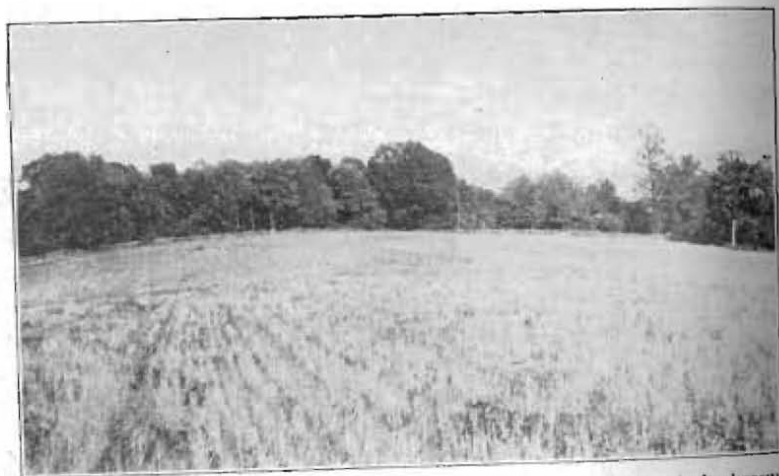


and a few human bones" are said to have been recovered from this mound, though what these relics were, or what manner of mound was there despoiled, are problems now beyond our ken. The Moorehead farm occupies a site upon a bluff of White River, probably 100 feet above the water level, the ascent from the river side being over a rugged, rock-covered trace worn by the feet of the aboriginal occupants of the site. Although the land has been under uninterrupted cultivation for perhaps a hundred years, the soil yet produces exceptional crops of wheat, due to the presence, in vast quantity, of decaying shells, which have been carried there from



The Bono Village Site Shell Mound. White River behind the trees shown in background.

the river-bed below. How many people were engaged in transporting the many tons of river-shells over half-a-mile of painful ascent, or how long a time was required in the task, it is difficult to guess. Evidently the place was occupied, as an established camp, over a very long period of time. As seen today the surface of the ground appears literally covered with decaying shells, blocks and fragments of chert and broken flint implements. The reason for so vast a deposit of shell material is apparent, a highly developed appetite for the succulent mollusk contained therein. It is possible to identify many of the better preserved shells which, besides the many species of *Unio*, include several forms of *Anodonta*, *Campeloma*, etc. Holes punctured in the univalve shell show the method of extracting its occupant—crudely fashioned flint

scrapers, constituting probably three-fourths of the flint implements found, indicate the manner in which the bivalve was removed from its shell.

Within a few hundred feet of the deposit is an outcrop of the fossiliferous Harrodsburg chert, which supplied practically all of the material used in the production of the flint implements of the site.

Scattered through the general midden-debris are found the bones of a variety of animals which served, also, as food for the villagers. Perhaps because their size has admitted of better preservation, most of the bones identified have been those of the deer. These have been split, presumably for the extraction of the marrow, but also, no doubt, to allow of their use in the manufacture of awls, fish-hooks, etc. Close to the site is a rather large depression, now filled with water, spoken of in the neighborhood as a "bear-wallow." Whether this was a pit for the disposal of camp-refuse, or was made within recent times, is not known.

Among the objects recovered from the site, other than those of flint, are a finely polished greenstone axe and an equally well polished celt of the same material. A winged Bannerstone, the core-drilled center of which is preserved, has been broken and crudely perforated for suspension. A number of crude grooved stones, probably used as net-weights, have also been recovered; and numerous shapeless hammer-stones are found on the surface.

Considering the general crudity of the implements examined, the writer is inclined to consider the better type of artifacts found as representing either a later occupancy of a distinct culture—or as indicating an accession from some other tribe. The only pottery fragment so far recovered from the locality is of burned red clay, without any ornamentation.

What became of the bodies of those villagers who died during the probable long occupancy of the site is one of the puzzling questions offered. The finding of small fragments of juvenile human bones, in a recently plowed section of the deposit, suggests that most of the bodies were buried under the midden-debris. Careful trenching, to a considerable depth, will doubtless throw much light upon some of the obscure features of these middens.