

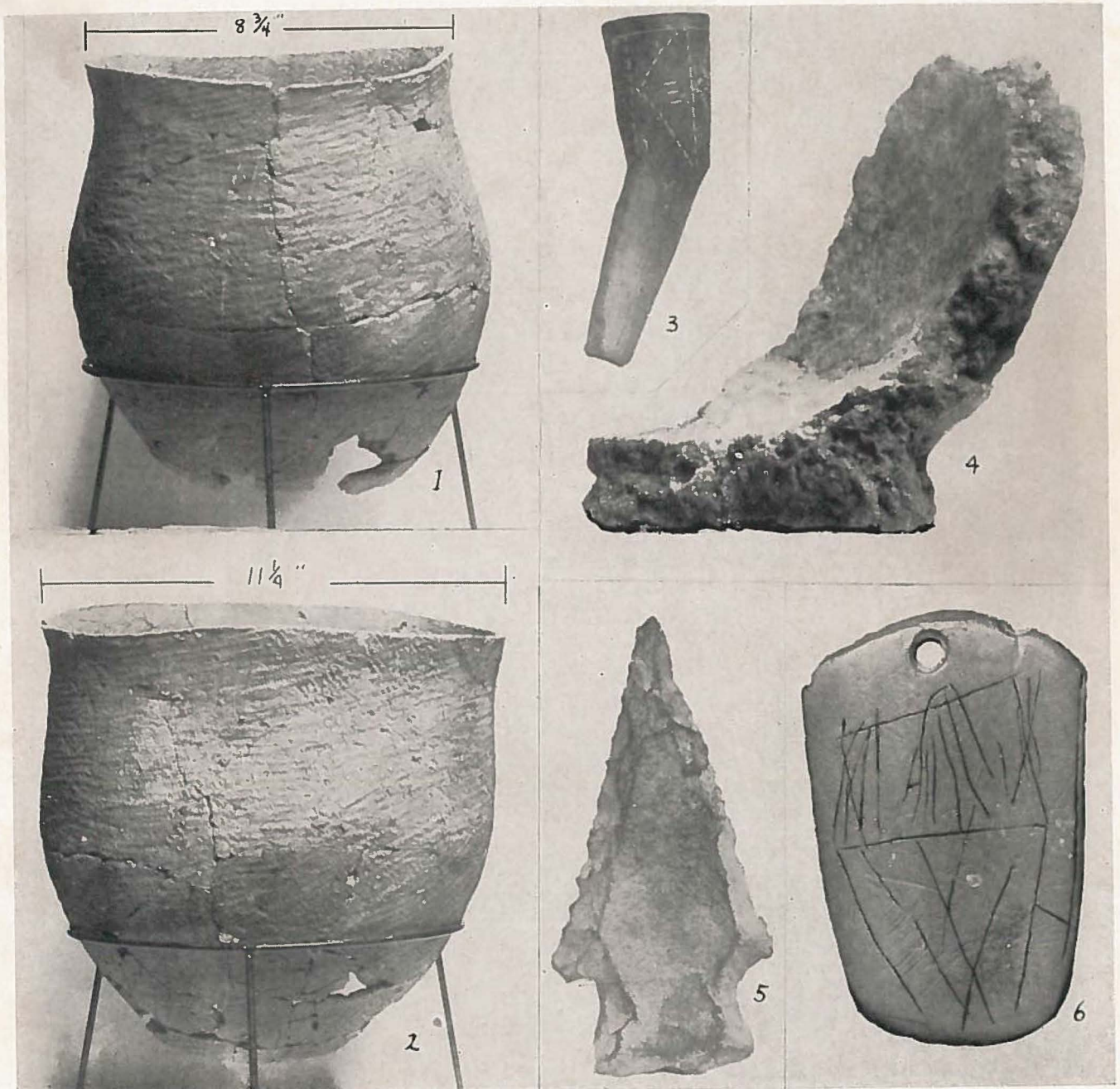
JULY, 1953

THE ARCHEOLOG

NEWS LETTER OF THE SUSSEX ARCHAEOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION

O. H. PEETS, EDITOR

LEWES, DELAWARE



OUR COVER: The objects reproduced were found by our members D. Edward Corkran and Perry S. Flegel whose report appears in this issue.

Sections (1) and (2) are views of the same pot and this will explain why it has been the subject of much discussion, for oval pots are almost unknown; but, before this one can be put down as an example of that rare shape, we must decide whether or not it is intentionally oval. While leaving the last word to the finders, the "Archeolog" takes the position that the oval shape resulted from some accident or from the pot having been put away to dry on its side before the clay was firm enough to support its weight in that position. Textbooks on pottery tell us that very fine cracks, caused in this way, are very difficult to mend for the edges are in virtual contact and enough slip or wet clay cannot be introduced to cement them again. When the surface of the pot has been moistened and paddled, as in this example, the surface could have remained plastic enough not to crack even if the interior did. Such a vessel might bear firing and considerable use in spite of several such flaws. The long perpendicular cracks near the ends of the longer axis suggest compression from the sides. If the vessel had been intended as an oval and built up as such there would have been no such compression. Finally, the pot is not deformed in the lower part where it would have been better able to support lateral pressure.

The pipe (3) is remarkable for the regularity with which the design is cut. The bowl is one inch and a quarter long with an opening of eleven-thirty seconds. The stem is square and the entire pipe is made of a very fine textured light red brown clay.

The basal sherd (4) is very unusual in showing a foot. The base was only about four inches across but the wall is rather thick and suggests more than a small bowl. One would expect that a foot would be a common occurrence in pottery supposed to be built up by coiling without a mold but in our locality it is extremely rare. It may be an importation from some place where it is more common.

The spear point (5) is three inches long and if it were of a different shape might seem to be fluted on one side. The spall was evidently curved both in section and in length and striking off all the chips from one face was the only way to get a point straight enough to be usable.

The gorget (6) may have had precise meaning for the wearer and his tribe or was a recognizable anthropomorphic representation, but to us it is without meaning. All we can do is to record it, and watch for any other designs of this sort.

18-DoR-13

THE MOORE SITE POT

The Moore farm is located three and one-half miles South of Brookview, Maryland lying between the West bank of the Marshyhope creek and what is known as the Indian Town road. (See map accompanying article, "Notes On Marshyhope Sites" in this issue.)

Surface hunting for Indian artifacts had been done for many years on this farm and a large number of things had been found. The farm has been identified as an Indian encampment of considerable size.

Warren Calloway was the first person to open a refuse pit in the area, and the pit in which the pot was found was his second. With Mr. Calloway's permission the writers continued excavation of the second pit and came upon some large fragments of the pot being described. Further excavating uncovered the balance of the pot shown on this issue's cover.

The refuse pit is one of four that have been located on this farm to date and the only one that has yielded any appreciable amount of pottery.

The shape of the pit was more or less trapazoidal being sixty inches along its southern base, forty inches along its northern base, with an altitude of about fifty inches between bases (see accompanying drawing of pit).

The pit was forty-three inches deep at its greatest depth beginning nine inches below the surface of the land. The northwest side, where the pot was found thirty-three inches below the surface, was the deepest area.

From the position of the pot in the pit it is the opinion of the writers that it was broken at a nearby fire and the restored part of the pot along with the pieces that could not be fitted into it, were discarded in the pit.

Other areas of the pit produced sherds from several different pots, none of which could be pieced together. These sherds were not found in the area where the pot was located but were scattered throughout the upper shell deposit of the pit, about twenty inches from the surface. Turtle bones, a snake skull, and two points, one triangular and one stemmed were the only other objects found in the pit except the shells.

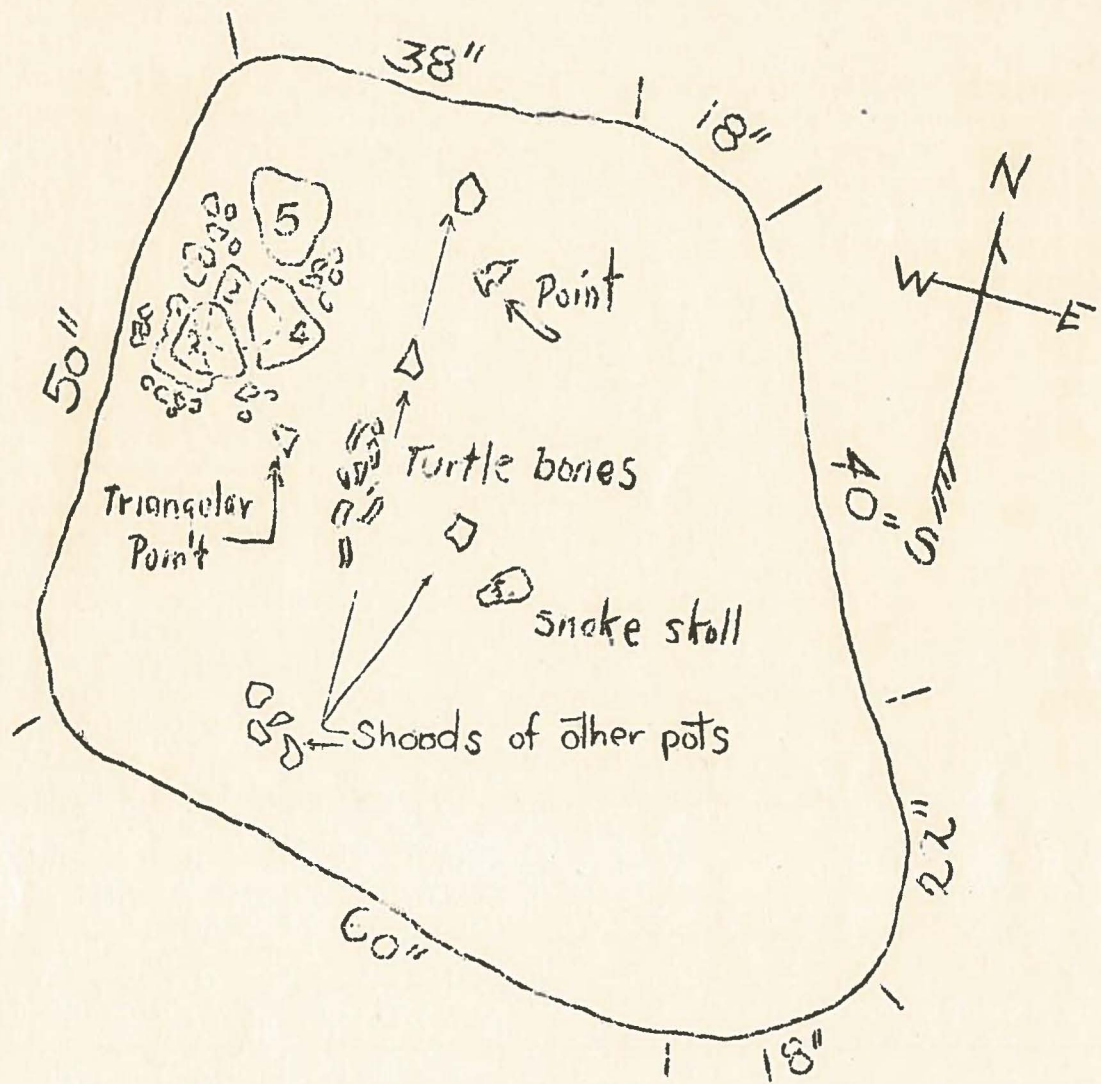
Approximately three bushels of oyster shells were found in the pit. The shells were found in two distinct layers. A layer of exceptionally large shells was found at the bottom of the pit, the largest measuring nine and three-fourths inches from tip to tip, and the widest being four and one-eighth inches wide. A layer of somewhat smaller shells was found in the upper portion of the pit. The pot was found in disturbed earth between the two layers of shells. Very few shells were found near the pot. Only oyster shells were found in the pit.

The accompanying drawing (Top View of Pit) shows the relative positions of the various items found in the pit. The turtle bones were at a depth of twenty-six inches, as were the points and the snake skull.

Excavations were made in December 1951.

D. Edward Corkran
Perry S. Flegel

TOP VIEW OF PIT



1-2-3-4-5 RIM SHARDS

1-3-5 inside of shard facing up.

2-4 inside of shard facing down.

NOTES ON MARSHYHOPE SITES

The map at the end of this article makes no attempt to record all the sites that have been located and worked along the Marshyhope Creek but, is nearly an attempt to orient the members of our organization as to the whereabouts of some of the areas that have been mentioned in oral reports that have been given at recent meetings.

The Willin site. Refuse pits are still being located at the Willin site. Five additional pits have been located since the Hutchinson report. All of these pits are small in size and those that have been excavated to date have yielded much interesting material.

Pit #10, of which excavations are incomplete has yielded portions of two quite large pots. One measuring twenty-four inches in diameter and the other twenty inches in diameter. One section of a large stone pipe was also found and a bone tool. This pit is small, measuring four feet by six feet, oval in shape, with the long axis extending East and West. The depth is thirty inches. This pit is twenty feet West of pit #9 (see Hutchinson report).

Pit #11 yielded a 30 percent complete pot measuring twenty-two inches at the rim, eighteen inches at the throat and twenty inches at the body and had a depth of about twenty-nine inches. The rim has an inverted triangular design around the rim. The bases of the triangles were variable in size and ranged from one and one-half to two and one-half inches. The height of the triangles were two and three-fourths inches. The triangles were isosceles. The usual odd pot sherds, points, bones, chips and refuse was found in the pit. This pit was quite small measuring only two by three feet and was only twenty-five inches deep. It was located about forty-two feet South of pit #10.

Pit #12 contained a 55 percent complete pot measuring thirteen inches in diameter and sixteen inches deep. The pot is beautifully designed to a depth of three inches around the rim with groups of alternating diagonal lines. Rims of at least fifteen other pots were found and bottoms of six pots. Over eleven hundred sherds were found, six broken points; all triangular based and many bones as yet unclassified. One drilled bone which was possibly a pipe stem and bowl and several hundred chips of all colors were found. This pit was five by six feet in size and forty-two inches deep. It was located eighty-seven feet North of pit #9.

Three additional pits have been located but have not been opened. All of these pits are quite close to the bank of the creek which was not probed too thoroughly during previous trips to the site.

The Saw Mill site. This site is not shown on the map but is one mile North of Redbank and on the same side of the creek. It contains a number of pits one of which has been opened and found to contain both white man's and Indian

refuse. Among the articles found have been three types of English pottery, Indian pottery, trade pipe stems, triangular points, one complete left jawbone of a deer, a lead sinker, knife blade, arrow chips, greenish-gray glazed brick, square nails, part of a bone tool, several tusks, one claw and one piece of charred corn cob. This pit that has been opened is less than twenty feet from a buried solid red brick foundation, the complete outline of which has not yet been determined.

The Waddell site. This site which is about a mile south of Harrison Ferry has only been surface hunted to date. Among the artifacts found here are the pendant and the spear point illustrated on the cover of this issue. The usual chips, points, trade pipe fragments have also been found. This site has very little pottery. One small shell pit has been located but not excavated.

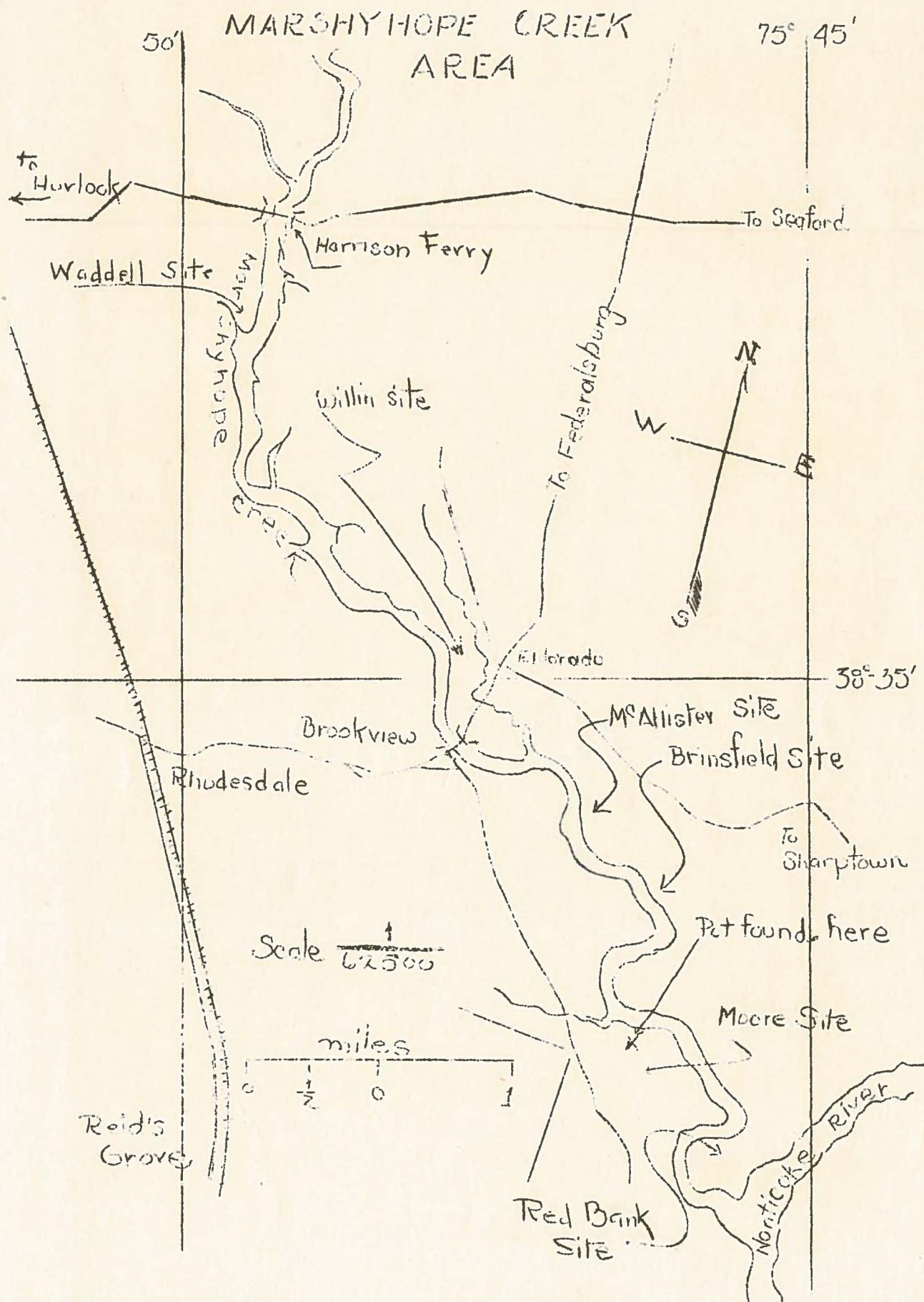
The McAllister site. Many oyster shells are to be found on the surface of this site and extensive probing has failed to produce a single refuse pit. Since the land is slightly acclivitous from the creek, and quite sandy, it is possible the top soil has been eroded and the pits washed away. Many trade pipe stems and bowls have been found here as well as sherds and a number of small points both triangular and stemmed.

The Brinsfield site. This area lies above a heavy gravel deposit which has been excavated for many years. Several years ago, an ossary was unearthed by steam shovels but was completely destroyed before anyone realizing its archeological importance knew of its existence. No excavating has been done within a hundred feet of the bank of the creek and in this area some very fine rhyolite spear points have been found. One section about forty feet square produced twenty-one large and small points with many chips indicating their being made in that area. One large point was two inches wide and three inches long. Another four inches long and one and five-eighths inches wide. Both stemmed and non-stemmed bases were found. Two artifacts of rhyolite were found. They measured one inch square and were chipped to a sharp edge on all four sides. Trade pipes and pottery can be found in abundance.

Red Bank site. This site has been surface hunted for many years. Because of the difficulty in reaching it, little work has been done. The pipe and the flat bottom bowl fragment shown on the cover of this issue were found here.

The writers have been compiling data on excavations in this area and hope to present, in the near future, a more complete report of the findings in this locality.

D. Edward Corkran
Perry S. Flegel



THE WEBB SITE

Condensed from the reports of F. B. Austin, C. A. Bonine, P. S. Flegel, and H. H. Hutchinson

Through the courtesy of F. A. Webb and Sons and the efforts of F. B. Austin, the Association held a field day on the Webb site which is located East of the Muderskill River and South Bowers Road. There is a fresh water pond within the site, and an interesting and provocative feature is the remains of an extensive irregular dyke bounding about half of the area.

One refuse pit was opened and was approximately circular in shape, six feet in diameter and three feet deep. From the pit we removed several small shell tempered sherds, several small pieces of bird bone, one deer bone and one piece of antler. Four deposits of badly decomposed sturgeon plates were mixed with wood and bone charcoal. One almost complete but charred bone awl, one very sharp worked bone highly polished, and one piece of bone polished and worked to a small chisel-like point.

Surface finds included many sherds some shell tempered and others mica sand and grit tempered, fabric impressed, not impressed and plain. One rim sherd with slight outward flare and cord marks under rim flare. Mr. Flegel reported finding thirty-nine artifacts; twenty-five triangular, no barbed, and five stemmed. Three stone artifacts possibly scrapers and six unidentifiable objects.

REPORT FROM WESTERN SUSSEX H. H. Hutchinson

Field Exploration has been slow in Western Sussex on account of poor week-end weather, but we have two probable camp sites to explore. One test hole near Ellis's Wharf on Broad Creek gave a couple handfulls of sherds from large vessels ten to sixteen inches in diameter, cord-wrapped paddle stamped and with the tempering completely leached away. Tempering may have been vegetable matter, but was probably coarse mussel shell fragments. Some rims were semi-castellated with the edge of the cord-wrapped paddle.

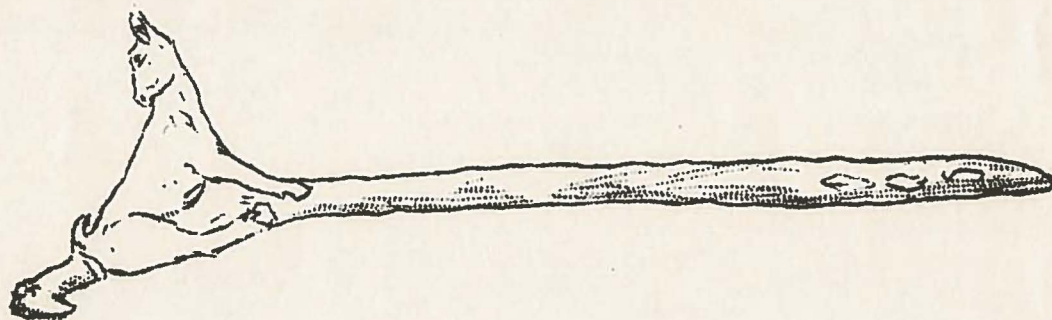
The second probably site is near Shell Bridge on the banks of Broad Creek. Here we found in one test hole nearly a hundred sherds of very fine grit tempering (or without tempering), they represented about ten different vessels of six to ten inches in diameter, generally fabric impressed; some with wrapped stick impressions, rims generally plain, but one notched rim. Sherds were mostly zero to ten inches deep mixed with much fine charcoal, below which were large pieces of charcoal down to eighteen inches and virgin soil.* The absence of shell in both the above holes was noteworthy.

* Samples of this charcoal were saved in sterile condition.

C O R R E S P O N D E N C E

Charles Stein has his headquarters in Brussels at present but has spent much time traveling in the Mediterranean area. He has written us two letters that we should have liked to print in full, for he has kept up his interest in the sort of artifacts found in Delaware but also in nearly every part of the world when the early levels are exposed. European Archeology is increasingly occupied with this earlier record. The most exciting discoveries in France Spain and Italy have been the ancient cave occupations though very recently a Gallic oppidum has been uncovered and nearly a million sherds picked up. (We did not count the total number of sherds at the Townsend site but the figure probably did not exceed ten thousand.) In Egypt the sensation of the year has been the excavation of the remains of a building which antedated Tutanchamen by more than fifteen centuries. Stein does not report much interest in archeology among the Belgians but part of one letter indicates that the atlatl - under another name - is well known to French anthropologists. From "Origine et Evolution de l'Homme" by Georges Goury he quotes in French a paragraph of which we give below a literal translation.

"By what process did the Magdalenien hunters throw their darts? A javelin may be thrown by hand, however the force of penetration is sensibly increased if one use an instrument, employed today still by the Esquimos, and known under the name of propulseur; a somewhat long stick having a claw. To use it one places the end of the javelin against the hook and one operates the throwing by the habitual gesture. Such is the instrument which served the Magdaleniens, for many examples, more than thirty, most of the time richly decorated, have been found in the caves." The article remarks further the great artistic merit of some of these decorations done however within the limits dictated by utility. One is cited as the earliest example of a "gauloiserie" or in our own slang - a French joke. But it is so important in illustrating one of the vast number of styles of "propulseurs" that a redrawing of Stein's tracing will be attempted here.



From Archibald Crozier, Kennett Square, Pa., who has been ill for over a year, we have had a short note which we received with mixed feelings: glad that he is still able to read but regretting the loss to Delaware archeology of his activity in the field. He excuses his handwriting and while one can read it easily it is not the clear hand of his former letters in which he was always generous with information from his almost inexhaustible source. Best wishes for recovery from all of us who have known him.