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Alabama Archaeological Society

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Volume 25

MEMBER OF THE EASTERN STATES ARCHEOLOGICAL FEDERATION

Number 4

LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT, A.A.S.

Dear Society Members:

As President of the Alabama Archaeological Society, I would like to take this opportunity to urge you to contribute to the Society's scholarship fund. I was the recipient of the Society's first scholarship almost 10 years ago. As a previous recipient, I can assure you that the scholarship is deeply appreciated by the student of the season. Not only is the financial assistance a great help when times are hard and every penny must be stretched, but knowing that the Society is behind you and that its membership cares gives you that extra incentive to work hard and keep going.

This year the scholarship was increased to \$350 and was permanently dedicated to the memory of Steven B. Wimberly. Somehow it just seems right that the scholarship fund should be named in honor of Mr. Wimberly: a man whose concern about Alabama's archaeological resources was so intense and whose leadership and character helped mold the Society into the fine organization that it is today.

Sincerely,

McDonald Brooms President Alabama Archaeological Society

"FAKES"

We wanted to print an extract from an article in Volume 17, No. 3, "Prehistoric Art Archaeology '82'", to illustrate the wide market of fake artifacts and warn our readers to beware:

"The so-called crude Apachie points have been advertised in comic books and other magazines and sold in antique shops for years. The advertising states "made by Indians". They probably were and still are being made by Indians today. In the mid 1940's a shop was set up in Texas to saw out flat stone slabs that were then surface flaked and sold by mail at \$1.00 an inch.

These are referred to as 'Gray Ghosts' and it amazes me how often these poorly done reproductions in lengths of 6 to 14 inches continue to show up with the owner being unwilling to accept them as fake. I guess this is due to the fact that they have been around a long time. Add 50 years of collector histories to the fake flints being made today and one soon realizes the fake flint problem is not going to get better.

"It is reported that the factory in Texas that sawed out the 'Gray Ghosts' has been moved to a midwest state. They currently saw blanks and surface chip every shape imaginable from 1-inch-long bird points to 6-inch spears and longer. The current crop is done in white, gray and pink flint. Most are sold unaged by several relic dealers (as modern) at \$3.00 an inch. Use your own imagination as to what happens to these fakes after that!

"I think it is important here to state that most chippers sell their work unaged as their own work. It is my opinion that these chippers are doing the same thing as any artist reproducing a painting or known sculpture. It is when these flints are misrepresented that a crime takes place. Unfortunately, after these modern creations have passed through one or two hands, 99 per cent are sold or represented as old or authentic. This is usually done by a subtle sales job on the part of the seller and a case of extreme naiveness on the part of the buyer.

"Some chippers are studying point types and are being coached by studied collectors. This is in an attempt to create more perfect look-a-likes.

"A chipper in the south has devised a machine that will flute a blade full length. The blank is packed in clay and the angle of impact and point of strike are controlled, producing amazing results. This is currently being done to produce Cumberland fluted points.

"A crop of new Tennessee dover flint blades has recently appeared. These are being sold as authentic. They are all finely made and aged.

"Several Ohio-based auctions that assemble sales and accept consignments are selling across the block new Ohio-type doves, archaic bevels and fluted points. These are sold as authentic and are very well done. These fake types are showing up in black Ohio material and the popular flintridge chalcedony. One consigner boasts of a two-week aging process that will fool the advanced collector.

"Very well made and aged fake white and colored flint from Illinois and Missouri has been a problem for several years. These fakes have been made in the popular type shapes of dovetails, hardin barbs and fluted points.

"The collector dealer is showing up at more and more society shows across the midwest. They are displaying for sale or trade large quantities of modern flints that are aged and represented as authentic. These fakes usually sell to the new and young collector. The sellers have a sales pitch that puts a used-car salesman to shame.

"The Columbia River gem point, bird point, Caddo gem points and Cahokia points are being made better than the originals. They are sold by the maker for about \$10.00 each and resold as authentic by some dealers for as much as \$300.00.

"Well-made look-a-likes in every shape, type and material in the 3- to 6-inch range are currently being made and aged. These can be purchased whole-sale averaging about \$70.00 each and are being retailed from \$150.00 to \$300.00. These foolers are often used as trade stock with the unsuspecting.

"Large authentic spades with restoration or slight damage are being cut to size, notched and a new notched flint hoe is ready to join a collection. This is currently being done by a few, but more are becoming involved with redoing relics, and the large quantity of material turned out by these individuals is staggering.

"Reworked flint is often very hard to detect when aged. The modern possibilities of chemical aging will soon outdate the bubbling kettle of bark, herbs, and dyes on stove tops of current deceptors.

"Let the chips fall where they may, I say NO. Let the chips fall but let us educate, document and preserve what is known and can be proved."

(From an article entitled "Fake Flint" by John Baldwin in Volume 17, No. 3, 1982, "Prehistoric Art Archaeology '82'" - official publication of the Genuine Indian Relic Society, Inc.)

The Editors

TUSCALOOSA CHAPTER ORGANIZATIONAL MEETING

Mr. Tony Ferrell, Tuscaloosa, announces that a chapter organizational meeting will be held at the Tuscaloosa County Public Library, River Road, on Monday, April 4, 1983 at 7:00 p.m. Anyone interested in the formation of an archaeological chapter of the Alabama Archaeological Society should attend this meeting. Subsequent chapter meetings will be held at the same location and time on the first Monday of each month.

The Editors

NEW MEMBERS

Allen, Mr. Charles	Ι	2704 Oak Shadow Terrace; Birmingham, AL 35215
Bell, Mr. Louis W.	I	501 27th Ave.; Phenix City, AL 36867
Bunch, Mr. Ray	F	4007 South Park Ave.; Dothan, AL 36301
Getto, Mr. Jim	F	823 Landview Drive; Dothan, AL 36301

Hayes, Mr. Kenneth H.	Ι	13 Byrd Circle; Ozark, AL 36360
Lewis, Mr. Barry	I	Department of Anthropology, 109 Davenport Hall 607 South Mathews Ave.; Urbana, IL 60801
Mann, Mr. Cyril B., Jr.	I	Apartment 2, 205 North 34th Avenue Hattiesburg, MS 39401
Mitchell, Mrs. Jane	S	2512 Dolly Ridge Rd.; Birmingham, AL 35243
Moorer, Mr. William T.	I	256 Thompson Dr.; Ripley, TN 38063
Smith, Mr. Billy	I	5150 Wicklow Dr.; Baton Rouge, LA 70814
Williams, Mr. Donald H.	I	Route 2, Box 20-A; Lacey's Spring, AL 35754

MAN FINED \$50

Fort Gaines, Ga. - A two-year investigation of unauthorized digging for Indian artifacts on the Eufaula National Wildlife Refuge has led to the arrest of a Dothan, Ala., man.

Larry Davis pleaded guilty before U. S. Magistrate James F. Martin in Dothan Tuesday to a charge of unauthorized digging on federal property, according to a spokesman for the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers. He was fined \$50. "We had certainly hoped to get more than that out of him", the spokesman said.

Davis could have received a \$500 fine and 90 days in jail for the misdemeanor violation, officials said.

Martin, who fined Davis, said he imposed the \$50 penalty at the recommendation of U. S. Attorney Charles Niven of Montgomery. The defendant's guilty plea was the only testimony he heard, he said.

"I think it was fair", Martin said of the penalty. "I think I did the right thing".

Agents of the Corps of Engineers, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, FBI and the U. S. Justice Department were involved in the probe, which led to the recovery of 10 Indian pots, beads, iron bracelets and brass armbands. Authorities said Davis had sold the artifacts to another person in Dothan for several hundred dollars.

The artifacts have been stored at the Columbus Museum of Arts and Sciences under the care of archaeologist Frank Schnell. The museum is an approved repository for federal items. Schnell said Thursday the artifacts are priceless from the historical standpoint. They include two large burial urns about 18 inches in diameter, he said. "Those were the first two burial urns ever found on the Chattahoochee River", said Schnell.

The pottery is from the early 18th century. Archaeologists believe it came from the town of Sabacola. It was along the banks of the Chattahoochee north of Eufaula where Spaniards located the only Spanish mission in the Chattahoochee Valley, he said. A Spaniard visited Sabacola in 1716.

"There were some other people involved in the digging, but there was not enough evidence to charge them", the spokesman for the Corps said. The investigation began in October 1980, after agents received word that someone was trying to sell artifacts in the Columbus area, the official said.

(From an article in the "Columbus Enquirer", November 19, 1982; quoted in "The Profile", newsletter of the Society for Georgia Archaeology, Number 38 - December 1982.)

Footnote: With this type of judicial leniency for so flagrant a violation, the credibility of the Federal Antiquities Act is seriously damaged and can only result in encouragement for further vandalism.

The Editors

BOOK REVIEW

"The Siege of Mobile 1780 in Maps" - by William S. Coker and Hazel P. Coker. Volume 9 of the Spanish Borderlands Series. Pensacola, 1982. Available from the Perdido Bay Press; Route 2, Box 323; Pensacola, FL 32506. Softbound, \$12.95.

This book of 123 pages contains data on troop strength, military units, ships, casualties, prisoners of war and a brief history on Fort Charlotte. This book is "different" in that it steps you through the Spanish campaign against the British-held Mobile in a series of maps that visually shows you what is taking place as you read the narrative. It covers the period of August 17, 1779, through May 20, 1780, develops the preparation for the campaign, the sailing of the Spanish expedition, reinforcements from Havana and the Spanish encampments, negotiations with the British, construction of the Spanish battery, British reinforcements from Pensacola, and finally the bombardment of Fort Charlotte and its surrender. This is a well-researched work on the siege of Mobile and Professor Coker is well qualified and considered an outstanding scholar of the "Spanish Borderlands". He is Professor of History at University of West Florida. We recommend this book.

The Editors

CHAPTER NEWS

Huntsville Chapter

The Huntsville Chapter, Alabama Archaeological Society, meets the third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Arts Council Conference Room, Von Braun Civic Center. For more information call Program Chairman Roy Blair, Jr., at 534-9663.

The Chapter was pleased to welcome Mary-Eliza and Charles Moore from Florence as the speakers at the March 15 meeting. The Moores spoke on the Anasazi Culture of the Southwestern United States.

Mary-Eliza and Charles are long-time members of the Alabama Archaeological Society. Both are on the Board of Directors; Charles is Chairman of the Archaeological Resources Committee and was very active in the formation of the Indian Mound Museum in Florence.

Ellis Whitt was in charge of the point-of-the-month discussion at the March Chapter meeting. He selected fluted points in the Tennessee Valley as his topic. Several Chapter members brought fluted points from their collections for this discussion period.

Muscle Shoals Chapter

Mr. Bart Henson of Huntsville presented a slide-illustrated program on the subject of petroglyphs of the Tennessee Valley. He contrasted the style of local petroglyphs and those of some sites in surrounding states. Mr. Charles Hubbert led the discussion of the point of the month, which was the Clovis. Charles emphasized that although the Clovis point is found in most areas of North America, we know very little about "Clovis Man".

ARCHAEOFEST II

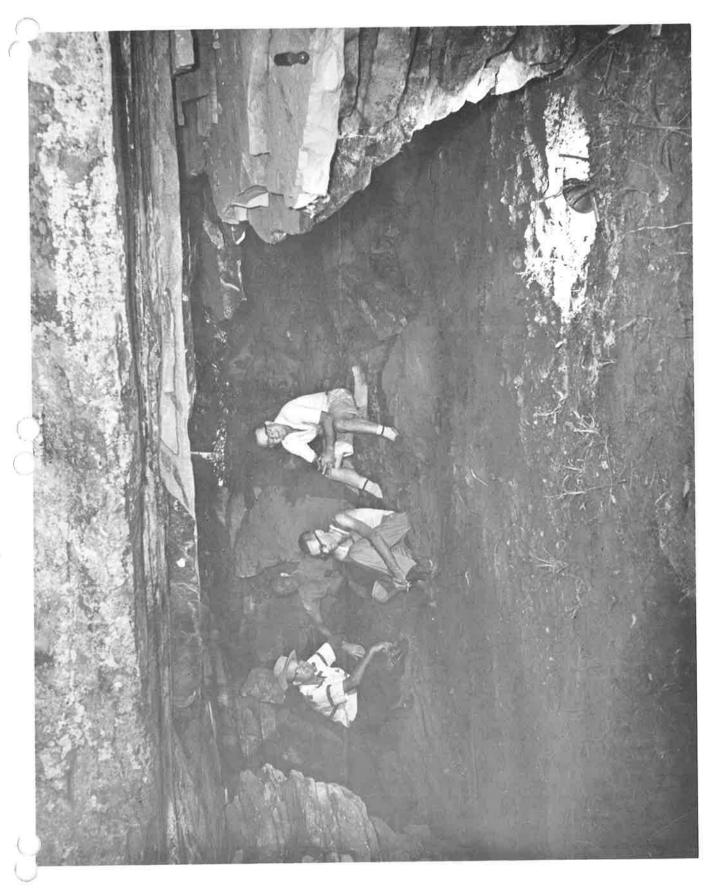
The Jackson-Madison County Community Economic Development Commission appropriated \$1,500 to sponsor the second annual "Archaeofest", to be held at Pinson Mounds State Archaeological Area, Pinson, Tennessee, on May 7-8, 1983. The event will feature Indian dancing, crafts demonstrations, workshops on artifact identification and surveying techniques, and films on Indian crafts and archaeology. For further information contact: Mary L. Kwas; Historical Area Supervisor; Pinson Mounds State Archaeological Area; Route 1, Box 316; Pinson, Tennessee 38366. Telephone: (901) 988-5614.

The Editors

 $\underline{\text{Mr. Ed Mahan}}$ of Guntersville submitted the following information and the photograph on page 7 for a nostalgic view of some of the Society's activities of 20 years ago.

Members of the Marshall County Archaeological Society are shown sitting inside the Asbury Rock House Shelter. A test pit may be seen in the lower left of the photograph. Members, from left to right are: Edward C. Mahan of Honeycomb Valley, Actoon Boone of Guntersville, A. B. Hooper, III. of Albertville, and Gordon Sibley, Albertville. Dr. A. G. Long of Guntersville made the photograph.

In the summer of 1962 excavations were begun on the Asbury Rock House Shelter where "several fluted fragments apparently of the Cumberland variety were excavated for the first time in an early context suggesting that this undated eastern fluted type is at least equally old as the Dalton." (Journal of Alabama Archaeology, Volume 11, Number One, June 1965.)



STONES & BONES 7 April 1983

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Available issues of Journal of Alabama Archaeology Vol. 13-18, each issue							
Vol. 20-24 (\$2.50 to Members)							
Stanfield-Worley Bluff Shelter Excavations (Journal of Alabama Archaeology) Vol. VIII Nos. 1 & 2 - Reprint, each issue \$5.00 pp							
Special Publication 1 — Fort Mitchell							
Special Publication 2 — The Archaeological Sequence at Durant Bend, Dallas County, Alabama							
Special Publication 3 — Archaeological Investigations at Horseshoe Bend \$6.50 pp							
Handbook of Alabama Archaeology Part 1, Point Types							
Lively, Long, Josselyn - Pebble Tool Paper\$3.00 pp							
Investigations in Russell Cave, published by the National Park Service							
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