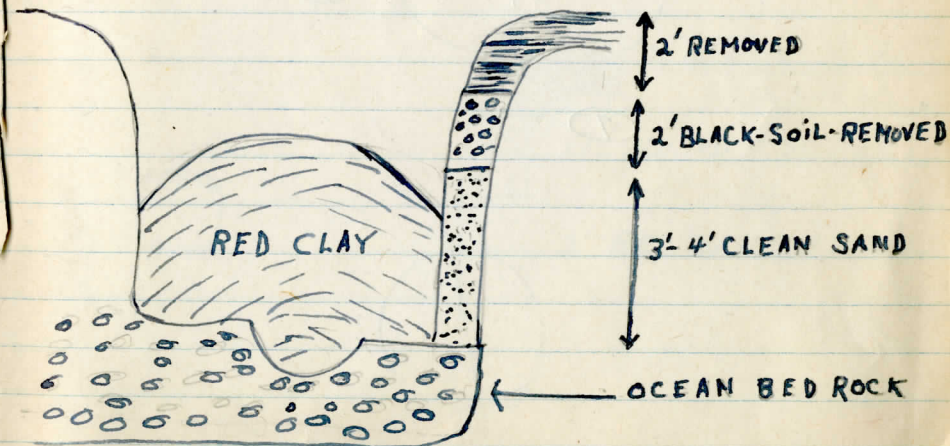


VENADO BEACH

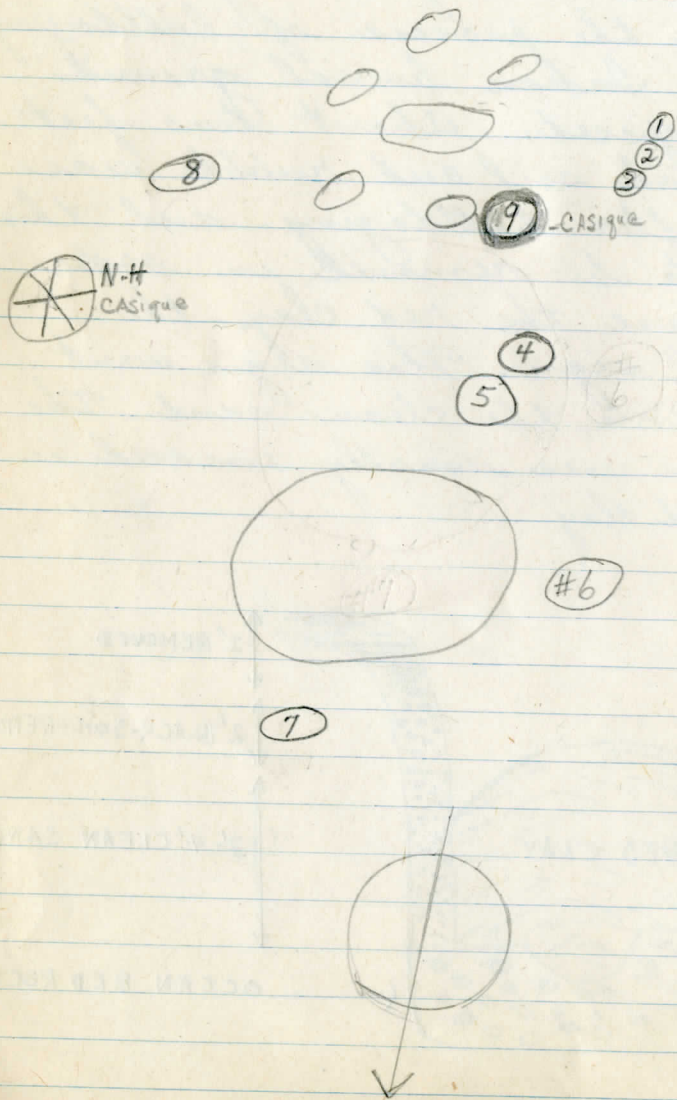
LEE E. MONTGOMERY, LT. COL.

Aug. 2, 1951

Two years ago the Navy decided to remove 2 feet of the top soil from Venado Beach area which is located in Ft. Kobbe. This was done to procure soil for lawn and flower gardens, and in the process of bulldozing an old Indian burial ground was exposed. About two feet of black soil and rubble was left after bulldozing, and this had to be removed in order to expose the red clay, the burial sign. This sign went down into the clean sand. The skeleton was usually encased in the red clay.

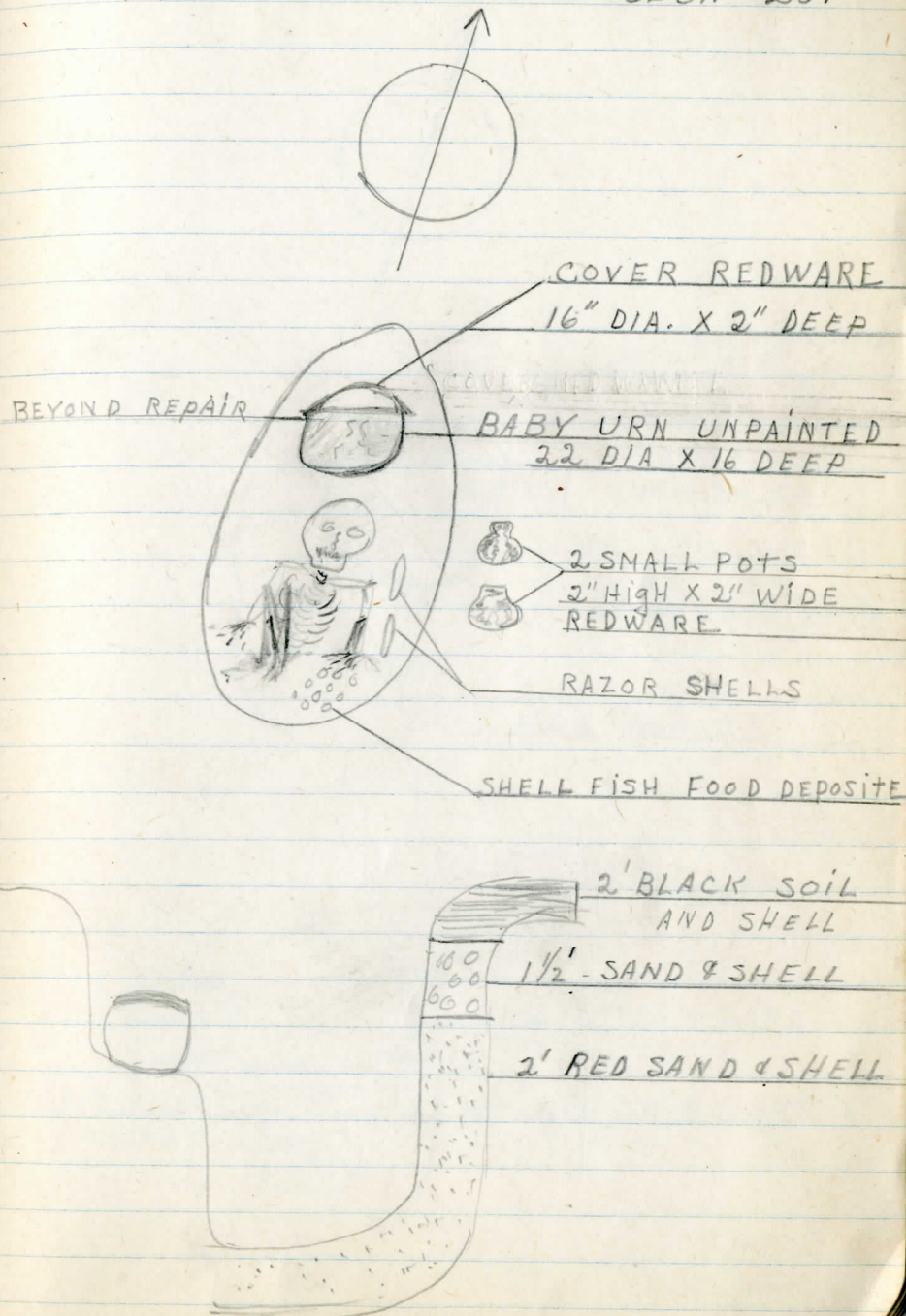


SECTION 20



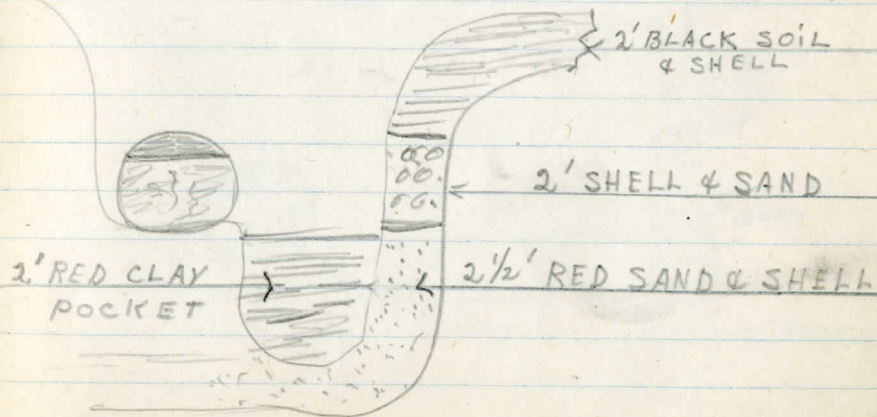
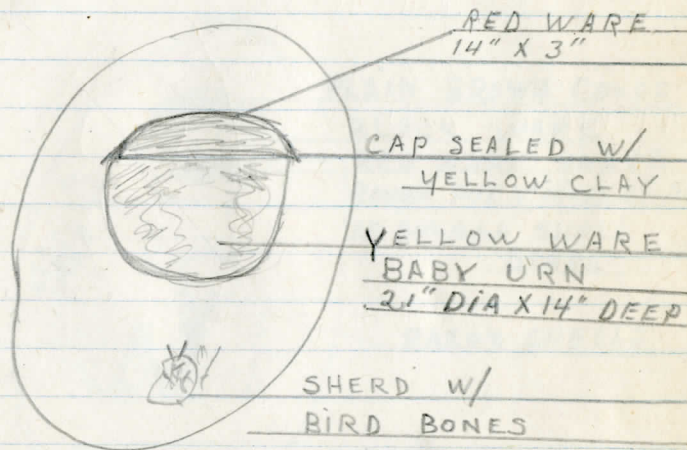
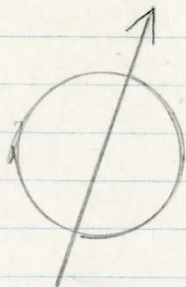
#1

SECT. 20.



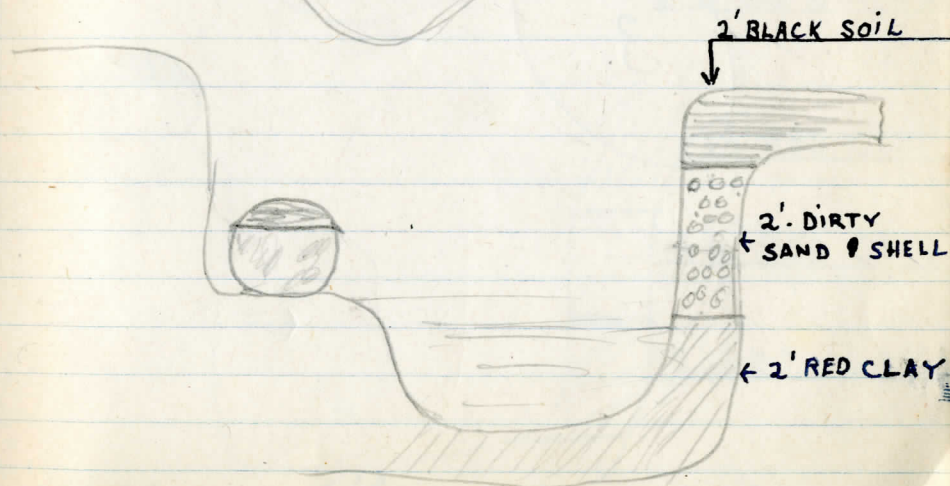
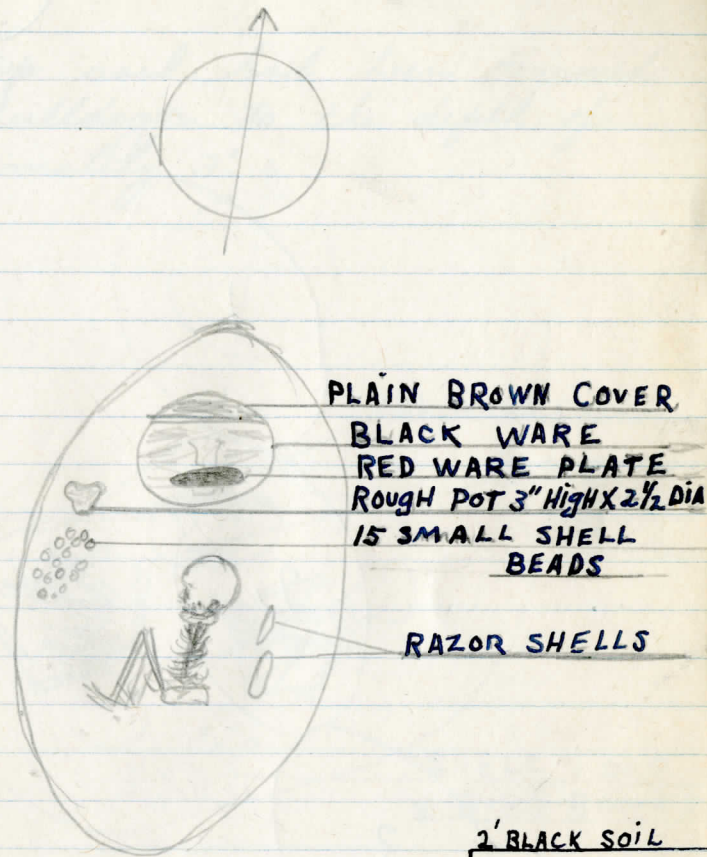
#2

SECT. 20.

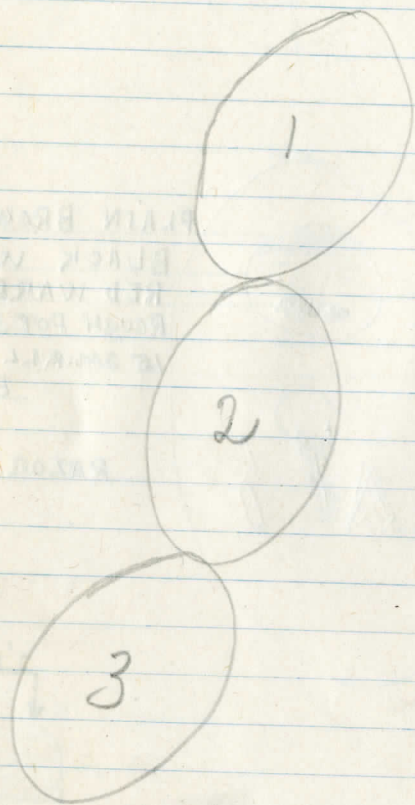
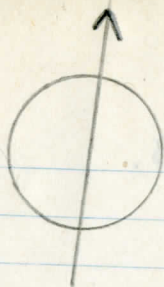


#3.

SECT. 20



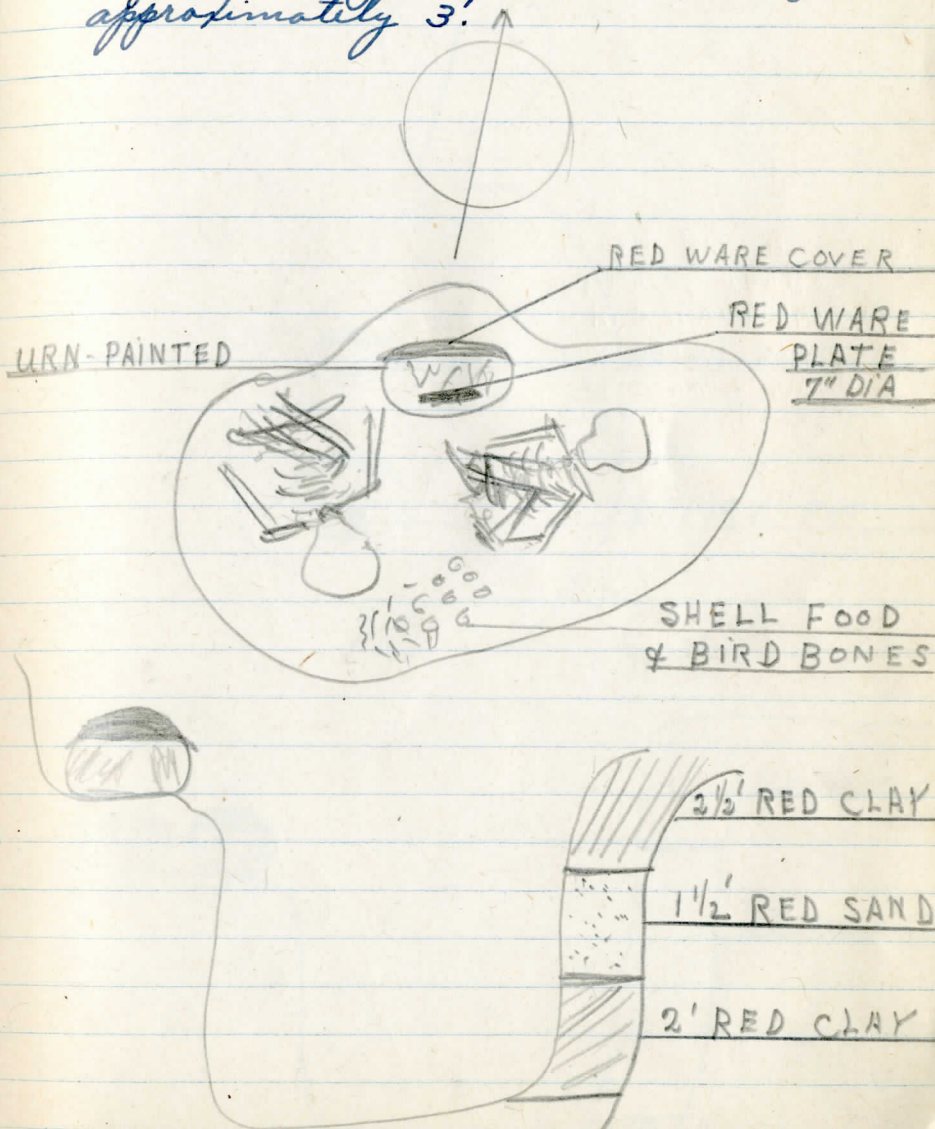
PLAN OF 1-2-3



#4

SECT. 20

All top soil had been removed
by bulldozer to the depth of
approximately 3'.

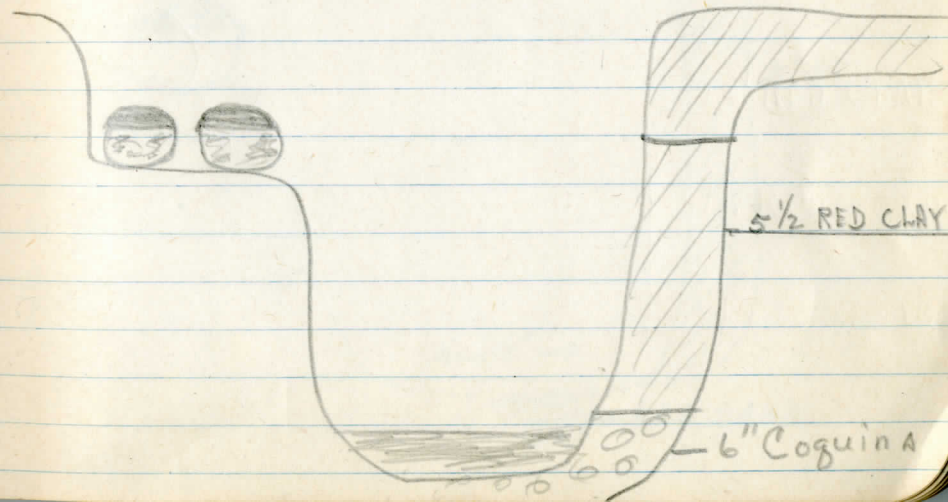
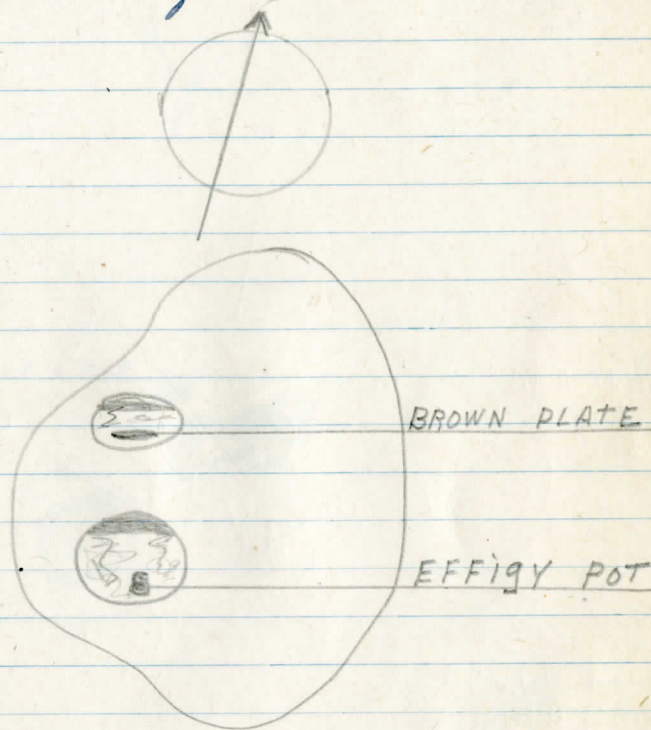


Skeletons completely encased in red clay.

#5

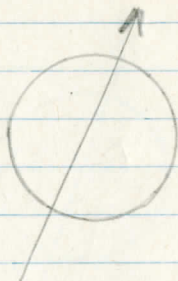
SECT. 20.

no skeleton found.

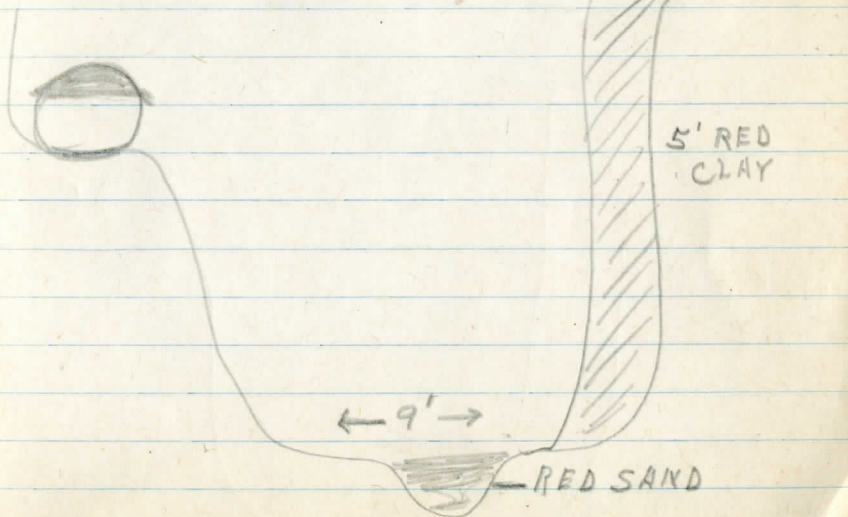
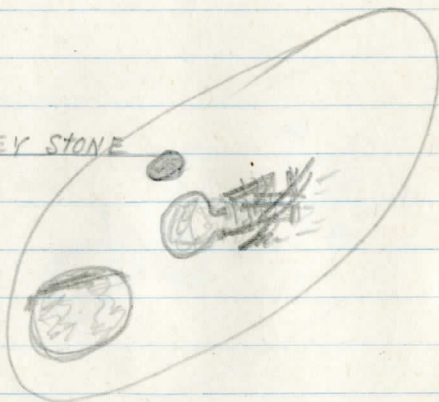


#6

SECT 20.

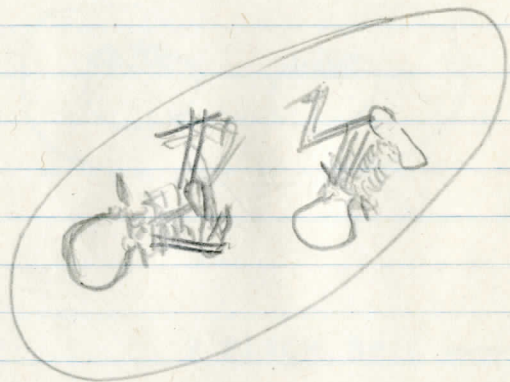
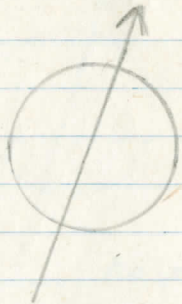


ROUND GREY STONE



7

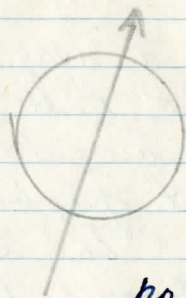
SECT. 20.



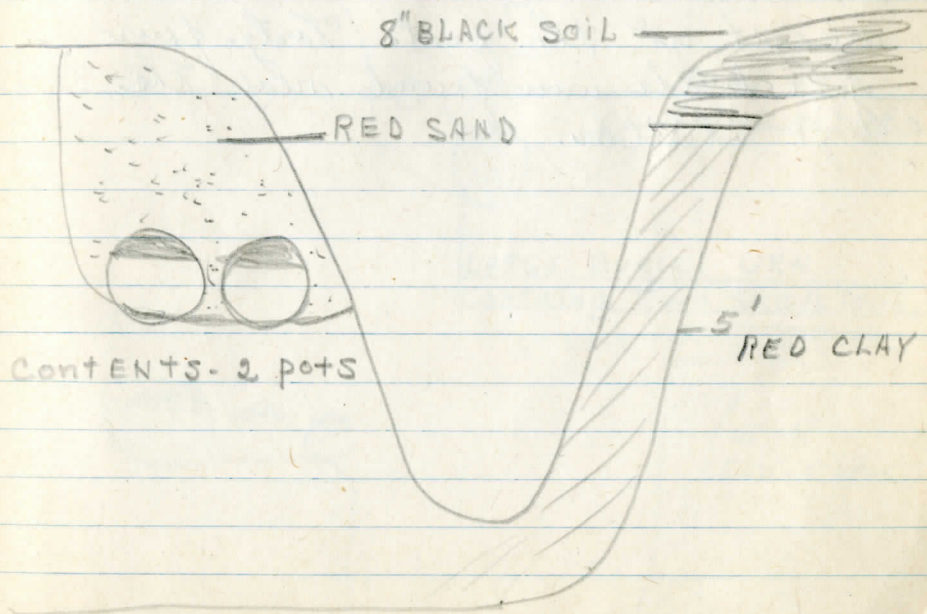
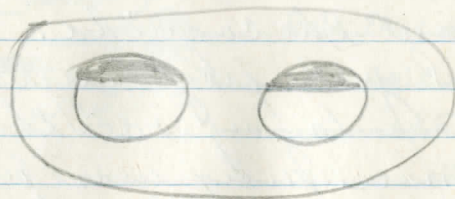
No findings with the two skeletons

#8

SECT. 20.



no skeletons found.

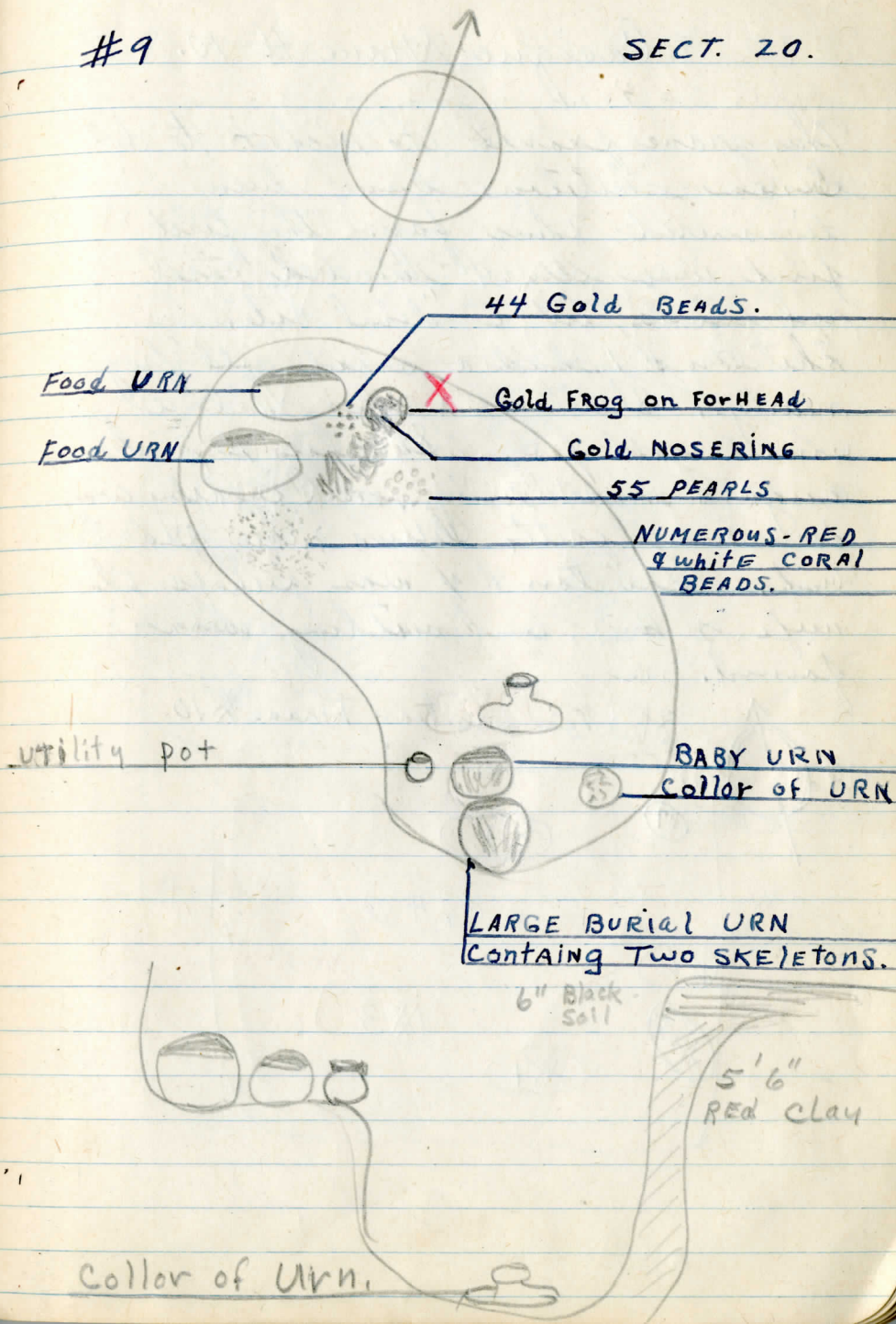


Casique Grave #9

Grave #9 was a very rich find, being no doubt, that of a Casique. Two burial urns were discovered first, probably containing food originally. The skeleton was found about two feet beneath the urns, under red clay, and laying on the coquina. A beautiful gold frog weighing 47 grams was laying on the forehead. A gold nose ring was in the nose position. Fifty-five pearls were near the ribs, and several hundred coral beads were in a deposit at the feet. Forty-four gold beads were found near the left shoulder.

#9

SECT. 20.



Aug. 12, 1951

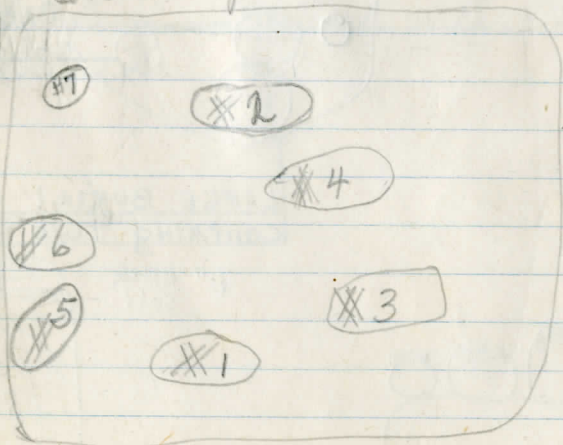
Casique Grave # 10.

This grave proved the richest to date. Seven skeletons have been discovered thus far. The first find was several hundred coral red beads, in a "devil hole".

Skeleton #1 had a small gold frog nearby. Skeleton #2 also had a small gold frog. Skeleton #3 had a gold nose ring, and nearby was found a pretty brown ware pedestal dish. Skeleton #4 was perhaps the wife of #3, and nothing was found.

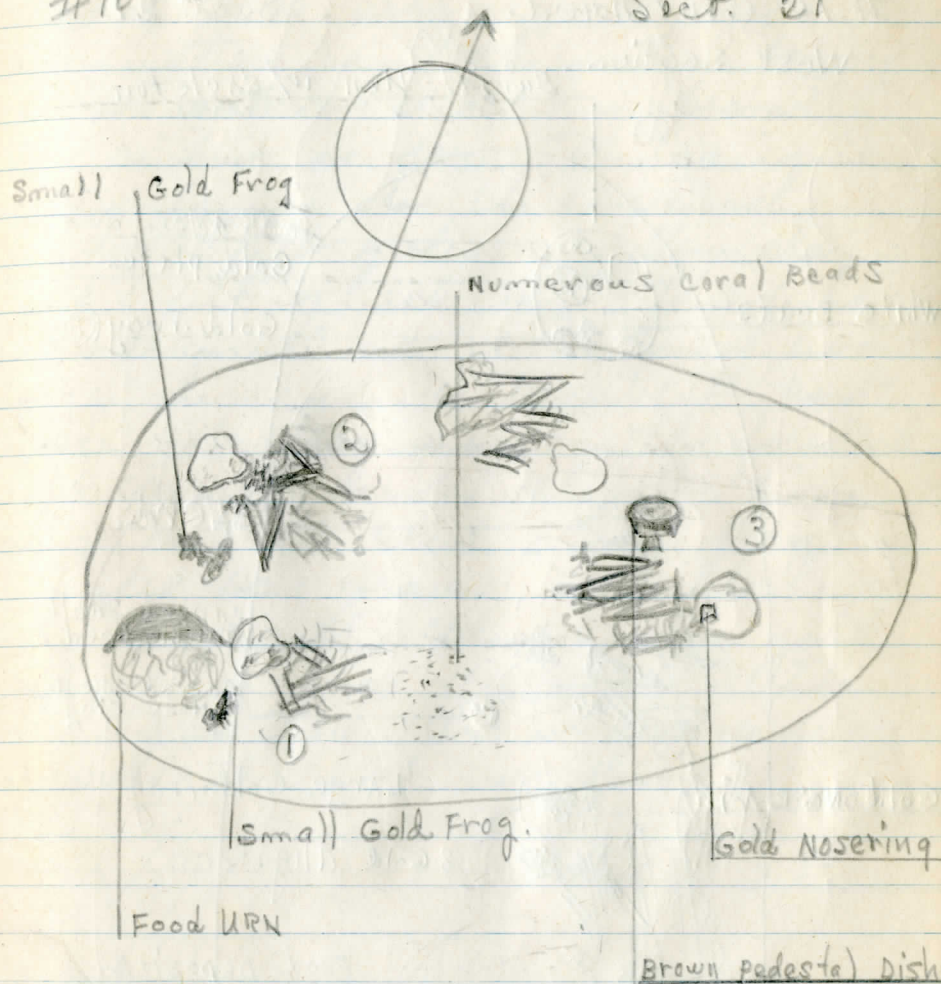


Skeleton position Grave #10



#10

sect. 21

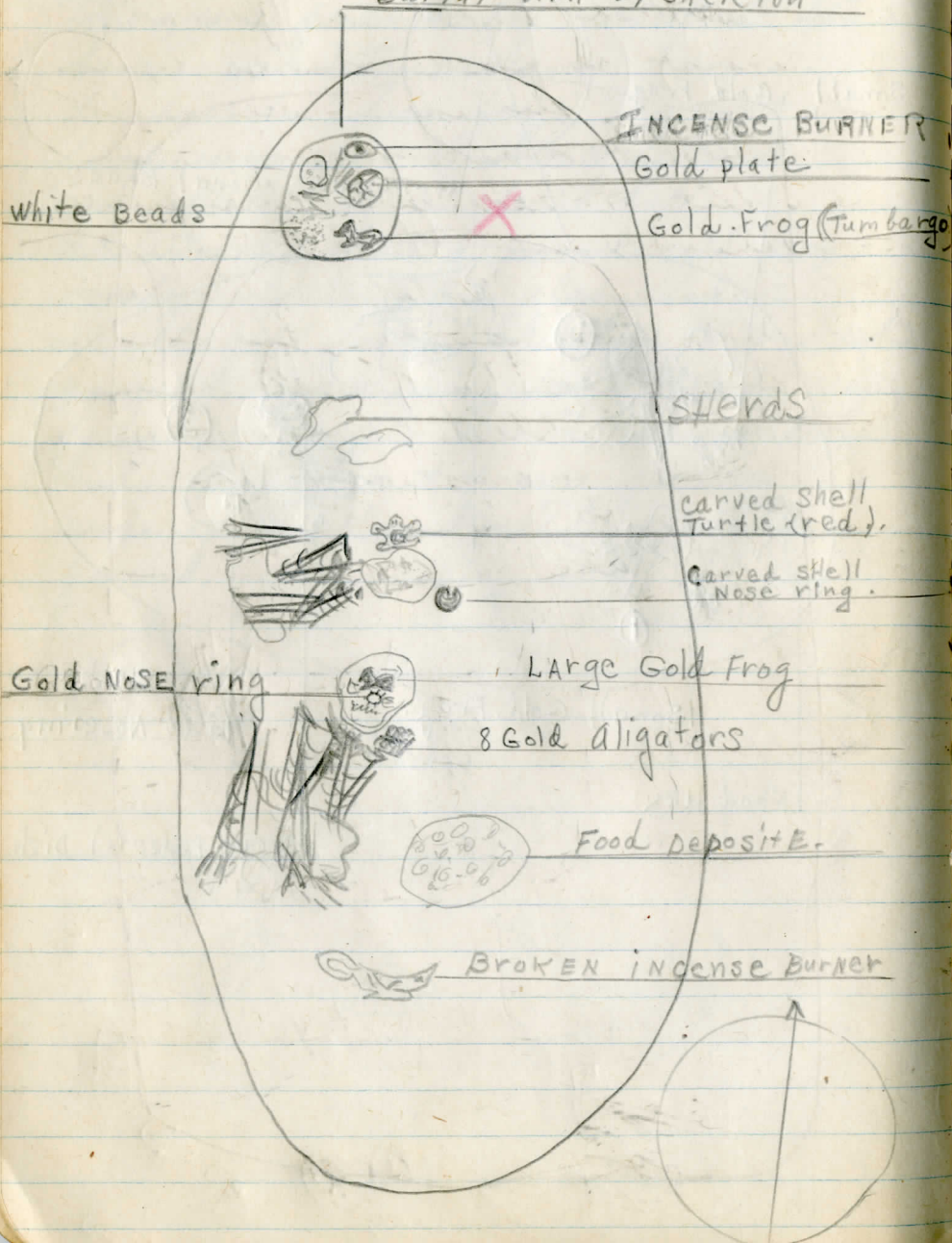


#10 Continued

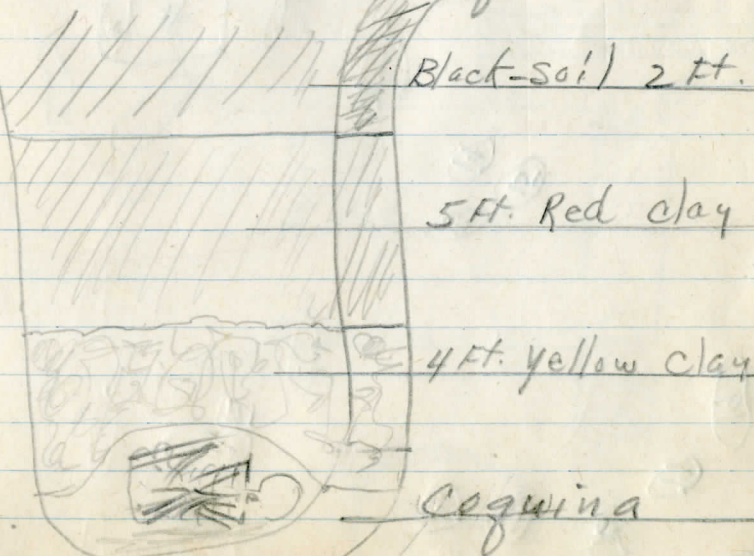
sect 21

West section

Burial Urn w/ skeleton



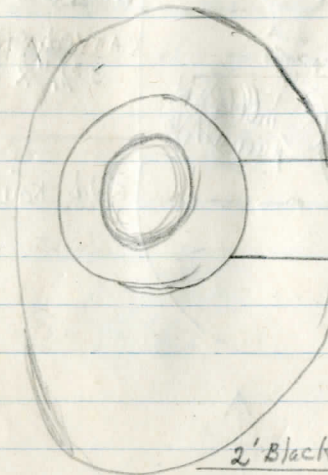
Grave # 10, was a mammoth excavation, and the section laying to the western end has proved the richest so far. The casique was laying on the coquina, under 4 feet of heavy yellow clay, and 6 feet of red clay. The find was unusual as it contained two large huacas. A beautifully cast large gold frog was on the forehead, and an 8 headed aligator piece was on the chest. The frog weighed 60.3 grams, and the aligator 90.3. Also a fine gold nose ring was discovered in the nose position. Also two fine examples of carved shell work were found.



#10 Continued



In the extreme northwest corner of grave #10 was discovered a burial urn containing a skeleton, a large gold (tumbago) frog, a gold plate 5" in diameter, a fine small pot, and many hundreds of white gold beads.



Burial Urn w/ skeleton

contents :-

Large Gold Tumbago Frog

Gold plate 5" x 5"

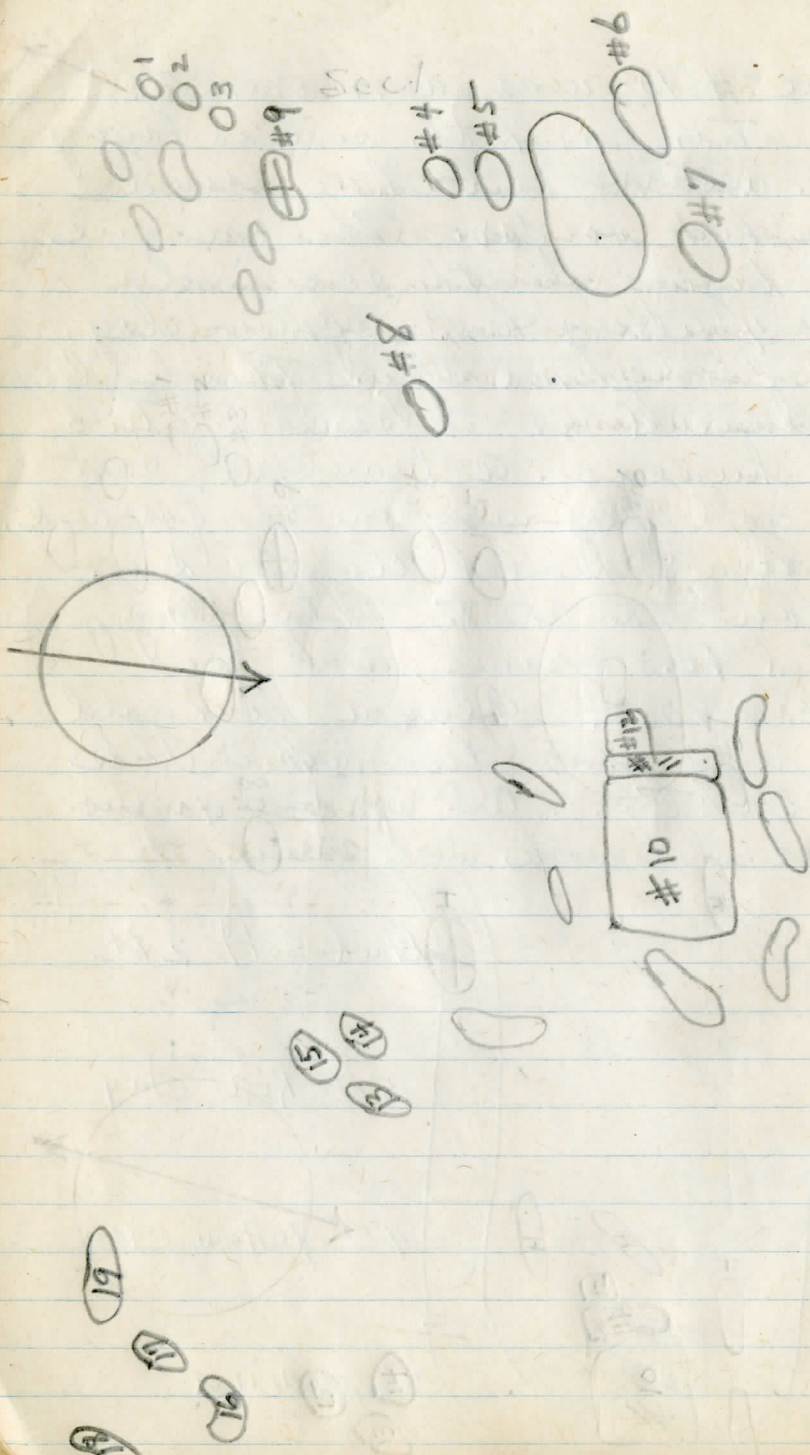
MANY white shell beads

Small incised-pot

2' Black soil

5' Red clay

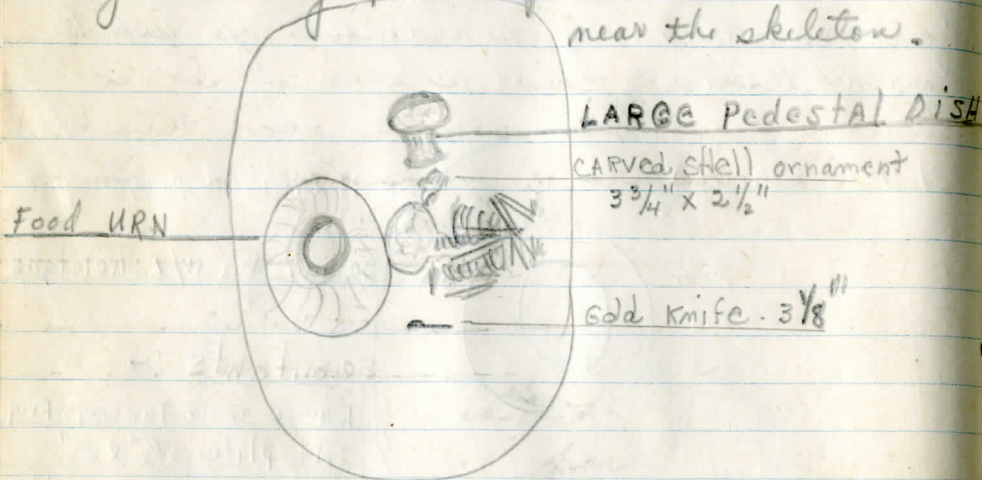
5' yellow clay



11.

Sect. 21

Grave # 11. was quite shallow,
producing an urn and a skeleton at
fine st. level. A beautiful red shell
ear ornament was found on the skull, and
nearby was a fine gold knife, weighing
5.7 gms. A large painted pedestal dish was
near the skeleton.

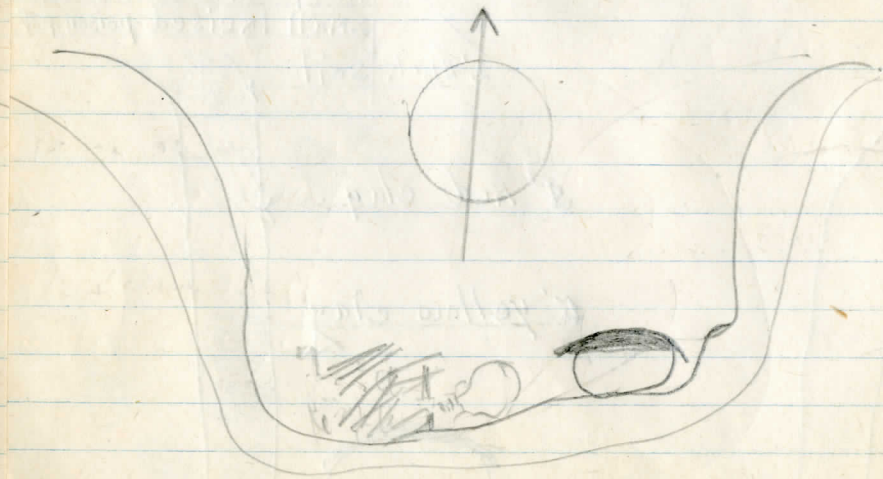


LARGE Pedestal Dish

CARVED Shell ornament
3 3/4" x 2 1/2"

Gold knife. 3 1/8"

Food URN

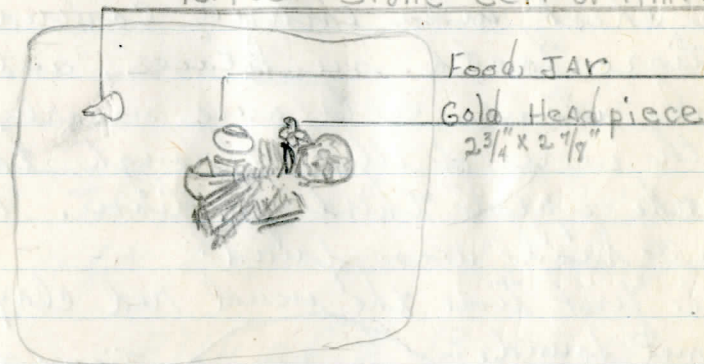


12.

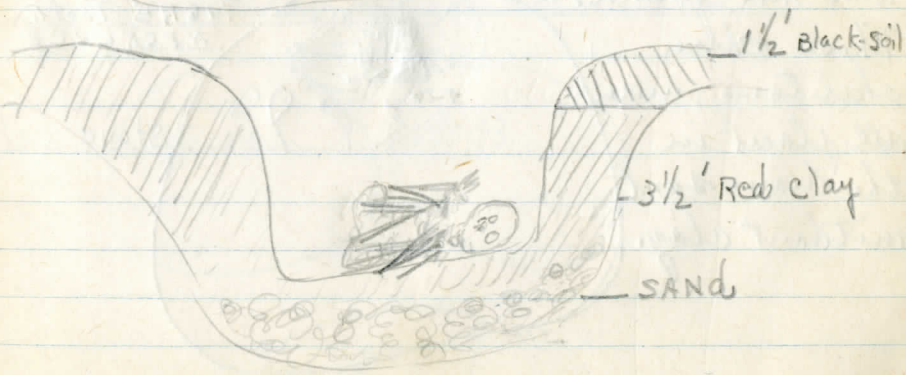
Sect. 21.

Grave # 12 was shallow, about 3 1/2
feet deep. The skeleton lay flexed, the
head pointed northeast. A beautiful
gold head ornament, was found on the
head. A crude food jar was near the
shoulder. It was surprising to find
gold in so shallow a grave. It is
believed that this skeleton was closely
related to Grave # 11, possibly a wife.

perfect Stone celt or knife.



Food JAR

Gold Head piece
2 3/4" x 2 1/4"

1/2' Black soil

3 1/2' Red clay

SAND

#13



Sect. 21

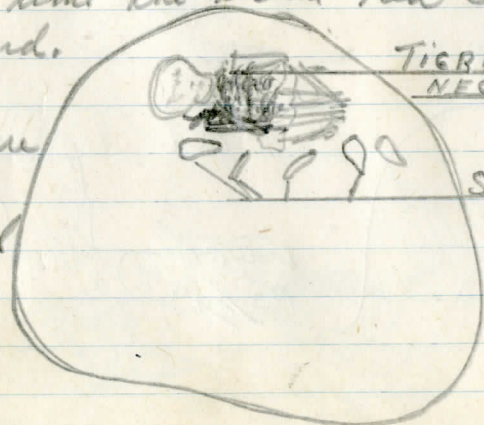
This burial was a very interesting one to excavate. Although not a rich find, it proved through the diversity of objects found, to be valuable to the augmentation of the collection.

Operating in a new area, a shaft was sunk down 4 1/2 ft. and a skeleton was found.

It proved to be the warrior type. The chest was entirely covered with a tigre tooth necklace, and fine stone celts were nearby. The teeth were drilled through the root in the upper third portion. One arrow-head was found.

For the first time the usual red clay sign was not found.

These three skeletons, were all placed in the brown sand without clay.

TIGRE TOOTH
NECKLACE

Stone Celts

#14



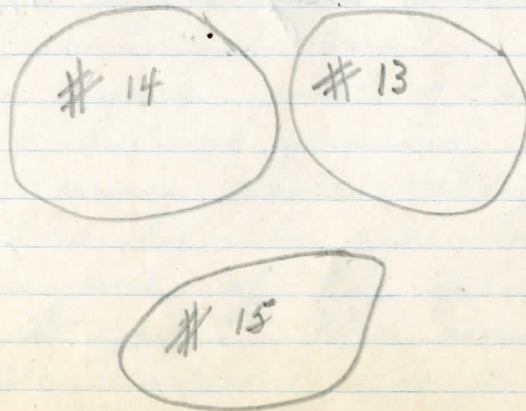
This skeleton was placed near #13, and probably was the wife. The only finding was a very nice pedestal dish, chocolate color. 5 1/4" dia. 4 1/2" ht.

Chocolate ware
pedestal dish.

#15.

A third skeleton was found about 4 ft to the south, no findings noted.

PLAN OF #13-14-15

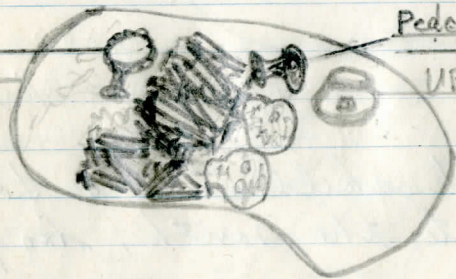


#16



#16 was opened in a new area, about 60 yards southeast of #10. This proved to be a very interesting grave, containing three skeletons and two urns. The graves in this section apparently belonged to the poorer class, as no gold was found. However several fine pieces of pottery was uncovered.

Pedestal Dish

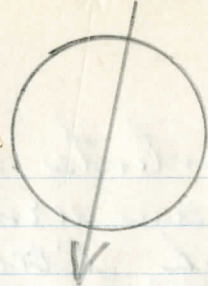


Pedestal Vase - Frog Design

URN CONTAINING INCENSE BURNER

This excavation was comparatively shallow, being only about $4\frac{1}{2}$ ' deep.

#17



#17 was interesting in that it was possibly the burial of a young boy. A number of carved stone marbles was found, also a piece of carved quartz, which was probably used as a pendant.

#18

This grave contained a skeleton with a carved bone necklace placed on the ribs.

#19.

This excavation was interesting as it contained one of the largest urns taken out of Venado beach burial ground.

It was noteworthy as it was beautifully painted with the figure of the plumed serpent god. The urn measures 7' in circumference, is 21" deep.

#19. The contents of so elaborate an urn was surprisingly little. It may have contained garments and perishable valuables. On the bottom was a small red ware plate, which probably contained infant bones.