Alabama Archaeological Society

UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA P.O. BOX 6135, UNIVERSITY, AL. 35486

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STONES & BONES
NEWSLETTER

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

I consider it both a great honor and a privilege to have been elected president of the Alabama Archaeological Society for this next year. Thank you. It also is a grave responsibility for me, especially in these days of seemingly great cirses, when important decisions must be made which often will influence the future much more than we realize. I wish every member could have heard the talk by Mark Raab, Department of Sociology and Anthropology at Auburn, given at the Annual Meeting on December 7th at the University of Alabama. "The Law and the Future for Archaeology in Alabama" outlined the Federal Legislation and emphasized the need to be informed and see that Alabama is prepared to participate.

I will expect the interest and co-operation of every member. I was disappointed by the slim attendance at the Annual Meeting. You missed an unusually fine program and delicious Bar-B-Cue. I hope the cold, rainy weather and the gasoline shortage caused this and not lack of interest. I expect to visit each Chapter during the year and not only meet more members, but also learn what you are doing and how you solve the everyday problems. The Chapters and their activities are the State Society and this is one way the public learns about the principles of Archaeology as an investigative science. I will soon organize our Committees and the names will appear in the Stones & Bones.

I hope, during this next year, we can continue with all our Society programs now in operation. I intend that our Society will continue to co-operate with the professionals and that we will continue to keep our activities aimed toward the highest standards of archaeological achievement. We must have participation from all sections of our state and co-operation with all groups who are of similar interests if we are to preserve our Alabama Heritage as should be done.

I expect every member to perform the tasks he himself can best handle, to try some new avenues of interest and make 1975 one of the best years for recording and preserving the story of the past.

Marjorie Gay, 1975 President

PUBLICATIONS

Profiles of Alabama Pharmacy. \$17.00. Send check to Alabama Pharmaceutical Association, 2717 19th Place South, Birmingham, Al. 35209.

A History of the Rise and Progress of the Baptists in Alabama. \$10.00. Send check to West Jefferson County Historical Society, 1830 Fourth Avenue, Bessemer, Al. 35020.

Proceedings of the 1974 Conference on Cultural Resource Management. \$5.25. Send check to Publications Office, Museum of Northern Arizona, P.C. Box 1389, Flagstaff, Arizona 86001.

Westville Symposium on Indian Origins. \$6.00 per set including postage. Send check to Dr. Joseph B. Mahan, Director, Westville, Lumpkin, Ga. 31815.

The Conference on Historic Site Archaeology Papers, Volume 7. \$8.00 (this payment is considered late dues for 1973). Send check to Stanley South, Chairman, The Conference on Historic Site Archaeology, Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of South Carolina, Columbia, SC 29208.

<u>Crisis in New England Archaeology</u>. For information write, Man in the Northeast, Inc., P.C. Box 589, Center Harbor, NH 03226.

Archaeological Studies Along the Proposed Trans-Alaska Oil Pipeline Route.

<u>Arctic Institute of North America Technical Paper No. 26.</u> \$2.00. Send check to Arctic Institute of North America, 1619 New Hampshire Avenue, NW, Washington DC 20009.

A Handbook on Beads \$5.00; Classification and Nomenclature of Beads and Pendants \$5.00; Guebert Site: An 18th Century Historic Kaskaskia Indian Village in Randolph County, Illinois \$5.00; Alabama Trade Bead Checklist \$2.00; Susquehanna, Iroquois Colored Trade Bead Chart 1575-1763 \$3.75; Trade Silver Material (in three volumes at \$8.00 per volume); North American Indian Medical Practices and Burial Customs \$5.50; Indian Paths of Pennsylvania \$6.00; Foundations of Pennsylvania Prehistory \$10.00; Native American Bows - Their Types and Relationships \$10.00; Art of the Great Lakes Indians \$7.50. Send check to G. B. Fenstermacher, 24 Michigan Avenue, Lancaster, Pa. 17602.

The Archaeology of the Hudson Mound, Vol. I, No. 1; Archaeological Investigations of the Royal Presidio of Monterey, Vol. I, No. 2; Archaeological Investigation at Mision Nuestra Senora de La Soledad, Vol. I, No. 3; Archaeological Excavations at Mnt-436 - The Kodani Site, Vol. I, No. 4; Excavations at Teshaya, the Indian Rancheria at Mission San Antonio de Padua (Mnt-100), Vol. II, No. 1; The Cccupancy of the Dutton Hotel, Vol. II, No. 2; The Archaeology of the Uriah Ray Rockshelter, No. 1; Vol. II, No. 3; Excavations at the Church Creek Rockshelter, Mnt-44, Vol. II, No. 4; The Gamboa Site (Mnt-480) An Esselen Village, with a Review of Esselen Ethnography, Vol. III, No. 1; The Esselen: Territory, Villages, and Population, Vol. III, No. 2; The Esselen: Language and Culture, Vol. III, No. 3; Mexican Majolica at the Presidio of

Monterey, Vol. III, No. 4; Eight Historic Specimens from 4Mntl2, Part I, Vol. IV, No. 1. These publications are journals of the Monterey County Archaeological Society, P.O. Box 4606, Carmel, California 93921 and are available at this address for a cost of \$1.50 each; subscription is \$5.00 per annum.

MORE INFORMATION ON STEATITE QUARRIES

The January 1974 issue of the Journal of the Alabama Academy of Science contains a short report about aboriginal quarries by our past president, Amos J. Wright, Jr. After discussion of steatite, its occurrence and aboriginal use, he concentrates on outcroppings in Alabama. A visit to a quarry in Tallapoosa County is described. He noted that vessels were almost finished at the site to facilitate transportation which he feels was by means of nearby streams, to areas where only a short land route was required. This paper, which was given at the 1972 meeting, is only a sample of the many interesting reports on archaeology and anthropology contained in this issue. The next meeting of the Academy is to be on April 4 & 5, at Auburn University. Membership in the Academy is on recommendation of a member. Carey Oakley is the Vice-President of the section on Anthropology and Archaeology. Contact him at Drawer BA, University, Al. 35486 for details.

MORE THAN 8000 ARE EXPECTED TO ATTEND...

the Annual Meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science to be held in New York City on January 26-31, 1975. The headquarters hotel, Americana of New York, can amply handle not only this large number of people but is providing excellent rooms for the 122 symposia to be held. In addition to these symposia there are special tours and exhibits which will help to fill out 15 hours of each day. The AAAS has a membership of about 134,000 and the theme for this meeting is "Science and the Quality of Life".

(Above two articles by Marjorie Gay, East Alabama Chapter)

FROM THE VALLEY NEWS DIGEST...

Mr. Robert Bennett of Louisville, Alabama and Mr. Marvin Singletary (Society member) of Blakely, Ga. have been selected for positions on the Board of Directors of the Historic Chattahoochee Commission.

The Southern Railway Company will dispatch an excursion steam locomotive to Eufaula during the 10th Annual Eufaula Pilgrimage (April 3-6, 1975), according to general chairman, Mrs. Robert Schaffeld. A trip schedule will be announced at a later date. For further information you can contact Mrs. Schaffeld through the Historic Chattahoochee Commission, Box 33, Eufaula, Al. 36027

THANKS AND KEEP IT UP...

Our hard working society secretary, Rodger Schaefer, is having a slightly easier time with the posting of the 1975 dues because a lot of members have already paid their dues. The rest of you help out and do the same...please!!!

SOME OPEN THOUGHTS ON SOME OPEN QUESTIONS

In the December issue of the Stones & Bones a short article posed two questions, one taken from a syndicated article. The first concerned an apparent case of an archaeologist turned robber, and the second with the great amount of needed salvage archaeology not being done. Both of these questions contain some valid areas for improvement, but both also call for some further discussion.

Concerning the first question, "Who's giving archaeology a bad name?" I must voice strong objection to any possibility that this person be considered an archaeologist. He is a pot-hunter, pure and simple. Pot hunters may be found in any status from man-on-the-street, to members of the Alabama Archaeological Society, to students in anthropology departments. Archaeology, whether professional or amateur, must involve professionalism, an ingredient obviously missing in the above example, despite the observation that the person is "well-trained" and "highly skilled."

Another point leading to this confusion is the almost universal misconception that the primary goal of archaeology is the location and recovery of artifacts. This is method, rather than goal. Archaeology is the laboratory for the study of long-term culture change. This study is the ultimate goal of archaeology. Everything else from site surveys to sherd counts, trowels to computors, is part of how this may be accomplished, or are steps along the way.

The second question deals with the destruction of archaeological sites without previous recording or investigation. The question reads in part "...but are not a large percentage of the available funds often used for projects which could wait until another day." On this question I will confine my remarks to the situation as I see it at the University of Alabama.

Actually this question can be broken into two parts. The first of those being, "Is enough of the available money being spent on salvage archaeology." The answer to this is "yes" and "no." If the question is meant in the sense of a large enough percentage of the available funds, the answer is a definite yes. The only non-salvage archaeological work conducted this year by the University was two small student training digs. These represent only 1 or 2 percent of the archaeological activity at the University. The money spent on salvage archaeology comes from sources specifically for salvage archaeology, within the area affected by a specific construction project. This money is available only for salvage archaeology. It cannot be spent on anything else.

On the other hand, if the above question is interpreted to mean is enough money being spent on salvage archaeology, the answer is no. There are construction projects destroying unrecorded, unexamined sites. There are potential money sources yet untapped. However, this situation is improving, as evidenced by the growth of the archaeological salvage program at the University of Alabama.

The second part of the original question might read, "Is too much of the

available money being spent on non-salvage archaeology." At the University of Alabama this answer is no. As discussed above very little non-salvage work is done here. On a nationwide basis, however, perhaps too much non-salvage archaeology is being done. Archaeological sites are a non-renewable resource if anything is, and even the best excavation must record but a small portion of the potential data yield of a site.

A growing body of literature and professional concern deals with the need to conserve sites rather than excavate them. Some of the recurring ideas are:

1. Do as much salvage work of the highest quality as possible. This will gather and preserve information from sites to be destroyed in any case. (Incidentally, "beating the pot-hunters to it" or "If I don't get it, the pot-hunters will" is not a valid excuse for salvage archaeology. The cure for this problem is preservation not excavation).

2. Do not conduct non-salvage digs, if sites slated for salvage work may produce the same information.

3. Do not conduct non-salvage digs, if the desired information is available from past excavations. Providing this body of data for future study is a primary reason for doing as much salvage work as possible.

As the archaeological resource base dwindles, unjustified excavation is becoming more and more frowned upon, and as professional archaeologists become more formally organized, squandering the available sites will be likely grounds for official censure. I say so much the better. One person may own a few artifacts, but archaeology belongs to everyone, future generations included.

(Eugene Futato, Tuscaloosa Chapter)

MEETINGS

The 1975 Annual Meeting of the Alabama Conservancy will be held in Tuscaloosa on February 21 and 22, 1975. The theme will be, "Alabama's Waters, Cur Greatest Natural Resource." The keynote speaker will be Michigan Representative, John D. Dingell, who has introduced many environmentally significant bills. Madeleine and Ed Passerini (Box 6211, University, Al. 35486) will coordinate local arrangements.

The Annual Meeting of the Southern Anthropological Society will meet on April 4-6, 1975 at the Hilton Inn, Clearwater Beach, Florida. The key symposium will be, "Anthropology: Continuity and Change. Applied or 'action' anthropology analyzed in terms of the traditional methodological, theoretical and empirical assumptions of the discipline, with a consideration of new definitions of professional roles for applied anthropologists." J. Raymond Williams, Dept. of Anthropology, University of South Florida, Tampa, Fl. 33620, is in charge of local arrangements.

(Marjorie Gay, East Alabama Chapter)

About every 20 years the Kraho Indians, who live on the Amazon River, move to a new location and every time they lay out their new village in the shape of a spoked wheel.

THE FIRST PIONEER

Two human bone samples and a new dating technique have placed in doubt the theory that the first humans to enter North America came over the Bering Strait 20,000 to 25,000 years ago.

Reporting in Science magazine, <u>Dr. Jeffrey L. Bada</u>, assistant professor of oceanography at the University of California, and <u>Roy Schroeder</u>, a graduate student there, along with <u>Dr. George Carter</u>, professor of geography at Texas A & M University, dated a skull and skull fragment to well over the 40,000 year mark.

The bones were discovered on the southern California coast between 1920 and 1935 and had been stored in the Los Angeles County Museum and the San Diego Museum of Man. The skull was dated at 48,000 old and the fragment at above 44,000 years.

The scientists had tested their dating method on the skull from a 23,600 year old human fossil known as Los Angeles Man, until now the oldest dated human fossil in North America.

The new technique, called "racemization," determines age by measuring the gradual change of an amino acid in an organism. When used on the skull of Los Angeles Man, it produced a reading of 26,000, roughly the same age range obtained by Carbon 14 dating. The new technique has an advantage over the Carbon 14 method in that it is accurate beyond C-14's 40,000 year limit. (From Science Digest, August 1964. Contributed by James Cambron, Decatur Chapter).

IN MEMCRIUM

Kyle F. Hardin, Jr., Birmingham, Alabama. Joint Life Member of the Society, on December 10, 1974. Cur deepest sympathy to Mrs. Hardin, 3302 15th Court North, Birmingham, and to their children.

Mildred Holland, Leighton, Alabama, on October 17, 1974. Mildred and her late husband, Horace, were active and dedicated members of the society and the Muscle Shoals Chapter for many years. Among their meaningful contributions is The Holland Collection to the University of Alabama Museums at Mound State Monument. This collection contains a collection of projectile point types of almost all the known types classified and placed in chronological sequence. This collection was donated in 1963 and has been on display since that time. Our very deep sympathy to Mildred's sister, Lorene P. Walter, 403 Prairie Street, Winnsboro, La. 71295.

FOR WHAT IT'S WORTH

According to our almost well kept records, 12% of our 1974 society members moved during the year, with 3% of these movers notifying the society in advance and thus saving us about \$2.10 in return postage. It could be worse---we guess!

A GOOD IDEA!!

Well preserved pieces of woolen twill have been found during the excavation of a Roman fortress town in Great Britain. The town is dated at about 80 A.D. The fibers are similar to those of today, with some like crossbred wool types while others resemble merino wool. Since these are thicker fibers, however, they would have made clothes warmer than those we buy today. With the energy crunch and lower thermostat temperatures, perhaps we should think of returning to thicker, warmer materials.

ANOTHER SIDE

Since the United Nations is receiving so much criticism today, perhaps we should say something good about them. UNESCO, the UN's Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization has raised the first \$3 million (with \$8 million still needed) to attempt the preservation of the 135 foot high Temple of Borobudur on the Indonesian Island of Java. This temple, built in the eighth century, will have to be dismantled stone by stone to replace broken base blocks and install a drainage system. This Buddhist Shrine is built of volcanic rock on nine levels around which run four miles of bas relief decoration. Vandals and pot hunters have been busy as only a few of the original 504 images remain in the carvings that depict the life of Buddha. It is estimated that the restoration will take until about 1979 to complete.

FROM THE BIRMINGHAM NEWS

\$2,000 an inch is about the price a 2,000 year old bronze statuette brought at a recent New York Auction. The 195/8 inch tall figure of Eros, the Greek god of love, sold for \$40,000, said to be the highest price ever paid in New York for a classical antiquity.

A special two part series will be shown on many NBC Channels on the Sundays February 2 and 9 on the animals and wildlife preservation in Russia. The "Wild Kingdom" report from Russia is the first time such filming has been allowed in Russia and is a result of the 22 Point Scientific Protocol Program between the United States and the Soviet Union agreed upon in 1972. About seven years ago negotiations were begun to film some of the Russian conservation activities, including those at the Voronezh Preserve, about 300 miles south of Moscow. As usual, Merlin Perkins will be the host.

FROM THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SOCIETY FOR HISTORICAL ARCHAEOLOGY

The society is in excellent condition in spite of severe increases in publication costs. With the recent purchase of an additional \$2500 note they have accomplished their goal of building up a reserve sufficient to complete their current obligations without utilizing next years income. In other words the society can afford to publish the materials for which they have an obligation even without next years membership dues. They have been operating on a deficit budget financed by the membership fees for the following year.

(Entire page from Marjorie Gay, President, doesn't anyone else out there read?)

ANNOUNCEMENTS - STATE NEWS

NEW MEMBERS DURING JANUARY

Cailup B. Curren, Jr., 605 15th Ave, Tuscaloosa, Al. 35401 (Family) Harold D. Wesson, Route 9, Box 436, Suncrest Dr., Florence, Al. 35630 John Ricky Shrout, Box 2171, Magnolia Dorm, Auburn, Alabama 36830 (Assoc) Thomas M. Phillips, 1239 Sanders Street, Auburn, Al. 36830 (Family) James B. Phillips, Jr., 108 Imperial Dr., Eufaula, Al. 36027 Michael C. Poe, 4000 A Seabreeze Rd., Mobile, Al. 36609 Sidney H. Schell, 3756 San Juan Drive, Mobile, Al. 36609 Joni Blackburn, 3008 Lake Park Circle, Birmingham, Al. 35243 (Assoc)

CHAPTER NEWS

Birmingham Chapter regularly meets the first Thursday of each month in Room 217, Beeson Hall, Samford, at 7:30pm. Joe Watkins was the speaker at the January meeting and gave an interesting talk and slide presentation on the Mayans. East Alabama Chapter meets every other Wednesday at 7:30pm in Comer Hall Auditorium at Auburn University. The February 12th meeting will feature Dr. Albert Trouse with Part II of "Great Civilizations of the Americas." Part I was presented at the January 8th meeting. Choccolocco Chapter met January 16 at Regar Museum where Tommy Mullendore gave a talk and showed slides of the Winter Meeting in Tuscaloosa. Cullman Chapter met January 20 at 7:30pm in City Hall and were treated to a very interesting program on the Col. Cullman Home by Ray Buchanan. Huntsville Chapter met January 21 at 7:00pm in the Huntsville Public Library. John Travis spoke on "Archaeological Points of Interest in the Western States, Particularly California. This was a very interesting meeting and well attended. Muscle Shoals Chapter met January 13 for a supper meeting at Howard Johnson's in Florence. Bart Henson spoke on Pictographs and Petroglyphs of North Alabama. Noccalula Chapter held their January meeting in the home of the Vernon Walker's and were treated to slides and a talk on Ralph Mackey's recent trip to Spain.

FINAL REPORT ON 1974 DIG FUND DONATIONS

The 1974 drive for funds to finance archaeological excavations is now officially closed, and your Research Association is more than delighted at the successful response to their efforts last year. The four donors last month were:

Mr. and Mrs. Brittain Thompson, Birmingham, another of our highly prized CHARTER DCNORS, brings to FIFTEEN their consecutive years of contributions.

Mr. and Mrs. Philip C. Jackson, Jr., Birmingham, who with this fine donation, increase to FIFTEEN the fine total of their consecutive years of giving.

William M. Spencer, Birmingham, our Association President and leader, now making his second donation this year, and his SIXTEENTH since becoming a Charter Donor.

Dr. and Mrs. Robert W. Work, N. C., making their SIXTH overall, and his second most generous recent donation, the kind of a friend we really appreciate. Thus ending 1974 with 35 subscribers, a grand total of \$2516.00 and adding \$118.00 to the Dan Josselyn Memorial Fund. May we express our sincerest appreciation to all, and assure all that the funds will be put to work shortly? Thanks, nice people!

THE ALABAMA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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

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

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

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DRO TITORG-NON



MOUNDVILLE, ALA. 35474
P. O. BOX 66

Alabama Archaeological Society

PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

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		
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First 10 Years of the Journal of Alabama Archaeology	\$5.00 pp	
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