
NEWSLETTER OF THE
IOWA ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Number 2

McGregor, Iowa

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PLANS FOR THE FALL MEETING OF THE IOWA ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The Iowa Archeological Society will hold its Fall Meeting in Iowa City on November 9. You will be notified more fully concerning the meeting at a later date. This meeting will be held jointly with the Iowa Chapter of the Archaeological Institute of America. You are urged to attend, for in addition to an outstanding and entertaining program, your officers wish to get acquainted with those of you who they have not met. This meeting is also important to all of us in the Iowa Archeological Society, for a set of Articles of Incorporation will be voted upon at the meeting. We will also propose certain by-laws which should be given the attention of all members. So, plan to come to the meeting in Iowa City on November 9, and when the Secretary-Treasurer mails you a post card asking you to let him know whether or not you will come, be sure to answer. If the meeting is a little out of the section of Iowa you live in, make an effort to come anyhow, for next Spring you may have the opportunity to have the meeting in or near your home town.

THE MONTH'S ACTIVITIES

Mr. Paul Rowe, Glenwood, Iowa, one of the earliest members of the Iowa Archeological Society, member of the Society for American Archaeology, and member of the Greater St. Louis Archaeological Society, wrote to us early in September giving an accurate and detailed description of the collections he has seen in Southwest Iowa. Mr. Rowe was a friend of the late Dr. Charles R. Keyes and the late Ellison Orr. Among the materials he describes for the Southwest Iowa area are artifacts and pottery which seem to represent almost the whole of the culture sequence of prehistoric Indians in that region. Mr. Rowe is to be commended on his kind gesture of enumerating all of these facts for us. Knowledge of such material is invaluable to the archaeologist who wishes to study the collections in a local area.

Some of the more notable objects Mr. Rowe described in his letter include several Folsom and Yuma points in the collection of Mr. Fred Delavan, also of Glenwood. These Folsom and Yuma points represent the remains of the earliest inhabitants of Iowa.

From Cedar Rapids, Mr. Norman E. Erickson writes thanking us for his copy of Newsletter No. 1. Mr. Erickson is a new member of the Iowa Archeological Society. He has been helpful in proposing names of others who are interested in archeology for membership in our organization. Such post cards or letters from members are a big help to us in adding to our membership.

On September 8, Mr. Art Dempsey of Oelwein stopped at Effigy Mounds National Monument to visit with the Secretary-Treasurer, Mr. Logan, and Joe Kennedy, our President. Art, a High School student in Oelwein, has been prompt to avail himself of the opportunity to use the library at Effigy Mounds National Monument. He hopes to go to the University of New Mexico to study archeology after he graduates from high school. Art has read many of the books in the library at Effigy Mounds, and will probably continue to utilize this source of archeological information.

The Secretary-Treasurer has spent much of his month traveling. Some of the places he has been and the people he has seen may be of interest. On September 6, he spent a pleasant afternoon in Waterloo where he talked over affairs of the Iowa Archeological Society with Mr. S. A. Cohagan, member of the Iowa Archeological Society, and Secretary of the Henry W. Groat Historical Museum. On September 19, your Secretary-Treasurer spent some time in Madison, Wisconsin with Dr. David Bacreis, Professor of Sociology and Anthropology at the University of Wisconsin and member of the Iowa Archeological Society, and Mr. Warren Wittry, Curator of Anthropology of the Wisconsin Historical Society. On September 20 he and the President, Joe Kennedy, went to Quincy, Illinois to attend the meetings of the Mississippi Parkway Planning Commission. Here your Secretary-Treasurer presented a paper on the Archeology of the Mississippi Valley. On the way to the meeting they stopped in Mount Vernon to visit Mrs. Charles R. Keyes and Dr. J. Harold Ennis. In Iowa City they made plans for the Fall Meeting with Dr. Stout and Dr. Fisher of the State University of Iowa. On their return trip, they visited the Davenport Public Museum to look over the very fine Anthropological collections there and to meet the new Director, Mr. Lawton Miller. Mr. Miller, a native of Utah, was an employee of the National Park Service at Yellowstone National Park during the past summer. He comes to the Davenport Museum with good experience behind him.

We have received an interesting letter from Mr. Wesley Hurt, Director of the Museum at the University of South Dakota. Mr. Hurt proposes that the Iowa Archeological Society exchange publications with the Museum at the University of South Dakota. To your Secretary-Treasurer, this seems to be a good idea. The Society should build up a library for the use of its members. We might mention that Mr. Hurt has recently finished a very interesting publication called "A Report of the Investigation of the Swanson Site, 39Br16, Brule County, South Dakota", Archaeological Studies, Circular No. 3. Members of the Iowa Archeological Society from the area around Cherokee and Curlew will see much in the way of similarity between the pottery illustrated by Mr. Hurt in this publication and pottery from the Mill Creek sites of Northeast Iowa. Information concerning purchase of this publication can be obtained by writing Mr. Wesley R. Hurt, Jr., University of South Dakota, Vermillion, South Dakota.

When we were in Decorah earlier this month we met Mr. John Hodgson. Mr. Hodgson has several hobbies which are quite interesting. He does lapidary work, is an antique collector and is an amateur archeologist. While most archeologists don't generally know the cause of death of the Indians they excavate, Mr. Hodgson is sure of the cause of death of one Indian. In a gravel pit south of Decorah he saw some bones sticking out of a bank. When he investigated, he found it to be a skull, and upon removing it from the bank he found the reason for the Indian's demise clearly indicated for him. In the occipital part of the skull was embedded a small triangular

arrow point. We think you will all agree that the cause of death was pretty evident from this.

NEW PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST TO THE MEMBERS OF THE IOWA ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The August issue of the Palimpsest, published by the Iowa State Historical Society contained an interesting collection of articles by the late Dr. Charles R. Keyes. For members of the Society who want to familiarize themselves with the basic data on Iowa Archeology, these articles are excellent. In interesting prose, they present the picture of prehistoric life in Iowa. We recommend this issue of the Palimpsest to our members enthusiastically. It may be obtained from the State Historical Society, Iowa City, Iowa for the small sum of 15 cents, and is worth several times that amount.

Memoir No. 8 of the Society for American Archaeology is off the press. This publication, entitled, "Radiocarbon Dating", assembled by Frederick Johnson, is one that we have been awaiting for some time. It contains a complete table of the Radiocarbon dates obtained from the Institute of Nuclear Studies, University of Chicago on samples from New World and Old World archeological sites and New and Old World geological stations. The dates alone are interesting, but the short accompanying articles, which evaluate the worth of the dates and interpret their meaning in terms of prehistory, are valuable additions to the chart. These articles are written by such men as Frank H. H. Roberts, Jr., Robert F. Heizer, James B. Griffin, and others. This publication may be obtained for 1.50 by writing to Mr. George Will, Treasurer, Society for American Archaeology, 322 4th, Bismark, North Dakota.

LETTER FROM MRS. ADDISON PARKER, DES MOINES

Yesterday we received a very fine letter from Mrs. Addison Parker of Des Moines. Mrs. Parker, a member of the Iowa Natural Resources Council, writes:

"Congratulations upon your first publication....."

"It is interesting throughout and I feel sure that through its pages there will be an increasing interest in the great project there which Dr. Kennedy and you and the staff are fostering."

This we feel is high praise. Such letters are an encouragement to us. We hope the rest of you find the Newsletter to be as worthwhile as Mrs. Parker has. Write and let us know what you think; and when you write, give us news. We want to tell about all of you in this Newsletter. When you have any thought or any suggestions for improvement, your Editor-Secretary-Treasurer will lend a willing and sympathetic ear. Write to him today.

NEW MEMBERS THIS MONTH

We want to thank you for your willing support and for your aid in supplying the names of interested people for us to contact. This month saw the addition of several new members to the Iowa Archeological Society. We hope that your efforts to add members continue throughout the coming month. The new members are as follows:

Grover S. Bechtel, Monona; Elsie Datisman, Dubuque; Art Dempsey, Oelwein; Norman E. Erickson, Cedar Rapids; George E. Fay, Joplin, Missouri; J. Curtis Frymoyer, Wilton Junction; Don R. Hankens, Cherokee; H. T. Lambert, Sioux City; Lothar P. Witteborg, Tallahassee, Florida.

To all of you we extend our welcome, and our thanks for your interest and support. We hope you find the Iowa Archeological Society an interesting and friendly organization. Whenever you have any news or suggestions, write to your Secretary-Treasurer, or any of the other officers; and if you know anyone in your community who is interested in archeology, tell him about us and put us in touch with him. You

may obtain membership blanks and information about the Society from the Secretary-Treasurer. If you know of anyone you would like to have join us, write and ask for membership blanks and information and you may present it to him yourself.

A WORD ABOUT THE JOURNAL

The date when the first issue of the Journal of the Iowa Archeological Society will be out has been postponed. We have had difficulty getting our first articles for publication at the correct time, partially due to a lack of exact knowledge of just where the Journal would be printed. The Editor feels safe in saying, however, that the Journal will be available perhaps a little before, but no later than, the date of the Fall Meeting. Goodbye for the present and we will see you again next month.