

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 1976

NUMBER 79

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

The updated list of back issues of the JOURNAL has been printed and circulated to 430 Iowa libraries. As a result, five libraries have purchased complete sets and several others have taken out IAS memberships. If your local library does not have the JOURNAL, you might ask the librarian if she could obtain it. We have about \$6000. worth of inventory we would like to move out into the state. Additional copies of the list are available upon request.



The new IAS membership brochure is now available. It is patterned after the Arkansas brochure, and carries illustrations by Mesquakie artist Charles Push-e-to-ne-qua. We are anxious to begin circulating these and will be happy to make them available to members for distribution. Our special thanks go to Mr. Push-e-to-ne-qua for assisting us with the art work.

This issue of the NEWSLETTER contains the first of a series of leaflets on Iowa's cultures being prepared by Lynn Alex and illustrated by Mary Slattery. These leaflets and others on typology, dating, artifact function and other topics are being prepared separately as time and money permits. When the sets are complete, however, they will be bound and become a "Handbook of Iowa Archaeology." All culture sketches have been written, but are in various stages of printing. We will be running the sketches individually in the NEWSLETTER as space permits. Individual copies are available through the Office of State Archaeologist.

John Hotopp, Highway Archaeologist, has compiled some statistics on the status of the state-wide site survey which should be of interest to members. He found that 1083 sites have been added to the state inventory since 1973, bringing the total number of Iowa sites to 2886. This is a startling increase of 62.5% in just two years! The number of sites is really over 3000, as Allamakee County is presently undergoing revision by John Tandarich, and none of the sites in that area are included in the figures presented here.

While these figures on sites are very encouraging, there are still several counties with NO sites whatsoever. They include: Butler, Carroll, Cass, Greene, Kossuth, Madison, Mahaska and Shelby. Winter is a good time to catch up on paper work, so if you know of any sites in these counties, please send in the information. If you need site sheets or information on how to fill them out, please contact IAS Headquarters, Eastlawn, Univ. of Iowa, Iowa City, 52252. Several other counties have only one site recorded: Adair, Adams, Cerro Gordo, Clarke, Davis, Howard, Mitchell, Monroe, Taylor and Worth.

The IAS directors will be meeting later this month or early next month to take up a number of items of business including: IAS goals for 1976-77, election of officers, State Fair Booth, awards committee, field school, certification and the spring meeting.

The officers and directors join me in wishing you the best for 1976!

Duane Anderson,
President

SPRING MEETINGS

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE IOWA ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY APRIL 3-4

The IAS Annual Meeting will be held on April 3-4 on the Simpson College campus in Indianola, Iowa. The featured speaker will be Dr. James B. Griffin, University of Michigan. Dr. Griffin is a well known authority on the archaeology of the eastern United States and we are most fortunate that he will be able to be with us! MARK YOUR CALENDAR FOR APRIL 3-4 AND MAKE PLANS TO ATTEND.

ANNUAL MEETING OF THE IOWA ACADEMY OF SCIENCE APRIL 9-10

The annual meeting of the Iowa Academy of Science will be held at Clarke College in Dubuque, Iowa from April 9-10. Participants in the meeting have been asked to prepare papers on Iowa prehistory that attempt to synthesize major cultural stages or prehistoric and cultural patterns in specific environmental areas. Anthropology has been included in the Iowa Academy of Science as a separate section since 1970. It is important that members of the Iowa Archeological Society support the Academy and especially the Anthropology section. If you have any questions or need further information, contact R. Clark Mallam, Archeological Research Center, Luther College, Decorah, Iowa, 52101.

FALL MEETINGS

MEETING OF THE ASSOCIATION OF IOWA ARCHEOLOGISTS

The first business meeting of the newly formed Association of Iowa Archeologists was held at the Lincoln Hilton on Thursday evening, November 6, 1975 during the 33rd Plains Conference. Participants of the Luther College Conference which was held in Decorah on June 20, 21, and 22, 1975 acted as the steering committee for this meeting. The purpose of the Luther Conference was to discuss the future of Iowa Archeology. (See Newsletter #77, July 1975)

The proposed by-laws were read, discussed, and approved. Duane Anderson was nominated for Chairperson and Nancy Osborn for Secretary. Both were elected to these offices. David Baerreis noted the need for a member (s) of the Iowa Archeological Society to sit in an ex-officio capacity at meetings of the A.I.A. Joe Tiffany again made the suggestion that Fellows and Associates of the A.I.A. also be members of I.A.S. Interested individuals may apply for and receive a membership in this association if they can meet the criteria set forth by the A.I.A. This would consist of a record of field schools, field or lab work, salvage work or evidence of some level of professional competence. Anthropology students would be considered under different qualifications. Persons completing any or all of the three steps in the newly

designed state certification program would be considered for membership. With this concept a well coordinated statewide archeological program can be realized, with a successful informational exchange being maintained. A code of ethics can be constructed and operationalized. The interaction between the A.I.A. and the Iowa Society will be discussed at the spring meeting in Indianola.

This writer realizes his deficiencies and prefers the serenity and anonymity that goes with being a layman on the outer perimeter, and hopes that others will not seek a membership as a status symbol.

Twenty-five I.A.S. members attended this meeting and Amy Harvey was also present.

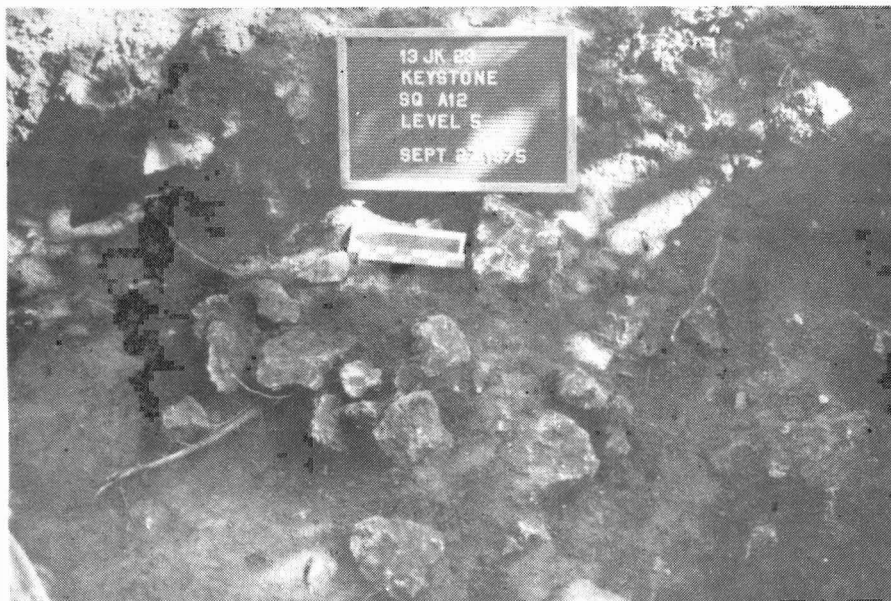
submitted by Don Spears

33rd PLAINS CONFERENCE

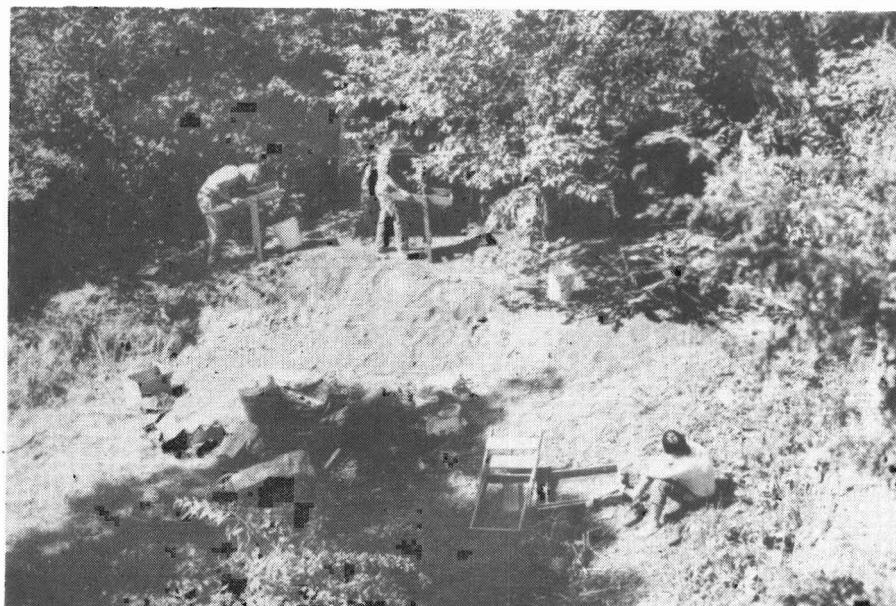
This was a great meeting with many interesting papers being given and old friends visited. The 1976 Conference will be held in St. Paul sometime in November.

Friends of Lee Madison will be glad to hear he has recovered from his illness and was present for the whole affair. He had his old joke bag open and told of the many amusing experiences he had while working on the many projects during his career as a Plains Anthropologist. He presently resides at 228 South 17th, Apt. #110, Lincoln, NA., Zip 68508, and he would enjoy hearing from old friends. Lee was one of the people who surveyed the Rathbun Dam area for the Smithsonian during the early sixties.

submitted by Don Spears



Feature from the Keystone Site. Text and additional photos follow on page 4.



KEYSTONE SITE

13 JK 23

DERRICK J. MARCUCCI

CHIEF COORDINATOR

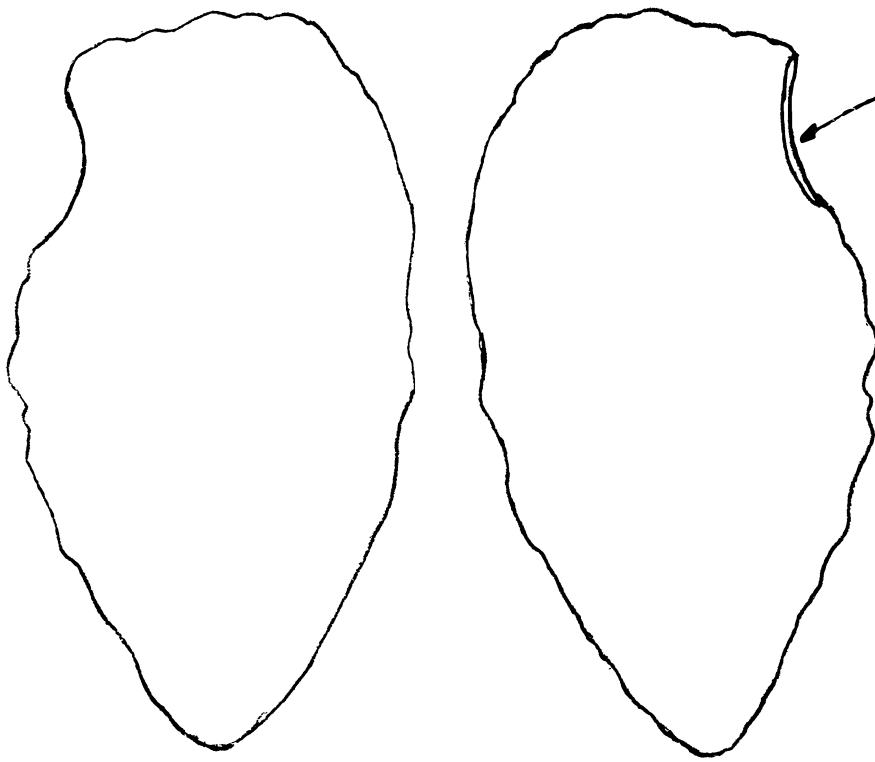
KEYSTONE EXCAVATION

The Keystone site is a multicomponent rock shelter in Eastern Iowa. The Charles Keyes Chapter of the Iowa Archaeological Society has been intermittently excavating the site this fall as a salvage project.

Simple visual examination thus far of lithic material recovered suggest a wide time span of human occupation. No less than one small side notched point has been recovered and at approximately 5 feet below the surface an unusual bifacial blade, probably associated with an Archaic horizon was unearthed in-situ.

The Keystone excavation may, hopefully, provide much needed data concerning both Woodland and possible Archaic development in Eastern Iowa. Paucity of in-situ material has hampered such study previously.





FULL SCALE

DES MOINES COUNTY

FINE FINISH

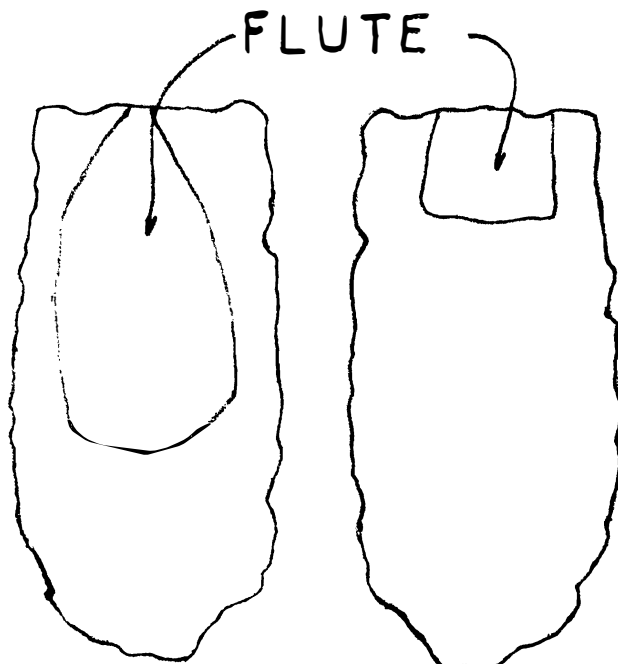
We received the following letter and drawings from David M. Zachmeyer, 1109 $\frac{1}{2}$ Summer, Burlington, Iowa 52601. Congratulations on your finds and thanks for the contribution to the Newsletter. Eds.

Dear Sir,

In reply to your request for Clovis type points found in Iowa, I submit the enclosed drawings of my find.

Along with the spear point and the biface blade, the only other lithic artifacts I have found at this site are the large hand axes made of flint or chert. I have been surface hunting this site for four years and havn't ever detected the remotest resemblance to other points or blades. The site is full of the large hand axes. This information leads me to believe that this could be one of the oldest sites in Iowa.

The fluted point as drawn may appear to be broken, but I don't think it has been. It is about $\frac{3}{8}$ " thick and fluted about 20% deep on each side.

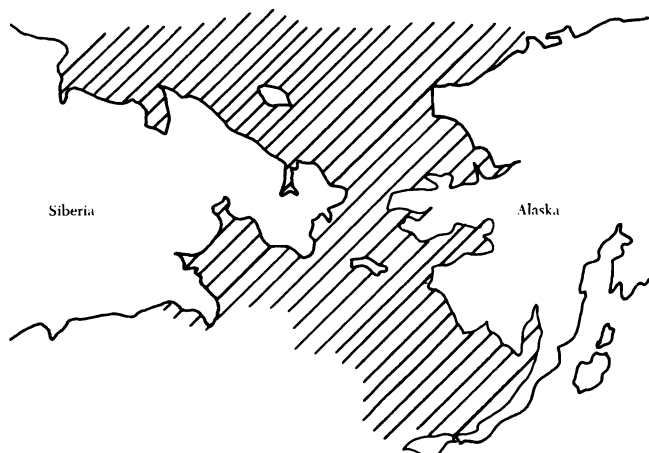


FULL SCALE

We encourage all of you to share your archaeological discoveries with us. A photograph or drawing with some information about the site is a welcome addition to any issue of the Newsletter. It also adds to the data about the total archaeological record of the state of Iowa.

PALEO-INDIAN PERIOD

THE EARLIEST PERIOD in Iowa prehistory is sometimes referred to as the "Paleo-Indian" or "Big-Game Hunting" stage. It represents the first time that we find evidence of people living in the state. The remains of even earlier people have been found in North, Central and South America and suggest that the Western Hemisphere was colonized by 20,000 years ago and possibly earlier. It is believed that the very earliest immigrants entered the New World from Asia at various times throughout the last "Ice Age," or Pleistocene, when vast ice sheets partially covered the northern parts of North America and Eurasia. These ice sheets, or glaciers, locked up thousands of cubic miles of water, thereby lowering sea levels on a worldwide scale and exposing many areas of land formerly covered by water. One of these was an area beneath what is now the Bering Straits, a narrow strip of water which separates northeastern Siberia and western Alaska. It is believed that at several times during the Pleistocene when sea levels were lowered, this area emerged as dry land forming a broad bridge between the two continents. Across this bridge (sometimes referred to as Beringia) both plant and animal species gradually migrated, including the first human immigrants. Since the interior of Alaska appears to have been ice free at these times, there was an open corridor south into North America.



"Beringia", the Bering Straits Land Bridge, is indicated by the hatched area

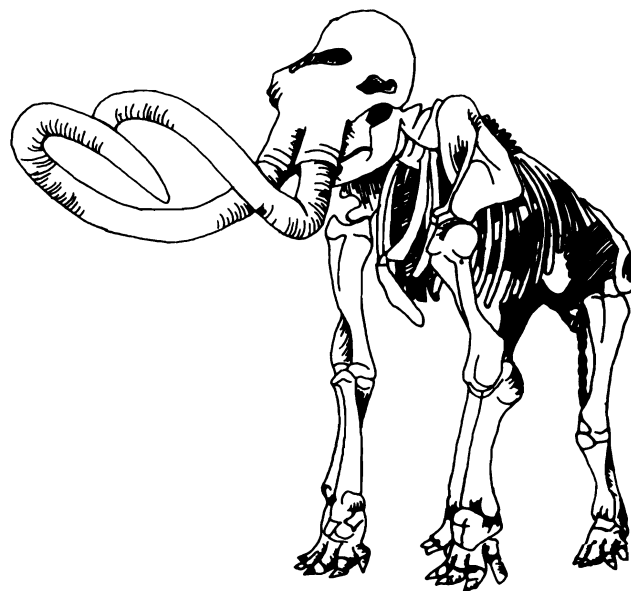
So far, Iowa has not revealed the remains of these very earliest inhabitants. Evidence of their descendants, the people of the Paleo-Indian period, is itself somewhat limited and has come almost exclusively from finds of lanceolate (leaf-shaped) projectile points discovered on the surface of the ground. While the maximum time range for the Paleo-Indian period in North America may extend from 15,000-6,000 B.P. ("before present"), the earliest remains in Iowa are perhaps 12,000 years old. They consist of Clovis spearpoints of the so-called "Llano" culture. Clovis points are typically 3-6 inches long, thin, laurel-leaf shaped and finely chipped. They have one or more short



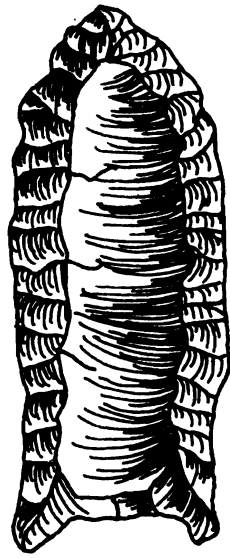
A Clovis spearpoint hafted to its shaft

flakes (flutes) removed on either face from the base up the center portion of the point towards the tip. It is believed that the removal of this flute made it easier to haft the point to the shaft.

At sites outside of Iowa, Clovis points have been found together with large extinct game animals such as mammoth, horse, camel and certain forms of bison which Clovis people hunted. The name "Big-Game Hunting" stage refers to the importance that these animals seemed to have had in the economy of these early Americans. So far in Iowa, Clovis points have been found only from the surface of the ground or in disturbed contexts. Clovis points are known from locations in southwestern Iowa in Page and Mills counties; in northeastern Iowa in Winne-shiek, Allamakee and Clayton counties; and in Louisa



The Imperial Mammoth of North America was hunted by Paleo-Indian people



A Folsom spearpoint



An Agate Basin point from the Cherokee Sewer Site

County in the southeastern part of the state. Most of these were discovered by private individuals and remain in their collections. In addition, in 1965, on the east side of Hare Run, a small tributary of the Cedar River in Cedar County, a cache of some 11 complete and fragmentary Clovis points was recovered from the Rummels-Maske site. These specimens were in the plowzone and had been disturbed as a result of farming. Other Clovis points have been reported elsewhere throughout the state. These include the surface specimen from a farm near Pierson in Woodbury County, single finds from near Belle Plaine in Benton County and Iowa City in Johnson County, and the Clovis point recovered as a result of the installation of a septic tank near Fort Dodge in Webster County.

The next Paleo-Indian culture represented in Iowa is the "Folsom Culture." The Folsom culture as it is known elsewhere in North America is typically represented at kill sites where a second variety of extinct bison was hunted. Here again, spearpoints are the most typical artifact found associated with these animal remains. Folsom spearpoints are smaller than Clovis points, are less leaf-shaped and have a concave base with ear-like projections on each side. A deep flute which sometimes runs almost the entire length of the point is found on both faces. The edges of Folsom points towards the base and the base itself are sometimes ground or dulled. The dulling is felt to have been necessary in order to haft the point to the shaft without cutting through the sinew or material used to bind the point to the shaft. Once again, Iowa has produced only surface finds of Folsom points. These include specimens from Mills, Cherokee, Henry, Allamakee and Winneshiek counties.

The remains of later Paleo-Indian peoples are also present in Iowa, including the only example of a Paleo-Indian find from an excavated site. Artifacts of these later peoples elsewhere in North America have been grouped into what is referred to as the "Plano Culture." It is characterized by a number of lanceolate projectile points which generally lack fluting. Some of these points show a pattern of long, thin, pressure-flaked scars which run horizontally across their surface. Among the many types are Meserve, Milnesand, Browns Valley, Portales, Angostura, Eden, Agate Basin, Hanna, Duncan, Midland, Hell Gap, Cascade, Plainview, Scottsbluff, and Dalton. Once again, many of the artifacts of the Plano culture are found associated

with game animals killed by Plano hunters. In some instances, these are modern species of bison, antelope and others. In Iowa, Plano points resembling Eden and Dalton types are known from surface finds in Mills and Jackson counties. Meserve points have been reported from Mills, Allamakee, Louisa, Henry and Polk counties. Some 27 Milnesand type points were found in Mills County. Excavations in the lower level (Horizon III) at the Cherokee Sewer site produced the remains of a possible Agate Basin point in association with modern bison in a context which dates to ca. 8600 years ago. This particular point is long and slender with a straight base and horizontal, parallel flaking. The base lacks grinding found on Agate Basin points elsewhere. Other Agate Basin points have been reported from northwestern Iowa. Finally, a portion of a possible Scottsbluff type point was recovered from the excavation of the Soldow site in Webster County.

The way of life of Iowa's first inhabitants during the Paleo-Indian period is assumed to have been predominantly nomadic with a specialized economy which concentrated on hunting herds of large game animals. From various sites outside the state we know that Paleo-Indian hunters often worked together to drive herds of bison over cliffs or into bogs where they could be more easily killed and then butchered. In addition to the spearpoints so typical at Paleo-Indian sites, other artifacts include knives, scrapers, abraders, choppers, rubbing stones and some bone artifacts. Most of these can be seen to relate directly to the processing of game and the dressing of hides. Although almost nothing is known of the social organization, housing or more perishable artifacts of Paleo-Indian people like clothing, it is assumed that social interaction necessary for driving herds of game over cliffs or into bogs would have involved cooperation among hunters and an established pattern of social control. Housing would probably have been temporary, involving some sort of branch or bone frame with a covering of skins or mats. Clothes likewise would have been made of skins. Unfortunately, these are the kind of items which do not usually withstand the test of time and so we are left to speculate about them.

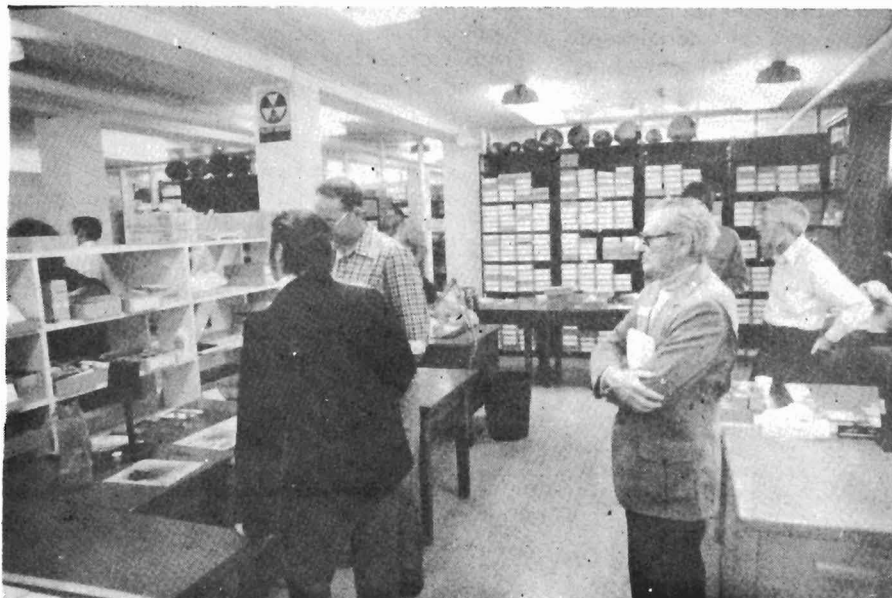


FALL MEETING / OPEN HOUSE

OFFICE OF STATE ARCHAEOLOGIST

The photographs on this page were taken at the fall meeting of the Iowa Archeological Society at the new location of the Office of State Archaeologist. In case you missed this event, the address of the new office is as follows:

Office of State Archaeologist
Eastlawn
The University of Iowa
Iowa City, Iowa 52242



CHAPTER REPORTS

Northwest Chapter submitted by Shirley Smith

September 21, 1975 The September meeting was a field trip to view "old familiar places." We started from Sanford Museum at 10:00 a.m. travelling north from Cherokee, stopping first at the Phipps Pioneer Park to look at the old mill stones mounted in cement and talking about the Old White Mill that used to be at this spot in the Little Sioux River, on past the site of Old Fort Cherokee mentioning the exploratory dig of the old fort site. As we travelled on, the Phipps Site was pointed out. At the Bastian Site we got out and searched the roadside ditches. Paul Williams found a few sherds. Then on to the Brewster Site where pottery sherds were plentiful and true to tradition, Joe Beals found an arrow point. Since it was noon, we headed for Martin's Access to eat our lunches, taking note of the Akers and Skadeland Sites along the way. After lunch we drove by the Jones Site, the Braunschweig Site, stopping at the latter to go across a stream to view the Old Waterman Cemetery. We drove by several places where Indian material had been found, and mention was made of the fact. The last site we visited was the Wittrock Site where we read the National Landmark signs and looked for the house depressions and evidence of the wall and moats. Beautiful weather for a field trip.

October 19, 1975 Our society met at 2:30 p.m. at the Sanford Museum for slides and lecture by our new Museum Director, Karl de Rochefort-Reynolds, his subject being "Yuquot: Where the Wind Blows from all Directions." He gave an account of excavations at a 6,000 year old midden site, located on the west coast of Vancouver Island, British Columbia. He explained the significance of their totem poles, illustrated by slides, and also had a small black slate totem pole to pass around. He had many items to show us including wooden fishing equipment, basketry and an intricately carved pipe. Really beautiful pieces of workmanship which reminded us of the Northwest Coast Indians Exhibit held at the Museum in 1968. The Coffee Committee was Dick and Judy Bierman and Paul and Pat Williams.

November 16, 1975 The November meeting featured a full-length color movie entitled "Ancient Egypt." Officers were also elected at the November meeting.

Special Note: Pat Williams has left the Sanford Museum to take up the life of a farm wife near Hinton, Iowa. Pat and her husband Paul have been active members of the Northwest Chapter and the I.A.S. They intend to remain in the Society so their move is not a loss to the NWIAS Chapter or I.A.S. Best wishes on your new project Pat and Paul!

Central Chapter

submitted by Dave Carlson

For the past several years during July, we have arranged a chapter family picnic and exploratory excavation at Twin Lakes in Calhoun County. This event has been very popular and some interesting artifacts have been recovered and processed. The site has never been plowed and is situated on the shore of a small lake. We hope that some time in the future a full scale professional excavation may be conducted there.

In September the Central Iowa Chapter and the Webster County Historical Society had a joint meeting with Mr. Sylvan Runkel of Des Moines, who has been associated with conservation and ecology groups for many years, as the guest speaker. He discussed the wild plants of Iowa and their uses for medicine and food by the historic Indians and early settlers.

The Howard Jensen family of Fort Dodge were hosts for the October meeting. The Jensens are very fortunate to have a recorded prehistoric site in their backyard and have assembled a nice collection of artifacts from their garden. Our chapter members attempted to determine the depth and extent of area covered by the site. Some Late Woodland rim sherds were among the items recovered.

A special film, "Civilizations of Ancient America," was the feature of the November meeting. This was an excellent film and proved to be a fine follow-up to the December 1975 National Geographic feature article on the Maya civilization. This film is often available from public libraries.

The December meeting was a work session conducted at the lab facilities of Iowa Central Community College. We were able to spend the evenings cleaning, sorting and cataloging some of the artifacts which were recovered at Twin Lakes and other sites during the summer months. These work sessions are always very enjoyable ...a fun type meeting.

Late in October the Central Iowa Chapter assisted the Fort Dodge Parks Department in excavating a small neighborhood trash dump that was uncovered during grading operations in a city park. The bottles, dolls, etc. that were recovered would seem to be from the turn of the century. We hope to have the items dated as soon as possible.

Southeast Chapter

submitted by Pat Huston

After a period of inactivity, the Southeast Chapter of the I.A.S. has reorganized around a nucleus of former members and interested newcomers. This fall provided an excellent opportunity for chapter members to participate in the excavation of various sites at the location of Iowa Southern Utilities' new plant near Chillicothe, just west of Ottumwa. Dick Slattery, field archaeologist, directed a tour by the chapter of both the prehistoric and historic sites on one

occasion, which included an opportunity for members to help collect surface remains from a century-old white settlers' cabin also on the site. In addition, several members participated in the excavations as individuals while the digging progressed, and one ---Larry Ryan--- assisted every day the dig was conducted.

Also this fall, several interesting and informative programs have been presented for and by chapter members. These included a slide show by Dr. Duane Anderson on the Glenwood culture, a program by local chapter member Anton Till, presentations on the use of topographic maps, and Archaic sites in southeastern Iowa. With a bright and active outlook in store, the Southeast Chapter wishes you all a Happy New Year.

Lone Ranger Chapter submitted by George and Midge Horton

All is well. Happy New Year! The Lone Ranger Chapter got a camera for Christmas so get ready for a blurred chapter report at the spring meeting.

A R T Y F A C T S

by Don Spears

How did early man keep a source of fire for his use?

He had access to natural supplies from forest and prairie fires. Boy Scout lore demonstrates the successful use of a bow, wooden fire drill and tinder board to produce a start of a fire with little effort. Small winged flint drills hafted to an arrow like shaft were used by early man in many places in the world. These fire drills are blunt and rounded on distal end to produce necessary friction to cause wood shaving to ignite. Fire could have been carried in a bowl or pot when the people were on the move.

This issue of the Newsletter was to include a book review of The Archaeology of Missouri, Volume I by Carl Chapman. Space does not permit the review this time, but the book is an excellent investment for anyone interested in archaeology. The Chapman book is easy to read, well illustrated, and interesting. Volume I is now available from the University of Missouri Press, 107 Swallow Hall, Columbia, Missouri 65201 for \$20.00.

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. The reprinting or use of any material in the Newsletter is forbidden without the consent of the Society.

Editors: Gary L. Valen and Betsy M. Lyman, R.R.3, Indianola, Ia.
Assoc. Editor: Don Spears, 536 S. Davis, Ottumwa, Iowa 52501
(in charge of circulation)

NEW MEMBERS

Active:

Robert Bauer	Mason City	Kenneth Mickelson	Peosta
Elsie Carver	Toledo	Mark Mills	Iowa City
Robert Davis	Ottumwa	Marie Rierson	Ruthven
Helen Davis	Denison	Lawrence Ryan	Ottumwa
Ronald Davis	Denison	Karen Selby	Nevada
Michael Fortin	Madawaska,	Jeff Stevens	Clarenda
Maine (Jr. Member)		Steve Symes	Vermillion,
Sandy Hay	Mitchellville		South Dakota
Mr. & Mrs. Bernard		John Tiffany	North Liberty
Hoyer	North Liberty	Joseph Zeman	Tama
Michael Kehoe	Des Moines		
Harold Kuhn	Independence		

Institutional:

Ames Public Library	Clinton Public Library
Bettendorf Public Library	Fort Dodge Public Library

Welcome to the new members!! The list is impressive this time. We encourage all of you to seek additional members to help I.A.S. continue its programs and goals.

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Gary Valen and Betsy Lyman
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Indianola, Iowa 50125

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