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ARCHAEOLOGICAL REMAINS IN THE AREA OF KANSAS CITY:

PALEO-INDIANS AND THE ARCHAIC PERIOD

by

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INTRODUCTION

As part of the Research Series published by the Missouri Archaeological Society, this first part of a report of the archaeological remains from the Kansas City area has been compiled from collections available to the writer. It is intended to cover the Paleo-Indian and other pre-pottery eras.

The report will not be based upon an exhaustive analysis of the subject but will deal with the more obvious evidence recovered during 48 years of amateur and professional research in the general area. The nucleus of the evidence has been gained in the counties adjacent to Kansas City; Clay, Jackson, and Platte counties, Missouri and to some extent Wyandotte County, Kansas.

Some knowledge of the prehistoric inhabitants of areas adjacent to these counties has been gained by reconnaissance. The information concerning these surrounding areas is rudimentary due to the fact there has been no concentrated effort except that of several members of the Missouri Archaeological Society. The only means of gaining widespread cooperation of non-members will come through there being established in the area a museum in which artifacts are displayed showing the cultural sequence and in having someone with sufficient knowledge available at the museum to help identify objects brought in and who also will record the provenance of them.

The picture of the prehistoric occupation throughout the general area is from ancient times down to the historic period with a few cultures represented by rather large concentrations of villages along the Missouri River near Kansas City. Away from the Missouri River and the adjacent creek valleys, the camps were relatively small and the artifacts recovered suggest transient occupation.

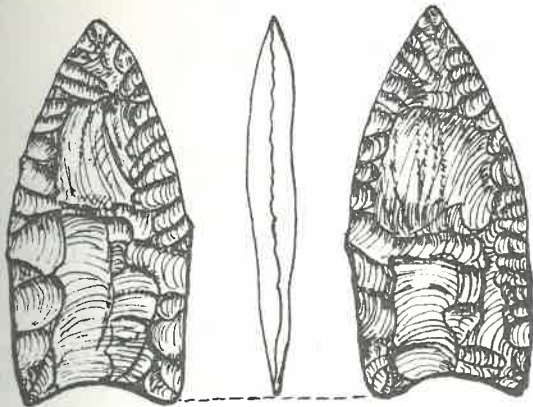
PALEO-INDIANS

Evidence of a possible Paleo-Indian culture is rather meager, yet the repeated finding of projectile points of types that seem comparable to those of the High Plains where they have been proven to be contemporaneous with extinct animals, must indicate that people of a Paleo-Indian culture had visited the sites where the points occur.

The early type points are usually recovered on highland sites where artifacts of supposedly later but undated cultural manifestations may occur in some abundance. Points very similar to Clovis fluted types have been found (Fig. 1, A and B) on the high hilltop sites with Nebo Hill complex material. Dalton points* (Fig. 2, C, C) and a Starved Rock

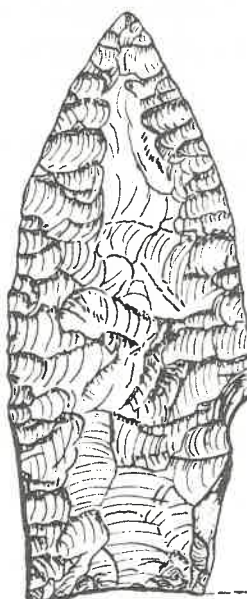
*(Editor's Note: Shippee refers to these as Meserve-Dalton. Meserve was deleted in order to reduce confusion. These two points are typically Dalton)

Early

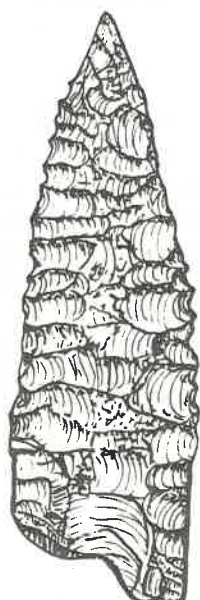


A

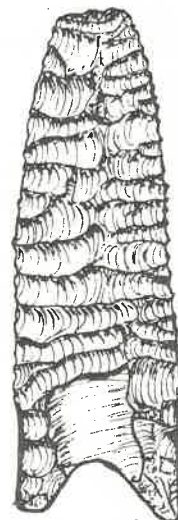
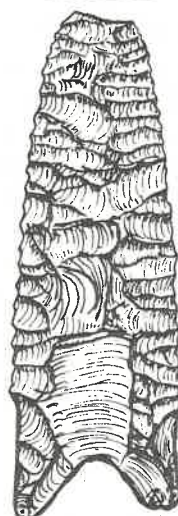
Clovis
(concave base)



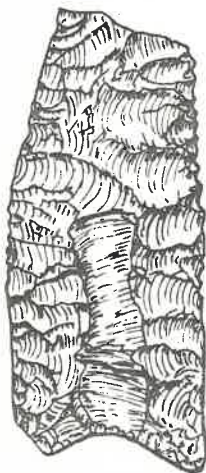
Clovis
B



Lanceolate type



Lanceolate type
D



E



F

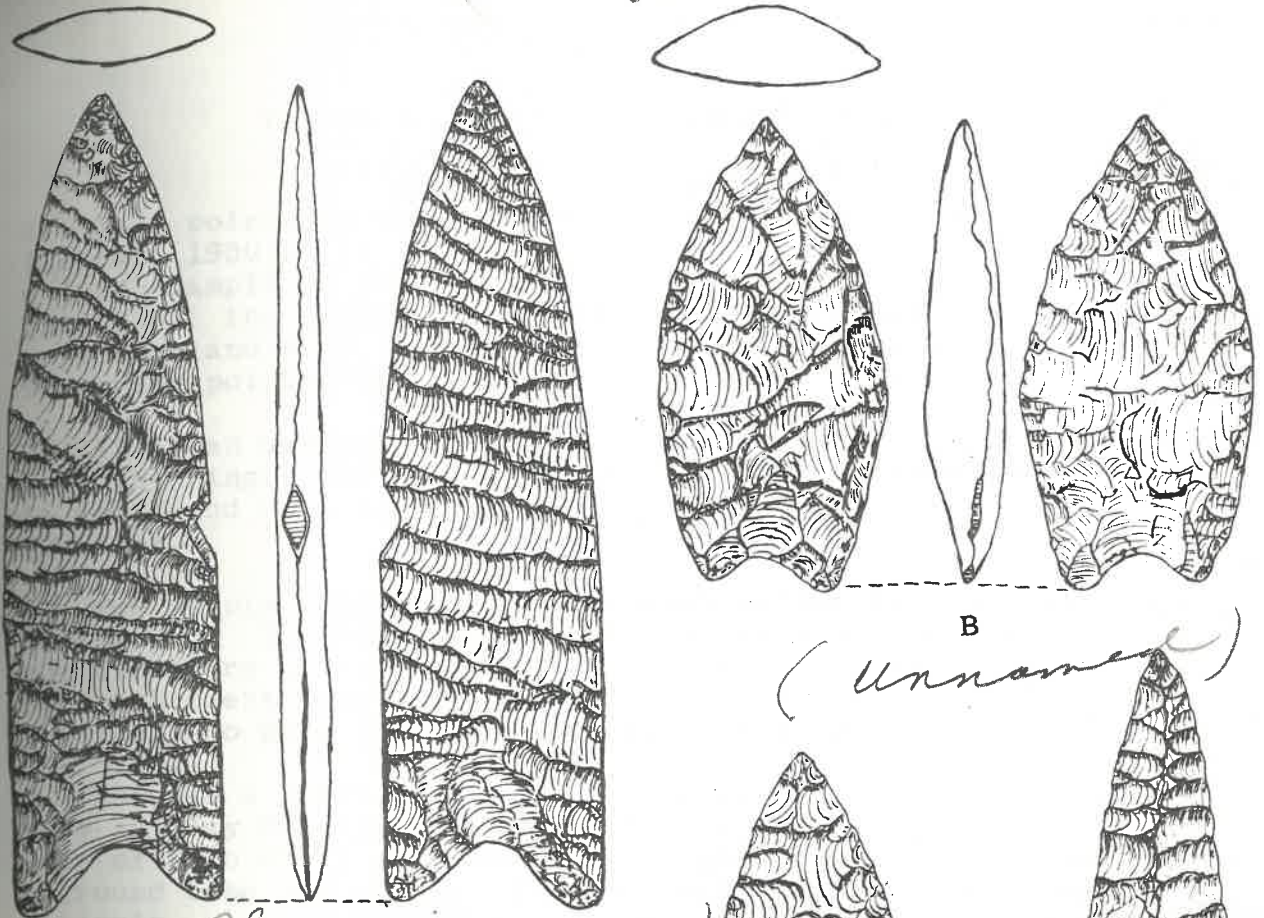
SHIPPEE '64

FIGURE I

FIGURE I EARLY MAN PROJECTILE POINTS

- A. A Clovis type point of dark grey flint that was found on the surface of a highland site in Clay County, Missouri (23CL88). The concave base and the sides at the base are ground.
- B. A Clovis type point of white chert that was found on the surface of a highland site in Clay County, Missouri (23CL13). This point has basal grinding.
- C. A lanceolate type which was found on the surface of a site in Platte County, Missouri (23PL32). The material is a light grey quartzite. Basal grinding is present.
- D. A lanceolate type which is similar to C. It was found on the surface of a highland site in Clay County, Missouri (23CL59). The material is a dark blue flint. Basal grinding is present.
- E. A point found on a highland site (23CL11) in Clay County, Missouri. It is a mottled blue, grey and white flint. The flint may have been imported. One side of this point has been thinned by removal of a long slender flake. The concave base and the basal sides are ground. Similar to points C and D, it is serrated and is slightly beveled.
- F. The base of a lanceolate point shows definite grinding and probably was beveled. There is no thinning of the base. It came from a highland site (23CL74) in Clay County, Missouri. The flint of which it was made is not common in the area.

Garley



Plattineer
(ripple flaking)

B
(unnamed)



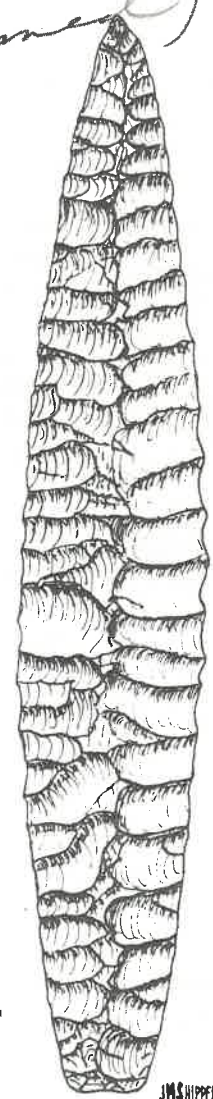
Daltor type



D
Strawed
Rock



E
Sedalia



F
JMSHIPPEE '64



unusual
Rebo
collateral flaking

FIGURE 2

FIGURE 2 EARLY PROJECTILE POINTS

A. This point has been called a Plainview by Krieger (letter, 1950). It is made of light colored chert and is a fine example of parallel ripple flaking. The sides are ground but the base is not. This point is a surface find on a highland site in Clay County, Missouri (23CL58). Plainview points were named from a site in Texas.

B. It is an unnamed point type. There is no grinding and no real thinning. The point is made of light colored chert. It was found on a highland site in Clay County, Missouri (23CL16).

C. Two points that are good examples of the Dalton type are shown. The base of each is thinned and ground and the sides are ground. Both are beveled. The material is of local chert from Clay County, Missouri. The site is a large Nebo Hill location in Clay County (23CL14).

D. This is a Starved Rock point and was found on a highland site in Clay County, Missouri (23CL11). It is the type site of Nebo Hill. The point, of light colored chert, has a ground base and sides. Starved Rock site is in northern Illinois.

E. The type is a Sedalia point and one of the few that have been found on the Nebo Hill sites of western Missouri. It has features that are somewhat atypical of the Sedalia type. The point, made of a light, blue-white chalcedony, has no grinding. It is from Jackson County, on a large Nebo Hill site (23JA35).

F. This is an unusual Nebo Hill point. It has the collateral flaking of the Eden points from the High Plains. Similar to A, it represents superior technique in flaking which Krieger has suggested may occur in any culture. It is not ground or thinned.

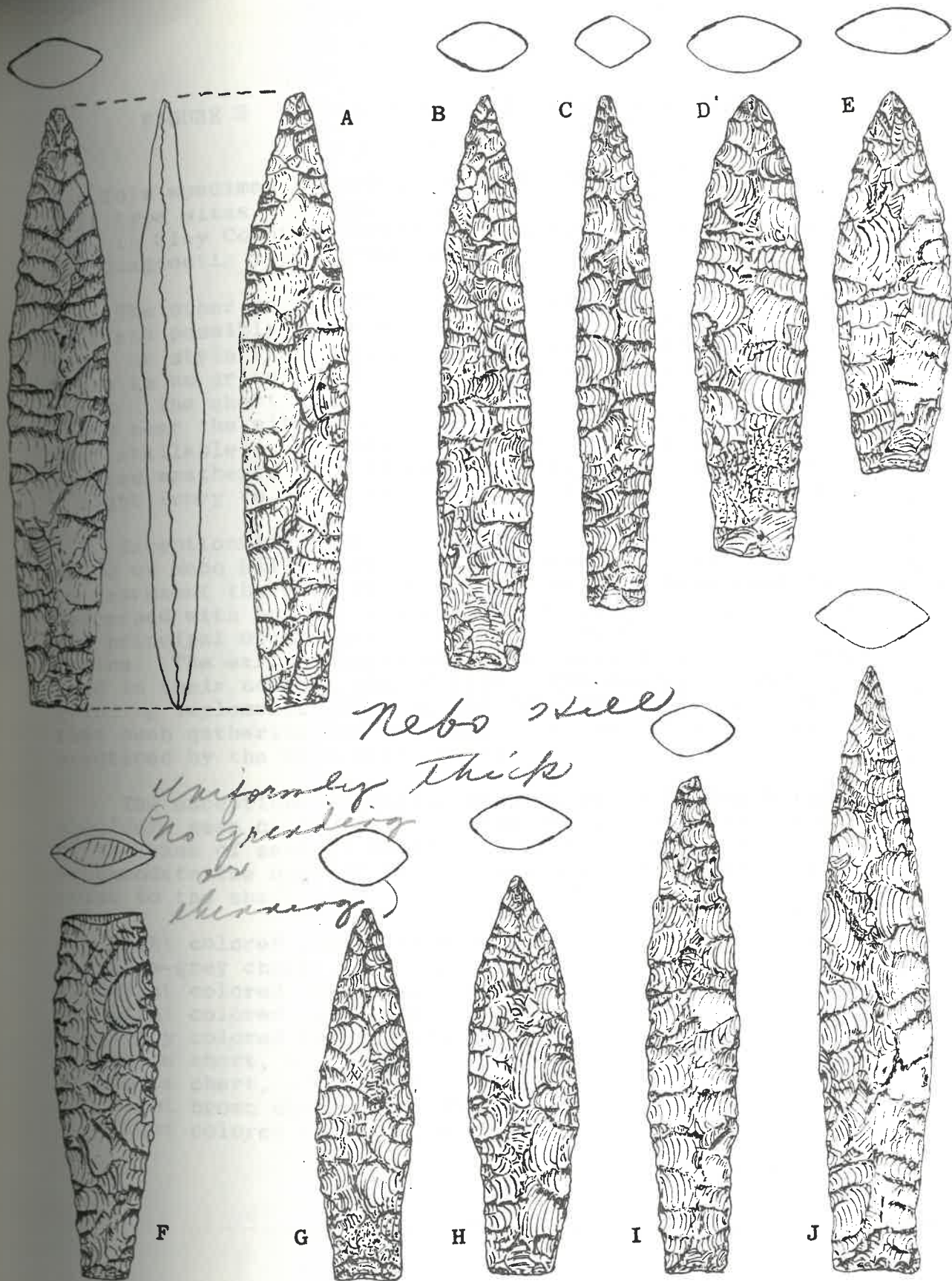
point (Fig. 2,D) have occurred on these same sites but the actual evidence of where they belong stratigraphically has never been determined for there has not been adequate excavation. Points (Fig. 1, C,D) and two similar to Graham Cave Fluted (Fig. 1, E and F) one of which is smaller and without the flute (Fig. 1,F) may also be very early types.

The fact that the Paleo-Indian points are so widely scattered and rare, may indicate there is little chance for any strong manifestations of early cultures to be found in the immediate area. To the north, beyond St. Joseph, early points seem to be found more often and in eastern Missouri they occur in greater numbers and are often of excellent workmanship, which could indicate an environment more to the liking of the people. The few points that do show up around Kansas City may denote that the people who used them were not just passing through but had lingered for some time and in greater numbers than the scattered artifacts indicate. A little earth can cover a lot of occupational material which only comes to light by chance or after diligent search.

THE NEBO HILL COMPLEX

Figures 3 to 10 and the accompanying notes will give a good idea of the material that is found on the high Nebo Hill sites. One Nebo Hill site has been tested and the remains of four hearths uncovered at another site, but charcoal was not recovered and no radiocarbon dates have resulted for the complex. Some of the following information is from previous publications concerning this complex. An attempt will be made to confine the discussion to observations that seem important.

When the Nebo Hill complex was first introduced (Shippee, 1948), archaeologists from many areas compared the points with those from their localities in Vermont (Ritchie, 1953), Florida (Bullen and Bullen, 1950), Texas (Krieger, 1956), Ohio (Hill 1954, Smith 1956), Wyoming (Agogino, 1961), Illinois (Mayer-Oakes, 1951, Fowler, 1954), Idaho (Kehoe, 1957), Nebraska (Holder, 1949), and Venezuela (Rouse and Cruxent, 1956). These comparisons stemmed from the photograph of the points which pictured all the types that had been found on four sites. No distinction was made concerning the percentage of occurrence of each type. A later publication (Shippee, 1957), which probably was not as widely read as the first, noted the percentages of occurrence and stressed the style that seemed most diagnostic of the complex and those that were quite surely important types in the complex. The non-diagnostic Nebo Hill point types from the sites may be explained as being evidences of nomadic tribes who preceded the people of the fairly settled Nebo Hill communities. Whoever left the points liked to camp on the high hills and ridges.



JMSHIPPEE 64

FIGURE 3

FIGURE 3 TYPICAL NEBO HILL PROJECTILE POINTS

A. This specimen represents 61% of the points from Nebo Hill type sites. It was found on the surface of a highland site in Clay County, Missouri (23CL12). It has been called the diagnostic type of the complex.

The other points shown in the figure, with the exception of F and possibly J are examples of the straight based type or style that occur on the sites of western Missouri. There is no grinding or thinning and they are uniformly thick. The chert from which they have been made can be found near the sites and varies in color and quality with that available in the local outcrops of limestone or nodules weathered from limestone. The color is usually a light ivory to brown or a variety of blues and greys.

Exceptionally finely modeled points are occasionally found on Nebo Hill sites. Typical Nebo Hill points seem to represent the work of people who may not have been as concerned with hunting big game as is supposed to have been the principal occupation of the early hunters of the High Plains. The early hunters may have required a finer spear-head in their nomadic way of life. The numerous food-grinding implements found on the Nebo Hill sites suggest that much gathering and processing of natural foods was practiced by the Nebo Hill people.

The exceptionally narrow base of point F, the slight shoulders seen on point I, and the concavity at the sides of the base of several points may be a modification to accommodate the bulk of the cordage used in binding the point to the shaft.

- B. Light colored chert, site 23CL12 in Clay County, Missouri.
- C. Blue-grey chert, site 23CL11
- D. Light colored chert, site 23CL13
- E. Light colored chert, site 23CL11
- F. Ivory colored chert, site 23CL14
- G. White chert, site 23CL11
- H. White chert, site 23CL12
- I. Light brown chert, site 23CL14
- J. Light colored chert, site 23CL13

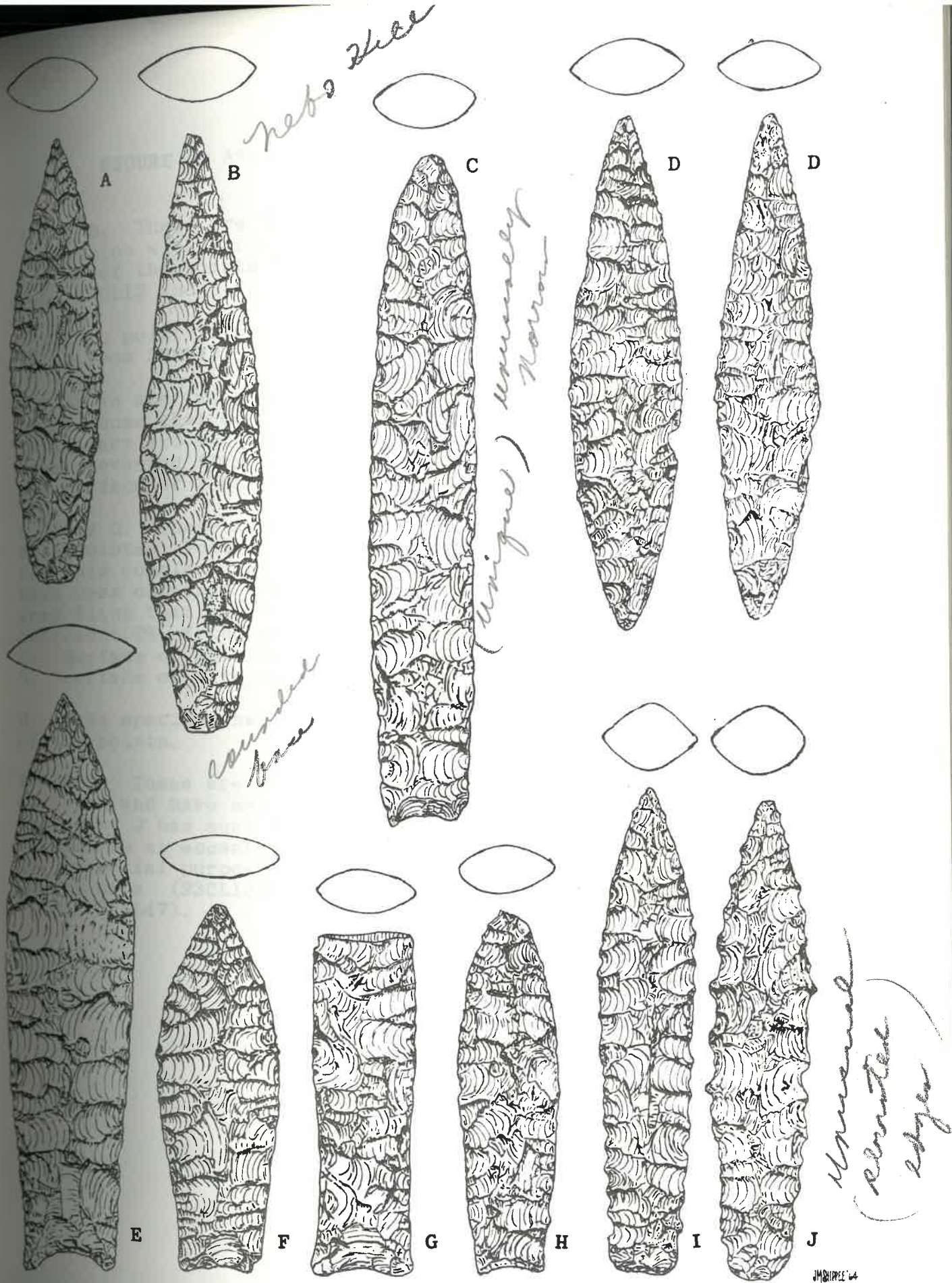


FIGURE 4

FIGURE 4 ATYPICAL NEBO HILL PROJECTILE POINTS

A and B. These are Nebo Hill points that the maker chose to fashion with a rounded base. They represent about 8% and 2% of the points from Nebo Hill sites. Point A is from 23CL12 and B is from 23CL11.

C. This point is unusually narrow and is really unique. It is from 23PL12.

D. Shown are two points of a type or style that makes up 2% of those that occur. They often exhibit considerable care in primary and secondary flaking. The pointed base may not have prevented firm socketing in the shaft. They are from the surface of 23CL11.

E, F and G. These are interesting variations of the Nebo Hill points. Points E and F are exceptionally fine points for this complex; E is of a pinkish white chert that may have been obtained from a distant source and F is of dark grey flint that may have been obtained locally. They represent 2% of the styles. They were found as follows:
E. Surface of site 23CL1; F. surface of site 23CL13; and
G. surface of site 23CL12.

H. This specimen has a concave base noted on about 2% of the points.

I and J. These are really quite unique in that they are so thick and have serrations, which is an uncommon trait. The point J has such large serrations that it may be classed as an eccentric. Both may have been tools made for a special purpose. Point I was a surface find on Clay County site (23CL13). Point J occurred on a Platte County site, (23PL47).

*Re-worked Rebo
marble for tool*

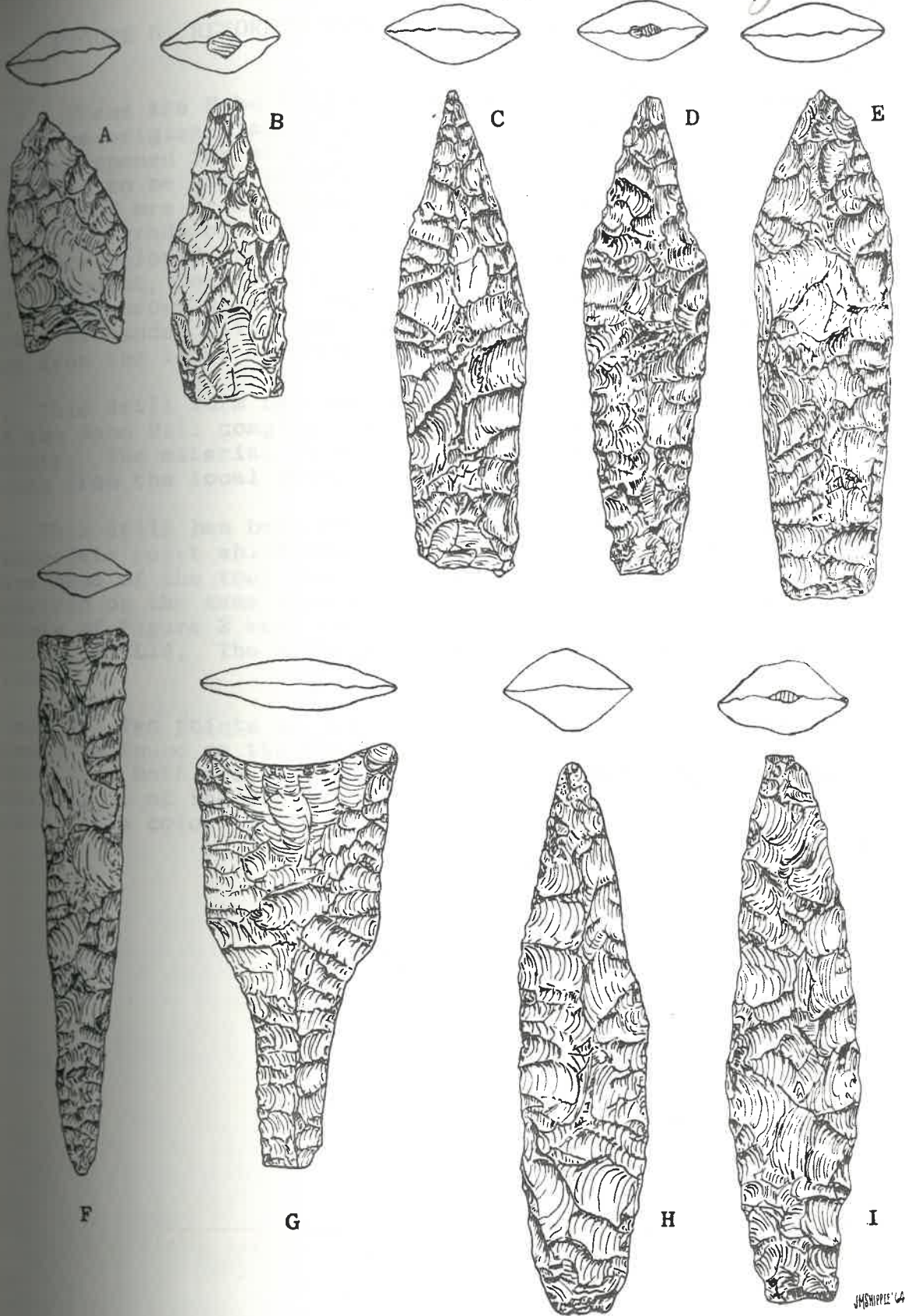


FIGURE 5

FIGURE 5 REWORKED NEBO HILL AND LANCEOLATE POINTS

A-E. These are Nebo Hill points which have been reworked from the original lanceolate shape. Points A and E have been sharpened for some purpose but B, C, and D were evidently intended to be used as drills. A and B are from 23CL11; C, D, and E are from 23CL12. Point A has been made from an excellent grade of light colored mottled flint; B and C are of ivory colored chert; D is discolored from the midsection to the point, possibly by fire which changed the tan color to a grey-brown shade. Point E has been made from a good grade of banded flint, tan and light blue in color, and is not from the local sources.

F. This drill form has been observed to be a minor trait of the Nebo Hill complex. It is from 23JA35 in Jackson County. The material is a light blue-grey in color and comes from the local sources in Jackson County.

G. This drill has been reworked from a broad finely made lanceolate point which resembled a Sedalia type. The concave base of the tool has been ground and thinned. It occurred on the same Nebo Hill site from which the two Dalton points of Figure 2 were recovered. It was found in Clay County, 23CL14. The material is an excellent grade of white flint.

H and I. Two points or blanks are typical of many rough specimens found on the Nebo Hill sites. They show no re-touching. Both are from Clay County, Missouri 23CL13. The material is of the local chert and seems to be a rather poor grade. The color is light brown.

The three-quarter grooved axes and possibly the flat rectangular celts found on Nebo Hill sites have been the cause of some speculation and argument. It has been suggested that these ground and polished stone axes should not be in the inventory of a complex which has the dominant trait of lanceolate projectile points, but it appears to be significant that a specific type of three-quarter grooved ax is found on all Nebo Hill sites and is definitely present in one in particular where extremely few aberrant artifacts are found.

Mortars made of quartzite boulders occur on the sites of the Nebo Hill complex. Some of these boulders are of a conglomerate of pebbles but most are a fine or a coarse grit which ranges in color from pink to brown. The mortars are usually found in a damaged condition. Some are small flat specimens with a shallow saucer-like grinding surface; others are so bulky that they cause speculation as to how they were broken in a mealing operation. One such boulder, broken completely in two so that the inch and a half deep bowl-like grinding area is partly missing, is 9 inches thick, 13 inches across one way and 12 inches the other. This mortar, weighing over 100 pounds, had been carried to the site of the camp or a high hill. The mortars with small pits around the edges, which are quite numerous in Missouri, are not found in the Kansas City area. The people of the Nebo Hill complex were grinding other foodstuff than corn if they were living at the estimated time for the complex which is about 7,000 years ago. A tentative date for Nebo Hill has been suggested by comparison of the lanceolate points to known cultures which have similar type points and which have been given a date through radiocarbon assays. One date is 5,000 B.C. and is suggested because of the similarity of point style between the Nebo Hill and various ones of the commonly called Yuma types which have dates of 5,000 to 7,000 B.C. The Long site, 39FA65, has been dated from three samples which gave the following dates. One yielded the date from Area A at 7431 ± 500 B.C. Another date was from Area B and was $5,766 \pm 740$ B.C. Still another was $5,124 \pm 300$ B.C. El Jobo complex points may be as much as 14,000 B.C., but the date is tentative (Rouse and Cruxent, 1963).

The Nebo Hill point (Fig. 3,A) is the most typical of those from the Nebo Hill sites. The diagnostic type is readily recognizable. There is reason to believe that it is a local variant of a type that was used by a culture which extended from the High Plains to the Appalachians. The distinctive variations and types occurring across the country could have been caused by isolation or most likely by the quality of the flint available in the various areas where the people had found living conditions desirable. Nebo

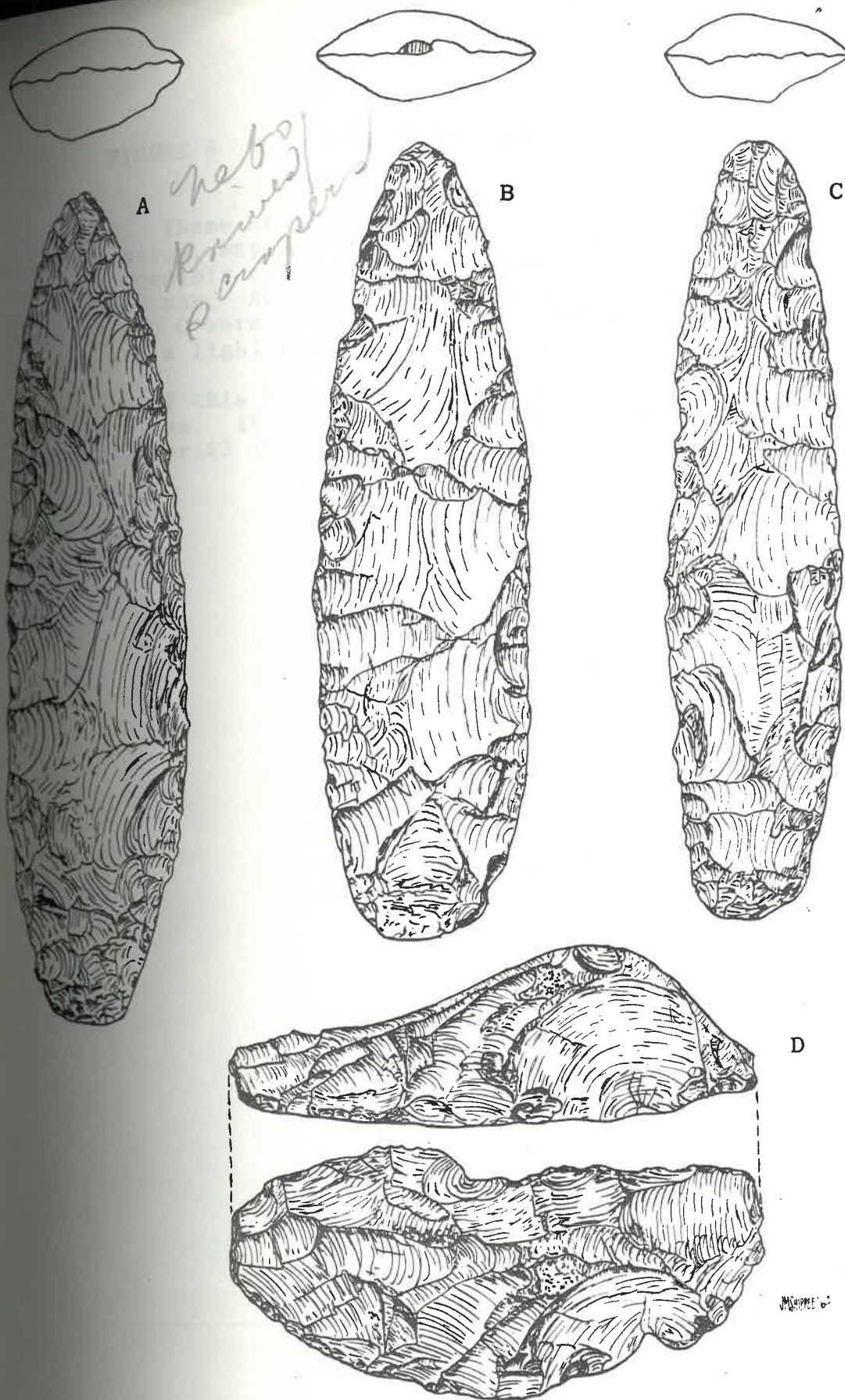


FIGURE 6

FIGURE 6 NEBO HILL KNIVES AND/OR SCRAPERS

A, B, and C. These artifacts, which are numerous on the Nebo Hill sites, may be blanks but many are so well made that they possibly could have been used as knives or in a scraping process. Artifact A occurred on Clay County site 23CL11; B and C were found on 23CL13. The chert material is local and a light tan in color.

D. Objects of this form do not occur except rarely on the Nebo Hill sites. It could have been used as a scraper. The chert material is a light tan and occurs locally.

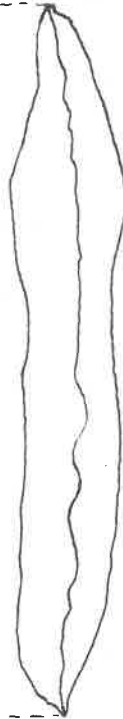


A

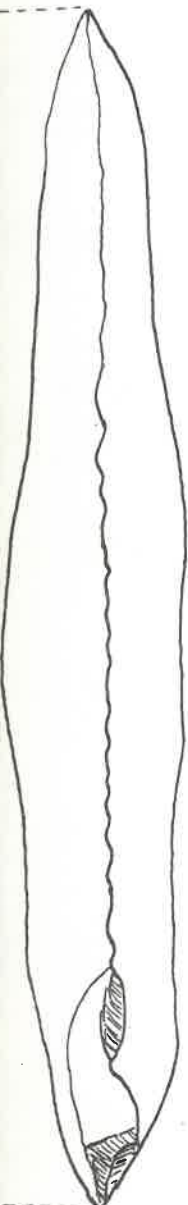
*Nebs
K. n. n.
ocspend*



B



C



D



JMSHIPPEE

FIGURE 7

FIGURE 7 NEBO HILL SCRAPERS AND BLADES

A. This is a flake of white flint that has been chipped along two sides. Examination of the flakes from Nebo Hill sites has produced no more of these tools. It may be a scraper. It was found in Clay County on site 23CL11.

B, C, and D. Three specimens show usage which has polished part of the blades. Digging could have caused this polish. The tools are fairly numerous on the sites of Nebo Hill material; B and D are from 23CL13 in Clay County and C is from 23CL11. All are light colored chert with brown inclusion.

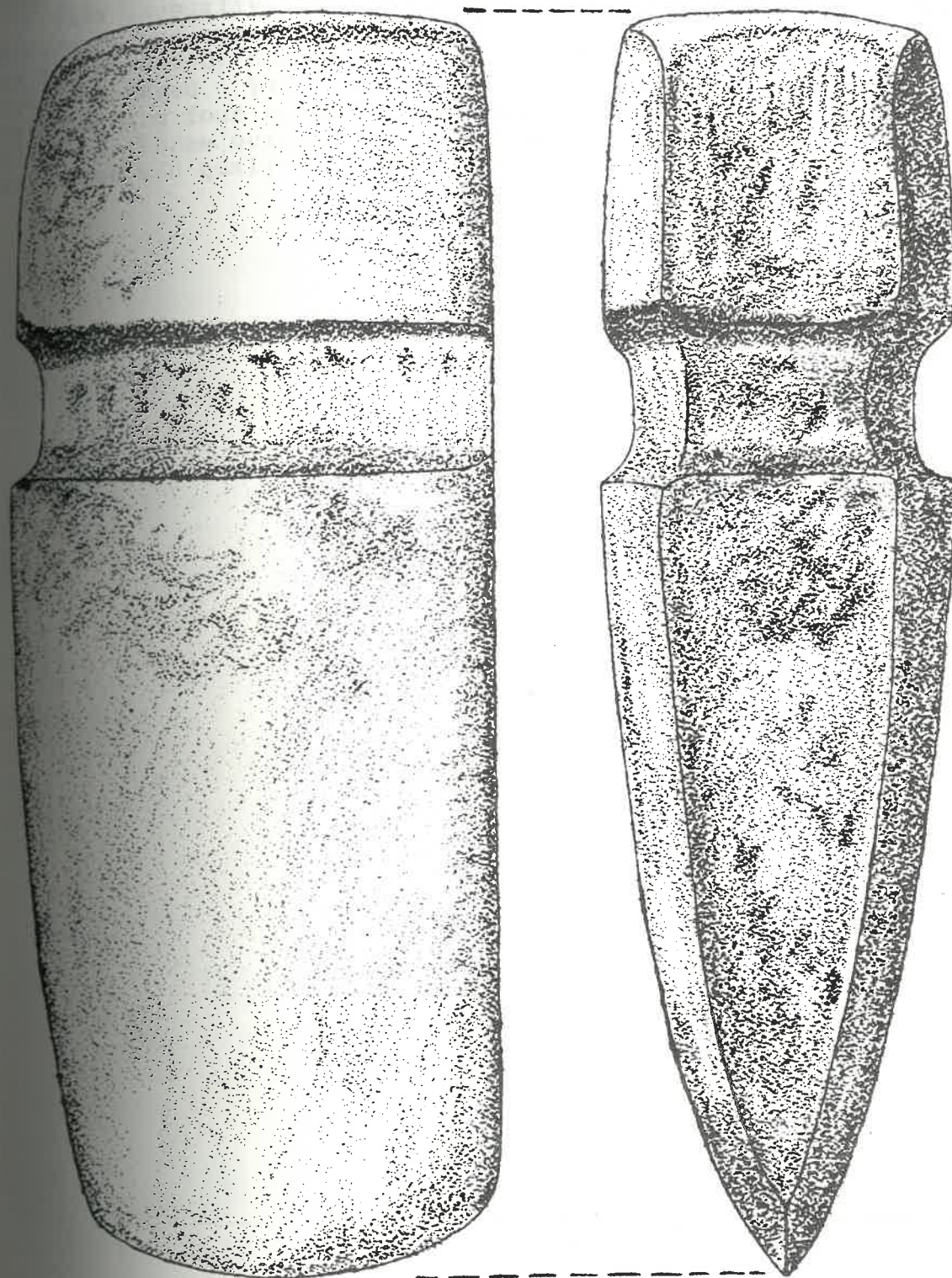


FIGURE 8

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FIGURE 8 THREE QUARTER GROOVED AX

This unusually large very well made three quarter grooved ax occurred on a Nebo Hill site, (23CL13). It was turned out by deep plowing and had never been previously damaged. The stone is a light grey-green diorite. The ax weighs four pounds. Axes from Nebo Hill sites are all of the three quarter grooved type but range through many sizes and quality of the workmanship.

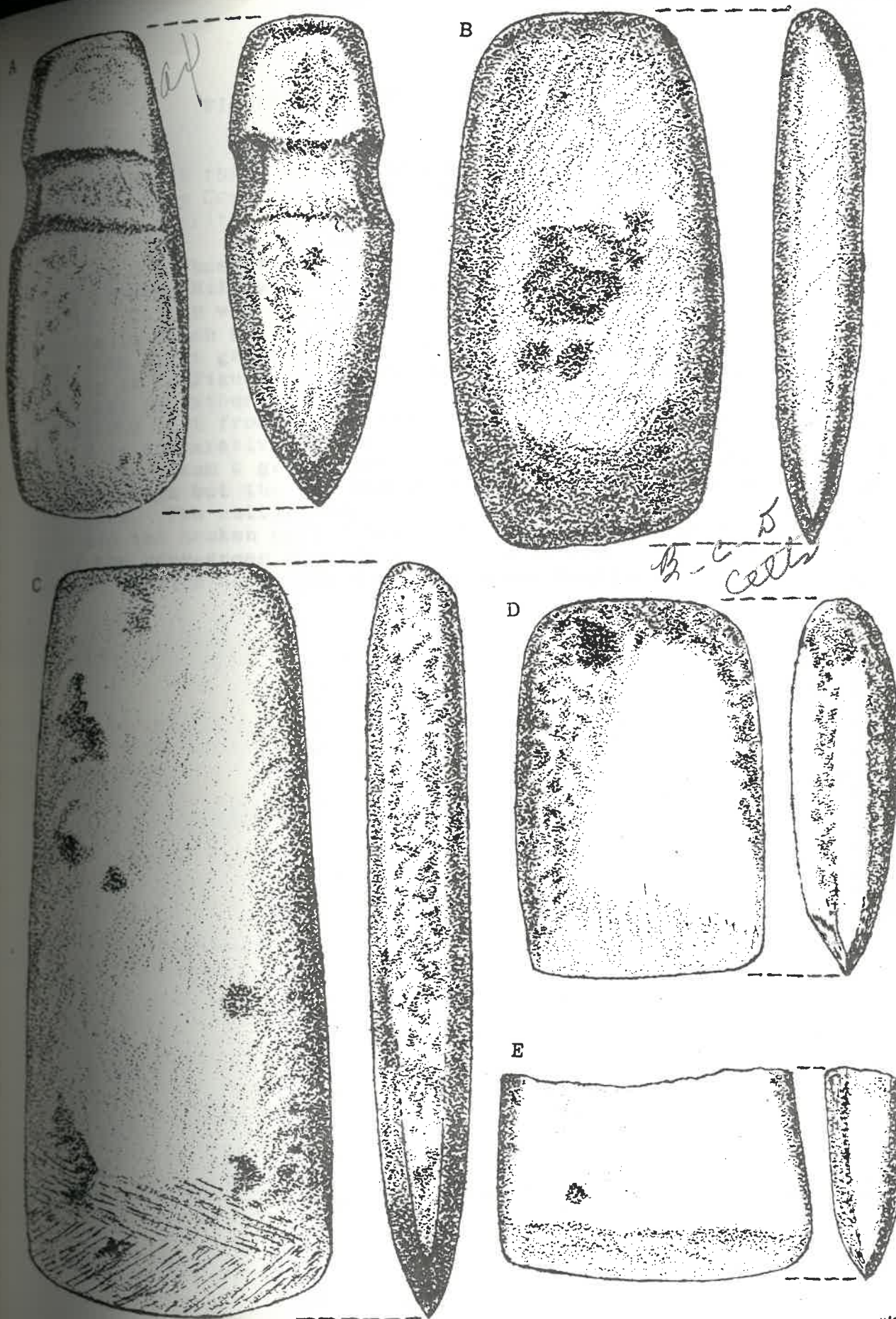
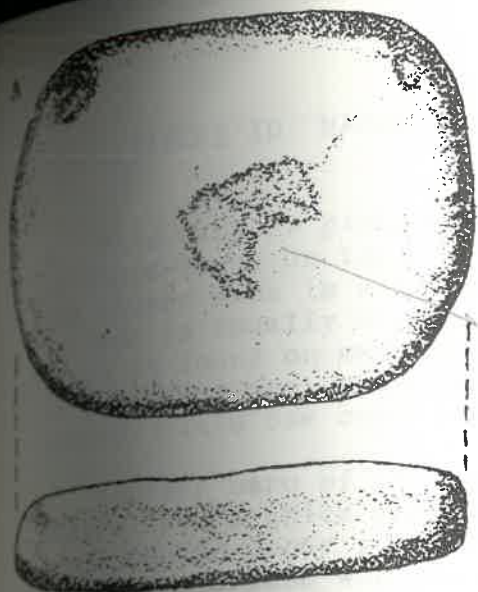


FIGURE 9

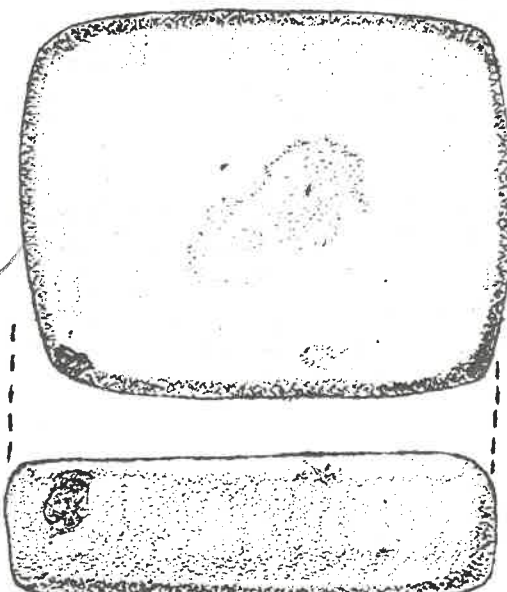
FIGURE 9 GROOVED AX AND CELTS

A. This small three quarter grooved ax came from site 23CL18 in Clay County. It is made of a coarse grade of grey-green diorite. The weight is one-half pound.

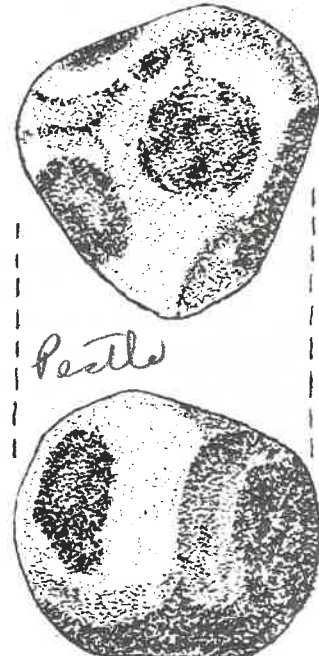
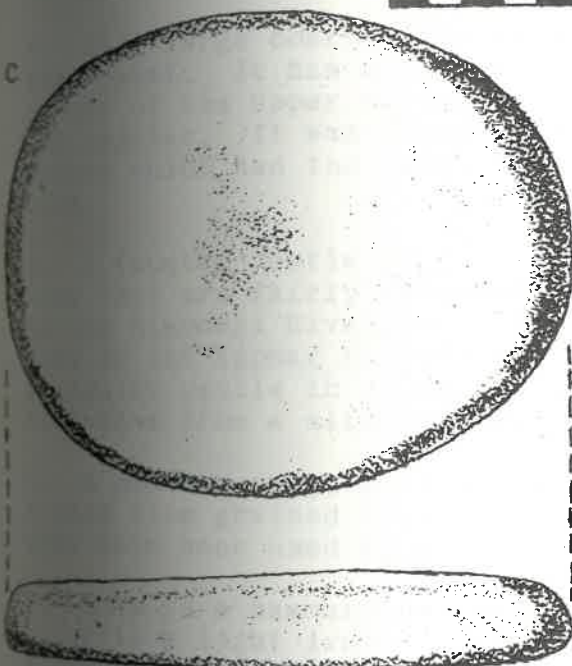
B, C, and D. These forms of the flat rectangular celts occur on Nebo Hill sites. Celts B and C are from site 23CL13. Celt B was made from a flat pebble of dark diorite in which shiny particles can be seen. Celt C was made from light grey-green diorite of the same quality as the big ax in Figure 8. It weighs one pound. The poll of this celt is rather rough but the bit for over an inch shows striations left from the abrader used to sharpen the tool. Celt D is comparatively thicker than most of the celts. It was made from a grey-green fine grained diorite. The poll is rough but the bit has been carefully resharpened and honed. The cutting edge is still fine and sharp. This celt and the broken celt E are from site 23CL11. Celt E is of the grey-green diorite which was obtained from the glacial moraine along the Missouri River Bluffs.



*mano
pit packed
in unused
hole
A-B-C*

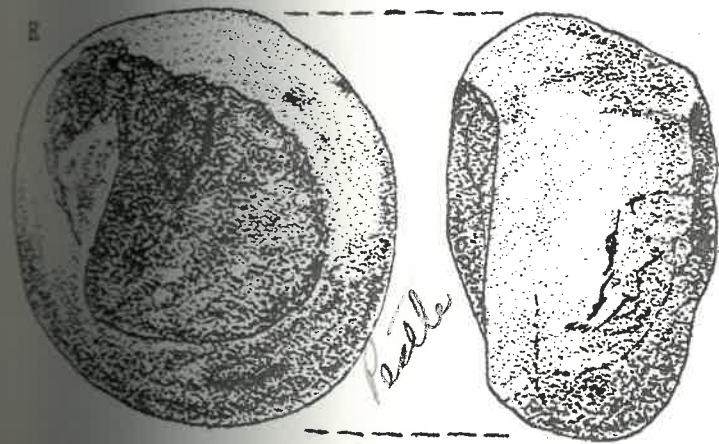


B



D

Pestle



Pestle



F

hammerstone

FIGURE 10

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FIGURE 10 MANOS, PESTLES, AND HAMMERSTONES

A. This mano of pink quartzite is characteristic of most of those found on the Nebo Hill sites. The pit pecked in the unused side is a feature of these tools. The grinding surface is usually smooth and shows none of the pecking which is found on many manos and metates in the west. Many of the manos are quite thick and some are rather roughly shaped. This one came from site 23CL13 in Clay County.

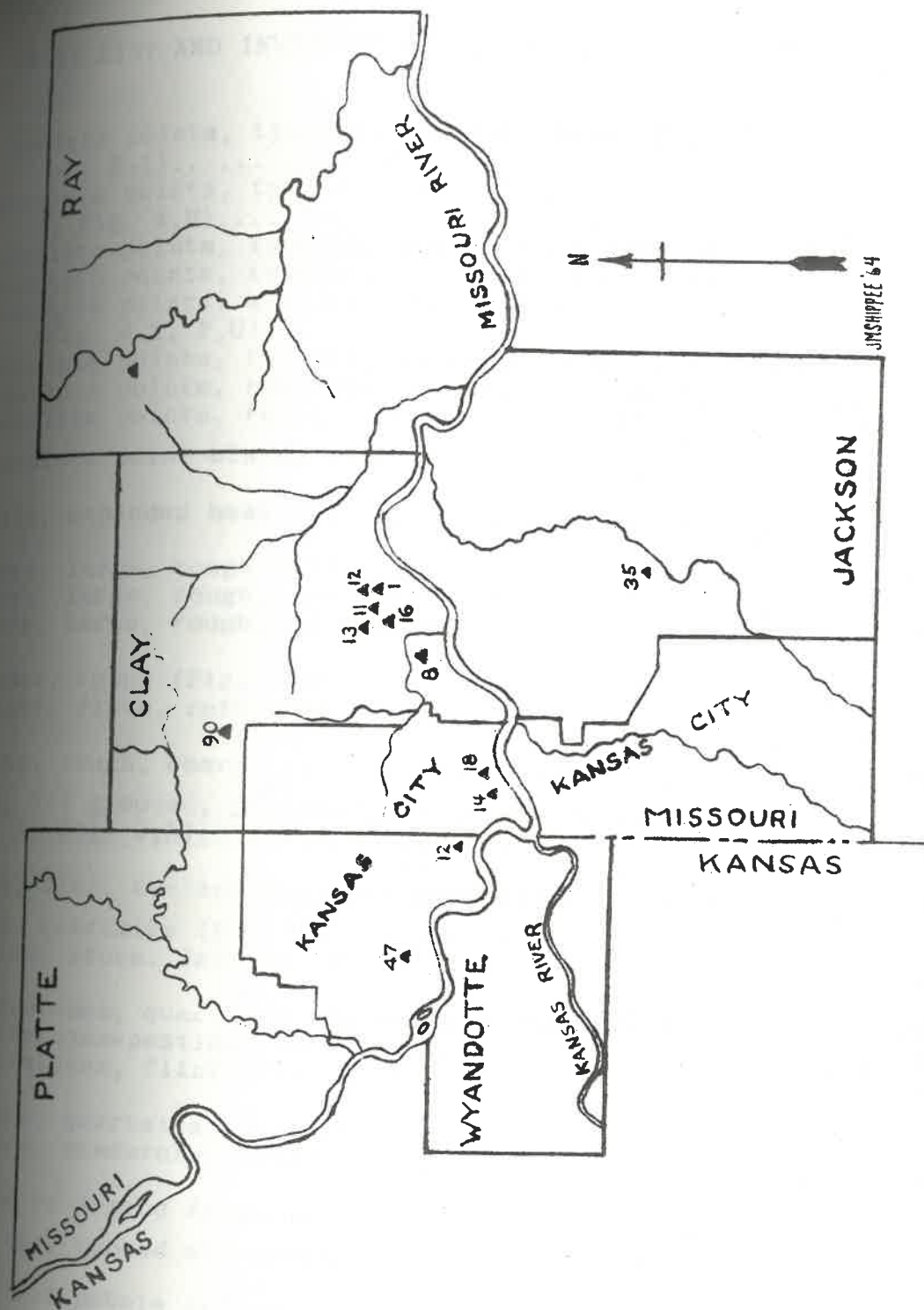
B. Another mano of pink quartzite has been carefully shaped into a thick rectangle. It has the suggestion of a pit on the upper surface; the grinding surface is nicely smoothed. Anyone who could make such a well finished mano could surely form the axes found on the same sites. It was found on 23CL90.

C. This large coarse grained quartzite mano is more oval than usual. It has a suggestion of a pecked area in the center of the upper surface. The grinding surface is grainy but regular. It was found on the surface of a site in Ray County which had the usual artifacts of the Nebo Hill complex.

D. A faceted pestle of fine grained quartzite is similar to ones that are fairly numerous on the Nebo Hill sites north of the Missouri River where the material was easily obtained. They do not appear to have been used as hammerstones but as a regular pestle in pulverizing foodstuff. This pink colored tool came from a site in Clay County, 23CL18.

E. A pestle, originally a creek pebble, has been made of a hard fine grained stone. The color is tan. This tool must have been used as a pestle and not as a hammer.

F. This is a hammerstone made from a piece of chert. The color is a light ivory. Both objects, E and F, were surface finds from site 23CL13.



MAP SHOWING NEBO HILL COMPLEX SITES
IN THE KANSAS CITY AREA.

FIGURE 11

TRAIT LIST AND INVENTORY OF THE NEBO HILL SITE 23CL13

NUMBER

Lanceolate points, typical, straight base (Fig. 3, A-D, F-I).....	38
Lanceolate points, typical, concave base (Fig. 3, E; Fig. 4,H).....	5
Lanceolate points, typical, convex base (Fig. 4, A,B).....	1
Lanceolate points, typical, double-pointed (Fig. 4,D).....	4
Lanceolate points, atypical, concave base and sides, thin (Fig. 4 E, F,G).....	1
Lanceolate points, typical, serrated (Fig. 4,I, J).....	1
Lanceolate points, reworked, drills (Fig. 5, B,C).....	7
Lanceolate points, resharpened (Fig. 5, A,E).....	1
Lanceolate point blanks (Fig. 5, H, I).....	19
Drills, expanded base.....	3
Blades, large, rough (Fig. 6, A-C).....	99
Blades, large, rough, use polish (Fig. 7, B-D).....	7
Blades, large, rough, no polish.....	19
Scraper, rough (Fig. 6,D).....	27
Scraper, flake, retouched (Fig. 7,A).....	3
Blanks, rough, chert.....	128
Axes, 3/4 grooved, polished, large and small (Fig. 8, A; Fig. 9,A).....	7
Celts, flat, rectangular, polished (Fig. 9, B-E).....	1
Manos, quartzite (Fig. 10, A-C).....	14
Pestles, stone, faceted (Fig. 10, D,E).....	27
Hammerstones, quartzite and creek pebbles (Fig. 10, F).....	20
Hammerstones-pestles, combination.....	2
Hammerstones, flint (Fig. 10,F).....	4
Mortars, quartzite, fragments.....	1
Mortars, sandstone, fragments.....	4
Scoria or pumice fragment.....	1
Hematite, rubbed and scratched.....	8
Chert and pebble refuse of a workshop.....	3
Bone scrap, mineralized.....	3
Campsite location on high ground, near small prairie	
Clovis point.....	1
Starved Rock point.....	2

Hill sites in Missouri are quite often adjacent to or actually on the prairies

Scattered across the state of Missouri, are lanceolate point types with variations which seemingly could have been the result of the flaking quality of flint available near the habitational areas of the people. Flint beds in eastern Missouri are the source of some exceptionally fine material and many projectile points from there are of a form and workmanship that collectors delight in. In western Missouri where the flint available is only mediocre, the quality of the finished points is quite variable and this has been observed in the artifacts from sites separated by a few miles or by the Missouri River (Shippee, 1962). Chert from the outcrops north of the river is of a different color than that to the south and the artifacts inspected from the south side are inferior. The inventory of artifacts from the various Nebo Hill sites is quite uniform except where distinctive artifacts of later cultures are represented on some sites. One site in Clay County is of a single component and the trait list of that site can be used as typical for the Nebo Hill complex. Figures 3 to 7 show the artifacts which distinguish the complex in the Kansas City area.

AREAL DISTRIBUTION OF THE NEBO HILL COMPLEX

The greatest concentration of Nebo Hill complex sites seems to be in Platte, Clay, Ray and Jackson Counties (Fig. 11), but to the north and east there has been a sufficient amount of the typical material recovered to include a much greater area as the habitat of the people. For some unexplainable reason, the area west of the Missouri River in Kansas has not produced any appreciable number of the Nebo Hill artifacts.

Concentrations of other distinctive points in various areas of Missouri may indicate that groups of semi-nomadic people settled in the area for a considerable length of time, apparently content to stay in an environment which fitted their immediate needs. The region must have been rich in game and natural foods which are still present in quantity. The large prairies could have supported many buffalo, elk, antelope and deer as well as nuts, fruits, tubers, and small game. Such plentiful supply of food would have seemed like a Garden of Eden to people used to "scrounging" for their existence.

There seems to have been a difference in tool type needs between the Nebo Hill people and the Sedalia Focus people seventy miles away to the southeast near Sedalia, Missouri. The complexes may have been contemporaneous, but there is evidence of differences in their economies. The Nebo Hill people seem to have been occupied a great deal in

the grinding of foodstuffs and the Sedalia people in the dressing of hides. The Nebo Hill people had many grinding implements while the Sedalia people had numerous large scrapers and gouges. The projectile points of the two are distinctive in style and generally in the quality of the flint that was used. In the counties near Kansas City, the Nebo Hill camps are located in areas where there is a balance of forest, prairie and large streams. Sedalia is in an area of vast high prairies and relatively smaller creeks. If it is supposed that these were semi-nomadic people who found Missouri a relatively easy place to gain the necessities of life, then it seems plausible that they settled down to a more leisurely way of life which would have resulted in innovations in projectile point forms, in knives, scrapers and ornaments. Perhaps more elaborate ceremonies and adequate shelters were evolved. At present most interpretation must remain conjecture until it is possible to conduct large-scale researches on the Nebo Hill and Sedalia Focus sites.

EVIDENCES OF THE ARCHAIC PERIOD

Projectile points or blades, thought to be of the preceramic periods and which have been found in the Kansas City area, have been traced in the figures from number 12 to 16. The huge blades are found on rare occasions where a plow has turned them out of a highland field. They are usually away from the site of any camps or villages. Those that Curtiss (Putnam, 1880) found in a mound on Wolfden Ridge at the Clay-Platte County line are an exception and a real mystery. The specimens reported upon were found under circumstances that would indicate they had been cached. The specimen in the Archer collection (Fig. 12,C) came from a cache of more than ten that were plowed out of a hilltop barnyard which was leveled many years ago. The huge specimen (Fig. 14,A) and its companion (Fig. 14,B) were plowed out of a high site and appeared to have been in the same cache. The others traced in the figures are in collections and their provenance seems lost.

The entire surface of the blades has a semi-polish that may indicate long use in ceremonial proceedings. The flaking is usually of a primary type and really quite rough. The chert of which they are made is most often of a pink or rose color and has been observed in artifacts from the Lamine River area of central Missouri.

Large blades of this pattern, but of far finer finish, have been found near St. Louis and also in sites of the Old Copper culture of the Great Lakes region. Quimby (1959) dates the Old Copper culture from 3,000 B.C. to 1,000 B.C. Two dates from the charcoal recovered from Curtiss mound, which was leveled in 1955, are A.D. 305 and A.D. 455 (Griffin letter,

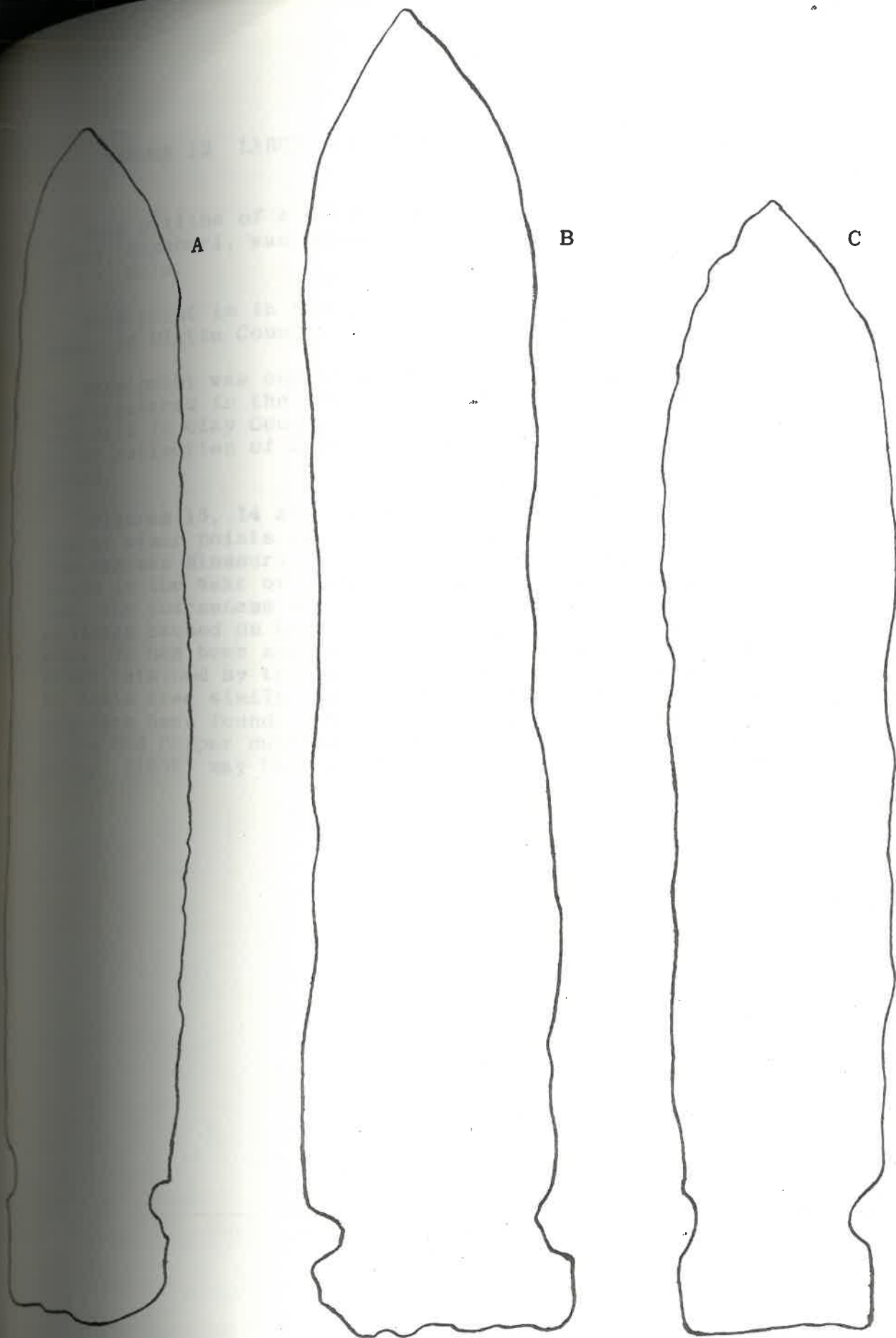


FIGURE 12

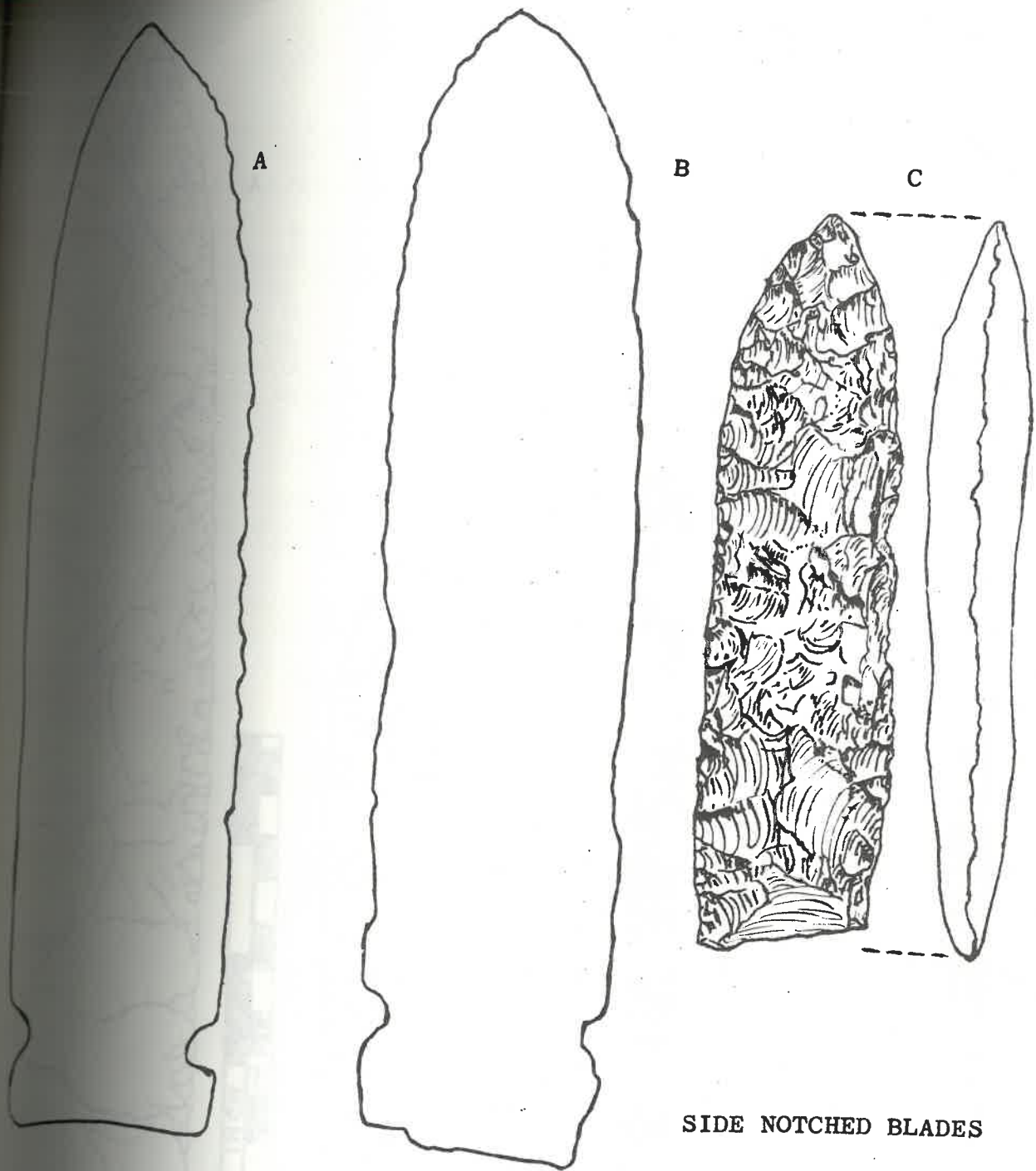
FIGURE 12 LARGE SIDE NOTCHED PROJECTILE POINTS

A. This outline of a large side notched point from Livingston County, Missouri, was brought to the Missouri State Fair by J.W. Cole.

B. This point is in the collection of Dr. R.G. Felling of Weston in Platte County, Missouri.

C. This point was one of a cache of more than ten which were uncovered in the grading of a barnyard located on a high hill in Clay County, Missouri. It is in the Edgar Archer collection of Liberty, Missouri. The site is 23CL32.

Figures 13, 14 and 15 have the tracings of the outline of other points of this type which have been recorded from western Missouri. Characteristic of all these huge points is the wear or partial smoothing that all seem to have, the coarseness of the flaking and their provenance as though cached on high hills away from a camp or village site. It has been suggested that they were a ceremonial object retained by tribes over a long period of time. In the St. Louis area similar points but of far finer craftsmanship have been found. They resemble the side notched points of the Old Copper culture (Wittry 1956) which according to Quimby (1959) may have existed from 3,000 B.C. to 1,000 B.C.

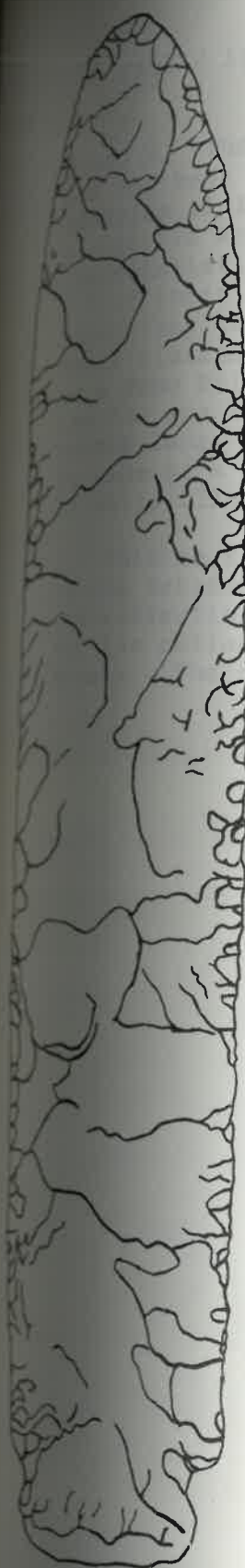


SIDE NOTCHED BLADES

A. and B. These points are in the Paxton collection which is at the Nelson Gallery of Art in Kansas City. Both are said to have come from the Vail farm in Jackson County, Missouri.

C. This point has only suggestions of side notches but otherwise is similar to the large blades traced here. It occurred on site 23CL12 in Clay County Missouri. This site is a Nebo Hill complex site.

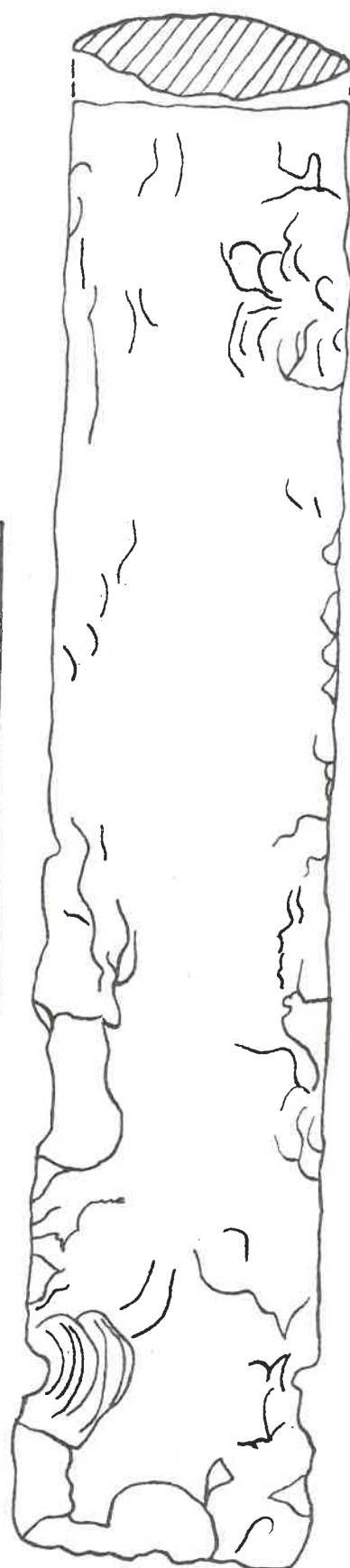
FIGURE 13



A



B



C

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FIGURE 14

FIGURE 14 SIDE NOTCHED PROJECTILE POINTS OR BLADES

A and B. These blades were plowed out of a highland field and had been evidently cached together. Both are fine examples of the type and in spite of the coarse flaking are attractive artifacts. They bear the smoothing that is characteristic. Points A and B are here outlined about $\frac{2}{3}$ of their actual length (note the scale). The site from which they came is northwest of Parkville, Missouri. A short distance from this site but on the same ridge, there is a Nebo Hill site. To date, there is no indication that the two are associated in time. The larger point is $12 \frac{1}{2}$ inches long, the shorter one is $7 \frac{5}{8}$ inches long. Point A is made of a flint that is rose colored. Point B is made of white flint.

C. This is the tracing of a broken point which was given to the Nebraska State Historical Society with the Zimmerman collection. It may have come from northeast Kansas for the collection came from White Cloud in Doniphan, Kansas. The color of the flint is a pale rose.

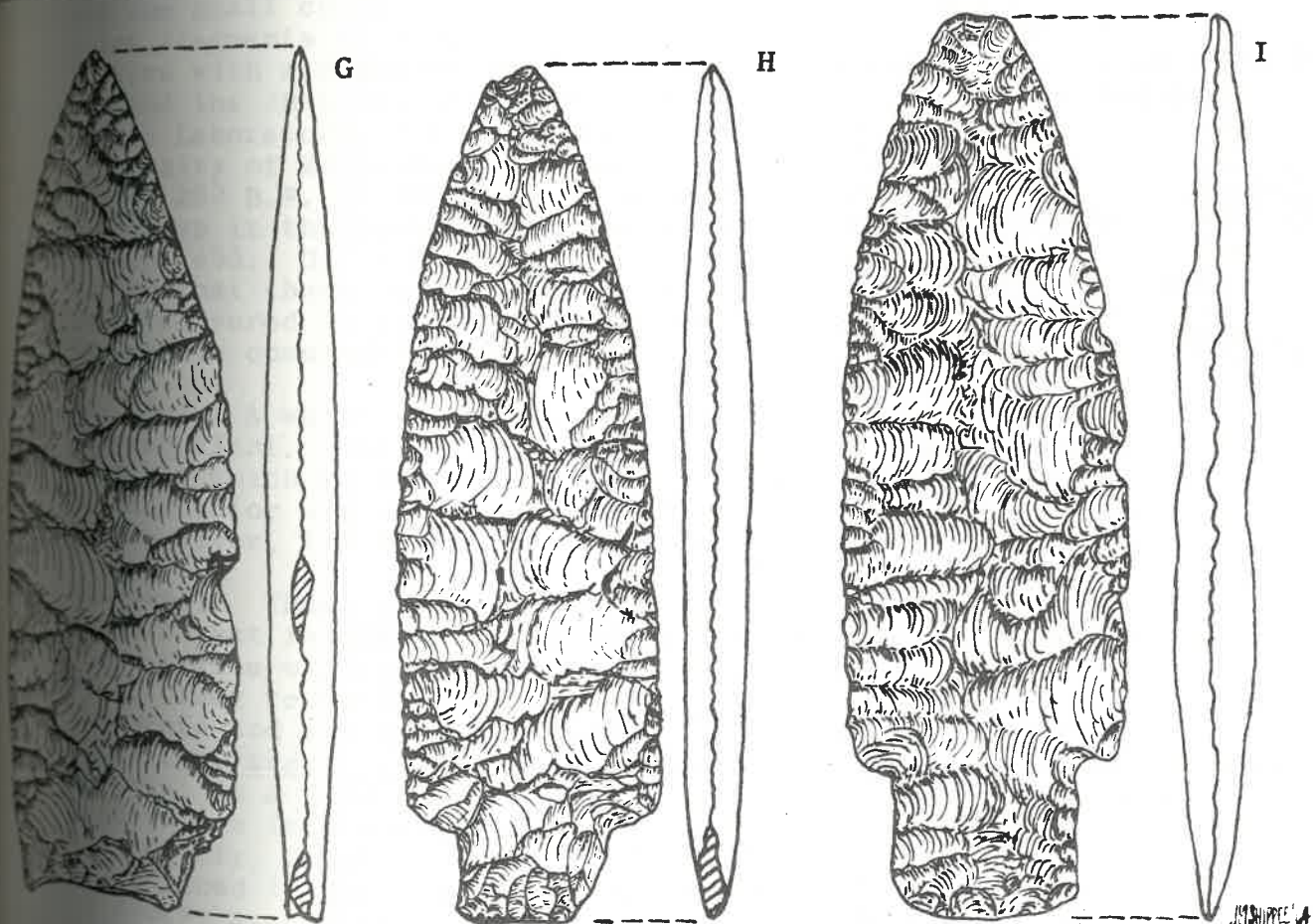
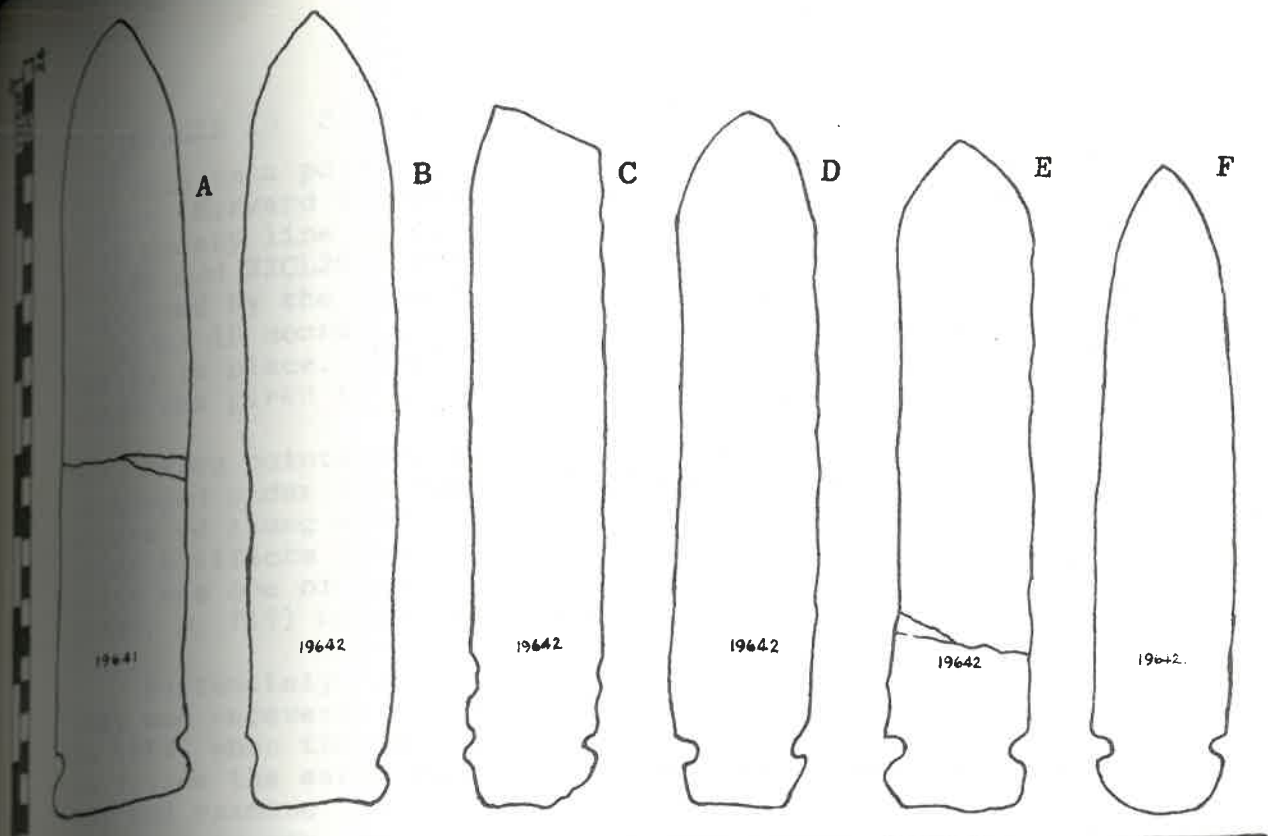


FIGURE 15

FIGURE 15 SIDE NOTCHED AND STEMMED PROJECTILE POINTS

A. This is a point obtained by Edwin Curtiss of Peabody Museum, Harvard University, from Wolfden Ridge at the Platte-Clay County line in 1879. This site is now recorded as 23PL29 and 23CL29. The site has been almost completely destroyed by the construction of houses and only one of the original 18 mounds that were located along the ridge is partly in place. The point A has the catalog number 19641 which was given by the Museum in 1880.

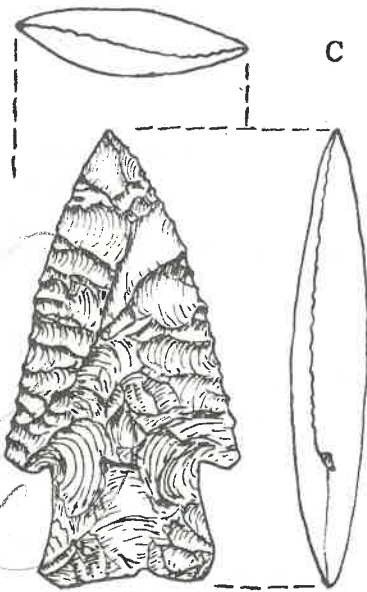
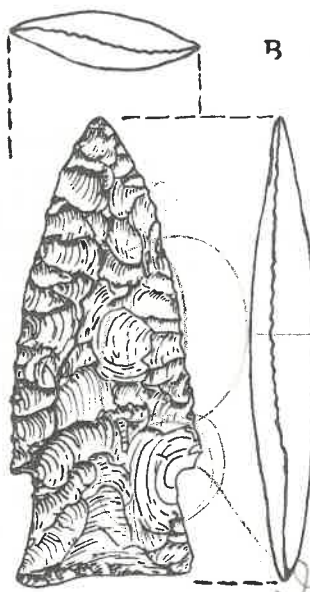
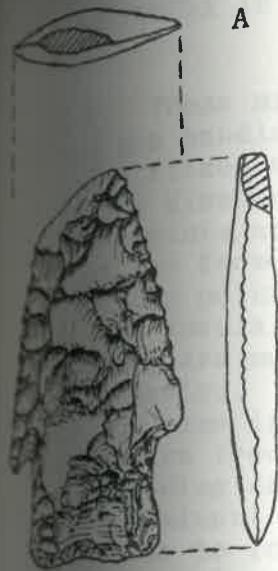
B-F. Five points traced in less than half size are all cataloged under the number 19642 and are said to have been excavated along with extended burials, pottery and several other artifacts from an unusually long narrow "barrow" which was one of the mounds located on the ridge. Putnam (1880, p. 717) calls them daggers.

Fortunately, there are radiocarbon dates for charcoal that was recovered by the writer from this long narrow barrow in 1955, when the land was being leveled. The procedure was to follow the earth moving machinery after each six inch cut and examine the new cut for signs of diagnostic remains. Needless to say, very little was observed other than charcoal and one small concentration of limestones associated with a few fragments of human bones. At the base of the mound an area with a diameter of 7 feet was found which was burned red and the charcoal from this feature was dated by the Radiocarbon Laboratory, Michigan-Memorial-Phoenix Project, University of Michigan. The date was for sample M400---- 1650 $\pm$ 250 B.P. or 305 A.D. A sample of charcoal from higher up in the mound fill gave a date of 1500 $\pm$ 250 B.P. or A.D. 455. Dr. J.B. Griffin (letter Sept. 13, 1956) stated that these dates probably were not the time for the daggers recovered in the mounds; he considers them to be of an Archaic complex.

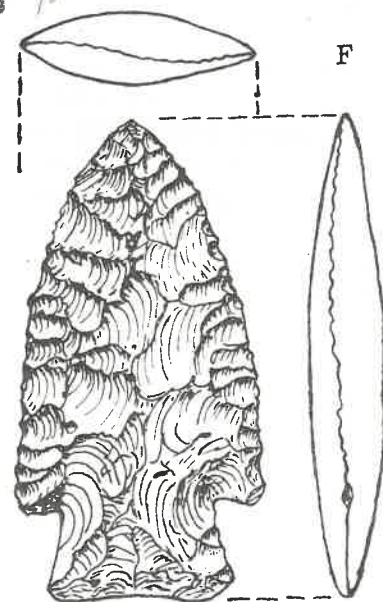
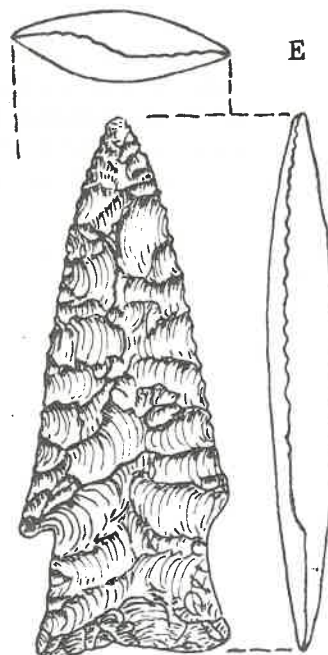
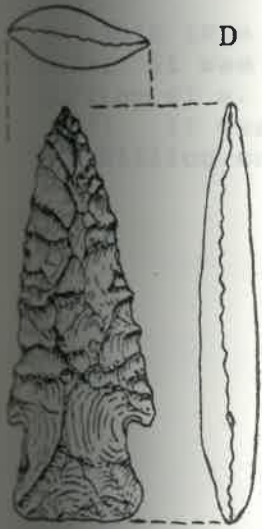
Point A which is ten inches long, was made of a rose colored flint. The other points are made of the same quality of flint which is not obtainable in this area. Artifacts of this color and quality of flint are obtainable along the Lamine River, 100 miles east of Kansas City.

G, H and I. These points are of a type and fineness of workmanship that is most unusual in this area. The flaking produced a fine straight point which immediately attracts attention. They resemble Scottsbluff points of one type but seem too broad and the basal shoulders are too broad. It is estimated that they belong in the Middle Archaic period. The material is a good grade of chert which in these three specimens varies from white to tan. Point G is from 23CL11 in Clay County, Point H is from 23CL49 in Clay County. Point I was noticed in the collection of the State Historical Society of Nebraska. It was found in Cass County, Nebraska. They are here traced full size. The base of point G is broken.

Harden



*flake
to
form
the
body*



JM SHIPPEE '64

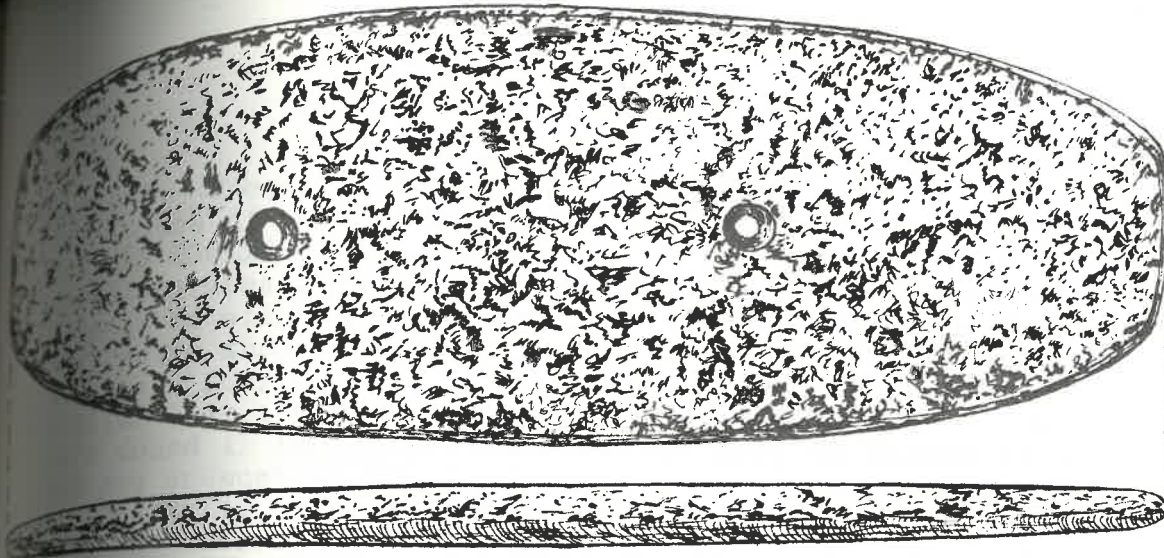


FIGURE 16

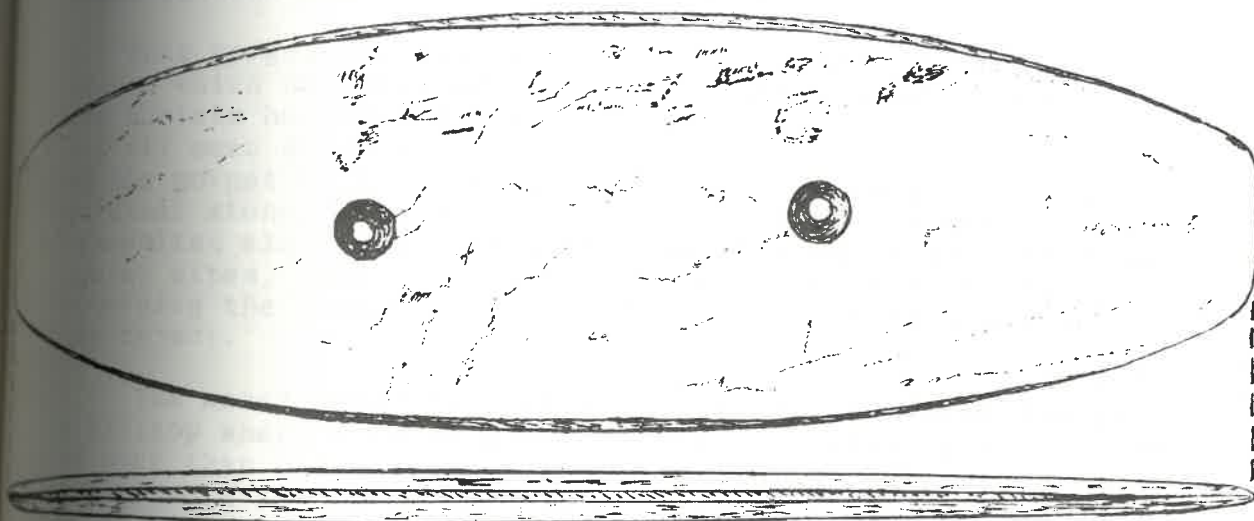
FIGURE 16 HARDIN POINTS AND A BASAL NOTCHED POINT

A-F. These six handsome points will be recognized by anyone who has handled the type. They are a strong point, beautifully flaked of attractive material and are strongly beveled. In the Missouri Archaeological Society Newsletter 176, p. 8, four points are traced and are called "Hardin" points. They are from southeast Missouri and seem to be very much like the points sketched here. Hardin points illustrated in the Special Bulletin No. 2 of the Oklahoma Anthropological Society are much larger than the Kansas City types and are not beveled. Basal thinning and grinding along the sides of the base is not apparent on the Kansas City specimens, which are from Clay and Platte Counties. One of the most outstanding characteristics noticed on the specimens is the prominent flake scar that courses diagonally upward from the base to form the short barbs. Other diagonal flake scars supplement the larger scar on the stem. These points have been estimated to belong in Archaic times from 500 B.C. to 2,000 B.C.

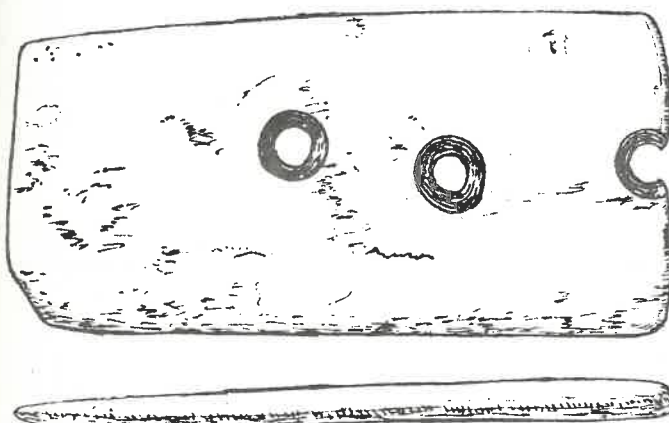
G. This is a basal notched point, rare in the area of Kansas City. It was excavated at a depth of 32 inches from the surface of an earth mound on the Avondale Bluffs (Shippee, 1953). It was below the burials and 13 inches below the old hilltop surface on which the mound had been built.



A



B



C

JASHPICE '64

FIGURE 17

FIGURE 17 BAR GORGETS

A and B. These two fine gorgets were excavated within a few inches of each other in the occupational and burial area on site 23CL23 on Avondale Bluff. They were in the immediate area of the red ochre burials but were not directly associated with a burial. Gorget A is of stone mottled in dull white and dark grey. Gorget B is of a grey-green diorite. Four gorgets of this stone and pattern are so similar that they may be the work of one artisan. They were found in the Clay-Platte County area of Kansas City, and are unusual in the general region. These seem to be exceptionally fine specimens when compared with those that have been illustrated in recent publications throughout the central states. They have been included in the archaic materials arbitrarily, for they seem to belong with complexes which specialized more in fine stone work than in ceramics.

C. This gorget was excavated from among the rubble lime-stones which had covered a mound, in the center of which, two burials had been placed. The stones and this gorget had all been subjected to fire which had altered the color of the gorget to a light rust from the dull white of the original stone. The ornament is of a translucent material, resembling alabaster. Like many gorgets which are found in Indian sites, this one had been broken and repaired by smoothing the broken end and drilling a hole to suspend the object.

The mound from which this gorget was recovered was on a hilltop where a large area had been the site of occupation of more than one culture. Nebo Hill points were found there and so were points of much later cultures. Gorgets of this type have been reported from Hopewell sites in Illinois but not in western Missouri. The mound at site 23JA24 in eastern Jackson County, Missouri, had been vandalized and the central burials removed. With the aid of members of the Kansas City Archaeological Society the rest of the mound was excavated properly but with minimal results.

September 13, 1956).

Points in Figure 15, G, H, and I, are strangers in this area and are splendid examples of the Indians' ability in the flaking of flint into artifacts they needed.

Points in Figure 16, A-F, are of unknown cultural affiliation and date but their occurrence on high sites seems to place them in the categories of the early types.

Point G in Figure 16 is fairly numerous a hundred miles to the east of Kansas City and beyond, but this is the only one available which has come from a local site.

SIGNIFICANCE OF THE HIGHLAND SITES

The occurrence of early points on highland sites follows the pattern noticed in other areas. Wendorf (1962, p. 166) found that Early Man on the High Plains camped on high ground where he could survey the countryside for game. These early people were big-game hunters in their high plains environment and in the Missouri area they may have continued to choose the high camp sites as being more desirable than the brush-covered lowlands with the restricted range of vision. People of the Woodland and Middle Mississippi cultures lived on the terraces of the rivers and creeks but these early hunters may have found, as did the white pioneers, that an upland site was a healthier place to live than the bottom land. The volume of water in the Missouri River valley may have been a deterrent to lowland camps in very early times following the retreat of the glaciers.

How long did it take for the timber and brush to mantle the hills and valleys after the retreat of the glaciers and after the wind had practically ceased to form the great deposits of loess along the Missouri River? What species of trees were the vanguard of this forestation? Did grass precede the trees? Pollen analysis should answer some of these questions. The information is vital in the study of prehistory.

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