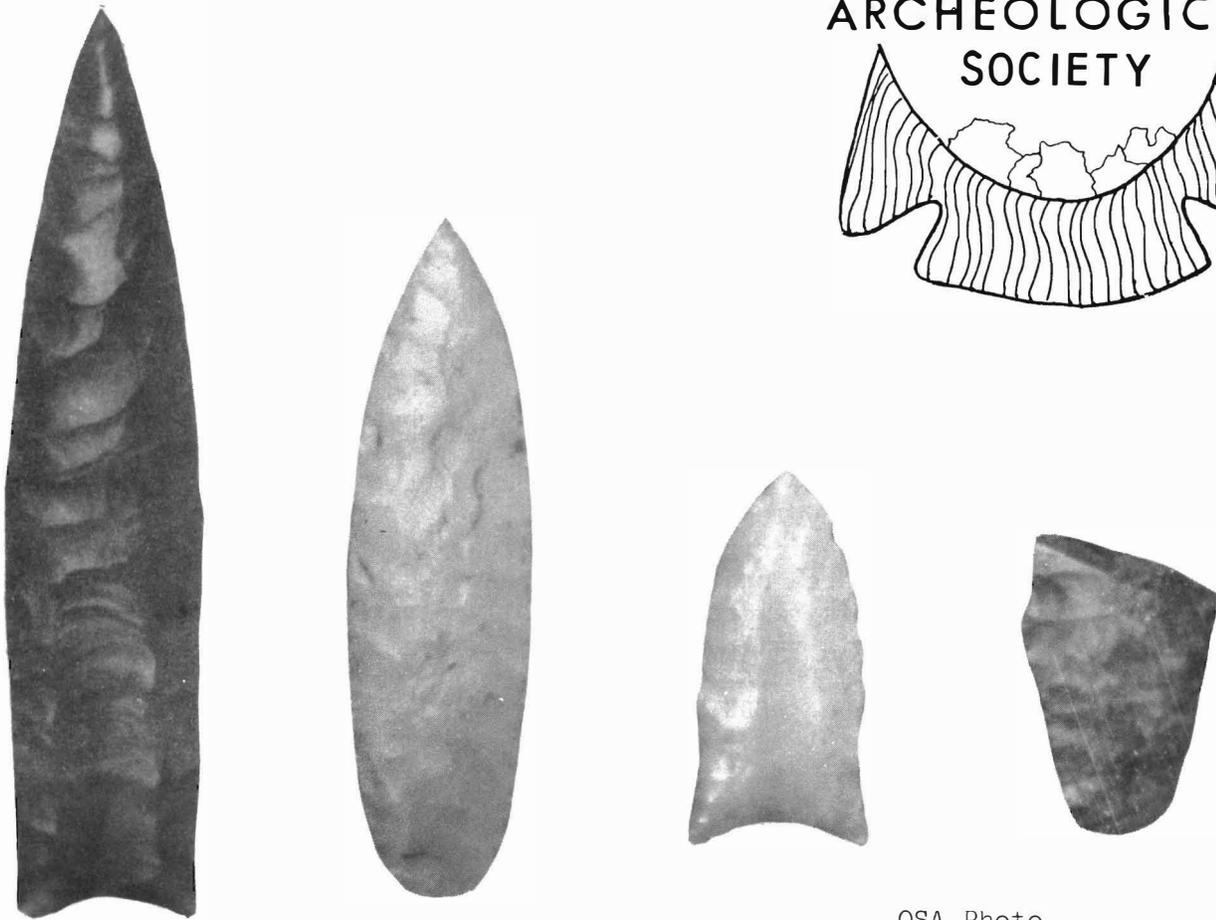


NEWSLETTER

JANUARY 1979

NUMBER 91



OSA Photo

EARLY POINTS FROM THE JIM SCHULTE COLLECTION

The two fluted points and the two Agate Basin-like points pictured above were collected by Jim Schulte, Rock Rapids, Iowa. All came from Lyon County. The ones on either side were found in cultivated fields. The two in the middle came from the Rock River and Kanaranzie Creek. All are shown actual size. Good work Jim! Thank you for sharing your collection with the Society.

SITE SURVEYOR ESSAY:

TEN SITES IN WEBSTER COUNTY

David L. Carlson

INTRODUCTION

During the summer of 1960, the Office of the State Archaeologist authorized an archaeological survey of all possible prehistoric sites in Webster County. The survey was quite thorough, but because of crop and vegetation cover and weather conditions, some sites were naturally impossible to locate. Since the original survey, better site maps and soil maps have become available, and as a result, we have been able to map new sites and add considerably to the information that had previously been recorded. Several of these aforementioned sites have been surface collected for a period of years, but since the various collections have not been documented or properly recorded and marked, the artifacts are generally not considered in this report.

Webster County is located in the north central portion of the state. The Des Moines River, the major stream in the county, flows generally from northwest to southeast. At this location the river trench is approximately two thousand feet from bluff to bluff. The stream is about thirty to forty feet across and nearly one hundred and fifty feet below the high bluffs and ridge tops. Seldom does the flood zone exceed the 960 foot contour line. Most hill sides and steep slopes along the river are timbered with oak, hickory, maple and ash trees. Many of the terraces or benches have been under cultivation and planted in row-crops for many years.

In 1886 the Mason City and Fort Dodge Railroad was extended to Webster County in order to obtain a dependable supply of coal. Commercial coal mining operations continued in this portion of the Des Moines River valley until about 1923. Subsequently, the railroad was limited to hauling passengers and freight which consisted mainly of high quality clay and manufactured brick and drainage tile. This local branch of the railroad was abandoned in 1932. In order to move from the level prairie to the floor of the river valley where the coal mines were located, the railroad right-of-way followed a series of ravines and terraces. Of course many of these same terraces had previously been occupied by prehistoric people. Some of the sites mentioned in this report were partially destroyed during the construction and later by the demolition of this railroad right-of-way.

WEBSTER COUNTY SITES

13WB319

This site is located on the 960 foot contour line. The soil is Dorchester silt loam with a slope of zero to two percent and was originally stream deposited. The site is situated on the highest portion of the terrace and appears to be just above the flood zone. The site is presently planted in rowcrops. An unimproved dirt road passes about fifty yards to the south of the site. The now abandoned railroad has destroyed most of the site. At times the landowner will bulldoze along the right-of-way in order to keep the encroaching underbrush away from the cropland. On these occasions, additional artifacts may be found in the newly exposed areas. In surface collecting this site, it is difficult to determine if these artifacts were just uncovered from their original position, or if they had already been disturbed years ago when the railroad was under construction.

Currently no ceramics have been found at this site. Aside from the waste flakes, we have a number of reworked flakes including one very nice scraper (Fig. 1, L) and a small corner notched point about three fourths of an inch long. Some broken hematite fragments were also recovered from this site.

13WB320

This site is located on the 970 foot contour. The soil is Turlin loam with a two to five percent slope. The native vegetation was prairie grasses and a few trees. This is an ideal terrace well above the flood plain, but still quite close to the river. A steep hill just west of the site provides fine protection from any unpleasant wind. Just north of the site, a small wet weather creek flows into the river. Unfortunately, grading for the railroad has

disturbed that area of the terrace which would be the prime spot for prehistoric habitation. After the rail line was abandoned, the right-of-way was again leveled in order to make as much of the field as possible suitable for row crop farming.

A considerable amount of historic Euro-American material was recovered on this terrace. These items may have been lost during early day mining, railroading or homesteading operations. Among the historic artifacts obtained were stoneware, china, glassware, square nails, a small china doll, a brass shot gun shell, a small goat or cow bell, a purple cut glass lavalier and an 1865 United States two cent coin. Many sites have produced occasional historic artifacts, but seldom in this quantity and variety.

At the present time all of the prehistoric material has been found on the highest portion of the terrace. No ceramics have been recovered. The stone material which was collected included waste stone flakes, reworked flakes, scrapers, a nicely formed biface blade and two well made corner notched projectile points. The points would seem to be of the Woodland period (Fig. 1, D-E).

13WB41

Although this site was recorded during the 1960 archaeological survey of Webster County, it is included here because of its possible relationship to other sites in the immediate vicinity. This site is located on the 950 foot contour line and is directly above and adjacent to the Des Moines River. The soil is Turlin loam with a slope of two to five percent. It is subject to erosion, but the hazard is not too severe. The native vegetation was prairie grasses and a few trees. During historic times the river has cut into the east edge of the terrace, and occasionally artifacts have eroded out of the river bank. The site, however, appears to be well above the present day flood zone. The railroad right-of-way may have destroyed the western portion of the site.

Ceramics make up the major part of all recovered artifacts (Fig. 2, A). These body sherds of the Woodland period are grit tempered and some have the typical paddle marked exterior. There is about an even division between those rim sherds that have a smooth exterior and those with a roughened exterior. A number of body sherds are decorated with cord-wrapped-stick impressions while others have trailed lines. Interior punctates are found below some of the rims. One interesting rim sherd still shows the fingerprint of its maker. The ratio of recovered waste stone flakes to pottery is very low.

This site may have been an area of specialized occupation, perhaps the making of ceramics. There are several similar sites in Webster County that display large amounts of pottery and small quantities of chert flakes. No projectile points have been documented, but one reworked flake, a sandstone abrader, and a crude chopper were collected. A small amount of shattered bone, some burned bone and some clamshell were also recovered in the site area.

13WB321

This site is located on about the 990 foot contour line which would be the second terrace above the flood plain. It is just uphill from 13WB41. The gently sloping soil is of the Rockton series. It is a sandy loam and subject to erosion. The native vegetation was prairie grasses and a few trees. A large portion of the terrace has been under cultivation for many years. The southern part has been used as a pasture area and is covered with blue grass, red haw trees and gooseberry brush. At times the various landowners have attempted to clear this pasture and their bulldozers often expose scattered waste chert flakes. If this entire terrace is eventually put under cultivation, we may find that the site area may be at least doubled.

Most of the artifacts have been recovered within about fifty feet of the edge of the terrace. Ceramics from the site are grit tempered and although no rim sherds have been found, the body sherds would seem to be of the Middle Woodland period. The waste stone flakes indicate that a variety of chert was used in the manufacture of stone tools. The projectile points indicate prehistoric occupation over a long span of time. The majority of the points could be classified as from the Woodland periods, but there is also evidence of an earlier Archaic occupation (Fig. 1, A-C). A variety of scrapers and a slab of worked hematite have been collected.

13WB323

This site is located on the 1060 foot contour line, and it is on about the third terrace above the flood plain. It is almost directly uphill from 13WB321. The soil is Luther loam with a slope of one to three percent. The soils on these ridges or small knolls have a tendency to erode if rain is intense. The native vegetation was mainly trees. Presently this site is in rowcrops. Most of the cultural material has been found in a relatively small area along the terrace edge and near a deep ravine which cuts across the south side of the field. Several scrapers and reworked flakes were recovered along with a quantity of waste chert flakes. Unfortunately, no diagnostic points or ceramics have been located. This site is in a position to afford a fine view of the river valley, and it is far enough below the upland level to provide protection from the exceedingly strong prairie winds.

13WB322

This site is located on the 960 foot contour line. The soil is of the Turlin loam series with a slope of two to five percent as usually found on the low benches along the Des Moines River valley. These soils are subject to erosion. The native vegetation was prairie grasses and a few trees. The terrace is presently planted in rowcrops. The railroad right-of-way has removed at least one third to one half of the western portion of the site. A small creek flows along the north edge of the site. A line of trees and brush are now growing along the creek, and the site area may extend into this vegetation and up to the creek bank. While the entire terrace may contain five to seven acres, all of the artifacts are concentrated at the northern end of the terrace.

All of the ceramics which have been recovered are grit tempered, quite thin and show fine workmanship. Decorations consist mainly of twisted cord impressions applied at varying angles. As is typical of the pottery found in Webster County, the colors range from shades of orange to dark brown. Some of the body sherds exhibit cord-wrapped-paddle markings on the exterior while others have been smoothed over. Among the stone tools are a number of reworked flakes, several scrapers and one blade. The projectile points are stemmed or cornered notched and would appear to be of the same Woodland time period as the pottery.

13WB45

This site is located on the 955 foot contour line. The soil is Dorchester silt loam with a zero to two percent slope. These soils were originally deposited by flood waters. This terrace is presently well above the flood zone, and it has been under cultivation for many years. The west edge of this terrace ends at a very steep hill which rises about one hundred feet above the site. The Des Moines River has eroded a very abrupt drop-off at the east side of the terrace. The land immediately north of this field has not been cultivated. It would seem likely that the site may extend into this area, but at present it is impossible to surface collect because of the very dense underbrush.

The ceramics at this site are from the Middle and Late Woodland periods (Fig. 2, B-H). They are all grit tempered. The earlier body sherds exhibit the roughened exterior and cord-wrapped-paddle marks. These rim sherds often have a lip which has been drawn slightly outwards. Most of these thicker rim sherds also have punctates which have been pushed from the inside out. In contrast to the Middle Woodland ceramics, the Late Woodland body sherds are considerably thinner and the exteriors have been smoothed over. Some rim sherds have twisted cord impressions around the rim and neck area while others have the same designs created by incised lines. At least one sherd shows a very probable fabric impression. There are also some rim sherds of the Great Oasis type. Considering all rim sherds and decorated body sherds: 1) 60% exhibit Late Woodland twisted cord impressions; 2) 20% have trailed or incised lines similar to Great Oasis; 3) 20% resemble Middle Woodland with interior pushed punctates and cord wrapped paddle roughened exterior. The projectile points at this site range from the well known corner notched styles of the Middle Woodland period to the very tiny side notched types of the Great Oasis culture (Fig. 1, F-H, M-N). Other items collected were a great many scrapers and reworked flakes, three abraders, some worked hematite and two bird talons. Also recovered was a large assortment of deer bones. Many of them appear to be from immature individuals. Most of these bones have been cracked or shattered. It would appear that most of the bones are from the legs because rib and vertebra fragments have not been found. There are a great many teeth, but little evidence of any skulls.

Several years ago a nearly complete Middle Woodland pot was recovered at this site by Rex Hansman of Fort Dodge. It was a large vessel with an estimated capacity of about one bushel.

Of the ten sites described in this report, 13WB45 is the largest and appears to have been occupied for a long period of time. Most of the Middle Woodland ceramics were recovered near the south end of the site in association with the deer bones.

13WB329

This site is situated on the 980 foot contour line. The soil is Terril loam with a five to nine percent slope. These soils are found mainly on foot slopes in the Des Moines River valley between the uplands on high benches and the flood plain of the river. The native vegetation was prairie grasses. This site is on a rise which is well above the flood zone of the river. A steep and forested hill rises to about one hundred feet just south of the terrace on which the site is located. A small wet weather creek runs along the east edge of the site. The entire terrace has been planted in rowcrops for many years.

No ceramics have been found at this site. The waste stone flakes are cherts from glacial deposits. The projectile points are corner notched and stemmed, which would seem to put them into the Early to Middle Woodland time period. Two nice biface blades and several scrapers have also been found (Fig. 1, K). A large amount of crushed hematite and chunks of hematite which show evidence of human alteration have been recovered from the site area. This hematite appears to have been obtained from the nearby wet weather creek channel in an area where it cuts out of the hillside and enters the rather flat terrace.

13WB330

This site is located on the 980 foot contour line. The soil is Terril loam with a five to nine percent slope. The native vegetation was prairie grasses. This site is on the same terrace as 13WB329. It is on the east side of a wet weather creek. The terrace is planted in rowcrops.

No ceramics have been recovered as yet. The projectile points have corner notched bases (Fig. 1, I-J). Small scrapers, reworked flakes and waste stone flakes were also collected. At this site we have also found great amounts of crushed and worked hematite. The hematite probably originated in the channel of the wet weather creek. The hematite is presently concentrated in the same areas as the waste chert and other prehistoric artifacts. It is not scattered over the entire terrace. This situation is similar to 13WB329.

13WB331

This site is located on the 1100 foot contour line. The soil is Lester loam with a slope of two to five percent. It is subject to erosion. These soils were formed in glacial till on uplands and ridgetops. The native vegetation was grasses and trees. This site is on the high ground directly above 13WB330 and also adjoins the same wet weather creek. The field has been planted in rowcrops for many years. A series of high voltage electric transmission lines pass over the site. The support poles are spaced such that their installation did no apparent damage to the site. Here again we have found large amounts of hematite in the site area. It appears to have been carried up from the lower portion of the wet weather creek.

Although no ceramics or projectile points have been collected, we have found several scrapers, reworked flakes, waste chert flakes and one full grooved maul. The maul was made from a river cobble which was altered little except for the groove. Both ends of the maul exhibit use marks.

SUMMARY

This series of ten sites is quite typical of those found along the Des Moines River in Webster County. They vary in time from the Archaic through the Great Oasis period. By far the greatest number of sites could be classified as Middle Woodland. The location of the sites may range from terraces just barely above the flood plain, to areas near the open prairie on the bluff tops. Most of the larger sites and those which appear to have been occupied for the longest periods of time are situated on terraces just above the flood plain and in close proximity to the river. In this area of the river valley there does not appear to be any site where a specific type of chert was quarried. Rather, it seems that nearly all chert was obtained from glacial deposits, and as a result, there was a great variety of
(Continued on page 8)

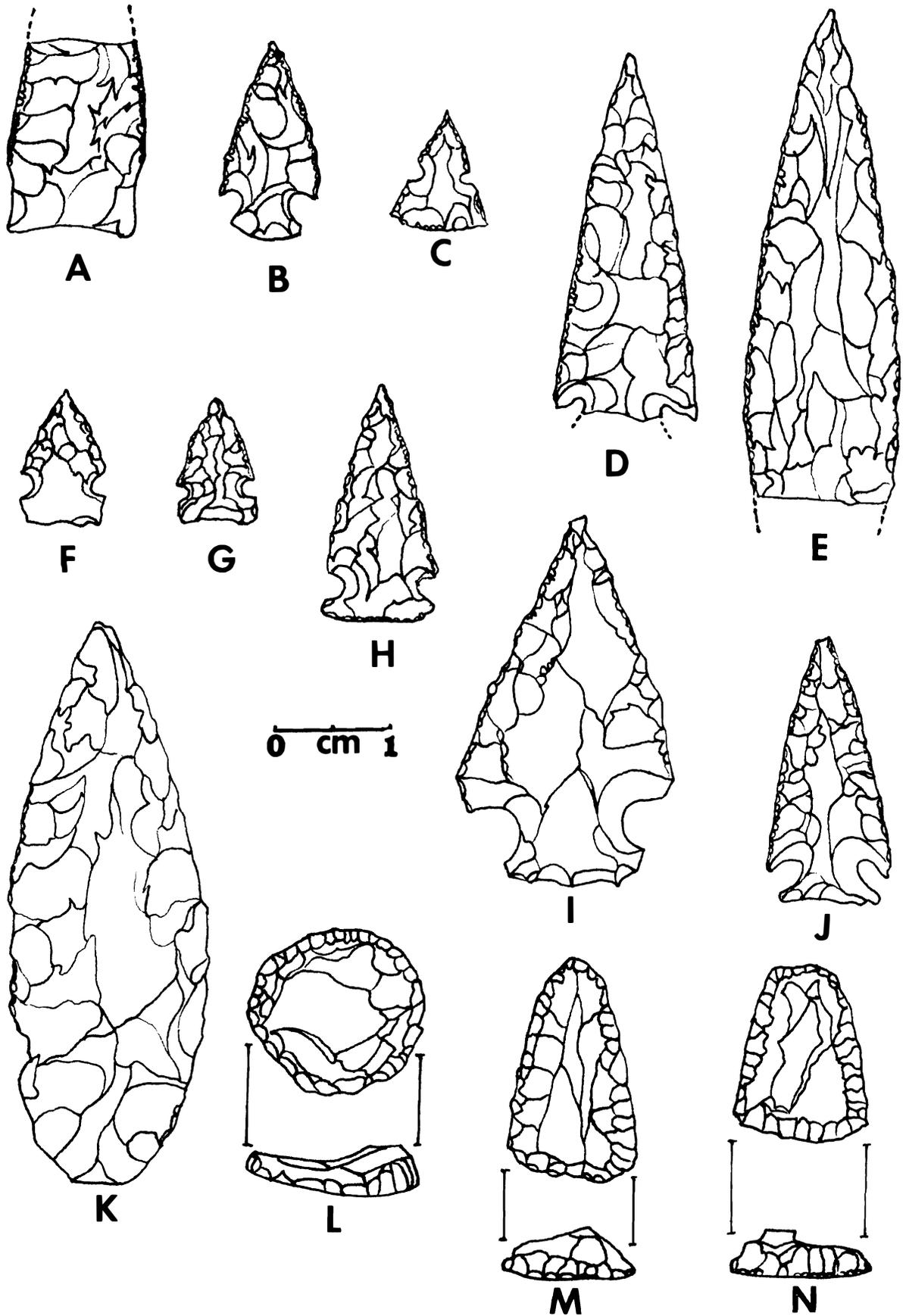


Fig. 1. Stone artifacts from Webster County. A, Archaic; B,D, H-J, Early and Middle Woodland; C, F, G, Late Woodland/ Great Oasis; E, K, bifaces; L-N, scrapers. A-C, 13WB321; D-E, 13WB320; F-H, M-N, 13WB45; I-J, 13WB330; K, 13WB329; L, 13WB319.

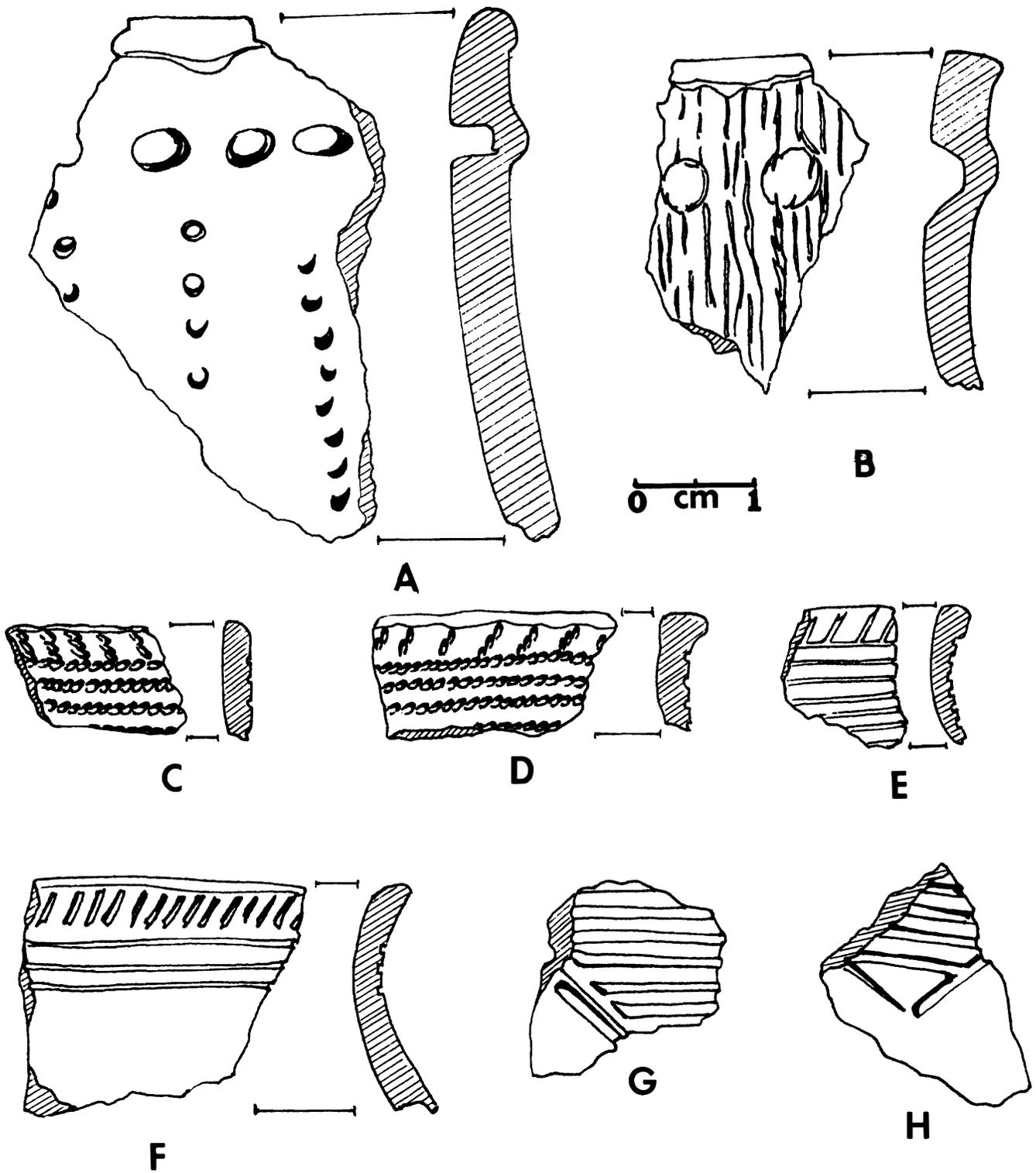


Fig. 2. Pottery from Webster County. A-B, Middle Woodland; C-D, Late Woodland; E-H, Great Oasis. A, 13WB41; B-H, 13WB45.

materials used in the manufacture of stone tools. One type of stone which does appear on nearly all of the sites in this vicinity is a black slate like chert. In recording these sites, the United States Geological Survey maps and the Webster County Soil Survey maps with the soil types imposed over aerial photos have been of the greatest assistance.

By far the largest concentration of prehistoric sites in Webster County is to be found along the Des Moines River. However, we are now finding sites situated on the prairie around what was once a series of small shallow lakes. These lakes have been tilled and drained and are now planted in rowcrops. This opens a whole new aspect and challenge in recording the prehistory of the county.

The well conducted archaeological survey of nearly twenty years ago has shown that many of those sites no longer exist, having been destroyed by urban development and changing agricultural practices, but with a thorough and well documented site reporting system, we at least have a record of previous archaeological sites.

These three lanceolate points came from a promising site buried 2 - 3 feet in the bank of an erosion channel near the Nodaway River in Page County.

They were found by Jess Stephens along with chips, scrapers and broken points. John Palmquist made the points available to the Office of the State Archaeologist and recorded the site (13PA12).

Ed. Note: The Newsletter continues to seek photographs or drawings of interesting items in your collection. This has become a popular feature of our publication so let us hear from you. A black and white photo with a dark background works best, but a pencil sketch can be reproduced with good results. Why not try a line drawing such as the ones on page 6 and 7? Send all material to Gary L. Valen, 711 N. E St., Indianola, Iowa 50125

OAS PHOTO



SITE REPORTING

Winter is a time when most archaeologists retire to a warm fire. What a perfect time to write up site sheets for those sites found this past summer. It is a good way to occupy a long winter's evening and to record Iowa's prehistory.

We missed noting in the last Newsletter that John and Barbara Feeley had reported 19 sites since the April meeting. Here are the names of those turning in site sheets since the last Newsletter:

- Toby Morrow 40
- Dorothy Peterson 1

THE PHOENICIAN MYSTERIES OF PROFESSOR FELL

Marshall McKusick

The letter to the editor written by George Baker of Selma (Newsletter 89:13) raises a very legitimate point about Barry Fell's book -- his theories seem "to be quite reasonable." Mr. Baker is not alone in thinking that foreign travelers would best explain similarities and parallels between the Old World and the New. If this is so, why do some archaeologists become so outraged when they read America B.C., by Professor Fell (1976), The Search for Lost America by Salvatore Trento (1978), and a number of other books of the same genre?

One answer will be forthcoming this next year when my current research project is published. I have written a book Atlantic Voyages to Prehistoric America which is in press at the Southern Illinois University. It is a book which I think will be of interest to a number of readers of this Newsletter. I tell about the massive series of forgeries which clouded the search for Vikings in America, and expose a great deal of the foolishness about Phoenicians and Egyptians allegedly reaching the New World. There are facts and arguments which are of such substance that it requires a book rather than a brief note to discuss them intelligently. Now I don't wish anyone to think I am evading the issue by saying in effect "trust me for I have it all written down somewhere." Rather, I have made this comment to say that there is a very serious problem raised by these fantasies and speculations about ancient astronauts and Lost Atlantis; the jumbled reports of Professor Fell add to the confusion. The problem may be stated simply. Archaeologists have not taken the matter seriously enough, and some of them have considered these theories too absurd to merit a reply. I think that archaeologists have not done enough to educate the public about the fantasies which pass for science. This is the reason why I have written a book and other American archaeologists are also writing replies to clear the matter up and replace the frauds with genuine prehistory.

One of the problems in discussing the theories of Professor Fell with interested laymen is caused by the custom that archaeologists follow in using a form of shorthand. We may cite some authority by year and page and then jump to the next citation assuming that the reader can become familiar with the references, but in fact the sources may appear in some British journal or American scholarly periodical of such limited circulation that one must have access to a major university library to follow the discussion in detail. There is another problem as well; North American archaeologists are not trained in European languages and scripts, and so when some writer begins to "decipher" messages in America which are claimed to be in Scandinavian runes, Irish Ogam, or Phoenician letters, few archaeologists are able to reply in a definitive way. Let me again say that the problem is now regarded as sufficiently serious so that studies written for the reading public are being prepared which explain in detail why the Phoenician evidence, for example, is nothing more than hoaxes, misidentifications, and frauds. I will explain what I mean by drawing from three examples.

Readers of this Newsletter are probably familiar with a book I wrote some years ago, The Davenport Conspiracy (1970) which was the first of the studies published by the Office of State Archaeologist. It has now gone out of print but I hope that the second edition, The Davenport Conspiracy Revisited, will be accepted for publication because it is a story which needs to be available. The Conspiracy is about the infamous relic frauds manufactured in the Davenport area in the 1870s which included two elephant shaped tobacco pipes and various tablets which had mysterious inscriptions. The book discussed the physical evidence of the frauds, explained why the tablets were made, studied secret testimony obtained from museum files, and even recorded an oral, traditional account. It is one of the fullest discussions of any group of frauds in North America. One of the tablets has been identified by Professor Fell as a Phoenician-Egyptian inscription, but he had not read my book and did not even cite it. The fact of the matter is that the tablet is made from New England building slate used in the 19th century; apparently taken from the siding of the Old Slate House in Davenport, and the inspiration for the lettering came from Webster's Dictionary, edition of 1872, which illustrated Old World alphabets. Professor Fell's entire argument is based upon his ignorance of American archaeology, and it is absurd to think that Egyptians came up the Mississippi.

The second case involves Professor Fell's reconstruction of Mystery Village in New Hampshire which he claims is a Phoenician-Celtic outpost and ceremonial center. What are the facts? The cellars were mainly built by a half-mad Yankee farmer in the early 19th century, the observation stones are part of stone fences, and everything has been explained by professionals without inventing a Phoenician theory. The clinching argument which shows the low level of Professor Fell's archaeological scholarship is his identification of a Phoenician sacrificial altar. This was examined by an archaeologist many years ago and he concluded it was nothing more than a 19th century Yankee artifact named a lye stone used when making home-made soap. One good source which explains Mystery Village is Professor Samuel Eliot Morison's classic book, European Discovery of America; the Northern Voyages (1971). Another is an article by Birgita Wallace in The Quest for America (1971) edited by Geoffrey Ashe.

The third example which exposes Professor Fell's conclusions about Phoenicians in America is a study which appeared last summer in a British journal Antiquity. The article by Ross and Reynolds (1978), "Antique Vermont," conclusively demonstrates that none of the so-called inscriptions by Phoenicians and Celts are correctly interpreted. They prove that the so-called Ogam writing is actually parallel scratches left by an early Yankee-type, horse drawn plow. None of the stone structures resemble Old World stone buildings closely enough to be considered related. I would prefer that readers could consult the actual journal, but because it is only found in major universities you will be forced to rely on my statement that the Vermont problem of anomalous evidence is now settled. There were no ancient Phoenicians in Vermont.

The problem of trans-Atlantic visitors to America in prehistoric times has raised a great deal of discussion over the years. Some of it is reasonable but most of the speculations are totally unfounded. This is my professional view of the question at the present time. In an article which I have recently written, I point out that our society is turning to non-traditional alternatives in explaining man's place in the universe which is a complicated way of saying some segments of our society have turned to non-intellectual sources of explanation such as astrology, mystery cults, witchcraft, and superstition. The growth of fantasy and science fiction is an easily documented phenomenon in our society, and it has a clear impact upon popular archaeology written by uninformed speculators. I have used the term Alternative Archaeology to encompass the mystic approach to prehistoric man, an approach which has no relationship with the findings of traditional archaeological method and theory. Alternative Archaeology provides no justifiable solutions and its practitioners such as Professor Fell deceive the reading public. Ultimately, Professor Fell is wrong because there are no Phoenician mysteries at Davenport, Iowa, or in New England; the evidence has been concocted out of errors and ignorance of archaeological research.

Ashe, Geoffrey. 1971 The Quest for America, Pall Mall, London. (Except for Thor Heyerdahl's article, this book presents a solid series of studies by various scholars).

Goddard, I., and W.W. Fitzhugh. 1978 Barry Fell Reexamined. Biblical Archeologist 41 (3): 83-88, September. (A reliable refutation of Fell from the Smithsonian).

McKusick, Marshall 1970 The Davenport Conspiracy. State Archaeologist Rept. 1, University of Iowa, Iowa City. (This explains why the tablets are not Phoenician).

Morison, Samuel Eliot 1971 The European Discovery of America: The Northern Voyages A.D.500-1600. Oxford, New York. (A classic book by a leading American historian).

Rathje, W. 1978 The Ancient Astronaut Myth. Archaeology 31(1):4-7.

Riley, C. L. 1978 Interhemispheric Contacts? Archaeology 31(6):59-61.

Ross, A. and P. Reynolds 1978 Antique Vermont. Antiquity 52(205):100-107. Great Britain.

Wauchope, Robert 1974 Lost Tribes and Sunken Continents. University of Chicago, paperback. (The best introduction to speculations in archaeology).

REGIONAL HISTORY AND GENERAL ANTHROPOLOGY ON TV FOR CREDIT

A personalized, innovative study of those who made the history of the Great Plains states has been created, with some award-winning TV programs, and books that made it a home study course. "The Great Plains Experience" was produced by the University of Mid-America, a consortium of midwestern state universities. It's being offered beginning in early February by Iowa State University and the University of Iowa over Iowa Public Broadcasting Network stations and WOI-TV.

Using material from art, literature, geography, history, anthropology and sociology, with first-hand accounts and dramatic TV programs, the course weaves together the ways the harsh but fertile land and the diverse kinds of people on it influenced each other, creating a rich background to our contemporary experience.

The cost is \$94 at ISU, 3 quarter credits, introductory level. The cost is \$141 at UI for a specially modified upper-division/graduate level version for 3 semester credits. Costs include books.

Resource faculty persons for the ISU offering are Prof. David Gradwohl, Anthropology Dept., who is a member of the Iowa Archaeological Society, and Prof. Richard Lowitt, Chairman of the History Department. The resource faculty person at the University of Iowa is Mr. William Silag of the History Department.

"Dimensions in Culture" is also a home-study TV course being offered through the University of Mid-America Program of ISU and UI. It was produced by Coast Community College District, California, and the TV lessons are an armchair instructional travelogue around the world. The course covers physical and cultural anthropology on an introductory level. Prof. Helen Schuster of the ISU Anthropology Department is the faculty resource person. "Dimensions in Culture" is offered only by ISU, for 3 quarter credits, total cost of \$83.

Home study features of the UMA program of ISU and UI include no classes to attend, registration by phone or mail, books ordered by mail, no formal admission to ISU or UI, exams taken locally, regular ISU or UI credits available, and a toll-free phone link to the faculty resource person.

There are four levels of participation possible; watching the TV programs, obtaining the books, enrolling for noncredit (at ISU only) and enrolling for credit.

For additional information, contact Emilia Nordvet, 515-294-4750 (UMA, 11 AH Curtiss Hall, ISU, Ames, 50011.) If you know others who might be interested in either course, she has single-page fliers on each available free for distribution.

Some other Iowa post-secondary institutions may be offering these courses. Check with your local one to see.

AGATE BASIN POINT

Some four years ago while visiting my rented garden plot in N.W. Davenport, Iowa I was surprised to find a perfect specimen of an Agate Basin projectile point. This unique find was on the surface in a former mixed prairie-forest area within 200 yards of a 20' terrace escarpment overlooking a small stream. During the intervening years, I have casually examined the 4 acre cultivated area, including the garden plots of others, but have found nothing more than one waste flake. The Agate Basin point is of a grey-white fossiliferous chert. The surfaces show some traces of patina and streaks of iron solution stain. Both of these encrustations would indicate an extended time period beneath the ground surface. The point suggests the probability of resharpening due to the flaking pattern and the constriction of the proximal end. The specimen has collateral flaking. The symmetry of each side below the midway point is slightly marred by indentations caused by error in the initial flaking process or accidental chipping during use. The surface of each small irregularity is weathered evenly with the total point thereby discounting breakage during farming operations.

Measurements using the Luchterhand system are as follows:

Axial length-----	72mm.
Blade length-----	73mm.
Maximum width-----	26mm.
Base width-----	126mm.
Thickness-----	8mm.
Basal radius-----	1mm.
*Lateral grinding distal end-----	135mm.
Weight-----	14.17grams

Luchterhand (1970) discusses Agate Basin points at length providing C-14 dates for valid, in context, excavations. His summary conclusion is that "it seems justified to assign the Agate Basin type cluster to a range of time between 8,000 and 10,000 years ago---." He further assigns Agate Basin type points together with Hardin Barbed, Thebes Diagonal Notched and Dovetail, and Dalton (Merserve) and provides a general chronology of 7,500-10,000 years BP for the group and places all within the Early Archaic period.

This particular Agate Basin point was donated to the Sanford Museum and Planatarium, Cherokee, Iowa.

Special thanks are extended for the excellent art work to Lennis Moore, then employed at the Sanford Museum.

Reference:

Luchterhand, Kubet
 1970 Early Archaic Projectile Points
 Illinois Archaeological Survey,
 Monograph No. 2. Springfield, Ill.

Submitted by Richard Slattery, President of the Iowa Archeological Society
 The point is pictured on the following page.

AGATE BASIN POINT

Total Length	7.3 cm.
Width	2.6 cm.
Thickness	.8 cm.
Ground	1.35cm.

SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SE $\frac{1}{4}$ SW $\frac{1}{4}$, SW $\frac{1}{4}$
 Sect. 10 R3E T78N
 DAV. EAST QUAD



2cm



Thanks to Dick Slattery
 for the article and picture!

(See page 12 for the text)

OUR PAST ----- The Newsletter of the Iowa Archeological Society has been published every year since 1951. We owe a great debt to the members who have worked so hard over the years to maintain and strengthen IAS. Here are a few reprints from previous Newsletters.

25 years ago--- Number 11 May 1954

New Editor This issue of the Newsletter marks the first editorial task of your new editor, Dr. Reynold J. Ruppe. Henceforth, any material submitted for the Newsletter or Journal should be addressed to me at the State University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa. Mr. Wilfred D. Logan had to resign as editor because of the press of work he faces in writing his doctoral dissertation.

and----- The new editor faced the same problem all editors do in IAS---"It was pointed out that we need manuscripts from the members of the Society for publication in the Journal. The fact that one is an amateur does not mean he has nothing of importance to say to us. Don't forget that both Dr. Keyes and Ellison Orr started as amateurs..."

20 years ago--- Number 29 January 1959

Our new laboratory is finished (at SUI) and the increased working space is a delightful sensation. We now have enough room to handle ten students with space left over for our own research.

also---- This issue carried the news that graduate student Adrian Anderson and his wife Barbara left Iowa for a six months field work tour in Yucatan with the Middle American Research Institute of Tulane University. The article assures everyone that Adrian will return to Iowa. "But Adrian is true to his homeland, for he ends one of his last letters, saying: 'Classical archaeology or not, I still like the idea of doing good old-fashioned dirt-archaeology. You can get the archaeologist out of the dirt, but you can't get the dirt out of the archaeologist!'"

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

Newsletter #90 had gone to press before the October 14, 1978 Third Fall Meeting of the IAS at Vining, Iowa. This is the first opportunity, therefore, to thank our co-hosts Don Spears and George Horton for a very fine meeting. All papers presented were excellent. Our special appreciation is given to the feature speaker, Dr. Dale Henning, University of Nebraska who traveled so far to add to the success of the meeting.

The next major event is our 29th Annual Meeting scheduled for April 28th-29th, 1979 to be held at Fort Dodge, Iowa. Details of the meeting and a call for papers will be distributed very soon. We need lay participation in the program. Many of you have good, interesting material to base a 10 or 15 minute talk. If it is archaeology, it does not have to be limited to Iowa. We are all interested in what is going on in the world. Share your experiences with us.

In Newsletter #88 we published the Society's 1978-79 goals, seventeen of them to be exact. As of January 8, 1979 we have done pretty well, but we have a ways to go and a bit more time. Lets see if we can complete the following goals by the Annual Meeting. Those not listed are accomplished or are expected to be by April 28th.

Goal#:

4. Locate 200 new archaeological sites by lay personnel
Comment: We have 130 reported to OSA. We need your help to get 70 or more.
6. Increase membership in the Society by 10%
Comment: This can be achieved easily if those members who have not paid their 1978-79 dues would do so. Remember the 1979 bulletin to be issued this spring is a good one and by itself is worth the small price of an active membership. Welcome to the 83 new members so far this year!
7. (Abbreviated) Send 2 members to the professional AIA meeting.
Comment: missed.
9. Revitalize the Northeast Chapter
Comment: No known activity
10. Create at least one new chapter
Comment: Working on a Des Moines chapter. Perhaps this will be active by the spring meeting?
11. (Abbreviated) Conduct 4 joint meetings or field activities between chapters. Comment: No known meetings or activities

Presidential message continued

WE NEED YOUR HELP WHERE YOU CAN PARTICIPATE

Briefly: Plans are in the works for a 1979 summer field school. I hope some announcement can be made at the Annual Meeting. There will be a meeting of the IAS Officers and Directors at Ames, Iowa March 3, 1979 at 1:00 P.M. Details will be mailed.

We have received a notice from the Baywood Publishing Company, Inc. about the publication of a new journal in 1979 to be called North American Archaeologist. According to the pre-publication announcement the journal will:

- 1) be dedicated solely to North America, excluding areas of high civilization in Mexico,
- 2) cover all aspects of prehistoric and historical archaeology, ranging from Paleo-Indian studies to industrial sites,
- 3) incorporate not only the results of academic research but also the findings resulting from contract archaeology and resource management,
- 4) and regularly publish work based on activities in state, provincial and local archaeological societies.

In addition there will be a companion monograph series which may be purchased as part of the subscription to North American Archaeologist or purchased separately. These volumes will deal with specific regions, current trends or problems in American archaeology, or with subjects that interest all archaeologists. The first monograph to be issued in this series will appear in 1979 and will deal with Archaeological Perspectives on Ethnicity in America (Ed. Robert L. Schuyler).

Publication of North American Archaeologist will commence with Volume 1 (1979-80) consisting of two numbers and then expand with Volume 2 to four numbers per year. Subscription involves a special pre-publication offer to members of societies for Volume 1 (1979-80) of \$13.50 for the journal only, or \$17.50 for both journal and monograph. The regular price will be \$15.00 for the journal and \$6.00 for the book.

Send to: Baywood Publishing Company, Inc., 120 Marine Street, Farmingdale, New York 11735 (All purchases must be prepaid. Make checks payable to the Baywood Publishing Company, Inc.) Mention your membership in IAS!

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

Editor: Gary L. Valen, 711 N. E St., Indianola, Iowa 50125

Material for the next issue should be submitted to the editor by March 15.

NEW MEMBERS

Diane Bolmer	Ames
James A. Carey	Columbus Junction
Cedar Falls Public Library	
Tanis Diedrichs	Cedar Falls
Rev. Brian Hellenga	Melvin
Chris Lamberti	Des Moines
Wayne Olsen	Dubuque
James Rasmussen	Pacific Junction
David Schnoebeler	Coralville
Mike DeVries	Iowa Falls

ADDRESS CORRECTION

Martha Schmidt	Humboldt
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MISSING PERSONS

Jeffrey Buehler	Vermillion
Susan Sappington	Iowa City

MARK YOUR CALENDARS-

ANNUAL SPRING MEETING APRIL 28-29 at FORT DODGE

HELP! Have you paid your dues? IAS has relied on its members to pay their dues each year without a formal notice. We have a large number of people who have not renewed their membership for this year. IAS is still a bargain at \$5.00 active, \$15.00 sustaining, and \$4.00 JR. memberships. Please send your dues to Mrs. Ruth Thornton, 326 Otsego Street, Storm Lake, Iowa 50588

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Iowa City, Iowa 52242

Non-Profit Organization

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