clearing we take all morning. All, including the bull figurine, are cleared, photographed, drawn, so I feel we are doing a neat job. I use the 2½x2½ a good deal. Some lamps, which I believe were Roman, are found.

II A lucis. A heavy, presumably Minoan wall (N-S) and another E-W appear in the Tangle of mud and stones. More definition on Monday. The earth is very clayey & wet so plan features will probably be an initial clue to definition of floor surfaces.
24-5-77. In second baulk, east-west, in begun and already a separate wall is found. The 4A-I to 5B area will be much clearer now. The next step is to begin the "cliff strip" the area west of 4A-I and 5B, along the side of the cliff. Some idea of the amount of erosion should be gained since the positionings of the walls there should indicate what if any has gone over the scarp.

24-5-77. Excavation along the west side of the main building area reveals a proud extension of the rampa del lume.

10 A-I. The 'alun' is proved. Much burnt bone within the filling material. Further work must be done however, in order to understand more of its structural history. The west room of BBBB is further cleared. Rumors in town, I am told, are that we have discovered a treasure!

24-5-77. Lucia. Some pottery on an apparent plan is cleared off. After drawing and photograph, and deeper penetration in the 5 sciu is initiated.
28 June 1977

2A M.Ed. The area thought to be a passage-way between the two structures is shown to be just that with the removal of the barrier preventing rear viewing same as a whole. Nicely cleaned down now in a burned level of use.

A small 'bird in a nest' (U.M.I?I?) appears in the upper fill of t.c. and quite charming although simple in nature.

2A etc. 111. The Rampa del Mare clarifies itself up beautifully, with the roadway being confined on both sides of walls at least by late 11th/12th centuries. The road, the southern extremity of a road hypothesized last year on the basis of 12 dozen slabs found west of the main building, is now a clear fact, already adding to the beginning of our understanding. A fine 1st c. (?) bridge, spotted vase is found.

10 A. 1. W.C. The altar (not in quotes now) proves to have a few epipodion in its first major phase and must have been quite a handsome structure. A layer of working chips defines the ground line it was on. Further probing within it, done with some difficulty due to the tangle of slides that had filled the core of the structure, reveals little same burnt bones of which we have already gathered a good many by dry sieving. It would seem by clear that material from pre-altar sanctuaries were thrown into the core when the altar was being constructed.

11 A. Lucia N. The part of the trench west of this ? Hellenistic building is now
in effect divided into two sections, each on
either side of an east-west wall of Minoan date
that lies between them. On the north we
have quite a collection of odd and ends of
pottery (a dump?) now what may be a floor.
Oth south the sounding in penetrations below
what seems fairly sure to be a floor in order
to reach earlier levels. So far the pottery from
both sites is LH III in earlier. Thus the
limited occupation on the site is quite an ex-
tension one, not confined to the narrow sheer
strip along the cliff.

A geologist, John Gibby, has been visiting
us for some days now and patiently looking
about for clues to the site's morphological his-
tory.

The Burried Building group becomes more and
more interesting as more of it is revealed, the
founder date may well be during the Hellenistic
period, with its last "squatted" occupation Taking
place during the 1st c BC or so. Acc. to Spanakis
Gortyna captured Knossos in 220, then destroyed
Phaistos itself in 200—could these be
buildings constructed by classical Phaistos
during this hiatus. Or, with the altar and the
buried building are we dealing with some-
Sort of ill-defined shrine complex? No coins
so far, also poorly defined floor levels, no really
characteristic pottery usage for lamps.
John Gifford, Vance & Hobbs Inc. E. go to
Matheca to investigate the matter of relative
water levels and changes since Roman times,
referring with more puzzlement than certainty
about the changes assumed until recent
time to have been clear.

On the site, with MCS sick, the only
tread working in 13B, in 13A, an extension
to the west of old 13B trench. The eastern
scarp's being cleared was a long trench on
the steep incline, there in every hope at this
point of getting down to MMA levels, reaching
the earlier building discovered by Peter
Warren in the 13B soundings to the east.

Last year, I expect we will descend at
least 2.5m. in absolute levels. For the
moment the portion of the "fallen facade"
found last year to the west has been
left in place because of its dramatic
qualities. It is well recorded so could be
removed at any time.

IIA. L.N. No significant change, although
more walls are appearing. Some of
these are so difficult to find in the muddy
fill, the apparent floor levels can still be de-
cided mainly on architectural grounds.

10A W.C. A trench in the court reveals
what would appear to be a drain in
front of 13B. A few very scrappy walls
of one block series in the burned court.
In the west room within the small not
clude, a pure floor deposit shows up
for the first time: a # of "6 3/4 cups" or
bits and a horse right on the floor.

It's old.
July 1944

A L. N.  La III in beginning to appear in the pottery pairs, another indication of the popularity of the style even in south-central Crete. Indeed, aside from our lack of Palace Style amphorae, I wonder whether the Knossos site might not produce in the long run the most complete run of this style in Crete, from course ware through fine.

So far as the trench which is to be a sounding down to 1600 on the end of the habitation levels, we have gone Hellenistic (some archaic sherds, Corinthian frescoes) then a good deal of LM III B, A and near LM II until some LM II in an apparently mixed context.

A large block, certainly non-Minoan appearance, has been sitting up in the same days. It is just wide of and on a line with Building F, over which the trench was originally set in. Closer examination today makes us believe that it is a foundation block, or of two or more, that was set in from above on a foundation trench and that what we are dealing with here is a monument base, set on a line with structure F, not an unusual relationship with our theories of such things in the various Greek sanctuaries.

This relationship is being reinforced in the Burned Building area, where from now excavated the altar almost completely, and I am satisfied that it is an altar and nothing more — of course it has the building phases and the bull on its platform, all most intriguing. But today, out in
good of BBB, G. Bianco noticed a curious stone which I immediately recognized as a fines caressed grooved stone from the classical rd. (4th - 3rd ?) and belonging to a monumental. It seems clear that there in, therefore, a solid classical base to our southern part of the site, about which we will be learning more in the coming weeks if not years.

The western room's floor level has been reached in the interior room (within the L) with quite a collection of. much of bronze, egg-cup shaped mugs, as well as a lump nearly to help in the dating. Wood from Covette (WIB?) puts the first series of plain lamps with the late 2nd BC to 1 AD range, which agrees with the little comparative material that we could find. The second series, with more decoration, was probably the painted bowen even closer. The lamp of bronze coins refer years most curious, but perhaps we will be more fortunate as we proceed.

Moreover, there is on the site but certainly not yet well. The first BC of the hillside strip trench west of 186 tv. 4. Heavy fine accumulation, photographed before we began removed, gives us hope that the finds may be revealing and significant.

18 in the western extension of 1B, has now gone through more accumulation on the western slope/plan which was probably an exterior area, and, if we are lucky, will in a matter also be into accumulation over the second major block. phase (earlier) on the area, discovered during PW's sounding last year.
3 July 47. Brief report on progress.

L.M. 2B. A "memorial bath" may well be part of Building F, we conclude today. Though fine pottery, mostly sherds, continues to emerge from the fill, which goes down quite steeply next to walls that become handsome as their height increases. L.M. 2B I wonder if relations periods for the various walls visible in the trench?

H.B. 3B. The late building is found to peck, here on the east, upon the walls of the earlier building! All indications are that we have excavated down through an extensive area west of the upper structure and will not too long from now be descending within well-preserved rooms of still undetermined character within the earlier structure. This may be a wonderful opportunity.

M.C. 12A. Cleaning on the step—one do the central section first—places us on the other side of walls with varying accumulations of placed and fallen stones within their confines.

W.C. 10A, etc. Another, even finer 'set cup' on the floor of BBB. In a few days the entire west room area should have been cleared and photographed. We follow out the robbing trench to the south and discover that a major N-S wall continued out into the court. This is most important, for we seem to be developing some kind of 'temenos,' arrangement around the altars. Clearly the formality of the original structure must have been rather im...
6 July 1977. My birthday (42nd). A wonderful surprise party given by the staff in the evening.

L.N. 11A. On finding one LM III bowl on a definite floor, quite far down on the northern side of the E-W wall, begins to question the dating of the three architectural phases clearly above this level and below the Hellenistic building above 

Are they LM III (many phases) or do they include later (archaic etc.)? L.N. 70 to be added to Pit: in a day of research, possibly during LM II they cleared out earlier floors and went down, right through LM I etc.

H.B. 2A. Upper walls of the lower building are appearing. A N/S wall appears to split the trench.

MCS 12A. Central section of strip of rubbish of walls, N/S, E/W. Many later scrappy walls and no doubt some will be removed. LM III pottery. Some wine jars within a pit in which may be an impressing slate floor.

L.C. 10A. West room completed down to floor level and photographed entirely. Film from the area are being started.

The most noticeable discovery in that certain of the BB walls do not rest on the heavy foundations running below them. A stretch of earlier further in is supported by the north wall, which was across the court, N/S, W/E a breach on the east, and W/E a cross, which heading went just discovered. Unit of substantial foundations. Two fine ashlar feet found about unit site monumental classical building nearby. L.C. 186. About just mentioned? Seeds, 0.5 kg. In...
unknown, however. More detailed descriptions are to be made in the various day books involved.

Peter Callahan

John
8 July 1977.

WM. EM II bowl may be MM III - there is some vagueness; if not disagreement concerning it. I wish that there were more pots on that particular floor. We were clever & bedrock that. I thought - it has been reached on the south and shortly will be found in the north. The surprising fact is that there is a 30+ cm. layer of sand above the bedrock, with every indication that it was deposited there naturally. 1E the first settlement there was actually built on the sand which covered the bedrock.

HB. 13A. A rich layer of pottery (MM III - II) is found behind a retaining wall which was built some time after the original construction of the house building. Aecomorphous pitchers, a Karanis cup, a Khamsa cup (decoration largely flaking off, unfortunately), an ovoidioe flask, an attractive pittoke with rope pattern. A plain (?) but attractive bowl spotted ware not unlike those found by P6 in 13B sounding last year and that found by John He June along the west side of the rampa. This is sign of use of the Scarp area as a "break yard" but no sign so far of a special architectural arrange- ment in view of the area.

HC 12A. No essential change, a (through the sequence is a bit clearer). Why so many scrappy walls along this western strip?

WC 10A. The arrival of Peter Callahan helps us establish with more clarity the time span of the 'historical' pt. of the
site, which is a bit of evidence pottery that mostly 5th through 2nd century B.C., with a few scraps of Roman (plaster, amphora). The altar, to judge from the sherds in the chip layer around it, is close to being 5th c. If the B. Bloqs. were apparently last occupied in the 2nd-3rd century, though there is a bit of Roman to represent, perhaps post-depositional visitors. The Second c. occupants, in any case, appear to have been squatters - they heavily set up shop same by using a raised court level, cooking within the rooms, building a few. scrappy walls outside. The occupation could have been a seasonal one, or just to rob out blocks etc.

Main periods:

1. Building of altar. Possible (late?) construction of monumental civic block. Only the foundations remain.
2. Additions to the altar, placing of the bull. Building of the 'Buried Buildings' which may or may not have been connected with the original use of the temple - but the altar seems to have remained until the end.
3. The area - sanctuary in dispute, perhaps after (cooking and burning (?).

Squatters reuse the area after some time.

No doubt this will be refined further.

Not Callahan, an English scholar writing about Hellenistic pottery, has given us valuable stabilization information about the chronology of the pottery found in various of the historical
contexts. For this, we are most gratefully may have another contribution from John Gifford who left recently, who as a geomorphologist spent some 10 days investigating the general situation of the area with some concentration on changes of erosion patterns, sand build-up, and changes in relative sea-level.

It is good that there are still 3-4 weeks of active work to form some opinions about the development of the BB area. Certainly it is clear from a major part (1/3?) of my section of the Hesperia '77 report and the evidence must be established clearly.

Today, after some difficult days because of the variety of my responsibilities here, I completed proofreading the galleys proof of the "Komet" report that will appear in the October Hesperia. I also sent today from Mines a Rom newsletter entitled "Buildings in the Sand": the story of the removal of the sand related here and the discovery of the BB complex.
11 A.M. is completed in the early morning (no excavation yesterday) with a probe through the expected sand accumulation to bedrock. After the expected Polychrome Balboines were excavated but without any architectural accompaniment. As to relative dates, the large upper building would seem to be 5th c. B.C., then a steep back to 4th c. B.C. Related 1m walls, not closely dated, so back to MM III (?), then the steep back to Balboines.

13 A.H. Pollen continues within the space between the retaining wall and the later upper building. Apparently 4M. On the west, the same falls is slowly being removed and we may find that the heavy wall originally recognized in the scape is actually three of an e-w. wall.

11 C. 10 A. Cleaning of the eastern room continues, with lamp and lamp plate appearing in the floor accumulation. Tires from both rooms might cover 1/3 of the entire area. An iron nail is found within the pivot rest of the eastern room. In context seems quite similar to that in the western room. Shortly later, upper walls on the interior will be removed, the floor will be cleaned, and the room will be essentially complete.

11 B. c.m. Just before, m. of 4 A1 (1977).
Still w/in Level 2.

12 A. 1 M. Before some days ago. Still just said we are setting below the rock spill and the definition of various walls is emerging.
11 B, begun yesterday as old 4A, has already come upon two of walls that look most interesting— one appears almost as a platform at a rather high level, extending c. s. and it appears in the trench. Photo soon as we are at the top of the walls. L. N.

12 A 4. Further move by MCS, back from a sandy period in Pitsidia, the area s. of the central cliff step is quite disturbed by the mine explosion but nevertheless in producing good walls and a significant amount of pottery. Some of it M in A style.

13 A, 4 B, Asklab and related archaeological material as well as walls, suggests that we may have a cliff-side stairway. But only further excavation will tell. I spent some time sketching the sequence (possible) along the cliff side today.

16 A. A late wall in the East Room is removed to reveal a wall of slates below and at floor level. This significance will be of interest to our excavation after we return from Pitsidia study. All roof tiles studied and the majority put in an innocuous place behind the retaining wall near to the well. The others to Pitsidia.

49 A 1. Since last Friday, A 1 has been clearing piles of stone from the area north of the Shmn. Finally walls appear, made to own relief. Some upper walls (Hellinistic?) associated with the upper levels, 6 boxes of imports.
For the remainder of the season specific aims are to continue expansion in the Square tube Area and that of II/4A area. We will consolidate and expand a bit in the Benued Building Complex. A few deep soundings, like 6A and 11A will be attempted if there is time.

16 July 47

9A E: What I hope is the n. side of the building is being defined slowly. There are some heavier walls. The most interesting development, however, was a sounding in the old A room which, if the household shrine that produced, at about the same level as the shrine, room, floor, now pots that at least presently appear to be stylistically LM III A 2, i.e., suggesting that the northern room, with so much III B in it, was actually occupied after the ST room was deserted.

13A H: B: essentially complete, but with a certain amount of work like clearing upon Monday.

Three weeks left in the excavation season, of which the most interesting new development has been the appearance of the screened building unit. The expansion of the trenches on the upper part of the hill is confirming from the chronological point of view the impression we had last year. Now our aim should be to define three or more large building units and then to investigate completely at least one of the larger structures, e.g. LM I last phase, but that will have to come in another year.
Nancy Bookides visits from Courtiot.

9A. Developments here have been dramatic, for it would appear that we are presently outside the northern limit of the LM building. There were within MM rooms without the inconvenience of upper structures that cannot be violated. Once more, therefore, we are in the position of being able to examine lower levels easily. More important for the future, however, is that we may well be able to recover the MM building plan without destroying the upper structure.

13A.14.8. Terminated. H.B. is now working on the stone implements, then will turn to help with the cataloguing.

12A.4. Essentially complete.

12A.5. Being opened now south of the grave - cheese - oil area with the aim of clearing the remainder of the storage room. Discovered earlier this season.

WC 10A. The line of stones, e.g., in the granite room, turns out to be a supporting wall for a higher floor level on the north. The remainder of the fill on top of the southern pt. of the fall is presently being removed.

11B. The continuation of the corridor is found to the north. Wide and open, and with some indication that we are outside at least part of the building limits for the LM I-II period. No doubt the MM structure continues below, but its exploration must await another year.

As strip to the west (11B1,2) is presently being cleared.
19 July 1977

9 A. Deep excavation reveals a fine slate floor outside (2) of the 14 m building, with pottery in situ upon it. At 2:35 (unsual) a fine rhyton is found - it is left in situ until further work can be done. The walls in this area are unusually well preserved.

10 A. H. B. No work.

12 A. 4 etc. Work in a room uncovered because of complication with leaning walls and fallen slates has produced excellent III B pottery and also a fine rhyton /payment. In 12 A 5 we have found the southern wall of the storeroom of the House of the 'Ceramic Rhyton' (a good name).

10 A. W C finds a floor deposit of pellets, cooking ware in the Eastern Room of BBB, work in the court outside is also begun.

11 B.1. Along the scarp, cleaning of the upper layer 1, made difficult by high wind and blowing sand and dust,
23 July 1977

9A. Further slow excavation revealed a MMIII (= 3rd phase, Doro Levi) deposit, contemporary with others which suggests that the common style at the time was to the building of the upper structures in MMIII. Reason for rebuilding — ? The deposit of squares, spotted vases, at least 3 sherd, and numerous cups is an unusually good one. To the east what may be an MMIII dump is showing up.

12A: Re MMIII-B dump room is completed.

10A: Work continues around the round building, which is at least 5 courses high. There is a wide, elevated entrance way. Re its thin floor level is difficult to define, however I am working on this now.

11B1. After removal of superficial wall, a large room begins to define itself, not as in the case of the area of the south where there was one small room after another.

23 July 1977

9A. While on the north side of the same wall (above), we have MMIII style, at a corresponding level and on the other side of the wall there is MMIIIB dump with carinated cups of polychromes, a bit of sandstone handmade, fine eggshell were fragments. Perhaps the latter room went out of use before the MMIII period styles were popular, but architectural confirmation would certainly be helpful.

10A. Sheds outside the building, but the floor in great sediments. 2/3 of the RB is being taken down to the bottom of the walls, which cannot I think be too far away.

11B1. A few slate walling found, a corner of that on s. discovered by MGS earlier. LM was B material on the floor (setups) as in the possibly connected room on the east. This should probably clean up wolly. A high wind that gusts of sandy air makes work difficult.
25 July 1977

9A. The dump of MM II is confined within the room on the east of the aforementioned wall. Doreo Lever's visit on Saturday night confirmed that it belongs to the phase IB of the three proto-palatial phases, Fine ware, and filling in a gap between the Barbionate and the MM III styles already clearly recognized.

12A5 The trench has almost reached the stable floor level that is expected below, no unusual finds in the southern or northern sections so far. Very little pottery save in one patch. The southern wall of the room has a large gap which remains to be explained.

16A Within, the round building we reach, i.e. the 90° shaped section, the prehistoric level as we know in numerous other nearby places. The floor would seem to be a burned level further up.

18A The pottery within the room is more restricted than originally thought to be, with some fine LM IIIB sherds. Perhaps no complete vases? Perhaps a dump. The architectural nature of the area, however, is becoming clearer.