

A WINDOW TO ARCHAIC GATHERERS

By Allison K. Douglas

On the Central Plains the Archaic period represents the onset of regional subsistence diversification as a response to the Altithermal. However, archeologists are often limited in their understanding of plant use at sites predating cultivation due to poor preservation of floral remains and, therefore, typically draw inferences through the analyses of material culture. Bifacial knives from the Coffey site (14PO1) in northeastern Kansas, dating to the Middle Archaic Munkers Creek phase, are a case in point. Based on microscopic use-wear analysis, this paper shows that the knives represent a hyper-specialized plant-gathering technology that predated plant cultivation on the Central Plains. Experiments support this conclusion by demonstrating that plant-cutting striations are created by abrasive materials within the plants themselves rather than by surface soil or sediment adhering to the plants. Additionally, the presence of this hyper-specialized plant-gathering technology provides greater visibility of Plains Archaic women.

14MO414: SURFACE COLLECTION OF ARTIFACTS INDICATING POSSIBLE KAW OCCUPATION (1848-1873)

By Clinton Thomas

This paper gives a brief history of 14MO414 and examines artifacts recovered there. The majority date to the mid-nineteenth century and indicate a possible Kaw Reservation period occupation. The site was discovered and reported to the Kansas Historical Society by amateur archeologists, and all the artifacts discussed were found by amateurs, either on the surface or just below. A metal detector was used in the recovery of many, but none was retrieved from below the plow zone. All artifacts were collected with permission from the landowner.

THE LITTLE STONE STORE ON THE SANTA FE TRAIL: FINDINGS OF THE 2016 KATP FIELD SCHOOL AT THE LAST CHANCE STORE (14MO367) IN COUNCIL GROVE, KANSAS

By Robert Blasing

The Last Chance Store was built in 1857 to trade with Santa Fe Trail travelers and Kaw Indians, who lived just south of Council Grove. Apparently it served in that capacity for only brief periods between 1857 and 1859. In the early 1860s the building became a temporary residence for three families at different times. It also served as a barracks and headquarters for a cavalry unit, temporarily stationed in Council Grove during the Civil

War. The building was used as a grocery store in the latter half of the 1870s, a corn crib, the permanent residence of the William Tolbert family for 50 years, and then a historic site. During its 160-year lifetime the structure remained relatively intact and unchanged. The last private owners from 1955 until 2015 were dedicated to preserving the site and its history. Once in state ownership, an archeological investigation was undertaken by the 2016 Kansas Archeology Training Program field school. The large number of artifacts found during the project represent very nearly the entire span of its historic occupation.

Book Reviews

An Ice Age Mystery: Unearthing the Secrets of the Old Vero Site by Rody Johnson. Reviewed by Jim D. Feagins

A Grand Adventure: The Lives of Helge and Anne Stine Ingstad and their Discovery of a Viking Settlement in North America by Benedicte Instad; translated by J. K. Stenehjem. Reviewed by Jim D. Feagins