

NEWSLETTER

FEBRUARY 1972 NUMBER 63



MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

ANOTHER YEAR HAS DESCENDED UPON US WITH ITS PROBLEMS, CHALLENGES AND PROJECTED TURN OF FAVORABLE EVENTS. PLANS ARE MOVING FORWARD ON THE PART OF THE CENTRAL IOWA CHAPTER FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING TO BE HELD IN FORT DODGE THIS YEAR. ACCORDING TO PRESENT PLANS THE MEETING WILL BE HELD ON THE CAMPUS OF IOWA CENTRAL COMMUNITY COLLEGE ON APRIL 8-9, 1972. SO MARK YOUR CALENDARS NOW...

DAVID CARLSON, PROGRAM CHAIRMAN, HAS INFORMED ME THAT THE CALL FOR PAPERS AND CHAPTER REPORTS WILL BE ISSUED LATE IN MARCH, SO IT WOULD BE WELL FOR MEMBERS TO BEGIN MAKING PLANS IN THAT REGARD. PLANS ARE PRESENTLY IN PROGRESS FOR A FINE MEETING AND BANQUET, BUT A REAL SUCCESSFUL EVENT WILL ONLY BE POSSIBLE THROUGH EVERYONE'S PARTICIPATION. THE MORAL OF THIS STORY IS THAT EVERYONE SHOULD RESPOND PROMPTLY WITH BANQUET RESERVATIONS AND PAPERS SO THE PROGRAM CAN GO OUT PRIOR TO THE MEETING AND THE MEALS ARRANGED.

I AM HAPPY TO REPORT THAT THE AMMENDMENTS TO OUR ARTICLES OF INCORPORATION VOTED IN BY SPECIAL MEETING ON NOVEMBER 21, 1971 HAVE BEEN FILED WITH THE SECRETARY OF STATE. WORK IS GOING FORWARD WITH THE HELP OF MAHER, MELOY AND HANKENS, CHEROKEE, TOWARD COMPLYING WITH STANDARDS SET BY THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE AND WE HOPE TO HAVE THIS MATTER SETTLED BY THE TIME OF THE ANNUAL MEETING.

IT IS NECESSARY TO REPORT A BIT OF BAD NEWS ALONG WITH THE GOOD. DON SPEARS, OUR LONG TIME FAITHFUL NEWSLETTER EDITOR, CAN NO LONGER CONTINUE WITH HIS DUTIES AND HE HAS REQUESTED THAT A SUCCESSOR BE APPOINTED TO HIS POST.

A REPLACEMENT HAS NOT AS YET BEEN NAMED AND THE MATTER WILL BE TAKEN UP AS PART OF OUR BUSINESS MEETING IN FORT DODGE THIS APRIL. IN THE MEANTIME, WE WOULD LIKE TO THANK DON AND HIS CO-WORKERS FOR THEIR FINE SERVICE ON BEHALF OF THE SOCIETY. I WOULD LIKE TO EXPRESS A PERSONAL THANK YOU TO DON FOR HIS CLOSE COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE IN MAKING MY JOB A JOY INSTEAD OF A BURDEN.

DON REALIZES THAT HE IS NOT ENTIRELY OFF THE HOOK AND HE EXPECTS TO BE ACTIVE IN OTHER ASPECTS OF OUR SOCIETY IN THE FUTURE.

SEE YOU IN FORT DODGE.

DUANE C. ANDERSON
PRESIDENT, IAS

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Please advise the Editors or Mrs. Thornton of any change in your address so that we might send you the Newsletter as soon as possible, rather than for us to mail it a second time after the P.O. furnishes a new address by returning the Newsletter to the Editor.



Tama, Iowa--Chief George Young Bear, titular head of the Mesquakie or Red Earth People--the name by which the Indian residents of the Tama Settlement wish to be called--died last November in Marshalltown, Iowa, after a lengthy illness. A member of the Sac-Fox tribal council for 24 years and council chief for 16 years, Chief Young Bear was instrumental in obtaining action on Indian claims against the federal government. He was an able lecturer on Indian history and tradition and in this capacity visited many communities and schools.

Chief Young Bear was a charter member of the Tama Pow-Wow Association, and acted as its official interpreter for many years. He was a driving force in the annual pageant hosted by the people of the Tama Settlement. He was a gentle, reasonable person, and he was alarmed by the destruction of aboriginal sites in Iowa and elsewhere and by the desecration of the "Old Ones" burials by "Pot-hunters."

Survivors include a son, George Jr., of Denver, Colorado; two daughters, Mrs. Ralph Colbeck of Jamestown, Rhode Island, and Mrs. Patrick Roy of Bettendorf, Iowa; two stepdaughters, Mrs. Alex Azure of Davenport, Iowa, and Mrs. Don Alexander of Anaheim, California; a brother, Dan, of Tama; and two sisters, Mrs. Columbus Keahna and Mrs. Gaily Morgan, Sr., both of Tama.

The sympathies of the Iowa Archeological Society and its members are with Chief Young Bear's relatives, tribal members, and friends at the Tama Settlement and throughout Iowa. He is missed by all who knew him.

Ref: "THE PALIMPEST". Iowa State Historical Society July, 1967

George A. Horton, Iowa City, Iowa

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS ALONG THE SKUNK RIVER, IN THE PROPOSED AMES RESERVOIR

David M. Gradwohl

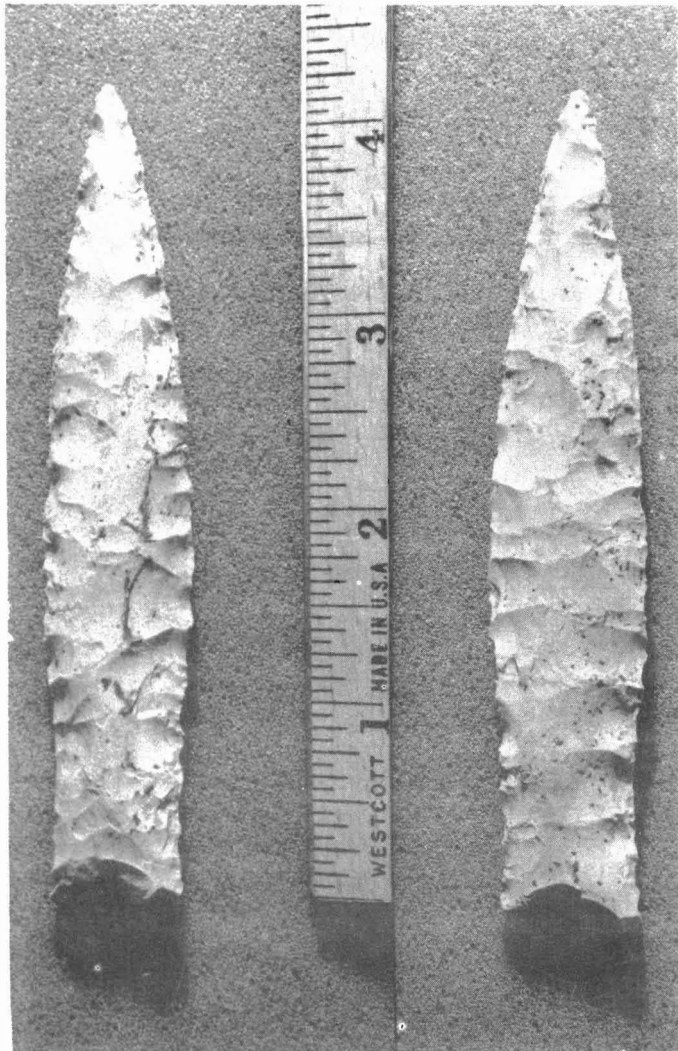
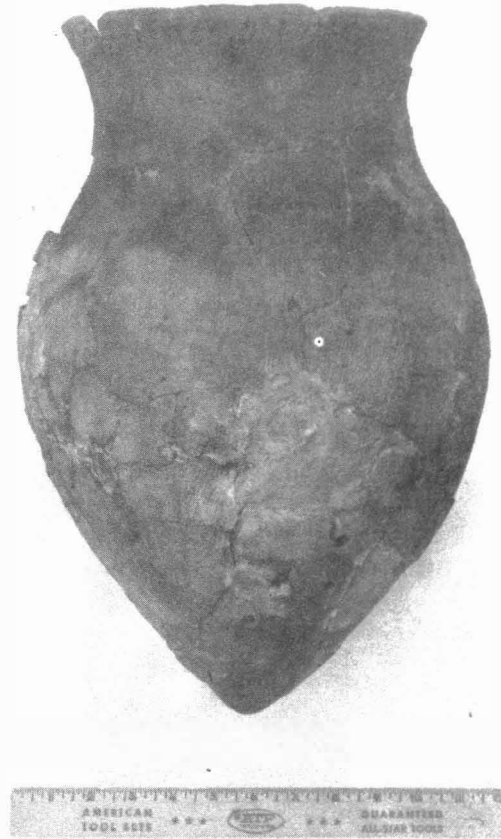
Iowa State University (Ames)

During the summer of 1971, Iowa State University, in cooperation with the National Park Service, conducted an initial archaeological reconnaissance along the Skunk River valley within the limits of the proposed Ames Reservoir. The proposed dam will impound a lake extending from a point approximately two miles north of Ames, past Story City, into southern Hamilton county. Prior to 1971 no intensive surveys had been conducted in Story County, and no sites had been officially recorded for the proposed reservoir area.

During June and July the major portion of the proposed flood pools was surfaced, a technique which was not possible in Red Rock and Saylorville Reservoirs. To date, 48 sites have been recorded in the proposed reservoir area, and several additional sites below the dam. Several sites were located near natural outcrops of chert, and would appear to represent quarrying areas. Although the artifact inventories are not large, artifact types appear to indicate Woodland occupations of the valley, and perhaps Archaic. In a broader section along the Skunk, post-Woodland manifestations may be represented as well. Several historic pioneer sites were included in the survey: the locality of Sopers Mill and cemeteries dating from the 1850s and 1860s. Gravestone inscriptions in German and Scandinavian languages provide an interesting material documentation of the "ethnic" origins of the early settlers in Story county.

Field assistant for the 1971 field season was Nancy Osborn (Ames), graduate student in anthropology at ISU. Other crew members were Thomas K. Elack III (anthropology major, ISU; Jefferson, Iowa), Jean-Cynthia Brett (anthropology & history majors, ISU; Providence, R.I.), Melvin Krieb (anthropology major; Sumner, Iowa), Helene Mahler (Ames, Iowa), John Mason (Welch Jr. High; Ames, Iowa), Mark Metzler (Ames High School X71; Ames, Iowa), Regina Overholt (anthropology major, ISU; Arlington, Va), Gigi Severson (anthropology major, ISU; Sioux City, Iowa), Robert Timberlake (anthropology major, ISU; Bedford, Iowa), and William Wildman (anthropology major, Ripon College, Wisc; Ames, Iowa).

Woodland pottery vessel from the Fens Site 13DK402 found and restored by Bob Moats, Estherville, Iowa. Fragmentary vessel was discovered eroding from bank at the site. Measurements: Height, 16"; Neck diam., 23"; Max. diam. of body, 33"; four holes present on lower portion of body. Quite a find!



SEDALIA TYPE POINT

This point, similar to the type found near Sedalia, Pettis County, Missouri was found on the surface of a newly cultivated cornfield, on July 29, 1971 in N/W Van Buren County, Iowa. Note concave base, which is unusual. It has been ground on the proximal end, and the distal end shows slight retouching by pressure flaking.

The site has produced many 3/4 grooved axes, a few full grooved axes and many side notched Woodland points. Pottery sherds are not present. There are unconfirmed reports of a Bannerstone find, and several broken fluted points have been mentioned. Much burned granite and sandstone, as well as large amounts of chipping debris are also present.

Similar points are frequently found over a widely scattered area here in Southeastern Iowa.

D. Spears proud finder.

Ref: Special Bulletin No. 3.. Oklahoma Anthropological Society, page 86. plate 43.

SITES PRESERVATION COMMITTEE REPORT

On Sunday October 24, 1971 an organizational meeting was held in the Archaeological Laboratory, Iowa State University in Ames, with Dave Gradwahl hosting and Herb Sovereign chairing the meeting. A fair number of the committee were present and many ideas were expressed, and some recommendations were made. These are to be implemented at the annual meeting in Fort Dodge.

D.D. Davis was present and gave a report on the rapid increase in the destruction of the pre-historic house sites in the Glenwood area.

Here again is proof that if these sites are to be preserved, we must do what we can now before more time passes and more of these sites are lost.

Dick Slattery from Davenport and George Horton, Iowa City, gave a paper and showed slides on their 1970 excavation made at the McKinney site in Louisa County. This is the ONEOTA (Orr Focus) fortified site, first sighted by Marquette and Joliet on their first visit to Iowa in 1673.

NATIONAL TRUST FOR HISTORIC PRESERVATION

Adrian Anderson, Assistant State Archaeologist has been named as the liaison officer to this National Historic group.

According to Anderson "Iowa will be submitting many historic place nominations to the National Register in the near future, with the hopes of reversing the situation of Iowa being one of the three states in the nation without federal grants for historic preservation projects".

This will be on the agenda at the annual meeting in Fort Dodge, April 9th and 10th.

Eds. note: Iowa certainly isn't going to go into bankruptcy with the amount of money now being spent on preservation of EVERY IOWANS HERITAGE, either now, or anytime in the foreseeable future. Amen.

"REMEMBER THE BERTRAND" Committee: No reports

"DEADEYE" McCARTY
Bloomfield, Iowa

ANNUAL IAS MEETING, APRIL 9th and 10th, FORT DODGE, IOWA

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