

iowa archeological society  
**newsletter**

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## FROM THE PRESIDENT:

Dear IAS Members,

On July 17 I received a note from Kay Simpson of the Iowa State Historical Department stating that the State has acquired the central and most archaeologically valuable portion of the Blood Run Site. Attached to the note was a copy of an article published in the July 8th edition of the Lyon County Reporter that announced the sale of the property. [This article, with the permission of the Reporter, is presented below.]

Kay also wrote that Steve Ohrn, Historic Sites Manager, will be the contact person for the site.

The preservation of this site is gratifying. I want to thank all of you who wrote to the Iowa Legislature for your contribution to the preservation of our archaeological and historical heritage. I personally want to thank Kay Simpson and Helene Mahler for the key information they supplied in regard to the Blood Run Site status and key points of contact. What shall we preserve next?

The plans for a fantastic fall meeting have been set. You can read of them elsewhere in this newsletter. Jerry Phillips deserves our kudos for his efforts. Now it is up to the rest of us to volunteer papers and attend the meeting.

I hope to see all of you at the fall meeting.

Ferrel Anderson

## UPDATE ON BLOOD RUN

[Reprinted and edited with permission from The Lyon County Reporter, July 8, 1987. Also see Editor's note below\*]

The Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation completed negotiations and finalized a contract [July 6] with Donald and Retha Decker of Lincoln County, SD, for purchase of 178.66

acres of property in western Lyon County which is the core site of the Blood Run National Landmark. Gerry Schnepf, former Lyon Countian, is the executive director of the foundation. Mark Akelson of the Iowa Natural Heritage Foundation and Steve Ohrm of the Iowa Historical Department, finalized the negotiations. The Foundation will in turn assign the contract to the State of Iowa and the site will become a property of the state.

State Representative Kenneth De Groot and Richard Vande Hoef led the drive in the legislature which culminated in state funding for the purchase. The Historical Division of the Department of Cultural Affairs will maintain and develop the property.

The contract lists the purchase price of \$150,000. . .

In an attachment to the contract the Deckers will retain use of pastureland and be responsible for maintenance of the property until December 31, 1987. They will also retain the revenues from the land until that date.

The sellers will assign to the state the sand and gravel contract between the Deckers and Harold Ageson with the revenues from that operation to be accrued to the state after July 1, 1987. The state also agreed to honor the agreement with Ageson except Ageson may not do excavation other than to remove material to the west bordering the restricted area. The state also agreed to offer Harold Ageson an agreement to continue gravel operations until July 1990. Ageson will be required to complete site restoration with top soil prior to termination of the contract in 1990. . .

Continued incursion on the site by housing developments, farming and graveling operations threatened the integrity of the area and prompted a drive to acquire the land, develop and preserve it. A committee was formed

locally for its preservation under the umbrella of the Lyon County Historical Society.

The committee is chaired by Rod Bonander of Larchwood; Tom Van der Linden, Inwood, was vice-chairman, and Lucy Colby, Rock Rapids, is the secretary. Others in the county who have worked on the committee are LaVonne Mydland, Travis Stringfield, and Galen Jackson, Rock Rapids; Charlene Cuttall, George; Marge Koedam, Alvord; Carl Dieters, Larchwood; Beverly Wilke and Robert Ageson, Lester; Joyce Lawrence, Doon; Paul Hagan, Inwood, and Bruce Dirks, Little Rock. Andy Leuthold is the representative of the Lyon County board of supervisors.

David Crosson, administrator for the Iowa Historical Division of the Cultural Affairs department, said...that the historical department will proceed immediately to initiate an interim management agreement with the Lyon County Conservation Commission and begin long-term planning for development of the site.

...

The immediate plan for the site is basically land management. By next season the Historical Department hopes to have weekend on-site tours such as self-guided tours. The state is going to need a full development study of the site to determine the direction to take on the project. Crosson expressed the need for continued local involvement in the process.

\*Editor's note: Lucy Colby, of The Reporter, said by telephone on August 17 that problems with gaining clear title had stalled the project and is currently being handled by the Iowa Attorney General's office.

# SURVEYORS TAKE MANY STEPS

## MINES OF SPAIN FIELD SCHOOL

By Shirley Schermer and Richard Slattery

The Office of State Archaeologist June 15-27, 1987, conducted an archaeological field school at the Mines of Spain property located south of Dubuque, Iowa. The Mines of Spain is a portion of Julien Dubuque's original land grant from the Spanish government which laid claim to this area in the late 1700's. The State purchased 1,260 acres of this property in 1980 and that area was surveyed archaeologically in 1981 and 1982. Additional land was recently acquired as well as Lyons Nature Preserve leased from the city of Dubuque. These areas required an additional survey which was the subject of this field school.

For six days a week, during the survey period, a total of 23 IAS members and other volunteers filled time slots which each day provided ample support for the project. As a result we were able to complete the survey of the newly acquired property and a portion of the E. B. Lyons Preserve.

Three basic archaeological methods were employed in surveying the highly variable terrain. The first was an intensified pedestrian survey of an approximately 40-acre corn field which occupied a broad ridge of the newly acquired property. The surveyors separated into a horizontal line across the field with two corn rows between each walker. The entire line of a dozen people then advanced down the length of the field flagging every artifact discovered. The same tactic was undertaken on the return, until the entire field of knee-high corn was covered. As a result of this methodology, 29 artifact concentrations were readily apparent by viewing the closely associated red flag pins. These find spots were both prehistoric and historic in origin. After plotting all the concentrations, the group divided with three or four sent to survey a large, rugged, heavily timbered area bordering the corn field and the balance were involved in shovel testing. Each shovel test was 50 X 50 cm and to a depth of the underlying sterile soil. All soil removed from each of 23 excavations was carefully screened through 1/4 inch mesh. Although only a limited amount of both prehistoric and historic was recovered from these tests, valuable information

regarding soil structure and the presence or lack of presence of human occupations was positively confirmed.

For those who surveyed the timbered area their task was quite different. By carefully walking through the timber and examining the forest floor, some 73 lead mine pits were observed occurring along a large ravine. These were plotted on a topographic map. To the east of the ravine an extensive area of timbered ridges and ravines were literally pot-marked with lead mine pits, necessitating a much larger scale plotting effort. Therefore, a 20-meter flagged grid was slashed through the underbrush for an ultimate of 720 meters X 60-80 meters. Within this area 324 features were discovered and mapped. (316 mine pits, 3 possible smelters and 2 prehistoric mound groups containing a total of 5 mounds.)

On the last day of the field school all the participants centered their efforts on the Lyons Nature Preserve to clear and map the historic ruins of the Otto Junkermann farmstead dating to the 1880's. The house foundation and adjoining area were partially cleared of underbrush and all major structural foundations were measured and mapped.

The efforts of the IAS members and other volunteers on the Mines of Spain Field School are especially appreciated. Unlike other field schools of the past there was no permanent cadre to support the daily operations, therefore the following participants were indispensable to the success of this project:

Marlin Howe, Tipton  
Mike Hunter, Cedar Rapids  
Louis Eisner, Muscatine  
Mike Gibson, Dubuque  
John Lape, Dubuque  
Loren Schutt, Iowa City  
Joe Desy, Burlington  
Russell Balder, Calmar  
Charles Jorgensen, Maquoketa  
Margaret Jorgensen, Maquoketa  
D.E. Pidcock, Corydon  
Lori Wilker, Cedar Rapids  
Kathryn Foulkes, Rock Island, Ill.  
Robert Foulkes, Rock Island, Ill.  
Mark Minger, Anamosa  
Susan Minger, Anamosa  
Gerda Hartman, Dubuque  
Bud Isenhardt, Dubuque  
Kip Bradley, Bellvue  
Gene Kieffer, Preston  
Mark Lawson, Maquoketa  
Dave Maehr, Davenport  
Dick Weber, Dubuque

Special thanks to Mines of Spain personnel: Mike Able, Park Ranger; Barb Severson, Assistant Park Ranger; Betty Hauptli, Naturalist; and to Tom Auge, Loras College, Dubuque.



Surface collecting field.



Bud & Loren  
measuring lead mine pit.

## A FIRST FOR OKOBOJI'S LAKESIDE LAB

### LAKESIDE LAB FIELD SCHOOL

by Steve Lensink

This summer, for the first time in its history, Iowa Lakeside Laboratory offered a course in field archaeology. Seven students along with Debby Ziegrowsky as assistant and myself as instructor spent five weeks exploring the prehistory of the prairie lakes region in northwest Iowa. The Lab, which is situated on the shores of Lake Okoboji, served as the field headquarters with ample lab space and comfortable lakeside cabins.

The field session started with a survey of Sylvan Lake, a drained prairie wetland of 150 acres. The survey indicated that at approximately 50 locations around the lake prehistoric hunter-gatherers either camped or undertook activities related to food getting. The low density of artifacts at these sites, however, suggested short stays.

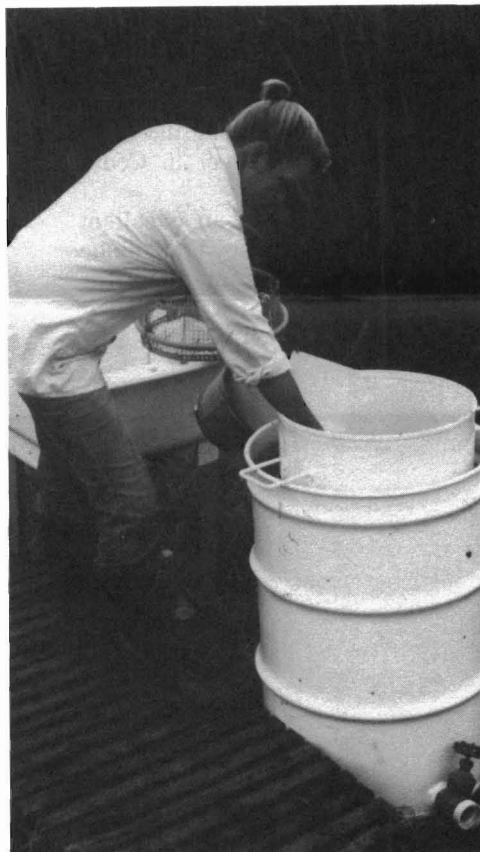
By the end of the second week, our attentions focused on the excavation of the Frerichs site, 13DK12. This site is located on a fan overlooking the scenic prairie marsh called Stony Lake in Dickinson County, and it proved to hold a wealth of information on the prehistoric Indians of the area as far back as the early Archaic. Of the prairie animals, we recovered the bones of bison and occasionally elk. Muskrat, duck, goose, and other aquatic birds have also been identified in the site's faunal assemblage. These animals would probably have been obtained from adjacent Stony Lake.

The site is named after Darrel Frerichs of Lake Park, and he was the first to report the site to the Office of the State Archaeologist. Darrel joined us on several occasions and provided IAS members with a tour of his large collection of prehistoric artifacts. We were also joined by Roger Natte, IAS member, who volunteered over a week of his time to help the project.

This winter we hope to complete a preliminary analysis of the materials recovered from the site and will provide an update in the spring issue of the *Newsletter*.



The Frerich's site, 13DK12, with Stony Lake in the background. Shown excavating a test unit from left to right, are Tim Weitzel, Connie Eihausen and Teddy Fujan, students in the field school.



### SCHERMER TO SPEAK

The Sierra Club of Central Iowa invites IAS members to hear Shirley J. Schermer, Office of the State Archaeologist, speak at their meeting Wed., Oct. 21, 1987. She led a field school to the Mines of Spain area, Dubuque, this past summer and will tell us what she found, show some slides and discuss the work that still needs to be done. The field school was designed to map and survey this site.

Meeting time is 7:30 p.m. and will be in the basement of the southeast wing of Grace Methodist Church, 37th and Cottage Grove, Des Moines. Please use the south entrance.

For further information contact:

Helene Mahler  
evening 515-288-0656  
days 515-284-6308

# FALL MEETING IN COUNCIL BLUFFS

## MEETING PROGRAM

The Iowa Archeological Society Fall Meeting will be hosted by Iowa Western Community College, 2700 College Road, Council Bluffs, Iowa, October 10-11, 1987. We will meet in the auditorium of the Continuing Education Center.

The South Dakota Archaeological Society is being invited to join us in the activities.

**Friday Evening:** For those arriving Friday night, a reception will be at the Greenbriar Apartment's Clubhouse. Maps, and literature about points of interest will be available. Refreshments will be served.

**Saturday Morning:** Registration, field trips and tour departures will be at the Continuing Education Center at Iowa Western Community College. For those who arrive early, we have some excursion plans. Choose what suits your particular interest: Joslyn Museum, Dodge House, Squirrel Cage Jail, Lewis and Clark Memorial, Glenwood Culture sites, etc. We will have guides for some of the points of interests. Literature and maps will be available for self-guided tours.

Registration will be 8:30 to 9:30 a.m. for those who wish to depart on tours at 9:30 a.m. Another registration will be 10:30 to 11:30 a.m.

**The registration fee is \$5.00.**

**Saturday Afternoon:** Papers, field reports and various presentations will be 1:30 to 4:30 p.m. We look forward to an update on the Blood Run Site. Leslie Peterson will give a presentation on artifacts recovered from the Bertrand, a mid-19th century steamboat that sank in the Missouri River. Leslie is Curator of the Desoto Bend Wildlife Visitor's Center and will be hosting us on a tour of those artifacts Sunday morning.

**Saturday Evening:** A banquet will be in the Green Room of the Lee DeForest Building of the IWCC campus at 6:30. The menu will be tossed salad, dinner roll, chicken cordon bleu, baked potato, vegetables, apple pie and beverage. The Food Services Division of IWCC will prepare and serve it.

The cost is \$10.00 per person.

Following the meal, an address will be delivered by Marsha Gallagher, Curator of Material Culture, The Joslyn Art Museum, Omaha, Nebraska. She is co-author of the prize-winning book, *Carl Bodmer's America*. She will present a slide/narrative of the Maximillian/Bodmer expedition of 1832-1834. Marsha's presentation, unlike the one given by Ray Wood at the 1986 annual meeting, covers the entire expedition and is more anecdotal in nature.

**Sunday Morning:** We meet in the parking lot of the Continuing Education Center at IWCC for a 9:00 a.m. departure for the Desoto Bend Wildlife Refuge to view artifacts from the Bertrand.

## ACCOMMODATIONS

The IWCC Residence Hall top floor is available for guests. No students are on this floor. Bathrooms are located at various locations on the floor. You will have to provide your own pillows, linens, etc. Room rates are \$8.00 per night for single and \$12.00 per night for double.

Contact:  
Jeanine Kuster  
Director, Student Housing  
Iowa Western Community College  
2700 College Road, Box 4-C  
Council Bluffs, IA 51502  
Tel: 712-328-8047

Numerous motels are in the area. Some listed below are some with easy access to Interstate 80 and IWCC.

The maps show places you will need to find and locations of these motels.

If you have any questions, contact Jerry Phillips during the day at 402-346-0333.

## MOTELS:

Heartland Inn  
1000 Woodbury Avenue  
Council Bluffs, IA 51501  
In Iowa 1-800-262-6018

Interstate Inn  
I-80 and South 24 St.  
Council Bluffs, IA 51501  
1-712-328-8899

Super "8" Motel  
I-80 and South 24 St.  
Council Bluffs, IA 51501

1-800-843-1991

Best Western Frontier Motor Lodge  
I-80 and Madison Ave.  
Council Bluffs, IA 51501  
1-712-322-3150

New Western Inn  
I-80 and Madison Ave.  
Council Bluffs, IA 51501  
1-712-322-4499

Regal 8 Inn  
3032 South Expressway  
Council Bluffs, IA 51501  
1-800-851-8888

## NEW ARCHAEOLOGIST

William Green was hired this summer to serve as Research Archaeologist in the Office of the State Archaeologist. Bill has been active in midwestern archaeology for 18 years and has been a member of the Iowa Archeological Society since 1979. Most of his field work has been in Illinois and Wisconsin, though he also worked in England and Israel.

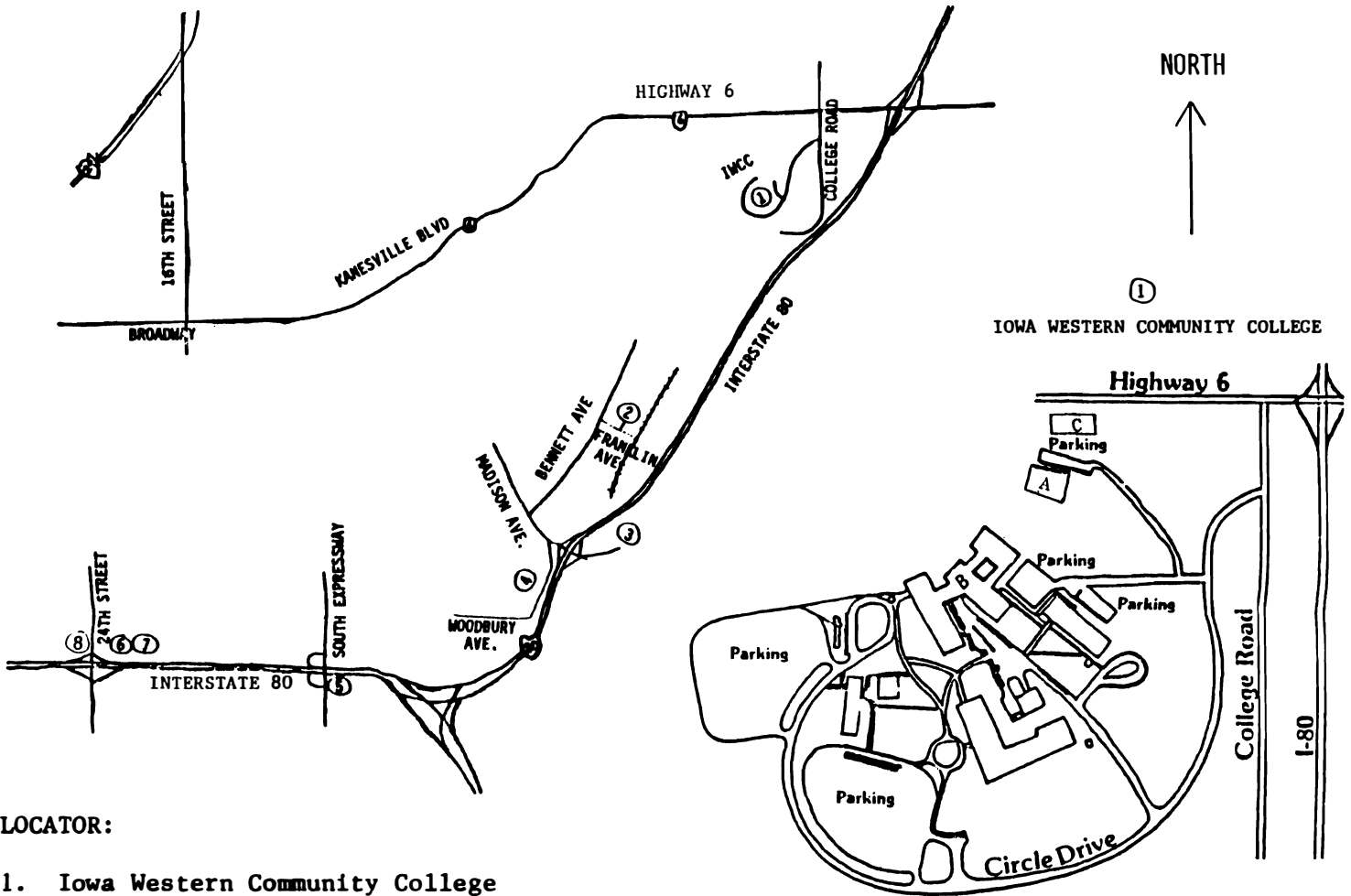
Bill served as Staff Archaeologist for the Historic Preservation Division of the State Historical Society of Wisconsin from 1978 to 1986. He was involved in drafting Wisconsin's burial site protection law.

Since 1983, Bill has been Editor of *The Wisconsin Archeologist*, the quarterly journal of the Wisconsin Archeological Society.

Bill has fond memories of Iowa, having graduated from Grinnell College in 1974. His M.A. degree (1973) is from the University of Wisconsin-Madison, as is his recently-awarded Ph.D. degree.

Bill's interests have focused on the Late Woodland stage; his dissertation title is *Between Hopewell and Mississippian: Late Woodland in the Prairie Peninsula as Viewed from the Western Illinois Uplands*. Other research interests include archaeobotany, climatic and environmental change, and the protohistoric period.

Bill will research a variety of topics at the OSA. He will also be in contact with many IAS members through his coordination of the Iowa Archaeological Certification Program.



**LOCATOR:**

1. Iowa Western Community College
2. Greenbriar Clubhouse
3. New Western Inn
4. Heartland Inn
5. Regal 8 Inn
6. Interstate Inn
7. Best Western Frontier Motor Lodge
8. Super "8" Motel

**LOCATOR:**

- A - Continuing Ed Center
- B - Lee DeForest Building
- C - IWCC Residence Dormitory

Detach (or copy) and return this form for the Annual Banquet

I plan to attend the annual banquet.  
Please reserve \_\_\_\_\_ places for me at \$10.00 per place.

Check is enclosed (Iowa Archeological Society)

I will pay at the door

PLEASE RETURN THIS FORM SO WE CAN PROVIDE THE IWCC FOOD DIVISION WITH AN ACCURATE ESTIMATE. THIS FORM IS DUE OCTOBER 1, 1987.

Send to:

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

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Detach (or copy) and return this form to PRESENT A PAPER

I wish to present:

A Field Report

A Contributed Paper

Title \_\_\_\_\_

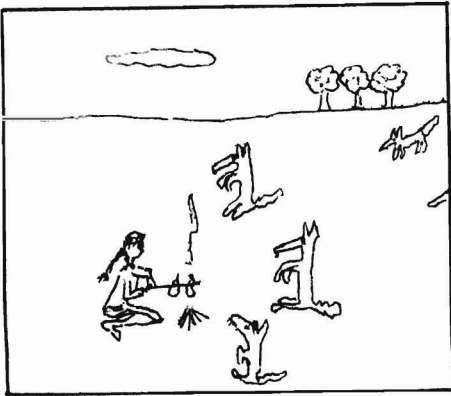
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305 Eastlawn  
The University of Iowa  
Iowa City, Iowa 52242

NAME \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_  
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INCITES



Domestication of the dog

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.

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.

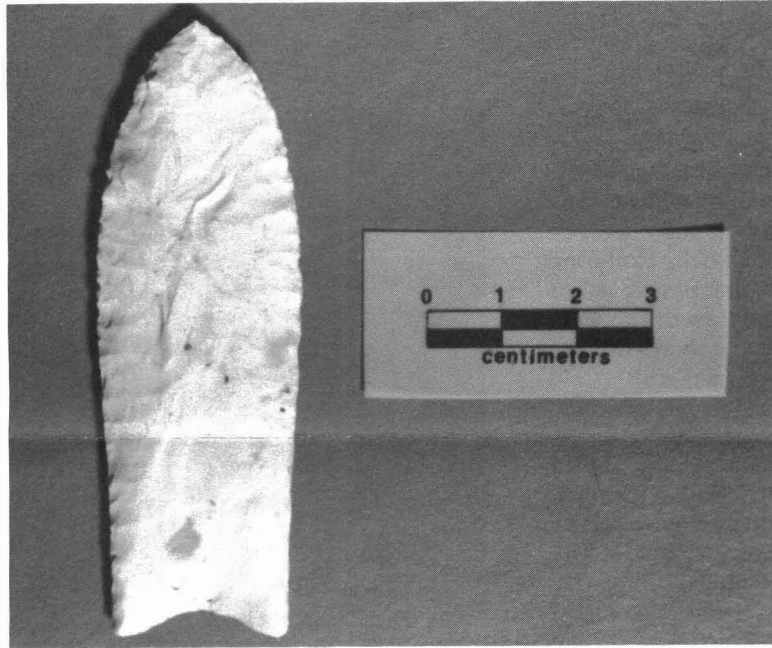
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP DUES

VOTING NON-VOTING

- 1. Active - \$10
- 1. Student (under 18) \$7
- 2. Household - \$17
- 2. Institution - \$10
- 3. Sustaining - \$25
- 4. Benefactor - \$250 minimum

SEND DUES TO:

Debbie Ziegowski  
310 Haywood Drive  
Iowa City, IA. 52240-1051



CLOVIS POINT:  
A FIRST FIND

By Bill Billeck

For several years, Lucy Hanson has been looking for her first projectile point. Early this year she finally succeeded and found the pictured point on her family's farm along the bluff top near the Cedar River in Cedar County.

Lucy's first point is an excellent example of a Clovis. Lucy brought the point into the OSA in June for identification and reported the location where she found it, now designated site 13CD53.

The only excavated Clovis site in Iowa, Rummels-Maske, is also in Cedar County, and appears to be a cache of 17 Clovis points. Adrian Anderson and Joe Tiffany published a report on this site in 1972 in Plains Anthropologist. Lucy Hanson's Clovis point, and all the points from Rummels-Maske are made of Burlington Chert.



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