

Alabama Archaeological Society

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Bart Henson
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STONES & BONES NEWSLETTER

Editor

Amos J. Wright
2602 Green Mountain Rd.
Huntsville, Alabama 35803

MEMBER OF THE EASTERN STATES ARCHEOLOGICAL FEDERATION

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Even though you may be in the last feverish activities of the holiday season, I hope you will take time to share with me the enthusiasm and excitement I feel for our Society in the year to come. If you did not attend the annual meeting, you missed an excellent program, and it is hard not to get caught up in the outstanding work of our professionals.

I propose no big, ambitious program, but I would like to see our amateur membership and interest increase this year. The only way they can be increased is through increased participation from you. In the past several years our Society has lost some 200 members. Several chapters have become inactive. Thanks to the Suggestion Box at the annual meeting, several reasons, if not solutions, have been offered.

There were complaints that amateurs are no longer "doing anything but attending educational meetings." It was pointed out that our Society began with folks who liked to get out and bring back rocks and plants, as well as arrowheads and other artifacts, for discussion and "romanticizing". Apparently we have lost a lot of surface collectors who now feel displaced. Is this true? If so, how can we recapture their interest and involvement?

One suggestion was to have annual digs again - something amateur members could be a part of, not only financially, but physically. Another suggested that local chapters, guided by professional archaeologists, have "weekend digs" where possible.

Still another, probably following Warner Floyd's address, suggested that local groups be assigned to "map" their own areas. "Couldn't we have a 'dig leader', guided by a professional, who is qualified in excavation methods, labeling and recording, head a chapter project since the professionals seem so busy?" was a specific question.

Another suggested "doing background research assignments in certain areas to help the professionals or to generate new programs for chapter meetings."

January 1978

I had planned only to suggest an "each one - reach one - teach one" approach, challenging all of us to try to get at least one new member this year. To implement this, I thought we might try to provide programs for civic clubs - they're always looking for good programs, and so are our schools. This would mean that local groups would carefully prepare their best program with their best speaker and best slides from the group for presentation. (We're still working on a film for multiple use.)

Also, are we not overlooking the historical associations in our immediate vicinities? We could participate more in their activities and invite them to participate in ours. We do have many overlapping interests.

I would like to suggest the use of archaeological displays at shopping malls, county fairs, or anywhere we can set up exhibits or slide presentations to let people know we exist and what our aims and purposes are. (And don't forget a last-minute holiday gift suggestion: membership in our Society for a prospective member.)

If you were unable to take advantage of the Suggestion Box, would you please let me know your feelings on any of these ideas, ways for implementing them, and what you feel the future of our Society should be? Your board will meet in early January. We want this to be your organization, and we need to hear from you. Please feel free to write or call me. And if there is room in Stones and Bones, I'd like to keep you informed on our progress.

Thank you for the honor of being your president - and let's work together for the good of archaeology.

Dru McGowan
Auburn

HIGHLIGHTS OF BOARD MEETING

December 10, 1977 - Auburn University

The Florence Chapter's invitation to the Society to host the 1978 Summer Annual Meeting was accepted. The Meeting theme will be "Early Man"; it will be held at the University of North Alabama.

The proposed budget prepared by the Treasurers, Bettye Henson and Podger Schaefer, was accepted.

Milt Harris was unanimously elected to Honorary Life Membership in the Society.

Volume XXIII, Number 2, December 1977, will be mailed to all members in early January 1978.

NEW MEMBERS

- Adams, Mr. John C. (I) - 206 Terrace Street; Sheffield, Ala. 35660
 Conn, Mrs. Diana L. (I) - P. O. Box 72; Cusseta, Ala. 36852
 Brown, Mr. Kenneth M. (I) - 3504 Balcones Dr.; Austin, Tex. 78731
 Eaton, Mr. J. C. (I) - Camilla Rd.; Moultrie, Ga. 31768
 Edwards, Mr. Jimmy F. (I) - 1637 Winston Dr.; Florence, Ala. 35630
 Ensor, Mr. Hal Blaine III (I) - 249 Willowbrook Estates; Northport, Ala. 35476
 Gooch, Mr. J. Mark (A) - 1300 South 20th Street; Birmingham, Ala. 35205
 Harris, Mr. Kenneth R. (I) - 56 Cassville Rd.; Cartersville, Ga. 30120
 Heisler, Mr. and Mrs. David M. (F) - P. O. Box 445, Southern Station; Hattiesburg, Miss. 39401
 Jackson, Mr. Terry (I) - 2711 Ramsey Rd.; Columbus, Ga. 31903
 Jones, Ms. Joyce F. (I) - 14014 Wyandotte Dr., S. W.; Huntsville, Ala. 35803
 Lawson, Mr. Wayne L. (I) - Rt. Nine, Box 352; Florence, Ala. 35630
 Lessley, Miss Jeanie (A) - 206 Hillbrook Dr.; Sylacauga, Ala. 35150
 McCluskey, Mr. George H. (I) - Open Arms Apts., 11-A; Rt. Five; Starkville, Miss. 39759
 McGregor, Mr. Stuart W. (A) - 319 McKinley Ave.; Florence, Ala. 35630
 Morgan, Mr. Robert T. (A) - 100 Oak Street; Auburn, Ala. 36830
 Northern Gulf Coast Archaeological Research Consortium (Institution)
 15 Lancaster Rd.; Mobile, Ala. 36608
 Perry, Mr. Charles F., Jr. (I) - 1363 Neel St.; Huntington, W. Va. 25701
 Potter, Mr. and Mrs. Warren (F) - 3543 Norman Bridge Rd.; Montgomery, Ala. 36105
 Reid, Mrs. Gwen F. (F) - 435 Pinedale; Auburn, Ala. 36830
 Sylvest, Mr. Harold (I) - 3306 Thomas Ave.; Montgomery, Ala. 36111
 Turner, Mr. Kenneth R. (I) - Dept. of Anthropology, University of Alabama; P. O. Box 6135; University, Alabama 35486

MILT HARRIS AWARD

The Honorary Life Membership award to Milt Harris was made at the annual business meeting. Brit Thompson accepted the award in behalf of Milt, who was unable to attend.

SCHOLARSHIP AWARD

As recipient of the 1977 Alabama Archaeological Society Scholarship, I would like to express my gratitude to the members of the Society for these funds. They have supported many aspects of my research dealing with prehistoric plant utilization from Archaic through Mississippian times in west-central Alabama. The project has included reconstructing the contact-time vegetation in the area, and analyzing plant remains from archaeological sites along the Tombigbee River. I have attempted to analyze these

remains in their ecological setting, and to generate hypotheses concerning prehistoric ecological adaptation, subsistence variation through time, seasonality of settlements, and demography. Hopefully, these hypotheses will be tested at future sites excavated in the Tombigbee River Valley and other areas of Alabama. I thank you very much for making these funds available to me, and look forward to discussing the results of my research with you.

Gloria M. Caddell
Office of Archaeo-
logical Research
University of Ala.

CHAPTER NEWS

Birmingham Chapter: The Chapter meets the first Wednesday of each month at the Red Mountain Museum, 1425 22nd Street South. Call Tom Hutto for further information at 956-1895.

Cullman Chapter: A banquet meeting at Joe's Steak House was held on December 19. No formal program was planned.

Muscle Shoals Chapter: Eugene Futato was the speaker at the November Chapter meeting, held November 14 in Florence. His subject was "Lithic Technology in North Alabama". Houston Wright of Huntsville presented a color slide narrative on "Mississippian Mounds and Culture" for the December meeting, which was a supper meeting at the Bonanza Sirloin Pit in Florence. New officers for 1978 were elected as follows: John Adams, President; Jim Miller, Vice President; Charles Moore, Secretary-Treasurer; Wayne Lawson, Librarian.

Montgomery Chapter: The Chapter will have a meeting on Tuesday, January 10, 1978, at 7:30 p.m. This is not our usual meeting day (usually it's the first Tuesday of the month), but because of the holidays we felt January 10 would be a better time to get together. This is a one-time meeting change, however, and we will revert to the first Tuesday beginning in February. We have a new meeting place: the "Conference Room", 3rd Floor, Liberal Arts Building, Auburn University at Montgomery (AUM). The program for our January 10 meeting will be announced on posters prior to that date. Everyone is invited to attend!

Huntsville Chapter: The Huntsville Chapter meets the third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Senior Center, 300 Church Street, N. W. At the December meeting Chapter Secretary-Treasurer Cindy Sims presented a slide and cassette tour of the King Tut exhibit which is currently on display in New Orleans.

FINAL 1977 DFC FUND REPORT

Your Research Association greatly appreciates the unusually fine job our members and friends did during 1977 to bring the total in donations to the delightful sum of \$1478 with \$69 added to the Dan Josselyn Memorial Fund! Contributions received since the listing published in the November Newsletter, and equally appreciated, are as follows:

Crawford Badham, Birmingham	13
Mr. and Mrs. Thomas F. Stonecypher, Huntsville	10
Mr. and Mrs. David L. DeJarnette, Orange Beach	16

The numbers to the right above show the number of years over which these donors have contributed; your Association will continue to receive other checks in the manner outlined on the inside back page of this Newsletter issue. Thanks again for each and every remittance.

Milt Harris
Birmingham

OPR SUMMARY FOR 1977

The University of Alabama, Office of Archaeological Research, was engaged in several projects during 1977. Work continues in the Gainesville Reservoir. This research is funded by the USCOE-Mobile as part of the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway development. Excavations this year, directed by Ned Jenkins, have concentrated on sites 1Pi33 and 1Pi61. These sites are base camps with late Miller and Mississippian components. Both sites have produced a large number of burials and features, and several structures. Extensive faunal, botanical, and osteological samples were recovered. Three graduate students are currently responsible for different aspects of the analysis: Blaine Fnsor, lithics; Gloria Caddell, botanical material; and Ann Noble, vertebrate and invertebrate fauna.

This year was the fourth and final year of field work in the Pother L. Harris Reservoir, East Alabama. This project is funded by the Alabama Power Company. Charles Hubbert is field director. This season emphasized survey and testing work in an attempt to record data on some 48 fish weirs and determine their role, if any, in the aboriginal settlement and subsistence pattern. As a portion of this project, Wesley Moorehead conducted ethnographic research on the construction and use of fish traps and weirs by current area residents.

This past summer was also the second of three seasons of excavation in the Cedar Creek and Upper Bear Creek Reservoirs, sponsored by TVA. This area of Northwest Alabama was most extensively utilized during the Late Archaic, and much of the work focuses on that period. J. B. Graham is directing the project. Several sites were tested or excavated during the season. Some of the sites were primarily used for the procurement and processing of chert. One tested site contained a buried midden dating to Benton-Sykes/White

Springs Association. Site 1Fr562 was found to have been extensively occupied, with Woodland and Archaic components. Data recovery here was hampered by the intensity of occupation, with as many as 35-40 superimposed and intersecting pits within a single 2m x 2m square. Two seated burials on the site had sandstone vessels inverted over the skull. A stone burial mound similar to those reported for the Little Bear Creek Reservoir was also excavated. The project is being supervised in the lab by Eugene Futato.

Laboratory work directed by Robert Lafferty continues on materials from Phipps Bend, Tennessee. This is the site of a TVA power plant, and research is sponsored by TVA. The majority of the data comes from two sites at the confluence of Stony Point Creek and the Holston River. These sites yielded up to one meter of stratified Early Woodland deposits with burials, feature complexes and well preserved faunal samples.

A manuscript is in preparation concerning the excavations at 1Ms300. The site was located on Guntersville Reservoir in Northeast Alabama. This site was a Copena burial site comprising two mounds. Excavations were sponsored by TVA and directed by J. B. Graham. Gloria Cole is preparing the manuscript under the supervision of Mr. Graham.

The USCOE-Mobile funded a cultural resources survey of flowage easement and development areas on Jones Bluff Lake on the Alabama River in Central Alabama. The project, under the direction of Carey B. Oakley, covered about 11,000 acres. Approximately 240 sites were recorded. Two archaeological districts were nominated to the NRHP. They appear to represent the riverine and upland segments of the local Woodland settlement pattern.

The National Park Service funded a cultural resource survey of Bay Springs Lake, Northeast Mississippi, as part of the Tenn-Tom Waterway project. Project Director was Charles Hubbert. The area surveyed was some 15,000 acres, and approximately 75 sites were recorded. The area is characterized by poor soils with eroded uplands and poorly drained lowlands. Most of the archaeological sites recorded were small, shallow scatters of lithic debris. Few diagnostic artifacts occurred on these sites.

The report of excavations at the Bellefonte site, on Guntersville Reservoir, has been completed by Eugene Futato. The project was funded by TVA and the report has been published by them. (See below.) The site was a small shell midden with Archaic through Mississippian components.

PUBLICATIONS (both available from Mapping Services Branch, TVA, 200 Hancey Building, Chattanooga, Tennessee 37401)

Futato, Eugene M. - 1977. The Bellefonte Site, 1Ja300. Research Series No. 2. 257 pp., 21 Figs., 22 Tables, 37 Plates. Estimated price \$8-\$9.

Oakley, Carey B., and Eugene M. Futato - 1975. Archaeological Investigations in the Little Bear Creek Reservoir. Research Series No. 1. 314 pp., 18 Figs., 37 Tables, 79 Plates. \$7.32, tax included.

Eugene M. Futato
Tuscaloosa

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SALVAGE AND RESEARCH (ALABAMA HISTORICAL COMMISSION)

CATOMA CREEK - MONTGOMERY COUNTY - A project of the Montgomery Water Works and Sewage Board; two significant sites were found during archaeological survey by David Chase. Based on this survey, the Commission recommended salvage operations of these two significant sites and, working through the University of Alabama at Birmingham, entered into an agreement with the Montgomery Water Works and Sewer Board in the amount of \$6,500 for the excavation of these two sites.

The sites are located several miles southwest of Montgomery. The completion report on this project is due the early part of 1978.

WILNUT CREEK - PIKE COUNTY - During July and August, 1976, salvage archaeological excavations were initiated at 1Pk2 based upon the preliminary results of an environmental impact survey completed in November 1975. The excavations were limited in scope. However, the results of the \$8,000 study were far more significant than was anticipated from the survey.

The significance of this site is in the spectrum of Alabama prehistory, covering a period of 3000 to 4000 years, which may be studied. Additionally, the forerunners of such protohistoric cultures as the Lamar Culture, an important aspect of Southeastern prehistory about which there is little known, is well represented in the remains at 1Pk2.

A cost proposal for 1Pk2 excavations has been submitted, and it is anticipated that funds will be made available from the City of Troy for this project, in the amount of \$30,000.

HALE AND GREENE COUNTIES - The Commission entered into an agreement with the University of Alabama in August 1972 covering a documented survey of archaeological sites in Hale and Greene Counties for a cost of \$7,661, matched with services provided by the University. The survey was completed in 1974.

FLORENCE AREA - An archaeological survey of Colbert and portions of surrounding counties was conducted by archaeologist Charles Hubbert in 1973 under an agreement with the University of North Alabama.

The Commission entered into an agreement for this project in the amount of \$13,235, matched with services provided by the University of Alabama at Tuscaloosa. Completion of this project is scheduled for June 30, 1978.

TOMBIGBEE - Two recent archaeological surveys indicate that we may reasonably expect to find Paleo-Indian remains associated with an extinct megafauna in Central Alabama. The completed report on this project will be furnished the Commission in August of 1978.

Warner Floyd
Montgomery

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INSTITUTE OF AMERICA MEETING

The Archaeological Institute of America held its 79th general meeting in Atlanta during December 28 through 30, 1977. Although the AIA is primarily a society for classical archaeology, a diversified program of more than 115 papers, plus final discussions, special sessions and symposia provided valuable information for everyone, regardless of one's special interest. The several AAS members in attendance found that information on field techniques and new technology in the laboratory presented in the various papers could be effectively applied to problems in Alabama Archaeology.

The sophisticated use of simple balloons for carrying aloft cameras for site photography was demonstrated in several papers and greatly augmented site interpretation in the field as well as providing excellent supporting information for site reports. Some balloons were shown to have attained several thousand feet in elevation and were regulated and controlled by back-pack cable/winch assemblies. Cameras were used individually, in groups and also in multi-spectral arrangements. The application of Xerography and Xeroradiographic processes to the interpretation of ancient ceramics was particularly interesting. In one application, the ability to read the inscriptions on clay tablets encased in clay seals was demonstrated, a technique not possible with ordinary radiography. For the first time, now clay seals which completely encase the tablets and which themselves have valuable inscriptions do not have to be broken or destroyed by sawing to read the text on the tablet. The use of the scanning electron microscope in studying the fine details of glass has aided the location of glass manufacturing sources and the interpretation of trade routes. Hester A. Davis, State Archaeologist, Arkansas Archaeological Survey, and well known to AAS members, presented a lecture on the subject of "Society of Professional Archaeologists - An Answer to a Public and Professional Need". This lecture answered many questions on SOPA and generated considerable discussion and comment on the subject.

Membership in the AIA is \$25 per year, or a subscription to the bimonthly magazine ARCHAEOLOGY is \$15 per year. Write to ARCHAEOLOGY; 260 West Broadway; New York, New York 10013.

Bettye T. Henson
Huntsville

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 Society is a non-profit corporation and all contributions are deductible when making your income tax return.

THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATION OF ALABAMA, INC.

This Association, an affiliate of our State Society, is a non-profit corporation, whose aim and purpose is to finance archaeological advancement in Alabama, the FIRST State to provide such financial support through popular subscription. All contributions to this association are deductible in making your income tax return (if, of course, you itemize your deductions). Your check should be made payable to the association as shown above.

MAIL TO:

Mr. Wm. M. Spencer, Suite 1510, First National - Southern Natural Bldg., 1900 - 5th Ave., No., Birmingham, AL. 35203

Journals and Special Publications

Available back issues of the Society's Journal *THE JOURNAL OF ALABAMA ARCHAEOLOGY*, and all Special Publications are available from the Journal Editor. Please see back of this page for listing.

Stones and Bones Newsletter

Comments, news items, reviews and other material for inclusion in the Newsletter should be addressed to:

Stones and Bones Editor / Amos J. Wright
2602 Green Mountain Road • Huntsville, Alabama 35803

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MEMBERSHIP

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 appropriate boxes are checked.

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MR. DAVID L. DEJARNETTE

JOURNAL EDITOR

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ALABAMA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

CHECKS FOR JOURNALS AND SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS TO BE MADE PAYABLE TO:

Available issues of *Journal of Alabama Archaeology* June 1974 Forward (each) \$4.00 pp
Available issues *Journal of Alabama Archaeology* prior to June 1974 (each) 1.00 pp
Special Publication 1 — *Fort Mitchell* 2.00 pp
Special Publication 2 — *The Archaeological Sequence at Durant Bend, Dallas County, Alabama* 4.50 pp

ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATION OF ALABAMA, INC.

CHECKS FOR ABOVE TO BE MADE PAYABLE TO:

Handbook of Alabama Archaeology Part I, Point Types \$7.35 pp
Handbook of Alabama Archaeology Part II, Uniface Blade and Flake Tools 2.25 pp
Lively, Long, Josselyn - Pebble Tool Papers 3.00 pp

PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

Alabama Archaeological Society

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