

25 Years Of Preserving Oklahoma's Past

Oklahoma, Kansas, and portions of Texas. The archeologist for the Bureau of Reclamation is Hector Garcia. He is with the Plains Region office in Oklahoma City and is responsible for BOR lakes and land in Oklahoma, Kansas, and Texas. Tom Parry is the archeologist for the Bureau of Indian Affairs. Tom is stationed in Anadarko and covers Oklahoma, Kansas, and Texas. He is responsible for all activities affecting archeological resources taking place on tribal or allotted lands. The remaining federal archeologist in the state is Louis Vogel with the Department of the Army at Fort Sill. His responsibilities encompass the actions affecting archeological resources on the post.

Turning to the state, there are three state agencies with archeologists. Charles Wallis is the archeologist for the Oklahoma Conservation Commission and is responsible for projects undertaken by the Soil Conservation Service in Oklahoma. Charles operates from an office on the North Campus of the University of Oklahoma. The Oklahoma Department of Transportation has two archeologists. John Hartley is the Departmental Archeologist and works out of Oklahoma City. John is assisted by Joe Watkins, an archeologist employed by the Archeological Survey through a cooperative agreement with the Department of Transportation. John and Joe are responsible for federally funded road construction activities in Oklahoma. The last state agency with archeologists on staff is the Oklahoma Historical Society. Marshall Gettys works out of the Historic Preservation Office in Oklahoma City and is responsible for federal project review concerning historical resources. Dennis Peterson is the Park Manager at Spiro Mounds Archeological Park. He manages Spiro and also conducts educational programs at the site.

We encourage you to become acquainted with these individuals and their programs.

35th Caddo Conference to be Held in Norman

The 35th Caddo Conference will be held in Norman on March 12 - 14. Sponsors for the conference are the Archeological Survey, the Culture Committee of the Caddo Tribe, and the Department of Anthropology Graduate Student Association. The meetings are scheduled for Friday and Saturday in Dale Hall on the University of Oklahoma campus. Central themes for this year's conference are Early Holocene hunters, Caddoan formative developments, Southeastern removal and adaptation, and Caddo folklore and dance. Special events include a reception Thursday night at the Museum of Natural History and a traditional Caddo meal and dance on Saturday evening. Sunday morning's schedule is an open forum on Caddoan archeology, cultural history, and future cooperative efforts of the Caddo Tribe and the professional community.

The Caddo Conference is the only annual archeological meeting in the United States that is named after a Native American society. It is also one of the few meetings that has regular participation by tribal members. We encourage you to come to Norman the second week in March to enjoy a special kind of cultural event.

Radiocarbon Dates for Rm-668

The Survey has recently received the results of radiocarbon assays of human bone from Rm-668. (An article describing salvage excavation of two burials at this site was published in the January, 1991 Newsletter, Vol. 10, No. 3.)

Two samples, one from each burial, were submitted by the Survey to Beta Analytic, Inc. Another sample from Burial 2 was sent to Beta by Doug Owsley, Smithsonian Institution. The lab reported the following results:

SAMPLE NUMBER	PROVENIENCE	14C AGE YEARS B.P. ± 1 SIGMA
Beta-56528	Rm-668, Burial 1	980 ± 70 B.P.
Beta-56529	Rm-668, Burial 2	1510 ± 100 B.P.
Beta-57058	Rm-668, Burial 2	1430 ± 90 B.P.

We also asked the lab to measure the ratio between stable isotopes C-13 and C-12 (expressed as a negative number preceded by "delta 13C") in the bone collagen. Using this information, Beta corrected the assays for carbon fractionation (loss of C-14 by factors other than radioactive decay). Adjusted ages are as follows:

SAMPLE NUMBER	delta 13C	13C ADJUSTED AGE
Beta-56528	-18.9 0/00	1070 ± 70 B.P.
Beta-56529	-16.6 0/00	1640 ± 100 B.P.
Beta-57058	-14.6 0/00	1600 ± 90 B.P.

In changing B.P. dates into A.D. dates, we did another adjustment to account for changes in the atmospheric carbon level over time. The assays' adjusted ages were compared to a scale made by burning wood samples taken from tree rings at 10 year intervals back to 2490 B.C. At one standard deviation, the calibrated ranges and probabilities were calculated:

SAMPLE NUMBER	CAL A.D. AGE RANGE	PROBABILITY
Beta-56528	A.D. 885-1023	100%
Beta-56529	A.D. 320-530	88%
Beta-57058	A.D. 379-545	88%

Before the samples were run, we had assumed that the two burials were contemporaneous. They were similar in that both burials contained remains of more than one individual placed in a flexed position, and both were exposed in the plow zone. Obvious differences were the number of individuals in each grave (two in Burial 1, three in Burial 2), the amount of plow damage (considerable for Burial 1, little for Burial 2), and the fact that artifacts and evidence for violent death were present only for Burial 2.

Based on its radiocarbon date, Burial 1 is contemporary with early Custer Phase sites, including Cu-25, the Mouse site, and Bk-44, the Edwards II site. This occupation may account for surface finds of Fresno/Washita points at

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Rm-668, although these points are also common in later Washita River Phase components.

The dates for Burial 2 are comfortable within the accepted range for the large corner-notched points found in direct association with the human remains. (Wouldn't it have been more interesting if these artifacts had been used as Custer or Washita River Phase murder weapons?) Similar radiocarbon dates are known for nearby sites Rm-208A, Beaver Dam; Rm-334C; Rm-501, Swift Horse; and Bk-46, Certain Bison Kill.

New Facilities Forthcoming

In 1981, the Survey moved from cramped quarters near Stovall Museum to some 10,000 square feet of space in the World War II Naval Administration building on North Campus. At the time of this move, university administrators indicated the Survey could expect to be there at least five years. Twelve years later, we are pleased to announce that O.U. officials have identified and assigned new quarters for the Survey. Located on South Campus, and less than a mile from the Main Campus, Building 134 is a cement block building of some 25,3000 square feet built in 1969 to help house the U.S. Postal Service Training Center.

The Archeological Survey has been assigned some 11,000 square feet comprising essentially the middle section of the building. Before we can move into this space, considerable renovation must be done: offices must be partitioned, a "dirty lab" installed, and several other improvements made. O.U. Physical Plant is now developing the plans and will submit cost estimates to the Provost Office which will make the final decision on what gets done. If the requested changes are made, we believe the Survey will have safe quarters that will be adequate for years to come. These will house the Oklahoma Conservation Commission and part of the Oklahoma Department of Transportation archeological programs as well as the Survey.

While a firm moving date is not yet established, we hope to be moving before July. We acknowledge the support of the Survey Advisory Board, former state representative Carolyn Thompson, Senator Cal Hobson, and the many of you who have expressed concern about the deteriorating condition of our present facilities.

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Oklahoma Archeological Survey
The University of Oklahoma
1808 Newton Drive, #116
Norman, Oklahoma 73019-0540

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