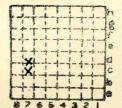
Form 180



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(34217—1M—3-30) 7

COAL MINE-PRODUCTION

1713 D7



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COAL MINE—PRODUCTION
ILLINOIS GEOLOGICAL SURVEY, URBANA

(2732—2M—7-41)



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CountyLaSalle Quadrangle	Index No. 1913 DA
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La Salle

## Massive mounds sculpture really piles it on

By Wes Smith

OTTAWA, Ill.-In 22 years of operating heavy equipment, Larry Grommon has not done many art openings.

Then again, Grommon is more accustomed to carving out basements and parking lots than giant earthen sculptures of water spiders, frogs, snakes, turtles and catfish.

"The first day on the site the boss took me out and said. 'The frog goes here," said the 42-year-old heavyequipment artiste. "I said, 'Fine, where

do I start?"

The art of building a basement is much simpler, he said. Moving earth for an artist's eye makes it difficult to tell when the job is done. Even Grommon had a hard time recognizing the massive forms from ground level, he

"It was strange. I didn't know where to start, and I wasn't sure when I was

finished." he said. About five months and several million tons of dirt after he started. Grommon stood by Tuesday in his G.A. Blocker Grading construction cap as state officials and patrons of the arts admired the art he dug.

The "Effigy Tumuli Sculpture." designed by New York/Nevada artist Michael Heizer and rendered by Grommon's Kamatsu widetrack earthmover. was dedicated on the once-barren 200acre site of a former strip mine adjacent to Buffalo Rock State Park just outside Ottawa, 80 miles southwest of Chicago.

The project was completed through a unique partnership between the state and a private art patron. Ottawa businessman Edmund Thornton donated the land and paid the artist's undisclosed fees through his Ottawa Silica Company Foundation.

The state's Abandoned Mined Lands Reclamation Council chipped in \$1 million in work to replehish the devastated soil, work not done solely for the sake of art, officials hasten to point out.

"It would have been done anyway: this site was contaminating the river with runoff water," said Sue Massie, executive director of the reclamation

The site is about a mile long and sits on a sandstone bluff 90 feet above the Illinois River. In the 1930s the Osage Coal Co. mined it as a surface strip mine and left a barren, acidic moonscape. The Ottawa Silica Co., owned mostly by Thornton's family, bought the site in the early 1960s, but efforts to replant it were unsuccessful, he said.

Designated as a high-priority reclamation site because it drained acidic water into the Illinois River, the secluded, rolling area was suited only for dirt bikes and off-road vehicles. It became a haven for them, until Thornton donated the land to the state for art. and a tax break.

Angry off-roaders showed their low regard for high art during excavation by vandalizing machinery and, occasionally, pounding over the mounds. Thornton said.

But no Jeeps or puddle-jumpers were in evidence Tuesday when Lt. Gov. George Ryan, Thornton, Heizer and the heavy equipment driver unveiled the project, which features mounds that stand up to 18 feet high and 2,070 feet long.

"We've still got some problems with motorcycles and all-terrain vehicles driving through here, but we'll step up police enforcement to put a stop to it. Ryan said in defense of art.

Ottawa Area Chamber of Commerce officials will meet with the state tourism office in Springfield Wednesday to discuss possible sources of funding to promote the park, but Thornton said he hopes it will always be a "place people discover themselves."

"We want it to be a passive park. without busloads of people," he said.

The park may be a little too passive for some not schooled in art mound appreciation, at least until vegetation and identifying signs make the figures more recognizable from ground level.

Artist Heizer, clad in plaid shirt, sport coat, cordurovs and cowbov boots, spent a lot of time at the opening explaining that his work was meant for just plain folk viewing it from the ground.

But Heizer, who based his design on Indian burial mounds, also spent a lot of time marshalling his friends into a helicopter he chartered so they could study his work from on high.

"It's not intended to be an exclusive work to be seen only by helicopter." he insisted as the chopper's whirling blades blew reclaimed soil in the faces of critics. "The people who built native sculptures in Peru and other places built them on almost this same scale. and they didn't have airplanes.

"The intent of the sculptures is to be seen from the ground, that's one reason for making them large, so people can walk around and suity the forms," said Heizer, who also disdained comparison of his mounds to Mt. Rushmore

Heizer can handle the critics He shocked Detroit residents in 1972 by having a 30-ton block of granite oragged back and forth on the lawn of the Detroit Institute of Arts. He called the block, and the shredded turf around it. "Dragged Mass."

But excavationist Grommon, the Kamatsu Picasso, was having a tougher time with the mixed reviews.

"You should have made them bigger. they would have had more impact," the boss' wife told Grommon after stepping out of the heliconter.

"Oh, jeez," replied Grommon, who is now working on a housing project. "A flat housing project," he stressed.

Quad.





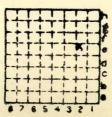


Form 180



370

S-5



R. 2 E.

adex No.



Operator, Osage Coal Co Mine, Strip. Mine Date Mar. 21, 1948 Sec. 14 T. 33N R. 2E Location in mine, Sampled in ship Ca SHSE NE 14, about 100 yds N. | sample 1. DESCRIPTION OF SECTION (AT POINT SAMPLED) GRAPHIC SECTION No. (Note character and thickness of roof) No. Inches The loan pyrite at tap V 1/2 Coal predominantly clarain - with vilrain bands as indicated Coal relatively dull due to weathering (Note character and thickness of floor) Total thickness of coal. Time, I hr. Condition, Dry min. Wt. Gross, 20 lbs. Net, 201 lbs. What Nos. shipped by Co.? Excluded from sample: No. Sample represents 19 in. Impurities? How do they occur? Thin byr. layers . (I division=1 in.) numerous loys. facing. Pyr. layor at top & had Can No. 2 Sample No. 2 Lab. No. Coal: Survey No. 2 Collector, Cady and Wilman Mine, Osage Coal Co Co. La Salle Index No. Fily E2

R.—COAL SAMPLE SHEET.



Date Mar 21, 1940

Operator, Osage Coal Co Mine, -Strip Mine Location in mine, Sampled on ship ca

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John C. Moore Corporation, Rochester, N. Y. Binder and holes in leaves, each Patented 1906.

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