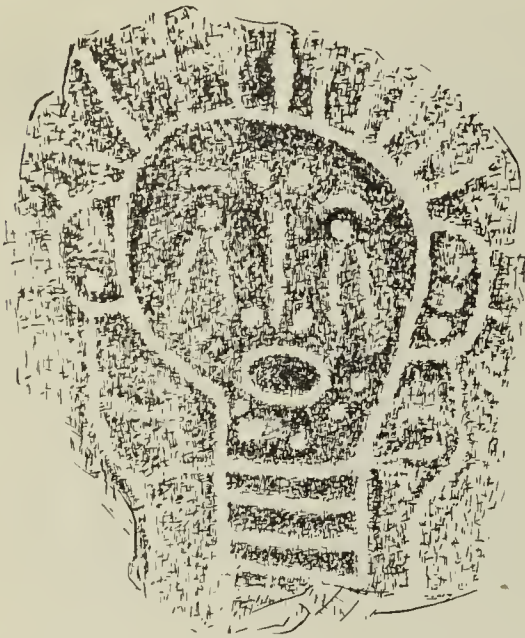


# Prehistoric Indian Petroglyph

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.

Peculiar fluted points were found with other types in 1924 by Kenneth Casey Jones of Mortlach on the surface of sand blows. They were so different that Mr. Jones prized them greatly. At that time, the Folsom point was archaeologically unknown and therefore was not described in any literature. If Kenneth Jones had found these points *in situ* as did Dr. Giggins, Mortlach would probably have been the name—not Folsom.

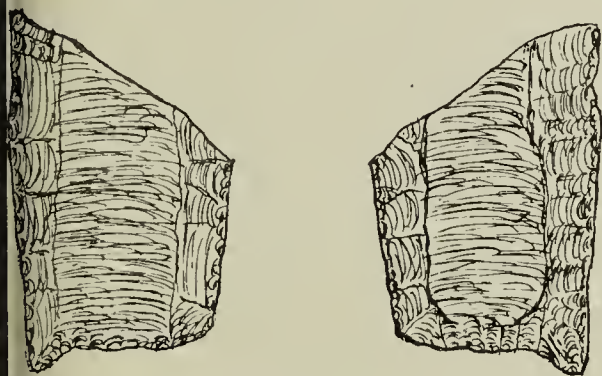
The Saskatoon point in the accompanying picture agrees nicely with the average classic Folsom from the

Lendenmeier site. It was found accidentally in the summer of 1957 by a member of the Saskatoon Archaeological Society, but was not reported until the December meeting of the Society as the importance of the find was not realized. No associated material was noticed in the trench at the time of the find. It was found about 12 inches below the present surface and some of the soil above appeared to have been disturbed previously. The Society will make an investigation of the site as soon as weather permits.

## Folsom Fragment Found Near Woodrow

By A. J. Hudson, Mortlach

In the summer of 1957 I was so fortunate as to find a fluted flake near the junction of Wood River and Pinto Creek. If you examine the illustrations of this Folsom point you will notice a difference in the fluting on the two sides. The flake of the



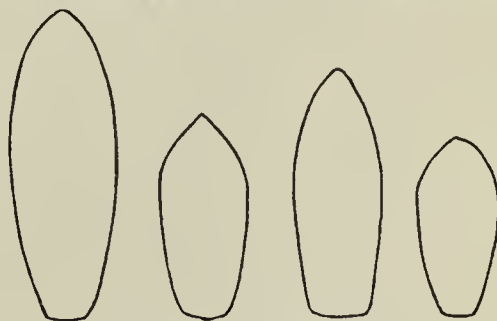
Folsom fragment, chalcedony heavily patinated. Natural size.

One side has been taken off from the base. In the process of making the point, the body is flaked on both sides leaving a high central ridge and a flat end at the base for a striking platform. I should guess that the piece must then be wedged in a block of wood to get the proper resistances. Something in the form of a chisel must have been used and a hard blow struck because of the need for accuracy to get the first flake off. But with the flake on the reverse side difficulty arises. Unless the maker is careful he is liable to break the point when striking off the second fluting flake. In the present case, A2, a striking platform has been made forward from the base and then the flake struck off. Finally a few thinning flakes have been taken out from the base to bring the main flake scar flush with the base.

In the case of the two Folsom points owned by Mr. Conrad Dahl of Roseray, Saskatchewan, the problem has been met in a different way. One flake was taken out completely on one side, but on the other side the flakes have been taken out piecemeal, i.e., a number of long, narrow flakes—safety first, so to speak. I examined Conrad Dahl's two Folsoms carefully one day and we decided that there was a strong possibility that the points were shaped after the fluting was done. If the top end was left unfinished till the fluting was done, there would be less danger of shattering.

With the discovery of these Folsom points we're right on the trail of early man.

### INFORMATION WANTED



Information concerning the distribution of lanceolate projectile points in Saskatchewan and adjacent regions would be appreciated. The sketched outlines are of lanceolate points from the Parkhill site, south of Moose Jaw, believed to be 7,000 to 8,000 years old. The largest point is just under three inches in length.

Robert W. Nero,  
Saskatchewan Museum of Natural History.