

Alabama Archaeological Society

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Associate Editors
Bart Henson
Dorothy Luke

STONES & BONES NEWSLETTER

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

MEMBER OF THE EASTERN STATES ARCHEOLOGICAL FEDERATION

ALABAMA ARCHAEOLOGICAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING

The Alabama Archaeological Advisory Committee to the Alabama Historical Commission met in Montgomery February 10 to conduct its annual business session. A proposed legislative bill, "Division of Archaeology", was reviewed, with changes discussed and effected. This bill creates a Division of Archaeology within the AHC structure, along with a "State Archaeologist" with commensurate duties and responsibilities. It also outlines various restrictions and misdemeanor penalties for unauthorized excavations and vandalization on State-owned/controlled lands. This bill is still in the formative stage and may not reach introduction into this session of the Legislature.

Two other bills (H504 and H505) recently introduced by Rep. Kinsey from Baldwin County would make the Office of Executive Director to the AHC subject to appointment by the Governor and place Ft. Morgan back in the hands of the Dept. of Conservation. The Committee voted unanimously to go on record opposing H504 and H505. The consensus was that Alabama heritage was too important to place in the hands of political appointees who may or may not be concerned or interested in the preservation of the many historical and archaeological sites within Alabama - that Ft. Morgan had been under the Dept. of Conservation until about one year ago and had sadly neglected the site, whereas strong efforts were underway by the AHC to restore and conserve the old fort.

The Committee also learned while in session that another bill by Mr. Kinsey would add three members from Baldwin County to the AHC, which would badly distort the representation on the Commission. Today the Commission members are widely dispersed across the state, giving a fairly balanced representation to all regions.

Editorial Comment: Whatever the motives are that Mr. Kinsey may have in introducing such a barrage of bills that threaten the stability of the Commission and the many fine projects underway is hard to discern. But it is not difficult to understand that these bills in no way are in the best interests of Alabama heritage and its preservation. We feel and urge that these bills be resoundingly defeated by the Legislature.

March 1978

PROBABLY OUR FINAL WORD

Correspondence received concerning our article in the December 1977 issue of *Stones and Bones* about the Kansas City Times articles and other concerns has been as expected - a Mexican standoff in the views of professional and non-professional.

The professional community has pointed out that an investigation of the allegations made concerning the Jacobson site by the Society of Professional Archaeologists has, with the exception of minor administrative points, exonerated the University of Missouri archaeologists in their conduct and handling of the Jacobson site. However, non-professionals in Missouri have pointed out that they are unhappy not only with the Jacobson site handling, but with broader aspects of how the Missouri Highway Dept. handles its salvage contracts.

Unless further significant information on this subject turns up, this concludes our coverage.

CHAPTER NEWS

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

Cullman Chapter: The February program was presented by Mr. James Farrior of Huntsville, who spoke on Yucatan.

East Alabama Chapter: At the February meeting, Dr. Greg Jean of the Auburn University Geography Department introduced the Chapter to "Industrial Archaeology". This field of archaeology commenced in our country in about 1972, when the Smithsonian Institution realized that much of the information about the first buildings, mills and industrial sites was being destroyed without a record, as the archaeologist ignored these decaying buildings and piles of stones as being too recent. With a well-illustrated talk, he showed examples of these "recent" sites and emphasized the importance of recording and research today, as it will soon be too late to save this information and no chance for any preservation or restoration. The March Chapter meeting will be on Wednesday, March 8, in Thach Auditorium, at 7:30 p.m. John Cottier announced that the program will be on archaeological work in the area. Chapter officers for 1978 are: President, Dr. Ralph Strength; Vice President and Program Chairman, John Cottier; Treasurer, Baine Cranford; Secretary, Mrs. Leo Gosser; Assistant Secretary and Publicity Chairman, Dru McGowen; Student Relations, Joe Herbert.

Huntsville Chapter: Mr. Eugene Futato, archaeologist from Moundville, Alabama, presented a slide-illustrated program on Lithic Technology to the Huntsville Chapter on February 21, 1978. A framework for identifying the stage of development or manufacture of lithic material from the basic raw material to the final finished product was outlined by Mr. Futato and its usefulness demonstrated by the categorizing of examples presented in slides. The great majority of samples from sites in northwest Alabama under study by the Office of Archaeological Research at the University of Alabama was determined to have been heat treated during the "preform" stage of manufacture. Laboratory experiments with the heat treatment of lithic material was discussed, and the presentation closed with a lively question-and-answer period. The Huntsville Chapter meets the third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Senior Center, 300 Church Street, N. W.

Montgomery Chapter: For its March meeting, the Montgomery Chapter will meet in the Conference Room, 3rd Floor, Liberal Arts Building, Auburn University at Montgomery (AUM) on March 7th at 7:30 p.m. The program will be announced on posters prior to this date. Everyone is invited to attend.

Muscle Shoals Chapter: The Chapter held its monthly meeting on February 6. In spite of the cold weather, 34 members and guests attended the meeting. Carey Oakley, of the Office of Archaeological Research, University of Alabama, gave the program, which was a lecture and slide presentation on the St. Clair County Copena Mortuary Cave. The Chapter is making preliminary plans for hosting the State Society's Summer Meeting on July 15. With the subject being "Early Man", the Chapter is going to study one early point each month. For March the point is the Big Sandy. Members plan to bring examples (or possible examples) of Big Sandys for identification, comparison and study.

SUMMER MEETING

The Society's Board of Directors and Program Committee have agreed to make the Summer Meeting a conference on Early Man, including Paleo through Early Archaic. July 15th is the date, so mark your calendars now. The place is the Student Union Building's Great Hall at the University of North Alabama in Florence. A special treat will be a "buffalo steak" lunch. The remainder of the meal will be strictly foods as the Indians prepared them - more on the menu later. The "Summer of 78" should be great!

Charles Moore
Florence

JOURNAL CORRECTIONS

Recently I received a cordial letter from Nicholas Holmes, of Mobile, in which he pointed out two mistakes in my recent article "The Mobile Bay-Mobile River Delta Region Archaeological Status Report", which appeared in the last issue of the Journal. One is that Bruce Trickey's 1958 article was written without the benefit of the subsequent Bryant's Landing work, which resulted in the 1970 update. The other is that Ft. Mims is on Tensaw Lake rather than Tensaw River.

Jim Knight
Columbus, Ga.

FAS MEETING

The Northwest Florida Chapter of the Florida Anthropological Society and the Temple Mound Museum of Fort Walton Beach will cohost the 1978 Annual Meeting of the Florida Anthropological Society on April 1 at the Sheraton Motel, Fort Walton Beach. This is the first time in more than a decade that the FAS Annual Meeting has been held in Northwest Florida. The location makes it unusually favorable for attendance by residents of southern Alabama. On behalf of the Chapter and the Museum (Mrs. Yulee Lazarus), I wish to extend a special invitation to members of the Alabama Archaeological Society to join us upon this occasion. Although the program of papers is not yet completed, we anticipate a stimulating selection of topics and, as usual, there will be something for both amateurs and professionals.

Pre-registration fee is \$2.00 plus \$7.50 for the dinner meeting, and can be sent to Tom Watson, 3705 Delwood Drive, Panama City, FL 32407. Motel reservations will be handled by the Sheraton Motel, Fort Walton Beach. Open House will be held by the Temple Mound Museum between 4 and 6 p.m. on both Friday and Saturday. Dr. Charles Fairbanks will be guest speaker at the dinner.

Thomas C. Watson
President
NWFC FAS

"FIRST TEN YEARS"

Does anyone have an extra copy of "The First Ten Years of Alabama Archaeology"? If so, please get in touch with James R. Williams, Jr.; Route 5, Box 25; Hartselle, Alabama 35640.

TAA ANNUAL MEETING

The Tennessee Anthropological Association will hold its annual meeting April 1 at the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga.

RESEARCH ASSOCIATION 1978 REPORT

Another contribution to our Research Fund! Mr. Nicholas Holmes, Jr., Mobile, Alabama, sends his 13th annual contribution. Thanks, Nick! It will be used to help defray expenses for the search for man in the Pleistocene clays of Central and South Alabama and strategic Carbon 14 samples from cultural levels starting in the early Woodland period and ascending to late Woodland times, so that we can get a better date fix on early Woodland, Hopewellian and late Woodland in Alabama.

Steve Wimberly
Birmingham

NEW MEMBERS OF THE ALABAMA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Allred, Mr. Bobby (I)	Route One; Cave Spring, GA 30124
Bense, Dr. Judith A. (I)	Sociology and Anthropology; University of West Florida; Pensacola, FL 32504
Blair, Mr. Roy E. Jr. (I)	419 Locust Ave., N. E.; Huntsville, AL 35801
DeRegnaucourt, Mr. Tony (I)	Route One; Ansonia, OH 45303
Dicks, Mr. Ayres M. (A)	1310 Forrest Ave.; Knoxville, TN 37916
Drewyor, Ms. Judy (I)	200 Christine St.; Athens, AL 35611
Evans, Dr. Donald C. (A)	Granger Hill; Cartersville, GA 30120
Finney, Mr. Fred A. (I)	P. O. Box 98; Columbia, IL 62236
Garner, Mr. Neal F. (A)	2701 Milford St.; Florence, AL 35630
Garrett, Mr. David (A)	2325 Center Pl.; Birmingham, AL 35205
Herbert, Mr. Joseph M. (S)	175 Oak Street; Auburn, AL 36830
Hranicky, Mr. William J. (I)	Box 4211; Arlington, VA 22204
Jenkins, Dr. and Mrs. Ewin (F)	Route 4, Box 835; Decatur, AL 35603
McBride, Mr. and Mrs. James (F)	312 13th Ave., N. W.; Birmingham, AL 35215
Meaher, Mr. Joseph L. (I)	P. O. Box 2672; Mobile, AL 36601
Northwestern University	Kampsville Archaeological Library; Kampsville, IL 62053
Ochs, Mr. and Mrs. Charles (F)	3413 East Briarcliff Rd.; Mt. Brook, AL 35223
Patterson, Mr. Johnnie R. (I)	Route Two, Box 327; China Grove, NC 28023
Sargent, Mr. Richard (I)	Route Three, Box 244; Dora, AL 35062
Walker, Mr. Ben (A)	1834 Jackson Rd.; Florence, AL 35630
Williams, Mr. and Mrs. James Jr. (F)	Route Five, Box 25; Hartselle, AL 35640

RADIOCARBON DATING

Members of the Huntsville Chapter were privileged to hear Dr. Willard F. Libby speak in Huntsville on the subject of Radiocarbon Dating on February 20, 1978. Dr. Libby's discovery and development of the Radiocarbon Dating technique is well known and has been summarized in his book Radiocarbon Dating. In his talk he discussed the background of the technique, its use and misuse, problems, and limitations.

He stressed that the oldest uncontested date for Early Man by the RC method in the Americas is still approximately 12,000 years. Older dates just have not been substantiated. Knowledge of sample provenience is the key to reliable dates. He cited one instance where an archaeologist brought a "charcoal sample" from a fire hearth to him for dating, and a date of 25,000 years was obtained. As this appeared to be an excellent opportunity to find additional evidence of early man in the United States, an all-out effort was made to search the site area for more datable material, to substantiate the early date. Using the original site as a center, an area five miles by five miles (25 square miles) was systematically searched using hordes of students, scientists, and heavy equipment. For example, one trench 40 feet deep, 100 feet wide and two miles long was dug during the search. At least 12 Ph. D. degrees were received as a result of the research done on this site - and \$500,000 was expended. But no further early dates were obtained! Dr. Libby said that he was by then becoming extremely suspicious of the original "charcoal sample", and returned to the lab to investigate the sample. Result: although the sample was 25,000 years old, it was not charcoal. Sample provenience had been in error - and man in America had not been definitely associated with material dated to 25,000 years after all. Today, said Dr. Libby, he does not look at an "Early Man" site with the thought of dating material unless accompanied by an archaeologist thoroughly familiar with the question of provenience at the site.

The RC technique today, with the recent calibration correction via the Bristlecone Pine, is good to within 100 years of the actual date - out to approximately 9,000 years. New instrumentation techniques which will require perhaps one thousandth of the current sample size of one ounce, are nearing the operational stage, and these new instruments are expected to make the RC dating method reliable out to 50-100,000 years.

FORT TOULOUSE

The Alabama Historical Commission is pleased to announce that the construction of a new laboratory facility is underway at the site of Fort Toulouse. While the facilities are being constructed by the Commission, a \$27,500 grant provided by the Junior League of Montgomery will be

used for the purchase of laboratory equipment and supplies and to improve the Fort Toulouse archaeological library. This lab equipment will enable the staff to very capably conduct the analysis, cleaning, and preservation of both prehistoric and historic cultural material. The laboratory will also enable both College and High School students to study lab techniques in archaeology. The laboratory will be under the direction of Mack Brooms and should be ready for use in late April or early May. The members of the Society are invited to tour the laboratory when it is completed. Watch for an announcement in the "Stones and Bones" newsletter.

Bonnie Britton
Montgomery

THE HARRINGTON SITE

Every archaeologist aspires to some special recovery - a find which will bring him closer to some peoples of long ago whose evidence, up to that point, has been represented only by sherds and lithic objects meagerly scattered over dozens of surface sites in a given region.

Like a theatrical stage, such sparsely represented cultures made their entrances, acted out their parts and finally departed - their play embedded somewhere in time with only mute scraps remaining in testimony of their passing.

A survey (which is being financed by the Alabama Historical Commission on contract to Auburn University) of a proposed sewage pipeline near Montgomery, Alabama, in the spring of 1977 uncovered extensive evidence of just such a "will-o'-the-wisp" cultural complex named "Calloway" after a creek of the same name in Elmore County. To date, the main evidence of this group of people has been seen mainly in a gathering of thin, well-made mica-tempered potsherds, occasionally embellished with notched rims and small, nubbin-like tetrapods and, more rarely, a rocker stamped design not unlike that seen in the Santa Rosa series.

A half dozen of these small sites have yielded associated Weeden Island I type potsherds. Such ceramic features suggest a time range of from 300 to 500 A.D. for our Calloway hunters. It may also be important to note that Calloway is the first of a three-phase tradition culminating in Hope Hull, a dominant Late Woodland entity in the four-county area surrounding present-day Montgomery.

When found, the Harrington site appeared to be simply another Calloway surface site. Had it not been for an impending adverse impact due to the intercepting pipeline, it might have been simply recorded as

nothing more than that. Follow-up testing since the end of October has not only told a different story, but has helped to bring the Calloway Phase more sharply into focus in terms of the people, their subsistence and their very appearance.

By the end of December 1977 a total of 28 features had been uncovered. Most of these were round-bottomed or belled pits containing not only hundreds of pottery fragments, stone tools and projectile points, but also objects of bone and shell embedded frequently in a compact matrix of wood ash which, together with a concentration of mussel shells, aided in neutralizing the surrounding acid soils and thus preserving the bone. This same soil environment contained the skeletons of seven humans - five adult males, one adult female and a pre-adolescent child, quite possibly the earliest human burials recovered in such good condition in this part of the state thus far.

To add to the interest in this remarkable site were innumerable post-molds, some of very large size, indicating structures of varying dimension and probable usage. The smaller posts were from four to five inches in diameter, and the larger ones from seven to nine inches across. The larger molds were frequently filled with charcoal, implying a burned structure of large size.

One large and deep feature may turn out to be a pit-house type building. Its exploration was temporarily suspended due to adverse weather conditions which restricted controlled investigation. Food remains in other features include both faunal and charred vegetable remains.

These investigations have uncovered a second component. Under the Calloway remains we have uncovered steatite bowl sherds, fiber-tempered pottery and large stemmed projectile points, suggesting a terminal Archaic occupation.

As the weather moderates, we will resume operations at this intriguing site. On-site revelations as well as those seen in the lab have thus far been experiencing a much "closer encounter" with these heretofore elusive Woodland hunters.

David Chase
Montgomery

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
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Mr. Amos J. Wright
2602 Green Mountain Road SE
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