

Alabama Archaeological Society

UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA P.O. BOX 6126, UNIVERSITY, ALA. 35486

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RODGER L. SCHAEFER, SECRETARY
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STONES & BONES NEWSLETTER

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MEMBER OF THE EASTERN STATES ARCHEOLOGICAL FEDERATION

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1969 SUMMER ANNUAL MEETING

This year, the meeting will be held on SATURDAY, JULY 12TH, at the Iron Gate Restaurant at Russellville, Alabama, with dinner to be served promptly at 6:30 PM. The restaurant, as those who attended last year will remember, is adjacent to the Colonial Inn Motel, located on U.S. Highway 43 Bypass at Russellville.

That weekend only, the student crew will be working both Saturday, July 12th, and Sunday, July 13th, so that members and guests will have an opportunity both days to visit the dig site and observe progress and excavation methods in person. Right now, it is not possible to state that work will be continuing at the same site presently being excavated - the Rollins Bluff Shelter, Fr 323, near Hodges, but if the crew is working elsewhere, directions to the dig will be available at the Colonial Inn Motel either day. Bring working clothes if you want to participate.

Dinner will consist of roast beef, 2 vegetables, salad, drink and dessert at a price of \$2.00 per person. We have promised to let the folks at the Restaurant know approximately how many are to be served - so PLEASE, as soon as you decide you will be there, write D. L. DeJarnette, Colonial Inn Motel, Highway 43 Bypass, Russellville, Ala. 35653, letting him know how many will be in your party.

If you plan to spend the night Saturday night, it would be well to request a reservation at the Colonial Inn Motel, address above, by writing direct.

The program for the meeting will, of course, include a complete report on the work being done at the dig site or sites; and other matters. Also, there will be a Board of Directors meeting to discuss several important items, including the site of our Winter Annual Meeting and Date. No Chapter has volunteered to host the meeting, to date, and if any Chapter has this in mind, now is the time to act.

The working student crew will be guests of the Society at the Dinner, and you will have an opportunity to meet and talk with this fine group.

See you there - in numbers, we hope!

INITIAL 1969 SUMMER DIG PROGRESS REPORT

On June 12, excavations were resumed at the Rollins Bluff Shelter, Fr 323, located approximately $1\frac{1}{2}$ miles northwest of Hodges in Franklin County, Ala. The crew consists of Jarey B. Oakley, graduate student in anthropology as Field Supervisor, 8 University of Alabama students, and volunteers from our State Society. This field season marks the 10th anniversary of a cooperative agreement between the Archaeological Research Association of Alabama Inc., and the University of Alabama for conducting archaeological research in Alabama. Preliminary results from the 1968 "dig" at the Rollins Site indicated that additional excavation was needed. The first few days were spent in removing the backfill from the 1968 excavations, restaking, cleaning the profiles and preparing the site for further excavation.

At the present time, (June 20, 1969) 6 new squares have been dug to a depth of 20

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inches. These squares will be taken down to the undisturbed soil and additional squares have been designated for natural stratigraphic control digging.

The Mayor and Council of the Town of Hodges have supplied crew quarters and laboratory space in the City Hall building in Hodges. This eliminates approximately 50 miles of driving each day. However, directions and other pertinent information can still be obtained at the Colonial Inn Motel in Russellville.

GREEK GOD GOSSIP

Since man so often fashions his gods as fire-and-brimstone ogres, we have always been intrigued by the friendly nature of the Greek gods - friendly in a human sense rather than a paternal benevolence. The feeling of men-to-gods was such that the Greeks even enjoyed a chuckle over their gossip about the gods, including the usual "god of gods" Zeus (Roman Jupiter). Zeus was admired, probably envied, for his clever ways of disguising himself so his wife Prudence (Roman Metis) wouldn't get wise to his amorous peccadillos down here on earth - as when in the guise of a golden bull he seduced Europa and took her across the sea for delightful dalliance in Crete.

The archaeological appliance of this pretty mythology is that if one suggests that familiar European stone tools are also found in America he is likely to be accused of indulging in mythology - such as having them brought straight across the Atlantic on a golden bull (or at least "full of bull"). One hardly dares mention a "denticulate", a "bec", a "raclette", a "disk", a "tranchet", a "typical levallois flake" if he thinks he recognizes one.

Consequently, we find these European-like tools in the discards, not in the literature. What are they, really, and what do they mean? They have some kind of story to tell, and it could be important. We propose that Alabama should take another "controversial" step forward and GET THE ANSWER.

Francois Bordes is perhaps THE dean of European flint technologists - noted for his own flint working, for his classification of Mesolithic artifacts, for such field work as his incredible excavation of the Combe Grenal rock shelter with 55 Mousterian occupation levels and transference to the records so complete in every detail that the relation between each tool to other tools can be reconstructed - the perfect dig.

BORDES VISITS ALABAMA - let's spread that headline across the world - and make archaeological history. And get some new lithic categories recognized and added to our assemblages. If Bordes calls it a "denticulate", we dare use the term!

We have an initial pledge of \$100.00 toward bringing Bordes over for a couple of weeks "to see everything in Alabama" - and we think he'd love it (he is already much interested in our pebble tools). And WE ARE SOLICITING \$100.00 PLEDGES - a total of perhaps 20. Are there as many as 20 "crazy amateurs" with a vision the size of this? We can bring fame, as well as Bordes and a "new archaeology", to the ALABAMA AMATEURS. And by George, we are going to do it, somehow - archaeology needs a "shot in the arm" as well as a clarification of these "dead ends". YOUR NAME ON THE LIST will be proud!

TENTH ANNIVERSARY ANNUAL FUND DRIVE

A sturdy little band of donors, virtually invisible against the total backdrop of the population, for the tenth year now has been turning a new page of Alabama archaeology. Establishing the oldest radiocarbon date in the southeast right from the start, our donors have now opened the archaeological book to a page of strange questions, not only unanswered questions - undreamed questions.

It now begins to look as if America may have one of the most unopened chapters of the BOOK of MAN - more than we potsherders and projectile-pointers can realize. And here seems to be a spreading awareness, a growing feeling that there is far more yet to know - and that reworking the common sites must not absorb all our archaeological money, time, know-how - not again as it did prior to the Folsom point find. We must have an "archaeology of tomorrow", looking forward - not just an archaeology of yesterday looking backward. History teaches that this is axiomatic, but difficult. Progress

has proverbially been "one against the world" - as history documents.

Our dig this summer won't give us "all the answers" - judging by the test of last summer, it will help to clarify those unanswered questions. This should help to interest others in asking these questions, and seeking answers. No greater service could be done for American archaeology.

The smallness of our group of donors (as you will note this month) reflects even more to their credit as that rare breed - pioneers of progress:

Dr. Robert W. Work - Dr. Bob "rides again", and it is good to have him - and his generous donation. But best, really, is that we are not forgotten - as Dr. Bob surely is not. He was one of that great gang with Chemstrand at Decatur, which contributed so much toward broadening amateur archaeology in Alabama. And he has one of those too-rare scientific minds which does everything the right way - the scientific way. It was a great loss to Alabama archaeology, from which it has never recovered, when Chemstrand moved its research department to North Carolina's textile center, Dr. Bob in charge. Then the University grabbed him and he writes that he has "been extremely busy here in the University during the last 5 years". And it seems as if his home in "Hidden Valley" would also absorb a great deal of pleasant interest. So we are delighted to survive all that competition, and be remembered - and he did so much more than his fair share toward financing those uncertain years of beginning that he was due a "vacation". And how about a vacation dig with us this summer? It is a real site!

Mr. & Mrs. C. van den Berg are in the "armchair archaeologists" category - among the millions and millions who enjoy the exciting archaeological literature which has taken the publishing world by storm for the past 15 years. If all of those who thus enjoy the RESULTS of archaeology contributed a thin dime annually to the work they read about, they might have some 2 million dollar's worth more of archaeology to go in the books, and to the armchairs. If they all contributed as do the van den Bergs, archaeology would have somewhere around TWO BILLION dollars a year in these more or less dis-united states! Ponder that - if readers had a real and informed interest in archaeology! We are going to have to reconsider that "armchair" category and put the van den Bergs in an "intellectual category", a very small but select category of the few who don't "just go along for the ride" but give a push. Their very generous donations for 8 successive years have been as appreciated as they have been helpful.

Dan Josselyn, Secretary of our fund drive, plugs away as usual "doing his bit" and reminds us that our dig is digging - something new in sites - and we could use a bit more money - and muscle on your vacations and Saturdays. Other sites need testing.

EXCHANGE INFORMATION

TENNESSEE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY. The Autumn 1968 JOURNAL is of unusual interest. We were of course delighted to see William Wesley's paper on experimentation with edge alterations of small flakes. Much lithic experimentation is needed - and especially to draw attention to the undoubtedly millions of small flake tools which have been missed. The Rankin Site paper, though it is sad that much of it had to be a hurried salvage recovery job, adds importantly to our knowledge (and, with complete study, will add more). The considerable variations of a "type" of projectile point in a burial cache, and the mixed types in association, are of great importance to our Woodland typology. The new Rankin point (variously basal notched, diagonal corner notched, to short stemmed with barbed shoulders - apparently varying "as the chips fell" an experimental flaker would guess) in context with the familiar Woodland types jolted us a bit. It won't impede progress if we remember how far our typology still has to go. We were pleased to see, at last, biface "blades" differentiated from projectile points - whether they should be or not! Such artifacts have been too carelessly thrown into the "one basket" of projectile points, and more observation should be directed toward segregating them - if the Supreme Court will allow. Typologists certainly won't want to miss this issue. Get a "retroactive" membership, \$3.00, Dr. Alfred K. Guthe, Secretary, Department of

Anthropology, University of Tennessee, Knoxville, Tenn. 37916.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF VIRGINIA. We note that the Nansemond Chapter "re-elected the officers". Do they, too, have trouble getting people to run? You'd be surprised - you might like it - especially if you go in there pitching and do a real job. And you'll find that taking on some obligation, trying to get others to do better, will make a better and more responsible archaeologist out of you. Joe Benthall, his friends will want to know, is a proud papa - boy (LAST June - you see our timetable - still 1968!). Virginia now offers a correspondence course in archaeology!!! That could take care of many sins of innocence and ignorance! And OUT-OF-STATE MEMBERS anywhere could profit. Also, the BULLETIN is published 4 times a year, a handsome "slick" the size of this Newsletter, excellent illustrations, many overlaps in our area artifacts - photos of 82 atlatl weights in the June 1968 issue. In the September 1968 issue, Dr. Ben C. McCary continues his SURVEY of Virginia fluted points bringing the total to 384, a most valuable project which all states should COPY. You can join for only \$4.00, Mrs. Calvin K. Johnston, Secretary, 701 Jackson Drive, Williamsburg, Va. 23185.

COLORADO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY. In SOUTHWESTERN LORE one of the members gives his fellows a pretty caustic time for not participating in a Paleo-Point Project. In consolation, we doubt that their experience is unique. Let's get off the sleeping pills! As Dr. Carl Compton reminds us, there are not enough professionals "even to staff the teaching facilities...amateurs must serve as the 'infantry'...And as has been said, wars are won by the infantry" - a big compliment but a big order too, and quite often it has had a lot of truth in it. Let's get going - and enjoy it!

Of the SEVEN who did participate, they reported: 37 Clovis, 24 Folsom, 20 Hell Gap, 2 Midland, 56 Plainview, 20 Meserve (Dalton), 52 Agate Basin, 2 Alberta, 3 Allen, 60 Cody Complex, 2 Frederick.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF NORTH CAROLINA: This issue (October 1966 - they are a little off schedule!) of Southern Indian Studies is a fat one on the McLean (burial) Mound. Artifacts were minimal but some interesting stone pipes are illustrated. We got a grin and a groan out of T. D. Stewart's account of how he received the abundant human bone, most of it in badly deteriorated or burned condition: "The material arrived in some 275 cardboard boxes, cartons, and/or fruit baskets, but mainly shoe boxes." Shall we have an anti-poverty program for archaeology, or just go on being anti-archaeology? In the Newsletter we were interested to note that at Cahokia "grave lots were clustered according to point type" - must we add Wolf clan, Bear totem, etc., to point types?

NATIONAL AMATEUR ARCHAEOLOGY - opium dream number 99 - but why can't we have us a good national digest? The amateur publications are producing a wealth of material, but it is too scattered to be useful. Our 50 states should be able to hire a good editor, and surely enough of us would buy to pay for the publication. Though maybe we are victims of the current fable that Homo really is sapiens?

U.S. AND WORLD ARCHAEOLOGICAL NOTES

A TRUE "ICE-AGE AMERICAN?" Millar estimates "the front of the Laurentide Ice Sheet stood less than 20 miles distant" from his District of Mackenzie site with "chopper-like tools". Concerning the Paleo site most surprisingly upsetting applecarts in Nova Scotia, Borns estimates "During the occupation of the Debert Site the margin of a Valders ice cap stood about 60 miles to the southeast, while nearly perennial snow probably existed 5 miles to the north...The environment probably supported permafrost, which implies arctic or subarctic temperatures." Other provocative reports of old and unexpected sites are coming out of Canada. A true "ice-age American" might have important bearings on when man arrived in America. At any rate, more and more evidence is coming in which suggests that we do not have all the answers "on ice".

OBSERVATION DOES IT: It has been only 354 years since Galileo with his telescope was

able actually to OBSERVE the falsity of man's theories, legends, beliefs, wishful thinking, and unadorned tripe about the heavenly bodies. Of course, you know what happened to him. And when you multiply your BINOCULAR VISION many times over with a stereomicroscope, your new artifact observations may also arouse some orthodox ire - until those accusing you of heresy take a look - and get a microscope. Nowadays it is foolish to consign one's vision to the limitations of pre-microscope days and not SEE EVERYTHING. If you can afford a postage stamp, ask Steve Rubin, Sales Manager, Lumiscope Co. Inc., 836 Broadway, N.Y. 10003, for his folder on reduced price microscopes. And see if you honestly can't afford one of the SERIES S-1 with 10x and 20x magnification. It will give you a lifetime of real seeing - for all the family - for bugs, flowers, sands - everything made fascinating. NOT SEEING ranks high as an agent of ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESTRUCTION. (Write today, now, this minute!)

THE ARCHAEOLOGY OF MOON PROBES: Oh-oh - after all those billions spent toward getting on the moon and bringing back a chunk of the priceless stuff - well, we are now told there is a lot of it on earth already! "Tektites, glass-like objects scattered over the earth, have been found to originate from a meteor impact on the moon at the site of the crater Tycho" - according to NASA NEWS, 6/6/69. These glass objects, from very small to over a pound, have long puzzled geologists and rockhounds, since it is said that their compositions do not resemble any possible igneous rock melt or man-made glass. Their possible luna origin is an old theory - but NASA in its news release neglects to say HOW it became "fact" and traced to such a specific, and single, moon-meteor collision. Some years ago our good professional friend Tom Lewis wrote us that a fellow had a theory that the occasional obsidian artifacts in the southeast, so remote from a source (Yellowstone Park about the nearest), were not obsidian but tektite - not those we have seen, and Hopewell obsidian has since been identified with a Yellowstone source. There definitely could be tektite artifacts, but if you ever find one claim that it was made ON THE MOON by one of those little green men and shot to earth from one of those psychotic saucers - millions of people would believe that who wouldn't swallow factual tektites (whether "moon marbles" or not).

NO PEOPLE! "The Margaret" sends a batch of day-by-day field notes (wonderful publicity for a dig, by the way) on the big dig Dr. Kelly is conducting in southwest Atlanta - which has "beat Birmingham" again! Oodles of artifacts but "The problem of how these Woodland people disposed of their dead is still a mystery, as it has been generally at most Cartersville Period sites in northern Georgia". But think what happy communities they would be if there were no people to dispose of - and raise human problems in general. Or maybe they just couldn't read their Latin, memento mori - remember to die. This "deathless dig" is being financed by the Great Southwest Atlanta Corporation, which is developing an industrial park in the area, and Margaret says GSAC "deserves commendation" for more than the usual (over 99%) thoughtless destruction. Indeed so - we happily confer the Phi Beta Potsherd.

TREND TOWARD HONESTY IN SCIENCE? In the excellent NEW ROADS TO YESTERDAY, editor Joe Caldwell put only ONE of 20 papers in the SCIENCE IN ARCHAEOLOGY section. In his also excellent ANCIENT EUROPE, Stuart Piggot warns that it is "nothing more than an individual prehistorian's view...interpretation, and should not be judged more than that". Leo Vrieman, in his very readable popular book on BLOOD, says: "At this point I had planned to take you on a trip inside the red cell, but I suddenly realized that all I could reveal would be a well-wrapped pack of conflicting lies". It would seem salutary to admit that we are not quite as perspicacious as one prefers to pretend on the pompous pinnacle of the professorial pedestal - perhaps? To invent an ancient and honored proverb which wear & tear on our credulity prompts: WE WON'T KNOW UNTIL WE DON'T KNOW.

CROCODILE TEARS - yum-yum! Not necessarily the walrus eating oysters - it could be Figueroa's account of the "so sorry" Mayoruna cannibals eating their dead relatives: "They usually place the entire corpse on a fire, where they remove small pieces of meat from it as it is roasting, and eat between wails and weeping". Since it has been pre-

dicted that the population explosion will return to this age-old (Peking Man!) sure-fire method of population control, eating each other, we thought the Mayoruna method might be good to know - it salts the meat, too.

FIDDLING WHILE ROME BURNS: It is at least some comfort to note, in the FELLOW NEWSLETTER of the American Anthropological Association, that even anthropologists admit that "Most of anthropology is not the result of concerted, systematic development". It has looked that way to us for a long time. What with the human race trying to commit suicide in a variety of ways, and America spending some \$80 billion a year on one of the methods of self-destruction, this trivial handling of the study of man and "the human problem" looks more stupid. (We'll discuss this further in "that other place".)

CHAPTER NEWS

Cullman County Chapter meets at 7:30 PM on the 3rd Monday of each month at City Hall Auditorium, Cullman. At the June meeting, an excellent color film entitled "The Woodlands", a University of Texas production, will be shown giving much information about that cultural period. Members are urged to bring their surface collected material to meetings for display and discussion. Meetings with the Cullman County Historical Society on projected museum for Cullman area, with definite plans to be ready shortly.

Morgan-Limestone Chapter meets at 7:30 PM on the 1st Tuesday of each month at Decatur City Hall. June and July meetings are to be at the home of Tom Moebes, reviewing with Jack Cambron the summer salvage project at Cave Springs and classifying artifacts recovered to date, including transitional Paleo material.

Noccalula Chapter meets at 7:30 PM on the 1st Thursday of each month at Etowah County Court House, Gadsden. Reid Stowe, University of Alabama, addressed the June meeting on "Archaeology in North Alabama and Yucatan", showing slides of north Alabama sites and explaining artifacts found. The Coosa Time Tunnel is to be held this year on September 20 coinciding with the unveiling of the statue of Noccalula.

ANNOUNCEMENTS - STATE NEWS

NEW MEMBERS DURING JUNE: (It is really nice to have you on our rolls!)

Mrs. Wiley J. Casey, Route 3, Cedartown, Ga. 30125
Willie L. Fuller, Route 3 Box 55, Russellville, Ala. 35653 (Family)
Millard Greer Jr., 109 Ellen Hand Circle, Cedartown, Ga. 30125
Jessie D. Jennings, Dept. Anthropol., Univ. of Utah, Salt Lake City, Utah 84112
Wayne Lott, Marshall St., Cedartown, Ga. 30125
Douglas F. Shaw, 5451 Racine Ave., Mobile, Ala. 36618 (Family)
James J. Swegar, 692 Goodyear St., Rockmart, Ga. 30153

A MAJOR AGENCY OF ARCHAEOLOGICAL DESTRUCTION is just plain NOT SEEING - as we also mention elsewhere in this issue. Since we have encountered many "don't believers" on this question we EARNESTLY URGE you to send us a batch of your "discards" for examination, return and report on what you are not seeing. Free service, so what you got to lose except your blinders? Really, "stone blindness" is a serious destructive agency - let us prove it!

Steve Wimberly, our professional member, mentor and friend for over 20 years, had a congenital opening in the septum between 2 heart chambers. He was advised that an operation would in time be obligatory, and better now than later. Open heart surgery - we'd hate to have to make such a decision. But the day before the operation, Steve was as cool, calm and collected as the proverbial cucumber. The operation was a total success, Steve is back home and growing younger every day - to our great relief and satisfaction. His influence for the better on Alabama archaeology, both directly and thru

his proteges, has been immense and we are happy indeed that all went well and we can 'lean on Steve' for many years to come.

THE HISTORY OF MARSHALL COUNTY ALABAMA VOLUME I: This book has just been published by Thompson Printing Co., Albertville, Ala. 35950, 170 pages, 38 choice photos, indexed, hard bound, \$6.25 by mail, co-authored by Larry Joe Smith and Katherine M. Duncan. Larry is a State Society member and past president of Marshall County Chapter, now a senior at Jacksonville State University majoring in history (he wrote the Educational Page in the June 1969 issue of this Newsletter).

Included in the book are a general history of Marshall County; section on Historic Indians; information on de Soto, Andrew Jackson, Davy Crockett; Chapter on War between the States; individual histories of Albertville, Arab, Boaz and Guntersville as well as many small communities in Marshall County with city and county officials in appendix; reports of all archaeological excavations in Marshall County; prehistory chapter in collaboration with A. B. Hooper III, Albertville.

Both amateur and professional archaeologists within the state of Alabama as well as the southeast should find this book most interesting, as much information not previously published is contained therein.

SUMMER DIG FIELD CREW: This year, we are most happy to have the following workers at our Hodges excavation, first term: Graduate Students Carey B. Oakley, Moundville (Field Supervisor); William R. Snell, Tuscaloosa (Assistant); and Ralph Bunn, Zebulon, J.C. (Bear Creek Watershed Field Supervisor); also Undergraduate Students Barry Burgess, Adamsville; Gary Garrett, Montgomery; Frances Randolph, Albertville, Donald Russell Jr., Selma; Joseph C. South III, Birmingham; and Larry P. Sutley, Tuscaloosa. In addition, Volunteer Students Dick Richardson, Huntsville (Indian Springs School) and Doyle Fuller, Russellville (Belgreen High School) will assist at various times.

PHOTOGRAPHIC FAME: "I have seen the excellent pictures", Rosa Fung-Pineda wrote our Dr. A. G. Long Jr. (the 210 photos he made for the Lively Complex pebble tool publication) and wants to know "if it still would be possible to obtain". She is "a Peruvian archaeologist who has come to this country with a Wenner Gren fellowship to study North American Early Man collections under Dr. H. M. Wormington's sponsorship." She couldn't be in better hands, and we don't know where she'd see a better spread of pebble tools. But isn't it a shame that the papers had to be privately published, as cheaply as possible? On expensive paper you could "pick up" Dr. Long's photos! The photos, plus 90 drawings, and 20,000 words of script are still available, from Dan Josselyn, 408 Broadway, Birmingham, Ala. 35209, \$3.00. And thanks to Dr. Wormington for helping to promote a wider awareness of these unanswered artifacts.

EDUCATIONAL PAGE

ALABAMA'S ANTIQUITIES LAW

There has been some talk of late concerning the need to update Alabama's Antiquities Law. Most feel that we ought to adopt the Arkansas format which involves a sort of "package plan" to not only set up laws to protect archaeological resources within the state but also creates a supervisory body to enforce the act and to carry out scientific work in archaeological recovery and interpretation. The structure of the Arkansas staff involves a director of what is called the Arkansas Archaeological Survey. It has a director, a state archaeologist, 6 administrative personnel for lab and office work and a number of professionally trained graduate assistants who work out of cooperating institutions - usually state colleges. These men are strategically located over the state and conduct continuing site survey and project work. In addition, they stand ready to move into areas where sites are threatened by construction, natural disaster or other factors. They are also on the lookout for violators of the state laws.

Important sites are designated, with landowner's permission, a "State Archaeolog-

ical Landmark". Once so designated, the law then says: "excavation for the purpose of recovery of artifacts by persons other than Arkansas Archaeological Survey agents, shall be a misdemeanor". Presumably, surface hunters are not included here and this relatively harmless weekend hobby is not impaired. Untrained diggers on such sites are breaking the law and can be prosecuted.

The foregoing represent the essence of this law and how it is implemented.

It goes without saying that such modern and effective legislation is badly needed in archaeologically rich Alabama. Our present anemic laws do little or nothing toward the support and enhancement of archaeological research, nor do they prevent the wide open vandalism and unreported digging which has been the name of the game in Alabama for decades.

The first Act, drafted in 1915 (re-drafted with practically no changes in 1940) was aimed at preventing non-Alabamians from entering the state to dig Indian sites - as a matter of fact, one section (273) spells it out in clear terms: "No persons, not a resident of the State of Alabama, either by himself personally, or by any agent or employee, or anyone else acting for such person, shall explore or excavate...or carry away or send away from the state any objects which may be discovered..." The Act in this case reflects the objection expressed by Alabama collectors (one of whom was a member of the state legislature at the time) to survey work by men like Clarence B. Moore, then of the Philadelphia Academy of Natural Sciences who was a pioneer in that he was the first to apply scientific investigation to southeastern prehistory and to publish the results of his findings. Today, the wording has not changed and it still is a violation of the law for professional scholars or students, regardless of their qualifications or objectives, to enter the state to excavate and "carry away" artifacts. If a resident of Tennessee, for example, is a professionally trained archaeologist and wants to dig a site which straddles the state line, he could only excavate that portion which lies in Tennessee. The need for more trained archaeologists has grown over recent years with the destruction and loss of thousands of sites in highway, dam and other modern developments spread across the land. Yet, this law technically prevents out-of-state professionals from coming in to aid the mere handful of Alabama scientists who cannot possibly cope with the task alone.

Section 275 states that "Explorations shall not deface or injure remains..." As every archaeologist knows, as one digs, he destroys - it is unavoidable. It would be much more sensible if this act read: "Since destruction of visible data results in any excavation, only persons trained in data recording in archaeology will participate in actual excavations". In making accurate records of field observations, the archaeologist atones for the destruction. This, incidentally, marks the basic difference between archaeologists and the hobby digger who makes no records but simply destroys and records nothing.

Finally, Sections 272 and 276 underscore the state ownership of recovered collections. These sections indicate that excavated collections will be finally deposited in the Department of Archives and History, or libraries and other educational institutions of the state. With the exception of the small and space-limited museum at Moundville, the state has no up-to-date museum facility for the presentation of the prehistoric background of this region, nor does it have personnel trained in modern display techniques, laboratory skills needed in artifact and data analysis. A potpourri of random and miscellaneous relics jumbled into a table case is not an archaeological display in the modern context. State colleges similarly do not have adequate facilities nor trained personnel to set up and manage a good archaeological museum. Display cases in the typical student union are more likely to be filled with athletic trophies.

All this means that unless Alabama can join the ranks of other states in promulgating modern effective antiquities laws to protect and preserve the vast evidence of her prehistoric past, most of it will be a total loss within the next 2 decades.

Dave Chase, Montgomery Chapter
Director, Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts

THE ALABAMA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Following are the objectives stated in our Constitution, slightly modified for emphasis: To promote informed interest in the study of Archaeology in Alabama and neighboring States; to encourage careful scientific archaeological research in such ways as surface scouting, mapping, marking, studying and especially reporting; to promote and support professionally directed excavations and discourage unsupervised "digging"; to promote the conservation of archaeological sites and to favor the passage of laws prescribing such; to oppose the sale of antiquities, and the manufacture and sale of fraudulent artifacts; to encourage and develop a better understanding of archaeology through providing Newsletters, Journals, Chapter and State meetings, helpful associates and good fellowship; to serve as a bond between individual archaeologists in the State, both non-professional and professional; and perhaps most importantly, to give everyone the opportunity to "do something about archaeology" through the accomplishment and enjoyment of these high aims.

The Society needs and welcomes as members, all persons whose ideals are in accord with the objectives set forth above. Active members receive the JOURNAL OF ALABAMA ARCHAEOLOGY, devoted to articles on the archaeology of Alabama and nearby States, and also receive the STONES & BONES NEWSLETTER, published monthly, containing news of members and their activities, also State, national and worldwide events of archaeological importance.



The coupon below may be used EITHER to APPLY FOR MEMBERSHIP in the Society, or for the PAYMENT OF ANNUAL DUES. Please be sure that your name and address are CLEARLY entered, and that checkmarks appear in applicable blanks!

----- cut here -----

To THE ALABAMA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, for

MAIL TO:

☐ New Membership
☐ Payment of Annual Dues
☐ Reporting of New Address

Rodger L. Schaefer
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