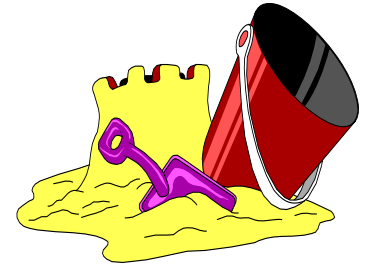




FRIENDS OF HISTORIC VINELAND



Vineland Before The White Man



When we talk about the history of Vineland, I am sure that most people think of relatively recent events such as the founding of Vineland in 1861 or waves of immigration, such as the settling of Vineland by Italians from 1870 on. What we often forget to think about are the original settlers, who were the Indians and who had been here for many centuries before the white man.

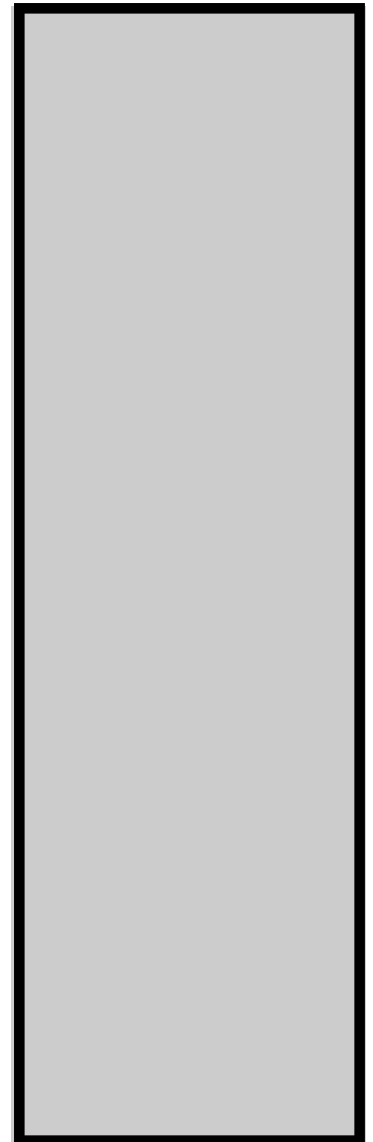
When the first European settlers came here—the Finns and Swedes — they came mainly to trade for furs. This was a very profitable business at the time. They found that the number of Indians in the area was small and that they were relatively peaceful. They mostly lived near streams for obvious reasons. The influence of the white man was disastrous to their way of life, and by the time the English came here, the Indians were in definite decline. The English came to settle and actually take over the land, and that sounded the death knell of the Indians of this area.

When I was a kid in Landisville, some of the boys in my class who came from farming

families were involved in doing the spring planting. They would actually handle the plough, pulled by the horse. They would walk along the furrow and see the dirt turned over at close hand. Many times they would come to school with arrowhead that they had found when they were plowing. They would put them in their pocket and carry them around, to show to us “city folk.” Because of this, I know that there were Indians in the Landisville area.

Well, Mr. Lee Schelder has now brought to my attention similar information about Indian artifacts in this area only on a much grander scale. Mr. Schelder started to

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hunt for Indian arrow heads when he was 5 or 6 years old with his father Clarence Schelder. His father taught him what to look for. This was around 1930. Later, Mr. Schelder would do the same with his children, and take them along for these hunts.

Over the years Lee collected a large amount of arrow heads, and also an Indian pipe which he had to glue together. He found about 14 pieces after multiple hunts and put them all together. He also found an Indian mortar and pestle used to grind corn.

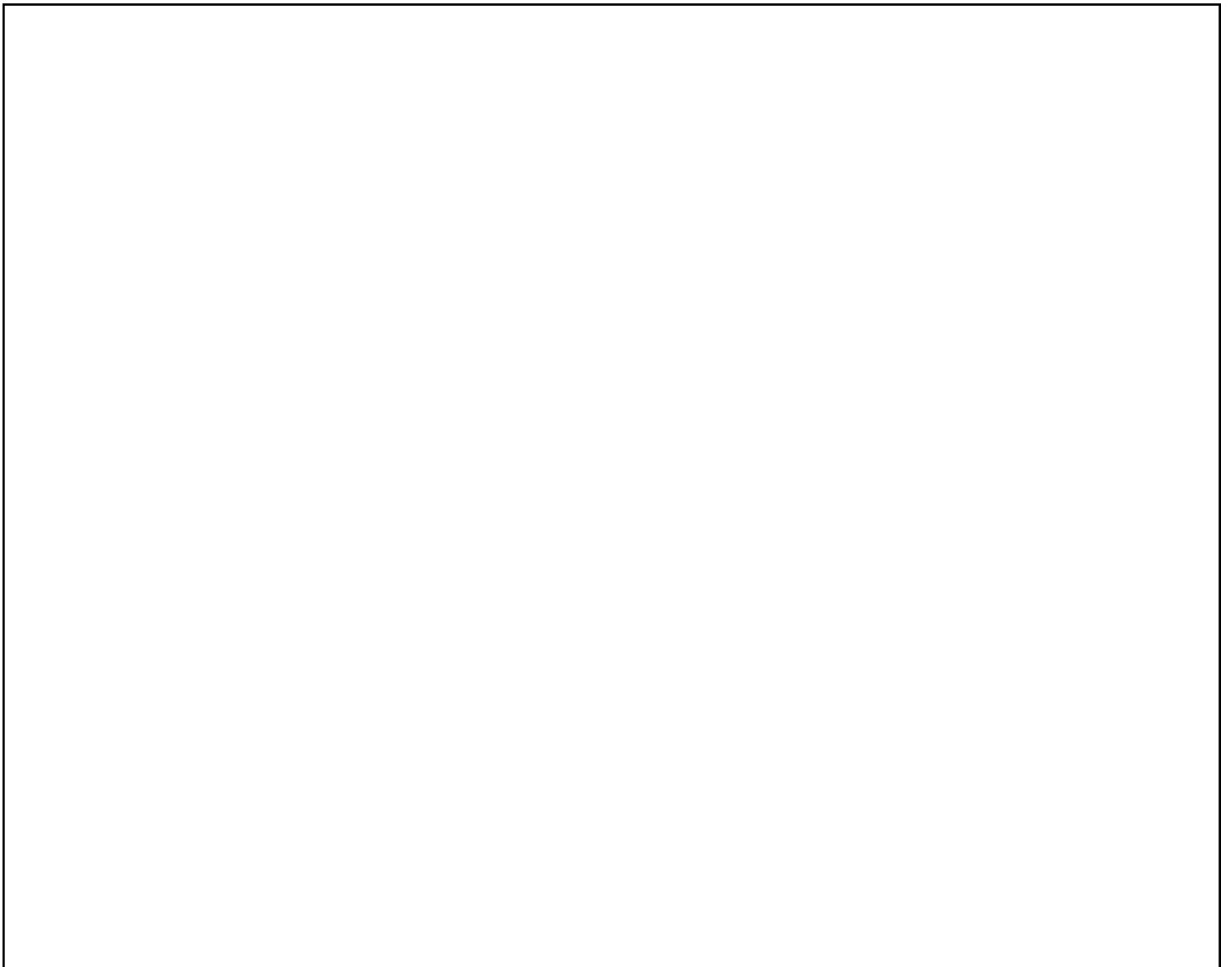
He would often go rabbit hunting and would look for artifacts when in the woods, but the spe-

cific places where he found his collection included his Uncle's farm between Main and Brewster Road, along Wheat Road and Blackwater stream near Delsea Drive along to Mill Road. He would search the area after it had been ploughed. He also searched at Indian Head and where the Muddy Run and Maurice River meet. He found some items along Route 55 in areas where ponds were dry. Other areas included Kitchenburgers and an old farm behind Repp's Sport Store on N. Delsea Drive. And finally he found artifacts at Wassinburger's, an old homestead at West Ave. and Blackwater Stream.

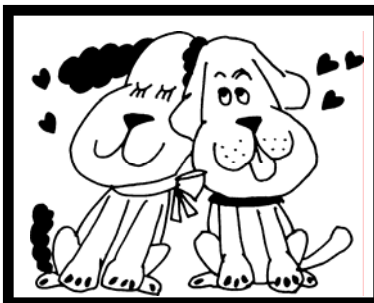
I am sure there are others who have had similar experiences which prove that there were In-

dians in the area, but this certainly documents actual locations where Indians had lived before the white man!!

One last thing—one might wonder how so many artifacts were found if the number of Indians was so small. Well, think about it—if the Indians were here for 10,000 years before the white man, and they would lose one arrow head a day per square mile, that would add up to 3,650,000 arrow heads per square mile. So, there are still a lot of arrow heads out there, waiting to be found!!



We want to do out dog-gone best to thank all the people that contributed money towards our activities during the last year. The list is as follows:



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