

Alabama Archaeological Society

UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA

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STONES & BONES NEWSLETTER

APR 1 - 1963

MEMBER OF THE EASTERN STATES ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEDERATION

*** AS OTHERS SEE US ***



"DONATE"
DALTON

"The program you have inaugurated in Alabama sounds most promising, and I am delighted that you have met with such a favorable response from the public. The brief summary of your discoveries, linking it with others in the area, makes it clear that your activities are centered in one of the richest archaeological regions of North America. The constantly increasing age estimates for the beginning of human occupation in Eastern North America strongly suggest to me that still earlier evidence will be found....the sequence that you have established at the Stanfield-Worley site will prove invaluable in the future. I hope, at the same time, that such excavations will demonstrate to public-minded citizens the growing enthusiasm for archaeology on the part of the general public."

Dr. Richard G. Forbis, Glenbow Foundation
Calgary, Alberta, Canada

It is seldom necessary to convince one of his own importance, but in our case the reverse may be curiously true. Perhaps the steady stream of generous appraisals of our work in Alabama archaeology will serve to build up our pride of accomplishment to the size it deserves. We don't mean that pride should be "puffed up", only that it should be big enough to live up to our reputation - international in scope! (The illustration is a specially named point type from the Stanfield-Worley shelter, just for this occasion!)

MAN OF THE FUTURE

(Another Honor For The People of Alabama)

We study man of the past, in large part, so that we might improve upon man of the future through better understanding of this confusingly complex and explosive creature - more dangerous than all other animals put together! In fact, man, in his increasing multitudes, has become so dangerous that it is becoming questionable if he will have much of a future - and we don't necessarily mean the atom bomb. Yet sociologists remark dourly, with sly meaning, that people won't quit reproducing until there is standing room only.

In physics we study the laws of falling bodies in a vacuum, as they never are. In "manthropology", as a young friend reasonably misconstrues it, we are prone to study man in a sort of vacuum of his own egotism - with little attention to the realities of environment, which are far from limitless. This we must remedy, and quickly, for the BIOSPHERE CYCLE is beginning to run down.

The habitable earth was not "created" - it is eternally recreated. The things needed by life are largely created by life, and must pass through the life cycle, and continually be made over into usable form. As the simplest example, when a field is

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eroded down to clay subsoil, it may take struggling vegetation centuries to build a foot or two of good topsoil where life can again grow well, and support other life. And it takes immeasurably longer for the life cycle, the biosphere cycle, to produce great deposits of coal, oil, etc.

Over the 3 billion years or so that nature has experimented with life on this small planet, she had worked out a pretty good system of balances. Pre-Columbian America was indeed a land of promise, magnificent with forests teeming with wildlife. Even man, the most destructive force that nature ever invented (in an unguarded moment!), was held in check by natural forces which, in the main, weeded out the less fit and improved the species.

But man, who has learned to circumvent nature's little laws without honoring the large ones, has badly upset the "balance of nature". The agriculturists, for example, tell us that more soil nutrients are washed from our plow-injured soils into a single river, the Mississippi, than all the commercial fertilizer added to our soils. Man, our physics assure us, can fall in a vacuum - but he can't live in one.

Even the BIOSPHERE CYCLE OF OUR IMMENSE ATMOSPHERE is running down, without adequate rewinding. The great forests, where great trees "breathe" carbon dioxide and re-manufacture oxygen, have been destroyed - to make way for more people, who need more oxygen, and for more industrial plants, home heating systems, automobiles, etc., which consume oxygen in extravagant and dangerous quantities. Even prior to 1935, before the flowering of the modern era of over-population and over-mechanization, the carbon dioxide content of our atmosphere was increasing dangerously - about 9% per generation. And even then the BIOSPHERE CYCLE OF OUR ATMOSPHERE - the time it takes all of our oxygen to pass through the life cycle, used and renewed - was estimated at only 3,000 years.

The most immediately acute aspect of the atmospheric cycle is the question of what modern air pollution is doing to us. Crops are damaged hundreds of miles around large cities, paint is eaten off of houses, even buildings of limestone and marble erode! In the United States the damage done by air pollution is estimated to cost, in financial terms alone, SEVEN BILLION DOLLARS a year! And what are all these corrosives, erosives and highly toxic substances doing to our health? The question has not even been adequately studied!

But the PEOPLE OF ALABAMA come to our rescue. The Bulletin of the National Tuberculosis Association, March 1963, praises the Alabama Tuberculosis Association for beginning an "epidemiological investigation" of air pollution. And this Alabama Tuberculosis Association is YOU, the buyers of Christmas Seals - the PEOPLE of Alabama. Such volunteer organizations provide a way for the PEOPLE to get together, and through small donations do great and neglected works - just as our archaeological fund is doing. WE - you and I - DO HAVE A WAY to get around the clumsy antics of politics and get the important things done.

Our thanks, and our congratulations, to the PEOPLE OF ALABAMA, and to our friend who has also helped us with our archaeological fund drive, Mr. K. W. Grimley, Executive Secretary of the Alabama Tuberculosis Association. And let us remember that it is not an easy matter to get the people to get together so that their good sense, and good dollars, can really count for something against our headlong rush toward one disaster or another. Be thankful for wise leadership, splendid administration, and support the good sense exhibited (occasionally!) BY THE PEOPLE.

\$\$\$\$ --- FINANCIAL PAGE --- \$\$\$\$

1963 DONORS: Albert Fisher, M.D.; L. H. Hull; Mrs. Robert R. Reid, Jr.; Mrs. G. Donnell Axford; Dan Josselyn; Charles H. Worley; Verne H. Reckmeyer; Mr. & Mrs. B. Bart Henson; Orville H. Peets; CATHEDRAL CAVERNS (Helen Gurley, Pres.); Lawrence D. Maples, Jr.; Miss Evelyn Ware; Mrs. Robert Wickham; Nollon Boone; THE DECATUR DAILY, B. C. Shelton, Publisher; FIRST FEDERAL SAVINGS, Decatur, Paul Hutto, Public Relations; (Jack Cambron solicitor for the two preceding); and, as of course we all "point with pride", Dr. H. M. Wormington.

Not only does our HONOR ROLL grow, but also our honor and fame for having the only annual fund drive in archaeology. The new and promising ANTHROPOLOGICAL JOURNAL OF CANADA, in its very first issue, generously gave a fine plug to this "unusual and highly commendable annual fund drive to finance summer excavations by popular subscription" (p. 23) - and our thanks to Editor Thomas E. Lee. And, as is rarely the case, even "a prophet in his own country" attains to honor! Jim & Lynette McCary and Bill Spencer brought our attention to a splendid write-up of our fund drives and summer digs, by Kitty Sutherland, in the March issue of the JUNIOR LEAGUE NEWSHEET (p. 6).

But let us not get too optimistic and "rest on our laurels". What we most need is this page full of names - not the present mere $3\frac{1}{2}\%$ of our members. June, our DIGGING MONTH, is only two short months away.

This month, J. Andrew Douglas "broke the tape" and proved himself "Scotch in name only" though only a couple of generations removed from the stirring tales of "the Douglas". The Valley Study Club, a delightful group of young ladies of Homewood, made their third unsolicited donation - an awareness we'd like to build in all community organizations. Goodness, look at this: March 1, check from Horace J. Holland; March 7, 11:00 A.M., check from Horace J. Holland; March 7, 4:00 P.M., check from Horace J. Holland; March 8, check from Horace J. Holland. Despite health problems and assorted difficulties, he has been selling candy to raise funds "for the DIG". Great galloping glyptodonts! And here are Dr. & Mrs. Asael T. Hansen, University of Alabama - reminding us that we have achieved academic endorsement and affiliation. Sigfus Olafson, Vice-President of the Eastern States Archaeological Federation, who has given us fine support and cooperation from the beginning, again joins us from New York State. He is enthusiastic about our return to the Stanfield-Worley, and especially thinks that if by pollen analysis, etc., we "can define and pinpoint in time the climatic history of his (Dalton Man's) time, you will really have accomplished something for science." It is a good reminder that archaeology is not all artifacts, and that its significance is much broader than itself. A clear picture of Alabama climate 9-10,000 years ago would indeed be invaluable. Dan Josselyn again meets his monthly pledge.

Horace J. Holland writes that some of those fine students he has been educating, in so many wonderful ways, at Colbert County High, "found on one acre of land about 15 fluted points". How many professionals, in a lifetime, find ONE fluted point? As Dr. Wormington reminded us in our last issue, we have a "tremendously important" archaeology, and a tremendously important task. We amateurs are the only answer we have to our archaeological problems and possibilities. May we look forward to seeing YOUR name on our HONOR ROLL next month? And "bring a friend" - don't be bashful about soliciting for a great and still largely unknown cause.

U.S. AND WORLD ARCHAEOLOGY NOTES, HAPPENINGS AND ABSTRACTS

HAIL TO CANADA: At last Canada has its own ANTHROPOLOGICAL JOURNAL OF CANADA. Our February issue was enthusiastic over the prospect. The first issue of this Journal supports our enthusiastic anticipation.

This is not "just another Journal", but obviously a Journal with a purpose! It shows signs of exerting a little pressure on archaeology to get up and go places. The Editor anticipates "articles that may be controversial" - welcome indeed, since our greatest archaeological sins of the past have been the avoidance, even suppression, of controversy. Out of the most controversial of them all, the question of man's antiquity in America, an entirely new archaeology is emerging - and still in need of controversy! The remaining few who have "decided everything" (in accord with their own theories and to their own satisfaction) may not be too pleased; those many who think we know almost nothing, solidly and finally, and are not ready to close the book of American archaeology on the first chapter, will open their arms in welcome.

To mention a few articles in the first issue, THE FIRST AMERICANS, by Dr. Carl B. Compton, Director, Interamerican Institute, is very appropriate to the spirit of progress. For Dr. Compton takes a new look at a similar paper he published as late as 1956 and was "astonished to see how swiftly technical advances had made much of it obsolete". HELP FOR THE AMATEUR: CATALOGUING, by Dr. Vernon Leslie, Director of the Pennsylvania Institute of Anthropology and American Editor of the English NEW WORLD ANTIQUITY, will

certainly be helpful. For example, a simplified method for marking artifacts: 36-64-4-1, alphabetically the 36th State (Pennsylvania), alphabetically the 64th county in the State, 4th site collected, 1st artifact.

We may be a bit biased here, but we were also impressed by the first two parts of a series on a projected METHOD FOR CLASSIFICATION OF PROJECTILE POINTS - by our own Dan Josselyn. Man alive, he is cutting himself quite a slice - and maybe some controversy! As an old science writer who has "interpreted" the jargon of several disciplines for public consumption, in his section ON TERMINOLOGY he really stomps on unnecessary and sometimes "pseudo" technicalities. His NAMING PROJECTILE POINTS bemoans our meaningless names, reminds us of the systematic "taxonomic tree" of the biologists, and hopes that projectile point classification, and naming, will one day climb a similar tree. Archaeologists should find this stimulating.

We were most astonished by THE GLORY THAT WAS PAGAN, BURMA, by the Editor himself, Thomas E. Lee. This would be excellent writing, and fascinating reading, in any publication. Why Mr. Lee doesn't drift easily, and profitably, into mere professional writing is a deep mystery - instead of tackling the major and unrewarding (financially) task of accomplishing something of worth. He must indeed be a man with a purpose, and we wish him well and extend a warm hand of welcome. And our congratulations go to our good neighbor to the North for having its own ANTHROPOLOGICAL JOURNAL OF CANADA.

(You will surely want to try this Journal for a year, as well as helping a new and much-needed venture to get firmly started. Thomas E. Lee, Editor, 1575 Forlan Drive, Ottawa 5, Ontario, Canada, \$3.00 annually.)

FLORIDA NEWS: Our friend, William C. Lazarus, who is past President of the Florida Anthropological Society, a hard-working Director of same, and acting curator of the Fort Walton Temple Mound Museum, sent us through his son, Martin, this last weekend, a few brochures on the Temple Mound and on a recently found early Spanish coin. The little Temple Mound Bulletin tells something about the Mound and the Museum. The Museum is inclusive of typical artifacts from the Florida Beach Area, and is particularly delightful in that it is strictly a labor of love. There are many, many displays which include jewelry, ranging from gigantic ceremonial ear plugs to effigies of men, birds, reptiles and animals, plus a large diorama illustrative of what Fort Walton probably was like in late pre-Columbian times, and in addition, a display of 100 bowls and pots made by the Fort Walton cultural group. The Museum is open daily, and any of our members or their friends who are in the area should make it a special point to visit the Mound and the Museum.

RARE AMERICAN COIN: One of the oldest coins to be minted in the Americas was recently found during an archaeological excavation of an Indian site near Fort Walton Beach in Florida. The coin was minted between 1532 and 1557 at Santo Domingo, the first settlement in the New World. It shows the castle and rampant lion of the Spanish Coat-of-Arms and carries a Latin inscription which when translated reads "Charles V, King of the Indies". Made of copper, this rare coin is about the size of a modern quarter and has been identified as a "two maravedis". A maravedi is an ancient Spanish denomination equivalent of a U.S. penny.

There are two small holes punched near the rim of the coin suggesting that it was worn as an ornament by the local Indians. It obviously came into their possession by contact with very early Spanish explorers or the wreck of a Spanish ship along the Northwest Florida coast. The dating of the coin is such that it could have been brought to Florida by the famous Spanish explorer, Hernando DeSoto. History indicates that DeSoto spent the winter of 1539-40 in Northern Florida but the exact spot has not been positively identified, altho Tallahassee claims to be the location.

The coin was found by G. D. Wagner who had accompanied Elston and Dana Fagan, all of Fort Walton Beach, on an archaeological excavation at the Indian site. It has been entrusted to the Temple Mound Museum of Fort Walton Beach for identification and display. Thorough research and photography of the coin has been accomplished. Enlarged photographs and photostatic copies of documents from the University of Barcelona, Spain, and from the Secretary General of the Spanish Numismatic Association are part of this educational display. Assisting in the positive identification and recording were the Dept. of Anthropology & Archaeology at Florida State University, the Smithsonian Institution and the U.S. National Museum.

* * *

"THE INTERAMERICAN", Newsletter of the Instituto Interamericano, Dr. Carl B. Compton, Director, Denton, Texas, provides the following interesting items, copied from the March 1963 Issue of that excellent publication:

"PHOTOGRAPHING PETROGLYPHS: B. K. Swartz, Jr., American Antiquity, V.28:3, Pp. 100-101, has a method for "chalking" petroglyphs which should satisfy even the most vehement protester of this practice. He advises the use of aluminum powder and water brushed on the petroglyph. This powder photographs even better than chalk and may be removed simply by sluicing the rock with water. Left alone it would be washed off by the first rain or would likely even blow away. Swartz advises removing it, however, in order to make the glyphs less conspicuous and therefore less likely to attract the attention of feeble-minded contemporary rock artists."

"MAN AND THE PLEISTOCENE: The Pleistocene is climatologically defined by a sequence of glacial and inter-glacial periods and paleontologically by the presence of true horses, elephants and cattle. There are four main periods of glaciation but the exact number of colder periods is still under discussion. Until now all known fossil remains of true hominids come from Pleistocene deposits. Tertiary man is still unknown. Three methods used to date Pleistocene man are: the radiation curve, the C-14 method and the potassium-argon method. The radiation curve, first calculated by Milankovitch in 1930, is based on astronomical data, using the obliquity of the ecliptic and the changes in solar radiation. This curve, going back about 600,000 years, reflects so well our concept of the climatic changes of the Pleistocene that it has been widely accepted. Difficulties arise in finding the proper place for certain sites within the frame of the Pleistocene (mauer, Steinheim) and uncertain subdivisions of the older Pleistocene. The C-14 method uses radioactive carbon. As the maximum age is about 60,000 years the use of this method is limited but of great importance for dating Upper Paleolithic deposits....The still more modern potassium-argon method has a very wide range and is based on the radioactivity of potassium (K^{40}) and argon (Ar^{40}). As in many volcanic rocks and also in various salt deposits we find potassium containing minerals, this method, especially in younger deposits, has a much wider application than the classic uranium method which is more suitable for plutonic rocks. In dating Early Man only a few data are available from Java and Central Africa. G.H.R. von Koenigswald. Utrecht, Nederland. (AAAS)."

"LATTER DAY HRDLICKA? A press release quotes Dr. Richard Shutler as saying that a 13,000 B.P. radiocarbon date secured for a hearth at Tule Springs at least is 1,500 years older than heretofore for man in America. A humorist, yet!!"

CHAPTER NEWS

The Birmingham Chapter meets on the 1st Friday of each month at the Birmingham Public Library. At the March meeting "How did Castro do it?" might have been the title of the interesting and informative lecture on the economic and political events leading up to the present government, given by a Cuban refugee, Sr. Magin Fabre, former professor at the University of Oriente. The Birmingham Chapter voted to become a member of the State Society to insure that a copy of the Newsletters and Journals would be in the Chapter's Library. A membership in the State Society was also voted for the Birmingham Public Library so that copies would be available to the public.

The East Alabama Chapter meets on the 1st Friday of each month at Funchess Hall, Room 247, Auburn University. At the March meeting, Mrs. Douglas Diamond spoke on "Observations on Present Day Amer-Indians of British Guiana".

The Madison-Huntsville Chapter meets on the 3rd Tuesday of each month at St. Thomas Church in Huntsville. No report received.

The Marshall County Chapter meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month at Reid's Restaurant in Guntersville. At the last meeting, Dr. A. G. Long gave a preview of color slides he is currently producing, a collection of illustrations on all Alabama point types and various tools, some 100 slides being shown of the nearly 400 now available. There was open discussion of each slide shown. During February, 2 more Cumberland points were found, one by A. B. Hooper III and one by Grady L. Rives, Hooper also having found a Quad type in the same area. Mr. E. C. Mahan, Dr. A. G. Long and Mr. Acton

Boone have all given several talks on Archaeology to Marshall County Schools, illustrated by slides being shown.

The Mauvilla Chapter meets on the 3rd Monday of each month at the Mobile Public Library. No report received.

The Montgomery Chapter submitted no report for this month.

The Morgan-Limestone Chapter meets on the 1st Monday of each month at the Electric Auditorium, Decatur. At the last meeting, Mr. & Mrs. Sam Mosley presented color slides taken during their stay in Ireland. The photography was excellent of the ruins of castles showing the architecture of the past. At the previous meeting, Mr. Philip Kyle presented a paper with slides on Sulphur Springs Trestle Site, a Civil War Fort Site recently discovered in Limestone County.

The Muscle Shoals Chapter meets on the 4th Monday of each month at Wesleyan Hall, Room 8, Florence State College. No report received.

The Moccalsula Chapter meets on the 1st Thursday of each month at the Etowah County Court House, Gadsden. At the last meeting, there was a general discussion on artifacts displayed by George Freeman and others, and it was reported that someone had found the location of the old Cromwell Furnace, which played a part in the Civil War and is located in the Pelham Range of Fort McClellan.

The Tuscaloosa Chapter meets on the 2nd Tuesday of each month in Room 100, Comer Hall, University of Alabama. At the last Meeting, Prof. David DeJarnette spoke on his exploration last Spring of a cave in Yucatan. At the next meeting, Mr. E. K. Austin will speak on "Gods of Ancient Mexico - Kukulcan and Quetzalcoatl".

ANNOUNCEMENTS - STATE NEWS

NEW MEMBERS FOR MARCH: Welcome each and every one!!!

Birmingham Anthropological Society, A. S. Stanford, Librarian, 617 - 4th St., S.W., Birmingham, Ala.

Birmingham Public Library, 2020-7th Ave. No., Birmingham, Ala. (Attn. Mrs. Thornton)

John W. Bullard, 1015 Drake Ave. S.E., Huntsville, Ala.

Hallifield Memorial Library, No. Gay St., Auburn, Ala.

Randy H. Hammonds, 123 College St., Albertville, Ala.

Roland K. Josselyn, 64 Mears Ave., Quincy 69, Mass.

Dr. & Mrs. Ernest Justice, 918 Terrace Acres, Auburn, Ala.

David Kerns, 329 E. Thatch, Auburn, Ala.

Library, Colbert County High School, Leighton, Ala.

Roger McClure, 200 Ray Ave., Albertville, Ala.

Donald X. Meader, Nolan Boulevard, R. R. 2, Madison, Ala.

Dan Printup, 4039 Southern Ave., Memphis 11, Tenn.

Grady L. Rives, Route 1, Albertville, Ala.

Robert Valentine, 204 Citrus Ave., Dunedin, Fla.

Richard Westrich, 908 Parklane St., Huntsville, Ala.

CHANGE OF ADDRESS: (5 of these cost the State Society 46 $\frac{1}{4}$ ¢ to learn about)

John W. Cottier, 150 Wood Field Drive, Auburn, Ala.

Kyle Hardin, 2907 Norwood Blvd., Birmingham 4, Ala.

Mary Hendrick, P. O. Box 232, Brundidge, Ala.

W. Dan McDonald, 3117 Galangale Circle, Doraville, Ga.

W. E. Neisler, 1509 Nolan Blvd., Madison, Ala.

Mrs. Annette Otts, 144 Seminole Circle, Fairfield, Ala.,

Alvin V. Walls, Bremen, Ala. (After April 1963)

Franklin T. Johnson, 3011 Kirkland Drive, Huntsville, Ala. (Correction)

BEORMINGS HAM: Victor Adams....did you notice, last month, heading our list of new members? Even if you did, you probably blamed Milt Harris for a typo-geographical error in showing the address as Birmingham, England, rather than Alabama, and let it go at that.

But once upon a time, many centuries ago, there really was a place which the Anglo-Saxons called Beormings Ham. Just what its status may have been in the beginning, the name does not specify, for "ham" was a general utility word which might mean home, house, estate or manor with its community of serfs, or village or town. But however it began, it grew to something worth having, and after the Conquest, up to the year 1527, it was ruled by the DeBirmingham family.

Birmingham, England - how did you guess? And Mr. Adams really lives there! And, living in one of the many admiring "offspring" Birmingham Hams, we got a thrill out of that. How would anyone in Birmingham, England, ever hear about the Alabama Archaeological Society? Oh, we modestly admit our fame - but we hadn't even bragged that big!

With the "industrial revolution" the little Ham grew great - increasing in population 770% between 1801 and 1901. It was situated near iron mines and a forest (furnaces were fired with charcoal in the early days), was already famous for its ornamental iron, swords, guns, etc., in the 17th century, and grew to be the leading hardware center of the world. And we dare not enumerate the cultural advantages - it makes us still sound a bit "frontier". And it makes us doubly proud that we do have at least the one cultural institution which has somehow carried that far.

So Beormings Ham is still there, medieval armor probably melted down to make modern tanks or "self-propelled armor", and we should be happy to get a letter from Mr. Adams - the name of our second president and 46 other notables in our encyclopaedia (and it out of date!).

NOTICE TO ALL CHAPTERS: Following is a list of available Newsletters. If any of you are interested in adding a copy to your central library, your Editor will be willing to furnish them on a first come - first served basis. A central reference point for the information which the Newsletters contain, as well as a list of titles of books, pamphlets and other information, would probably be very helpful in sharing archaeological information with our Chapter members. May we suggest that each Chapter peruse its membership and come up with a good librarian who will help make this a strong point for each group.

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THE MARSHALL COUNTY CHAPTER has come up with one of the best ideas we've seen in a long time - their own one-page Newsletter! In their February & March issues we read of interesting programs given by Dr. A. G. Long and E. C. Mahan, a visit by the Madison-Huntsville Chapter, admonitions to mark sites and artifacts, discovery of a new Paleo Site by Gordon E. Sibley, plans for the Chapter to work Paint Rock River systematically (surface survey), an educational program planned on identifying point types, some 400 color slides of projectile points made by Dr. A. G. Long (getting in competition with Ed Mahan!) and his plans to make slides of all projectile point types and all tools, and more Paleo points found by A. B. Hooper III and new member Grady L. Rives, Gordon Sibley coming up again with 2 Daltons, and also 5 new members found - site not located. They wind up their March issue with "Bring along a friend or even your wife." - Those guys and gals (and even wives) are really packing pep and punch into their meetings and activities for Secretary-Treasurer Hooper to put into his invigorating Newsletter. This we like, very much, and we think other Chapters would enjoy, and profit by, having their own Newsletters. Not to mention the fact that your STONES & BONES Newsletter could crib enough material to make this a really readable bit of "literature".

WHO ARE WE FOR? Sounds like an old bit from a highschool cheer - and thats just what it is and what we're doing. Why? Because the University of Alabama Birmingham Center class in Anthropology just this last week graduated some 25 or so members, and we had 2 of our own in the class. That worth a cheer? Maybe not! But, there were only 3

"A"s given, and Elberta Reid (Recording Secretary of the Birmingham Chapter) was #1 and Joseph Watkins (President of same) was #2 in the class. We all are looking forward to having some of this "learning" rub off on some of the rest of us. Our congratulations to these outstanding students!

LETTER TO THE EDITOR: "Dear Britt Thompson: We note in the papers that your son, Tommy Thompson, won the 7th Grade Grand Prize, against all other categories, in the Mountain Brook Science Fair - and this in the difficult field of Paleontology, Fossils of Alabama. We recall some statistics about Mountain Brook having the highest average income of any incorporated City in America, which implies also a very high average intelligence and really terrific competition for Tommy. We wish to congratulate Tommy, and of course his parents. And we sincerely hope you are not bothered by any suspicions about where Tommy could have acquired the genes of genius - genetic matters can by-pass the father, you know, and derive from some more remote and gifted ancestor. We hope you can publish this, for the benefit of others who may have entertained certain thoughts. (Signed) Consoling Reader."

(Editor's Note: Thank you, dear Consoling Reader!)

HOW TO WRITE ARCHAEOLOGICAL REPORTS (and still maintain your sanity)

There are a few things that archaeologists hate more than having to write, - for example, 10 years in Alcatraz (without pay) or a case of beri beri (this is not a type of wine). In fact, to hear archaeologists talk, you'd think one couldn't write an article for publication and still keep a level head. This isn't so (look at the level heads of your fellow archaeologists). It's just that people put off and put off writing down what they have learned. Maybe they are afraid they won't have anything left to talk about if they write it for publication. Here's an idea: Talk about the article you wrote.

Keeping up with the writing you need to share with others isn't hard, but it will take some effort. A little planning and a simple, systematic approach will make it as easy as bending over to pick up a handful of "tarky tails".

SUGGESTIONS for

1. When planning a field trip, plan the writing that should go with it. Archaeological reports should not be an afterthought. They are an essential part of our overall program and efforts.

2. Plan to do the writing on a site or field trip or unusual discovery as soon afterwards as possible. Set aside the time to do this job. It is unwise to put off writing an article until the spark of enthusiasm has died. A pyromaniac can't rekindle it.

3. Keep a "Dear Diary" on your sites. Record all important finds, conditions and conclusions. Don't trust important information to memory.

4. Above all, keep your writing up to date (i.e., following as closely behind discovery as possible).

THE EDITOR CAN'T, even if he would like to

1. Offer to pay for articles by the word. Boy, would that work wonders and result in the use of nice short words (why use "disestablishmentarianism" when you get paid the same for "id", "nix" or "chip"?)

2. Hire a secretary or two, just to work with report writers.

3. Send out dictating machines to each prospective writer. On second thought, why send out these things when secretaries would do so nicely?

4. Buy a horse whip to use on those he knows should be writing.

SOME AID AND COMFORT for busy would-be writers

The prime rule for making archaeological writing easier is "GET ORGANIZED!" Why do YOU shudder when you contemplate a writing job? Because you think about the entire job all at once and in all its minutest detail. Even a clock would stop if it thought about ticking 31,564,800 times a year. You do what the clock does: Break the whole job down into small tasks, each of which can be licked with ease.

Archaeological evidence is collected one piece at a time - why not article writing? Archaeological evidence was deposited by the Indian in a time sequence, a plan. How many writing projects are put on a planned time schedule?

It is also strange that so many archaeologists claim to have difficulty writing reports about their work. If you ask them to tell you a little bit about their favorite site or what they've found recently, you're lucky if you can get away before midnight. Good writing is very little different from good conversation. Both employ short words, short sentences, short paragraphs and simple statements. Try using a conversational style on that article you plan to write now. Write it down just like you would tell about it.

Article writing can be looked upon as an interesting mental challenge. Clear writing is indicative of clear, logical thinking; muddled writing means muddled thinking. Examine your work with a critical eye. Ask yourself "Does this say precisely what I want it to say?" "Will the fella who needs it get my ideas?"

NOW AT LAST a simple plug in and turn the crank procedure for article writing. Here is a specific (proven) procedure for tackling even the toughest writing assignment:

1. Decide exactly what you are going to write - the subject to be covered, and the ideas to be expressed (unusual discovery, site report, new relationship, etc.)
2. List the major subjects to be covered. Forget the details!
3. Beginning with a general introduction, arrange these major portions into a logical order of presentation - with ideas clearly following one another, like stepping stones.
4. Under each of these major topics, jot down (in brief phrase form) the various points you want to cover. You now have your outline (the skeleton is uncovered).
5. Leave the introductory section for the last if you like, but write the body of the article in strict "outline order". If this order proves inconvenient to work to, re-examine the logic of your outline (are the bones in proper order?). Change it if necessary.

FOCUS YOUR ATTENTION on one section at a time and proceed as follows:

6. Outline the material to be covered in each section, jotting down any ideas and phrases that may come to you. Group topics that are closely related.
7. Decide the points that can best be presented in pictures, charts or tables.
8. Sketch these figures in advance. Add labels and titles - these will make good text material when you come to write about the figures.
9. Decide what other work you will refer to and look it up in advance. Make necessary notes and bibliography.
10. NOW, with outline, figures and quotations from other sources before you, merely "talk" your way through the material in a simple conversational style. If your preparation has been careful, the writing will come easily, and have a clear and logical order. It will be a pleasure to read.

A FEW FURTHER SUGGESTIONS:

1. While writing one section of your article, forget the other sections. They will come later. Each section of a well-ordered report is a "package" in itself. By focusing attention on these little packages one at a time, an archaeologist can reduce an otherwise difficult writing chore into a simple task.
2. Begin new sections (and paragraphs when possible) with a general statement that introduces the reader to the new topic.
3. Don't hesitate to alter your outline as you go along. It is sometimes difficult to foresee the exact course of a report at the outset. If a section or paragraph becomes too large, divide it up.
4. In describing archaeological materials or work, don't be vague - be specific. Strive for simplicity and don't be ashamed of it. Direct your writing to the reader by keeping HIS interest in mind. Remember how much more familiar you are with your own work than he is.
5. Don't keep it a secret - write it down - do it now. Swamp the editor with good reports - he'll publish 'em if you do.

--- S. A. Mosley
(Editor's Note: Reference was made to this fine paper in the Morgan-Limestone Chapter report in the January 1963 Newsletter, and we apologize for not having run it sooner.)

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(Educational Page)

EARLY TRANSITIONAL PALEO-INDIAN CULTURE

This is the sixth in a series defining the cultural sequence in the Southeast. See June, August, October and December 1962, and February 1963 Newsletters for others. Paleo-Indian will be discussed in a future issue of the Newsletter.

Early Transitional Paleo-Indian may be relatively defined as the period of cultural development between the fluted point cultures and the Dalton - Big Sandy complex. The placement of artifact types during this period is still uncertain due to lack of stratified evidence of sufficient quantity.

A few stratified associations and associations from surface collections indicate a relative position for some projectile point types. These types may include Beaver Lake, Quad, Jeff and possibly unfluted Clovis. This does not mean that in some cases these types will not overlap some of the Late Transitional Paleo-Indian projectile point types, but judging from the evidence now at hand, these types seem to be somewhat earlier than types defined as Late Transitional Paleo-Indian.

It appears that during the period fluting of projectile points almost ceased. Occasionally Dalton and Wheeler points are fluted. It is as yet too early to definitely place the relationship between some of these early types. There is also the possibility that some points assigned to this Early Transitional period may have been in use at the time some fluted points were being made. The tools found in association with the points of this period are nearly all uniface and include most types found with Paleo-Indian points, and many of the tools found in Late Transitional Paleo-Indian and Early Archaic association.

The tool assemblage of cutting, scraping, graving and chopping implements reflect a hunting tradition for these people. Many of these tools are skillfully made from blades struck from cores, and show an ability to adapt the tool to the shape of the blade being used. For instance, most resolved flakes were utilized in making end scrapers while the longer straight sided blades were more often shaped into knives and side scrapers.

A suggested time period is from about 10,000 years ago to an earlier merging with Paleo-Indian or makers of fluted points.

--- James W. Cambron

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