

April 8, 1994

Mr. Jim Feagins
13213 Bohnington Ave.
Grandview, Mo. 64030

Dear Jim,

Inclosed please find Zerox copies of some of the past articles re King Hill that were published in the Museum Graphic.

I think that I mentioned that Mett may have written on the "bowguards" that were found on Vassar St. I guess that I was wrong. In thumbing through my bound copies I find two photographs of the bowguards. One, (Vol. XIII, No. 4 in Fall, 1961 issue) is with Mett and I and the so-called bowguards. Off the top of my bald head I was thinking that he did mention them but it seems that he did not. Other things that he did mention, however, may be of some interest to you.

Later, (Vol. XXL No. 3, Summer 1969 issue) is a King Hill article that I put together that shows the bowguards again. It is a better photo of them and does show them in close proximity to the arm bones in the burial. Waldo Wedel's comment is of interest.

The first 23BN1 dig seems to have been conducted in 1966 & 7 so far as I can determine from the Museum Graphics. The later and further 23BN1 dig with water screening, must have been in 1972 since I find in our personal photo album a dated snap shot with that date on it. The scene is on our own back porch with Mike Rupert and his gang and Mike and Marge Fisher and the Reynold-z-z eating T-bone steaks. (Wow! Can't afford those any more) That would date the Nebraska gang's dig, I think. It is sort of hard for bald heads to keep all of that straight after a couple of decades. Especially when for one of those decades little thought has been given to it. Well, so much for Don R's bit on the famous King's (King) Hill in old St. Jo. Mo.

Will keep my ear to the ground to hear of any development on your City Hall commotion concerning the possible disturbance of our sacred soil.

Yes, I am retired and do enjoy the freedom and irresponsibility but hang on to a casual interest of my past capers. It was nice to see and talk with you.

Oh yes-- In my King Hill article, it says that the hill was listed on the National Register as a "National Landmark" at the time. The Washington D.C. correspondent for the St. Joseph Gazette and News-Press wired it back as such. It turned out later that the correct description for that historic hill should have been "National Historic Place". At the time, the distinction was, to some, very important. (We must try to be correct!)

I hope that Les and my mugs didn't bust your video camera..

As Ever,



Don R.

P. S. This mention of our Mett Shippee. It brings back fond, fond memories. We trudged a lot of hills together and I treasure every step.

Over

He favored us: (the museum and myself) with a lot of help and good advice. I am glad that I was present at his belated recognition but was also much saddened to have to attend his funeral at his old frame church.

A few years ago, Maude and I camped at Graham Cave State Park down on 70 highway and there was Mett's picture (along with others). I went to the office of the Park Director, where we had a little talk. No, he didn't know who that was in the photo exhibit. Well, he does now!

I will be happy to copy and send to you other 23-BN1 related Museum Graphic articles, if you wish. One is about plant seeds etc. Maude copied the ones inclosed and is in and out of the Prompt Printers quite often with her genealogical efforts, so this would be no problem.

I suspect that you, or someone else, will be involved again in the rumble of progress over our local past.

Our best to the Mrs. and all..

See ya around..

4-14-84



Bald Eagle.

Dear Don,

It was good to get your letter. I want to thank you and Maude for the copies from Museum Graphic on King Hill, etc. That's a good photo of you and Mett. It would be good to see him again and have a nice visit!

I sent Ted Hamilton the information on what I thought to be a gun flint. I found his letter (enclosed) quite interesting. Thanks again and best wishes,
 Jim Feagin

... made by a whiteman, but I imagine that would be a long odd to bet on.

If I can be of any further help, don't hesitate to write.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature that appears to be "T. T. M." followed by a flourish.

T T M Hamilton.

PS: I might add that it looks to me as if an Indian was trying to follow the European technique in flint making, but got crossed up on the face.



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MARSHALL, MISSOURI

from 23 BN1
 ↙

...tter of April 6, certainly degun flint. It is thin, but ing a flint can take in a lock. condition. Judging from 11 of European manufacture, ian. If you can identify the say it is of Indian un and dates from the mid 1700's.

Van Meter Park

Development Association



POST OFFICE BOX 433

MARSHALL, MISSOURI

April 8, 1994
Box 122
Miami, MO. 65344.

Mr Jim Feagins
St Joseph Museum.

Dear Jim:

The object discussed in your letter of April 6, certainly looks like an 18th Century tradegun flint. It is thin, but it is surprising how much beating a flint can take in a lock. This looks like it is in mint condition. Judging from the back, it looks like a spall of European manufacture, but the face appears to be Indian. If you can identify the chert as being local, I would say it is of Indian manufacture, made for a tradegun and dates from the mid 1700's.

Of course, it could have been made by a whiteman, but I imagine that would be a long odd to bet on.

If I can be of any further help, don't hesitate to write.

Sincerely,

T T M Hamilton.

PS: I might add that it looks to me as if an Indian was trying to follow the European technique in flint making, but got crossed up on the face.

← from 23BN1

Trash is treasure when archaeologists dig for past

N-P 4-5-92

By MIKE FITZGERALD
News-Press Staff Writer

Just chalk it up as one of those iron laws of human nature: Where people go, trash is sure to follow.

For Mike Fisher and his colleagues at the Missouri Archae-

ological Society, which held its annual meeting over the weekend at the Holiday Inn downtown, this immutable tendency has yielded countless hours of fun and adventure.

It also has given them a key to understanding the lives of the state's earliest settlers, including a band of prolific litterbugs

known as the Oneota, who, nearly 300 years ago, briefly occupied the King Hill area at the south end of town.

In their wake they left a hoard of arrowheads, spear tips and other artifacts that Fisher and a team from the University of Missouri began harvesting in 1966.

About as long as four city

blocks, the site is located a little north of the old Benton High School, near the intersection of First and Fleeman streets, Fisher said.

Many of the site's most valuable items, though, were found in a midden, or ancient dump, the excavation of which Fisher vividly described to a nearly packed

auditorium Saturday.

Probably members of the Kansa tribe, the Oneota were tireless traders who peddled their wares across the Midwest and to some of this region's first French visitors, as evidenced by the glass beads unearthed from the mid-

Please see **Trash/Page 4B**

Place: **Corby Place**
422 Felix, St. Joseph
Date: Saturday, April 11th
Time: 2:00 P.M.
 Reservations are recommended but not required.
 Call 233-4600 to reserve your seat.

- Bankers Life & Casualty
- The Trust Company
- St. Joseph



Holiday Retirement Corp. - Serving the

Graciosa
 1602 Bu.
 St. Joseph
 (816) 2

Crash tells stories

Continued from page 1B

Still, Fisher offered a few theories as to the Oneota's departure. "Maybe they got booted out," he said. "Maybe they moved away because the Europeans moved in."

Fisher said he began collecting Indian artifacts as a small boy. Lately, he's been devoting his time to an excavation behind the former site of the Pony Express stables.

Regardless of the venue, though, each "dig" has one thing in common, he said: "It's just like opening a new book."

The reason for their departure remains a mystery, according to Fisher, a retired engineer at St. Joseph television station KQTV.

Alas, many of the best clues probably disappeared forever in 1900, when the site's top 30 feet were leveled to make room for a water tower, Fisher said.

ago, heavy rain ended drought

■ TURNING BACK THE PAGES

Nidy of Central and Bill Ehlers of Benton.

25 YEARS AGO, Feb. 20, 1969
— Expansion of operations of the Stevens Hat Manufacturing Co. and its relocation to a \$1 million plant in St. Joseph's Industrial Park was announced by **Ben L. Rosenthal**, president.

• City councilmen unanimously approved an ordinance authorizing the mayor to accept a deed for an Indian archaeology site in the King Hill area near First and Cumberland streets. **R.A. Brown** of the city museum board said the Historical Homes Association would purchase the land from

Betty Darry and turn it over to the city.

• **Judy Hinckley**, a senior at Bishop LeBlond High School, is the Christian Brothers High School basketball queen. Her attendants are **Robin Soper** and **Betsy Farley**.

• Central stands 21-1 for the year and should be the top-seeded entry in the class L regional basketball tournament beginning March 3. **K.C. Miller**, **Jack Hower**, **Dave Kisker**, **Mike Lieppman**, **Don Dudley** and **Cody Mayfield** have the Indians on a 21-game winning streak.

15 YEARS AGO, Feb. 20, 1979
— Unexpectedly strong response for the four-year tax plan to restore and remodel the courthouse came after county judges said they needed 50 people by March 1 to spearhead the drive. Presiding

Judge **Gerald Vanover** said the list now contains 66 names.

• Mayor **Gordon Wiser** is very close to naming a new city health director to replace **Richard Haloran**, who resigned to enter private business. Interviews are being conducted by Wiser and **Warren Hinton** and **Tom Hesselmann**, administrator at the two local hospitals.

• Schools Superintendent **Gerald Troester** and **Don Trout**, assistant superintendent in charge of business, may be looking at June 5 as a date for a \$2.5 million bond election for a new technical school after State Sen. **Truman Wilson** filed a bill to allocate land at 35th and Faraon streets.

• The LeBlond Golden Eagles have won five straight 2A regional tournaments and are in Maysville going for six. Coach **John Bizal** is expected to start regulars **Mark Barnes**, **John Mihelic**, **Tom Henneberry**, **Brian Dickens** and **Shawn Schoeneck**.

— Compiled by Darrel Huber

**King Hill,
National Register
of historic sites,
archeological** 9-6-90

ST. JOS. TELEGRAPH

At one time, the hillside of King Hill, 5600 South First Street, was crowded with Indians of the Kansas and Oneota tribes as they met for tribal summits. The artifacts they left behind give an insight into their culture and life styles. Many of the artifacts taken from the hill are on display in the Saint Joseph Museum, 11th and Charles streets. The museum is participating with the University of Missouri in the excavation of this historic site.

4-29-76
King Hill
Vandalism dig

South of 5604 51st
Maybe on 73341
(At least near)

The south edge of the
vandalism dig area
is 168 feet south of
the Freeman St curb
(South curb) The street
is 24' 2" wide
on the west side of
1st

Francis Mc Glothlin Sr.
Jay Mc Glothlin Jr.
5113 King Hill
238-4320

Melvin

(with him at Stable)
Both club members!

The younger Mr. Dobbins
with Melvin — were
overheard by me comparing
the pottery in #1 exhumed
case (King Hill) with
pottery that they had from
digging at King Hill. I
made myself known
and inquired as to where
they were digging. They
were reluctant to divulge
location. I insisted and
mentioning my St Joseph
Soc association stressed
interest in their find. They
finally told me the general
location of their digging and
agreed to show me. We
went immediately to the
site. I told them that it
appeared that it could
be an 23 B 11 property

that belongs to back the old
city of St. Jos. They assured
me that if I was not
knowing told so by people
owning property to north.
I informed them that even
if their dig should happen to
be on private property that
the Apostolic Ex rules state
that their members shall
not dig for relics. I asked
to see what they had dug
out (the hole was some 12 x 6'
and 4 to 5' deep) They then
took me to the Mc Holm
home at 5113 King Hill Ave where
they showed me a cardboard
box app 14" x 14" square
with three or four inches
of pattern shards in bottom
also bone

NOTIFY ARCH Soc. (Huns)

That evening I called
Mike Fisher, Pres of S. B. Arch Soc.,
and left word for him to
call me back w/e of next.
Mike Fisher called back
Sat. May 1. The elder Mclothlin
he said, had mentioned that
they had dug somewhere
on King Hill but did not
say where. I asked Mike
Fisher to go with me to
find out if they were on
23BN1 and told him what
I knew of the situation.
He agreed to go with me
to measure the distance
Southward from street on north.

WITH FISHER TO MEASURE

On May 2 we (Reynolds & Fisher)
went to 23BN1 to measure.

From south curb to south
edge of the Mclothlin digging measured
168'

58' 25"

I asked Mike Fisher to inform the Mc Blothins that they should not continue to dig and I inform them of this and the rules against digging. Mike Fisher said he did not think we could keep them from it if they should be on private property.

I suggested again that the society does have rules against unauthorized digging and possibly, if need be, that threat of actual severance of membership might be in order.

I said that in the

meantime I would
contact authorities at
the City Hall to determine
if the digging is on 23BN1

At the office of records
employees could ~~not~~ ^{not} ~~or would~~
establish the point of
ownership but did
provide measurements
of street, lots and ~~and~~
alley

On Mon May 10th while
Mike Frohe was away
on vacation a visit to
23BN1 showed further
digging had taken place.
A tunnel had been started
southward from the original
hole.

day in 23 B.N. He also
told him that it was a
Wall Hist Place, owned
by the St. Joseph Park Dept
and the City of St. Joseph.
and that their digging
would have to stop.
Also that what they
had dug up should
be returned to the
St. Joseph Museum since
they are, by park dept -
St. Joseph Museum looking
after the archaeological
aspects of the property.
The answer to the latter
proposal from Fisher &
McClellin was not
exactly favorable but
answered with a
doubtful "yes".
H/c (W.C. McClellin) said

----- was memo.

~~the~~ On May 13th when Mike Fisher
returned from vacation I had info
from ~~the~~ ~~last~~ ~~to~~ ~~show~~ him

In comparing our 165'
measurement with the
combined frontage of the
privately owned lots to
the north plus street
and alley measurements
Bath, Fisher and I
conclude that the
digging is in fact on
31311 property. Fisher
was to notify the Mc Glicks.

On Fri. 14th Mike Fisher
called to say that he
had phoned the Mc Glicks
and talked to Francis. He
told him that Reynolds
had checked boundaries and
that we both had
measured to their dy.
He told him that I was
"upset" that they had

King Hill (burial) ⁵⁻²⁻⁸¹
See Mr. Donald Lutz
Benton High School teacher
6632 Ridgeway St.

" He knows of an old film
showing the digging of an
Indian burial on King Hill.
(From a student visitor)

NR 10-15-99

Turning back the pages

100 years ago: The skeletal remains of an Indian chief, as well as Indian beads and pottery, are found on King Hill.

50 years ago: The St. Joseph City Council decides to chip in \$1,299 to the paving of 22nd Street after engineers make a specifications error.

10 years ago: Northwestern Missouri educational institutions have made improvements since the Nation At Risk report six years ago.