

Newsletter of the Iowa Archeological Society

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HERITAGE MATTERS

Iowa Archaeology Month
September 11- October 22

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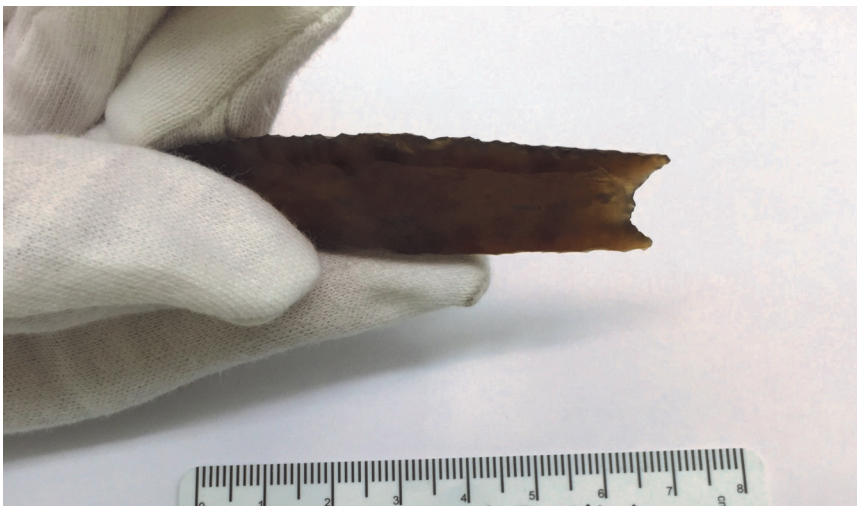
Sioux City Folsom

John F. Doershuk
State Archaeologist
University of Iowa

During June 2003, an avid Iowa artifact collector made an unusual discovery in the Sioux City area: an intact Folsom point. This was no ordinary Folsom—as if anything made 10,000+ years ago and surviving to the modern day could be described as ordinary—it is made from Knife River Flint. The point is a stunningly beautiful example of the exquisite control an experienced Paleoindian flint knapper could exercise. Toby and Julie Morrow reported in the mid-1990s in their Paleoindian fluted point survey they had only been able to record 32 Folsom points authenticated as genuine and documented as found in Iowa. The discovery of another Folsom represents an important addition to this small database. The Avid Iowa Collector's find was featured in 2005 on the "Dirt Brothers" website. The pictures and text were provided by an acquaintance of the finder, who wished to remain anonymous. The finder relates, "It was the first fluted point I had ever seen. I was not sure if it was a Clovis or Folsom but knew it was very special...Dr. Perino papered the piece and it was sold just a few months later."



Folsom Point from 13WD199.



13WD199 Folsom Point flute detail.

Resources Protection Act and federal attention to such cases magnifies in proportion to the number and dollar value of the artifacts involved and whether interstate transport and selling has occurred. The Special Agent reported the Big Fish they were investigating was based in Kentucky and they had linked to this individual a specimen positively provenienced to the Sioux City area. You guessed it, this was my introduction to the Folsom point discovered in 2003. It indeed had been sold as described on the website, as it turns out for \$19,000! It

I'm happy to report today this same Folsom point resides in the care of the Sioux City Public Museum. An exacting replica is on public display and researchers, by appointment, can access the actual artifact and measure, photograph, and analyze this rare item. How did it come to be in the hands of a public institution?

I was contacted in September of 2011 by a special agent with the National Park Service who informed me he was investigating a "big fish" in the artifact collection world suspected of knowingly buying and selling artifacts collected without permission and from public lands. These activities are illegal under the Archaeological



13WD199 Folsom point long edge.



13WD199 Folsom point reverse face.

was subsequently purchased by the Kentucky Big Fish for \$21,000 and this individual in turn arranged a buyer for \$28,000.

Why was this artifact of *federal* concern? Because the Iowa Collector discovered it on public property, removed it without permission, and then sold it across state lines. When interviewed by the Special Agent, the Iowa Collector readily shared where the piece was discovered (which matched the description and photographs

posted on the Internet) and also showed the agent numerous other artifacts collected from the same ravine. Admittedly, none are as spectacular as the Folsom, but there are many whole points representing a wide range of time periods and cultural adaptations as well as pottery sherds and animal bones. Unfortunately very little in the way of contextual details were recorded. The Iowa Collector admitted knowing the Folsom was from public property, that permission should have been secured to remove it, and that the Big Fish was also aware of these circumstances. The Iowa Collector narrowly avoided prosecution by being honest and cooperative with the Special Agent. All materials the Iowa Collector had removed from public lands were donated to the Sioux City Public Museum, and the Iowa Collector assisted with the larger investigation.

The Kentucky Big Fish was eventually successfully netted by federal agents in 2015 and as part of a complex settlement which includes jail time and a large monetary fine, this individual donated the Folsom point to the Sioux City Public Museum. I think this is a happy event for Iowa as an irreplaceable and demonstrably rare artifact has returned “home” and is available for us today and the public in the future to marvel at and research.

2016 IAS Fall Meeting
October 8
Sheraton Iowa City Hotel
210 South Dubuque Street
Iowa City, IA 52240

The 2016 Fall Meeting of the IAS will coincide with the Midwest Archaeological Conference in Iowa City.

The IAS Business Meeting will be at 4:00 pm in the Lindquist Room.

There will be no charge for IAS members (who are not professional archeologists) to attend paper and poster presentations on Saturday.

Saturday Morning Presentations begin at 8:30 AM and continue to 11:30 AM.
Saturday Afternoon Presentations will be between 1:30 PM and 4:00 PM.

The IAS is a sponsoring organization for this year’s Midwest Archaeological Conference.

For more information regarding the entire conference, hotel reservations, and to see a list of presentations see the MAC website at:
<http://www.midwestarchaeology.org/2016-MAC-am>



Michael J. Perry Retires from OSA

John F. Doershuk

Mike Perry began his archaeology career fresh out of high school in 1972 as a volunteer worker at an Iowa State University (ISU) field school excavation of an earth lodge site in Johnson County, Kansas. This dig was cooperatively directed by David Gradwohl (ISU) and John Reynolds of the Kansas State Historical Society. Mike reported on his early impression of archaeological field work as "just the kind of hot, sweaty, dirty work that is conveniently overlooked in the classical texts of Mesoamerican, Middle Eastern, and Mediterranean archaeology I read during my years at Ames High. But with the discovery of pottery, projectile points, bones, and features, I was hooked" (Perry 2003:192). Mike followed up his volunteer summer by enrolling as an undergraduate student at ISU where he took several courses with Prof. Gradwohl, graduating with a Bachelor of Science degree in Anthropology in 1976. Although his immediate post-baccalaureate employment wasn't in archaeology, by early 1980 Mike was hired as an Office of the State Archaeologist (OSA) crew member and he worked on projects in several parts of the state. In April 1980 Mike was hired fulltime as an OSA Project Archaeologist, a position he subsequently held more than three decades to retirement in August 2016.



Figure 1. Michael J. Perry (center) with colleagues Andrew Sorensen, John Hedden, William Whittaker, and Anton Till during winter Phase II testing at 13ML102 near Glenwood, Iowa.

Notably, Central Plains tradition research continued to be a focus for Mike and he has been particularly involved with researching Nebraska phase occupation in Mills County, Iowa. His OSA work includes several



Figure 2. Michael J. Perry presenting at "Keg Creek Days," a Mills County Historical Society public archaeology event, in 2007.

survey and testing projects conducted in advance of road improvements in the loess hills west of Glenwood. Mike conducted Glenwood/Nebraska phase field projects in 1983–84, 1987, 1989–90, and 2005–2006 (Figure 1) which resulted in several publications, conference papers, exhibits produced for museum, and public presentations (Figure 2). Other notable projects with which Mike has had substantial involvement include Mahaska County Highway 34 Eddyville bypass fieldwork in 1994–95 and 1998–2000 involving Woodland and Archaic sites, brick kilns, and a Euro-American grave. During the period 1996–1998 Mike worked on the Dubuque NW Arterial project at Woodland and Archaic sites, lead mines, and the Stephen Langworthy house; in 2001–2002 and then with multiple efforts in the period 2010–2014 Mike conducted fieldwork for the US 61 reconstruction in Des Moines and Louisa counties. These are but a sampling of his prodigious body of work that includes 11 articles and three book reviews published in the *Journal of the Iowa Archeological Society*, 10 contributions to the *IAS Newsletter*, and 30+ public presentations and conference papers. Mike completed 591 OSA project reports and supplements as a solo author plus co-authored an additional 80, and is responsible for recording 1,061 sites (more than 3 percent of the total!) in the Iowa Site File from 86 Iowa counties.

Mike in recent years has been the key to several successful cataloging and curation projects involving the collections of Russ

Campbell (Humboldt Co., 2008); Tom Royster (Washington Co., 2012–2013); and most recently Jeff Ulch (Hardin Co., 2016). These projects have moved these important private collections into the public sphere in a systematic, organized, and well-documented way that greatly increases their research value and makes them accessible to the general public. In addition to this valuable effort, Mike has also contributed immeasurably to the Iowa Archeological Society through over a decade of Board service. In retirement, Mike maintains an office at the OSA in the role of an adjunct research associate, continuing to contribute in substantial ways to Iowa archaeology—thanks and congratulations on retirement, Mike!

Reference

Perry, Michael J.

2003 A Pony Creek Settlement Model. *Journal of the Iowa Archeological Society* 50:129–139.

Excited over Nothing: A “New” Arm on The Amana Indian Fish Weir Appears, and then Disappears, with the Wind.

Bill Whittaker

OFFICE OF THE STATE ARCHAEOLOGIST
IOWA CITY

A recently discovered photograph of the Amana Indian Fish Weir (13IW100) briefly suggested the fish weir was either rebuilt or more complex than originally thought. In the Spring 2013 issue of the *Newsletter* the history and disappearance of the fish weir was discussed. This weir may be Late Prehistoric or Early Historic Indian, perhaps associated with nearby Meskwaki. It was probably gradually buried by silting in the 1990s and early 2000s.

A fragment of a calendar that includes a photo of the weir was recently found in old files at the OSA (Figure 1). Unfortunately, this calendar has been trimmed of its date, but it might have been taken by F.W. Kent, perhaps around 1950. Peter Hoehnle, administrator of the Amana Church Society, agrees, and thinks there is a good chance that the man on the right is William Peterson and that the man on the left is his grandfather, Arthur Selzer.

This calendar photo is interesting because it shows the weir at very low water. It seemed to show a part of the structure not seen in other photos, a low arm (A) that extends from the center of the north arm to the south bank. At first, I was excited to see the new arm, and I started to formulate ideas as to how it appeared. It is possible that the weir was rebuilt when it was used by Indians, perhaps because the river shifted its channel slightly to the north, causing water to run across the arm, rather than through the cove between the arms. The larger north arm may have been built to redirect water to the trap at the weir’s apex. Alternatively, I thought, the weir may have been be a more complex structure with multiple arms, perhaps to funnel fish to different spots at different water levels.

In trying to find comparison photos, I came across another photo, by F.W. Kent, published in 1953 in the *Iowan* magazine, that clarified the matter (Figure 2). This photo was probably taken on the very same day, of the very same people, from the very same position. It shows the possible new weir arm was just an illusion, a line of leaves blowing across the river. And with that 60-year-old gust of wind, a short-lived burst of excitement blows away in 2016.

Thanks to Peter Hoehnle and Marlin Ingalls for their analysis of the photo.

Figures are on the following page

Figure 1. ca. 1950 calendar fragment, probably a photo by F.W. Kent, showing the fish weir at low water, facing west. "A" indicates a previously undocumented line that suggested an undocumented weir arm.

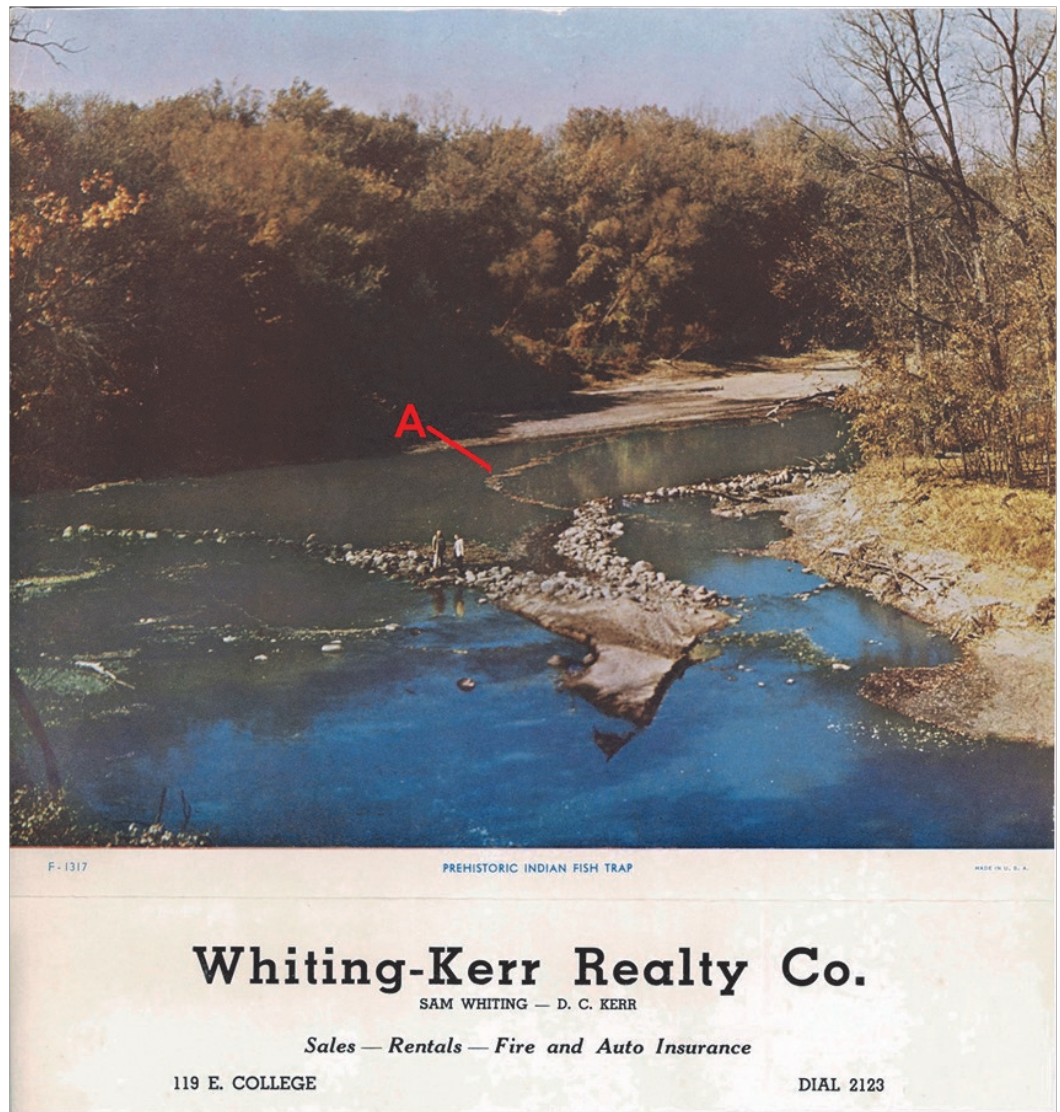


Figure 2. F.W. Kent's photo of the fish weir, published in the *Iowan* magazine, 1953, was probably taken on the same day. It reveals the "new" arm of the fish weir is actually a line of leaves blowing across the river.

WHAT'S THE POINT?

DANIEL HORGEN
OFFICE OF THE STATE ARCHAEOLOGIST
IOWA CITY

Discovered: 13DM1, Des Moines County, Iowa.

Measurements: 1½ inches in length with a maximum width of 1 inch.

Notes: The general form and shallow concave base on this heavily reworked example are specific characteristics of the type.

Send your responses to Daniel Horgen at daniel-horgen@uiowa.edu. Answers will be listed in the next issue of the newsletter.



Last Issue's Point: The specimen illustrated in the last issue of the Newsletter is classified as a Turkey-tail point. This classification has a variety of subtypes, with the Fulton, Harrison, and Hebron points being the most widely recognized. Turkey-tails are diagnostic of the Red Ocher mortuary complex of the Late Archaic/Early Woodland transitional period (1500-100 B.C.) in the Upper Midwest. The mortuary context in which most are recovered and the disproportioned stem and half element suggests some ritual function or limited use activity (Binford 1963). There were no correct responses given for this installment.

The raw material type is classified as Indiana hornstone, geologically known as Wyandotte chert. This non-fossiliferous chert is often blue-gray, gray, gray-tan, and some examples appear black in color. This chert occurs in both tabular and nodular forms, and outcrops in Harrison and Crawford counties of extreme southern Indiana and adjacent portions of Kentucky (Munson and Munson 1984). Prehistoric use of this chert type was regionally widespread and significant during the Late Archaic period.

References:

Binford, Lewis R.

1963 The Pomranky Site. A Late Archaic Burial Station. In *Miscellaneous Studies in Typology and Classification*, by Anta M. White, Lewis R. Binford, and Mark L. Papworth, pp. 149–192. Anthropological Papers No. 19. Museum of Anthropology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.

Munson, Patrick J., and Cheryl Ann Munson

1984 Cherts and Archaic Chert Utilization in South-Central Indiana. In *Prehistoric Chert Exploration: Studies from the Midcontinent*, edited by Brian M. Butler and Ernest E. May, pp. 149–166. Occasional Paper No. 2. Center for Archaeological Investigations, Southern Illinois University, Carbondale.



Last Issue's Point: Turkey-tail.

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CALL FOR ARTICLES AND PICTURES

The IAS Newsletter always needs articles. Do you have something you'd like to share with the membership? Did you take photos at any of the meetings or field trips? Do you have a collection, individual artifacts, or a site that you would like to highlight? Let the newsletter editor know.

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US Mail: Lowell Blikre
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Cresco, Iowa 52136

IOWA ARCHAEOLOGY MONTH September 11 – October 22

Check out the Archaeology Month Website for events:

<https://archaeology.uiowa.edu/iowa-archaeology-month>

Currently, there are events planned all over the state. There's probably something going on near you.

Event planners and participants, please take some pictures and send them to the newsletter editor.

MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Please contact the IAS Membership Secretary:

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MEMBERSHIP DUES

Voting	
Active	\$25
Household	\$30
Sustaining	\$35
Non-Voting	
Student (under 18)	\$14
Institution	\$35

NEWSLETTER INFORMATION

The Iowa Archeological Society is a nonprofit, 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. The Newsletter is published four times a year.

All materials for publication should be sent to the Newsletter Editor:

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When submitting articles, please provide text, captions, tables, and figures separately. All photographs should be at least 300 dpi. Graphics should be high-resolution tiff, jpg, or eps files or be scan-ready paper copies.

IAS WEBSITE

<http://archaeology.uiowa.edu/iowa-archaeological-society>