Alabama Archaeological Society

C/O Mr. & Mrs. Jerry J. Nielsen, P.O. Box 306, Daphne, Al. 36526

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7608 Teal Drive, SW
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STONES & BONES
NEWSLETTER

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MEMBER OF THE EASTERN STATES ARCHEOLOGICAL FEDERATION

1976 SUMMER MEETING AT MOUNDVILLE

On July 17, 1976, the Summer Meeting of the Alabama Archaeological Society will be held at Mound State Monument, in Moundville, Alabama. For those of you who have never visited this important prehistoric Indian site...you are in for a very enjoyable and educational day.

Registration begins at 9:00am, at a cost of \$3.00 which includes entrance fee, coffee and cokes. The Board of Directors Meeting will begin at 9:15am and will be held at the Conference Building, located in the picnic area. The speaker session begins at 11:00am, also in the Conference Building. Bring your own picnic lunch.

The speakers will include Cailup Curren, <u>Pleistocene Remains from the Tennessee-Tombigbee Area</u>, and Crawford Blakeman, <u>Archaeological Investigations along the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway in Mississippi</u>. Special tours of the park are planned, which will give everyone a chance to see the new museum exhibits, and the automatic programs which have recently been added to the village area and the temple. Be sure to bring the children!

Moundville is located 16 miles south of Tuscaloosa, on Alabama Highway 69. There is a large, well-cared for campground in the park, as well as numerous hotels and motels in Tuscaloosa for those wishing to spend the weekend.

The meeting will end around 5:00pm with a watermelon feast in the picnic area. Since we have some chapter members who are not state society members, be sure to announce the meeting at your next chapter meeting, and invite all your members to attend.

A GLOSSARY FOR THE DESCRIPTION OF STONE TOOLS

The above publication is a translation of one chapter from Jacques Tixier's TYPOLOGIE de L'EPIPALEOLITHIQUE du MAGHREB. This lithic glossary and type list will be especially helpful to those wishing to use some of the original French references in their lithic research. Translated by M. H. Newcomer (Institute of Archaeology, London), it has been published as Special Publication No. 1 by the Newsletter of Lithic Technology. This newsletter, of about 30 pages, is published three times a year and contains current news of the field of lithic research, short articles, new publications and meetings. The special publication and a year's subscription to the newsletter cost \$3.00 apiece. Mail a check payable to the Newsletter of Lithic Technology, P.O. Box 6005, San Antonio, Texas 78209.

(Marjorie Gay, East Alabama Chapter)

POETRY AND ARCHAEOLOGY

The lesson of a man made recently blind, who, in sudden hollow terror attempts to compensate his loss of sight by slowly but very determinedly learning to magnify those other senses - of hearing, touching, smelling and tasting - to acuities which seem to surpass the ranges we conceive as normal, in order to continue to experience his universe to his utmost capacity (a paramount value, ingrained and essentially instinctive), serves to point out not only the intensity to which separate human senses may be tuned, but also the tendency of our species to balance the lack of one experiential factor with the accentuation of another. We may assume that the same principle (the compensation tendency) is operational in all kinds of endeavors, and has instructive application to the activities which collectively we call archaeology.

Archaeology, as it has grown as a relatively "young" discipline and is now practiced, embodies some very basic enigmas. The discipline has been often referred to as a "limited science" by its practitioners, being a recognition that the means of archaeology do not exactly fit its goals. That is, while its broad objectives are supposedly in the anthropologically oriented, holistic study of extinct cultures, fate has many times elected to preserve for our contemplation only a fraction of a single aspect of those cultures, being their material, usually technological, remains. This difficulty is not easily overcome. But as the discipline of archaeology seems hopelessly chained like the mythical Prometheus to the rock of material culture, a second feathered enigma stands ready to pluck out its eyes, blinding it forever. This is the problem of the philosophy behind the activity, which, if I understand it correctly, should address the problem of the understanding (verstehen) of our own nature via that of our predecessors. Thus archaeology is a part of a rather timely search for identity and perspective, which is humanistic philosophy by any standard. But alas! the "philosophers of science" in archaeology have denied it completely and continue to assert that our salvation will be found in ever-more-elaborate techniques, models and structures. Lest we all become tragic heroes, then, how will archaeology compensate for its "blindness"?

Past efforts, spearheaded by disciples of the so-called "new archaeology," have overcompensated in rather exotic areas previously left largely to other fields of study. Some of these include rather interesting jaunts into the realms of such things as complex mathematics, computer simulation, game theory, systems analysis and other borrowings from the expertise of natural scientists, but none of these pursuits have yet surpassed mere archaeological technique refinement. This brand of rather aimless, escapist behavior among archaeologists (or perhaps now better called technicians) is referred to as "the interdisciplinary approach."

Since "science" has failed archaeology so miserably in view of archaeology's goals, it may come as no surprise that the heretofore separate paths of poetry and archaeology should cross at this point. After all, their respective orientations ought to be closely allied, and other parallels of motivation and method may be drawn between the two. Importantly, both are concerned with the expression of the self-discovery of our own species.

What motivates the poet to write poetry evidently also motivates the archaeologist to do archaeology. In the best tradition of poetic creativity, few archaeologists could deny the rather romantic call to "the field," the thrill of discovery of some unknown facet of our world, or the satisfaction of conveying their discoveries by taking pen in hand. Indeed, it is apparent that many archaeological reports could do well to adopt some of the tenets of poetic handicraft. Most archaeologists already possess the raw material for the work; the ability to manufacture new language for new thought, the ability to make detailed observations about seemingly insignificant things, and the ability to become emotionally disturbed. Creative speculation is surely one of the archaeologist's principal credits, although few would be ready to admit it.

Among the poetic devices the archaeologist could do well to incorporate in his work is the concept of concise expression. The shades of useless repetition and overt verbosity have unfortunately plagued the work of far too many archaeologists whom, if they could develop this talent of concise expression and omission of repetitive and useless information, could cut, among other things, their duplication costs.

It seems, then, that archaeological discoveries and reports would lose little and perhaps gain considerably if performed under the rather lenient rules of "poetic license." Are poetical archaeological reports (synonomous with archaeological poems), then, to become proper means of conveying the product of the archaeologists imaginative mind? If not, then by what other means shall they compensate for their inherent difficulties?

(Jim Knight, Lexington, Kentucky)

QUOTE

From "Archaeology and Society" by Grahame Clark at the conclusion of his chapter on survival of evidence.

"So, it may be concluded, do archaeologists, by disinterring the dead and by uncovering the ashes of burnt-out habitations, turn to profit the tragedies of past ages. Yet it is through death and destruction that generations of men, remote beyond the verges of history, have come to life again in the consciousness of humanity, and it is the spoiling hands of the archaeologists that confer immortality upon them."

(Marjorie Gay, East Alabama Chapter)

FROM POPULAR ARCHAEOLOGY

A 1400 year old depiction of the Holy Sepulchre mounted on a gold ring has been unearthed by Israeli archaeologists in Jerusalem. It was placed on special exhibition at the Rockefeller Museum in Jerusalem. The ring, with the dome-shaped building, was discovered recently by Professor Binyamin Mazar of the Hebrew University, who heads the excavations near the Temple Mount.

(Submitted by Juanita Battles, Gadsden)

STATE SCIENCE FAIR

On March 27th Huntsville Chapter members, John Martz and Willie Wesley, enjoyed talking about archaeology to participants in the State Science Fair, held on the UAH campus. This chance to talk to a very interested audience was made possible by the UAH office of High School and Junior College Relations.

As a part of their public relations work, the people at this office say they are willing to locate speakers for clubs and such. This might be something for chapter program chairmen to keep in mind. Just call collect (205-895-6670). They, of course, are also interested in talking to anyone who might be a prospective student.

(Willie Wesley, Huntsville Chapter)

ATTENTION CHAPTER CHAIRMEN

The list of possible speakers for your local chapter, which was printed in last month's newsletter, was compiled as a service to our chapters. Be sure to take advantage of this information. One of the major reasons given for various chapters folding was the lack of interesting programs. Don't let this happen to your chapter. The speakers are available and most are willing to travel considerable distances to share their knowledge and archaeological enthuasism with you.

"EARLY GEORGIA" IS GOING TO BE AVAILABLE AGAIN!

Volume 3, Issue I of "EARLY GEORGIA" is now with the publisher. The last issue of Volume 2 of this respected journal of the SOCIETY FOR THE PRESERVATION OF EARLY GEORGIA HISTORY (SPEGH) was published some 19 years ago. During the intervening years, there have been a few meetings and newsletters and reports to ESAF. In 1974 SPEGH was revitalized and a new name selected, "THE SOCIETY FOR GEORGIA ARCHAEOLOGY." During the next two years, the Society met several times, the last being a Spring Meeting in Athens, Georgia, on May 15, 1976, which was attended by over 20 SGA members. The program consisted of reports and papers by professionals and amateurs, a tour of the Archaeological Laboratory at the University of Georgia and a slide presentation which was produced by the Augusta Museum. Betty Smith, Editor, and David Hally, Managing Editor, announced that Volume 3, Issue I, would soon be sent to all the members of the old SPEGH and to the current members of SGA and will be available to the public at \$3.00 per copy. This issue of 80 pages will follow the format of the earlier issues of "EARLY GEORGIA" and will contain papers from a symposium given at the 1973 meeting of the Georgia Academy of Science organized by Dr. Lewis H. Larson, Jr. to honor Dr. Arthur R. Kelly. This symposium on Georgia archaeology was entitled "Georgia Prehistory, an Overview in Space and Time." The fall meeting of SGA is planned for Augusta, Georgia, on August 23. Members will receive full details in the SGA newsletter. For membership send \$6.00, check made payable to the Society for Georgia Archaeology, to Mrs. Gail Schnell, Columbus Museum of Arts and Crafts, 1251 Wynnton Road, Columbus, Georgia 31906. For "EARLY GEORGIA" send a check also payable to SGA for \$3.00 to Mrs. Betty Smith, Department of Anthropology, University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia 30602. (Marjorie Gay, East Alabama Chapter)

51-FOOT TEXAS SPREAD

Douglas A. Lawson, a graduate student at the University of California in Berkeley, excavating during the past three years in the Big Bend National Park in Southwest Texas discovered the remains of an extinct winged reptile with a 51-foot wingspan, that, so far, is the largest known creature ever to have flown.

Bones of this creature, that lived about 60 million years ago, are estimated to be about the size of the pterodactyl, or winged reptile. First announcement of the find was reported in the March 14, 1975 issue of SCIENCE magazine. Lawson thinks the animal may have been a carrion eater, feeding upon dead dinosaurs much like today's vultures. The largest previously known pterosaur was a specied Pteronodon with a 25-foot wingspread. No name has been given as yet to Lawson's new find, although scientists insist it was clearly a new species. (From POPULAR ARCHAEOLOGY, submitted by Juanita Battles, Gadsden, Alabama)

WE KNEW IT IN 1963

A real zinger of a headline is on the front page of a March issue of Geo-Petro Notes (Volume 1, Number 4) published by the Geological Survey Oil and Gas Board. The headline reads, "For Alabama: Pleistocene Deposits Confirmed." A survey has been made along the Tombigbee River flood plain which produced 12 late Pleistocene vertebrate species, not previously known to have existed in Alabama. Also found were mammoth and horse remains. In one location the Pleistocene bed is 12 feet thick. Although the all too familiar term, "we haven't been able to prove positive association," is used, "artifactual elements" are involved.

The lower portions of the deposits are described as being in "a blue-grey clayey sil and perhaps it is worth noting that a Cambron and Hulse article in Volume IX, No. 1 of our Journal refers to a Clovis point found eroding out of blue clay.

(Willie Wesley, Huntsville Chapter)

CHRISTIAN SILVER PLATES FOUND

A man found rich treasure last Easter in a known but still unexcavated Romano-British site near the Huntingdonshire region about 65 miles north of London, England, having an estimated value of \$120,000.00. Archaeologists and British Museum officials have about decided that the discovery of 25 pieces of church silver could well be "the earliest known collection of Christian church plates in the Roman Empire." The lucky find was turned over to county officials for their decision as to where the treasure will rest; going to the government, or to be given to the finder. In all, the 25 pieces consisted of a flask, three chalices, a flat plate, a beautiful wine strainer and more than one dozen silver foil palm leaves.

(From POPULAR ARCHAEOLOGY, submitted by Juanita Battles, Gadsden, Alabama)

MISCELLANEOUS FROM MARJORIE

On January 15, 1976, the Wenner-Gren Foundation ceased production of anthropological casts. The existing inventory of casts exceeds 5000 items and covers a range of some 125 specimens listed in its catalog/workbook. These will be available for purchase on a first-come, first-served basis while items remain in stock. Persons interested in acquiring casts of fossil and contemporary primate material should write to the Wenner-Gren Foundation, 14 East 17th Street, New York, NY 10021.

A special exhibition entitled "Land of the Feathered Serpent - Mesoamerican Archaeology" will be presented at the Columbus Museum of Arts and Crafts (1251 Wynnton Road, Columbus, Georgia) until July 4th. According to the Newsletter of the Society for Georgia Archaeology: "Some of the most spectacular civilizations ever produced in the world were those of the ancient Indians of Mexico and Central America. Art, architectural and cultural styles alien to our Old World heritage left their mark on the land. The Columbus Museum of Arts and Crafts, in co-operation with the Mexican Embassy, The Middle American Research Institute of Tulane University and other institutions, has developed a special exhibition which will tell the story of those ancient civilizations. Original objects, audio-visual presentations, and other means are being used to insure that museum visitors have an entertaining and educational experience."

Great Lake's Shipwreck Study. It has been estimated that there have been perhaps 6000 shipwrecks in the Great Lakes waters. Recently a two-year study of only those portions of Lakes Erie, Michigan, Huron, St. Clair and Superior within the domain of the Michigan Department of Natural Resources collected information on 1321 of the ships. The Northwest Ohio-Great Lakes Research Center at Bowling Green State University, Bowling Green, Ohio, conducted the study which is believed to be the first of its kind ever made in the Great Lakes.

From the Birmingham News (Associated Press) March 2, 1976. "Sioux Indian Chief William Red Fox - probably the last person living who was anywhere near the Little Big Horn massacre of the 7th U.S. Cavalry - died March 1, 1976. He was 105. Red Fox spent 15 years with Buffalo Bill Cody's Wild West Show and was considered an authority on the historic battle the Sioux fought against the cavalry under the command of General George Custer."

АННИНИННИНН!!!!!!!!!!!

In the Sunday, May 16, 1976 issue of the EASTERN SHORE COURIER, a local Baldwin County newspaper, there appeared an advertizement intended to increase tourism in Alabama...and inadvertantly inviting these tourists to break our antiquities laws.

The 5½" by 7½" ad contained a photograph of an Archaic broad stemmed projectile point. Printed across the point was the following: VACATION IN ALABAMA AND START A PRIMITIVE SCULPTURE COLLECTION. The remainder of the text states, "WALK THE GROUND THAT WAS SACRED TO THE CHEROKEE AND CHOCTAW. PERHAPS YOU'LL HAPPEN UPON AN ARROWHEAD, A PIECE OF BROKEN POTTERY - SOME SMALL GLIMPSE OF ANOTHER TIME IN HISTORY. VACATION RIGHT HERE IN ANY OF ALABAMA'S 21 STATE PARKS. THEY'RE FULL OF UNEXPECTED TREASURES. NAME ADDRESS CITY STATE ZIP FOR MORE INFORMATION MAIL TO: ALABAMA TRAVEL DEPARTMENT, STATE CAPITOL, MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA 36130. ALABAMA'S 21 STATE PARKS. EXPECT THE UNEXPECTED."

A call to Douglas Benton, Director of the Bureau of Publicity and Information (of which the Alabama Travel Department is a section) revealed that this same ad appeared in virtually all the daily and weekly papers around Alabama and that it is a public service ad, meaning the Bureau doesn't pay for it. Mr. Benton assured me that it was not the intention of the Bureau to invite people to break our laws, any more than depicting sea oats in ads is an invitation to visitors to pick the sea oats, since that is also against the law. However, the damage has been done. Try as I may I cannot read the text without getting the idea that it is permissible to remove artifacts from our state parks. And I doubt that I am the only one who saw the ad.

Surely our state parks have more to offer than sources of "primitive sculpture" collecting. Thousands of state tax dollars have been put into our parks to promote the educational aspects of our past. Additional hundreds of thousands of state, local, private and federal funds have been spent to preserve Alabama's prehistoric heritage so this information can be utilized. Has this money been wasted? How do we justify sponsoring archaeological salvage and educational programs aimed at preserving this information, while at the same time one of our own state agencies is promoting the violation of our laws which protect this information for future generations of Alabamians. Although the Bureau cannot be held responsible for any visitors who "collect" in our state parks, it would appear that a little more care can be taken in the future to choose more appropriate words. As members of the Alabama Archae-ological Society, who have agreed to abide by our Constitution, and as responsible citizens obeying our state laws, we can write to the Alabama Travel Department and strongly urge them to refrain from future promotions of this sort.

(Judith Nielsen, Daphne, Alabama)

ANCIENT ASIAN ANCHORS?

Two Los Angeles divers have recovered some 30 doughnut-like boulders from the Pacific off the south California coast. (Those shown in the photograph appear to have diameters of from three to four feet). The mysterious boulders, each with a hole in the center, are believed to be ancient Asian anchors by the divers, as well as the UCLA archaeologists. The find spurs recent speculation about pre-Columbian contacts along the North American, Mid-American and South American coasts by ancient Japanese and Chinese seamen. Photographs of the boulders have been sent to Japanese and Chinese experts for possible verification. (From the Newsletter of the "Early Sites Research Society" Number 23, March 1976, submitted by Marjorie Gay, East Alabama Chapter)

SEVENTEENTH ANNUAL DIG FUND REPORT

Everyone must be saving up for their annual vacations, and unfortunately we have only the following two donations to report this month.

Mr. Harry E. Douglas, Birmingham, his NINTH contribution to our dig fund. Lively-Long-Josselyn Pebble Tool Papers, their FOURTH this year.

While we are extremely pleased to have these two contributions, we would like to remind everyone that we are in need of many, many more of the same. The time is drawing close when we will have to give our share to help to pay for the 1976 archaeological work, and we don't have the total amount needed as yet. Remember, archaeological destruction doesn't take vacations; and to prevent such destruction we must know where the sites are located. Let your money work for you twice, once now through your donation to the Dig Fund and again when you begin to figure your 1976 Income Tax. Use the back page of this or any newsletter to send in your contribution. All checks, both large and small, will be gratefully appreciated.

FROM PRESERVATION NEWS, MAY 1976

The following is an excerpt from an address before a meeting of the American Forestry Association in Washington, D.C. by Russell E. Train, administrator of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

"There is, I think, far too much of an inclination, in dealing with the very difficult judgements involved in so many environmental decisions, for too many people to behave as if everything were being acted out against some absolute and immutable sky, as if the issues and the outcomes were always "either-or" and "all-or-nothing," forever and for keeps. ...we cannot hope to come to grips with the issues before us unless we strengthen our ability to assess problems and programs, not simply in isolation, but in relation to each other; not simply over the short term, but over the longer span of 10, 20, or 30 years..."

(Marjorie Gay, East Alabama Chapter)

JOURNAL SALE PROGRESS

As reported in last month's newsletter, the back issues of the Journal of Alabama Archaeology are on sale. We are pleased to report numerous orders having been received during the past month, but we are still looking forward to processing many more orders. This is your opportunity to obtain issues you missed, replace well-worn copies AND help us obtain the necessary money to publish additional archaeological reports. A great deal of money is tied up in these books...money which could be used to finance our special publications. Check your collection of Journals and see which ones you need. A complete list of the available issues appears in the March 1976 issue of STONES & BONES. Remember, 1967 through 1973 issues are \$1.00 each; 1974 and 1975 issues are \$2.00 each until August 1, 1976. As of August 1st, 1974 and following issues will be \$4.00 each. Now's the time to place your order!

AND WHILE TALKING ABOUT PUBLICATIONS...only eight copies of the Handbook of Alabama Archaeology, Part II, Uniface Blade and Flake Tools remains on hand for sale. These sell for \$2.25 each. Please see the back cover of this newsletter for ordering instructions. It is also a good time to order your copy of Part I Revision, which contains additional points not included in the earlier printings. This is the right time to bring your archaeological library up-to-date.

ANNOUNCEMENTS - STATE NEWS

NEW MEMBERS IN JUNE

Lawrence H. Head, Apt. 4, 3930 Ashland Dr. SW, Huntsville, Alabama 35805
Ray Ploch, Apt. 205, 7722 Benaroya Lane SW, Huntsville, Alabama 35802
Dr. and Mrs. Delaine W. Ray, 200 George Street, Mobile, Alabama 36604 (Family)

CHAPTER NEWS

BIRMINGHAM, Red Mountain Museum Complex, 1st Wed., 7:30pm, Tom Hutto 595-7106. CULLMAN, City Hall, 3rd Monday, 7:30pm, Eulis King 734-4548. EAST ALABAMA, Comer Hall Auditorium (Auburn), 2nd Wed., 7:30pm, Dru McGowan 821-2595. Mr. Harold Huscher gave a fine talk on Primitive Art in Western Europe and the United States at the June 9th meeting. All those present not only learned a great deal but enjoyed Mr. Huscher's presentation. The next meeting will be July 14th. The program will be announced on local radio, or call Dru McGowan for details. HUNTSVILLE, Fellowship Center, Senior Citizens Building, 3rd Tuesday, 7:00pm, Cindy Sims 536-2939.

MORGAN-LIMESTONE, Decatur City Hall, 4th Thursday, 7:00pm, Rodger Schaefer 353-5828. The last meeting featured Charles M. Hubbert, who now lives in Tennessee and is presently doing archaeological work in the Alabama River area, who spoke on the Paleo culture and certain Paleo sites in the Decatur area. Note that the meetings are being held in the 7th Floor Meeting Room.

MUSCLE SHOALS, Indian Mound Museum, 2nd Monday, Gerald Hester 764-2249. The chapter's annual picnic was held June 14th.

TUSCALOOSA, Ferguson Center, 2nd Tuesday, 7:30pm, Eugene Futato 345-8724.

FUTURE CHAPTER

The ALABAMA GULF COAST (future) CHAPTER met May 18th at the Archaeology Lab of the University of South Alabama. The program was a film entitled "The Big Dig," which was a very interesting film covering excavations in the Holy Land. It also pointed out some very important things NOT to do in a dig.

Mike Poe, Acting President, stated that there were now a sufficient number of members to petition the State Society for chapter affiliation. Hopefully, this petition can be made at the July 17th meeting at Mound State Monument.

(Mrs. Douglas F. Shaw, Mobile, Alabama)

ARTICLES WANTED

Very soon your STONES & BONES Newsletter will be getting a facelift and we are in need of some articles for these issues. One of the major changes which will be possible under the new format will be the inclusion of an occasional photograph. Therefore, anyone having an article they would like to see in the newsletter, is invited to contribute. The photographs must be black and white prints, glossy finish. Every effort will be made to return the photographs unharmed. Send these articles to Britt Thompson, 3609 Montrose Road, Birmingham, Alabama 35213. We are excited with our planned "new" look and hope you will be too!

JULY 17, 1976

Mark that date on your calendar and plan to have a very educational and enjoyable time at Mound State Monument, in Moundville, at the Summer Meeting. We look forward to seeing you there. Bring the children...they'll love it!!!

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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