

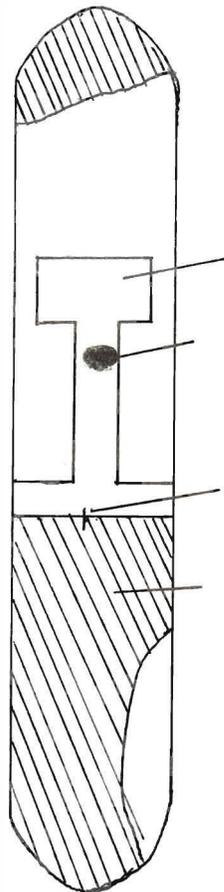
NEWSLETTER

DECEMBER, 1967

NUMBER 46

EFFIGY MOUNDS NATIONAL MONUMENT

MCGREGOR, IOWA 52157

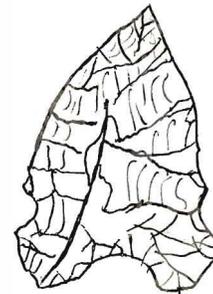


Excavated Area

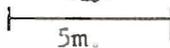
Burial Pit

Soil Samples

Undisturbed Mound



Actual Size



Mound 3

KARNOPP MOUND GROUP, CRAWFORD CO., WISCONSIN

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Send all manuscripts, notes, comments and reports of finds to the Editor. Try to include illustrations whenever possible, whether tracings, drawings, sketches, photographs or maps. These will make the NEWSLETTER much more interesting and meaningful to everyone. The address is:

Garland J. Gordon, Editor
Effigy Mounds National Monument
McGregor, Iowa 52157

!!!! DO IT NOW !!!!

SOUTHEAST CHAPTER

The SE Chapter meets at 7:00 p.m. on the 2nd Friday of each month at the Iowa Illinois Gas and Electric Company Auditorium, 225 E. Main Street, Ottumwa.

NORTHWEST CHAPTER

The NW Chapter meets on the 3rd Sunday of each month, usually at the Sanford Museum, Cherokee, although some of the meetings are field trips.

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT

Earlier in the year I requested that members interested in any kind of research or study project contact me. I wanted to know what the members of this Society were interested in learning or doing, so that assistance and direction could be made available. The response has been awe-inspiring. Not so much as a post-card has reached this office.

Elsewhere in this NEWSLETTER I have described a method for making rubber molds of cord-marked sherds. We use it in our own studies. I hope it will generate some interest. I also hope you will let us know the results of your experimentation if you undertake such a project.

NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

First of all I am pleased to be able to report that Volume 14 of the Journal is at the printers and he has promised delivery before Christmas. They will be mailed as soon as possible so although we had hoped to deliver them to you by Christmas, they will be a few days late. Material for Volume 15 is being prepared for the printer and we are aiming for a target date of early March for completing it.

There is a big need for material to use for illustrating the cover of the NEWSLETTER. These illustrations should reflect the archeology of the entire State and not just one section. If you have interesting or unusual specimens, find some way to get a drawing or photograph of it and furnish the Editor with a copy.

Many people are sending written material in now and their assistance is greatly appreciated. The variety in the material also seems to be improving. Still there is just enough for each NEWSLETTER and we wonder each time where the next one will come from. At deadline time though there is enough material, thanks to all the contributors.

ISU ARCHEOLOGICAL LABORATORY INVESTIGATIONS, FALL, 1967

By David Gradwohl

During September and October students working in the ISU Archeological Laboratory, Ames, along with students in Anthropology 220 (Introduction to Archeology) conducted archeological investigations along Coalridge, southwest of Pella, in the Red Rock Reservoir.

Coalridge will eventually be a peninsula sticking out into Lake Red Rock. Most of the ridge will be developed as a public park area by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. Archeological work this fall was aimed at testing certain areas which will be partially modified for park development, and continuing explorations of the Coalport Kiln (13MA103) which will be inundated when the reservoir fills. Students in the introductory class had the opportunity to observe and participate in both historic and prehistoric archeology. The fall field work will contribute to the interpretation of this area if some sort of museum facilities are established at the park or at the dam.

Continued excavations at the Coalport Kiln show the structure to have been much larger than originally suspected. Additional portions of the fire chambers and foundations were exposed. Additional midden areas were excavated providing the laboratory with a more extensive ceramic inventory for study purposes. John Reynolds is working on these materials, and related early industrial ceramics, for his Masters thesis.

13MA117, a new site located last spring along Coalridge, was tested. A series of 5 foot test squares was excavated in the area of occupation indicated by surface materials. Excavations indicate a shallow and rather thin occupational zone. Although no pottery was found, certain stone materials indicate a Woodland occupation: two corner notched points, scrapers, modified flakes, worked hematite. This site will eventually be in the middle of a camp ground if the park development is achieved.

13MA18 is located directly across from the government "take line" on Coalridge. Last summer part of the site had been bulldozed in preparation for a private housing development. Mr. Mike Runyon, a state conservation officer, had rescued some material from the site, and he kindly donated them to the ISU laboratory. These materials are Oneota, and fit well into the "Moingona Phase" which I have proposed for the central Des Moines Valley. At the present time 13MA18 represents the southernmost Moingona site.

Seven additional sites were surfaced, and one new site located during the fall program.

PRESIDENT'S REPORT AT SPECIAL FALL MEETING

The ideas presented here were first discussed with IAS Trustees at Iowa City last April. In the months since then they have been refined further and were offered to those attending the special meeting on October 29 at Cherokee. My purpose is to inform each IAS member of my personal philosophy on the role of the Iowa Archeological Society and to try to interest each of you in working on some kind of project that will help make archeology more meaningful to you, and to help make people in your communities more aware of the importance of archeology.

I hope that we can find a way to help you learn more about the archeology of Iowa, and give your collections a level of meaning that they may not now have. As I said in a NEWSLETTER statement, I think it is time that the Society membership began to demonstrate the ability to think of archeology as the study of artifacts rather than the collection of artifacts.

Now, I do not want to slight or demean collecting. Obviously, you must collect if you are going to have material to study. What I do want to stress is that more care has to be taken with the collections. A collection that is not numbered and properly documented has very limited use for study. Most of you will have heard time and again the need for proper maintenance of your collections, but I will say it again. Everyone with a collection should have three things.

1. A site location file - A ring binder using standard forms and sending a copy of each to the State Archeologist.
2. An artifact accession catalog and all specimens numbered.
3. Maps showing the site location.

With this basic documentation the collection becomes more than an indicator of the range of archeological material in your area. It becomes a scientific research tool. The very fact that you have gone to the trouble to document and record your collections will bring you personal esteem in the eyes of any professional archeologist. Because you will be able to refer to your records, rather than your memory, you will be trusted, for by the simple act of cataloging and proper record keeping you will have demonstrated your desire to contribute to the study of archeology.

This first step would be a major contribution in itself, but there are even greater contributions the Society can make.

First, in the area of self-education.

Second, in community service.

Third, in archeological investigation in cooperation with professional agencies.

These areas are not mutually exclusive. Work in any one of these areas should mean achievement in the others.

Under the heading of self-education, I would expect that, at a minimum, you will learn:

1. The basic archeological sequence for the State.
2. To recognize the characteristic artifacts for the sequence.
3. The archeological sequence in your locality.
4. What is known about the archeology of your area.

It is my contention that as you are learning the archeology of your area, you will also be learning more of the problems of doing archeology. That as you become aware of the questions that need answering - both professionally and in your community - you may come to see the value of the contributions that amateur archeology can make.

How should we begin?

I have already mentioned proper collection documentation. That is largely an individual affair.

It is my opinion that meaningful achievement can only result from group activity. So I feel that strong Chapter organizations are of paramount importance to the future of the Iowa Archeological Society.

One reason for holding the fall meeting at the Sanford Museum is the fact that it has been, traditionally, the headquarters for the Northwest Chapter; historically the oldest continuously active Chapter of the Society, with a record of solid achievement. Members of the Northwest Chapter may take pride in this, but they must expect that more will be required of them. This is particularly true with regard to helping other Chapters overcome problems they have faced and overcome.

With regard to the constitutionality of Chapter formation, it is my understanding that the requirements are simple: First, a minimum of five members of the State Organization, who will request recognition as a Chapter; second, an expression of intent to see that the Chapter upholds the by-laws of the State Organization.

Each Chapter should have officers and should conduct meetings on a regular basis. Your Secretary should keep a record of your activities and should act to communicate regularly with the Editor of the Newsletter and Journal, to furnish him with material for these publications. These publications are the only link between Chapters, except for our annual meeting.

The by-laws of each Chapter should include express provisions for the maintenance of Chapter collections and Library, especially in case the Chapter should dissolve itself.

In such instances, Chapter collections should be placed only with such well established institutions as are fully qualified to maintain them and the accompanying records.

We have made a beginning on this. We have the venerable Northwest Chapter. There is the Southeast Chapter, and there are suggestions that the Davenport Chapter may begin anew. A Chapter should be forming in the Indianola area, if it has not formed. Are there more? This is a beginning, but this still leaves large areas of the State unrepresented. We must work to remedy this.

As people become aware of the activities of the Chapters, the Society membership will expand. If Chapter leaders stress constructive contributions to the study of archeology, then we will attract people who want to make such contributions. And it is also the responsibility of the Chapters to continually teach archeology to newly recruited members.

Now let us consider some of the projects that I would put under the heading of "self-education".

1. Lectures prepared by Chapter members on the basic archeological sequence, and discussions using specimens from your collections. And discussions concerning collection contents.
2. Preparations of maps showing the distribution of site, or of particular kinds of tools, which we call distributional studies.
3. Preparation of panel displays showing the range of artifacts found at certain kinds of sites.

Participation in projects such as these will help you learn the archeology of your area.

Under the heading "Community Service" I would put exhibit projects which could be taken to local schools for display, or to County Fairs. Some businesses make window space available too.

Devices such as this would make a valuable contribution to the field of education - teaching students and adults something of the prehistory of their communities, and perhaps by educating them, enlist their aid in preserving and protecting this disappearing cultural resource.

Allied to the archeological exhibit projects are possible programs in the reproduction of artifacts in plaster and plastic. This is a means of obtaining specimens for exhibit and classroom use so that the danger of breakage or theft is reduced.

It would also be a fine means of supplying the State Archeological repository with examples of specimens from around the State, without splitting up actual collections.

A valuable contribution would be a study of the cordage or textiles made by the Indians, through the study of cord and fabric-marked pottery. Impressions made using modeling clay or liquid latex rubber show clearly the kinds of cord or fabric used on pottery.

For those of you who wish to excavate, let me repeat my stand. I see no reason why you should not, if!!!

If you will work to learn the basics of archeology.

If you can view a site as a source of information, rather than artifacts.

If you are emotionally willing to do the work in the slow, tedious way it must be done, and

If you are ready to do the whole job - making maps, cataloging and describing artifacts, and writing a clear description of the excavation - then there is no reason that permission could not be obtained from the State Archeologist for your Chapter to do excavation.

This is not as difficult as it may sound now, even if it is not simple. It is not beyond your ability to learn. And of course, you are free to take your problems to the professionals in the State, particularly for the most difficult part: the interpretation of the information you have recovered.

I have spent a good deal of time now, saying what kinds of things I think the members of our Society can do, and should do, and the reasons why. Now we come to the important part. What do you want to do? If you can tell me that, then we are on our way. I can tell you how, or suggest the sources for the information you need.

You are free to write to me - I will also volunteer the services of others in the profession that I feel certain will not mind answering your questions: Duane Anderson, Director of Sanford Museum; Garland Gordon, Editor of the Society at Effigy Mounds; David Gradwohl, Dept. of Anthropology, ISU; Don and Elaine Herold, Davenport Museum; Dale and Evelyn Henning, University of Missouri and Wil Logan, NPS, Omaha.

If you run into a snag in your projects these are the people to contact. We have access to the main body of information about archeology. We will assist you.

Here are three basic books which each Chapter or member should have:

- | | |
|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Hole, Frank & Heizer, R.F.
1965 | An Introduction to Prehistoric Archaeology, Holt Rinehart Winston, Pub., 383 Madison Ave., New York 10017 |
| Heizer, Robert F.
1958 (3rd Edition) | A guide to Archaeological Field Methods, The National Press, Palo Alto, California |
| Meighan, Clement L.
1961 | The Archaeologists Notebook
Chandler Publishing Co., San Francisco |

NORTHWEST CHAPTER NEWS

In September the Northwest Chapter spent the afternoon of the 18th at the Barnes farm north of Cherokee. It was determined that there was no human occupation despite the large depressions. We wish them better luck next time.

The October meeting was postponed until October 29 to accommodate the Special Fall meeting of the IAS at the Sanford Museum. Adrian Andersons remarks at this meeting, which are reported elsewhere, were followed by comments from Duane Anderson. Duane strongly supported Adrians proposals and made specific suggestions about future activities for the NW Chapter. There was some discussion about possible research projects including one of Mill Creek. No decision was reached at this time, however.

The November meeting was scheduled for the 18th, and officers for the coming year were to be elected. The program on "Historic Indian Pottery of the Southwest" was given by Duane Anderson. We understand that the winter meetings will probably feature both films and speakers. The next NW Chapter Newsletter will have a tentative schedule.

EXCAVATIONS AT THE ROCK RUN SHELTER, 13CD10

Robert Alex, SUI, Iowa City

One of the sites dug by the University of Iowa Field School this past summer was a rockshelter (The Rock Run Shelter, 13CD10) located on the Raymond Wehde farm about five miles southeast of Tipton, Iowa. The shelter is situated less than a mile from the Cedar River on a small stream known as Rock Run. This creek has cut down into the Silurian Dolomite nearly one hundred feet below the surrounding uplands, forming a narrow, steep-sided valley. The shelter is found in the bluff on the north side of the valley about ten feet above the flood level of the adjacent creek.

The site was first described by John Vincent in 1960 when he reported finding chipping waste and mussel shells on the shelter floor. A University survey team relocated the shelter in the fall of 1966 and recovered deer bone, shell and a stemmed projectile point from a test pit. It appeared at this time that the upper component of the shelter represented an archaic occupation because of the lack of pottery in the test excavation and it was hoped that the four foot "midden" in front of the shelter might yield a stratified archaic site. However, when the students began digging the site this past June, it soon became apparent we were dealing with a Woodland occupation instead.

Artifacts were relatively rare in the upper one or two feet of the site and only a few lithic tools and a small number of potsherds were found in these top levels. The soil in these levels had apparently been removed from the small cave in the back of the shelter when it had been used as a potato cellar a number of years ago. Below the overburden of mixed cave sediments we encountered a dark black, organic stratum that contained small triangular and side notched projectile points and Late Woodland pottery. This was the top of the Woodland deposit that continued down to six feet below the surface. At approximately the twelfth six inch level the dark soil changed into a lighter clay that contained a great deal of rock. This clay was extremely wet and digging became almost impossible. One of the five by five foot pits was, however, continued down to eight feet below the surface at which point it appeared we simultaneously encountered bedrock and the watertable. Cultural debris continued to the deepest level we were able to excavate.

The site (13CD10) was first excavated in a "checkerboard" pattern of five foot squares, but since a larger sample of artifacts appeared necessary, the intervening units were also removed, giving us a ten by twenty foot excavation. One other five by five foot unit was dug some distance east of the main shelter so that we could compare the stratigraphy of the "midden" with another area along the bluff wall.

The Rock Run Shelter produced thirty complete or nearly complete projectile points as well as a number of point fragments, knives and scrapers. Slightly over fifty pottery vessel rim fragments were recovered along with a much larger number of body sherds. The majority of the sherds fell into four ceramic categories: Lake Michigan Ware, Linn Ware, Spring Hollow Incised and a Middle Woodland Ware exhibiting a flattened lip, bosses around the neck and vertical cord impressions.

One of the nine five by five units was screened, by levels, through window screen, enabling us to recover nearly all the micro-fauna and charred plant remains in the soil. It is hoped that these samples of snail shells, rodent teeth and other animal and plant remains will help us to interpret the ecological conditions in the Cedar Valley during its Late and Middle Woodland occupation.

LATEX MOLDS FOR THE STUDY OF PREHISTORIC TEXTILES

By Adrian Anderson

Most readers will be familiar with the fact that much of the aboriginal pottery found in Iowa exhibits some form of cord impression on the exterior surface. These impressions resulted from pressing textiles or single cords against the surface of the pot during its construction or decoration.

I offer the following technique for obtaining replicas of the form of these textiles or cords. I hope you will be interested in applying it to your own sherd collections.

The equipment is inexpensive and not difficult to obtain. You need only a few small brushes of the type found in a water-color kit and a can of liquid latex rubber. Both are available in most hobby shops.

The method of obtaining a latex mold from the surface of a sherd is not at all difficult.

1. Cleaning study specimens.

The sherd must be clean. If the pottery was well fired it may be washed without harming it. Use a brush, but with care. Many Woodland sherds are not well fired and may disintegrate in water or the cord marks may be destroyed by the brush-bristles. Always remember that the sherd should be undamaged when you are done with it. If the sherd appears too soft, try brushing lightly with a soft, dry brush and carefully picking dry dirt out of punctations or cord impressions with a needle.

Do not wash away your catalog numbers.

2. Application of Latex.

Paint a thin layer of latex on the surface of the sherd, being careful to fill all impressions. Avoid trapping any air bubbles. Let this layer become almost dry (tacky) before applying another. This should not take more than twenty or thirty minutes. You can speed up the process by working on several sherds. Wash your brush periodically to keep it from becoming useless.

Continue applying layers in this way until the latex coat is at least an eighth of an inch thick. The mold will last longer and there will be less danger of tearing it if it is even thicker.

3. Removal of the mold from the sherd.

When the latex coat is thick enough the specimen should be set aside for overnight drying. When it is dry the latex may be carefully peeled from the surface of the sherd. You will then see a replica of the

cordage or fabric used to modify the surface of the sherd. I think you will be surprised at the degree of detail present.

4. Mold identification.

A felt-tip pen may be used to write the sherd catalogue number on the back of the mold for identification.

Research-Potential of the Mold.

There are a number of uses to which a collection of molds can be put. Perhaps one of the following suggestions will be found appealing.

1. Identify and describe the cord-making technique employed.
2. Identify and describe the type of weave in fabric.
3. Identify decorations made by cord-wrapped stick, thong-wrapped stick, and dentate stamping (impressions made using a toothed, or notched tool).
4. Mount sherds and molds on a panel to show the different types from a single site.
5. Prepare a series of 35mm slides showing the technique employed in making the molds and the weaves or cords identified.
6. Make a "home-movie" instead of slides. Write narrative and make a tape recording to accompany the film.

I will be looking forward to notes from you describing your discoveries. If any interest is shown we will provide information to aid in description and identification in future issues of the NEWSLETTER.

NE IOWA VOLUNTEERS SALVAGE WISCONSIN MOUND GROUP

By Garland Gordon

In mid October Gordon Peckham, Curator of the Museum of Medical Progress in Prairie du Chien, Wisconsin notified Garland Gordon at Effigy Mounds National Monument that some mounds had been bulldozed on a bluff above the Wisconsin River near Bridgeport, Wisconsin. The land was being cleared of brush and the equipment operators apparently satisfied their curiosity about Indian mounds by levelling them. The first opportunity to investigate the mounds was on October 20 when a small group accompanied by the owner Mr. Henry Karnopp visited the area. At that time it was possible to see that there had been at least three and perhaps a fourth mound in this particular group: Two conical mounds and one linear. The possible fourth mound may have been either another linear mound or an effigy, perhaps a bear. Because there was the possibility that features below the mounds might remain undisturbed it was decided to return later and attempt to salvage what information might remain in the mounds.

Only the help of a group of eight volunteer aides made this project possible. Two of them, Arnold Roggman, Garnavillo and Bruce Strampe, Elkader, deserve special thanks for their excellent assistance as they faithfully took part on all five days of excavation, the last day of which was in snow flurries and with an inch of snow on the ground. Others who contributed greatly but couldn't come every time were George Meyers, Garnavillo; Harlan Strampe, Elkader; Lynn Johnson, McGregor; James and Tom Gordon, Effigy Mounds and Pat Young, Marquette. The assistance of each one is gratefully acknowledged.

On October 28 the volunteer group started the salvage operation with a 6 meter trench through the north end of the area of the suspected fourth mound. No trace of a mound could be seen in the area where Mr. Karnopp had described a large mound. The bulldozer had done an excellent job of smoothing the ground out to an even contour with the present ground level or slightly below. The profile on the sides of the trench showed some irregularities in the soil strata and concentrations of charcoal but not a bit of stone, pottery or other cultural material was found. On November 12 a trench 4 meters long was dug at right angles to this but no artifacts or cultural features were found. At this point it was decided that further work in this area was not warranted because of the need to complete the salvage of the damaged portion of linear Mound 3. Unfortunately it was not possible to confirm the existence of the suspected mound.

Conical Mounds 1 and 2 of the Karnopp group had been completely removed although it was possible to determine the approximate diameter as the surrounding areas were mostly undisturbed. Mound 1 was about 8.5 meters diameter. Mound 2 was a little smaller at about 7.0 meters. Because of the possibility that there might be sub floor features the afternoon of October 28 was spent investigating the mound area but it was concluded that there were no features intact in either mound. Mr. Karnopp stated that he had noticed discolored areas near the center of each mound when they were being levelled. No evidence of these remained and all features of Mounds 1 and 2 were destroyed. A few flakes were found while cleaning up the mound area but they were in a disturbed context. A side-notched concave base projectile point was found on the surface just north of Mound 1 which may or may not have been associated with the mound. It is illustrated on the cover of this NEWSLETTER.

Linear Mound 3 was the only mound not completely destroyed. This mound is 27.8 meters long and 5 meters wide. The northern half except for the very end was graded down almost to the natural ground level. The southern 12 meters of the mound was undamaged except for a superficial scar on the east side. On October 28 the first task was to clean off a layer of disturbed earth from the center of the area levelled by the bulldozer.

In order to get a good cross-section of an undisturbed portion of the mound a trench was laid out 11.8 meters from the south end. An area 6 meters north of this face and measuring 3.5 by 2 meters was also excavated to undisturbed soil. In profiles at both locations a dark gray

layer of earth about 4 inches thick was noted at about the level of the natural ground surface. This stratum is interpreted as a buried "A" soil horizon which was covered by building the mound. In mounds along the Mississippi River buried soils are not typical as the top soil was usually removed before mound construction. It may contain pollen which would reflect the environment when the mound was built.

We returned to Mound 3 on the afternoon of November 18. The transverse trench was completed and a profile drawing was made. The northern excavation was completed and back dirt was moved in preparation for a trench running lengthwise in the center of the mound and connecting the two excavations. On the following day six soil samples were collected and the connecting trench was dug. Until this time only a few stones, none worked in any way, and one very small cord-marked grit-tempered body sherd had been found. The connecting trench was almost completed and we were about ready to close the excavation when just north of the center of the mound an oval pit appeared. It measured 1.0 by 0.8 meters and luckily was almost centered in the trench. With a little deeper excavation, bone soon appeared. Before the burial could be uncovered it became too dark to work. Anticipating cold temperature the burial was covered with cloths and then by a deep layer of leaves to prevent freezing.

On the morning of the 20th there was about an inch of snow on the ground and flurries continued throughout the day. The temperature, however, hung just above the freezing mark and it was possible to complete removal of the burial and to back fill the excavation by the end of the day.

The burial was a single child about 5-8 years old. In type the burial was primary and tightly flexed with the head to the west. It had been placed in a shallow oval pit dug to about 14 inches below the surface. The bone itself was in very poor condition, soft and fragile, making it difficult to excavate. All materials recovered are at Effigy Mounds National Monument.

We feel gratified, considering the circumstances, that it was possible to salvage even this much information from this mound group. It is regrettable that the entire group could not have been studied before this destruction happened. Unfortunately, some of the blame can be laid to poor communications between Archeologists, both professional and amateur, and the general public, particularly land owners. How many people know where they can report endangered resources or get help when it is needed?? What are the answers to these problems and what practical steps can be taken to correct them?? If some of you have ideas on this, communicate with one of your Society Officers. Their addresses are inside the front cover of the NEWSLETTER.

IOWA ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
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NON PROFIT ORGANIZATION

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