

NEWSLETTER

APRIL 1974

NUMBER 72

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

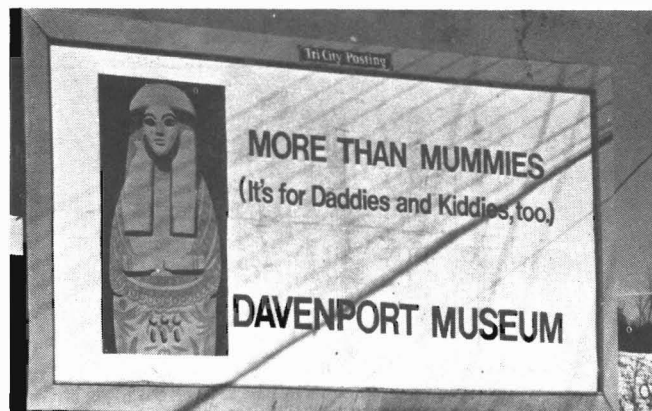
PLANS ARE NOW TAKING SHAPE FOR THE ANNUAL MEETING, APRIL 27-28. DICK SLATTERY, PROGRAM CHAIRMAN, WOULD STILL LIKE TO HEAR FROM YOU IF YOU ARE PLANNING ON ATTENDING THE ANNUAL BANQUET. THE PROGRAM WILL BE SENT OUT AS SOON AS IT CAN BE ASSEMBLED.

PREPARATIONS ARE ALSO UNDER WAY TO HOLD AN IOWA ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY FIELD SCHOOL THIS SUMMER. SEVERAL MEMBERS HAVE BEEN REQUESTING SUCH AN ACTIVITY AND WE ARE PLEASED THAT THINGS ARE WORKING OUT. THE DIG WILL BE AT THE CHAN-YA-TA SITE LOCATED IN BUENA VISTA COUNTY, UNDER THE DIRECTION OF JOE TIFFANY, GRADUATE STUDENT AT THE UNIVERSITY OF WISCONSIN-MADISON. THE PROJECT WILL OPERATE FROM JUNE 24 THROUGH AUGUST 17. MEMBERS WILL BE ABLE TO TAKE PART FOR AS LONG A PERIOD AS THEY WISH.

DETAILS ABOUT THE FIELD SCHOOL AND REGISTRATION FORMS WILL BE IN THE MAIL BY LATE APRIL OR EARLY MAY. MARK OFF A FEW DAYS OR A WEEKEND ON YOUR CALENDARS NOW. THE TIME WILL BE HERE BEFORE YOU KNOW IT AND YOU WON'T WANT TO MISS OUT. THE SITE IS AN INTERESTING ONE. IT IS A MILL CREEK VILLAGE THOUGHT TO BE FORTIFIED. HOUSE FLOORS, STORAGE PITS, MIDDEN AREAS, ETC. SHOULD BE ENCOUNTERED.

HOPE TO SEE YOU AT THE MEETINGS IN DAVENPORT.

DUANE ANDERSON
PRESIDENT



*Review - Mammals & Birds
Do not
Medicine*

Editor's Note:

The annual meeting is the main activity of the Iowa Archeological Society each year. Its success depends on the attendance and participation of the membership. We urge you to come to Davenport on April 27 and 28 if it is at all possible.

Dick Slattery writes that we should have no difficulty finding gasoline in Davenport. He has organized an outstanding program with speakers from the Universities of Iowa, Wisconsin, and Illinois. The speaker for the annual banquet is R. Bruce McMillan of the Illinois State Museum. His topic is, "Some Comparison of Archaic Communities in the American Midwest." We look forward to seeing you at Davenport.

Many of us have recognized the need for a field school in Iowa. The Society has agreed to sponsor a dig this summer at a site in Buena Vista County under the direction of Joe Tiffany. It is an excellent opportunity to sharpen your skills as an archeologist. One of the goals of the society is the training of amateurs in archeological techniques and procedures. We hope that you will plan to spend some time at the dig if your schedule permits.

This issue of the Newsletter includes some proposals by James D. Reysack for changes in the society. There will be some discussion of these matters at the annual meeting. You may want to suggest changes or proposals of your own. The Society will continue to be a viable organization if it can serve the needs and interests of its members. Take an interest and be prepared to discuss Jim's suggestions.

We want to thank everyone who contributed to this issue of the Newsletter. As usual, we would like to hear from more of you. Our travels around the state have been curtailed by the gas shortage. We must rely on you to send material, articles, photographs, and other items of interest.

CHALLENGE

WE HAVE IT IN WRITING !!!!!

GEORGE HORTON SAYS THAT HE WILL STREAK AT THE ANNUAL MEETING IF
DON SPEARS DOES. ITS UP TO YOU DON !!!!!

IOWA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

FIELD SCHOOL

June 24 - August 17, 1974

The Chan-Ya-Ta Site (1āBV1), Buena Vista County

WHY A FIELD SCHOOL? Because IAS members have asked for the opportunity to learn more about field methods.

WHAT'S THE SITE LIKE? Chan-ya-ta is a Mill Creek village site located on a hilltop overlooking Brooke Creek, a tributary of the Little Sioux River. It offers the opportunity to study architecture, village plan, excavation methods, mapping and the recovery of different kinds of remains (seeds, wood, small animals, etc.).

HOW MUCH WILL IT COST? Since there will be some expense involved, a minimal registration fee of \$2. per day will be required. This will help cover equipment and rent for project headquarters.

WHERE WILL YOU STAY? Arrangements have been made with the Buena Vista County Conservation Board for participants to camp at Buena Vista County Park, located near the site. You will receive a map following registration. There may be additional camping at the project headquarters situated in an abandoned farm house.

WHAT ABOUT FOOD? Since many will prefer to be on their own, no large scale communal cooking will be done. Individuals and family groups should plan on providing for themselves, either by eating in town or at their own camping area.

WHAT WILL YOU NEED?

- | | | |
|----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| 1. Shovel | 6. Trowel | 11. Nails |
| 2. Whisk broom | 7. Dental tools | 12. Notebook |
| 3. Ruler | 8. Tape measure | 13. Graph paper |
| 4. Pencil | 9. String | 14. Dust pan |
| 5. Knife | 10. Line level | 15. File |

HERE IS HOW TO REGISTER: Fill out the attached sheet completely and return it to Joe Tiffany, Department of Anthropology, Box 36, University of Wisconsin, Madison, Wisconsin 53706. He will be in charge of the project and will be in touch with you regarding camping places and facilities and where to report for work. Contact Tiffany for more registration forms or additional information.

IT WILL BE HARD WORK, BUT....If you don't mind being sore, tired, dirty and hot, you will have a wonderful time and a worthwhile experience you will always remember! Please let us hear from you at your earliest convenience.

APPLICATION FORM - IAS FIELD SCHOOL, 1974

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

_____ PHONE _____

(a separate form is needed for each registrant)

PLEASE CIRCLE THE DATES YOU EXPECT TO BE IN THE FIELD:

June 24 25 26 27 28 29 30

July 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17

18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31

August 1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17

\$ _____ enclosed for _____ days at \$2. per day. (Make check payable to the Iowa Archaeological Society.)

WAIVER OF LIABILITY

RETURN BY JUNE 10, 1974 TO:

Joe Tiffany
Department of Anthropology
Box 36
University of Wisconsin
MADISON, WISCONSIN 53706

This is to certify that I have health and accident insurance sufficient to cover myself (and family) while working at the Iowa Archaeological Society Field School (June 24-August 17, 1974). I hereby release the IAS from any liability for accidents or illness that might occur during this period.

(signature) _____

THE MYSTERIOUS WHEEL

by

BETSY M. VALEN

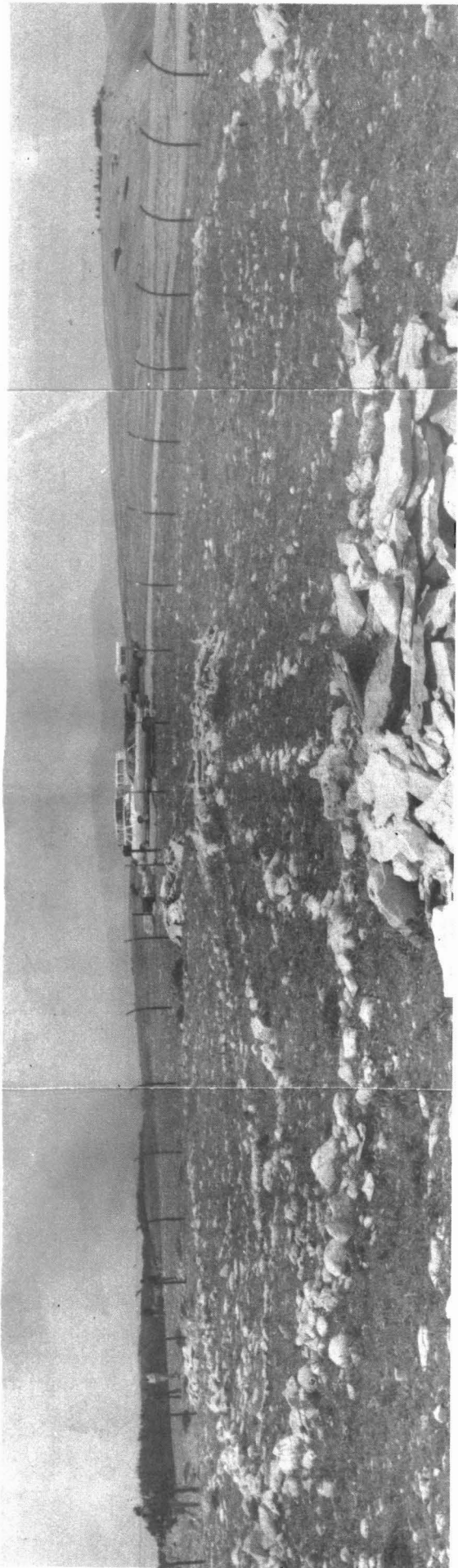
The following is an account of one of the field trips that was part of the Geologic field school I took in the summer of 1973 under Dr. Carl Vondra and Dr. Robert Palmquist of Iowa State University. The camp was located on the western flank of the Big Horn Mountains in Wyoming.

It was a typically scorching July day in northern Wyoming. Instead of the usual field work, the group was going on a trip through the Big Horn Mountains. As the van made its slow ascent over precarious mountain roads, I caught a glimpse of our destination. Perched high on the peak of the rugged western terrain was a particularly austere looking radar tower. Quickly surveying the surrounding area, I could see that the location of the tower was a good vantage point. The peak commanded a magnificent view over the encompassing plains for hundreds of miles. To my surprise the lead van passed the tower and continued on a narrow path to the north. The road on which we travelled was literally built on the side of a strip connecting the mountain tops. We stopped next to a circular fence. There was a sign which read:

This rock structure, known as the Medicine Wheel, was first discovered by white men in 1880. Crow legend says, 'It was built by people who had no iron.' The general shape resembles the sun dance lodge of the Plains Indians. Mystery still shrouds the builders and their purposes.

The huge circle, made from large slabs of limestone and boulders measured nearly 240 ft. in circumference. It looked like an immense wheel, with a pile of stone for its hub, lines of rock radiating from its center as spokes, and the rim outlined with limestone pieces, dotted by six large piles located at various places around its perimeter.

The tribes which inhabited this region when it was first explored by the white men, had no knowledge of who built the structure or for what purpose it was used. It had been made before their time. The present Indians did, however, adopt the wheel to their own religious worship. At the time of its discovery in the late 1880's, the surrounding territory was Crow hunting ground. The Medicine Wheel was sacred to many tribes of the area. During certain times



of the year, the Crow would allow passage of groups on their way to the sacred wheel.

I could not help but be reminded of the structure in England, Stonehenge, as I viewed the lithic arrangement. Could this have been an astrological observatory? If it was, I was told, the alignment of the sun and moon according to the position of the rocks would have corresponded to the heavens at a time nearly 10,000 years ago.

No remains, artifacts or clues of these ancient engineers have been found. Only this single, perplexing wheel is left for us to wonder about.

As we left the Medicine Wheel, driving further north, I looked back and saw the ominous radar tower looming behind the fence circling the wheel. It's strange, I thought, how men of today and yesterday have chosen the same place to build their monuments to the sky.

Left: MEDICINE WHEEL
BIG HORN MOUNTAINS, WYOMING

MUTTERINGS FROM JIM'S CORNER

by

JAMES D. REYSACK

We have an unresolved question of lifetime memberships. At our annual meeting in Cherokee a few years ago, it was brought up that if a large number of members became eligible for lifetime status, we would be in a pinch for funds. After a short discussion we tabled a motion to change the by-laws eliminating this weakness. As it now stands, anyone who pays \$50 dues is designated a lifetime member and is no longer required to pay dues. With costs of everything going up we can ill-afford the loss of income. I feel the term "lifetime member" should be an honorary title given as recognition for outstanding service to the Iowa Archeological Society or for 25 year memberships. This could be voted on by those attending annual meetings following recommendations of such individuals by the board of trustees, officers or committees. I don't think the term "lifetime" should be bought.

It also seems that we have very few sustaining members. Perhaps we all should give some thought to changing our memberships from active to sustaining. It is only ten dollars and most of us can afford it. We travel half-way across the state each spring for our annual meeting, stay overnight, enjoy a good meal with very good company and drive home again. Why not spend another six dollars and become sustaining members?

Why can't IAS sponsor a graduate student on summer survey or some equally important project? We have a worthwhile organization, let's back it!

No news on Highway 520 Project in Hardin County. I understand the environmental report was due in February. The outcome hinges on that report.

Going over last summer's finds, one is a ground base point which matches description and drawings of "Hells Gap Point" in Guide to Identification of American Indian Projectile Points, Special Bulletin No. 4, Oklahoma Anthropological Society, page 48, Plate 24, Points A and B. A nice find in this area.

Hope to see most of you at the Davenport meeting with your "look what I found" treasures.

GOOD HUNTING!!

SUPPORT IAS!!!

CHAPTER REPORTS

Central Iowa Chapter

The January meeting featured two documentary films, "The Oneota Long House People", prepared by the Office of the State Archeologist, and "The American Indian - Then and Now", assembled by Iowa State University. Our local chapter offered both of these films to several grade schools for their use.

During February, Jeff Flenniken from the Iowa State University Anthropology Department, demonstrated the art of flintknapping and commented on the use of heat treating to prepare the chert. Also attending our meeting was Duane Peter, a graduate student at I. S. U. As a special feature of Brotherhood Week, Jeff Flenniken took time to speak to a group of grade school children during the afternoon.

The Rev. Dr. Gene Siekmann of Fort Dodge was guest speaker at our March meeting. Dr. Siekmann has very close ties with the Sioux people of the Pine Ridge and Wounded Knee areas of South Dakota. Each summer he selects some outstanding Fort Dodge High School students and they spend several weeks conducting a summer recreation and education program for the Indian children of the reservation. His photographs of these children were outstanding.

A special Sunday visit to the archeological laboratory at Iowa State University is planned for April.

Quad-City Area Archeological Society

Dr. Michael Hager, Assistant Professor of Geology, Augustana College, discussed his excavations for vertebrate fossils with emphasis placed on excavation techniques and reconstruction of the paleo-environmental conditions in the area for our January program. The presentation was entitled, "Pleistocene and Recent History of the Donnelly Ranch Vertebrate Site, Southeast Colorado."

During February, Dr. Richard Shutler, Chairman of the Anthropology Department at the University of Iowa, gave the talk on the Cherokee Buffalo Kill Site.

In March, Mr. Gregory Perino of the Foundation for Illinois Archeology spoke on "Hopewell Burial Sites of Illinois."

(Quad-City cont.)

The proposed topic for the May meeting is "The Kickapoo Village Site, Vermillion County, Illinois." The speaker will be Dr. Walter Klippel of the Illinois State Museum.

Plans for this summer include a field trip to the Koster Site in Kampsville, Illinois. Also, a salvage excavation with University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, at a village-mound site in Rock Island County is scheduled.

From the Davenport Museum come these notes:

The Museum will sponsor, with Iowa Humanities and the Office of the State Archaeologist, three programs acquainting us with native Americans. This series, titled Indian Frontiers, will be presented at the Museum on Tuesday nights, May 2, 9, and 16 at 7:30 p.m. Each program will consist of film presentations and a speaker who is an authority in the field. The first program will deal with Prehistoric Indian lifeways in the Midwest prior to European contact; the second covers historic red-white relationships, 1700-1900, and the third relates to contemporary native Americans.

Coming - an exhibit of 3000 years of unadorned pottery of the American Indian selected from the collection of The Museum of the American Indian, Heye Foundation. The purpose of this exhibition is to show the great range of form in the ceramic artistry of the American potter. Many exhibitions emphasize sculptural or painted wares, and have excluded those clay vessels of more utilitarian forms. The pieces assembled for this presentation reflect the virtuosity of technique, the response to color and texture as well as the relationship of function and material which are the hallmark of the American potter. What decoration does occur on the ware is the work of the potter and reflects his skill and aesthetic judgement. Often a form made by a potter was turned over to the painter to decorate, and the clay form itself became a vehicle for the artist; the form of the pot as well as the quality of the material, then became secondary. This kind of vessel has not been included in the exhibition. The pieces presented are those which offer the potter's statement. Exposure to "Naked Clay" will not give the visitor a complete preview of the ceramic artistry of the American Indian. However, it will introduce him to a greater range of artistry in clay than he normally obtains, and by seeing in one exhibit some 90 examples from all over the hemisphere, representing 40 tribal groups, he will understand the

(Museum cont.)

aboriginal complexity of the Americas and gain a greater appreciation of the native development of the New World. The show will be up during May and June.

Northwest Chapter

The January meeting was held at the Sanford Museum and featured a film called "Easter Island: Puzzle of the Pacific." The film was enjoyed by 55 people, including several visitors with refreshments following.

In February, the chapter went on a field trip to visit the O'Brien County Historical Society Museum in Primghar. The group assembled for a joint meeting in the Senior Citizens Building and later proceeded to the museum around the corner.

The March meeting featured a slide lecture on Africa and a tour of the Africa Exhibit featured at the museum in Cherokee.

A teacher inservice program was initiated at the Sanford Museum in February in connection with the school-museum program "Exploring the Tangible World." Forty-five teachers from northwest Iowa schools took part in evening sessions on geology, paleontology and archaeology. The school project (ETW) has afforded the museum staff an opportunity to tell area school children more about history and archaeology through specimen talks in the classroom. Most work is done with grades K-8, but staff members have worked with high school students as well.

Duane Anderson and Marnie Mandeville (NWIAS member at the University of Missouri) hope to do a study of a rock called Tongue River Silicified Sediments found in the glacial gravels of northwest Iowa. It was used frequently by prehistoric people for artifacts.

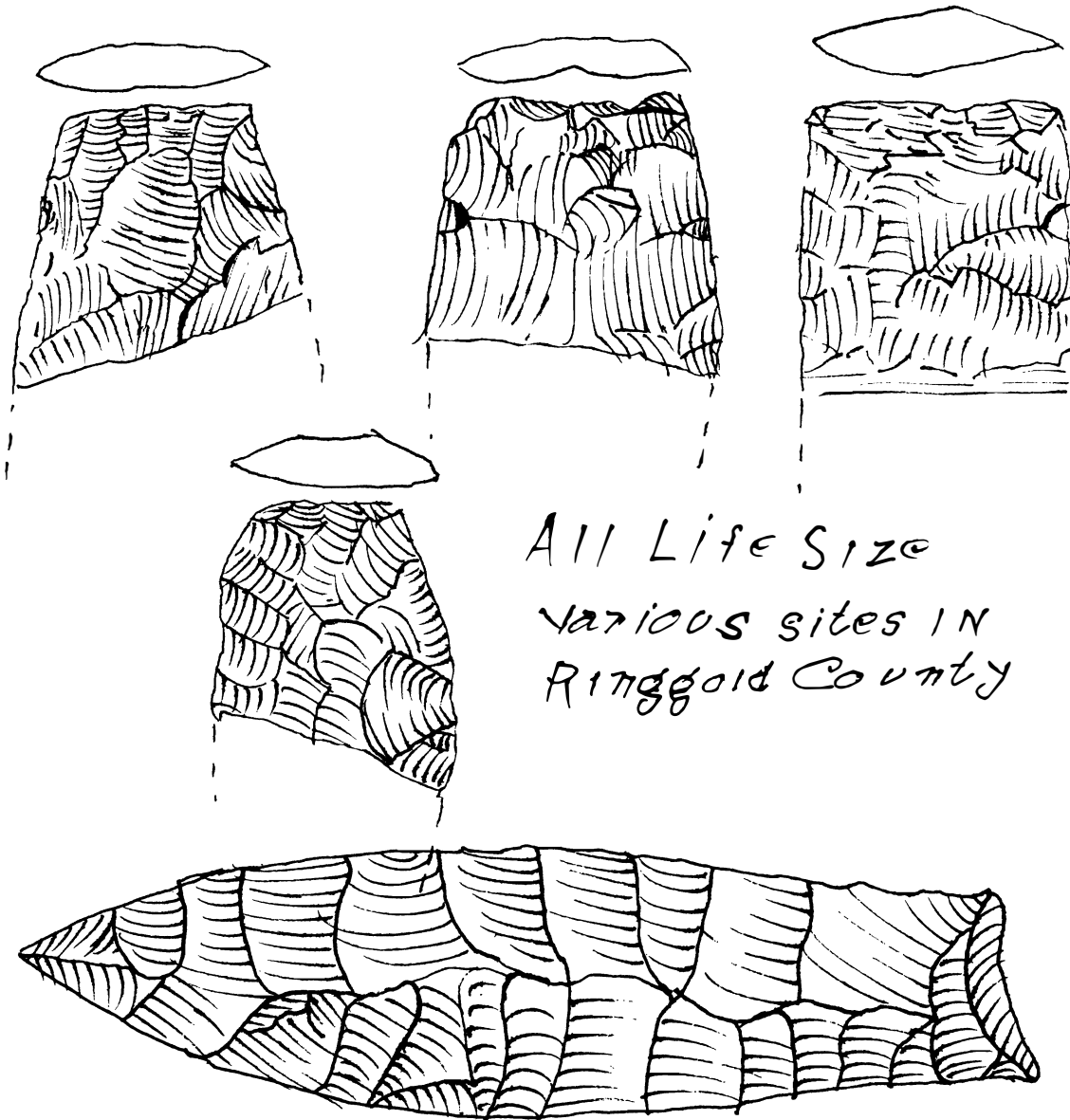
Lone Ranger Chapter: Submitted by George Horton (sole member)

Don Wan-a-tee from the settlement at Tama presented a talk on the Indians' feelings and modern archeology. Terry Stocker, graduate student from the University of Illinois, presented a slide program on MesoAmerican Archeology.

(See page 2 for George's challenge to Don Spears!!)

South Central Chapter

Herb Sovereign sent the following drawings. He asks, "What is it, point or knife?"



Book Reviews

Gilbert, B. Miles. Mammalian Osteo-Archaeology: North America.
Missouri Archaeological Society, Columbia. 1973. 337 pps.

Mammalian Osteo-Archaeology represents an attempt by Gilbert to re-acquaint the archaeologist with some of the fundamentals of mammalian osteology - a subject of which most archaeologists can stand a review. The book includes a good overview of why it is important for the archaeologist to study animals, an interesting

(review cont.)

paper by Robson Bonnichsen on butchering techniques of the Cree and how to tell bones altered by man from those altered by the carnivores. Possibly more important to the archeologist, the book contains sections on how to prepare study skeletons, a description of elements, a look at some of the trickier problems encountered (i.e., how to tell the ungulates, canids and species of Ursus from one another), age determination, a brief sketch of the life habits of each of the 74 animals included and maps showing the range of these animals.

The real value in the book, though, lies in the drawings showing elements likely to occur in archaeological deposits. Many of our most common animals are represented (deer, bison, beaver, etc.) as well as those we are not likely to encounter in Iowa (seal, musk ox). The drawings are life-sized wherever possible making the book an excellent tool for comparison in the field or the lab. They are generally of good quality, however, pointing out the distinctive characteristics of many more of the bones would have been a great help.

In general, however, the book is an excellent tool, and will certainly rank high among the items needed by any archaeologist who desires to identify the bones he finds. This is a subject on which more books are needed, and even though "no handbook will ever replace the comparative collection as a source for faunal identification" (p. 25), this book fills a large gap in the literature.

Reviewed by
Patricia Williams
Sanford Museum and Planetarium

William S. Webb. Indian Knoll. Introduction to the new edition by Howard D. Winters. The University of Tennessee Press, Knoxville, Tennessee. 1974. cost: 8.50

The advance of archeological knowledge and technique in the U. S. during the past 50 years has been phenomenal. One of the milestones in that record is William S. Webb's Indian Knoll. The work was first introduced in 1946 as a part of the University of Kentucky reports in anthropology and archeology. Its significance was that Webb outlined specific characteristics of the Archaic tradition at a time when that

(review cont.)

culture was considered an early segment of Woodland.

Indian Knoll is a useful document for both the professional and amateur archeologist. The descriptions and analysis of the Indian Knoll assemblage is concise and interesting. The amateur should learn a great deal about the archaic complex. Professionals have found Webb's site reports to be accurate and useful today. The book does not provide the in-depth analysis of a current site report, but Webb's methods and descriptions are good enough to support a new assessment.

The lay reader will enjoy Webb's descriptions and interpretations of artifacts and burials. The data on the atlatl is of special interest. The language is clear and well supported with numerous photographs. The reprint of Indian Knoll will be a welcomed addition for the library of anyone with an interest in archeology.

Reviewed by
Gary L. Valen

Further memos:

The Iowa Archeological Society is now up to date with the publications of its Journal. Volume 20 was distributed around the middle of February. It carried the analysis of lithic materials from the Brewster Site (13CK15) by Duane Anderson. Back issues of many journals are available.

The Iowa Archeological Society is a non-profit, scientific society legally organized under the corporate laws of Iowa.

Members of the Society are amateurs and professionals with a serious interest in the archeology of Iowa and the Midwest.

The Newsletter is published four times a year. A Journal of the Iowa Archeological Society is issued once a year. Back issues are available through the editors. The printing or use of any material in the Newsletter is forbidden without the consent of the Society.

Send all material, comments, questions to:

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Gary and Betsy Valen
R.R. 3
Indianola, Iowa 50125

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