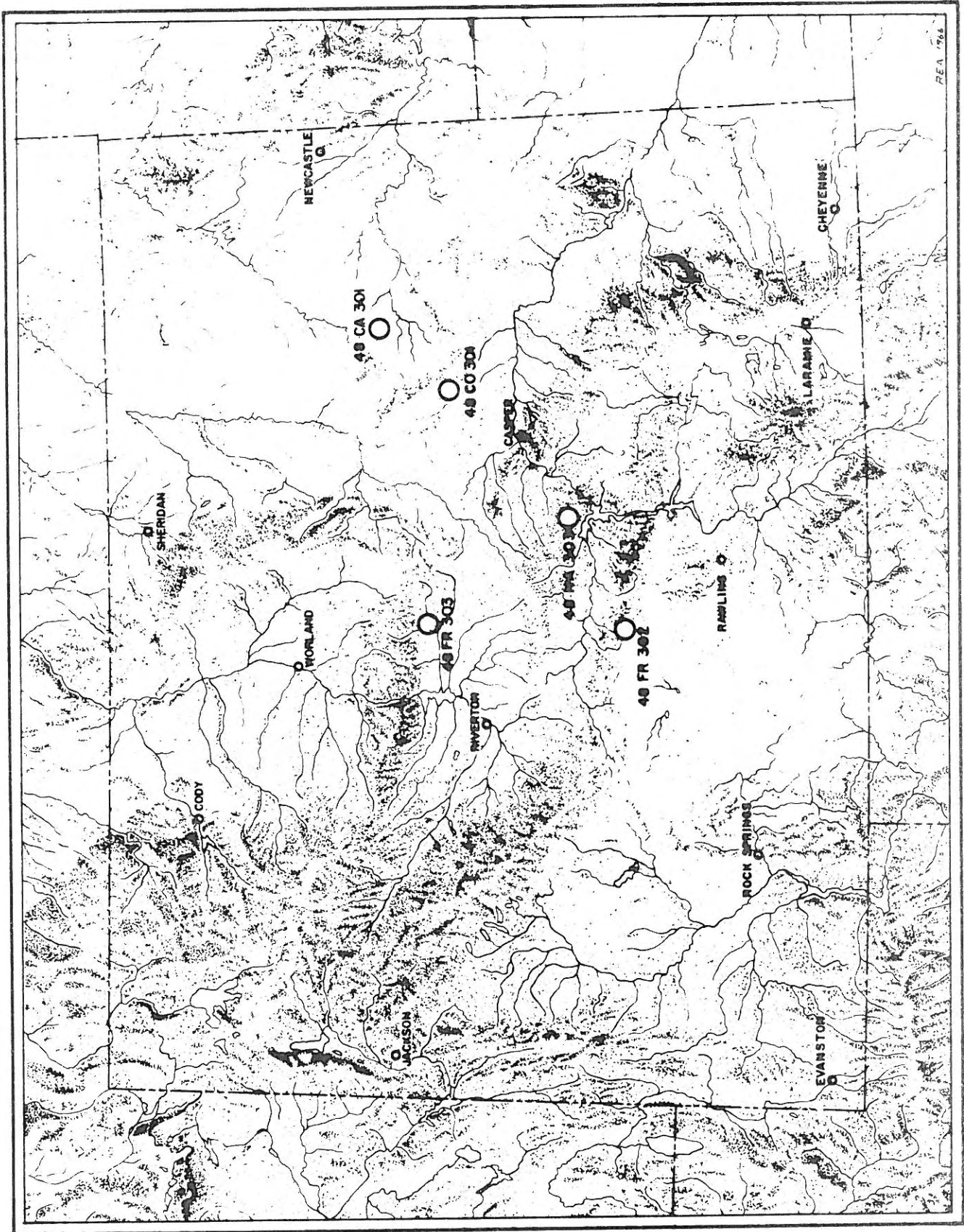
ROCK ALIGNMENTS IN CENTRAL WYOMING - AN INTRODUCTION

BY BAYARD D. REA

In 1964 the Casper Chapter of the Wyoming Archaeological Society undertook as one of its main projects the investigation and reporting of the prehistoric rock alignments known to exist in the central part of Wyoming. The following five reports by various members of the Casper Chapter represent the initial results of this project. The location of the five sites is shown on the index map, Figure 1. It is hoped that publication of these reports will serve several purposes. First and most important is the preservation and documentation of these works of early man. Secondly, the stimulation of speculation regarding their origin and purposes. And thirdly, the arousal of interest in this special type of artifact so that we may learn of the existence of others that have not yet been investigated.

The officers of the Casper Chapter at the time of inception of this project felt that it would provide an ideal undertaking for an amateur society such as this is. By mapping and reporting these rock figures, we would be accomplishing a real service of preservation of antiquities without running the danger of any well-intentioned, but ill-formed, blunders such as are inherent in any excavation performed by amateur archaeologists. In so doing, we have benefitted ourselves by becoming more familiar with the disciplines of surveying, recording, and reporting.

Similar projects that would accomplish the same goals are the recording of petroglyphs and pictographs (see Wyoming Archaeologist Volume VIII, No. 34) and the charting of old Indian trails.

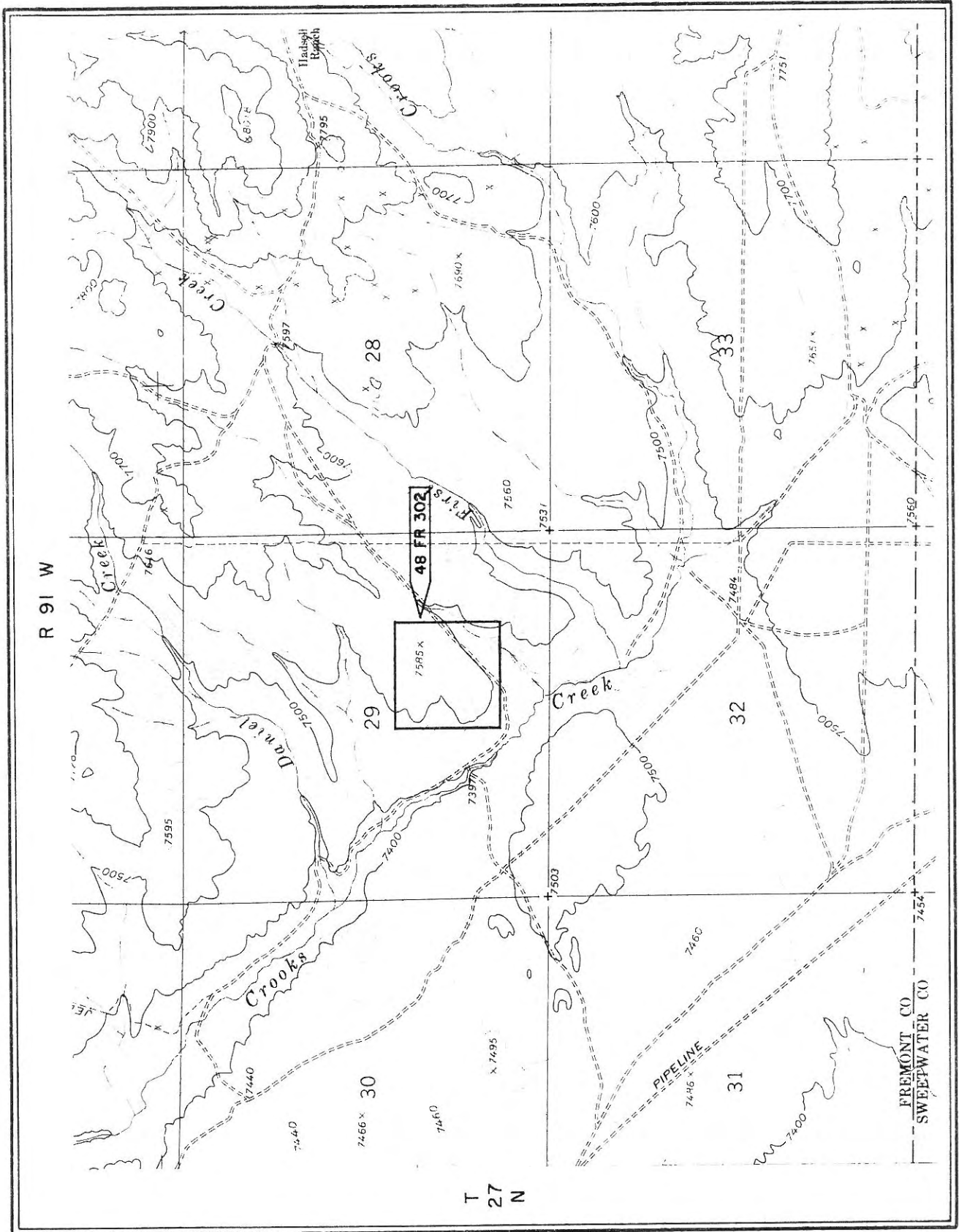


ROCK ALIGNMENTS IN CENTRAL WYOMING

The Hadsell Ranch Rock Figure (48 FR 302) is a rather puzzling geometrical outline of closely-spaced small boulders atop a prominent ridge on the Kleber Hadsell Ranch in southeastern Fremont County, Wyoming. It was investigated by members of the Casper Chapter, Wyoming Archaeological Society, on a field trip in June 1965, following a report received from Grant Willson, editor of the Wyoming Archaeologist.

The ridge on which the figure is located, at an elevation of 7585 feet above sea level, offers a commanding view of a large scope of open broken country to the south and west. Four miles away the steep forested slopes and bare flat-topped summit of Green Mountain, with an elevation of over 9000 feet, dominate the landscape in a northerly direction. The top of the ridge, flat and elongated, is clay with a generous distribution of small boulders and gravel. With an abundance of rocks it is difficult in places to determine which rocks are part of the figure and which ones are not. In some instances this difficulty undoubtedly partially explains variations in detail found in maps of such a figure sketched by different persons.

The top of the site ridge, 100 to 150 feet in width and about 1300 feet long has an alignment on an approximate bearing of northeast to southwest. The main figure has a length of approximately 235 feet and is aligned with the top of the ridge. The very straight line of rocks which forms the axis of the figure does not point from either end toward any readily discernible peak or similarly prominent geographical feature. To the northeast it points in the approximate direction of a draw which parallels on the southeasterly side a fingerlike hill which is an upward



R 91 W

T 27 N

FREMONT CO
SWEETWATER CO

intermittent continuation of the site ridge. This may be attributed to coincidence, but the draw is one fairly logical route for foot travelers ascending the southeastern slope of Green Mountain.

On past the southeastern end of the connected figure are found three smaller oval and irregularly shaped figures with dimensions of from six to twenty feet across. There were also several stone clusters, three to ten feet in diameter, none of which rose more than twelve inches above the surrounding ground. These miscellaneous unconnected clusters continue for a distance of 900 feet almost to the extreme northeast end of the ridge top.

The most distinctive feature of the Hadsell Figure is the very regular isosceles^f triangle at the southwestern end of the figure. The base of the triangle is approximately seventeen feet across and each side is approximately 60 feet in length. There is a line of rocks across the triangle fifteen feet up from the base and parallel to the base. The lower portion is again divided by another rock line connecting the base and parallel line at approximate right angles commencing approximately six feet inward from the southeast corner of the triangle.

Lithic cultural material was present in the vicinity of the site, although in scant quantities. A cracked fire-reddened mano was found in the rock cluster near the northeast end of the connected figure. A tang-based point was found approximately one-half mile east of the ridge. There was no charcoal, bones, nor bone meal evident on the top of the ridge, but several rock-lined fire lenses one-half mile west indicate an ancient campground at that lower location.

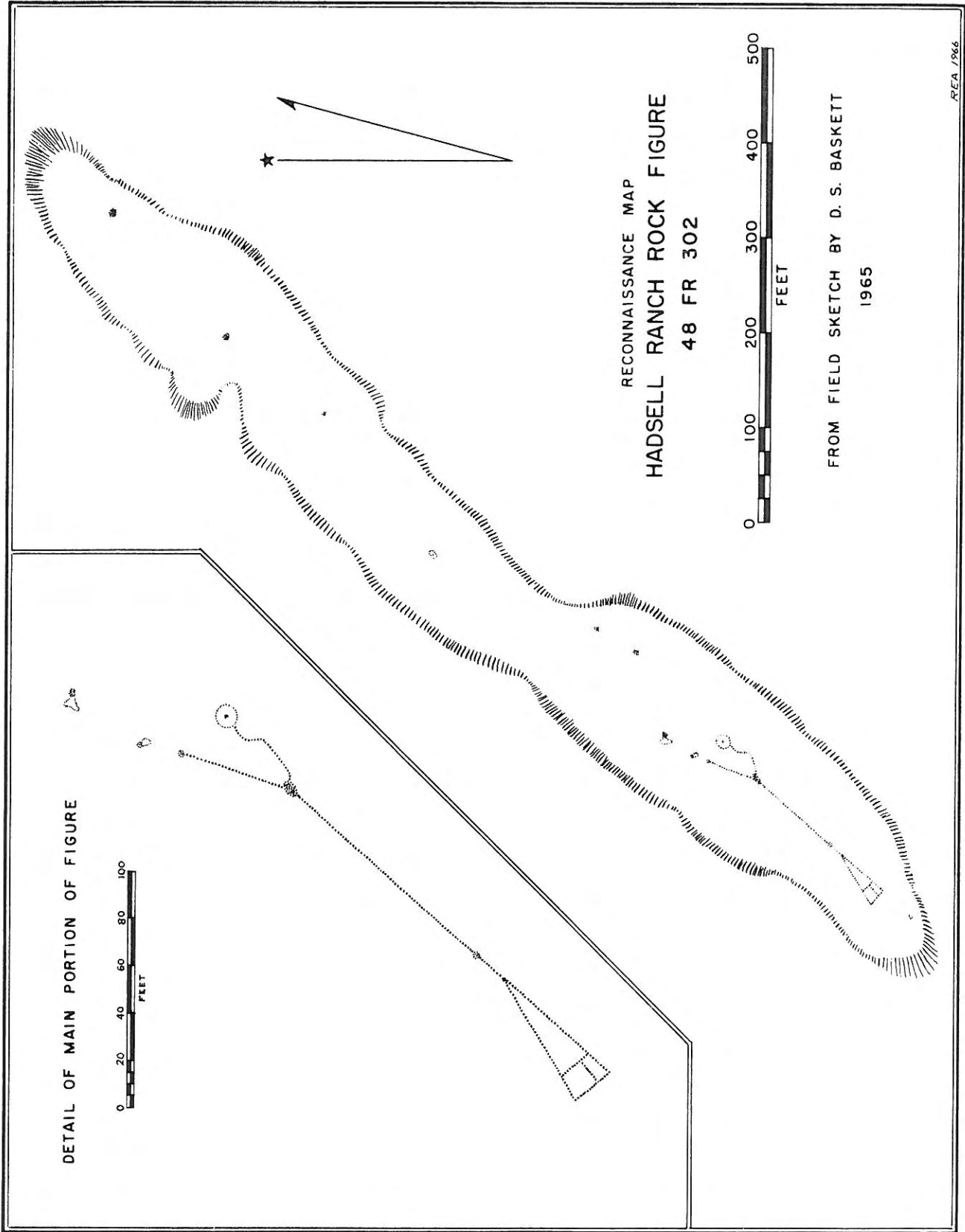
The Hadsell family commenced ranching in this area near the be-

ginning of the present century. They have stated that the figure in question is thought to have been in existence at the time of earliest European settlement of this region.

An attempted cultural evaluation of this figure would be nothing more than rife speculation. Waldo Wedel mentions the prevalence of various types of geometrically shaped boulder outlines as well as human and animal effigies over a large portion of the Great Plains at the time of initial European settlement. (1) Dr. William Mulloy, professor of anthropology at the University of Wyoming, has stated that a complete catalogue of such figures in Wyoming would be of assistance in forming conclusions regarding the significance of such phenomena. (2)

Members of the Casper Chapter of the Wyoming Archaeological Society will be glad to investigate, survey, and report any unusual rock outlines of presumed prehistoric origin in the State of Wyoming, or to assist other chapters of the society in such work.

- (1) Wedel, Waldo, Prehistoric Man on the Great Plains, University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, Oklahoma, 1961, pp. 228-230.
- (2) Personal conversation with author, 1964.



SANFORD RANCH ROCK ALIGNMENT

("FISH CREEK SITE")

48 NA 303

By Henry Jensen

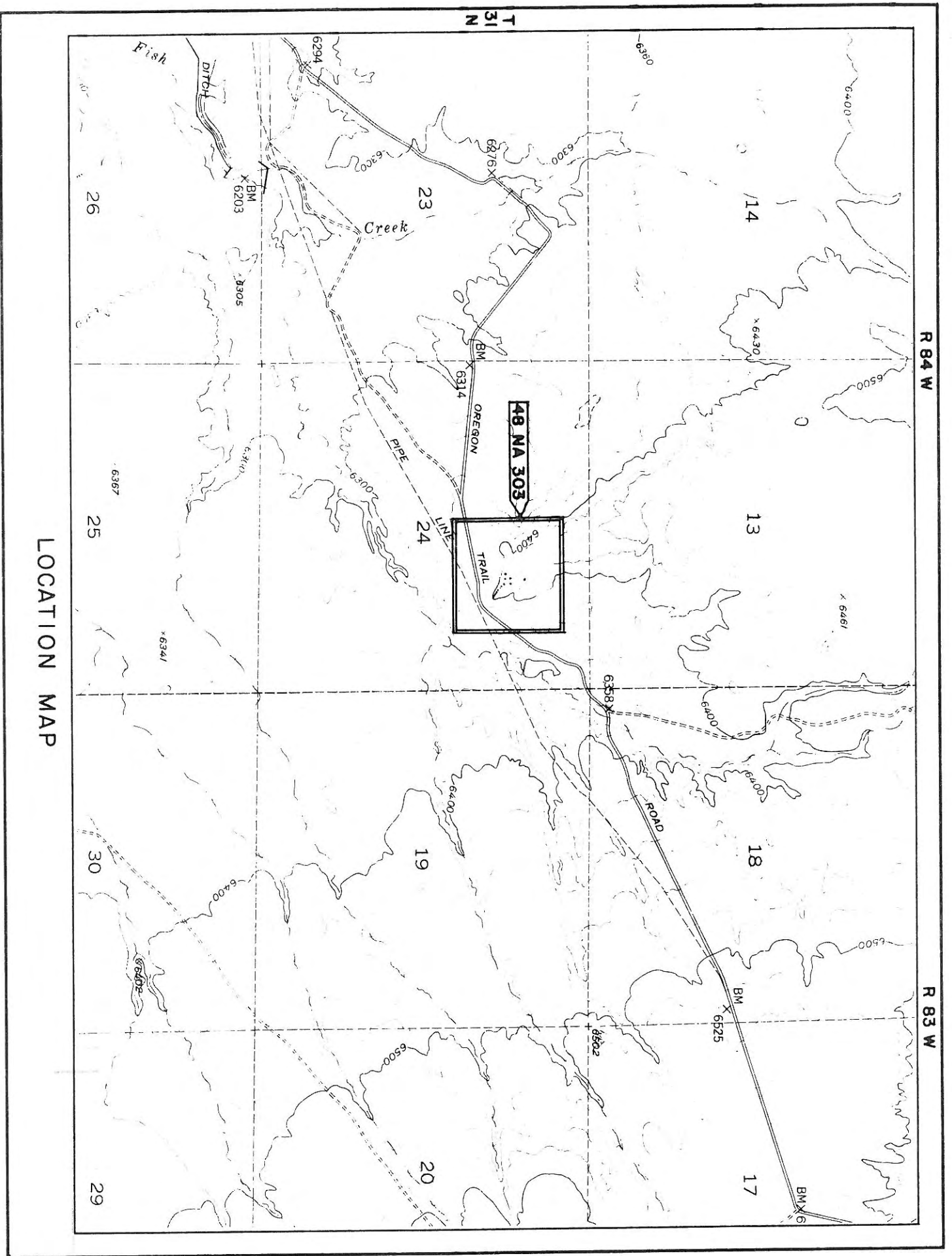
Several years ago it became evident to members of the Casper Chapter, Wyoming Archaeological Society that there were significant numbers of so called rock alignments within a radius of 100 miles of Casper.

No two of these alignments are alike, and the purposes for which they were constructed are conjectural, but spurred by curiosity and the suggestion by Dr. William Mulloy that some significance might be noted if enough of these structures were found, studied and mapped the Casper Chapter has found and studied five sites where rocks have been used in making various kinds of structures. The Sanford Ranch Rock Alignment, "Fish Creek Site" is one of the structures studied.

Special thanks for the discovery and eventual visit to this site are due to Stan Sanford upon whose range the site is located, and to Tom Fredricks of Lamont who, together with Mr. Sanford, discovered the site.

The initial reconnaissance was made on November 7, 1965 by about twenty-five persons, members of the Society and their families, led by Mr. Fredricks.

The site is about thirty miles south-west of Casper as the crow flies and is located within a hundred yards of the Oregon Trail. The geographical location being the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ Section 24, Township 31 North, Range 84 West, Natrona County Wyoming.



As may be seen from the accompanying maps the alignment is on a flat topped ridge overlooking Fish Creek, which at this point flows only intermittently.

The rock alignment itself consists of seven piles of stone none of which is now more than a foot in height and which have been somewhat disturbed by pot hunters or cowboys and sheepherders. These seven cairns are connected by a single row of stones which vary in size from four to ten inches.

In an area of perhaps $\frac{1}{2}$ acre to the north-west of the large cairns there are five much smaller groups of rocks which are now at about ground level. Four of these have eleven stones in them arranged in a pattern as shown in the accompanying illustrations.

These did not appear to be fire pits as there was no evidence that the stones had been burned, nor did there appear to be any charcoal in them.

On the ridge in the immediate vicinity of the alignment there were only a very few artifacts and no bones or bone fragments. However when members of the party began ranging over the nearby hills and the valley of Fish Creek, they discovered numerous artifacts. These ranged from projectile points with excellent workmanship through the crudest kind of scrapers and knives.

The number of artifacts found in the area leads to the conclusion that the paleo Indian found the terrain as attractive as a trail as did the emigrants who passed that way thousands of years later along the Oregon and Mormon Trails.

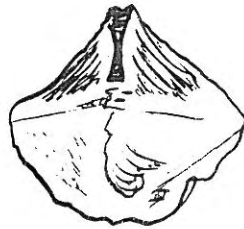
As yet, no definite pattern has developed from the study of the rock alignments, but as one swallow does not make a summer, neither do

five widely separated and divergent rock alignments make a pattern.

The Casper Chapter hopes that members and friends over the state will report others of these structures to the societies in their area or to the Wyoming Archaeological Society in Cheyenne so that they may also be visited, studied, and mapped so that eventually a pattern may evolve.



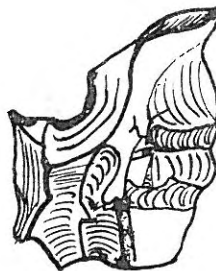
graver, chert



drill, pink chert



sinew stripper (?)
banded jasper



notched scraper or stripper,
chert-agate



snub-nosed scraper,
agate



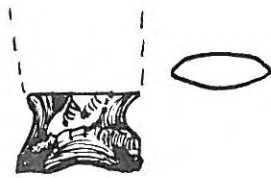
777-GARLING



snub-nosed scraper,
jasper



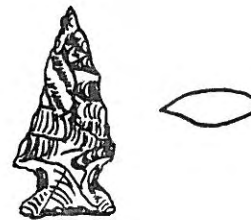
scraper,
white quartz



point base,
flint
(a)

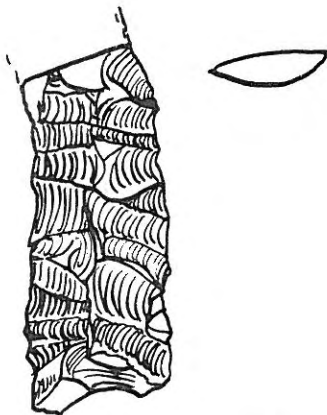


point, quartzite
(b)



point, agate
(c)

(a), (b), (c) Albanese Coll.



knife or proj.,
agate
(d)

Sea Collection

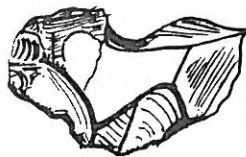


point,
agate
(e)



projectile,
agate
(f)

(e), (f) Hinthorn Coll.



sinew stripper (?)
pink chert
(g)

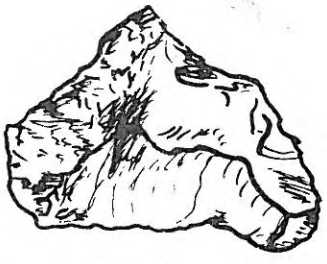


projectile base,
or knife, flint
(h)

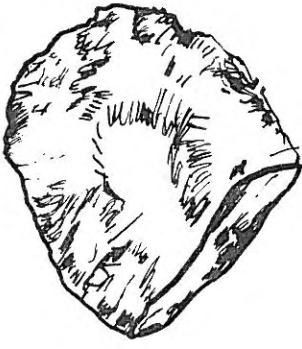
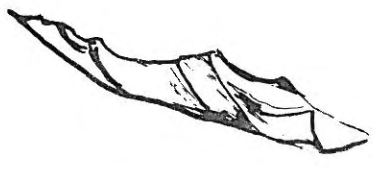
M. GARLAND



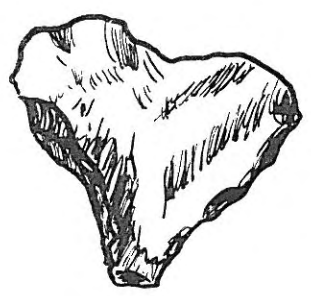
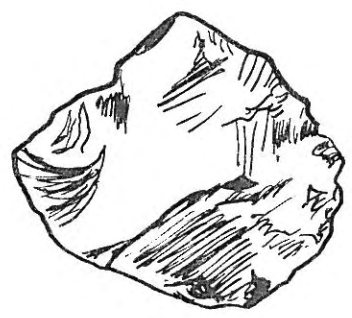
point, jasper
(j)



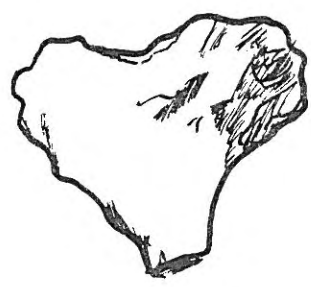
Scraper, moss agate



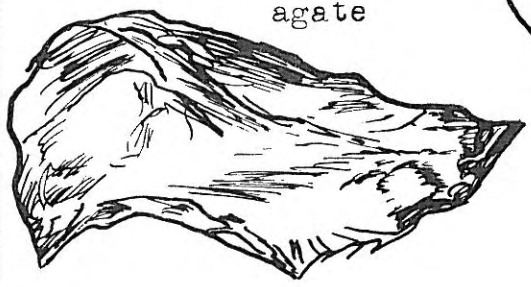
Scraper,
jasper



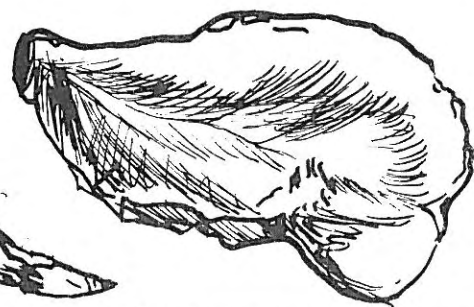
Drill,
honey agate



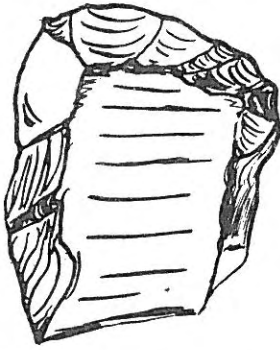
Knife,
agate



C. JENSEN



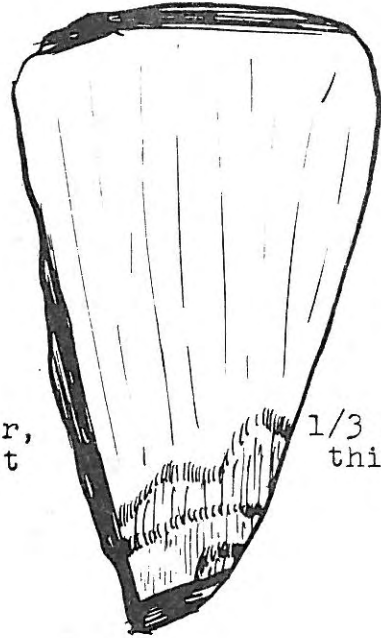
From the Nash Collection



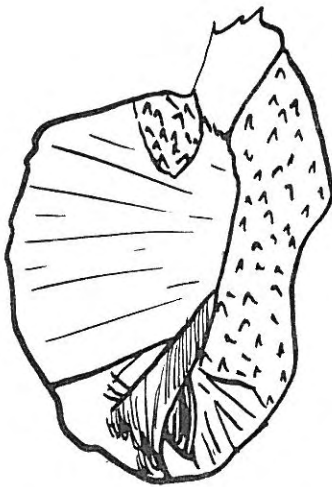
Scraper, quartzite



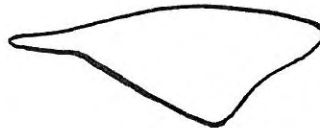
Scraper, schist



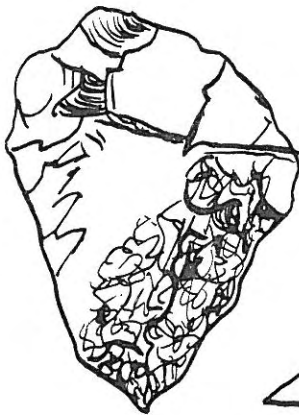
1/3 in. thick



scraper, banded agate

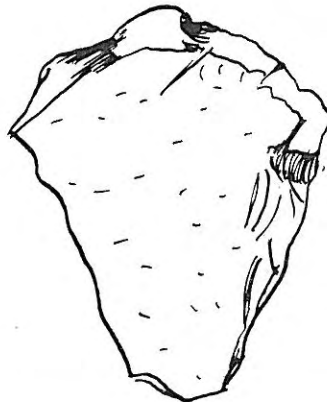


knife, pink quartzite

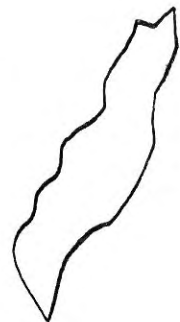


scraper, chert

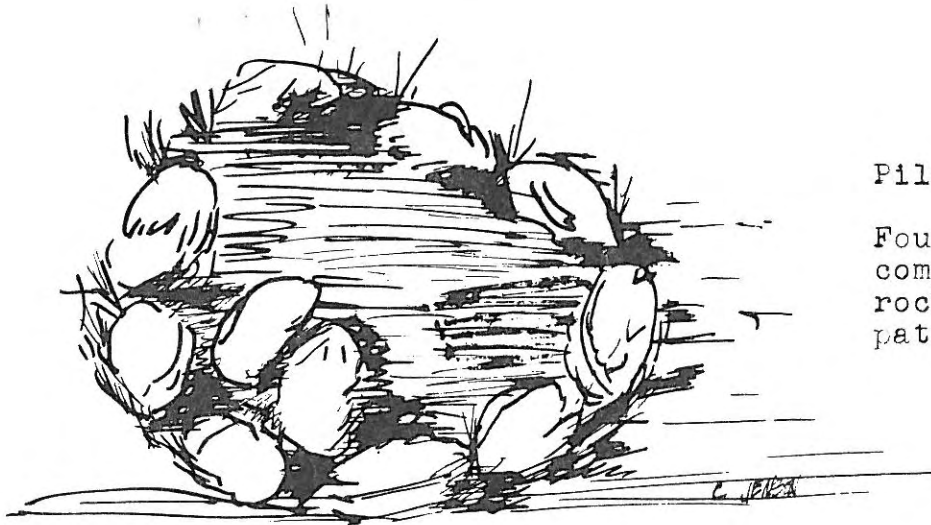
M. GARLING



scraper, quartzite



48 NA 303



Piles of Eleven

Four of five groups composed of eleven rocks in typical pattern.

48 NA 303

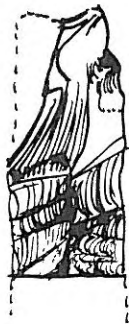
Typical Artifact Specimens



Tanged knife, jasper



projectile base, quartzite



M. GARLING



Knife, Agate



Point base, brown agate

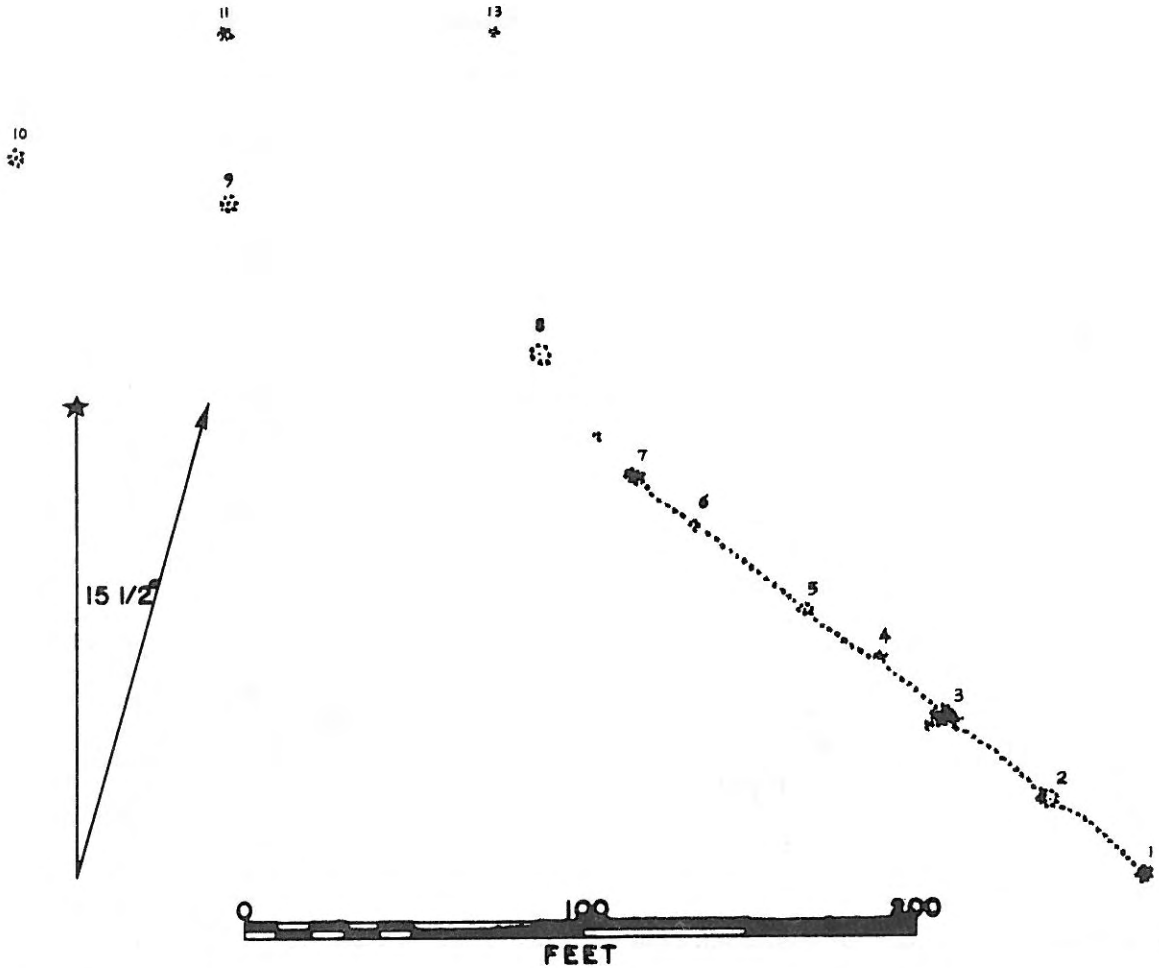


From the Nash Collection

12
☼

RECONNAISSANCE MAP
SANFORD RANCH ROCK ALIGNMENT
("FISH CREEK SITE")
48 NA 303

NE 1/4 SEC. 24, T. 31 N, R. 84 W.
NATRONA COUNTY, WYOMING



REA 1966

ORMSBY ROAD ROCK ALIGNMENT

48 CO 301

By Bayard D. Rea

The site consists of the remains of a rock wall surrounding a hilltop located approximately 37 miles northeast of Casper. The "Ormsby Road", a dirt road maintained by Natrona and Converse Counties, runs through the site in a southwest to northeast direction. Topographically, the site is on the west flank of "Pine Ridge" near the common drainage divide of the North Platte, Powder, and Cheyenne Rivers. (Fig. 1.)

While the site has been known to long-time local residents for many years (by such names as "Pine Ridge animal trap", "Pine Ridge fortress", and "Ormsby game run"), the present investigation by various members of the Casper Chapter of the Wyoming Archaeology Society has been conducted intermittently since the site was first reported to the chapter by one of its members, Richard A. Eklund, in 1959. Mr. Eklund learned of the site from Mr. Oliver M. Farnsworth who found it while deer hunting. Permission to conduct detailed mapping and excavations was obtained from the land owner, Mr. Herman Werner of Casper, in 1964; to him we are grateful for this expression of his support of the investigation.

Many members of the Casper Chapter have participated in the reconnaissance of and speculation about this site, but special acknowledgement is due to the following: Richard Eklund for the initial report, Martha Foster and Edness Kimball Wilkins for their early descriptions and photographs, T. J. Weber for ownership determination and for formally naming and numbering the site. Preliminary mapping was done in October, 1963

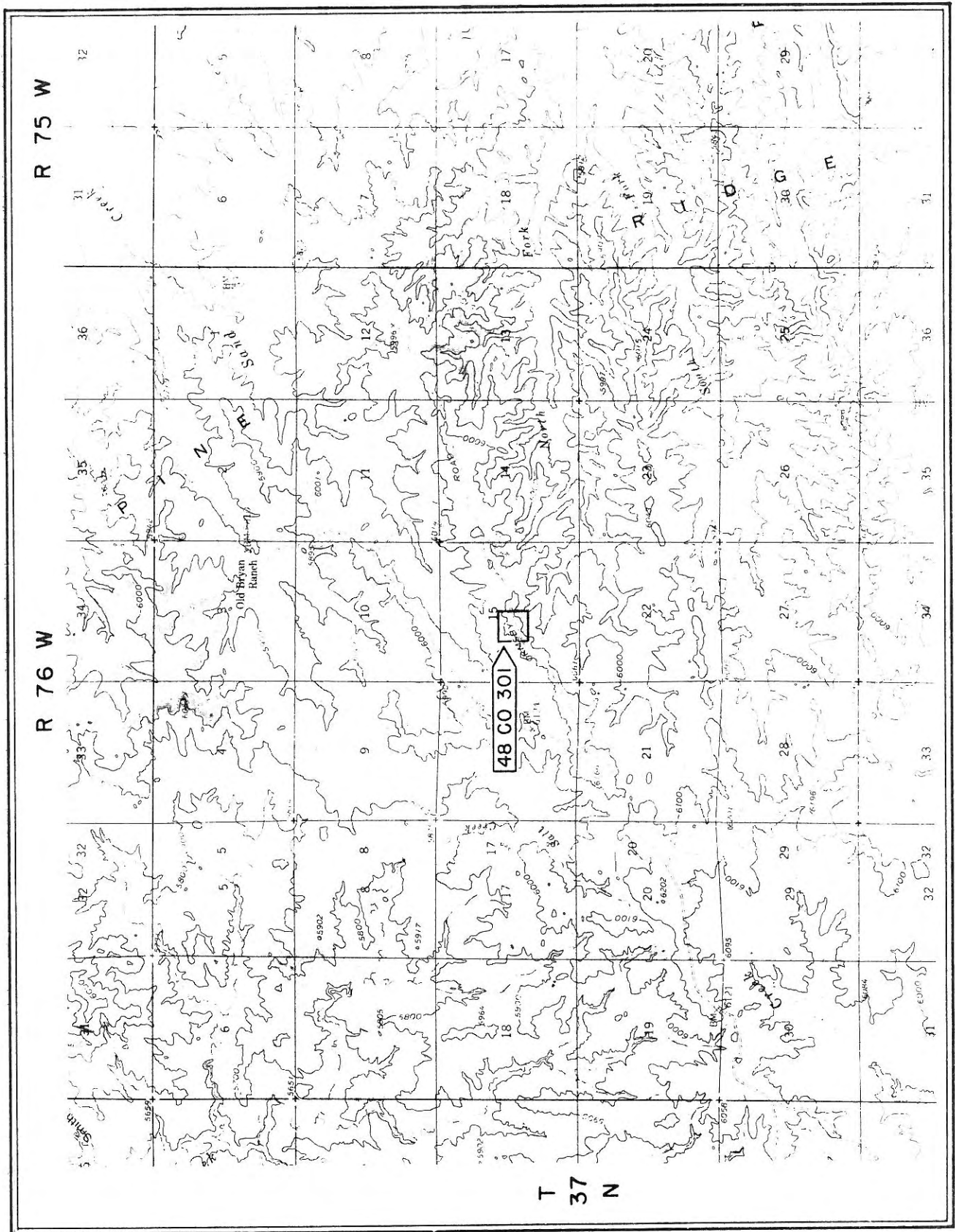


FIGURE I. INDEX MAP - ORMSBY ROAD ROCK ALIGNMENT

by Alford, Phelan, Baskett, and Rea. Plane table survey, (Fig. 2), was conducted by Helen Bryant, Grover Phelan, David Baskett, William Oline, and B. D. Rea on June 13, 1964. Exploratory trenches, (Figs. 3 & 4), were excavated, plotted and back-filled in October 1964 by Eklund, Bryant, Snowden, Phelan and Rea.

The site occupies a sandy and rocky hilltop in the NE $\frac{1}{4}$ of the SW $\frac{1}{4}$, Section 15, T.37N., R.76W., Converse County, Wyoming. Rock outcrops on the hill consist of well indurated, coarse grained Fort Union Sandstone stained dark brown probably by iron carbonate cement. Occasional large concretions with less resistant centers are weathering out, and several have been previously dug into by unknown persons who presumably believed that they were "fire pits".

Vegetation consists of typical prairie grasses and sagebrush with the significant addition of Ponderosa pine trees. The pine is apparently supported by the porous, moisture retentive character of the sandstone and marks the western limit of a prominent growth of scattered pines that occupy the hill-forming Fort Union outcrop along the western side of the Powder River Basin for a distance of 40 miles.

The hill upon which the site is located is part of an east-west trending ridge forming the divide between the eastward flowing North Fork of the North Fork of the Dry Fork of the South Fork of Cheyenne River and Sand Creek. Thus the north and south slopes of the hill are quite steep. The Ormsby Road runs generally along the ridge crest.

Encircling the hilltop in a roughly oval shape are portions of a rock wall having a total circumference of approximately 1700 feet. Gaps in the wall reduce the actual length of the rock structure to about 1000

feet. The gaps occur where it crosses the Ormsby Road, where it approaches closely to the steep escarpment on the south side of the hill, and where it crosses a gentle northeastward draining draw on the north side of the hill. It seems probably that the wall was originally continuous. The present gaps at the road crossings may be due to scavenging of rock for use on the road. Along the southern escarpment the original wall may have slumped over the edge and been scattered downslope. Likewise, in the draw to the northeast, erosion and creep may have removed or buried the original wall so that it is no longer identifiable.

The rocks comprising the wall are of the same sandstone which outcrops on the hill and of which there is an abundance. Thus it is difficult to distinguish naturally occurring random rocks from those which have been removed or dislodged from the wall.

Individual rocks in the wall range up to 3 or 4 feet in their maximum dimension and weigh several hundred pounds. The majority, however, are smaller and could have been easily lifted and moved by one person.

Apparently the rocks were piled in a random fashion with no attempt at "laying" them flat one on top of another. A few of the larger slabs give the impression that they were originally standing on edge, perhaps to give additional height to the wall.

At present the wall is about 3 feet wide at its base and has a maximum height of about 2-1/2 feet. This probably approximates the original height. In many places, however, the structure has collapsed and is barely discernible.

Perhaps the most significant feature of the wall is the narrow "neck" or "chute" which plunges down a steep point of the hill at its

northwest corner. It is this feature which is probably mainly responsible for the earlier interpretation of the site as a game run or animal trap. The chute consists of two parallel rock walls about 15 feet apart. It extends down the hill for a distance of 100 feet, and in that distance there is a vertical drop of 25 feet. At the lower end the chute is closed off by a similar wall connecting the two sides.

Exploratory trenches A-A' and B-B' (Fig. 3 & 4), were dug across the wall at the upper and lower ends of the "chute" as shown on Fig. 2. Trench A-A' showed the rocks at the base of the wall to be resting directly on weathered sandstone. Trench B-B' encountered an upper sandy silty soil, a gray charcoal bearing soil, and weathered sandstone in descending order. The charcoal horizon extends beneath the wall itself at this location and thus predates the wall. This trench yielded no cultural material but did produce two bone fragments (Fig. Nos. 3 & 4); No. 3 from the upper sandy horizon and No. 4 from the charcoal zone. The charcoal layer contains pieces of burned wood that should be large enough for species determination and for carbon 14 dating, if desired. Previous random digging by unknown individuals was evidenced in the vicinity of Trench B-B', but the stratigraphy in the trench itself appeared to be undisturbed. It is postulated that the charcoal was produced by an ancient forest fire and that it does not necessarily indicate any human activity.

ARTIFACTS:

Artifacts found on the surface within or in the near vicinity of the site are shown in Figs. . In addition, a small (+1 mm.) blue bead was found in an ant hill near the top of the ?chute?. Other artifacts have been found in the area in the past by "surface hunters", but

these were not available for illustration. It should be emphasized that the knife (Fig. , No. 9) is made of steel and thus indicates a post-Contact age.

RELATED SITES:

Although no evidence of habitation was noted in the immediate vicinity of 48 CO 301, at least three groups of "tipi rings" are located within a radius of several miles.

Three other less elaborate rock alignments were found during surface reconnaissance of the general area. About 1/4 mile southwest of the site there is an indistinct row of rock piles along the south edge of the same ridge. 3/4 mile to the west in a saddle along the crest of the ridge, there are two parallel rows of rocks about 20 feet apart and perhaps 100 feet long. On the next ridge two miles to the northeast is an alignment of rocks with a shape suggesting a key. This appears quite recent, is in the area of a sheepwagon camp, and may well be the work of a shepherd.

Six or more stone monuments or cairns are visible on prominent high points within 1 1/2 miles of the site. One of these is semicircular in plan view, and may be an eagle trap.

SUMMARY:

The origin and purpose of the rock wall is still conjectural. However, several tentative conclusions are here presented:

- 1). The wall contains many tons of rock and represents considerable time and effort in its construction.
- 2). It does not seem to be a "fortification" since there is no evidence of habitation.

- 3). It is probably of relatively recent origin as suggested by associated artifacts, especially the metal knife and blue bead.
- 4). Bracketing dates could probably be established by carbon dating of charcoal from the layer underlying the wall and from dendrochronology of the older pine trees.
- 5). Some permanent type of hunting installation seems the most reasonable interpretation. However, the sparse amount of bone material is puzzling.
- 6). The rather unique nature of the structure warrants its more thorough investigation by a professional archaeologist.

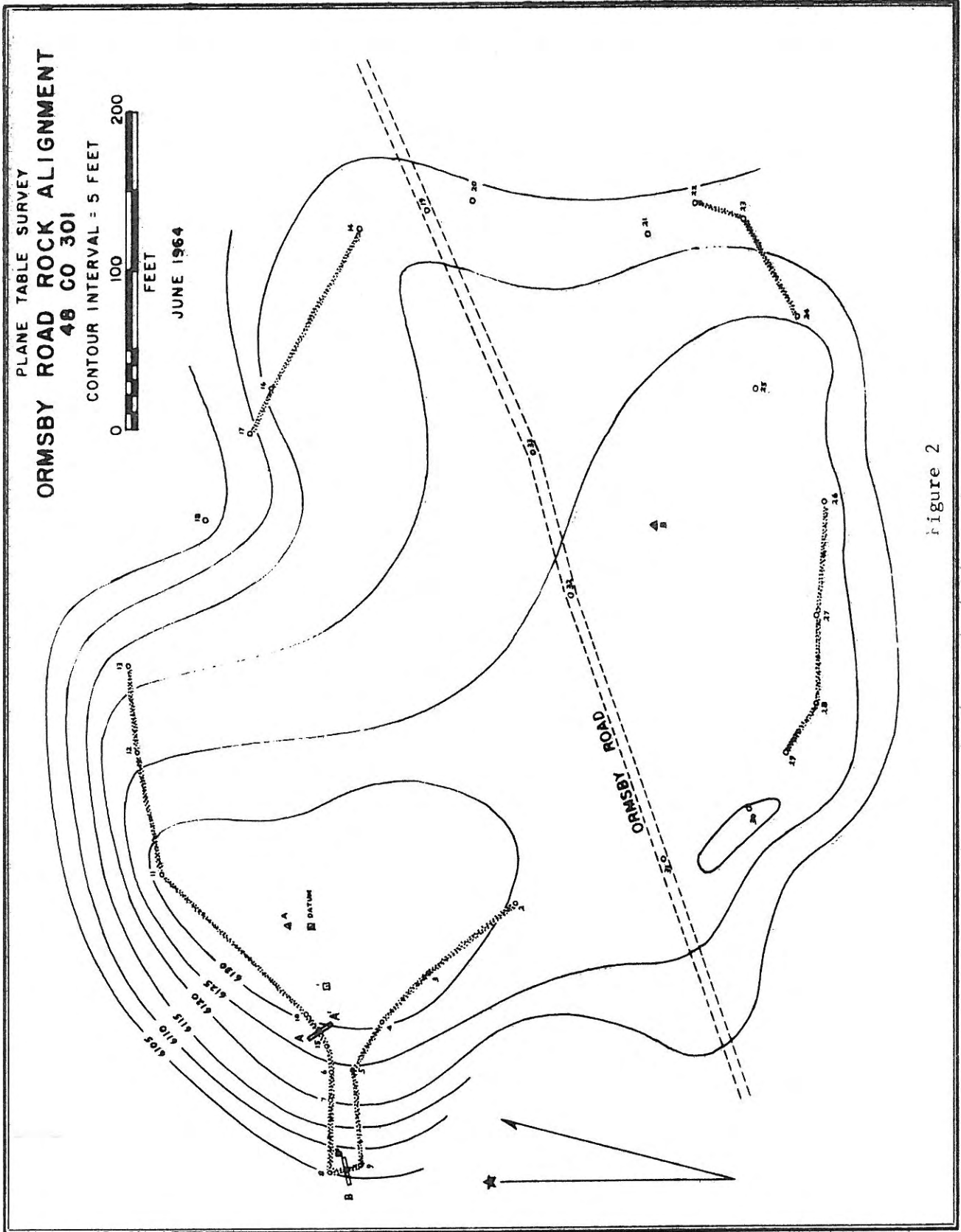


figure 2

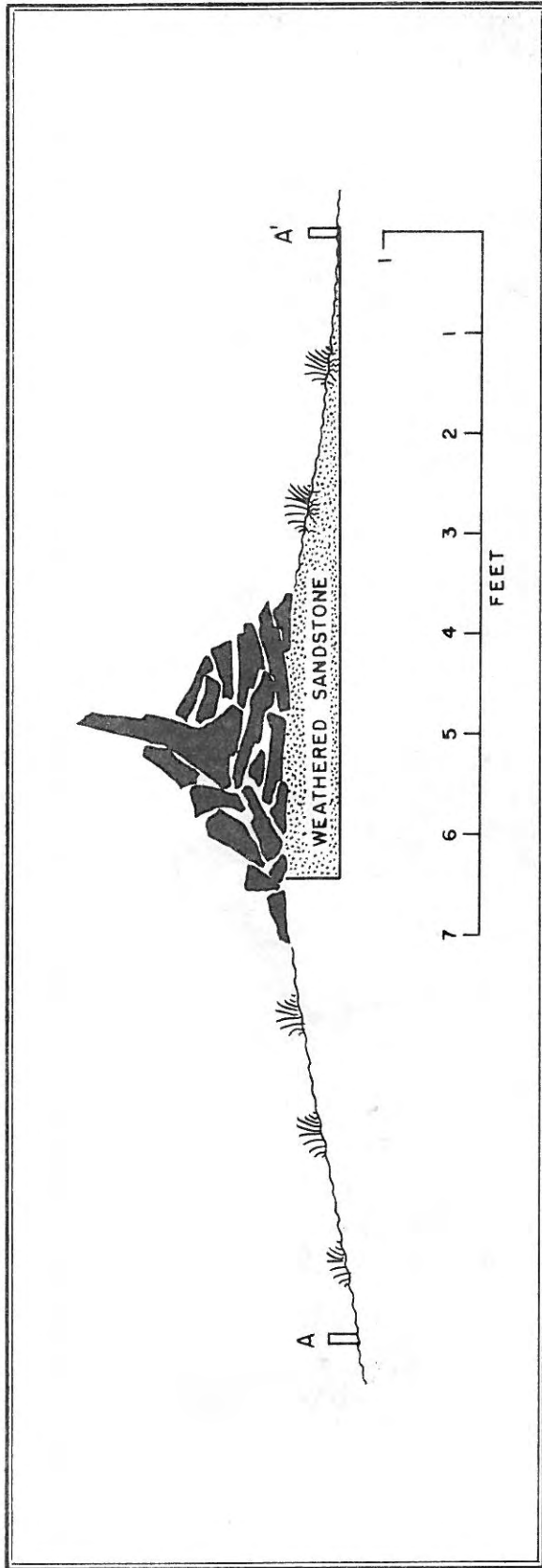


FIGURE 3. EXPLORATORY TRENCH A-A'

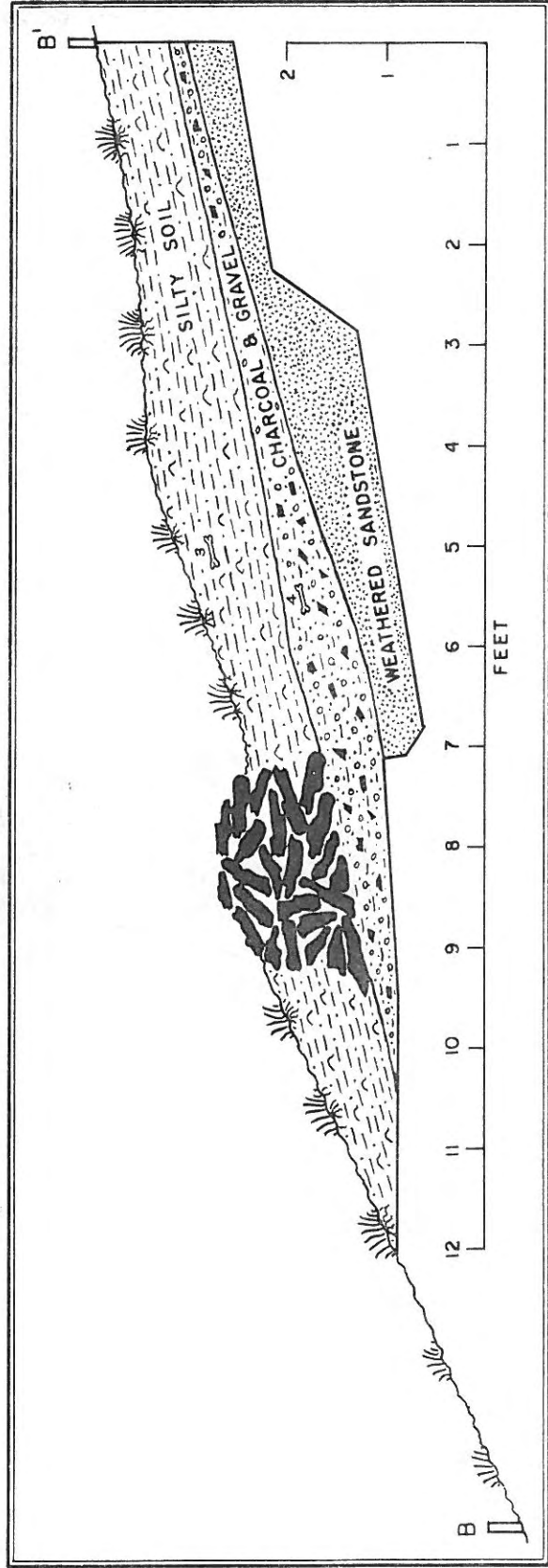
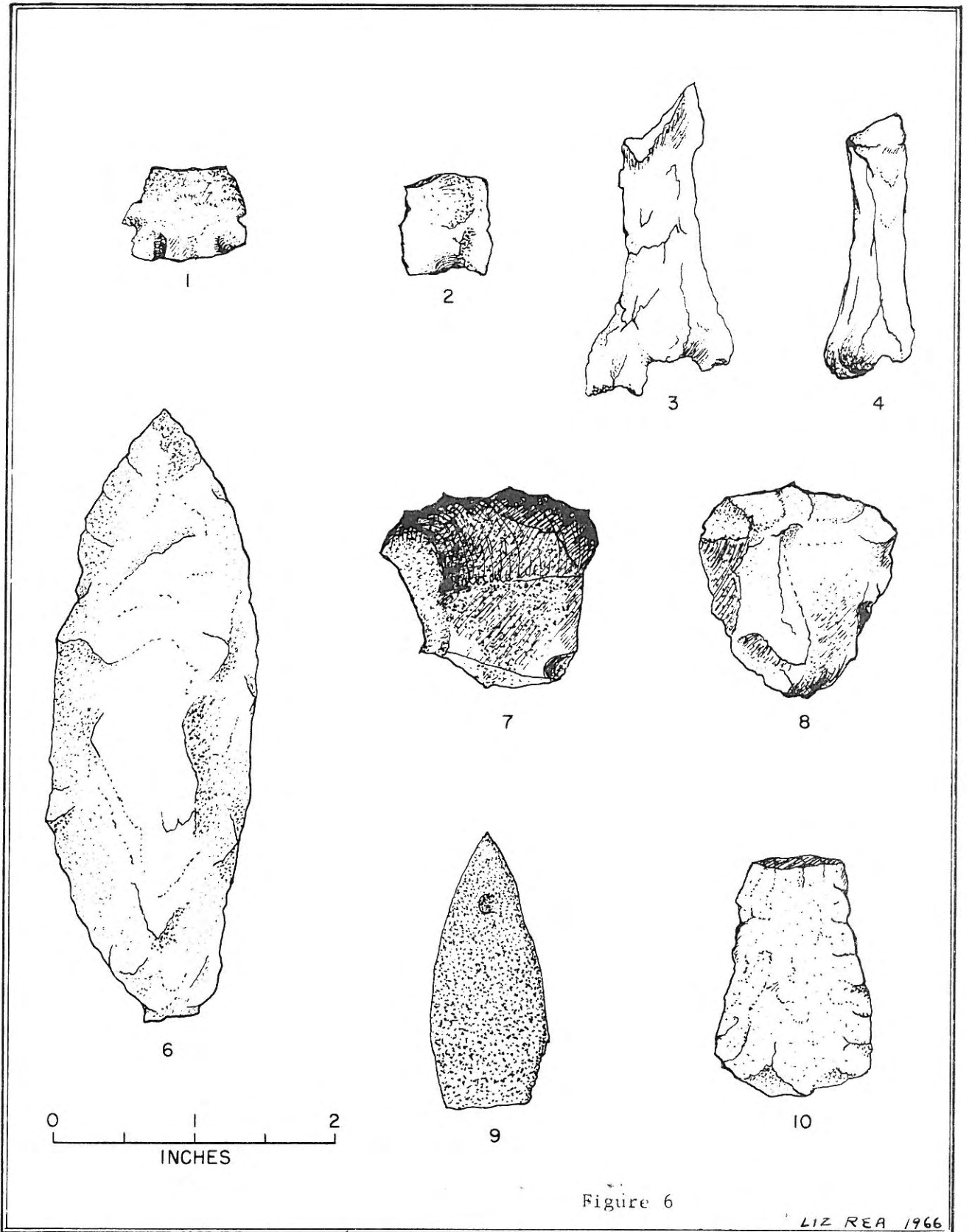


FIGURE 4. EXPLORATORY TRENCH B-B'



FIGURE 5. TWO VIEWS OF ROCK WALL AT SITE 48 CO 301.



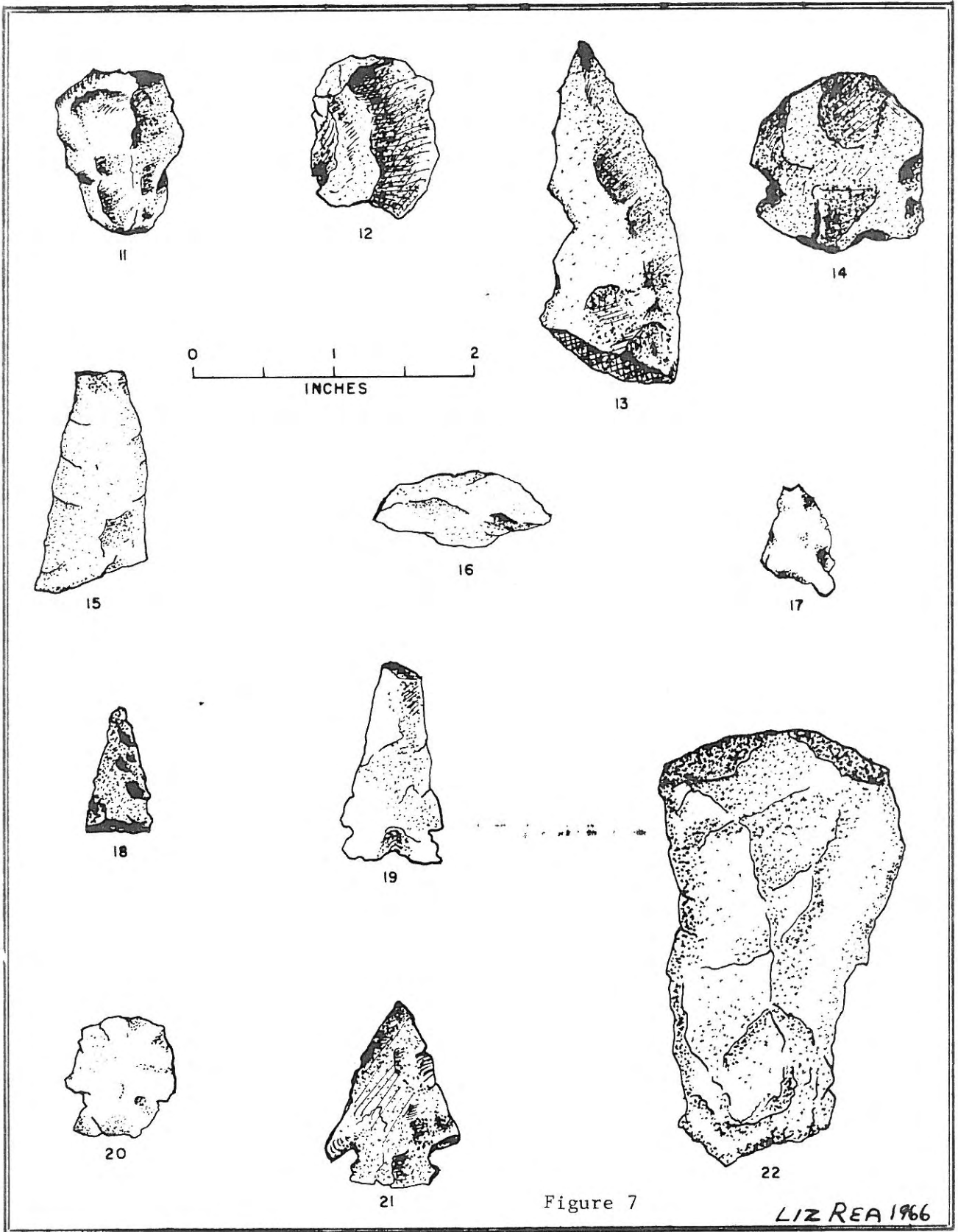




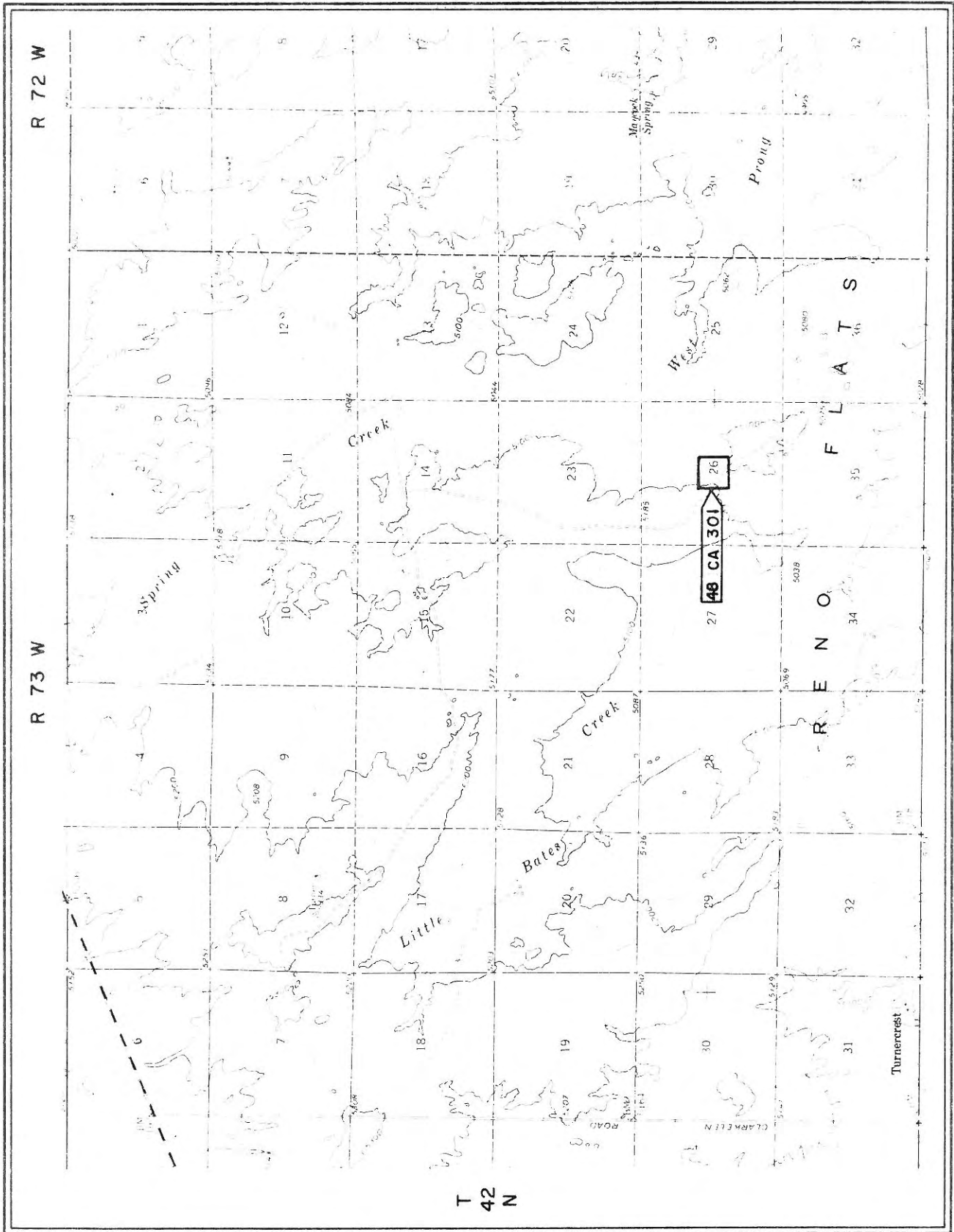
FIGURE 8. POSSIBLE EAGLE TRAPS 3/4 MILE WEST OF 48 CO 301.

RENO FLATS ROCK ALIGNMENT --- 48 CA 301 --- by Dave Baskett

The Reno Flats Rock Alignment (48 CA 301) is a distinct and unusual pattern of sandstone slabs located on the Floyd Reno Ranch approximately 5 miles ENE of Turnercrest in south central Campbell County, Wyoming. The figure was mapped and the surrounding area reconnoitered by members of the Casper Chapter of the Wyoming Archaeological Society in July, 1964 after receiving permission from Mr. Reno. The figure was originally reported by Robert Blackmore, a consulting geologist of Casper, Wyoming.

The rock pattern is located on a gently sloping, flat, open area just east of a low saddle which connects a fairly prominent hill to the northwest with a smaller hill to the southeast. The principal figure is formed by closely spaced irregularly shaped sandstone slabs, averaging twelve inches or more across and two to four inches in thickness, laid in an almost straight line in an easterly and westerly direction for a distance of approximately two hundred feet. The eastern end of the line terminates in a square pattern about fifteen feet across on the north side of the line. Connected to the west end of the line and lying just to the south of it is a low piled cluster of rocks about five feet in diameter. Twenty feet beyond the western end of the line is an irregularly shaped pattern of rocks of approximately twenty by thirty feet in outside dimensions. This latter figure might be designated as a possible animal effigy --- or an irregularly shaped "teepee ring" with some interior divisions.

The apparent source of the slabs forming the figure is a sandstone

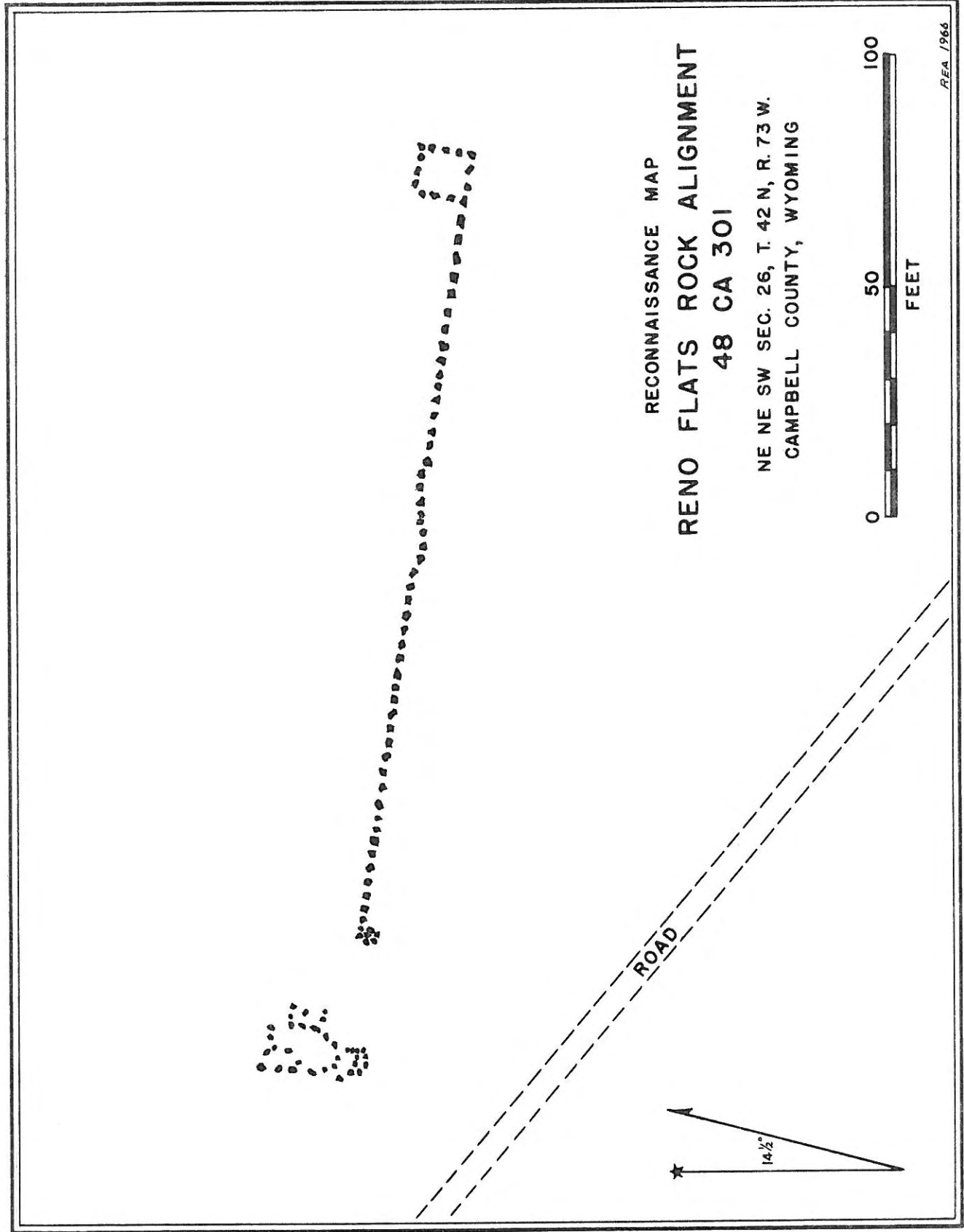


outcropping approximately three hundred feet northwest from the figure. There is no apparent concentration of other cultural material in the immediate vicinity of the figure, although the surrounding region yields some fragments of various middle and late period lithic objects. There is a deposit of crystalline gypsum --- selenite --- approximately one hundred yards west from the figure. These glistening ten-sided rhomboidal crystals lying about on the bare clay ground may have drawn the attention of the ancient inhabitants of Reno Flats. Waldo Wedel reports that some of the Plains Indians fashioned ornaments from gypsum crystals obtained from an abundant deposit in the Black Hills region of South Dakota. (1)

There is no evidence that this figure may have been constructed in the post-contact period. There is almost no post-contact material in the vicinity. The long time owners of the land were unaware of the existence of this figure prior to being contacted by members of the Wyoming Archaeological Society. The Ormsby site (48 CO 301), described elsewhere in this issue, an equally puzzling, although dissimilar complex of rock alignments, is located approximately thirty miles southwest of Reno Flats in northwest Converse County.

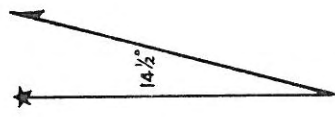
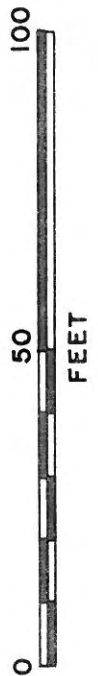
When a sufficient number of these miscellaneous rock patterns of obscure purpose have been located, investigated, described, and mapped, perhaps some clue to the significance and interrelationship of these objects may emerge.

- (1) Wedel, Waldo, Prehistoric Man on the Great Plains, University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, Oklahoma, 1961, p. 275.



RECONNAISSANCE MAP
RENO FLATS ROCK ALIGNMENT
 48 CA 301

NE NE SW SEC. 26, T. 42 N, R. 73 W.
 CAMPBELL COUNTY, WYOMING



REA 1966

BATTLE HILL SITE

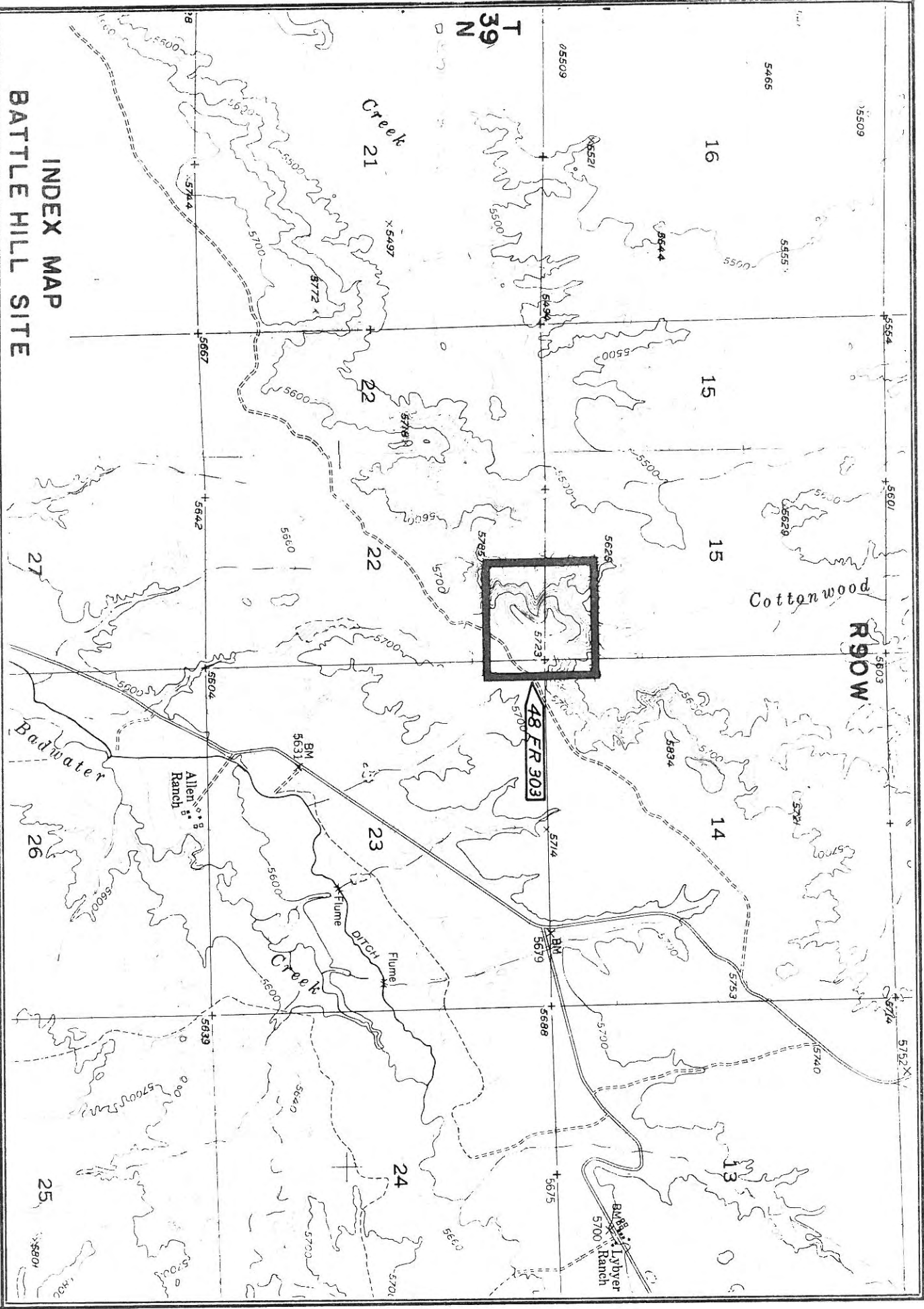
48 - FR - 303

Fremont County, Wyoming

by Henry Jensen

The Battle Hill site has been locally known for at least 75 years by residents of the Lost Cabin-Lysite area in northeastern Fremont County. The location of the site is the SE/4 of the SE/4 of Section 15 and the NE/4 of the NE/4 of Section 22, Township 39 N., Range 90 W., Fremont County, Wyoming. A survey party from the Casper Chapter, composed of Bart Rea, Helen Bryant, Clara Jensen and Henry Jensen, and 10 million flying ants, made a plane table survey of the site on July 24, 1965.

The site consists of 43 circular and semi-circular pits on a flat topped butte which lies along a fault line of the Lysite member of the Wind River formation and rises above the surrounding terrain by about 150 feet, lying on the edge of a prominent escarpment overlooking Cottonwood Creek and the watershed formed between Cottonwood Creek and Badwater Creek. The pits are surrounded by stone barricades which range from a single line of stones to circular barricades up to two feet in height. The circular pits range in diameter from 4'8" to 14'8" while the semi-circular pits, all of which are located at strategic points on the edge of the butte, measured up to 24 feet from point to point. There was evidence of a fire pit near the southwest end of the butte. Some digging in one of the pits revealed that the original depth of the pits was never appreciably greater than at the present time, although a minor amount of blow sand has drifted in. Evidence of extensive



INDEX MAP
BATTLE HILL SITE

chipping was also noted nearby.

The party found buffalo bones on the site, but no cartridge cases or other evidence of firearms having been used, although Mr. Jensen has found projectile points on the top of the butte. One of the party also found a broken mano on the slope under the crest, other surface evidence being small to large fragments of crude weathered knives and chips of quartzite materials. *

There is local speculation as to the origin and purpose of the structures, none of which have been confirmed by competent authority.

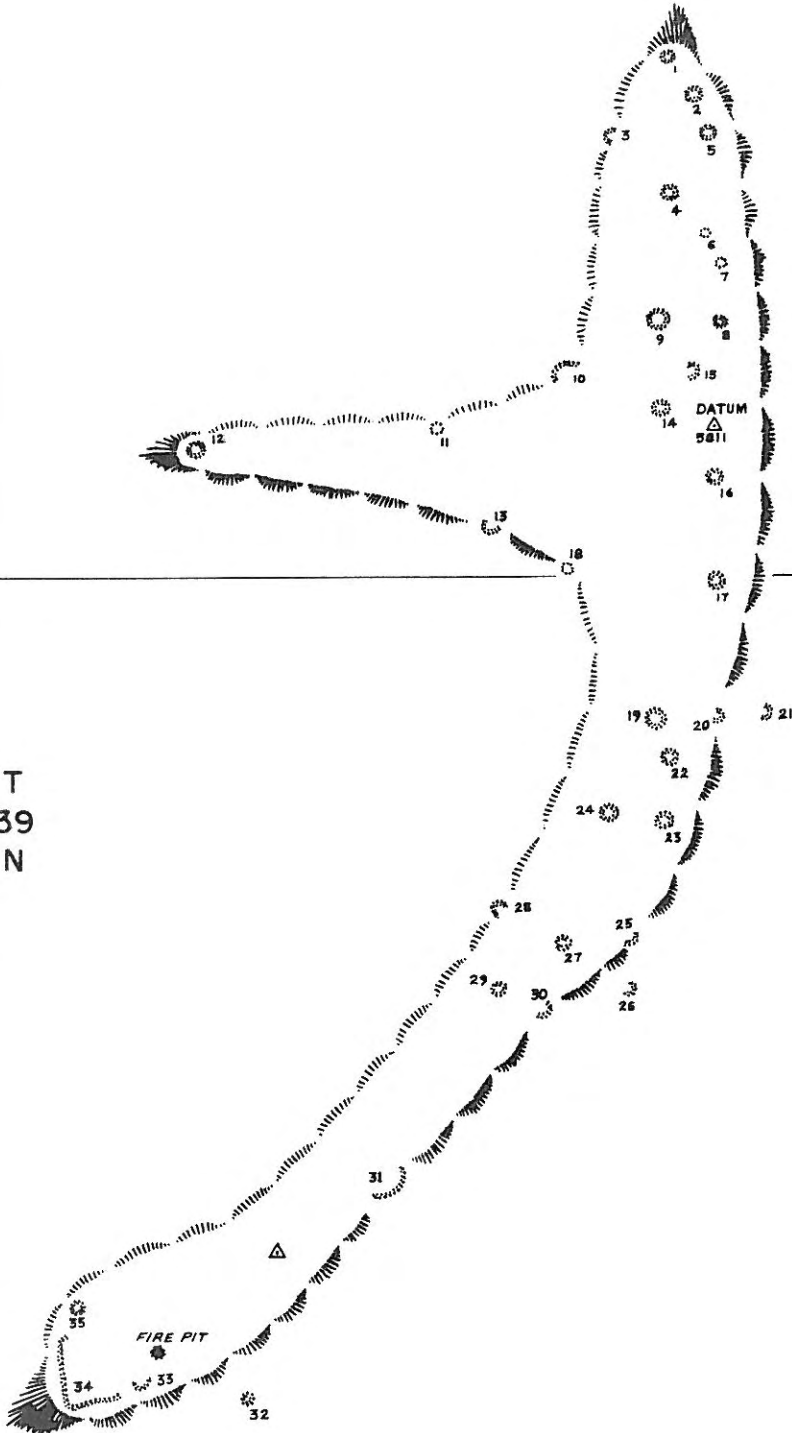
The survey party feels that excavation of this site would accomplish nothing although the site should be preserved as an example of paleo-Indian activities in the area.

* (Sketches of artifacts attached.)

R 90 W

B.M.
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15 14
22 23

T
39
N



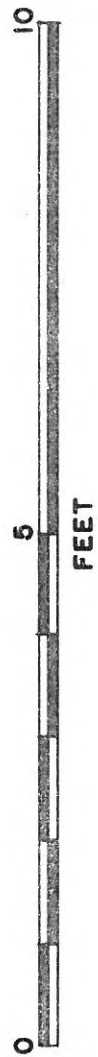
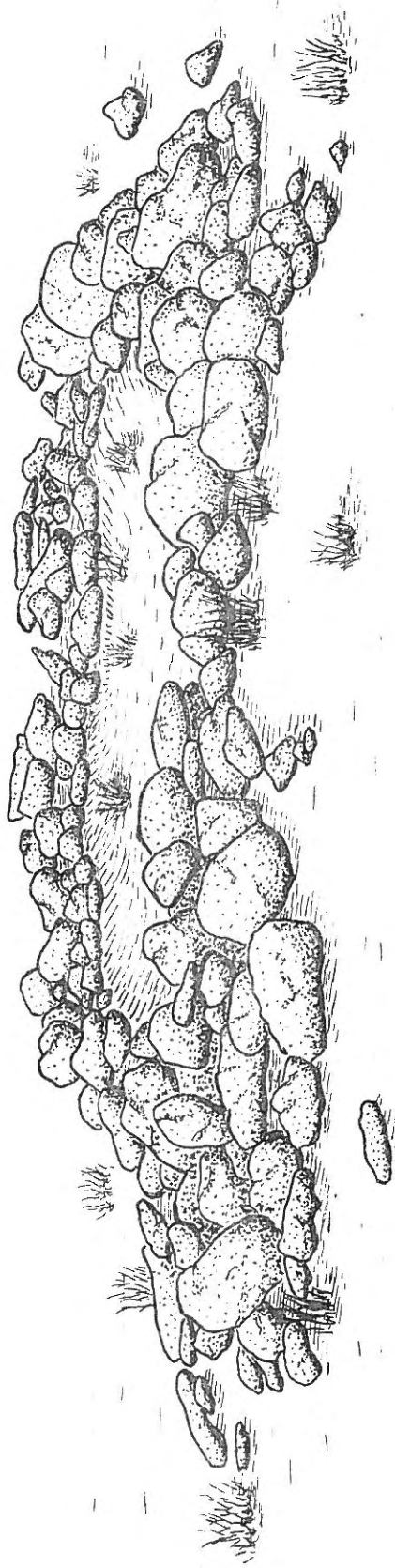
SITE MAP
BATTLE HILL ROCK STRUCTURES

48 FR 303

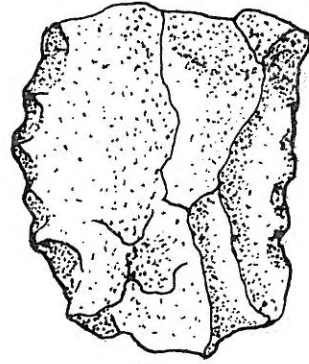
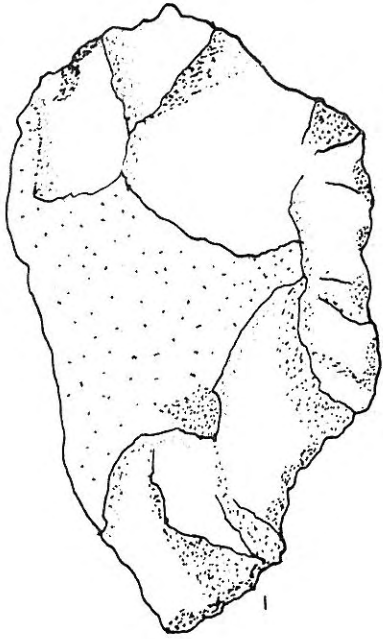


PLANE TABLE SURVEY
JULY 24, 1965

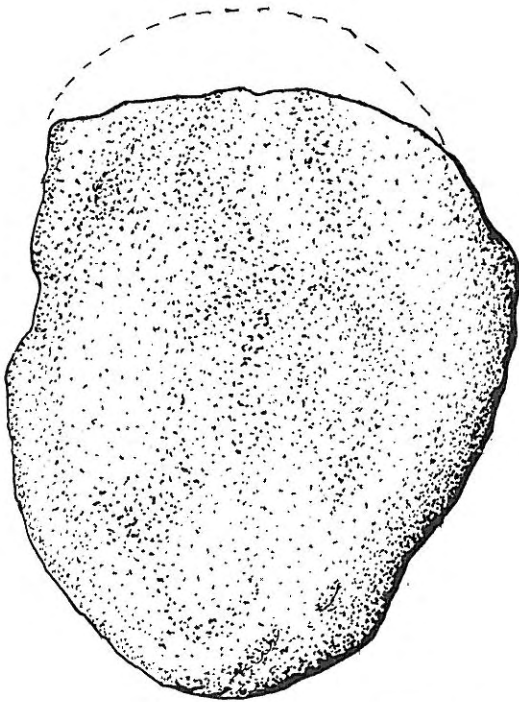
REA 1966



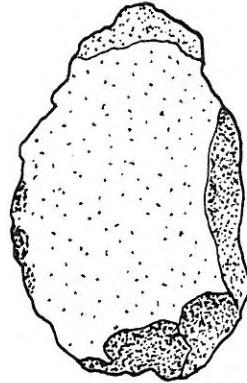
TYPICAL ROCK-RIMMED PIT
BATTLE HILL SITE



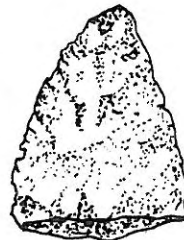
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3



4



5

