

Archeological investigations were carried on in Kansas from June 15 to August 4, 1949, by the Museum of Natural History, University of Kansas. The field party was made up of the writer, his wife and seven students. Intensive work was done at the Kansas Monument site in Republic County and survey work was done in Mitchell, Jewell, and Trego counties. The data gathered will permit a detailed analysis of the nature of the culture of the Pawnee who occupied the Kansas Monument site and will make possible the tentative definition of a new culture complex, the Glen Elder focus, which occurs in Mitchell and Jewell counties.

The Kansas Monument site (14RP1) is an earth-lodge village situated on the south side of the Republican River near the present town of Republic. The site takes its name from a granite shaft which commemorates a visit by Lt. Zebulon M. Pike in 1806. There is but little doubt that the site was occupied by the Pawnee, because the nature of the village and the artifacts found in it check in most details with documented sites in Nebraska. The research of Hill, Strong, and Wedel indicate, however, that the true scene of Pike's visit was the Hill site which is situated in Nebraska some thirty miles northwest of the Kansas Monument site.

The village covers approximately twelve acres, the major part of which falls within an area fenced and protected by the State of Kansas. The remainder is cut by a road and has been plowed for many years. A study of the surface of the undisturbed area and test excavations in the plowed area indicate the former presence of at least thirty houses and more than fifty cache pits. The site is rectanguloid in form, it being enclosed, except for one house and some cache pits, by a low wall of earth which may be traced throughout three-quarters of the perimeter. On the east side the ground slopes toward the heads of several gullies and the wall is not visible there. Test trenches through the fortification indicate that earth was the principal building material but that timbers were incorporated in it. Throughout the excavations all features involving the use of wood show evidence of having been burned. To the northwest of the village one disturbed burial was found.

In the unplowed area the houses appear as shallow dish-shaped depressions with raised rims. Two houses were excavated. Both were round earth lodges with central fireplaces and with entrances on the southeast. Large areas of the floor in each house were covered with a thin layer of burned clay resembling poorly fired pottery. At the junction of the entrance passages with the interiors, each house had a raised sill or dam, also covered with burned clay, which served to keep surface water from running inside. Charred beams radiated out from the fireplaces and the supporting posts were sometimes preserved in the form of solid wood at the bottoms of the holes. Neither house contained cache pits but piles of charred maize in the form of kernels, rarely in the form of complete cobs, were present on the floors.

The two houses differed in other features. House 1 was approximately 40 feet in diameter and had eight center posts surrounded by 12 intermediate posts. The outer edge was clearly marked by a narrow trench which contained the charred butts of the leaners forming the outer wall. A bison skull was on the floor on the side opposite the entrance. Four small post molds and the presence of charcoal under the skull indicate the former existence of a wooden platform upon which the skull rested. House two was approximately 32 feet in diameter and had six center posts surrounded by 12 intermediate posts. The outer edge was not clearly defined except near the entrance where traces of the outer wall were found.

Most of the artifacts recovered were found in the two houses. The cache pits were not especially rich in specimens and no communal refuse heaps were found. A detailed study of the artifacts has not been made as yet, but an examination of the specimens in the course of excavation and laboratory processing indicates that the majority of them are typical of the culture of the historic Pawnee. The pottery is characterized by rounded bottoms, constricted necks and high collars without handles. The bodies are covered with the impressions of grooved or thongwrapped paddles and the rims are incised. The only chipped stone artifacts are large ovate scrapers and small square scraperlike artifacts made from local chert which probably served as gunflints. Groundstone artifacts in the forms of shaft smoothers, whetstones and smoking pipes are present. Rough stone artifacts include grooved mauls, plain hammerstones, sand stone abraders and small metatelite stones. Gougelike fleshers, scapula hoes, and the fragments of what may have been a shaft wrench complete the list of bone artifacts. Antler artifacts include large scraper handles and a long tine which may have been used in planting maize.

The site is rich in trade material of European origin. The few objects which have been identified thus far are French and appear to date from the middle of the 18th century. Sheetmetal projectile points are present and work shop debris indicates that they were fashioned by the inhabitants of the village. Iron hoes, axes, awls, and flintlock guns are common. Beads of white, blue and black glass occur. Parts of copper kettles are present. They appear to have been cut in pieces to obtain raw material for making projectile points.

In Mitchell County preliminary survey work was carried on in and about the area to be covered by the proposed Glen Elder Reservoir in cooperation with River Basin Surveys. The site that Wedel (1935, pp. 227-229) designates as "Pelot 2" and which we now call 14JL1 was tested. The site is situated on a hill on the south side of the Solomon River at the point where the center line of the proposed dam would terminate. A surface collection was made and two test trenches were excavated. Mr. E. W. Norris, a local antiquarian, has gathered material from the surface of the site over a long period. He kindly permitted us to photograph a representative series of sherds and donated examples of the different varieties of handles found on the rims. A similar site (14JW1) was found in Jewell County near where Kansas Highway 14 crosses White Rock Creek. The Museum of Natural History had previously acquired an extensive collection of stone artifacts from the latter site from Mr. Floyd Schultz of Clay Center. Mr. George Warne who lives on the site permitted us to photograph specimens and donated a few sherds. Champe also furnished us with a sample collection pertaining to the same culture as found in the Harlan County Reservoir in Nebraska.

The combined collections have not been subjected to analysis as yet and the reader is referred to Wedel's brief note (Wedel, *op. cit.*) for a description of the pottery. For the present I find it convenient to refer to the culture as the Glen Elder focus, aspect undetermined. The pottery bears some relationship to Oneota and Great Bend. The stone work has much in common with other late Plains cultures, especially Dismal River.

After testing one and collecting surface material from several Upper Republican sites in the vicinity of Glen Elder, a brief reconnaissance trip was made to the Cedar Bluff Reservoir in Trege County. The presence of growing crops precluded excavation at one site which may be preceramic.

Literature Cited

WEDEL, WALDO R.

1935. Reports on Fieldwork by the Archaeological Survey of the Nebraska State Historical Society, May 1-July 23, 1934. Nebraska History Magazine, Vol. 15, No. 3, pp. 132-255.

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