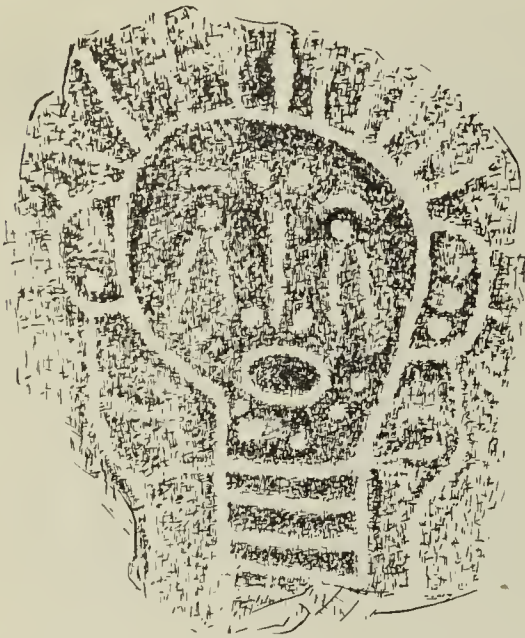


Prehistoric Indian Petroglyph

By **Robert W. Nero**, Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History



Sketch by Joyce Dew

The accompanying sketch was prepared by Joyce Dew from paper tracings after studying a large petroglyph found on a hilltop near Weyburn, Saskatchewan, by Victor

Mulhall in June of 1935. This granite boulder, weighing approximately 400 pounds and about two feet by one-and-a-half feet in size, is now on display on the museum lawn.

This petroglyph and others like it which have been found in the northern plains are believed to have been associated with what is known as the Southern Death Cult, which was a kind of religious revival in the lower Mississippi Valley and the southeastern United States about 4000 years ago. The Death Cult paraphernalia at a later stage show considerable Mexican Indian influence. Carved shell gorgets, stone palette or plates, ceremonial batons of stone and other items related to the cult have also been found in Saskatchewan. The Death Cult is believed to have died out farther south about 3000 years ago, but there are records of its persistence into the historic period in the central plains region.

Folsom Point Found at Saskatoon

By **H. Cronk**, Saskatoon Archaeological Society



This is the point that the collector wants in his collection and the archaeologist, either amateur or professional, dreams of finding *in situ*. Why so much interest in this point? It is the find that pushed back many thousands of years the estimated date of man's coming to the continent. Before this find, 4,000 to 5,000 years was the accepted time of man's stay. It was the first type of artifact found associated with any of the long extinct Pleistocene animals. Dr. Figgins and his party were digging out the fossil remains of a species of giant bison near Folsom, New Mexico, in 1926 when he found some fragments of a man-made tool. Many experts in archaeology and anthropology refused to accept the fragments as man-made. But in 1927 when Figgins found a complete point

lodged between the rib bones of an extinct bison, all digging stopped, and the doubting experts were summoned. The evidence of association with the bones, and the fact that these bones lay in deposits which geologists identified as belonging to the closing period of the Pleistocene was ample proof that man's sojourn on the continent must be at least 10,000 years.

The Folsom was vastly different in shape and method of manufacture from any point that had been previously named. (A point is not named until a number have been found *in situ* in one locality). The typical Folsom has a flute on each side running from the base nearly to the tip. This fluting is the result of a single flake being taken from the base toward the tip on each side after the point has been otherwise fully shaped. Some of those found at the Lindenmeier site were only fluted on one side or not fluted at all. These may have been unfinished points. The majority were also ground or smoothed on the edge between the base and the widest part of the point.