

*The*  
**PALIMPSEST**



Effigy Mounds National Monument Visitors Center

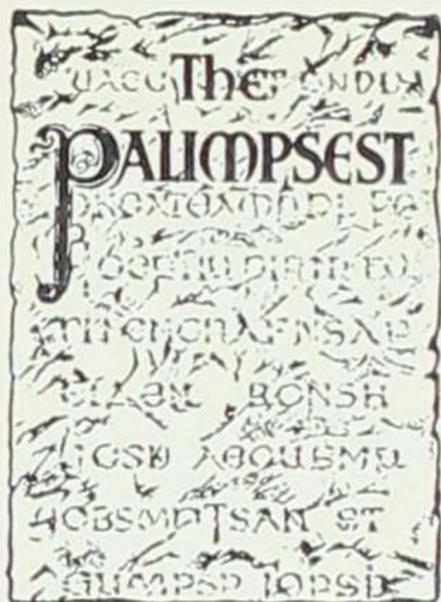
Effigy Mounds National Monument

Published Monthly by

The State Historical Society of Iowa

Iowa City, Iowa

MAY, 1969



## *The Meaning of Palimpsest*

In early times a palimpsest was a parchment or other material from which one or more writings had been erased to give room for later records. But the erasures were not always complete; and so it became the fascinating task of scholars not only to translate the later records but also to reconstruct the original writings by deciphering the dim fragments of letters partly erased and partly covered by subsequent texts.

The history of Iowa may be likened to a palimpsest which holds the record of successive generations. To decipher these records of the past, reconstruct them, and tell the stories which they contain is the task of those who write history.

---

## *Contents*

### EFFIGY MOUNDS NATIONAL MONUMENT

WILFRED D. LOGAN — J. EARL INGMANSON

Land of the Mound Builders	273
The Coming of the White Man	287
Archeological Surveys	293
The Quest for a National Park	297

---

## *Illustrations*

All photos, unless otherwise noted, are courtesy Effigy Mounds National Monument. Color photos on front and back cover are by Margery Goergen of McGregor.

## *Authors*

Wilfred D. Logan is a former Archeologist at Effigy Mounds National Monument and John Earl Ingmanson is serving as Archeologist at Mesa Verde National Park.

---

THE PALIMPSEST is published monthly by the State Historical Society of Iowa in Iowa City, William J. Petersen, Editor. It is printed in Iowa City and distributed free to Society members, depositories, and exchanges. This is the May, 1969, issue and is Number 5 of Volume 50. Second class postage paid at Iowa City, Iowa.

---

PRICE — Included in Membership. Regular issues, 25¢; Special—50¢

MEMBERSHIP — By application. Annual Dues \$5.00

ADDRESS — The State Historical Society, Iowa City, Iowa 52240

# THE PALIMPSEST

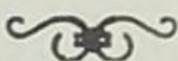
EDITED BY WILLIAM J. PETERSEN

VOL. L

ISSUED IN MAY 1969

No. 5

Copyright 1969 by The State Historical Society of Iowa



## Land of the Mound Builders

### *The Geographical Setting*

Effigy Mounds National Monument is an elongate tract of land sitting astride the boundary between Allamakee and Clayton counties in northeast Iowa. The area contains 1,204 acres of precipitous bluff-slopes and uplands covered with hardwood forest, open prairie expanses, and timbered bottomlands. It lies to the east of the Niagaran Escarpment, within the western fringe of the Driftless Area. Its scenic landscape is due to this geographic position, for in the Pleistocene, the last of the great glaciers by-passed the Driftless Area. In consequence, the terrain was not planed down as in surrounding localities. Along the east boundary of the area lies the great Mississippi River gorge, which is cut, at this spot, to a depth of 350 feet below the level of the surrounding land.

Effigy Mounds National Monument is bisected by the Yellow River, a small, swift stream which

falls rapidly from the western uplands to the Mississippi. The swamps and backwaters at the mouth of this stream support a population of mammals and birds, once most plentiful, which the Indians seem to have used for food and other economic needs. The swampy habitat also produced plants of importance to primitive economies. The stream contains edible fish, originally in great numbers. The native hardwood forest contains trees of economic importance today as well as in prehistoric and early historic times. The luxuriant forest undergrowth contains wild plants of use to the aboriginal population, and of interest to the modern botanist. Crops of corn are grown today on many of the terraces built up at the mouths of the small Mississippi tributaries, and on the bluffs. It is probable that Indians made similar use of some of these lands in prehistoric times.

The area contains ample tangible evidence of prehistoric occupation. This includes 87 Indian burial mounds and three rock shelters. The mounds are clustered in groups of varying numbers. One such group contains ten bear effigies, three bird-shaped mounds, and two which are of oblong, or linear, form. This is the Marching Bear Mound Group of the area's south unit.

#### *The Prehistoric Indians*

Toward the end of the last glaciation, Nature had created a hunter's paradise in northeast Iowa, amply stocked with big game. Into this abundant

landscape came the first men — hunters similar to other early people east of the Rocky Mountains, using tools and weapons like those excavated by archeologists in the High Plains. The life of the early hunters was simple. It is believed that small groups of men pursued and brought to earth the gigantic elephantine mammals and extinct forms of the bison of the latter part of the Pleistocene. Their weapons were darts, tipped with leaf-shaped, stone points, and hurled with the spear-thrower. They probably lived and hunted in groups of closely allied family units. If they built houses, archeologists do not know of it directly, but it is sometimes speculated that they used a very rudimentary shelter of brush or skin. Meager remains of their game kills and camps, dated by geological context, or by the radiocarbon method, indicate an age well in excess of 10,000 years for their appearance in North America. It is likely that they would have entered northeast Iowa shortly after this time, as the glaciers receded from the Upper Mississippi Valley.

No remains of these early Indians have been found on the land now within Effigy Mounds National Monument, but scattered evidence of their presence appears in the immediate vicinity in the form of dart points of types known to have been made by early peoples elsewhere. Several projectile points in collections of local people are of the Clovis Fluted type. An especially large number

of these has been found near Bluffton, Iowa, in Winneshiek County. Ellison Orr owned photographs of such a point from Allamakee County.

No doubt the Indians used the land now included in Effigy Mounds as a hunting ground. Their part in the history here set forth is minor, but it is noteworthy, for it represents the beginning of the human continuum of which we ourselves are a part.

The early hunter tradition can be traced through several thousand years, until changes in and additions to their way of living produced cultural assemblages sufficiently different to be apparent in modern archeological research. It is at this point in history that we recognize tools suited for intensive wood working activities. The axe, the adz and gouge all attest to changes in the adaptation of the Indian way of life from the plains to the forest. The result of these changes serves to differentiate the Archaic period, wherein the primitive hunting groups, with perhaps new population accretions from outside the region, placed increasing emphasis on other subsistence forms. Nuts, fruits, berries, and fresh water mussels, laboriously gathered, contributed a larger share to the food supply, and fishing also may have been more important. The produce of the hunt still played a goodly part in their economy, but the animals they hunted were the commonplace varieties of our own experience (*i. e.*, the

deer, bear, bison, and smaller species), for the great herds of elephants were gone forever.

In northeast Iowa, the Archaic people seem to have been culturally allied with Wisconsin groups, for scattered finds of tools like those excavated in Wisconsin sites have been made. The most striking characteristic of this Wisconsin Archaic culture is an array of copper tools, which led to the appellation for the industry — "Old Copper." Implements and weapons attributed to these people have been found along the Mississippi River. Some have come from the river banks along the east boundary of Effigy Mounds National Monument. These Indians may be pictured along the local streams, fishing, gathering mussels, stalking deer, and trapping beaver, muskrat, otter, and other small mammals. The women probably gathered roots, nuts, and berries in the woods. These additional food supplies, if coupled with relative ease of acquisition, could well have afforded more leisure time. Added leisure, for a part of the group at least, would have permitted time for thought, and a beginning may have been made toward elaboration of social life, and, certainly, religion.

By the Archaic period, the local environment was thoroughly familiar, and natural resources were known to the fullest extent permitted by the primitive technological level. In addition to the copper tools mentioned earlier, new stone projec-

tile point styles appeared, and there was wider variation and greater numbers of nearly every tool type. The more numerous tools and weapons suggest larger populations and a relatively prosperous life. Religion would have been magical in character. Shamans, who would have aimed at bending the forces of nature to man's will, probably were the religious leaders. These men no doubt conducted magical ceremonies connected with the chase — to bring success in hunting, and to increase the number of game animals. Also, they would have worked to prevent harm to the group through natural disasters, and would have driven away sickness.

Thus, it was during the Archaic Period we have the beginnings of the Woodland Indian way of life which successfully assimilated new ideas into the basic pattern up until historic times in the forests of northeastern North America.

In northeast Iowa the Archaic may have flourished from around 6,000 or 7,000 years ago until about 3,000 years ago. Some time around the latter date, more or less, Indians in this region added certain material elements sufficiently distinctive to enable the archeologist to define a new period in their cultural development. This is called the Early Woodland period, and it is dated, depending on the locality within the eastern United States, from around 3,000 years to about the beginning of the Christian Era. In this period the

economic requisites to greater social and religious elaboration may have been added. The greatest need was a dependable food supply. The earlier peoples, with their hunting and food collecting economies, depending on Nature's caprice in regard to wild animal and plant populations, controlled their food supply but little. Until this could be brought under partial control, at least, little economic security could develop, and consequently there would have been a lack of freedom to engage in more "intellectual" occupations.

While there is no direct evidence of horticultural activity on the part of the Early Woodland population, some investigators infer it on the basis of other developments. It is reasonable to assume that agriculture, coming into the eastern United States, helped produce the Early Woodland, but direct evidence for it is scanty. In the immediate locality of Effigy Mounds National Monument, the gathering of wild rice may have, at least partially, obviated the need for agriculture since large quantities are known to have been gathered and stored by such historically known tribes as the Menominee.

The large and elaborate burial mounds may furnish indirect evidence in support of this, as they would require the work of many individuals, and a considerable number of hours away from the purely economic activities. People building mounds must be fed during the time they are occu-

pied producing the monument. While it is possible that another part of the population might be able to hunt enough and gather enough to feed those engaged in mound construction, it seems more likely that a supply of food on which the community could depend was readily at hand. The fruits of gardening or wild rice seem the best candidates. In addition to this, it should be remembered that those who dug and carried the earth of which the mound was built probably did not do so from sheer spontaneous impulse. More than likely their occupation would have been suggested to them by others who were more exalted, socially, politically, or religiously, with the power to compel the builders to their task. Again, gardening and wild rice seem the most likely forms of controlled food supply which would release the supervisors to pursue their particular culturally-accepted forms of idleness.

With the exception of the additions of mound-building and pottery-making, and the possible appearance of gardening supplementary to hunting and gathering, the material content of Early Woodland changed but little from that of Archaic times. The spear-thrower was still the chief weapon, and the projectile points continue in the same styles as their Archaic antecedents. Among the innovations, pottery is a most important item. The first pottery was crude, thick, and heavily tempered with coarse pieces of crushed rock. The

exterior was covered with impressions of rather coarse cord, and some cord-impressions also were placed on the interior. Toward the end of the period, pottery became thinner and was decorated with wide, indifferently-applied, incised lines. Pottery of the latter type has been found in Effigy Mounds National Monument.

Burial mounds probably dating from this Early Woodland period have been excavated in nearby areas to the south of Effigy Mounds National Monument. Grave offerings included with the interments have included large flint blades, some of which were made from an exceptionally fine grade of flint called hornstone. This hornstone is known to have come from a series of quarries along the Ohio River. Red ocher paint, made by grinding hematite, was scattered through the fill of the burial pits, over the grave goods and burials.

Between Early Woodland and the next major time and cultural division there is no clear demarcation. The Indians seem to have elaborated their material possessions and intellectual life gradually, following a trend apparent throughout the Middlewest. This trend, in Illinois and Ohio, at least, produced complex and distinctive social and religious forms. The remains dating from this period are called Hopewell among archeologists of the Middlewestern area. More generalized remains known to stem from this time are included under the classification of "Middle Woodland."

In northeast Iowa, pottery collected in and near Effigy Mounds National Monument shows relationship to certain Hopewellian types. Projectile points of Hopewellian type are also found. Several burial mound types seem to be characteristic of the period. While certain of these show clear Hopewellian resemblances, others seem to reflect influences from non-Hopewell sources. Three mounds containing Hopewellian grave-goods have been excavated in Effigy Mounds National Monument. One contained a rectangular, sub-floor, burial pit filled with bundle burials, one of which was accompanied by a copper gorget (breastplate). Another contained a sub-floor burial pit, but with a rock wall surrounding the pit on the original ground surface. One burial in this mound was accompanied by a copper gorget, while another had copper beads associated with it. The third mound contained remains of cremated bodies, with grave offerings of perforated bear teeth, and large chalcedony spear points or knives.

Whatever their burial customs, these people probably differed but little from their Early Woodland antecedents in terms of economic and everyday life. In the Upper Mississippi Valley, Hopewellian mounds are not complex, with the exception of a few cases. An assumption of more efficient agricultural practices such as have been proposed in Illinois is not warranted. Hunting and gathering seem to have furnished a consider-

able part of the food supply, and the socio-political groups producing the mounds need not have been large.

Although the degree of control of leadership need not have been great, some form of political or religious head must have existed. There may have been social classes of a sort, for the people buried in the mounds probably are not ordinary citizens. Among the Hopewellian peoples, trade relationships of a fairly extensive order are indicated by the mica, copper, brown chalcedony and obsidian blades buried with the dead. No large villages are known, and it seems likely that the people who built the mounds may have spent much of each year in seasonal hunting camps, occupying a tribal village during the crop-growing season.

Archeological research, both within and outside Effigy Mounds National Monument, has not advanced sufficiently to permit detailed assertions as to the nature of the cultural changes following the construction of the Hopewellian mound types in northeast Iowa. It appears that there was a gradual shift to a mound of less complex nature. An interpretation which appears valid at the present stage of research is one which proposes the appearance of most of the Iowa effigies as a part of the cultural shifts taking place late in the Middle Woodland period, with effigy construction, along with building of very simple conicals, filling

the gap between such phenomena as Hopewell and the advent of Upper Mississippi cultures.

Little difference may be seen between the structure and content of the effigies and the simple conicals. No great elaborate set of ideas or social practices need be involved in the effigy culture. The elaborate mound shape is the only striking feature. In everyday life, Indians of this period probably differed little from the previous groups. The camp sites attributable to them are small, and are found on the bluff-tops, often near mound groups, and in the numerous rock shelters. Occupational debris stemming from this period is found in most of the major village sites on the large Mississippi River terraces. In the area immediately surrounding Effigy Mounds National Monument, the most common village remains found are those which seem to have belonged to the effigy mound-building Indians.

Although many campsites and villages are known, few have been excavated. It may be guessed that they lived as a tribal unit during the summer months on the large terraces along the river, where indications of fairly large populations are found. The smaller camps and the rock shelter camps may represent seasonal occupation sites such as winter quarters for small, local hunting groups. These people may have had corn gardens, and they used the bow and arrow for hunting and as a weapon of war. They used bone

tools, some copper for tools and ornaments, chipped stone scrapers, arrowpoints, and drills, ground stone axes, pearl beads, shell ornaments, and pottery. The numerous small sites suggest that the land may have been supporting a moderate, but dispersed population.

It has been demonstrated in the State of Wisconsin that Hopewellian culture precedes that of the Effigy Mound Builders. Since the mounds of northeastern Iowa fall into the same cultural groups as those of Wisconsin, a similar sequence may be assumed to exist west of the Mississippi. Radio-carbon dates place Hopewell culture within the first centuries of the Christian era while dates for Effigy Mound culture suggest a range from the eighth to twelfth centuries. Simple mounds, similar to the effigies in content, may have been built until around 1300 or 1400 A. D.

The Woodland way of life was a tradition in which hunting and gathering played a strong role. The Effigy Mound and related peoples represented this way of life. Some time around the last dates mentioned above, they seem to have been supplanted in the region by Indians whose culture included a stronger emphasis on agriculture, and on life in larger villages. These are the people called Oneota. Their pottery, economic orientation, and certain facets of their religion indicate a more southerly cultural ancestry. Their villages, in northeast Iowa, have been fairly identified with

a historic tribe — the Ioway Indians, from whom the state takes its name. Although these people did not bury their dead in earth mounds, large cemeteries belonging to them are known. They remained in the region until early historic times. Certain French explorers may have encountered them. For the most part, their villages lie to the north of Effigy Mounds National Monument. Scattered finds, consisting of pottery fragments, indicate that they made at least temporary use of the National Monument confines. They probably hunted in the area, and they seem to have had transient camps in some of the area's rock shelters.

With the coming of the whites, the Oneota way of life was modified. Later it was changed radically in respect to material items, and finally they moved farther west, giving way before other Indian groups from the east, and the white trappers and traders. With the fur trade era, the Indian occupation of the locality comes to an end as a continuous cultural stream. The trading center which developed at the mouth of the Wisconsin, called Prairie du Chien, attracted Indians, but the area of Effigy Mounds National Monument was not a permanent home for them. Sioux of several tribal divisions hunted in the area, and they disputed the right to do so with the Sauk and Fox, and even with the Winnebago. Indigenous claimants of the land, by this time, had moved on and are no longer a part of this history.

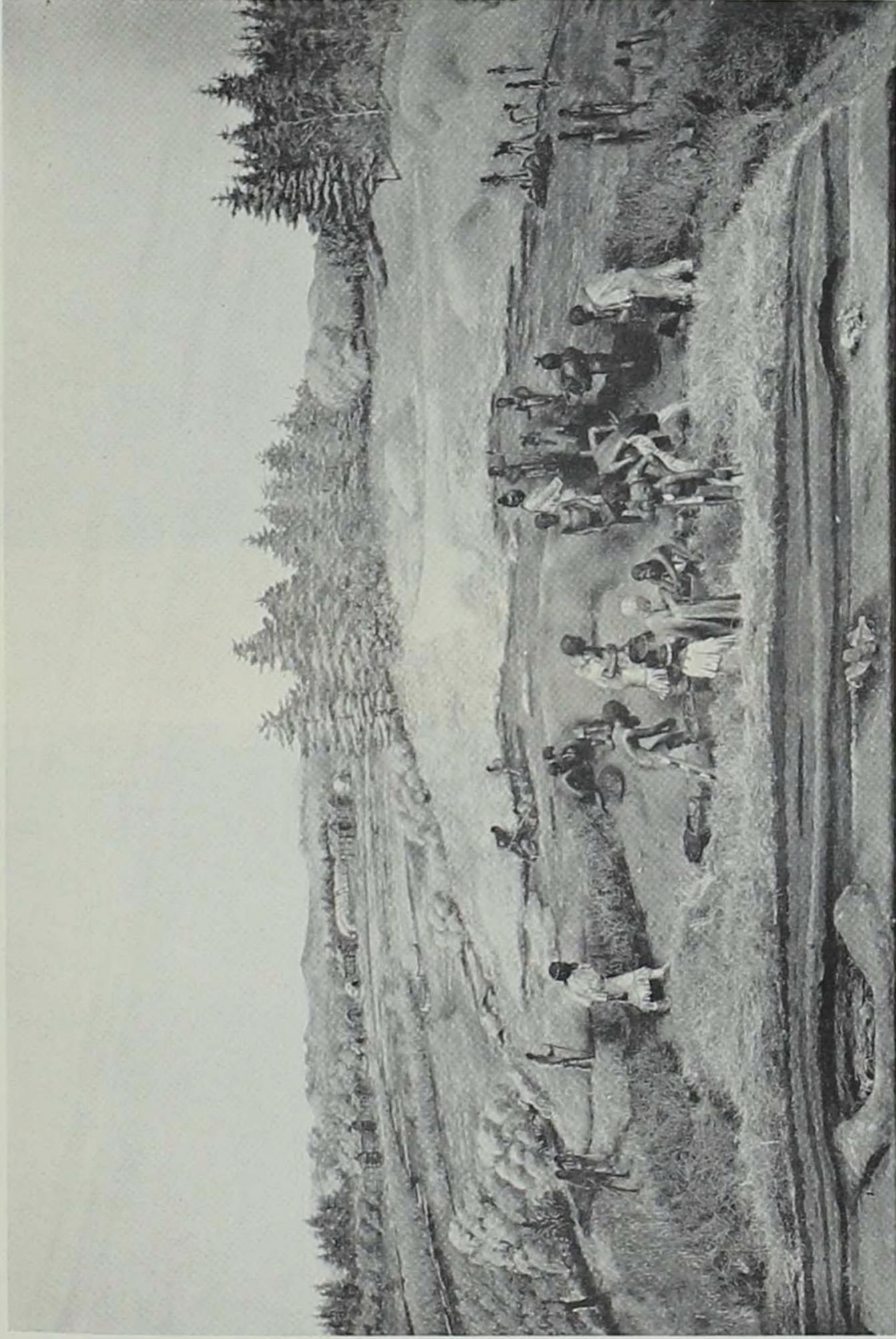
## The Coming of the White Man

Louis Joliet and Father Marquette were the first white men to reach the northeast Iowa region while exploring the Wisconsin and Mississippi rivers in 1673. Other Frenchmen followed over the Joliet-Marquette route — exploring, building forts, and developing Indian trade. William Delisle's map of 1718 shows the *Chemin des Voyageurs* or "Road of the Traders" crossing northern Iowa from the mouth of the Wisconsin River to the Big Sioux. Some of these traders and voyageurs may have camped and hunted in what is now Effigy Mounds National Monument, but there were no settlements, and the area is not mentioned in early literature. Pierre Paul Marin may have built a fort at the mouth of Sny-Magill Creek as early as 1738 near the site of the great Sny-Magill Mound Group but the exact location is a matter of doubt.

The main events of this period went on around Effigy Mounds National Monument, but not within it. Geography decreed that the area around the mouth of the Yellow River should play a minor role in early historic times. On the Iowa side of the Mississippi, the terrain is slashed by a series of steep-sided, narrow ravines, dropping

into the Mississippi River from the west. These have very small terraces at their mouths, and the land between them along the Mississippi River bank provides no better sites for settlement. On the other hand, the flat, open river terrace on the east bank of the river, extending north from the mouth of the Wisconsin River, was the obvious spot for a settlement. This terrace, called *Prairie du Chien* by the French, was occupied by prehistoric Indians at an early date. In historic times it became a rendezvous point for Indians and traders, and, as the permanent location of forts and trading posts, it was the focal point of historic events pertaining to a considerable territory on both sides of the river.

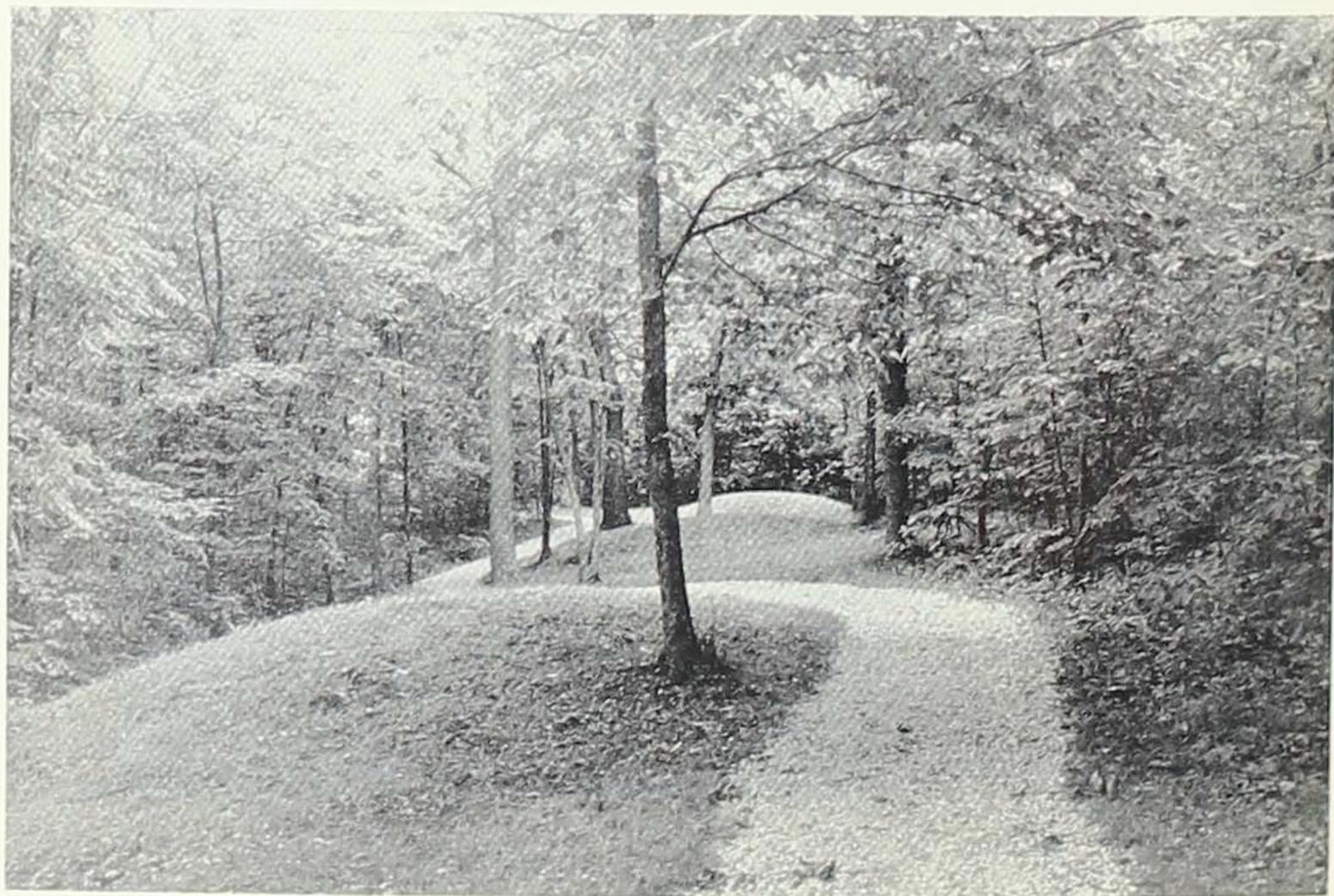
At this time, the land now included in the State of Iowa was exploited economically, but not inhabited permanently, by whites. Before extensive settlement, the territory changed hands many times, as European nations struggled to secure colonial advantage. Northeast Iowa was successively part of New France, New Spain, New France again, and finally, part of the infant United States of America as included in the Louisiana Purchase. The first permanent settler in the eastern part of Iowa was Julien Dubuque, a French Canadian who arrived in 1785 on the site of the city which bears his name, and who operated lead mines which he called "The Mines of Spain." Another early northeast Iowa settlement of this



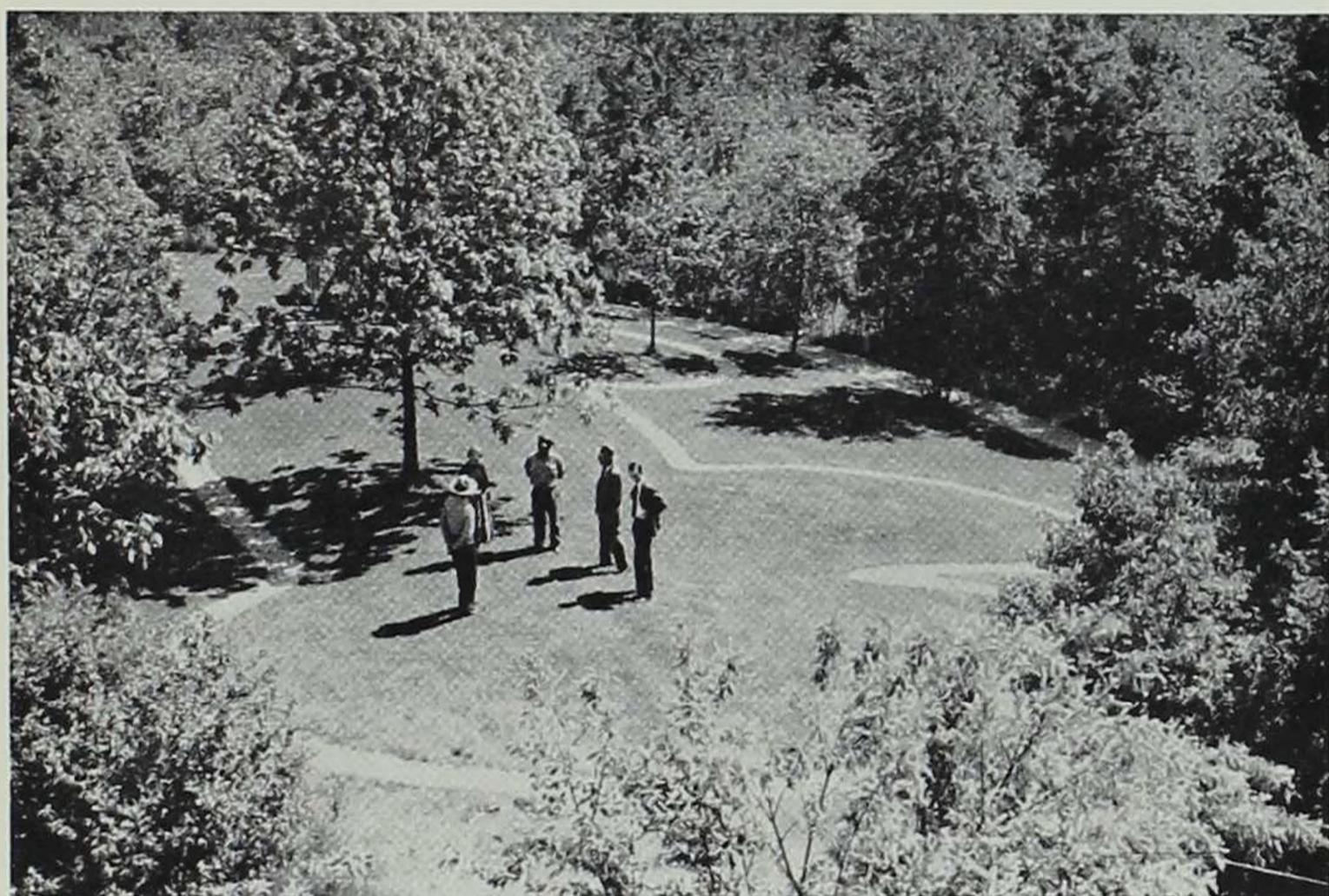
Diorama Showing Indians Constructing Effigy Mound  
*Photo Courtesy Milwaukee Public Museum*



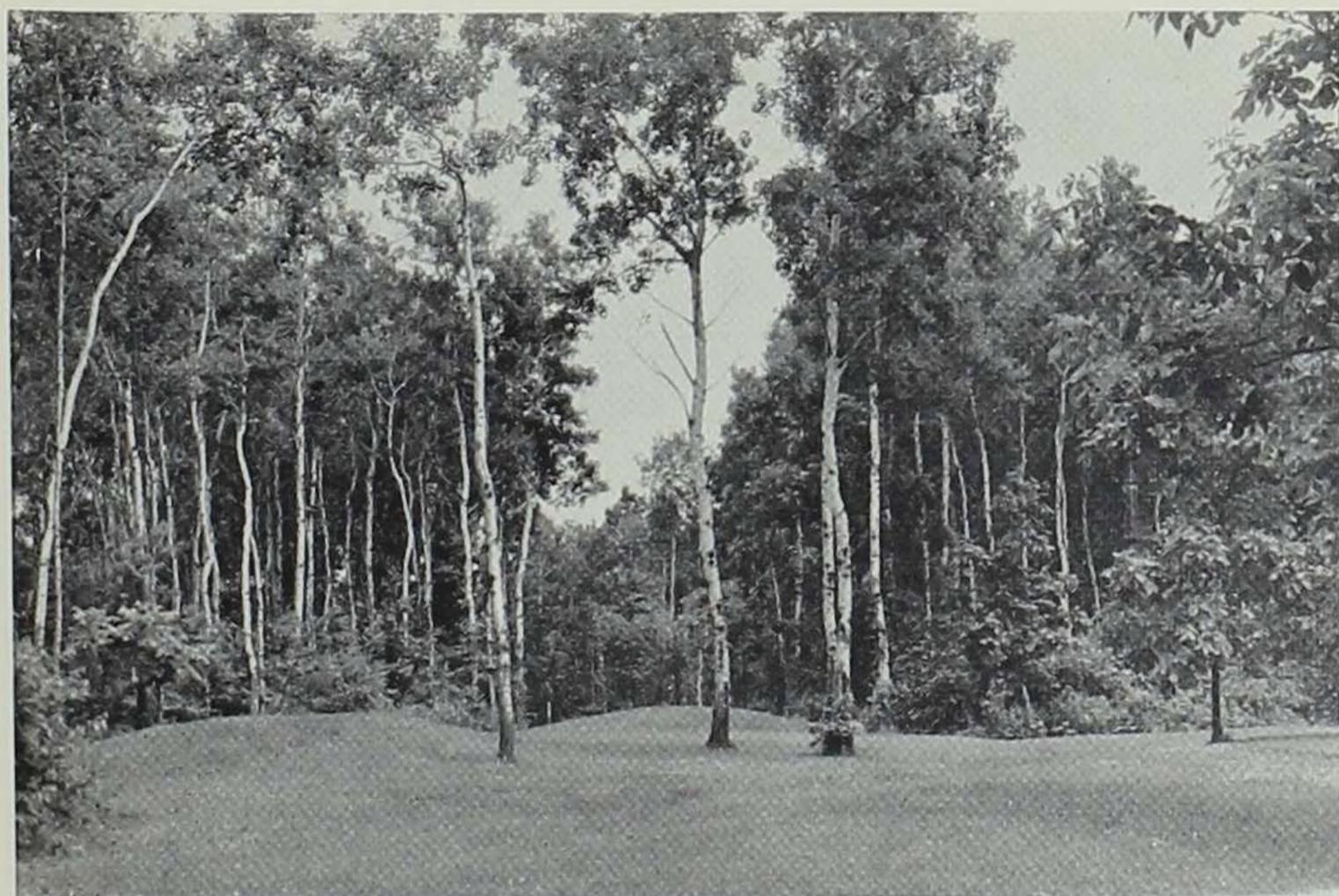
Overlooking the Mississippi River from Fire Point



Picturesque Path Along Trail to Fire Point



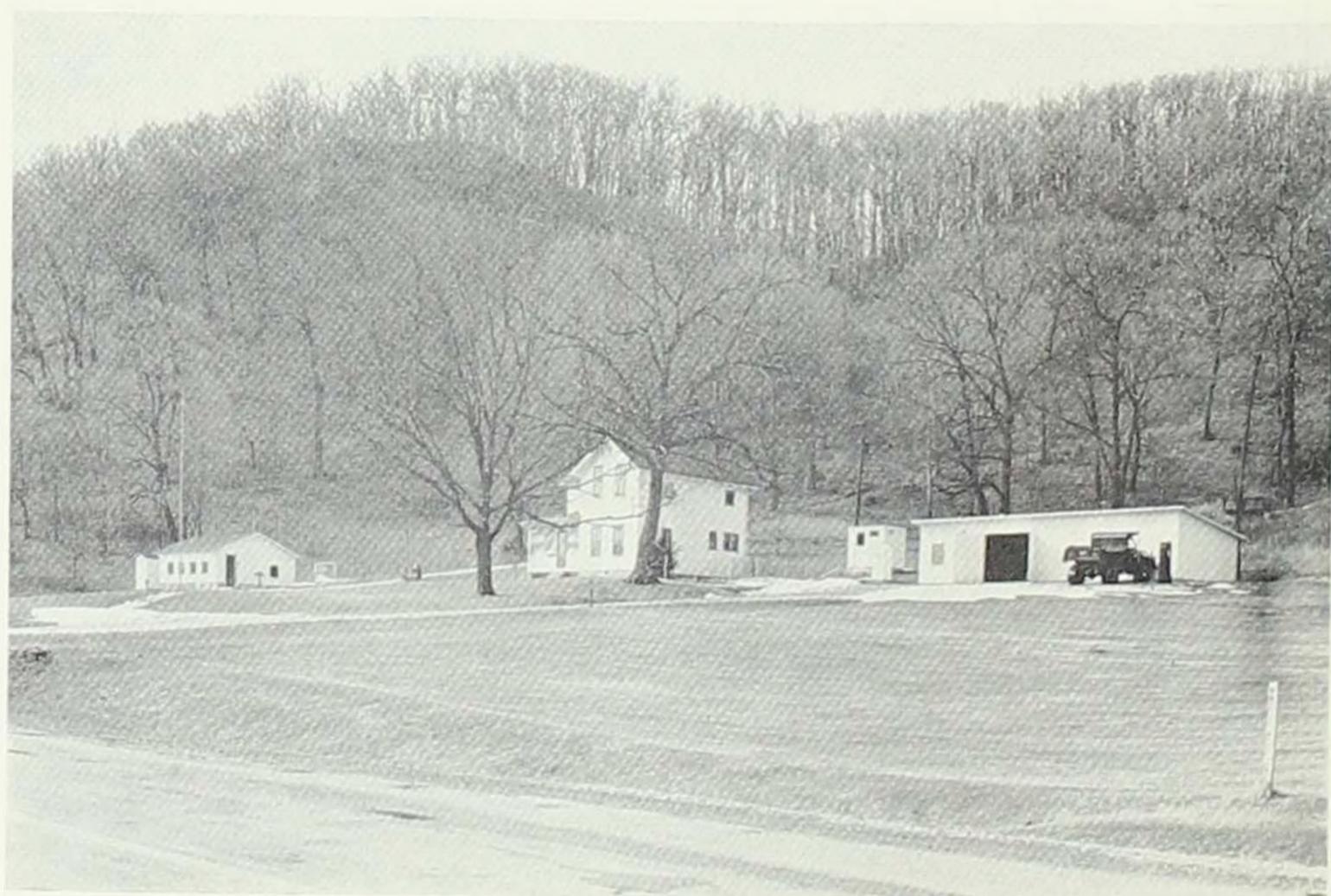
Visitors Receiving Information from Ranger at Little Bear Mound



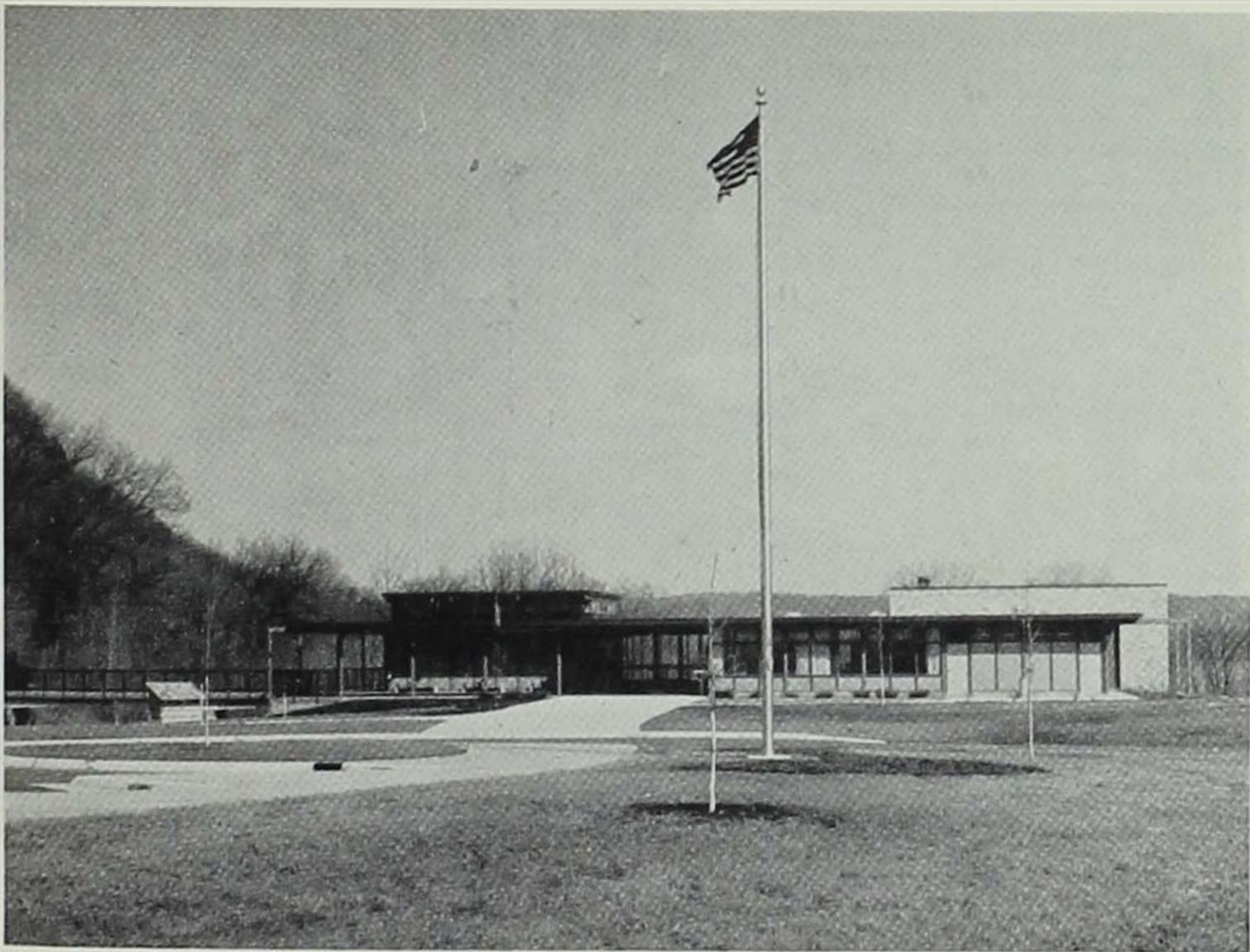
Conical Mounds in North Area



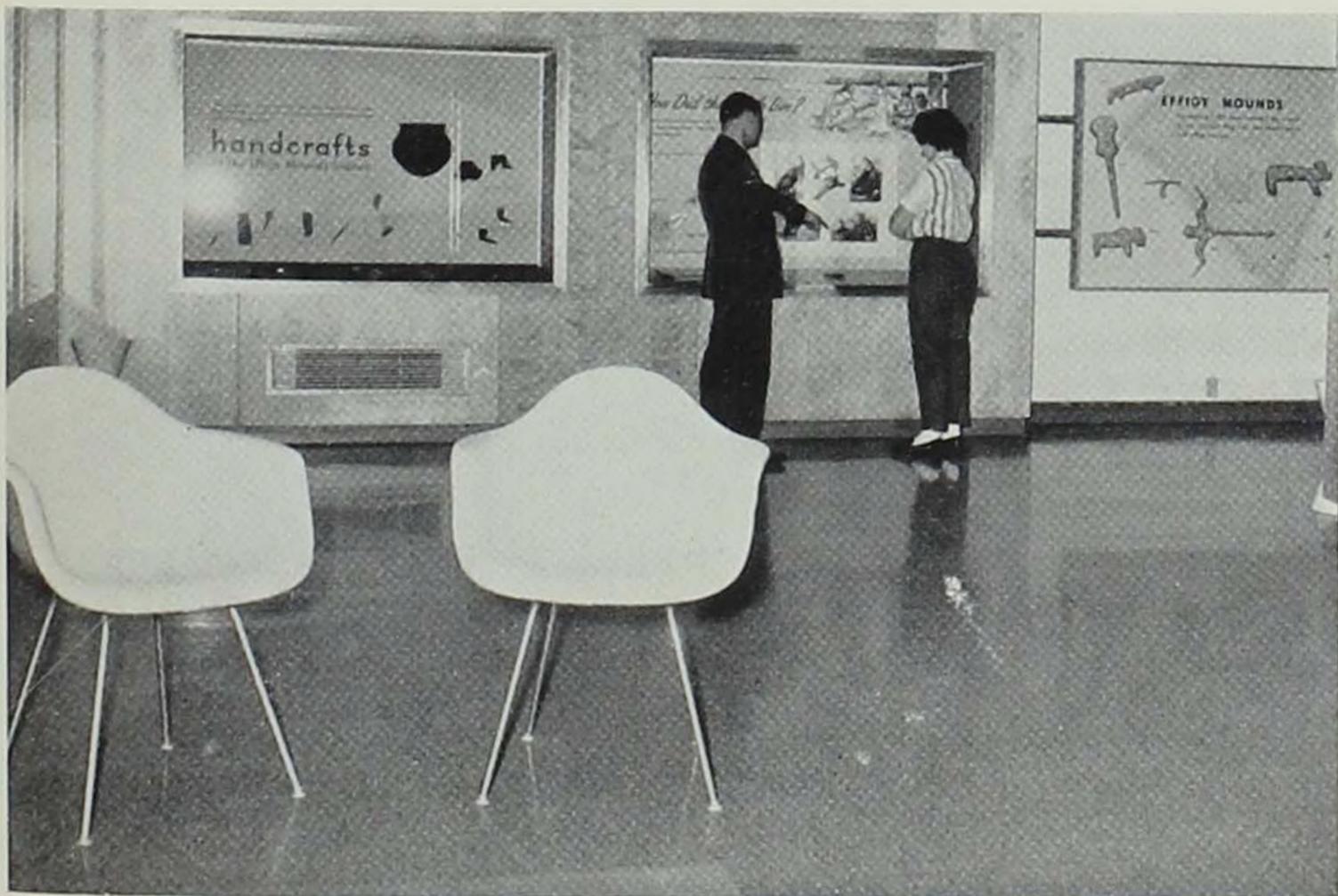
Buildings on Site of Effigy Mounds National Monument — Spring, 1950



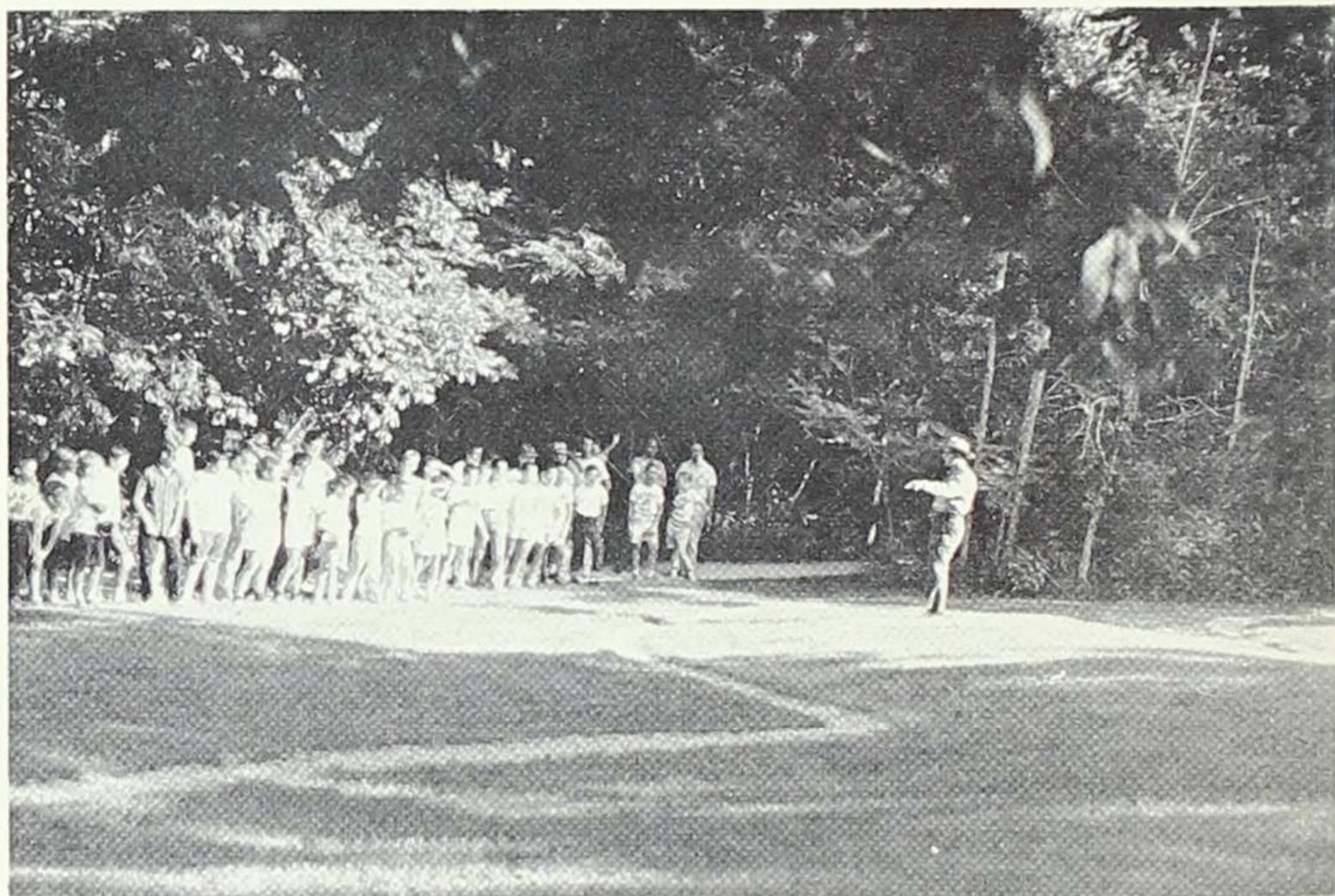
Same Site with Buildings Remodeled for Park Service



New Visitor Center — Dedicated May 20, 1961



Interior View of New Visitor Center



A Park Ranger Tells a Tour About Animal Shaped Mounds



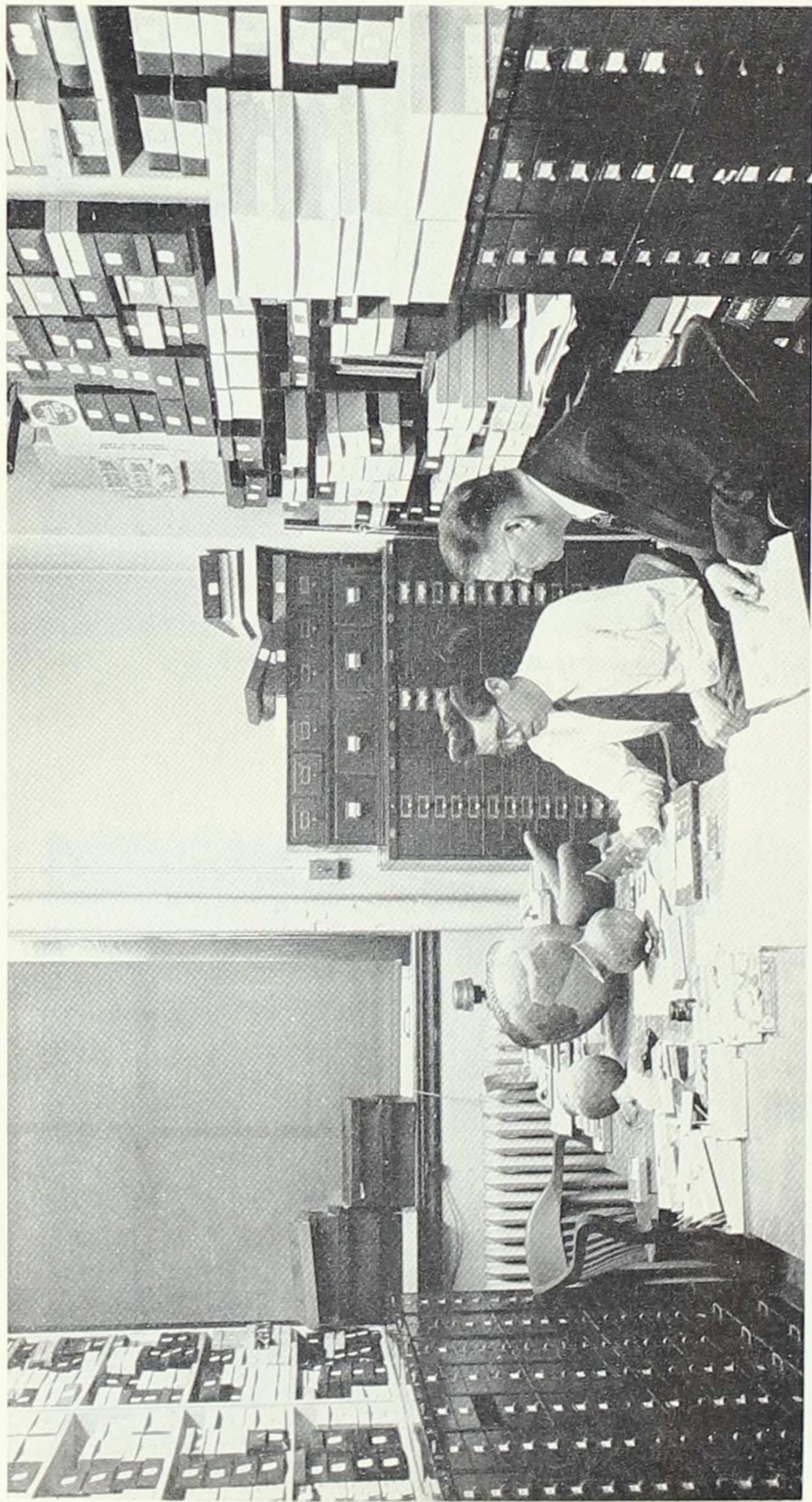
Trailside Exhibits Help Explain the Mounds



Bird Mound in South Area Outlined After a Light Snow



Bird Mound in South Area Outlined After a Light Snow



Archeologist Wilfred D. Logan Shows Early Woodland Pottery to Dr. William J. Petersen

During the years 1953-1954 Archeologist Wilfred D. Logan spent many days studying the Archeological Collection of the State Historical Society which had been arranged and classified by Dr. Charles Reuben Keyes, and which contained among other collections the artifacts and records amassed by Ellison Orr. The Archeology Collection, containing approximately 250,000 specimens, is arranged and catalogued for study and research by qualified archeologists and graduate students. Members of the Society will enjoy the fruits of these researches in the Society's publication program from time to time.

period was that of Basil Giard, who received a grant of land in present-day Clayton County in 1800 from Spanish Lieutenant Governor Don Carlos Dehault Delassus. Giard's grant was a tract located immediately south of the land which later became the Fort Crawford Military Reservation, part of which is now included in the south unit of Effigy Mounds National Monument. None of the Giard land, however, is included in the National Monument.

The first mention of the area now within Effigy Mounds National Monument appears in Jonathan Carver's *Travels Through the Interior Parts of North America in the Years 1766, 1767, 1768*, in which he tells of leaving his traders at the mouth of the Yellow River while he himself ascended the Mississippi. The next mention of it implies that a few habitation sites had appeared at the mouth of the Yellow River. In 1826, Francis Methode of Prairie du Chien, crossed the river and went up a small ravine north of the Yellow River to make maple sugar. Sometime during the month of March, Methode and his family were murdered, presumably by Winnebago Indians who lived near the mouth of the ravine.

Peter L. Scanlan, in his book *Prairie du Chien: French, British, American* has placed the site of this murder at Hanging Rock within the present National Monument. Inspection of photostats of the testimony, however, indicates that it probably

occurred near the mouth of Paint Creek, somewhat north of the National Park Service boundaries. In the testimony before Colonel Willoughby Morgan of Fort Crawford regarding this incident, people living on Yellow River are mentioned. These were one Sioux and one Menominee woman, Desilie (a man in the employ of the Indian Agent, Nicholas Boilvin), the wife of a Mr. Reed, and Prudent Langlois. Since the area at the mouth of the Yellow River is the only spot for a number of miles where good living quarters might be built, it is probable that these people were living within what is now Effigy Mounds National Monument.

During the construction of the new Visitor Center at Effigy Mounds National Monument, further evidence of early historic habitation here came to light. The remains of an earthen house floor were discovered just to the west of the newly constructed building. Apparently there was once a small cabin or similar type building standing here which had a central Indian-type fire pit. On the floor itself, however, were fragments of window glass and square nails. Such combination of culture traits seems to reflect appropriately the blending of European and Indian traditions on the frontier.

In 1829, when the United States Army began to build the new Fort Crawford on the upper terrace at Prairie du Chien, a sawmill was established on the Yellow River. The site of this mill

has been variously placed at the mouth, and at the end of the back water, about three miles above the mouth. The latter location seems most logical, and has the further authority of having been marked by a United States Geological Survey marker which was rediscovered, along with the remains of a dam, by Ellison Orr during the 1930's. Lt. Jefferson Davis, who later was President of the Confederacy, managed this sawmill for the Army, and oak logs were cut on the surrounding hillsides and sawed into lumber, whereupon they were floated down the Yellow River and across the Mississippi to Prairie du Chien.

The Army had two other connections with the land now within Effigy Mounds National Monument. The south unit of the area was part of the Fort Crawford Military Reservation, locally called the "Post Garden Tract." This land was drawn upon for timber, for firewood, and as a garden plot. Through a portion of this tract, near the extreme south boundary of the present National Monument, ran the military road from the ferry landing at the mouth of the "Military Trail Ravine" to Fort Atkinson, which was built in present-day Winneshiek County between the years 1840 and 1842.

These government lots, along with the other land now within Effigy Mounds National Monument, passed into the hands of private owners between the years 1841 and 1869. The first such

transfer was one in which the United States Government conveyed Lot No. 4 of this tract to Hercules L. Dousman of Prairie du Chien. Dousman was the wealthiest citizen of Prairie du Chien, and was an agent of the American Fur Company. Other lots seem to have been sold to Frederick J. Miller, J. C. Vanpel, and Bernard W. Brisbois, who in turn sold them to others. These men were all land speculators. Brisbois was a somewhat unscrupulous speculator of the period. A member of a well known Prairie du Chien family, he carried out his land schemes in partnership with Ira Brunson, who also acquired land within the present monument boundaries.

The land these men bought, or acquired by other means, gradually passed into the hands of farmers, and the tract was converted into pioneer farms, from which the timber was cut for lumber and firewood. Farm houses were located within the area at the site of the present headquarters; in the south unit on the west side of Rattlesnake Knoll, and in the so-called Sawvelle Hollow, which opens into the Yellow River bottoms at the west end of Nezeka Bluff. Nezeka Bluff, or Nezeka Point, takes its name from the grist mill and proposed townsite at the base of the east end of the bluff. This mill and prospective settlement was called Nezeka by the men who laid out the town lots. A post office was established at Nezeka in 1858 and discontinued in 1862.

## Archeological Surveys

During the historic period the mounds on the bluff-tops and in the valley at the Yellow River mouth went unnoticed as far as the printed record shows. In 1881, however, two men began an ambitious survey of the mound groups of the Mississippi River Valley. This project, now referred to as the Lewis-Hill Survey, was begun by Theodore H. Lewis and Alfred J. Hill. Lewis, born in Richmond, Virginia, in 1856, moved during his early life to the locality of Chillicothe, Ohio, where he came in contact with Squier and Davis' work on the great Ohio mound groups. While still a young man, he went to St. Paul, Minnesota, where he met Hill. Born in London in 1823, Hill had served in the Corps of Topographical Engineers of the Union Army during the Civil War. After he went to Minnesota, Hill became interested in the numerous Indian mounds near St. Paul and Minneapolis. He seems to have had an early interest in archeology through contact with British antiquities. He was disturbed by the destruction of Minnesota mound groups, and mapped several in the vicinity of St. Paul. Hill had the professional ability and the financial means to support an archeological survey, and when he met Lewis in

1880 a partnership was formed which lasted until Hill's death in 1895.

The Lewis-Hill surveys produced excellent maps of mound groups through the Mississippi Valley and the southern United States. As many of these groups are now obliterated or destroyed, the maps are an invaluable record. Among the mound groups they platted are some now within Effigy Mounds National Monument, including the Marching Bear Mound Group, the Fire Point Mound Group, and the group of mounds which once existed to the west of the present Visitor Center. Knowledge of the latter mound group would have been lost forever had it not been for the work of the Lewis-Hill Survey.

Another early archeological study which mentions, but does not illustrate, the mounds within Effigy Mounds National Monument is by Cyrus Thomas in the *Twelfth Annual Report* of the Bureau of American Ethnology for the years 1890-1891. Local interest in mound groups appears to have been slight. However, Ellison Orr of Waukon was interested, and gathered archeological data on local sites throughout the late Nineteenth Century and the early decades of the Twentieth Century.

Meanwhile, the idea of an Iowa Archaeological Survey was conceived by Dr. Charles R. Keyes, Professor of German at Cornell College at Mount Vernon. Professor Keyes had become interested in

prehistoric man during his student days in Germany. In July, 1920, his first article on prehistoric man in Iowa was published in the *Iowa Journal of History and Politics*, the quarterly publication of the State Historical Society of Iowa, a magazine that had carried similar articles by Duren J. H. Ward between 1903 and 1905.

In 1922, having collected all the available material on Iowa archeology, Dr. Keyes met with the Superintendent and Board of Curators of the State Historical Society of Iowa to present the problem of the rapidly disappearing mounds. As a result Dr. Keyes was employed on a part-time basis "to make a preliminary archeological survey of Iowa and the adjacent territory" during the summer months when not teaching at Cornell. His salary for the three months was \$500. As an added aid, the State Historical Society subsidized postage, envelopes and letterheads, and travel expense for Dr. Keyes. The return address on the envelope read:

STATE HISTORICAL SOCIETY  
Iowa Archaeological Survey

---

Charles R. Keyes, Mt. Vernon, Iowa

During the summer months Dr. Keyes visited various localities in the state, gathering data on site locations, and studying the collections of amateur archeologists in the areas he visited. He stimulated some of these amateurs to donate their

collections to the State Historical Society. Among the collections which came to the Society as a result of his efforts was the huge Ellison Orr Collection from sites located chiefly in Allamakee County.

In 1934, through an arrangement for F.E.R.A. labor, Dr. Keyes was enabled to make excavations on the Upper Iowa River, the report of which was printed in the October, 1934, issue of THE PALIMPSEST. Beginning with 1934, Ellison Orr became Field Supervisor of the Survey, and directed much of the actual fieldwork. His work was summarized in the January, 1940, *Iowa Journal of History and Politics* by Dr. Keyes as follows:

After Mr. Orr came in from his work in the field [April 11 - December 6, 1938] he began work on a detailed report of the season's activities and results, an effort that took most of his time until he again went into the field early in June, 1939. The result is a typewritten report of two hundred and twelve pages, in addition to maps, drawings, plats, and profiles covering all phases of the excavations made. This was a matter-of-course contribution on his part in 1934, 1935, and 1936, as well as in 1938, for he has not expected financial remuneration, and no W. P. A. supervisor receives any salary except when working with his men. The matter is mentioned only with the thought that it may be possible some time to give Mr. Orr some kind of recognition.

It is hoped this issue of THE PALIMPSEST will give Ellison Orr a modicum of richly deserved recognition.

## The Quest for a National Park

The idea of an Upper Mississippi National Park is an old one in the northeast Iowa-southwest Wisconsin region. It appears that no one person is responsible for the beginning of the movement, or for the inception of the idea. The early Twentieth Century newspapers and private correspondence indicate that the idea was already in the minds of local people in years prior to 1909. On April 6, 1909, however, Representative George H. Schulte of Clayton County made an address in the General Assembly in Des Moines in favor of establishing a National Park near McGregor. After noting the scenic, historic, and prehistoric features of the region, Representative Schulte concluded:

Parks should be so located that they may be visited by many and this proposed park is but a short distance by rail from Chicago, Milwaukee, Madison, St. Paul, Minneapolis and other cities. Two great railroad systems run through it and it can be reached by boat from the north and the south.

If established as a national park it will become the favorite retreat during vacation and rest for the people along the river from New Orleans to Minneapolis. We hope to see the time when the tourist will be attracted by beautiful parks and cities along the "Father of Waters"

and that he will take a trip up the Mississippi instead of touring on the Hudson or crossing the Atlantic for a trip up the Rhine.

There is no grander river than ours. There are none of greater possibilities and ere many years have passed its beauty will be celebrated in poetry and song, and we hope to see a national park at the confluence of the Wisconsin and Mississippi that will be unrivaled in its natural beauty.

Here twenty thousand acres or more are awaiting to be called to serve the purpose for which I believe it was intended, to become the pleasure ground for the American people and remain such until time shall be no more.

The passing of this resolution may not cause Congress to act, but I do hope that it may have the effect of calling the attention of the people to the fact that there is a necessity and demand for public pleasure grounds for future generations, and I hope that this resolution may receive the unanimous support of the House.

Ellison Orr was one of the first persons in northeastern Iowa to advocate a park. It was during this early period, also, that Ellison Orr was President of the Iowa Forestry and Conservation Association, an organization composed of conservation-minded Iowans devoted to the protection and preservation of the natural assets of the state. In addition to lay-conservationists such as Orr, the organization also contained such professors of the Natural Sciences as Bohumil Shimek, L. H. Pammel, and Thomas H. Macbride of Iowa State College and the State University of Iowa.

In spite of early interest in a national park for

the region, the movement gained no momentum until 1915, when, in late October, Senator William S. Kenyon of Iowa visited Waukon to speak at a Jubilee Day celebration. On returning to his home in Fort Dodge, Senator Kenyon issued a statement expressing the opinion that a tract along the Mississippi River near McGregor should be made a national park. McGregor citizens gave the movement immediate support. Senator Kenyon visited McGregor later in 1915, where, at a mass meeting, he promised to introduce a bill in Congress which would establish the proposed park. Although he introduced the bill, and, along with Representative Gilbert Haugen, gave it active support, his proposal was defeated. An outcome of the effort was an inspection of the Upper Mississippi Valley by M. L. Dorr of the Department of Interior, made in 1917. No immediate action resulted from the inspection tour, however.

Although Senator Kenyon's bill was defeated, local park proponents did not lose enthusiasm. The idea was kept uppermost in the minds of local and state conservation enthusiasts through success in other ventures of similar nature. Two organizations also aided in maintaining interest in the movement. These were the Northeastern Iowa National Park Association, formed in 1929, and the "American School of Wild Life Protection" at McGregor, subsequently called the "American Institute of Nature Studies."

An unofficial survey of the area proposed as a national park was made in 1929 by Arno B. Cammerer, then Associate Director of the National Park Service. About this time, too, a bill was introduced in Congress by Representative Haugen which directed the National Park Service to make an official inspection of the region for the purpose of deciding whether or not the locality should be made a national park. This bill was passed, and was signed by President Herbert C. Hoover on June 16, 1930. The bill suggested an area about 200 miles long on the Mississippi, including parts of four Iowa counties, eight Wisconsin counties, four in Minnesota, and one in Illinois. The National Park Service sent Roger W. Toll, Superintendent of Yellowstone Park, to make the survey.

On a five-day tour by automobile and boat, Toll covered the area along the Mississippi from Bellevue to Winona, Minnesota. He was accompanied by consultants representing several phases of the natural and social sciences, including Dr. Bohumil Shimek on Ornithology, Dr. Charles R. Keyes on Archeology, Dr. I. E. Melhus on Botany, Dr. Bruce E. Mahan on History, and Dr. James H. Lees on Geology.

Toll's report, submitted to the Director early in 1932, was unfavorable to the establishment of a National Park, chiefly on the basis of administrative difficulties which he could foresee. His most cogent arguments against the proposal were:

The fact that the banks of the river are in private ownership, and that there are many established rights and interests due to the commercial use of the river, the prospective flooding of the river bed and the deepening of the channel, the wild life project, the railroad trackage, the towns and cities in the area, all present complications which would affect the administration of the area as a national park.

His report did leave opportunity for the establishment of National Monuments:

Along the banks of the Mississippi River there are prehistoric mounds built by Indians and used as burial places. Many hundreds of these mounds have been obliterated by farming operations. It seems desirable that some representative examples be preserved, since they are of great archeological interest to the present and future generations. . . . I would recommend that a National Monument be authorized, whenever suitable land is available for presentation to the United States, for the purpose of protecting and preserving for future generations the best examples of prehistoric Indian mounds that are to be found in this region. . . . The monument might be in several detached areas. Liberal sized tracts would be desirable, including enough of the adjacent land to prevent the encroachment of other uses.

Toll's recommendations were incorporated in the *Annual Report* of the Director, Horace Albright, to the Secretary of the Interior, February 16, 1932.

With the national park proposal having been negatively disposed of, the local citizenry, and Iowa conservationists seem to have entered a brief

period wherein their enthusiasm for their great project weakened. In April, 1932, however, Logan J. Blizzard, a McGregor businessman, spoke at a Kiwanis Club meeting on the subject of the Director's report. He pointed out that the park proposal was dead, that the door was open for the establishment of a national monument, or of national monuments, and that the time to act was the present. At his suggestion, the organization voted to send a request to Congress for action on the Director's recommendations, and to renew contacts with the scientists, historians, and conservationists who made the survey with Roger Toll the previous summer.

Ready support was found among the groups interested in the previously-proposed national park. The Northeast Iowa National Park Association, at the time about to disband, renewed its officers, and continued activities, although on a different basis than before. The State Board of Conservation now assumed the leading role. This organization entered the movement on an active basis after its meeting on May 13, 1932, wherein Charles R. Keyes of the Iowa Archaeological Survey, presented the case for preservation of the Indian burial mounds of the Upper Mississippi River Valley.

Action from this time on seems to have been a matter largely between the State Board of Conservation and the Department of Interior, with the

northeast Iowa groups handling local arrangements in connection with inspections. On July 15 and 16, 1932, Chief Historian Verne E. Chatelain, of the National Park Service, inspected three local mound groups. On the inspection he was accompanied by Charles R. Keyes and Ellison Orr of the Iowa Archaeological Survey, Mrs. Henry Frankel of the State Board of Conservation, Mrs. Grace Gilbert King of West Union, and Walter H. Beall, President of the Northeastern Iowa National Park Association.

In January of 1933 the *Iowa Journal of History and Politics* devoted eighty-eight pages to the geology, archeology, and history of northeastern Iowa by James H. Lees, Charles R. Keyes, and William J. Petersen. Chief Historian Verne Chatelain informed the State Historical Society that this was one of the finest presentations ever made in behalf of a national monument to the National Park Service.

In October, 1936, the Iowa State Conservation Commission submitted a detailed proposal for a national monument to the National Park Service, basing their plan on the Keyes files and the Ellison Orr maps and survey.

In 1937, northeast Iowa saw the first of a long series of National Park Service inspection teams whose aim was intensive investigation of one form or another. The party was composed of Neil Butterfield, Edward A. Hummel, Assistant Historian,

and Howard W. Baker, Associate Landscape Architect. Their study of the locale produced recommendations for boundaries for the proposed national monument. The boundaries they outlined, as revised and modified by Dr. Keyes, were approved by the Secretary of the Interior on March 15, 1938. The present headquarters site was added in 1946. The name for the area seems to have been settled upon by September, 1946.

Director Arthur E. Demaray formally accepted Iowa State Patent No. 203 on August 10, 1949, and the first one thousand acres to be included in the Effigy Mounds National Monument passed into Federal ownership. The remaining 204.39 acres were conveyed to the United States by an Act of the General Assembly approved by Governor William S. Beardsley on April 14, 1951.

The area was proclaimed a National Monument by President Harry S. Truman on October 25, 1949. The first Superintendent of the area, William J. Kennedy, arrived on November 11, 1949. Kennedy was replaced by Walter T. Berrett — 1953-1958. Daniel J. Tobin, Jr., has served as superintendent from 1959 to the dedication of the Visitor Center in 1961. The first Monument Archeologist, Wilfred D. Logan, came to the area in June, 1951. He was succeeded by Robert T. Bray and subsequently by John Earl Ingmanson. Attendance has soared from 1,742 in 1950 to 60,588 in 1960.

## PREHISTORIC MAN IN IOWA

- Beaubien, Paul L., *Cultural Variation Within Two Woodland Mound Groups of Northeastern Iowa*. *American Antiquity*, 19:56-66, 1953.
- Calvin, Samuel, *Prehistoric Iowa*, Iowa Historical Lectures, 1892, 5-29. SHSI.
- Keyes, Charles Reuben, *Antiquities of the Upper Iowa*, PALIMPSEST, 15:321-354, Oct., 1934.
- Keyes, Charles Reuben, *Minott's Rock Shelter*, PALIMPSEST, 24:1-40, Jan., 1943.
- Keyes, Charles Reuben, *Prehistoric Indians of Iowa*, PALIMPSEST, 32:285-344, Aug., 1951.
- Keyes, Charles Reuben, *Prehistoric Man in Iowa*, PALIMPSEST, 8:185-229, June, 1927.
- Keyes, Charles Reuben, *Prehistoric Red Men*, PALIMPSEST, 9:33-37, Feb., 1928.
- Keyes, Charles Reuben, *Progress of the Archeological Survey of Iowa*, Iowa Journal, 23:339-352, July, 1925.
- Keyes, Charles Reuben, *Report of the Work of the Iowa Archeological Survey*, Iowa Journal, 38:94-96, Jan., 1940; 39:88-91, Jan., 1941.
- Keyes, Charles Reuben, *Some Materials for the Study of Iowa Archeology*, Iowa Journal, 18:357-370, July, 1920.
- Keyes, Charles Reuben, *A Unique Survey (Lewis-Hill)*, PALIMPSEST, 11:214-226, May, 1930.
- McKusick, Marshall, *Prehistoric Man in Northeastern Iowa*, PALIMPSEST, 45:465-496, Dec., 1964.
- Mott, Mildred, *Maps Showing Indian Tribes in the Iowa Area*, Iowa Journal, 36:305-314, July, 1938.
- Mott, Mildred, *The Relation of Historic Indian Tribes to Archeological Manifestations in Iowa*, Iowa Journal, 36:227-304, July, 1938.
- Ward, Duren J. H., *Anthropological Instruction in Iowa*, Iowa Journal, 1:312-328, July, 1903.
- Ward, Duren J. H., *Historico-Anthropological Possibilities in Iowa*, Iowa Journal, 1:47-76, Jan., 1903.
- Ward, Duren J. H., *The Problem of the Mounds*, Iowa Journal, 3:20-40, Jan., 1905.
- Ward, Duren J. H., *Some Iowa Mounds — An Anthropological Survey*, Iowa Journal, 2:34-68, Jan., 1904.
- Ward, Duren J. H., *First Yearly Meeting of the Iowa Anthropological Association*, Iowa Journal, 2:342-368, July, 1904; *Second Yearly Meeting*, Iowa Journal, 3:422-458, July, 1905.
- Wedel, Mildred Mott, *Indian Villages on the Upper Iowa River*, PALIMPSEST, 42:561-592, Dec., 1961.
- Journal of the Iowa Archeological Society contains many articles on Iowa archeology. For a good survey of the red men in Iowa see *Indians of Iowa*, PALIMPSEST, 50:209-272, April, 1969.



New Visitor Center



The Mississippi River from Fire Point