

St. Joseph, Missouri

City Hall Routing Slip

DATE

January 7, 1982

Your
Initial
Please

Comments :

Office

Action Your To
Info File

Action Center

Administrator

Ms. Virginia Cundiff

Action Center

City Hall

St. Joseph, Mo. 64501

Convention Bldg.

Dear Ms. Cundiff:

Finance

Enclosed is information on the King Hill Archaeological excavation as requested by Alan C. Lott, Fact Finder.

If we can be of further assistance, please let us know.

Museum

Sincerely,

Park & Recreation

Personnel

Planning & Zoning

Police

Public Works

Senior Center

Don L. Reynolds, Asst. Director

St. Joseph Museum

Pony Express Museum

DLR:js

Enc.

Please return your answer to the Action Center
Thank you to Cundiff

City Hall Routing Slip

Jan 4 th 1982	Take
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Office	Take Action	For Your Info	Return To File	Your Initial Please	Comments
Action Center				He	
Administrator					
Attorney					
Aviation					
City Clerk					
Comm. Center					
Convention Fac.					
Ec. & Comm. Dev.					
Finance					
Fire					
Health					
Housing					
Library					
Mayor					
Museum	X				Para. 6
Park & Recreation					
Personnel					
Planning & Zoning					
Police					
Public Works					
Senior Center					
Please return your answer to the Action Center					
Thank you To Lindell					

CUNDIFF (cont.)

5. "Wonder if the Fact Finder can help on this one? I sent a check in for a City Sticker on Jan. 9, 1981. I got my canceled check back but no sticker. I went to City Hall and asked about it. They said they didn't have a record of it. I showed them my canceled check. They still insisted they couldn't do anything for they didn't have a record of it. What am I supposed to do" Get a ticket for not having a sticker, or buy another one and let the City rip me off?" (Obviously this is an old one. However, the point is, what kind of records are kept or are not kept that would prove or disprove this claim or any claim like it?)

6. "Several years ago I read of an archaeological "dig" somewhere in south St. Joseph, perhaps near King Hill. Can you tell me if excavation is continuing? Who or what organization is in charge? What culture did they find or hope to find? And will they accept volunteers? Is the dig progressing?" (I don't know if you have any information on this or not, but I thought you would be a good place to start. No, not you personally Virginia, you're not near old enough.)

Rather than risk putting my foot in my mouth again, I think I will call this it and get it off to you. Thanks for all of your help.

Sincerely,



Alan C. Lott
Fact Finder

KING HILL ONEOTA SITE 23BN1

ST. JOSEPH, MO.

Still being studied, the King Hill Oneota site excavation was first started in 1966 by the University of Missouri and the St. Joseph Museum. It is a proto-historic site situated on the south slope of King Hill in the south side of the city of St. Joseph and is thought to have been occupied by Kansas Indians for about a quarter of a century around 1700. A midden site, it has produced much study material from deeply covered layers of refuse strata containing pottery sherds, animal bones, shells, beads, tools, etc. University of Kansas archaeologists assisted in the excavations at one point. University of Nebraska continues at this time with a study of stone items and trade related artifacts. Published material on the site is available to students and researchers at the St. Joseph Museum reference library.

At this time, January 1982, most of the excavated materials are stored at the St. Joseph Museum where they will eventually be processed, numbered and placed in order for examination and study by qualified researchers. Also at this time no volunteer assistance is needed but possibly may be in the future when the remainder of the material is returned to the St. Joseph Museum from the University of Nebraska where it has been under study.

The 23BN1 Oneota site in South St. Joseph is now within the St. Joseph Park System. Although not officially named such, it is known as Oneota Park. (Oneota is the name of the culture that included the Kansa, Missouri, Iowa and Otoe Indian tribes.) Local responsibility for interpretation of the site is assumed by the St. Joseph Museum since they were involved from the beginning with the excavation and possess the records, photographs and artifacts from the site.

KINGS HILL
National Historic Landmark
and
St. Joseph City Park

By Don L. Reynolds

The King's Hill archaeological site 23BN1 has now been included in the St. Joseph Park System to be used as a small neighborhood park. It is located in the 5600 Block of South First Street on the south slope of King's Hill in the loess bluffs of the Missouri River. This is midway between the King's Hill drive-up vantage point to the north and Hyde Park to the south where Indians once lived. This ^{King's Hill} area becomes another link in our chain of historic connections with the past and it has become a focal point for those studying the Oneota Culture. Though it has only been partly excavated, it seemed imperative that the area be held for yet another generation of archaeologists, as it is an excellent site for archaeological study, being of the midden type and very ^{rich} ~~large~~ in study material.

The necessity for preservation of this site was generally realized and advocated by both local, state and national authorities. Recommendations of the Missouri State Archaeological Society and the Department of Historical Survey, Missouri State Park Board were of prime importance in the decision of the National Park Service to give the site a ~~National~~ ^{REGISTERED} ~~Historic~~ Landmark status. Excavation work by the Archaeological Department of the University of Missouri, the St. Joseph Museum and the local St. Joseph Archaeological Society had provided material and information for this noted classification. It fell to local people, however, to provide a solution and the means for its preservation. The Historic Homes Foundation, St. Joseph city officials and the St. Joseph Park Department, must be commended for their interest, generosity and cooperation. The efforts of many have gone into the push to secure this site, but it was the St. Joseph Historic Homes Foundation that provided the funds necessary to purchase this property, thereby donating it to the St. Joseph Park Department.

Tentative future plans call for some limited landscaping on the top level area with development of appropriate recreational facilities. The wooded area on the west part of the

site will be left ^{it}as is with the exception of some selective thinning. A suitable monument or marker has been suggested ~~by the National Park Service~~ and is in the planning. The St. Joseph Museum, assisted by the St. Joseph Archaeological Society, in an agreement with the St. Joseph Park Department, will continue to locally administer the archaeological aspects of this area. ~~The National Historic~~ ^{REGISTERED} landmark status recently designated, will also provide further protection and status.

RANDOM HISTORY AND LEGEND

King's Hill, long famous and oftentimes mentioned in the passing of history over and past its slopes, is said to have been a tribal summit and a place of reverence to the Indians, a lookout, a place of burial and a place to live. We often wonder how it got its name. Was it from a royal description of this near tallest of our local river bluffs by some early trapper or trader as some have thought, or from some early settler who lived on its slopes? This historic hill, once so visibly prominent, was swept up by the winds from the silt of times long before when icy glaciers covered our area, and was described by Maximilian, Prince of Wied, in 1834 as, "the beautiful chain of the Blacksnake Hills". It furnished haven and home for primitive man and it stood tall to see the coming of men from other lands to explore and settle. King's or King Hill as it is sometimes called today, witnessed the passing of many famous personages. Some made note of it and others of the hills nearby it.

Lewis and Clark in their journals mentioned the "bluff of yellow clay above the prairie". This prairie is St. Michael's prairie, site of present day St. Joseph and the bluff mentioned is thought to be Prospect or Blacksnake Hill just north of our city.

^{former St. Joseph Museum Bd Pres and noted historian,}
Mr. Bartlett Boder, ~~a local historian,~~ writing in past issues of MUSEUM GRAPHIC, told of Wawalanowa meaning Serpent Paradise or Blacksnake Hills. "The hills of the wild

region extending a few miles along the present city of St. Joseph along the Missouri River made a sacred refuge for all Indian tribes. They believed the soul, unmolested by evil spirits, could pass over the sun-bridge to the hereafter. Strange Indian visitors remained in the Wawalanowa or Lanowa unharmed even at the hands of their bitterest enemies."

Father DeSmet, an early Jesuit priest, visited St. Joseph and in 1846 wrote that King's Hill was the scene of the last battle of the "Blacksnake Indians." "It is covered with human bones and a line of mounds may be perceived in the form of ramparts and fortifications. On that occasion the whole tribe of Blacksnakes was destroyed." The uppermost projection of the hill has since been removed to make room for a water system storage tank and a parking area for the observation point.

Swiss artist, Rudolph Friederick Kurz, lived in St. Joseph during the year 1848 and wrote in his journal, "Less than twelve years ago they (the Ioway) fought the Missouri Indians at King's Hill and won the battle." Even then, as now, it seems that warfare had little respect for hallowed places.

From the reference files of the St. Joseph Library comes the following notations credited to Mr. Charles K. Soper, 1864-1934, who during his lifetime as a student and writer, made a substantial contribution in his studies on local folklore.

King Hill

"The stories which gather about King Hill are numerous and varied. It has during many years been a mine of treasure for gold and relic seekers.

A company of successful 49'ers returning from California were attacked there by Indians and exterminated. Their gold was sought for many years thereafter.

To the south of King Hill and round about the present locality of Benton School were found buried in trenches the bodies of men, women and horses, all mingled with ashes of old camp fires. This was thought, without doubt, to be the result of the disastrous defence attempted by the Wyandotts once peacefully living in a village on King Hill, against the Sacs and Foxes, part of that Iroquis tribe driven from the east by the English. Being possessed of rifles the Sacs and Foxes killed the Wyandotts not so well armed and scalping them, rode away.

Now the soul of an Indian remains with the scalp. The bereft Wyandott women, having no one to avenge the death of their braves, no one to win back the scalps, and souls--exposed themselves on the graves of their dead, until frozen and starved, when their appeal reached even the savage hearts of the enemy. The scalps were returned to be buried with the bodies."

The old Benton High School that Mr. Soper referred to ^{was} south of King's Hill, in fact just immediately to the south of our 23BN1 site. To this date no human remains have been found in the 23BN1 site itself, but we are told by elder neighborhood citizens that many skeletal remains were unearthed when the old Benton High School was built. Also, within the past ten years or so, the remains of two individuals were excavated by the St. Joseph Museum at a point on the hill a short distance southeast of the 23BN1 site. One of these individuals was buried with several curved bone ornaments thought possibly to be bowguards.

Also found in the St. Joseph Public Library in the MISSOURI HISTORICAL REVIEW, Vol. XXI, is the following which quotes the St. Joseph News Press of August 31, 1926 in which a local teacher, archaeologist and historian, George Y. Hull, states,

"King Hill was the scene of a terrible battle during the time that the vicinity of St. Joseph was known to the Indians as Paradise. The Wyandotte Indians were barricaded in their village atop the hill when they were attacked by the Sacs and Foxes. Although the country around was regarded as sacred ground the battle was waged as the result of the Wyandottes refusing hospitality to the tribe after a long journey from the East. All of the men killed in the battle were buried in three graves on the hill and when streets were put through in South St. Joseph these graves were unearthed. Many relics were found."

Mr. James Mett Shippee, Kansas City archaeologist who shares our interest in the ^{RECENTLY RESEARCHED FOR US AT THE KANSAS CITY LIBRARY WHERE HE} history of King's Hill, located and sent to us the following reference to the hill from Schoolcraft's journals, Vol. III, page 274. "It is said that about three miles below St. Joseph's, ^{BOTTOM OF A VERY HIGH HILL, CALLED "KING HILL",} in the State of Missouri, near the ^{ON} top of which are the evident remains of a fortification) are three broken pieces of potter's ware, of very rude and curious formation, and evidently the work of an ancient and very rude people; but we have not seen any specimens, but believe they exist." Unfortunately, Mr. Henry R. Schoolcraft did not list the source of his information. Mr. Schoolcraft's works, authorized by act of Congress and consisting of six

volumes, were published from 1851 to 1857.

Many tribes were to cross or pause and live in the King's Hill area during and before the dawn of our history. They came later to trade at the Blacksnake Hills Post, and still later from reservations across the Missouri River. The 23BN1 site shows an occupation of a good many years, however. Deposits of some six or more feet in places seems to indicate ^{REFUSE} that the people who lived there and discarded the refuse in this midden site were not transients, but occupied the site for some time. Preliminary study, yet unfinished, suggests the time of occupation at around and just after 1700 for that particular part of the hill. The people there appear to have been of the Oneota culture and probably a Kansa tribe.

Other tribes at one time or another in our area were the Ioway ^{AND} the Sac and Fox, (from these we bought our Platte Purchase lands) the Otoe, the Missouri (that visited from downstream) the Kickapoo and Potawatomi from Kansas reservations, Father DeSmet's "Blacksnakes" (whoever they were) and the Wyandottes according to Mr. Hull and Mr. Soper. Even some Sioux came from the north. And in addition to these tribes, during pre-history times we had the Mississippi culture, the Nebraska culture and the Nebo Hill culture. Even a few of the Hopewell culture or Mound Builders may have come upriver this far north. Before those cultures, other ancient unidentified people were here and left large beautifully flaked spear points on the hill.

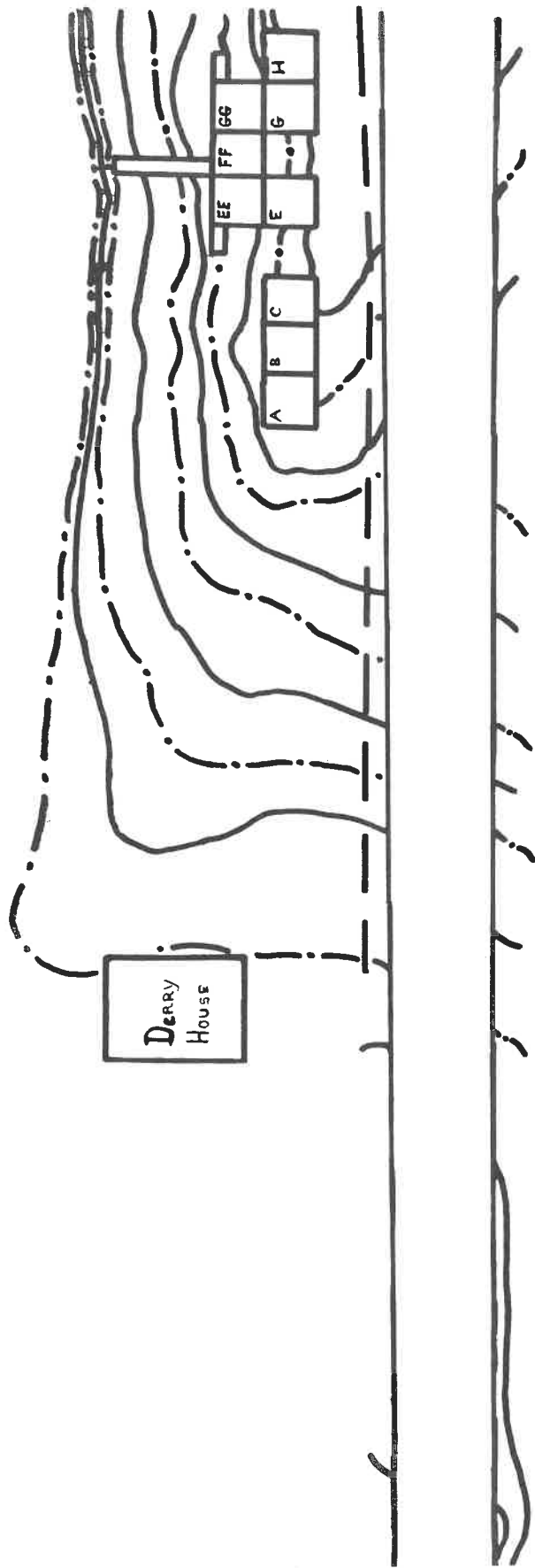
The designation of National Historic ^{PLACE} ~~Monument~~, which although it must for certain legal reasons apply to the archaeological site portion of King's Hill, in essence then refers to the whole of the hill, the slopes and peak of which in legend and in history, figured so much in the life of our Indian ancestors.

Don:

Thanks for the loan of
pictures.

The site map is finally
being copied. When the
copies arrive I'll send
some along. Sorry
to take so long.

Dale.



N →

SCALE 0 10 feet

- contour interval of 2 feet
- - - contour at 1 foot interval
- sidewalk
- designates approximate limits of southern portion of site

managed to dig on it

Craig Johnson - on with spraying
Steve King
Eliot Lake
Mike Rupert
John Ludwickson
Steve Helen
Carl Falk - admission

Mr. Shole Hanning V. H. Arthur Boyd
directed the dig

Heb. O. people that
helped on 23 BN1
in 1972 - July

LINCOLN, NEBR. JULY 1979 (Trip after
23-Bn-1 material.)

Stored at 16th & U Sts.

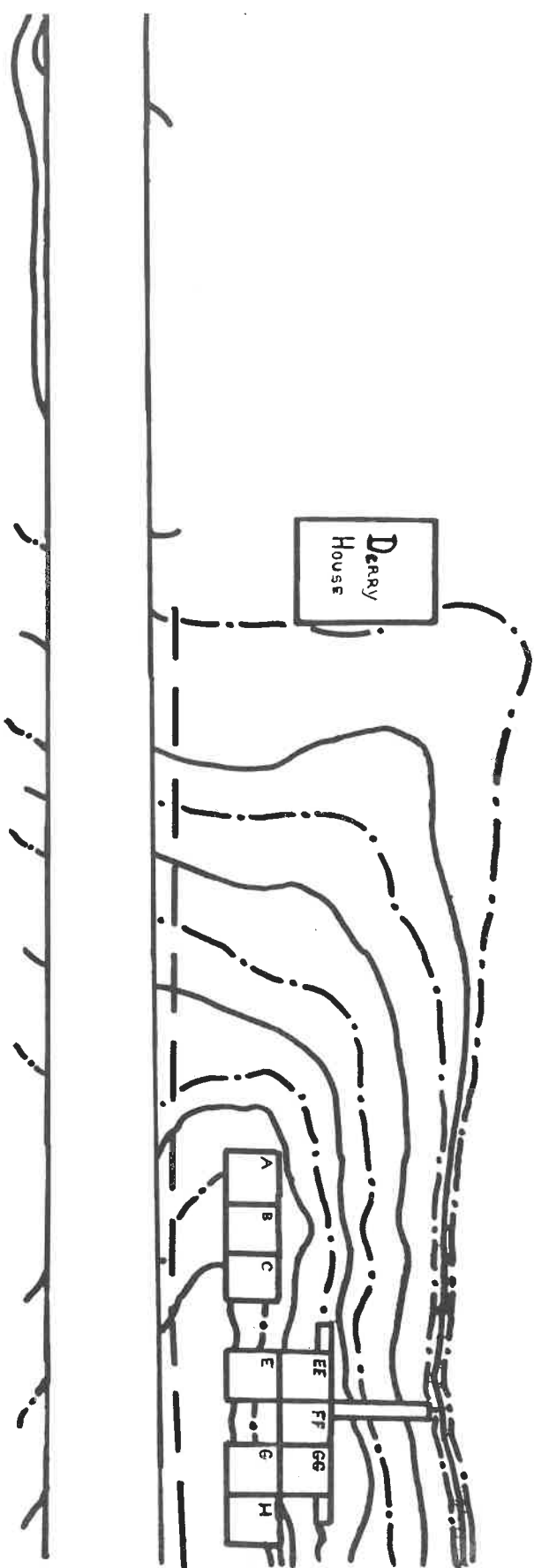
From 34 highway: North on 17th to U

"John Ludwickson has one year to work up sto
and write up" (Dale) Dale will edit his
write-up.. If John does not complete the
work Dale said that he would follow up on it

Larry Zimmerman from S. Dakota will do
Nodaway watershed survey.

John Ludwickson & Steve Holen are working
for Nebr. State Highway Dept.

For info on A. Robidoux at Scott's Bluff
(blacksmith shop etc.) see article in
NEBRASKA HISTORY, June, 1949

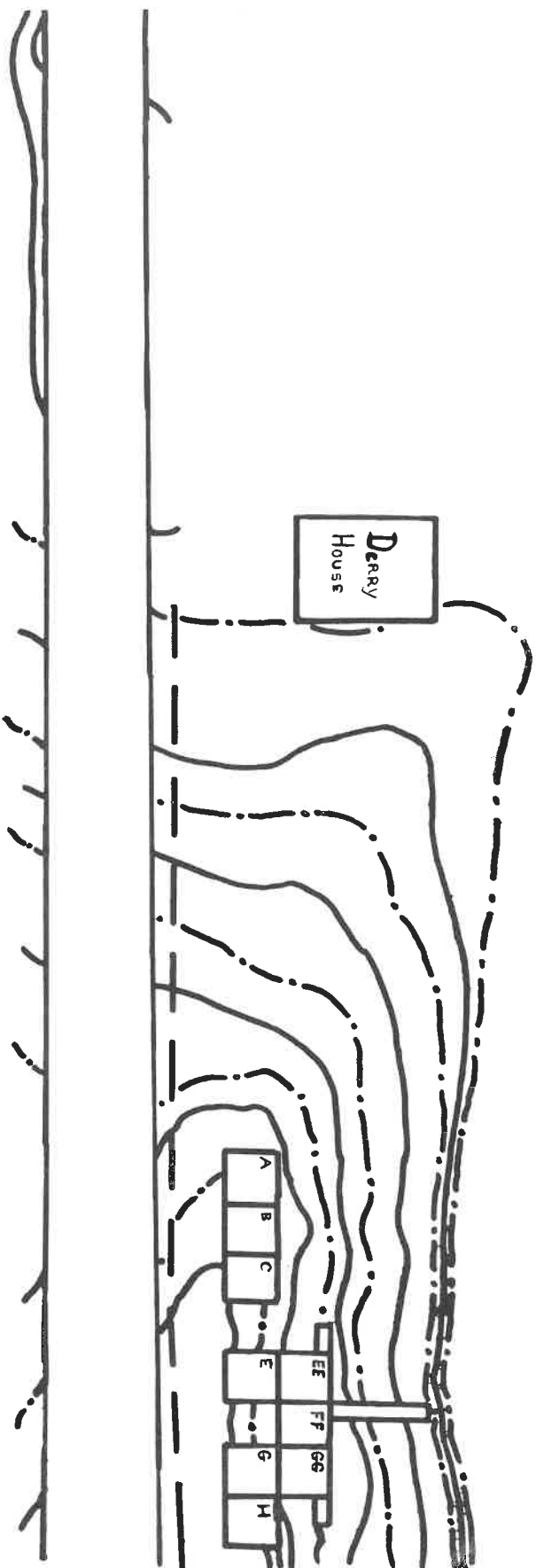


N →

Scale 0 10 feet

- contour interval of 2 feet
- - - contour at 1 foot interval
- sidewalk

○ designates approximate limits of southern portion of site

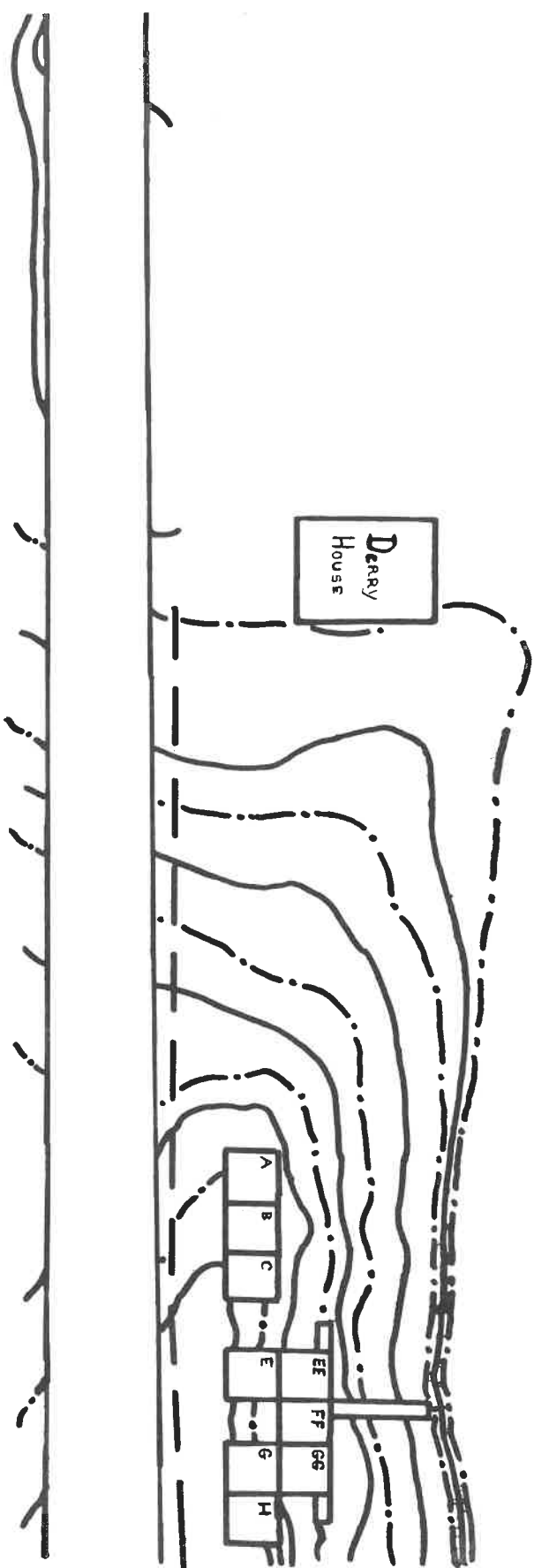


N →

scale 0 10 feet

- contour interval of 2 feet
- - - contour at 4 foot interval
- sidewalk

○ designates approximate limits of southern portion of site

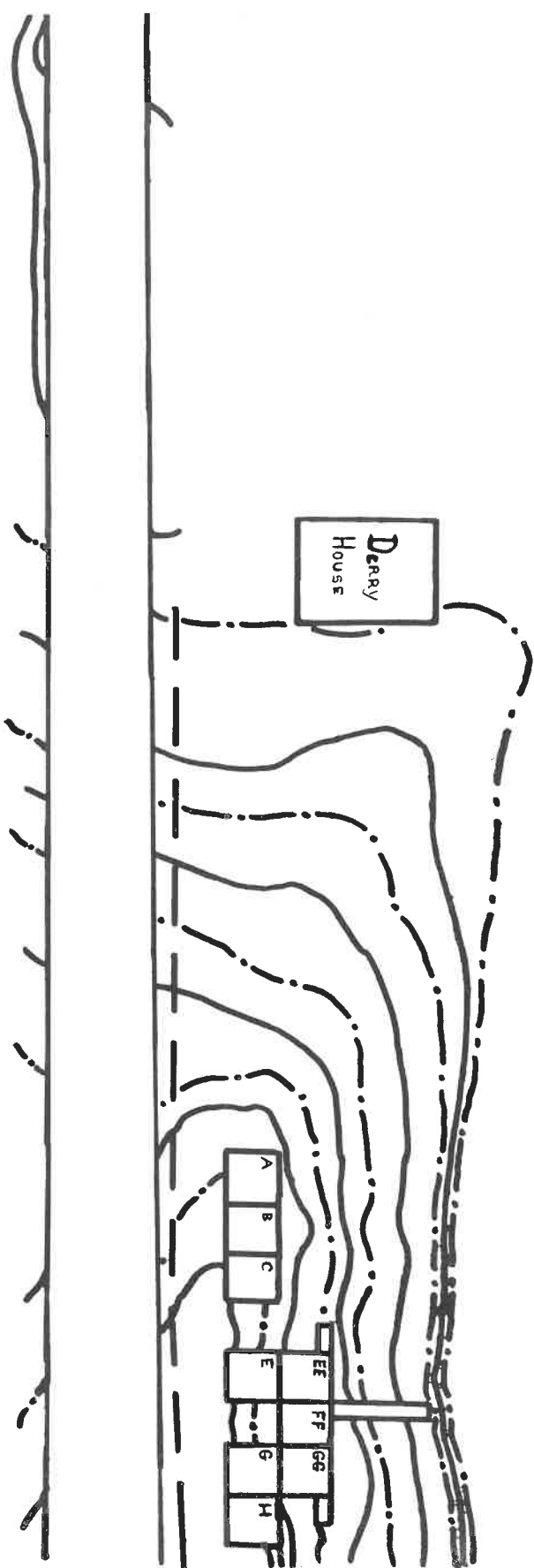


N →

Scale 0 feet

- contour interval of 2 feet
- - - contour at 1 foot interval
- sidewalk

○ designates approximate limits of southern portion of site



N →

Scale 0 feet

- contour interval of 2 feet
- - - contour at 1 foot interval
- sidewalk

○ designates approximate limits of southern portion of site

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA
LINCOLN NEBRASKA 68508

DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY

April 21, 1972

April 19, 1972

Mr. Don Reynolds
St. Joseph Public Museum
St. Joseph, Missouri

Dear Mr. Henning:
Mr. Dale R. Henning
Associate Professor of Anthropology
The University of Nebraska
Lincoln, Nebraska 68508

I inform you that the NSF has approved our Kings Hill project. I would like to bring in a large crew shortly after the 4th of July to start the project and then will leave it essentially in the hands of two graduate students. *plus 3-4 crew.*

Dear Dale:

Just now received your letter with news of approval of King's Hill as a NSF project. Congratulations. It's good news. We will look to preliminary planning here and await further word and or your arrival for details as to lodging, etc. for your crew. (We could still handle a few in the Crafts Room upstairs with shower, toilet and limited cooking facilities. Others could sleep below on cots possibly).

One thing--most important--if you can set the start of the dig for the middle of July without too much trouble it would be of great help here. That is, if your dates have not been firmed up. Mike Fisher and I could then be on hand to help in any way possible and could handle the local coordination, etc. Anyway, please if possible, keep the start of the dig as far into July as possible if all other factors allow with no inconvenience on your own part. Let us know the date as soon as you can.

DRH/mik
cc: Mike Ruppert

Congratulations also on the tribal increase. Is the wigwam still adequate?

Best wishes from all here.

Sincerely,

Don L. Reynolds, Asst. Director
St. Joseph Museum
Pony Express Museum

DLR:js



THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA 68508

DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY

April 19, 1972

Mr. Don Reynolds
St. Joseph Public Museum
St. Joseph, Missouri

Dear Don:

Just a note to inform you that the NSF has approved our request for the Kings Hill project. I would like to bring in a large crew shortly after the 4th of July to start the project and then will leave it essentially in the hands of two graduate students. *= plus 3-4 crew.*

Mr. Mike Ruppert and I will try to drive down there in the next few weeks, if schedules can be arranged. We are delighted to have this project funded.

Betty and I just adopted another baby boy. The tribe increases.

Sincerely,

Dale

Dale R. Henning
Associate Professor
of Anthropology

DRH/mlk
cc: Mike Ruppert

23 May 29



THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA 68508

DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY

August 25, 1972

Mr. Don Reynolds
Mr. Michael Fisher
St. Joseph Public Museum
St. Joseph, Missouri

Dear Don and Mike:

Mr. Michael Ruppert
Department of Anthropology
The University of Nebraska
Lincoln, Nebraska 68508

Dear Mike:

Dr. Manning expressed a desire to obtain measurements on the lithic and scrapes. The slides are on their way to Kodak for copies. Will send them along to you when they return. It would probably be most convenient to temporarily bring these materials back to Lincoln.

Took a look at the water meter and called the water company for a budget figure. So far you seem to have squirted about \$26.50 worth of water in 56 days. Hope that leaves enough shekles for Fanning.

Thanks again to you, John and Steve for the copy of Strong's "Introduction to Nebraska Archaeology."

If any changes in our plans for next week occur, I'll give you a call. Make reservations at the Bucket Shop!

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

Mike

Mike Ruppert



THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA 68508

DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY

August 17, 1972

Mr. Don Reynolds
Mr. Michael Fisher
St. Joseph Public Museum
St. Joseph, Missouri

Dear Don and Mike:

I just thought I'd send you a note and let you know that King, Ludwickson and I should be back down to St. Joseph Wednesday and Thursday of next week (August 23 & 24). As things stand at present we should arrive around noon on Wednesday.

Dr. Henning expressed a desire to obtain measurements on the lithic material (probably just the projectile points and scrapers) from your Fanning collections. It would probably be most convenient to temporarily bring these materials back to Lincoln, if this presents any problems the materials could be measured down there.

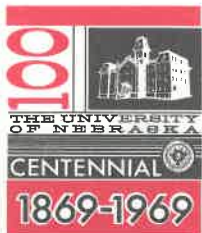
No word as of yet concerning funds for a week-end excavation at Fanning this fall, but we should have a better picture of our financial situation by September 1.

If any changes in our plans for next week occur, I'll give you a call. Make reservations at the Bucket Shop!

Sincerely,



Mike Ruppert



THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA 68508

DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY

September 18, 1972

Don L. Reynolds
St. Joseph Public Museum
St. Joseph, Missouri

Dear Don:

After considerable thought I've decided to postpone the Fanning dig until next spring or summer. There are two principle reasons for this decision. First and probably most important is that the excavation at Fanning should be problem oriented. Deciding on where to dig, what recovery techniques to employ, etc. must await at least a partial analysis of the King Hill materials, and of course this will not be possible until later this academic year. Secondly I find myself with very little spare time this semester. I really think, for now at least, that the Fanning operation would be too much for me to handle.

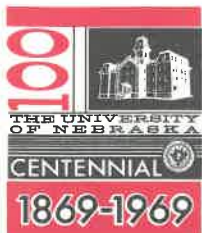
John says he is interested in investigating the Rushville cave, hopefully I will be able to come along also. At any rate I hope to come down with Carl Falk when he addresses your local group meeting.

Keep in touch.

Sincerely,



Michael E. Ruppert



THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA
LINCOLN NEBRASKA 68508

DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY

September 13, 1972

Mr. Don L. Reynolds
St. Joseph Public Museum
St. Joseph, Missouri

Dear Don:

Mr. Michael E. Ruppert
The University of Nebraska
Department of Anthropology
Lincoln, Nebraska

Dear Mike:

I checked with Mike Fisher about the best possible time for the Fanning dig and it seems that October would be our best time. I will be in Montana until September 25th and Mike can't be on hand the last week of September. We can both be around most of the time, however, if you can wait until one of the first weeks of October. If by then it might have frosted, maybe we could also investigate the Missouri River cave at Rushville. (Ask John about it--he wants to go there). The landowner will have to take us and he absolutely will not until after "snake time."

Sincerely,

The Fanning surface collections are currently being analyzed by lab students. Hopefully I should be able to get them back to you by the end of December.

Don Reynolds, Asst. Director
St. Joseph Museum
Pony Express Museum

Again I feel that I should thank you and Mike for the hospitality you extended us during our stay. I only hope that some day we may be able to reciprocate.

Sincerely,

M. Ruppert



THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA 68508

DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY

September 6, 1972

Mr. Don L. Reynolds
St. Joseph Public Museum
St. Joseph, Missouri

Daer Don:

It looks as if there will be no problem finacially for a 3 or 4 day excavation at Fanning. As things stand at present we will probably have to wait until the last week of this month or one of the first couple of weekends in October. Of course we will have to plan this thing over a weekend. I will let you know as soon as our plans become more definite. Is there any period that would be more convenient for you or Mike?

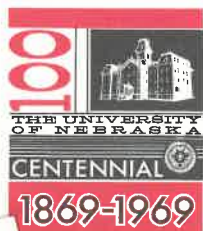
The bill for the slide reproductions has been paid. If it's possible I would like to wait on the water bill, we may or may not be using the water facilities for the Fanning operation. Again I will let you know as soon as a decision is reached.

The Fanning surface collections are currently being analyzed by lab students. Hopefully I should be able to get them back to you by the end of December.

Again I feel that I should thank you and Mike for the tremendous hospitality you extended us during our stay. I only hope that some day we may be able to reciprocate.

Sincerely,

Mike



Dear Mike,

I checked with Mike Foster about
best possible time for Fanning day and
it seems that October would be our
best time. I leave the 11th of Sept. for
Matamoras for a crystal of weeks and Mike
can't be on hand the last week of
Sept. ~~##~~ We can build the around ^{one of} ~~most~~
of the ^{however} times if you can wait until the
first weeks of Oct. I / by then
it might have frost, maybe we could
also investigate the Mo. R. cave at Rushville
(ask John about it - he wants to go there)
The land owner will have to take us and he
absolutely will not until after "snake time"

Sincerely

Don R

September 1, 1972

Mr. Michael Ruppert
University of Nebraska
Department of Anthropology
Lincoln, Nebraska 68508

Dear Mike:

We are sending you under separate cover the 37 slides. Bill enclosed is \$12.95.

Nothing new to report here. We are awaiting word on Fanning. Mike and I will want to go along.

Sincerely,

Don L. Reynolds, Asst. Director
St. Joseph Museum
Pony Express Museum

DLR:js

Mr. Michael Ruppert
November 15, 1972
Page 2

November 15, 1972

Our cave project petered out, or should I say, saved in. Mike Fisher and I checked it out anyway. John has the details.

Couldn't make it up to the meetings. Did catch the Missouri fall meeting at Columbia though.

Mr. Michael Ruppert
Department of Anthropology
Room 203, Stout Hall
University of Nebraska
Lincoln, Nebraska

Sincerely,

Dear Mike:

Don L. Reynolds, Asst. Director

We are enclosing a copy of the quarterly water bill for 23BN1. It has been paid and any reimbursement would be to the St. Joseph Museum. The service has been discontinued and the Water Company removed the meter. There should be yet another minimum service charge for a short time into the next quarter.

I trust everything is going along to good advantage with you and your work and that the unexamined material pile is getting smaller by the day. Incidentally when you get a progress map prepared, please send us a copy.

Also, Mike, I think I mentioned that we would like to have a piece written by you on your part and study of King's Hill 23BN1. Whatever you can come up with at your leisure that would be of popular interest and that would record the last dig in our Museum Graphic. We hope to get out another issue when time and especially funds permit.

Pat Holmes, a representative of the Missouri State Park Department, came to St. Joseph last week (unannounced and alone) and without ceremony presented the Mayor with a belated certificate designating 23BN1 as a national register site. I guess it was rather awkward in that the Mayor, not having been informed, seemed not to understand it. Probably too near election time and his interest was elsewhere. Anyway under the circumstances he was less than enthusiastic, so we understand, until it was explained to him locally again.

Mr. Michael Ruppert
November 15, 1972
Page 2

November 15, 1972

Our cave project petered out, or should I say, caved in. Mike Fisher and I checked it out anyway. John has the details.

Couldn't make it up to the meetings. Did catch the Missouri fall meeting at Columbia though.

Let us hear from you.

Sincerely,

Dear Mike:

Don L. Reynolds, Asst. Director
St. Joseph Museum
Pony Express Museum

DLR:js
Enc.

I hope everything is going along to good advantage with you and your work and that the unexcused material life is getting smaller by the day. Incidentally when you get a program now prepared, please send us a copy.

Also, Mike, I think I mentioned that we would like to have a paper written by you on your part and study of King's Hill 23841. Whenever you can come up with at your leisure that would be of regular interest and that would record the last dig in our Museum Graphic. We hope to get out another issue when time and especially funds permit.

Pat Holmes, a representative of the Missouri State Park Commission, came to St. Joseph last week (unannounced and alone) and with his company presented the Mayor with a belated certificate designating 23841 as a national register site. I guess it was rather awkward in that the Mayor, not having been informed, seemed not to understand it. Probably his election time and his interest was elsewhere. Anyway under the circumstances he was less than enthusiastic, so we understand, until it was explained to him locally again.

K. C. Public Library
'Missouri Valley Room
Sep 19' 1969

Don Reynolds - St. Joseph Museum

Dear Don:

I came in here this morning to look through the several volumes of Schoolcraft's works and now at 12/30 I have to leave on some other work.

What I did find is -

Vol 6. p 410 The Kansa principal settlement on the Missouri River was near Cow Island in 1825

Vol 6 p 459 President J. Monroe in message to congress on Jan 27. 1825 suggested that the Kansa cede their land and by treaty of Aug 16 1825 it was ceded and "all their land lying in the Counties of the State of Missouri as also the wide tracts lying along the Missouri River to the west of the State and comprising the villages of the Kanzas, Modowa, and Wamahaw."

Kansas Hist Journal Quarterly Vol xxx 1964 has a long and detailed article about Ft. Cavagnol by Charles Hofhaus which may have information. I have to rush to get this off and get going.
Mett.

gamblers, etc., etc. Three horses have been brought to the ground and killed with axes. Two more noses were bit off, and a score of other horrible mutilations have taken place. One has been murdered. Two women are dangerously ill of bad usage.

- 1839
Sept. 15. Colonel Kearny arrived at Bellevue with 200 dragoons. Held council with the Iowas. Took four prisoners among the most distinguished for depredations on their white neighbors and missionaries. Preparations were made to whip them. The colonel reluctantly pardoned them at the intercession of their new agent, Mr. Hamilton, and after having previously consulted with experienced gentlemen living in this neighborhood. The Otoes came to the council in battle array, bows strung and arrows in hand, apparently ready for a blow. The manly conduct of the colonel, accompanied by great prudence and a great presence of mind, kept them in awe. I observed several chiefs tremble and stutter as they stood before him. Many who knew them well thought that great mischief was brewing.

A few days later, the son of old Pipestone was treacherously killed by a party of young men of his own nation. He had dared to make allusion in open council to the misconduct of the prisoners. * * * In a difference among themselves they burned most of their earthen wigwams. Otoes as bad as ever.

- Oct. 15. Saw Mr. Merrill; looked very pale and sickly; was about selling out and removing. The Otoe blacksmith, Mr. Gilmore, left the Otoe station. Mr. Keis intends likewise to remove within the settlements. Made an improve-

their vanity. Do you wish to have an idea of a Kansa satisfied with himself in the highest degree? Picture him to yourself with rings of vermilion encircling his eyes, with white, black or red streaks running down his face, a fantastic necklace, adorned in the center with a large medal of silver or copper, dangling on his breast; bracelets of tin, copper or brass, on his arms and wrists; a cincture of white around his waist, a cutlass and scabbard, embroidered shoes or moccasins on his feet; and, to crown all, a mantle, it matters not for the color, thrown over the shoulders and falling around the body in such folds or drapery as the wants or caprice of the wearer may direct, and the individual stands before you as he exhibited himself to us.

As for dress, manners, religion, modes of making war, etc., the Kansas are like the savages of their neighborhood, with whom they have preserved peaceful and friendly relations from time immemorial. In stature, they are generally tall and well made. Their physiognomy is manly, their language is guttural, and remarkable for the length and strong accentuation of the final syllables. Their style of singing is monotonous, whence it may be inferred that the enchanting music heard on the rivers of Paraguay never cheers the voyager on the otherwise beautiful streams of the country of the Kansas.

With regard to the qualities which distinguish man from the brute, they are far from being deficient. To bodily strength and courage they unite a shrewdness and address superior to other savages, and in their wars or the chase they make a dexterous use of fire-arms, which gives them a decided advantage over their enemies.

Among the chiefs of this tribe are found men really distinguished in many respects. The most celebrated was White Plume, whom the author of the *Conquest of Granada*⁹ represents as a man of great powers of mind and chival-

⁹ Irving in *Captain Bonneville*, chapter II.

friends in Bellevue, the good Mr. Papin and others. We passed the Papillon, Mosquito and Platte rivers and encamped near Table creek. * Farther down we passed the Nishnabotna, the two Nodaways and the Tarkio. A range of hills, called the Blacksnares, appear in sight soon after passing the mouth of the Tarkio. Several places are still pointed out which bear recent traces of bloody fights between the roving tribes of the region. King Hill, one of the highest of the chain, was the scene of their last grand battle; it is covered with human bones, and a line of mounds may be perceived in the form of ramparts and fortifications. On that occasion the whole tribe of the Blacksnares was destroyed, and only the hills have transmitted their name and sorrows to posterity. The Sauks and Iowas succeeded to the Blacksnares, and they have now ceded this fair and fertile portion of their territory to the United States. Eastward and at the foot of these hills stands the town of St. Joseph. We reached there on the 23d, and paid a visit to the respectable curate, Reverend Mr. Scanlan. In 1842 St. Joseph did not exist; there was only a single family there. To-day there are 350 houses, two churches, a city hall, and a jail; it is in the most prosperous condition. Its population is composed of Americans, French Creoles, Irish, and Germans.

On the 28th I arrived at Westport. Here ice began to run in the river and a great quantity of snow fell. I therefore had to take the stage to St. Louis, which place I reached on the 10th of December.⁸

⁸ Father De Smet disagrees with himself about the mode of conveyance from Westport to St. Louis, and the date of reaching the latter place. Both the English and French narrative of the journey say that he traveled by stage, the French account placing his arrival on December 10th. Both the manuscript itineraries — the English from the Linton Album and the French from Letter Book No. 4 — say that he went by steamboat, the French account stating that he took it at Leavenworth, that it was the last boat of the season, and that it arrived in St. Louis about December 1st.



FIRST CLASS

23 JAN 1
Site reported by
Mike Ruppert

FROM
THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA

Dep't Anthropology
TO Don L. Reynolds, Asst. Director
Saint Joseph Museum
11th and Charles Street
St. Joseph, Missouri 64501

CONTENTS: MERCHANDISE
FOURTH CLASS MAIL

POSTMASTER: This package may be opened for postal inspection, if necessary. Return postage guaranteed.

FIRST CLASS

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA 68508

DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY

November 20, 1972

Don L. Reynolds, Asst. Director
Saint Joseph Museum
11th and Charles Street
St. Joseph, Missouri 64501

Dear Don:

Enclosed are 4 copies of a paper I presented at the Plains Conference outling this summers excavations. Also included are several photographs, all of which are self explainitory. I was wondering if this report would be adequate for the Museum Graphic, if you think you would need any additional photographs we have plenty of negatives. Incidentally I have enclosed extra copies of the report for Mike Fisher or anyone else interested, if you need any more just drop me a line.

You may notice that the "s" has been dropped from the site name in the report. At the time I was interested in academic accuracy but this seems to have created more confussion than it has alleviated, therefore I think I'll stick with good old Kings Hill - you may wish to change this if you publish the paper.

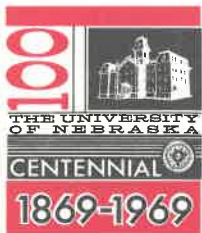
As you will notice one of the photographs is of the general site map, we are now working on a map showing the relationship of the 1966 and 1972 excavation units. I'll send you a copy as soon as it's completed.

Give my regards to everyone. I hope to be down your way in the near future, hopefully when Carl Falk speaks to your group.

Sincerely,



Michael E. Ruppert



ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS AT THE KING HILL SITE

(23BN1)

BUCHANAN COUNTY, MISSOURI

By

Michael E. Ruppert

Funded by National Science Foundation
Grant No. 33407

Presented at

30th Annual Plains Conference
November 2, 1972

ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATIONS AT THE KING HILL SITE

(23BN1)

BUCHANAN COUNTY, MISSOURI

The King Hill site is located in the southern portion of St. Joseph, Missouri on a high bluff overlooking the Missouri River bottomland. Construction of roads, houses, a school, and other projects involving earth movement were once believed to have destroyed the entire site. In the Spring of 1966, a small undisturbed portion of the site was discovered by Mr. R. B. Aker in a privately owned garden, which, along with a small house, was for sale. Fortunately, the garden was rented by the St. Joseph Public Museum in order to allow time for salvage of data and to protect it from vandals.

A cooperative agreement between the St. Joseph Public Museum, St. Joseph Archaeological Society and the University of Missouri's Summer Session in Archaeology permitted limited exploration of the site during the following summer. The University's portion of the venture was directed by Dale R. Henning, and was carried out over a ten day period in July of 1966. Members of the St. Joseph Archaeological Society participated in the excavation as a training program: the methods employed were followed in their ensuing investigation which continued into the Fall. In sum, 13 ten foot squares and two narrow exploratory trenches were excavated. All materials were passed through a one-quarter inch screen, and soil samples were taken.

The 1966 tests revealed a deep stratified trash deposit which filled an old erosion ditch to a depth of nearly ten feet. The trash deposit has yielded a large collection of pottery, stone and bone tools, small European derived objects of copper, brass, iron, and glass, and quantities of floral and fauna remains. Preliminary analysis of these remains indicate cultural and temporal similarity to the inhabitants of the Fanning Site (Wedel 1959).

If Wedel is correct in his tentative suggestion that the Oneota remains at Fanning represent a historic Kansa occupation, it is probable that the King Hill site can also be assigned to the Kansa.

Several observations and problems arose from the 1966 excavation which prompted consideration of additional work at King Hill.

First, preservation of botanical remains from the site was excellent. The use of more efficient recovery techniques would offer information concerning subsistence and climate that would not otherwise be available.

Secondly, although preliminary analysis indicated that the cultural remains are fairly consistent throughout the deposit, there was some indication of stratification in that trade materials of European derivation were recovered in the upper levels, but were not present near the base. This could prove to offer a unique opportunity to study continuous Oneota occupation of a stratified site.

Thirdly, from analysis of the faunal remains of the 1966 excavations it was possible to make some tentative suggestions which could be tested by additional data.

It appears that the inhabitants of King Hill had a strong orientation toward seasonal use of woodland and woodland border communities judging from the preponderance of deer, raccoon, beaver, and turkey remains. Bison and other plains fauna are poorly represented the majority of bison elements being tools or tool fragments.

Furthermore, woodland fauna are consistently numerous throughout the deposit. On the other hand bison elements appear to have been deposited only in the middle levels. This information may suggest either fewer bison were available at the beginning and end of site occupation, or that bison bones selected for use as tools were needed in greatest numbers during the occupation recorded in the middle zones.

In the Spring of 1972, the National Science Foundation approved a grant (#GS-33407) entitled "An Analysis of an Oneota Subsistence System". Emphasis was placed upon the subsistence system because the necessary data was well preserved and available through employment of improved collecting techniques, with this data, testable constructs of the physical-environmental system within which the resident population functioned can be developed, and the hypotheses which arose from the 1966 excavations could be tested with no modification of the recovery system.

The project was designed with three major objectives in mind. (1) We wished to increase the qualitative nature of the overall artifact inventory. While quantities of pottery, bone and stone tools were recovered in 1966, small materials normally lost through one-quarter inch screen such as tool fragments, splinters of bone and antler, and fine chipping debitage were lost. Such data, combined with artifacts from the 1966 excavations, will allow far greater insight to village activities. (2) We wanted a larger and more complete sample of the cultigens and wild food remains used by the site occupants.

(3) Small faunal remains which are seasonally available and/or sensitive to slight climatic fluctuation were also desired.

All soil from 1972 excavations was forced through a one-sixteenth inch screen by means of hydraulic pressure from an outside tap located at a nearby house. A storm sewer located approximately fifty yards down a steep slope served as a convenient repository for water. One problem was that of soil loss. We could afford neither the time nor the money to bring in large quantities of earth for backfilling or to remove silt which had been deposited in unwanted places. It became obvious that most of the soil be retained at the site. This was accomplished by construction of a sump trench which served as a settling basin. Each morning this trench was excavated, the mud put in wheelbarrows and placed near the excavation units. Backfilling revealed 85 percent of the soil was retained by this effort.

Initially, a trench consisting of five 5 foot by 5 foot squares was dug in arbitrary six inch levels. The purpose here was to open the trench as quickly as possible in order to expose a working profile which would be used to define natural stratigraphic levels within the deposit. It was soon discovered that we had not hit the deepest portion of the deposit. A decision was made to expose the western wall of an old 1966 excavation unit directly north of our trench in which the deposit had reached a surface depth of eleven feet. Once this was accomplished two 5 foot by 5 foot squares were established to the west of this wall. A third square was established to the east of the original trench. These three squares were excavated in natural stratigraphic units. When possible these natural units were subdivided by six inch arbitrary levels. Again all materials were passed through one-sixteenth inch screen. Large soil samples were taken from each natural level and from the arbitrary divisions within these levels. These samples will be used for gastropod, pollen, and chemical analysis.

Four natural levels were discerned within the site. The first of these was labeled "Plow Zone"; this consisted of the upper-most natural level, usually about twelve inches thick, which had been disturbed as a result of horticultural activities. The second natural level was recently disturbed, as suggested by the presence of both pre-historic and recent historic debris, exhibited great variation in thickness. This level represents recent movements of earth, probably from road and house construction. The third level discerned was characteristically very thin, usually only three to four inches. This level is dark and seemed to be transitional to the undisturbed midden below, it probably represents an old A1 soil horizon. The fourth natural level consisted of the undisturbed midden deposit. The thickness of this deposit varied from one to six feet, the deeper portions filling what are believed to have been former erosional ditches. Recent historical debris

is almost completely absent from this level.

Processing of the materials from the 1972 excavations at King Hill is now being done in the Laboratory of Anthropology at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. The materials are first passed through a one-quarter inch screen, everything greater than one-quarter inch is completely sorted. Everything less than one-quarter inch is immersed in water; all material that floats is retained separately. After the remaining material is dry, it is sorted for identifiable faunal remains, small artifacts and artifact fragments, and any botanical remains that may have escaped flotation.

In summation, the King Hill project has added to the body of Oneota data in both a quantitative and qualitative sense. The deep midden deposit offers an opportunity to study a stratified Oneota site. Through the use of faunal and floral elements, we should be better able to visualize the physical environment as a balanced system being systematically exploited by man. Further, the project has offered some insights into the adaptability of water screening techniques.

It is proposed that feedback from subsistence system analysis will function positively in construction of the physical environmental system which pertained at the time of the King Hill site occupation. The subsistence system cannot be derived logically without recourse to technological evidence. The tools, their implied function and patterns of wear, must be considered as part of a functioning whole, consistent with the hypothesized subsistence system. Combining material cultural data with that of subsistence patterning should yield information about the social and religious systems as well.

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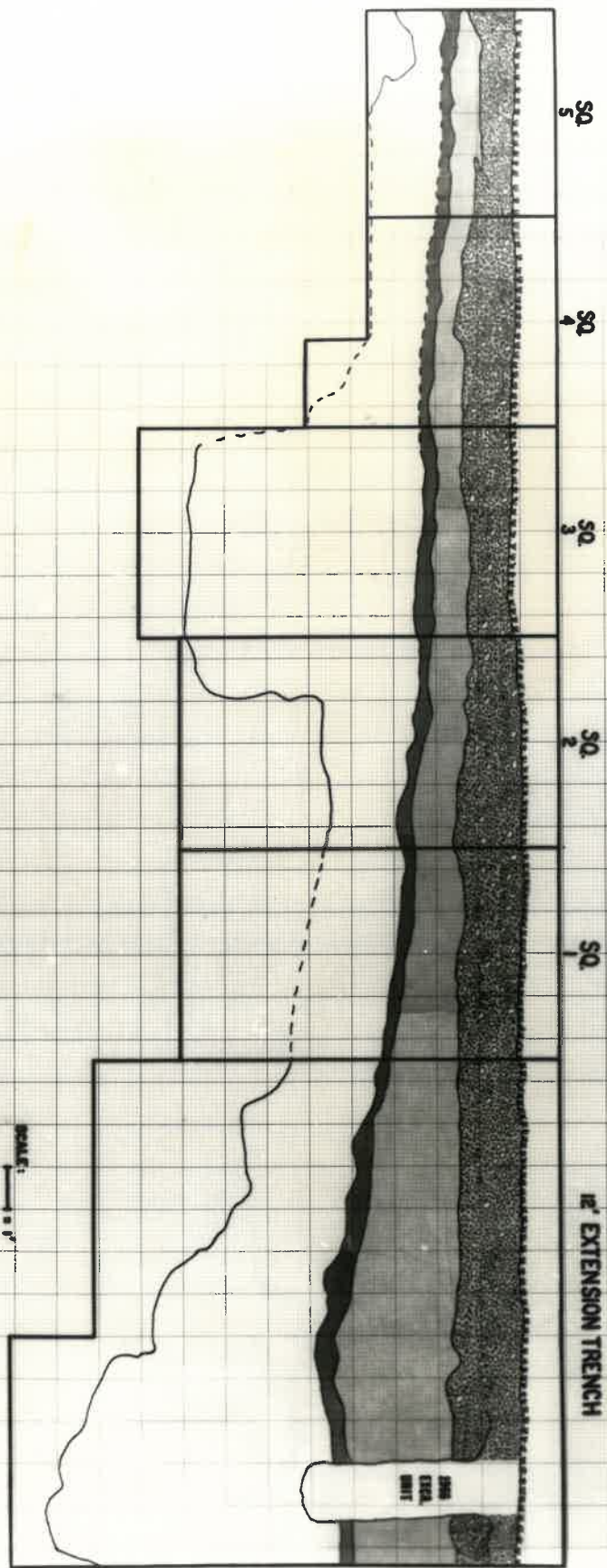
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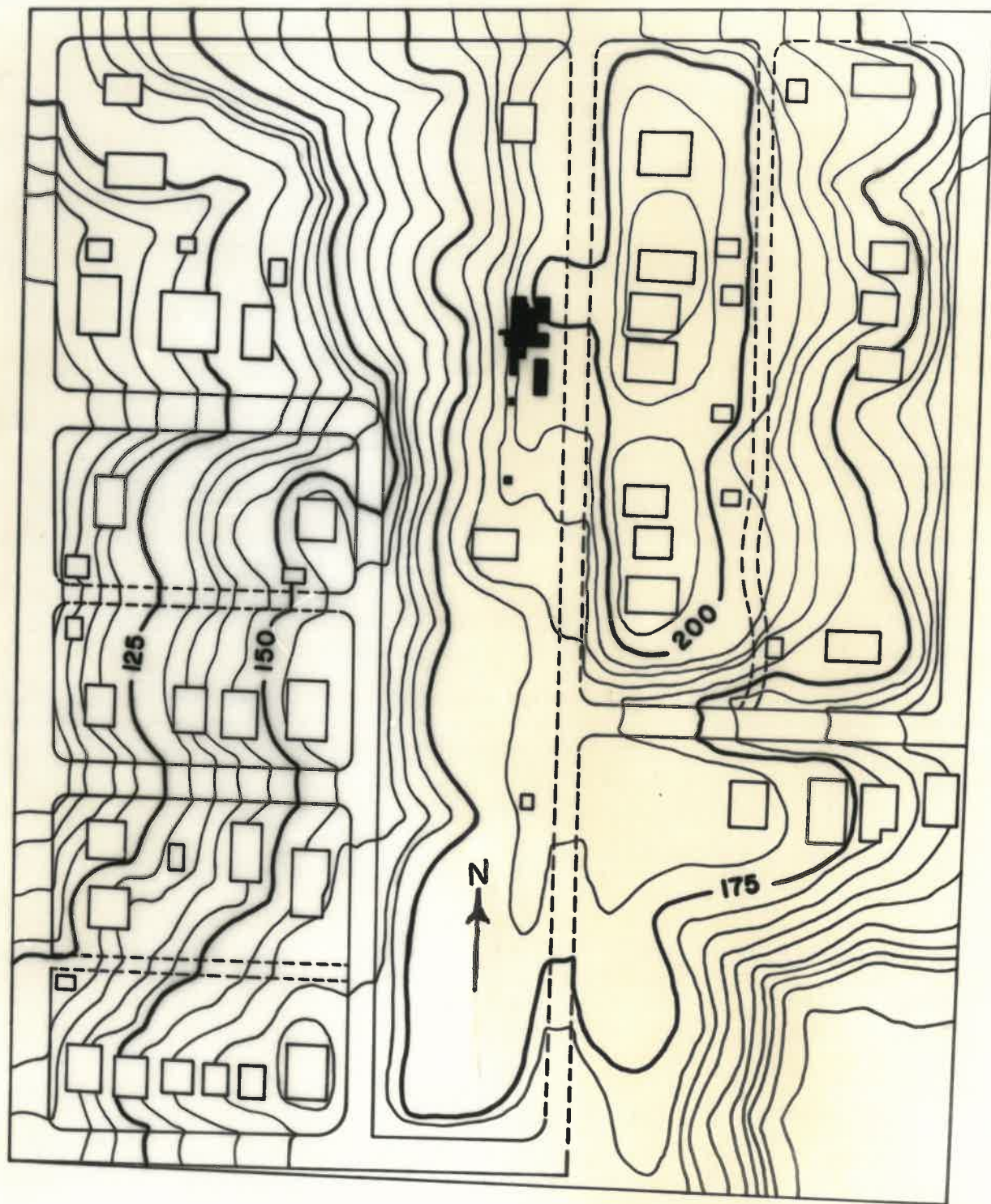
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VERTICAL PROFILES - WESTERN WALLS





0 50' 100' 150' 200'
SCALE
CONTOUR INTERVAL 5'

MISSOURI HISTORY NOT FOUND IN TEXTBOOKS

FIRST CIRCUS IN LINN COUNTY

From the *Brookfield Gazette*, May 1, 1915.

It was in the summer of 1857 that the first circus arrived to gladden the eyes of Linn county people, or for that matter, traveled across North Missouri. The show was one famous in its day—Levi J. North's Great National Circus, and, besides the regulation animals and performers, carried a real, honest-to-goodness steam calliope.

The circus had traveled up the Missouri river by steamboat to St. Joseph and had then struck out across country to Hannibal. The show pitched its tents at Linneus, the county seat, and showed to a big crowd but it was at Bucklin (then Bucklinville) that the real multitude gathered. People came on horseback, on foot, in covered wagons. Many, determined to be on time, came several days ahead and camped on the grounds. They came from Keytesville, from Brunswick, and from all along the right-of-way of the Hannibal St. Joe Railroad, which was then in process of construction. In spite of the slow methods of travel, lack of newspapers and telephones the management of the circus had spread the news of its coming and it was the principal subject of conversation and comment around the mighty open fireplace for weeks before and for months afterward. It is very probable that Levi J. North was then and there regarded as a much bigger man than one James Buchanan, the President of the United States.

THE EARLIEST INHABITANTS OF ST. JOSEPH

From the *St. Joseph News-Press*, August 31, 1926.

That the earliest white men to visit the present site of St. Joseph were the remnant of a Welsh colony established in 1080 in northern Florida or southern Carolina, is the contention of George Y. Hull, a teacher in the Y. M. C. A. night school, and a student in archaeology, who spoke at the luncheon of the Co-operative Club today noon at the St. Francis Hotel. The speaker made a number of statements about northwest Missouri which he said have been discovered through research by noted historians.

The Welsh colony, he said, was cut off from the home land a short time after it was established in America and later began to cross the country. It has been learned, he said, the colonists stopped at Blacksnake Creek, and the contention is partly borne out, he holds, through the finding of a skeleton of a man with yellow hair on King Hill. The speaker traced the movements of the people until they became lost in the Indian colonies from whence evolved a tribe with blue and gray eyes and yellowish

hair. This tribe was wiped out by disease and the Sioux Indians before research had brought out a great deal of evidence that it was descended from the Europeans.

Beginning his talk with the glacial age, estimated at 50,000 years ago, Mr. Hull said that this portion of the continent was under two miles of ice and that its recession resulted in the formation of a tremendous river which coursed southward across the country. It is thought that the stream came through this section of the country and Mr. Hull said that it was his belief that the great bluffs along the present course of the Missouri River were islands and banks of the stream.

"We are not sure that the country was inhabited that far back," he said, "but the evidence tends to show that there probably was human life on the continent shortly after the glacial epoch. Stone implements have been found that may have been lost by hunters of that time."

Going into the history of King Hill and the many relics that have been found there, he said that the mound had been named for John King, a California gold miner who was murdered by Indians. He had returned from the coast, laden with gold nuggets, and nuggets since found on the hill were attributed to the hoard of King. His body was buried on the summit of the mound the speaker said.

"King Hill was the scene of a terrible battle during the time that the vicinity of St. Joseph was known to the Indians as Paradise. The Wyandotte Indians were barricaded in their village atop the hill when they were attacked by the Sacs and Foxes. Although the country around was regarded as sacred ground the battle was waged as the result of the Wyandottes refusing hospitality to the tribe after a long journey from the East. All of the men killed in the battle were buried in three graves on the hill and when streets were put through in South St. Joseph these graves were unearthed. Many relics were found."

THE BATTLE OF LEXINGTON, MISSOURI

By Douglass Stewart, in the Chillicothe *Daily Constitution*, January 19, 1927.

Draper in his Philosophical History of the Civil War, speaking of the battle between General Mulligan of the Union forces and Price of the Confederates, at Lexington, Missouri, says: "Price made repeated attempts to capture Lexington without success, until August 29th (?), when his men contrived a moveable breastwork of hemp bales, that were stored on the wharf, which they rolled before them as they advanced and compelled Mulligan, who had been twice wounded, to surrender unconditionally." "Next came Mulligan his horse was wolly; but he soon found out that he couldn't lick the 'Bully' " (Price).

On July 4th, 1926, in a talk with the writer, Alexander (Dick) House, now 88 years old, of Livingston county, Missouri, who took part in that battle—he served under Price—said that the Confederates were not

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Frank Barker
after 1 P.M.

(Water Co. - to see
records on King Hill)

~~233-2528~~

232-7733

1st - 1st

1st - 1st

1st - 1st

1st - 1st

water tower up
there.

1st - 1st

Unsigned sheet from
library about King
Hill was written by
Chas. N. Soper

He also wrote on
the Sun bridge and
Wawalam. See Mo
Hist. Review Vol 20
Page 217
Legend of the Wawalam

Credit library research to:
Miss Edna Patrick

Arner Heritage reporter
interested in early costumes of
the 1860s will visit the museum
Sept. 29th (H. Do library making
arrangements.)

Father Le Smel's visit with
Joseph Robidoux at Blacksnake Hills,
en route to the Potawatomi mission in
1838, marks the beginning of
catholicism in present St. Joseph.

Mo Historical Review

Oct 1926 - July 1927

pub by St. Joseph Hist Soc
of Missouri
Vol XXI

Page 501 under

Mo History not found in Text books

The earliest inhabitants of St. Joseph

from the St. Joseph News-Press, Aug 31, 1926

The Missouri River and its victims

Vessels wrecked from the beginning

of navigation to 1925

by W.D. Mac Donald (3rd article)
(number of vessels sunk - details etc etc)

Page 581

Page 609 First children's
museum of the middle west to
be established at St. Joseph

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Handwritten: Ruppert

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BUCHANAN COUNTY, MISSOURI

The King Hill site is located in the southern portion of St. Joseph, Missouri on a high bluff overlooking the Missouri River bottomland. Construction of roads, houses, a school, and other projects involving earth movement were once believed to have destroyed the entire site. In the Spring of 1966, a small ~~undisturbed~~ ^{UNDISTURBED} portion of the site was ~~discovered~~ ^{DUG} by Mr. R. B. Aker in a privately owned garden, which, along with a small house, was for sale. Fortunately, the garden was rented by the St. Joseph ~~Public~~ Museum in order to allow time for salvage of data and to protect it from vandals.

A cooperative agreement between the St. Joseph Public Museum, St. Joseph Archaeological Society and the University of Missouri's Summer Session in Archaeology permitted limited exploration of the site during the following summer. The University's portion of the venture was directed by Dale R. Henning, and was carried out over a ten day period in July of 1966. Members of the St. Joseph Archaeological Society participated in the excavation as a training program: the methods employed were followed in their ensuing investigation which continued into the Fall. In sum, 13 ten foot squares and two narrow exploratory trenches were excavated. All materials were passed through a one-quarter inch screen, and soil samples were taken.

The 1966 tests revealed a deep stratified trash deposit which filled an old erosion ditch to a depth of nearly ten feet. The trash deposit has yielded a large collection of pottery, stone and bone tools, small European derived objects of copper, brass, iron, and glass, and quantities of floral and fauna remains. Preliminary analysis of these remains indicate cultural and temporal similarity to the inhabitants of the Fanning Site (Wedel 1959).

If Wedel is correct in his tentative suggestion that the Oneota remains at Fanning represent a historic Kansa occupation, it is probable that the King Hill site can also be assigned to the Kansa.

Several observations and problems arose from the 1966 excavation which prompted consideration of additional work at King Hill.

THE OWNERS OF THE PROPERTY KENELIZED THE IMPORTANCE AND NO FURTHER EXCAVATIONS

First, preservation of botanical remains from the site was excellent. The use of more efficient recovery techniques would offer information concerning subsistence and climate that would not otherwise be available.

Secondly, although preliminary analysis indicated that the cultural remains are fairly consistent throughout the deposit, there was some indication of stratification in that trade materials of European derivation were recovered in the upper levels, but were not present near the base. This could prove to offer a unique opportunity to study continuous Oneota occupation of a stratified site.

Thirdly, from analysis of the faunal remains of the 1966 excavations it was possible to make some tentative suggestions which could be tested by additional data.

It appears that the inhabitants of King Hill had a strong orientation toward seasonal use of woodland and woodland border communities judging from the preponderance of deer, raccoon, beaver, and turkey remains. Bison and other plains fauna are poorly represented the majority of bison elements being tools or tool fragments.

Furthermore, woodland fauna are consistently numerous throughout the deposit. On the other hand bison elements appear to have been deposited only in the middle levels. This information may suggest either fewer bison were available at the beginning and end of site occupation, or that bison bones selected for use as tools were needed in greatest numbers during the occupation recorded in the middle zones.

In the Spring of 1972, the National Science Foundation approved a grant (#GS-33407) entitled "An Analysis of an Oneota Subsistence System". Emphasis was placed upon the subsistence system because the necessary data was well preserved and available through employment of improved collecting techniques, with this data, testable constructs of the physical-environmental system within which the resident population functioned can be developed, and the hypotheses which arose from the 1966 excavations could be tested with no modification of the recovery system.

The project was designed with three major objectives in mind. (1) We wished to increase the qualitative nature of the overall artifact inventory. While quantities of pottery, bone and stone tools were recovered in 1966, small materials normally lost through one-quarter inch screen such as tool fragments, splinters of bone and antler, and fine chipping debitage were lost. Such data, combined with artifacts from the 1966 excavations, will allow far greater insight to village activities. (2) We wanted a larger and more complete sample of the cultigens and wild food remains used by the site occupants.

(3) Small faunal remains which are seasonally available and/or sensitive to slight climatic fluctuation were also desired.

All soil from 1972 excavations was forced through a one-sixteenth inch screen by means of hydraulic pressure from an outside tap located at a nearby house. A storm sewer located approximately fifty yards down a steep slope served as a convenient repository for water. One problem was that of soil loss. We could afford neither the time nor the money to bring in large quantities of earth for backfilling or to remove silt which had been deposited in unwanted places. It became obvious that most of the soil be retained at the site. This was accomplished by construction of a sump trench which served as a settling basin. Each morning this trench was excavated, the mud put in wheelbarrows and placed near the excavation units. Backfilling revealed 85 percent of the soil was retained by this effort.

Initially, a trench consisting of five 5 foot by 5 foot squares was dug in arbitrary six inch levels. The purpose here was to open the trench as quickly as possible in order to expose a working profile which would be used to define natural stratigraphic levels within the deposit. It was soon discovered that we had not hit the deepest portion of the deposit. A decision was made to expose the western wall of an old 1966 excavation unit directly north of our trench in which the deposit had reached a surface depth of eleven feet. Once this was accomplished two 5 foot by 5 foot squares were established to the west of this wall. A third square was established to the east of the original trench. These three squares were excavated in natural stratigraphic units. When possible these natural units were subdivided by six inch arbitrary levels. Again all materials were passed through one-sixteenth inch screen. Large soil samples were taken from each natural level and from the arbitrary divisions within these levels. These samples will be used for gastropod, pollen, and chemical analysis.

Four natural levels were discerned within the site. The first of these was labeled "Plow Zone"; this consisted of the upper-most natural level, usually about twelve inches thick, which had been disturbed as a result of horticultural activities. The second natural level was recently disturbed, as suggested by the presence of both pre-historic and recent historic debris, exhibited great variation in thickness. This level represents recent movements of earth, probably from road and house construction. The third level discerned was characteristically very thin, usually only three to four inches. This level is dark and seemed to be transitional to the undisturbed midden below, it probably represents an old A1 soil horizon. The fourth natural level consisted of the undisturbed midden deposit. The thickness of this deposit varied from one to six feet, the deeper portions filling what are believed to have been former erosional ditches. Recent historical debris

is almost completely absent from this level.

Processing of the materials from the 1972 excavations at King Hill is now being done in the Laboratory of Anthropology at the University of Nebraska-Lincoln. The materials are first passed through a one-quarter inch screen, everything greater than one-quarter inch is completely sorted. Everything less than one-quarter inch is immersed in water; all material that floats is retained separately. After the remaining material is dry, it is sorted for identifiable faunal remains, small artifacts and artifact fragments, and any botanical remains that may have escaped flotation.

In summation, the King Hill project has added to the body of Oneota data in both a quantitative and qualitative sense. The deep midden deposit offers an opportunity to study a stratified Oneota site. Through the use of faunal and floral elements, we should be better able to visualize the physical environment as a balanced system being systematically exploited by man. Further, the project has offered some insights into the adaptability of water screening techniques.

It is proposed that feedback from subsistence system analysis will function positively in construction of the physical environmental system which pertained at the time of the King Hill site occupation. The subsistence system cannot be derived logically without recourse to technological evidence. The tools, their implied function and patterns of wear, must be considered as part of a functioning whole, consistent with the hypothesized subsistence system. Combining material cultural data with that of subsistence patterning should yield information about the social and religious systems as well.

THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESOURCES OF MISSOURI: RECOMMENDATIONS FOR
PRESERVATION AND DEVELOPMENT FOR OUTDOOR RECREATION

(Preliminary report (1967) from Dr. Carl H. Chapman, Chairman of
Advisory Council on Archaeology to Missouri State Park Board)

On Page 10 as pertains to Buchanan County:

"The King Hill Oneota site 23BN1 has been investigated recently by the St. Joseph Museum and the University of Missouri. This is a protohistoric site that may be one of the early campsites of the Kansas Indians. It may also have been Iowa or Oto, as all these Indian groups had cultures somewhat similar in the early 1700's.

Recommendation: A portion of the King Hill site now surrounded by the city of St. Joseph, should be preserved, as a point of interest with an on-site exhibit of some of the materials in place. Fuller interpretation can be made in the St. Joseph Museum, but part of the site proper ought to be in local city hands. Mississippian related sites are known to be in the area, but their significance has not been determined."

MISSOURI STATE PARK BOARD

P. O. BOX 176 • 1204 JEFFERSON BLDG.
AREA CODE 314 TELEPHONE 635-7156
JEFFERSON CITY, MISSOURI 65101



October 1, 1968

JOSEPH JAEGER, JR.
DIRECTOR

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POPLAR BLUFF

Mr. Donovan Reynolds
St. Joseph Museum
Eleventh and Charles
St. Joseph, Missouri

Dear Mr. Reynolds:

The Missouri State Park Board is now engaged in a program to make a survey of the state of historical, architectural, and archaeological sites.

You have been recommended to me by Dr. Chapman as a possible source of help and information about archaeological sites. At this time, I would like to enlist your aid, if I may, to get some information about the "Kings Hill Slope" site (23-BN-4). The enclosed map has the area of interest marked on it.

What I need to know is;

- 1) What is on the property now
- 2) Does any evidence of the site remain

Also, if you have any recent photographs of the site you could send me, I will be very happy to re-emburse you for them.

Thank you in advance for your efforts.

Sincerely,

Philip L. Born
Research Archaeologist
ce
Enclosure

Missouri State Historic Survey
212 S. Eighth
Columbia, Missouri 65201

You are Always Welcome in Missouri's Scenic State Parks



KANSAS
COUNTY

ST. JOSEPH
POP. 78,588

ROSECRANS
MEMORIAL
AIRPORT

ANDREW

TO RTE. 10

TO SAVANNAH

TO ANATONIA

TO WARRENA

TO RTE. 136

PROPOSED
ROUTE 29

BURLINGTON

LYMAN
SWITCH

SAKTON

PROPOSED
ROUTE 229

T 58 N
T 57 N

T 58 N
T 57 N

R 36 W R 35 W

R 37 W R 36 W

CHICAGO

C. & M. R.

ATMOSPHERIC

MISSOURI RIVER

LAKE CONTAMARY

HORSESHOE LAKE

NEW LAKE

KENMOOR

HALLS

October 10, 1968

Mr. Philip L. Born
Research Archaeologist
Missouri State Historic Survey
212 S. Eighth
Columbia, Missouri 65201

Dear Mr. Born:

I am in receipt of your letter of October 1, concerning your need for more information on our King's Hill Oneota site in South St. Joseph. I notice that your designation of the site is 23-BN-4. Our designation for the King's Hill site on South 1st Street is 23-BN-1. Probably a typographical error?

The site is at present vacant and covered with weeds except for the south portion where the owner, Mrs. Betty Derry, has a small house. The site includes all of lots 1 through 8 and the north 20 feet of lot 9, block 12 in Bowen's addition. (5600 block on South 1st Street - West side of street) About the only visible evidence of the site that remains would be the shell tempered pottery sherds that erode from the slope to the west. The slope is tree and brush covered with a few small gullies that terminate at Cumberland Street. Cumberland on the west of the site, and South 1st on the east are the two north-south streets that sandwich the narrow area. The area lays generally north-south and is approximately one-half block in width by eight and a fraction lots long, or 120 feet by 210 feet. It is situated on the west edge of the loess bluff that continues south from King's Hill and is about two blocks from the summit. According to the St. Joseph City Engineering Department, the elevation of the site is about 150 feet while the summit of King's Hill is 256 feet above the Missouri River. The view westward from the site includes a wide expanse of the Missouri River Valley with South St. Joseph and the packing industry district below.

The Archaeological Department of the University of Missouri and later the local St. Joseph Archaeological Society (with help and direction from Missouri University) have excavated a total of 15 ten foot squares, some to a depth of ten feet. Test drilling to a depth of 72 inches along the edge of the bluff each direction from the excavation shows evidence of midden deposit.

Mr. Philip L. Born, Research Archaeologist
October 10, 1968
Page 2

Most of the material, except for a representative display in the St. Joseph Museum, was taken by the University of Missouri for study. (Mr. Dale Henning) Dr. Johnson of Kansas University, with his student archaeologists, assisted at the King's Hill for one day last fall. Their department, with sanction from Missouri University, has taken animal remains from those squares that were excavated by the local archaeological society members. These are to be studied to determine identity, butchering methods, etc. Seeds and other plant remains were sent to the Missouri Botanical Gardens for identification and a report will be forthcoming in the MUSEUM GRAPHIC this fall.

About two years ago the St. Joseph Archaeological Society and the St. Joseph Museum submitted a request to the city of St. Joseph that the King's Hill site be purchased with Bode Trust funds and included in the city park system as a small overlook park. Until last spring the St. Joseph Museum had been able to lease the site. The site has now been offered for sale. Our most recent request for Bode funds (last spring) has as yet brought no action. The St. Joseph Archaeological Society and the St. Joseph Museum are interested in preserving the site and continue to pursue the matter.

We appreciate your interest and hope the enclosed material will be of some help to you. If we can be of further assistance, please call on us.

Sincerely,

Donovan L. Reynolds
Preparator-Photographer
St. Joseph - Pony Express Museums

Trustee, Missouri State Arch. Soc.

DLR:js
Enc. 6 photographs
1 map
Museum Graphic

MISSOURI STATE HISTORICAL SURVEY AND PLANNING OFFICE
AREA CODE 314 TELEPHONE 449-0725
212 SOUTH EIGHTH STREET
COLUMBIA, MISSOURI 65201

November 4, 1968

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POPLAR BLUFF

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Preparator-photographer
St. Joseph-Pony Express Museum
Eleventh and Charles St.
St. Joseph, Missouri 64501

Dear Mr. Reynolds:

At this time I would like to express my gratitude to you for the help you gave me on the King's Hill site in St. Joseph.

Without the information supplied by you I would not have been able to present this site to the Archaeological Advisory Council of the Missouri State Historical Survey.

The council meeting was on the 26th of Oct and the King's Hill site was selected to be placed, with other sites, on the National Register. I hope that the placement of the King's Hill site on the National Register will in some way aid you in obtaining the needed funds to purchase and preserve the site.

Again, thank you very much for your help.

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Philip L. Born

Philip L. Born
Research Archaeologist

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cc
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Columbia, Missouri 65201

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ST. JOSEPH
POP. 78,588

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TO RTE 160

TO RTE 161

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TO WATKINS

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PROPOSED
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St. Joseph - Pony Express Museums

Trustee, Missouri State Arch. Soc.

DLR:js

Enc. 6 photographs
1 map
Museum Graphic



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STATE HISTORICAL SURVEY AND PLANNING OFFICE
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November 4, 1968

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Sincerely,

Philip L. Born

Philip L. Born
Research Archaeologist

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2519 JACKSON
ST. JOSEPH, Mo.
NOVEMBER 1, 1966

MAYOR DOUGLAS MERRIFIELD
CITY HALL
11TH & FREDERICK
ST. JOSEPH, MISSOURI

SUBJECT: INDIAN VILLAGE SITE ON THE SOUTH SLOPE OF KING
HILL IN SOUTH ST. JOSEPH.

DEAR MAYOR MERRIFIELD:

ALREADY MUCH PUBLICIZED BY PUBLIC NEWS MEDIA IS THE
FACT THAT SOME TIME AGO REMAINS OF AN INDIAN VILLAGE WAS
LOCATED IN THE 5600 BLOCK OF SOUTH FIRST STREET HERE IN
ST. JOSEPH. IT WAS AT ONCE LEASED BY THE LOCAL ARCHAEO-
LOGICAL SOCIETY AND THE ST. JOSEPH MUSEUM SO THAT A PROPER
SCIENTIFIC ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION COULD BE MADE.

AUTHORITIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI WERE CON-
TACTED AND AT ONCE AGREED TO HELP IN EXCAVATION AND STUDY
OF THE SITE SINCE VERY LITTLE IS KNOWN OF THE PRE-HISTORIC
AND EARLY HISTORIC PEOPLE WHO OCCUPIED OUR IMMEDIATE AREA.

THE ST. JOSEPH MUSEUM, THE MISSOURI UNIVERSITY ARCHAEO-
LOGICAL TEAM AND OUR OWN ST. JOSEPH ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
JOINED IN THE FIRST EXCAVATION IN LATE JUNE 1966. SINCE
THAT TIME THE MUSEUM AND THE LOCAL SOCIETY HAS CARRIED ON
THE EXCAVATION WHICH HAS PRODUCED A WEALTH OF FINE STUDY
SPECIMENS AND ARTIFACTS FOR DISPLAY AT THE MUSEUM.

THE UNIVERSITY WILL AGAIN SEND IT'S TEAM TO THE SITE
NEXT SUMMER (1967) PROVIDING WE STILL HAVE SOME LEGAL HOLD
ON THE PROPERTY. WE HOPE TO AGAIN LEASE THE PROPERTY BUT
SINCE SAID PROPERTY IS BEING OFFERED FOR SALE OUR EXACT
FUTURE STATUS IS SOMEWHAT UNCERTAIN.

OUR COMBINED PROGRESS HAS BUT MADE A DENT IN THE POTEN-
TIAL OF THE SITE. TEST DRILLINGS AT THE EXTREMITIES OF THE
SITE INDICATE THAT WE CANNOT HOPE TO DO A COMPLETE EXCAVATION

MAYOR DOUGLAS MERRIFIELD

NOVEMBER 1, 1966

PAGE 2

IN THE NEAR FUTURE. THIS SITE, AS EXTENSIVE AS IT IS, COULD AND SHOULD BE THE FOCAL POINT FOR A LONG RANGE STUDY. A PLACE WHERE FUTURE ARCHAEOLOGISTS AND STUDENTS CAN WORK AT THE BUSINESS OF DECIPHERING THE REMAINING CLUES TO THE IDENTITY OF OUR CITY'S INDIAN ANCESTORS. IT IS THE ONLY SUCH KNOWN RICH ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE IN THE CITY NOT ALREADY DESTROYED BY THE DEVELOPMENTS OF CIVILIZATION.

IT OCCURS TO US THAT SITUATED AS IT IS ON A WEST HILLSIDE SLOPE ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF THE ALREADY HISTORICALLY FAMOUS KING HILL AND BEING VIRGIN HILLSIDE OVERLOOKING SOUTH ST. JOSEPH, THE MISSOURI RIVER AND KANSAS, IT WOULD MAKE A FINE NEIGHBORHOOD OVERLOOK PARK SIMILAR TO THE ONE ON SOUTH 13TH STREET ACROSS FROM THE NAVAL RESERVE CENTER.

WE WOULD SUGGEST USE OF THE BODE FUNDS TO PURCHASE THIS PLOT AND WOULD HOPE THAT THE CITY PARK DEPARTMENT COULD ACCEPT IT INTO ITS FINE SYSTEM. IT COULD THEN SERVE A DUAL PURPOSE--A SMALL PLAYGROUND PARK THAT COULD BE ENJOYED BY THE PUBLIC AND ALSO SERVE AS A STUDY AREA WHERE OCCASIONALLY AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION COULD BE CONDUCTED UNDER GUIDANCE OF THE ST. JOSEPH MUSEUM AND/OR MISSOURI UNIVERSITY ARCHAEOLOGICAL DEPARTMENTS.

PRESERVATION OF THIS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE WOULD ALSO BE IN LINE WITH THE PRESENT LEWIS AND CLARK TRAIL DEVELOPMENT COMMISSION POLICY OF LOCATING AND MARKING HISTORICAL SITES ALONG THAT TRAIL. A MINIMUM OF MAINTENANCE WOULD BE REQUIRED SINCE MOST OF THE AREA IS WILD GRASS COVERED HILLSIDE.

THE PROPERTY CAN AT THIS DATE PROBABLY BE PURCHASED AT A REASONABLY LOW FIGURE. A SMALL CONCRETE BLOCK HOUSE ON THE SOUTH EDGE OF THE PROPERTY COULD BE REMOVED TO ENHANCE THE SCENIC QUALITY OF THE SITE.

A SIMILAR INDIAN SITE HAS JUST RECENTLY BEEN DISCOVERED IN NORTH KANSAS CITY AND IS NOW UNDER THE PROTECTION OF THEIR PARK DEPARTMENT. KNOWLEDGE OF THIS HAS IN PART PROMPTED US TO SEEK YOUR HELP.

MAYOR DOUGLAS MERRIFIELD
NOVEMBER 1, 1966
PAGE 3

THE OWNER OF THE PROPERTY IS MRS. BETTY DERRY, 5636 SOUTH FIRST STREET. SHE VALUES THE PROPERTY CONSISTING OF LOTS 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 AND THE NORTH 20' OF LOT 9 OF BOWEN'S ADDITION AT \$4,000 BUT WE ARE GIVEN TO UNDERSTAND SHE EXPECTS LESS.

WE RESPECTFULLY SUBMIT THIS SUGGESTION FOR YOUR CONSIDERATION AND OFFER OUR WHOLEHEARTED COOPERATION IN PLANNING AND DEVELOPMENT OF THE AREA. SHOULD YOU WISH WE COULD PROVIDE FURTHER INFORMATION AND WOULD BE PLEASED TO SHOW YOU THE SITE AT YOUR CONVENIENCE.

CORDIALLY YOURS,

ST. JOSEPH ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
MICHAEL R. FISHER, PRESIDENT

MRF:JS

JUNE 14, 1967

MAYOR DOUGLAS MERRIFIELD
CITY HALL
11TH & FREDERICK
ST. JOSEPH, MISSOURI

SUBJECT: INDIAN VILLAGE SITE ON THE SOUTH SLOPE OF KING HILL
IN SOUTH ST. JOSEPH.

DEAR MAYOR MERRIFIELD:

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THE MUSEUM IMMEDIATELY CONTACTED AUTHORITIES AT THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI AND THE UNIVERSITY AT ONCE AGREED TO HELP IN EXCAVATION AND STUDY OF THE SITE SINCE VERY LITTLE IS KNOWN OF THE PRE-HISTORIC AND EARLY HISTORIC PEOPLE WHO OCCUPIED OUR IMMEDIATE AREA.

THE ST. JOSEPH MUSEUM, THE MISSOURI UNIVERSITY ARCHAEOLOGICAL TEAM AND OUR OWN ST. JOSEPH ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY JOINED IN THE FIRST EXCAVATION IN LATE JUNE OF LAST YEAR. SINCE THAT TIME THE MUSEUM AND THE LOCAL SOCIETY HAS CARRIED ON THE EXCAVATION WHICH HAS PRODUCED A WEALTH OF FINE STUDY SPECIMENS AND ARTIFACTS FOR DISPLAY AT THE MUSEUM AND FOR FUTURE STUDY.

MISSOURI UNIVERSITY IS AGAIN PLANNING TO SEND ITS TEAM TO THE SITE SOME TIME THIS SUMMER AND THE WORK IS CONTINUING UNDER THE DIRECTION OF THE ST. JOSEPH MUSEUM AND THE LOCAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY. THE MUSEUM AGAIN LEASED THE PROPERTY FOR THIS 1967 SUMMER PERIOD, BUT THE PROPERTY IS NOW BEING OFFERED FOR SALE, AND THE EXACT STATUS OF THIS PROPERTY IS THEREFORE SOMEWHAT UNCERTAIN.

MAYOR DOUGLAS MERRIFIELD
JUNE 14, 1967
PAGE 2

THE COMBINED PROGRESS OF THE ABOVE ORGANIZATIONS HAS BUT MADE A DENT IN THE POTENTIAL OF THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE. TEST DRILLINGS AT THE EXTREMITIES OF THE SITE INDICATE THAT WE CANNOT HOPE TO DO A COMPLETE EXCAVATION IN THE NEAR FUTURE. THIS SITE, AS EXTENSIVE AS IT IS, COULD AND SHOULD BE A FOCAL POINT FOR A LONG RANGE STUDY. A PLACE WHERE FUTURE ARCHAEOLOGISTS AND STUDENTS CAN WORK AT THE BUSINESS OF DECIPHERING THE REMAINING CLUES TO THE IDENTITY OF OUR CITY'S INDIAN PREDECESSORS. IT IS THE ONLY KNOWN RICH ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE IN THE CITY THAT HAS NOT BEEN DESTROYED BY THE ENCROACHMENT OF CIVILIZATION.

IT HAS OCCURRED TO THE ST. JOSEPH ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, THE ST. JOSEPH MUSEUM AND THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT OF THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI, THAT SINCE IT IS SITUATED ON A WESTERN HILLSIDE SLOPE ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF THE ALREADY HISTORIC KING HILL AND BEING VIRGIN HILLSIDE OVERLOOKING SOUTH ST. JOSEPH, THE MISSOURI RIVER AND KANSAS, IT WOULD MAKE A FINE SMALL NEIGHBORHOOD OVERLOOK PARK SIMILAR TO THE ONE ON SOUTH 13TH STREET ACROSS FROM THE NAVAL RESERVE CENTER, AND THAT A GRANITE MONUMENT COULD BE PLACED IN THIS PARK TELLING THE STORY OF THE SITE ITSELF. I DO NOT BELIEVE IT WILL BE NECESSARY TO ACTUALLY FENCE IN THE SITE. HOWEVER, THIS MIGHT BE TAKEN UNDER ADVISEMENT LATER ON BY THE PARK DEPARTMENT, THE MUSEUM AND THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

AS HAS BEEN SUGGESTED BY THE ST. JOSEPH ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY IN THEIR LETTER OF NOVEMBER 1, 1966 TO YOU RECOMMENDING ACQUISITION OF THE SITE, BODE FUNDS MIGHT BE USED TO PURCHASE THIS PLOT. THEY HOPE THAT THE CITY PARK DEPARTMENT COULD ACCEPT IT INTO ITS FINE SYSTEM. IT WOULD THEN SERVE A DUAL PURPOSE-- FIRST OF ALL A SMALL PLAYGROUND PARK THAT COULD BE ENJOYED BY THE PUBLIC AND AS A STUDY AREA WHERE OCCASIONALLY AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL EXCAVATION COULD BE CONDUCTED UNDER GUIDANCE OF THE ST. JOSEPH MUSEUM, MISSOURI UNIVERSITY ARCHAEOLOGICAL DEPARTMENT AND THE ST. JOSEPH ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY.

PRESERVATION OF THIS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE WOULD ALSO BE IN LINE WITH THE PRESENT LEWIS AND CLARK TRAIL DEVELOPMENT POLICY OF LOCATING AND MARKING HISTORIC SITES ALONG THAT TRAIL. A VERY MINIMUM OF MAINTENANCE WOULD BE REQUIRED SINCE MOST OF THE AREA IS WILD GRASS COVERED HILLSIDE.

MAYOR DOUGLAS MERRIFIELD
JUNE 14, 1967
PAGE 3

I KNOW THAT THE PROPERTY CAN AT THIS DATE PROBABLY BE PURCHASED AT A REASONABLY LOW FIGURE, AND I SUGGEST THAT YOU CONTACT MR. DON REYNOLDS OF THE MUSEUM STAFF FOR FURTHER INFORMATION REGARDING THE PURCHASING OF THIS PROPERTY. THERE IS A SMALL CONCRETE BLOCK HOUSE ON THE SOUTH EDGE OF THE PROPERTY THAT SHOULD BE REMOVED TO ENHANCE THE SCENIC QUALITY OF THE SITE. THEREFORE, IN ADDITION TO REQUESTING BODE FUNDS FOR PURCHASE ALONE, ENOUGH MONEY SHOULD BE REQUESTED TO INCLUDE A GRANITE MARKER OR MONUMENT AND FOR REMOVAL OF THE CONCRETE BLOCK HOUSE AND LANDSCAPING OF THE SITE ITSELF.

A SIMILAR INDIAN SITE HAS JUST RECENTLY BEEN DISCOVERED IN NORTH KANSAS CITY AND IS NOW UNDER THE PROTECTION OF THE PARK DEPARTMENT, SO YOU HAVE A PRECEDENT FOR THE PURCHASE OF OUR SITE.

THE OWNER OF THE PROPERTY IS MRS. BETTY DERRY, 5636 SOUTH FIRST STREET. THE LAST TIME MR. REYNOLDS TALKED WITH HER SHE HAD PLACED A \$3500.00 VALUE ON THE PROPERTY WHICH CONSISTS OF LOTS 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7, 8 AND THE NORTH 20' OF LOT 9 OF BOWEN'S ADDITION.

IF THERE ARE ANY FURTHER QUESTIONS CONCERNING THIS MATTER I SUGGEST THAT YOU CONTACT EITHER ME OR MR. DON REYNOLDS OF THE MUSEUM STAFF.

SINCERELY YOURS,

ROY E. COY, DIRECTOR
ST. JOSEPH MUSEUM
PONY EXPRESS MUSEUM

REC:JS

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEBRASKA
LINCOLN, NEBRASKA 68508

DEPARTMENT OF ANTHROPOLOGY

March 29, 1971

Mr. Michael Fisher
2519 Jackson Street
St. Joseph, Missouri 64507

Dear Mike:

I will plan to speak to the St. Joseph Chapter on the 26th of April at 7:30 p.m. I will bring the Kings Hill materials with me, whether they are completely catalogued or not. There is just too much busy work here these days...

The topic will be archaeological and probably will have to do with the lower mainstem of the Missouri River. That will depend. Betty may come down with me, depending upon the mood and inclinations of our recently-adopted boy. If he can be left with a sitter, she will come. Please reserve the motel room, anyway. I am hoping not to drive back to Lincoln late on Monday night.

Perhaps someone down there can do a bit of research regarding the use of 'Kings Hill'. Is it used in the preceding fashion, or is it King's Hill, Kings' Hill, King Hill? What really is proper and why?

Certainly look forward to seeing you all.

Best regards,



Dale R. Henning

DRH/mlk



Evans
Archaeological Survey
22 Swift Ln
Univ. of Mo.
Columbia, Mo. 65201



Mr. Michael R. Fisher
2519 Jackson St
St. Joseph, Mo. 64501

10/27/70

Dear Mike,

The number of the site
you sent to the survey
is 23 BN 5 and located
in SW SE NW 29-57-35W.

Thank you for sending
in the form. We sure need
more recorded sites from
your area.

I hope to see you at
the meeting on Sunday.
Sincerely yours
Dave Evans



MUSEUM GRAPHIC

WINTER 1967

VOL. XIX No.1

By Roy E. Coy

**Were
They
KANSA
MISSOURI
OTO
IOWA
ALL
OR ONE
OR NONE?**

In the Fall Issue 1964, Volume XVI, Number 4 of the MUSEUM GRAPHIC, Pages 8 to 14, I wrote an article titled "The Red Man in Northwest Missouri" and at that time I stated that the Indians that occupied the King's Hill area were Missouri Indians. I based this conclusion on what little known facts we had available at that time. However, due to the recent excavation on King's Hill by the Missouri University Ar-



Gahige zhi'or Yellowish Red Chief Kansa, Copy by A. Zeno Shindler, Washington, D. C. 1869.
SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTE, PHOTO.

BELATED ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATION ON KING'S HILL ST. JOSEPH MISSOURI



By
J. M. SHIPPEE, ARCHAEOLOGIST
University of Missouri

Photographed By
D. L. REYNOLDS
St. Joseph Museum

One hundred and thirty years after the Platte Purchase and the beginning of settlement around St. Joseph, King's Hill is undergoing archaeological investigations by professionals. The hill, in the southern part of the city, has been the location of the discovery of Indian burials and artifacts of pottery and stone which were discarded by prehistoric tribes. Recorded history began with the establishment of Joseph Robi-

doux's trading post where the Blacksnake Creek joined the Missouri River and the Iowa, Sac and Fox Indians came to trade. The settlement of the area was rapid and quite notorious and the Indian tribes were soon crowded out by the white emigrants traveling west and those who stayed in the town.

Rudolph Frederick Kurz, a Swiss artist, lived in St. Joseph from 1848 to 1851. His observations and sketches of the area are exceedingly revealing of the primitive town and its people. One of his sketches shows King's Hill in the distance and the high peak is very prominent. About 40 feet of this abrupt peak was removed when a reservoir was constructed there and Indian burials were revealed in the movement of the earth. Burials have been accidentally discovered in the removing of earth from the slopes of the hill and pottery fragments and stone artifacts have been found in the gardens of residents of the numerous houses. This material seems to have caused only mild curiosity and little of it can be found today for study. Scientific investigation by archaeologists has been equally lax and the identification of the remains has only been guessed at by those who were too busy elsewhere to examine one of the few remaining concentrations on the hill.

Finally spurred on by the interest of a few amateur and professional archaeologists, tests were made in a small garden strewn with trash of the present community and that plowed out from the middens of the Indians who had lived nearby. The tests revealed sufficient material in the deeper deposits of the middens to positively identify the culture

which had occupied the site. This resulted in the St. Joseph Museum and the University of Missouri Department of Anthropology being notified of the discovery. Previously, Don Reynolds of the Museum had visited the site and had salvaged a burial from near the garden.

Mrs. Betty Derry, owner of the garden, leased the plot to the Museum and any unauthorized digging was prohibited. The University and the Museum were joined in the actual excavation by members of the St. Joseph, Atchison and Kansas City Archaeological Societies. Work was begun on June 27 and ended July 3 when the excavations were backfilled. Further work is planned. Dale Henning, director of American Archaeology at the University was in charge of the project and brought a number of graduate students to aid in the work.

Considerable information in the study of the migration of certain tribes prior to historic times seemingly will result from this investigation, especially when the material is studied at the University. Tentatively, the materials recovered suggest that the Kansa tribe of the Dheghia branch of the Oneota Aspect lived on the hill at a time close to the introduction of trade goods by itinerate peddlers. Reliance on Wedels (1946) discussion concerning the Kansa tribal history has been a guide in the writing of this article. If the tentative identification of the Indians as being Kansa is substantiated, the theory (Dorsey 1886) that the Kansa did move up the east side of the Missouri River after a short halt at the junction of the Kansas River with the Missouri, seems quite valid. Further search, as far as the Nodaway River may result in some interesting discoveries.

Almost directly opposite St. Joseph and King's Hill there are several well known sites identified as being of the Oneota Aspect in Kansas. Three of these sites west of the Missouri are between 14 and 20 miles distant and one in south east Nebraska is 35 miles up the river. Wedel thinks (1959) that the site near Fanning, Kansas is Kansa of a period in the late 1600's (1959, P. 171). The village near Doniphan, Kansas was visited in 1723 by La Renaudiere and in 1724 by Etienne Veniard de Bourgmond. Both described it as being a large Kansa village. Eighty years later, Lewis and Clark visited the long deserted place and one at the mouth of Salt Creek north of Ft. Leavenworth where the French had established Ft. Cavagnolle about 1750. This de-



Girls can dig scientifically and efficiently.

Preparing a rimsherd in situ for a photograph. Dale Henning and Joan Page.

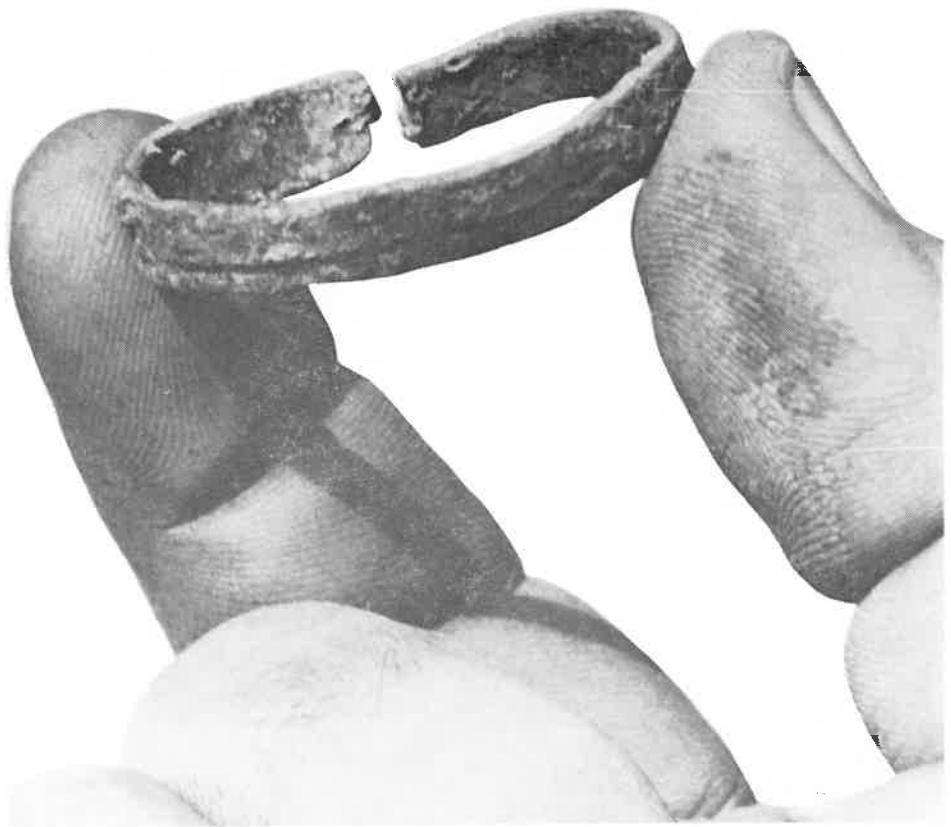


the ability of the girls to move as much dirt as the men and to stick for 9 hours at the labor through the seven days of the work in 94 degree temperatures. Don Reynolds' photographs may reveal the dirt that clung to the crew after a days digging. Appetites were good and sound sleep was no problem after showers at the Museum annex.

The completion of the project will not be attained until laboratory work and the analyses are completed and a report prepared for publication. Such a report fills in a very small bit of the story of the erratic wanderings of the Indians when expansion of white settlements pushed the tribes steadily westward into strange environments. Tracing these trails of migration is a difficult but intriguing study.

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 KURZ, Journal of Rudolph Frederick Kurz, U. S. Govt. Printing Office, Washington, D. C., 1937.
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EVIDENCE OF THE INDIANS CONTACT WITH WHITE TRADERS IS OBJECTS LIKE THIS METAL RING.



Artifacts of flint included a broken 4 beveled knife, an ancient spear point of a pre-pottery culture, 3 scrapers of the Oneota style, 5 arrow points and 3 drills.

ANNUAL MEETING

Sunday October 16, 1966 the Missouri Archaeological Society held their annual meeting at the Museum. The picture to the left was taken by Don L. Reynolds, Museum photographer, in the front hall of the museum while the society had taken time out to tour the museum. The exhibits in the case are from the King Hill site in St. Joseph and contain only a small part of the material excavated from the site.

The featured speaker for the meet-

ing was Marvin Kivett, Director of the Nebraska State Historical Museum. Henry W. Hamilton of Marshall, Mo. is President and Dr. Carl H. Chapman is Secretary. Other officers for 1966-67 are: J. Allen Eichenberger, Hannibal; W. M. Davis, Springfield; L. W. Blake, St. Louis; Leo J. Roedl, Kansas City and Roy E. Coy, St. Joseph, Vice-Presidents. Treasurer, Dee F. Green, Columbia. Editors Robert T. Bray, Miami; Dale R. Henning, Columbia; Carl H. Chapman, Columbia. Trustees, O. D. Evans, Chairman, St. Louis; Leo O.

Anderson, Van Buren; Fred Brandenberger, Cuba; J. L. Connelly, Iron-ton; Dr. G. M. Cresswell, Potosi; Terrance Dyche, Kansas City; Charles Fiorita, Moberly; Franklin H. Flora, Savannah; Henry Gerdes, New Haven; T. M. Hamilton, Miami; J. H. Laweill, Green Valley; W. P. Lyman, Marshall; Steve Miller, Hollister; Junior Pickett, Novinger; John W. Taylor, Troy; Dr. P. F. Titterington, St. Louis; Dr. Raymond Felling, Weston; Donovan Reynolds, St. Joseph; Charles V. Orr, Dexter; and Edward Matthews, Jr., Sikeston.



President Michael Fisher of the Local Archaeological Society showing some of the members of the state society the excavation on the King Hill site, St. Joseph, Missouri



TOP LEFT: Jane Grote (Alice) and Chris Jones.

TOP RIGHT: Cathie Violet — Queen of Hearts.
Karen Thomas — Cheshire Cat.

BOTTOM RIGHT: (Left to Right) Renee Hayward, Jan Scallisl, Deanna Hayward, Margie Christgen.

BOTTOM LEFT: Derrick Beers.

IN MEMORIAM



CURT E. KUEHN
BORN 1897
DIED OCTOBER 1966

Member of City and Incorporated Boards of Directors. Born in Chicago, Illinois, he moved with his family to St. Joseph in April, 1902. Attended public schools in St. Joseph. Attended American Fur Designing School in New York City. Was in World War I, in 35th Division. Was Past Commander and member of MacDonald-Dugger-Duncan Post No. 11, American Legion. Was a member and past Chef de Gare of Voiture No. 130, 40 et 8. Was a member of Moila and St. Joseph Country Clubs, Charity Lodge No. 331, A.F. & A.M. 32nd degree Scottish Rite and Moila Shrine. Mr. Kuehn had been with the Museum almost since its founding and had given of his time and money to help it progress and properly develop. He was always willing to do more than his share in every project upon which the Museum ventured. We of the Museum will miss Mr. Kuehn.

(About Father De Smet - Peter
Jahn De Smet -)

See Mo. Hist. Review Vol XXVI

Oct 1941 July 1942

page 343 under Missouri Missionaries

Born Jan 30, 1801, in Belgian
village of Termonde —

King Hill

(Geo Soper)

The stories which gather about King Hill are numerous and varied. It has during many years been a mine of treasure for gold and relic seekers.

A company of successful 49er's returning from California were attacked there by Indians and exterminated. Their gold was sought for many years thereafter.

To the ^{SOUTH} ~~north~~ of King Hill and round about the present locality of Benton School were found buried in trenches the bodies of men, women and horses, all mingled with ashes of old camp fires. This was thought, without doubt, to be the result of the disastrous defence attempted by the Wyandotts once peacefully living in a village on King Hill, against the Sacs and Foxes, part of that Iroquis tribe driven from the east by the English. Being possessed of rifles the Sacs and Foxes killed the Wyandotts not so well armed and scalping them, rode away.

Now the soul of an Indian remains with the scalp. The bereft Wyandott women, having no one to avenge the death of their braves, no one to win back the scalps, and souls--exposed themselves on the graves of their dead, until frozen and starved, when their appeal reached even the savage hearts of the enemy. The scalps were returned to be buried with the bodies.

2 The old Benton high school was to the south of King's Hill, in fact, just immediately to the south of our 23 BN/1 site.

W. V. (b. 1871) - ... Vol. XXI is the V. 1926-4 1927
1 - 1/2 N.P. 31, 1926 - ... hands the
Geo. W. Hull

(X)

From the reference given by Dr.
St. George's Library can the following be
mistakenly regarded as a list of names, that
interesting name the Rev.

King Hill

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The old Benton high school was to the south of King's Hill, and its immediate vicinity to the south of our DEERHILL.

MISSOURI ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
REPORT OF THE NOMINATING COMMITTEE - 1968

NOMINATING COMMITTEE

William M. Clark, Columbia
Dallas K. Meyer, Columbia
George Nichols, Columbia , Chairman

The following are suggested for nomination for officers to be elected at the Annual Fall Meeting, 1968, for 1969.

TRUSTEES

Incumbent Trustees for Nomination

Dale Belshe, Salisbury	James M. Keefe, Jefferson City
C. L. Blanton, Jr., Sikeston	Margaret Lawlor, Kansas City
Fred Bollinger, Chaffee	Frank Magre, Crystal City
Mary B. Bruno, St. Peters	Winton O. Meyer, St. Louis
Maynard A. Fisher, Owensville	
J. W. Gerhardt, Cape Girardeau	Mrs. Howard Platz, Shelbyna
Dr. M. M. Hart, Salem	Leonard Rowe, Willow Springs
James G. Houser, Manchester	Paul V. Sellers, Lewistown
Sam C. Irvine, Marshall	John C. Vinton, Strafford
Sam G. Jones, East Prairie	George Von Hoffman, Jr., St. Louis

New Trustees Proposed for Nomination

Claude Knoles, Kansas City
Nelson Reed, St. Louis

Incumbent Officers for Nomination

PRESIDENT	Henry W. Hamilton, Marshall
VICE-PRESIDENTS	J. Allen Eichenberger, Hannibal
	Leonard W. Blake, St. Louis
	Clem T. Kelly, Warrenton
	Walter M. Davis, Springfield
	Leo J. Roedl, Kansas City

OTHER OFFICERS AND EDITORS

SECRETARY	Robert M. Thorne, Columbia
TREASURER	David R. Evans, Columbia
EDITOR, <u>The Missouri Archaeologist</u>	- Robert T. Bray, Miami
EDITOR, <u>The Newsletter</u>	- David R. Evans, Columbia
EDITOR, <u>Memoir Series</u>	- Carl H. Chapman, Columbia
EDITOR, <u>Research Series</u>	- W. Raymond Wood, Columbia

ANNUAL FALL MEETING - 1968
MISSOURI ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Memorial Union Auditorium
University of Missouri - Columbia

October 20, 1968

MORNING SESSION

Chairman: Henry W. Hamilton, President

- 9 - 10:00 Registration
- 10:00 Meeting called to order. H. W. Hamilton, President
- 10:05 Minutes of 1967 meeting. R. M. Thorne, Acting Secretary.
- 10:15 Treasurer's Report. D. R. Evans, Acting Treasurer
- 10:25 Report of Auditing Committee: Dr. Royal D. M. Bauer,
Dr. Francis L. Stubbs, Mr. Al Marshall
- 10:35 Report of Editors:
Missouri Archaeologist - Robert T. Bray
Research Series & Memoir - Carl H. Chapman
Newsletters - Dale Henning
- 10:45 Chapter Reports (5 minutes each)
- | | | |
|-------------------|-------------|------------|
| Marion-Ralls | Big Bend | Salt River |
| Ozark | Kansas City | Raytown |
| Mound City | St. Joseph | |
| Greater St. Louis | Northwest | |
- 11:40 Report of Nominating Committee
- 11:50 Election of Officers
- 12:00 Recess for lunch and visit to the Museum of Anthropology. (Guided tours 12:30 - 1:30 and 4:00 - 5:00 p.m.) (The Cafeteria and Union will be open)

AFTERNOON SESSION

Chairman: Dr. Carl H. Chapman, Director of Archaeology Research Activities, University of Missouri

- 1:30 Report of Preservation of Sites Committee. J. J. McKinny, Chairman
- 1:45 "Antiquities Acts," Dr. Wilfred D. Logan, Chief of Archaeological Research, Midwest Region, National Park Service
- 2:30 Discussion
- 3:00 New Business
- 3:30 Introduction of New Staff Members: Dr. Richard A. Krause, Director of American Archaeology; David R. Evans; Alden Redfield; Bruce McMillan; Robert M. Thorne
- 4:00 Adjournment: Museum will reopen from 4:00 to 5:00

OPEN HOUSE at 211 Edgewood. Hosts - Mr. and Mrs. Henry W. Hamilton and Dr. and Mrs. Carl Chapman

KING HILL ONEOTA SITE 23BN1

ST. JOSEPH, MO.

Still being studied, the King Hill Oneota site excavation was first started in 1966 by the University of Missouri and the St. Joseph Museum. It is a proto-historic site situated on the south slope of King Hill in the south side of the city of St. Joseph and is thought to have been occupied by Kansas Indians for about a quarter of a century around 1700. A midden site, it has produced much study material from deeply covered layers of refuse strata containing pottery sherds, animal bones, shells, beads, tools, etc. University of Kansas archaeologists assisted in the excavations at one point. The University of Nebraska continues at this time with a study of stone items and trade related artifacts. Published material on the site is available to students and researchers at the St. Joseph Museum reference library.

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At this time, January 1982, most of the excavated materials are stored at the St. Joseph Museum where they will eventually be processed, numbered and placed in order for examination and study by qualified researchers. Also at this time no volunteer assistance is needed but possibly may be in the future when the remainder of the material is returned to the St. Joseph Museum from the University of Nebraska where it has been under study.

The 23BN1 Oneota site in South St. Joseph is now within the St. Joseph Park System. Although not officially named such, it is known as Oneota Park. (Oneota is the name of the culture that included the Kansa, Missouri, Iowa and Otoe Indian tribes.) Local responsibility for interpretation of the site is assumed by the St. Joseph Museum since they were involved from the beginning with the excavation and possess the records, photographs and artifacts from the site.

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