

IOWA ARCHEOLOGY NEWS



Newsletter of the Iowa Archeological Society

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The 1998 IAS Cahokia Bus Trip

Shirley J. Schermer

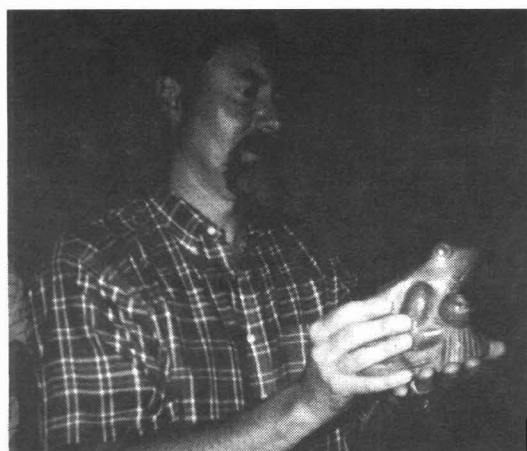
Office of the State Archaeologist

Thirty-four people boarded the bus in Iowa City on June 20 for the three-day 1998 IAS Cahokia bus trip. The weather cooperated for the most part during the trip—only raining at night or while we were on the bus. To add to the educational aspects of the trip, we made use of the VCR in the bus by showing videos during various driving portions of the trip. Thanks to several people at OSA who were willing to loan books about Cahokia and the Illinois Valley, a mini “traveling library” was available. We also arranged for a “resident expert” to accompany the group, Jim Collins, an archaeologist for the OSA Highway Archaeology Program. Jim previously worked at Cahokia and in the Illinois Valley. He provided an introductory lecture on the first leg of the bus ride, and added a tremendous amount of information throughout the trip.

Saturday's itinerary included Dickson Mounds and Illinois State Museum and Research and Collection Center. Duane Esarey and Michael Wiant each took several hours of their Saturday to provide overviews and excellent behind-the-scenes tours of the Dickson Mounds and Illinois State Museum labs/collections, respectively. For many of us, these behind-the-scenes tours were the highlights of the trip. We had to “drag” a couple of the participants out of the paleontology lab at the Research and Collection Center at 6 p.m. Saturday night to let Mike go home and to continue our trip to Collinsville.

Sunday included Cahokia Mounds, the St. Louis Art Museum and Zoo, and dinner in one of St. Louis' funkier neighborhoods, University City. Cahokia Mounds was also a highlight for many. Thirty-three of the 34 participants were up bright and early Sunday morning (on the bus by 5:10 a.m.!!) for the summer solstice sunrise at Woodhenge. Fortunately, the rain had stopped by the time we were ready to leave. Unfortunately, the clouds didn't break until about 15 or 20 minutes *after* sunrise. Bill Iseninger's very interesting introduction to Cahokia

continued on page 2



Michael Wiant holding a frog effigy, one of the many treasures in the Illinois State Museum collections.



Roger Boyd showing artifacts from previous Illiniwek excavations to the IAS group.

Cahokia continued

Mounds and the significance of Woodhenge, the BBC filming (watch for it later this fall), and a group of Choctaw dancers added to the early morning event and hopefully made up somewhat for the lack of a view of the sun at sunrise.

Monday included the Arch, an extended lunch in Hannibal, and a visit to the Iliniwek Village. We were among the first visitors to the Arch on Monday morning, so everyone who wanted to go up to the top of the Arch was able to make the trip. Roger Boyd and Eric Hollinger helped make the visit to the Iliniwek village interesting, and a highlight for some, by providing an informative overview of the site, including past research and the current field school.

Many of us would have enjoyed spending more time viewing exhibits at Dickson, Cahokia, and the Arch. As one participant put it "...there were video buttons left un-punched and captions not read because of time constraints."

By the conclusion of the bus trip, a number of participants expressed their interest in more trips like this, with a number of possible trip itineraries suggested—in Iowa and in surrounding states. If you would like to see additional bus trips offered, let us know. If you have suggestions for possible itineraries, send them in. Your interest and support will determine if there are future IAS-sponsored bus trips.

[Photos by Peggy Kirk & Shirley Schermer.]



Summer solstice sunrise at Woodhenge with Monks Mound in the background.



Jim Collins providing background information on Monks Mound and Cahokia.



Excavations at Iliniwek Village.

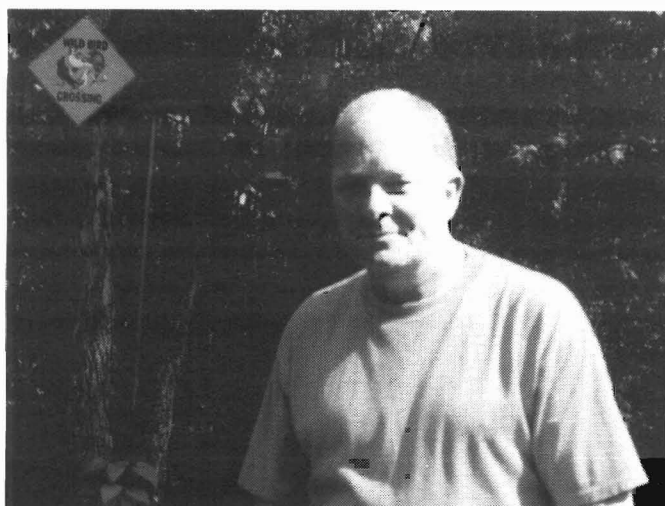


Duane Esarey and the Dickson Mounds laboratory.

IAS Profiles: Bruce Geltz

Robin M. Lillie
Office of the State Archaeologist

IAS Profiles is a new feature of the newsletter. Its purpose is to highlight an avocational member, their interests, archaeological experiences, and/or collections. Anyone interested in writing a profile, or wishing to suggest individuals for future features, please contact the newsletter editor.



Bruce Geltz, Lee County, Iowa.

I first talked to Bruce Geltz early in 1997 when he called me about membership in the IAS. During that initial conversation, I was impressed by his enthusiasm, his eagerness to learn more about his artifacts, and his unassuming manner. He has been involved in volunteer field work with OSA project archaeologist Kris Hirst in Mount Pleasant, has completed the IAS field technician certification program, and has attended IAS meetings and workshops. In 1998 he was a crew member on a Phase II project in Jasper County directed by OSA project archaeologist Joe Artz.

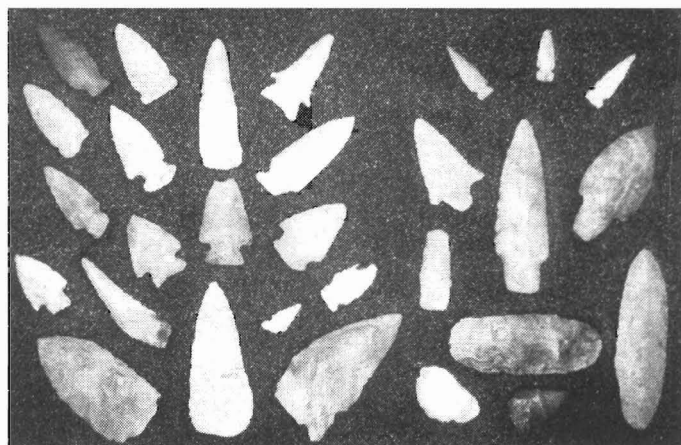
Bruce was born in Keokuk, Iowa. After nearly 23 years of service, he retired as assistant chief of the Keokuk Fire Department in 1993. Since that time, he and his wife Susan built a home on a 160-acre parcel of land in Lee County, near Keokuk. For Bruce, his property provides him with immediate access to two of his favorite activities—bird watching and artifact collecting. The land includes deciduous and pine forest, creeks, and ravines. Bird houses and feeders are nestled in trees close to the house. Amazingly, they are undisturbed by the family cat.

Of course, it is Bruce's interest in prehistory that led him to pursue his education through membership in the IAS. As a child, he spent Sunday afternoons walking local stream

beds with his parents, avid "rock hunters." At age 12, Bruce found his first artifact, a large Woodland blade. As an avid outdoorsman, he always kept an eye out for what might be on the ground, as well as for game. But it was not until his retirement that his interest in archaeology was renewed. He began actively collecting, researching typologies, and identifying his finds. He started attending artifact shows and talking to other amateur archaeologists.

All of Bruce's artifacts are collected from the ground surface on his own property or, with permission, on the land of friends and neighbors. He walks creek beds and ditches for hours, knows the best time of day to get the right light for spotting his finds, and has a pretty good idea about where some of his finds were originally located. His collection includes hundreds of projectile points, numerous scrapers and groundstone tools, and over 300 pieces of pottery. Bruce also has some unusual fossil finds, including a mastodon tooth and the bone of a late Pliocene to early Pleistocene horse, either *Nannippus* or *Neohipparion*, that is 2 to 4 million years old. Bruce's written records include general artifact descriptions, measurements, outline drawings, general artifact types, when and where the artifact was found, and sometimes the weather and other observations of his environment. They are reminiscent of the journals of early European explorers of America.

Bruce's interests extend beyond collecting and identifying his artifacts to prehistoric cultures and people who lived once in his "backyard." It is easy to understand why Lee County has been home to people for thousands of years. Its abundance of wildlife, rivers and streams, and beautiful landscape are as enticing today as they were to its first American Indian settlers.



Some of the artifacts Bruce has collected this year.

CONTINUING RESEARCH AT THE GILLETT GROVE SITE

Jason M. Titcomb
Iowa State University

Excavations continued this summer along the Little Sioux River at the Gillett Grove site (13CY2). This summer was the fourth consecutive field season at Gillett Grove. It was made possible by cooperative efforts between Tom Gross of Gross Farms Incorporated, Greenville, IA (owners of the property), and the Iowa Lakeside Laboratory. The Lakeside Lab has been the home of an archaeological field school taught by an archaeologist from one of the three state universities (Iowa State University, University of Iowa or University of Northern Iowa) for the past four summers. This field season, Dr. Joseph Tiffany of Iowa State University was the director of the archaeological field school, training several students in basic methods of site survey and excavation techniques. Additionally, students were exposed to other topics including Iowa prehistory and lab methods for artifact processing and data analysis. Field trips to several local archaeological sites and museums were made to complement the field school activities.

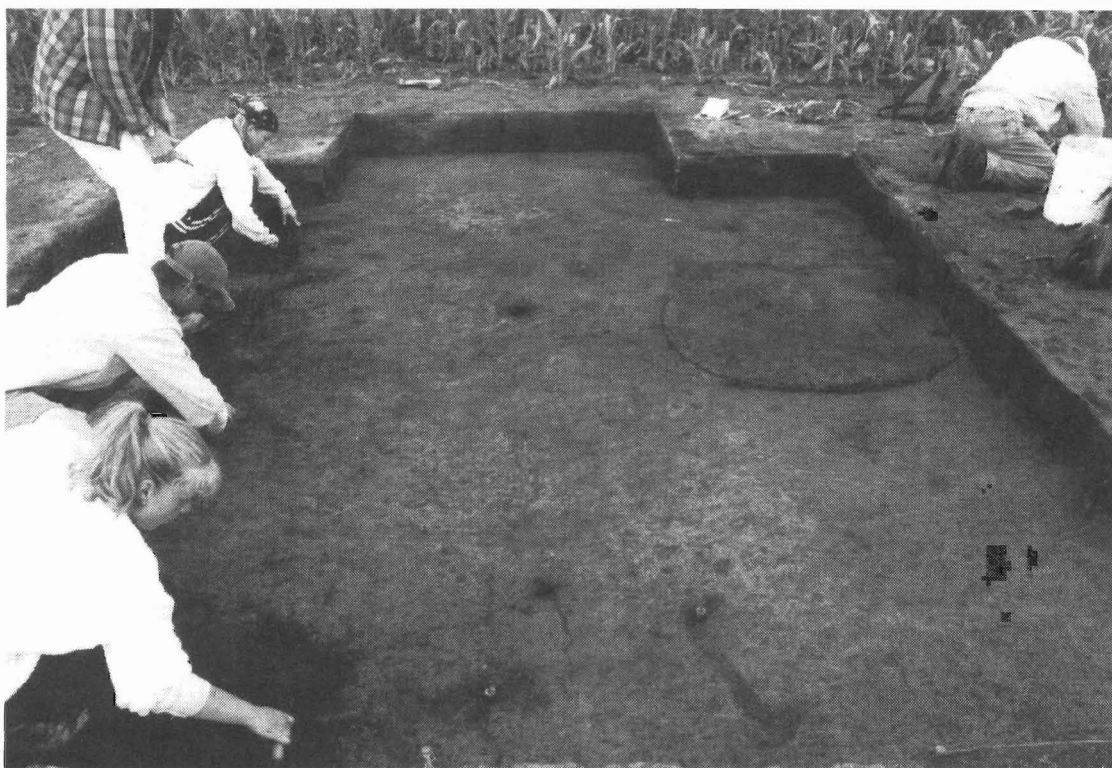
The field school had 11 students from several educational institutions across the state of Iowa, and two of the students were Iowa public school teachers. One of the more popular visitors and volunteer participants was Mr. Parker Barglof of Spencer, IA. Mr. Barglof has an extensive collection from the Gillett Grove site, which he started in the late 1930s while growing up on his father's farm nearby. The collection has been viewed by many archaeologists and mentioned in literature because of its extensive size and content including European trade items such as

glass beads and Jesuit rings (Harvey 1979; Henning 1961). Students had the opportunity to view Mr. Barglof's collection, allowing them to understand the varying types and potential amount of artifacts associated with the Gillett Grove site. As a frequent visitor, Mr. Barglof was a delight for all particularly when he retold stories, or gave advice to the crew with regard to excavation technique, locating units, soil sampling, and the like.

While the focus of the fieldwork was for educational purposes, each field season has research objectives as well. During the 1995 and 1996 field schools (Doershuk 1997), excavations were conducted on the western edge of the site which had never been plowed. The tested areas produced a variety of cultural materials; however, no associated features were found. The 1997 excavations on the plowed portion of the site produced a great range of artifacts as well as several features.

The 1998 season had several objectives, one of which was a controlled surface survey of the site. While several people have collected from the site over the years, no one had previously conducted a systematic survey. A second objective was to continue excavating in the plowed portion of the site. A final objective was to conduct subsurface testing of a field that parallels the site. Testing on the other side of the road was done to determine if the site extended that far and to determine if the road had impacted portions of the site, as Mr. Barglof and Mr. Gross maintain.

The 1998 excavation units were set up 30 m west of the
continued on next page



ISU field school at Gillette Grove. Feature 1 top center and several post molds.

Gillette Grove continued

previous field excavations that were conducted under Dr. Doershuk (Office of the State Archaeologist). The decision to dig there was due to a shallow surface depression observed by Dr. Steve Lensink (OSA) and Dr. Tiffany during the fall 1997 IAS meeting at Lakeside Laboratory. A total of twenty-one 1 x 1 m units were opened on the plowed portion of the site. This part of the site had a very thin plow zone and subplow zone deposit, with a culturally sterile soil (B horizon) reached at a very shallow level (20-25 cm). However, several features were uncovered in these excavations making up for the lack of cultural material encountered. Approximately ten probable postmolds were excavated and cross-sectioned. While some of the postmolds were very shallow, several contained large fired-cracked rocks (FCR). There appeared to be no patterned distribution of the postmolds, but certainly some structure was nearby, given the size of a couple of the posts. Additionally, a C horizon soil deposit was observed adjacent to a pit feature (Feature 1). The clay-rich B soil and C horizon material represent materials removed from the original pit construction. These data suggest that excavations began at the top of the pit fill and Feature 1 was undisturbed by plowing. The orifice of the feature was 70 cm wide and reached a depth of 74 cm. The base of the pit belled out and had a diameter of 100 cm. Feature 1 produced numerous faunal remains representing several animals including deer, bison, beaver, various birds, turtles, and canids. A complete canid mandible, several long bones and part of a foot were removed from the pit feature. These elements most likely are from a domestic dog. There were several cut marks on canid long bones. Additionally, a nearly complete turtle shell was recovered as well as large vertebrae with cutmarks of another turtle. Feature 1 also contained large quantities of charcoal and ash. A bone needle, shell-tempered Oncota sherds, lithic tools and large amounts of FCR also were recovered from the pit. Several soil samples were taken for processing to Iowa State University Archaeological Laboratory. To date, these samples have yielded large amounts of charcoal and seeds. Initial examination of some of the seeds suggests the presence of corn, amaranth, and chenopodium species.

The Gillette Grove site continues to be the focus of important archaeological research in Iowa. It is one of the few post-contact Oneota sites in northwest Iowa that is accessible for research. Future research will expand upon the current knowledge of Oneota archaeology in northwest Iowa, as well as proto-historic and early historic time periods within the Oneota tradition, by examining the subsistence base, residence patterns, and changing economic activities brought about by European contact.

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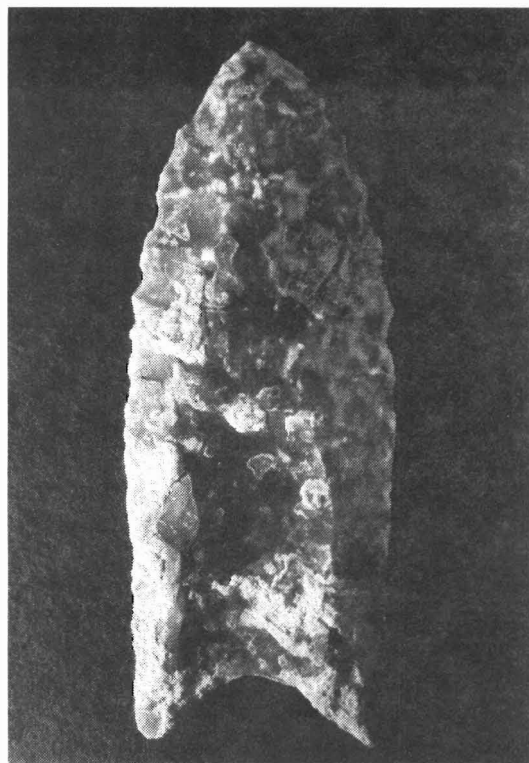
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RECENT CLOVIS POINT DISCOVERY

Brian Leigh Molyneaux, Ph.D.
University of South Dakota

On May 24, 1998, Iowa Department of a Natural Resources employee Kevin Pape discovered a projectile point along a ridge trail in the northern Loess Hills near Sioux City, Iowa. As Kevin and I have worked together on various projects associated with this area, he gave me a call at the Archaeology Laboratory, University of South Dakota, in nearby Vermillion. I drove down to see the find – assuming that it was probably an Archaic point.

What I saw was a thin, finely shaped point of Knife River Flint with an incurved base and broad, shallow flutes extending roughly half-way up the base! It fell squarely within the range of points attributed to Clovis cultures. The point is smaller than some, and the base is a bit more deeply incurved than the average specimen from further west, but there is no mistaking the classic Clovis form. It is an exciting find, not the least because in Vermillion we have a PaleoIndian site, associated with extinct bison remains, that has a reworked point with many of the hallmarks of Clovis. This site, currently being investigated by Dr. Larry Bradley, may well represent a wider occupation of earlier PaleoIndian peoples in this area. I'll be reporting in more detail on this find as I finish the analysis and ponder the results of our recent field investigations in the hills.



Total length of the Clovis point is 56.84 mm, with a maximum width of 21.74 mm and base width of 20.17 mm. Photo by Simon Spicer, University of South Dakota.

IAS CHAPTER NEWS

Blackhawk Regional Chapter

In September the chapter prepared for an Archaeology Week workshop on ancient technologies. Activities for the workshop included games, flintknapping, fingerweaving, and food preparation. Christina Vaughan will describe archaeology fieldwork conducted in Luxembourg in her "Excavations of a Roman Site" presentation at the October 7th meeting.

Meetings are held the first Wednesday of each month, at 7:00 p.m. at the University of Northern Iowa Museum in Cedar Falls.

Contact Stephen Lee
404 Greeley St.
Nashua, IA 50658
(515) 435-4927

Northwest Chapter

June's meeting featured a Lab Session at the Sanford Museum. In July Jason Titcomb, ISU Graduate Student, gave a demonstration on "marking" artifacts to some of the participants of RAGBRAI. In August the chapter took a field trip to a prehistoric farm site in Mitchell, South Dakota. A dome is to be constructed over the site. The culture that inhabited the site may have been related to the Mill Creek.

Contact: Linda Burkhart
Sanford Museum 117 East Willow
Cherokee, IA 51012
(712) 225-3922

Paul Rowe Chapter

The Paul Rowe Chapter opened the earth lodge they helped construct near Glenwood for the August celebration of "KEG CREEK DAYS." The earth lodge was also a feature of the chapter's Archaeology Week activities.

Contact: Dennis Miller
31126 Applewood Rd.
Silver City, IA 51571
(712) 525-1007

Charles R. Keyes Chapter

Contact: Steve Hanken
1508 5th Ave. SE
Cedar Rapids, IA 52403
(319) 362-3077

Central Iowa Chapter

Kira Kaufmann, Historical Programs Specialist Archaeologist for the State Historical Society of Iowa, spoke on Underwater Archaeology for the August CIC meeting. Some CIC members promoted Iowa Archaeology Week at the Iowa State Fair booth that IAS shared with SHSI. Archaeology Week activities included an atlatl demonstration by Mark Anderson, OSA, at Yellow Banks Park along with a flintknapping demonstration and preview of the CIC Lithic Tool Project at the State Historical Museum, also presented by Mark.

Contact: Mike Heimbaugh
3923 29th St.
Des Moines, IA 50310
(515) 255-4909
palcomike@msn.com

Southeast Iowa Chapter

The Southeast Chapter and the Wapello County Conservation Board held activities at a recreated village located at Pioneer Ridge Nature Center. Learning experiences were designed to inform visitors about past lifeways and the tools used by prehistoric Iowa cultures.

Contact: Anton Till
16388 Second Street
Hedrick, IA 52563
(515) 655-7500

Quad Cities Archaeological Society

In August Joe Thompson of Bear Creek Archaeology led the QCAS on a tour of the excavations he directed at the McNeal Fan Site in Muscatine County. The September 29th meeting featured Karen Atwell, Project Director for the Center for American Archaeology, Kampsville, IL, presenting a slide program on her excavations of an endangered prehistoric Indian mortuary site in Schuyler County, IL.

Programs are presented at 7:30 p.m. in the Keokuk Room of the Black Hawk State Historic site lodge, Rock Island, IL.

Contact: Ferrel Anderson
1923 East 13th St.
Davenport, IA 52803
(319) 324-0257

OSA NEWS

A SPECIAL SECTION OF THE IOWA
ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY NEWSLETTER



RECENT DONATIONS

In August and September, the Office of the State Archaeologist was the fortunate and grateful recipient of donations from three long-time friends and supporters of Iowa archaeology.

Arnold Roggman

Clayton County, in northeast Iowa, is well known for its scenic beauty and its many archaeological resources. For over 30 years, Arnold Roggman of Garnavillo, Iowa, has been discovering, documenting, and preserving Clayton County's archaeological heritage.

The Iowa Archeological Society awarded the Keyes-Orr Award to Mr. Roggman in 1981. Mr. Roggman also greatly assisted Luther College archaeologists and inspired R. Clark Mallam's story, "The Curator," published in *Indian Creek Memories*, 1987.

Mr. Roggman is the epitome of the conscientious avocational archaeologist. He has carefully covered hundreds of acres, recording scores of sites. His site recording feats include filling out and submitting over 60 state site forms, cataloging thousands of artifacts by site, and documenting those artifacts through photography and careful notes. The artifacts are curated at the Garnavillo Historical Museum, where Mr. Roggman has served as the volunteer curator.

Mr. Roggman documented his field work through a series of fine maps, notes, reports, sketches, and photographs. These records contain complete reports on many important mounds, rockshelters, and other sites in Clayton County. Over the years, Mr. Roggman sent copies of these research materials to the Office of the State Archaeologist and other archaeologists. This summer, he donated his entire set of documentation to the OSA, where it will be used for research and preservation. The OSA will send a complete copy of the documents to the Garnavillo Historical Museum.

The OSA thanks Arnold Roggman for his unceasing efforts to search for and preserve Iowa's past. The donation of his invaluable research records permits everyone to learn more about northeast Iowa archaeology and to appreciate Mr. Roggman's dedication.

Carol Ruppé, on behalf of Dr. Reynold J. Ruppé

When Rey Ruppé became Iowa's first State Archaeologist in 1959, he had already been serving the interests of Iowa archaeology for seven years. Ruppé joined the faculty of the Department of Anthropology at The University of Iowa in 1952 and rapidly began to leave his mark on the study of Iowa prehistory. In 1954 he became editor of the *Journal of Iowa Archeological Society* and started his familiar "Archaeological Chats" which opened each issue. Under his influence, membership in the Society increased to 140 by the next year. Early on, Rey also managed to acquire greatly expanded space for the Archaeological Laboratory—what was to become the Office of the State Archaeologist. The new laboratory, located in the basement of the Old Armory on the University campus, provided in 1954 a spacious research area of 750 square feet (by comparison, OSA's current building offers 11,000 square feet).

Soon after his arrival, Ruppé initiated excavations at a number of Iowa sites. During the summer of 1955, he and W. D. Frankforter of the Sanford Museum excavated at the Phipps Mill Creek village. They were joined by students participating in the UI summer field school and numerous members of the Northwest Chapter of IAS. Work at Phipps, as well as later excavations at the fortified Witrock village, led Ruppé to a long-term interest in Mill Creek culture. Many of the students Ruppé trained during this time—Adrian Anderson, George Cowgill, Eugene Fugle, Dale Henning, and John Ives—became noted archaeologists in their own right.

Iowa archaeology was moved to the national prominence while Ruppé was at Iowa. Gravel operations at Turin late in the summer of 1955 brought Rey and his students down from Cherokee to save ancient human burials, earning the work a "front-page" article in *Life* magazine. During the 1950s, Rey also wrote a number of popular articles on Iowa archaeology as well as its living Indian population. These appeared in *The Iowan* and provided an account of the full panorama of the state's aboriginal history.

When Ruppé moved to Arizona in 1960, he brought many of his Iowa research interests with him as well as materials to work on them. He became chairman of the anthropology department at Arizona State University. After his death in 1993, his wife, Carol, began sending the OSA collections of notes, slides, maps, and letters Rey had amassed while at Iowa. Among these were original field notes from the excavations at Phipps, early ideas on Mill Creek chronology,

slides of northwest Iowa sites and artifacts particularly from the Phipps site, and an original typed version of the Van Voorhis Mill Creek manuscript. These donations have continued through this past summer.

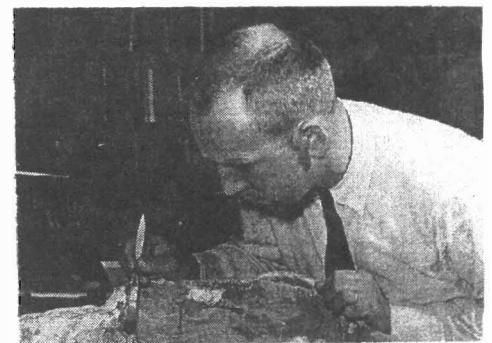
Taken together, the Ruppé contributions to the OSA Documents Collection constitute an extraordinarily valuable addition, shedding much light on the years Ruppé was working and teaching in Iowa. We are grateful to Carol Ruppé for sorting and sending these important research materials.

Dr. John B. Gregg

John B. Gregg, of Sioux Falls, South Dakota, is a medical doctor and University of Iowa alumnus. In addition to his long-time ties to the university and Iowa, he has had a deep interest in archaeology and physical anthropology. He and his wife, Pauline Snyder Gregg, wrote a book on paleopathology of the Middle Missouri River region entitled *Dry Bones: Dakota Territory Reflected*, as well as numerous articles on related subjects.

In 1996, and again this past summer, Dr. Gregg donated material from his vast collection of notes, correspondence, articles, books, slides, photographs, X-rays, films, and videotapes spanning over 30 years of work. Osteological data Dr. Gregg recorded from burials at many important South Dakota sites are documented in this collection. Many of the donated slides from Crow Creek are viewable on the South Dakota Paleopathology web page (<http://www.uiowa.edu/~anthro/paleopathology>). The archival materials provide valuable research and teaching resources for those interested in osteology and paleopathology in general.

Dr. Gregg also donated \$5000 to help inventory, catalog, and archive his collection and make it available to interested researchers across the country. The OSA is excited about adding this important collection to its research facility, and thanks the Greggs for their generous donations.



Reynold Ruppé, Iowa's first State Archaeologist.

Calendar of Events

October 31st, 1998

The IAS Fall Meeting will be held the last Saturday in October. A tour of the new Office of the State Archaeologist facility at the University of Iowa, 700 Clinton Street, will be featured. There will also be opportunities for field trips to area archaeological sites. Details are given on the enclosed flyer.

October 14-17, 1998

The Plains Anthropological Conference will meet at the Radisson Inn at Bismarck, ND. For registration and information contact Fern Swenson, Conference Co-chair, at (701) 328-3575.

News Items

Redfield, IA – A celebration of Native American culture and music was hosted at the Kuehn Conservation area in Dallas County September 12th. The event also marked the opening of a sweat lodge re-

served for Native American spiritual ceremonies.

Collinsville, IL – After years of excavation, Cahokia Mounds is still providing clues about the Indians who built it. Archaeology students and professors from Northwestern University recently discovered evidence of a western wall that experts have long theorized was part of an extensive, defensive perimeter at the site. Researchers found remnants of trenches into which wooden posts were inserted to form a wall up to 20 feet high. Every 80-85 feet, the wall featured a defensive bastion.

Web Sites

Archaeology at the Mining Co. – For the past year, OSA Highway Archaeology Program archaeologist Kris Hirst has been running a web site on archaeology for the Mining Co., a general Internet company in New York City. Every week she writes a column on archaeology issues, holds electronic chats, publishes a newsletter, and

provides the general public with new links to archaeology web sites around the world. Her latest project is a World Atlas of Archaeology on the Web. Check out her site at:

<http://archaeology.miningco.com>

Video Review

"Searching for the Great Hopewell Road" offers the viewer a well-filmed, informative look at the ongoing study of the Ohio Hopewell. It focuses on the investigations of archaeologist Dr. Bradley Lepper, Ohio Historical Society. He is examining new evidence that the Hopewell may have constructed a straight, wide, sixty-mile road between their two greatest ceremonial centers.

The use of aerial videography, computer animation, rare archival images, and interviews with archaeologists, historians, and Native Americans are combined into a nicely done video.

For more information or a copy of the video, contact the Ohio Historical Society at 800-797-2357.

Membership Information

Contact Membership Secretary, Iowa Archeological Society, The University of Iowa, 700 Clinton Street Building, Iowa City, IA 52242-1030.

Membership Dues

Voting:

Active	\$15
Household	\$18
Sustaining	\$25

Non-Voting:

Student (under 18)	\$7
Institution	\$20

Newsletter Information

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 archaeology of Iowa and the Midwest. *Iowa Archeology News* is published four times a year.

All materials for publication should be sent to the Editor: Michael Heimbaugh, 3923 29th St., Des Moines, IA 50310. Phone (515) 255-4909. E-mail: paleomike@msn.com

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