

EXCAVATION # 2 AT SITE #23AN35, FILLMORE, ANDREW CO., MO.
1957

This single burial was located in early April on the Laurie farm by Kenneth Laurie using a small iron rod as a probe in the rain softened ground. It's position was fourteen feet to the east and five feet south of the 1956 excavation. A test trench at that time missed it by only one foot.

On May 1st and 2nd it was excavated by the St. Joseph Museum in the belief that it might produce additional information on the people in the first burial excavated at this site in April 1956, one year before. (See Museum Graphic, winter 1957, Vol 9, number one)

The grave contained one burial which was entirely covered with two and three layers of 1 to 2" limestone slabs which were placed directly on top of the body.

The body was flexed, hands under chin and the feet drawn up under the pelvis. It had been placed in the grave on it's right side facing the east with the head to the south.

Most of the small bones of the hands and feet were almost completely decayed away and the skull was badly crushed from the weight of the limestone slabs. Part of the mandible was near the hands and contained teeth worn off almost down to the roots. In all, nine teeth were located. Three canine and six incisors.

Dr. H. E. Calkin of Oregon Mo., after examining the teeth and such skull bone that still remained, was of the opinion that the individual died at an advanced age. Due to the poor condition of the cranial and pelvic bones the sex of the individual could hardly be established.

Depth of burial: Twelve inches.

Size of burial: 33 X 24 inches.

Bone measurements:

Femur----- 17 inches.

Humerus ----- 11 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

Radius & ulna---- app. 9 $\frac{1}{2}$ inches.

No artifacts were found but small particles of charcoal, the largest being one-eighth inch in diameter, were found throughout the burial. Also, three pieces of burned reddish colored clay, one to two inches in diameter. One larger piece just below the hands, another smaller piece between the forearms near the elbows and the other small piece just behind or outside of the lumbar vertebral region.

It is presumed that this burial is of the same age and from the same culture (Nebraska culture as identified by J. M. Shippee, Univ. of Mo.) as the one excavated at this location in April 56. Proximity to the first burial, depth, and similarity of burial methods would indicate this to be true.

No daub (daub and wattle used in house construction) could be found in the vicinity of the burials in 1956 in spite of Mr. Shippee's conviction that it should be there. In the past year, however, members of the Laurie family have picked up some curiously shaped pieces of burned clay and inadvertently discovered the much sought for daub.

After being photographed, the bones were removed and isolated in aluminum foil for a possible carbon 14 test.

Don K

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