

NEWSLETTER
OF THE
IOWA ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Number 14

Iowa City, Iowa

April 1955

This issue of the Newsletter concerns the annual meeting of the Iowa Archeological Society to be held in Ames, Sunday May 15, 1955. The Newsletter has been inactive for several months due to the fact that there has not been sufficient material to fill an issue. Because there is a shortage of manuscripts your editor was forced to concentrate on the Journal with the hope of bringing it up to date. That hope will soon be realized. The April 1954 issue is now at the printing office and enough material is on hand to do the July and October 1955 issues before June 1955. We are still behind schedule but the gap is closing.

Until the Journal is back on schedule the Newsletter will be published only for special purposes such as notification of the annual meeting. The items of local interest that normally would go into the Newsletter will be placed in the editor's feature "Archaeological Chats."

There is good news for the Iowa Archeological Society in the current list of members. We now have 140 members, the largest list in our history. Your officers are still aiming for 200 members because when that figure is reached we will be eligible for a special postal rate and the editor will be spared the chore of licking stamps to mail the Journal. The major reason for a greater membership, of course, is the desire on our part to have as many interested amateur archaeologists as possible organized over the state so that we can be informed of new discoveries and also learn about specific local situations through correspondence with the members. This is the major scientific reason for the Society in the first place. Another and equally important virtue of the Society is the fact that it serves as a center for the dissemination of knowledge about Iowa archaeology both for the members in Iowa and for the professionals in other states. In this respect we are unique; there is no other way to obtain that information.

We have a varied and interesting program scheduled for the Ames meeting. The meeting will take place at the Iowa State College Memorial Union. It was moved and voted at the fall meeting at McGregor last October to hold just one annual meeting and to hold it at Ames on the third Sunday in May of each year. We chose Ames for its central location and for the excellent facilities of meeting rooms and dining rooms.

The program will include reports by the Secretary-Treasurer and the editor on the current position of the Society. Your

editor will also report on the plans for summer archaeology to be conducted by the State University of Iowa and the Sanford Museum. The highlight of the program will be the address by Dr. E. Mott Davis of the University of Nebraska on "Early Man Sites in Nebraska and Their Bearing on the General Early Man Problem." We will learn a great deal of interest and importance about Iowa archaeology from this talk because the early hunters of America did not know of our modern political boundaries and so roamed happily over state borders. It is a strange fact that we often proceed in our study of archaeology as if state borders were immutable facts of geography. Thus we speak of the effigy mounds of Iowa or Wisconsin as if they were in some way different from each other, when actually they are both part of a specific culture complex found over the region where Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin and Illinois join or are close. The same problem exists in western Iowa where a widespread culture type, the Upper Mississippian, is found throughout the Missouri River valley. We have the Glenwood culture, Nebraska has the Nebraska culture but both appear to be different state names for the same or similar manifestations.

Professor Breckenridge who is in charge of local arrangements at Ames has made the suggestion that members should be invited to bring their collections for display. Anyone who desires to do so will find an appreciative audience. Such displays give other collectors an opportunity to see what their colleagues have and it gives those of us who are professionals a chance to see some of the material from over the state. We still know so little about Iowa archaeology that constant surprises occur when local collections are examined. Folsom points are a good example. We have been agreeably surprised at the large number of Folsoms that exist in collections, many of which have clear and undoubted provenience. Probably no county in Iowa lacks these projectile points but until recently this fact was unknown to specialists in Early Man studies. It is in matters of this kind that the Iowa Archeological Society, through the cooperation of its members, can make a permanent contribution to the knowledge of American archaeology. It is for this reason that we urge our fellow members to communicate with us about their collections and the knowledge they possess of local sites. The few of us who are professionals will never be able to study adequately the entire state without the assistance of amateur archaeologists.

A news release about the annual meeting will be found on the last page. Each member is urged to take it to his local newspaper and ask that it be printed. We need constant publicity to achieve recognition in the state and to educate Iowans to the fact that an organization exists which should be notified when new finds occur.

PROGRAM
ANNUAL MEETING OF THE
IOWA ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
Sunday, May 15, 1955

at

Iowa State College, Amcs, Iowa

Sunday Morning 10:00 - 12:00

Registration

Memorial Union Main Lobby

Meeting of Trustees and Officers

Room arranged

Sunday Noon

Dinner - Members will go through the cafeteria in the Union
and dine in the adjacent "Pine Room."

Sunday Afternoon 2:00 in the Pine Room

PAPERS

Chairman: Mr. George A. Heikens, Sr.
President, Iowa Archeological Society

Welcome: Professor R. W. Breckenridge
Iowa State College

Plans for a Summer Program of Archaeology
Dr. Reynold J. Ruppe
State University of Iowa

Early Man Sites in Nebraska and Their Bearing on the General
Early Man Problem

Dr. E. Mott Davis
University of Nebraska

NEWS RELEASE

The annual Spring Meeting of the Iowa Archeological Society will be held at the Memorial Union, Iowa State College, Ames on Sunday, May 15, 1955. Members will have dinner together in the Pine Room of the Union cafeteria. The public is cordially invited to attend.

Mr. George A. Heikens, Sr. of Spencer, President of the Iowa Archeological Society is chairman of the meeting. A welcome address will be delivered by Professor R. W. Breckenridge, Iowa State College. The feature address will be given by Dr. E. Mott Davis, University of Nebraska archaeologist on Early Man Sites in the Nebraska - Iowa Area.

Dr. Reynold J. Rupne, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, State University of Iowa will tell plans for the 1955 University Summer Field Course in Iowa Archaeology. A general business meeting will follow. At the close of the meeting members will have an opportunity to discuss and show their collections of Iowa artifacts.