PROVISO TOWNSHIP,
Cook County, Illinois.

This survey originally contemplated the whole of Provise Township, Cook County, but time and any attempt at thoroughness forced a delimitation to a few towns and districts within that larger area. The area surveyed can be roughly described as the southeastern corner of the Township, Sections 13, 14; 23, 24, 25, 26, 35 and 36, and including the towns of Forest Park, Riverside, Berwyn, and part of Lyons, all lying along the Desplaines River. (See map, page 2). The most valuable information was secured in Forest Park, as this paper later indicates.

The first work was done at Riverside, where, through the Supt. of Schools, Mr. A. F. Ames, since deceased, I was placed in touch with Miss C. A. Mitchell, 144 Fairbanks Road, Riverside, who is a charter member of the Prairie Club, and amateur ornithologist, and very much interested in Indian and early white history. Much of the information given by Miss Mitchell regarding her section is hearsay, but is presented for the sake of the record.

About 200 yards south of the present site of the C.B. & Q. depot, in Riverside, where the Desplaines river makes an abrupt bend from west to south, is a swampy region known as "Swan Pond," dry when visited by us, but covered with water during the high water. Near the north end of this 'pond', Miss Mitchell pointed out what is known to the residents of Riverside as "Bourbon Spring." This is now completely filled in and runs no water, but
Miss Mitchell says that even in her day she can remember it as a real spring. Numerous willow trees are near the spot indicated but the road embankment is encroaching so rapidly upon this sunken 'pond' that all traces of a spring are fast disappearing. It was at this spring in 1832 that the national militia, the first one to be organized in this section of the country, made a treaty with the Indians (which ones, not known). Prior to the bringing in of the Indians for parley and the signing of the treaty two barrels of bourbon whiskey are supposed to have been dumped into the water, thereby making the Indians more amenable to signing. From this story, the spring takes its name.

Miss Mitchell then located for me the site of an old tavern, called "Lawton's Tavern", run by one of two brothers in the early days, the other of whom ran a trading post near Mud Lake in the Lyons district. The site of this old tavern according to Miss Mitchell is lot 18 of Block VI, Riverside; a modern bungalow now stands on the lot. The owner of this tavern is reputed to have had three Indian wives, all of whom on their deaths were supposedly buried in the site to be mentioned in the succeeding paragraph.

On Lot 14 of Block I, back of the house now occupied by Cooks (block I, lot 5), is a small mound, some 10-12 feet in diameter, in the center of which is a very large tree. Some forty years ago, according to hearsay, the skeletons of three Indian women were disinterred from this mound. The tradition is that these are the three wives of the tavern-keeper Lawton. The mound has a somewhat artificial appearance, is nearly circu-
lar and 4-5 feet in height. Weather conditions prevented securing good pictures.

Near this small circular pond is another moundlike raise, probably 50 feet in length and of indeterminate width. One side of the mound extends into the backyard of the lot (#5, Block I) now owned by Cooks, but the yard has been filled in to provide law and garden space which has obliterated the outlines of the mound of this side. Mrs. Cook said that many arrow and spear points had been dug out of her garden, but she has none of them in her possession now. Abraham Metz, Lyons, helped to build the Cook house years ago. He is said to have a great deal of information about old Indian trails, etc., but is often inebriate and possibly too talkative. The house was built originally for a Russian Count, Zirimba; Dr. Wipperan, with offices in the Field Annex building, lived there before the Cooks and may know something about the site.

South of these two mounds and to the east, is a stretch of low thickly wooded land running down to the river bank (the Deplaines). This wooded area is called Indian garden, but the name is of white origin apparently. Many small flint points have been found by picnickers and visitors, according to Miss Mitchell.

Miss Mitchell's home is on Lots 12 and 13 of Block VII, facing east on Fairbanks Road. Miss Mitchell's mother has found some dozen or so flint points while digging in her garden, which she now has in her possession. East and south of this property a short distance is what is reported to be an old portage across
the Desplaines River, used by the Indians and by the early whites. The trail leading to it, which Miss Mitchell endeavored to trace out to some extent, is now entirely obliterated.

This is all the information that I could find about Riverside at this time. Others to whom I have been referred for information about the surrounding country are the following, none of whom was found during the course of the survey.

The Wesencrafts,
80 Pines Ave.,
Riverside, Ill.

Mr. O. M. Schantz,
3219 Maple Avenue,
Berwyn, Ill.

Abraham Metz,
Lyons, Ill.

Robert Summerville,
Riverside, Illinois.
(Said to know the location
of Marquette's camp-ground
during the winter of 1674-5,
supposedly near Summit, Ill.)

Mrs. Feeley,
Brookfield, Ill.

A. T. Anderson,
Hollywood, Ill. (3 blocks west of Berwyn).

My next trip into this section gave me a lead which took me to Forest Park, and the remainder of my work has been done in connection with a rather large collection in the office of the Forest Homes Cemetery, located at Desplaines Road and Harvard Avenue. The Cemetery is owned by the Haase family, and before being converted to cemetery purposes was widely known as Haase's Park. The older members of the Haase family who are most familiar with the history of the collection and the mound from which they came were not available for interview, but the following has been obtained from one of the sons in charge at the cemetery office.
The entire collection, housed in cases in the cemetery office, came from one mound—a very large one located within the present confines of the Forest Homes Cemetery. This mound, which has always been referred to by the Haases as 'Indian Hill' was located near the center of the cemetery, covering almost the entire block in the cemetery described as Block 26 in the SW1/4 of the SW1/4 of Section 14, Proviseo Twp. It was dragged down more than forty years ago and the dirt and gravel used to make a fill down to the river bottom. It was during this levelling of the mound that the artefacts and skeleton material were uncovered and collected. The Haases say that many more skeleton remains were found than the two skulls now in the collection, but they were scraped down and dumped into the river bottom along with the other debris. The Haases deny the mound to have been artificially made, saying it was too large; it was perfectly conical and about 40 feet in height.

The pictures herewith give the best idea that can be given at present of the collection. The writer, with the assistance of Mr. R. M. Snodgrass, spent two days at the Cemetery office, sorting the material and photographing it.
Stone Work

In the collection are 7 quite large stone axes averaging about 3" x 4", weighing 3 or 4 pounds, allgrooved for hafting, and one perforated. (See Photograph #1)

Photograph #1

There are also about 2 dozen smaller axes, measuring 5" x 3" or less, and weighing about a pound each. (See Photograph #2)
There are also several celts in the collection.

Photograph #3

There are several hundred of small stone artefacts, largely arrow points, spear points and drills. These, of course, represent a good bit of artificial selection, since the workers who made the collections were interested only in the best pieces, ignoring scrapers, chips, etc., just as they ignored most of the skeletal remains. (See photographs 4 and 5).
There are some 202-5 potsherds in the collection; grit-tempered and medium thickness, incised design on some, cord decoration on others.
A considerable amount of post-European material is in the collection, including 2 steel axes, 4 skinning knives, several copper or brass buckles, cross pendants, odd pieces of copper ring armor fastened to cloth, and 3 copper kettles. One of the copper pieces, apparently an ornament or a belt decoration, labelled (a) in Photograph #7, has the initials "P.H." engraved on it. (See Photographs 7, 8, 9).
There are also dozens of shell and bone heads.

Two well preserved skulls, with mandibles are also in the collection, but measurements were not procured. (See #10 & 11).
In connection with these two skulls, the following excerpt from J. W. Foster, *Pre-Historic Race of the United States*, (1837) is of interest. After treating of the Stimson mounds, or Kennicott mounds on the Desplaines river, five miles from Haase's Park, the writer goes on to say (p. 276):

"The other group of mounds, situated near Haase's Park, yielded human remains which evidently belong to two distinct epochs. In them were found well marked Indian skulls, in a condition slightly changed, and two skulls, evidently belonging to half-breeds, -thus showing that up to a comparatively recent time, these mounds had been used as places of sepulture by different races. In addition to these evidences of recent entombment, were found, far gone in decomposition, quite a number of crania, presenting features which readily distinguished them from those of the Indian and Half-breed. These relics have a high value, as without doubt, they are the authentic skulls of the Mound-builders.

"The Haase's Park mound yielded two crania which were too imperfect to give all the salient points. One is represented by a part of the frontal and parietal bone, and is characterized by an almost entire absence of a forehead. The nasal bones are prolonged from the point of union with the frontal bones, like the
beak of a bird or the superior jaw of a gar-pike. The bony plates are of almost pasteboard thinness; the orbital rings are sharp and delicate; the sutures are imperfectly joined; and there is an absence of frontal sinuses, which are supposed to be formed only after puberty - so that the skull evidently belonged to a young person. (Ps. 280-81)

"This is undoubtedly, the most remarkable skull hitherto observed, affording the nearest approximation to the anthropoid forms. It is so far anomalous that I shall hereafter omit to compare it with existing types. Granting all of the effects of pressure, whether artificially applied or the result of superincumbent earth after burial, still, it is difficult to bring it within the reasonable bounds of what a human cranium, in its widest deviation from a supposed type, ought to be.

"There was another skull, fragmentary in character, having about the same contour as that of the Stimpson Mound, which I have not deemed it necessary to figure." (281-2)

Whether the crania referred to by Mr. Foster are the same as those now in the Hassel collection could not be verified. There is nothing particularly abnormal about the two skulls here pictured which would warrant Mr. Foster's wild speculations.