

# NEWSLETTER

JULY 1976

Number 86

## MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

With the advent of summer not yet officially upon us the IAS has already leaped forward on several fronts towards accomplishing many of its goals plus other activities, specifically:

- a. Mrs. Thornton informed me that, as of early June, the Society has 76 new paid up members. When I read that I found myself checking my wallet to see if my IAS card was dated '75 or '76. In our busy schedules it is easy to forget to send in our dues.
- b. A major catalyst for new membership was the IAS field school expertly directed by Lynn Alex for four weeks at the Helen Smith Farm site, Toolesboro, Lousia County. This dig was a great success. It was very well attended in spite of three rainy weekends and one really hot one. Everyone I talked to remarked how much they had learned and how much they enjoyed working on a well supervised site. At least two IAS members worked more than 40 hours on the site, sufficient to count fully towards certification.
- c. By now all members should have received the notice of the IAS field trip to the Cherokee Sewer Site August 15th. This will be a great opportunity to see first hand an early man site in process of excavation. If you have only seen the Helen Smith Farm site you are in for a real surprise. There is nothing like it in the state. It will be an exciting experience for those who elect to participate as volunteer workers.
- d. Work is progressing rapidly on the art work and exhibits for the IAS booth at the 1976 Iowa State Fair.
- e. The archaeological correspondence course which may be taken for college credit and is open to IAS members is currently being processed by the University of Iowa and will be ready by this fall. Details will be provided later.
- f. Special thanks to those members who have been sending in so many site sheets. Keep up the good work!

The Journal of the IAS, Volume 23 has been mailed. Due to the sudden influx of new members there were insufficient copies printed. If any paid up member has not received his or her Volume 23 contact the Office of the State Archaeologist, Eastlawn Bldg., The University of Iowa 52242 (319-353-5177).

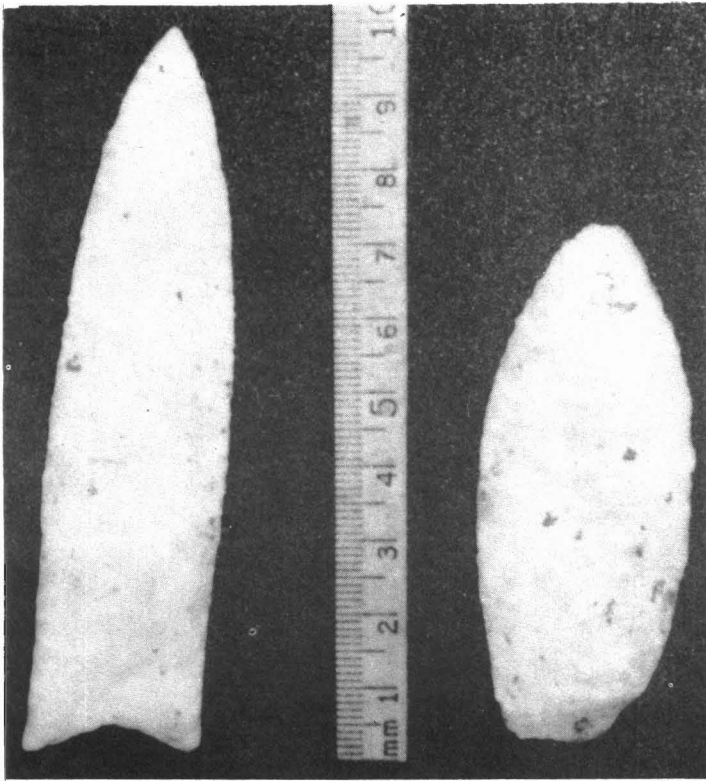
The Association of Iowa Archaeologists (AIA) meets June 19-20 at Luther College, Decorah, Iowa. The next Newsletter will carry a summary of the accomplishments.

Our best wishes go to Bob and Lynn Alex who are moving to South Dakota. We will miss them both, however, S.D. will gain a great State Archaeologist.

Have a good summer.



Richard Slattery  
President, IAS



The "CLASSIC" CLOVIS shown as fig. 1 was found by a long time collector and I A S member in WAPELLO COUNTY, IA. on June 10, 1976 in a plowed field. Several days later the piece shown as fig. 2 was picked up in an adjacent field about 400 meters from the first find. On the side shown of fig. 1 the fluteing extends 4 mms from the distal end. The basal concavity is ground as are both edges about the same distance from the end as was the fluteing. On the reverse side the flute extends not quite 3 cms. The material is a whiteish grey chert and is similar to the flint used

to make other types of points found in this area.

The writer thinks that fig. 2 should be designated as a hafted knife or scraper due to a very definite wear pattern and some re-touching on the sides and proximal end.

The fluteing on this piece is completely through the length of it, on one side only. The ripple scars end 2-3 cms from proximal end and there is a minute hinge fracture present on this end and it would seem that a channel flake had been removed from this section. A small section of the base is missing and there is no sign of a striking platform ever being formed to flute the opposite side. The edges are ground about 8 cms from distal end. The material is a whiteish grey fossiliferous (Mississippian?) chert with grey-blue undertone coloring and is similar to the chert from which several VAN BUREN DOVETAILS in the writer's collection are made. The source of this chert is unknown at this time.

This is the fourth CLOVIS POINT find in a twenty mile radius and it would seem some form of a settlement pattern is beginning to develop, giving evidence that early man was in Iowa ten to twelve thousand years B.P.

Submitted by Don G. Spears

Ed. Note: Thanks to Don Spears, Susan Avesing (see page 3) and David M. Zachmeyer (see issue # 79) for their reports on clovis point finds. At last we are developing a record of early man sites in Iowa.

## FLUTED PROJECTILE POINTS OF SOUTHEAST IOWA

by

Susan Avesing

As an independent study project to fulfill my 1976 Interim requirement at Luther College, I visited amateur collectors in the Muscatine and Louisa county area. In these collections I noted two projectile points of the fluted types. These points were found in Louisa County through surface collecting.

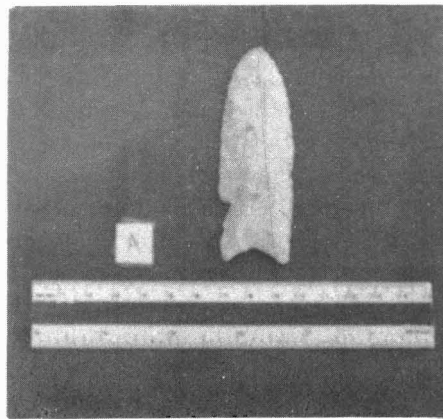
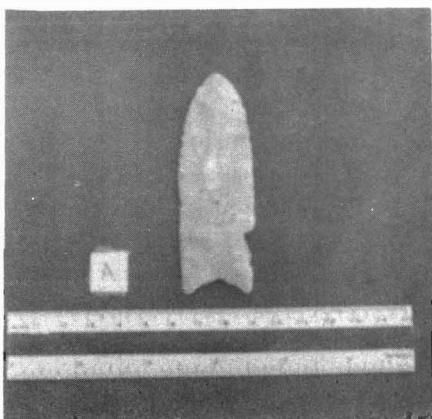
One of the fluted points, a Clovis, was from the Pearson collection that was donated to the town of Wapello and is presently in the City Hall. I was unable to measure or photograph this projectile point, but was told that several years ago it was examined by students from the University of Iowa. Unfortunately I was unable to determine whether the data on it had been published.

The projectile point reported here (Fig. 1 & 2) is from the James Carey collection. It was found on a hill overlooking the Iowa River in Union Township. The outline is lanceolate with a concave base. It is 89 millimeters in length, 29 in width, and is 7 millimeters at its thickest part. The base and the sides are ground about one third of the way up. It is made out of a white chert and has two flakes detached on each face. There is a hinge fracture for one flake on one of the sides (Fig. 1). The projectile point was probably struck by a farm implement at one time which accounts for the small notch on the lateral side.

During Interim it was possible for me to visit only a small number of collectors, however, by doing so I learned of several other individuals who had similar collections. It is most probable then, that more of these fluted projectile points can be found in other private collections in the Louisa-Muscatine County area.

Fig. 1  
Right

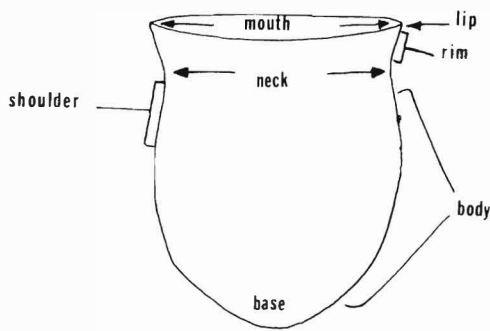
Fig. 2  
Left



# Woodland

The transition from the Archaic Period to what has traditionally been called the Woodland occurs in some parts of the U.S. by about 3000 B.P. In theory, the Woodland is characterized by the appearance of three new traits: pottery, burial mounds, and cultivated plants. Ideally it is these three characteristics which separate the cultures of the Woodland from those of the Archaic.

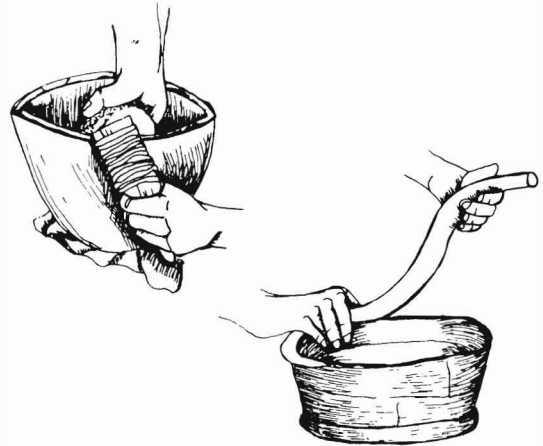
If we look at any particular area of the U.S. after this time, we find that there are problems in applying this definition of the Woodland. While there is evidence that these three traits spread across much of the U.S. east of the Rocky Mountains, they were not accepted at the same time nor by all societies. In some areas, two of these traits, horticulture and burial mounds, appear at sites many archaeologists would call Archaic. For instance, in eastern Iowa the Turkey River Mounds of Clayton County, which date about 3000 B.P., contain burials covered with red ochre (iron oxide) and a variety of grave goods such as leaf-shaped blades, straight-stemmed projectile points, and cylindrical copper beads, but no pottery. They are called Archaic by some archaeologists and Woodland by others.



*Archaeologists use specific terms to describe ceramic vessels*

It is possible that the people who built the Turkey River Mounds and other "Red Ochre" mounds in northeastern Iowa made the earliest known ceramics in the state, but if they did we have no evidence of it. For most archaeologists the appearance of pottery marks the beginning of the Early Woodland Period in Iowa. Ceramics (or pottery) are an important artifact to the archaeologist. They are highly breakable, and yet pieces of broken pottery (called potsherds or, simply, sherds) are almost indestructible. This means that pottery broken hundreds of years ago has remained in the ground for the archaeologist to find and recover

through excavation. Ceramics were also an avenue of artistic expression. Prehistoric potters decorated their vessels in a wide variety of styles which became popular and were copied by other potters in the society. Often we are able to study the development of a pottery style from its earliest beginnings to its peak of popularity when it became very common and was copied on dozens of vessels, and then see its decline and replacement by newer more popular styles.



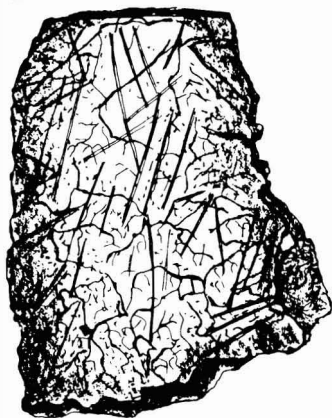
*Techniques of pottery manufacture*

The very first potters of the Early Woodland Period may have copied the shape and design of their pots from basketry or leather containers. These first vessels tend to be thick, straight-walled, flat-bottom pots which were probably coiled and/or paddled into shape. In coiling, the potter rolls a lump of clay into a coil and gradually builds up the vessel wall by adding on additional coils. Each coiled layer is pinched to the layer beneath it. The coils are subsequently thinned by squeezing them between the potter's thumbs and fingers, and the coil junctures are smoothed out sometimes by paddling the walls using a wooden paddle and anvil stone. To form a vessel by paddling, a lump of clay would be taken and pounded into shape by holding the clay against an anvil stone and paddling it with a wooden paddle. Often these paddles were covered with woven fabric or cordage, and the fabric or cord markings became impressed into the clay walls as the vessel was paddled.

The earliest ceramics tend to contain large amounts of grit temper. Temper consists of material like crushed limestone, shell, sand, ground sherds, or plant fiber which was added to the wet clay to prevent the pot from cracking during the drying and firing process. Early Woodland ceramics almost always contain fiber or crushed stone (grit) temper.

The earliest type of pottery in Iowa is referred to as Marion Thick. Marion Thick ceramics are straight-walled, flat-bottom vessels with cord marking on both the inside and outside surfaces. Marion Thick has been found at habitation sites in the eastern part of the

state, such as the Elephant Terrace site in northern Allamakee County. Other sites containing this early type of pottery are also found in the eastern part of Iowa, particularly in the valley of the Mississippi River and its tributaries.



*An Early Woodland  
potsherd*

At sites somewhat later than those containing Marion Thick pottery, there occurs a second type of Early Woodland ceramics, Black Sand pottery. Sites containing Black Sand pottery are often found on sand ridges in the valley bottoms of large rivers in eastern Iowa such as the Mississippi, the lower Skunk, and the lower Iowa. Black Sand pottery is somewhat better made than Marion Thick and contains cord or fabric marking on the exterior surface only. The people who made Black Sand pottery incised or scratched designs of lines, triangles, and dashes onto the surface of the wet clay before the pot was fired using a pointed bone or wooden tool. Spring Hollow Incised pottery, which is found along the prairie streams in eastern, central, and northern Iowa, is almost indistinguishable from Black Sand, but may be later in time.

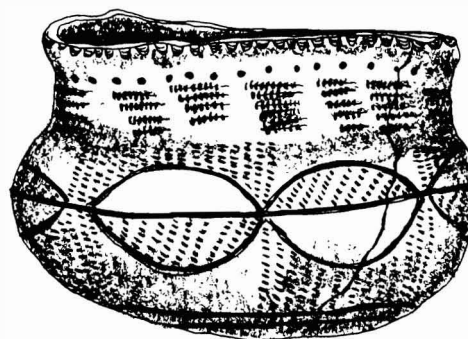


*Spring Hollow Incised  
pottery was decorated  
by scratching the soft  
clay with a pointed  
implement probably  
of wood or bone*

In the Central Illinois River Valley and the adjacent valley of the Mississippi River we find the development of a Middle Woodland ceramic tradition called Havana. This tradition eventually spread as far west as Oklahoma and the Missouri River Valley of southwestern Iowa. Havana pottery, like Early Woodland ceramics, is also characterized by thick, bag-shaped vessels with large amounts of grit temper. Its distin-

guishing features are a variety of dentate (toothed) and rocker-stamped designs and areas of geometric patterns. Rocker-stamped designs were those produced by rocking a sharp-edged implement back and forth over the clay while it was still soft.

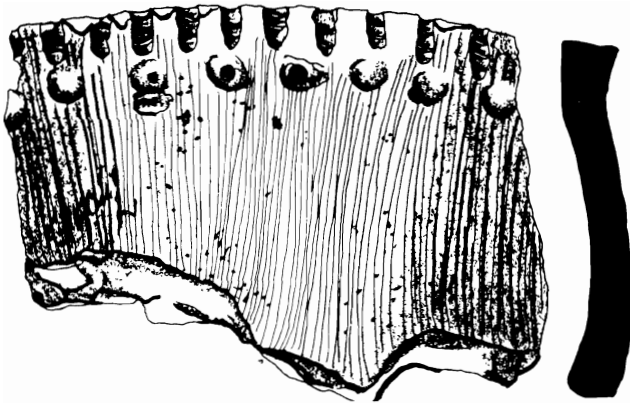
The Middle Woodland Period begins about A.D. 1 in parts of Iowa with the appearance of large village sites containing Havana pottery such as the Yellow River Village, Kingston, and Wolfe Sites. While some of these habitation sites have been excavated, most interest in the Middle Woodland has centered on mound exploration, much of which was conducted by the Davenport Academy of Sciences in the late nineteenth century. These Middle Woodland Mounds fall within the well-known Hopewellian Complex. Hopewell represents one in a series of mortuary traditions which existed in the eastern U.S. between 3000 B.P. and the time of historic contact with Europeans.



*Havana pottery and effigy pipes suggest the extension  
of the Hopewellian Complex into Iowa*

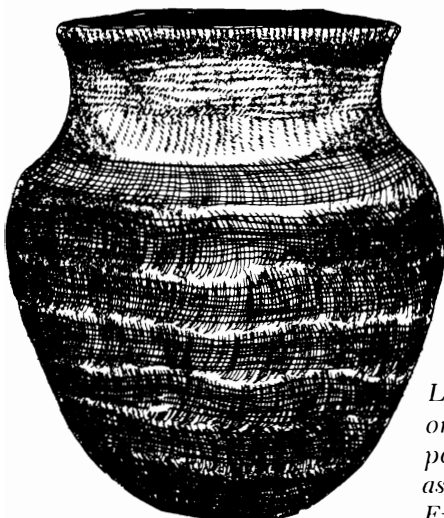


*Snyder's points are known  
from Hopewellian sites  
throughout the eastern  
United States*



*Although little is known of the Middle Woodland Period in western Iowa, examples of Havana pottery have been found there*

Hopewellian sites are most characteristically cemeteries of mounds often containing multiple burials placed inside or outside log tombs. Some of the burials in these mounds are cremations while others are inhumations sometimes with stone slabs covering the bodies. With the burial were placed elaborate artifacts which frequently incorporated exotic raw materials such as Gulf Coast conch shell, obsidian (volcanic glass) from the Rocky Mountains, Appalachian mica, and Great Lakes copper. Such items suggest that the people with whom they were buried may have held a position of high social standing within the society, one which allowed them access to these luxury goods. They also suggest the existence of an elaborate trade network which stretched over a wide geographical territory. The similarity of items found accompanying burials, as well as the exotic raw materials, suggest that societies participated in frequent interaction with groups thousands of miles away. While local traditions in pottery making and the manufacture of chipped stone tools continued, burial artifacts such as mortuary pottery, ceramic and finely carved stone pipes, human and animal figurines, stone and copper axes, pan-pipes, and finely chipped flint, chert, and obsidian projectile points are duplicated in sites from Iowa to New York and from Wisconsin to Florida.



*Lane Farm Cord or Fabric Impressed pottery is commonly associated with the Effigy Mounds*

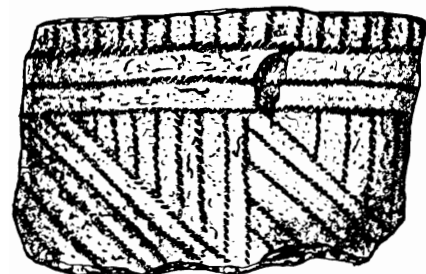
Mound groups, such as those at Toolsboro in Louisa County and the Cook Farm Group in present-day Davenport, are certain evidence of the extension of Hopewell into Iowa. Related mound groups in northeastern Iowa provide additional confirmation of Iowa's participation in funerary traditions and long-distance trade with societies throughout the eastern U.S. In western Iowa there is much less evidence of any participation in Hopewellian traditions although exotic trade items did find their way into this area.

A.D. 500 is a convenient date for separating the Middle Woodland Period from the Late Woodland Period in Iowa. By this time, the large Havana villages of southeastern Iowa were replaced by smaller, less-sedentary Woodland campsites. Mounds are still being used as monuments to the dead, but they are smaller and lack most of the exotic trade items found in the Hopewellian mounds. Late Woodland mounds were not confined to the generally conical shape of most of Iowa's Middle Woodland mounds; they are commonly oblong (linear) and in northeastern Iowa were frequently made into the shape of animals. These animal-shaped or "effigy" mounds are found primarily in Allamakee and Clayton counties although they extend as far south as the city of Dubuque.



*The Marching Bear Effigy Mounds*

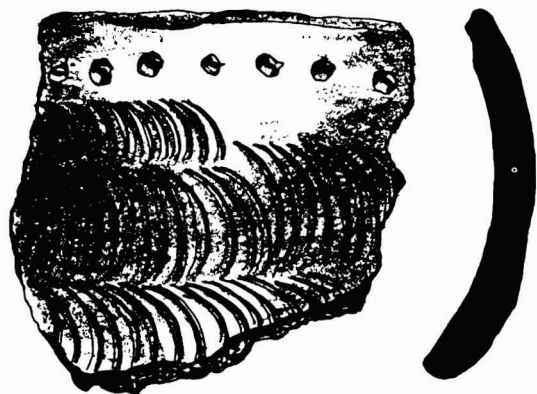
The bag-shaped pottery of Early and Middle Woodland sites gives way to more rounded vessels by Late Woodland times. This pottery tends to have a narrower opening and was frequently decorated by impressing a woven belt or collar around the neck and shoulder. Weaver (or Linn), Madison (or Minnott's) Cord Impressed, and Lake Michigan Wares are common types of Late Woodland pottery found in Iowa sites.



*A Late Woodland Cord or Fabric Impressed sherd*

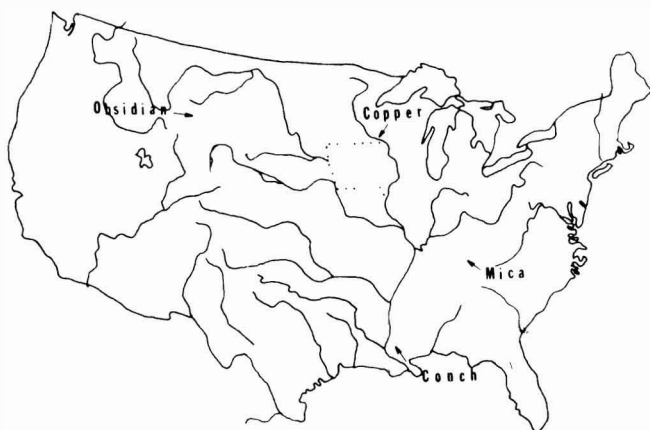


*Rocker stamping on Late Woodland Linn Ware was made by impressing a sharp-edged object (such as a shell) into the soft clay and rocking it back and forth*



While a number of Woodland habitation sites have been excavated, such as the Keystone and Hadfield rock shelters in eastern Iowa, we know far less about the type of houses built by Woodland peoples and much more about the mounds they erected about their dead. The basic social unit was probably the immediate family. Larger social groups may have formed during certain seasons of the year when native plants and animals were abundant. Dr. R. Clark Mallam has suggested in fact that the Effigy Mounds and related mounds of Allamakee and Clayton counties were constructed not only as refuges for the dead, but to mark territorial boundaries between groups and to strengthen social ties. Perhaps the mounds were ceremonial centers which acted to draw people together from a wide area on certain occasions.

Although we know that some plants were cultivated by Woodland peoples elsewhere in North America, we have no good evidence of this in Woodland sites in



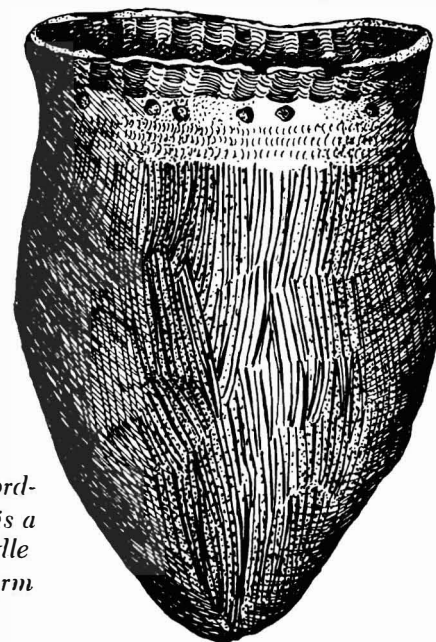
*Exotic materials may have been traded over long distances during Woodland times*

Iowa. In fact, the limited evidence now available suggests that natural resources, wild plants, and animals, were particularly abundant in Woodland times. In favorable environments this abundance could have allowed some Woodland groups to become more sedentary. The large Middle Woodland villages of south-eastern Iowa may reflect such a situation.



*Woodland projectile points*

The use of the spear or dart in hunting seems to have continued throughout the Woodland Period. Straight-stemmed or side- and corner-notched projectile points are commonly found at sites. However, by Late Woodland times, the bow and arrow were being used. This is suggested by the occurrence of smaller, notched and unnotched triangular-shaped points.



*Bag-shaped, cord-marked pottery is a familiar Middle Woodland form*

After about A.D. 900 we see for a time the persistence of some Late Woodland cultures. However, the adaptation to a horticultural economy, the acceptance of new styles of ceramics, and perhaps an actual influx of outside populations brought about an end to the traditional Woodland pattern in Iowa. By A.D. 1000 we are able to differentiate a number of distinct late prehistoric cultures in the state. These groups were largely horticultural although they retained some features of the Woodland cultures that preceded them.

BOOK REVIEW: THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF MISSOURI, I by CARL CHAPMAN (UNIVERSITY OF MISSOURI PRESS, 107 Swallow Hall, Columbia, Missouri 65201).

Reviewed by Gary L. Valen

The work of Carl and Eleanor Chapman in Missouri archaeology is well known throughout the country. It is not surprising, therefore, that The Archaeology of Missouri, I by Carl Chapman is an excellent reference for anyone interested in Midwest archaeology. This is especially true for the layperson who has an interest in prehistory, but little background.

Lay archaeologists are often frustrated by the material in their field of interest. When someone decides to study prehistory in the Midwest, the reading sources are minimal and often difficult to obtain. A serious collector, for example, will be disappointed with a tourist type guide to early man. On the other hand, the technical writing of the professionals is often meant to impress colleagues or add a "new and significant" chapter in the field. Monographs are usually written to destroy the work of another professional or to satisfy a university publishing requirement. These documents assume the reader is well versed in all there is to know about the subject. The Archaeology of Missouri, however, is written for anyone with a serious interest in prehistory. The text is clear and should be understood by anyone with basic reading skills. More important, the subject matter is not treated lightly. Chapman demonstrates his wide knowledge of the field in every paragraph.

The book is filled with illustrations, maps and photographs that are relevant to the text. The organization is by archaeological periods beginning with Chapman's theory of the earliest man and ending with the late Archaic period. A future volume will complete the record. The first chapter deals with Missouri geography and the entire book examines the relationship between early man and the environment. This gives the reader the opportunity to compare environmental descriptions with the specific needs and habits of each prehistoric culture. Members of the Iowa Archeological Society should be especially interested since Missouri archaeology is related to Iowa.

The only problem with The Archaeology of Missouri, I is the \$20 price tag. This should not deter the serious student of archeology because the book is beautifully illustrated, well written, and a fine addition to any bookshelf. Carl Chapman has enough knowledge, experience and stature to write a book that is understandable to the lay person and yet useful to the professional. Eleanor Chapman's illustrations are works of art. Should you decide to obtain this book, you will not be disappointed.

To obtain The Archaeology of Missouri, I by Carl Chapman write University of Missouri Press, 107 Swallow Hall, Columbia, Missouri 65201. \$20.00

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Note: The four page insert on the Woodland Culture is a publication by the Office of The State Archaeologist. The author of the series is Lynn Marie Alex and the illustrator is Mary Slattery. Special thanks are due Lynn and Mary for their excellent work and the opportunity to run these pages in the Newsletter.

Eds.



Editors' Note: OPEN LETTER TO MEMBERS OF I.A.S.

The publication of this issue of the Newsletter marks the beginning of our fifth year as editors. Our reason for assuming the job was to involve ourselves in an organization that was dedicated to preservation and study of a subject that is dear to us--Iowa prehistory. When we examine the Newsletters from July, 1972 to July, 1976, we are impressed with the growth of the Society and the increase of archaeological activity in the state. This summer demonstrates our progress. The field school at Toolesboro, the excavation at the Sewer Site, the booth at the Iowa State Fair, the Educational Series in the Newsletter, and the Certification program indicate the improved condition of archaeology in the state.

There is a problem, however, that we feel must be resolved. When we joined the Society five years ago, we were impressed with the friendship of many fine individuals who were all dedicated to the common goals of the Society. The relationship between professional and lay archaeologists was a close one. In those days the major portion of archaeological work in the state required cooperation and shared labor by all members of the Society. The growth of our organization, the expanded activities of the State Archaeologist Office, and the creation of the Historic Preservation Office have added new dimensions to the Society. Many more people are working on archaeological projects in the state. As a result, the close knit group of a few years ago has found its ranks swelled with new members. It would be easy for long time members to feel that the Society has grown to such an extent that they are no longer needed. The opposite of this is the case. The Society must have the cooperation and active support of all members--especially the lay people. The increased activity requires more work, not less. All members are welcome to participate in any of the Society projects. Long time members should recognize that the day we often talked about is finally here. We have a full scale archaeological program in the state at last. This is not a time to withdraw, but a time to get more involved.

The professionals in the state must also be aware of this situation. Several lay people carried the weight of the Society and Iowa archaeology for a long time. These people must feel welcome to continue their service and dedication to the Society. We want to take this opportunity, therefore, to thank the many lay and professional persons who worked so long and hard to increase and improve the archaeological activity in Iowa. We encourage all members, whether you joined yesterday or 25 years ago, to participate in all aspects of the Society. You are welcome, your input is needed, and the continued growth of our organization depends on your willingness to jump into our projects without hesitation. There should never be a time when anyone is left out or is not welcome in the program of the Society. As always, we welcome comments from anyone.

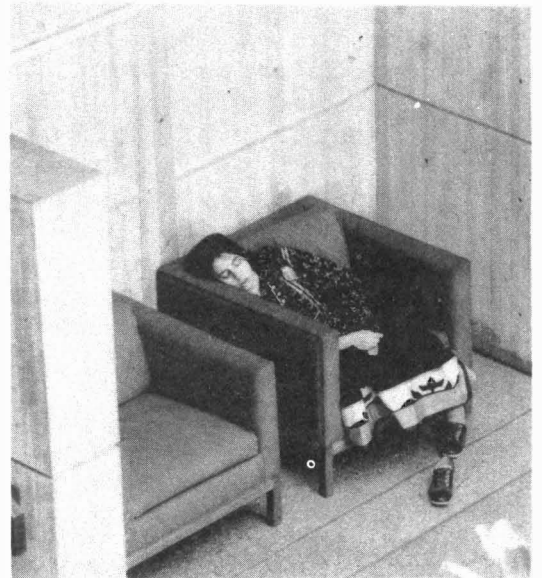
## 26th Annual Meeting of the Iowa Archeological Society

Held April 3 & 4, 1976 at the Brenton Student Center, Simpson College, Indianola, Iowa.

The following pictures indicate the activities and fellowship of the annual meeting of our Society. If you have never attended one of these events, we encourage you to consider it next year.



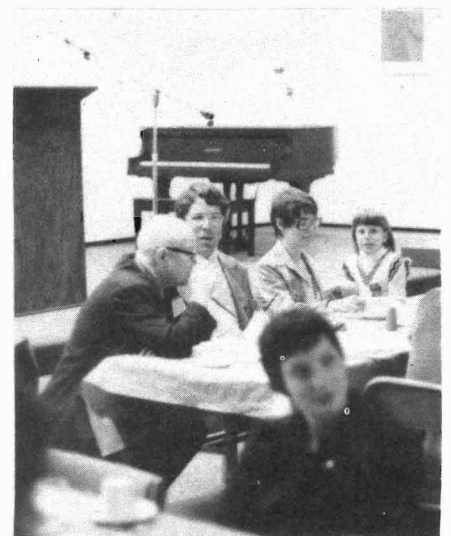
Mesquakie Artist Charles Push-e-to-ne-qua talks about his paintings.



The excitement of the Annual Meeting absorbs the interest of Midge Horton.



Members of the Society at the Annual Banquet



Featured speaker James B. Griffin confers with State Archaeologist Duane Anderson.



Paul Williams demonstrates celt making techniques to members of the Society.

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**DUES REMINDER:** The annual dues for Society membership should be paid in July. Active Membership--- \$5.00. Sustaining Membership---\$15.00, Jr. Membership--- \$4.00. Send your dues to: Mrs. Phil Thornton, 326 Otsego Street, Storm Lake, Iowa 50588

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You should have received a letter from the State Archaeologist Office about the State Fair exhibit and the visit to the Sewer Site in Cherokee on August 15, 1976. We hope you will be able to support both activities.

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The Iowa Archeological Society is a non-profit, scientific society organized under the corporate laws of Iowa. Members of the Society are lay and professional archeologists with a serious interest in the prehistory 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, Iowa 50125

**Assoc.** Don G. Spears; 536 S. Davis, Ottumwa, Iowa 52501

**Editor:** Back issues of the Newsletter are available for \$1.00 from Don Spears.

The Society can not be responsible for copies of the Newsletter that are stolen from library collections.

## NEW MEMBERS

## Active:

David Asch	Kampsville, Ill.
Gale Von Behren	Olin, Iowa
Clarice De	
Christina	Cedar Rapids
Merrill Comer	Kellerton
Chas. E.	
Danielson, Jr.	Fairfield (Jr.)
Donald Drahos	Iowa City (Jr.)
Beth Eckhardt	Iowa City (Jr.)
Bruce Filbrandt	Bettendorf
Donald Frueh	Des Moines
Andrea Green	Iowa City
Jeanne Hedges	Iowa City (Jr.)
Sally Hinz	Eldridge, Ia.

Scott Hootman	Eldora
Gilbert Norris	Rock Island, Ill.
Frances Martiny	Iowa City
Leslie Muller	Taylor Ridge, Ill.
Gloria Oxley-	
Skenes	Iowa City
Susan Sappington	Iowa City
Alegonda	
Schokkenbroek	Cedar Falls
Jim Thomas	Glenwood
Thomas Tierney	Fort Dodge
Sally Veal	Hills, Iowa
Phillip Whitmarsh	Iowa City (Jr.)
Dr. Gordon	
Williams	Charles City
Louise Zipp	Coralville

## Institutional:

Cornell Univ.	
Library	Ithaca, N.Y.
Iowa-Ill. Gas	
and Electric Co.	Davenport

## Additional new members:

Gary Van Dyke	Galesburg, Ill.
Rex Wilcox	Drakesville

Welcome to the new members!

IOWA ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY  
Office of the Newsletter Editor  
Gary Valen and Betsy Lyman  
R.R. #3  
Indianola, Iowa 50125

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