

NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 1977

NUMBER 83

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

At the close of the year 1976 it is appropriate that the many Society members who worked those extra hours for the benefit of all and to those who participated both at the meetings and in the field be given a resounding vote of gratitude. Let us look forward to 1977 with the same vigor as expressed in the past year.

The one day Fall Meeting, a Society first, was held as scheduled on November 6, 1976. The host was the Charles R. Keyes Chapter of Iowa City. This was an excellent meeting. The membership of the Keyes Chapter is to be congratulated for arranging such a fine program and their extra efforts in making the whole occasion an enjoyable one.

April 2-3, 1977, is the scheduled date for the Annual Meeting to be held at Decorah, Iowa. An informal call for papers to be presented at the meeting is now in order. Correspondence on this matter should be addressed to Clark Mallam, Luther College, Decorah, Iowa 52101. Clark will send an official notice covering all details well ahead of the scheduled meeting. This is only an advance call so those considering a presentation may be awarded additional planning time. Those who presented such excellent papers this fall based on their summer investigations are encouraged to update their presentations based on the past winter's research and analysis for the Annual Meeting. There is much to be learned from those who spoke at the Fall Meeting. Their contributions this spring are looked forward to with anticipation.

Progress on the analysis portion of the Cherokee Sewer Site (13CK405) is continuing on all aspects of the data gleaned from the 1976 excavation. Specifics regarding conclusions are far from the reporting stage. One new item which may be reported, however, is a C-14 date from soil C, Horizon II, Trench 1, square 39: Wis. 882 (sample 2) 7340 ± 75BP.



A recent communication from Lynn Alex in Spearfish, South Dakota speaks of the progress of her detail site analysis of the Helen Smith Site (13LA71) (Generalized report in October 1976 Newsletter) and the "Poison Ivy Site (13LA84)." The latter is an Oneota manifestation near the mouth of the Iowa River located by the John Higgins, Sr. family visiting the Helen Smith Site. Lynn is well into the analysis of artifacts from the Poison Ivy Site and reports that obsidian found in the excavated debris has been identified as Yellowstone Park material. Lynn expects a short article on this site to be complete by early 1977. Anyone else having knowledge of verified finds of obsidian in Iowa write to Lynn Alex, 125 Quincey St., Spearfish, S.D. 57783.

Principally through the efforts of Duane Anderson and staff members, the long awaited correspondence course "Prehistory of the Midwest, Emphasis Iowa", is now available from the University of Iowa. No prerequisites are required. This is an on-going course. There are no specific starting dates. College credits may be earned for each of the three part curriculum. Interested members may write to:

Dr. Arlene Buswell
Instructional Developer
Correspondence Study
C 205 East Hall
University of Iowa,
Iowa City, Iowa 52242

While increasing our membership substantially during 1976, there are still many members who have not paid their 1976-77 dues.. Mention of this is crucial at this time since the next Bulletin, to be issued during the first half of 1977, will be issued to all paid up members for the year 1976-77. I understand this will be a particularly good issue.

We are pleased that the Paul Rowe Chapter, Glenwood, Iowa is active. All those members in the SW corner of the state contact D.D. Davis, 309 N. Walnut St., Glenwood, Iowa for details of meetings. The following counties still have no sites recorded in the master record at the Office of the State Archaeologist, Eastlawn Building, Iowa City. There must be something out there! Butler, Carroll, Greene, Kossuth, Madison and Shelby.

IOWA ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

It is appropriate to recognize the leadership in the Iowa Archeological Society at the beginning of a new year.

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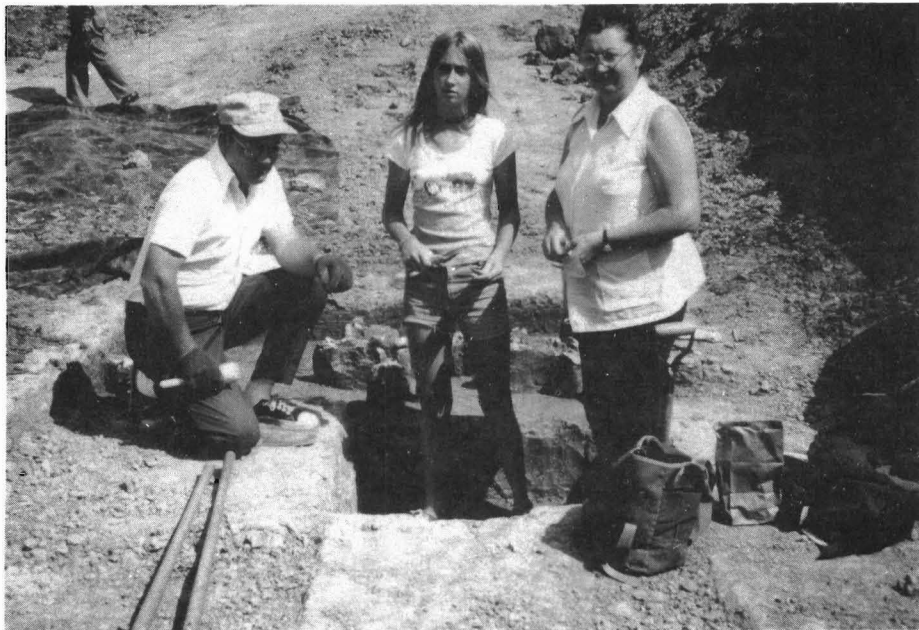
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Newsletter
Editors: Gary L. Valen & Betsy M. Lyman
R.R. #3
Indianola, Iowa 50125



Some of the 55 members who attended the field day at Cherokee. Several participants took a side trip to the Pipestone National Monument which is located 120 miles north of Cherokee.

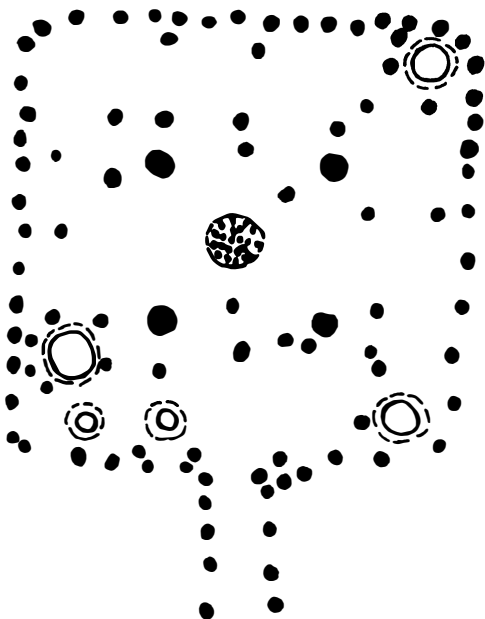


John, Diana, and Sally Higgins participate in the meeting at the Sewer Site. The family lives in the Davenport area and took advantage of this opportunity to acquire more time on their quota of hours for the certification program. They also worked at the I.A.S. field school earlier this summer in Louisa County.

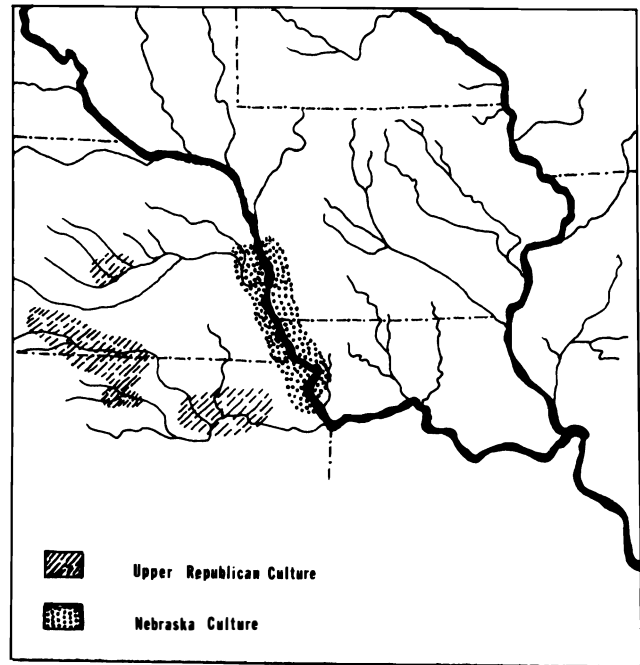
Nebraska Culture at Glenwood

Throughout the Central Plains by about A.D. 1000 there existed a series of settled farming communities whose residents built substantial earthlodge houses. In an area extending from northern Kansas across Nebraska and west to Colorado, the archaeological remains of these communities are referred to as Upper Republican Culture. Along either side of the Missouri River in southeastern Nebraska and southwestern Iowa, similar sites exist. These are grouped into what is called the Nebraska Culture. Both the Upper Republican Culture and Nebraska Culture belong to what archaeologists have named the Central Plains Tradition. Although these two contemporary cultures of the Central Plains Tradition may share a common cultural ancestry and exhibit a number of very similar characteristics, they differ enough to be separated into two distinct groups.

Nebraska Culture sites in Iowa are concentrated in the Glenwood vicinity of Mills County. They are distributed along the ridges and bluffs and in the stream valleys of the Missouri River, Keg Creek, and Pony Creek. These locations would have been particularly favorable to horticultural groups tilling the fertile, alluvial bottomland along the river. They would have assured the presence not only of workable soil, but also of a readily available supply of water and wood for fuel and house construction.



Floor plan of a Nebraska Culture house.



Distribution of Upper Republican and Nebraska Cultures.

Eighty house site locations are known in the Glenwood area. The excavation of these structures indicates that the most typical house built by Glenwood people had a square shape with rounded corners and a covered entryway which commonly faced south. These earthlodges were constructed within a semi-subterranean pit, and had walls of closely spaced vertical posts and four conical roof supports spaced around a central firepit. In some of the Glenwood houses, a wide bench was built around the central living area.



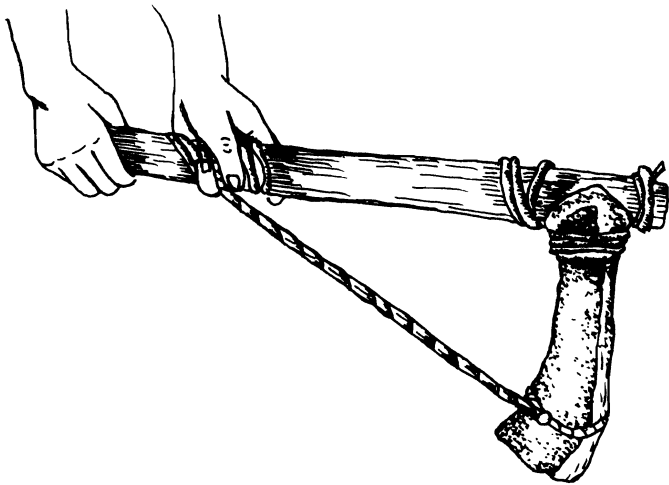
*Artist's reconstruction of a Nebraska Culture house.
This structure measured about 30 feet across.*

Like their contemporary Plains neighbors, Glenwood people dug subterranean storage pits in the floor of their houses in order to store food and other items. These "cache pits" range in shape from shallow depressions to deep, straight-walled or bell-shaped pits.

The majority of Glenwood houses occur as individual homesteads or in small village clusters. None of these sites appear to have been fortified, and from this we assume that Glenwood people coexisted peacefully

with their neighbors. Although few foreign items appear in Glenwood sites, the occasional occurrence of shell-tempered Oneota pottery suggests interaction with Oneota groups. Certain features of Glenwood pottery also bear similarities to ceramics of Mississippian groups in the area around the large, urban center of Cahokia in Illinois.

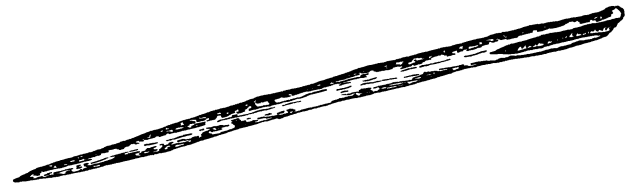
There is no question that Glenwood people were farmers. The location of sites near easily tillable land and the charred remains of corn, beans, sunflowers, and squash in Glenwood cache pits point to horticulture as an important part of the economy. In addition, the stone and bone artifacts found are commonly those used in farming. Bone hoes were made of the scapula (shoulder blade) of bison and elk. These hoes have notches on their edges which probably made it easier to haft them to handles made from sturdy wooden shafts. Shell hoes are also known. Knives, also made from the scapula, were probably used as in historic times to cut and process squash. Stone tools, such as ground stone manos, were used to grind corn and other seeds.



The scapula hoe used by Glenwood people.

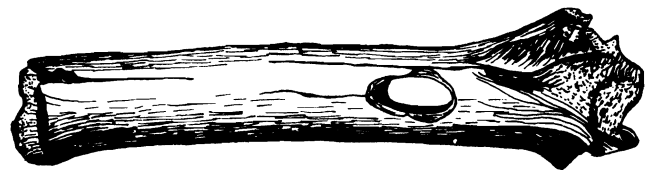
In addition to their farming activities, Glenwood people also hunted a number of different animals. Sites are located in areas surrounded by tall grass prairie and prairie woodlands which must have provided a rich habitat for a wide range of animal species. While we know that Nebraska Culture groups further to the west depended to a considerable extent on bison as a food source, bison appear to have been only a minor part of the diet for people living at Glenwood. The nearby woodlands here would have been an ideal habitat for deer, a solitary forest animal, and elk, and the quantity of deer and elk bone found in Glenwood houses suggests that both of these were

frequently sought. Single-toggle-head harpoons have been found at Nebraska Culture sites, and as with the Ice Age reindeer hunters of Europe, these may have been used in hunting deer, although most archaeologists believe they were probably fishing implements. The most common hunting weapon appears to have been the bow and arrow, using small, sometimes multiple, notched projectile points or larger triangular points. Other animals favored by Glenwood people include squirrel, rabbit, and smaller mammals. Wild fowl were killed, and large river fish, such as catfish and buffalo suckers, were caught using bone hooks. The river also provided an abundant source of freshwater mussels.

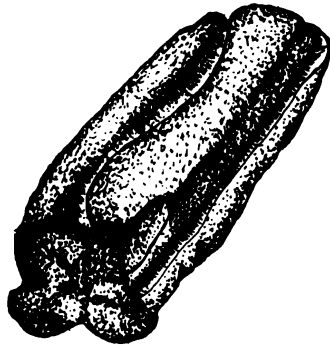


An eyed bone needle.

A number of different tools seem to have been used in the processing of meat and dressing of hides. These include oval, triangular, and diamond-shaped stone knives, snub-nosed end scrapers and side scrapers, drills, bone awls, and hide grainers. In making a hide grainer, the ball joint on the long bone of a young animal was removed, and the tough, textured side was rubbed against the hide to roughen it. Eyed bone needles and thread, probably of sinew, were then used to sew skins together to make clothing and other items. Glenwood people had other sorts of artifacts, such as antler knapping tools, hammerstones, anvils, whetstones for sharpening blades, and shaft straighteners to make their tools and keep them in working order. A shaft straightener was an implement used to straighten arrow shafts. It was made of bone or antler and was perforated with a hole through which the shaft was pulled back and forth.

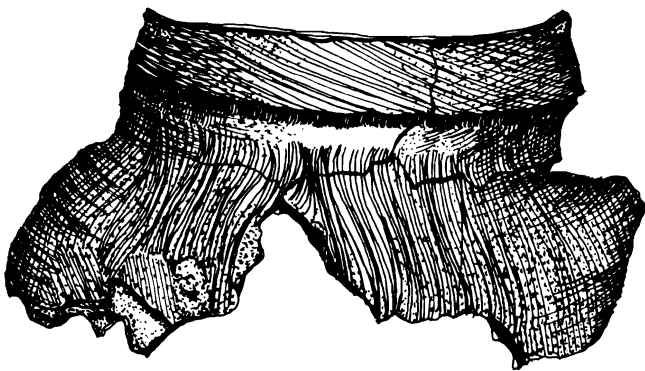


A bone shaft straightener.



Deep grooves on this whetstone indicate its use in sharpening other implements.

Ceramics are the feature which most distinguishes Nebraska Culture sites from Upper Republican sites further west and north. In general, vessels were globular shaped with a constricted neck, varied rim form, rounded shoulder, and round bottom. Vessel walls were formed by modeling the clay into the desired shape and thinned by beating with a cord-wrapped paddle. The cord marks left on the vessel from this process were later smoothed by wiping. Several different ceramic types have been distinguished on the basis of different rim form and decoration. Both collared vessels, where the rim was thickened by the addition of a narrow band of clay (collar), and uncollared vessels are found. It appears that in earlier Nebraska Culture sites there was a preference for collared forms and later, uncollared vessels became more popular. This may suggest contact with Mississippian groups at a later time, as uncollared ceramics are a characteristic feature of Mississippian sites.

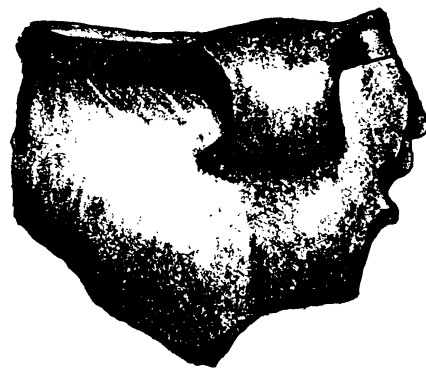


Collared rims are one feature of some Glenwood pottery.

Decoration was usually confined to the rim or collar and commonly consisted of pinching (similar to the pinch marks on a pie crust) or incising, usually of rectilinear motifs. Sometimes, a narrow row of indentations was made on the lip or bottom of the collar with a finger or blunted tool.



A Beckman decorated rim.



McVey strap handle.

Loop handles, perforated lugs (probably to hang the vessel), and effigies, sometimes in animal forms, are additional features present on pottery at Nebraska Culture sites. Ceramic artifacts other than the larger utilitarian pots include pipes, beads, scoops, and miniature vessels, some probably the work of children in imitation of their parents. While grit temper of crushed granite or a mixture of sand and granite was most frequently added to the clay, a high percentage of shell temper at some sites may be another indication of contact with Mississippian groups where ground clam shell was usually employed as temper.

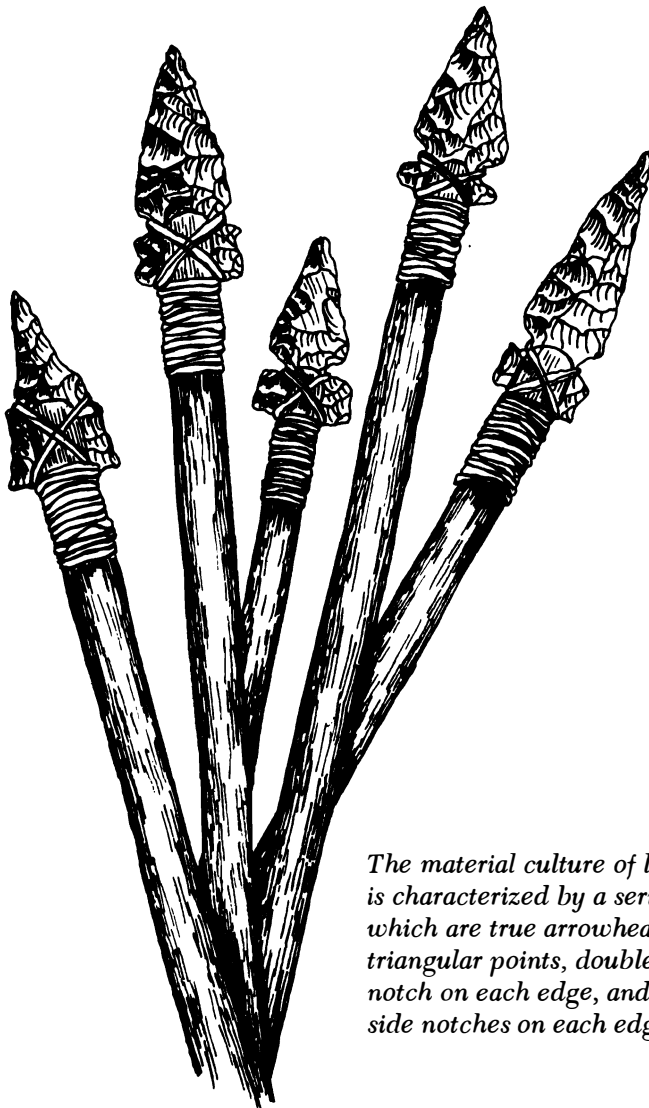
Throughout their existence in Iowa, Glenwood sites present a picture of peaceful, well-adjusted, horticultural communities. Dates from three Glenwood sites, Little Pony, Steinheimer, and Stonebrook, indicate that Glenwood people remained in southwestern Iowa well into the twelfth or thirteenth centuries. After this time we find no further trace of them in the state. A changing climate, repeated crop failure, or pressure from other groups may have brought about their emigration from Iowa. After this time it seems likely that they moved westward and northward, possibly incorporating some of the traditions of people with whom they came in contact. It is likely that the descendants of the people at Glenwood come into history as Cad-doan-speaking groups such as the Arikara and the Pawnee, who were *first* encountered by French explorers in South and North Dakota.

Lynn Marie Alex

*Illustrations by
Mary Slattery*



Effigy pipe from a Glenwood site.



The material culture of late prehistoric groups in Iowa is characterized by a series of tiny projectile points which are true arrowheads. These include simple triangular points, double-notched points with a side notch on each edge, and multiple-notched points with side notches on each edge and a notch in the base.

STATE FAIR BOOTH
by
Patricia Williams

During the 1976 Iowa State Fair, held in Des Moines from August 18-29, the IAS had the opportunity to meet several thousand Iowans. The Society had a booth located on the second floor of the Grandstand Building, and a constant stream of people passing the booth most certainly created an awareness in archeology and the IAS that we have not had before.

The booth was sponsored by a grant of \$960 from the Iowa American Revolution Bicentennial Commission, approximately \$1000 from the Office of the State Archeologist, some \$350 from the Division of Historic Preservation and \$1000 from the Iowa Archeological Society treasury. The exhibit, designed by W. Paul Ferryman of Solon, Iowa featured a series of panels telling the story of prehistory in Iowa, plus a panel explaining the dilemma of archeology and what Iowans can do to help preserve our heritage. The exhibit was striking, with beautiful art work, and told the story in a readable and effective manner. In addition, there was a small display case with artifacts and a table where membership brochures and the OSA's Woodland pamphlet were distributed.

The booth was built at the Office of State Archaeologist in Iowa City under the supervision of the co-chairmen of the project, Duane Anderson and Don G. Spears. Sharon Rockwell, Boone and Pat Williams operated the booth full-time with the help of George Horton, Vining; Mrs. Paul Kline, Indianola; Hal Kuhn, Independence; Dennis Miller, Silver City; Marilyn Mittlestadt, Ft. Dodge; Eugene Newhouse, Rockwell City; Larry Ryan, Ottumwa and Don Spears, Ottumwa. The booth was installed and dismantled by staff from the Office of the State Archeologist and the Division of Historic Preservation.

A few memberships were sold at the fair, however, the majority of the work consisted of meeting the public, talking about archeology and the IAS and handing out brochures and information. All membership brochures handed out at the fair were marked so the Treasurer will be able to tell how many memberships we actually receive as a direct result of our efforts at the Fair. When visited the day after the fair closed, she had already received a number, and we hope they will continue to come in.

One question I have been asked is if the booth was worth it. It did not live up to our expectations as a membership sales booth. In retrospect, however, we feel this is largely because people come to the Fair with a limited amount of money and want to spend it on things which cannot be found elsewhere. I think we will find that many people went home, looked over their brochures, then wrote out a check and sent it in. I don't think we can judge the worth of the fair booth entirely on the amount of money we made out of it, though. We did meet many people from across the state. People who in some cases did not realize there was archeology in Iowa, in other cases who have tremendous collections with no knowledge on how to care for them. Mainly, though we met people who have found an artifact at some time and whose interest starts with wanting to know what it is, who made it, how old it is, etc. All of these people had one thing in common---they had never heard of the Iowa Archeological Society. In these terms - in terms of letting people know there is a prehistory in Iowa and that there is a group of persons interested in preserving it for the future, I feel the booth was most certainly worth it.

ART WORK BY CHARLES PUSH-E-TO-NE-QUA

The reproduction on the following page is the work of Mesquakie artist Charles Push-E-To-Ne-Qua from the Indian Settlement at Tama, Iowa. The print is one of four from a series in black and white. The others show a figure a horse, an Indian with a bear, and a buffalo hunt. The series will be on display and for sale at the spring meeting. Their size is 11 x 17 inches and sell for \$2.00 each. This is an excellent opportunity to obtain original art works created by a contemporary native Iowa artist. Address any questions to: George Horton, Box 84, Vining, Iowa 52348.

SLIDES FROM THE STOVALL MUSEUM

The Stovall Museum has just produced a series of slides of artifacts in its collections from the Spiro Mound Site. While many of the objects have never before been reproduced, others will be familiar to everyone with an interest in archaeology as they have illustrated in many books on pre-Columbian art in America. For information write to: Candance Greene, Asst. to the Director, Stovall Museum of Science and History, The University of Oklahoma, 1335 Asp Ave., Room 100, Norman, Oklahoma 73069.



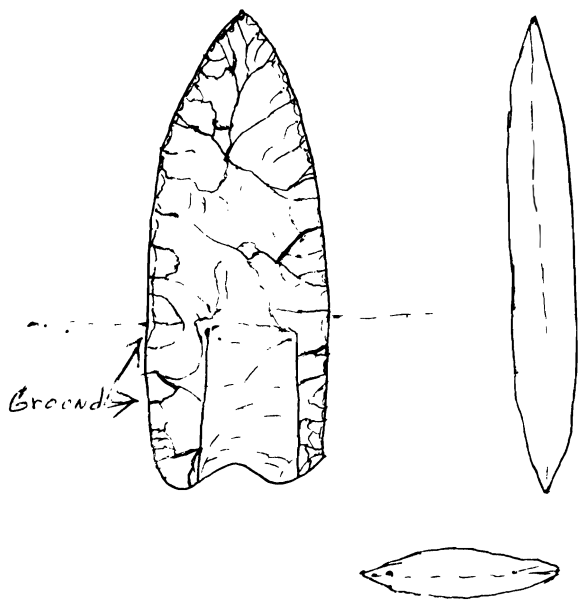
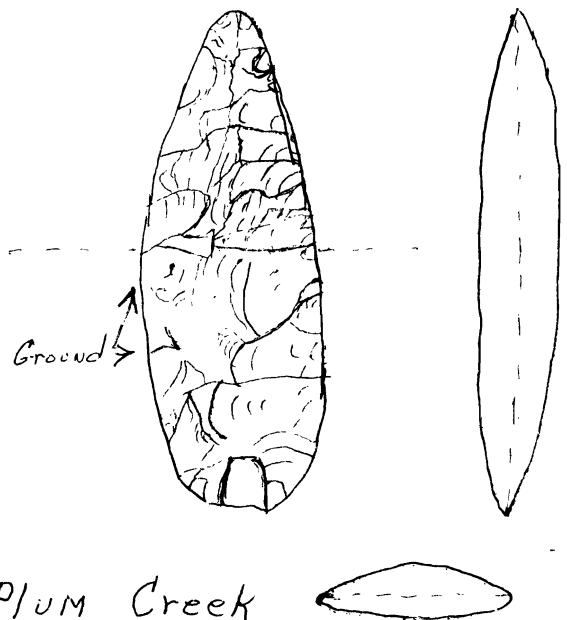
FLUTED POINTS

by Bill G. Goodale and Steven Goodale

At the annual meeting, an interest was expressed in knowing the number of fluted points found in Iowa. The five bifaces illustrated were found in Ringgold and Union counties within the past five years and are from surface finds.

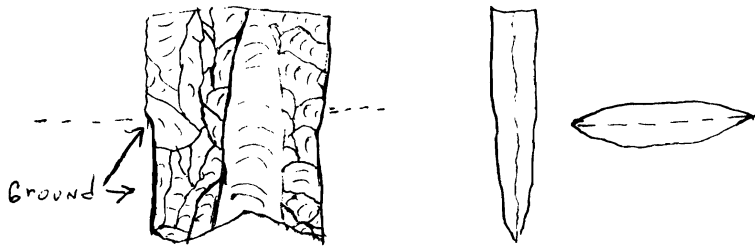
The biface found in Plum Creek is made of extremely fine grained white chert with very good workmanship. It was found in the bottom of the creek where many fire rock and chips are eroding from the banks. We have also found side-notch and corner-notch points and sand grit-tempered pottery in the same spot. The biface shows a short flute on both surfaces.

The one found on Site No. 13RN18 is a fine grained, light tan chert with good workmanship. The flute is about an inch long on both surfaces with the sides well ground from the base to just above the flute. Very few other artifacts have been found on this site. It has not been under heavy cultivation.

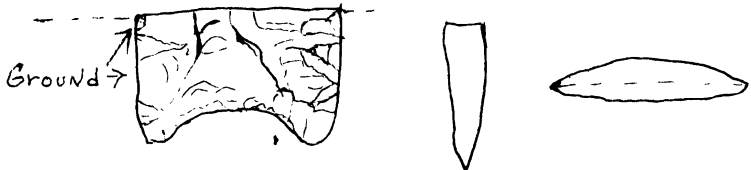


13-RN-18

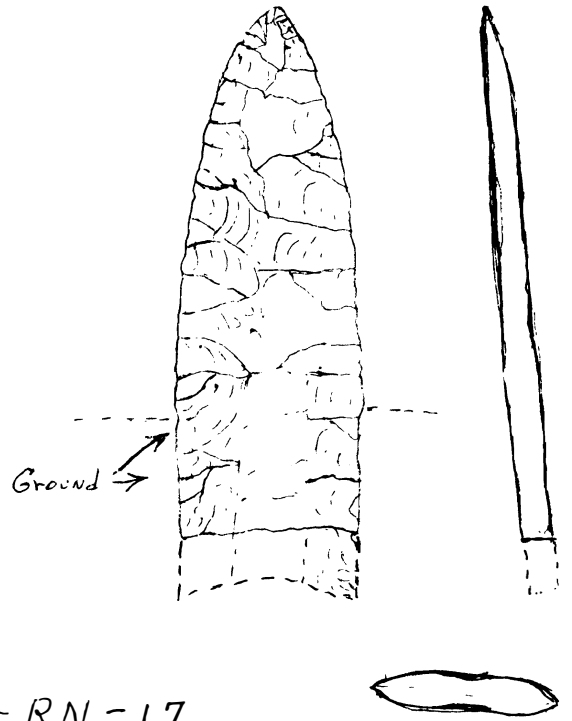
The biface from Site No. 13RN17 was found this spring and is fine grained, dark gray, microfossil chert with very good workmanship. It is a very thin blade with the extreme base missing. The remaining flute is about an inch long, the sides are ground from base to near the top of the flute. We have taken several points of various cultures from this site but from different areas.



13-UN-6



13-RN-28



13-RN-17

Number 13RN28 is only a base but has a definite flute with ground sides. It is a white and light tan fine grain chert, with fair workmanship. Multi-complex artifacts have been taken from this site including two Mill Creek types, several axes, Nebo Hill points, and sand grit-tempered pottery.

The broken point from 13UN6 is of medium grain, tan chert with rough workmanship. We have done very little hunting on this site and have found little material. Further down toward the creek about 100 yards we have found several artifacts indicating a multi-complex site. Sites No. 13UN6, 13RN17, and 13RN28 have produced a number of Nebo Hill type blades.

Ed. Note: Thanks to Steven Goodale for this contribution to the Newsletter. Steven is a teacher at Martensdale-St Marys High School. Do you have information about fluted points that you can share with us?

DUES

This special reminder is directed to the members of the Society who have not paid their dues for 1976-77. Our organization is too small to send out expensive reminders each month about the payment of dues. We urge you to send you payment to Mrs. Thornton at you earliest convenience. Active---\$5.00, Sustaining---\$15.00 Jr.---\$4.00.



The biface on the left was found by Frank Hines, Rt. 1, Souix City.

It was located in Plymouth County, SE¹/₄, SE¹/₄, Sec. 31, T 90N R46W



The two lanceolate points on the right were found by John Palmquist of Stanton, Iowa in the southern part of Montgomery County.

Base crushed on edge; not ground; yellow chert

Base not ground; white chert

NEW COURSE ON IOWA ARCHAEOLOGY

The University of Iowa is now offering a new course on Iowa Archaeology prepared by Lynn Alex. It can be taken for 3 hours credit or for a certificate. Details are as follows:

Title: Introduction to Midwestern Prehistory: Emphasis Iowa (113:20)

The course includes the prehistoric cultural sequence viewed against the background of North American prehistory. A review of current and future research is also presented.

For further information contact Dr. Arlene Buswell, Instructional Services, C205 E H, University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa 52242.

DO YOU REMEMBER THE SUMMER OF '74?

We thought you might enjoy a reminder of warmer days during a January marked by record low temperatures. The author is Nancy Harkin, age 10, daughter of John and Jean Harkin of Des Moines. In this essay, Nancy is remembering her impressions of her weekend on an archeology field trip at Chan-Ya-Ta in Buena Vista County. Nancy was 8 years old at the time of the Chan-Ya-Ta dig. Many members will remember that the temperature reached 106° F. on the day of the IAS field trip.

MY ARCHAEOLOGY EXPEDITION

By Nancy Harkin

You might not know what archaeology is, but to me it's very boring, and you can get very mad because you might never find anything. You've heard my side of it. Well, let's see. I'm pretty sure archaeology is the study of things and people of long ago. Does it sound fun to you?

I guess I'm not the kind of person that likes digging in the ground to find stuff that ancient people left. But my mom and dad are. One summer we decided to go to an archaeology dig. Other people would be there and we would all be digging for Indian artifacts and the outline of their houses. Some fun! A whole weekend of digging!

Well, we got to the digging site and were assigned a place to dig. The glaring sun was at my back which made me sweat. I couldn't stand it, so I went to get a drink of water. It was in a cooler. I poured some out. I gulped it right down. YUCK! It must've been sitting in the sun for so long it got just as hot. I went back and watched everybody dig. I just couldn't find the energy to. We had only been there for a half hour, but I could have melted!

Finally, after about three hours we went to our hotel. After dinner I soaked in the tub and worried about the next day. Would I decide to dig and find a clay pot, or would I end up getting nothing but dirt in my nails and a sunburn? Right then I said, "Please rain tommorrow!"

Thanks to all who contributed to this issue!

Editors: Gary L. Valen & Betsy M. Lyman, R.R. 3, Indianola, Iowa 50125
Assoc. Ed. Don G. Spears, 536 S. Davis, Ottumwa, Iowa 52501

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