



NEWSLETTER

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REPORT OF THE ANNUAL MEETING

The Eighty Annual Meeting of the Iowa Archeological Society was held at Iowa State College, Ames, Iowa, on Sunday, May 25, 1958. Fifty-six members attended and a good time was had by all. The following were elected to office for the coming year: Jim Pilgrim, Clinton, Iowa is our new President; Paul Kline is Vice President; D.D. Davis and Joe Beals were elected Trustee for two years; and R.W. Breckenridge Trustee for one year.

PROGRESS REPORT ON THE 1958 UNIVERSITY DIG

The fourth SUI Summer Session of archaeological excavation is now in progress at Toolesboro, Iowa. Fifteen students, a cook and your editor as Director have established camp in a four-room schoolhouse at Toolesboro. In addition to the SUI students we have one each from Grinnell College, Iowa State Teachers College, and Wellesley College, Mass. The dig was financed by the Old Gold Development Fund, the fund-raising organization of SUI alumnis. We are indebted to the Old Gold Fund for making this trip possible.

The site we are excavating is a Woodland village (13LA2) situated on the Earl Smith farm, on the bluff overlooking the Iowa River, the Mississippi River, and Lake Odessa. It was originally thought that it was a Hopewell village, but that assumption is probably wrong. We have uncovered a late Middle Woodland level, an early Middle Woodland level, and an Early Woodland level. Artifacts are scarce, but what we have recovered is highly interesting. Much of the Early Woodland pottery is Marion Thick, the earliest pottery type in the Middle West.

To date we have uncovered eighteen storage pits but they are free of bone and contain very little material. No postmolds have been found, and most surprising, no firepits have turned up. The site is undeniably a village but perhaps due to location on the edge of the bluff the trash was thrown down the slope. Most of the artifacts are stone tools, some of which are illustrated in Figure 1. Pottery is not abundant but enough has been found to assign tentative dates to the manifestations.

SURFACE COLLECTIONS

To date we have lost half of our time in the field because of rain. Most of the laboratory work is completed but day after day of scrubbing stone tools and pottery is tiresome so we have been surface collecting at several large and important sites in the area. The artifacts collected have been interesting and are an important addition to our laboratory study collection.

13 DM 1 is an extensive Hopewell village site near Kingston in Des Moines County. There is a group of 34 burial mounds in the vicinity and it is our assumption that the mounds and site are related. Except for a late gloss of Oneota artifacts, the material is all assignable to the Middle Woodland Period. Potsherds are more scarce than we would like but we have found enough rim sherds to assign the site to the Middle Woodland. Stone tools exhibit a wide range of types and styles but this is expectable for the Woodland horizon.

13 LA 1 is a large Oneota site in Louisa County. Several days have been spent on the site and the number of artifacts recovered is high. It conforms to the standard range of eastern Oneota material (the Orr Focus) and is valuable for the fact that our knowledge of this interesting late prehistoric archaeological manifestation is increased.

13 LA 3 is the most interesting of the sites we have surveyed. It is located on the shore of Lake Odessa and contains an enormous range of material. Stone tools from the Early and Middle Woodland Periods are common and pottery includes most of the types known in the Upper Mississippi Valley for the Early and Middle Woodland Periods. There are also a number of Early Man and Archaic Period projectile points in the collection but we are not yet certain of their provenience.

13 LA 12 is a Hopewell site near Grandview, Iowa. A burial mound was bulldozed to level a field and a number of artifacts were recovered. Elsewhere in the field the farmer found large numbers of Hopewell stone tools and pottery. Some of the objects are illustrated in Figures 2 and 3. Figure 2

~~shows the outlines of three copper axes found in the mound.~~
Figure 3, a and b are hafted scrapers; and g is a platform pipe. The platform pipe is one of a pair of almost identical pipes, both of which are made of a light green-grey stone.

In addition to the surface collections we have made, a number of people have stopped by camp to show us artifacts they have collected. Figure 3, c, d, e, and f were collected from a farm near the north end of Lake Odessa. Figure 3, f is somewhat unusual for Iowa but is pread thinly from the Southwest to the Atlantic Coast.

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Kline, Paul D.; 711 Ave. A, Vinton, Iowa
Knight, Dr. H.H.; 123 S. Riverside Drive, Ames Ia.
Kullbom, Leonard; R.R. 1, Council Bluffs, Ia.
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Lindsley, George M.; Tripoli, Iowa
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Ross, Orlander, 406 W. Madison, Mt. Pleasant, Ia.
Rowe, Paul R.; Route #1, Glenwood, Iowa
Ruppo, Dr. Reynold J., Dept. of Anthropology, State University
Iowa City, Iowa
St. Louis Public Library; St. Louis, Missouri
St. Paul Institute; 51 University Avenue, St. Paul 3, Minn.
Sanford Museum, 117 East Willow St., Cherokee, Iowa
Schneberger, Dr. C.J.; 305-6 Howes Bldg., Clinton, Ia.
Scholtz, James A.; 2113 Avenue G, Fort Madison, Ia.
Sias, Erwin D.; c/o Sioux City Journal, Sioux City, Iowa
Simonsen, M.W.; Quimby, Iowa
Skewis, Dorothy; 303 Lake Ave., Storm Lake, Iowa
Slack, Dr. R.W., 2602 LeClaire St., Davenport, Ia.
Smith, C.H. D.; Cherokee, Iowa
Soday, Frank; 310 Walnut St., N.E., Decatur, Alabama
Speight, Glenn, West Branch, Iowa
Stoflet, Ada M.; 327 N. Capitol St., Iowa City, Iowa
Sutton, L.L.; Plymouth, Iowa
Tellier, George R.; 1321 3rd Ave. S., Fort Dodge, Iowa
Thomas Gilcrease Foundation; Tulsa, Oklahoma
Thomas, Otho S., 205 South Greene; Rock Rapids, Iowa
Thomas, R.J., 612 N. Shermann, Cherokee, Iowa
Thompson, A.C. (Tommy); 1105 Grand Ave., Spencer, Ia.
Timberland Museum, Arlo C. Johnson; Route 1, Box 195, Forest
City, Iowa
Uchytel, Edward; 806 7th Ave., Belle Plaine, Ia.
Whittlesey, W.E.; 1941 Farnum St., Davenport, Ia.
Wickliff, James; 3217 West St., Ames, Iowa
Wirth, J.E.; 457 Euclid, Cherokee, Iowa
Wisconsin, State Historical Society of; 816 State Street, Madison
6, Wisconsin

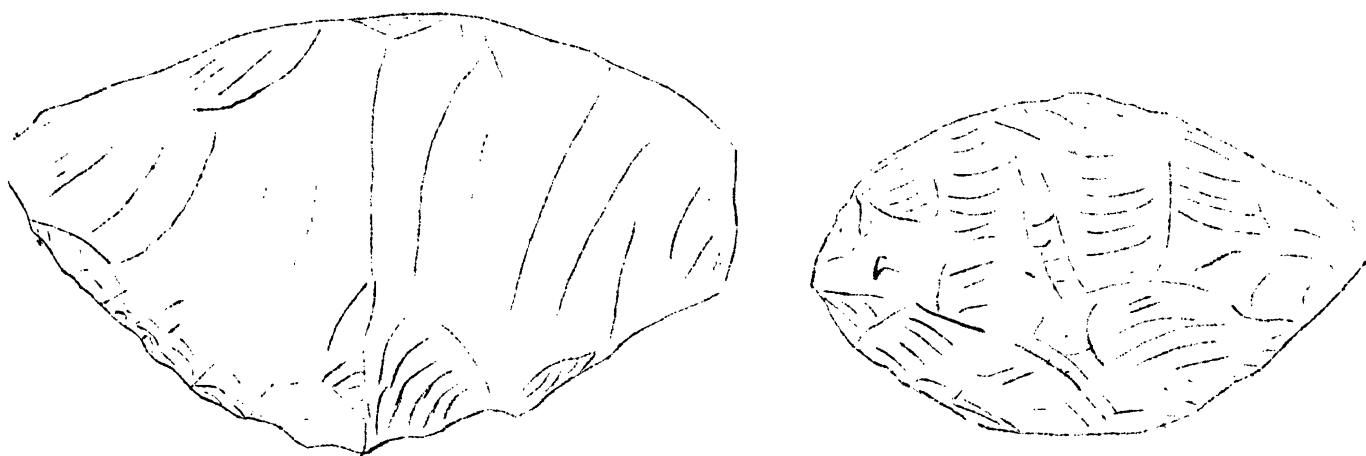
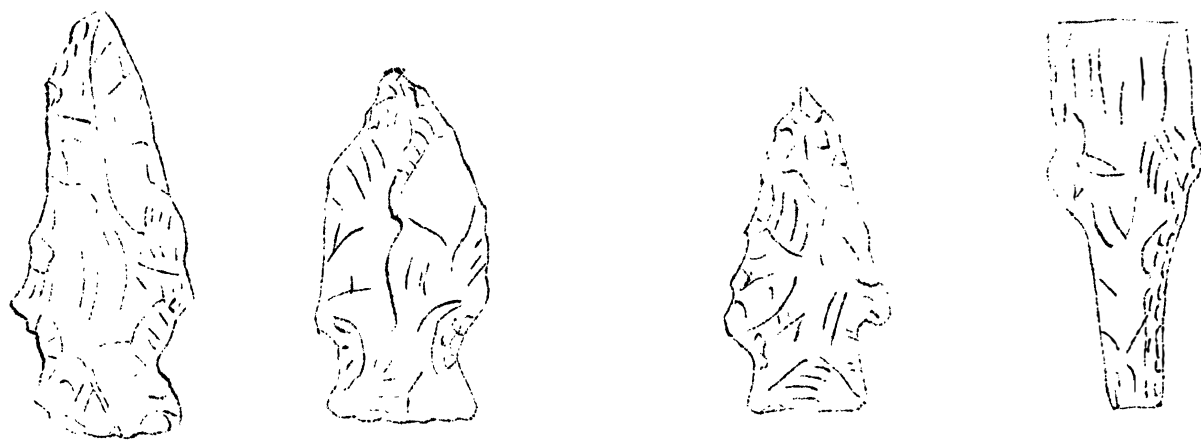


Figure 1

Stone Tools From The Smith Site, 13 LA 2

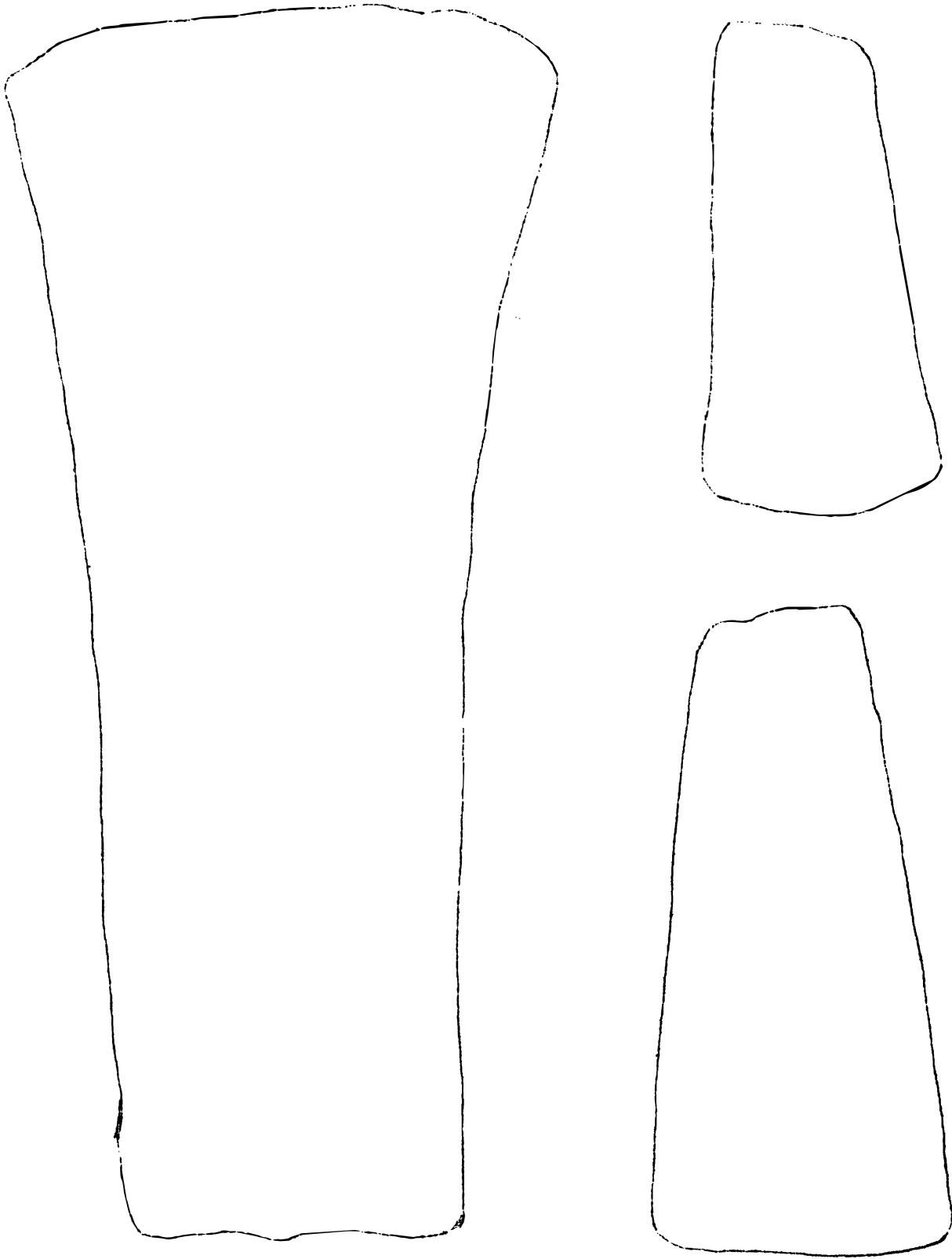


Figure 2

Copper Celts From A Hopewell Mound, Site 13 LA 12
(Full size)



a.



b.



c.

Hafted Scrapers



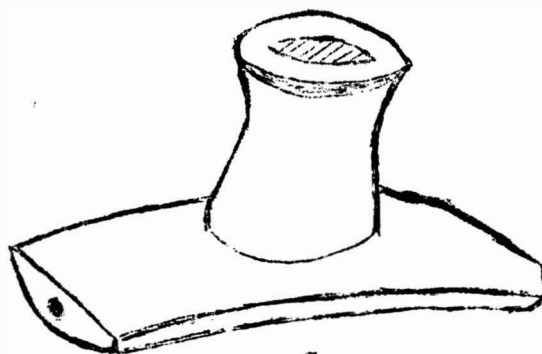
d.



e.



f.



g.

Hopewell Platform Pipe

Figure 3

(All figures full size)