

SALVAGE DIG - FRANK BLACK FARM - RUSHVILLE, MO.

8-15-82

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Mileage on leaving museum	12,872	Don Reynolds - Museum
Mileage on arrival	12,894	Mike Fisher - St. Joseph Arch. Soc.
Mileage on return	12,916	Jerry Lyon - student

Number One Burial

Started on west burial first. Flexed. Head to eastward. Buried laying on left side. Head turned upward and somewhat backward. Top of burial just at plow depth

line (6" or 7"). Plow had cut front of skull off and turned it out on the surface to be discovered by Mr. Black. The remainder of the skeleton, less part of the skull, was based out. No artifacts. Some chips. Bones in an advanced state of decomposition. Smaller bones completely deteriorated. Not measurable.

Mr. Black told us that his farm and sites have a site number. 23BN12 (Michael Reagan) Our burial location is #3 site of 23BN12.

Number two burial. (40' east of #1)

Bones broken and fragmented. Somewhat less deteriorated than burial #1. Not articulated. Mixed with burned limestone. A pelvis near bottom of this disturbed burial. Possibly female. One shank portion of a small white calcedony point (woodland type?) near bottom, (or possibly below) bone and stone deposit. Except for this one partial point in the east burial no artifacts were found in close proximity to either burial. It is assumed that this #2 burial has been previously dug into. Beneath this #2 burial and stones yet another pelvis (partial) was found when the first burial bones and mixed stone were removed.

We questioned why, after 30 some years of cultivation over the burial area, that now two burials should be plowed into. Mr. Black said that 4 or 5 years ago he had bulldozed soil from the top of the hill area to make a pond just to the south nearby. Natural wind and water erosion has since lowered the surface still more. It is likely that even more burials will be plowed into in the next few years. Burned limestone has in past years been plowed out at several other points near the presently excavated burials. Such fire reddened limestone fragments are to be found scattered over the surface of the hilltop area. No charcoal was found with either burial.

It should be noted that Mr. Black dug eight Copper Culture blades and eight large chert blanks from a hilltop cache (Site #2 of 23BN12) about 200 yards to the north of our present excavation. The blades and blanks were beneath 8 hematite pieces and at a depth of plow line to 36". This was of particular interest since we have in recent years learned of several such Copper Culture spear caches in our area, all of which have been found without associated cultural material or skeletal remains. A possible exception could be the Highway 29 salvage dig near Fairfax, Mo. (Site # 23AT21. See St. Joseph Museum report) at which place large side-notched blades were found very near burials by highway construction workers operating earth moving machines building Interstate 29 highway. These side-notched Copper Culture points were not, however, proven to be in direct contact with the burials since they were picked up some distance away in fill dirt removed from the burial area. A bison horn core found at this site with skeletal remains was identified by James M. Shippee as from a bison antiquus. See report on Rock Creek Site, Atchison County (23AT21).

After photography all bones at the Black farm sites #1 and #2 were removed and the soil beneath probed.

Mr. Black, a few days later dug further to the south from the #2 burial and found several vertebrae but no skull.

8-25-82

Mr. Black came to the Pony Express Museum and brought a projectile point that he found "four or five feet to the west" of where the other partial point was found (#2 burial). It was not in close proximity with any of the burial bones.

In consulting Bell's Identification of American Indian Projectile Points, Bulletin #1, page 43, see plate 21, the MARCOS TYPE point illustrated there corresponds in shape and size to the point that Mr. Black brought in. The before mentioned

partial point found with the #2 (east) burial could also be of this same type. The estimated age according to Bell is approximately 2000 B.C. up to 1000 A.D. The distribution range is described as follows:

"In Texas the type is found approximately from the lower Pecos River Valley across Central Texas to the Middle Brazos River. Also it is found from the Upper Brazos area southward to the central coast (Suhm and Krieger, 1954). The type occurs in Oklahoma, particularly in the eastern section of the state."

8-31-82

Phone call from Mr. Black to Don Reynolds. He has now probed in the area of the recently dug burials and has located an area of resistance with some stone about $2\frac{1}{2}' \times 3\frac{1}{2}'$ in size and 21" to 24" beneath the surface. This area he describes as 16' south of the west burial #1. He questions if it should be dug. Said he would dig down and uncover it and then call us. I told him that we should not dig at this time. From his description it could very likely be another burial. It would not be considered a salvage operation. I told him that Dr. Pat O'Brien might be interested. (She knows the site and has been there and has an interest in it. She was there once with some students.)

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Contacted Mike Fisher. He is of the same opinion. The stone area is below plow zone and for the time being safe. Mike will call Black to help back up what I told him. The St. Joseph Museum will not undertake to excavate. To salvage - possibly - if need is immediately necessary to save information that would otherwise be lost or destroyed.

Will notify Mr. Black. He can contact Dr. O'Brien if he wishes.

Frank Black, Rushville, Mo. Phone 688-7978

9-1-82 Called Mr. Black. Explained as above. Offered assistance if O'Brien should decide sometime to dig.

35mm slides were taken for use with this report and along with this writing will be available at the St. Joseph Museum for study.

9-13-82

4:55 P.M. Frank Black called. In spite of what we told him about not digging the burial that he discovered (see above) he phoned to say that he had dug down, found stone covering and dug to one side, then beneath it to discover two teeth that he believes to be human. He wanted someone to come down and look at it. I told him that I could not, that we at the museum could not initiate a dig and that he better cover it until such time that it could be properly excavated. He said that he had not been able to contact Pat O'Brien as yet. He said maybe he could get Mike Fisher to come down.

8:30 P.M. Call from Mike Fisher. Black had called him. Same information. He (Mike) like myself is somewhat chagrined but will go down to look at what Black has uncovered so far. He will, he said, try to further discourage him from digging anymore.

9-14-82

9:00 A.M. Frank Black came to the Pony Express Museum and brought several teeth that he dug from the edge of the last (#3) burial. He also had burned pieces of soil and chert chips from the same area. He said that he had not located the main part of the skull - only the teeth which had bone material attached. He told me that he would dig no more.

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8:30 P.M. Mike Fisher called. He had gotten through to Pat O'Brien. She is too busy and too far away to be of any help at this time. She will call another archaeologist in Kansas City that she thinks might be interested since he majored in the archaic period.- Pat Grosser. Grosser will contact Al Johnson, Director of Anthropology at Kansas University for student help. Mike had gone down to Black's. He also discouraged him from digging further.

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The survey collected :

- 1 large flat celt
- 1 base and side notched triangular point
- 1 plano convex scraper
- 1 rim with diagonal impressions on the lip, brushed body.
- 1 Nebo Hill point
- 1 quartzite mano
- 1 " hammerstone
- 1 chert hammer stone
- 1 Hopewell rim with crosshatching
- 15 plain sherds, 8 cordroughened sherds

23PL44, platte Co. Mo.

Located 2 miles SE of Armour, Mo.

North edge NE $\frac{1}{4}$, SEC 2, T54N, R37W. Rushville, Mo, Quadrangle.

Material collected:

- 1 slightly braced rim with outer lip decorated with punctates.
- 1 plain rim, slightly flaring.
- 2 small body sherds, 1 shell temper, 1 grit temper.
- 1 large, broad, sidenotched point (Woodland or Hopewell)
- 1 limp of wattle

This site has Nebraska Aspect, Middle Mississippi and Hopewell sherds on it. The first two probably were contemporaneous but the Hopewell must have preceded the others by ~~1000~~ 700 years, unless the Hopewell-like material is from a late Woodland complex. This site has produced numerous braced rims of the true Nebraska Aspect and there is a likelihood that Middle Mississippi and Nebraska Aspect were here on the site at the same time for according to MR. Aker he has dug up the pottery of the two where the it was mixed together with burials in a cemetery which he has been plundering.

