

IOWA ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Newsletter

Number 34
February 1962

By Marshall McKusick

Change of Newsletter Editors Again

Mr. Earl Ingmansen has left Iowa so I am taking over the Newsletter job once again by default. As archeologist at Effigy Mounds National Monument near McGregor, Iowa, Ingmansen was in a good position to talk with members in northeast Iowa. He is now stationed with the National Park Service in Georgia. The purpose of the Newsletter remains the same. It is written to tell members about activities around the state which they might be interested in knowing about. The Journal no longer serves this function, since it emphasizes contributions to archeological knowledge.

Annual Meeting at Effigy Mounds May 12-13

Mr. Joe Beals, President of the Society, has set the Annual Meeting for May 12 and 13 this year. Effigy Mounds should be of extreme interest and we hope to have a good turnout of members. Detailed plans will be sent out in a later newsletter. There will be trips to many places of archeological and historical interest.

Journal Issues in Press on Mill Creek Culture

Two substantial archeological reports are in press and should be ready for distribution in late March and April. John Ives's M.A. thesis written in 1956 will be published as Volume 11, Number 3. It will be entitled "Mill Creek Pottery" and contains about twenty full page illustrations of the many pottery types. I hope that its publication will help dispel the current mystery about Mill Creek pottery and enable members in northwest Iowa to identify specimens in their collections. Eugene Fugle's, M.A. thesis written in 1957 will appear as Volume 11, Number 4. It is the most substantial study yet to be published in the Journal. Entitled "Mill Creek Culture and Technology" it contains 40 (forty) full page drawings of every known artifact type found in Mill Creek sites. Stone knives, scrapers, arrowheads, bone tools, ornaments etc. are described in great detail so that members can identify each of their specimens and learn the probable use, distribution, dates and so forth. Both of these reports will be of great interest to professional archeologists as well since nothing substantial has ever been published on Mill Creek pottery and artifacts.

Volume Twelve (1962-63) Journal Preparations

The three M.A. theses published in the Journal as part of Volume 11, complete the series of five written under the direction of Reynold Ruppe. Now that this series has been published for the scientific record, more recent work will appear. I have been asked if we are running out of studies. The answer is that we have barely begun. The following list of contributions is more or less tentative but will indicate that Volume 12 will be the best year yet in publications.

Volume 12, no. 1 "Life in a Sauk Village" (McKusick and Slack).

A brief answer to the question "What kinds of tools did the historic Sauk and Fox Indians use?" It contains about 15 full-page illustrations of gun parts, carved pipes, silver ornaments and stone tools used by the Sauk Indians around 1800 A.D.

Volume 12, no. 2 "Indian Mounds As Soil Genesis Benchmarks" (Parsons).

This is a highly technical monograph on soil analysis of a series of Indian mounds at Effigy Mounds National Monument. It will be of great interest to the professional archeologists because it contains a new dating technique based on differential soil weathering.

Volume 12, no. 3 "Webster County Indian Camps and Mounds" (Hansman).

A non-technical report of explorations in Webster County during the summer of 1961. This is one of the first reports to appear on work in Northcentral Iowa.

Volume 12, no. 4 "The Archaic Humboldt Complex" (Flanders).

A technical study of a recently discovered art pre-pottery culture which existed in Humboldt County about four thousand years ago.

W.D. Frankforter to Leave The Sanford Museum at Cherokee

I received a real shock when Frankforter wrote me that he is going to leave the Sanford Museum. No replacement has yet been named. It will be an impossible gap to fill since Frankforter is the only paleontologist in the state who specialized on post glacial mammals. As discoverer of the Pony Creek Archaic Complex in western Iowa he has also made a lasting contribution to Iowa archeology. He is leaving for the Grand Rapids Municipal Museum (Michigan) in July.