

INDIAN BURIAL SITE REPORT  
TO BE PRESENTED AT USI



For Immediate Release  
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A preliminary report on activity associated with or resulting from looting at the Indian burial site on the Slack Farm in Union County, Kentucky, and work at the Caborn Site in Posey County, Indiana, will be made at 2 p.m. Sunday, March 5, in Forum III at the University of Southern Indiana.

The program will be a slide-illustrated lecture by Cheryl Munson, senior archeologist with Glenn A. Black Laboratory of Archeaology at Indiana University. Her topic will be "Looters, Archeologists, Indians, and the Law." The public is invited; a reception will follow the lecture, which is being coordinated by Marjorie Jones, USI special instructor in anthropology.

Ms. Munson and David Pollack, an archaeologist with the Kentucky Heritage Council, supervised the spring 1988 cleanup and documentation of the damage by pothunters at the Slack Farm site in Union County. The looters dug into more than 600 graves in search of artifacts to sell or add to their collections.

The graves contained the remains of Indians of the Caborn-Welborn culture, which represents the last Mississippian occupation of this area of the Ohio Valley. Caborn-Welborn villages are located in the bottomlands  
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on both sides of the Ohio River, from Evansville to the mouth of the Saline River in Illinois. Ms. Jones said Caborn-Welborn Indians lived in the valley from about 1450 until about 1650, when they -- or at least their culture -- disappeared. Since a few trade goods like brass tinklers, French gun flint, and glass beads have been found on several Caborn-Welborn sites, Ms. Jones said, it is believed they had contact with Indians who were trading with the early Europeans. There is no evidence, however, that Europeans had visited the mouth of the Wabash River before the 1700s, she said.

Ms. Munson will describe what archaeologists know about the 30-acre Slack Farm site and compare it with the eight-acre Caborn site in Posey County. She directed students from IU and Ms. Jones directed students from USI in conducting joint test excavations at Caborn last summer. Ms. Munson also will discuss the legislation that has been approved in Kentucky and is being considered by the Indiana General Assembly as result of the Slack Farm activity. She has issued a special invitation to all those who participated in the effort to clean up and document items found Slack Farm.

Ms. Munson's lecture has been timed to coincide with release of the March issue of National Geographic, which contains an article about the looting at Slack Farm.