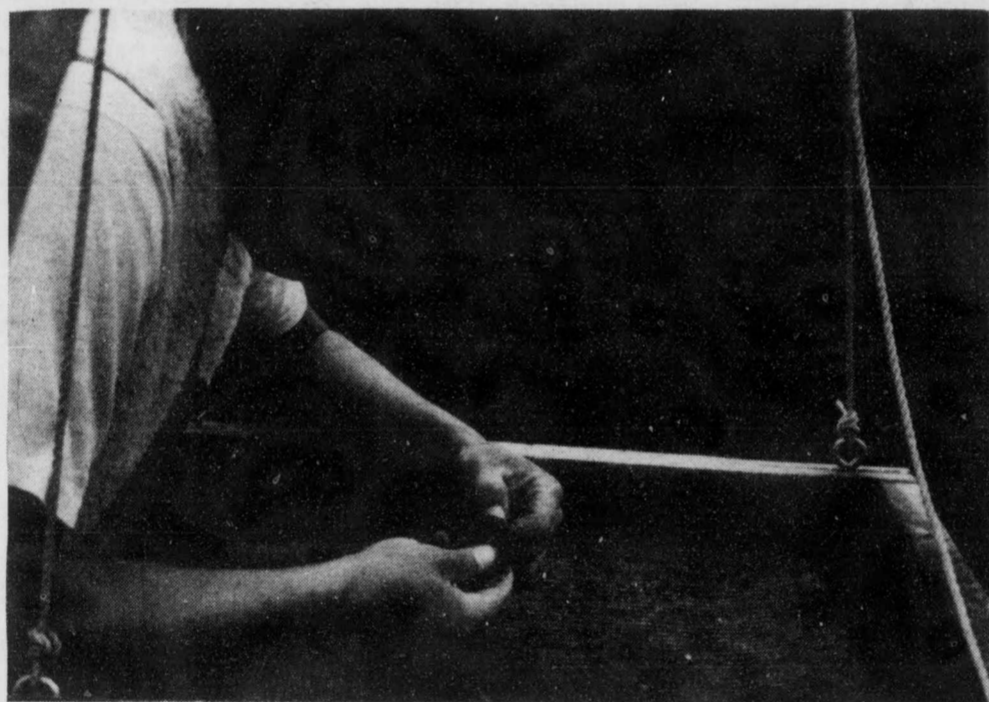


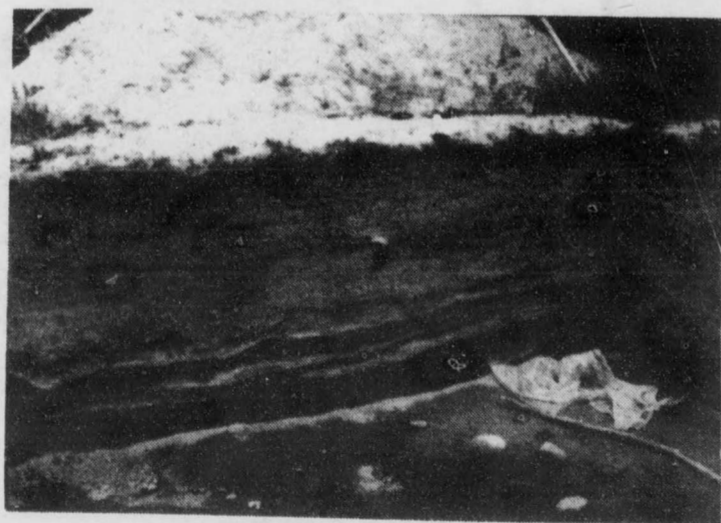
# Digging Up New Brun



Two local Indians help excavate the site of their forefathers



No stones go Unturned



An ancient hearth is visible in profile:

note the three rocks and dark area

above them in the left wall area of the wall

History is coming alive day by day as archaeologists dig through layers of civilization at the Oxbow Site, located at the Red Bank Indian Reserve near Quarryville, N.B.

The site was discovered in 1972 by Joe Augustine, a local resident who was walking through the woods. He spotted an artifact in a bulldozer track and, being interested in history, reported his find to the provincial archaeologist, who subsequently planned the site's development.

Pat Allen, supervisor of the excavations at the Oxbow Site, said that many historic and prehistoric sites in New Brunswick have been ruined because of ploughing, industrialization and coastal erosion. The Oxbow Site is a significant find, she said, because of the unusual depth of cultural material, caused by flood deposits of sand and silt from the nearby Miramichi River. It may be the oldest site in the province, having been occupied at least five times, the oldest known settlement dating back at least 2300 years.

The site is located on a right-angled bend on the Miramichi. There is a salmon pool nearby, and abundant game and wildlife have been spotted by the diggers. Allen stated that conditions were probably quite similar in the past, enabling us to understand why the Micmac Indians settled here originally.

Digging started at Oxbow early in the summer of 1977, after several tests were conducted to see if it would be a worthwhile project. Six to eleven workers have been at the site all summer, but excavation will halt by the first of October. Allen said if funds are available, the discoveries they have made will warrant work to resume next summer. Most rich sites are excavated for years before being exhausted.

The site was first entirely mapped using a grid system and graph paper. A number of test pits were dug to find where the culturally-rich areas were located. Allen noted that the areas normally laden with artifacts in most sites, along the river bank and 20 meters from the water, were relatively scarce of items at Oxbow. This