

# NEWSLETTER

Newsletter No. 57 JUN 16 1970

## M E S S A G E F R O M T H E P R E S I D E N T

The purpose of this communication is twofold: first, to report on the archaeological activity to be conducted in northwest Iowa this summer and second, to discuss two important potential functions of our Society.

During the month of June, Carol and I will conduct an archaeological survey of the Floyd River. The project will be supported by the Sanford Museum Association and entail the location of sites and the analysis of material recovered.

An excavation project has been planned for the month of July as a cooperative effort between the University of Wisconsin and the Sanford Museum. Dr. David Baerreis and myself are to be co-directors of the project which is designed to be a continuation of the work on the climate and environment of the Mill Creek culture. John Dallman will be project foreman, assisted by Bob Alex and Jim Porter. As was the case with the last Mill Creek project, the material will be divided up to be studied by various individuals participating in the project. If you are in the area, stop by the museum for directions and come out for a tour of the operation!

As for the potential functions of our Society, I have been discussing matters with several Trustees and other interested persons which I was given to understand were basic needs of the Society. These are, first, the need for some sort of "memorial" through which deceased members of our Society may be honored, and, second, some vehicle by which articles "too short for the Journal and too long for the Newsletter" can be published. One suggestion was to combine the needs and establish a "memorial fund" and use the money for the publication of an intermediate series in memory of the late members of the IAS.

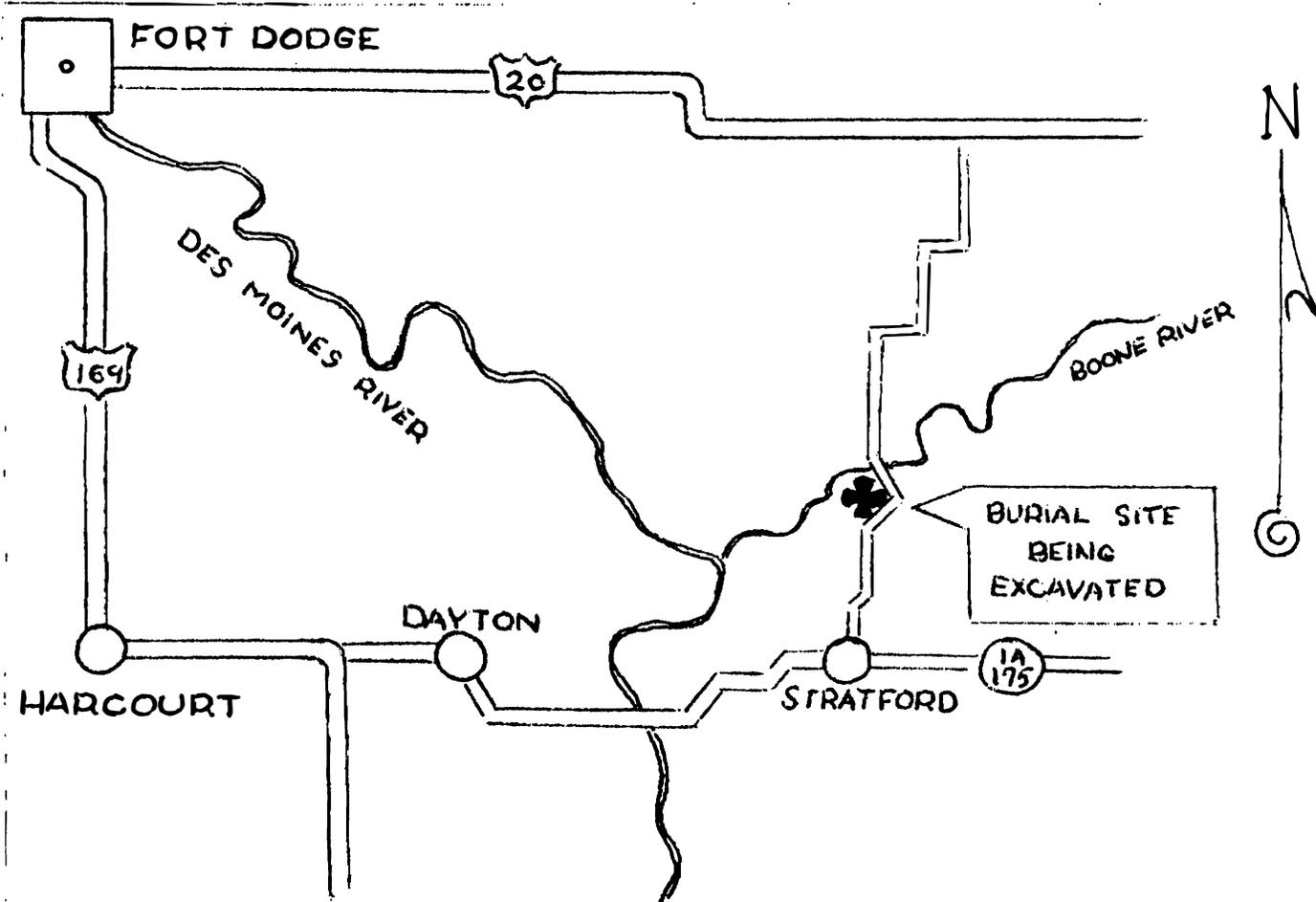
Although the idea sounds good, there are some problems, i.e., who is to assume the responsibility of perpetuating the series, and more basically, where the money is to come from in the first place. Some members feel that "another publication would only be another burden." Others feel that the NL could be expanded to include short articles or that an occasional issue of the Journal could carry several short articles as the need arose.

My feeling at present is that we should not establish a publication fund based upon donations. Senior members will remember that the Keyes Memorial was never effective nor was it perpetuated. One other way of allowing for publication funds is membership increase which would result in an expanded Newsletters or an occasional extra volume of the Journal.

With the 1970 field season upon us, I think it would be well for all members to think about these matters and plan on discussing and settling the issues at the Annual Meeting next year when we can all get together. Our membership







THE CENTRAL IOWA CHAPTER WILL BE WORKING AT THIS MULTI-BURIAL SITE EVERY SATURDAY, ALL SUMMER, AS WEATHER PERMITS.

IF YOU DESIRE FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT THE CHAPTER SECRETARY:

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University of Nebraska  
Excavations in Northwest Iowa

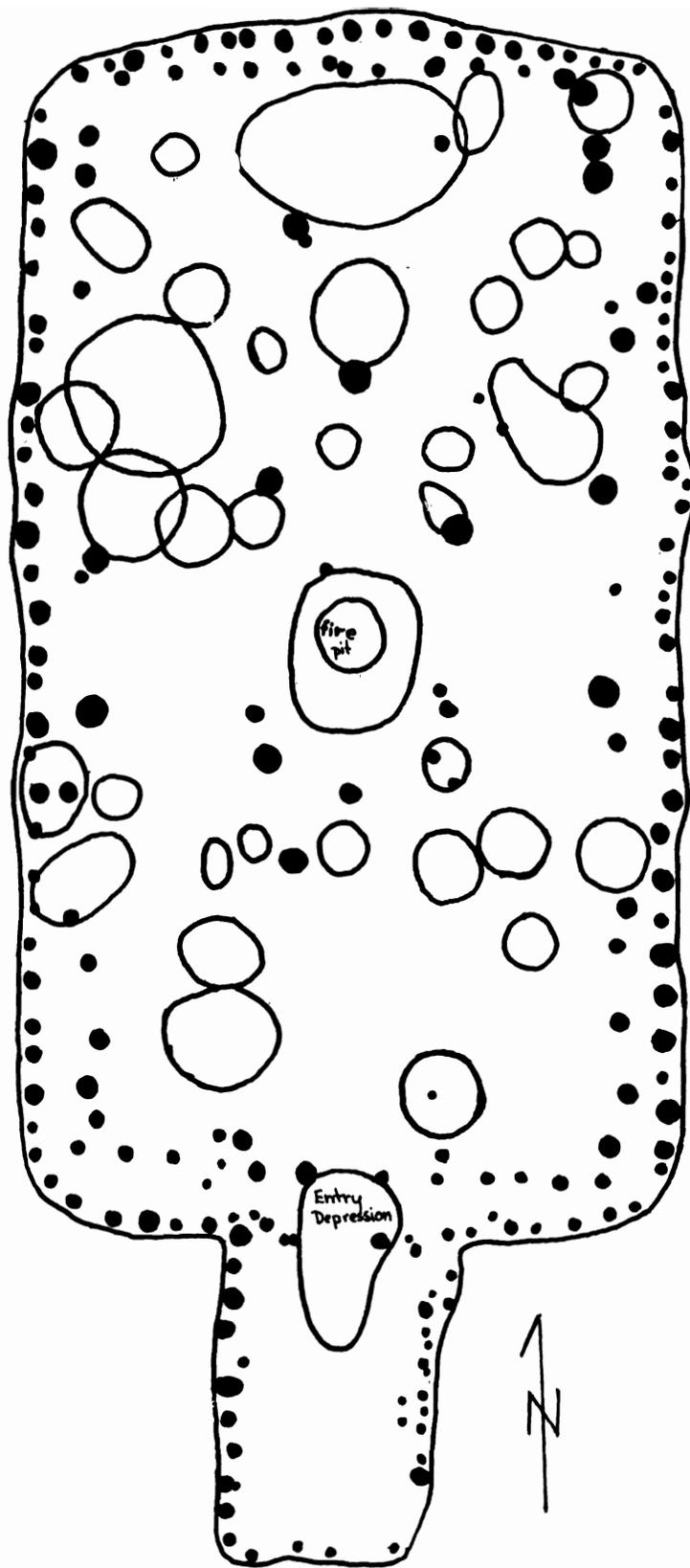
Dale R. Henning

This past summer, with a crew of about ten students, the University of Nebraska sponsored a summer training session in archaeology under the direction of the writer. The excavations, designed to obtain maximum information about possible patterns of interrelationships between Mill Creek and Great Oasis cultures, were extremely successful. Sites chosen for extensive effort were the Broken Kettle Mill Creek site (13PML) and the Broken Kettle West site (13PM25).

The Broken Kettle Mill Creek site has been the scene of many previous excavations, the most notable being those carried out under WPA auspices by Charles R. Keyes and Ellison Orr in the late 1930's. The Nebraska excavations were designed to supplement their work, which is reported upon, and to obtain minute faunal materials, radiocarbon samples and samples for qualitative soils and pollen analyses. Three five by five foot squares were excavated and the required samples obtained. The site is stratified extending to a depth of about six feet. Three superimposed house floors and a number of cache or storage pits were encountered.

The Broken Kettle West Great Oasis site received concerted attention during the summer session. Two houses (Nos. 2 & 3) were completely excavated. House 2 had been partially burned, probably at a time shortly after it was constructed. This brief occupation is suggested by the small amount of refuse on the floor and in the pits, several of which were open when the roof structure collapsed. This house was small, measuring about 18 by 20 feet on the side with a long (ca. 10 feet) entryway. The house, similar to the others, was semi-subterranean, meaning that the floor was 1.5 to 3 feet below the surface. House 3 was larger and had been burned. It had apparently been occupied for a long period of time, judging from the number of refuse pits, the amount and thickness of refuse on the floor and the apparent addition of interior structural support posts. All materials within the cache pits were passed through a window screen manipulated in the waters of Broken Kettle Creek. Through this exhausting and time-consuming technique, an excellent sample of minute bones, shells and other objects was recovered. A third house (House 4) was partially exposed during the summer session; excavations on it were conducted in the fall by Roger Banks, David Lilly, Duane Anderson and Carol Anderson, supplemented by weekend efforts by Nebraska personnel. House 4 was the largest encountered on the West Broken Kettle site (Figure 1), measuring 34 feet by 19 feet on the side, with an entrance of 9 feet length. It had also been heavily used over a long

Figure 1. House #4, Broken Kettle West Great Oasis site.  
(for dimensions, see article)



period of time, judging from the depth of floor deposit and a number of 'added' interior support posts. A tremendous sample of cultural remains was recovered, even though time and weather conditions did not permit excavation of all cache pits.

In brief, an excellent summer session was the result of these endeavors. But, these results cannot be measured entirely in terms of effort on the part of University of Nebraska staff and students. Without the active support of the Northwest Chapter of the Iowa Archaeological Society, the Iowa Archeological Society and a number of local persons, our excavation season would have been far less enjoyable and the knowledge gained far less. We feel especially indebted to Mr. and Mrs. Donald Banks who were kind and understanding through the confusion brought about by having a crew of excavators in their barnyard and fields. We know too that the repeated kindnesses of Roger and Reva Banks made our stay much more pleasant. Roger Banks and David Lilly, both actively engaged in farming activities, took many hours of time in assisting our excavations and guiding us to other locations pertinent to our interests.

The excavations were supported by the University of Nebraska Research Council. MARCH 1, 1970

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#### STATE UNIVERSITY OF IOWA TENTATIVE SUMMER SCHEDULE

Adrian D. Anderson, Office of State Archeologist is now conducting a summer Field School in the Glenwood area, on the same site as last year on Pony Creek, plus a site several miles farther upstream from last year's dig, which is three miles due west of Glenwood, Iowa. He will be there until about July 1st, and can be contacted by addressing his mail % Postmaster, Glenwood, Iowa 51534.

After July 1st he will open a series of sites in the Coralville Dam Impoundment, for the remainder of the season. For more information on this drop a card to: S U I Field School, State Archeologist Office, 129 South Capital, Iowa City, Iowa 52240.

Adrian extends an invitation to all I A S members to visit with him and his crew.

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The N/East Chapter and Luther College have made plans for a joint dig in the Decorah area this summer. For complete plans on this, you should write to: Clark Mallum, Luther College, Decorah, Iowa 52101. I A S members welcome.

While in the area, plan a trip to the Effigy Mounds National Monument over by McGregor.

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Lincoln, Neb. Dr. Dale R. Henning, Department of Anthropology, U. of Nebraska, will head a summer school in a tour of archeological sites in Colorado, southwestern Oklahoma and other points West, for several weeks. This will include a visit to the Mesa Verde National Park in Southwest Colorado.

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Wapello, Iowa On Sunday May 3rd, "Dick" Slattery, Davenport and your Newsletter editor were taken on a tour of choice sites in Louisa and Des Moines counties in southeast Iowa, led by George Horton, Iowa City. The spring plowing was late this year and pickings were slim. However several nice specimens were found plus a new member for the Society. The writer found a most unusual piece in the form of a prismatic core knife, nearly 3 1/2 inches long. The high dorsal ridge is worn down in the middle of the piece, probably from use and honing. . . Don

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SPECIAL NOTE

On July 1st of the year 1970. 71 begins for the Society and all memberships that are not paid by then for the 70..71 year are in arrears and should be sent in as soon as possible to Mrs. Thornton Check your dues now.

The I A S Journal Volume 16 (whole) "Climatic Change and the Mill Creek Culture of Iowa" Part two, will be mailed out some time soon.

HONOR ROLL

New Members:

Active: Minton A. Allen Wapello, Iowa  
John L. Reese Dubuque, Iowa

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