



# NEWSLETTER

Number 23

Iowa City, Iowa

November 1957

## FUNDS FOR ARCHEOLOGICAL RESEARCH

The happiest piece of news to come our way in a long time is a recent communication from the Old Gold Development Fund, the fund raising organization of the alumni of the State University of Iowa. The letter notified your editor that the Fund had allocated an initial sum of \$500.00 to support archeological research at the university. It is a pleasure to thank publicly the alumnus group for its generosity. The money has made it possible for us to institute a number of trips over the state to study local situations and inspect collections. Several field trips on weekends will also result. The field trip to the Malone II Rockshelter reported in this issue was financed by the fund. In addition, we have purchased some desperately needed equipment; a camera being the most important of these acquisitions. The camera will enable us to make close-up photographs of specimens in collections and will be an important aid in our basic study of the distribution of prehistoric cultures in Iowa.

## ARCHEOLOGICAL MEETINGS

Your editor attended the annual Midwest Archeological Conference at Beloit College, Beloit, Wisconsin in October. More than twenty-five archeologists from the Middle West were present to discuss their field work and problems common to all of us. We spent a considerable period of time discussing the Oneota cultures but came to the conclusion that a great deal more work must be done before we will be able to understand this highly important and interesting manifestation in any detail. Several archeologists from Missouri attended the meeting and presented an interesting summary of the archeology of their state. The information was summarized on a chart which makes the prehistory of Missouri relatively clear. It gave us several ideas for a similar scheme which we will compile this fall.

An important attribute of such a chart is the clear picture it gives about our lack of knowledge of various time periods and areas. This means that the areas most in need of some investigation stand out like the proverbial sore thumb and thus impel someone to study the situation. When we complete the chart it will be published in the Newsletter with an invitation to members of the Iowa Archeological Society to send comments and corrections for their local areas.

The annual Plains Conference will be held at Lincoln, Nebraska over the Thanksgiving weekend as usual. IAS members from western Iowa might enjoy attending the conference. The meetings will take place in the laboratories of the Department of Anthropology, University of Nebraska, in Burnett Hall and amateur archeologists are welcome. From past experience we can assure everyone that the meetings will be excellent and many IAS members will attend.

### ARCHEOLOGICAL DISPLAYS

For the second year the students enrolled in research courses at the Archeology Laboratory at SUI prepared an exhibit of archeological material for the annual Homecoming Open House of the University. The exhibit this year centered on the Glenwood Culture and was prepared by Adrian Anderson with help from all of us in the lab. Adrian's wife, Barbara, did the excellent art work which contributed greatly to the success of the display. The material was exhibited in front of a backdrop painting depicting the village group 13 ML 12 described by Adrian in the last Newsletter. A scale model of a Glenwood lodge was also on exhibition along with a representative sample of stone and bone tools and reconstructed pottery vessels. From the number of people who stopped to look at the exhibit and read the labels we conclude that the effort was a success. It is always frustrating to us, however, that the state members do not have the opportunity to view these displays. We are seriously considering the possibility of an exhibit at the next annual IAS meeting. The major difficulty will be met in the problem of transportation of the material to the meeting. We will keep you informed of the progress of this idea.

### NEW PUBLICATIONS

Wormington, H. M.  
1957 Ancient Man in North America, Denver Museum of Natural History, Popular Series No. 4, Fourth Edition, Denver, Colorado

The latest edition of Ancient Man In North America by Marie Wormington has just been received and it surpasses our expectations. This is the fourth revision of Dr. Wormington's extremely popular summarization of Early Man and it contains much material that is completely new. A feature that will please many people, amateur and professional alike, is a series of large drawings at the end of the book illustrating the more important Early Man projectile points. Included with each type is a description with references to where it is discussed in the text. Other sections of interest include chapters on the Ice Age, methods of dating and peopling of the New World.

The major portion of the book is devoted to an areal survey of Early Man sites in North America with a description of the associated artifacts. The Turin find is summarized in a section devoted to skeletal remains of the early inhabitants of the continent. This is a publication that should be on everyone's bookshelf. It can be obtained by writing to the Denver Museum of Natural History, Denver, Colo. Cost is \$3.62 with paper cover or \$5.12 with cloth cover.

Other publications of interest include the following:

Johnson, Frederick, James Arnold, and Richard F. Flint  
1956 Radio Carbon Dating. Science, Vol. 125, No. 3241, pp. 240-2.

Shepard, Anna O.  
1956 Ceramics for the Archaeologist. Carnegie Institution of Washington, Publi. No. 609.

Chapman, Carl H., et al.  
1957 A Report of Progress - Archaeological Research by the University of Missouri 1955-1956. Special Publication, Missouri Archaeological Society.

McKern, W. C. and Robert E. Ritzenthaler  
1956 Some Varieties of Grooved Axes in the Woodland Area. Wisconsin Archeologist, Vol. 37, No. 2, pp. 46-9.

Rowe, Chandler W.  
1956 The Effigy Mound Culture of Wisconsin. Milwaukee Public Museum Publications in Anthropology, Vol. 3.

#### THE NEWSLETTER IN 1957

This issue of the Newsletter marks the end of our publishing in 1957. Looking back on the six issues (one was a double issue) we are struck by the size of the production, despite the lack of material from members. Forty-one pages have been written, or sketched, mostly devoted to the Glenwood Culture and the Malone II Rockshelter. Only one page was submitted directly or indirectly by state members; the remainder was written by us or the students in the Archeology Laboratory at the State University of Iowa. We have gleaned several pages of material from the Newsletter of the Northwest Chapter of the IAS and only the fact that this issue appears before the November issue of the NWIAS militates against more pages. We have heard from several members that they appreciate the larger issues, more pictures and greater regularity that we have achieved. This is gratifying but we regret the fact that we have not been able to write about more areas in the state. Until members contribute items about their local sites and artifacts this one-sided coverage must continue. At this point we must voice our thanks to the students (Henning, Anderson and Fugle) who have devoted so much time to writing articles for us. We hope that next year the issues will be larger and contain more illustrations but we must have more cooperation to achieve the hope. Please make a New Year's resolution to send your editor news of your finds and activities.

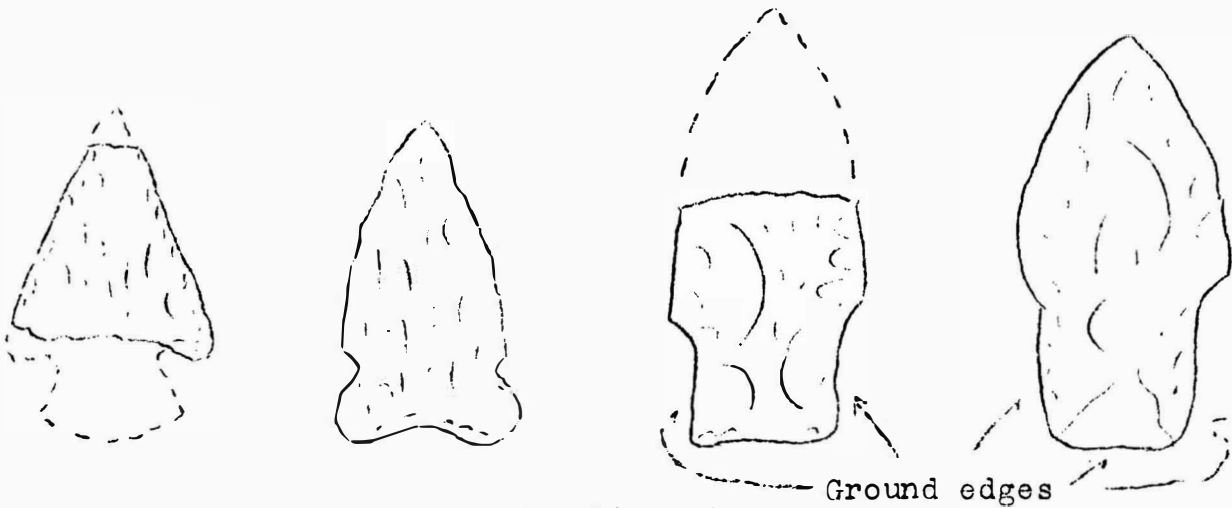
## AN OCCURANCE OF MARION THICK POTTERY IN IOWA

During the summer of 1954 the SUI field party visited a site on the Cedar River near Rochester, Iowa. We were directed there by an entry in the notes of Dr. C. R. Keyes. The notes are on file in the offices of the Iowa State Historical Society and were released to us for study by Dr. William J. Peterson, Superintendent of the society. We also had an opportunity to study the Society's small collection of pottery and stone tools collected by Dr. Keyes at this site.

The site is located on a high sand bluff overlooking the Cedar River. The artifacts found by us were a few potsherds, large numbers of stone chips and a few fragmentary stone tools. Test pits proved that the site had no depth and we assume that the sand has been removed from beneath the artifacts by wind action so that the old soil lines and cultural stain have been destroyed. The site has been visited by relic collectors for more than fifty years and our meagre finds represent the leavings. Fortunately, however, we have the small collection of Dr. Keyes to add to our knowledge of the site. In addition, Mr. Harry G. Carl, a member of the IAS has a small collection which he kindly sent to the laboratory for study. It is all too clear from our tiny sample that without the other two collections this valuable site would have been lost to us. It is a timely illustration of the value of documented collections and of the necessity that these collections be known to the professionals.

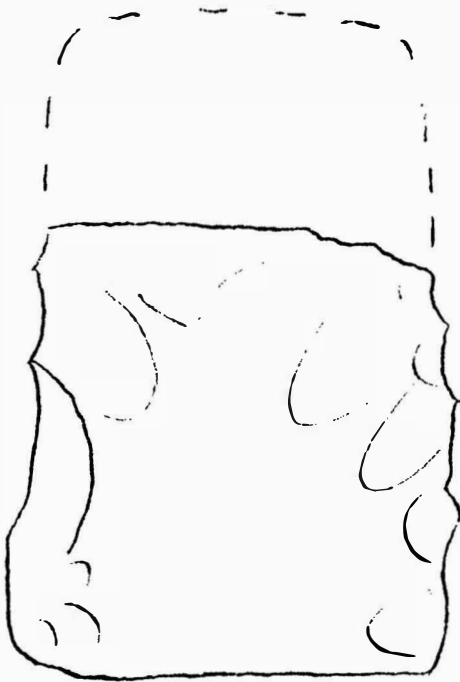
Several interesting facts emerge when the three lots of artifacts are examined. The stone tools are of Late Archaic and Early Woodland type. (See illustrations on following page) The pottery represents several different types but the most common is a thick, crude ware with fabric-impressed interiors. We have long suspected that this is Marion Thick, an early type in Illinois, and our ideas were confirmed at the Beloit meeting. Drs. David A. Baerreis and Albert C. Spaulding examined the sherds and confirmed the identification. The reader is cautioned to remember, however, that due to the nature of the site there is no necessary correlation of the artifacts with the pottery, although that is the conclusion we hold at the moment.

In any event, the find is of interest as Marion Thick is the earliest known ceramic type in the Upper Mississippi Valley and may date close to 1000 B. C. Our former editor, Mr. Wilfred Logan, reported that he found a few sherds of Marion Thick in northeastern Iowa. We have also seen sherds from Henry County, along the Skunk River, that might be Marion Thick but as they are small and strongly weathered a positive identification cannot be made. It seems likely that we should find more sites in eastern Iowa that will produce an association of Marion Thick sherds and Late Archaic-Early Woodland projectile points. Members who suspect that they know of such sites are invited to communicate with us on the subject.

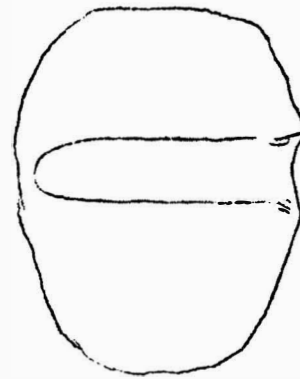


Projectile Points

Ground edges



Chopper



3/4 Grooved Axe

STONE TOOLS FROM THE MARION THICK SITE

Drawings are full size

## MALONE II ROCKSHELTER REVISITED

Dale R. Henning

Malone II rockshelter continues to hold the interest of those who have worked at the site. On October 14, 1957, a crew composed of R. J. Ruppe, Chuck and Carol O'Neal, Adrian and Barbara Anderson, Pat Wolfe, Hester Davis, Jan Runde, Jim Scholtz, Bob Eischen and Dale Henning left Iowa City bound for a campsite near the shelter. The camping area was chosen and permission for use obtained by Dr. H. P. Field and Darrell Henning of Decorah. The selected location had plenty of space for our several cars, tents and equipment, gave ample privacy, and was near a ready supply of wood for the evening fires.

It was impossible to reach the site without wading Bear Creek, which, it was agreed, was not frozen only because of the swift current. In an effort to stay out of the icy water, the O'Neals carried an old door to the ford in the hope that it would either float them or could be placed on rocks as a rudimentary bridge. On Chuck's maiden voyage the door sank to the bottom (up to his knees) and he dropped a dry shoe in the water. None got across without a chilling walk but most were able to carry equipment and dry shoes without mishap.

Progress in the shelter was satisfactory; two squares were excavated by six members of the crew and the remainder assisted in the completion of the mapping operations under direction of Dr. Ruppe. The excavation crew removed three inch levels with trowels and all dirt was sifted. They reached the 93" level in a square at the mouth of the rockshelter and the 36" level in a square near the center during the two days. A stratigraphic map showing color changes, soil lines and features which were visible on two walls was completed on Sunday while excavation was continued. A hearth was discovered at 93" but could not be excavated due to lack of time. The hearth extends into another square which will be excavated to determine the extent of the fired area and recover any artifacts which could be of value in analysis of the lower level.

Artifacts were scarce; the upper levels yielded shell-tempered potsherds, bits of charred corn, flint flakes and two small pieces of rolled copper. One of these was a tubular bead  $\frac{3}{8}$ " long, the other is a piece of an ear ornament similar to a type reported by Orr. The upper level is the area from surface to 30" and can be assigned to the Oneota complex. In the lowest levels, 78" to 93", the sherds were grit-tempered and generally over  $\frac{1}{4}$ " thick, but only a few were found. These were all Woodland sherds.

By 2:30 Sunday afternoon the creek had been crossed but not forgotten. Barbara's memories should be particularly vivid since in the course of making a mad dash for a poorly-thrown shoe she slipped and sat in the icy stream. The equipment was rapidly loaded, the camp dismantled and campsite cleaned, and the three cars set off for Decorah and dinner served by Mrs. B. T. Henning. All members are

agreed that weekend expeditions are certainly enjoyable, as well as being interesting and informative.

Funds generously supplied by the Old Gold Development Fund were used to partially finance the trip. Crew members divided the cost of food and supplied the camping equipment. We all feel that the Old Gold Development Fund money is going to make possible a substantial increase in our knowledge about Iowa archaeology.