Eastern Clovis Adaptations in the Tennessee River Valley

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As part of a continuing Paleoindian site and projectile point survey, an extensive study of the Western Valley of Tennessee has been undertaken. The Western Valley forms the boundary between west and middle Tennessee. A total of 29 Paleoindian sites have been recorded for this area, and over 340 fluted projectile points have been measured and described (Broster and Norton 1990).

Four sites are an exception to the general small fluted-point sites in the valley. These four have produced several hundred uniface tools and 122 fluted points per site (Broster and Norton 1990). However, three of them are completely deflated with later materials being mixed with the fluted lithics (Sites 40Hs60, 40Hs200, and 40Bn18). The fourth site is quite different. Unlike the rest of the sites on the lake, this one (40Bn190) is a combination of a quarry/workshop locality and a series of fluted-point base camps. The site, called Carson-Conn-Short, is situated on a number of partially flooded terrace ridges located south of the old Pleistocene river channel. Some seven distinct areas of the site have been identified. Area A was selected for testing primarily because it was initially believed that only fluted materials (Eastern Clovis and Cumberland) were present at this location (Broster and Norton 1993).

The initial testing had proved very rewarding, and it was felt that a more extensive excavation was definitely needed (Broster and Norton 1992). To this end a joint project was undertaken in late 1992 and early 1993 to further define possible intact Paleoindian strata and to test the relationship between fluted artifacts and the exposed fire-cracked chert concentrations. This was made possible through the issue of an ARPA permit (No. 04-Tn-2-92). Archaeologists from the Tennessee Division of Archaeology, the Smithsonian Institution, and the University of Arizona contributed to the completion of this stage of the project.

Excavations of Test Unit 8 revealed a concentration of uniface tools and two Clovis projectile points in close proximity to one of the fire-cracked chert features. These types of feature were first recorded as possible deflated hearths, but are more likely the remains of heat treating facilities for nodules of the local chert.

A total of 1,600 tools have been either mapped, excavated, or donated during the investigation of the site. All but ten artifacts are classified as being Paleoindian. This is quite unusual for any site in the Western Valley or for the Southeast in general. The Carson-Conn-Short site (40Bn190) has great poten-

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tial for helping define and understand the full range of Paleoindian occupation in the midsouth. A clearer understanding of lithic reduction sequences is possible using the data from this very important site.

Auger tests in Area A have demonstrated a buried level of cultural debris at a depth of 1 to 1.25 m below the present surface. A small blade tool was recovered at a depth of 1 m in one of the auger holes. This may mean that a rather large section of the site is still intact and could be relatively free of disturbances from later occupations. Our future efforts will be directed toward a full investigation of this area. Buried Clovis-age features may well be located in this section. As much as 200 m^2 of the site could still be undisturbed and may provide a very interesting view of Paleoindian adaptations to the riverine environment.

The limited excavations at the Carson-Conn-Short site (40Bn190) have shown the potential for in situ eastern Clovis deposits in the Western Valley of Tennessee. In parts of the site, occupation has been recorded at depths of some 45 to 68 cm below present ground surface. The prospect of performing spatial analysis of features and associated tools is extremely important for understanding Clovis technology and cultural adaptations in the Southeast.

The senior author believes that the numerous fluted points and sites in the Western Valley, and in Tennessee in general, are a possible indicator that the Southeast may have been a major locus for initial colonization of Clovis-type peoples, and the area may represent one of the first staging areas for the peopling of the New World as defined by Anderson (1992). At present this is only speculation, as there is not even full agreement among the authors of this paper upon the subject, let alone the full professional community. However, as interesting as the argument may be, the important point may not be where fluted-point technology originated, but how these peoples organized and how the differences in settlement between regions can best be explained and understood.

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Harlan "Kit" Carson, Gary Conn, and Hal Short are responsible for this site being recorded and tested by professional archaeologists. Their donation of artifacts and time is greatly appreciated and their contribution to the understanding of Eastern Clovis culture cannot be minimized. This type of cooperation improves relationships between professional and amateur archaeologists.

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The Martins Creek Mastodon: A Paleoindian Butchery Site in Holmes County, Ohio

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Association between flint tools and mastodon bones (*Mammut americanum*) has been documented for at least three sites in the U.S.: (1) the Manis site on the Olympic Peninsula in Washington (Gustafson, et al. 1979), (2) the Kimmswick site in Missouri (Graham et al. 1981), and (3) the Hiscock site in New York (Laub 1990). The recent discovery of flint flakes and tools in association with a mastodon at the Martins Creek site in Ohio adds a fourth locale to this select group.

Martins Creek is located in the glaciated portion of the Allegheny Plateau in east-central Ohio. The site is two miles north of a terminal moraine that marks the southernmost advance of the ice front into this valley during the Wisconsin Glaciation (White 1982:64). Glacial lakes periodically formed in the valley during the Pleistocene as advancing ice sheets repeatedly blocked the northward-flowing Martins Creek. The mastodon site is situated near the tip of a narrow peninsula of land that formerly extended into one of these glacial lakes.

The Martins Creek mastodon was first discovered in 1938 by a farmer who was attempting to drain a boggy area on his property. A trenching machine brought eight teeth to the surface, and subsequent excavation resulted in the recovery of a femur. Karl Ver Steeg, Professor of Geology at the College of Wooster, visited the site and identified the teeth and femur as mastodon. Ver Steeg published a brief article on the mastodon in *Science* (1938), but no further excavation was attempted at the site because of the poor preservation of the bone.

During the summer of 1993, students participating in workshops sponsored by the Departments of Geology and Anthropology at the University of Akron were able to relocate the Martins Creek mastodon by excavating a series of units 2 m square parallel to the 1938 drainage ditch. On the east side of the drainage ditch the pelvis and part of the lower spinal column were discovered at a depth of 56 cm. On the west side of the ditch various leg and rib bones were encountered at a depth of 46 cm. Horizontally, the bones were scattered over an area of roughly 8 x 8 m.

The mastodon bones were lying on top of a stratum of light-gray clay marl.

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