# NEWSLETTER

Newsletter No. 58 October 1970

# MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT ARCHEOLOGICAL

In a recent "Memo," your Newsletter Editor Don Spears suggested a worthwhile project to me aimed at publicizing our Society and attracting new members. It would involve putting together a comprehensive feature article on the Society and running it in one or more of the major newspapers in the state.



I share Don's belief that lack of publicity is a real detriment to the development of the Societies interests and it is my feeling that something can be done about this rather easily with everyone's cooperation. I am sure that all of the chapters have projects going on across the state and throughout the year dealing with a wide range of cultural material on various time levels.

If persons in charge of excavations, activities, lectures, workshops, etc. would locate a few appropriate black and white photographs and forward them with complete captions to me in care of the Sanford Museum I would put together a full page story on the Iowa Archaeological Society and its affiliated chapters, explain the goals of these organizations and see that the article was published.

The timing for such a project is good for plans are presently being drawn up for the annual meeting to be held in April. This event could also be advertised if we ran the article sometime after the first of the year. It is important for members (especially new members) to attend the state meeting as it offers the only opportunity to get personally acquainted with others who are interested in preserving Iowa's past.

If possible, along with the photographs, I would like to receive any recent propaganda on your chapters activities, both winter and summer, and I would like to have the name and address of the person to be contacted in the event that further information is required on the part of a potential new member.

I would also like to solicit photographs from the various colleges, universities and museums conducting archaeological projects in the state--particularly those which in some way involve the IAS membership.

Your cooperation will be appreciated and your suggestions welcomed!

Duane C. Anderson President, IAS

# CHAPTERS WITHIN THE IOWA ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

N / W Chapter Cherokee Joe Beals President Vice President J. Dale Jenness Mrs. Charles H.D. Smith Sec'y - Treas. Duane C. Anderson N/L Editor Meets the third Sunday of each month with the exception of December. In the summer time the meetings are field trips; during the winter, talks, lectures, films, etc. are presented. South Central Chapter Mt. Ayr. President Herbert Sovereign Vice President Merritt Dennev Sec'v - Treas. Jim McIntosh Meeting information from Herbert Sovereign, 906 N. Taylor, Mt. Ayr, Iowa 50854 Northeast Chapter Decorah President R. Clark Mallam Vice President Gavin Sampson Gary Matlock (Gary has resigned his position effective September 17, 1970 as he is being transferred by the US NP Service). Sec'y - Treas. Central Iowa Chapter Fort Dodge President David Carlson Vice President John Nissen Mrs. Ray Mittelstadt, 1425 No. 10th St. Fort Dodge, Iowa 50501 Sec'y - Treas. Meeting information from Mrs. Mittelstadt Southeast Chapter Ottumwa President George Baker Willard Mourer Vice President Darrell McCarty Sec'y Treas. Meeting is held on the second Friday of each month, in the Iowa-Illinois Gas Company Auditorium, 225 1/2 East Main St. in Ottumwa at 7:30 P.M. \*\*\*\*\* Quad Cities AAS Davenport Ferrell Anderson President Treasurer Darrell Doss, 2131 Myrtle, Davenport, Iowa 52804. Meetings held at the Davenport Public Museum at 7:30 P.M. Next two meetings scheduled for September 29 and November 24, 1970. For more detailed information, contact Mr. Doss The annual 1971 meeting of the IOWA ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY has been scheduled on April 17 & 18, 1971 at the SANFORD MUSEUM in Cherokee.

# VAN BUREN DOVETAILS

#### by Don G. Spears

In 1932 the late Karl Weiss discovered a projectile point (Fig. a) on the surface of a ground hog burrow in Wapello County, Iowa. Since that time a total of thirteen similar points have been found and the name "Van Buren Dovetail" has been applied to them. Since there are other so called "dovetails" described in the literature, the Van Buren designation seems appropriate to avoid confusion between types.

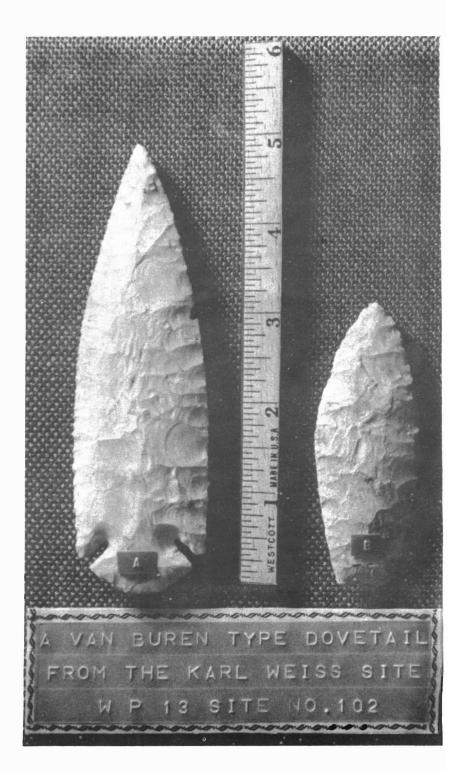
The Van Buren point type does not appear to be a common type but it does seem to be more prevalent in Van Buren county than elsewhere. A few have been found in Davis, Henry, Lee, Jefferson and Wapello counties, all of which are contiguous with Van Buren County.

Due to the rather wide distribution indicated by these finds, it would seem likely that a cultural pattern of some importan-ce may be reflected. Unfortunately all specimens reported to date, with one execption have been surface finds without associations. The exception consists of an account of a burial removed by a collector near Kilbourne in Van Buren County, Iowa. Included with the burial was one point resembling the one illustrated in Fig. a, and several like Fig. b. The burial reportedly had been covered with limestone slabs and a layer of dirt.

All of the points I have seen have been relatively complete although some have the base broken off at the bottom of the notches and others lack a portion of the barb above the notch. Signs of wear or use are not apparent and there is no indication of any retouching beyond initial manufacture.

Van Buren Dovetails range in length from 3-5 1/2 inches. Most are made of an off-white chert with one of mottled light tan fossiliferous chert. All are proportionately shaped with the notches being approximately 45° from the long axis of the point. Only the ovate portion of the base appears to be ground.

The only clue to the cultural affiliation of the Van Buren projectile point type seems to lie with the account of the collector mentioned above. This would seem to indicate placement with the Late Archaic--Early Woodland horizon. More information on the distribution of this projectile point type is needed and it is hoped that finds will be made which will assist in age determination and clarify the cultural affiliation

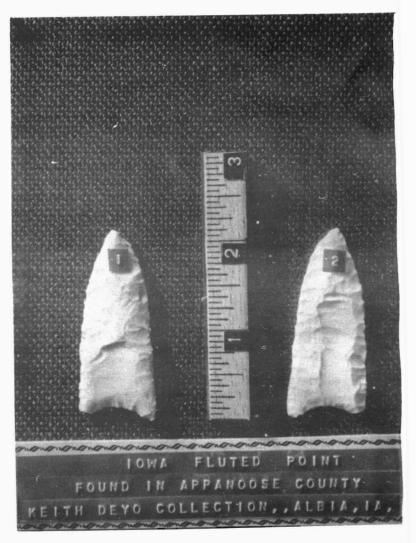


\*\*Note: See Oklahoma Anthro. Society Special Bulletin No. 2, page 82 and plate 41 and bulletin No. 3, page 72 and plate 36 for more information and sketches of similar material.

Figure 1 shows a fluted point found in Appanoose County, along the Chariton River, by I A S member Keith Deyo. The point is made from a white waxy appearing rock almost like Chalcedony. The normal flaking scars and ridges are worn smooth by time and the elements, with the basal notch being ground. On further examining the point one finds that it has been reworked by pressure flaking from notches to the distal end and on both sides. This probably occurred at a much later date as the retouching has given the point sharp serrated cutting edges.

One wonders about the many sites destroyed and the many artifacts which could have been salvaged before the dam and lake at Rathbun was built. Quite a few sites were reported and nothing was done to investigate these endangered areas...

Figure 2 is a plastic cast used to show opposite side. Cast was made using method described by Adrian Anderson in the IAS Newsletter No. 47, March 1968.



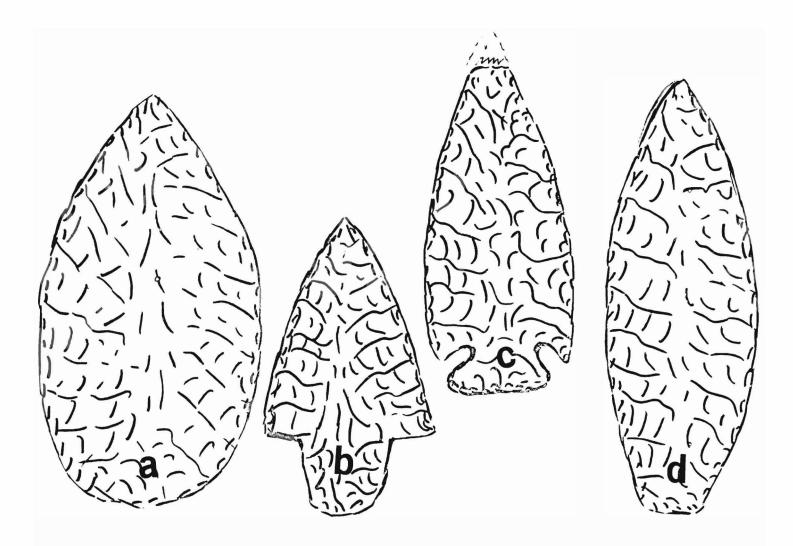
## POT HUNTER SENTENCED

July 1970 --- University of California, Riverside "Piltdown" Newsletter. Lloyd Spivey, an Indio, California artifact collector, was fined \$100 and sentenced to 90 days in jail for removing a 1200 pound Bed Rock Mortar from Federal Land last month. The mortar, once used by Indians for grinding acorns (?), was rolled down hill from Upper Martinez Canyon on the Torres and Martinez Reservation, and its replacement now constitutes something of a problem. Although the fine and sentence were suspended, the collector will remain on probation for 3 years for this violation of the Federal Antiquetis Act.

This will alert the attendants and custodians of the Mt. Rushmore National Monument to keep a close eye on Teddy, Abe, George and Tom J.

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Should there be enough of the IAS Membership interested in learning about several different methods of casting artifacts in plastic, Adrian Anderson might possibly hold a workshop on the several different techniques used. If interested, contact the N/L editor. In the next issue, we will carry a feature on one method. As you may know, it is not possible to palm these off as authentic pieces, however they are good to use in the exchange of information where the owner of choice pieces would not want to let the artifact out of his possession. Workshop set up for later in the winter.

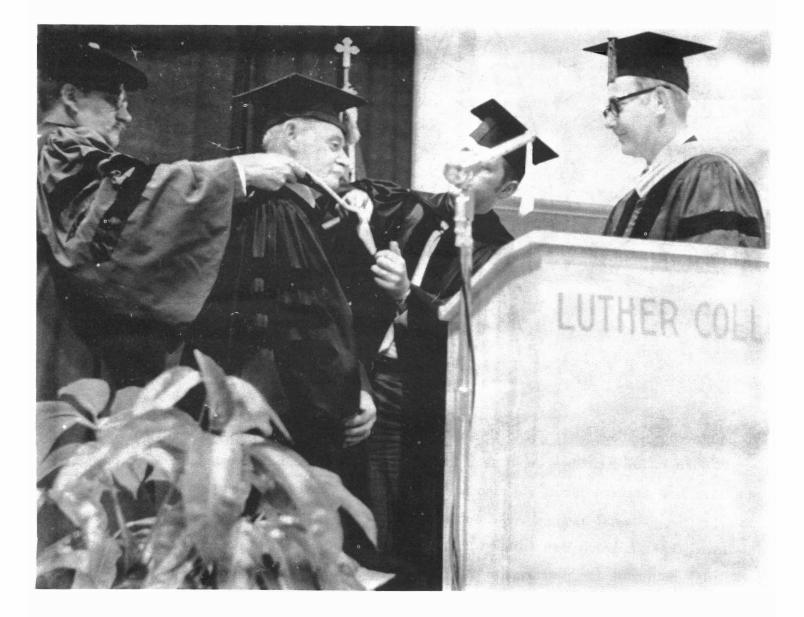


The points shown above were found this spring in and around Louisa County, by IAS member George Horton. He describes these as belonging to the Archaic-Early Woodland Horizon. Points are line drawn to size. He also has discovered a quarry site that yields chert very similar to the material used in these artifacts as well as in other specimens in his finds. Mr. Horton has recorded these sites with the State Archeologist's office in Iowa City, as well as donating materials for research to the lab. George has promised to write up a report on this quarry site at a later date.

Note: Base on the "Dove Tail" shown in Figure "C" is nearly square across on the base, while Figure "A", page three has a symetrical convex vase. Figure "D" seems comparable to Figure "B" page three except in size.

On May 24, 1970, Luther College granted to Mr. George Metcalf of the Smithsonian Institution an honorary Doctor of Science Degree in recognition of his past services. Mr. Metaclf has assisted the Luther College Archeological Research Center in cataloguing the artifacts from the Gavin Sampson collection.

The granting of the degree was a fitting conclusion to Mr. Metcalf's career. He retired from the Smithsonian on August 19 of this year after 17 years of service and twenty field expeditions. A self-educated archeologist who terminated his schooling after the eighth grade, Mr. Metcalf's bibliography consists of over fifty publications with three articles and two books currently in progress. Mr. Metcalf plans to return to Luther in February of 1971, and to continue additional analysis of the Sampson collection.



Attending the ceremony honoring Mr. Metcalf were Dr. Clifford Evans, Chairman of the Department of Anthropology of the Smithsonian Institution, and his wife, Dr. Betty Meggers, a Research Associate in Archeology at the Smithsonian. Other guests were Dr. James Gunnerson and Delores Gunnerson, anthropologists from Northern Illinois University; Dr. John Howe and family from the University of Missouri, and Marshall McKusick from the University of Iowa.

The Fall meeting of the Northeast Chapter of the Iowa Archeological Society will be held October 2, 1970, at 7:30 P.M. in the Koren Building, Room 11, on the Luther College campus. Clark Mallam will show slides dealing with the excavation of a Hopewell site and an Oneota fortification undertaken this past summer by a consortium composed of the University of Kansas, Kansas State University, and the University of Missouri. Jerry Clark directed a dig this summer composed of 15 Luther College students under the auspices of Luther College. The dig was located near Decorah (13WH1) and was initially believed to be a small Oneota site. A number of years ago Gavin Sampson had excavated a small portion of the site uncovering what appeared to be post molds and some shell-tempered pottery.

The purpose of the dig was to locate the supposed house and relate it to the Oneota culture. Unfortunately, the purpose was not realized as no discernable pattern of post molds was noted. Mr. Clark's notes state that the major difficulty encountered was determining accurate stratigraphy. The site had apparently been disturbed by an historic occupation. The dig was terminated on June 25, 1970, and the Luther field crew joined Marshall McKusick in his excavation near New Albin.

The dig at 13WH1 marks the last excavation to be undertaken by Luther College in the Upper Iowa River Valley for the next two years, with the exception of salvage archeology. During this two year interim an intensive ecological study will be conducted by the Luther College Archeological Research Center in conjunction with the Luther College Biology Department. The purpose of this study will be to determine microenvironmental and microvegetational zones within the valley and then to compare these zones with the prehistoric habitation patterns determined from an analysis of the Gavin Sampson collection.

The ecological and archeological data derived from this two year study will be used to construct hypotheses regarding prehistoric cultural adaptation in the Upper Iowa River Valley. The hypotheses will determine the direction of future excavations and should eliminate the somewhat random nature of digging which has characterized earlier archeological efforts.

#### \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \* \*

Beginning September 15, 1970, the Luther College Archeological Research Center initiated an attribute study of the projectile points in the Gavin Sampson collection. The data will be processed by the Luther College Computer Center under the direction of Dr. Ed Thorland.

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Notes concerning local members:

- Jerry Clark is now attending the University of Kentucky as a doctoral student in anthropology. He received an assistantship for the 1970-1971 academic year.
- Elizabeth Montgomery participated in an excavation near Taos, New Mexico, sponsored by Southern Methodist University.
- Todd Ruedisili worked with the Smithsonian Institution on an excavation in Israel under the direction of Dr. Gus Van Beek.
- R. Clark Mallam attended the 24th Field Session in Midwestern Archeology at the Lyman Archeological Research Center in Miami, Missouri, from June 15 to August 1970.
- Miss Kathy Daly has joined the Luther College Sociology Department as an Instructor in Anthropology. Miss Daly just received her M.A. from Southern Illinois University.

R. Clark Mallam President, Northeast Chapter Iowa Archeological Society

#### David Gradwohl

Iowa State University and the National Park Service continued their salvage archaeological program in Saylorville Reservoir, along the Des Moines River, during the summer of 1970. The project was run concurrently with the Iowa State University summer field school in archaeology, in which six undergraduate and graduate students were enrolled. Field assistants for the 1970 crew were Miss Nancy Osborn and Mr. Steve Hobson, graduate students in anthropology at Iowa State University.

Although the proverbial restriction of federal funds limited the scope of operations planned for the summer, the crew was able to spend 8 weeks in the field. A smaller group worked for three weeks in the laboratory back on the ISU campus. Field work included a continued surface reconnaissance of sites in the Saylorville Reservoir; testing of two sites being destroyed by construction activities (13PK122 and 13BN140); and larger-scale excavations in the Coal Valley locality west of Boone, where road relocation, proposed levee construction, and eventual flooding threaten a number of important archaeological sites including 13BN110 (the Meehan-Schell site) and 13BN121 (the Sparks site).

<u>13PK122</u>: This site is located directly in the axis of the Big Creek Sub-Impoundment Dam near Polk City. The ISU crew collected surface materials from the site in 1968 and 1969. During June of 1970, the crew monitored the grading of the area in preparation for the construction of the earth-filled dam. Neither surface materials nor small scale tests yielded information pertaining to a primary occupation zone. Artifacts, however, are indicative of a Woodland occupation. The site is now destroyed by the dam.

<u>13BN140</u>: This site was located during the 1969 field season and is in the axis of a road relocation in Boone County. During the summer of 1970, the site was surfaced again and a series of small test pits excavated. So far it would appear that the primary occupation has been truncated by plowing. Lithic materials are indicative of Woodland or Archaic -- especially the repetitive corner-notched or expanding stemmed projectile points. Investigations will continue as time permits during the fall when the road construction will be in full swing.

<u>13BN110</u>: Preliminary excavations were undertaken at this site during 1968. Three components were indicated in the surface materials (Woodland, Great Oasis, and an historic pioneer occupation associated with the Coal Valley community and the Noah Creek Kiln - 13BN111). The sub-plow cultural zone, including 28 storage pits, yielded only Great Oasis materials. Unfortunately, the construction schedule of county road R-18 was set ahead some 7 weeks without notification to the ISU Archaeological Lab. Hence, most of the site 13BN110 was destroyed in May. The extreme eastern portion of the site, however, was investigated during the summer. More storage pits, a hearth, and two definite postholes were recovered. Cultural materials are diagnostic of Great Oasis. Several storage pits yielded charred vegetal remains: corn, beans, possibly squash, and some other small seeds. Pit fills were water screened, and some soil saved in the hope that it might be analyzed for the discrete type of ecological data so dramatically discussed by Professor David Baerreis at the last Iowa Archaeological Society meeting in Des Moines.

<u>13BN121</u>: Work begun at this site in 1969 was continued during the 1970 field season. Although Great Oasis and historic (Coal Valley settlement) materials are found along with Woodland on the surface, the sub-plow cultural zone is yielding materials diagnostic of (middle) Woodland only. A circular arrangement of 15 features (interpreted as shallow storage pits or basins) was recovered. Ceramics are suggestive of Havana ware. "Enviromental Archeology in Western Iowa" prepared by Dr.David A.Baerreis is

INCLUDED IN THIS ISSUE THROUGH A JOINT EFFORT OF THE N / W CHAPTER MEMBERS. WE FEEL THIS NEW APPROACH TO ARCHEOLOGICAL RESEARCH SHOULD BE OF REAL INTER-EST TO OUR MEMBERS.FROM N / W CHAPTER OF THE I A S...VOL.XVIII,NO.#5.SEPT.1970 \*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*\*

THE ANNUAL SPRING MEETING DATE HAS BEEN SET FOR APRIL 17 & 18,1971, IN CHEROKEE,

DEAN STRAFFIN, Assistant State Archeologist, will present "The Vikings" a report on on Archeology in Scandinavia, at the regular meeting of the S / E Chapter in Ottumwa.That will be Friday, October 9, 1970, 7:30 pm, upstairs 225 ½ East Main St.

MR.STRAFFIN IS PRESENTLY ASSISTANT PROFESSOR OF ANTHROPOLOGY AT PARSONS COLLEGE IN FAIRFIELD.HE IS LOOKING FORWARD TO MEETING WITH MEMBERS OF THE 1 A S.A QUESTION AND ANSWER PERIOD WILL FOLLOW PROGRAM AND SLIDES.THIS SHOULD BE AN OPPORTUNE MEETING TO DECIDE ON THE FUTURE ACTIVITIES OF THIS CHAPTER.WOULD LIKE TO SEE ALL THE S / E MEMBERS PRESENT ON THIS OCCASION.

THIS WILL INTRODUCE DARRELL FULMER , WHO AUTHORED THE PAPER PAGE TEN, REGARDING HIGHWAY RELOCATION SALVAGE ARCHEOLOGY.DARRELL HAS SINCE ENROLLED IN THE SIU GRADUATE SCHOOL IN ANTHROPOLOGY IN IOWA CITY.ADRIAN D.ANDERSON WILL TAKE OVER THIS HIGHWAY PROJECT AFTER OCTOBER 1ST.THIS PROJECT IS A START IN WHAT WE WOULD LIKE TO SEE.A STATEWIDE ARCHEOLOGICAL SURVEY WITH-IN OUR TIME.

THE VANDALS AND OTHER REAL SICK PEOPLE STILL CONTINUE TO DESTROY SITES. I A S MEMBER RALPH ESHELMAN, GRADUATE STUDENT AT SUI was involved in a cave project in NE Iowa .He was gathering material and information to use in his Masters thesis on snails and other shell life found in this cave. While he was absent from the site, several local men entered the cave and wantonly destroyed the extensive excavations Ralph had made. This will delay his paper and the material lost for all time. How can we apologize to a new comer to lowa for having people like this ? We know they are in a minority, but why?

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THE "BLOOD RUN SITE", LYON COUNTY, HAS BEEN DESIGNATED AS A NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK BY WALTER J.HICKEL, SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR, EARLIER IN SEPTEMBER 1970. THE SITE IS LOCATED AT THE CONFLUENCE OF BLOOD RUN CREEK AND THE BIG SIOUX RIVER. DESIGNATION AS A NATIONAL HISTORIC LANDMARK IS RECOGNIZED AS A MEANS OF ENCOURAGING PRESERVATION AND AUTOMATICALLY PLACES AREAS SO DESIGN ATED ON THE NATIONAL REGISTER OF HISTORIC PLACES BY THE NATIONAL PARK SERVICE.

HIGH SCHOOL EXCHANGE STUDENT MASTA MARJANOVIC, ZEMUN, JUGOSLAVIA WAS A "GUEST" DIGGER AT THE ISU 1970 FIELD SCHOOL FOR A FEW DAYS. SHE SHOWED AN INTEREST IN ARCHEOLOGY AND THE SOCIETY AND IT WAS DECIDED TO SEND HER COPIES OF THE NEWSLETTER, WHICH SHE THOUGHT WOULD BE AN AID FOR HERSELF AND HER BROTHER IN THEIR HISTORY STUDIES. WELCOME HONORARY MEMBER MISS MASTA MARJANOVIC.

MARK DOWN APRIL 17 AND 18,1971 IN RED ON YOUR CALENDAR TODAY



A Step In The Right Direction -Darrell Fulmer

Anyone concerned with obtaining an understanding of Iowa's prehistoric peoples by using archaeological materials is faced with the sad fact that a good deal of information is being destroyed each year. This destruction comes about in many ways: vandalism, natural destruction, principally by erosion (often aided by poor soil and conservation practices), and destruction as a by-product of man's technological alteration of his environment, for example, flood control projects, building construction, pipeline and road construction, agricultural practices which disturb the subsoil, and so on.

Obviously, most of this loss is attributable to man's activities either directly or indirectly. It is also probably true that most of the material is destroyed simply because the people involved in these activities are not aware of the scientific value of the sites, in terms of archaeology.

Ideally, any sites which were to be destroyed could be scientifically studied, and certain unique or very valuable sites could , if possible, be spared by project changes. The resources are not available whereby all damage to archaeological materials can be assessed. It would take an army of trained people to adequately cover the state in an endangered-site survey, not to mention the difficulties involved in terms of people and materials necessary to make satisfactory studies of the sites.

One way Iowa can have a better record on site preservation is if interested people in an area in which such jeopardized sites exist will make this information available to the State Archaeologist at the University of Iowa.

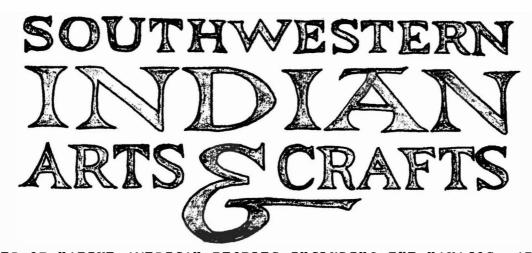
Another way one aspect of this problem is being attacked is by a project which got under way June 1 of this year. Officially entitled Iowa State Highway Commission Research Project HR-149, the project is designed as a preliminary archaeological survey of proposed roadways and is meant to furnish to the Highway Commission information concerning the location and probable importance of archaeological sites in the proposed routes of new or relocated roads.

During the past summer, projected roadways have been checked from Northeast to Southwest Iowa. The most extensive project being a study of the six proposed Interstate-380 routes from Waterloo to Cedar Rapids. The methods of study have involved interviews with landowners and local collectors, surface collection where possible, use of aerial photos, on-the-ground reconnaissance, and in some instances minimal subsurface testing.

A number of sites have been recorded as a result of these surveys. That number would have been very substantially smaller if it were not for the kind, unselfish assistance of many amateurs, some of whom are I.A.S. members.

In terms of completeness, the work to date undoubtedly leaves something to be desired, but I feel it is a valuable start in the direction of preservation of the historical heritage of the state.

Work on the project this past summer has been carried out by myself, a graduate student at the University of Iowa. The project is currently being operated by Adrian Anderson, the Assistant State Archaeologist, also from the University of Iowa.



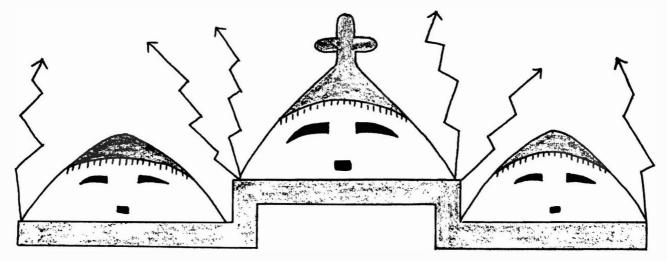
A NUMBER OF NATIVE AMERICAN PEOPLES INCLUDING THE NAVAJOS, APACHES, PUEBLOS, PAPAGOS AND OTHERS DWELL IN THE COMPLEX CULTURE AREA KNOWN AS THE SOUTHWEST. THE ARTS, CUSTOMS, BELIEFS AND WAY OF LIFE OF THESE PEOPLE WILL BE THE FEATURES OF OUR THIRD ANNUAL CREATIVE TEACHING EXHIBIT ENTITLED "TRIBAL ARTS OF THE SOUTHWEST INDIANS" TO BE HELD THIS FALL AT THE SANFORD MUSEUM.

THE PURPOSE OF THIS EXHIBIT IS TO PRESENT THE SOUTHWEST INDIANS AS THEY ONCE LIVED AND ARE PRESENTLY LIVING. WE HOPE YOU WILL SEE THIS EXHIBIT AND LEAVE WITH A DEEPER UNDERSTANDING AND AN INCREASING RESPECT FOR THESE "FIRST" AMERICANS.

\* \* \* \* \*

YOU MAY SCHEDULE A LECTURE AND TOUR OF THE EXHIBIT FOR YOUR CLASS OR GROUP BY COMPLETING THE RESERVATION FORM INCLUDED HERE.

CO-SPONSORS OF THIS EXHIBIT ARE THE IOWA STATE ARTS COUNCIL AND THE SANFORD MUSEUM ASSOCIATION.



Return to: Sanford Museum, Cherokee, Iowa 51012

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NAME OF SCHOOL OR GROUP		
MAILING ADDRESS		PHONE
FIRST CHOICE OF TOUR DATE		
ALTERNATE DATE	NUMBER IN GROUP	
TIME OF ARRIVAL	TIME OF DEPARTURE	
(If school class, how many adults accompanyi	ng class?	

From the Secretary:

It is dues "Paying" time once again. 1970...71 Dues are due now. Send your check to: Mrs. Phil Thornton 326 Otsego St. Storm Lake, Iowa 50588 Active...\$4.00 Sustaining...\$10.00 Life ...\$50.00. Pay your dues now and avoid being reminded of this later.

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Mrs. T.

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#### NEW MEMBERS

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A	СТ	ΓIV	Έ

Merl Comer	Mt. Ayr	Cecil Saville	Mt. Ayr
Ralph E. Eshelman	Iowa City	Robert Dean Schook	Des Moines
J. Dale Jenness	Quimby	Dr. L.G. Schrader	Independence
Robert Oiler	Lamoni	John C. Trunkle	Bussey
Dackrie Reysack	Ackley	Roland A. Wikert	Ringsted
Denni <b>s</b> Runge	Waukon		
INSTITUTIONAL	University of Kentucky		Lexington, Ky.
	State University of New York		Binghamton, N.Y.
	Dickson Mounds Museu	m	Lewistown, Ill.

IOWA ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OFFICE OF THE NEWSLETTER EDITOR SOUTHEAST CHAPTER 536 S. DAVIS ST. OTTUMWA, IOWA 52501

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## Non-Profit Organization

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