



Number 13

Iowa City, Iowa

September, 1954

The summer is almost over and it is time to think about our Fall Meeting. As previously announced, it will be held at the Effigy Mounds National Monument, McGregor, Iowa, on Sunday, October 10, 1954. We are looking for a large attendance and hope you can all attend. The program and other information will be found on page 6 of this Newsletter.

We are also enclosing a news release about the fall meeting on the last page in this issue. If each member will bring the news release to his local newspaper editor the Society can obtain an extensive publicity coverage over the state. Some of you may have to do some fast talking to convince your local editor that the item is newsworthy and we hope that you will succeed in placing the article. This matter is important to the Society; we need the publicity.

Your editor and Mrs. Ruppe have recently returned from a short vacation trip. We had a very pleasant visit in Glenwood with Mr. Paul Rowe and Mr. D. D. Davis and saw several interesting Glenwood sites as well as a lot of artifacts from the local sites. The collection of Mr. Rowe is outstanding. Not only does he have an extensive collection, but the artifacts are numbered and catalogued. In addition, Mr. Rowe followed the practice of making drawings and notes of his material and then sent the information to Dr. Keyes for his files. It is probably the best documented collection of Iowa artifacts in the state.

We did not have time to visit all the people we had planned on seeing but will make another trip there in the near future. The Glenwood area is not one that can be adequately seen in one day.

We drove from Glenwood to Cherokee to visit several of the Mill Creek sites. We were royally entertained by W. D. Frankforter and his charming wife Glea. Mr. and Mrs. Frankforter and Mr. Charles Smith of Cherokee and Mr. Earl Brewster of Sheldon showed us a number of Mill Creek and Oneota sites and a very fine collection of local material belonging to Mr. Nestor Stiles, also of Cherokee. The result was an extension of our Cherokee visit and a curtailment of a planned camping trip through northern Minnesota. We were happy to see the archaeological material, however, and in final analysis it seems that an archaeologist is never so happy as when he is indulging in archaeology of one sort or another. In support of this statement is the fact that while we were in Cherokee, Wil and Betty Logan and son Johnny arrived on a short holiday trip - also to look at the archaeological material. We talked archaeology far into the night.

The collection of Mr. Stiles is one of the best in the state. The quality which makes the collection so interesting and important is that Mr. Stiles has also numbered and catalogued his specimens and can tell the provenience (exact location in the site) of each piece. This feature is of utmost importance to the professional archaeologist who must know what kinds of artifacts are found together and where they were found. One specimen that attracted my attention was a perfectly fashioned Folsom Point. A full-size tracing of this point is reproduced on page 4. The prize specimens of Mr. Stiles' collection are a number of engraved Catlinite (pipestone) tablets that he found in an Oneota

site near Cherokee. These are thin slabs upon which are engraved outline drawings of animals and geometric figures. Buffalo, fox, fish and an astonishing plumed serpent are depicted with considerable skill. The tablets are important and it is hoped that a formal report can be published.

Mr. Rowe and Mr. Stiles exemplify the role that the amateur archaeologist and collector can play in the fascinating game of unraveling the past. Their interest and intelligent action have saved a large and important segment of the prehistory of Iowa for study. In addition, because they live in areas distant from the location of archaeologists in the state they have acted as agents of science, doing a job that would be difficult and expensive for us to accomplish. We know of several collections in Iowa that are properly documented and there are undoubtedly more that are unknown to us. It is our wish to have all the collections in the state documented and the notes in a central file so that the information will be available and the story of Iowa prehistory can someday be told.

SUMMER ACTIVITIES

The first archaeological field course of the State University of Iowa was concluded at the end of the regular University Summer Session. The laboratory work and analysis is still in progress and a report will appear when the study is completed. It is an immutable fact that for every hour spent in the field three or four hours must be spent studying the material collected and preparing a final report.

During the summer we partially excavated four mounds that are part of a group of nine Hopewell or Middle Woodland mounds, tested an Archaic village site and dug extensively in another village site of Middle Woodland affiliation. The Archaic site was almost sterile because of repeated plowing and relic collecting but we did obtain several specimens of a very early pottery type called Marion Thick.

We also traveled to Olin, Iowa to look at some animal bones and tools that were dredged out of a sand pit by the Jensen brothers of Olin and Anamosa. The Jensens have promised to save the material they find in the future and to notify us when they make new discoveries. The pit is in the flood plain of the Wapsipinicon River just north of Olin and we were notified of the finds by Mr. Michael Swenson of Olin. The material consisted of animal bones, fossilized logs and two large side-notched projectile points. A copper pin had also come from the same locality about a year ago. Unfortunately, the materials were taken from a spot about 35 feet under water so we could not see the exact position. Nor were we able to see the artifacts because Mr. Jensen, who found them, was out of town. The animal bones were identified by Mr. Frankforter as Bison, beaver and caribou. The caribou bones suggest a climate considerably colder than at present and hence the material must date at least three or four thousand years ago.

Dr. H. P. Field of Decorah visited our laboratory on the campus of the State University in August. He presented us with four complete Oneota skulls from burials that had been destroyed by road grading operations in Allamakee County. We were pleased to receive the skulls as they are excellent study material.

Members of the Northwest Chapter at Cherokee, under the direction of Mr. Frankforter, continued their excavation of a Mill Creek site three miles north of Cherokee. The group is excavating a five foot wide trench through the village and their techniques of laying out the site and digging by three inch levels are excellent. The work is progressing slowly because the group can only meet on weekends but so far they have excavated twenty feet of trench to a depth of

33 inches. The trench is in a rubbish heap and no house site has been encountered but the group has high hopes and they cannot proceed much further without encountering a house. They did find a burial, or at least a human skeleton, which represents an individual whose bones were tossed onto the trash pile. It probably represents a burial that was encountered by the Mill Creek people in the course of digging a house pit. It is the only human skeleton so far encountered in a Mill Creek site.

NEW MEMBERS

The Society's current membership drive has resulted in a number of new members. It is gratifying to see the number of libraries that have joined the Society. A library is a valuable member because its copies of our publications will have wide circulation. In this way we can acquaint many more people with our work and aims. The following is a list of the new members to date for 1954-1955:

Binkard, R. L., Royal, Iowa	Maurer, Maurice, Spencer
Brewster, Earl, Sheldon, Iowa	Meldvedt, Burton W., Paullina
Davis, Donald D., Glenwood	Morrison, Ted, Iowa City
Fife, Jim, Iowa City	Nelson, E. H., Forest City
Freriks, Dorothy, Cherokee	Sieber, Roy, Iowa City
Gamble, N. W., Pacific Junction	Smith, Robert, Battle Creek
Ives, Mrs. F. L., Clinton	Stout, Dr. David B., Iowa City
Ives, John C., Iowa City	Walton, Clyde, Iowa City

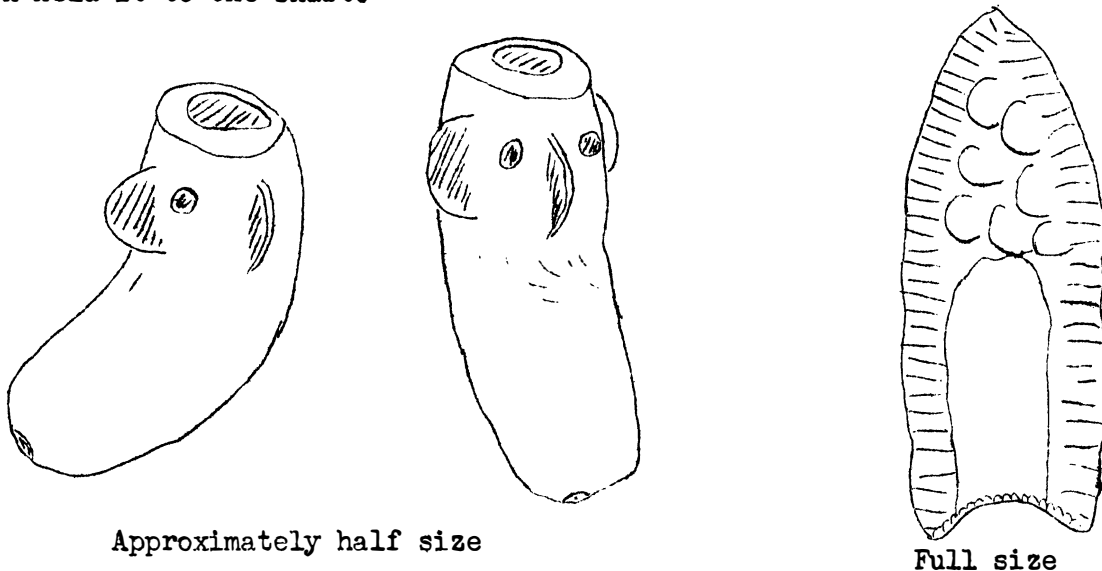
Burlington Free Public Library, Burlington
Cattermole Memorial Library, Fort Madison
Chariton Free Public Library, Chariton
Cherokee Public Library, Cherokee
Davenport Public Library, Davenport
Des Moines Public Library, Des Moines
Estherville Public Library, Estherville
Gladbrook Public Library, Gladbrook
Hartley Public Library, Hartley
H. J. Nugen Library, New London
Kirchner-French Memorial Library, Peterson
Marshalltown Public Library, Marshalltown
Matilda J. Gibson Memorial Library, Creston
Monona Public Library, Monona
Timberland Museum, Forest City
Waverly Public Library, Waverly

ARTIFACTS SUBMITTED BY MEMBERS

Mr. N. W. Gamble (Pacific Junction) kindly sent an interesting effigy pipe for examination. The pipe is made of fired clay and only roughly smoothed. The clay contains grit temper like that found in pottery of the Glenwood Culture and the pipe was found in a Glenwood house pit. The features are distinct but executed in a crude manner. The eyes are holes punched with a small stick and the ears and nose were formed by pinching out blobs of clay. The hole through the stem was formed by incorporating a slender stick in the clay, the stick then being burned out when the pipe was fired. The bowl was fashioned in the same manner but a wad of grass was used instead of a stick.

Effigy heads appear to be a trait of the Glenwood people. Many of their pots had lug handles shaped into the form of a human or animal head.

The Folsom point mentioned on page one and sketched below is made of blue-gray flint. It is well made with parallel flakes along the edges and the channel flakes on either side are distinct and deep. The base is ground, most likely to keep the sharp edges of the blade from wearing through the wrapping which held it to the shaft.



If any member has a point of this type in his collection your editor would greatly appreciate a chance to examine it and take some photographs and measurements. It is apparent that this point type has a wide distribution in Iowa and it is important that the distribution be mapped. It probably dates about 10,000 years ago.

PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST TO MEMBERS

Members interested primarily in the western part of the state will find that the following publications illustrate material similar to that of the Mill Creek, Glenwood and western Iowa Oneota cultures.

Strong, William Duncan

1935 An Introduction to Nebraska Archeology, Smithsonian Miscellaneous Collections, Volume 93, Number 10, Published by the Smithsonian Institution, Washington D. C.
(Contains a number of excellent photographs of artifacts and plans of houses, some of which are strikingly similar to western Iowa material)

Will, G. F. and Spinden, H. J.

1906 The Mandans: A Study of Their Culture, Archaeology and Language. Papers of the Peabody Museum, Volume III, Number 4, Cambridge, Massachusetts.
(This report and the following one by Will and Hyde are of interest in view of the claim often advanced that Mill Creek remains are ancestral Mandan.)

Will, George F. and Hyde, George E.

1917 Corn Among the Indians of the Upper Missouri, Little
Histories of North American Indians, Number 5, The William
Harvey Miner Co., Inc., St. Louis, Mo.

The following title has general state-wide interest despite the fact that it concerns Wisconsin. The prehistoric cultures it pictures and describes are also found in Iowa with the exception of the Middle Mississippi Aztalan Culture and the Old Copper Culture.

Ritzenthaler, Robert E.

1953 Prehistoric Indians of Wisconsin, Popular Science Handbook
Series No. 4, Milwaukee Public Museum, Milwaukee, Wisconsin

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ANNUAL FALL MEETING

The program of the fall meeting will be found on the next page. For the benefit of those members who plan on staying overnight in McGregor, Mr. Logan has obtained a list of motels and hotels together with their prices. Mr. Logan warns that reservations should be made as early as possible because other affairs are being held in Prairie du Chien that weekend and the overflow of people will come across the river for accommodations.

The accommodations in McGregor include:

Yount's Motel, about \$5.00 per couple.

McGregor Motel, about \$5.00 per couple

Mounds Motel, same price as others

Scenic Hotel, Room without bath - \$2.00, with bath - \$3.25

Make your reservations early.

PROGRAM
ANNUAL FALL MEETING OF THE
IOWA ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
Sunday, October 10, 1954

at

Effigy Mounds National Monument, McGregor, Iowa

Saturday Evening, October 9, 1954, 8:00 P.M.

Meeting of the Trustees and Officers. Place to be arranged.

Sunday Morning, 9:30 - 12:00

Registration

Monument Headquarters, Effigy Mounds National Monument

Guided tours of the Monument

Sunday Noon

Picnic lunch at the Monument. Box type lunches should be brought because there are no facilities for fires.

Members and friends will leave for the meeting room from the picnic area.

Sunday Afternoon, 2:00 P.M.

PAPERS

Chairman, George A. Heikens, President of the Iowa
Archeological Society

Welcome, Mr. Pete Berrett, Superintendent,
Effigy Mounds National Monument

Results of the 1954 field season of archaeology in Wisconsin
Mr. Warren L. Wittry, Wisconsin State Historical Society

Summary of the 1954 field season of archaeology in Iowa.
Dr. Reynold J. Ruppe, State University of Iowa

New Glimpses of an Old World
Dr. Gerald F. Else, State University of Iowa

NEWS RELEASE

The annual Fall Meeting of the Iowa Archeological Society will be held at Effigy Mounds National Monument, McGregor, Iowa, on Sunday, October 10, 1954. A picnic lunch is planned at the Monument and will be followed by a presentation of papers by several specialists in archeology. The public is cordially invited to attend.

The meeting will be presided over by Mr. George Heikens of Spencer, Iowa, President of the Society. A welcome address will be delivered by Mr. Pete Berrett, Superintendent of the National Monument. Mr. Warren L. Wittry, Curator of Archaeology for the Wisconsin State Historical Society, will give a summary of the results of the 1954 season of archaeological work in Wisconsin.

Dr. Reynold J. Ruppe of the Department of Sociology and Anthropology, State University of Iowa will summarize the work in archaeology conducted by the State University of Iowa this summer. Professor Gerald F. Else, Head of the State University of Iowa Classics Department, will discuss new developments in the archeology of ancient Rome and Italy.