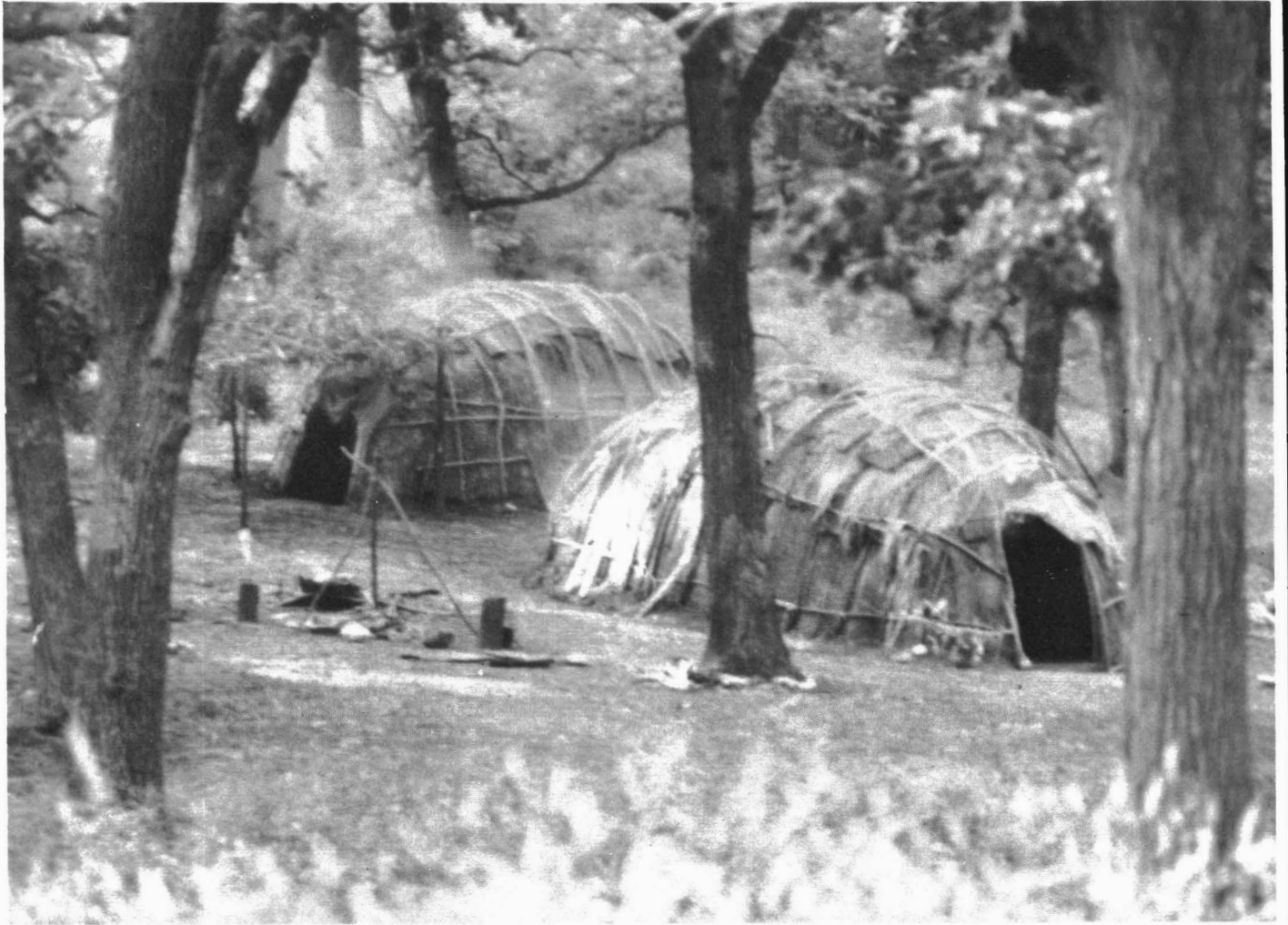


iowa archeological society

# newsletter



**1700's Ioway Village  
Living History Farms  
Des Moines, Iowa**

## A Boat-stone from North Central Iowa

by R. Clark Mallam

In May, 1979, the Board of Directors of the Kinney Lindstrom Foundation in Mason City approved funding for an archaeological project to be conducted in north central Iowa. The proposed investigation, involving both Luther College and the University of Iowa, was designed to facilitate surveys and test excavations in the prairie-pothole region of Winnebago, Worth, and Cerro Gordo Counties.

Since this portion of Iowa previously had received only minimal archaeological attention, little was known about its prehistory. In order to maximize data recovery the University of Iowa crew focused on the wetlands - ponds, lakes, sloughs and marshes. Alternately, the Luther College group concentrated on an area bordering the eastern margin of the Des Moines Lobe near Fertile and Hanlontown. For one month they conducted surveys along the Winnebago River, several of its tributaries and a few adjacent marshes. In addition, crew members contacted various local residents in an effort to assess collections, the initial step in constructing preliminary culture sequences. One collector in particular, Mr. Herb Garlock of Clear Lake, proved to be especially helpful. An avid prehistory enthusiast, he had collected in and around the Clear Lake area since early childhood. His collection, comprised of materials ranging from late Paleo-Indian/Early Archaic through Oneota, contained one very unusual artifact.

This item, a boat-stone, was found in the area presently occupied by the Clear Lake Handicapped Village. Manufactured from black slate and polished to a high luster it is 115 mm in

length with a maximum height and width respectively of 42 mm and 32 mm and a weight of 224 g. In form it may be described as semi-lunar. Its upper portion has been hollowed out creating a gently tapering trough whose maximum depth is 8 mm (see Fig. 1). A distinctive flat ridge, 5 mm in width, produced by intensive grinding extends along

the entire outer edge or bottom surface (see Fig. 2). It contains no perforations. The only flaw in its otherwise impeccable condition is a small quartzitic occlusion occurring near the lip.

Boat-stones tend to be widely distributed across the Eastern Woodlands culture area. Their occurrence in Iowa, however, has not been well documented.



Fig. 1. Top and side view.

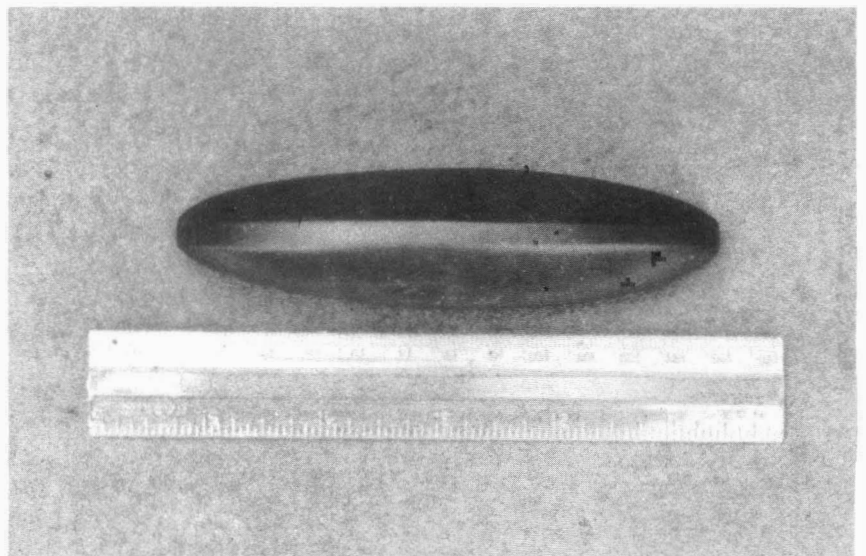
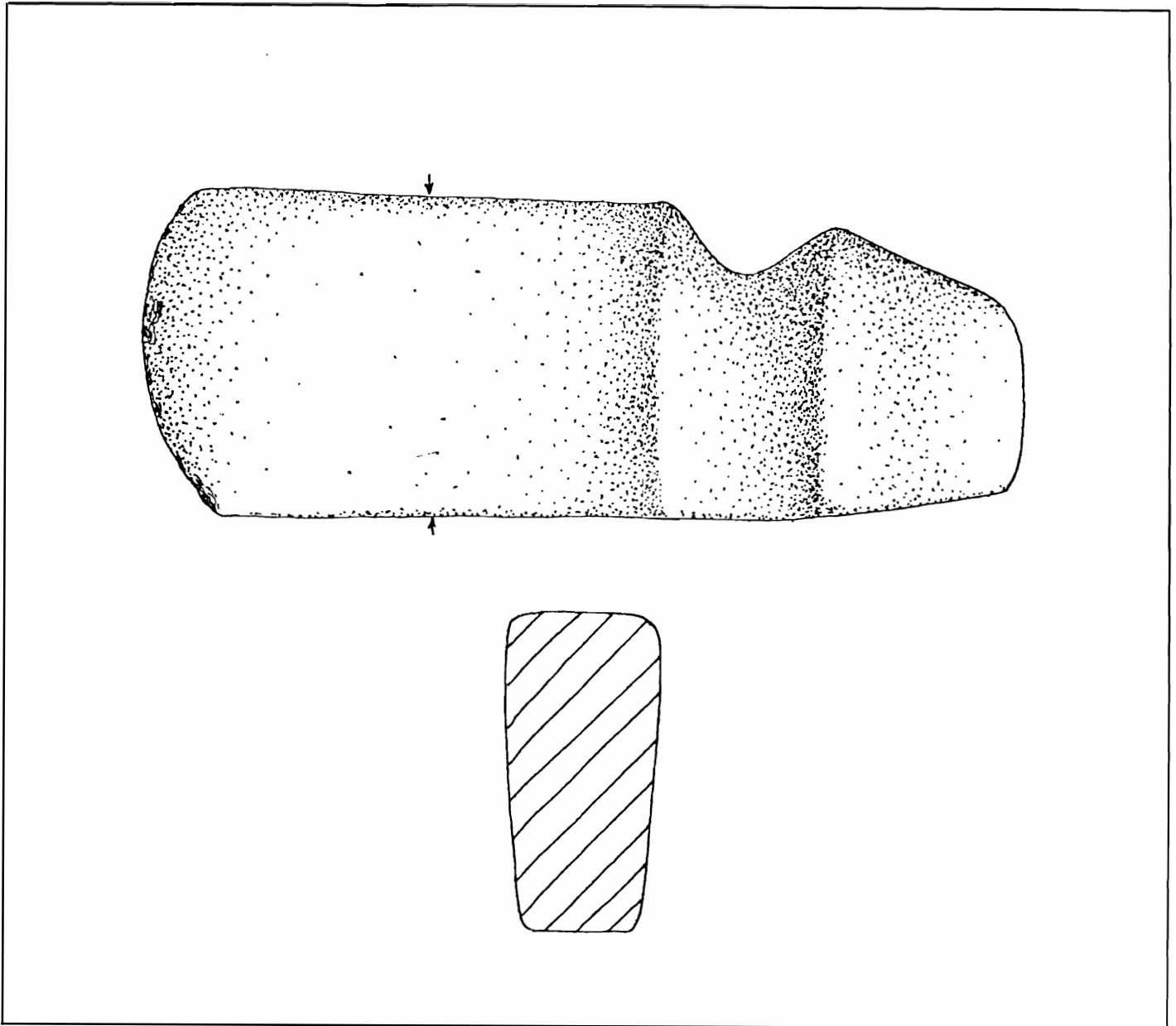


Fig. 2. Bottom view showing ground edge.

## Another Three-Quarter Grooved Ax From Polk County

by David W. Benn



A three-quarter grooved ax of green diorite was found by Art Bettis (Iowa Geological Survey) in October of 1982. The ax was discovered at a depth of 162cm (5.3 ft.) below the surface in the bank of the Des Moines River in the reach between the City of Des Moines and the Saylorville Dam. This location, known as the Downstream Corridor, was being investigated by site survey and testing for the Corps

of Engineers, Rock Island District.

The ax is carefully formed and longitudinally symmetrical. The bit has only a few nicks from wear, while the poll is roughened as if unsmoothed in the final production phase. The ax appears to have a twin from the same area. In the summer 1982 NEWSLETTER (no. 103, pg. 4), Rebecca MacRae reported finding a nearly identical ax

near Johnston, a town that overlooks the Downstream Corridor from the west side of the Des Moines River valley.

The site (13PK414) which yielded the ax also contained a carbon feature at the same depth. Radiocarbon dating of that charcoal produced a date of 4040 B.C. (5990  $\pm$  100 B.P.;  $\pm$  Beta-2634; corrected date), thus placing the ax in the Middle Archaic period.

After some urging by several concerned Iowa Archeological Society members - ex members and Southeast I A S chapter members, I decided to call a conference of local and area people to seek out their individual requirements, needs, advice or input that they might have to restructure the group back into participation in the statewide archeological scene. The S/E Chapter is presently "in limbo" in that there is a lack of programming, or members who wish to have someone else hold elective offices, get meetings set up & etc.

On October 31st, this conference met in the Eldon Senior Citizens Bldg. at Eldon. The IOWA HUMANITIES BOARD funded the speakers, Dale & Elizabeth Henning and they were the panel and their program was titled "Southeast Iowa Archeology". The response was great.

A total of 17 people were registered. Four I A S members were in attendance plus 4 ex I A S people and 2 new members signed up by Dale. They are Gary Phillips, Selma and his father Elmer Phillips, Ft. Madison. Welcome . . .

It was rewarding to have four from this group who were interested in site records and collection cataloging. A couple also attended this meeting and they turned out to be a very adept flintknapping team. There are several more of these tool makers in the area who did not show up.

During the meeting, collections were evaluated by Dale, and Betty discussed site recording and relationships of the non-career archeologist and the professionals. Many Havana-Hopewellian artifacts were shown. Surprisingly very little pottery of

any kind was displayed. The conference started at 8 AM and adjourned at 3:30 PM. Afterwards an Open House with a viewing of the extensive Fulton collection was held at the home/museum of Rosie and Fred Fulton, rural Selma . . .

### IN CONCLUSION:

I feel that an annual mini-meeting would create more interest in group activity. Rather than have the monthly or whatever meeting with a two hour presentation, I suggest an all day workshop type meeting once or twice a year. This program need not be of impressive proportions - just a common thing to get the attention of the present, past and prospective new members.

Plans now being made to call for a meeting somewhere in S/E Iowa for a repeat of the last conference sometime in early October '83. A notice will be put in the next N/L.

Anyone wishing advance notice of meeting should send a stamped, self addressed envelope to this writer. Also any suggestions, criticisms or input will be of great importance to this venture. These are needed and welcomed.

On October 30th, and the day before this conference, the Buffalo Hunt mentioned in N/L #105 took place in DSM Co., in Southeast Iowa.

**Submitted**  
**D.G. Spears**  
**536 So. Davis St.**  
**Ottumwa, IA 52501**

For many years this writer has seen the need for a publication oriented towards the new member - collectors and others in the Society. Many of you members can recall frustrations felt upon visiting a library and not finding any book(s), or publications covering archeology and related information. If the members have access to earlier Newsletters and Journals of the I.A.S. they might learn something of Iowa's pre-history. Sad to say that there are few of the older N / L's available. The Journal supply is better. Most books are a one time print outlay and they in turn become collectors choices. Needless to say, acquiring an adequate library is very costly.

During the I.A.S. 33rd annual meeting in Glenwood, Sunday April 23, 1982, after some discussion I was named editor of a proposed publication which was designated "I.A.S. MEMOIRS". With support from the membership we hope to have a continuing series from a special fund of bequests, memorials and donations with the money to be used for this purpose. Presently there is no money available in our treasury that could be used for this publication, and to make this Guide available to everyone; a moderate charge will be made to those of you who wish to obtain a copy.

The book will be titled "A COLLECTORS GUIDE" and will be a paperback edition of approximately 100 pages. Input by several other collectors plus materials from both professional and non-career archeologists is anticipated.

Plans call for a glossary of terms used, a book or publication recommended listing and their price and sources. R C 14 carbon dating, and many other

(con'd. on page 5)

# Introducing Maria Pearson



MARIA PEARSON

## Native American activist.

On Mary 12th, '82, a conference was called at Simpson College, Indianola to discuss the disturbed aboriginal and historic Indian burials in Iowa.

Maria was on the panel, representing the native Americans, and she dwelt upon the subject "Old Indian Burial Grounds". This term could and has been used as an incentive for plundering and desecration of the graves by persons who loot these graves in search of artifacts.

She feels as with the whites who call their burial areas a cemetery - no matter how small, that if the native American graves were regarded as sacred land and that the burials were a "cemetery", then the pressure might lessen and these grave violations may halt. Rarely are white graves violated and when they are, the guilty party is liable to severe punishment under Iowa sepulchral laws. Indian burials are also protected by Iowa code.

Maria is spokesperson for many of the Indians in Iowa. She

serves as consultant to the Iowa D.O.T., and is an advisor on Indian Affairs to Gov. Branstad after having been advisor to Gov. Ray for 14 years.

Maria is a Yankton Sioux and her anglicized name is "Running Moccasin(s)" . . .

Submitted D. G. S.

## EARLY MAN . . . A MAGAZINE BRINGING SCIENTIFIC ARCHEOLOGY TO THE PUBLIC

Archeology is one of the most rapidly growing special interests among Americans today. Acknowledging the importance of public support and recognition of their discipline, the Center for American Archeology launched EARLY MAN Magazine in the Spring, 1979.

In articles that are easy to read and well-illustrated, EARLY MAN heightens public appreciation for the sophistication of past cultures that existed in the Americas . . . describes important new discoveries in the New World . . . seeks to inform and involve the public in the preservation of our nation's heritage. . . and takes the reader behind the scenes of archeological life and activity. A regular "Issues in Archeology" section reports on social, intellectual, political and legal changes affecting both the American public and archeological professionals today.

Listed below is a sampling of the stimulating and varied topics explored in EARLY MAN:

● The story of the recently-discovered Cacaxtla murals, Mayan artwork ranking with the famous Bonampak paintings, and their bearing on the my-

steries surrounding the fate of Teotihuacan in the Valley of Mexico.

● Computer graphics and the insights they provide into past human behavior.

● Archeology beneath the parking lots and streets of New York City: the surprising richness of artifacts and information coming from the Water Street, Seaport, Telco and Stadt Huys sites.

● Ancient Chinese ceramics at Michilimackinac in northern Michigan . . . how and why these fine porcelains got to America's frontier centuries ago.

● A physical anthropologist's fascinating search for clues in human teeth to track down the origin of America's first inhabitants . . . and when these early migrants might have come to the New World.

A \$15 subscription brings quarterly issues of EARLY MAN and includes a one-year Membership in the Center for American Archeology. Subscribers receive invitations to join archeological excavations under the direction of researchers at the Kampsville Center in southern Illinois.

To subscribe or request more information, please write or phone:

The Center for American Archeology at Northwestern University  
1911 Ridge Avenue  
Evanston, Illinois 60201  
(312) 492-5300

(con'd. from page 4)

subjects will be included as well as some artifact description and definitions.

Mary J. Hatfield has volunteered her services as a typist.

Gary Valen will be a co-

editor.

Since the Iowa Archeological Society is a non-profit organization, any gifts, memorials or donations will become a tax deduction for tax purposes.

Please make any money order or checks payable to:

Iowa Archeological Society  
Ruth Thornton - Treasurer  
326 Otsego St.

Storm Lake, IA 50588

More on the Guide in next N/L's.

I want to hear from you members out there regarding your concept of this undertaking. Thanks.

Submitted:

D. G. Spears

536 So. Davis St.

Ottumwa, IA 52501



## Now available from the Missouri Archeological Society

### **Native American Bows - T. M. Hamilton**

Describes various types of bows used by Native Americans with an appendix on "Making Horn Bows" by Bill Holm. Numerous photos. \$10.

### **The Spiro Mound - Henry W. Hamilton**

Reprint of 1952 *Missouri Archeologist*, Vol. 14, with a preface and "An Interpretation of the Place of Spiro in Southeastern Archaeology" by J. B. Griffin. Also a write-up on "Textile Fabrics from the Spiro Mound" by C. C. Willoughby. Includes many drawings and photos of Spiro Mound artifacts. \$10.

### **Spiro Mound Copper - H. Hamilton, J. Hamilton and E. Chapman**

A companion volume to *The Spiro Mound*. Includes more of the story behind the copper artifacts. Beautifully illustrated by Eleanor Chapman. \$5.

### **Human Osteology: A Laboratory and Field Manual of the Human Skeleton William M. Bass**

Widely used text for osteology by an expert in human bone identification. Covers bone terminology, identification, measurement and sexing. Drawings provide an indispensable reference for archeologists and forensic anthropologists. \$9.

Postage free if paid in advance for single copies. Inquire about discounts on multiple copies.

## Missouri Archeological Society

P.O. Box 958

Columbia, MO 65201

### REPORTING SITES AND MAINTAINING A SURFACE COLLECTION AND FILE OF INFORMATION ON IT

By far the most valuable service members of the Iowa Archeological Society can render, and one of the obligations of each member of the Society is to work for the preservation of archeological sites and information. The one way in which every member can serve, either individually or as part of a Chapter organization, is by maintaining a complete and accurate record on the material he picks up from the sites in his own locality. Report the sites to the editor for the Society's Central File of Archeological Sites for the State of Iowa. Keep your own record, either on duplicate survey sheets, or in the form of a catalogue.

A simple catalogue involving a minimum of effort would take the form of a loose-leaf notebook. Other materials needed to keep an accurate record of your sites, etc., would include a bottle of India ink and a fine-point writing or drawing pen. With these, a number is placed on each artifact and piece of pottery collected. Each piece should have a separate number-or, if you wish, material from each site may be assigned the same number. The numbers may simply begin 1,2,3,4, etc. In the catalogue, the material should be described under the assigned number.

This listing should give the site name and location, the type of

artifact and a brief description of the piece or pieces carrying this number. Dimensions of the piece should be included. This gives a record of the material which will be of value in any further investigation of the site. It insures that material from site will not become mixed with material from another, even if artifacts and pottery from several sites are studied at the same time. This type of catalogue will serve you well for material from surface surveys. Such a record is not difficult to keep as long as it is kept up to date.

Reprint from IAS N/L #10, April 1953  
Editor: Professor R. W. Breckenridge  
(Deceased)



---

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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.

## VICE PRESIDENT RECEIVES NEW DUTIES

I.A.S. Vice President David Carlson has agreed to head the effort to increase memberships for the coming year. He requests ideas and suggestions for any method that will bring new members into the Society. Dave's address is R.R. #1, Otho, IA 50569.

## NEW MEMBERS

Edward Corton  
Temple Hills, MD

Theodore Ehlers  
Vinton

Diane Flynn  
Ames

Sue Green  
DeWitt

Katie Grimmond  
Mason City

Linda Gucciardo  
Cedar Rapids

Derald Hanson  
Stratford

Mrs. Walter Hartman  
Dubuque

Mr. & Mrs. Richard Harris  
Davenport

Deb Hubert  
Salix

David Hudson  
Coralville

Roger Johnson  
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David Lahr  
Dow City

Julia Malia  
Decorah

Owen McKee  
Oskaloosa

Shirley Mercer  
Villa Park, IL

Clarence Miller  
Grundy Center

Edwin Miller  
Montezuma

Christine Nicholson  
Madison, WI

Robert Olsen  
Cedar Falls

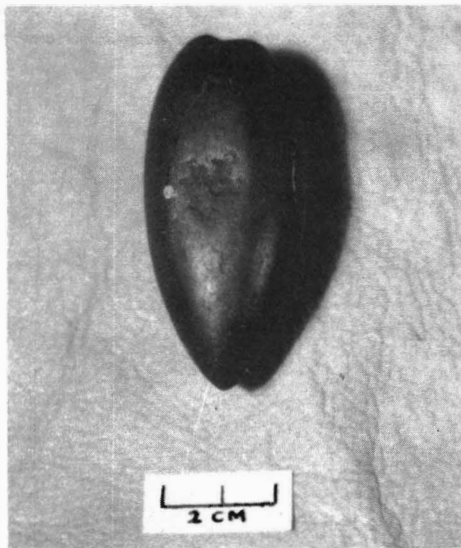
Mr. & Mrs. Max Reno  
Rock Island, IL

William Scherrman  
Dyersville

Bryan Shaw  
Des Moines

John Whittaker  
Grinnell

# Hematite Plummet



Hematite Plummet found in Winnebago County. The specimen, which was reported by Arlo Johnson, was discovered by John Peterson, Forrest City. The plummet may be unfinished as it lacks the characteristic groove which encircles the tapered enel on most finished specimens. The use of such objects is unknown.

Our thanks go to Arlo and Jackie for making the specimen available.

## DUES NOTICE

1983 dues should be sent to:  
Mrs. Ruth Thornton  
326 Otsego Street  
Storm Lake, IA 50588

### Voting

1. Active - \$10.00
2. Household - \$17.00
3. Sustaining - \$25.00
4. Benefactor  
Minimum - \$250.00

### Non-voting

1. Student - \$7.00  
(under 18)
2. Institution - \$10.00

### Consider a Sustaining Membership:

You can help your Society by electing to become a sustaining member. Your \$25.00 will be an important support for our publications and other I.A.S. projects.

Cover: 1700 Ioway Settlement at the Living History Farms, site of the 1983 Annual Meeting of the Iowa Archeological Society April 16-17, 1983, in Des Moines. Photo by Dan Zweiner

## Reminder

**1983 Annual Meeting**  
**April 16-17, 1983**  
**in Des Moines**

## 1982 SITE REPORTS

These members have recorded sites in 1982:

|                                       |          |
|---------------------------------------|----------|
| Herb Sovereign and D.E. Pidcock ..... | 5 sites  |
| Toby Morrow .....                     | 24 sites |
| Loren Horton .....                    | 1 site   |
| Lennis Moore .....                    | 1 site   |
| Norman Dille .....                    | 12 sites |
| Paul Williams .....                   | 2 sites  |
| Dale Gifford .....                    | 1 site   |
| Ken Krizan .....                      | 9 sites  |

\_\_\_\_\_ Total 55 sites

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