

Indiana Historical Society

CHRISTOPHER B. COLEMAN

The development of a state-wide organization of junior historical societies, including high school history clubs, has proceeded as stated in the December issue of the *Indiana Magazine of History*. The committee on permanent organization has had several meetings and has drawn up a tentative constitution. The spring meeting of the junior historical societies and high school history clubs will be held at Indianapolis on Saturday, April 29, with the history club of Shortridge High School acting as host.

A number of new history clubs have been organized and they have taken up various lines of activity. The latest of which notice has been sent to the Indiana Historical Society was organized at the beginning of this semester at Washington High School, Indianapolis. Each club organized or projected should send notice, together with the addresses of the president and secretary, to the secretary of the Indiana Historical Society, 408 State Library and Historical Building, Indianapolis, in order to receive copies of the *Indiana History Bulletin* which will give information about such organizations and proposed meetings.

The forthcoming number of the Historical Society's *Prehistory Research Series* is "Hidatsa Texts Collected by Robert H. Lowie with Grammatical Notes and Phonograph Transcriptions by Zellig Harris and C. F. Voeglin." This is Number 6 of Volume I. It contains the story of the "Water Buster" and four other stories as recorded by Dr. Lowie from narrations by Hidatsa Indians in the Dakotas. Each story is followed by an English translation. The texts are annotated with grammatical notes by Dr. Voegelin and Dr. Harris. A significant innovation is the addition to this issue of the *Prehistory Research Series* of a phonograph record on which the story of the "Water Buster" is recorded in the actual speech of an Hidatsa Indian. The distribution of the record is necessarily limited to students of the languages of the American Indians. The printed texts will be mailed to libraries that can make use of them, as well as to the interested linguists, philologists, and researchers in phonetics. It is hoped that this number of the *Prehistory Research Series*

will be a distinct contribution to the attempt being made by these scholars to ascertain so far as can be determined by linguistic studies what cultural groups existed among the Indians and what relationships there were among cultural groups.

Volume 13, Number 2, of *Indiana Historical Society Publications*, "The Contributions of the Society of Friends to Education in Indiana," by Ethel Hittle McDaniel, of Wilkinson, is in press as this number of the *Magazine* is being compiled. It will probably be in the hands of the members of the Society by the time the *Magazine* reaches them. It is for sale at seventy-five cents a copy at the office of the Historical Society, 140 North Senate Avenue, Indianapolis, and at the Bobbs-Merrill Company, Indianapolis. The printing of both *Publications* of the Society and of the *Indiana Magazine of History* is dependent upon the payment of membership fees, and the distribution is limited so far as membership in the Society is concerned to those whose dues for the year are paid. Occasionally it is possible to extend the courtesy of continuing names on the mailing list in order that there may be no break in the serials received, but neither the Society nor the *Magazine* can extend this courtesy very far. As may be inferred, this is a gentle reminder that membership dues should be paid as early as possible in the calendar year.

The archaeological section of the Society during the past few months has undertaken the most important task of its active career. The group of prehistoric earthworks known as the Angel Mounds, three miles east of Evansville on the Ohio River, was purchased in the name of the Society to safeguard it and to preserve it for scientific investigation. Purchase of approximately four hundred acres was necessary in order to secure the group of earthworks. The group is described briefly, with illustrations, in Eli Lilly's *Prehistoric Antiquities of Indiana*, 41-48. The central mound is by far the largest in the state of Indiana. The group is generally considered by archaeologists to be the most important in this part of the country, and it is thought that its scientific exploration will yield information of great significance in the study of cultural developments and relationships.

It should be emphasized here that this information, rather than rare or valuable relics, is the prime object of excavation. The funds necessary for the purchase of the mounds were secured by contributions and by borrowing, with the consent of the donors, from the museum fund of the Society. It is the hope of the Society that the amount borrowed from the museum fund may be restored by the taking over of the mounds by the state of Indiana (A bill to this effect was introduced in the recent session of the General Assembly, but owing to the financial condition of the state treasury was not pressed) or by the local units of government within the boundaries of which the mounds lie. Ultimately, the mounds should be restored as nearly as possible to the condition in which they were when white people came, and maintained as a prehistoric monument.

A Works Progress Administration project for archaeological work in Indiana has been approved by the President and there is every reason to believe that the necessary funds will be allocated for the proper excavation of the Angel Mounds. Actual excavation cannot be begun until late spring or early summer, as careful surveys must be made after the funds are allocated and before any excavation is undertaken.