

Iowa Archeology News



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DATA RECOVERY AT THE MAXWELL SITE (13DA264), A GREAT OASIS VILLAGE IN DALLAS COUNTY, IOWA

By

Joseph A. Tiffany

Iowa State University

This summer over 50 volunteers, IAS members and Iowa State students descended on the Maxwell Great Oasis site near Redfield, Iowa for a three-week public archaeology project (Figures 1-2). The purpose of the project was to recover additional archaeological evidence at the site, which is being destroyed by continued bank erosion from the South Raccoon River. Initial work at the site occurred in the fall of 1994 by the Office of the State Archaeologist of Iowa. A volunteer crew directed by Fred A. Finney documented 30 features, including two house pits that were eroding into the South Raccoon at that time. Finney's crew excavated several storage pits and one house feature (Doershuk and Finney 1996).

Since Finney's work an estimated additional 40 feet of the site has been destroyed by stream action. The Maxwell site is on property owned by Dallas County Conservation. Dallas County Conservation was recently awarded a grant from the State Historical Society of Iowa to evaluate the site, and they contracted this work to OSA in a cooperative project between OSA and Iowa State that is led by John F. Doershuk (OSA) and the author. The current project goals are to determine the extent of continued impact to the site, and based on these data develop a plan to try and stabilize the bank and preserve the site. The fieldwork this summer at Maxwell was directed by Tiffany and Lynn M. Alex (OSA) who coordinated the massive volunteer effort for this project.

Data recovery at the site was excellent, but prospects for the Maxwell site are mixed. Apparently, only the back (western) portion of the site remains and much data has been lost since Finney's work including the other house pit he had observed and an unknown number of other features and artifacts. Finney's (Doershuk and Finney 1996) bank profiles of the Maxwell site in 1994 show the village living surface (top of the present B horizon) to be under several centimeters of A horizon. Today, the portion of the Maxwell site tested along the current cut bank lies in a much shallower A horizon which thins rapidly to the west where the site is manifest in the present plow zone of the adjoining field. The site which lies on a Gunder terrace apparently was initially buried by over-bank deposits after the site was abandoned. The A horizon of the soil in the area today formed in this deposit which was thicker near the South Raccoon and thinned to the west. This deposit would explain why the site had no real surface expression and was actually found eroding out of the cut bank in the early 1990s. Surface survey in the adjoining field this summer produced artifacts indicating some of the site may remain to the west, south and north of the 2001 excavation area. No diagnostic Great Oasis artifacts were observed in the surface survey, however.

An area was chosen for excavation in the portion of most active bank erosion. Initial site work in June 2000 included stripping the A horizon off the site to expose features. This initial effort led by Richard Fishel (OSA) defined a small remnant of Finney's house excavation of 1994 and located several pits and rock clusters for excavation. By the time this summer's work began, however, several more feet of the cut bank had eroded taking the remnant of Finney's work and an additional two features Fishel had defined. Fishel had excavated another feature, a small pit, close to the cut bank that appeared endangered. This unit was still intact, however, when this summer's project began. Additional A horizon was stripped from the site in late spring with work monitored by Alex, Tiffany and Steve Lensink (OSA). Lensink and Tiffany set up the excavation grid at time and set points for later GPS work by OSA.

This summer 86 m² (twenty-one 2x2 m and one 1x2 m) were excavated (Figure 3). Pits and other features were easily identified as dark stains on the lighter B horizon. Several piles of fired crack rock and other debris were located near some of the pits. Not all of Fishel's tagged pits turned out to be subsurface features, and additional features were identified during the controlled excavation. Fourteen features were excavated. These include small basin-shaped and larger bell-shaped storage pits, piles of fire-cracked rock and one posthole.

Two features of interest on the south edge of the opened area were a large pile of fire cracked rock near a large bell-shaped pit apparently used originally as a roasting pit and subsequently filled with village trash. The bell portion of the roasting pit was packed with numerous, large cobbles intermixed with bands of fired matrix and sterile fill.

Unfortunately, no additional houses were found, and



Figure 1. Excavations at 13DA264. Photograph courtesy of Linda Williams.

except for the pits and other features, artifact recovery on the old village living surface was sparse. These findings along with the generally dispersed distribution of pits over a 600 plus m² area cleared (Figure 4) indicate either a brief occupation, the location of the excavation on the site edge, or both.

An impressive array of Great Oasis material culture was recovered including rim sherds, projectile points and scrapers, a metate, sandstone arrow shaft abraders, and the like. cursory field inspection of the lithics indicates many examples of non-local cherts in use at the site. Ecofacts were also well represented in the assemblage. Faunal remains include elk, deer, dog and other small mammals and fish. Several soil samples were made of charcoal-rich feature deposits. Wood charcoal and charred corn and nuts were observed in the matrix.

This summer's project was a success by several measures. The extent of damage to site by on-going erosion was documented. Additional features were identified and excavated. Artifact recovery indicates a "pure" single component, Great Oasis village. No earlier artifacts were identified in the assemblage. Additional floral and faunal remains recovered be a boon to further examination of Great Oasis subsistence and settlement patterns in the Lower Raccoon River locality where several Great Oasis villages and at least two cemeteries have been documented extending from the Maxwell site at Redfield to West Des Moines, Iowa. Certainly, the project provided a wonderful opportunity for public participation in an archaeological excavation and support from the Iowa Archaeological



Figure 2. Don Wirth excavating feature 01-2 a roasting pit

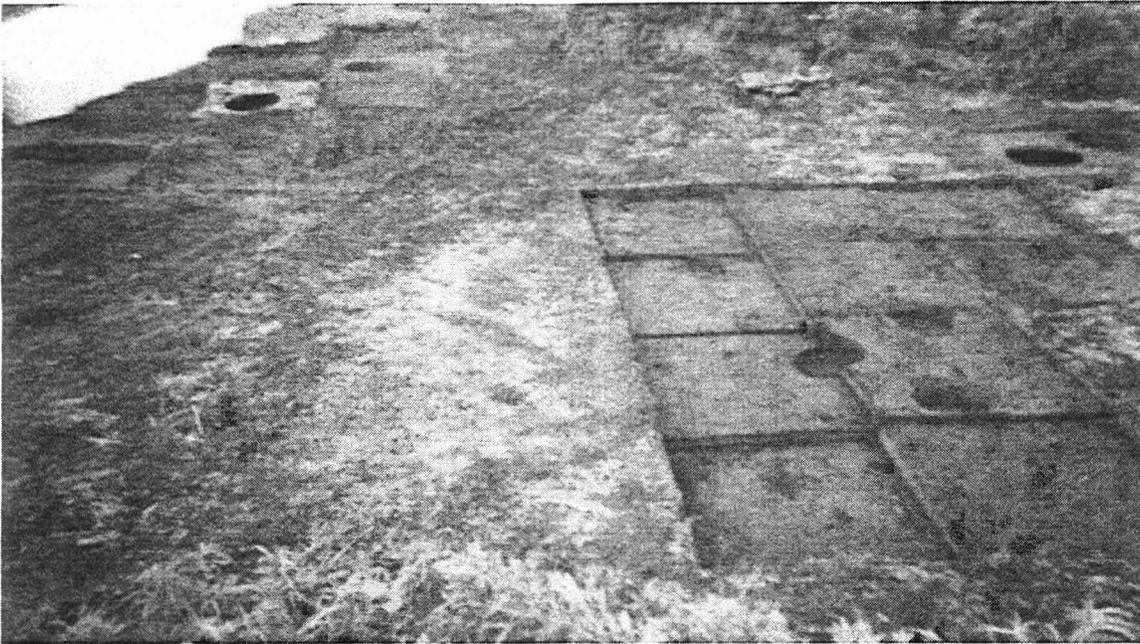


Figure 4. View to the southeast of the excavation area (South Raccoon River in the background).

Society is greatly appreciated. Current plans call for an analysis and write-up of the excavation activities to be completed in the next year and one half. Stay tuned !!

References Cited

Doershuk, J. F. and F. A. Finney
1996 Excavations at the Maxwell Site (13DA264): A Great Oasis Settlement in Central Iowa. *Contract Completion Report* 445. Office of the State Archaeologist of Iowa, Iowa City.



Figure 3. Excavation of a storage pit, Feature 02-12 at the Maxwell site.

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“F Y I”: RADIOCARBON DATING

by Michael J. Shott

Radiocarbon dating is North American archaeology's chief method for measuring past time. Because it is scientific, some accept it on blind faith. Because it challenges their *a priori* beliefs, others oppose it with the same blind faith. No scientific method deserves such treatment, either by advocates or critics. Radiocarbon dating must be understood, not accepted or spurned on faith.

The Wizard of Oz may not seem the place to begin the effort. But everyone recalls how the Wicked Witch frightened Dorothy by turning over an hourglass and then cackling about what she thought would be Dorothy's imminent demise. Forget the characters, but remember the hourglass. Now, no one needs to tell you what you already know about hourglasses. But the principles that govern time measurement by hourglasses and the radiocarbon method are remarkably similar. Knowing the first helps to understand the second.

Hourglasses mark the passage of time by the action of many small units and the change in state that they experience. The units are sand grains, their change in state the passage from upper to lower chamber of the glass. The exact time at which any grain changes state is unpredictable or *random*. Don't waste your time guessing exactly when the, say, 516,839th grain will fall into the lower chamber. Yet the combination of number of grains and diameter of the hourglass neck that links the two chambers gives the rate at which grains change state.

Hourglasses measure time, but only within limits of precision and range. They are not especially precise, which explains why no one uses them to time the 100-m dash. Suppose that you entered the Wicked Witch's lair, say, 29 minutes after she turned over the hourglass. A moment's study would tell you that about half of the sand grains now were in the lower chamber, half still in the upper one. You would know that about 30 minutes had passed, but could be no more precise; perhaps the true figure was 29 or 32 minutes. One way at once to express your estimate of time passed and its uncertainty would be to say that something like 28-32 minutes had passed. Another way to say the same thing would be 30 ± 2 minutes.

Nor are hourglasses foolproof. If it can be opened, someone could add sand grain before starting the process, so that 70 minutes rather than 60 were needed to empty the upper chamber. Not knowing this, others would be misled in estimating time passed. Also, perhaps someone could flip the hourglass at the 49th minute, thereby adding 38 minutes to the time needed to empty it. (Why didn't Dorothy do this at intervals? She could have kept the glass running indefinitely.) Finally, hourglasses have a limited range. If all sand grains are in the lower chamber, perhaps the glass was inverted 61 minutes ago or 3,472 years ago. Without other information, no one could distinguish the two possibilities or the many that lie between them. Hourglasses

measure time only between one and 60 minutes.

Radiocarbon dating is similar, even though the Wicked Witch never used it. All living things -bacteria to people- are open systems, a turgid way of saying that we need to eat and breathe. Obviously, we take things in and pass things out. From many sources, we admit ^{14}C molecules into our bodies. At death, the door is closed and no more ^{14}C molecules enter. But those already in our bodies are many indeed, like sand grains in an hourglass. They also are unstable, which means that they change state abruptly from ^{14}C to ^{14}N . Physicists call this process isotopic decay.

The exact moment when any ^{14}C molecule decays is random, just like sand grains falling through an hourglass. In the aggregate, though, the rate at which they decay is practically constant. After about 5,730 years, half of the original numbers are ^{14}N isotopes. This is ^{14}C 's *half-life*, analogous to but much slower than the rate at which sand grains fall in an hourglass. Owing to its half-life, ^{14}C dating is limited to the range of roughly 50,000 to 500 years ago, just as hourglass dating is limited to 1-60 minutes.

In hourglasses, we simply look at the amount of grains in the two chambers and thereby estimate time passed. Our eyes and minds do the work. Physicists use sensitive instruments to measure ^{14}C decay and thereby to estimate the time elapsed since death of the subject being dated. Methods differ; the logic is identical. Physicists measure decay in anything that once lived. Often we use wood charcoal, because wood is abundant and, once burned to charcoal, resists decomposition and thus preserves indefinitely. But anything or anyone once alive -yesterday's lunch, your dog, you or me- could be carbon-dated in the future.

Just like hourglasses, ^{14}C dating is imprecise. A result never is expressed as, say, 860 years before present ("present" being arbitrarily set at A.D. 1950) but as, say, 860 ± 40 years before present, depending on the precision attainable in measurement. Hourglasses don't measure time to the minute, nor ^{14}C dating to the year. Still, this inherent imprecision -part statistical inevitability, part a trade-off to avoid the great expense of very precise estimates- is small relative to the past time measured. Nor is the method just imprecise. "Dead" carbon—all of whose ^{14}C molecules already have changed state to ^{14}N molecules (e.g., motor oil) -and very "live" but recent carbon (e.g., cigarette ash) can contaminate samples and give false results. Today, laboratory treatment removes most potential contaminants, but it always is best to handle samples with care. Anyone who smokes and works on engines should put away the butts and wash his hands thoroughly before collecting carbon samples.

Because at various times in the remote past, there was more or less ^{14}C in the atmosphere than there is now for living things to admit, results must be calibrated to calendar

age. This procedure greatly exercises physicists and archaeologists but need not occupy us here. Different living things assimilated ^{14}C by different metabolic pathways, another factor that physicists take into account.

Thus, ^{14}C dating is a method, not a panacea or a magic trick. (I can just imagine a Creationist quoting out of context as "... ^{14}C dating is...a magic trick") So is using a computer or flying an airplane. ^{14}C dating has been tested and independently confirmed in myriad ways. Its originators tested the method against Egyptian samples whose ages were known from written records. (Challenge the method and you challenge the decipherment of hieroglyphs, not to mention Biblical chronology.) It has been tested many other times on many materials of known age. The method is tested whenever samples from two or more strata of a site are dated; practically always, the results agree with stratigraphic order (lower, deeper strata return older dates), itself an independent, ordinal age measure. Radiocarbon dating has been tested by cross-dating typologically similar objects from different sites. Similar objects should be of similar age just as 1938 and 1939 Ford sedans resemble one another more than either resembles a 2001 Ford. Almost always, dates from typologically similar things are similar. Thus, ^{14}C dating

has been independently tested and confirmed in many ways in thousands of instances. If it hadn't been, archaeologists wouldn't accept it. They wouldn't take it on blind faith.

Yet ours is an age of rising unreason, so some reject ^{14}C dating out of hand. Some -not all- Native Americans reject it from the belief that knowing the chronological details of North American prehistory challenges their religious views. Some Creationists reject ^{14}C dating for similar reasons, committed as they are to believing that the earth cannot be older than 6,000 or 8,000 or 10,000 years. In response to the obvious point that ^{14}C dating gives accurate estimates on objects whose age is known independently (recall the Egyptian example), these people sometimes argue the absurdity that the isotopic decay of ^{14}C occurred faster in the past than it does now. One may as well argue that the speed of light used to be slower or faster than it is now, or that the sun once rose in the west. Yes, sample contamination or other culprits occasionally produce the wrong result. Remember, it's a method, not a panacea. To steal a line from John Whittaker, though, rejecting ^{14}C dating on this basis is like denying the principles of internal-combustion engines because your car didn't start on cold winter morning or denying the possibility of flight because, rarely, planes crash.

Southeast Iowa Chapter History by Angela Hopkins and Bill Anderson

Bill Anderson formed today's Southeast Iowa Chapter in the 1992-1993 time period. Bill saw a need and thought there would be an interest. Archaeologist Anton Till was in the area and became very instrumental in getting the chapter off the ground. There had been an earlier chapter located in Ottumwa, but people had drifted away from the group over the years. Ottumwa has served as the chapter's central meeting location most of the time throughout the summer and winter meetings are held at Indian Hills Community College.

There are 51 active members drawn from an area approximately within a one-hour radius of Ottumwa. The current officers are: Co-presidents - Dave Parker and Mark Dillon, Resident Archaeologist - Anton Till, Treasurer - Bill Anderson and Secretary/Newsletter Editor - Angela Hopkins. The Chapter Newsletter, created by Angela Hopkins, has two formats. On a monthly basis a flyer is mailed to inform members of upcoming events and field trip conditions. It also presents notes from the last meeting and any new announcements from the Chapter Officers. On a quarterly basis, a multi-paged newsletter is mailed with all of the above information plus informative articles such as the "Artifact Profile."

The Southeast Chapter hosted the 1995 IAS Spring Meeting at Pioneer Ridge, south of Ottumwa and had a great turnout. They recently introduced an annual event to get the local community more involved. The First Annual

Archaeology Awareness Day was held in March 2000 on the Indian Hills Campus. Lynn Alex and Steve Lensink of OSA were there to assist at the meeting. The Second Annual Archaeology Awareness Day was held in March of 2001 at Pioneer ridge. State Archaeologist Bill Green gave a presentation on Iowaville, and Tim Weitzel of OSA presented on bow technology. Anton Till shared techniques on aboriginal pottery making and Dave Parker talked about and demonstrated flintknapping along with other attending flintknappers.

The Southeast Chapter has participated in the Iowa Archaeology Week/Month each year. In 1999 they had a good turn out for a road trip to selected Archaeological sites throughout southeastern Iowa. Toolesboro Indian Mounds and the Wever Oneota site were among those. For Iowa Archaeology Month 2000 the chapter and the Core of Engineers performed a Rathbun Lake shore survey open to the public again had good attendance.

Throughout the year, excluding winter months, the chapter's monthly meetings consist mainly of outdoor field exercises. This type of activity is perhaps one of the best features of the SE Chapter. They feel it is important for several reasons, including the fact that many new members are attracted to the group through the outdoor field experience. They like the idea of getting more "hands on" experience, and it helps them develop a greater understanding and an opportunity to promote IAS goals.

IAS Profiles Josephine Megivern

When Josephine Megivern began to take History courses in school, she was most interested in reading about the more ancient civilizations, especially those around the Mediterranean, Roman, Egyptian and Near East. During High School, she felt privileged to hear Flinders Petrie speak. He had done archeological work in Egypt, and right then is when she decided that's what she wanted to do! In 1937, when she reached the University of Northern Iowa (Iowa State Teacher's College) and told her advisor of her archaeological ambitions, he said "Women don't work in that field!" and steered her into what seemed the next best choice-History. ISTC didn't have anthropology as a major at that time. It turned out to be a moot point, as World War II, marriage and a family interrupted her college career. By the time she returned to finish her degree, her career priorities had changed, as did her major.

In the summer of 1978 Josephine and her husband Jim signed up for the dig at Milford. It happened that Hal Kuhn, president of the newly formed Black Hawk Chapter, was also there. When he learned they were from Cedar Falls he invited them to join the Black Hawk Chapter. They did and have been members of BH (now Black Hawk Regional) Chapter and IAS ever since. Through the years Josephine has served as President, Vice-President, and Treasurer. She and Jim loved to "dig" and went to Toolesboro in 1979 and then "got in" on the end of the emergency dig at Dennison in 1979. After that they had to give up fieldwork and just read about what others were doing. A few summers later she got to spend a week at the Lab in Iowa City. There she learned what happens to artifacts that have been retrieved – the different methods of washing and drying, sorting and labeling. It was all very enlightening and enjoyable working there and observing other preservation techniques (especially the student who was re-assembling pieces of a recovered pot).

Josephine taught country schools for 5 years, and attended summer sessions at ISTC. She resigned in 1942 and went to a clerical job in Washington, D.C. where she and Jim were married. Later she joined him in Dodge City, KS where he was serving at an Army air base. After his discharge, they settled in Cedar Falls. She was a stay-at-home-mom; busy with family activities, including Scouting. When the children reached High School, she returned to UNI and completed teaching degrees in Home Economics then taught in the Home Economics Department for 20 years. Since retiring she has served ten years on the UNI Museum board, continues to participate in church committee work, volunteers and studies family genealogy.

She has more hobbies and interests than she have time for! She loves to do handwork, which her mother taught her at an early age. Happily, those early lessons took root. "Decorative Textiles" was one of the courses she taught

for several years at UNI. Reading is another favorite pastime, and she has worked with the Literacy Program where she enjoys teaching people of all ages, who for various reasons cannot read. She's currently trying to learn more about the computer to assist in extending the boundaries of her genealogy knowledge. And she tries to keep in frequent touch with family and friends.

The three children are grown, and she and Jim have ten grandchildren. Two have finished college and four others are undergrads. One chose carpentry as his career, and others are in high school. They have respected their grandparent's interest in archaeology, but do not participate actively themselves. They were "understanding" when Josephine and Jim missed the family reunion in 1979 because they had to keep a commitment to attend an archaeological event at Mooresboro!

When asked what archaeological related experience(s) were most memorable to her, Josephine had to ponder. She thought about it and decided there have been so many. The hands-on experiences of the digs and the people met there are special. So are the relationships that have developed with IAS personnel and professionals in related fields who have come to present programs. It's also fun for her to reflect on how members of the Black Hawk Regional Chapter have worked together in planning and executing programs for the chapter (always open to the public), the field experience for a Girl Scout Troop, school children at the annual celebration of Butler Center (an abandoned town), the cooperation with the Rock and Mineral Club in presenting shows for the public and the annual Archaeology Week/Month activities.



Josephine McGivern

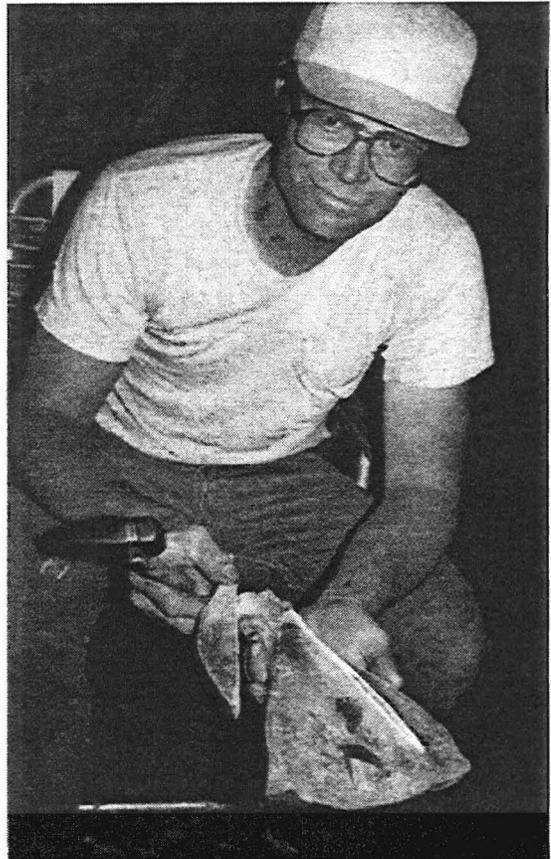
Paul Rowe Chapter History

by Dennis Miller

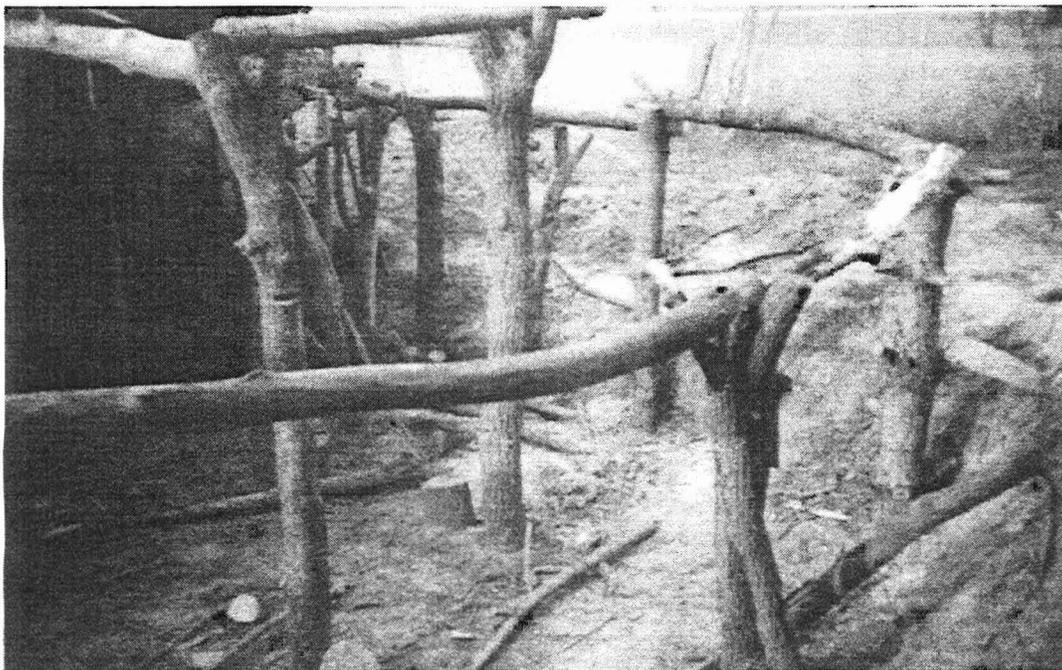
In the spring of 1976 a group of Amateur Archeologists in southwest Iowa decided to form a new chapter of the Iowa Archeological Society. It was to be named the Paul Rowe Chapter after a Glenwood, Iowa native, Paul R. Rowe (1894-1968). Paul was a cement contractor and artifact hunter. What set him apart from other collectors of his time were the excellent records he kept of sites and artifacts. He acquired about 15,000 items, and wrote articles for various Midwest archaeological journals.

The first president of the chapter was Dale Lindner of Stanton, IA. John Palmquist of Stanton, then Mia Sornson of Thurman and Dennis Miller of Silver City who currently holds the office followed him. For the first four years meetings were held in Red Oak and Glenwood alternately. The fire station or the Mills County Museum at Glenwood have served as the meeting site more recently. Membership runs 25-30 with a "hard core" of about 10.

The Paul Rowe Chapter hosted the IAS Annual Spring Meeting in 1982 and the Fall IAS Meeting in 1993. Many of the members helped construct an earthlodge in Glenwood in 1993 and the chapter has maintained it since. The Paul Rowe Chapter has an open house and Primitive Crafts Day at the earthlodge for the Iowa Archaeology Week/Month each year.



John Boruff making a scapula hoe



One of the reconstructions of the earthlodge at Glenwood

New IAS Research and Education Fund

Iowa Archeological Society Research and Education Fund

The Fund

The IAS Research and Education fund provides financial assistance to individual IAS members and IAS chapters for the purposes of conducting archaeological research in the state and disseminating information about the state's prehistoric and historic past. Funds may be used in a variety of ways. Examples include:

field school expenses; excavation supplies; specialized analyses; travel expenses; exhibit supplies; books, videos, etc., for chapter use; speakers' honoraria; artifact casts

Funds may *not* be used to supplement the budget of any contract-related research project. Funds also may *not* be used to pay for archaeological fieldwork outside the state or for travel to visit archaeological sites in other states. Funds may be used for travel outside the state for the purpose of conducting research related to some aspect of Iowa archaeology (e.g., for documentary research related to Iowa sites or for documentation of artifact collections from Iowa sites).

Who May Apply for Funding

Any IAS member in good standing and all IAS chapters may apply. Student members may apply provided they arrange for sponsorship by an adult mentor who is also an IAS member.

How to Apply

Applicants are required to submit an application to the IAS Board of Directors, which will include the following:

- a detailed description of the project to be undertaken
- a project schedule (including starting and completion dates)
- a list of the principal personnel involved
- a detailed budget showing how the money would be spent

Proposals may be submitted at any time. Those received before May 1 of a given year will be considered at the summer meeting of the IAS Board; those received after May 1 will be considered at the winter meeting of the IAS Board.

The Review Process

All requests are reviewed by the Research and Education Fund committee. The committee consists of the IAS vice president, treasurer, two board members appointed by the IAS president, and the State Archaeologist. The committee must include at least one avocational archeologist.

The Research and Education Fund Committee will utilize, but not be limited to, the following criteria in making funding recommendations:

1. fund availability
2. archaeological/historical significance of site(s) involved
3. relevance to the interests of the IAS membership
4. application meets minimum requirements (who can apply; how to apply)
5. has applicant recently received RE funds?

The Committee may also make recommendations to the Board concerning the nature of the recipient's responsibilities to report to the IAS. For example, a presentation at an IAS meeting, a videotape of the project, a written report for inclusion in the IAS newsletter or journal.

Any RE Fund Committee member or board member applying for RE funds must recuse him or herself from the decision making process involving their application.

Written summaries of all requests and the committee's recommendations as to which projects should be funded will be presented to the full board at the winter and summer board meetings. Recipients will be informed of the Board's decisions on project funding within two weeks following the Board meeting.

Obligations of Funding Recipients

Anyone receiving financial assistance from the Research and Education Fund must report to the IAS membership on the outcome of the project. The IAS Board will stipulate the nature of such reporting, which can include a written component (i.e., for the IAS newsletter or journal) or a verbal component (such as a presentation at an IAS membership meeting). Following completion of the project, an accounting of funds will be made to the Board by a deadline stipulated by the Board. Receipts for all expenses will be submitted and any unexpended funds returned to the treasurer.

Applications are available from: IAS Research and Education Committee, c/o Office of the State Archaeologist, The University of Iowa, 700 Clinton Street Building, Iowa City, IA 52242-1030

IAS Announcements

Events-Education-News

Opportunities For Laboratory Analysis Offered

Beginning in October, 2001, Lynn Alex will offer two opportunities each month for individuals interested in laboratory analysis in archeology. These sessions are designed to assist people working towards their Lab Technician Certification via the Iowa Archaeological Certification Program and to provide opportunities to folks interested in helping out with lab work. The sessions will be conducted at the Office of the State Archaeologist, 700 Clinton St. Bldg., University of Iowa. Materials from several interesting sites will be processed including the Gast Farm Middle and Late Woodland components and the Maxwell, Great Oasis site.

I am suggesting one or two Saturdays or Sundays per month or one Sat/Sun and one evening per month. On a weekend we might work from 10-4, and from 7-10 pm on a weekday evening but these times are negotiable. If anyone is interested, please let me know your preference for dates/times. I will see what the majority prefers and set the schedule.

Lynn M. Alex Public Archaeology Coordinator
Office of the State Archaeologist 700 Clinton Street Building
University of Iowa Iowa City, Iowa 52242
Phone: 319-384-0561 Fax: 319-384-0768
<http://www.uiowa.edu/~uipress/aleiowarc.htm>

IAS News Via E-Mail!

As some of you already know, the IAS has started an e-mail "news" list. Over the last 2 years I have been gathering e-mail addresses, and now they are finally being put to use. I have sent out notices for lab opportunities and Iowa Archaeology Month events. The e-mail list is a way of getting archeology-related information (lectures, demonstrations, lab and field work opportunities) out on short notice.

So.... if you have an e-mail address but did not get any of the recent notices and you want to be on the list, send a quick note to me and ask to be added to the IAS Members List.

Thanks! robin-lillie@uiowa.edu

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IAS FALL MEETING

OCTOBER 6, 2001
PRAIRIE LEARNING CENTER,
NEAL SMITH WILDLIFE REFUGE



IAS Chapter News

Black Hawk Regional Chapter

The Black Hawk Chapter held a pot luck June 6th at Island Park in Cedar Falls. Meeting ideas for the next year starting in Septemeber were shared.

Contact Lisa Beltz
1804 W. Ridgewood Drive, Cedar Falls, IA 50613
(319) 268-0865
Lisa.Beltz@uni.edu

Central Iowa Chapter

The CIC held their annual picnic at Yellow Banks in June. The group had a good time despite the cool weather. The new t-shirts with a flintknapping theme were distributed. July 18th the chapter enjoyed a tour of the Gold Star Museum at Camp Dodge in Johnston, IA. The tour was led by CIC member Mike Vogt who's with the Gold Star Museum. August 18th the chapter shared it's meeting with the Southeast Chapter at Red Rock Lake. The two chapters got to know each other, shared artifact displays, flintknapping skills and atlatl throwing activities. They had a beautiful day and a wonderful time.

Contact Michael Heimbaugh
3923 29th St., Des Moines, IA 50310
(515) 255-4909
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Southeast Iowa Archaeology Chapter

June 23rd the SE Iowa Chapter chapter went on a field survey. The chapter co-hosted the August 18th meeting with the CIC Chapter. Arrangements were made for the CIC to join the SE at the South Overlook of Red Rock Lake. Two shelters were reserved for the chapters' artifact displays and flintknapping activities. Cookies and pop were served as refreshments. Both chapters were pleased with the turn out and hope to try the joint meeting again.

Contact Bill Anderson
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(319) 456-3911

Ellison Orr Chapter

Contact Lori Stanley, (319) 387-1283
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Orr Chapter, PO Box 511, Decorah, IA 52101
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Northwest Chapter

June 11-13, 12 members of the NW Chapter took a field trip to the Black Hills. They saw the Ashfall Fossil Beds near Orchard, NE, and they went on to the Museum of Fur Trade which has an outstanding collection of artifacts dealing with the fur trade in North America. They also saw the Agate fossil Beds, spent an evening in Fort Robinson where many of the original buildings still stand and are open to the public to tour. Toadstool Geologic Park, Hudson-Meng Bison Bonebed, the Mammoth site in Hot Springs, the Crazy Horse Monument and Flag Day at Mt. Rushmore were among the other points of interest.

In late July the NW Chapter had a tour of a level II archaeological site north of Cherokee. Todd Kapler of Cultural Heritage Consultants in Hinton led the tour. August 18th there was a ceramic workshop on Mill Creek methods and designs held at the sanford Museum.

Contact Linda Burkhart
Sanford Museum
117 E. Willow, Cherokee, IA 51012
(712) 225-3922
sanford@cherokee.k12.ia.us

Quad City Archaeological Society

May 29th Ferrel Anderson gave the chapter a slide presentation on the archaeology of Albany Mounds, Whiteside County, IL. A progress report was given on the preparation of interpretive signs for the Albany Mound site. These are being funded by a state grant and are being crafted by a contractor under the management of the Friends of the Albany Indian Mounds Foundation.

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2001 Archaeology Month Poster Gener- ates Research Interest

IAS members are urged to examine carefully the 2001 Iowa Archaeology Month poster. It is a reproduction of a pictograph believed to be done by Meskwaki artist Wacochachi around 1830. It was discovered, folded in a book, at the State Historical Society in Des Moines during a routine inventory during the 1970s. It is now on display at the Historical Society.

It is believed that there may be up to a hundred different species of animals portrayed, in addition to the figures of the Indians. Mammals such as deer, bison, moose, beaver, elk, bear, otter; birds like the heron, pelican, grouse, hawks; fish like wall-eyed pike, sucker, catfish are only a few examples of species that can be identified. It has made for an interesting challenge for members of the OSA staff (and possibly an interesting project for a class) just to try to identify as many species as possible.

Two OSA archaeologists, Lane Shields and David Moyer, are taking the challenge even farther. They are in the process of examining the drawing themselves, looking at past interpretations of the figures, and attempting to draw some new conclusions, putting the drawing within the context of other such native artwork of a similar period. They have already made interesting observations as to the identification and interpretation of both the animal species and the human figures. When finished, they intend to publish their findings.

For those interested, here are references to three published sources on the drawing:

Musgrove, Jack W. and Mary R. Musgrove. "Wacochachi's Talking Paper," *Annals of Iowa* 42, 1974, pp. 324-423.

Torrence, Gaylord. "A Mesquakie Drawing," *The Palimpsest, Summer 1988*, pp. 64-69.

Torrence, Gaylord, and Robert Hobbs. *Art of the Red Earth People: The Mesquakie of Iowa*, Seattle: University of Washington Press, 1989.

Mary De La Garza Joins OSA As Com- puter Specialist/Net- work Administrator

Mary De La Garza, originally from San Antonio, Texas, has joined the OSA as the computer network administrator. Mary's varied background and creativity is well-suited to the diverse responsibilities she will have in supervising all different areas of office technology.

While attending the University of Maryland in theatre arts, she was also in the U.S. Navy, serving as a public affairs officer, journalist, and broadcaster for projects such as USO tours. After the military, she continued her work in public relations for companies such as Opryland USA. Then her career focus change as she moved into doing design work. Using computers for this design work began to stimulate her interest in just how the programs themselves worked and she began teaching herself about computers, reading books, taking a few short courses, taking the appropriate certification tests—and even taking apart a computer just to see how it worked.

At the same time, Mary was a published writer and poet and this interest led her to go back to graduate school, this time in English at the University of Texas. Though seemingly an unlikely route for a computer person, she says the analysis and criticism of literature actually enhanced skills which are now being transferred to her work with evaluating and setting up computer networks.

Before coming to OSA Mary worked as a network administrator for Mercy Housing in Denver, network-

ing 150 on-site users as well as 300 users nationwide. After launching her own independent consulting company she continued her work with the same Catholic Loretto Sisters, connecting all the Order in a nationwide network.

Mary has been busy at OSA, but enjoys the variety of people and work she has been doing. As long term goals, she would like to see a completely wireless office, where field archaeologists could be as integrally connected to the OSA network as they would be in the office.. She also would like to see videos available on the OSA website.

Now residing in Cedar Rapids, Mary has become an enthusiastic Iowan. She praises the green landscape, the changing of the seasons, and even likes the Iowa weather. She has enjoyed weekends canoeing, bird-watching, and learning about the state's flora and fauna.

Steve Lensink Assumes Interim Command

Steve Lensink has been appointed as the OSA Interim Director while the University of Iowa conducts a nationwide search to replace Bill Green who resigned in July. Steve has been at OSA since 1984, as Associate Director and earlier as research archaeologist and head of the Highway Archaeology Program.

Steve has been a long-time participant in the Iowa Archeology Society and is especially well known to members through the summer field schools he has led at Plum Grove, the Frerichs site, and numerous Mill Creek sites. Prior the recent hiring of Mary De La Garza, Steve has also been OSA's network administrator and general office computer expert. When the permanent director is hired, he looks forward to once again spending his time doing archaeology and resuming his research on Mill Creek and other formative agricultural cultures.

Archaeology Items of Interest

Atlatl Article

"Aim, Fire, Thwock!" is the title of a very interesting article for the atlatl devotees. That title is an accurate depiction of the action taken in throwing an atlatl. The article appears in the September/October *Archaeology* magazine. The article was written by the managing editor of *Archaeology*, Kristin M. Romey, who covered the 14th annual meeting of the World Atlatl Association (WAA) at Flint Ridge State Memorial Park in south-eastern Ohio this past summer.

The piece explains how the atlatl has been found everywhere in the world except for Africa, and that though the construction of the atlatl may seem simple -"it can be made in your garage for less than 50 bucks"- it is very effective. The history of the WAA and its current activities are also related as well as some on-site anecdotal coverage of the competition at the annual meeting.

New Book

The Eternal Frontier, an Ecological History of North America and Its Peoples by Tim Flannery, published by Atlantic Monthly Press, 2001. This book offers a chronicle of how the land and its life co-evolved over 65 million years. The book is divided into five chronologically organized "acts." These begin with a description of evolution in North America and go on to relate various theories on emigration -and immigration- of flora and fauna, the emergence of the first Clovis hunters and the profound changes in the continent since the time of Columbus.

Running through the entire book is the theme of the frontier. The book points out the possible extinction of that frontier in the name of development and provides an testament to a continent and the forces that have shaped it. *432 pages, 16 pages of color illustrations.*

Web Sites

These web sites were taken from the article "North American Indians: Resources on the Internet" by Margaret R. Dittmore, *Anthro Notes*, Vol 22, No. 2 Winter 2001. Many are from the **Smithsonian Institution**:(<http://www.si.edu>).

National Museum of the American Indian:(<http://www.nmai.si.edu>) offers a wide range of programs and services.

Anthropology Department:(<http://www.nmnh.si.edu/anthro>). From this page one can visit the **Anthropology Outreach Office**, the **Arctic Studies Center**, the **Office of Repatriation**, the **National Anthropological Archives** and the **Handbook of North American Indians**.

(<http://www.nativeculture.com>) includes information on tribes and nations, arts and expression.

Membership Information

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

Membership Dues

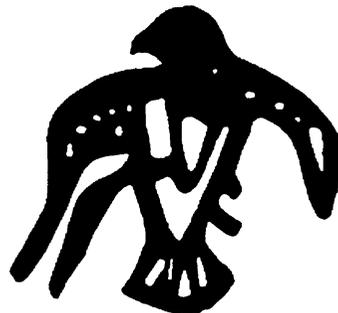
<u>Voting:</u>		<u>Non-Voting:</u>	
Active	\$15	Student (under 18)	\$7
Household	\$18	Institution	\$20
Sustaining	\$25		

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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