



NEW EDITOR

This issue of the Newsletter marks the first editorial task of your new editor, Dr. Reynold J. Ruppé. Henceforth, any material submitted for the Newsletter or Journal should be addressed to me at the State University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa. Mr. Wilfred D. Logan had to resign as editor because of the press of work he faces in writing his doctoral dissertation. Speaking on behalf of the Society, I know we all wish him lots of luck and "good writing." The subject of his dissertation is the Woodland cultures of eastern Iowa, and we look forward to an article by him in the Journal on this interesting aspect of Iowa archaeology.

ANNUAL BUSINESS MEETING

The fourth annual business meeting of the Society was held on Sunday, May 2, 1954 at the Des Moines Art Center in Des Moines. The people at the Art Center deserve our thanks for their kindness and hospitality. Dr. Alton K. Fisher, Iowa City, presided and introduced the speakers. As retiring president, Dr. Fisher made a few remarks about the importance of archaeological work in Iowa and stressed the role of the Society members in the work. He pointed out that it was often through the efforts of amateurs that finds of considerable importance are made. The amateur who is primarily interested in a collection of artifacts (relics) can be extremely helpful to the professional archaeologist if he catalogs his material and can tell the archaeologist where the relic came from. Many fine collections are almost worthless to the scientist because the provenience (exact location in the earth) of the objects is unknown.

SUMMER ARCHAEOLOGY AT S. U. I.

Your editor was the next speaker on the program. He discussed the plans for a summer school program of archaeology at the State University of Iowa. Due to the present tight budgetary restrictions, the University was unable to completely finance the project so a committee was formed to raise the necessary additional funds to initiate an archaeological program. I am happy to report that several hundred dollars have already been donated.

The committee established the Charles R. Keyes Memorial Fund For Archaeological Research and specified that all sums collected were to be used in their entirety for the furtherance of archaeological research in Iowa. The committee thought that such a fund would be a fitting memorial to Dr. Keyes who freely gave so much of his time and energy to the cause of a scientific study of Iowa archaeology. Any member or interested person who feels he would like to contribute to this fund is cordially invited to participate. (Such contributions are deductible in income tax returns.)

Members of the committee are Dr. Alton K. Fisher, Dr. David B. Stout, Dr. Emory D. Warner, Mr. Fred W. Kent, Dr. Robert T. Tidrick and your editor.

The archaeological investigation will be conducted as a course in the Summer Session of the State University of Iowa and will be directed by your editor. The course can be taken for credit or for no credit and is open to high school students who have completed their graduation as well as to interested adults who are not students. The number of people allowed in the course will have to remain fairly small so that proper direction can be maintained and each member can have the maximum amount of experience in all aspects of archaeological work and study. Anyone interested in this course should notify the editor as soon as possible.

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Students will live on the campus in the University dormitories or in qualified private rooming houses in Iowa City. Members of the project will commute daily to the excavations which are all close to Iowa City.

Prior to actual excavation there will be an intensive seminar on archaeological techniques and Iowa archaeology. After this preliminary study the group will begin the excavation of the sites. Students will participate in all phases of archaeology such as mapping the sites, planning the type of excavation, note taking, photography and processing the material in the laboratory. The final report of the completed research will appear in our Journal.

The sites to be excavated are Hopewell Mounds, rock shelters along the Cedar River and a historic Indian village. These were chosen because a knowledge of them will assist general knowledge as well as several other projects which are now operating. Data from the mounds and rock shelters will assist study of the Keyes collections which are now being made by Wil Logan and your editor. It will also supply Mr. Logan with additional information for his dissertation. The information gained from digging the historic village will aid the study now being made of Mesquakie Indian culture.

ACTIVITIES OF THE NORTHWEST CHAPTER

Following the talk about summer plans, Mr. George Heikens, Spencer, spoke about the activities of the Northwest Chapter of the Iowa Archaeological Society. Although insisting that they were all amateurs, Mr. Heikens gave ample evidence that the Northwest Chapter and its members could well serve as a model for the rest of us. They have monthly meetings, social affairs and picnics at various sites as well as the more important items of conducting a serious program of locating all sites in the area on large maps and conducting a proper scientific excavation of a Mill Creek site under the direction of Mr. W. D. Frankforter. The Northwest Chapter is to be commended for its excellent showing.

WOODLAND CULTURES OF EASTERN IOWA

Mr. Wilfred D. Logan gave an illustrated slide lecture on the excavation of two Hopewell mounds at the Effigy Mounds National Monument. These were excavated by Mr. Paul Beaubien of the National Park Service in 1950 and a preliminary report was published in April, 1952 issue of the Journal. A complete report of the work appeared in the July, 1953 issue of American Antiquity. Mr. Logan prefaced his talk with an explanation of the Woodland pottery and projectile point sequence in Eastern Iowa. An interesting feature of the early Woodland material is the occurrence of the earliest ceramic type in the Middle West, Fayette Thick, in eastern Iowa.

PUBLICATION PLANS

Following Mr. Logan, your editor made a few statements about his plans for the Journal and the Newsletter. It was pointed out that we need manuscripts from the members of the Society for publication in the Journal. The fact that one is an amateur does not mean he has nothing of importance to say to us. The professional archaeologist must rely on the amateur to locate and report sites and to have collections of material which the amateur could write about. Don't forget that both Dr. Keyes and Ellison Orr started as amateurs and a long list of professional archaeologists who started as amateurs could be cited.

Coming issues of the Journal should be of great interest to the members because there will be site reports of actual Iowa archaeology as well as a very interesting report by Dr. Tidrick (Iowa City) on the detection of Iowa archaeological sites from the air. Dr. Tidrick also claims he is an amateur but his manuscript does not bear out this contention.

ELECTION OF OFFICERS

The election of officers was next on the program. Mr. George Heikens (Spencer) was elected President for the coming year. Mr. Heikens was somewhat appalled at first but we all pointed out that if he was going to do such a good job with the Northwest Chapter he had to expect to be invited to be president of the Society.

Mr. W. C. French (Grinnell) was re-elected Vice-President and Mr. Paul Rowe (Glenwood) was re-elected a member of the Board of Trustees. Dr. Fisher, by virtue of being retiring President automatically became a member of the board and will serve for three years.

New business was taken up and the editor was directed to contact other societies and scientific institutions to enter into exchange agreements so that our Journal would be circulated over the nation. The editor was also directed to print a list of the members of the Society. If anyone finds a mistake please notify our Secretary Treasurer, Mr. W. D. Frankforter, Sanford Museum, Cherokee, Iowa. We are all urged to make an effort to attract new members to the Society.

A proposal was made to have a committee make a survey to determine present ownership of sites now under the control of various federal and state agencies.

The suggestion was also made that a program committee be appointed to plan the Society meeting dates, places and activities.

The matter of changes in the Articles of Incorporation of the Iowa Archaeological Society was discussed but because the minor changes that are to be made are a matter for a lawyer, no action was taken pending expert advice on the subject.

The meeting was adjourned shortly after the election of officers.

NEW BUSINESS

A suggestion has recently been made that the members might like a "Question and Answer" column in the Newsletter. We feel that this is an excellent suggestion and, therefore, we are soliciting questions about Iowa archaeology from anyone who has been puzzled about this subject. Questions will be answered in the Newsletter in the order as they are received. It is possible that a number of questions might concern the same or related subjects. If this is the case we will write an article for the Journal and present the information in that way.

MESQUAKIE INDIANS

We would like to poll the membership on their interest in the Mesquakie Indians of Tama, Iowa. It would be possible for the editor to write an article on these people if the members expressed an interest. The editor and Mrs. Ruppe spent last

summer with the Mesquakies at Tama doing ethnological research under a cooperative project of the State University of Iowa and the University of Chicago. We had a wonderful time, made a number of good friends and obtained a great deal of information on Mesquakie culture.

1953-54
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