

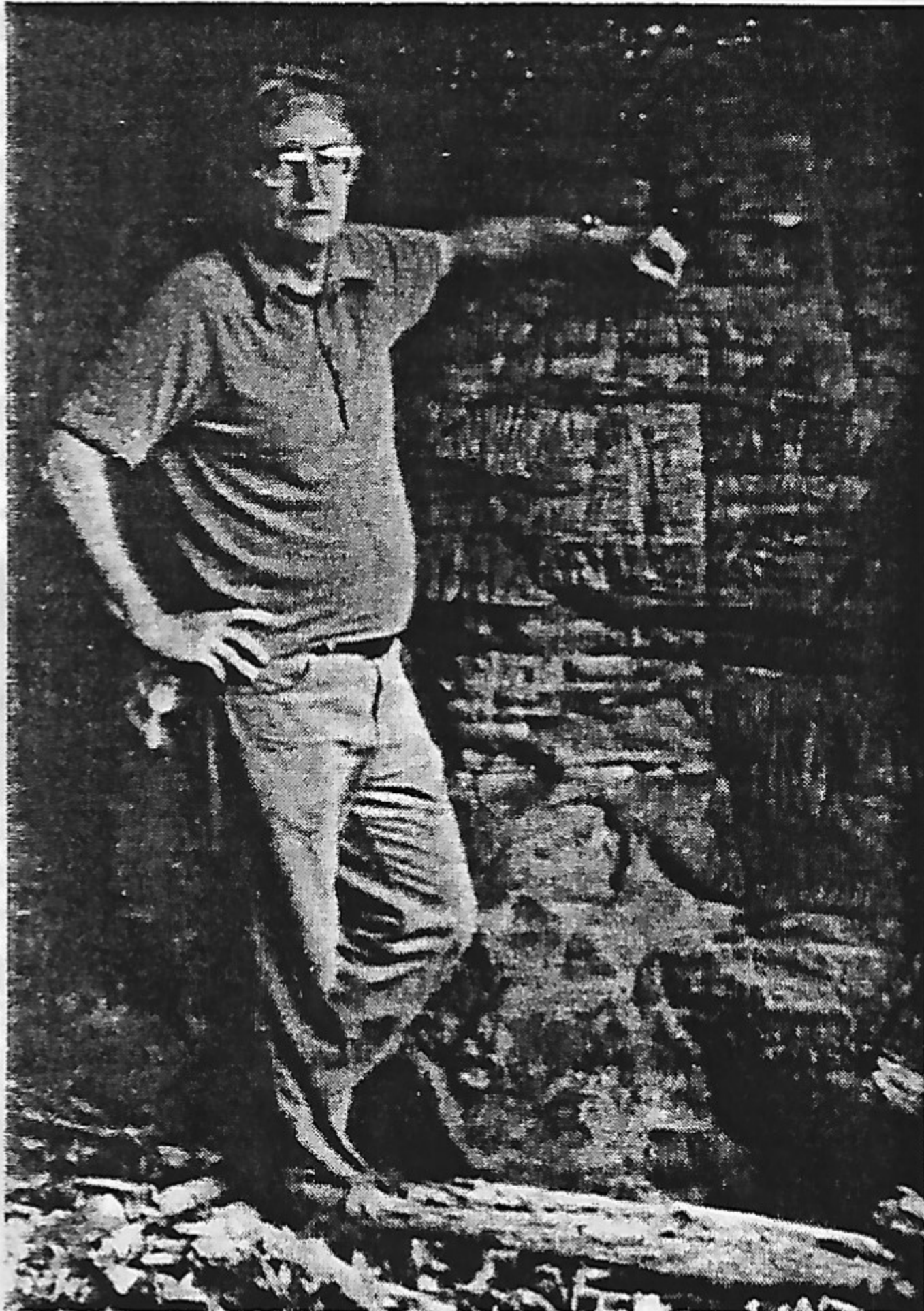
MIDWESTERN EPIGRAPHIC



NEWSLETTER

REPORTS OF THE MIDWESTERN EPIGRAPHIC SOCIETY*
*A CHAPTER OF THE EPIGRAPHIC SOCIETY

August 1, 1985 Vol.2, No. 23



Standing to the left of the Red River Ogam Inscription is Midwestern Secretary Beverley Moseley, Jr.

In this case, member Aaron Fitch merely overheard a conversation, recognized a potential, and jumped on it like a chicken on a bug. Soon thereafter we were under way. Conversations and correspondence with U.S. Forest Ranger Don F. Fig secured ranger guides who led Dangler on an advance personal reconnaissance to the site. Information gained this way helped Dangler plan a well organized expedition which brought the project to a successful conclusion. More details on the plan and operation will appear in our Journal.

The team members participating in this expedition under Dangler were Clyde Repik, Bev Moseley, Michael Paoletti, Scott Paoletti, Steve Mellor, Karen Goldman, Jerry Bever, Gene Thompson, Ray King, Aaron Fitch, and Albert W. Wood. A special commendation goes to Albert Wood who is an anthropologist and specializes in petroglyphs. In the past, Wood has worked sites like Chaco Canyon. He identified and distinguished manmade marks from natural erosion. Wood said this expedition was the highlight of his long life. He is 82 years old. He weathered the climb better than some of his teammates.

To order Fell's translation, see the ESOF list herein and state that you want the Red River Valley volume. The number is not known at this time.

OGAM INSCRIPTION INVESTIGATION in the RED RIVER VALLEY GORGE, KENTUCKY... Investigation of the longest inscription Midwestern has ever reported was completed June 8, 1985 by team leader William Dangler and a crew of eleven. Many excellent photographs in color, black & white, and 2x2 slides were taken before and after enhancement of the abraded symbols. The enhancement, a brushed on water soluble bronze solution (easily washed away afterwards), facilitated tracing the entire ten lines of inscription onto a clear plastic sheet with waterproof flow pens. These materials and a complete site report have been forwarded to epigrapher Dr. Barry Fell for decipherment, translation, and interpretation.

Dr. Fell will publish the results soon in the ESOF. Meanwhile, he extends congratulations to each member of the team for doing "excellent field work." He further informs us that this is a "significant and major find." Considering these words of praise, it looks like a banner year for the Midwestern Epigraphic Society which is less than two years operational.

Grassroots epigraphy usually starts with the leads gained from other sources or indications that point to the possibility of epigraphic intelligence.



RED RIVER VALLEY EXPEDITION
Dismount point at the foot
of the hollow. (L to R) Clyde
Repik, Al Wood, Jerry Bever,
Ray King, Mike Paoletti, Bev
Moseley, and Bill Dangler be-
fore starting the hike up the
steep ridge. Notice the packs
for carrying all the gear.

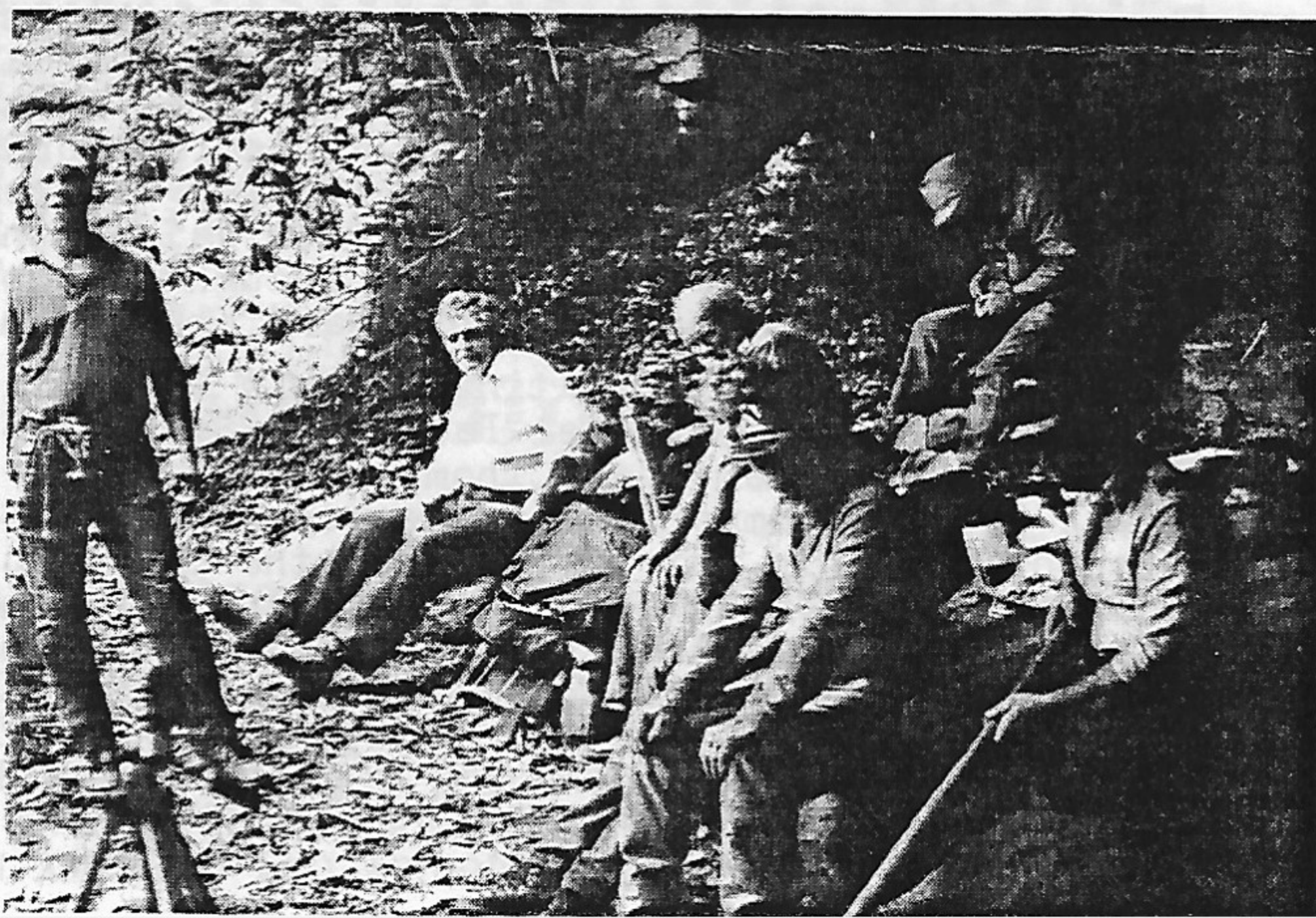
BELOW

Albert Wood and Karen Goldman
inspecting cupholes at about
center rear of cave shelter
wall. Wood determined that
cupholes were not manmade but
were probably due to natural
erosion of embedded material.



ABOVE Climbing the raz-
orback ridge. (L to R),
Bever, Paoletti, Repik,
Wood, Dangler,
and King.

RIGHT Recuperating after
the climb. View out of
shelter is North-North-
West. Foliage hampered
orientation by resec-
tion. Considerable re-
con was needed to plot
the position.



MIDWESTERN ANNUAL SUMMER PICNIC, Saturday, August 10, 1985 at the NEWARK EARTWORKS in Newark, Ohio - Time 11:00 a.m. or earlier...

Members of the Midwestern Epigraphic Society are encouraged to bring their children and guests to a family style picnic at the Mound Builders State Park and Museum 40 miles east of Columbus. See map below. Plan now to pack food and beverages for a long day. There is lots to see.

The Ohio Historical Society Museum there is excellent and free (after paying for parking). Artifacts and information on the Mound Builder cultures are on display. In front of the museum is the Great Circle embankment. It encompasses 50 acres. Now a beautifully manicured park, it was once, in 1850, adapted for use as the Licking County Fairgrounds. Most likely, that use replicated, in some ways, what took place there 2000 years ago or earlier when clans and tribes assembled for holidays and trade of marketable goods. At that time, other enclosures were connected by parallel embankments or causeways. Much of the latter have been destroyed by agriculture and housing development. At one time the area contained over 500 earth works and must have been a major ceremonial center. However, the most complex structure still remains.

A side trip of about two miles to the northwest takes one to the Mound Builders State Memorial. This complex contains an octagon enclosure (of 50 acres) connected by parallel banks to a circular enclosure (of 20 acres). This complex became a golf course shortly after the turn of the century.

A second side trip, about 13 miles southeast (as the crow flies) takes one to Flint Ridge Memorial Park and Museum. Exhibits here explain the ancient use of the flint mines and what the ancient ones manufactured from this material. Packing off with a flint core in his poke, the Amerindian was provided with an everready supply of material for the fashioning of countless blades, points, and other tools. Magnification of the cutting edge of one of these blades shows it to be sharper than the scalpel of a modern surgeon. Flint flakes from these cores are found at all ancient campsites.

There is lots about the Newark Earthworks that is remindful of the burial mounds and causewayed camps surrounding Stonehenge in England. Certainly the enclosures are evidence of calendar regulation. Although there are no stone megalithic monuments remaining, Caleb Atwater, in 1824, mentions a rock mound (now covered with earth) on the southwest edge of the small circle and the octagon complex. He said further that it contained a tunnel that ran to the bank of the Licking River. The works may have been contemporaneous with Stonehenge, at least in its earliest stages. Evidently the center survived for a long time. Artifacts with Hebrew block inscriptions were excavated from several mounds. The Decalogue Tablet (sometimes called the Moses Stone) was taken from a 45-foot high rock mound near old Jacktown about 1860. Our member

Professor Robert Alrutz, of Dennison University, has several facsimilies of these Hebrew inscribed artifacts.

If you have always wanted to know more about these ancient cultures, now is the time to take advantage.

Be good to yourself - Circle August 10 on your calendar today!

