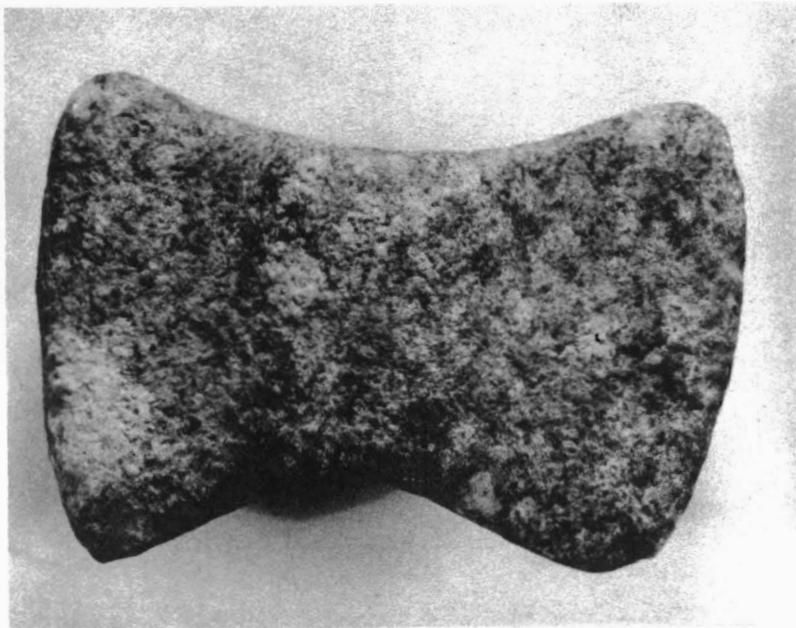


NEWSLETTER

SPRING 1979

NUMBER 92

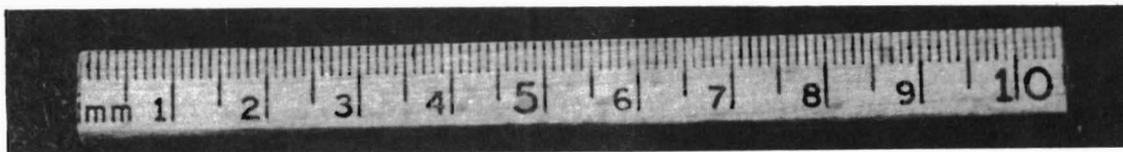
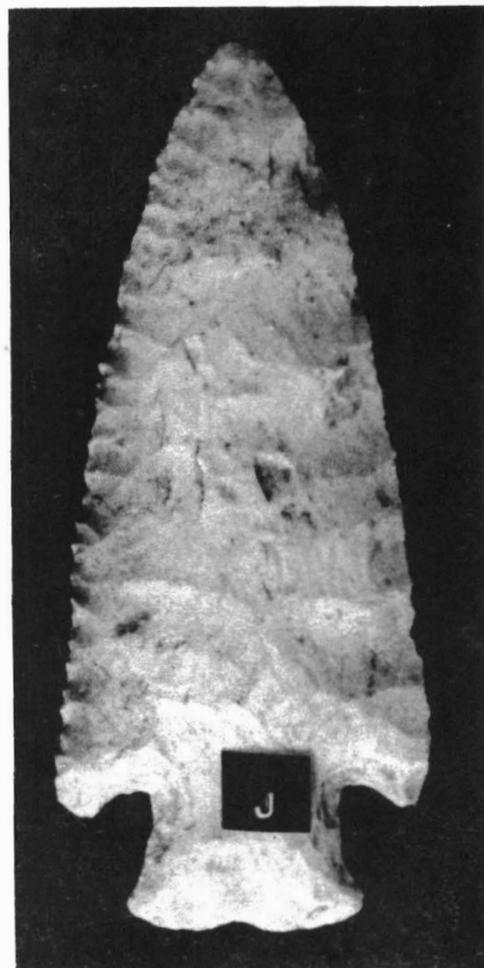
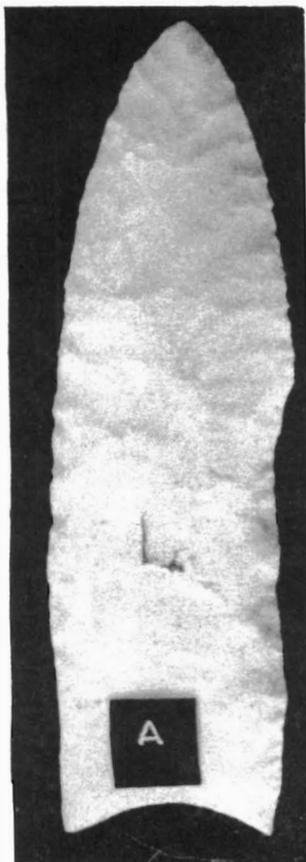


PLANO - ARCHAIC TRADITION IN SOUTHEAST IOWA

Bow Tie Type Banner Stone
Found by Charles & Connie
Gutch in a cultivated field
(1978) in N/W Monroe County

A. Clovis Point
Found by the late Keith Deyo
near Albia (1978) on the
Deyo Site (13M07). The
irregularity on the right
margin is caused by a segment
being broken probably during
final flaking. The piece was
reworked on both sides and was
utilized.

J. Barbed Hardin
Found along a roadside in
Davis County near Lake
Wapello (1960)





A BARBED HARDIN SITE IN S/E IOWA 13 MK --- TRUEX SITE

D. G. SPEARS

This locale was first visited by this writer in 1958. At that time a few nondescript woodland points were found. On subsequent visits specimens #2, #3, and #8 () were found on the same location. Specimen #5 was located one mile north and at the base of a continuing glacial ridge in an eroded gully along a county road grader ditch. When these artifacts were removed from collection bags and placed in Riker specimen cases, the profile of a Hardin site in Iowa began to materialize. The discovery of Woodland materials and a find by Larry Jones of a finely made corner notched late Woodland point 1 inch long indicates a multi-component site.

The late I.A.S. member Albert Newell of Eddyville had also picked up several superb Hardin pieces in this locale and showed these to this writer after he learned that their source was no longer his "secret." The late Harley Brown, Githen, in an interview in 1964 stated that he too had found artifacts there and believed that many of the pieces in the famed Bickford collection came from this locus.

The Location

The area lies on an east side slope of a huge deposit of glacial till that is covered with clinton silt - loam that is formed in loess under a native vegetation cover of forests. White oak and shag bark hickories grow near the site. This land mass is an extension of the region under which lies a large portion of Mahaska County's coal reserves. The land form compares with the same at the Rebecca Scott experimental coal mine near Coal Town.

The Truex Site

Coal test borings are in evidence in fields and roadsides in the region, made in part by the Iowa Geological teams and private exploiters. A thick over-burden could delay an early recovery of these fossil fuels, but these coal beds will be stripped out eventually to meet the energy crunch. The Truex site was heavily eroded in the early 1970's and cultural materials were hard to separate from the rocks and other glacial debris plus agricultural limestone. There is a cross bedding of glacial sand, and clay nodules and cobbles above the site. A water seepage drains from these gravels and this could have been a source of spring water for the early inhabitants. Presently soil conservation is being implemented and the site (1977) has been seeded down in a heavy brome like grass.

These Plano-Early Archaic site locations are very fragile and subject to heavy erosion and destruction by farming activities. Their locations on these sideslopes are hard hit by heavy rains which usually turns the topsoil into moving streams of goo. After the artifacts are picked up and the burnt hearth stones are splattered by the plow, nothing remains to show an occupation by early man.

Comments

It would be interesting to compare these finds with the points recovered by Flanders and Hansman at the Soldow site (13HB1) in 1961. A series of Plano-Archaic sites in Wapello Co. could bear some relationship with the afore mentioned sites. These could also become endangered by coal mining activities. The Truex site could be of great importance to the knowledge of Iowa's prehistory and needs further investigation.

Harold D. Winters used the term Type Clusters rather than type or type like. Kubet Luchterhand uses the phrase Scottsbluff Cluster Type to establish a relationship of the (Barbed) Hardin Point and S - B #2 in his Monograph #2. This arrangement can clarify some of the problems that arise when variants are noted that occur when areal developments and changes in methodology are used to produce the points that somewhat resemble a recognized type. I believe the name (Barbed) Hardin comes from a type site in Hardin Co., IL. The number one trait of this point type is the stylized (expanding) base that resembles a Christmas tree. In fact the old time collectors usually called them either pine or Christmas trees. These are categorized as knives and it is thought the retouching was done while the knife was hafted. Retouching results in the alternate bevel on many of these pieces.

Note: Don Spears was the first person (1975) to make an archaeological surface survey on an actual coal mining operation in Iowa. This was the Rebecca Scott State Experimental Mine #1, Mahaska, County. He also helped monitor the topsoil removal with personnel from the Dept. of Anthropology, Iowa State University in 1975.

DATA ON THE POINTS
PICTURED ON PAGE 5

Number	Provenience	Alternate Bevel	Serrated	Re-worked	Ground base & sides	Stream	Field	High Ground	
1	13WP	x	x	x	x	x			#1 Found by IAS member Connie Gutch, Eddyville last year in a stream bed in Wapello County.
2	13MK	x	x	x	x			x	#7 This point could be some other type. It has a ground base and has the general configuration of a Hardin.
3	13MK	x	x	x	x			x	
4	S/E Ia	x	x		x				
5	13MK	x	x	x	x		x		#8 This is a drill, perforator or (?) made from a expended Hardin.
6	13WP		x	x		x			
7	13VB				x		x		Thanks to Don Spears for the material and excellent photographs for this article.
8	13MK			x	x		x		
9	S/E Ia	x	x	x	x				

References

- Flanders, R.E., Soldow Site, 13HB1. I.A.S. Journal Vol. 24, 1977.
 Luchterhand, Kubet, Early Archaic Points, Monograph 2. Illinois Arch. Survey, 1970.
 Wormington, Marie, Ancient Man in North America, 1957.
 Landis, E.R. & Van Eck, Orville J., Coal Resources of Iowa. Iowa Geological Survey, 1965.
 U.S.D.A./S.C.S., Iowa Soils - 2, 2/69 (file code soils-12) page 2. Soil type 80 Clinton Silt-loam.

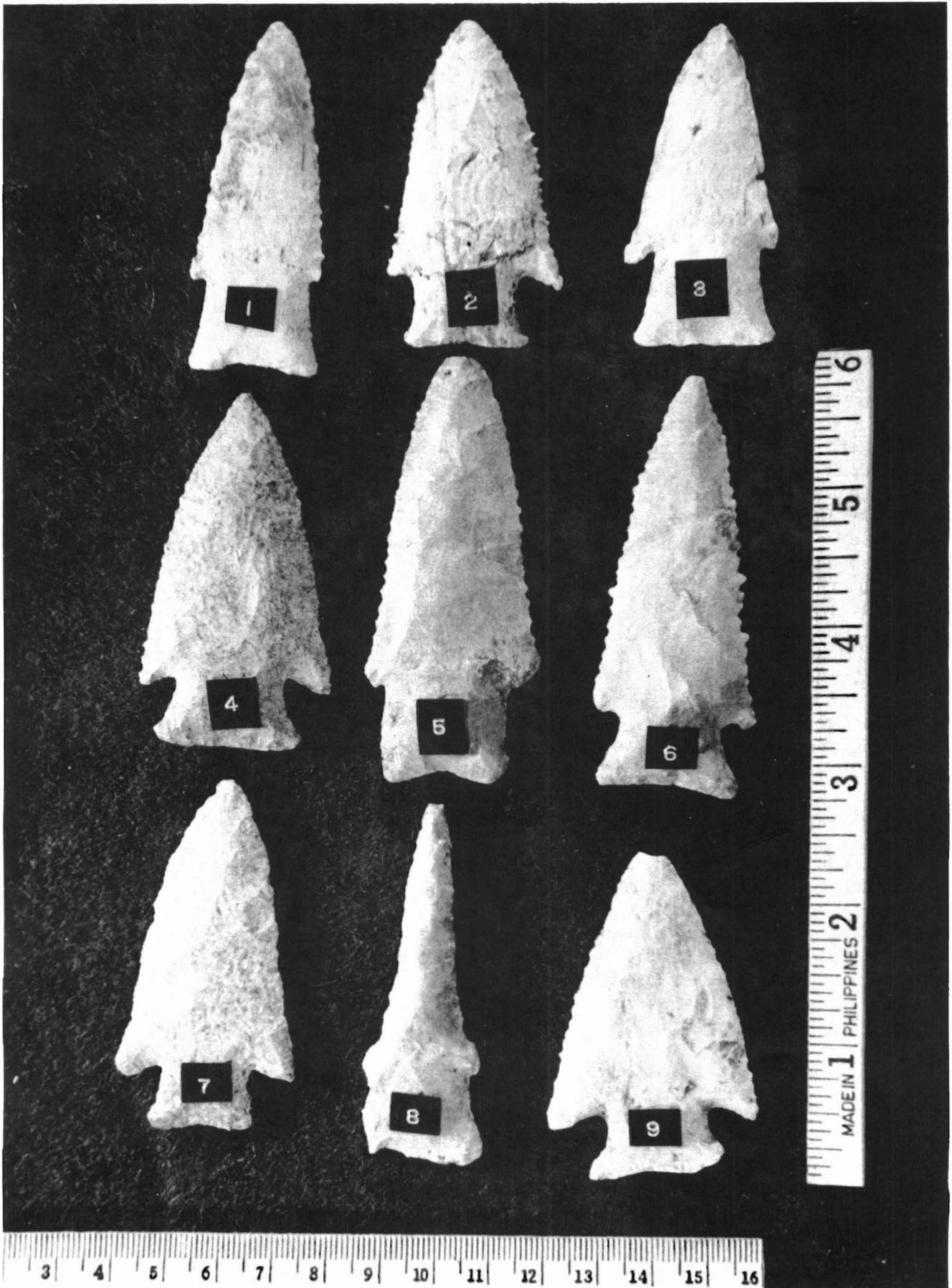
PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

The 29th Annual Meeting of the Iowa Archaeological Society sponsored by the Central Chapter was held April 28-29th as scheduled at Iowa Central Community College, Fort Dodge, Iowa. Again, the Society may be proud of the tremendous job by one of its chapters in arranging for such a successful meeting. The University of Illinois was instrumental in assembling perhaps our greatest Annual Meeting attendance to date. At the conclusion of the meeting on Sunday afternoon I am certain everyone present realized that the high quality program was one long to remember.

The Society wishes to extend sincere welcome to all its members and especially those who have just joined us for the coming year. May your archaeological experiences be rewarding.

Jim Pilgrim suggested that each member consider giving an interested friend or relative a gift membership this year. Good idea!!

PLANO - EARLY ARCHAIC TRADITION IN SOUTHEAST IOWA



The 29th Annual Meeting of the Iowa Archaeological Society was called to order at 1:30 P.M. on Sunday April 29, 1979 at Iowa Central Community College in Fort Dodge. President Richard Slattery presiding.

The Minutes of the last meeting were read as they appeared in No. 88 of the Newsletter.

The Treasurer's Report showed income last year of \$3423.34. In addition there was a carry over in the checking account of \$1447.29 and \$12200 was taken out of savings giving a total income of \$6070.63. Disbursements totaled \$5341.31 leaving a balance in checking \$729.32. There is \$1323.96 in savings. Jim Pilgrim moved, John Hotopp seconded that the Treasurer's Report be approved. Motion carried.

The Membership Report was given showing 414 members for 1978-79. 83 of these are new members.

The Budget Committee presented the following budget for the Society for the 1979-80 year:

Postage	\$ 225.00
Publications	2000.00
State Meetings	500.00
Special Projects Fund	500.00
Supplies	50.00
Misc.	50.00
TOTAL	<u>\$3325.00</u>

There was some discussion of the Special Projects Fund. It was explained that it would be used for such items as emergency excavations, special publications, etc.

The Report of the Journal Editor was read showing that Volume 26 is now out and that work is underway on Volume 27. The Newsletter Editor's report was read. It included a plea for more photographs and line drawings of artifacts to be included.

Under Old Business the 1978-79 Goals were discussed. All were met with the following exceptions: #6 (Increase membership in the Society by 10%) Membership was increased by 7%; #9 (Revitalize the NE Chapter) No action; #10 (Create at least 1 new chapter) A new chapter is forming in the Des Moines area, but is not ready for official recognition yet; #11 (Encourage better communication among amateurs by joint meetings etc. among chapters); #15 (Have the IAS covered in at least 2 feature stories of a state Newspaper); #16 (Write letter in support of antiquities legislation) Not accomplished.

A report on the Correspondence study offered at University of Iowa showed 14 people presently signed up.

It was announced that the 1979 field school will be held at the McKinney Site from July 9 - August 17. Members were reminded to sign up if they plan to attend. A similar field school to be held in Mitchell, South Dakota by the Mitchell Preservation Society was also mentioned for the benefit of those members in northwest Iowa.

Under New Business the report of the Goals Committee was read by Pat Williams. It was announced that the format has been changed slightly from previous years. This year, a chairperson will be solicited for each goal. If no one volunteers to be chairperson, it will be assumed that the Society cannot attain the goal, and it will be dropped from the list. Members were also encouraged to set personal goals and to turn them in so the Society will know what they plan to do.

The following goals presently have chairpersons:

1. Conduct a state field trip in the summer of 1979. Chairperson Nancy Osborn.
2. Conduct a state Field school in 1979 in cooperation with other agencies. Chairperson Joe Tiffany.
3. Encourage lay participation in professional activities by sending two representatives to the AIA meeting. Co-chairpersons Bob Hoge and Don Spears.
4. Encourage individual IAS members to report on their archaeological activities by printing a special request in the Newsletter. Task to Gary Valen.

5. Look into the feasibility of writing and publishing an illustrated handbook of use to lay archaeologists. Chairperson Don Spears.
6. Evaluate fair booth condition and make recommendations on its future use. Chairperson Bob Hoge.
7. Prepare an operating budget for the Society based on the annual projected income. Task assigned to the Secretary and Treasurer.
8. Publish a minimum of two certification reports in the Newsletter. Task assigned to Gary Valen.
9. Increase membership in the Society by 10%. Chairperson Ruth Thornton.
10. Certify 10 people in any certification category. Chairperson Joe Tiffany.
11. Prepare a report for the Newsletter on the 1978 IAS field school. Task assigned to Lise Tatum.
12. Prepare a status report on the Iowa Certification program for publication in the Newsletter. Task assigned to Joe Tiffany.
13. Prepare an updated list of back issues of the Journal. Chairperson Pat Williams.
14. Prepare an index to past articles in the Journal. Chairperson Pat Williams.
15. Plan a special celebration to mark the Society's 30th year at the 1980 annual meeting. Chairperson Stan Riggle.

Other objectives suggested for which no chairpersons have yet been found are as follows:

16. Investigate the feasibility of chapters conducting archaeological excavations. Chairperson _____.
17. Encourage individual IAS members to produce slide programs for local use. Chairperson _____.
18. Send lay representatives to pertinent state hearings at times when archaeological sites are being discussed. Chairperson _____.
19. Conduct a pilot program to assess the distribution of Paleo-Indian and Archaic projectile point styles. Chairperson _____.
20. Investigate the feasibility of exhibiting works of art by contemporary Indians. Chairperson _____.
21. Locate 200 new archaeological sites by lay personnel. Chairperson _____.
22. Develop an educational program to encourage collectors of archaeological materials to record and maintain a simple catalog system indicating the locations of their finds. Chairperson _____.

It was stressed that if chairpersons could not be found for objectives #16-22 they would have to be dropped from the list for this year. There was some discussion of objective #17 which originally read "Investigate the feasibility of the IAS producing slide sets, film strips and audio cassette programs on Iowa archaeology for the public." It was felt that this would duplicate work already underway by the Office of the State Archaeologist. Stan Riggle moves, John Hotopp seconded that this goal be deleted from the list. Then, Louise Pratt moved, John Hotopp seconded that the goal be changed to read as shown above (#17). Both motions carried.

Don Spears then discussed his "How to" book. He wanted to get it published by the end of the year. The possibility of selling it at small profit or even giving it away to non-members as a means of interesting them in the IAS was discussed. No decision was reached.

The location of the 1980 Annual Meeting was discussed. Since it will be the 30th anniversary of the first annual meeting it was suggested that the Society return to McGregor where the first meeting was held. Stan Riggle was appointed to look into the possibility of meeting in McGregor. The location of the 1979 Fall meeting was discussed, but no date or place was settled upon.

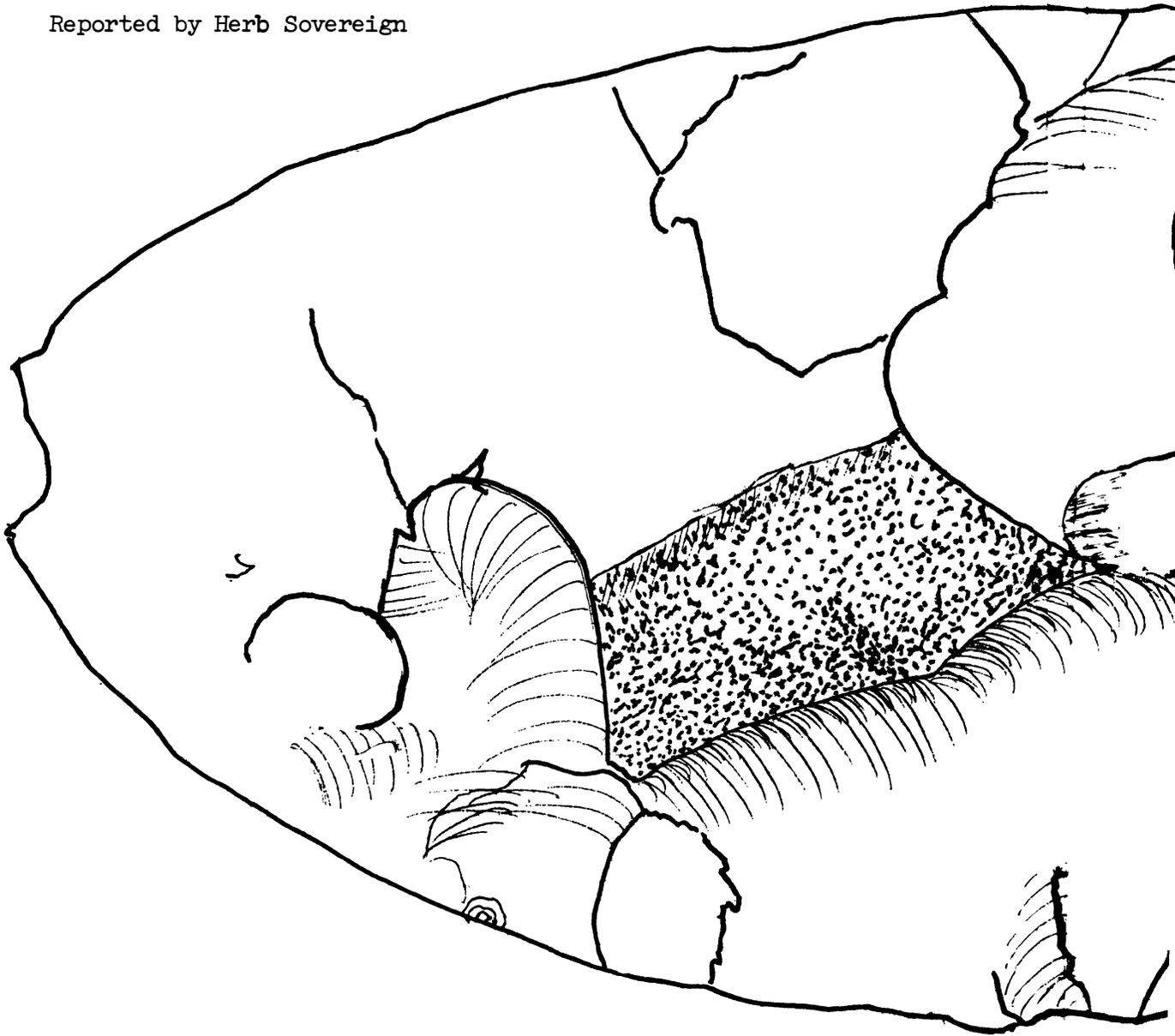
John Feeley read the slate of the Nominations Committee. They are as follows:

President	Richard Slattery
Vice President	David Carlson
Directors	John Palmquist
	Loren Horten
	Stan Riggle

LARGE BLADE FROM RINGGOLD COUNTY

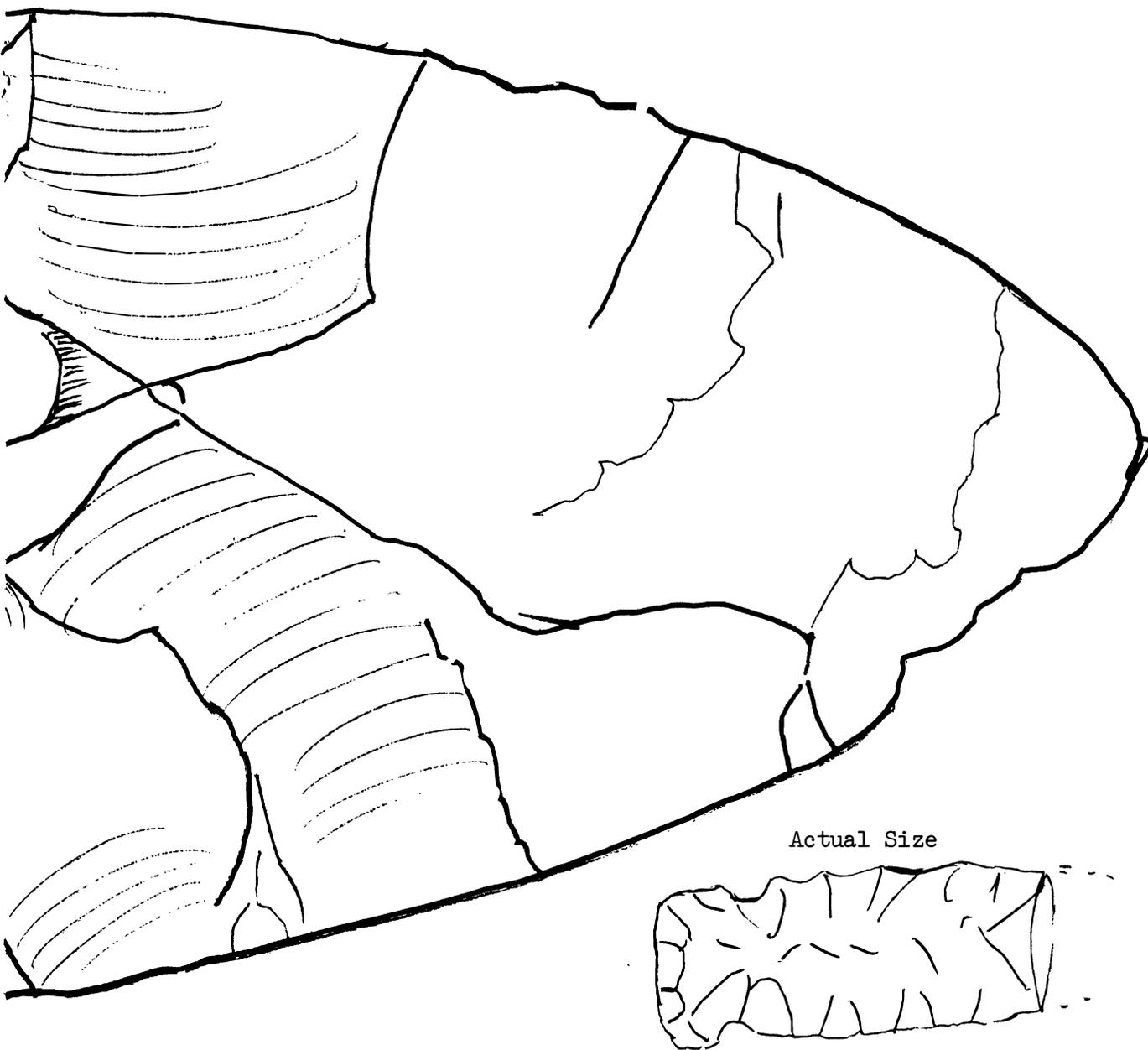
Found by Steve Goodale

Reported by Herb Sovereign



The size of the blade is $15\frac{1}{4}$ X 6" and $\frac{7}{8}$ " thick. It is made out of white flint.

The provenience is Jefferson Twp., Ringgold County. Steve found the blade 6 inches below the surface while planting tomatoe plants in June, 1976. (What a nice way to garden!!!--ed.)



Actual Size

Yes Herb---we do print centerfolds in the IAS Newsletter. Thank you for the information and sketch of Steve Goodale's discovery. Steve is now a teacher in Martensdale. I have heard many excellent comments about his teaching and especially his efforts to develop an appreciation for Iowa prehistory among his students.

Herb also reports that he has located 85 sites in Ringgold County. His latest find at the time of his letter was the point sketched here.

Nominations were requested from the floor. Don Spears nominated George Horton for Director. Joe Tiffany seconded the nomination. John Hotopp moved, Dale Henning seconded that nominations cease. Motion carried.

Dale Gifford moved, Linda Thomsen seconded that the President and Vice President be elected as presented by the nominations committee. Motion carried. The Directors were voted for by paper ballot. The top three vote-getters were John Palmquist, Loren Horton, and Stan Riggle, and they were elected.

The report of the Resolutions Committee was read by John Palmquist. The Resolutions are as follows:

1. The Iowa Archaeological Society wishes to thank the Central Iowa Chapter and the Iowa Central Community College for the fine facilities and well-planned program for the 1979 spring meeting.
2. The Iowa Archaeological Society wishes to extend its sincere appreciation to Dr. Wayne Wendland for taking the time from his busy schedule to be the featured speaker at the 1979 spring meeting.
3. The Iowa Archaeological Society wishes to thank those officers and Directors who have served during the past year. A special thanks is given to Gary Valen for his fine work on the Newsletter and to Clark Mallam for his fine work on the Journal.
4. The Iowa Archaeological Society wishes to express condolences to the families of members who passed away during the past year, namely, Jim Schulte of Rock Rapids; Sally Lindner of Stanton; Patricia Kniss of Waterloo and Mrs. Blanche McConahay of Toolesboro. Also to any others who may have inadvertently been left from this list.
5. The Iowa Archaeological Society wishes to thank those who helped attain the goals for the previous year.
6. The Iowa Archaeological Society wishes to thank those who participated in the program of this 1979 spring meeting.

Joe Tiffany moved, LeRoy Pratt seconded that the resolutions be accepted. Motion carried.

The host chapter was thanked by President Slattery for presenting an exceptional meeting.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:30 P.M.

Respectfully submitted,
Patricia Williams, Secretary

Addendum by the President:

1. For those members who would like to be chairpersons for objectives #16-22 please write me before June 30, 1979, otherwise they will be dropped in the next Newsletter.
2. Due to the lack of knowledge of the resignation of Director Arnold Roggman, Garnsville, Iowa, special thanks for his years of faithful service to the IAS did not appear in the Resolutions. We hope to see you as always at the meetings. Many Thanks!

Dick Slattery

FIELD SCHOOL AT THE MITCHELL ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE

From June 4 through August 24, an archaeological field school will be in progress at the Mitchell Archaeological Site in Mitchell, South Dakota. The field school will offer graduate and undergraduate credit through the University of South Dakota, Vermillion. For about \$330 and six weeks of work a student can get 8 semester hours of undergraduate credit, a dry place to sleep, and meals. Volunteers will also be welcome. The volunteer will be on his/her own as regards room and board. (Special arrangements may be made for long term volunteers.) Reasonably priced accommodations, including a municipal camp ground near the site, are available in Mitchell.

Continued on the next page

IT'S TIME TO RENEW YOUR IAS MEMBERSHIP

THE IOWA ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

The Iowa Archeological Society was established in 1951 by Iowans interested in preserving and studying Iowa's prehistoric and early historic heritage. Its aims are to gather, record, publish and interpret archeological information in cooperation with career archaeologists in the region.

The Society does not condone the selling of artifacts or the willful destruction of archeological remains for personal gain or curiosity. The Society is a non-profit scientific society legally organized under the corporate laws of Iowa.

WHAT DOES THE SOCIETY OFFER MEMBERS:

Two official publications are received by all members. They are the JOURNAL OF THE IOWA ARCHEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, published at least once annually, and the quarterly NEWSLETTER. The JOURNAL carries articles and book reviews by laymen and professionals on subjects of scientific concern to Iowa Archaeology. The NEWSLETTER provides short articles on member activities, book reviews and informative data of interest to all.

All memberships further provide opportunities for self education in Iowa archaeology through study programs and actual participation in site excavations under professional supervision.

PLEASE CHECK MEMBERSHIP CATEGORY DESIRED:

VOTING MEMBERS		NON VOTING MEMBERS	
<input type="checkbox"/>	Active -- \$5 (Individual and/or family)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Student -- \$4 (High School and below)
<input type="checkbox"/>	Sustaining -- \$15 (Individual and/or family)	<input type="checkbox"/>	Institution -- \$5
<input type="checkbox"/>	Benefactor -- \$1,000		

Make check payable to Treasurer, Iowa Archeological Society
326 Otsego Street
Storm Lake, Iowa 50588

If you have already sent in your dues, please pass this notice to an interested friend.

Mitchell Field School (continued)

The Mitchell Site (39DV2) is an interesting and important fortified village of the Initial Middle Missouri Variant of the Middle Missouri Tradition. A series of nine radiocarbon dates from the site average to 886 ± 18 radiocarbon years b.p. This corresponds to an "uncalibrated" calendar date of A.D. 1064 ± 18 years. The Mitchell Site assemblage shows quite close relationships to contemporaneous Mill Creek sites in Iowa and, to a lesser extent, to the Cambria Focus in southwestern Minnesota. The site is rich in materials and is stratigraphically somewhat complex. A list of a few references has been appended for the benefit of prospective students and volunteers.

Grants from the Historic Preservation Center of South Dakota are funding the preparation and partial implementation of a plan of development for the site. This plan addresses research, public education, and cultural resource management needs. The participant will probably find that the activities resulting from these foci will add new dimensions to his/her appreciation of archaeology.

Because many amateur archaeologists may find it difficult to participate in the excavation during the week, six weekends have been set aside for an emphasis on such participation. These are June 30, July 1; July 7, 8; July 14, 14; August 4, 5; August 11, 12; August 18, 19. Persons interested in volunteering for one or more of these weekends should make arrangements with the Mitchell Site Archaeologist at the address below. In order to facilitate planning, it is desired that these arrangements be made prior to April 30. Volunteers for other time periods and/or those able to give less advance notice will be used, if possible. This will depend heavily, however, on the volunteer's archaeological experience and on the staff's work load at the time. Persons who are certified, or working on certification, in an approved amateur certification program should mention that fact, though there will often be activities and learning experiences for persons at all experience levels.

In any event, persons passing by Mitchell during the coming summer might consider visiting the site and observing the activity.

Address questions and correspondence regarding the field school to:

Darrell Fulmer
Mitchell Archaeological Site
P.O. Box 621
Mitchell, SD 57301

More Feedback on America B.C. by Berry Fell

To the Editor:

Once again I take up my pen in answer th the letter or comment by Mr. Marshal McKusick on the Fell theories.

No doubt I am presumptive to question from my lowly standpoint the statements of a man so prominent in archeological circles, but here goes!

I must agree with Mr. McKusick as to the very limited resource material available to people like me. I wish it were not so. But, since it is so we must rely on occasional writing by people like Fell and McKusick and having read both I don't know any more than I did.

It does seem to me that Fell reached way out for some of his decipherments. To get as much information from a few simple lines, especially since he had to supply his own vowels, takes a lot of imagination. But to say that these lines were plow marks or glacial striations is just as far out. You don't put plow marks on an upright stone as large as a man's body, and to dismiss all the petroglyphs as fakes requires that a great many people read Websters 1872 dictionary and were inspired to sow the countryside with fake inscriptions. That there are fakes I don't doubt; but surely not all of them, and so widely spread.

Feedback on America B.C. (continued from page 11)

That New England farmers built the stone fences is reasonable - they build stone fences to this day but only by the merest chance would they be aligned with the Summer and Winter Solstices as Fell claims they are. Nor would they be likely to inscribe stones in those fences with mystic symbols from Webster's dictionary. And McKusick's "half-mad farmer" is farther out in my opinion than Fell's interpretation of the inscriptions. Even in the earliest settlements they did indeed build root cellars but they employed stones that a man could lift, and used mortar to hold them in place. Even a very mad farmer would not have used stones that I judge from the pictures would weight one to three or more tons. And since the construction is quite open nothing could be stored in the rooms. And it may be merely a coincidence that these structures so greatly resemble pictures of stone temples I've seen in the old world.

For several years I belonged to the S.E. Iowa chapter but became disenchanted with the upper echelons. Maybe I expected too much. What I did learn was that on any one subject there are nearly as many opinions as there are archeologists and I "came out the same door as I went in."

Respectfully,
George Baker
Selma, Iowa 52588

JAMES SCHULTE

It is with deepest feelings of loss that we report here the tragic and untimely death of IAS and NW Chapter member Jim Schulte of Rock Rapids. Jim was killed on March 14, 1979 in a traffic accident on a Lyon County road. He was extremely interested in archaeology and spent much of his spare time searching for sites in the Lyon County vicinity. Projectile points found by Jim were featured on the front page of the last Newsletter (No. 91, January 1979). Jim was born July 8, 1937 at Rock Rapids. He attended South Dakota State University and the University of Iowa before returning to Rock Rapids where he was engaged in farming. Jim is survived by his widow, Cora Lee, two sons and six daughters. The Society extends its sympathy to Jim's family. His death will be felt by archaeologists in Iowa.

(We printed pictures of four points found by James Schulte in the last Newsletter)

KEITH DEYO

Mr. Deyo, a longtime member of the SE Chapter of the Iowa Archaeological Society, died of an apparent heart attack during a visit to Kansas. He was a retired R E A lineman and had spent most of his life collecting Indian artifacts in Iowa, Kansas and Missouri. He is survived by his wife Verla, daughter Ruthie at home and several other children. The Society wishes to extend its sympathy to the Deyo family.

(See the cover story in this issue)

BLANCH McCONAHA

Word has been received of the death of Mrs. McConaha earlier this year. Visitors to the Iowa State Historical Museum at Toolesboro will remember her as the gracious lady who opened the museum for the unexpected visitors. She is survived by several children including Phylis McKinney, Toolesboro. The Society extends its sympathy to the family and friends of Blanch McConaha.

IOWA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY
Officers and Directors - 1979-80

President - Richard Slattery
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Davenport, Iowa 52806

Directors - 1980-81 - John Higgins, Sr.
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Davenport, Iowa 52804

Vice President - David Carlson
R.R. #1, Box 113
Otho, Iowa 50569

Marilyn Mittelstadt
1425 No. 10th St.
Ft. Dodge, Iowa 50501

Secretary - Patricia Williams
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Don G. Spears
536 South Davis
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Treasurer - Ruth Thornton
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Storm Lake, Iowa 50588

Directors - 1981-82 - Loren Horton
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Iowa City, Iowa 52240

Directors - 1979-80 - John Feeley
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Eldora, Iowa 50627

John Palmquist
Stanton, Iowa 51573

Dennis Miller
R.R. #1
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51571

Stan Riggle
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Iowa City, Iowa 52240

Nancy Osborn
312 Hayward #5
Ames, Iowa 50010

Journal Editor - R. Clark Mallam
R.R. #3
Decorah, Iowa 52101

Newsletter Editor - Gary Valen
711 North E St.
Indianola, Iowa 50125

IAS SITE REPORTING

One IAS goal for the year from April 1978-April 1979 was for non-professional IAS members to report 200 archaeological sites. I am very happy to announce that as of April 20, 1979, I have received exactly 200 site sheets. With new members' help and the other members' continuing efforts that total can be exceeded for 1979-1980. Congratulations to all those who reported sites!

The following people have reported sites since the last Newsletter.

David Carlson	16
Harold Carr	19
Mary Jane Hatfield	2
Toby Morrow	3
John Palmquist	9
D.E. Pidcock	8
Orlendes Ross	5

I have felt it an honor to assist with site reporting by IAS members. I know your efforts are greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,
Ilene Whitworth

Letter From the Editor:

This issue of the IAS Newsletter marks the end of the 7th year that I have been the editor. I received the job at the first meeting I ever attended in Fort Dodge. It seems we have completed some sort of cycle since the spring meeting was held in Fort Dodge again this year. For this reason I want to share some thoughts with you about the state of our organization and its future.

I joined IAS because it has been my good fortune to discover a sizable collection of artifacts in the Warren County area. My educational background in European history left me totally unprepared to interpret and analyze the material I picked up in plowed fields and stream beds. IAS offered an opportunity to gain information about my sites and to associate with others who are engaged in the same activity. Today I prize the friendships and experiences I have had as a result of my IAS membership.

When I joined the Society I became aware of a major crisis that faces all of us who appreciate the significance of Iowa's prehistory. Many important sites are being destroyed by road construction, housing developments, intensive agricultural practices, and other enterprises. IAS seems like a tiny voice against the forces that place economic gain over the preservation of the remains of past cultures. I am encouraged by the apparent progress we have made to stop the construction of a super highway through the greenbelt region of Hardin County and to save the wilderness region including effigy mounds associated with the Ferguson Tract in northeast Iowa. The struggle is far from over, however, when one considers the constant destruction of timber areas in our state.

The need for a strong group of people who are dedicated to sharing information about Iowa's past and who will support actions to preserve that heritage is more important today than 7 years ago. When you drive across our state, it is evident that the natural areas including many historic and prehistoric sites are in danger of complete obliteration.

My reason for writing this letter is to encourage all of us to support the goals of our Society. Our membership is comprised of both professional and lay archaeologists. Within this group are persons with a wide variety of backgrounds and experience. We must learn to share ourselves and our knowledge in a way that will weld the Society into an important force in the determination of Iowa's future growth and development.

It is my goal that the Newsletter will be an important link between us in the coming years. We should use it as a means to share our own thinking and discoveries with each other. For this reason I am delighted when I receive a letter, sketch or photograph from someone in the state. It is excellent information for our members and it creates a record for the future. Further, it is vital to the continued viability of our Society that we respect the interpretations and reflections of every member. You do not have to be trained in the traditional graduate school approach to have useful theories or information about our past. At the same time you should test your thoughts by sharing them with others. The Newsletter is designed to allow you a forum to present both your thoughts and discoveries about Iowa archaeology.

Editor's letter (continued)

The Iowa Archeological Society is one of the few groups of Iowans who are concerned about the destruction of the record of our heritage. It is shocking to learn that Iowa ranks 50th of all the states in the nation in the amount of land that has been set aside for the preservation of natural, historic and prehistoric resources. Although we are few in number, we must keep our ideas and concerns before the public and our government representatives. In addition we should maintain our own collections in a manner that will serve our needs and the needs of future generations to understand our past. After all, we are all curators of a rich, non-renewable part of Iowa's heritage. That is a significant responsibility.

I appreciate the support you have given me over the past 7 years as the editor of the Newsletter. You have been patient when I missed deadlines. My goal is to publish a quality piece that we can all respect. Please help by sending your ideas, photographs, etc. Future generations will thank us for our concern and efforts.

Gary L. Valen

NOTES:

Thanks to Glenn Speight for the letter and information about hieroglyphic tablets. Several other persons have reported similar experiences.

Where is Michael Kehoe? The last address we had was in Missoula, Mt.

There is a new book out on Stonehenge that deserves your attention. It traces the historic interpretations of the monument including the currently accepted theory of Gerald S. Hawkins that Stonehenge was a scientific observatory for the prediction of solar and lunar events. The authors, Leon E. Stover and Bruce Kraig, find the present theories to be oriented to our own scientific bias. They write, "Consider that one out of 120 Americans work in the research and development industry. Because we build electronic computers, should we conclude that the ancients must have built rude prototypes anticipating our own concern with science and technology?" Stonehenge has many uses as evidenced by epic literature, classical observations, and archaeology. The book is easy to read and well suited to the lay archaeologist. Stonehenge: The Indo-European Heritage, (Nelson-Hall Publishers; March 31, 1979; \$19.95 hardcover; \$9.95 paperback).

The Iowa 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.

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Murray Community Schools	Murray, Ia.		

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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