

The T. O. Fuller Report

Edited by Kenneth Lawrence Beaudoin

with An Analysis of Plant Materials from the Fuller Site

by VOLNEY H. JONES, Curator of Ethnology,
Curator of Ethnology, and in charge of the Ethnobotanical
Laboratory, Museum of Anthropology, University of Michigan

A R E P O R T

of

EXCAVATIONS Made at the

T. O. FULLER SITE

SHELBY COUNTY, TENNESSEE

Between: March 8, 1952

and

April 30, 1953

Conducted by:

MEMPHIS ARCHAEOLOGICAL AND GEOLOGICAL
SOCIETY

Edited by:

Kenneth Lawrence Beaudoin

Printed Privately,
Memphis, Tennessee,
1953

Merry Christmas
Kenneth L. Beaudoin

Thanks Are Extended to:

Mr. Glenn Nicely, Commissioner of Conservation of the State of Tennessee, and Mr. Ed. C. Tayloe, Superintendent of State Parks for their interest and cooperation in connection with this project,

Mr. L.G. Mc Lean, former State Naturalist for his interest in the project,

Superintendent Alfred Harris of Fuller State Park for his interest and cooperation,

Mr. Wm R. Adams, Laboratory of Osteology, Bloomington, Indiana; Mr. Wm. T. Leaploy, and Dr. Herbert Friedman of the Smithsonian Institution, and Dr. Volney H. Jones of the University of Michigan for valuable laboratory help and assistance.

Mr. Glenn E. Barnes for furnishing waste disposal unit, posting signs, and providing canvas covers for burials while on their pedestals, and particularly for allowing us access to his very important collection of archaeological materials from Barrett Farm,

Members of Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society who have contributed time and labor to the project, and the processing of the materials removed from the Site; and very especially to members of the Memphis Nature Club who contributed so generously of their time and energy during the final stages of the excavations in the Spring of 1953.

And to Memphis Museum for storage area for the materials removed from the site, and for the interest its Director has shown in displaying items removed from the Site.

T H E T . O . F U L L E R R E P O R T

E R R A T T A:

- p. 5 (History of the Site)--last sentence should read: Since 1935 the site has been worked by Dr. T.M. N. Lewis and Mr. Geo. Lidberg.
- p. 10, line 23 should read: "includes as well a small...."
- p. 22, line 45 should read: "from the rear before interment."
- p. 24, footnote #1 should read: Sect. III and IV (pp. 61-180) instead of Chapter IV.
- p. 25, line 2 should read: "the 584 plain rims and lips".
- p. 26, line 3 should read: "28 were modified strap handle types."
- p. 27, line 6 should read: " duck and cormorant instead of kingfisher".
line 8 should read: " the frog effigy occurs in."
- p. 34, line 19, should read: "an extended occupation of the...."

Note: The publication of this report which has been at my expense has consumed funds which I had planned to donate to the Nodena Foundation; so 100 copies of the report are being made available to persons who make donations to the Nodena Foundation Building Fund so this fund can be replenished. KLB.

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Introduction

The Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society Excavations at the T.O. Fuller Site were begun in March of 1952 upon the approval of the project by Mr. L.G. Mc Lean who was at the time, State Naturalist of the State of Tennessee. It was pursued through September of 1952 when Mr. S. C. Taylor, former Superintendent of State Parks requested that the project be completed as soon as possible. Work was continued into October of 1952 when a preliminary report of the excavations and findings was submitted to Mr. Swann, former Commissioner of Conservation, and Mr. S.C. Taylor, former Superintendent of State Parks, requesting that more time be allowed to complete the project in so far as a portion of a house pattern running twenty feet in one direction and eleven feet in another had been located, and it seemed feasible to attempt to uncover at least one whole house pattern. Between November and January 1953 while action was pending concerning this decision the project was attacked by local pot-hunters and vandals and the burials which had been left in situ on their pedestals for the inspection of the Commissioner and the Superintendent of State Parks, were scandalously disturbed. In January of 1953 following receipt of the kind letter of Mr. Ed. C. Tayloe, present Superintendent of State Parks expressing his interest in the project, work was again begun, and an attempt was made to salvage the remains of the disturbed burials and to continue excavations in such of the squares and such portions of the squares as were not riddled with holes.

Excavations were completed on April 30, 1953 and one house pattern was almost completely uncovered. Laboratory work and the processing of materials and the publication of this report, of course, continued after the field work had been completed. Fragments of several other house patterns were also uncovered. Four hearths were found only one of which can be associated with the house pattern completed. Only one square #5 was carried down to the bottom of the midden. Originally 10 squares had been

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explored, through 9 of which portions of the house pattern completed ran.

This report is based on the recordings in the daily field journal which I kept on this project and upon the conclusions drawn from expert examination of the thousands of pieces of midden materials removed from the Site. In so far as no previous report has been published on the excavations made at the T.O. Fuller Site though two previous excavations have been conducted on the site, it is hoped that the information we are able to offer those interested in this Site will prove interesting and valuable.

Kenneth Lawrence Beaudoin,
Archaeologist in charge of;
Memphis Archaeological and
Geological Society Excavations
at the T.O. Fuller Site.

T H E T . O . F U L L E R R E P O R T

History of the Site

The T.O. Fuller Site is located 9 miles South of Memphis, Tennessee in Shelby County, Tennessee. The site is located on the Heights South of the confluence of Manconah Creek with Tennessee Chute. Legend associates these heights with the point at which the Mississippi was crossed by the De Soto party in 1541. There was, however, no evidence uncovered in the course of the Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society excavations to indicate historic occupation; or contact with the De Soto Expedition. The site boasts two mounds laid out in plaza arrangement on a flat atop the heights. Dr. T.M.N. Lewis of the U. of Tenn. feels that the depth of the midden and many of the unusual features of the site including some prehistoric terracing along the bluffs adapt it admirably for study and insitu development.¹⁾ A small spring fed brook at the Eastern base of the heights could easily have been the prehistoric water supply, and the flat in question was left by nature with steep walls on three sides which could easily have served in prehistoric times as an almost impregnable natural fortress. Within a stone's throw of the Tennessee Chute the site would have been an ideal fortified town for a beating people who could have docked their boats in the Chute out of sight of travellers following the main channel of the river. As a matter of fact this section of the Chute was explored by Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society workers in hope of finding some evidence of such activities, but regrettably the activities being conducted in connection with the Memphis Harbor development in that area have destroyed any evidence which might have remained to substantiate this conjecture.

The Fuller Site has been farmed for more than a century and was probably opened to white settlement in the 1840's following the expulsion of the Chickasaws from East of the Mississippi River. Prior to its purchase by the U.S. Government and later by the State of Tennessee in 1939, the Site was known as the Barrett Farm and during the period during which it was privately owned at least 2 significant collections of artifacts are known to have been removed from the site. One of these collections which is still in this area, the Glenn E. Barnes Collection will be referred to in this report. Since 1939 the site has been worked by Dr. T.M.N. Lewis of the University of Tennessee, and later by a large number of C.C.C. workers under the direction of Mr. George Lidberg.

1) Lewis, T.M.N., Letter, April 30, 1953

2) See Deed and Mortgage Book, Shelby County Courthouse, Memphis, Tenn. Vol. 1.

PLOT of Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society Excavations at the T.O. Fuller Site 3/8/52 and thereafter:

To: Y. & M.V.R.R. Tracks
approx. 300 yards

Pit left by earlier excavation crew.

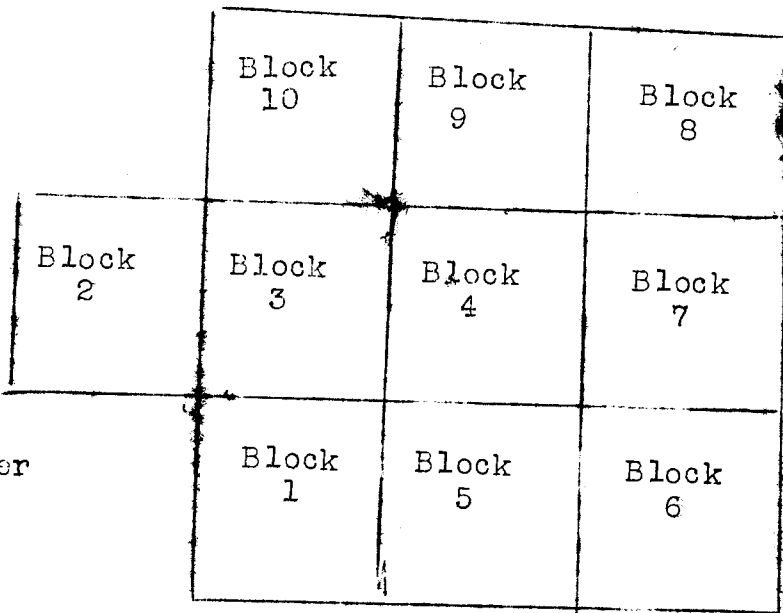
Pile of earth left by earlier excavation crew.

R
O
A
D

To: Excavation on East slope of Great Mound
197 feet



Marker
Tree



To: Tennessee
Chute approx.
800 yards.



Note: Blocks were numbered in the order in which they were opened.

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Exploration of the midden at the Fuller Site in the course of the Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society excavations reveal it to be both rich and deep. As pointed out by Dr. T.M.N. Lewis some years ago,¹⁾ the site would lend itself admirably to in situ development should the State or any other agency ever decide upon such a program. It was part of the objective of these excavations to draw attention to this potential of the site. However, if no such plans are envisaged by the Department of State Parks for the site it is recommended that the underbrush be cleared from it and that a cover crop of either Bermuda grass or alfalfa be sown on the site proper ~~has~~ has been done in De Soto Park in Memphis, Tenn., as this sort of cover is the best possible obstruction to local vandals, treasure seekers and pot hunters who have already damaged the site but not irremediably.

The Excavations

It was determined in the Spring of 1952 that the Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society excavation should confine itself to one single, archaeologically rich area which was to be worked as thoroughly as possible to show the archaeological potential of the site rather than to explore the site for possibly rich burial areas which might turn up spectacular grave furniture and other highly interesting features to be found on the site. A spot 197 ft. North by NW of the trench dug in the East side of the largest mound on the site by a former excavation crew was selected and 10 ft. squares were laid off in relation to a small elm which was used as the NE corner of Block 2. A sketch of the excavations shown on the preceding page gives some indication of the extent of the explorations. Portions of 10, 10 ft. squares have been excavated.

The excavations have been pursued over a thirteen month period during which there was an eleven week lull between mid-October and January 29, 1953 when the reapproval of the work being done was received. The blocks have been taken down by 5 inch levels. The work has been done by hand troweling. The midden so examined has not been screened. Post molds, refuse pits etc., have been located by blocks, and horizontal and vertical profiles have been run periodically. The burials were left on pedestals until they were so seriously disturbed by vandals in the winter of 1952-1953 following which pedestals were removed and the squares carried down to their then existing levels. Block #1 was carried down seven levels; Block #2, five levels; Blocks #3 and #4 were carried down six levels; Blocks #6, #7, #8 were carried down only one level before they were disturbed; and only the undisturbed portions of these blocks have been carried down to the fifth level. Trenches

1) Lewis, T.M.N., to Beaudoin, K.L., Letters, 1952

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were sunk in pursuit of the whole house pattern, most of which was developed in these blocks as well as Blocks #9 and #10 which were also disturbed. Block #5 was the only block carried down to the bottom of the midden which went down 65 inches or in short 13 levels. The depth of the midden suggests occupation of the site over a considerable period of time. A Mid-Mississippian surface culture left most of the remains but a few sherds in the lower levels suggests an earlier occupation by an earlier Woodland culture.

The materials removed were sacked on the site as per level and removed to the quarters which were used as a laboratory and washed and separated as to material, type, etc. These were then resacked and stored in cases with proper depth indications on each sack. They were then examined again and tabulated as to kind and depth. It was the original plan to have each piece marked with its proper block and depth symbol, but the lack of sufficient labor made this impossible and only a portion of the materials are so marked. However, the tabulations have been completed and have been very carefully kept and should prove meaningful. All materials removed from the site, have been counted at least three times and examined at least three times and finally classified and packaged and are stored in Memphis Museum in cases labelled: PROPERTY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, DEPARTMENT OF CONSERVATION. A case of the artifacts, furthermore, is on display in the Museum

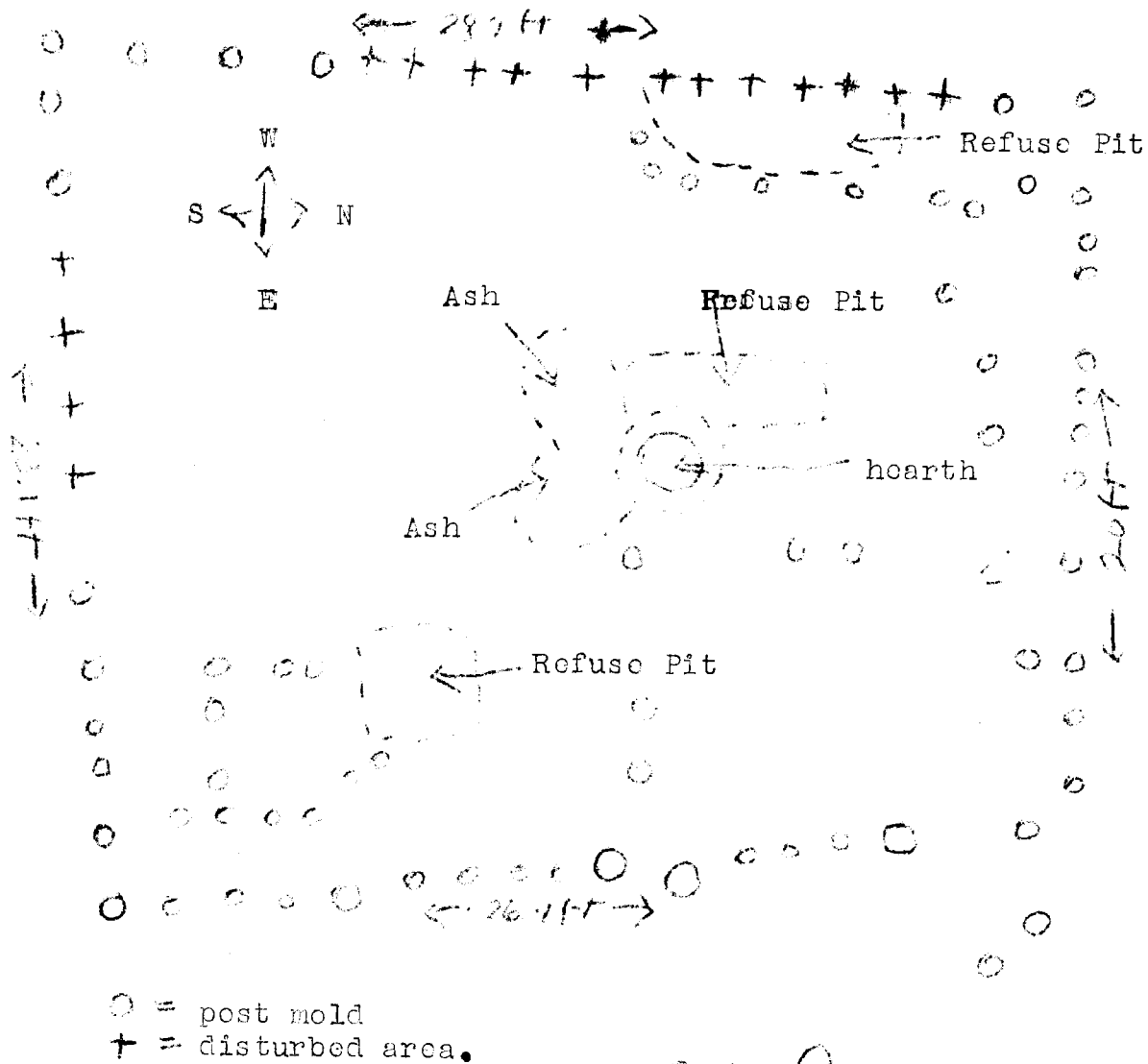
Architecture

Only one whole house pattern was in any way completed. The post mold pattern of this structure is shown in the accompanying diagram. Three refuse pits which could be associated with this house were located, but it is possible there may have been more in the area which was disturbed. The hearth associated with this house was located roughly in the center of it, but as can be seen in the accompanying diagram seems to be a little off center to the North. The irregularity of the pattern would make a true center hard to establish. Samples of the wattle marked house daub indicate that the wattling consisted of small twigs and boughs ranging from $\frac{1}{2}$ " to $1\frac{1}{4}$ " in dia. These were interwoven and were supported by posts, the carbonized remains of some of which were recovered. The post molds suggest that the posts ranged from 5" to 10" and 11" in diameter. The post mold patterns around the hearth indicate the central portion of the house may have been supported by some sort of framework. Indications are that both the plastering of the exterior and interior walls of the house was trowelled smooth. The plaster was as much as $3\frac{1}{2}$ " to $4\frac{1}{2}$ " thick in spots. Rows of small post molds roughly 2ft inside the house from the outside wall along some of the walls suggest that sleeping platforms may have been built and utilized in the houses. Portions of a semi-circular wall before the NE corner which may have been used as the portal suggest that if this were the case, the portal may have been protected by a windbreak.

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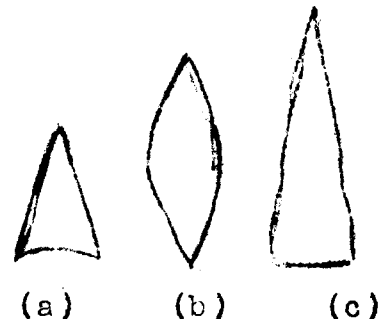
If this was not the case then these circular patterns must be interpreted as portions of circular structures which one existed on the site.

The total accumulation of post molds located on the site suggest that at least five structures with corners once occupied the site, and possibly three round structures may have been built on the site. The hearths located are puddled hearths (basins of hard clay, at their greatest depth perhaps 7" sloping up to the surface of the house floors with which they were associated. Each of the four hearths located was surrounded with quantities of ashes. Bits of carbonized thatch were removed from the midden in the course of the excavations,



The Stone Industry

The limited amount of worked stone recovered in the course of Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society excavations would possibly suggest a somewhat more lethargic stone industry on the T.O. Fuller Site than on other Mid-Mississippian Sites in the area. Most of the stone found with the exception of 2 portions of large mortars recovered which were obviously made of stone imported from some distance is river gravel and the absence of a supply of workable stone near the site may account for the limitations of the stone industry on the site. However, Mr. G.E. Barnes when working on the site in the early 30's indicates that there was an extensive stone workshop on one part of the site, but even so not as extensive as that found on many not too distant sites. Projectile points recovered in the course of the excavations and those examined in the G.E. Barnes Collection indicates that the most popular types of stone projectile points found on the site were small triangular points (a); leaf type points (b); and elongated triangular types (c); sometimes serrated. The collection made in the course of the Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society excavations, of course, includes as well as small triangular point with a cup type basal notch. The collection includes as well, a portion of a beautifully worked large point which may have been a spear or a knife of very fine imported novaculite. The base of a blade with an 11/16" square base showing no slope (see photographs) was also found. Only one completely developed celt was found. This was the small basalt celt found with burial #3. This is somewhat thicker than many of the celts found on Mid-Mississippian sites in the area. The Barnes collection is notably shy of celts from the Fuller Site.



Many hammerstones were recovered from the midden and portions of drill bases, abrading and polishing stones. A small pierced stone (see photographs) probably a happen-so showing some string wear was also found. Many spalls with secondary flaking may have been used as knives and scrapers. One well developed ironstone agglomerate discoidal was found. This is a mate to a similar discoidal in the Barnes Collection, and similar to those found at the Walls Site in Northern Miss. by the late Dr. Julius A. Davies, now in the collection of the University of Mississippi. Another crude sandstone discoidal was also found.

No pipes of either stone or clay were found in the course of the Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society excavations and there is only a portion of one found in the Barnes Collection. This was a small elbow type pipe with a hand engraved on it much in the fashion of the engraving found on Walls Engraved pottery, except that the material used in the pipe was stone--black basalt.

There was obviously only a limited use of petrified wood by the Fuller people as compared with the use of this material on other Mid-Mississippian Sites in the Memphis area. Red ochre was found in considerable quantity, however, as well as yellow ochre. There was an extremely limited quantity of polished stone recovered from the Site, either in the course of Memphis Archaeological Society excavations or in the Barnes Collection. Several pieces of shaped stone indicate the use of small mortars as well as large ones. About 25% of the 4,450 pieces of stone removed from the midden was spalled, or showed work of some character by human hand.

The Bone Industry

As compared with the relatively lethargic stone industry on the site; Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society excavations have uncovered evidence of a highly developed bone industry. The principal bone used for implements was deer bone and antler. Turkey bone ~~and~~ terrapin shell and gar ivory occurred in considerable quantity in the midden. Bear claw and possum teeth pendants were also found. One of the antler points was found charred and charred and weathered bone was found in considerable quantity, but not enough of this was worked to indicate whether this was one of the processes of the industry or not.

a) deer antler and bone

This most plentiful and serviceable type of bone and horn was very widely used by the Fuller people. More than three dozen antler awls were recovered from the midden. Pins, punches and needles of deer bone were also found and awls made of deer leg bones. No beamers were found in the course of the excavations. However, two whole deer skulls were recovered from the refuse pits with enough of the antler still attached to suggest that they may have been used by the Fuller hunters as decoys on their hunts.

Deer ulnar awls were found in some quantity and two perfectly developed deer ulnar tools with long slender tapering blades and delicate points which may have been used as inscribers or punches. Deer astragalus bones were found in considerable quantity.

Another deer bone found in considerable quantity throughout the midden was deer toe bones. Many of these were drilled through the base suggesting that they may have been mounted on sticks and used as hair ornaments. One found in close association with the foot of Burial #5 and drilled laterally was obviously used as at least part of an anklet. Dozens of them show string wear indicating that they had been incorporated in necklaces, bracelets or anklets. Some of them were drilled. One of them was carved to resemble an owl and carbonized and was obviously used as a pendant. Another was elaborately carved with a dog's head and drilled through the base and through the rear wall as well suggesting that it may have been used as a feather mount.

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b) terrapin shell

Terrapin shell was found in great quantity. 18 or 20 whole terrapin carapaces were recovered intact. This parallels the experience of G.E. Barnes when he worked the site many years ago. A sufficient number of nearly whole terrapin shells were recovered to suggest that they may have been used as cups or small vessels.

c) turkey bone

Third in importance in the bone industry on the Fuller Site was turkey leg bones. Two turkey leg bone awls were recovered and a bead made from a segment of turkey leg bone. This material did not share the popularity of deer bone in the area worked by Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society. However, a few small pins and inscribers of turkey bone were found as well.

d) gar ivory

Gar ivory (scales) was found in considerable quantity on the site. Many of these scales were beautifully polished and colored with a patina put on them either by use or age. Some of them were sharp enough to have been used as projectile points. Others with a similar patina could not have been so used.

e) miscellaneous bone

Two bear claw pendants were removed from the midden. A possum tooth pendant was found in association with Burial #1. Furthermore some of the fish bones removed showed a patina which suggested that they may have been used as pins or inscribers.

To conclude the bone industry of the Fuller People was both extensive and highly developed. Much of it was of a utilitarian character, but it formed an important adjunct to ornament manufacture as practiced by these people as well.

Shell

Shell though used extensively as a tempering material in connection with the ceramic industries on the Fuller Site had a strictly limited usage per se by the Fuller people it would seem. Fairly large bivalves (unio) shells were the only kind found. A small cache of these was located in one of the refuse pits. Another small cache of them was found in association with Burial #1. Whether they may have been used as spoons or were simply caches of tempering materials is hard to determine. Most of the shell recovered was in poor condition and none of the shell showed any sign of having been worked.

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Diet

Mr. Wm. R. Adams¹⁾ of the Laboratory of Osteology, Bloomington, Indiana says of the four groups of bones from the site which he examined, "The picture as given by the four groups of bones is that of a group living in an area where a wide variety of faunal species were available to them. It shows an apparent willingness to utilize any and all species available though it is not possible to ascertain from these samples if there were any 'taboo' species which were avoided. (Certainly this group is unlike some we find which subsisted entirely on deer and turkey.)"

The species identified are as follows:

Mammals

Beaver, castor canadensis 2)
Grey squirrel--sciurus carolinensis
Cottontail rabbit--sylvilagus floridanus
Raccoon--procyon lotor
Skunk--mephitis niger
Fox--squirrel--sciurus rufiventer
Swamp rabbit--sylvilagus aquaticus
Bobcat--lynx rufus
Dog--canis familiaris
Bear--euarctos americanus
Deer--odocoileus virginianus
Wapiti--cervus canadensis
Opposum--didelphis virginianus
Fox--vulpes fulva
Rice rat--oryzomys pallustris
Muskrat--fiber zibethica

Amphibians

Snapping turtle--chelydra serpentina
Box turtle--terrapene carolina
Bull frog--rana catesbyana
Bufo terrestris
Pseudomys--troostie elegans 3)

Birds

Mallard, or black duck--anas platyrhynchos
Baldpate duck--anas americana
Woodduck--Aix sponsa

1) Adams, Wm. R., Letter, April 22, 1953.

2) Adams, Wm. R., Laboratory of Comparative Osteology Reports, 39a, 39b, 39c, 39d.

3) Friedman, Herbert, Smithsonian Institution Reports, Jan-May, 1953

Birds (continued)

Barred owl--strix varia
Turkey--meleagris gallapavo
Hawk (sp.) 1)
Canada goose--branta canadensis
Bald Eagle²⁾--haleaeetus leucocephalus

Fish

Catfish--amcurus sp.
Drumfish--applodinotus grunniens
Dogfish--amia calva
Longnosed gar--lepisostens
Gar--lepisostens osseus
Bowfin
Sucker--catostomidae 3)
Teleost--sp.
Amyda spiniferra

Of 10,040 pieces of animal, bird and fish bone removed from the midden 6,148 were identifiable as deer bones (about 61%); 831 Terrapin (terrapene carolina) or about 8.3 %; 417 Turkey or about 4%; 756 fish or about 7.5 %; 383 bear or about 3.8%; and 924 the smaller animals and birds listed above or about 9.2 % of the total bone. The bone was classified by having generous samples classified by the experts listed and the remainder was classified by comparison with these identified samples. 521 or about 5.2 % were unclassifiable.

- 1) Friedman, Herbert, Smithsonian Institution Reports, Jan-May, 1953.
- 2) Ibid.
- 3) Leapley, W.T., Smithsonian Institution Report, May 12, 1953.

PLANT MATERIALS FROM THE FULLER SITE

Volney H. Jones¹⁾

In February we received two consignments of archaeological plant materials which had been recovered from the Fuller Site near Memphis, Tennessee. These were submitted by Mr. Kenneth L. Beaudoin of the Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society, with a request for a report on the nature and significance of the specimens. The information furnished us is that the materials are from a midden in the site, and that they are chiefly from the 20" to 25" level. This level is described by Beaudoin as apparently representing a Middle Mississippi occupation dateable as sometime after 1250 A.D. and prior to historic contact.

The two consignments total 17 separate lots, but as the materials are all of similar origin and provenience, they have been combined for study and discussion. All of the specimens are carbonized, presumably by fire. This has resulted fortunately in their preservation but complicates the problem of identification. Portions of some specimens have been consumed, there is considerable surface damage, and frequent distortion. However, the conditions of preservation are such that the major features are discernible and the identifications offered below are presented with some assurance.

CORN

The material of corn or maize consists of 36 cob segments, four essentially intact kernels, and a few fragments of cobs and kernels. In view of the quantity and nature of this, it seems to merit detailed description and analysis.

Length of cobs:

None of the cobs is complete and none is over 5.3cms. long. Judging from cob contours and diameters, it would appear likely that the ears were probably not over 7 or 8 cms, long originally.

Cob diameters:

The range of cob diameters is from a minimum of about 1 cm. to a maximum of about 2.3 cms. The median diameter is about 1.5 cms.

Row numbers:

The number of rows of kernels formerly borne by the cobs varies from as few as 8 to as many as 16. However, 10-row and 12-row cobs predominate, as 30 of the 36 segments fall there. Row numbers and their frequency are:

1) Curator of Ethnology, and in charge of the Ethnobotanical Laboratory, Museum of Anthropology, University of Michigan.

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16-row cobs-----1
14-row cobs-----3
12-row cobs-----18
10-row cobs-----12
8-row cobs-----2

Spacing of kernels:

The spacing of kernel facets indicates that only relatively small kernels could have been accomodated on the cobs. Longitudinally on the cobs the average spacing is about 3.5 mms., indicating a kernel thickness of about this dimension. The spacing around the cob shows a single-row width of about 4 mms. Allowing for some tapering of the kernels from the point of attachment, it would still appear likely that the kernels were not over 6 to 7 mms. wide at their maximum width. (These estimates were made before the loose kernels were measured.)

Form of cobs:

About two-thirds (23) of the cobs are circular in cross-section, the other one-third (13) exhibit an elliptical cross-section, appearing flattened. Circular cross-section is usually associated with smaller diameter cobs, and elliptical cross-section with larger diameter cobs. We realize that elliptical cross-section tends to give an exaggerated diameter measurement, but even allowing for this it is apparent that ellipticity is correlated with large size.

Cob butts are present in two instances. One of these, a cob 1.8 cms. in diameter and elliptical in cross-section, has a broad flaring butt. The rows tend to separate into pairs in the butt area, and there are distinct grooves between them. The other cob showing the butt area is a larger one 2.1 cms. in diameter and also elliptical. In this specimen the butt tapers in and narrows sharply, just the reverse of the flaring one.

In all but a few of the cobs the rows are relatively straight. A few exhibit spiralling, but there is no consistent irregularity. In most the pairs of rows stand out as separate from other pairs, and often there is more or less of a groove between the pairs. In only a very few instances, however, is there any marked pairing and wide grooves.

Kernels:

No kernels were still attached to any of the cobs and none were definitely associated with the cobs. In one of the lots of persimmon seeds there were found four more or less intact kernels and five small fragments of kernels. Dimensions obtainable are:

| <u>Width</u> | <u>Length</u> | <u>Thickness</u> |
|--------------|---------------|------------------|
| 7 mms. | 6mms. | 5mms. |
| 7 mms. | (incomplete) | 5mms. |
| 7.5 mms. | 6mms. | 4.5mms. |
| 6.5 mms. | 5.5 mms. | (incomplete) |

The remaining fragments appear to be very similar to the above, in so far as can be judged

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The kernels are apparently quite uniform and seem to have been small, slightly broader than long, and proportionately rather thick. Although not found associated with the cobs the kernels might well be of the same kind of corn. In general they match rather well with the cobs. The kernel width fits very well, but the kernels seem a bit thick to be accommodated on the cobs. Anyhow, it is not inconceivable that the kernels might have come from some of the larger cobs, and certainly they are from corn very much like that represented by the cobs.

Interpretations:

The corn from the Fuller Site is lacking in uniformity in several features such as size, cob form, row number, and butt features. Because of this range of variation it is difficult to classify it into any of the races of corn which have been reported for North America. What is clear is that it is a small eared-small kernelled type of relatively undeveloped nature.

It would have been anticipated that the Fuller Site corn should be Eastern Complex corn, as there seems to be a very close association of that type with the Mississippi Pattern.²⁾ But the material is by no means a typical sample of Eastern Complex corn. It does have some of the features of this complex in dilute form. Among these are: slender, tapering cobs; low row numbers (8 to 12); tendency to pairing of rows and separation of pairs by grooves; flaring butts; and kernels wider than long.

There is some rather scant evidence that the Eastern Complex was preceded in the Eastern Woodlands by the Hohokam - Basket Maker Complex of corn. The present sample, again, is not typical of that complex but has some of its features. Among these are: elliptical cobs; medium row numbers (12 to 16); sharply tapering butts; and thick kernels.

A possible explanation of the Fuller Site corn is that it represents a mixture of the two complexes mentioned above. The material seems to fall into two groups: 1) row numbers 8 to 12; cobs 1 cm. to 1.5 cms. in diameter; cobs circular in cross-section; and 2) row numbers 12 to 16; cobs 1.5 cms. to 2.3 cms. in diameter; cobs elliptical in cross-section. If this explanation is correct, a reconstruction of events might be that a group having Hohokam-Basket Maker Complex corn received in addition Eastern complex corn and that hybridization took place.

Still a third complex of corn has been reported recently from a site in the Eastern Woodlands. Dr. Hugh C. Cutler has studied and reported on (in manuscript) charred corn kernels from a Hopewell pit at the Ansell and Knight farms, Illinois, excavated by Dr. J.C. McGregor.³⁾ Cutler considers that the corn from that site "probably resembled" the Guatemalan Tropical Flint complex. In so far as we are able to judge from Cutler's descriptions, the Fuller Site corn is very similar to that from the Illinois site.

Cutler describes the kernels as from 6.5 mms. to 7mms. wide and

2) Jones, Volney H., "Maize from the Davis Site: Its Nature and Interpretation." (appendix, pp. 239-249 in H. Perry Newell & Alex D. Krieger, The George C. Davis Site, Cherokee County, Texas. Memoirs of the Society for American Archaeology, No. 5, 1949.)

3) Cutler, Hugh C., "Corn from the Calhoun County, Illinois, Site No. 17 (Ansell and Knight farms)." Manuscript, no date (1952?)

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The kernels are apparently quite uniform and seem to have been small, slightly broader than long, and proportionately rather thick. Although not found associated with the cobs the kernels might well be of the same kind of corn. In general they match rather well with the cobs. The kernel width fits very well, but the kernels seem a bit thick to be accommodated on the cobs. Anyhow, it is not inconceivable that the kernels might have come from some of the larger cobs, and certainly they are from corn very much like that represented by the cobs.

Interpretations:

The corn from the Fuller Site is lacking in uniformity in several features such as size, cob form, row number, and butt features. Because of this range of variation it is difficult to classify it into any of the races of corn which have been reported for North America. What is clear is that it is a small eared-small kernelled type of relatively undeveloped nature.

It would have been anticipated that the Fuller Site corn should be Eastern Complex corn, as there seems to be a very close association of that type with the Mississippi Pattern.²⁾ But the material is by no means a typical sample of Eastern Complex corn. It does have some of the features of this complex in dilute form. Among these are: slender, tapering cobs; low row numbers (8 to 12); tendency to pairing of rows and separation of pairs by grooves; flaring butts; and kernels wider than long.

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4 mms. to 5 mms. thick (length not given). This is very close to the dimensions of the Fuller Site kernels. By kernel curvature, Cutler deduced that the Illinois corn was from cobs primarily of 12 rows, but with some cobs of 10, 14 and 16 rows (no 8 row cobs). He assumed the cob diameters to have been 1.8 cms. to 2.2 cms.

The similarities of the Fuller Site corn and the Hopewell corn from Illinois are so close that we shall tentatively consider that the Fuller Site corn is also probably Guatemalan Tropical Flint. The published descriptions of that race of corn which have appeared are not sufficiently detailed to make identification certain. The possibility of a hybrid between Eastern complex and Hohokam-basket maker is not entirely dismissed. Further study and additional knowledge should make it possible to offer a more definite identification in the future.

CULTIVATED BEAN

Mixed in with one lot of persimmon seeds was found a single cotyledon of a bean. This is fairly large, being 1.4 cms. long, 7mms. wide and 2 mms. thick. It has the typical form and aspect of the garden bean or kidney bean, Phaseolus vulgaris. In size it is also typical, except that it falls into the extreme upper portion of the size range for this species. The specimen is a single cotyledon or half of a bean. The seed coat has disappeared (burned away?) allowing the cotyledons to separate, and only one appears in the material from the site.

The garden bean was brought into domestication in tropical America and appears in the area of the United States only as a cultivated plant. Beans have been found in a number of sites of the Mississippi Pattern in eastern North America but have not been particularly abundant. All so far have been of this species. Some early historical accounts and ethnological reports suggest that the Lima bean (Phaseolus lunatus) may have been present in the Eastern Woodlands in late times, but it has not yet been found in sites east of the Rocky Mountains.

PERSIMMON SEEDS

The most abundant material from the site is persimmon seeds. These were submitted in eight lots, each of which was a relatively pure sample. There are in all about 150 more or less intact seeds and many additional fragments. The total number of seeds represented would probably be close to 200. The seeds are badly damaged by fire and in various degrees of completeness.

Archaeological persimmon seeds have rarely come to our hands and never before in carbonized distorted condition, and we were at first puzzled as to the identity of the seeds. Comparison externally to known specimens of persimmon seeds revealed a very close similarity, and further, several of the archaeological seeds were dissected and the internal structure compared to known specimens. We feel confident that an identification of persimmon (Diospyros Virginiana) is correct.

The seeds exhibit considerable variation in size and form. Some of the larger ones are about 1.7 cms. long and about 1 cm. wide. Smaller ones are about 1.3 cms. long and about 8 mms. wide. The average falls about half way between these extremes. The typical form is more or

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less crescent, flattish with one edge thin and the other thickened - a wedge to accommodate to the concentric arrangement of the fruit. A few of the seeds, particularly some of the smaller ones, lack the wedge shape and are more or less double convex. We note these same variations in modern material.

Apparently persimmons were a highly prized food among the Indians wherever they were available. The fruits were eaten fresh and also were made into "persimmon bread". This product was prepared by removing the seeds and kneading the pulp which was laid out to dry in the sun. After desiccation this could be stored and kept throughout the year. The white settlers soon learned that a wine (generally referred to as "beer" could be made from the fruits, but there is no evidence that this practice was known to the Indians.

The Fuller Site is fairly close to the northern limits of the range of the persimmon in the Mississippi Valley. There seems to be no question as to the local availability of persimmons, judging by modern conditions. Mr. Beaudoin, informs us that the site is covered with persimmon trees today. He further comments that the Tunica branch of the Natchez confederation, who occupied the area during the time of early French exploration, are described as making persimmon bread. Further, one month of their calendar (February ?) was called the month of persimmon bread. This month was after the corn harvest had been exhausted and before the new crops were started, when apparently the supplies of stored persimmon bread were the main source of sustenance.

In spite of the apparent importance of persimmons to the Indians, we know of very few previous archaeological finds of them. We have in our collections a more or less complete carbonized persimmon found in the Belcher Mound, Louisiana, by Dr. Clarence H. Webb of Shreveport. We also have a single seed from the Eden Bluff Shelter, Arkansas, submitted by Prof. S.C. Dellinger of the University of Arkansas. Gilmore working with the Ozark Bluff Dweller materials collected by Harrington, inferred that persimmons were eaten but is not explicit as to the nature and quantity of materials found⁴). Pearce and Jackson found persimmon material in the Fate Bell Shelter in western Texas, but this is the small black western persimmon of a different species⁵). We know of no other archaeological persimmons.

It is odd, also, that Yanovsky in making a rather thorough survey of the food plants of the Indians of North America was able to bring together only three references to the use of persimmons⁶). His documentation of many presumably less important plants was much more abundant. Undoubtedly a careful search would bring to light many additional references, but nevertheless there seems to be some discrepancy between the presumed importance of the persimmon to the southern Indians and the quantity of archaeological and historic data of its use. A survey of this subject seems to be in order. In any event, the Fuller Site material seems to be the largest bulk of material reported so far and

4) Gilmore, Melvin R., "Vegetal Remains of the Ozark Bluff¹ Dweller Culture", Michigan Academy of Science, Arts and Letters, Papers, Vol. 14, 1931, pp. 83-102. See p. 100.

5) Pearce, J.E. and Jackson, A.T., "A Prehistoric Shelter in Val Verde Co., Texas." U. of Texas Bulletin no. 3327, 1933, see p. 130.

6) Yanovsky, Elias, "Food Plants of the North American Indians." U.S. Department of Agriculture, Miscellaneous Publications, no. 237, 1936. See p. 52.

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and offers some validation of the use and importance of the persimmon in this particular area and time.

HULLS AND SHELLS OF NUTS

Two lots of nut hulls and nut shells were submitted and a few additional fragments were gleaned from among the persimmon seeds. These total about 36 items altogether. Most of these were from hickory nuts (*Carya* spp.). A very few are from either walnuts or butternuts (*Juglans* sp.). No pecan material was noted.

In the hickory nut material there are three pieces of hulls and about 30 portions of shells. Most of these latter are small fragments, but there is one piece which represents about half a nut. Other pieces by their contours appear to be from larger nuts. The nature of the material does not permit identification to species, but judging by variations in size and form it would seem that more than one species of hickory nut is present.

Three shell fragments show the corrugations typical of walnuts and butternuts. They are distinctly different from the smooth, ridged hickory nut shells. The contours and nature of corrugation suggest the butternut (*Juglans cinera*) rather than the walnut (*Juglans nigra*), but the fragments are too small to permit any certainty. On the basis of range, the walnut seems more likely.

The various native nuts were a valued and usually dependable source of rich food and were used by the Indians wherever they could be obtained. The remains of nuts constitutes one of the most common categories of plant materials which occur in sites in the Southeast.

PLUM SEED

Sorted from among the persimmon seeds was a single pit (or "seed") of a plum. It is about 1.3 cms. long and about 8 mms. wide. It is from some wild plum and compares very closely with pits of *Prunus americana*, a common wild plum with rather large fruits. We consider that it likely is from this species. Various wild plums were eaten fresh and were stored by Indians and are not uncommon in archaeological materials. They are particularly frequent in materials from the Prairie region.

CANE

The two lots from the Fuller Site consist of carbonized stem segments of cane. Combined these aggregate four nodes or joints, varying in diameter from 8 mms. to 1.2 cms., each showing portions of adjacent internodes. In addition there are about a dozen fragments of internodes

These are all of southern cane, *Arundinaria* sp., a bamboo-like grass. Two species of cane differing chiefly in size are usually recognized. From the material at hand it seems unwise to attempt identification to species. The canes formerly grew luxuriantly in low moist areas throughout the South and sometimes formed extensive canebrakes. The durable stems of this grass offered the Indians a convenient material for construction and for use in the crafts such as mat-work and basketry.

CHARCOAL

Two of the lots of charcoal, and scattered in among other lots were small bits of charcoal. Some of the more intact pieces are up to about 5 cms. in size and others are as small as 1 cm. in diameter. It appears that none was from very large limbs or trunks.

All of the charcoal is from deciduous or hardwood trees, as none has the structure of wood from conifers (i.e. pine, juniper, spruce, etc.). Three kinds of wood seem to be indicated by distinct structural differences. Wood identifications require very specialized knowledge and techniques and we hesitate to offer identifications for these specimens.

SUMMARY

The accidents of preservation and the care in the recovery and protection of the plant materials from the Fuller Site result in valuable knowledge concerning the former inhabitants. Indications are that they cultivated corn and beans. Probably they also grew pumpkins and sunflowers, but no remains of these were preserved. A surprising feature is that the corn is not of the type which would have been anticipated.

The cultivated food supply seems to have been supplemented with persimmons, hickory nuts, walnuts or butternuts, and wild plums. All of these and doubtless many other products were gathered from the wild. There is no direct evidence from the site, except perhaps the cracking of the nuts, that these were eaten but it seems to be a reasonable conclusion that their presence in the site can be accounted for as debris of the food supply.

The purpose for which the cane and charcoal were brought into the site is not evident as there is no evidence of working or intentional alteration. Both may be part of construction debris but there is no direct evidence of this. The cane may be discards from textile activities, and the charcoal may be residue from a fire-pit. In any event, use is indicated even though the precise purpose is not clear.

Volney H. Jones, Curator of Ethnology and in charge of the Ethnobotanical Laboratory, Museum of Anthropology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan.

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Burials and Burial Furniture

The burials uncovered in the course of the Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society Excavations were relatively shallow.

Burial #1 was located in Block 4 just 17" below the surface. It was a female extended burial 5'3" in length. The skull was brachy-cephalic and showed marked frontal and dorsal cradle deformation. The bone was in fair condition and teeth indicated the skeleton to belong to a woman 25-30 years old. Notable among the items of burial furniture found in association with this burial was a shapely small water bottle and small bowl lying near the head of the burial (see photographs); an opossum tooth pendant recovered close to the throat of this burial; a fine long triangular point, and a turkey wing; which suggests that a turkey wing fan might have accompanied the burial; as well as a large sherd of Fortune Noded and some carbonized corn cobs. Another small shapely olla, more of a storage jar variety and a small cache of shell which may have been a cache of tempering materials were found close to the right hand of the burial. The burial was lying with its head in a northerly direction and its feet in a southerly direction. This burial was left on its pedestal in October of 1952 for the inspection of the Commissioner of Conservation and the Superintendent of State Parks and was completely disturbed by vandals who attacked the site between Thanksgiving of 1952 and January 29, 1953, as were all of the other burials connected with the excavation, but photographs of at least four of them still remain.

Burial #2 was a triple bundle burial composed of 2 adult skeletons ~~and~~ one juvenile skeleton with brachy-cephalic skulls. This was uncovered very carefully and pictures of it showing something of the bundle burial method used by the Fuller people have been preserved. There was no grave furniture per se, associated with this burial, but the presence of rice rat skeletons in association with it suggests that there may have been offerings of food with it when it was buried. The top skull of this group was only 14" below the surface, whereas the bottom bones reached ~~down~~ to the 30" level in the midden.

Burial #3 was an extended burial, 5' 2" in length lying with its head in a southerly direction and its feet in a northerly direction. This burial was roughly 21" below the surface. Notable among the grave furniture was a small black basalt celt and a finely polished bear tooth pendant. This burial was of a male with a brachy-cephalic skull, and a pathological spinal condition which suggested that he may have been a hunch back. Pathological condition of one of the arm bones suggests that he may have had syphilis in an advanced stage before his death. His skull had been crushed from the rear before ~~interment~~ as well suggesting that a severe blow may have been the cause of his death. The condition of the teeth indicate that this burial was of a man beyond his middle years, possibly 45 which I believe in prehistoric times was considered old

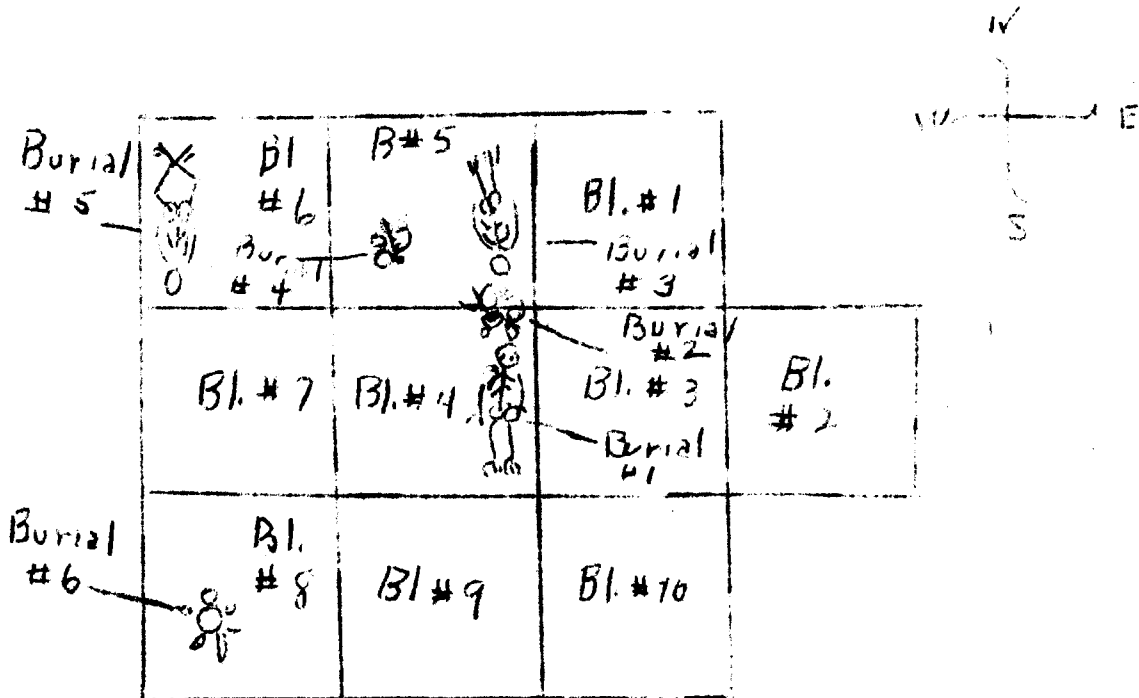
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for a male.

Burial #4 was a double bundle burial obviously of a mother and an infant. The first mollars were still impacted in the jaw of the infant. This burial was 23" below the surface. Such a burial, of course, suggests that infanticide may have been practiced when mothers died leaving young children who could not take care of themselves. There was no grave furniture whatsoever associated with this burial.

Burial #5 was discovered by the vandals who attacked the site in the Winter of 1952. Whether there may have been pottery or other grave furniture associated with the skeleton is impossible to determine since the whole upper portion of the burial was completely disturbed. The undisturbed lower portion of this burial disclosed the legs to have been crossed and a drilled deer toe bone found in association with the right ankle suggests that the burial was accompanied with an anklet. This burial seemed to be (at least the undisturbed portion of it seemed to be) somewhat deeper than the others, occurring roughly 27" below the surface.

There were in short three extended burials discovered and three bundle burials containing a total of nine skeletons. The bundle reburials containing juvenile or infantile remains suggests a semi-nomadic life or long tribal hunting trips as part of the life of the group. Data on a great many more burials than these here reported on will be needed to give any very strong indication of the general burial practices of the Fuller people.



The Ceramics Industry

Without a doubt from an archaeological point of view the ceramics industry at the Fuller Site was the most important practiced by the Fuller people. The Fuller people gave every indication of being superb potters.

a) paste

The pottery on the Fuller Site removed in the course of Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society excavations aside from a hand full of grit and clay tempered sherds or untempered sherds occurring in the lower levels which have to be explained as being associated with a thin layer of material left by an earlier culture which must have occupied the site fall into two general classes:

1) a beautiful smooth ware in which the shell tempering is so fine as to be in some cases almost imperceptible designated in the Alluvial Valley Report as Bell Plain, ¹⁾ occurs with the greatest frequency. The general coloring ranges from deep glossy black to a variety of greys, to cinnamon to an almost orange cast in some cases. There are a few samples of an almost whitish clay which seems to have been used, and many samples of a glossy tan ware. Thickness of the sherds range from $3/32$ " to $5/8$ " with the greatest number having a thickness between $1/4$ " and $3/8$ ". (Thickness was measured by scale only, micrometers were not available and were not used.) More than 70% of the total number of sherds removed from the midden were of this paste. Of course, perhaps 10% or 15% were borderline cases which might have been classified by some other person examining them as Neely's Ferry. My tendency has been to classify all sherds with a smooth exterior finish, and a relatively finer texture as Bell Plain.

2) a coarser ware in which the shell tempering is more obvious, referred to in the Alluvial Valley Report as Neely's Ferry Plain ²⁾ is represented by something less than 30% of the sherds in the collection. The color range is roughly the same as that of the Bell Plain wares with the exception that few Neely's Ferry Plain sherds turn out a glossy black and most of the sherds turn out a dun grey. Approximately the same range of thickness prevails in Neely's Ferry Plain as in Bell Plain though it would seem that there is a slight tendency on the part of the Neely's Ferry Plain sherds to run slightly thicker than the Bell Plain sherds.

1) Phillips, Phillip, Ford, James A., and Griffin, James B., An Archaeological Survey of the Lower Alluvial Valley of the Mississippi River, 1947--1951., Chapter IV.

2) Ibid.

b) Rims and lips



Above are the fourteen most common rim and lip profiles found among the 584 plain rims and lips removed from the midden. About 50% of these are too small to be identified positively as being associated with either dish or olla types, but at least 50% of them can be associated with dish and jar types. Barton incised, Mound Place incised, and Hollywood White Filled seem to be invariably accompanied with plain rims on the Fuller Site.

21 rim sherds showing a rope type rim decoration were recovered. This type of decoration occurred on the dish removed from Burial #1 as well, and there are several examples of this sort of rim in the Barnes Collection. 26 rim sherds showing scallops were found. These vary from simple scallops to deep cut scallops which usually occur only four to a vessel, as in examples in the Barnes Collection. A third variation involves a deeply cut scallop with three downward steps, but only one sherd of this character was recovered.

23 rim sherds of bowls with notched rim strips placed somewhat below the lip were recovered. These are mentioned as typical of the Memphis area by Griffin in the Alluvial Valley Report 1) and are similar to a type found with considerable frequency in the Nashville area. Four of these sherds show a noded rim strip, two others a punctuate strip, two are simply a plain ridge. All of these rim sherds were obviously of bowls or wide mouthed storage jars.

Of the decorated rim sherds removed from the midden 155 were variations of the notched design and 31 carry rows of nodes along the lip. One showed a simple line of Manley Punctuate. The notched designs seem to occur with slightly greater frequency on Bell Plain whereas the noded designs occur with slightly greater frequency on Neely's Ferry paste.

c) Lugs

22 tail type lugs were recovered from the midden. Several of these are of the type which usually accompany effigy vessels and one at least is the type which was obviously a part of a fish or frog effigy.

1) Phillips, Phillip, Ford, James A., Griffin, James B., op. cit.
p. 158.

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The remainder of the lugs can be divided into two classes: 49 were strap handle types--two to a vessel or four to a vessel; and 28 were modified strap handles in which the strap handle has become more of a decorative motif than a functional part of the vessel. Many of the sherds indicate that they were parts of elaborately designed Parkin punctuate, Rhodes incised or Vernon Paul Applique vessels.

d) Ollas

Rim fragments which could positively be identified as being associated with 58 ollas were recovered. 22 of these were of the short necked type olla as were those recovered in association with Burial #1. Only three show lip decorations and only four were of Old Town Red. (Three of these were obviously of a single vessel.) The two ollas removed from Burial #1 are relatively small and shapely. One has a flattened ellipsoidal belly and one has a wedge shaped belly surmounted with a short flaring neck. (Small storage jar variety). There are three miniature ollas in the Barnes Collection from the site and one of them has a long neck. Most of the other ollas in this collection are wide bellied with short necks. Only six have long necks and two of these have a wedge shaped body. One of these has a dimpled body. There is one Walls Engraved olla in the Barnes Collection with the running dog--swirl--or swastika design.

e) Heels

Of the heels recovered, 18 were of globular type vessels. These seemed to occur both with two exceptions in the first 20 inches of the midden with the majority of them occurring between the 5" and 15" levels. Only three heels make an almost 90° rise from the base and these occurred in the 15" to 20" level. 40 heels, the largest number of one kind in the collection have flattened bases. Most of these are of Bell Plain vessels. Saucer type bases occurred on eight of the heels recovered. Of these three are decorated with an incised or cut design and one with a punctuate design resembling Manley Punctuate. Four were plain. All were of Bell Plain paste. Of the three vessels removed from Burial #1, the two ollas had saucer type bases, one having a cut design, and the dish had simply a flattened base. Of the fragmentary vessels removed from refuse pits (3 storage jar types and one dish), it would seem that the jars had globular type bases and the dish a flattened or square heel.

f) Miniatures

Only 11 rims or heel sherds occurred which were of miniature vessels. These were Bell Plain paste except two which were crudely made and of Neely's Ferry paste. One was obviously a fragment of a tiny frog or fish effigy. They occurred between the 5" and 35" levels in the midden.

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g) Effigy Complex

The effigy complex of the Fuller Site judging from the effigies recovered from the midden and those in the Barnes Collection includes a large percentage of deer, bird and fish effigies and an even larger number of human effigies, both well sculptured rim types and the round medallion types. There is also one swan effigy; and there are possum, otter, bat, duck and king fisher effigies. There are also a number of plumed serpent or serpent cat effigies from the site in the Barnes Collection. The frog effigy in the complex too. The eagle or hawk effigy in the Barnes Collection is without doubt one of the most beautifully sculptured pieces found in the Memphis area. The similarity between the effigy complex as indicated by the materials recovered and the Barnes Collection to the Julius A. Davies Collection recovered near Walls, Miss., and the Nedena Collection proper (Wilson, Ark.) is marked and worth noting.

A tabulation of the effigy types removed in the course of Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society excavation and those in the Barnes Collection is offered herewith:

| <u>Memphis A. & G. Collection</u> | | <u>Barnes Collection</u> | |
|---------------------------------------|---|--|---|
| Human 1) rim type head | 1 | Human 1) rim type head | 4 |
| 2) Medallions | 6 | 2) Medallions | 5 |
| Swan | 1 | Swan | 1 |
| Duck | 1 | Duck | 2 |
| (3 frags. frog or fish) | | Cormorant (kingfisher?) | 1 |
| Frag. plumed serpent | 1 | Plumed serpent | 4 |
| (red slip) | | Hand grasping stick in animal's jaw | 1 |
| | | Modified human-truncated head-dress (lemon squeezer) ¹⁾ | 1 |
| | | Frog | 1 |
| | | Deer | 7 |
| | | Fish | 3 |
| | | Human hand | 1 |
| | | Small Bird | 1 |
| | | Wood duck | 1 |
| | | Dog | 1 |
| | | Bat | 1 |
| | | Opposum | 1 |
| | | Otter | 1 |
| | | Eagle or hawk | 1 |
| | | (beautifully modelled). | |

h) Decorated types

Less than 15% of the sherds removed from the Fuller Site were of decorated types. The principal decorated

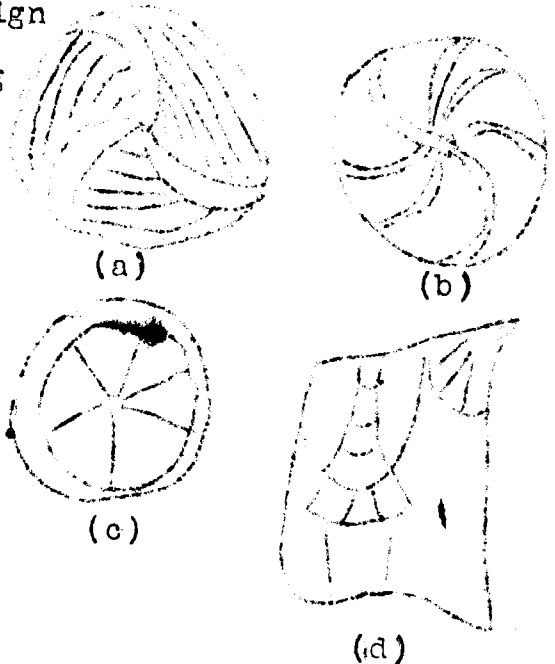
1) Phillips, Phillip, Ford, James A., Griffin, James B., op. cit., p. 160

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type was Parkin Punctuate which occurs with greater frequency than all of the other decorated types put together and is represented in collection with 631 sherds. Incised wares occur with considerable frequency as well and the Ranch and Rhodes incised pieces seem to be better represented on the site than at many neighboring sites. The importance of this type is emphasized in the Barnes Collection which has three beautiful examples of this type vessel with highly modified and decorated rims. Kent and Barton incised occurs with some frequency throughout the midden like the Parkin Punctuate; and Fortune noded occurs with some frequency in the upper layers as well.

i) Walls Engraved

Walls Engraved is the principal engraved ware, and though none of the sherds are very large many of them suggest elaborately delineated patterns such as those found at Walls, Miss., now in the Julius A. Davies Collection and those at Nodena. 25 of the 48 Walls engraved sherds were fragments of vessels with the running dog or swastika design; 2 suggest a pattern of circles framed with a border of sworls; 4 are from a dimpled vessel in which the dimple has the design reproduced herewith (a) engraved in it and is incorporated in a larger running dog or swastika design which carries over into the vessel proper; 2 other circular designs which occur are: see (b), (c); One sherd follows the pattern of Ranch incised but is engraved using the standard Walls Engraved technique instead. Another sherd involves a pattern of simple parallel lines. At least eleven of the sherds are fragments of vessels which had been decorated with representational figures. The pattern engraved on one of these sherds is shown herewith (d). One sherd shows a band of three stepped symbols similar to those found on both ancient and contemporary Western pottery. This sherd is bordered with bands of the typical Walls engraved zonal areal design.



j) Minor decorated types

Minor decorated types include Vernon Paul Applique and Manley punctuate. These types seem to occur with greater frequency in the upper layers of the midden.

k) Slip Wares

Old Town Red, Avenue Painted, Nodena Red on White and Hollywood White Filmed represent the slip wares found in the midden. Most of these occurred in the upper layers of the midden, though one Hollywood white filmed sherd occurred as deep as the seventh level, and one Old Town Red turned up as deep as the ninth.

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Of course, it is well to note that many of the Hollywood White Filmed sherds are small enough to have been pieces from the white stripes of Nodena red and white vessels; but with the absence of any colored stripe indicated can only be classified as Hollywood White Filmed.

l) Miscellaneous objects of Clay

Miscellaneous objects of clay include an untempered fragment of a spoon or ladle; several ear plugs, and it is worth noting that ear plugs which occur on the Fuller Site are small and shapely; and a number of problematical objects. Many of these are small balls and lumps of untempered clay which may or may not have had a use. One seems to have been shaped like a pocan with the husk on. There is no indication, however, that any of them were fragments of representational figures.

m) ~~#####~~ Variations ,

Variations from these established types include four sherds showing a cord impressed design similar to Ranch incised on Neely's Ferry Plain; and similar too to sherds with a similar impression recovered in the deeper levels at the Jaketown Site. Only 4 Hull Engraved sherds were removed from the midden. 10 Sherds on cinnamon and black Bell Plain paste are heavily scored, as if by some special scoring tool; 4 a possible variations of a Kent incised design; and 6 of a Rhodes incised design. 2 very heavy sherds with red slip on both sides (5/8" shell temp. sherds) seem somewhat of a variation from the normal slip technique as shown by the other sherds having slip on them from the site. Two incised sherds incorporate the circle design; one carrying the circle with a cross, (the world design); and the other a circle with a star--see photographic supplement. One punctuate sherd seems to have been made with finger nail impressions. It is a shell tempered sherd. One sherd incorporates a design of abutting squares of incised lines. It is quite different from any incised pattern I have ever seen. Another is of burnished ribbons (ribbon pattern obviously engraved first--then polished or burnished) on Bell Plain. A third sherd seems to be paddle marked on shell tempered ware. Still another seems to carry a fragment of a crude incised representational figure. Another lump of clay (untempered) carries the impression of woven fabric or basketry.

n) Ceramic types by levels

It is well to remember when examining the following tabulations that due to the disturbance of the project by vandals during the period during which Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society workers were off the site: only five of the ten squares were carried down to the fifth level; and only a portion of squares 6, 8, and 10 were carried down to this level. Four squares were carried down to the sixth level; and only one square was carried down from the seventh to the thirteenth level. So comparable adjustments of these figures must be made before any intelligent percentages as per wares can be arrived at.

THE T. O. FULLER REPORT

n) Frequency Tables

1) Plain Wares

| <u>Depth by Inches</u> | <u>Bell Plain</u> | <u>Neely's Ferry Plain</u> | <u>Baytown Plain(Grit)</u> | <u>Clay Tempered</u> |
|----------------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------------|--------------------------|
| 5 | 1124 | 167 | | 2 |
| 10 | 1443 | 191 | | |
| 15 | 1435 | 249 | | 1 |
| 20 | 1447 | 246 | | |
| 25 | 1436 | 336 | 1 | 3 |
| 30 | 507 | 137 | 2 | |
| 35 | 435 | 179 | 1 | 2 |
| 40 | 106 | 13 | | 1 |
| 45 | 33 | 8 | 8 | 2 |
| 50 | 4 | | 6 | |
| 55 | 6 | 3 | 2 | |
| 60 | 3 | | 3 | |
| 65 | 1 | | | |

2) Punctuate Types

| | <u>Parkin Punctuate</u> | <u>Manley Punctuate</u> |
|----|-------------------------|-------------------------|
| 5 | 58 | 3 |
| 10 | 98 | 4 |
| 15 | 149 | 6 |
| 20 | 139 | 2 |
| 25 | 126 | 2 |
| 30 | 40 | 1 |
| 35 | 14 | 4 |
| 40 | 1 | |
| 45 | 4 | |
| 50 | | |
| 55 | | |
| 60 | | |
| 65 | | |

THE T. O. FULLER REPORT

| Depth in Inches | Mound Pl. Incised | 3) Incised Wares | | | |
|--------------------|----------------------|-------------------|-----------------|-------------------|------------------|
| | | Baxton Incised | Kent Incised | Rhodes Incised | Ranch Incised |
| 5 | 1 | 55 | 38 | 33 | 18 |
| 10 | 3 | 30 | 25 | 50 | 9 |
| 15 | 5 | 14 | 16 | 19 | 16 |
| 20 | 2 | 8 | 9 | 19 | 14 |
| 25 | 3 | 23 | 14 | 10 | 4 |
| 30 | 1 | 3 | 1 | 1 | 1 |
| 35 | 2 | 2 | 8 | 7 | |
| 40 | | 1 | | | |
| 45 | | 1 | | | |
| 50 | | | | | |
| 55 | | | | | |
| 60 | | | | | |
| 65 | | | | | |

4) Other Types

| Depth in Inches | 4) Other Types | |
|--------------------|----------------------|---------------|
| | Vernon Paul Applique | Fortune Noded |
| 5 | 5 | |
| 10 | 3 | 5 |
| 15 | 24 | 9 |
| 20 | 1 | 10 |
| 25 | | 12 |
| 30 | | 1 |
| 35 | 1 | 15 |
| 40 | | 1 |
| 45 | | |
| 50 | | |
| 55 | | |
| 60 | | |
| 65 | | |

T H E T. O. F U L L E R R E P O R T

5) Engraved Wares

| Depth by Inches | Walls Engraved | Hull Engraved |
|-----------------|----------------|---------------|
| 5 | | 1 |
| 10 | | 1 |
| 15 | 8 | |
| 20 | 11 | |
| 25 | 19 | |
| 30 | 5 | 2 |
| 35 | 4 | |
| 40 | 1 | |
| 45 | | |
| 50 | | |
| 55 | | |
| 60 | | |
| 65 | | |

6) Slip Wares

| | Old Town Red | Avenue Painted | Nodena Red and White | Hollywood White Filmed |
|----|--------------|----------------|----------------------|------------------------|
| 5 | 12 | | 2 | 4 |
| 10 | 7 | 2 | 1 | 4 |
| 15 | 4 | 3 | | 4 |
| 20 | 8 | 1 | | 6 |
| 25 | 2 | 8 | 2 | 4 |
| 30 | 1 | | 6 | 1 |
| 35 | 3 | | | |
| 40 | 1 | | | |
| 45 | | | | |
| 50 | | | | |
| 55 | | | | |
| 60 | | | | |
| 61 | | | | |

CONCLUSIONS:

Only a very limited and sketchy picture of the Fuller Man can be conjectured from the findings and studies conducted on the Fuller Site by Memphis Archaeological and Geological Society. However, what he may have been like may be in part at least inferred from the evidence at hand. All of the skulls uncovered (9) were brachy-cephalic--mongoloid types. This leaves little doubt as to the racial ancestry of the Fuller people. The extended skeletons were all less than 5'5" in length which gives a clue as to the Fuller man's height. Only one of the nine burials was as old as 45 years judging from the amount of recession of the jaw bones and the teeth. One was an infant, two were relatively young women; one was a juvenile which gives some clue as to the death rate at the Fuller Site. The presence of 3 bundle reburials involving six of the skeletons uncovered suggests a semi-nomadic life for at least a portion of the people, or long hunting trips, or warfare carried on at some distance from the Village. The presence of such rich carbonized vegetable remains and such a variety of faunal remains suggests that the Fuller man may have had a somewhat more balanced and certainly more interesting diet than many of his prehistoric contemporaries. The Fuller Man (i.e. the surface culture Fuller Man) was a new stone age man. He was a competent stone workman as his projectile points and other stone implements indicate; the one celt found in the course of excavation was beautifully polished and competently made. His projectile points were the type used by bowmen rather than by hunters who used spears. The presence of whole deer skulls in the refuse pits suggest that he may have used ruses when hunting for deer which was the mainstay of the Fuller man's economy. The variety of fish bones found in the midden suggest that fish was an important adjunct to his diet; but whether he caught them with hooks (only one bone hook in the Barnes Collection is known to have been found on the Site), with nets or spears is impossible to conjecture. Bone tools and ornaments were in popular usage among the Fuller people.

The Fuller man's house was a fairly substantial structure of wattle plastered with mud inside and out. The social life of the village seems to have revolved about the ceremonial center which boasts of two mounds. Dr. T.M.N. Lewis reports prehistoric terracing along a portion of the bluffs.¹⁾ This may have permitted a limited amount of agriculture close to the site though it is not only possible but likely that the nearby bottoms were the location of the principal fields and further study of the nearby--Ensley Bottoms Site may disclose this site to have been an agricultural adjunct of the Fuller Site. Little more the social practices of the Fuller people can be conjectured from the evidence uncovered. However, the presence of an infant burial with its mother suggest the possibility of infanticide. There was also evidence of syphilis in one skeleton.

1) Lewis, T.M.N., to Beaudoin, K.L., Letter, May, 1953.

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A few valuable clues as to the dress and the appearance of the Fuller man can be conjectured from the admirably sculptured human effigy vessels in the Barnes Collection. A sort of cap is shown on one of them. Drilled deer toe bones suggest their use as feather mounts. That the Fuller man wore his hair in a bun at the back of his head is suggested by the presence of a bun on several of the human effigies. If the animal effigies found on the site have totemic implications or might be said to suggest clan symbols the following clans can be said to have been extant on the site: Human (Chieftain--Mingo?); Swan; Duck; Wood-duck; Frog; Fish; Cormorant; Deer; Dog; Bat; Opossum, Otter and Eagle. This according to Swanton¹⁾ would suggest that the Fuller man may have been a prehistoric Muskogean (possibly Natchez--or Chickasaw) with a strong Shawnee influence showing up in his clan system. Though when a more complete picture of the prehistoric Tunica is established archaeologically I would like to compare him with the Fuller man as we find him from the evidence at hand.

Such stratigraphic interpretation as was possible in an area which has been riddled with so much historic and prehistoric disturbance suggests and extended occupation of the site by the surface culture and a much more limited occupation by the bottom culture. There is some slight hint that there may have been more than one surface occupation, but without undisturbed stratigraphy this can hardly be established. But in any case the surface culture shows its strongest influence in the upper layers to be from the St. Francis area sites; whereas the preponderance of the Memphis area traits as outlined in the Alluvial Valley Report occur in the middle and lower layers. It is impossible from the evidence at hand to make a conjecture as to the chronology of the occupation of the site except that it would seem that the surface occupation might easily have been in the B-A--Late Mid-Mississippian period (Temple Mound period) referred to in the Alluvial Valley Report.

The Fuller site has still a burthen of valuable archaeological information in it. It is hoped that either the State of Tennessee or the City of Memphis will realize the importance and value of this fabulous site and the opportunity it offers for development and start to work on the task of uncovering with the help of qualified archaeologists, this important part of the prehistory of Shelby County before it is forever lost.

Kenneth Lawrence Beaudoin,
Memphis, Tenn.
1953

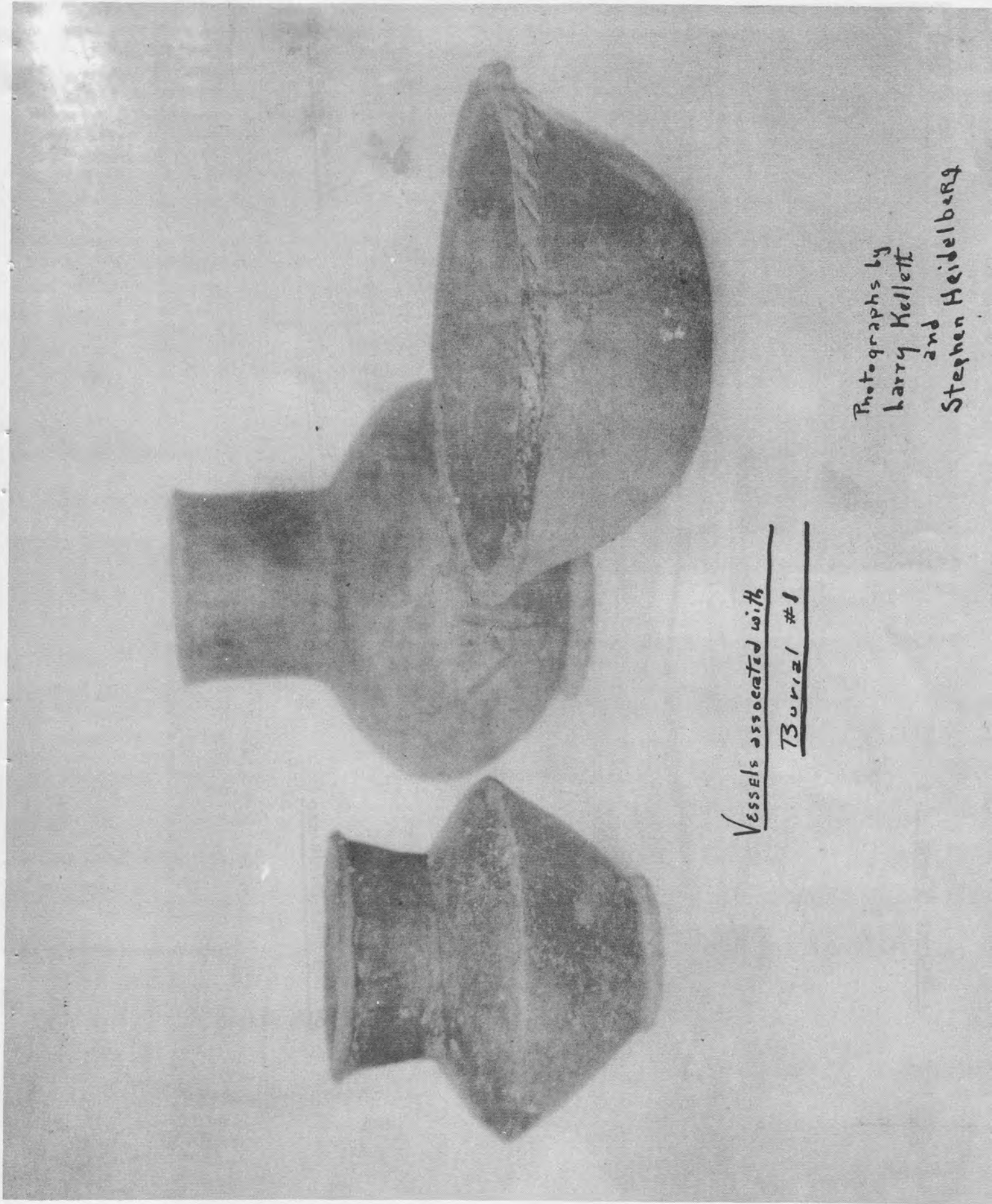
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- 1) Swanton, John, Indians of the South Eastern United States, p.656-58
 - 2) Phillips, Phillip, Ford, James A., and Griffin, James B., op.cit. p. 448

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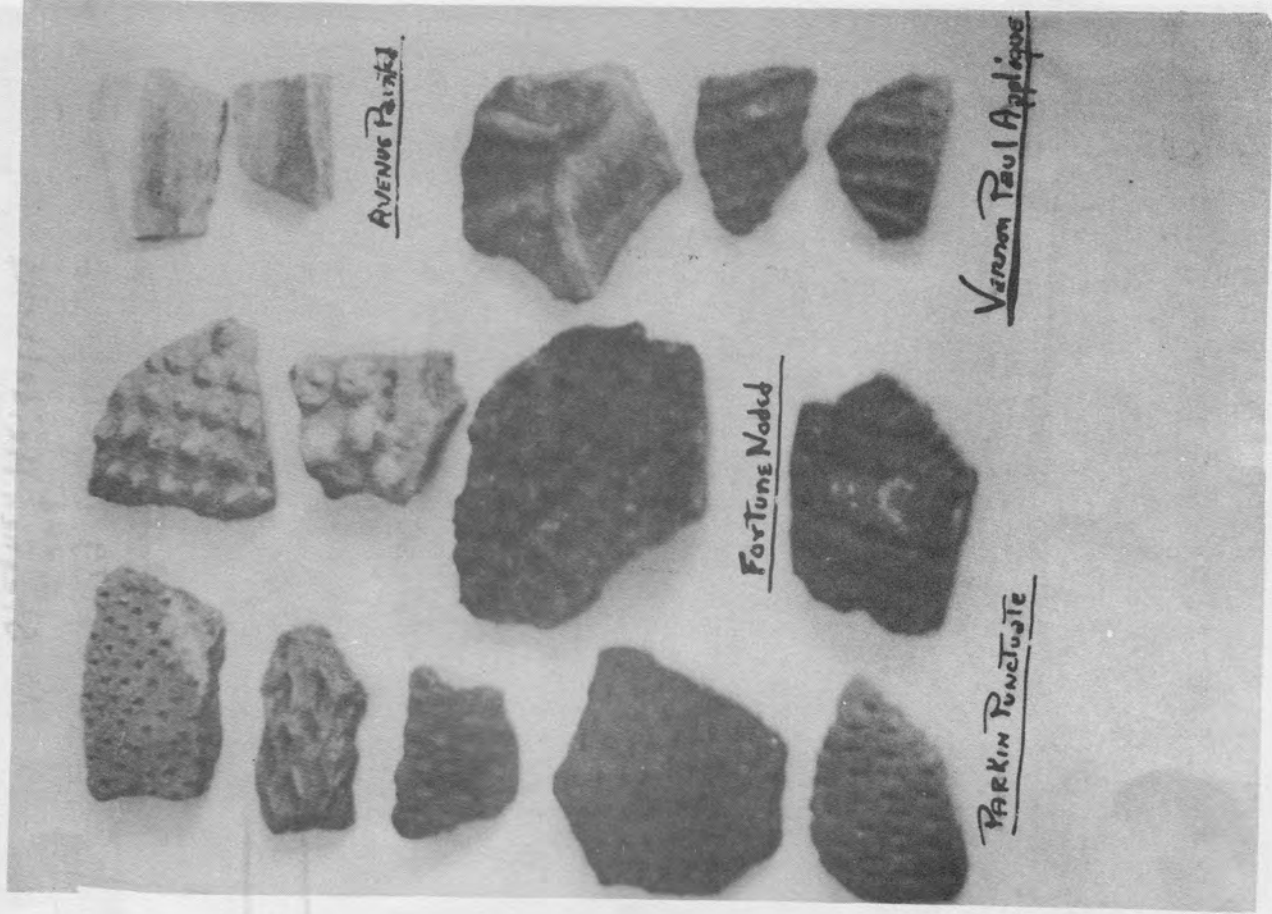
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Vessels associated with
Burial #1

Photographs by
Harry Kelleff
and
Stephen Heidelberg

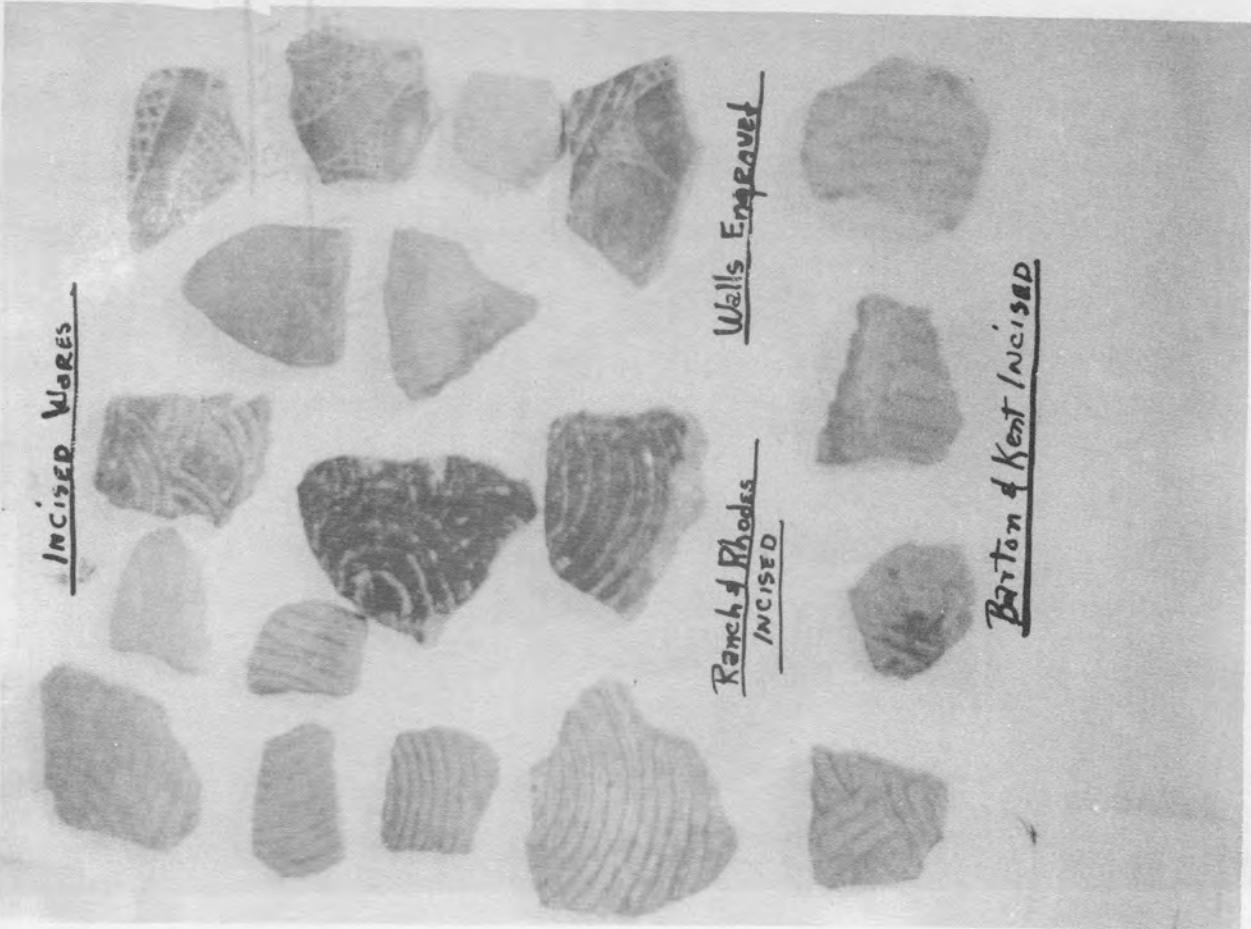


AVENUE PAINTED

VERNON PAUL APPLIQUE

FORTUNE MOULD

PARKIN PUNCTUATE

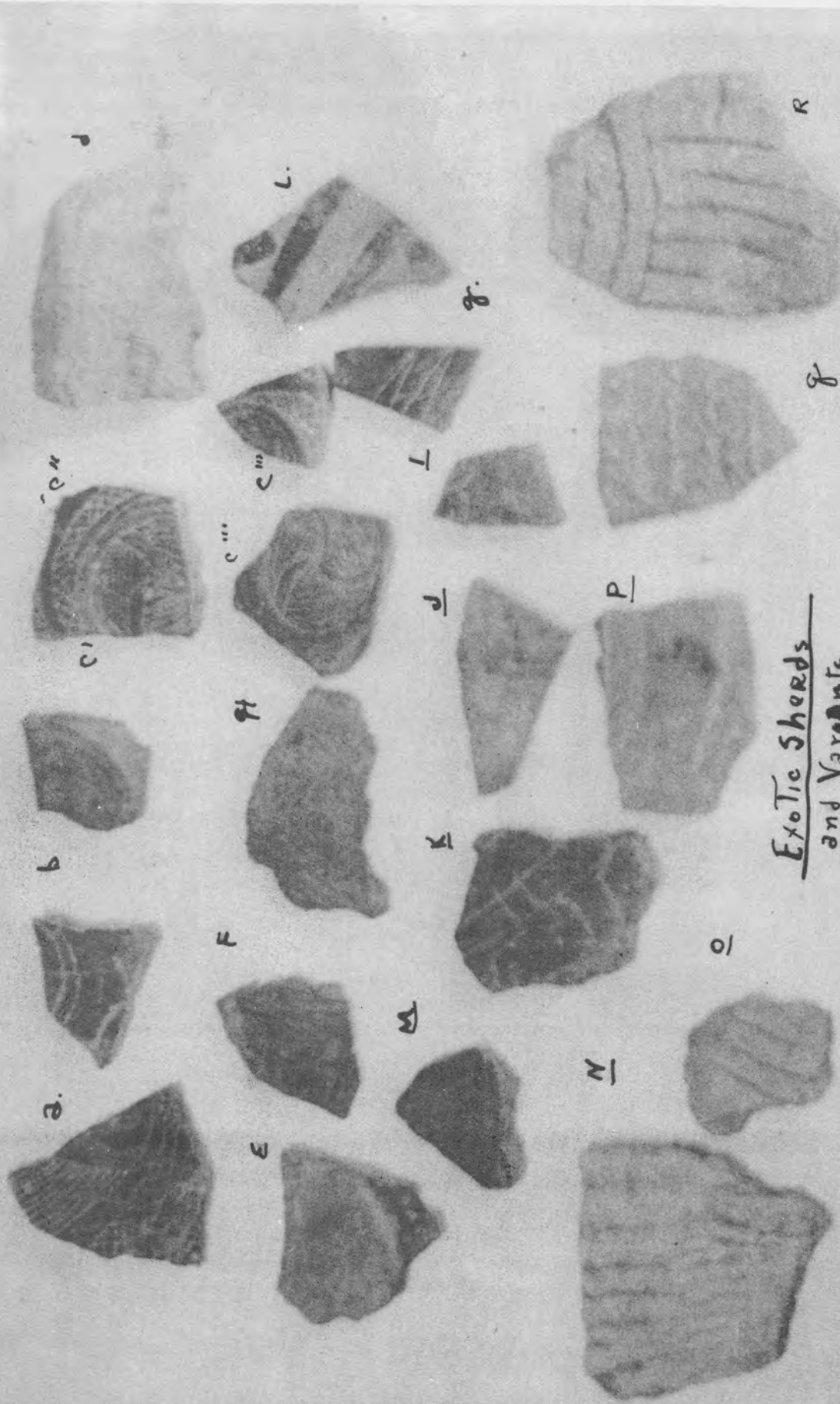


INCISED WARES

WALLS ENGRAVEL

RANCH OF RHODES
INCISED

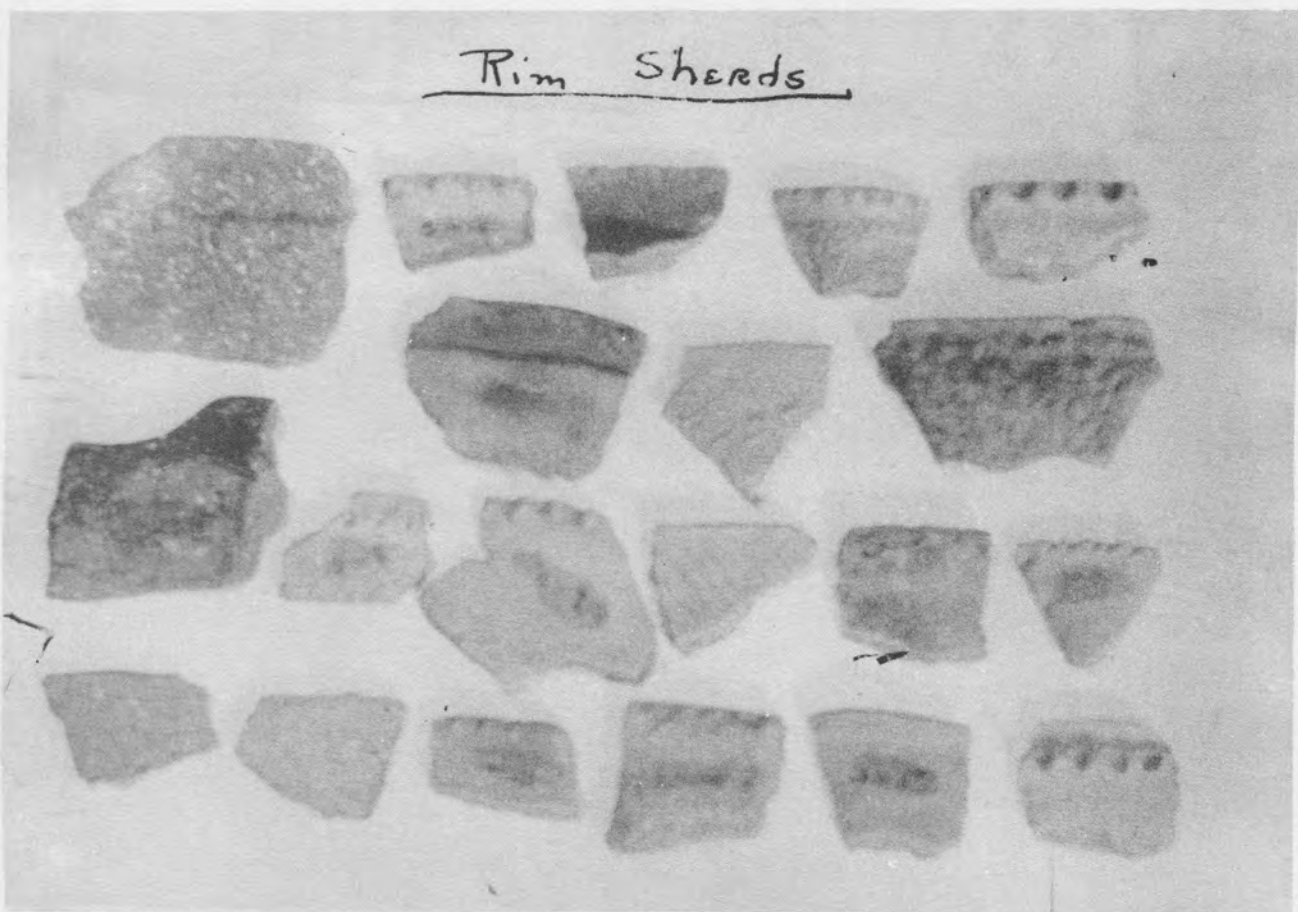
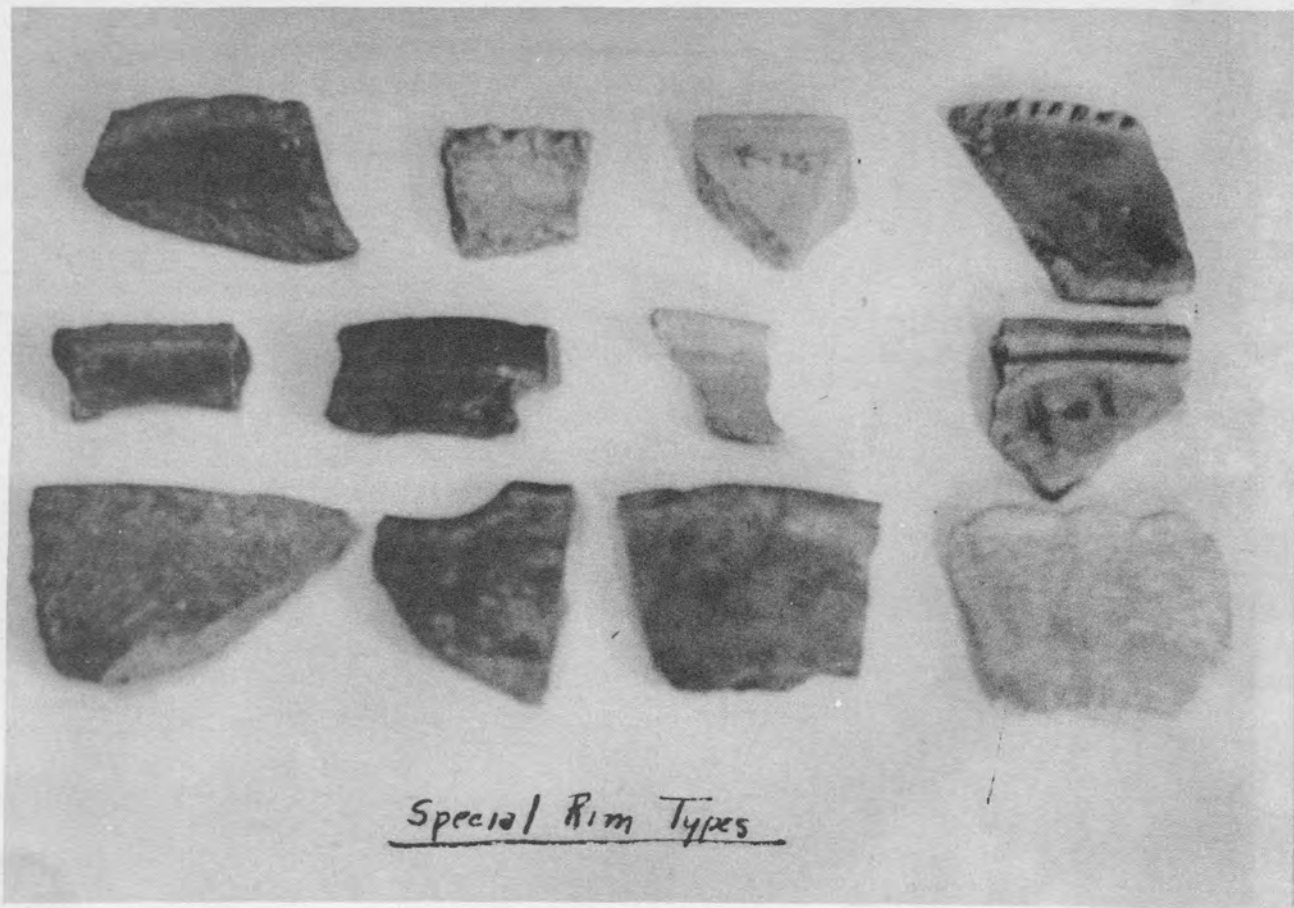
BARTON & KENT INCISED

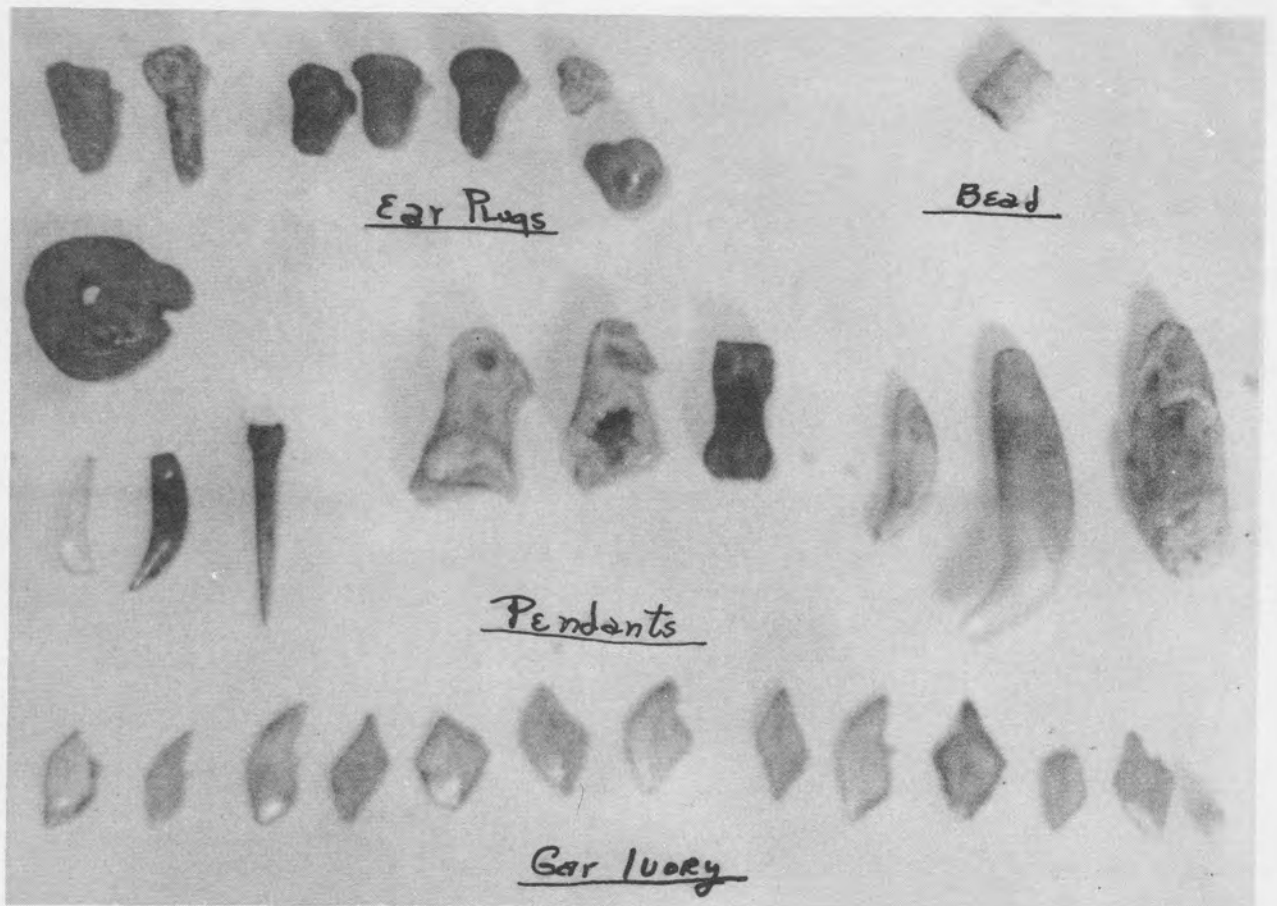
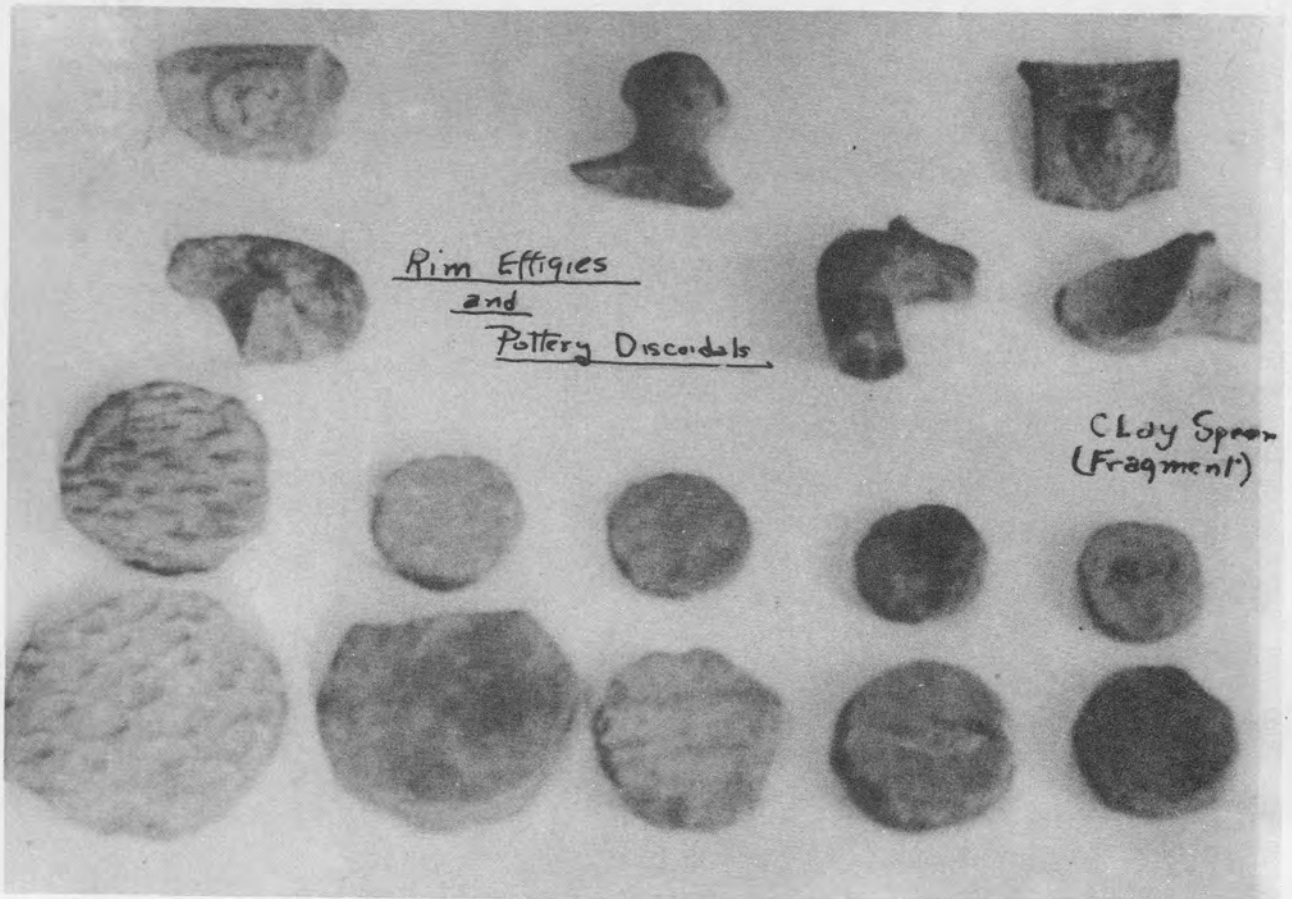


Exotic Sherds
and Variants

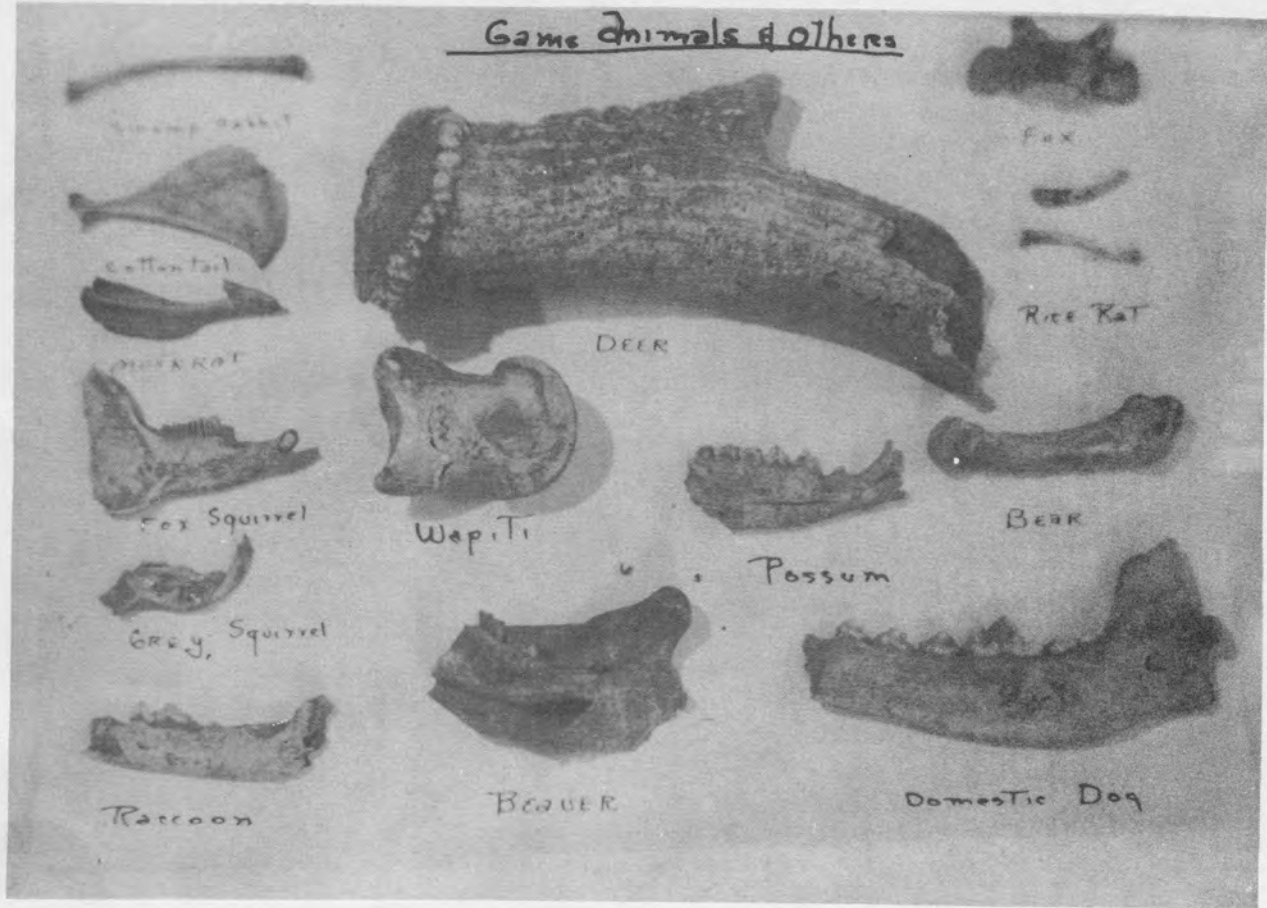
- a. b, c, e, c", Walls Engraved
- m, b, K, scoring on Bell Plain
- n. cord marked - Shell Temp (similar to Foot Ancient Ware)
- p. modified saucer bottom on Old Town Red.
- d. Fabric impression on untempered clay

- f. cross d circle with Rhodes Inlaid
- n. cross cross pattern - exotic
- l. Burnished Ribbons on Bell Plain
- e. Red Dots on Black Ware
- g. R. Rend Inlaid (Cord marked - imp?)

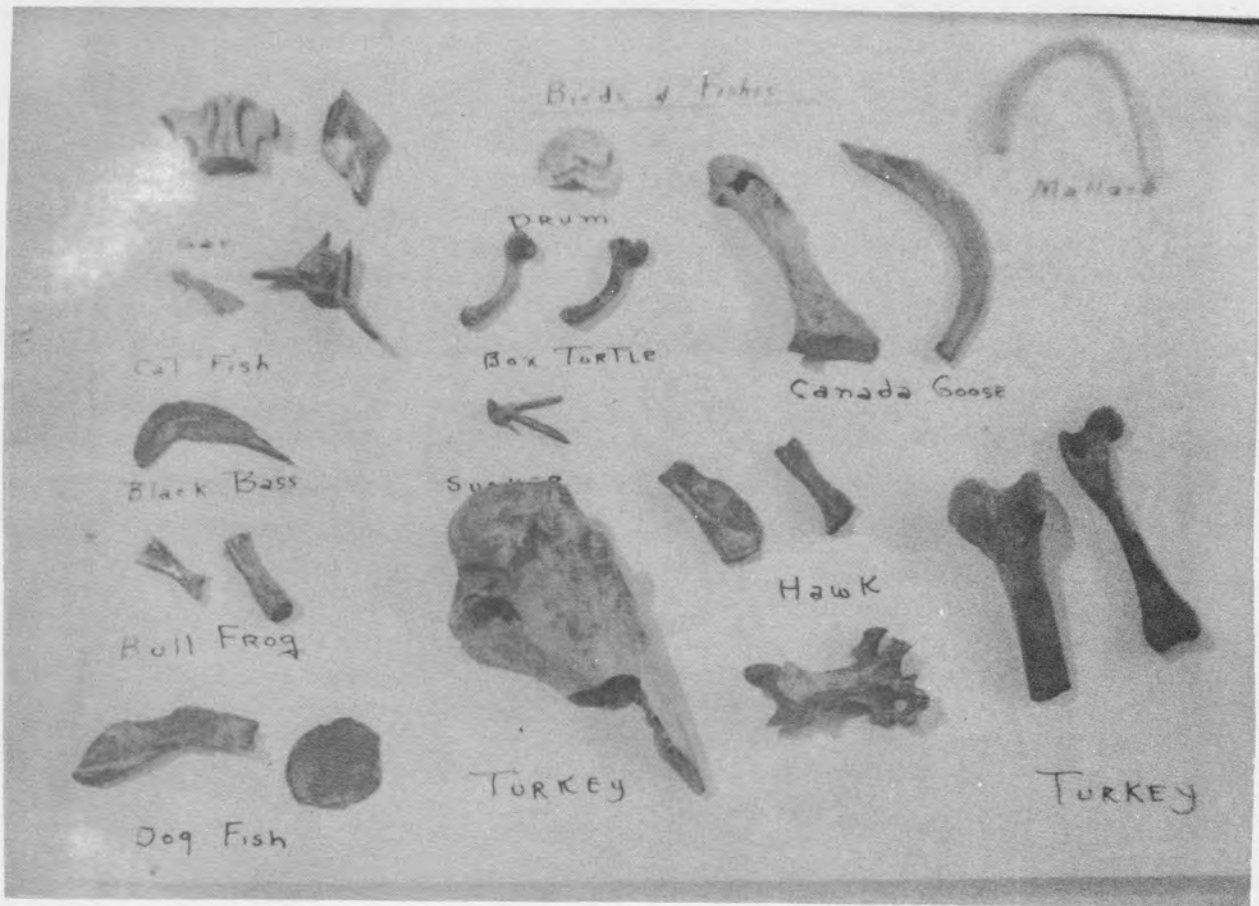


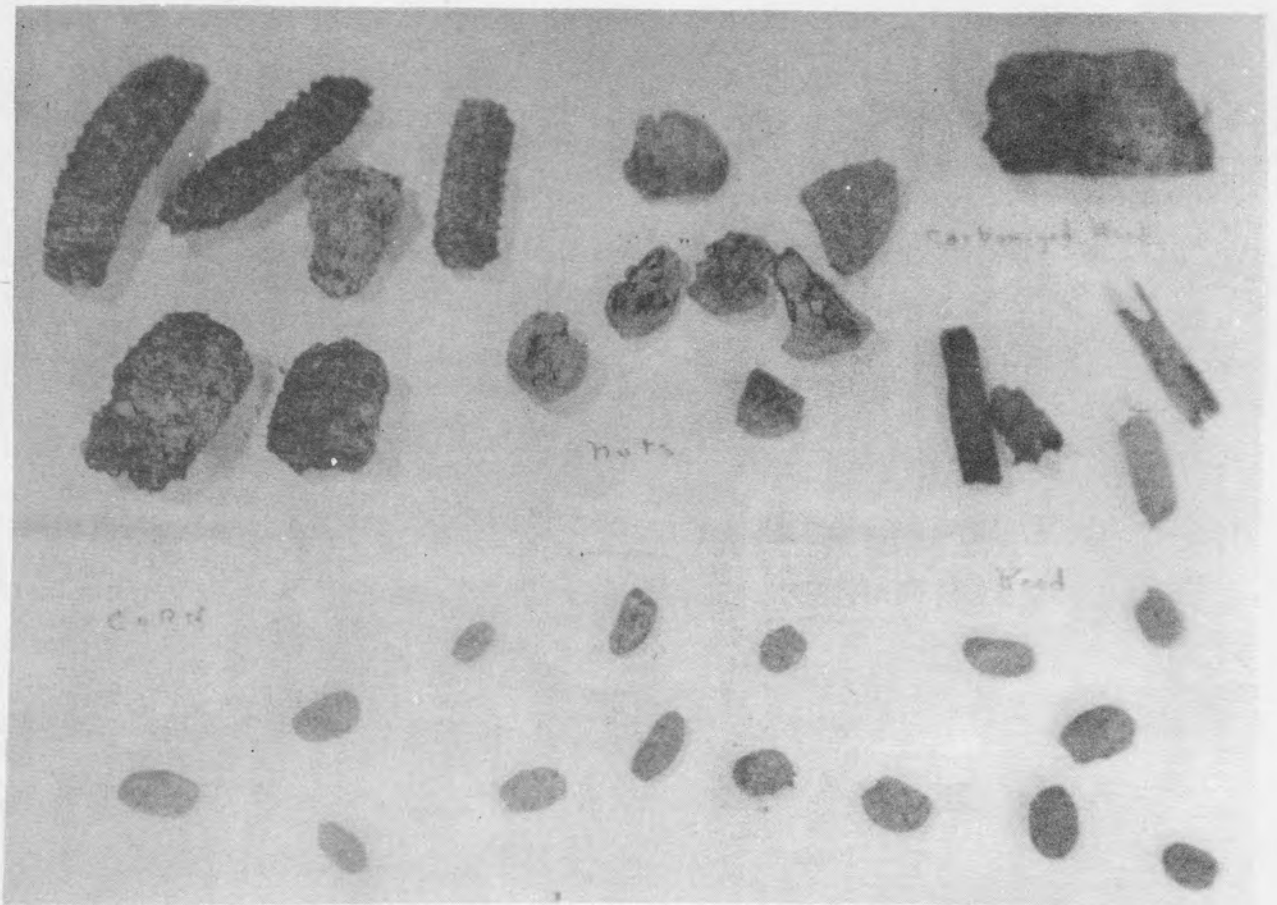
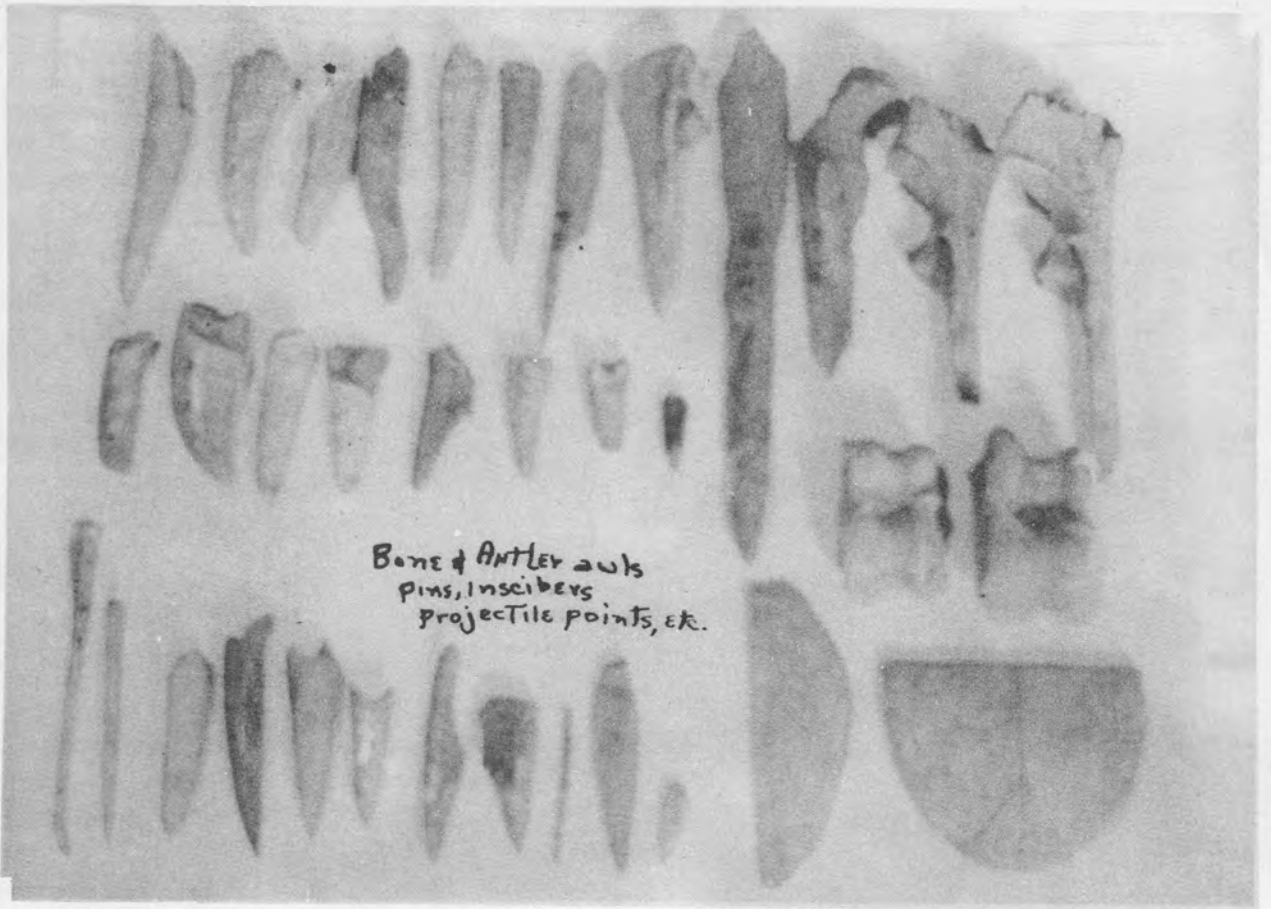


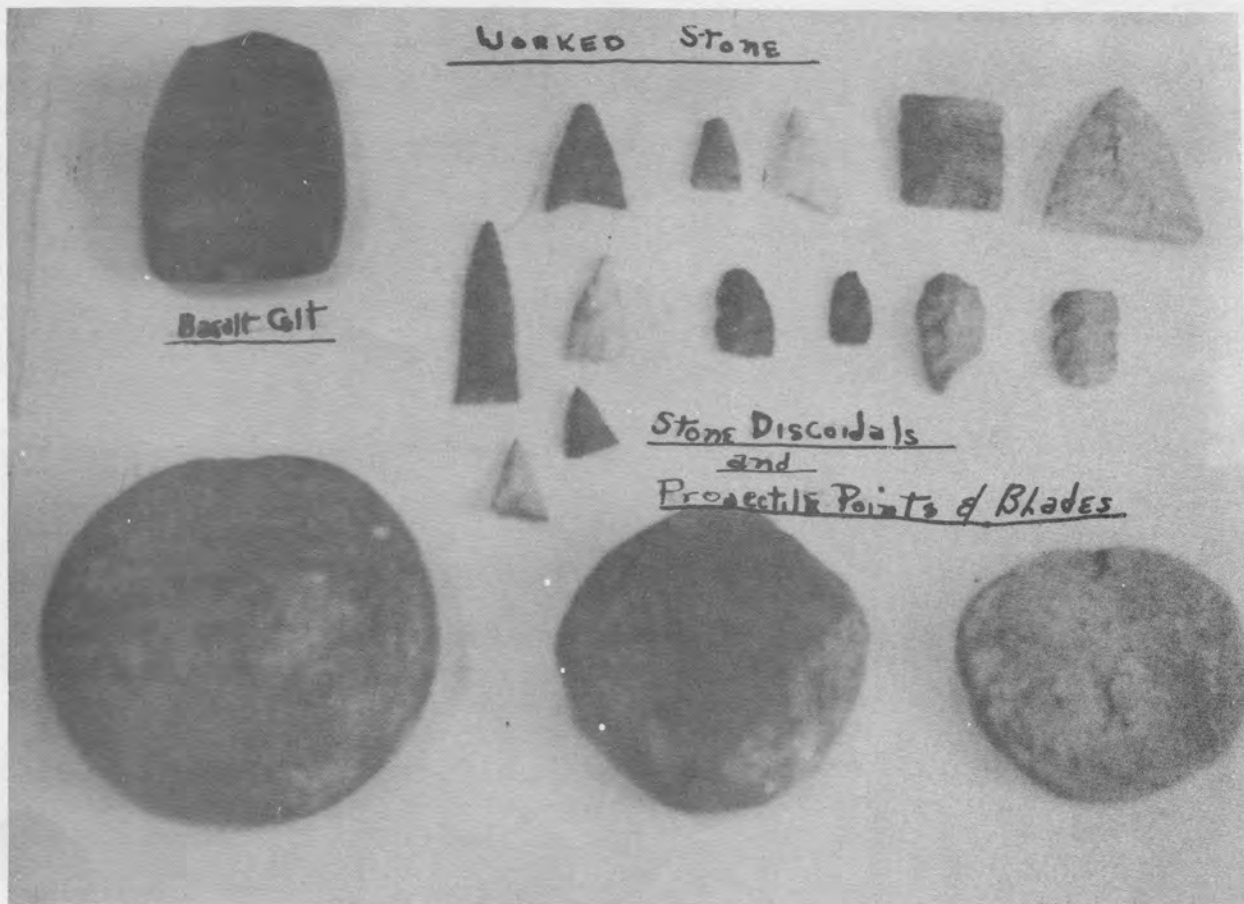
Game Animals & Others

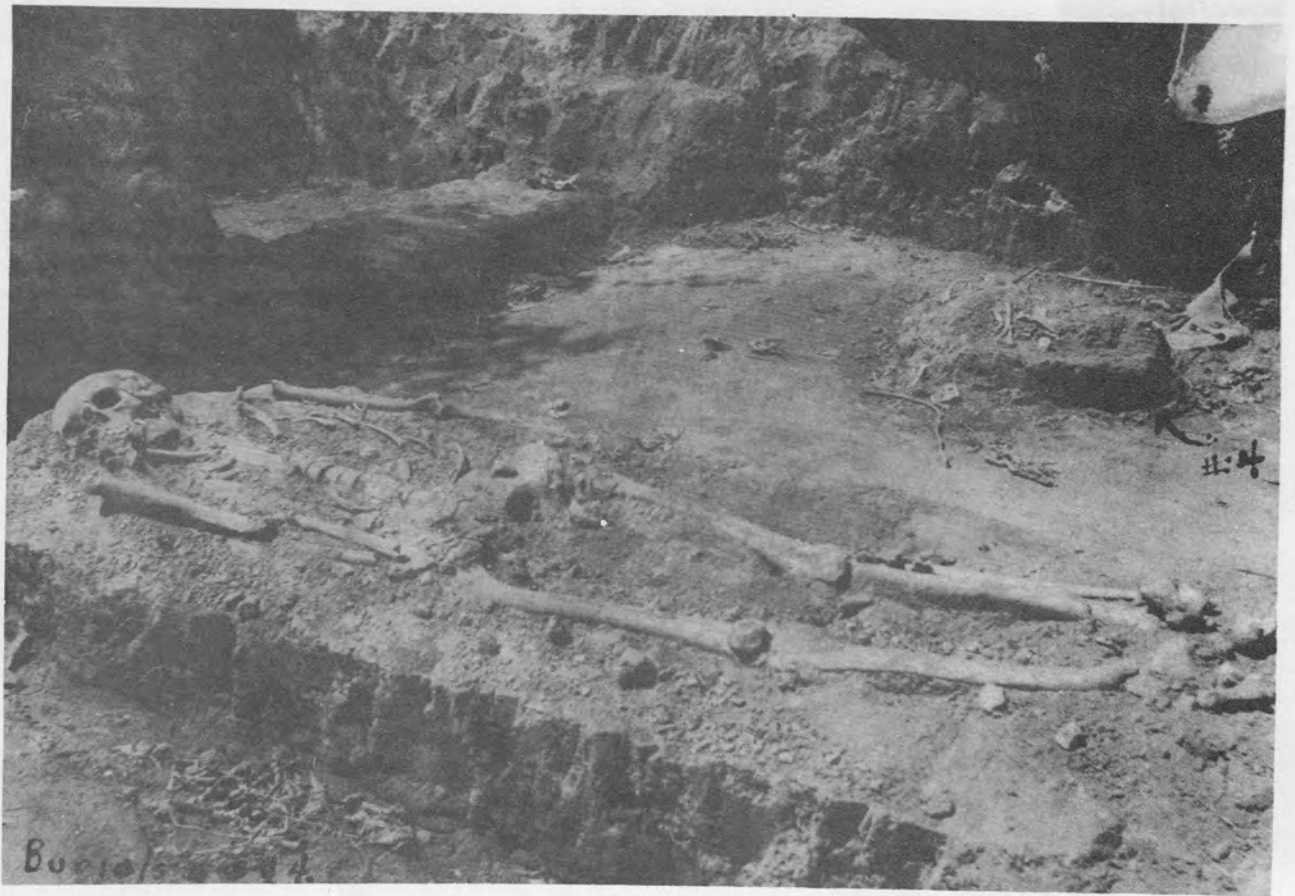


Birds & Fishes









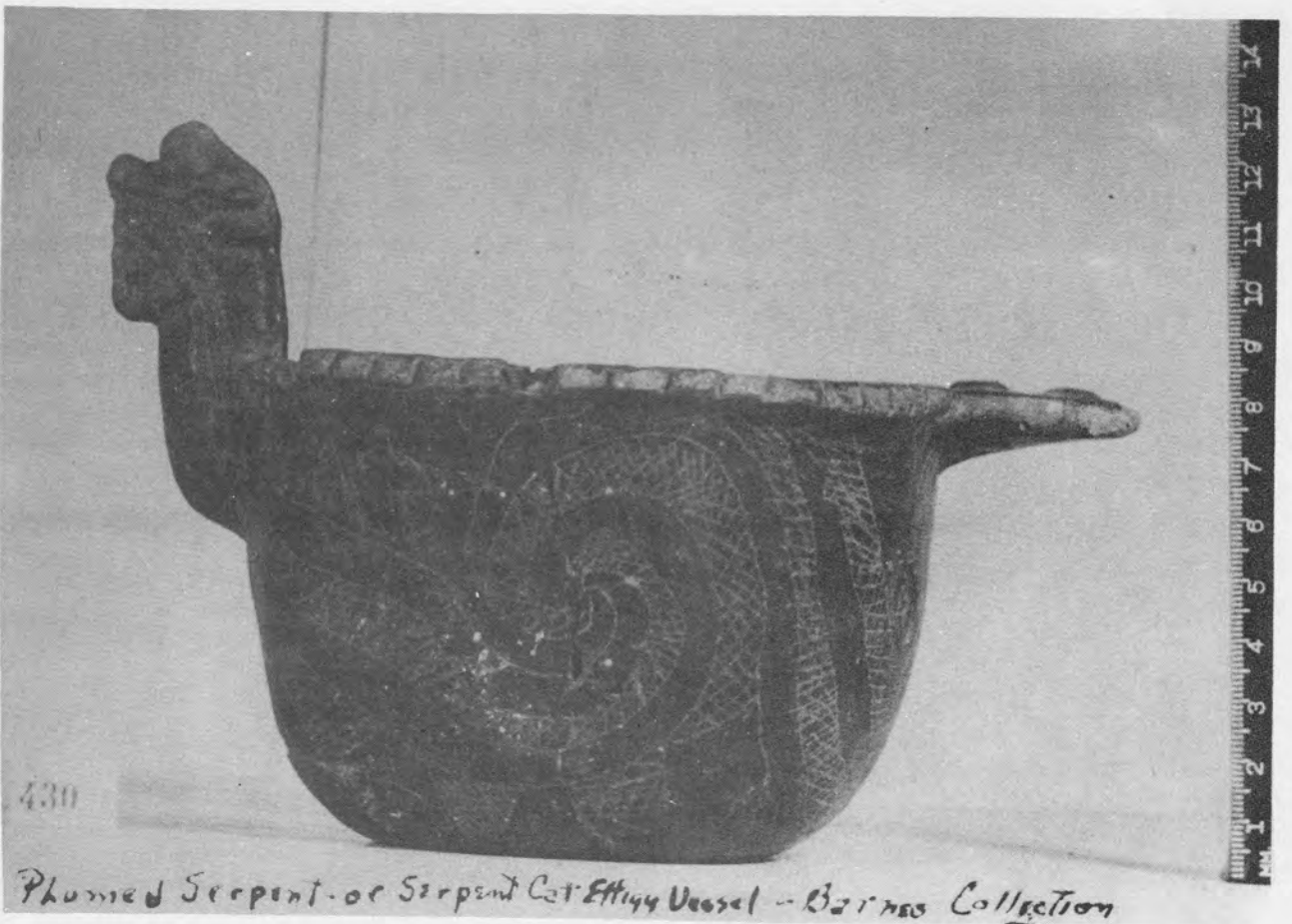
Effigies - Barnes Collection



Fish-Effigy Vessel - Barnes Collection



Eagle or Hawk Effigy Vessel - Barnes Collection





Rhodes Incised Vessel - Baynes Collection



Rhodes Incised Vessel - Baynes Collection

