

iowa archeological society

newsletter



summer 1981

number 99

From the President

The Iowa Archeological Society is a non-profit, scientific society legally organized under the corporate laws of Iowa. Members of the society share a serious interest in the archeology of Iowa and the Midwest.

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The Newsletter is published four times a year. Questions about your subscription should be addressed to the Office of State Archaeologist, Eastlawn, University of Iowa, Iowa City, Ia. 52242. All materials for publication should be sent to the editor.

Today I received one of my frequent cards from our treasurer, Ruth Thornton, dutifully keeping me informed on the Society's assets and membership status. Thirty-five new members have signed up since our new calendar year began on 1 Jan. 1981 and 370 of our previous members have paid their 1981 dues. This much is fine, however, Ruth also wrote that 140 members have not yet paid for 1981. Could it be that some have forgotten the Society's bookkeeping transferred from a fiscal year basis (July 1) to a calendar year (Jan. 1) in 1980 and also 1979-80 paid members were given a free ride from July 1, 1980 to Dec. 30, 1980? This bonus 6 months resulted in sharply decreasing revenues while our expenses for printing and mailing all publications have increased. We can't run our non-profit organization like that. Let us hope that those members who have not paid their 1981 dues either mail the dues of their choice to Ruth as soon as possible or pay her personally at the Annual Meeting. Printing and mailing costs are so high now that we cannot afford to mail the 1981 Journal to any members who are not current. Dr. Dale Henning, our new Journal editor, informs me this year's Journal will be a good one and should not be missed.

A few lines above I mentioned "dues of your choice." I phrased it that way in hopes of enticing more Sustaining Memberships @\$15.00. True, you don't get one bit more than a \$7.00 Active Membership, however, for those that can spare the extra \$8.00 you would be helping your Society a great deal.

This year's Journal is expected to cost us \$4.00 each plus mailing. That really doesn't leave us much for these fine Newsletters and special mailings of announcements.

Now my special plea is to those individuals or organizations who have an interest in Iowa Archeological Society and/or want a tax deductible donation. The Iowa Archeological Society is a non-profit corporation recognized by the IRS. Specifically: "Donors may deduct contributions to you (IAS) as provided in section 170 of the code. Bequests, legacies, devises, transfers, or gifts to you (IAS) or for your use are deductible for federal estate and gift tax purposes under sections 2055, 2106, and 2522 of the code." (Letter, Internal Revenue Service, April 12, 1971, Verified March 31, 1981)

We wish to retain our active dues structure as long as possible so that no one interested in joining our Society is prevented from doing so because the cost is too high. Therefore any extra financial assistance, no matter how small, would be greatly appreciated. Thank you.

Richard Slattery, President

Obituary Notice

Jack Musgrove died December 13, 1980. He was the long-time director of the Division of Museum and Archives for the State Historical Department. The Iowa Archeological Society expresses its sympathies to his family.

From the Editor

The formulation and printing of the *Newsletter* is an enjoyable task although there are always problems. I hope each time that we will have enough material to print a quality issue. Then there is the need to edit and assemble the various articles for publication. The next step is to convince the printer that all the pieces of paper—some written on the back of envelopes—really are worthy of publication.

Since this is a low budget operation, we must wait until the printer has the press time or is running our type of ink before it can be assembled, stapled, and trimmed. These sound like simple steps until you try to do it.

Finally I send the copies to Iowa City where they are addressed, prepared for mailing, and deposited at the post office. Since we use a bulk rate, the postal officials do not set speed records getting the copies into the mail. As a result, our *Newsletter* is often delayed at one or more stages of the production. I hope the members understand the process and have some patience with the delays. It is my goal to print the highest quality publication at the lowest possible cost. To achieve this end, we must sacrifice a speedy issuance of the *Newsletter*.

Now that I have given you that side of my job as editor, let me give you the benefits. It is a stimulating project. It is always a challenge to see what can be done with the *Newsletter*. I get all kinds of mail about archaeological

projects and discoveries. There are a number of wonderful persons I know only by mail in relation to the publication and it is always good to hear from my friends in the Society. I can even enjoy the prestige of saying I am one of the editors for the Iowa Archeological Society. So in spite of my grumblings about problems, I hope each of you enjoys the *Newsletter* at least half as much as I enjoy printing it.

One of the advantages of being an editor is on occasion you have the opportunity to print your own material. My wife Betsy and I have an article in this issue. We wrote

Have you paid your 1981 dues?

If not, why not send a check today.

\$7	Active
\$15	Sustaining
\$5	Student
\$7	Institution

the pieces for the *Alumnus* magazine of Simpson College. Some of you may remember that Betsy was a co-editor of the *Newsletter* for several years. When she assumed her present position as the Director of the Warren County Conservation Board, she decided to put her time into the publication of her own newsletter. As you can see by the article, Betsy still has a strong commitment to the goals of the Society. She has worked hard to acquire two areas in Warren

County that have mounds and village sites within their boundaries. The latest acquisition, Woodland Mounds Preserve, has two of the best preserved woodland mounds I have seen in Iowa.

Finding a way to preserve a parcel of Iowa land requires considerable effort these days. Perhaps the most important aspect of this project is that the site was identified and reported some years ago. When the land appeared to be slated for a housing project, there were many residents in the county who knew about the natural and cultural significance of the area and were prepared to work for its preservation.

As the land in Iowa continues to be carved up for the development of housing projects, industrial sites, and other uses, it is vital that members of scientific societies work for the preservation of significant natural and cultural resources. One way to accomplish this goal is to identify key sites and share this knowledge with agencies such as the county conservation boards who may be in a position to offer protection. In addition it is important that the local community take some pride in its own heritage. Members of the Society can help to achieve that community awareness by giving talks, writing newspaper articles, and leading tours.

Finally, we are proud to offer another fine print by Wayne Pushetonequa on the cover of this issue. We appreciate the opportunity to share his art and hope to be able to work out a way to offer these prints in a format suitable for framing.

I hope you are having a rewarding spring.

Gary Valen, Editor

The illustration on the cover of this issue was created by Mesquakie artist Wayne Pushetonequa.

Making Ground Stone Axes

By Toby Morrow

Although ground stone axes are fairly common on archaeological sites in eastern North America, specific information about their manufacture and use is difficult to find. The writer conducted limited experiments in making pecked and ground stone axes during the spring of 1980 and the subsequent observations made are presented here.

The techniques of pecking and grinding involve methods and materials distinct from other stone-working processes. Pecking is the term given to the technique of surface pulverization accomplished by repeated blows with a hard hammerstone or pick. Small bits and particles of the stone being worked are crushed and broken away by each blow. Grinding is simply that, stone on stone abrasion, often with the aid of water and sand. At best, grinding is a slow process and the majority of shaping is done by pecking to conserve time.

Raw materials best suited to working by pecking and grinding are compact medium and fine grained igneous rocks like granite, diorite, and basalt. These materials are common in glacial gravels throughout most of the state. For his experiments, the writer gathered diorite cobbles from glacial till outcrops in central Iowa. Cobbles free of cracks and inclusions and having a shape and size roughly corresponding to that of the proposed axe were preferred.

The first step in the experimental axe manufacture was preparing percussion blanks from the selected cobbles. This was done by striking off large flakes by

direct percussion with a hard quartzite hammerstone (Fig. 1, A) in a manner similar to working flint. These percussion blanks were then slowly trimmed into axe-like shapes by pecking blows with hard picks and hammerstones of tough chert (Fig. 1, B and C). The decision to use chert as a material for the pecking stones was arrived at because of the many aboriginal battered chert cobbles seen by the writer. It is unlikely, in the writer's opinion, that such stones served as flintknapping hammers as softer, less brittle stone would probably have been preferred for such work. The wear patterns produced on the writer's experimental chert pecking stones closely resemble those of archaeological specimens.

Pecking blows were angled slightly from being exactly perpendicular to the surface of the axe blank, this to both dampen the shock on the stone and to allow the fractured grains to 'pop out' and drop away. The blank itself was well supported on the open palm of the hand and this also helped absorb some of the shock induced on the stone. Pecking blows were quite vigorous and inaccurate during the early hammer-dressing of the blank but became increasingly softer and more concentrated as the work grew finer. The surface of the axe blank was kept moist to soften the stone during the delicate pecking done to thin and taper the bit. Grooves were pecked in by sharply angled, inline blows and a narrow chert pick (Fig. 1, D).

Surfaces were smoothed and bits were sharpened by grinding against a dolomite with sand and water. The trough resulting on the dolomite slab would make it easy to mistake for a metate. Small pieces of sandstone were found to be useful in smoothing grooves.

Polishing was done by rubbing fine sand or earth into a well-smoothed ground surface.

The writer's experiments demonstrated that fully functional pecked and ground grooved axes of medium size could be made at one sitting. The manufacturing time required for a given axe was found to be determined by a number of characteristics, including workability of the stone, original shape of the piece, and the shape, complexity, and degree of grinding and polishing desired in the finished product. The full-grooved axe in Figure 2, A was made in two hours pecking and $\frac{1}{2}$ grinding. The smaller flat bottom $\frac{3}{4}$ -grooved axe illustrated (Fig. 2, B) was manufactured by four hours pecking and two hours grinding. Naturally, larger, more refined axes would tend to require more manufacturing time, but 10 to 15 hours or less was probably sufficient time to make most of the common axe forms in North America.

Given the perspective of the manufacturing processes and time involved in making ground stone axes, certain inferences about their usage can be made. Assuming that these tools were used primarily in felling trees and working wood, as logic would seem to indicate, pecked and ground stone axes seem to have been made to serve longer use than rough hand choppers or chipped-stone axe blades. A tool for which the manufacturing time investment is measured in hours rather than in minutes is less likely

to be casually cast aside after a few uses.

The manufacture of pecked and ground stone axes requires little skill, but a thorough knowledge of the materials involved, a fairly specialized tool kit, and a substantial amount of time are necessary to successfully make such tools. In light of the observations presented above and taking into account the strict uniformity exhibited by some axe types, it is suggested that some amount of craft specialization may have been involved in the manufacture of ground stone axes. The writer's experiments have led him to believe that ground stone axes are a very refined and significant part of many lithic assemblages, suggestive of a complexity not normally accredited to them.

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Ground Stone Axes

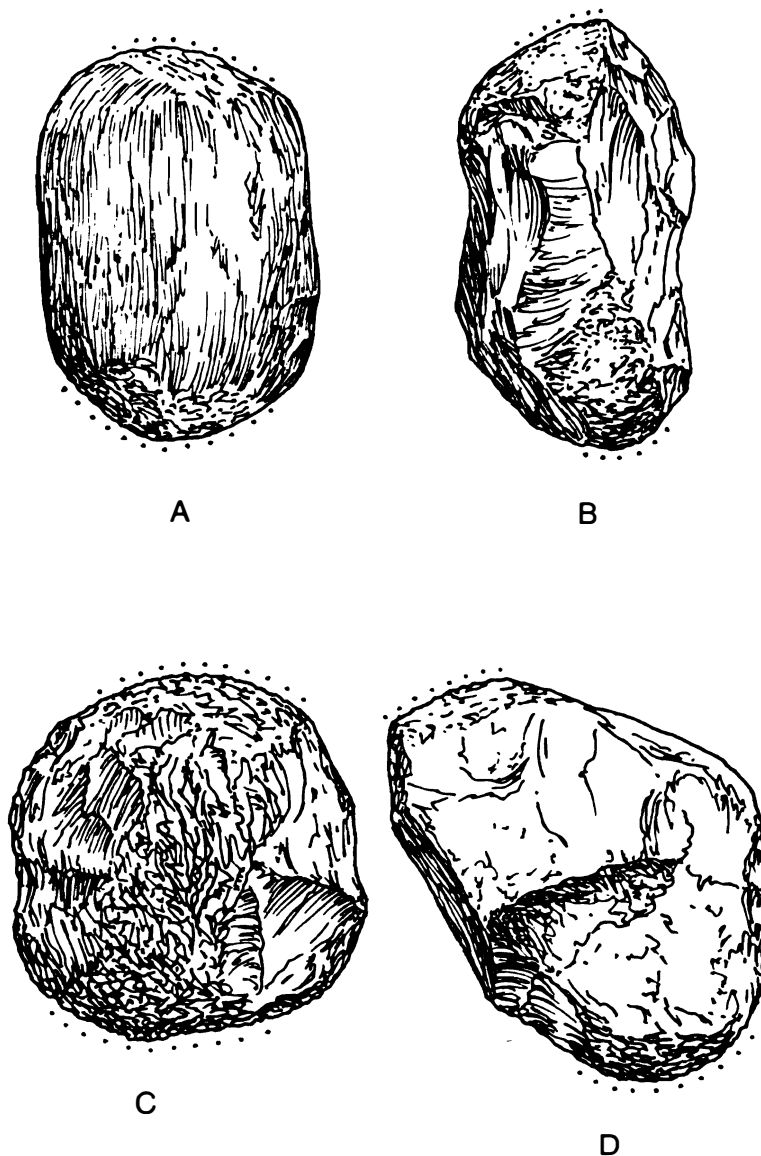
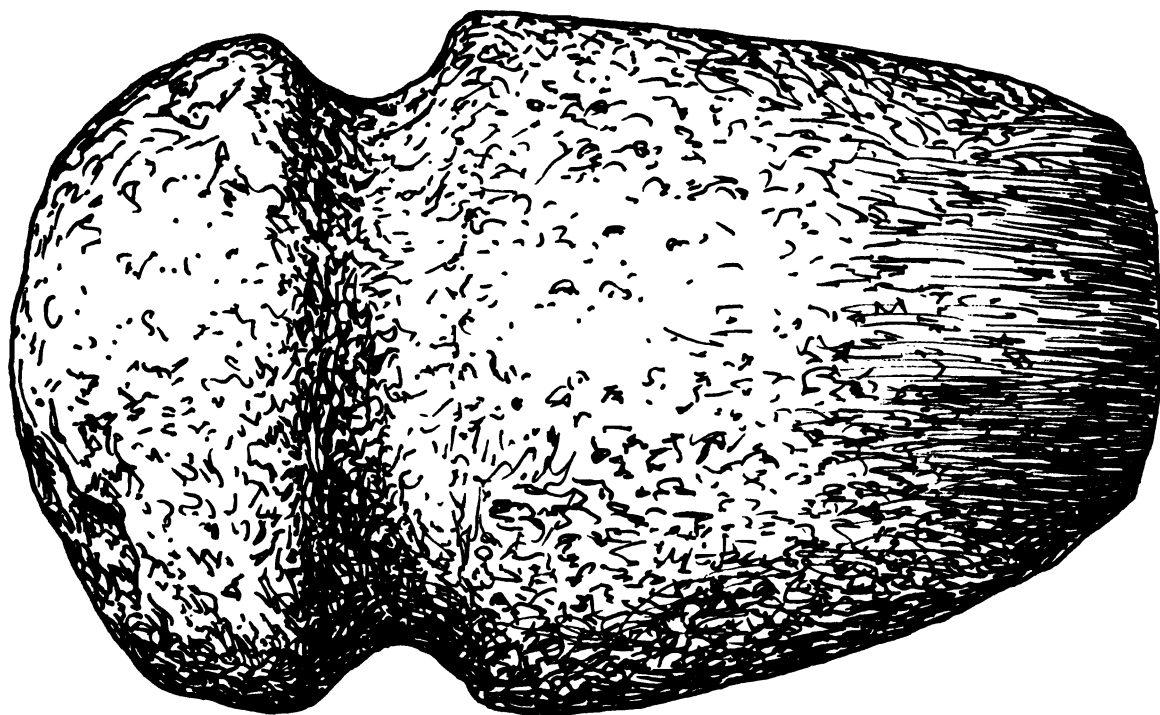
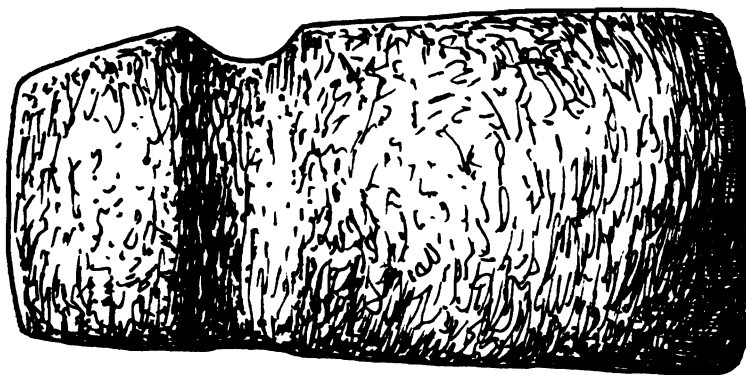


Fig. 1: Tools used in experimental axe manufacture. A. Quartzite hammerstone. B. Chert pick. C. Chert hammerstone. D. Chert pick. All tools shown approximately 55 percent actual size. Dotted lines denote working surfaces.

Ground Stone Axes



A



B

Fig 2: Experimentally manufactured axes. A. Full-grooved axe, drak green diorite. B. Flat bottom 3/4-grooved axe, dark green diorite. Both shown actual size.

From Our Readers

Fish Lure Found Near Runnells, Iowa

Don Pendroy, Monroe, Iowa, recently reported finding this fragmentary fish lure (pictured below) on a multi-component site near Runnells.

The item is made from a clam shell. The shiny interior (top illustration) is the best decorated, featuring an eye, mouth and numerous scales. The outside (lower illustration) bears lighter scratches representing scales.

This find is the second to be reported for Iowa. The first was illustrated in Vol. 26 of the *Journal*. Such items are believed to be of Oneota cultural affiliation.

Our thanks to Don for sharing his discovery.

Alberta Point or Scottsbluff?

Don Spears writes that the point illustrated on page 14 of *Newsletter #98* appears to be an Alberta Point rather than Scottsbluff. It is similar to the Alberta Point that was identified

by Marie Worminstron and illustrated in *A Guide to the Identification of Certain American Indian Projectile Points*, Albert E. Bell, Editor, Special Bulletin No. 2, Oklahoma Anthropological Society, October 1960.

New Sites Reported

The following members have reported new sites.

Norman Dille	10 sites
Doug Evans	1 site
Dunc Hansen	1 site
Russ Holven	2 sites
Duane Miller	3 sites
Toby Morrow	24 sites

These sites have been reported since December 1. Hopefully the spring weather will encourage others to get out in the fresh air site seeking.

Debby Zieglowsky
Site Records

We Need Your Help!

The officers of the Society have spent considerable time discussing the *Newsletter* over the past few weeks. There is a strong feeling that we would like to

continue the new format of the publication and also to feature more material submitted by Society members. This decision creates two problems.

First, the new look of the *Newsletter* is more expensive than the former printing method. We must do all we can to find new members, seek additional funding, and hold down the costs of publication without a sacrifice of quality.

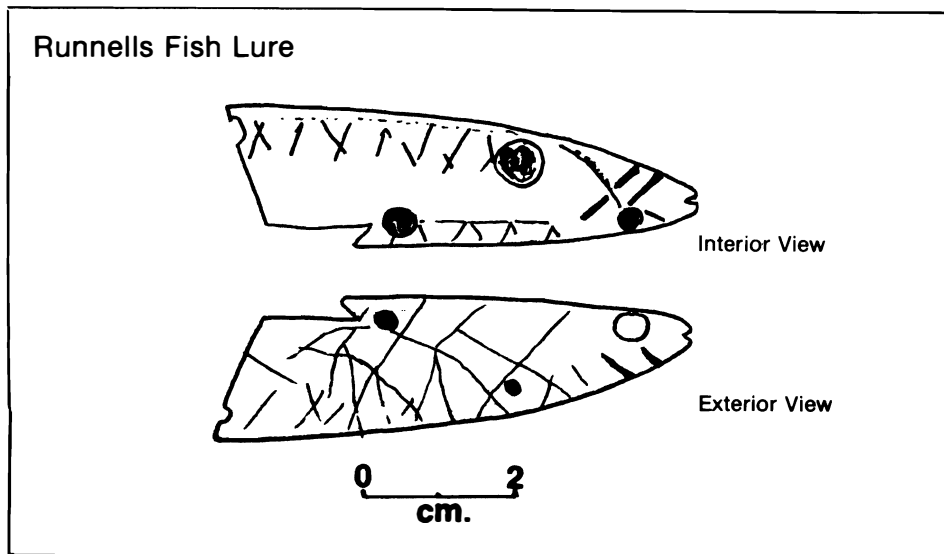
A second problem is having enough material from our readers for each publication. Our Society members should have significant resources and knowledge that can be shared in the *Newsletter*, but only a few persons ever send their contributions.

Happily, there are solutions to both of these problems. If each of us recruited one additional member this year, the financial burden of the *Newsletter* would be eliminated. We also could make sure our dues are paid on time. If possible, we should pay the sustaining rate of \$15 a year.

The second problem would be solved if each of us submitted one item for publication this year. This could be a recent find, site report, letter to the editor, or other material related to the interests of the Society.

If we all take the responsibility to help our Society, we should enjoy a prosperous future. Please consider sharing your resources and ideas in the *Newsletter*.

Gary Valen



Grounds for Preservation

By Betsy Lyman and Gary Valen

Reprinted with permission of the Simpson Alumnus, Vol. 6, No. 4, March 1981.

Concerned environmentalists for many years, Betsy Lyman and Gary Valen have meshed their interests in Native American culture and preservation of historic land areas. Betsy is executive director of the Warren County Conservation Board, which works to acquire land for "preservation and interpretation," while Simpson College Dean of Students Gary pursues his archeological interest through membership in the Iowa Archeological Society and work as the organization's *Newsletter* editor.

Betsy and Gary are committed to preservation of historic land, especially in Warren County, which has much to tell about our country's history. "The land can serve as an environment for our continuing education," said Betsy. "There is much yet to know."

The couple's concern stems at least in part from their Simpson experience. Gary was a history major, while Betsy studied earth science. For this article, they have contributed two views of an important preservation area in the county known as "the hill" in archeological circles and as Woodland Mounds Preserve in Conservation Board terms.

The Sacred Mounds

It all started with an odd shaped piece of stone found in the stream bed of a creek. The lucky find of that arrowpoint one fall day in 1962 began an odyssey of endless discovery for Gary. Since that time he has waded through streams

and slopped through the muck of plowed fields to collect over 2000 Native American artifacts from the land of Warren County. Each piece he finds provides more parts to the puzzle in his quest for information about the first people who lived in this area.

Amazingly, I plucked my first Native American stone tool from that same creek bed nine years later. Gary brought me there to show me the spot where it all began. I, too, was inspired to learn more about these first settlers. My respect and curiosity for the Native Americans increased as I came to understand that they were able to survive for thousands of years in the same area without diminishing the land's ability to sustain them. Their reverence for the earth and its gifts of life were apparent.

Our mutual interests in archeology and nature photography led us on many adventures, exploring hills and valleys of the county. One of our favorite places to visit was an area east of Indianola near South River. A trip to "the hill" was always a special delight.

We weren't the first people, however, to enjoy this setting. The unique features of the wooded ridge were appreciated for thousands of years by the Native Americans who chose it as a final resting place for their honored leaders. Five conical burial mounds attest to this fact. The mounds are still visible today.

Little did I know when I first viewed those mounds ten years ago that someday I would direct an agency that would purchase the land as a county preserve. It was truly a labor of love to write the grant proposal that provided

\$100,000 from the State of Iowa toward the acquisition of the land.

In the fall of 1981, Woodland Mounds Preserve will be open to the public for camping, hiking and nature study. The 185-acre area will be managed and maintained by the Warren County Conservation Board. Its preservation will enable people now and in the future to discover those same special qualities found by the Native Americans so long ago. Possibly we may come to understand and incorporate that philosophy of life that allowed the Indians to live in harmony with the land communities that sustained them.

Lyman

The task of acquiring the Woodland Preserve wasn't a simple one, and it took from the fall of 1979 until September 1980 to complete the process.

First came the problem of acquiring two tracts of land from separate owners. The northern tract, a 95-acre area containing the five Indian burial mounds and the finger mounds (unexplained linear mounds), was of primary interest to the Conservation Board, but it was landlocked. An access had to be found and eventually was—a 90-acre tract to the south. That area included "an extra bonus—prime timber," said Betsy.

After the owners were convinced to sell their land, Betsy arranged for an appraisal at market value and proceeded to write a grant proposal for state Wildlife Habitat Stamp Funds. (This money is collected from the sale of habitat stamps which each person purchasing a hunting license is required to buy.)

Funding was approved at the

first review, and the County Conservation Board received 75 percent of the appraised land value. The county was approached for the remaining 25 percent of the purchase price, and, finally, approval was sought and received from the Iowa Conservation Commission.

Now, fences are being built and an access road is being constructed. The preserve should be ready for public use in the fall of 1981.

A Journey through A Special Place

The moment our vehicle leaves the main highway, we know our journey back into time has begun. Soon our path becomes a dirt farm road in the middle of a large cultivated field that abruptly ends at the bank of the river. A sharp turn gives us a long view of our destination, known to us for years as "the hill."

We have traveled this tortured road many times in search of adventure, solitude, knowledge, and spiritual sustenance. It is a return to a tiny remnant of ground that holds so much of our county's heritage within its boundaries.

The ridge looms higher as the road ends at its base. In the woods the rusted horse drawn farm implements are all that remains of a pioneer farmstead. Just up the hill on a flat terrace is the village site of a people who lived here 2000 years ago. If we are lucky, we might find a piece of pottery or an arrow point that has been washed out by the last rain.

We begin a sharp ascent up the hill with great anticipation. The last time we were here, a small

herd of deer bolted over the ridge just ahead of us. On top our spirits soar at the exhilarating view of the surrounding countryside, complete with a soaring red-tail hawk.

A special world greets us as we turn toward the trail that traverses the high ground of the ridge. A large excavation on our right is an abandoned mine dug by early settlers to produce limestone slabs for house foundations. Just beyond we stay close to the path to avoid the needle sharp thorns of the honey-locust. Someone cleared the oaks to open the poor ground for cultivation. Since the soil is unsuitable for crop production, the field now hosts a dense thicket of the fast growing honey-locust trees. We can smile in spite of many scraps with those thorns when we see the eventual return of the oak forest through the saplings that reach upward each year to capture and eventually dominate the canopy once again.

Just ahead a sharp rise in the ground seems out of place on the flat terrace of the ridge top. We have long recognized it as a mound built almost 2000 years ago by a culture of people named "Woodland" by archeologists. The oval shape is difficult to recognize until you trace the outline of the perimeter from the top of the mound. With a little imagination, one can comprehend the amount of labor required to pile this much earth on the remains of an important tribal leader. The mound still delivers its message, "This is a sacred place, honor its significance." Our thoughts are humbled by the link with those who were here so long before us.

We continue in silence to a place where the ridge broadens onto an open area of young trees and brush. On each side long fingers of earth are paralleled by deep ravines that fall sharply to

the floodplain below. We understand why this is a young growth area when we spot the charred stumps and a few scarred trees that survived a timber fire some years ago. Beyond the clearing is the forest of majestic oaks, straight hickories, and lush understory. The environment quickly closes in on us as we are absorbed by the timber. Birds greet us from their tree top shelters while a rabbit runs to lead us from its young nestled somewhere else. It is a tranquil and peaceful world.

It has long been this way. Two large, undisturbed mounds reveal a scene that was created by the people who once lived below this ridge. Just beyond are five trenches connected at both ends to form a pattern in the earth that may be an effigy. One ponders the universe in such a place.

We are drawn further into the woods by the beauty and our sense of adventure. Every inch is a unique environment. The green moss beneath the trees is often highlighted by shafts of light that filter through the leaves overhead. We remember our spring jaunt through the carpet of woodland flowers and the thrill of finding a treasure trove of mushrooms.

Eventually, the path becomes a road and we emerge into a farm field that will soon be the entrance to the newly acquired Woodland Mounds Preserve of the Warren County Conservation Board. We feel an immense satisfaction to know that this unique area will be preserved for the appreciation, education, and spiritual growth of the future generations. It is our hope that all people will find the same enrichment and peace we have so often experienced in this special place.

Valen

Artifacts from 13HA162

Submitted by Russ Holven,
Waterloo, Ia.

All of the artifacts illustrated here are from 13HA162. The material is mostly white flint that was from an out-cropping on the Iowa River. Other artifacts are made from clear sugar quartz and a blue colored flint.

Most of the artifacts are made from materials that can be found in southwest Iowa. These include rice flint, clear quartz, a black flint, a light brown flint, petrified wood,

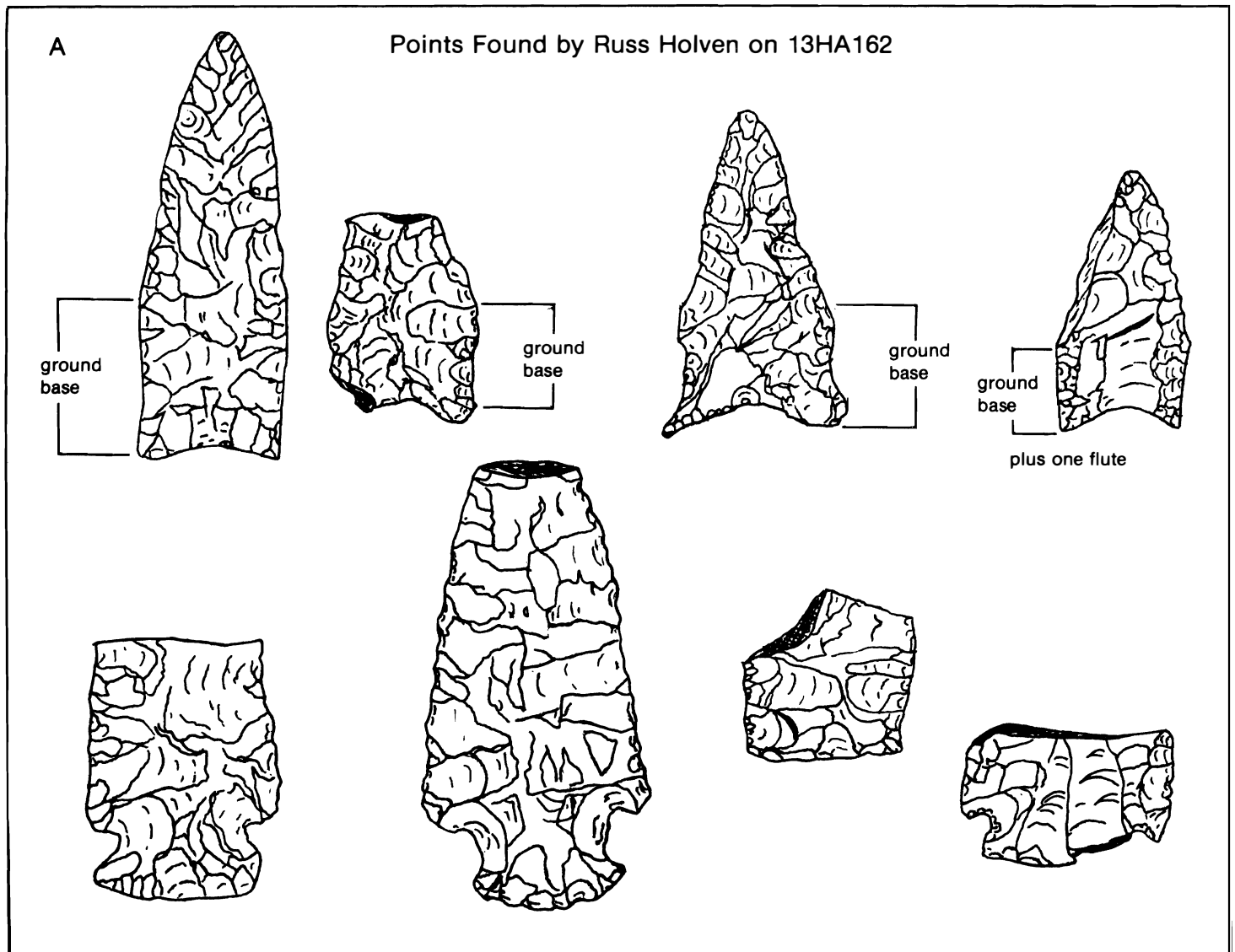
jaspter, hornstone, and white flint. Many of the points have ground bases and one point has a flute.

This site has numerous cores and hammerstone along with hundreds of flakes. I have found many scrapers including seven with squared ends. I have found one axe that is illustrated here in its actual size. The axe is made of green basalt.

This site has produced no pottery. I hope to find a clovis point at this site someday.

Editor's note:

Thank you, Russ, for the excellent drawings and descriptions. I hope you find that clovis point!



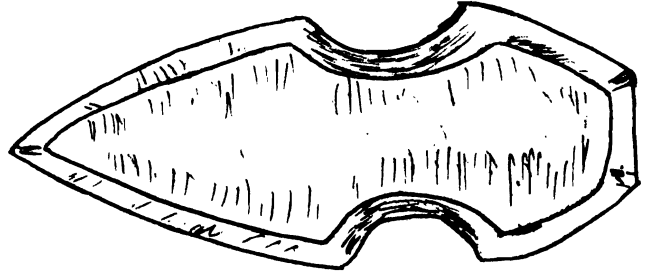
A Artifacts from 13HA162



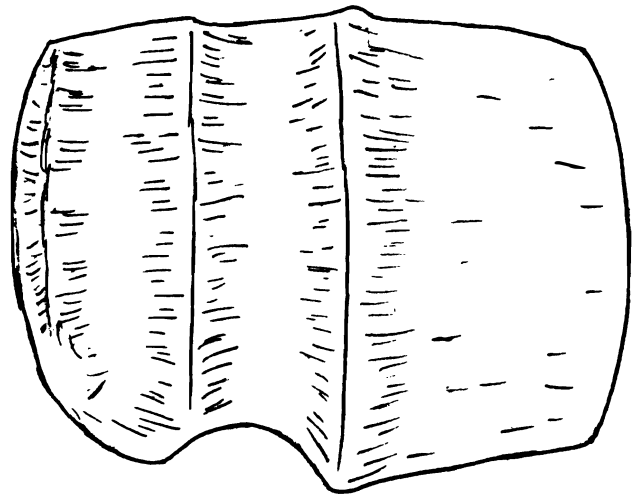
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Axe from 13HA162

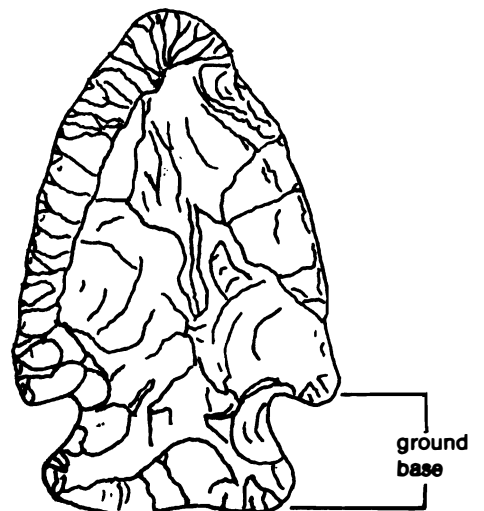
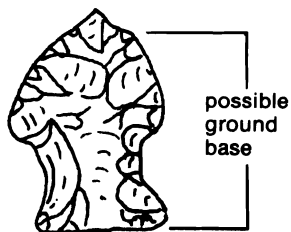
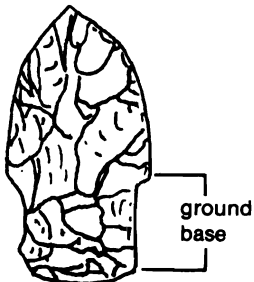
Top



Side View

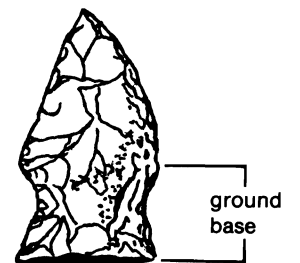
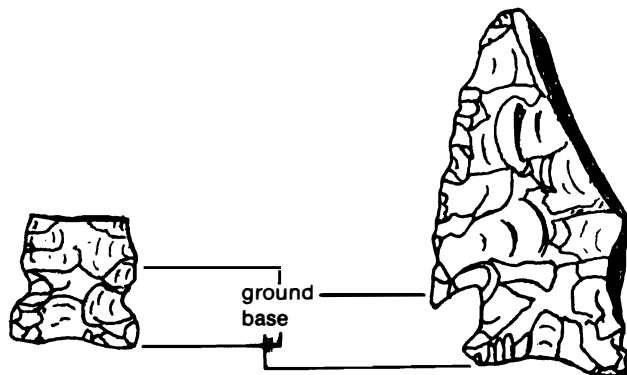
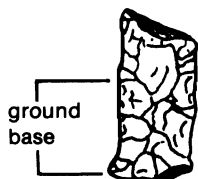
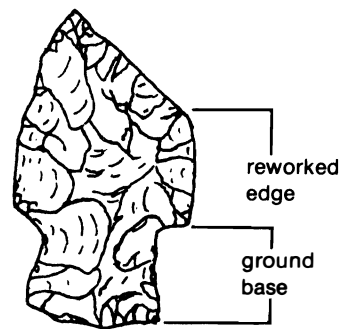
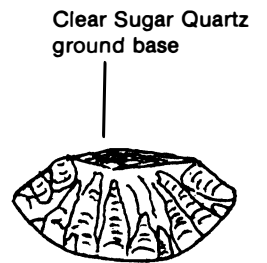
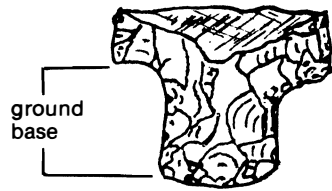


B Artifacts from 13HA162



A

Points Found by Russ Halven on 13HA162



Actual Size

Books of Interest

The Archaeology of Missouri, II

Carl H. Chapman
Illustrations by Eleanor F. Chapman

University of Missouri Press

This is the second volume of the definitive account of Missouri archaeology by the master of the subject. The first volume describes the physical environment and prehistory of Missouri through the Archaic period. This volume takes up the record of Missouri's human population at the beginning of the Woodland period, in 1000 B.C., and ends with protohistoric times, just prior to European contact.

Because of its central location and favorable environment, Dr. Chapman explains, the lower Missouri-central Mississippi valley played a vital role in the development of a succession of North American cultures. The period covered here saw the first great cultural climax of North America, the Hopewellian Interaction Sphere, which affected Missouri during the Middle Woodland period, 500 B.C.-A.D. 400. During this peak of cultural fluorescence, extensive trade networks reached from the Rocky Mountains to the Appalachians, the Great Lakes to the Gulf of Mexico. Ideas as well as trade goods were continuously exchanged between different regions of the New World.

A second period of considerable cultural sophistication occurred in Missouri between the tenth and thirteenth centuries A.D. The Prairie Village Farmers of this Classic Mississippi period used flat-topped mounds as the bases for their important buildings and lived in village settlements that surrounded ceremonial centers. These patterns suggest cultural borrowings from Mesoamerica and South America.

Clearly written and profusely illustrated with maps and drawings by Eleanor F. Chapman as well as photographs of sites and artifacts, this book, with its companion volume, is certain to become a standard reference both for archaeologists and for lay readers.

Carl H. Chapman is Professor of Anthropology and Research Professor in American Archaeology at the University of Missouri—Columbia.

ISBN 0-8262-0284-5
LC 73-92242

April, 352 pages, 7 x 10 inches,
\$26.95.

Bibliography, index, tables,
229 illustrations

Exploring Iowa's Past

A Guide to Prehistoric Archaeology

Lynn Marie Alex
University of Iowa Press

All the questions that archaeologists are most often asked are answered in this book, which also reveals how artifacts

reflect the ideas, knowledge, and traditions of the society that produced them. It is designed to help the novice identify artifacts in his own collection and relate them culturally and temporally to that found elsewhere in Iowa. It is also a refresher course for the professional in the discussion of methods and techniques of prehistoric archaeology, and the development of skills in recognition, classification, interpretation and cataloguing of artifact collections. Major periods in the prehistoric cultural sequence in Iowa are featured, along with a glossary of key concepts and terms, a review of the state's archaeological discipline, and opportunities in archaeology as a career or hobby.

To explore this guide is to discover a better understanding of:

- What archaeology is and how it is related to anthropology.
- What archaeologists do and how this differs from the work of other scientists.
- The necessity of preserving Iowa's prehistoric heritage.
- How to recognize and report archaeological sites.
- What is wrong with the untrained person digging into an archaeological site.

- The purposes of archaeological survey and excavation.
- What skills are necessary to excavate archaeological sites.
- The importance of finding remains in context.
- Why all artifacts are important.
- The purposes of artifact classification.
- How to catalogue and store artifact collections.
- The development of archaeology in Iowa.
- The prehistoric culture sequence in Iowa.
- The Native American concern for sacred sites and how legislation is helping to protect these sites.
- Why archaeologists discourage the buying and selling of artifacts.
- What you can do to become involved in archaeology as a career or hobby.
- Where to go for more information.

Lynn Alex has nine years of excavation and survey experience throughout Iowa and South Dakota, and served as director on three sites. Her book was written as one facet of a project called Iowa's P.A.S.T. (Programming Archaeology for Teachers). The project is funded by the National Endowment for the Humanities and co-sponsored by the Iowa Department of Public Instruction and the Office of the State Archaeologist of Iowa.

"Exploring Iowa's Past is an indispensable and authoritative introduction to Iowa's prehistory and the methods of archaeological data collection and interpretation. I am enthusiastic about this book because it fills a real need: it shares many of the qualities of a text, yet is written for the layman, who will find it a major resource."—*David A. Baerreis, Professor of Anthropology, University of Wisconsin-Madison*

"Lynn Alex's informative book unlocks the story of Iowa archaeology, buried for more than a century in technical journals and obscure publications. I highly recommend it to history buffs, collectors, students, teachers, and anyone interested in Iowa's unique cultural heritage. With this highly readable book and a little effort, we can all become involved in archaeology and help preserve our prehistoric past."—*Duane Anderson, State Archaeologist of Iowa.*

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Book Review— Exploring Iowa's Past

Most members of the Iowa Archeological Society have a strong interest in Iowa's heritage. If you ever picked up a piece of our prehistoric past in a plowed field or stream bed, you probably have a lifelong interest in prehistoric archaeology.

Whether you just developed your interest in archeology or you are a long-time collector, you will remember the frustration of searching for information about Iowa's prehistoric past. Most of us obtained our archeological knowledge from general textbooks, IAS meetings, other persons with similar interests, and

our own research. These methods require considerable effort and are useful only to those who are persistent. There has been a need for a book that provides a basic outline of archeological development and the prehistoric cultures in Iowa. Lynn Alex has supplied such a document with the book, *Exploring Iowa's Past*.

A description of the book precedes this review. You should know, however, that the book is an excellent guide for those who have a casual interest in Iowa prehistory and those who have recently developed an interest in archeology. When someone asks you where they can get information about archeology in Iowa, recommend *Exploring Iowa's Past*. It is also a good reference book for those who have studied prehistory in depth.

The first section of the book explains the work of an archeologist and then discusses the development of the field in Iowa. There is a good explanation of the methods used by archeologists to locate and interpret prehistoric material. The book is an excellent guide to the terms and procedures used in the everyday language of an archeologist.

The final chapters cover the various periods in Iowa prehistory. The succinct descriptions of each culture are useful guides to collectors for the interpretation of their finds. The armchair archeologist will enjoy the overview of the people who lived in Iowa prior to the European settlement.

Exploring Iowa's Past is an excellent guide for the lay archeologist, Iowa history buff, and casual reader. Lynn Alex should be commended for filling an important need in Iowa literature.

Gary Valen

Special Offer for Members

Good News for Members of Archaeological Societies!

A special reduced-price subscription to the *North American Archaeologist* at only \$15.00 is offered to members of your Archaeological Society.

North American Archaeologist... A Quarterly Journal

Editor: Robert L. Schuyler

The explosive growth in the field of American archaeology is dividing the archaeological community along disciplinary and institutional lines. A crisis situation exists in which archaeologists in the academic world become isolated from their colleagues in Resource Management and in government agencies. These groups, in turn, are failing to interact with the expanding membership of state and local archaeological societies. Researchers in the new area of historical archaeology are also moving away from those in prehistoric studies because of the rise in the number of regional and national meetings, and the proliferation of journals and societies.

The *North American Archaeologist* counterbalances this splintering process. It is a unique archaeological publication in several important aspects. The *North American Archaeologist* is the only general journal dedicated solely to North America, with a total coverage of archaeological activity in the United States, Canada, and northern Mexico, excluding Mesoamerica. The *North American Archaeologist* surveys all aspects of prehistoric and historical archaeology within an evolutionary perspective. Major topics consistently covered are:

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The *North American Archaeologist* regularly includes research resulting from activities within state and regional societies. More extensive treatment of selected topics of high general appeal is provided by the publication of an annual monograph in the *Baywood Monographs in Archaeology* Series.

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Attention IAS Gardeners!

At the 1979 IAS meeting in Fort Dodge, I received some Native American garden produce from Roger Natte following his paper. That spring I dispatched some of these varieties out to my students who proceeded to grow them on land that we procured for that purpose. When fall rolled around, we found that after some good hard work and some good times, we had produced a pretty good harvest. Both the students and I enjoyed this project tremendously.

The second year, the project's popularity grew as well as our gardens. In August of this past year, the Sioux City Journal ran a three page article in their Farm Weekly section that allowed our project to gain quite a bit of local notoriety, especially with local school teachers who recognized the potential of this project among their own students.

For this coming growing season I have developed a new seed kit and manual package that is now being made available to interested teachers and IAS members.

The Farming Tribes of the Missouri River Basin: A Recreation is a self-contained seed kit including instructions for planting and cultivation. Its contents include a kit containing prehistoric seed varieties not grown on a commercial basis.

Prehistoric Seed Varieties

Mandan Soft Red Flour Corn

Mixed Flint (Red Flint)

White Pop Corn

Hidatsa Red Beans

Tobacco (Nicotiana Rustica)

Arikara Melon

Omaha Small Oval Pumpkin

Sunflower

A 20-page manual accompanies the kit which contains: a short history of the farming tribes of the Missouri; a discussion of the diffusion of early domesticates; instructions on Native American planting techniques, cultivation, harvest, and uses of these varieties; and a short bibliography (most of the content is geared to the novice).

If interested, send \$7.00 to:

Dan Zwiener
Westwood Middle School
Smithland, Iowa 51056

Please include your return address.

This price includes postage, packaging, and handling. Also, if additional varieties become available to me you will be notified. The kit and manual are mailed separately.

The seeds are limited in supply this year.

Grow a garden this year that sprouts history lessons.

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