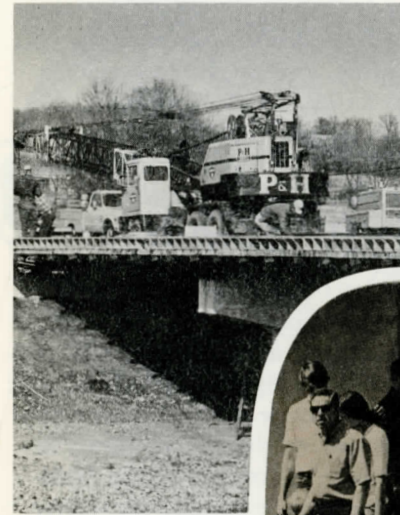


These are the

# STEWARDS



# OF THE PAST



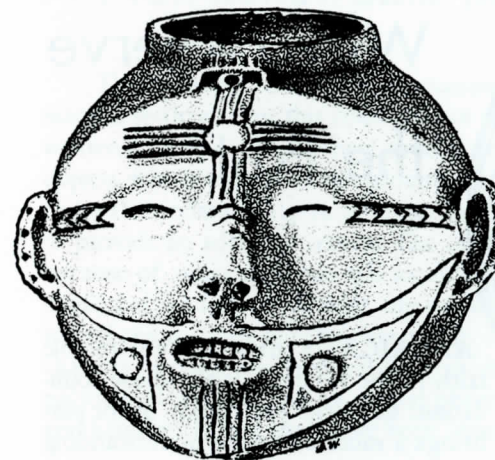
**I**F YOU OWN LAND OR OPERATE A BUSINESS AFFECTING LAND, you can determine whether there are any Indian sites or other locations of historic interest on your property. Should disturbances of any of these areas become necessary (by plowing, leveling, clearing, dozing, or whatever) then you can notify, as far in advance as possible, the nearest individual or agency trained to recover the threatened information. You also can endeavor to use your land in a manner which protects or causes the least possible disturbance of the site. A site preserved for future investigation can, in the long run, be of even greater ultimate importance than one which must be hastily excavated just prior to disturbance. You can protect a site from vandalism by others, or you can donate the site to an appropriate public agency and at the same time obtain a significant income tax deduction.

The first professional investigation of a Caddo Indian mound in west-central Arkansas was made possible because the landowner notified the University of Arkansas Museum nearly a year before he planned to level the mound. This advance notice enabled the Museum to schedule at least minimum excavations at the site. On shorter notice this would not have been possible.

Graham Cave in Missouri, one of the most important sites in the south-central United States, was investigated through the landowner's cooperation with the University of Missouri. It subsequently became a state park when the landowner donated the cave and adjacent land to the state.

*..... Nothing is less real, nor more  
transitory, than the present .....  
To face the future realistically we need  
the experience of the past .....*

George B. Hartzog, Jr.  
National Park Service



*We Are All*

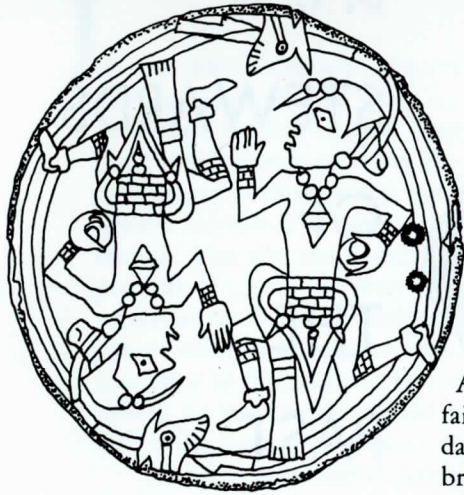
## STEWARDS OF THE PAST

EVERYONE alive today is a steward of the past. The choice is ours—whether we will preserve the manuscripts, objects, and other sources of information from which future generations may learn about those who preceded us—or whether, intentionally or through neglect, we will allow our heritage from the past to be destroyed. If *we* do not preserve this information, all future generations will have lost forever the *ability* to experience and profit fully from the past. We must exercise a stewardship over these resources with vigor and with a sense of urgency.

Much information about the past still lies buried in the ground awaiting investigation. But technical achievements over the past 50 years and the great increase in population have enabled us, in fact have forced us, to alter drastically much of the surface of the earth. The rate at which the landscape is being changed is ever-increasing and there is reason to believe that within another 50 years very little land in the United States will remain totally untouched. Some remnants of the past will survive, of course, but unless we take appropriate steps now, the scattered evidence which will remain will not be enough to permit scientists to recreate a full and meaningful picture.

We cannot postpone our responsibility. We cannot wait until it is more convenient or until there might be more funds from which to make appropriations, for *there is no more time*.





## Why Preserve the Past?

AMERICANS have an unalterable faith in the future, a faith whose foundations lie in the past. Study of the past brings a more complete understanding of how we—how all Mankind—came to

be what we are today, and what the possibilities are for tomorrow. Furthermore, past adjustments to and use of the natural environment form a basis for determining proper future use.

## The Past Belongs to Everyone

Knowledge of the past is a part of everyone's basic heritage. Such knowledge is essential to understanding the present and preparing for the future. Availability of this knowledge can be viewed as one of the basic rights of each of us. Because this knowledge does belong to all, it should not be within the power of any individual or any organization to deprive everyone else of essential segments of that knowledge unless there are overriding public concerns—yet that is what happens when prehistoric or historic sites are destroyed without record and without adequate reason.

Often, of course, this destruction is not done deliberately or with malice, but simply because the bulldozer operator, or the farmer, or the engineer is not aware that he is destroying a portion of the past. Yet it lies largely within the power of the farmer, the industrialist, the contractor, and others who actually control or work the land, to destroy almost totally this basic heritage which belongs to everyone. They alone cannot be held responsible, for it is the responsibility of everyone to assist in preserving a reasonable portion of our common heritage. *Everyone is a Steward of the Past.*

## A Non-Renewable Resource

The principal source of information about prehistoric and most early historic settlement in this country is in the ground. Whenever there are no written sources, or when these sources are inadequate, we must rely on the objects which remain in the ground, and a knowledge of their exact location—their relationship to a house floor, to a storage pit, to a cemetery—to provide an adequate record. The objects themselves are important only because of what they can tell us about the activities of the people that made and used them. Almost any activity of man in the past that has disturbed the soil can now be detected in the earth by careful observation of changes in color, by chemical analysis, by differences in density and compactness of the soil, and by special photography. If these past soil changes are disturbed before they have been investigated, this evidence is lost.





Archeologists themselves disturb the ground as they dig, but through the use of special and detailed techniques they are able to record the information *before* they destroy it. Through careful and scientific excavation it is possible to learn of the achievements, the failures, and the knowledge of those who lived in this land before us. From the objects and other information in the ground, the past can be brought to life again and can become a part of the education of our children.

Whenever the ground is disturbed, information about the past may be destroyed forever. *It is not possible to grow a new Indian site!*







## THE PRESENT EMERGENCY

PLOWING, leveling, construction, or other modification of the land has always been capable of destroying information about the past; but it was not until recently, when machinery increased in size and capacity to dig deeper and faster, that the rate of destruction of archeological objects and information became of really serious concern. A mule-drawn plow or a dirt road built for horse and buggy travel did not disturb the earth to any great extent or to any great depth. Since the end of World War II, however, the rate of destruction of sites has increased manifold.

## Early Efforts

Indians normally lived near water, and one of the first cries of alarm concerning massive and total destruction of archeological evidence came shortly after World War II with the construction of huge reservoirs on major waterways—reservoirs which flooded river valleys where hundreds of Indian and early White settlements had been located. The U. S. government recognized its responsibility in these Federally constructed reservoir projects, and, as the dams were being built, a small but determined army of archeologists spread over the future reservoir bottoms trying to salvage as much information as possible about the prehistoric inhabitants of the area before the land disappeared beneath the water. In construction of the interstate highway system, Federal funds were also provided to help salvage some of this irreplaceable information from sites that are located in the rights-of-ways across the country.

These efforts are no longer adequate.



## Destruction Is Increasing Everywhere

The present crisis lies in the extreme mechanization of all forms of agricultural and of construction activity: in land leveling and subsoiling in the Mississippi Alluvial Valley, in flood control work in the tributary basins, in urban sprawl, where housing developments are spreading far into what was countryside 10 years ago, in strip mining in the Midwest, in irrigation projects in the far west, in any and all of the many ways in which the land is now being altered. To cite one example, the Soil Conservation Service estimates that *all* levelable land in Arkansas will be leveled within the next 25 years. Two-fifths of it has been leveled—and that has been accomplished only within the past 10 years.

The crisis lies also in the unpredictability of much of the work which destroys the sites. It may take five or ten years to build a dam, so there is a known length of time in which to plan and to salvage the information which will be inundated by the reservoir. But a farmer may decide to plow his field with a subsoiler one day, and do so the next. A land developer may purchase and level 100 acres within a few weeks. In alluvial valleys the small ridges upon which the Indians lived and the earthen mounds which they built inhibit efficient use of large farm machinery, so they are leveled. Modern subsoilers can dig as far as 3 feet into the ground—far enough to churn up and destroy irrevocably the major portion of almost any Indian site which might be present.

The increase in the rate and amount of land alteration, and the fact that there is often so little time between when the work is planned and when it is accomplished, are the principal causes of the present emergency.







## Private Gain — — Public Loss

One other type of destruction must also be mentioned—that of the relic collector. Just as lethal to an Indian site as a bulldozer is the person who digs for objects rather than for information. Every shovelful of earth he turns in his search for Indian artifacts destroys some of the story of the past. So zealous are some of these individuals that they have destroyed whole mounds and villages just as effectively as a huge machine. Yet an Indian pot or an arrow head, by itself, with no information as to where it came from or with what it was associated, is almost worthless in terms of telling us anything about the people who made and used that object. Digging or collecting without maintaining proper records—and the buying and selling of Indian artifacts which often provide the impetus for that activity—probably destroys as much of our heritage as do the reservoirs and highways.







# THE FUTURE OF THE PAST

THE FUTURE of the past depends in some measure upon each of us. While some individuals are

indeed destructive, there is an army of concerned citizens whose interest in and knowledge of the past makes them amateur archeologists. Without the aid of these and other interested individuals, the professionally trained archeologists and historians would have little hope of preserving an adequate portion of the record. What can be done?

## Landowners

If you own land you can determine whether there are any Indian sites or other locations of historic interest on your property. If disturbances of any such area become necessary (by plowing, leveling, clearing, dozing, or whatever) then you can notify, as far in advance as possible, the nearest individual or agency trained to recover the threatened information. Insofar as feasible, you can endeavor to use your land in a manner which protects or causes the least possible disturbance of the site. A site preserved for future investigation can, in the long run, be of even greater ultimate importance than one which must be excavated hastily just prior to disturbance. You can also protect a site from vandalism by others, or you can donate







the site to an appropriate public agency and at the same time obtain a significant income tax deduction.

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## Businessmen

Everyone who operates a business affecting land can take steps similar to those of individual landowners. Every site is of value. Although some have greater potential for contributing to our understanding of the past, this potential can best be determined by a trained archeologist. Many businesses have found it advantageous to make funds available for adequate investigation of sites affected by their operation.

The El Paso Natural Gas Company, among others, has employed archeologists to check out land to be affected by their pipeline excavations and then to excavate any sites discovered. They also have funded the analysis and publication of the results of these investigations.







## Individuals

The individual who does not own land or is not directly responsible for altering the land surface can make a significant contribution, too. He may contribute funds to make possible the excavation or preservation of archeological sites. For several years the Alabama Archeological Society has conducted successful fund-raising drives to support archeological research in that state.

The individual may contribute his time and perhaps his specialized talents to archeological field surveys, excavations, and laboratory investigations. In every state there are individuals, often organized into groups, who spend long hours locating and recording archeological information and making this available to the public either through their own publications or by giving the information to the appropriate agency within the state. The concerned person may also alert others to the need to preserve a meaningful portion of the past, and he may encourage public and private efforts to recover and preserve the fast disappearing record.

In Missouri a state society was organized in 1934. It has been instrumental in recording over 8,000 sites. In Arkansas the state society was largely responsible for the establishment of the Arkansas Archeological Survey—a state agency which cooperates with all of the state institutions of higher learning in carrying out a coordinated, state-wide program of archeological research.





20th



## Everyone

The one way in which every individual may serve as a Steward of the Past is by actively supporting local, state, and Federal programs which accomplish this purpose.

The problem is too big for individual landowners, companies, or private institutions to meet alone. Publicly supported programs and agencies which represent the indirect contribution of everyone are essential if we are to accomplish the amount of research which is necessary in order to recover a significant amount of information before it is destroyed forever.

The future of the past depends upon each of us. If it is to have any future, each individual, in his own way, must be a force for its preservation, not a force contributing to its destruction. We who are alive today possess the *last opportunity* to save, preserve, or somehow record a meaningful portion of the long record of man's experience and achievements. Our children cannot preserve the past for their children unless we help preserve it for them. By tomorrow, yesterday will be gone.



This booklet is issued by the steering committee of the loosely and informally organized Mississippi Alluvial Valley Archeological Program (MAVAP), a group of concerned archeologists whose research interests lie mainly in the area of the Mississippi Alluvial Valley.

The steering committee, and, indeed, all those involved in MAVAP, found that the problems of destruction in the Mississippi Alluvial Valley are not unique—they are nationwide. The solutions to these problems, then, must be tackled on a nationwide basis. The purpose of this booklet is to draw attention to what should be the concern of every citizen.

Anyone wishing more information concerning this subject, or wishing to join forces with those working toward preservation of the past, or desiring copies of this booklet may write to any one of the members of the steering committee listed below:

**Dr. Carl Chapman**, Department of Anthropology, University of Missouri-Columbia

**Dr. James B. Griffin**, Museum of Anthropology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor

**Dr. William B. Haag**, Department of Geography and Anthropology, Louisiana State University, Baton Rouge

**Dr. Charles R. McGimsey III**, Arkansas Archeological Survey, University of Arkansas, Fayetteville

**Dr. Stephen Williams**, Peabody Museum, Harvard University, Cambridge

The text for this booklet was prepared by Charles R. McGimsey III and Hester A. Davis of Arkansas Archeological Survey, and Carl Chapman, University of Missouri - Columbia.



**If you make a discovery, notify one of the following:**

**ALABAMA**

Department of Anthropology  
Box 6136  
University of Alabama  
University, Alabama 35486

**ALASKA**

Department of Anthropology  
Alaska Methodist University  
Anchorage, Alaska 99504

**ARIZONA**

State Archeologist  
Arizona State Museum  
University of Arizona  
Tucson, Arizona 85721

**ARKANSAS**

State Archeologist  
Arkansas Archeological Survey  
University of Arkansas Museum  
Fayetteville, Arkansas 72701

**CALIFORNIA**

State Park Archeologist  
Department of Parks and Recreation  
P.O. Box 2390  
Sacramento, California 95811

**COLORADO**

Department of Anthropology  
University of Colorado  
Boulder, Colorado 80302

**CONNECTICUT**

State Archaeologist  
Jorgensen Auditorium  
University of Connecticut  
Storrs, Connecticut 06268

**DELAWARE**

Delaware Archaeological Board  
RD 2, Box 166A  
Chestnut Grove Road  
Dover, Delaware 19901

**FLORIDA**

State Archeologist  
Bureau of Historic Sites & Properties  
Department of State  
The Capitol  
Tallahassee, Florida 32304

**GEORGIA**

Department of Sociology & Anthropology  
University of Georgia  
Athens, Georgia 30601

**HAWAII**

State Archeologist  
Department of Land & Natural Resources  
P.O. Box 621  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809

**IDAHO**

Department of Anthropology  
Idaho State University  
Pocatello, Idaho 83201

**ILLINOIS**

Illinois Archaeological Survey  
Department of Anthropology  
Davenport Hall  
University of Illinois  
Urbana, Illinois 61801

**INDIANA**

Department of Anthropology  
Rawles Hall 108  
Indiana University  
Bloomington, Indiana 47401

**IOWA**

Office of State Archeologist  
129 S. Capitol  
State University of Iowa  
Iowa City, Iowa 52240

**KANSAS**

State Archeologist  
Kansas State Historical Society  
Topeka, Kansas 66603

**KENTUCKY**

Kentucky Archeological Survey  
Department of Anthropology  
University of Kentucky  
Lexington, Kentucky 40506

**LOUISIANA**

Department of Geography and Anthro-  
pology  
Louisiana State University  
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70803

**MAINE**

Department of Anthropology  
University of Maine  
Orono, Maine 04473

**MARYLAND**

State Archeologist  
Maryland Geological Survey  
Latrobe Hall  
Johns Hopkins University  
Baltimore, Maryland 21218

**MASSACHUSETTS**

Bronson Museum  
8 N. Maine Street  
Attleboro, Massachusetts 02708

**MICHIGAN**

Museum of Anthropology  
4011 Museums Building  
University of Michigan  
Ann Arbor, Michigan 48104

**MINNESOTA**

State Archeologist  
Department of Anthropology  
200 Ford Hall  
University of Minnesota  
Minneapolis, Minnesota 55455

**MISSISSIPPI**

State Archeologist  
Mississippi Archaeological Survey  
Department of Archives & History  
Jackson, Mississippi 39201

**MISSOURI**

Director, Archaeological Survey  
15 Switzler Hall  
University of Missouri - Columbia  
Columbia, Missouri 65201

**MONTANA**

Montana Statewide Archeological Survey  
Department of Anthropology  
University of Montana  
Missoula, Montana 59801

**NEBRASKA**

Nebraska State Historical Society  
Lincoln, Nebraska 68501

**NEVADA**

Nevada Archeological Survey  
University of Nevada  
Reno, Nevada 89507

**NEW HAMPSHIRE**

Department of Anthropology  
Franklin Pierce College  
Rindge, New Hampshire 03461

**NEW JERSEY**

Bureau of Research-Archeology  
New Jersey State Museum  
Trenton, New Jersey 08625

**NEW MEXICO**

Division of Anthropology  
Museum of New Mexico  
P.O. Box 2087  
Santa Fe, New Mexico 87501

**NEW YORK**

State Archeologist  
Social Science 369  
New York State Museum  
Albany, New York 12203

**NORTH CAROLINA**

State Archeologist  
Department of Anthropology  
University of North Carolina  
Chapel Hill, North Carolina 27514

**NORTH DAKOTA**

State Historical Society of North Dakota  
Liberty Memorial Building  
Bismarck, North Dakota 58501

**OHIO**

Division of Archaeology  
The Ohio Historical Society  
Columbus, Ohio 43210

**OKLAHOMA**

State Archaeologist  
Oklahoma Archaeological Survey  
1335 South Asp  
University of Oklahoma  
Norman, Oklahoma 73069

**OREGON**

Museum of Natural History  
University of Oregon  
Eugene, Oregon 97403

**PENNSYLVANIA**

State Archeologist  
William Penn Memorial Museum  
Box 232  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17108

**RHODE ISLAND**

Department of Sociology & Anthropology  
Brown University  
Providence, Rhode Island 02912

**SOUTH CAROLINA**

Institute of Archeology & Anthropology  
University of South Carolina  
Columbia, South Carolina 29208

**SOUTH DAKOTA**

W.H. Over-Dakota Museum  
University of South Dakota  
Vermillion, South Dakota 57069

**TENNESSEE**

The McClung Museum  
University of Tennessee  
Knoxville, Tennessee 37916

**TEXAS**

State Archeologist  
State Building Commission  
P.O. Box 12172  
Austin, Texas 78711

**UTAH**

Statewide Archeological Survey  
University of Utah  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84112

**VERMONT**

Department of Sociology & Anthropology  
University of Vermont  
Burlington, Vermont 05401

**VIRGINIA**

Archeologist  
Virginia State Library  
Richmond, Virginia 23219

**WASHINGTON**

Department of Anthropology  
Washington State University  
Pullman, Washington 99163

**WEST VIRGINIA**

Section of Archeology  
West Virginia Geological Survey  
Box 879  
Morgantown, West Virginia 26505

**WISCONSIN**

State Archeologist  
State Historical Society of Wisc.  
Madison, Wisconsin 53706

**WYOMING**

State Archeologist  
Department of Anthropology  
University of Wyoming  
University Station Box 3431  
Laramie, Wyoming 82070