

Alabama Archaeological Society

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STONES & BONES NEWSLETTER

Editor
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2602 Green Mountain Rd.
Huntsville, Alabama 35803

MEMBER OF THE EASTERN STATES ARCHEOLOGICAL FEDERATION

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE ALABAMA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY'S ANNUAL WINTER MEETING - 1976

The Society's Winter Meeting was hosted by the Cullman Chapter in the recently reconstructed home of John G. Cullmann, founder of Cullman, Alabama. This beautiful home is now the Cullman County Museum, housing sections on aboriginal and historical archaeology, plus space for offices and a meeting hall.

Approximately 100 persons registered for the meeting which featured a program of eight (8) speakers, key-noted by Ms. Bettye Broyle's slide illustrated paper on "The Blennerhassett Historic Island."

In addition to Bettye's thoroughly enlightening presentation, Ed Luttgies and Society members -- Howard King, Eulis King, Britt Thompson, Bart Henson, Al Trowse, Gailup Curren, Jr., and Charles Moore -- presented talks on various topics of archaeological interest across the state. The Society appreciates the splendid work done by William Wesley, Program Chairman, and the Cullman Chapter in making this an enjoyable and successful meeting.

During the business meeting, Mr. Warner Floyd, Executive Director of the Alabama Historical Commission, made an award to Mr. Howard King on behalf of the Alabama Historical Commission for his contribution, support, and implementation of work on the reconstruction of the Cullman Home Museum. On behalf of the Alabama Archaeological Society, Mr. Floyd presented awards to Bart and Bettye Henson as Outstanding Society Members for 1976, citing them for their work on the Constitution Hall project, work within the Society, and the Historic Commission. Mr. Rodger Schaefer, out-of-state during the scheduled presentation of an Appreciation Award by the Society during the Summer Meeting in Moundville, was presented a large plaque in the shape of a projectile point, suitably engraved, expressing the Society's special appreciation for his more than 15 years of dedicated work for the Society as Secretary and Treasurer, and for his continued service to the Society as Assistant Treasurer.

At 9:45 a.m. Dr. Al Trowse, President, called the Board of Directors Meeting to order. Twenty officers/Directors and two guests were present. Reports of the following committees were given: Archives (Amos Wright): Considerable material on hand. Study under way on best methods to store, protect, and display this material. Additional photographs of early Society activities needed. Special Publications (Bart Henson): "Durant Bend" report nearing completion. Temporary Ways and Means (Steve Wimberly): The feasibility of a state-wide Certification Program is being studied. Specific recommendations to follow. Publicity (Howard King): Annual meeting publicity generally good. Media announcements less than expected. Nominating (Eulis King): Presented slate of nominees for Society Officers to be brought before the general meeting. Program (William Wesley): Annual Meeting Program to follow published information.

January 1977

1977 OFFICERS OF THE ALABAMA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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ESAF Alternate Representative	Mr. Robert Gay	Standing Rock, Alabama 36878
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Mr. Charles E. Moore***	887 Riverview Drive, Florence, Alabama 35630
Mr. Carey E. Oakley***	Archaeological Research, Drawer EA, University, Ala.
Dr. Albert Truse***	275 Oak Street, Auburn, Alabama 36830

* Newly Elected Directors (3 Years)

** Presently Serving (2 Years)

*** Presently Serving (1 Year)

MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

First, I would like to express my gratitude for having such an honor as being elected President of the Alabama Archaeological Society. I congratulate our past President, Dr. Trowse, for the fine leadership that he provided; and the many endeavors that he undertook to make our Society more responsive to the needs of Archaeology. I also congratulate our new officers and Board members upon their appointment and express to them the need of their best endeavor to help guide this Society to a most successful year.

Secondly, I see our Society moving into a new era. The ideas, practices, goals and actions we had ten years ago are just not sufficient for today. If anything, our ideas, practices, goals, and actions need to be more intense due to the tremendous growth our state has taken in technology, in population growth, in sources of energy, and in the ever expanding destruction of archaeological sites and material. I request that everyone reread Article III of our Constitution concerning the objectives and purposes of our Society. If you feel that the Society can in some way improve its position on any of the objectives, then do not hesitate to make us aware of it. It need not be said that the destruction of sites and the transferring of artifacts is constantly on the increase; I think we need to work harder on this problem in the future.

Thirdly, I would like to see this year the participation in archaeology by more of our membership. I am a relatively young member of this Society (I suppose the youngest President), and I continuously hear of the days of the Stanfield-Worley digs, with all the excitement, membership involvement, and the "dirty hands" that made this a very dynamic group of people. I don't think people have changed much since then, and I hope that the Society can come up with more programs to get our membership involved.

Fourth, I think that if we can work in unison, then our Society can continue to go in a positive direction. But we need everyone's help.

Howard King

NEW PUBLICATION - 1977 DUES

The Society's second report in the Special Publication Series is now available. This publication, Archaeological Sequence at Durant Bend, Dallas County, Alabama, by Dr. Roger Nance of University of Alabama/Birmingham, presents the results of the investigation at this archaeological site on the Alabama River. Many members of the Society participated in this work, some as students or volunteers on the site, and many others through contributions of financial support and personal expertise. Just \$4.50 per copy (\$3.50 until February 28); available from the Journal editor. See the announcement insert/order form in this issue. And while you have your checkbook out, why not use the bottom portion of the form to pay your 1977 dues?

OAR CAPTURES PROJECTS

The University of Alabama, through the Office of Archaeological Research, is carrying out a number of projects in Alabama, Mississippi, and Tennessee. The Director of OAR is Carey B. Oakley; Assistant Director, J. B. Graham; Laboratory Supervisor, Eugene M. Futato; and Field Archaeologists Cailup B. Curren, Jr., Ned J. Jenkins, Charles M. Hubbert, Robert H. Lafferty, and Mark F. DeLeon. Listed below are the major active projects:

Harris Reservoir, East Central Alabama
Field Director - Mark F. DeLeon
Excavation of Archaic and Mississippian sites

I-459, Central Alabama
Field Director - Cailup B. Curren, Jr.
Test excavations of Woodland sites

Pleistocene survey of Central Alabama
Field Director - Cailup B. Curren, Jr.

Jones Bluff Reservoir, Central Alabama
Field Director - Carey B. Oakley
Inventory cultural resources in the Alabama Basin

Gainesville Reservoir, West Central Alabama
Field Director - Ned J. Jenkins
Excavation of Woodland and Mississippian sites

Bay Springs Embayment, Northeast Mississippi
Field Director - Charles M. Hubbert
Inventory cultural resources in Bay Springs area

Bear Creek, Northwest Alabama
Field Director - J. B. Graham
Excavation of several sites in Cedar Creek area

Bellefonte, Northwest Alabama
Field Director - J. B. Graham
Analysis and report of excavated Woodland and Mississippian materials
by Eugene M. Futato

Murphy Hill, Northeast Alabama
Field Director - J. B. Graham
Analysis and report of copena materials by J. B. Graham and Gloria C. Cole

Phipps Bend, Northeast Tennessee
Field Director - Robert H. Lafferty
Excavation of multicomponent sites

In addition to the above, OAR has been and is conducting a number of environmental surveys. This is a far cry from the old days of not too long ago when the University of Alabama did well to mount one field project a year. Archaeology has come a long way in Alabama, and in the nation, with the assist of federal funds and a new interest and awareness by private industry.

NEED FOR PRESERVATION ON SOAPSTONE RIDGE, GEORGIA

One of the most important prehistoric Indian sites in the southeast is Soapstone Ridge, in Dekalb County, Georgia. This ridge covers a 25-square-mile area rich in soapstone which was worked by ancient man.

Fifty-two of the most important acres contain over 180 carved boulders where bowls, pipes, beads and ornaments were made. This land had never been cultivated and is now for sale for land development.

Dr. Roy Dickens, professor of anthropology at Georgia State University in Atlanta, an expert on prehistoric Indians in the southeast, has long worked toward the preservation of the 52 important acres. Dr. Dickens had hoped that the state would acquire the property so that it could be preserved, but so far, just promises. Also, Dekalb County has been pressured in hopes they would acquire the site. They too are interested, but nothing definite.

But Dr. Dickens keeps on working toward preservation of this important site and is enlisting the support of the news media as well as many interested folks who do not want to see the site bulldozed and lost forever.

Margaret Perryman Smith

OUR 17TH ANNUAL DIG FUND

Since publication in the November Newsletter of the full list of 1976 donors, only two, but well appreciated, contributions have reached the Archaeological Research Association to date. One being from Mr. and Mrs. Frank C. Parkins, new State Society members from Atlanta and another of our cherished first-year donors! The other contribution is to the Dan Josselyn Memorial Fund from the sale of Lively-Long-Josselyn Pebble Tool Papers.

With great appreciation we proudly announce that Dig Fund contributions this year total \$2,143.15, plus donations of \$99.00 to the Dan Josselyn Memorial Fund. It is, of course, still possible for others to send funds before our year is out by sending the coupon on the inside back cover of this Newsletter.

Milt Harris

NOTICE

The search for Early Man in South-Central Alabama continues. Those of you who have talked with Dr. Dick Krause or Sonny Curren recently know that at several locations in South-Central Alabama Pleistocene period animal remains have been found. At one of these Alabama locations a piece of human skull was found in the same kind of soil stratum as the Pleistocene animals. Tests are being

SUMMER STUDY AND WORKSHOP

The University of Alabama is considering the desirability of establishing a course pertaining to Alabama Archaeology to be taught, in part, through a statewide Educational Television Series. The course as now envisioned would be offered for academic credit for those viewers who formally enroll, and would include approximately eight weekly 30-minute TV programs, and culminate in a Summer Workshop. Credit and non-credit enrollees would receive texts, course outline, study assignments, and other course materials prior to the start of the TV series. The Summer Workshop would most likely be held at Moundville, with the enrollee having the option of selecting any one of several week-long periods for participation, to best fit personal schedules. Of course, there are many thousands in the state who would benefit and enjoy the Archaeological Series without enrolling!

The University would appreciate an indication from the Society membership on their interest in the program concept, recommendations on course material, interest in formally enrolling, and any other comments or suggestions you may have. If the level of interest is sufficient the course can possibly be started early this summer.

Please address your correspondence concerning this proposed educational series on Alabama Archaeology to the following:

Mr. John Burton
Office of Continuing Education
University of Alabama
University, Alabama 35486

MEETINGS

- Feb. 18-19 Gulf Coast History and Humanities Conference, Pensacola, Florida.
Theme: The Military Presence on the Gulf Coast. Program Chairman: W. S. Coker, GCHHC, The Library, University West Florida, Pensacola, Florida 33126
- Mar. 9-12 Southern Anthropological Society, Dupont Plaza Hotel, Miami, Florida.
Program Chairman: E. Lamar Ross, Department of Sociology and Anthropology, Florida International University, Miami, Florida 33126
- Mar. 16-19 Symposium on Archaeometry and Archaeological Prospection, University of Pennsylvania Museum, Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. General topics will include physicochemical analysis, activation analysis, isotopic analysis, thermoluminescence, dating by radioactive decay, dating by chemical change, dendrochronology and prospection. Day-long sessions on analytical results and provenance studies (metals and ceramics), ancient technologies and culture change and early technology in Southeast Asia.
- Mar. 16-20 Conference on Lithic Use-Wear, Simon Fraser University, Burnaby, B. C., Canada. For information write Brian Fraser U., Burnaby 2, B. C., Canada. Abstract deadline was September 15, 1976, Texts due by December 15, 1976.

Apr. 28-30 Society for American Archaeology, Braniff Place, New Orleans, Louisiana. Symposium proposal deadline was October 1, 1976. Deadline for contributed papers, research reports and final symposium submissions was December 1, 1976.

All information from Anthropology Newsletter, Vol. 17, No. 8, October 1976.

Marjorie Gay

CELTS - PHOENICIANS IN NEW YORK?

Archaeologist Sal M. Trento, staff member of the Middletown Archaeological Research Center in Middletown, New York, at one time scoffed at allegations that the Celts and Phoenicians were in America 2,000 years before Columbus, but after some startling finds on surveys in the New York area, he has become a "believer."

In an article dated 2 August 1976 in "Village Voice," Trento discusses some of the sites and stone ruins he has located and studied in southern New York. Last year while studying at Oxford, Trento read of Dr. Fell's work on megalithic sites in New England and later visited and studied some of the megalithic sites in Spain and the British Isles before returning to the U. S. In talking to various people around Middletown, Trento soon learned that there were similar curious stone formations nearby. He found huge boulders perched on triangulated smaller rocks, just as those he had seen in Europe. The mathematics of these structures also correlated with megalithic sites in Europe. He has found the remains of 20 megalithic sites and also surveyed many stone monuments previously attributed to the American Indian, but these too, looked like remnants of the Old World culture. However, Trento was really convinced when he looked at an inscribed stone found in a stream bed near Hawley, Pa., which Dr. Fell translated into "Hanno, Prince of Carthage, was here." Trento and his students continue to survey and locate sites in the southern New York area and interestingly enough, he says his organization is the first to do so.

The article recognizes that Fell and Trento's works are controversial in the ranks of today's archaeologists, but it also says more and more "respected institutions" are listening closer to their explanations and work on these stone monuments. Anyone interested in joining Trento's ranks is welcome - write M.A.R.C., 26 North Street, Floor 5, Suite 55, Middletown, New York 10940.

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MR. DAVID L. DeJARNETTE

JOURNAL EDITOR

MAIL CHECKS TO

ALABAMA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

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

Available issues of *Journal of Alabama Archaeology* (each) \$4.00 pp
Special Publication 1 — *Fort Mitchell* 2.00 pp
Special Publication 2 — *The Archaeological Sequence
at Durent 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

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