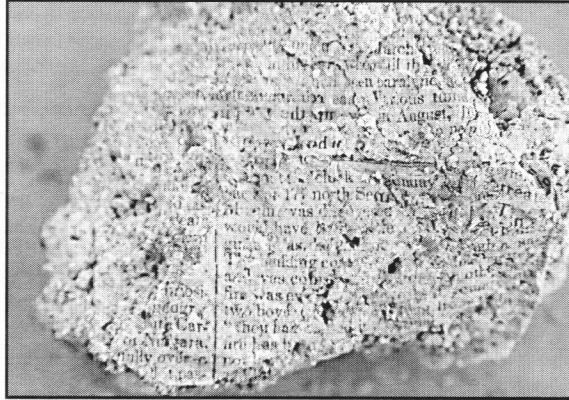


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Read is what they did in a frontier Fort Gibson privy if you take newsprint, forced into mortar, as evidence. The artifact surfaced in excavation at the original fort site during last year's OAS Spring Dig.

Acquires lots next door

Fort Gibson gets valued neighbor in Conservancy

The Archaeological Conservancy is putting its protective mantle around a historic military site in Fort Gibson.

In December the Conservancy added to its list of preserves two vacant lots west of the present post. Not only did the Conservancy successfully negotiate the transfer of ownership, it arranged it as a gift. Fort Gibson residents Adam and Angela Mason donated the property.

"They were very generous," said Jim Walker, the Conservancy's Southwest Regional Director in Albuquerque.

The acquisition brings Conservancy sites in Oklahoma to four. Others are the Burnham site, Grobin Davis Mound Complex, and the Alford site.

Fort Gibson is a public property owned by the Oklahoma Historical Society. The Fort won status as a National Historic Landmark in 1960.

Most of the original fort's stockade structures have been razed by fire, neglect and abuse. However, residents of the Fort Gibson community have embraced the post as a historic attraction. At their request, in 1935 the Works Progress Administration built the replica log fort seen today.

Bob Rea, the state's Historic Sites Department Director, credits much of the recent progress to Lee Bement. Dr. Bement stepped forward in 2002 after the Historical Society sought but found no evidence of the original fort.

"Lee was personally interested and brought a lot of resources to the research," Rea said. "Without him, we might still be looking for the original fort."

(See Conservancy Page 4)

OAS Spring Meeting to explore conservation

Speakers will survey topics as diverse as historic Oklahoma architecture and Indian culture preservation at the annual Spring Meeting of the Society.

Set for April 10, the all-day session returns to the Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History in Norman. Program coordinator is State Archeologist Bob Brooks.

Oklahoma Anthropological Society President Charles Cheatham will start the Annual Board Meeting at 9 a.m. The conference follows at 10 a.m.

Taking the theme "Preservation in Oklahoma," the session will tap the expertise of speakers from varied backgrounds. Each will have about 30 minutes to explore their topics, Dr. Brooks said.

Scheduled are:

Chris Cojeen, a consulting archeologist, who will discuss his experiences in contractual archeology.

Robert Bartlett, who heads the Cultural Resources Program for the Oklahoma Department of Transportation, presenting an overview of ODOT's program.

Anna Eddings, an historic architect with ODOT. She will discuss buildings and bridges.

Tim Baugh, historic archeologist with the State Historic Preservation office.

Bert Pelletier, archeologist with the Ouachita National Forest in Oklahoma.

Herb Fritz, Preservation Oklahoma, reviewing the role of his agency in the state.

Ian Thompson with the Choctaw Nation, describing the Choctaw's Tribal Historic Preservation Program.

Robert Cast and Bobby Gonzalez with the Caddo Tribe,

On Your Calendar

April 10 OAS Spring Meeting, Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History, Norman

May 28 OAS Annual Spring Dig, Fourche Maline sites, southeast Oklahoma

*The Oklahoma
Anthropological Society*

Trowel Marks

is a quarterly publication
of The Oklahoma Anthropological Society

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Membership

An application to join the Society or renew your membership for the year, and information about OAS activities, publications and its contribution to Oklahoma archeology, is in this OAS Newsletter and the OAS Website www.okarcheology.org.

OAS offers varied memberships. All members receive the Society's annual *Bulletin of Oklahoma Archeology* and the quarterly *Trowel Marks Newsletter*. Contributing, Sustaining, Life, and Institutional members also receive all OAS *Memoirs*. For more information, contact Jana Brown, Membership at brown.jana@gmail.com

Publications

Order handbooks, point guides, memoirs, and other publications of The Society from Mary McHard, OAS Publications, 812 NW 42, Oklahoma City, OK 73118 or by contacting her via email at dmmchard@flash.net. Publications are listed on the OAS Website www.okarcheology.org.

Contact the OAS Newsletter?

Questions are welcomed by the Editor, Jon Denton, 11550 Bartons Butte, Mustang, OK 73064 or at jonrdenton@aol.com.

Opinions in this publication, unless otherwise identified, are those of the editor and contributors and do not necessarily reflect the policies of the Oklahoma Anthropological Society.

~ *Events of Interest* ~

March

- 27 Spring Bake Day, 10 a.m., Fort Gibson
- 31 Final date Mayan Medallion Exhibit, Museum of the Great Plains, Lawton
- 31 Fur Trade Rendezvous, Fort Washita, Durant

April

- 9 Annual Symposium, Southwestern Federation of Archeological Societies, New Mexico Junior College, Hobbs, NM.
- 9 Flint Knapping Workshop, Pawnee Bill Museum, Pawnee
- 10 OAS Spring Meeting, Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History, Norman
- 16 Spring Encampment, Fort Gibson
- 16 Archaeological Conservancy meeting, Fort Gibson
- 17 Crafting a Caddo Bois d'arc hunting bow, an adult workshop with Phil Cross, Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History, Norman
- 19 "The Last Days of Pompeii: Decadence, Apocalypse, and Redemption" 7:30 p.m., with Kenneth Lapatin of J. Paul Getty Museum, sponsored by the Archaeological Institute of America at the University of Oklahoma, Norman. (See fstanley@ou.edu)
- 23 ProtoJudy Mammoth Exhibit opens, Museum of the Great Plains, Lawton.
- 23 Fun with Fossils: A Family Fossil Field Trip, Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History, Norman
- 24 Dutch Oven Class, Oklahoma History Center, Oklahoma City

May

- 15 Civil War Life, Honey Springs Battlefield, Checotah
- 24 Archaeological Field School with Courson Archaeological Research, Perryton, Texas
- 28-31 OAS Annual Spring Dig, Fourche Maline sites, Southeast Oklahoma

June

- 1-5 OAS Annual Spring Dig, Fourche Maline sites, Southeast Oklahoma
- 26 Oklahoma Artifact Show, 8 a.m., Payne County Expo Center, Stillwater, sponsored by Archaeological Society of Oklahoma

Trowel Marks

OAS President Charles Cheatham

With our spate of snow and ice, I'm sure most of us experienced cabin fever this winter. If you're like me, you're ready for more sunshine. We all want to put the bad weather interruptions behind us, enjoy the outdoors again, and have some more opportunities to see old friends and maybe make some new ones.

The OAS definitely has some interesting activities to satisfy those springtime inclinations. So we hope to see you soon at both the OAS Spring Meeting and the OAS Spring Dig.

Spring Meeting

On Saturday, April 10, OAS will return to the Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History in Norman for the Annual Members Meeting. Dr. Bob Brooks, State Archeologist, has organized an all-day program. He's lining up interesting speakers on the theme "Preservation in Oklahoma."

There's more about the meeting in this issue of Trowel Marks. Also, the OAS Website will add details as the meeting date approaches.

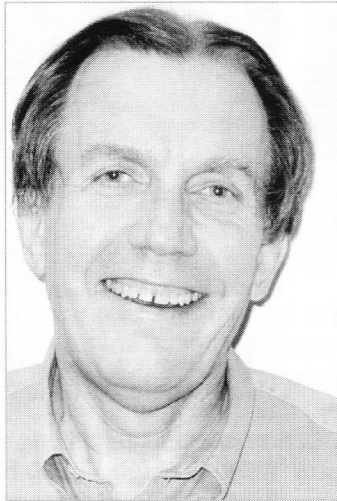
Spring Dig

Many consider the Spring Dig to be the centerpiece event of the OAS year. It's hands-on, and a good way to volunteer, furthering the cause of archeology in Oklahoma. There's always the thrill of discovery, the opportunity to learn something that will enrich us, and lots of good fellowship with folks who are dedicated, informed and genuinely friendly.

This year's dig starts Friday, May 28, the beginning of Memorial Day weekend, and runs through Saturday, June 5.

The Dig has a slightly different format this year. It involves two sites, both related to the Fourche Maline phase. One is closest to Red Oak, east of Wilburton, and the other is nearest Stigler.

About half of the dig's overall time will be spent at one site. Then we move to the other area to finish out the week. For more information, you can contact OAS Dig Chairman William Menzie or OU doctoral graduate student Luther Leith. Luther is coordinating the dig with assistance from Dr. Scott Ham-



merstedt.

OAS Membership

If you haven't already, please take a moment and renew your OAS Membership. You can use the Membership Form in this newsletter or the Form on the OAS webpage, found under the heading "How to Join."

Whichever method you use, send your renewal to Jana Brown, our Membership Chair.

We are aware with the economic crisis in this country, it is common for households to cut casual expenditures while looking hard at what provides good value.

In this light, it's important to emphasize why your OAS membership is an excellent value.

Both you and OAS benefit

Dedicated volunteers give their time and experience to our OAS success. We are blessed with some very talented people. Through their efforts, OAS leverages its resources to accomplish more than many organizations.

Your dues go farther in this organization — and that matters if you care about value and archeology.

The cost of an Active (basic) Membership — \$20 per year — remains a bargain. That's true even if you care about nothing except what the OAS spends on

you!

Yes, it's an odd way to look at it

OAS is probably spending more money on printing and mailing your *Trowel Marks* Newsletter, the Annual Bulletin, and other postings than members pay in \$20 annual dues.

For those of you who say "That's not a good enough deal," OAS has an even better offer: You can sign up as a Contributing Member at \$30 per year, instead of \$20. I hear you saying, "Bargain to pay more? Up is down?"

Folks, it's a fact

Half of our members are enjoying a low cost benefit. If you are a Contributing Member (Active Member plus \$10), during the membership year you receive all OAS Memoirs we publish.

For example, our most recent Memoir No. 13, a colorful volume by our indefatigable Dr. Don Wyckoff, went to all of our 2009 members in the "Contributing" category or higher. If you haven't looked at the price of past Memoirs that we're selling on our website, recent issues are going for \$15 to \$20 each.

I hope I'm not giving away the store here, but I'm telling you that this year, we plan to publish two new Memoirs to go to all 2010 Contributing Memberships or higher categories. Yes, \$10 extra does really get you more!

Want still more value?

Then consider this: At \$10 a year, a Student Membership is also a bargain. Student members get all the publications and other benefits of Active adult members. We have deliberately discounted this below cost. Students are our future. It's a wonderful way to involve a young person in a field that can be enjoyed for many years to come!

A wealth of funny business

Finally, as people have said, we've got an embarrassment of riches. In this case, archeological cartoons — yes, cartoons! — for use in the OAS newsletter *Trowel Marks*.

Seth Hawkins found us and forwarded several of his humorous sketches, similar to cartoons of his that we've published in the past. And Guy Folger, our stalwart McAlester correspondent, found cartoons by past OAS contributor Lee Woodard. They, too, appeal to our archeological funny-bone.

We've decided to make use of both artists' work. We'll alternate publications, starting with the late Mr. Woodard. Enjoy!

Conservancy

(Continued from Page 1)

Researchers knew the WPA built its replica east of the original fort, uphill from the docks and away from the Grand River and its mosquito marsh. But the location of the fort's original stone foundations was a mystery.

In 2006, Dr. Bement, a staff member of the Oklahoma Archeological Survey in Norman, took 30 core samples at the Gibson site. He found cultural materials dating to the original fort built in 1824.

Over the years, Bement has returned to the fort many times. He has been assisted in his excavation by staff members of the Historical Society, members of the Archeological Survey office, and volunteers from the Oklahoma Anthropological Society (OAS).

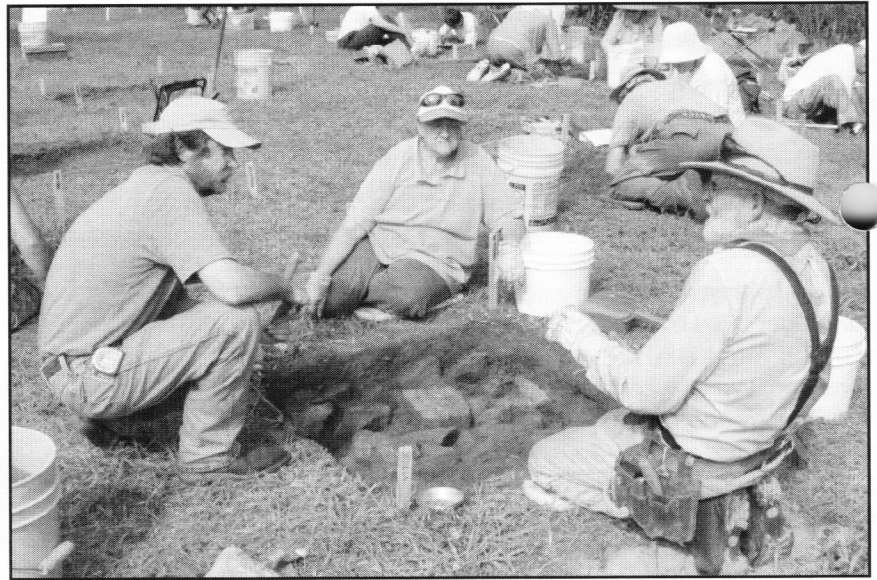
Not only have the outlines of the original fort appeared, researchers got several surprises.

Two years ago, excavators discovered a cellar west of the stockade. Replete with glass sherds from medicine and liquor bottles, the site also yielded gun flints, clay pipes and a handmade domino.

Last year excavators moved farther west of the fort, past the railroad tracks, to two residential lots. There they were able to follow the original fort's stone foundation, locating what appears to be a two-story blockhouse at the original stockade's southwest corner.

It was a military privy, however, that lent humor to the project.

"We found a lot of artifacts there – various broken chamber pots, crockery and animal bones – and about everything a person could consume in



Lee Bement, lead archeologist at the Fort Gibson site, talks with Texas excavators Don and Camilla Heasty during the OAS 2009 Spring Dig.

the way of food," Bob Rea said. "We also found an 1820s-era infantry officer sword and masses of mortar. The mortar had a newspaper imprinted on it, and you can read it if you hold it up to a mirror.

"So we knew what they were doing when they went to the privy – they were reading."

It is last year's primary research site that the Conservancy has acquired. The lots comprise about two-thirds of an acre.

The next step is the Conservancy management plan. It will be discussed at an April 16 meeting held during the fort's annual Living History Spring Encampment.

For more information, contact Bob Rea at fts supply@okhistory.org, Dr. Leland Bement at lbement@ou.edu, or Jim Walker at tacsw@nm.net

Archaeological Conservancy expands Oklahoma Preserves

OKLAHOMA PRESERVES

The Grobin Davis Mound Complex – McCurtain County. This 20-acre preserve was acquired in 1984. The Grobin Davis Mound Complex is a seven-mound Caddo ceremonial grouping on the banks of the Little River.

The Caddo lived along the Red River and its tributaries in the four-state region of Texas, Oklahoma, Arkansas and Louisiana from about AD 750 until the time the Spanish and French explorers arrived in the area. The Caddo were largely sedentary, relying on hunting, gathering, fishing and horticulture.

Test excavations conducted by the Oklahoma Archeological Survey in 1983 at Grobin Davis Mounds recovered artifacts associated with the McCurtain phase Caddo occupation dating from

The Archaeological Conservancy is an Albuquerque-based, national, non-profit organization. It is dedicated to the acquisition, protection and management of significant archeological and historical sites on private land. Over the past 30 years, it has established over 400 preserves in 41 states, including four in Oklahoma. Learn more at archaeologicalconservancy.org

1200-1400 AD.

Alford Mound – Latimer County. Acquired in 1989 and dating from 1200 BC to AD 500, Alford Mound is a rare example of a seasonal habitation

site occupied by the Wister and Fourche Maline phases of Oklahoma prehistory.

These early archaic people are thought to be the ancestors of the Caddo. The Oklahoma archaic groups were primarily involved in hunting and gathering.

Archaic groups traveled through a territory of sometimes 100 square miles, hunting and gathering the natural food resources available at each seasonally occupied campsite.

Toward the end of the occupation sequence at Alford Mound, artifacts show people living a more sedentary way of life. Testing completed in 1977 by the University of Oklahoma turned up evidence of hoes, axes, pottery, bows and arrows, in deposits dating to around AD 500.

Burnham Site – Woods County. Acquired in 2003, this 130 acre preserve contains what may be some of the oldest

(See Preserves Page 5)

Useful wild plants abound in Oklahoma

By Neil Garrison

Step outside and smell the early spring air. Take a look around. In many respects, this part of the North American continent is little-changed from what it looked like a long time ago.

The American Indian used wild plants for food, fiber and medicine. Most of those plants are still in or very near the neighborhoods we live in.

Unfortunately, few people today have even the foggiest notion of the plants' identity ... much less that the flora was good for something.

The typical person thinks nature study consists of categorizing wild plants so that their common and scientific names can be catalogued. In contrast, I think it is much more fun and enlightening to sleuth out what practical uses American Indians had for the wild plants of this region.

In a time long before drive-through pharmacies and those ubiquitous box stores, how did American natives fend for themselves?

For the purpose of this series, I have decided to also include plants used by our pioneers. In many respects, many frontier people eked out a living with a somewhat hunter-gatherer lifestyle, just as their Indian neighbors did. They often learned from each other.

Good poison, bad poison?

Ringworm is somewhat akin to athlete's foot: a fungal infection. If untreated, it becomes painful and infectious.

The original inhabitants of this land – brace yourself for this – treated ringworm with the juice of poison ivy.

Preserves

(Continued from Page 4)

remains of early man in Oklahoma. Excavations by Dr. Don Wyckoff, associate curator of archaeology at the Sam Noble Museum of Natural History, yielded Pleistocene fauna and cultural materials recovered from an area around a prehistoric spring.

The materials date within a range of 21,000 to 40,000 years ago. The artifacts and deposits at the Burnham site may some day set a new milestone for occupation of the New World.

As you might imagine, the direct result is a mess. The patient's skin develops a most bothersome bout of dermatitis. Which begs the question: Why would anybody in their right mind put an itching agent on the site of an itchy sort of malady such as ringworm?

As I previously mentioned, ringworm will get progressively worse if left untreated. A poison ivy rash, in contrast, has a somewhat short duration. After the infected site reddens, scales and itches, it disappears.

This age-old medical treatment worked well for the Native Americans. Even so, it's hardly surprising medical science went on to search for a cure that avoided the dire side effects.

Keep in mind, if you were in the center of the North American continent long ago and needed medical help ... but did not have access to the healing knowledge that we have nowadays ... desperation might force you to use whatever worked.

Wild plants to the rescue!

Pecans taste terrible

Let me explain.

Have you ever cracked pecans, removed the nut meats from the shells, and then placed them in your mouth while you were absent-mindedly doing some other task, such as watching television?

If so, then I don't need to tell you the unpleasant taste that comes from that brown wafer between the two

The site also contains one of the most complete fossil records of climate history and change in the state.

Fort Gibson area – Muskogee County. Acquired in 2009, a small plot of land west of today's stockade holds partial remains of the original frontier post.

In 1824, the Army built a log stockade on the Neosho River in east central Oklahoma. It was the first Army outpost in Indian Territory. In time it became the terminus for the Cherokee and Creek as they were moved from their



Nut meat of the bur oak is sour unless you know what the Indians knew to make bitter taste better.

halves of the nut meats.

A bitter taste is also what you get with the acorn nut meat of our Oklahoma bur oak. Despite this, American Indians ate huge quantities of bur oak acorns. For them it was a staple food crop.

Why would the native people eat something that is so offensive to our taste buds?

The answer is quite simple: The Indians were ingenious and resourceful. Through what must have been centuries of trial and error, they found a way to leach out the offending bitter taste.

By thoroughly rinsing the crushed acorn nut meats in multiple changes of water, they flushed the tannin and left the nutty flavor. Fortunately, this food processing act did nothing to hinder the nut's nutrition value.

Today's nut lover, however, is not inclined to go through such a labor-intensive preparation. Our fast food culture delivers our meals ready-to-eat in mere minutes. So don't expect to find bur oak acorns in your grocery store's fresh produce section any time soon.

Neil Garrison, a Yukon OAS member, is a retired naturalist.

homelands to the Southeast. The fort was occupied by Union and Confederate troops during the Civil War.

After the Army abandoned the fort in 1890, the Cherokee Nation acquired the property. Although the original fort is gone, the WPA built a replica stockade fort in 1935. Later, the Oklahoma Historical Society acquired the site.

2010 OAS Spring Dig probes Fourche Maline

Evidence of the Fourche Maline people, woodland ancestors of Oklahoma's Caddo, will be sought at the 2010 OAS Spring Dig.

Archeology graduate student Luther Leith will direct excavation, part of his University of Oklahoma doctoral thesis work. Supervising will be Dr. Scott Hammerstedt of the Oklahoma Archeological Survey in Norman.

Leith presented his plan to the Oklahoma Anthropological Society Board in February.

"I'm interested in the off-mound habitation associated with the Wister and Fourche Maline phase occupations," Leith told the board. Much of the initial research at the sites has focused on mounds.

Volunteers from the Oklahoma Anthropological Society (OAS) will assist. The dig dates, once again making use of the Memorial Day weekend, are Friday May 28 through Saturday, June 5.

William Menzie, Walters, is OAS Dig Chairman.

Leith's proposal calls for work at two black midden sites, the McCutchan-McLaughlin site and the Sam Spears site. They bracket the San Bois Mountains in southeast Oklahoma.

Cultural evidence at the sites indicates Late Archaic and Woodland periods dating to around 3,500 to 1,500 BC.

Artifacts associated with the Fourche Maline are thick, grog-tempered, flowerpot-shaped pottery; bow and arrow technology; chipped stone axes and hoes; ground stone celts; and gorgets. The Fourche Maline also continued to use artifacts from the Wister period, an earlier phase found in the area, Leith said.

He hopes to better understand house types, settlement patterns, and habitation features such as hearths and pits. Possible post molds, hearths and pits have been spotted using remote sensing at the sites.

The McCutchan-McLaughlin site is an open pasture south of the San Bois Mountains in Latimer County. It was site of digs in 1976-1977 by the OU field schools and OAS.

Also known as the Alford Mound in honor of the owners at the time of purchase, the tract was acquired by the Archaeological Conservancy in 1990.

The Sam Spears site is in a large pasture north of the San Bois Mountains. The private land is near San Bois Creek in Haskell County. Cultural materials collected by the landowner indicate the Fourche Maline phase.



OU archeological graduate student Luther Leith is conducting the OAS 2010 Spring Dig in southeast Oklahoma.

Spring Dig shifts site locations midweek

OAS volunteers will travel to Fourche Maline sites near the San Bois mountains for the 2010 Spring Dig.

Unlike recent years, excavation will focus on a prehistoric culture. Another difference is the logistics: Two sites separated by about 30 miles of mountains will require volunteers to pack up mid-week, travel to a new location, and resume research.

"I think it's important to see both these sites," said OU archeology graduate student Luther Leith. "While they both may be Fourche Maline sites, we may have two different groups here. We can learn from both of them," he said.

While OAS membership is required to dig, visitors are welcome – if they can find the locations, Leith said. The sites are in rural pastures and not as visible as in past years when OAS volunteers traveled to Fort Gibson and Bryson-Paddock.

Leith plans one, perhaps two lectures on the site. Site labs will be in a central area at Dig Headquarters. Archeologist Scott Hammerstedt plans OAS Certification classes on excavation and possibly lab work.

At the Dig Tent, Dig Chairman William Menzie will post OAS events, including a Saturday afternoon picnic.

Friday, May 28

McCutchan-McLaughlin site

Excavators will meet at 8 a.m. at service stations in the hamlet of Red Oak. Plans are to carpool as many people as possible to the site, about 15 miles distant. Late arrivals can call Leith or Dig Chairman William Menzie for directions.

Limited parking is available near the site if the ground is dry.

Recommended lodging: Travelers Inn Motel, 904 Highway 2 N, Wilburton. Call (918) 465-5601.

Recommended RV site: Victor Campground, Lake Wister State Park. (Not recommended is Robbers Cave State Park, always full during the holidays). Wister campground information is available at (918) 655-7212.

Tuesday, June 2

Sam Spears site

At 8 a.m. excavators will meet at Twin Lakes Inn in Stigler and carpool to the dig site. Twin Lakes Inn is recommended for lodging at 1810 E Main, Stigler, (918) 967-3700.

Recommended RV Park and SS Dig Headquarters is Cowlington Point, an Army Corps of Engineers campground at Kerr Lake near Sallisaw. Advance reservations required. Phone: (918) 775-4474.

Saturday, June 5 Final day of dig

Fill in, clean up and move out.

Contact for information:
Luther Leith (405) 203-5860
William Menzie (405) 820-4189

ProtoJudy Mammoth Project at midpoint for Lawton excavators

By Debra Baker

The joint excavation of the ProtoJudy Mammoth Project has been quite an adventure.

The first phase of the dig is complete. As often happens, we have a tug of war by the participants. The archeologist wants a slow and tedious process with a trowel and bamboo stick. The paleobotanist prefers a pick axe approach.

However, the coalition is proving to be an excellent team. Participating are students and instructors from Cameron University, members of the Greater Southwest Chapter of the Oklahoma Anthropological Society, and volunteers from the Institute of the Great Plains/Museum of the Great Plains, Lawton.

Initial excavation occurred between Oct. 31 and Dec. 11, 2009. Thus far we have found numerous mammoth ribs, a major portion of the vertebrae, two scapulas, and a humerus. Adding mystery are multiple bone fragments now being studied.

The mammoth bones are temporarily stored at Cameron University, Lawton. Students under the direction of Dr. Michael Dunn, Cameron professor and paleobotanist, and Debra Baker, museum archaeologist, are benefitting from team teaching. Together they are removing foam insulation, repairing breaks, and stabilizing the bones.

The Cameron course introduces students to selected paleontological and archeological techniques. They use the mammoth skeleton as a focal point.

By the end of the course, students should be able to compare and contrast the goals and methodologies of paleontology and archeology. They should understand the specific tools of skeletal reconstruction, geology, paleoecology, geological dating, and palynology.

Finally, the students will be able to present their findings to the general public as well as the scientific community. They will do so orally, by poster, and peer reviewed scientific paper. The students' public presentation and exhibit is April 23 at the Museum of the Great Plains.

So far ProtoJudy does not show an association with humans.

But the study provides excellent information on environmental conditions during the animal's life.



Cameron University students, from left, Brandon Null, Heather Young, Dana Schaffer and Rodney Roy peel protective covering from bones in Lawton's ProtoJudy Mammoth Project.

In addition to the bones, a horsetail plant (*equisetum* sp.) was found in the animal's spinal area. Dr. Dunn hopes to determine if the plant is stomach content. Both the plant and the animal are considered over 10,500 years old.

Another find is many clam shell fragments. They indicate the animal was close to water or even submerged at the time of death. Because the animal is stretched out, we believe she was submerged by lapping waves.

This is certainly interesting, since the nearest water source is at least a quarter mile away at an extremely lower elevation.

Shortly before Christmas, the county graded the road, exposing another long bone. Dr. Dunn inspected the site and finds the bone preserved in situ for the time being.

A letter was written to Tillman County Commissioner Kent Smith reviewing what has been found at this time. Dr. Dunn asked the county authorities to keep in mind a portion of the mammoth probably remains under the road.

In a written response, Commissioner Smith said he will help any way possible with future excavations. If we want to excavate the road in the near future, he will temporarily close the road, he said.

We plan to return to the site soon. Our concern now is to stabilize the materials found so far.

OAS member Debra Baker is research archeologist at the Institute of the Great Plains and Museum of the Great Plains, Lawton.



Dale and Mary McHard: Tips from the Digmeisters

For years Dale and Mary McHard have been strong, stable forces in the Oklahoma Anthropological Society.

Their volunteer work at OAS digs allowed archeologists to focus on the task at hand – finding, identifying, interpreting and securing evidence of the past.

As dig co-chairman and his first assistant, Dale and Mary spent the better part of two decades greasing the wheels of OAS excavations. They followed the lead of Dave Morgan, a dig chairman with full confidence in the OAS members.

Volunteers could be expected to step forward when work needed to be done, and they didn't need a lot of direction, say Dale and Mary. That "can do" attitude made working with OAS volunteers fun.

Years ago, when Morgan stepped down, the McHards continued in his footsteps. Recently they passed the baton again, then reflected on their period as OAS Digmeisters.

In the Winter 2009 issue of *Trowel Marks*, they discussed their learning curve as assistants to the ever vigilant Morgan. In this final installment, they look at the OAS members, past and present.

What is the biggest challenge?

Dale: Probably taking care of all the equipment. (Until recently,) we had two trailers full of it, and when we cleaned it out, we threw away about half. It now fits in one trailer.

Repairing the screens is a big job. They get used hard, so just mending those during a dig can keep somebody busy.

Mary: Records are another area. Archeologists like things written down and in order, so you have to manage the paperwork.

Do you see changes in volunteers?

Mary: I think people were willing to pitch in and help then, and they do now. In that way people have not changed. Depending on where you are, you generally can count on 30 to 40 people a day.

Dale: But we have lost some good diggers over the years. Remember Henry Benedict? (of today's Radio KTOK's Home Improvement Show).

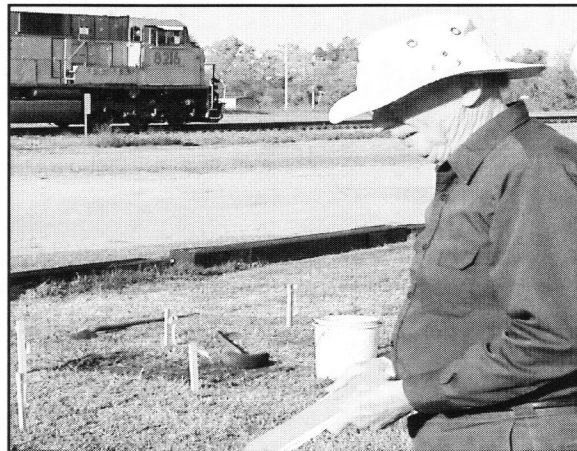
He used to dig with us. He was a character then, too.

Remember when Loretta (Bradbury) locked herself out of her car, and we called the Sheriff's office? They sent a Deputy out, and he had a guy with him who picked the lock in a couple of minutes. The Deputy brought him from the jail, and he was a car burglar.

What about specific tasks?

Dale: There are certain people that if I needed something done, I could ask them to help, and could count on them.

Mary: You have better results if you



Dale McHard handles paperwork during the 2007 Fall Dig at Fort Gibson.

contact a person and ask them to help – somebody you knew was interested in doing things. I don't think a shotgun approach works, where you just throw it out there and ask for help. You don't get much response that way.

Dale: Charles Surber (of Tulsa), for example. In my opinion, Charles Surber is one of OAS' best diggers, in accuracy and knowing how fast or slow to go. And he's very willing to do things; he's especially good with paperwork, all the facts and forms.

Mary: Cathy Compton (of Oklahoma City) is wonderful in knowing exactly who to ask for help. She can suggest things, and get things done.

There are others you can depend on, and they make things a lot easier for you.

Is there anything you avoid?

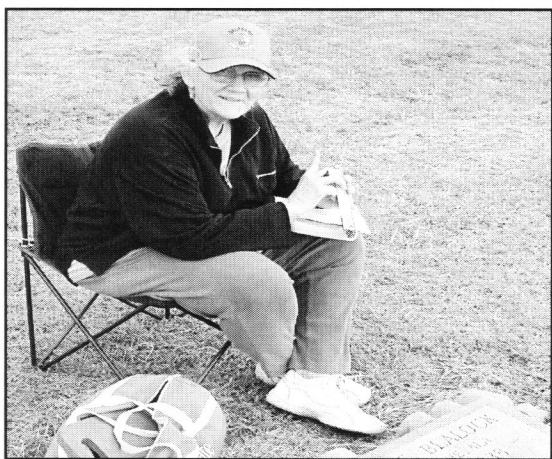
Mary: We learned you don't want to set a line and refuse to change. Each day is different, with a different set of problems. If you address each one of them, and see what needs to be done, and how it can be done, and who can do it, then it works out.

What advice do you give people attending their first dig?

Dale: Every dig is different. Usually if it's the first dig for someone, and it's a female, I give them some advice on clothes to wear. Don't wear something that slips too low, because they are going to be digging in the dirt. Be comfortable, though.

Mary: There's always the (OAS) Membership Handbook. Lois Albert and Charlotte Gifford did a wonderful job with that, and updated it. I usually bring a couple of the books along to a dig, just in case anybody asks.

That has the best advice I've seen.



Mary McHard takes a grave measurement during a spring 2007 OAS cemetery survey in Comanche.

OAS Board Minutes

Feb. 6, 2010

Minutes of the OAS Board Meeting are presented here in brief. For a full transcript, see the report by Secretary Trina Menzie in the OAS Website www.okarcheology.org

Board members dealt with several challenging topics – declining membership and budget among them – at the winter 2010 quarterly meeting.

With a large turnout of 29, the Feb. 6 meeting was held at the Oklahoma Archeological Survey office in Norman. The regular January session was delayed by snow.

President Charles Cheatham opened the session at 1:30 p.m.

Abbreviated highlights:

Treasurer's Report (Cathy Compton): Income showed a net loss of about \$1,900 for the year. Among major expenses were the newsletter, journal and memoir publishing, insurance, and storage space.

Membership (President Charles Cheatham for Jana Brown) Renewals so far show less than 50 percent of the regular members and 25 percent of the institutional members.

Publications (Cheatham) The annual OAS *Bulletin* is in the mail, thanks to editor K.C. Kraft. Citing family responsibilities, he has resigned. State Archeologist/Director Bob Brooks has agreed to assume editorship.

-- OAS *Trowel Marks* Editor Jon Denton said a redesign is under way.

-- *Memoir* Editor Don Wyckoff said the 2009 OAS Memoir No. 13, *Geoaerchaeology and the Cross Timbers*, has been published and mailed.

-- Publication librarian Mary McHard reported \$980 in annual sales.

-- Website (Webmaster Larry Schaver) We have recorded 28,000 hits since the site opened.

Certification Program (Amanda Regnier/Scott Hammerstedt) A member survey is under way.

Dig Committee (Chairman William Menzie) The Board approved a Spring Dig request by OU doctoral

candidate Luther Leith. The annual dig is set May 28-June 5 at the McCutchan-McLaughlin and Sam Spears sites near the San Bois Mountains in southeast Oklahoma

The Board gave tentative approval for a Fall Dig at Rose Hill Plantation near Hugo with archeologist John Davis.

Volunteering to serve on the dig committee: Charles Cheatham, Allen and Monica Marshall, Thomas Purdin, Connie Masters, Jon Denton, Guy Folger, Cathy Compton, and Trina Menzie.

2010 Spring Meeting (Cheatham) Set for April 10 at the Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of National History, Norman. Archeologist Bob Brooks is preparing a program on a preservation theme.

Nominating Committee (Cheatham) Nominations due for positions of Treasurer, held by Cathy Compton, Secretary Trina Menzie and Membership Chair Jana Brown; and Elected-At-Large Director positions held by Ed Mayfield, Francie Sisson and Richard Drass, and one vacancy.

Awards Committee: Members are Kathy Gibbs and Guy Folger.

Liability Insurance: (Cathy Compton) Renewed; it protects board, officers and dig, at a cost of \$1,000 a year.

OKLAHOMA ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY



OAS Membership Subscription Form 2010

MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY DESIRED

- Active** \$20 Receive the annual OAS Bulletin and quarterly OAS Newsletter *Trowel Marks*.
- Student** \$10 Same as Active, but limited to full-time students. Enclose copy of Student ID.
- Contributing** \$30 Receive the annual OAS Bulletin, the quarterly OAS Newsletter, and all Memoirs published by the Society during the subscription period.
- Sustaining** \$40 Receive the annual OAS Bulletin, the quarterly Newsletter *Trowel Marks*, and all Memoirs published by the Society during the subscription period.
- Associate** \$5 for one additional member of your immediate family, \$10 for two or more.
- Life** \$500 Provides all benefits of a Sustaining membership throughout the lifetime of member.
- Institutional** Domestic \$30 () Institutional Canada/Mexico \$35 () Institutional Other/Foreign \$40

I would like my copy of *Trowel Marks* Newsletter emailed to me at _____ (email address)

OAS New Member Handbook \$6. Recommended for new members. Everything you need to know about the Society: its history, meetings, field activities, publication series, and more.

Name _____ Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip+4 _____

Home Phone () _____ Cell () _____ Email address _____

Becoming a member (or renewing membership) of OAS is easy. Fill out this form and send it with payment (check or money order) to Jana Brown, OAS Membership, 4804 NE Winfield Circle, Lawton, OK 73507-6121

Last OAS charter member Terrell Nowka passes away

By Don Wyckoff

On Dec. 1, 2009, Terrell Nowka of Hydro passed away at the age of 86.

Terrell was the last living Charter Member of the Oklahoma Anthropological Society, being one of the half dozen Oklahomans who drove, with Dr. Robert E. Bell, to the Texas Archeological Society annual meeting in Canyon, Texas, in 1952 to petition for an Oklahoma chapter in the TAS.

Terrell grew up on a farm in the Hydro area and as a youth discovered a love for finding prehistoric Indian artifacts eroding from canyons along the Canadian River. During the 1930s, he amassed a significant collection of spear and arrow points and other implements.

With his initial involvement in the OAS, he quickly learned from Dr. Bell that he had a number of Paleoindian points, including Clovis and Folsom. This knowledge stimulated his long interest in Paleoindian materials, especially those found in western Oklahoma.

After retiring from business and returning to the farm, he helped track down many notable finds to get them donated, or at least research quality casts made of them.

In the 1980s and '90s, Terrell helped with excavations at the Hajny mammoth site, the Waugh site, and the Cooper site. He also shared his collection with numerous OU graduate students working on masters or doctors degrees.

Having an 1880s log cabin at Twin Lakes, CO, Terrell and wife Mary were gracious hosts to Jim Theler and Dr. Don Wyckoff during an excursion to collect land snails at different elevations on nearby Mount Elbert, the highest mountain in Colorado.

Through the years

Terrell and Mary frequented the OAS annual meetings and loved to travel to other venues where archaeologists held meetings focusing on Paleoindian research questions.

Always cheerful, Terrell could be counted on to brighten any group and to soon have them laughing at his stories.

He had that Will Rogers Oklahoma knack for seeing the bright side of every situation, no matter how stressful the conditions.

In 2006 Terrell arranged to donate his entire artifact collection to the Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History in Norman. A year later, he enticed a long time acquaintance, Fred Bright, to do likewise, thus adding another major collection of Paleoindian and Archaic materials from the canyons around Hydro.

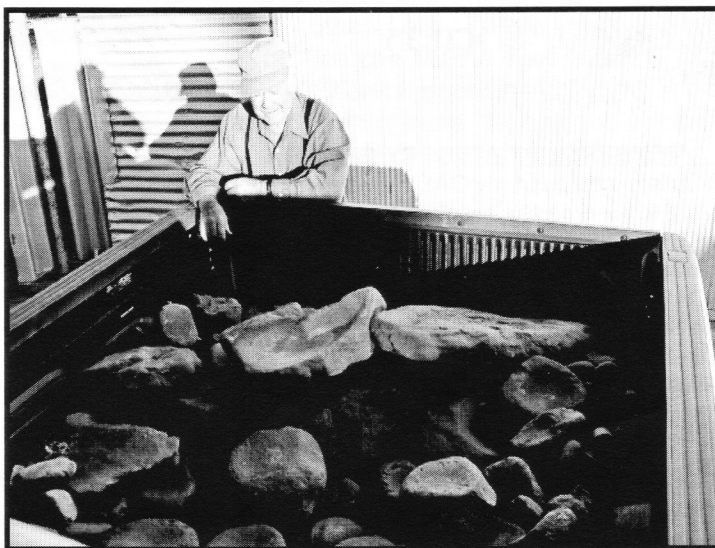
These collections have not languished in the museum, having been used already in several theses and a dissertation completed by OU graduate students under the direction of Dr. Lee Bement and/or



In a 2006 photo, OAS charter member Terrell Nowka looks at 800-year-old celts he gave to the Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History.

Dr. Wyckoff.

Thus, the legacy of Terrell Nowka lives on, but those of us who knew him will miss him greatly.



In 2006, Terrell Nowka examines a pickup load of grinding basins he donated to the Norman natural history museum.

OAS seeks archival material

Back copies of OAS publications are always valuable to the Society.

They help fill gaps in the OAS archives. Mary McHard, the OAS Publications Librarian, is conducting an inventory of all materials in OAS storage. She can arrange to have donated materials picked up. Archeological materials can be donated by contacting Mary at (405) 525-7824 or by email at dmmchard@flash.net

OAS Memoir addresses Cross Timbers

The OAS publication *Geoarchaeology and the Cross Timbers* is now available at the Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History, Norman, and the Oklahoma Anthropological Society.

Memoir No. 13 appeared under direction of museum associate curator Don Wyckoff. The monograph was compiled and edited by David J. Cranford, Elsbeth L. Dowd, and Dr. Wyckoff.

The monograph is the outgrowth of a 2005 class in geoarchaeology taught at the University of Oklahoma plus Bureau of Reclamation-supported interdisciplinary research at a terrace being heavily eroded by Lake Altus.

The Society has published studies of different locations through central and southwestern Oklahoma where buried soils bear witness to landscape stability and climatic effects over the past 10,000 years.

Dr. Wyckoff said information on such locations is important, not only for documenting how erosion and valley filling have altered the landscape, but also for providing archaeologists with clues as to why substantial sections of this area yield few traces of prehistoric people.

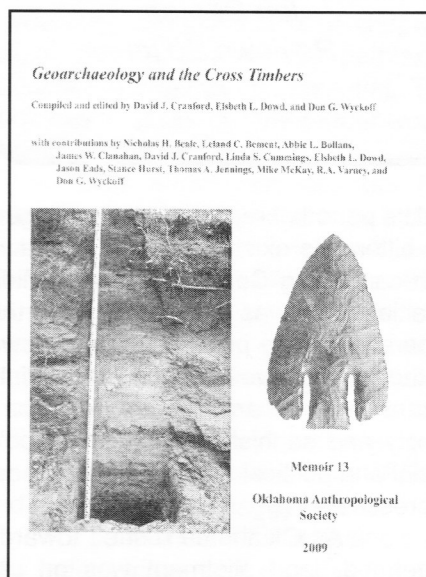
Much of the area's prehistory is deeply buried. A summary chapter synthesizes over 90 radiocarbon dates from soils buried throughout central and southwestern Oklahoma to provide an outline of the intervals when climatic conditions were good and eroding landscapes recovered enough to support the development of soils.

The Society is publisher. Copies are available for \$20 at the museum and from OAS Publications Librarian Mary McHard at dmmchard@flash.net

State cost-cutting hits historic sites, museums

Budgets at museums and state historical sites are shrinking as Oklahoma registers a 17 percent reduction in government funding.

Bob Blackburn, Oklahoma Historical Society's executive director, said many of the state's field museums and historic sites have a staff of only one or two people. The cuts in many cases



exceed operational funds and dips into personnel funds, he told *The Oklahoman*.

The Society will fund each museum and site through April. Then the Society Board will look at the revenue generated and decide whether any should be closed or should operate under reduced hours, Blackburn said.

Local groups could keep open facilities that fail to generate enough revenue. They would need to find another source of revenue or provide donations. Other changes will affect charges for programming, personnel furloughs, days and hours of operation, exhibit funds, and gift shop operations.

Spiro Mounds, the state's premier archeological site, has raised its entrance fee to \$4 for adults, \$3 for seniors, and \$1 for children. Members of the Oklahoma Historical Society and the Spiro Mounds Development Association continue to be admitted free.

Spiro Mounds Development Association has a fund drive to help schools pay for children visiting the museum. The association hopes to raise as much as \$10,000 a year, said Dennis Peterson, center manager. More information is available at (918) 962-2062 or by email at spiro@okhistory.org

OAS Memoir proposed for Caddo theme meeting

Publication of last fall's Caddo Conference is possible as an OAS Memoir, Scott Hammerstedt said.

Attempts to interest speakers in contributing their presentations are under way, the Oklahoma Archeological Survey archeologist said. If presenters will provide their papers and illustrations as data files, the memoir can be assembled efficiently.

Many of the presenters were University of Oklahoma faculty and graduate students. Others were from the University of Arkansas and the Caddo Nation.

The Oct. 3 conference, held at the Sam Noble Oklahoma Museum of Natural History in Norman, was organized by museum Associate Curator Dr. Don Wyckoff.

Dr. Hammerstedt, Dr. Amanda Regnier and OU anthropologist Dr. Patrick Livingood plan to assemble and edit the publication.

Conservancy to restore Cavanaugh Mound

The Archaeological Conservancy plans research and restoration of a west Arkansas Indian Mound.

In a March 12 story in *The City Wire*, an Internet newsletter based in Fort Smith, Ark., the Conservancy's Jessica Crawford was shown inspecting the site. She is Southwest Regional Director of the non-profit organization that purchased the mound in 2006 to prevent its further destruction.

In March Crawford joined Tim Mulvihill, a University of Arkansas archeologist, in clearing brush and trash from a damaged east side of the mound. Crawford said the Conservancy may build a small park around the mound with signage and other exhibits that explain the prehistoric site.

Research and restoration could take years, she said. Even clearing the vegetation and trees could cost up to \$15,000.

Cavanaugh was among sites toured by participants of the Fall 2008 meeting of the Oklahoma Anthropological Society. The mound is within 10 miles, and is probably related to, Oklahoma's Spiro Mounds.

Cavanaugh is identified as a Caddoan era platform mound typically found in the Arkansas River Valley.

Book Reviews

Jon Denton
Reviews Editor

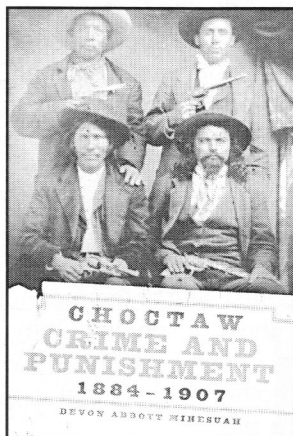
Choctaw Crime and Punishment 1884-1907
By Devon Abbott Mihesuah
University Of Oklahoma Press
October 2009
Hardcover \$32.95

Review by Ed Mayfield

Oklahoma: We were taught in school that the name means "Home of the Red Man," and this is no more true than with one of the Five Civilized Tribes, the Choctaws.

"Choctaw Crime and Punishment" is as the title indicates. It follows the Choctaws during a tumultuous time revolving around political upheaval, land allotment, and statehood.

When I was asked to review this book, I was somewhat misled by the



title as well as the cover photo, thinking it was about Oklahoma outlaws. But nothing of the sort.

Mihesuah takes the reader into the morass of social and political life of this tribe. The vehicle used to accomplish this is the unsolved murder of her own great, great grandfather and the deaths of political rivals known as the Progressives.

In the wake of the Civil War

and its period of reconstruction, a lingering bitterness existed among Choctaws with competing Confederate and Union loyalties. This was a major factor in the separation of the political parties known as the Progressives and the Nationalists – conservatives and liberals. The complexity and sophistication of the tribe's social and political infrastructure is most impressive.

As Oklahoma rushed towards statehood, land allotment was on everybody's lips. One political faction saw it as the death notice to the traditional Choctaw life. The other faction saw it as the only way to save the old ways and inexorably accept the white man's government and life style.

A post Civil War Treaty of 1886 came with a stipulation that appeared to be harmless and somewhat benign: to allow whites to intermarry with Choctaws, thus extending full citizenship and land privileges. Yet the act became a post-Civil War disaster for the tribe.

With influx of more whites into tribal land came crime and lawlessness, and lots of it. It led to a Choctaw judicial system of punishment that early on butted heads with the U.S. government.

To most Choctaws, federal intervention was the beginning of the end for many elements in the Choctaw world.

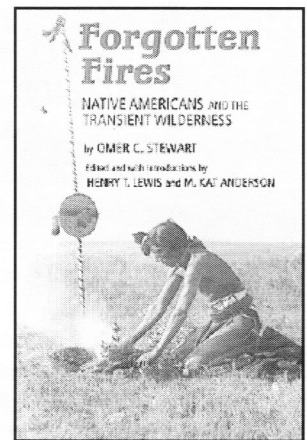
As the reader navigates through the rich history of the tribe, before and after the Civil War, Mihesuah injects anecdotes that prove the misgiving was well placed.

I would hope that when this book is seen on the book shelf, the potential reader is not thwarted by the thought this is just another book about native Americans.

Mihesuah's research for this book is Olympian, making it vital source material for those who seek a full understanding of the Civil War's impact on the Choctaws.

The book is highly recommended.

Ed Mayfield is President of the OAS Central Chapter in Oklahoma City.



Forgotten Fires: Native Americans and the Transient Wilderness
By Omer C. Stewart, Henry T. Lewis, M. Kat Anderson
Illustrated, with bibliographical references and index
University of Oklahoma Press
Hardcover 364 pages \$39.95

Review by Jon Denton

While "Forgotten Fires" has been on the shelf for a while, it remains a vital testimony to the Native Americans' skill at shaping the North American topography. This revealing book is now in paperback.

If you haven't read it, and you've heard about it and want the story firsthand, it gives you something fresh to think about. Instead of a stereotype of the noble savage – centuries of Indians living in static harmony with the landscape – we learn they were the ultimate, large scale landscapers.

Reports to the contrary, Europeans did not discover a pristine New World wilderness. Long before they arrived, Indians were proving themselves capable of sophisticated land management. They used fire to prune the woods, open shooting lanes and canyons, expand meadows, improve the grasslands, and fight noxious bugs.

It's an insight rediscovered every couple of years. Brian M. Fagan did a superb job summarizing it in his "The Great Journey: The Peopling of Ancient America."

But the real hero of the story is Omer Stewart, an anthropology professor at CU-Boulder. While alive, he struggled to interest a publisher in his work. Now Lewis and Anderson present Stewart's original research and conclusions, written in the 1950s but unavailable to

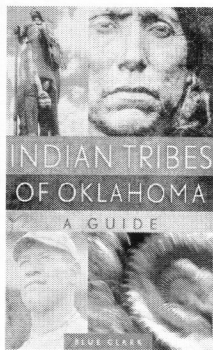
(Continued Next Page)

general readers.

Stewart emerges as the father of anthropogenic fire, the theory of human influence on the environment in the last 10,000 years. Thousands of miles of forest were shaped to suit the residents.

Scholarly yet readable, "Forgotten Fires" is a memorable testimony for one man's effort to turn aside mythology and replace it with the truth.

Jon Denton is Editor of the OAS Trowel Marks Newsletter



Indian Tribes of Oklahoma: A Guide

By Blue Clark

**Civilization of the American
Indian Series**

**University of Oklahoma Press
2009 Hardcover 413 pages \$29.95**

Review by Neil Garrison

Blue Clark, a law and history professor at Oklahoma City University, presents an up-to-date compendium on our state's Native Americans.

A famous book with a similar title already exists ("A Guide to the Indian Tribes of Oklahoma" by Muriel Wright), but it's been more than 50 years since it first appeared. There has been a sea change of information since that time.

Clark, a member of the Muscogee (Creek) nation, brings us up to speed on tribal name changes. Just as important, he covers recent federal action officially recognizing Indian tribes previously lumped in with other umbrella tribal entities.

His incisive work will serve as a fresh reference to many. It provides a "go to" source on tribal histories and presents information regarding recent activities of these sovereign nations.

It's not the sort of book, however, that invites a leisurely read, cover to cover. Similar to other reference texts (a dictionary, for example), it's just darn

near impossible to read it from front to back.

Therein resides a major fault. Clark has a penchant for abbreviations. If you jump around and read chapters out of context, you will be perplexed about the abbreviations' meaning. The book has no glossary. The reader would benefit greatly if it did.

Little errors also pop up. For example, Clark's interpretation of Indian and bison interactions is shortsighted. "Buffalo had no natural enemies, so their numbers grew ever larger on the lush grasses of the Plains," we read. That is simply not true. Once there existed a subspecies of gray wolf that preyed heavily on bison. Ditto for a subspecies of grizzly bear that lived on the Great Plains and feasted on the shaggy beasts.

It's sometimes difficult finding specific Indian tribes in the book. For the most part, Clark lists them in alphabetical order. The exception to this is the "Citizen Potawatomi" -- it comes after "Ponca" and before "Quapaw." (In contrast, I looked for it to be an entry between "Choctaw" and "Comanche.")

Despite these faults, I'd have to admit Clark's book is a major addition to a library on Native Americans. It is packed with information you may not know.

OAS member Neil Garrison is a Oklahoma naturalist living in Yukon.

Wild Men: Ishi and Kroeber in the Wilderness of Modern America By Douglas Sackman Oxford University Press 2010 Hardcover 384 pages \$16.47

Review by Neil Garrison

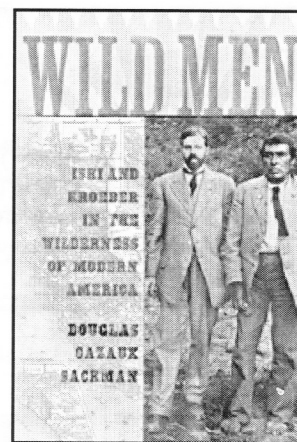
Ishi was saddled with the moniker: "The last wild Indian in California."

He stepped out of the wilderness in 1911 ... and died in San Francisco from tuberculosis three years later.

The photo on the front of the book's dust jacket is classic: It shows Alfred Kroeber, a prominent anthropologist, and the American Indian standing side-by-side. Each is suited up in European clothes.

The telling difference is that only the anthropologist is wearing shoes. That same photo has been cropped down to just a view of their feet ... and reappears on the back side of the book's dust jacket.

Inside are many more photos. One of my favorites shows Ishi kneeling



in front of a dead deer. The story behind that photo is unsettling. The anthropologists took Ishi back to the wilderness for some "photo ops." The original plan was to have Ishi drop a deer as he usually did, but the scientists got tired of waiting around. They killed the deer with a rifle and then asked Ishi to shoot several arrows into the deer's carcass.

The photo shows the grimace on Ishi's face as he turns to face the camera, clearly uncomfortable with the carcass of the bullet-riddled deer.

When I began reading the book, I started with a preconceived notion. I was going to hate the anthropologist for his role in the ultimate death of his research subject.

I came away with a much different view. Kroeber's father died from TB, as did his wife. In fact, Kroeber was deep in debt from paying all of the medical bills for his wife's treatment.

The year was 1914. European medicine was pathetic. TB doctors dosed their patients with morphine to dull the pain, and then shipped them to Arizona for sun, desert air and good nutrition. TB got a quick start in that unfortunate state.

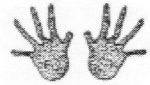
The book is not a feel good tale of how Europeans interacted with the American Indians. We get many stories of the atrocities that were visited on the natives by the newcomers from Europe.

Despite the gruesome picture that emerges, I heartily recommend the book. Included is new information about Ishi and his scientist friends.

Sugarcoating American history would do everybody a disservice. It is best that we delve into history with an eye to accuracy and honesty.



OAS Chapter Update



Ark-Homa Chapter (Fort Smith, Ark)
 Representative: Tim Mulvihill (479) 788-7812
 March: Claudine Payne, Arkansas Archeological Survey
 April: Matt Reed Oklahoma History Museum "The Myth of Ferdinandina"

Byrds Mill Springs Chapter (Ada)
 Contact: Carl Gilley (580) 332-3812
 March: Scott Hammerstedt
 April: TBA
 May: Leslie Rankin-Hill on skeletons

Central Chapter (Oklahoma City)
 Representative: Curt Hendricks (405) 722-9621
 March: "Native American Gardens" with Dr. Fred Schneider
 April: Annual Central Chapter Book Auction
 May: 2010 OAS Dig preview with Luther Leith

Cleveland County Chapter (Norman)
 Representative: Luther Leith (405) 321-3558
 March: Archaeology Lab (labeling artifacts) with Liz Leith
 April: TBA
 May: TBA
 June-August: No Meeting (but may schedule summer activity)

Kay County Chapter (Ponca City)
 Representative: George Hanggi (580) 765-6342

Greater Southwest Chapter (Lawton)
 Representative: Debra Baker (580) 581-3460
 March: "Native American Gardens" with Dr. Fred Schneider
 April: "Students Poster Presentation on ProtoJudy"
 with Cameron Students
 May: (Tentative) "Blackbirds: Man-made and Other"
 with Carolyn Stayer

McAlester Archeological Society (McAlester)
 Representative: Connie Masters (918) 470-3781
 March: Jon & Diana Denton on Alibates, Rainbow Rocks of Texas
 April: Amanda Regnier on the Clement Site
 May: Leslie Rankin-Hill on skeletons

Tahlequah Archaeological Society (Tahlequah)
 Representative: Tom Purdin (918) 284-2410
 March: Cindy L. Hair, cultural specialist for United Keetoowah
 Band of Cherokees, basket weaving
 April: Jon & Diana Denton on Alibates, Rainbow Rocks of Texas
 May: Dr. Susan Vehik

Tulsa Archaeological Society (Tulsa)
 President Andy Slaucitajs (918) 747-1026
 March: Scott Hammerstedt, Oklahoma Archeological Survey
 April: "Fort Gibson Overview and Military Music" with Cody Jolliff
 May: "Council Circles" with Dr. Susan Vehik

Why Oklahoma 'Anthropological' Society?

Why is it Anthropological Society and not Archeological Society? In order to practice archeology, we need to understand the relationship between anthropology and archeology. Anthropology is the broad study of people, past and present. Archeology is a branch of anthropology often focused on the distant past. To interpret what is found at archeological sites, we need to know how people organized themselves long ago. Studying cultures today gives us insight into cultures of yesterday.

Trowel Marks

Oklahoma Anthropological Society
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Redesign under way for Certification Program

The OAS Certification Program gets a fresh start this spring under direction of two Norman archeologists.

Amanda Regnier and Scott Hammerstedt, staff members of the Oklahoma Archeological Survey, have stepped forward. While Amanda will assume the lead on the Oklahoma Anthropological Society project, "Scott will help me with it. I think it's more than a one-person job," Amanda said.

Remodeling includes a complete redesign of the introductory program. However, participants will be given full credit for classes they have completed.

OAS members are asked to fill out a Certification Program Questionnaire and return it to Dr. Regnier at the address listed on the bottom of the form. Responses also are welcome by email, she said.

The program has been inactive for months. A search of records shows gaps that



Dr. Amanda Regnier

need to be filled. For example, the primary record of those attending classes will come from financial receipts, Amanda said.

That only one person – Dave Morgan of Norman – is known to have completed the program does not mean it is impossible to navigate, Amanda said.

The biggest challenge has been to take the final classes, which have been rarely offered.

The initial objectives are:

- Determine classes each participant has completed.

- Ask OAS members for suggestions on topics, class times, instructors.

- Set a priority for classes offered.

The first classes will be held at the OAS Spring Dig starting May 28. Seminars on excavation and lab techniques are planned then. Other classes will follow next autumn.

OAS Certification Program Questionnaire

As you may know, Oklahoma Archeological Survey archaeologists Scott Hammerstedt and Amanda Regnier are reviving the OAS Certification Program. Since the Oklahoma Anthropological Society program has been inactive for some time, we are also using this as an opportunity to redesign some aspects of the program that we feel could use updating and improvement.

One thing we would like to do is get input from OAS members. We want to know your expectations. If you are unfamiliar with this program, brief background information can be accessed on the internet at:
<http://www.ou.edu/cas/archsur/oas/certification.html>

Below are questions that will allow you to tell us about your experience with the Certification Program, the types of seminars you would like to see, and your opinions on changes (please feel free to copy the form and write on the back):

1. **Have you taken seminars in the OAS Certification Program?** If so, which certification track are you working on? Which seminars do you need in order to complete your program? (If you have not participated in the program, would you like to do so?)
2. **What Certification seminars (or instructors) have you found to be the most helpful in improving your knowledge/skill level?**
3. **What seminars have been the least helpful and least interesting?**
4. **What new subjects would you like to see covered in future OAS Certification Seminars?**
5. **Would you be willing to pay more if the cost for individual Certification seminars was raised to \$10 to provide attendees with better materials and activities?**

To contact you about seminars:

Name _____ Address _____ State _____ Zip _____

E-mail address: _____ Phone: () _____

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey! Please return it in March 2010, or as soon as possible. Mail to Dr. Amanda Regnier, Oklahoma Archeological Survey, 111 E. Chesapeake, Norman OK 73019-5111 (You also can email your completed response to Amanda Regnier at aregnier@ou.edu)