

# Alabama Archaeological Society

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MEMBER OF THE EASTERN STATES ARCHEOLOGICAL FEDERATION

A.A.S. - WHERE TO FROM HERE IN 1982

We had a letter some time ago from a "long-time member" of A.A.S. giving us the benefit of his views and suggestions on ways and means of helping A.A.S. to better achieve its goals and objectives (this member was from out of state). His reminiscences of the 1960's and the dedicated work of some of our early members started us thinking about those days also. We are reminded of the enthusiasm of Dan Josselyn, who was of such a dynamic personality that he could arouse the interest of almost anyone. We think our long-time member was telling us that we need another Dan Josselyn - and he's right. We need a lot of dedicated, enthusiastic people that will spend some time and effort toward making A.A.S. into a more viable, active group. Most of us that are now "semi-active" in the Society seem to project the image that our responsibilities are a "drag" and "how can I get out of doing this or that". We all spend our time, like our money, where we want to spend it, based on our own set of priorities, and apparently A.A.S. doesn't have a very high priority. The Society also needs more support from the professional archaeologists within Alabama, and we hasten to add that we do get good support from a few that are concerned with the Society and the nonprofessional. We recently read an article in the "Ohio Archaeologist", Volume 31 #2, 1981, by David R. Bush, President of the Department of Anthropology at Case Western Reserve University, written on behalf of the Ohio Archaeological Council (the Alabama Archaeological Council, made up of professional archaeologists, is a comparable group) seeking ways of "burying the hatchet" between professionals and nonprofessionals. The column is going to be a continuing contribution by the O.A.C. We think the thrust of his article was - both professionals and nonprofessionals make their contribution to archaeology; both are here to stay and one or the other will not go away; consequently, let's make the best of this situation and cooperate. Applying this line of thought to our own situation, we would appreciate more articles for the Newsletter from professionals on their activities and projects. Our membership is always interested in what's currently going on and what are the results and conclusions (even tentative) of those projects.

The nonprofessionals we suppose fall roughly into two categories: the avocational and the proverbial "pot hunter". Sometimes some people view all nonprofessionals as the same, but this is an erroneous view, since many avocational archaeologists have made and continue to make significant contributions. There is also a group that somewhat "floats" between these two categories we have mentioned; not quite as dedicated as the avocational, yet not really a "pot hunter".

January 1982

The "pot hunter" has only one thing in mind - the possession (for collection or sale) of Indian artifacts without regard to where or how they were obtained, nor the irreparable damage that may have been done in retrieving such artifacts. Regardless of our personal likes or dislikes, it is a fact of life that these people exist and will continue to exist. We may condemn them, pass laws against them, or just hope they will go away, but regardless of all these things, the "pot hunter" will continue to survive in one form or another. The only long-term solution to this problem is for both professionals and avocationalists to spend time and effort with them showing and pointing out (educate, if you will) what they are doing, and convince them to turn around and make a constructive contribution. But in order to do this we must be willing to "rub elbows" with them, and this may be difficult because many of us will feel "tainted" - or even worse - that we may be condoning what they are doing. These people quickly realize they are not wanted, and just as quickly turn away, forming other groups or societies. We as a society dedicated to the preservation of archaeological remains in Alabama, somehow need to reach out to these people and groups and attempt to obtain their constructive involvement. However, too many of us are not willing to spend this time and effort, and so the vandalism and destruction continue - seemingly at an even faster pace.

Destruction of archaeological sites is by no means limited to "pot hunters", but for some reason the wrath of the professional is directed at them - perhaps because they are more visible. We know of sites, some significant, that are totally destroyed by housing - urban construction - with no effort to "reach" the developer or landowner, who also needs to be "educated". We see construction by governmental agencies, or contractors therefor, that we are convinced never had an archaeological survey; yet we see little or no effort to reach and "educate" these people. Many more sites are destroyed by this method than by the "pot hunter" simply because the scope of this destruction is unknown, unseen and complete. The latest issue of EARLY MAN, Volume 3, #2, 1981 is devoted to this type of site destruction.

The place to really educate people on the need to help preserve Alabama's archaeological remains is, of all places, the schools. We need to reach the educators and convince them of the need to instill in young people the need for conservation and preservation. It is a responsibility we should all be made aware of; and the time and place to do this is in the secondary schools, before the child grows up to be an adult "pot hunter". A recent effort in this direction was the new book by Christine Wimberly on Alabama Indians and archaeology, pointed to the 9th-grade level. But all students need repeated exposure to preservation; and this involves the top educators in our state, starting with the Superintendent of Education and Boards of Education at state and local level. But again, we see little or no effort to reach these people and also "educate" them. The possibilities are almost limitless if we set our mind to it and are willing.

Our long-time member also included in his letter that the Newsletter had "shrunk" to a few pages of book reviews and Society business meetings. Although we can't fully agree with that, we do acknowledge that his criticism is valid, and we renew our pledge of trying to do a better job in the future and make for a more interesting and readable Newsletter. Some of you may rightfully say "let's start improving the Newsletter by omitting long editorials such as this one", but when our pen got started, we just couldn't seem to stop without letting it all out.

We do not intend that our comments be critical toward any individual, but we do intend to point out that your Society exists on the basis of our collective contributions and the degree of those contributions, which directly reflects the interest and concern of both professionals and nonprofessionals in Alabama. Right now we reluctantly conclude that interest and concern are not of very high priority with most members.

We urge all our members to make a determined effort to participate in Society activities, attend meetings, be willing to serve as an officer or on a committee assignment, express your views and be willing at the same time to assume some responsibility for furthering the goals and objectives of A.A.S.

And last of all, we want to thank that "long-time member" for taking the time and effort to express his interest and concern.

A happy new year to all.

The Editors

#### 1982 DUES

1982 dues are due. Pay now and don't miss any publications, as our cut-off date is March for those who haven't paid. Remember, you get two Journal issues and 12 "informative" Newsletters each year for only \$9. Not many archaeological societies across the country can equal that. The size and quality of our Journal rates right up there with the best, and we know of no other organization that produces a quality newsletter every month, year after year. So pay up your renewal today and save the Society the cost of sending you a renewal notice.

The Editors

#### CHAPTER NEWS

##### Birmingham Chapter

The Birmingham Anthropological Society will meet January 14 at the Red Mountain Museum auditorium at 7:30 p.m. The program will be "Archaeology of the Great Plains", with Dr. Dick Krause as speaker. Dr. Krause is Professor and Chairman, Department of Anthropology, University of Alabama. The Society welcomes guests to its programs.

##### Huntsville Chapter

The Huntsville Chapter conducted a workshop session at the December 1981 meeting. Bart Henson narrated a slide presentation on Archaic points; he and Jim Lee (Chapter President for 1981) then led a study of the two "points of the month": the Plevna and Lost Lake.

The January Chapter meeting will be on Tuesday the 19th at 7 p.m. in the Arts Council Conference Room, Von Braun Civic Center. Chapter member Mr. Houston Wright will present a slide program on the Crystal River in Florida entitled "Origins of the Mississippian Culture". The "Point of the Month" will be the Madison. Visitors are always welcome.

Huntsville Chapter officers for 1982 are:

President	Ellis Whitt
1st Vice President	Larry Warren
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#### Muscle Shoals Chapter

The Chapter met on December 14 at the Indian Mound Museum in Florence. Mr. Al Beinlich led the study of the "Point of the Month", which was the Morrow Mountain. The program was presented by Houston Wright of Huntsville. His subject was "The Adena and Hopewell Phases in the Lower Tennessee River Basin". He gave an interesting lecture and slide narration of his subject.

Bob Morgan and Gregory Waselkov made comments about the beginning of their survey of Seven Mile Island. Gregory Waselkov will bring the Chapter a program on January 11 about Fort Toulouse.

#### BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

There will be a meeting of the A.A.S. Board of Directors on Wednesday, January 20 at the Western Sizzlin' Restaurant on Oxmoor Road in Birmingham. This will be a dinner meeting; full information will be provided to Board members by mail.

The Editors

#### NEW MEMBERS

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#### SOME BOOK NOTES OF INTEREST

THE FIND OF A LIFETIME: Sir Arthur Evans and the Discovery of Knossos, by Sylvia L. Horwitz. Viking Press, N. Y., 1981, price \$14.95.

This is a fascinating and well-written book about the famous archaeologist Arthur Evans.

MAN: TWELVE THOUSAND YEARS UNDER THE SEA: a Story of Underwater Archaeology, by Robert F. Burgess. Dodd Pub., 1980, price \$12.95.

This book is about underwater explorations around the world. Also, about a couple of underwater sites in Florida where many unusual artifacts were found. New methods of exploring sites and materials used and new laws quoted.

ETHWAH PAPERS: Exploration of the Etowah Site in Georgia, by Warren King Moorehead. This is a reprint of this book, by Charley G. Drake, Union City, GA 30291; 1979, price \$14.95.

This is a fine reprint of a long-out-of-print and rare book by Morehead, and it gives a detailed study of this site, early history, and his excavations on three mounds and the moat. The enormous amount of artifacts found, such as copper and shell work, monolithic axes, pottery and burials, are described.

Margaret Perryman Smith  
Atlanta

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\* Immediate past president of the Alabama Archaeological Society.

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Lively, Long, Josselyn - <i>Pebble Tool Paper</i>	\$3.00 pp
<i>Investigations in Russell Cave</i> , published by the National Park Service	\$5.00 pp
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