

Although stone tipi rings are still found abundantly on and about the Blackfeet Reservation, the medicine wheel is encountered by rarely in this and adjacent areas. A well-established occurrence is that of the Sun River wheel on the stream of that name near Lowry, Mont. Since the general areas has been South Piegan territory from the beginning of the last century, this particular lithic marker may well be Blackfoot in origin. The writer to date has not had an opportunity of examining the Lowry wheel. Accordingly we may refer to a description of it written by the late H. P. Lewis, an amateur collector of Conrad, Mont. Since Lewis was a serious student and conscientious observer, his comments deserve consideration.

According to Mr. Lewis, this medicine wheel is located on a perfectly flat bench about 30 feet above the north side of Sun River. The bench is gravelly with sparse grass and one mile long by one half a mile wide. The ~~bench is gravelly with sparse grass and one~~ medicine wheel (Fig. 1) is situated in the open a considerable distance from trees or brush. It is directly on the edge of the river bank and portions of the rock alignments have been eroded away by stream action ³ (Lewis, MS.). Lewis describes the "medicine wheel" as

³I was unable to check the copy of the H. P. Lewis MS, which is deposited with the River Basin Surveys, Lincoln, Nebr., with the original.

follows:

The artifact (medicine wheel) consists of a central ring 21 feet across, within which, at the center is a second circle 4 feet in diameter. Radiating outward from the larger outer circle are eleven rows of rocks, arranged like the spokes of a wheel. These spokes are only approximately evenly spaced, are roughly of the same length. . . . The lengths vary considerably, as short as twenty-one feet to forty feet. This brings the outer tips of the spokes averaging distances apart, but reaching a maximum on some places of 40 feet. . . . The diameter of the wheel is approximately 100 feet, with a circumference of well over 300 feet. . . . The central four-foot circle gives no sign of being used for fire. It will be noticed that (four spokes) lie closely along the four principle points of the compass. . . .

Absence of tepee rings (except as hereafter noted) is glaringly noticeable. Very evidently the place was not a camp site. The exceptions to be noted