

iowa archeological society

newsletter

vol. 37 no. 1

1987

issue 121

FROM THE PRESIDENT:

December 6, 1986, IAS officers and board members met in Ames to assess the status of the Society and plan for important events in the coming year. I will summarize the highlights. First, the Society had 427 paid up members as of December 1, 1986. Total dollar assets were \$6,392.55. Membership has slipped from a more healthy 500. We need members who have not paid their 1986 dues to do so to insure their receipt of the 1986 Journal. Yes, this issue is late and we apologize, but what is an editor to do when an author pulls one of the primary articles in the fall of 1986? Nancy Osborne had to replace it.

I can report to you now that the 1986 Journal will be sent early in 1987 to all those members current in their 1986 dues.

There will be two articles by Mildred Wedel about the early Iowa and a fine report by Duane Esarey on a protohistoric Oneota site in Taswell Co., Ill. In addition, Joe Tiffany has provided several book reviews.

Back to the Society finances, \$6,392.55 seems like a lot of money but remember that two Journals will be published in 1987 (@ \$3,000.00 each). That leaves about enough money to pay for one Newsletter. So, please let's get our 1987 dues paid promptly. Remember, it was due Jan. 1, 1987. For those who can afford a Sustaining Membership the Society will be forever grateful.

Secondly, we are happy to report that we have three field schools planned for 1987. [Please see page 6 for details].

Thirdly, the big event of the year is always the spring Annual Meeting. This year it will be held April 4-5, 1987 at Ames in conjunction with the Native American Symposium. This promises to be a double-barreled opportunity to participate in two fine events. [see pages 7 and 8]

Lastly, Don Spears who held a lifetime membership in the IAS passed away

December 6, 1986. Don had been a dedicated member since 1964 and held lifetime status since 1968. He was a recipient of the Keys-Orr Award; had held the office of Director; Newsletter Editor and chairman of the Southeast Chapter. We are all saddened by his passing.

Richard Slattery

DON G. SPEARS

April 5, 1916-December 5, 1986

It is difficult to imagine any meeting or field trip of the Iowa Archeological Society without Don Spears in prominent attendance. In many ways he represented the best tradition of IAS. He was an informed collector who insisted on professional archaeological standards and a preservation ethic in all of Iowa's land use plans. Don was at his best when he stood in a farm field pointing to a mound or village site that was threatened by a construction project. It seemed that he was dedicating his whole being to the preservation of that remnant of our early cultures.

Don led a full life, complete with exciting adventures. Upon graduation from high school in 1934, he spent a brief time working with Civilian Conservation Corp projects. The call of the sea led him to join the Merchant Marine in 1935 and he completed his first around the world tour in 1936. Perhaps the most notable of his sea experiences came in February, 1942, when, from the deck of his ship, he witnessed the capture of Singapore by Japanese forces. He served the war effort in a number of ways including ship runs to Alaska. He was cited for his remarkable ability to keep ships running in extreme adverse conditions.

Don left the Merchant Marine in 1950 and returned to his hometown of

Ottumwa. He put his mechanical skills to work at the local John Deere plant until his retirement in 1977. It was during this period that Don resumed his search for Native American artifacts and sites in Southeast Iowa.

Perhaps the strongest legacy of Don's involvement in the IAS is his contribution to the Newsletter. He served as editor from March 1969 until April 1972. He continued to submit articles, photos, and editorial comment until 1984, when he was named Editor Emeritus. If you are a new member of IAS, I recommend that you look through the back issues of the Newsletter from issues 51 through 110 to understand the legacy of Don Spears to Iowa archaeology.

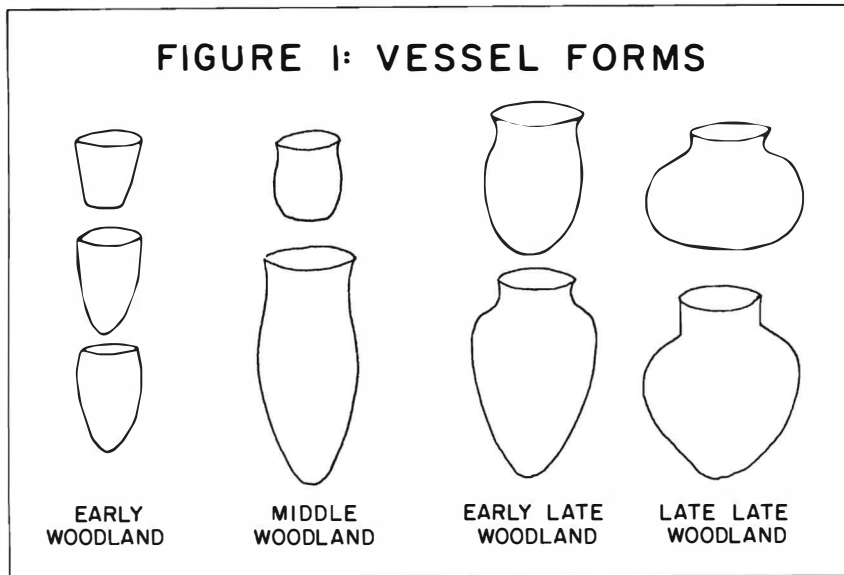
Don will be missed by his family and friends. His words and deeds will no longer stimulate the efforts of the IAS, but his spirit will long remain a rich part of a time when lay and professional Iowa archaeologists created an organization and a movement to preserve the heritage of our Native American past.

Gary Valen



SAYLORVILLE LOG: PART IV Social and Technical Aspects of Woodland Pottery

by David W. Benn



Students of prehistory are able to discover much about the past from pottery because it is such a malleable material. Past peoples made social statements in pottery by forming unique shapes, by decorating vessel surfaces with definitive markings, or by manufacturing and firing their pottery with unusual materials and techniques. As a technology, pottery could be applied to many uses in cooking, storage, fabrication and ceremony. Ceramics made during the Woodland culture periods (ca. 400 B.C. to A.D. 1200) in central Iowa reflect these technical and social aspects in ways that we are just beginning to analyze and understand. This article covers a few of the findings about Woodland-aged ceramics from the Saylorville Lake project.

What we as archaeologists know about prehistoric ceramics comes from the classification systems used to categorize various kinds of pottery. Pottery of the same time span and similar styles is grouped as a ware when the vessels have the same form, paste (temper and clay), and kinds of surface treatments. Within a ware there are one or more types that include specific forms of decoration and surface finishes. Woodland pottery classifications have accumulated during the past 50 years in the Midwest, so the recently completed ceramic classification for the Saylorville Lake area is based upon past experience with similar pottery

assemblages.

The prehistoric residents of the Saylorville area made pottery continuously for nearly 2,000 years. Some sherds with a confusing mixture of attributes represent vessels made during periods of cultural transition, but most vessels fit into one of four wares. The wares are most clearly illustrated by vessel form (Figure 1). McBride ware is the earliest, dating to the Early Woodland period (ca. 400-100B.C.). High Bridge ware is the Middle Woodland pottery (ca. 100 B.C.-A.D. 400); Madrid ware belongs to the early Late Woodland period (ca. A.D. 400-700); and Saylor ware and other unnamed types date to the late Late Woodland period (ca. A.D. 700-1100). Notice in Figure 1 that the earliest vessels were simple, open-mouthed forms with round or flat bases, while later vessels had increasingly constricted rims and expanded shoulders. These trends culminated in the globular bodies and sharply curved rims of late Late Woodland vessels. Additionally, through time (grit) temper particles tended to be ground finer, and vessels walls were made thinner. The overall result of technical changes in form and temper was the production of more effective ceramic containers - vessels that were stronger and lighter weight with wider bodies that absorbed and transferred heat more efficiently.

The Woodland periods were a time when midwestern peoples developed a

heavier reliance on wild seed foods and when maize horticulture was being introduced and adapted to the northern hemisphere. The evolution of Woodland ceramic technology paralleled these changes in subsistence. Thus, it has been proposed that improvements in cooking pots led to more efficient processing of vegetable foods, or what has been euphemistically termed the "boiling revolution." Some would argue that the new sources of nutrition were needed to support larger Woodland populations. But, if we fail to find evidence that Woodland population levels increased, then the argument should be changed to reason that technical modifications in cooking pots made food processing more efficient and compensated for the relatively inefficient processes of harvesting wild seeds and growing maize.

Changes in pottery decorations occurred more often than technical changes, resulting in the classification of a large number of pottery types among the four wares. Decoration is the social dimension in ceramics. Decoration records the way individuals perceive their social environment, and styles of decoration often relate to contemporary political and economic conditions.

In the earliest ware the major type, McBride Trilled, has coarse cord roughening on the exterior surface superimposed by embossing (i.e. interior punctates) and parallel lines and slashes trailed in the soft paste (Figure 2). Vessels tend to be small and crudely formed from sandy pastes. Similar trailed types, including the familiar Black Sand Incised, occur across the mid-continent during the Early Woodland period and represent a horizon of initial pottery invention and manufacture. Some researches have even suggested that trailed pottery was made by a distinct population inhabiting the prairies west of the Illinois River valley. I believe the attributes of trailed potteries show a great deal of idiosyncratic behavior that would be expected when different peoples began making a new technology.

Pottery manufacture flowered into a major expressive technology during the Middle Woodland period. In Saylorville, High Bridge ware contains no less than six types distinguished by the presence (or absence) of punctates, embossing, trailing, stamping and brushing in zones with cord roughened or plain surface

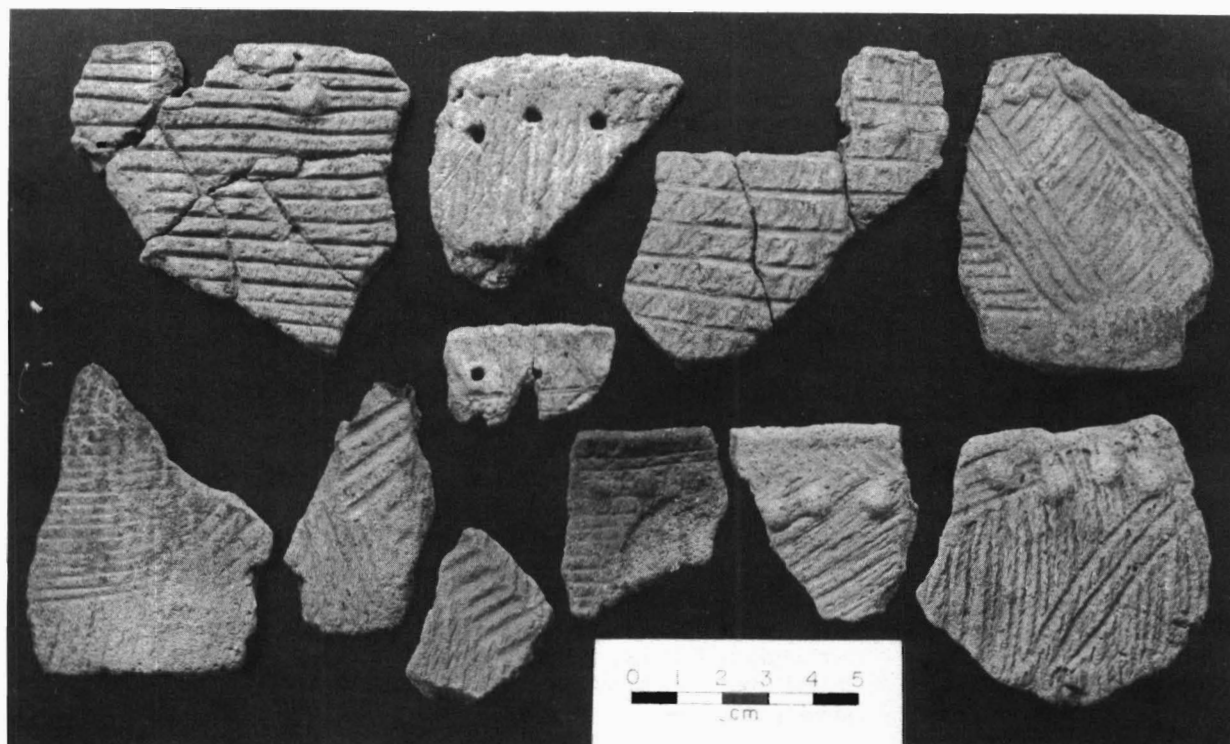


Figure 2: McBride Trailed Rim sherds (Iowa State University collections).



Figure 3: High Bridge Stamped rim sherds, except k which probably is from the Central Plains (Iowa State University collections).

treatments (Figure 3). Vessels are large with thick, even walls and squared lips. All of the High Bridge attributes plus others are present in Havana ware, the "classic" Middle Woodland pottery in the Illinois and Upper Mississippi River valleys. Across the prairies the application of specific decorative styles was socially prescribed in the sense that decorations probably expressed the socio-economic standing of the potter and (her family's) connections to supernatural benefits. The spectacular proliferation of decorative styles at this time seems to reflect an increase in competitive production among family-bands, a condition that also encouraged the development of a pan-continental trade network we associate with the Hopewell belief system.

The period of transition between the Middle and Late Woodland periods is recorded in Madrid ware from the Saylorville area. Madrid types are almost as varied as High Bridge, but fewer Madrid vessels were decorated over the cord roughened and plain vessel surfaces. The social requisite for decoration probably waned as the functional need for more effective cooking vessels increased (see third and fourth paragraphs above).

The trend toward thin-walled, broad-shouldered vessels (Figure 4) culminated after A.D. 700, the Late Woodland period. The only technical improvement to follow was the addition of shell tempering by the Oneota. Late Woodland vessels emphasize cordage in their decorations. Early types have exterior surfaces roughened by a low-relief mat of cord (fabric?) impressions, sometimes called "simple stamping" in the Central Plains, while the rims of later types often were smoothed and plain. Single cord impressed, fabric and tool notch decorations were confined to the rims and lips of vessels. Cord impressions usually occur as parallel lines, sometimes with overlapping chevrons (triangles). These corded decorations are very uniform from the eastern to western prairies, and archaeologists are still mulling over the significance of local styles.

There are a few clear trends in Late Woodland potteries. The earliest (ca. A.D. 500) is Lane Farm Cord Impressed made in the Iowa/Minnesota/Wisconsin border locality. The evenly-spaced cords of the Lane Farm motif seems to have had the greatest influence on central and western

prairie potteries, including those in Saylorville and Loseke Creek ware in Nebraska. The sophisticated technology of Madison Fabric Impressed, the pottery of the Effigy Mounds Tradition, developed from Lane Farm but may not have influenced ceramic technology to the west. The corded potteries of southeastern Iowa and central Illinois, often known by the misnomer "Maples Mills," have raised rim projections (castellations) and squared orifices. These modelling attributes occur in Saylor ware at one site in the Saylorville area but have little distribution farther north and west.

The fundamental aspect of cord decorated ceramics is not in their variability; it is in their sudden and widespread appearance on the prairies. I suspect that a profound political-economic change precipitated a shift in several technologies, including corded

potteries. This cultural change somehow involved the dissolution of traditional reciprocal bonds between family-bands, a relationship typical of the Middle Woodland period. In place of the older bonds based on reciprocity, the new political order involved the imposition of economic influence and sometimes aggressive control by some groups (tribes?) over others. Thus, the social environment was established for the appearance of cultural formations like Great Oasis at A.D. 800 and subsequently the Oneota after A.D. 1000.

Through this presentation about Woodland cultures and the previous three SAYLORVILLE LOGS (1. the Saylorville project, 2. Landscape analysis, 3. Archaic), I have tried to show how the mix of government contracts and



Figure 4: Late Late Woodland period cord roughened vessel (Iowa State University collections).

SYMPOSIUM

research in modern archaeology can reveal events in prehistory.

The funding for compliance work and site preservation on property controlled by government agencies can be made to work not only for material benefits to the public but also for the basic pleasure and satisfaction of understanding ourselves as makers and keepers of culture. As we become aware of the past, we will be better at making connections with the future.

Center for Archaeological Research
Springfield, Missouri 65804

SYMPOSIUM ON THE AMERICAN INDIAN: The Oral Tradition

April 2-4, 1987
Iowa State University, Ames

Tentative Schedule:

April 2:

afternoon: Poetry reading with Lance Henson (Cheyenne), poet. Department of English, Ross Hall.

evening: Alice New Holy Blue Legs (Lakota), storyteller and quillworker. Personal discussion and film about her life.

April 3:

afternoon: Theatrical production by drama group from Haskell Institute, Lawrence, Kansas.

evening: The Richard Thompson Memorial Lecture - "Return to Bear Paw" by Janet Campbell Hale (Coeur d'Alene), author.

April 4:

morning: Childrens' Program: crafts and shadow puppets lead by Bill Bean (Cherokee) and Irma Bizzett (Omaha).

afternoon: Seminar discussion with Lance Henson and Janet Campbell Hale on "Literary Oral Tradition Today."

evening: Indian Pow-wow, Great Hall of Memorial Union.

Master of Ceremonies: Benjamin Bear (Mesquakie)

Mesquakie Drum Groups: Bear Singers, Mesquakie Singers, Red Earth Singers, Coon Hunters, Woodland Singers.

Continuous throughout the symposium:

Mesquakie Youth Art Exhibition
Gallery, Memorial Union.

LENSINK IN NEW POST

A new era has begun at the Office of the State Archaeologist in Iowa City. Since January 1, Steve Lensink has served as Acting State Archaeologist. He will serve in this capacity while the University of Iowa conducts a national search to replace Duane Anderson who left the Office October 1.

Steve is no stranger to Iowa Archeological Society members. In his high school days in Sheldon, he became one of the youngest members of the Northwest Chapter and he participated in Dale Henning's Northwest Chapter Field School at Blood Run in the early 1960's. In the early 80's he supervised a field school at Plum Grove, Robert Lucas' ancestral home in Iowa City in which many IAS members participated. Next summer he will be teaching a course in field archaeology at Iowa Lakeside Laboratory.

Steve comes to archaeology from a physics background, receiving his B.S. *cum laude* from Iowa State University in 1968. (He minored in mathematics and anthropology, receiving training from David Gradwohl.) He pursued his career in medical physics at Yale University and the University of Iowa's Department of Radiology until 1974 when he returned his attention fulltime to anthropology.

During the next ten years, Steve completed two major projects: A master's thesis entitled *Environmental Factors Affecting the Areal Size of Regional Populations in Melanesia* and a doctoral dissertation entitled *A Quantitative Model of Central-Place Foraging among Prehistoric Hunter-Gatherers*, both of which display Steve's extensive knowledge of statistical methods and computer modeling.

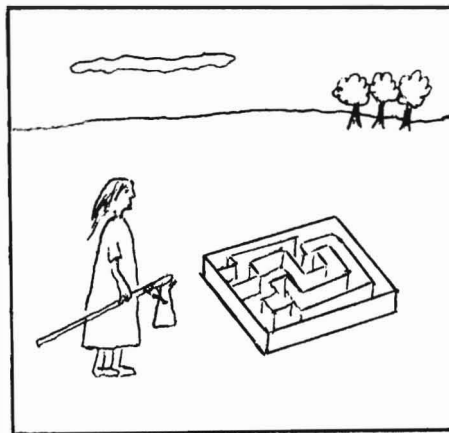
He has participated in field work at Cahokia, in the urban archaeology program in York, England, in southern and central Arizona, as well as all corners of Iowa. Most recently he has taught anthropology at the University of Iowa and served as project director of the Iowa Highway Archaeology program.

In speaking of his new role, Lensink said his first priority as State Archaeologist is to maintain the high standards set for the Office by Duane Anderson and Joe Tiffany.

In addition, he hopes to continue the excellent relationship between the Office and the IAS. "We will do everything we can to assist the Society to achieve its goals in preservation and public education of Iowa's archaeology," he said.

by Deb Zieglofsky

NEW TELEPHONE NUMBER
FOR OSA:
1-319-335-2389



INCITES: First Use of Maise

AND IN SOUTH DAKOTA:

Field excavations at the Historic Fort Randal Military Post are scheduled for August 3-16 (14 days). For application forms and additional information contact:

Russell L. Bywater, Project Manager
Dept. of the Army
Omaha Dist. Corps of Engineers
Fort Randall Project
P. O. Box 658
Pickstown, South Dakota 57367-0658

CALL FOR PAPERS AND RESERVATIONS

The 36th Annual Meeting, April 4-5, 1987, will be in the Gallery, Iowa State University Memorial Union, Ames (see map) #77.

Parking in adjacent ramp, #78.

1. Saturday morning - Early birds can enjoy the activities taking place during the day as part of the Iowa State American Indian Symposium.

Registration begins outside the Gallery from 10:00-11:00 a.m. This year's registration fee is \$5.00.

2. Saturday afternoon - The American Indian Symposium events continue. In addition, David Ballard, Jr. and Julieann Van Nest will be cohosting a **field trip** to the Ames Bog site. The caravan will leave from parking Lot 50 one block east of the Memorial Union at 1:00 p.m. Saturday afternoon and conclude by 3:30 p.m. The ground could be soggy so plan to bring rubber boots or other water-proof footwear.

3. The Annual Banquet will be held from 6:00-7:00 p.m. in Iowa State Center (Schemen Building). You must register in advance (see page 8).

4. The banquet address will be delivered by Dr. Katherine Speilmann, University of Iowa. Her talk, entitled "Hunters and Farmers: Relations on the Eastern and Western Borders of the Plains," presents archaeological and historical information related to trade between bison hunters and farmers in central New Mexico and western Iowa.

Following the banquet address, IAS members are invited to attend a pow-wow featuring Mesquaki dancers and drummers. The Pow-wow, part of the American Indian Symposium, begins around 8:00 p.m. in the Great Hall in the Memorial Union.

5. Sunday morning - Registration will run from 9:00-10:00 a.m. for Sunday arrivals. Coffee and donuts are planned. Chapter reports will be followed by a general business meeting in the Gallery of the Union.

6. Sunday afternoon - The meeting will resume at 1:00 p.m. in the Gallery with papers and field reports featured on a variety of topics. Activities should be

The Iowa Archaeological 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 archaeology of Iowa and the mid-west.

wrapped up by 4:00 p.m. to permit adequate time for the trip home.

PLAN NOW TO PARTICIPATE

1. If you wish to present a paper of a field report please complete and return the form on page 7.

2. Be sure to send in banquet reservations - the meal is catered and we must have a final count for the Iowa State Center Staff. The menu includes chicken parmesan, poppyseed noodles, tossed salad, vegetable, potato, rolls, beverage, and dessert.

3. If you have any suggestions for the Annual Meeting Committee, we would like to hear from you at your earliest convenience.

4. Don't forget to mail your room reservations (see page 8 for accommodations).

Final programs will be distributed at registration this year rather than through the mail. If you have questions, contact the Program Chair (319-335-2389).

Detach and return this form for the Annual Banquet

I plan to attend the annual banquet.

Please reserve _____ places for me at \$7.75 per place.

____ Check is enclosed (Iowa Archeological Society)

____ I will pay at the door

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM SO WE CAN PROVIDE THE IOWA STATE CENTER WITH AN ACCURATE ESTIMATE. THIS FORM IS DUE APRIL 1, 1987.

Send to:

Office of the State Archaeologist
305 Eastlawn
The university of Iowa
Iowa City, Iowa 52242

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____

ZIP _____

Detach and return this form to PRESENT A PAPER

I wish to present:

____ A Field Report

____ A Contributed Paper

Title _____

THIS FORM IS DUE MARCH 15, 1987

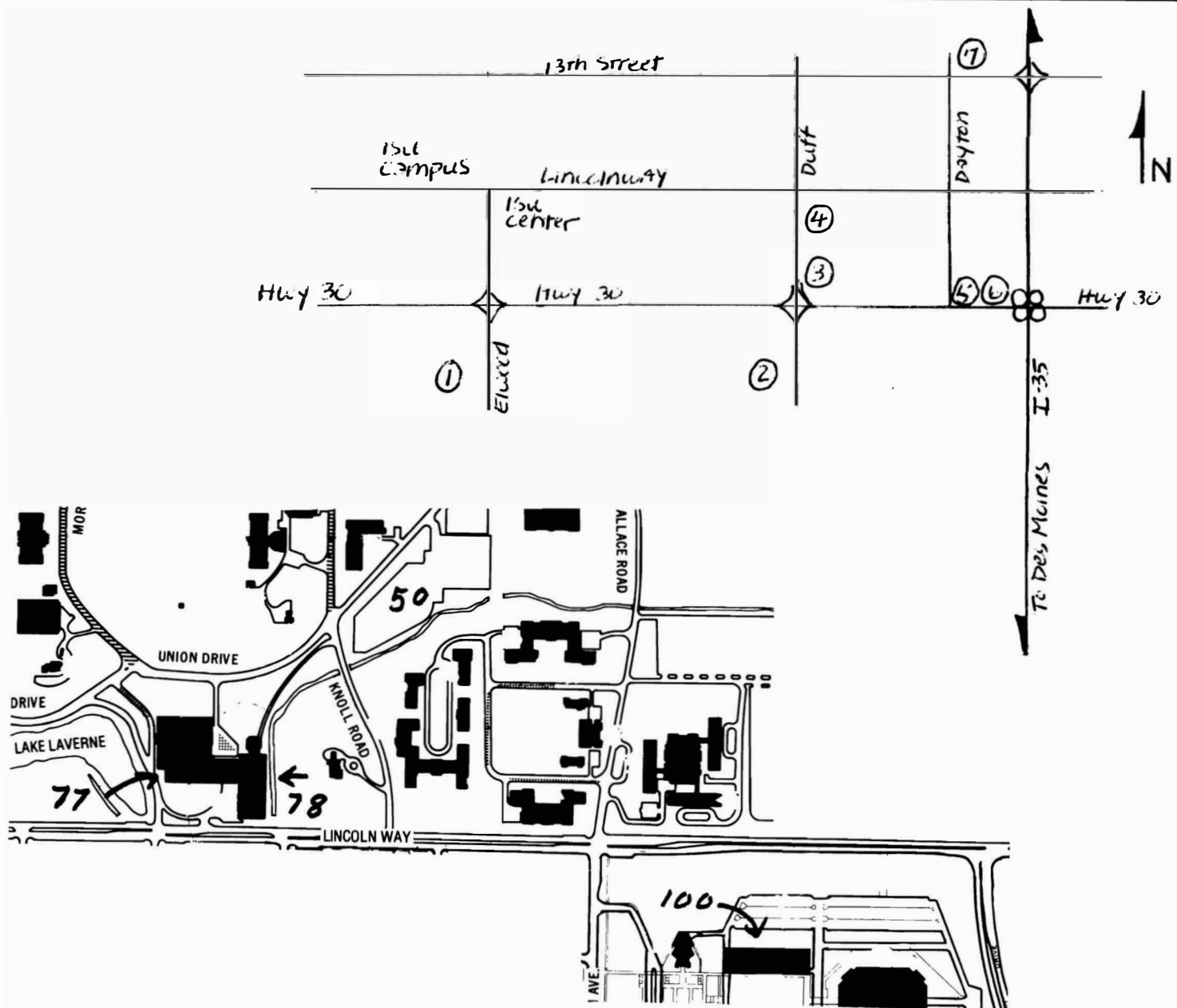
Send to:

Office of the State Archaeologist
305 Eastlawn
The University of Iowa
Iowa City, Iowa 52242

NAME _____
ADDRESS _____

ZIP _____

LOCATIONS, ACCOMMODATIONS



Accommodations

The Memorial Union (515-292-1111) has rooms; \$30 single, \$35 double, group rooms (up to 7 persons) - \$35 for first person and \$5 per each additional person.

Other motels include:

- (1) Holiday Inn Gateway Center, Highway 30 at Iowa State Center Exit, (515-292-8600).
- (2) El Rancho Motel, Highway 69 S., (515-232-3732).

3) Ramada Inn, 1206 S. Duff, (515-232-3410).

(4) University Inn, 316 S. Duff, (515-232-0280).

5) Super 8 Motel, I-35 at Highway 30, (515-232-6510).

(6) Comfort Inn, I-35 at Highway 30, (515-233-6060).

7) Best Western Starlite Village, I-35 at 13th St., (515-232-9260);

Places you will need to find in Ames

#77 Memorial Union (Registration/IAS Annual Meeting & American Indian Symposium).

#78 Parking Ramp

#100 Scheman Bldg. with adjacent parking (Banquet)

#50 Parking lot (field trip)

1987 FIELD SCHOOLS

BY THE LAKE

Iowa Lakeside Laboratory and the Office of the State Archaeologist are jointly sponsoring a field course in archaeology June 8-July 10, 1987. As part of the activities, Lakeside Lab plans an open house for members of the Iowa Archeological Society, Sunday, June 21, 1987, and begins at the Lab at 1:00 p.m. A tour of the nearby archaeological sites will follow.

Lakeside Lab is a nationally renowned biological field station situated on the shores of West Okoboji Lake in the prairie lakes region of northwest Iowa and is located within short driving distances of Mill Creek, Oneota, and Great Oasis sites.

The course, Field Archaeology of the Prairie Lakes Region, will focus on prehistoric sites located on the shores of the prairie lakes and marshes near the Lab. Weekend field trips are planned to Pipestone National Monument, Blue Mound, Blood Run, Double Ditch, and Sanford Museum. Students earn five semester hours of credit, transferrable to any of Iowa's three universities.

Although primarily intended for college students, participation by IAS members is also welcome. Volunteers are asked to sign up for a minimum of one week, and two weeks is preferable. Direct inquiries to the instructor, Steve Lensink, Office of the State Archaeologist, University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa 52242.

MINES OF SPAIN

The Office of the State Archaeologist, the University of Dubuque, and the Iowa

Department of Natural Resources are jointly sponsoring an archaeological field school in June at the Mines of Spain, an area in the Parks Bureau of the Iowa Department of Natural Resources, located just south of the city of Dubuque.

The Mines of Spain is a portion of Julien Dubuque's original land grant from the Spanish government who laid claim to this area at the time. The Mesquakie Indians had allowed Julien Dubuque to mine for lead in their territory. Prior to this, native Americans had occupied this same area for at least 6000 years. Known archaeological sites at the Mines of Spain include prehistoric campsites, villages, rockshelters and burial mounds, a historic Mesquakie village, and historic mine pits, shafts and adits, smelters, stone fences, old roads, historic foundations and a small historic cemetery. The state purchased 1260 acres in 1980, and this area was surveyed archaeologically in 1981 and 1982. Additional land was recently acquired and E.B. Lyons Nature Preserve leased from the City of Dubuque. These areas require an archaeological survey which will be conducted by the field school. The Mines of Spain has a long and varied history and offers the potential for on going research into changes in land use over 6000 years. Completion of the survey will allow archaeologists to proceed with development of a research design for further study in this unique area.

The field school is being offered for credit through the University of Dubuque as a course entitled "Field Studies in Archaeology: Mines of Spain," June 8-26. Students may earn 3 or 4 semester hours of credit. In addition, the field

school is open to IAS member participation June 15-27. Volunteers may sign up for anywhere from one day to the entire 2 weeks. Direct inquiries to Shirley Schermer, Office of the State Archaeologist, University of Iowa, Iowa City, Iowa 52242.

CENTRAL IOWA

Dr. John Bower will conduct a field school for members at a multi-component site near Ames, June 8-July 17.

Contact:

Dr. John Bower
Dept. of Sociology and Anthropology
107 East Hall
Iowa State University
Ames, Iowa 50011
tel. 1-515-2948033

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES:

VOTING

1. Active - \$10
2. Household - \$17
3. Sustaining - \$25
4. Benefactor - \$250 minimum

NON-VOTING

1. Student (under 18) \$7
2. Institution - \$10

SEND TO:

Terry Walker, Treasurer, IAS
117 East Willow, Cherokee, Ia. 51012

The Newsletter is published four times a year. All materials for publication should be sent to the editor:

Sheila Hainlin
1434 44 St. Des Moines, Ia. 50311

Iowa Archeological Society
Office of Newsletter
Lori and David Stanley, Editors
P.O. Box 27
Highlandville, IA 52149



Contents: Printed Material

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
Permit No. 303
Iowa City, Iowa