

Alabama Archaeological Society

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

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 DECATUR, ALA. 35601

STONES & BONES NEWSLETTER

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THE "HOLMES ERA" ?

W. H. Holmes, an American pioneer archaeologist, published a chart of lithic forms in which his sketched columns of "rejects" and "cache blades" (blanks) appear, in the light of growing observation, to include many tools (AMERICAN ANTHROPOLOGIST, V 1, Pl. 2, facing p. 124). Two views of this are still common: (1) they are rejects and blanks; (2) oh well, they are not important in any event. But take another look; this time at the Bureau of American Ethnology Annual Report 15, Pl. 32b - where Holmes includes in a context of rejects and blanks one of the earliest illustrated FLUTED POINTS! That was 1897 - attention to the fluted point was delayed for 30 years!

We were long in the "Hrdlicka era" (as if he alone were to blame!) when man was said to have been in America only a very few thousand years. A famous Mississippi Valley study looked for nothing preceramic! (That has recently been corrected with a pre-ceramic study.)

There is increasing evidence that we may be now in a "Holmes era" of "rejects" and "blanks", consigning artifacts of crude manufacture and indefinite shapes to these categories. Byers relates that he did not "distinguish", in his first publication, the pebble tools of his Kelley phase which he found at the LOWEST LEVEL of a site (AMERICAN ANTIQUITY, Jan. 1959). MacNeish, more recently, relates that only one of the distinctive "pebble end-scrapers" on which he postulated a "Diablo Complex" possibly over 12,000 years old was "found in situ" - the workmen had thrown the others out "taking them for split chunks of gravel" (TRANSACTIONS OF THE AMERICAN PHILOSOPHICAL SOCIETY, New Series, V 48, Part 6). We have recently examined splendid "crude tools" excavated several years ago at the LOWEST LEVEL of a site and cast aside - fortunately retrieved by interested parties and to be reported. Remember that even in Old World archaeology, much more seasoned than American and long accustomed to "crude tools", excavations at highly important Choukoutien proceeded for 7 years before artifacts were recognized in 1931 since they "are so lacking in form" - though geologist Dr. J. G. Andersson had recognized them 10 years earlier (Oakley's FRAMEWORKS FOR DATING FOS-SIL MAN, pp. 231-233).

Our belated recognition of "crude tools" in Alabama, and the record of archaeological history, even very recent history, might well cause us to ask if we are now in a HOLMES ERA and if we are delaying for another 30 years the recognition and study of another "FLUTED POINT" in relative importance. (Saying "it ain't so" won't make them go away!)

"CHOPPERS"

The "chopper" is possibly the lithic tool which man has used the longest. In America, Bird reports it in Fell's Cave, 10,700 years old, and "in Inca debris datable up to the time of the conquest". Forbis dates "choppers" at buffalo jump kill sites into

the historic period. C. P. Mountford in recent years photographed an Australian native using an unworked, naturally sharp-edged rock as a "chopper" to cut down a tree - with surprising rapidity. Leakey, in amazing contrast, finds "choppers" at the bottom of Olduvai Gorge variously dated by the potassium-argon method from 1.75 to 2.4 million years old.

Yet, curiously, the "chopper" is one of the least defined of the lithic tools - so much so that it is often put in quotes. Indeed, it is often written as "cores and/or choppers". And there is still argument as to just what a "chopper" is or to what the term should be restricted. Movius thinks it should be confined to uniface edges; Leakey made and used what he called a "chopper" as a knife to butcher a ram - also with surprising rapidity. Kretzoi and Vertes, reporting their Abbevillian pebble tool site recently excavated in Hungary, stated that "almost all" of their "choppers ought to be regarded as side-scrapers". But these last authors seem to define our troubles in complaining of the problems in the "pebble-tool/chopper/chopping-tool group", the "typological classification...difficult" with such crudely made tools, "the implements of such industries...not yet standardized", and "the terminology...incomplete".

Charles V. Brosemer sent down from Huntsville 45 large, crudely made lithic tools, averaging $1\frac{1}{2}$ pounds in weight, with uniface edges worked steeply (mostly 70 to 80 degrees) from both natural and prepared platforms. In their crude way they stylize sufficiently to escape any possible confusion with "cores", and the worked edges show small use breakage. As noted above, these could be of any age that man has inhabited the earth and made stone tools. However, they impress everyone who has seen them as "looking old". We are not well acquainted with much of the material and cannot judge the heavy patination, and slab and pebble rind on many makes them unsuitable for study in this regard. We are growing familiar with relative patinations on the typical mottled Fort Payne chert so much in use by all cultures in the Tennessee Valley area of Alabama. One tool made of this material and worked on both faces was fractured, and found patinated concentrically throughout its thickness of $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches - which you might compare with typical Archaic patination depths. Such depths are common for the patination on large, crude tools of this material, and seem well worth study. And these tools seem to fall fairly within the "chopper" class. Well illustrated and carefully described, Brosemer's "choppers" should make a contribution to the literature on these rather neglected artifacts.

THE ALABAMA STORY - AN ANNUAL FUND DRIVE

Last month, in reviewing the history of this unique archaeological adventure, we left you at the suspenseful point where we issued the challenge, SOMETHING MUST BE DONE - about a remarkable shelter site reported by Charles H. Worley, Muscle Shoals Chapter.

Well, the response was, as the saying goes, deafening - amounting to ONE. But that one was Jim H. McCary III, and he had fire in his eye. "Could a test trench be excavated for \$1,000.00?", he demanded. We thought our Dave DeJarnette, seasoned veteran of dollarless archaeology, could manage. Well, it seemed that Jim's father, J. Henry McCary Jr., President of Southern Life & Health Insurance Co., was retiring and needed a hobby. And William M. Spencer, retired attorney and Chairman of the Board of the Birmingham Museum of Art (among many other retirement activities) was also interested in such things. Steve Wimberly, Britt Thompson and Dan Josselyn were intensely interested - though as old hands at the archaeological game they knew nothing could be done!

Henry McCary and Bill Spencer, however, grandly waved aside that defeatism when the 6 of them convened. They proceeded to set up the ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATION OF ALABAMA, INC., with tax-deductible status for donors, Mr. McCary as President and Mr. Spencer as Treasurer and legal advisor. And Dan, as we have come to know him through his voluble typewriter, was elected Secretary, with Jim, Britt & Steve as Trustees. E. Milton Harris and T. Randolph Gray became Association Trustees later.

By July of 1960, organization and plans were complete, and 3 pages of that Newsletter issue were devoted to explaining matters and opening a fund drive under the title: THE MOST IMPORTANT THING WE EVER DID. But did we? Dr. T. M. N. Lewis, one of the best friends the amateurs ever had, did not think the amateurs had anything like that in them! Finance even top priority archaeology? Oh no! (The story to be continued in the May issue.) Donors began early this month (our plans and prospects, maybe?):

Kitty A. (Mrs. W. D.) Thomason - we recall that in June '66 we announced her considerable honor in being made an Honorary Member of the Marshall County Chapter. And she joined our ambitious crusade to give Alabama archaeology the attention and prominence it deserves, and has become one of our valued "steady supporters". (Forwarded by A. B. Hooper III.)

James B. Whitehead, now promoted to "5-times donor", informs us that he is keeping "his fingers crossed" concerning our BIG publication possibility! And he says ART AND ARCHAEOLOGY NEWSLETTER, 243 E. 39th St., New York, N.Y. 10016, lists "digs" where amateurs are invited to help.

Robert R. & Elberta G. (formerly Gibbs) Reid Jr., who began giving us good support way back in 1963 (Gibbs-Doster Drug Co. Inc.) are with us again. We always remember that course in anthropology where Elberta came off with highest honors, and wonder if anthropology as "the study of man" - well, we recall a story. A famous anthropologist lecturing on the subject was confronted on this "segregated" definition by a militant "feminist" as they were then called. He hummed and hawed and stumbled out with "man - er - embracing woman". (Can you blame him - man, that is?)

William H. Wesley, a newcomer who discovered us only last year, is really "going to town" - with a fine paper in the Autumn '67 TENNESSEE ARCHAEOLOGIST on SOME OF THE LARGE, CRUDE, UNREPORTED LITHIC TOOLS they have up there! REPORTING is one of the greatest donations - ONLY 152 of our amazing fluted points in Alabama are adequately reported - which is tragic!!!

William H. Emanuel - Bill and Irene are off to Alaska for several years! With some introductions, of course, to archaeologists! And they left with us for study and reporting several hundred pounds of the amazing large tools, from 3 sites (fine comparative study), which have so excited Dr. Gagliano of LSU. (This in addition to their fine check!) And Bill has a paper about ready on the American "hand-axe" form, a strangely neglected tool. Good going indeed for a relative newcomer to Alabama archaeology - most of Bill's work was in France (you will see some of Doc Long's fine photos of Bill's Old World Abbevillian and Acheulian "hand axes").

Leon J. Salter, widely a benefactor of archaeology, and a "communicator" (for example, distributing many copies of the Lively-Long-Josselyn first major American publication on pebble tools) and stimulator, still thinks our work worthy of support. He put us "over the top" in a big way for our first (and both doubtful and doubted) full year drive - leaving a surplus which we needed that second year and giving us a momentum which we have managed to sustain into this, our NINTH year. To paraphrase, sometimes "angels" walk where even fools fear to tread - fortunately!

Dan Josselyn - well, secretarizing our fund drive as he does, he says he is obliged to "practice what he preaches" - and only wishes he had not retired so early in life "from the kind of work you get paid for". He never has, fortunately, retired from WORK - period - and \$0000000.

So our 1968 DRIVE is thus beginning to look also like a FUND with a present total of \$477.00 donated by good people who think "Alabama archaeology has a promising future". Though it ushered in an exciting new era, it took 25 years for the "fluted point" to become a major orthodox force in American archaeology. By comparison, our 8 years have made "rapid" progress - the oldest radiocarbon date for man in the southeast, and our pebble tools now known and verified (and encouraged) from Argentina to Alaska, Kenya to France. The prospect of a major, world-wide in distribution, publication by one of the most "solid" Societies in the world - the possibility we announced in our March issue - we feel that it would at last be a fitting and tangible reward for our unique

and only fund-drive idea, and for the many good people (in some 30 states and several foreign countries) who KEEP MAKING A DREAM COME TRUE.

EXCHANGE INFORMATION

SASKATCHEWAN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, we are most pleased to note, announces an "organizational meeting of the proposed Canadian Archaeological Association" at the University of Manitoba. And we are at the ecstatic point to note that they are including plans for greater utilization of amateurs. And they have "courses for amateurs" in field work, lab sessions, and even an "amateur writing workshop"! We U.S. amateurs (and professionals!) had better take a load off of our posteriors!

ONTARIO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY also has supervised summer excavations (with pre-excavation training in field techniques), and winter "lab" sessions in which they learn to wash and mark artifacts, sort sherds, etc. They are also building an ambitious library - send your reprints (W. S. Donaldson, 111 Riverside Drive N., Oshawa, Ontario). Royal Ontario Museum is tracing "the early fur trade routes of the voyageurs" - under water! "The white waters of countless rapids" where canoes capsized furnish good diving for lost loads - sometimes as datable as that lost by Alexander Henry, August 9, 1801. C. S. Churcher is off to East Africa, including some work with Leakey! Ian Walker and wife are researching "early kaolin pipes" in England.

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF VIRGINIA has Committees of Publication, Program & Publicity, Audit, Museums & Libraries, Site Surveys! Powhatan name for Virginia - tse-nahcommacah - pretty long sneeze! We regret to learn the death of H. Geiger Omwake, "a talented and dedicated amateur archaeologist", at the turn of the year - we had a fine letter from Geiger last June. President R. P. Gravely Jr., tracing rumors of a "small clique" running the Society, admits to "a few conscientious and hard-working people who might be called a 'clique'". If so, we are fortunate in having such a clique in the Society...How about joining the clique?" Ditto!!!

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY OF CONNECTICUT, Bulletin 35, study of surface material from the Lewis-Walpole Site of Farmington, mentions "other items of obvious human manufacture but of unrecognizable design...unclassifiable material bears little interpretative significance." Let us complete our classification before we write off "unrecognizable design" as meaningless - we are recognizing a lot more than we used to. This site is on the property of Mr. Wilmarth Lewis, who brought it to the attention of Yale University, and whose "eagerness and generosity...made possible an undergraduate course in archaeological field techniques". William Day, the gardener, recovered most of the surface material and the cabin in which it is displayed (reputed home of the last full-blooded Tunxis Indian) is named the Day Museum. Such are some of the many ways we can serve archaeology.

W. H. OVER DAKOTA MUSEUM NEWS, January-February 1968, a long PRIEST'S ACCOUNT OF THE CHEYENNE SUN DANCE taken in Cheyenne and translated in "the rough and non-grammatical form...in the hope of keeping maximum adherence to the priest's point of view". We were amused that: "The priest himself was typical in that he did not represent the 'better' element of Cheyenne population...His behavior abberant, he was often a laughing stock among neighbors when they were not annoyed by his alcoholic or pilfering tendencies. Nonetheless, he had established himself in the priest's role by undergoing the proper ritual sacrifices; and his authority in this area was not questioned."

OKLAHOMA ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY, Dan Base (only Honorary Life Member) mentions "28 Folsoms that came from one creek near Carnegie, Okla." We note "Both the Cooperation and Dombéo mammoth sites were called to the attention...by observant ranchers" - stressing the value of public education. The supervised Fall Dig had up to 20 diggers at a time, from 6 Chapters and Arkansas and Texas! We were amused to learn that the famous "Greek Horse" forgery in the Metropolitan, long illustrated as Greek in practically all books on Greek art, given a full-page color photo in Brittanica, reproduced by thousands in plaster - it was exposed by X-ray - not an X-pert. Though after 38 years of exhibition, expert Noble did take a look and note a suspicious splitmold mark (lost-wax casting expected). But then all of us are guilty of looking too little, and

seeing with the "mind's eye".

JOURNAL OF THE IOWA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, Vol. 14, 1967, salvage archaeology in the Rathburn Reservoir area, Chariton River, south-central Iowa: "The simple burial mounds are culturally linked to the Hopewellian pattern as it is expressed in north-western Illinois and in Wisconsin. Campsites yielding Havana Ware and related pottery remains are affiliated with the Havana Tradition of the Middle Woodland Period of Ill."

TENNESSEE ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY JOURNAL, Autumn 1967, good paper on Tenn. "crude tools" (by our William H. Wesley), and on an unusual petroglyph all "petroglyphers" will want in their library. And fine photos, with notes, of a very striking stone pipe (by our Margaret Perryman). (Dr. Alfred K. Guthe, Dept. of Anthropology, University of Tennessee, Knoxville 37916, \$3.00 annually.)

ARKANSAS ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, beginning to steam with enthusiasm (and sweat) of the first year of the well-financed Arkansas Archaeological Survey. A new development of vast importance to which all states should aspire (actively and energetically), it is urged that all interested in a more nearly adequate future for American archaeology join up, and follow this program closely. (Central Office, University of Ark. Museum, Fayetteville 72701, \$3.00 annually.) Pipe students will want the 20 fine pipe photos in Vol. 8, No. 1. And please note those heretofore unreported bottles with "strainers" in the necks!

COLORADO ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY: SOUTHWESTERN LORE, Vol. 33, Nos. 3 & 4, survey of some 5 sections of land adjacent to Hovenweep National Monument. A dry spell is postulated about 900 A.D. causing a population movement into this slightly less arid area. Dams, terraces, irrigation, improved farming, granaries - man's hardy conquest of environment.

CHARTERS, CONSTITUTIONS & BY-LAWS OF THE INDIAN TRIBES OF NORTH AMERICA, Part III: The Southwest (Apache-Mohave), covers the Jicarilla, Mescalero, San Carlos and White Mountain Apache Tribes; the Cocopah, Hopi, Hualapai and Havasupai; and the Fort McDowell Mohave-Apache. By all means bring this extensive series to the attention of your public library. (Dr. George E. Fay, Editor, Museum of Anthropology, Colorado State College, Greeley, Col. 80631, \$3.00.)

CHAPTER NEWS

Birmingham Chapter meets at 7:30 PM on the first Wednesday of each month in Room 213, Reid Chapel, Samford University. State President Dave Chase delivered a greatly enjoyed talk on "The Amateur Role in Modern Archaeology" to the March meeting.

THE PASTFINDERS, Birmingham Chapter Ladies' Auxiliary, were entertained at their March meeting by Mrs. John W. Bradshaw, who gave a slide-illustrated discussion on "Creek Indians in Alabama".

Cullman County Chapter meets at 7:30 PM on the 3rd Monday of each month at City Hall Auditorium, Cullman. With 60 members present, Spencer Waters, Morgan-Limestone Chapter, gave an excellent discussion on "Petroglyphs", displaying his unusual collection of interesting material and cave drawing tracings. At the March meeting, State President Dave Chase will speak on "The Amateur Role in Modern Archaeology". The chapter is putting a display in a prominent local store for National Library Week; and is discussing donation of a trophy in the Cullman City School Science Fair next year for the outstanding Archaeological Project. The Chapter now has its own membership cards.

East Alabama Chapter meets on the 1st Thursday of each month at 7:30 PM in Comer Hall Auditorium, Auburn University. At the March meeting, Dr. Albert C. Trowse Jr. gave a slide illustrated lecture on "Ruins of Maya Ceremonial Complexes of Guatemala". The Chapter is planning a field trip shortly.

Huntsville Chapter meets on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at the Madison County Court House. Morgan-Limestone Chapter member Thomas F. Moebes presented an interesting program at the February meeting on "Artifacts of the Tennessee Valley" illustrated with a profusion of artifacts from his personal collection, also discussing a number of his

books which he brought along. At the March meeting, State Secy-Treas R. L. Schaefer will discuss "Geology of the Tennessee Valley as it May Have Influenced the Aborigines!" Special information on scheduled programs may be obtained from Bart Henson, 7608 Teal Drive S.W., Huntsville 35802. Two cottage meetings were held recently in the homes of members to help sharpen their point classification talents.

Mauvilla Chapter meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at 7:30 PM at the Phoenix Restored Fire Station, Mobile. The March meeting was held in the Museum Section of the Mobile City Hall, where Nick Holmes and Mrs. R. B. Andridge met with other chapter members and partially classified Indian artifacts which have belonged to the City for a considerable time. At the April meeting, Don Harris, Field Director for the salvage project at Fort Conde, will speak on a topic in the field of archaeology.

Morgan-Limestone Chapter meets on the 1st Monday of each month at Decatur City Hall. At the March meeting, Chapter member John Gustafson spoke on "Methods of Dating Materials", giving a highly instructive lecture explaining both old and new methods of datings, presenting the advantage, disadvantage and cost of each method in an informative, clear manner. The April meeting will comprise the TVA film "Shell Mounds of the Tennessee Valley", also a workshop on field survey by chapter members. A field trip is planned for April 6, with members meeting at Decatur Boat Harbor at 7:30 AM.

Muscle Shoals Chapter meets on the 4th Monday of each month at Wesleyan Hall, Room W-3, Florence State College. Chapter Member Jimmy Walden led a roundtable discussion at the February meeting on the subject "The Amateur's Role in Archaeology". At the Northwest District Science Fair held March 9 at FSC, A. W. Beinlich Jr. made an oral presentation on behalf of the Chapter to Rory & Johnny Waters, to whom plaques will be presented by the Chapter for Rory's Grand Prize Junior Division and Johnny's Second Prize Senior Division awards, both in the Earth Science-Space category, using fossils. Chapter officers for 1968 are Jimmy Walden, President; and A. W. Beinlich Jr., Secy-Treas.

Noccalula Chapter meets on the 1st Thursday of each month at the Etowah County Court House, Gadsden. At the March meeting, State President Dave Chase spoke on "The Amateur Role in Modern Archaeology", through lecture and slides showing the proper or best procedures for various archaeological activities. Dates for the Etowah Centennial and Coosa Time Tunnel have been announced as from June 26 through July 4, 1968.

ANNOUNCEMENTS - STATE NEWS

NEW MEMBERS DURING MARCH: (We are proud to have you with us for 1968!)

Allen E. Collins, 1524 Melrose Place, Birmingham, Ala. 35209 (Family)
Glen Allen Elrod, Route 1 Box 208, Red Bay, Ala. 35582
John T. Leister, 26455 Parklawn Drive, Euclid, Ohio 44132
Jon L. Manley, 1351 Gulf Breeze Parkway, Gulf Breeze, Fla. 32561 (Family)
James W. Porter, 515 Portage Ave., Winnipeg 2, Manitoba, Canada
James Portwood, Route 1 Box 1332-A, Sylacauga, Ala. 35150
William F. Willis, TVA, P O Box 2000, Russellville, Ala. 35653
Library, College of General Studies, Univ. of Ala., 720 S. 20th St., Bham, Ala. 35233
New York Public Library, Research Libraries, 5th Ave. & 42nd St., New York, NY. 10018
(Our apologies to last month's new members Grady Borland, Guntersville, Ala., and Donald L. Hoskins, Huntsville, Ala., for the underlined errors in listing their names.)

* DEADLINE FOR 1968 DUES *
* Regardless of when your 1967 dues were paid, 1968 dues were payable January 1 and *
* are delinquent after March 31. IF YOU ARE UNCERTAIN whether you're paid up, check *
* the label on this Newsletter. A small "x" after your name indicates your 1968 *
* dues are paid; otherwise, only prompt payment will maintain your membership! *

ADDRESS CHANGES must be reported to your State Secretary or Associate Editors promptly, if your publications are to reach you regularly. Under our "cost saving" postal permit, all Newsletters not delivered AT THE ADDRESS SHOWN are returned and must be redeemed at 10¢ to 15¢ each. PLEASE cooperate by reporting address changes PROMPTLY.

MORE ON CHAPTER PROGRAMS: The Morgan-Limestone Chapter highly recommends the talk on "Methods of Dating Materials" by their Chapter member John Gustafson, who will be happy to consider speaking at other Chapter meetings. You may get in touch with him at 1217 Thomas Drive S.W., Decatur, Ala. 35601.

STILL MORE ON ABORIGINAL COPPER: State Society member Tyler Bastian, at the University of Kansas, writes: "In connection with the recent comments on native copper in STONES & BONES, I would like to call your readers' attention to LAKE SUPERIOR COPPER AND THE INDIANS: Miscellaneous Studies of Great Lakes Prehistory, edited by James B. Griffin (Anthropological Papers, No. 17, Museum of Anthropology, University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Mich. 48104, \$2.50 postpaid). Drier & DuTemple's PREHISTORIC COPPER MINING IN THE LAKE SUPERIOR REGION, mentioned in February STONES & BONES, is a reprinting of early articles of varied usefulness, while the Griffin volume includes the pertinent archaeological data from the same sources plus much new information and recent interpretations". Our thanks to you for this, Tyler.

A PUPIL REMEMBERS her professor, the late Charles H. Nash: "...after a 2-day illness. It was very sudden, and we are all terribly grieved. He once told me that one should enjoy what one is doing...He lived by this. He was a delightful man who inspired many students to go beyond the limits they had thought themselves bound within. We all loved him. I'll always remember him. If only his brief moment could have delayed its ending." (Signed) Ann Kibel.

Roger M. Cunningham, Stout, Ohio, writes that he farms 600 acres bordering the Ohio River with "long alluvial terraces" and that he, Mrs. Cunningham and 3 sons are much "interested in the scientific implications" of the many artifacts on their land. These include the Clovis, Dalton and Yuma points, and among the "crude tools" sketched by Mrs. Cunningham is a "stand-on-end" type resembling William Wesley's on page 47 of the Autumn 1967 TENNESSEE ARCHAEOLOGIST. Roger "speaks the language of archaeology", deplores loose traffic in artifacts, on a trip to Washington (ESAF Annual) showed Dr. Dragoo some artifacts (who hopes to visit their sites), and belongs to 6 State Societies and the American Society. Not bad at all! In order to begin study of the less shaped "crude" tools he ordered the Lively, Long, Josselyn study of the Lively Complex pebble tools - with its 300 illustrations probably the best illustrated publication on pebble tools anywhere. (Still available at \$3.00 from Dan Josselyn.)

GREAT AMATEUR: William S. Webb, amateur, became and remained for 30 years Kentucky's leading archaeologist - of course bringing to this discipline the profound scientific background of a Physics Professor. Douglas Schwartz includes the Webb story in his CONCEPTIONS OF KENTUCKY PREHISTORY, University of Kentucky Press, \$6.00. Of particular interest to us, Webb worked with our Dave DeJarnette in Alabama.

PERSISTENT AMATEUR: Concerning the exciting "possibly over 40,000 years old" site recently excavated by Dr. Cynthia Irwin-Williams, which we have mentioned several times, back in 1964 professional Luis Aveleyra Arroyo de Anda wrote: "Important scientific results derived from any future research in the area must give full credit to the enthusiasm and persistence of (amateur) Juan Armenta Camacho, who, by provoking discussion and controversy, has awakened interest in this zone" (HANDBOOK OF MIDDLE AMERICAN INDIANS, Vol. I). If required, let's not fear "controversy" - it can serve too.

BACK ISSUES OF THE NEWSLETTER, when available, may be purchased at 25¢ each from your Associate Editors. Your Society cannot be responsible for issues not mailed because of late payment of dues, nor when your copies are undelivered because of an unreported address change. Only a few recent issues are unavailable.

EDUCATIONAL PAGE

WE ARE NOT ALONE

Located on the outskirts of Guatemala City, Republic of Guatemala, is an important early "Maya" center. When white man entered the valley it was occupied by a Maya people who spoke the Pokoman dialect. If the occupants of the valley were associated with the much earlier buried ceremonial centers, found there at a much later date, their civilization had declined. The construction of the complex has been dated as occurring during the formative period and in all probability had not been utilized during the past 1400 years. In the 1930's when the local mound complex was discovered and its importance was envisioned, it was named Kaminal Juyu - words meaning "Hills of the Dead" in the Quiche dialect.

Of the more than 400 mounds once in the area, only 2 (to my knowledge) have been professionally excavated. The temples within these ash-covered mounds were constructed of perishable material: some base construction was of fire-hardened adobe and other was of cut soft pumice blocks both covered with clay (piedrin coating) with a lime finish which must have been protected to resist the elements. Recently exposed walls fall victim to erosion in a very few weeks. So not only must professional care be exercised during the excavation but also professional care is required for preservation.

Just what these hundreds of mounds contain is unknown - and what many contained will never be known since many have fallen before the bulldozer blade as the city has expanded, first to ball fields, then to a hospital and now to housing developments. The 2 mounds excavated in the late 1930's by the Carnegie Institute under Dr. A. V. Kidder's direction contained large ceremonial and burial structures. In one was a complex structure containing 7 inner temples, each in succession of earlier construction. What amateur archaeologist, however conscientious, could handle such an undertaking? After the Kidder publication (#561) some of the excavated material was dated at approximately 2000 B.C., a very early date for American civilizations. These structures have decorated and obsidian-imbedded walls, stairs and platforms and may be in excess of 50 feet high. Within the outer structure are inner and earlier temples, burial vaults, artifacts of gold, jade, ceramics and stone - material for the pothunter.

Artifacts are exhibited in the local museum and some, with Government permission, have been submitted to other museums. However, many artifacts are lost; they are sold both at stores and by individual peddlers. I have seen private excavations by conscientious local people who use after-work hours and may proceed carefully but lack knowledge and financing for proper excavation and preservation. And I seriously doubt that many accurate records of such digs are being kept. Still, their effort may be said to be somewhat superior to that of the construction foreman and his bulldozer operators.

Kaminal Juyu is a very early site of possible Maya civilization. But who can say that 4000 years is the earliest date of this site when less than 1% of the mounds was examined? Still, as in Alabama, such sites are presently falling victim to the onward push of the bulldozer blade and private digger. Can't something be done?????

Dr. Albert C. Trowse Jr., East Alabama Chapter

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.



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