

Alabama Archaeological Society

Associate Editors
Bart Henson
Dorothy Luke

STONES & BONES NEWSLETTER

Editor
Amos J. Wright
2602 Green Mountain Rd.
Huntsville, Alabama 35803

MEMBER OF THE EASTERN STATES ARCHEOLOGICAL FEDERATION

PRELIMINARY INFORMATION ON ANNUAL MEETING, ALABAMA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Give yourself an early Christmas vacation! Plan to join us Friday night, December 7, for a pre-meeting potluck (we'll supply the food) at Dru McGowen's (130 W. Glenn, right next to the Omelet Shop; in fact, you'll have to park in and behind said eatery)! But it'll have you here bright and early for registration and coffee and this more than tentative schedule:

Saturday

8:30-10 a.m.

Registration, Room 246 Foy Union

9 a.m.

Board meeting, Room 215

10 a.m.

KEYNOTE SPEAKER: DAVID DEJARNETTE

10:45 a.m. -noon

TVA archaeologist

12 noon

Lunch - on your own - War Eagle Cafeteria
(Get together with selected friends!)

1 p.m.

Annual meeting. (Could we please have reports from each of the chapters! Just a very brief summary of your activities.)

2-5 p.m.

Summation of archaeological history from each section of our state.

7 p.m.

Buffet dinner at Heart of Auburn Motel with guest speaker.

9 p.m.

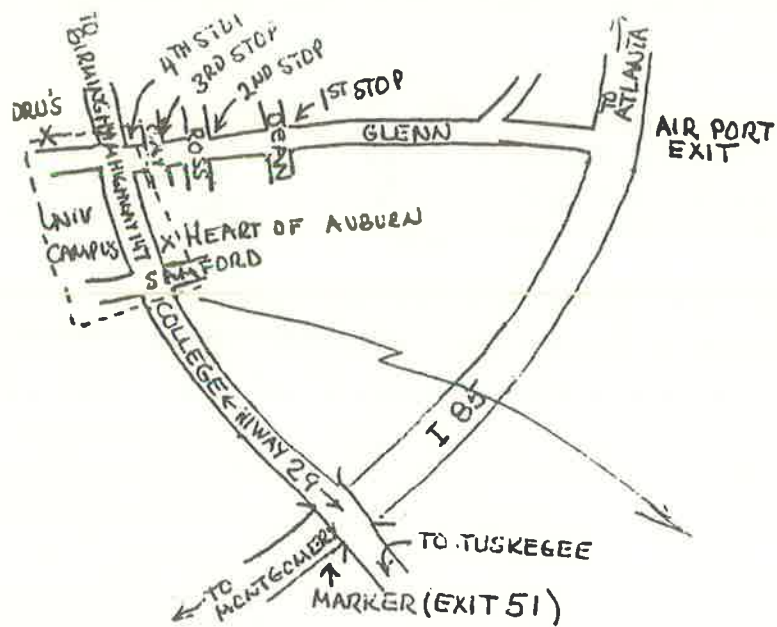
After-party at Cottiers'

Sunday

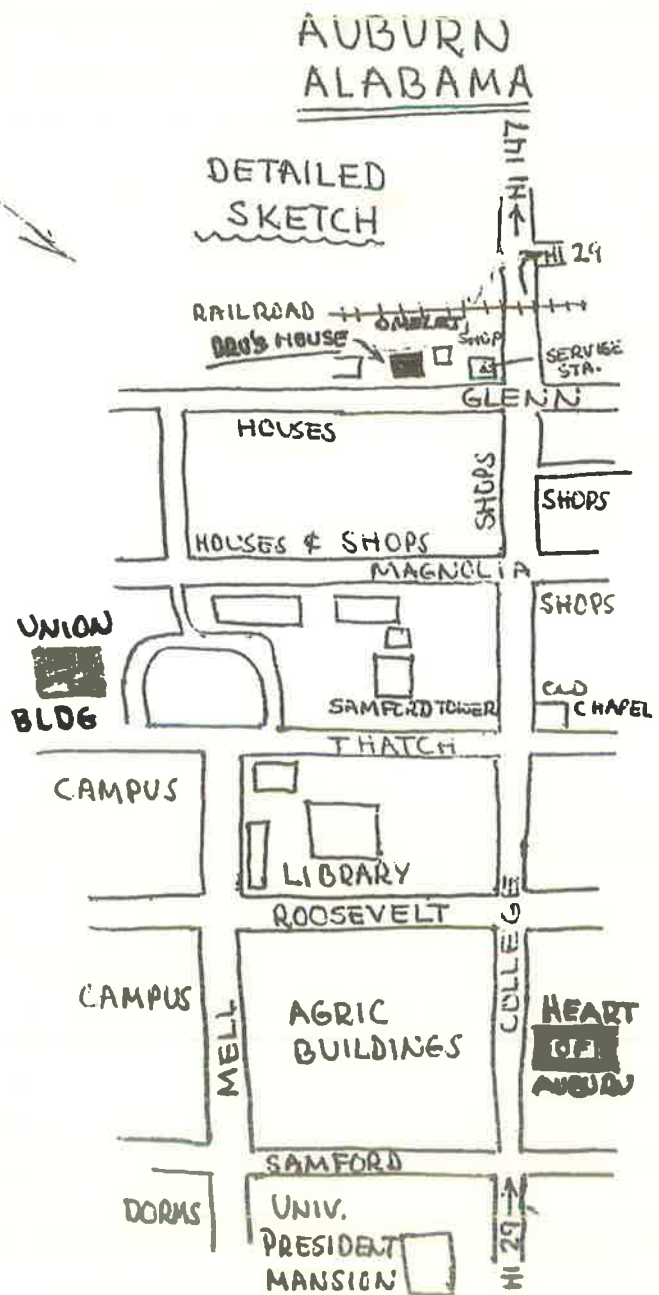
8:30 a.m.

Guided tour of Horseshoe Bend and/or Auburn Heritage Association annual tour of historic homes.

November 1979



GENERAL SKETCH



You can make room reservations at Heart of Auburn Motel (right across from campus) by mail: 333 So. College; Auburn, Alabama 36830, or telephone 205/887-3462. One person: \$15.75; two people (one bed): \$17.85; two people, two beds: \$21; three folks, two beds: \$23.10; four folks, two beds: \$25.

More details on the Annual Meeting will appear in the December STONES & BONES; please use the enclosed registration form to assist the East Alabama Chapter in planning the meeting.

Dru McGowen
Auburn

DR. WILLIAM M. SPENCER, JR. - A FRIEND OF ARCHAEOLOGY

On September 18, 1979, Dr. William M. ("Bill") Spencer died at the age of 89. A Harvard Law School graduate (Doctor of Jurisprudence) with an honorary doctorate bestowed on him by the University of Alabama, Bill Spencer carried his honors with extreme dignity yet with a jovial sense of humor that allowed people many years his junior to call him "Bill". He was a devout Christian, a member of St. Mary's Episcopal Church, Birmingham.

Bill grew up in Gallion, Alabama, where until his death he held farming interests.

Bill's interests in archaeology were numerous and varied. As Chairman of the Board of the Birmingham Art Museum, he brought to the museum important archaeological exhibits from all over the world. A major new wing of the museum building is named for him. An editorial in the Birmingham News states "The institution (art museum) became a major cultural influence in this community".

As a special friend of Alabama archaeology, Dr. Spencer gave generously of his time and finances to archaeology. As President and Treasurer of the "Archaeological Research Association of Alabama, Inc.," he was a driving force in this organization, whose first major project was the raising of funds to finance the excavation of the Stanfield-Worley Bluff Shelter in northwest Alabama. The Alabama Archaeological Society's publication of these findings has been a major contribution to the archaeology of the entire western hemisphere.

Bill's zest for life, his sincerity, dignity and contagious joviality are sorely missed by his family and friends. Bill lived at 14 Ridge Drive; Mountain Brook, Alabama; and is survived by a son, William M. Spencer III, Birmingham; a daughter, Mrs. Adrian Alton Ringland, Jr., Birmingham; a number of grandchildren; and a sister, Mrs. Sue Collins, Birmingham.

Steve Wimberly
Birmingham

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CHAPTER NEWS

Birmingham Chapter: The Birmingham Chapter meets the second Thursday of each month at the Red Mountain Museum. Call Tom Hutto for further information at 956-1895.

Cullman Chapter: The October meeting was held on the 15th; the program included the film "The First Americans".

East Alabama: The Chapter meets the second Wednesday of each month in Thach Auditorium, Auburn University, at 7:30. For information, call Dru McGowen at 821-2595.

Huntsville Chapter: The Huntsville Chapter met on October 16 to hear Mr. Maurice Jones of Decatur discuss "Civil War Bullets". Mr. Jones, an authority on the Civil War in north Alabama, gave a most interesting program, with slides on the various types of bullets one might expect to find in this area and a display of bullets, cartridges and other Civil War artifacts. The Huntsville Chapter's "dig" at the Constitution Hall site is continuing; remains of a walkway and a chimney base were recently uncovered, as well

as a number of human teeth, a portion of a clay pipe, military uniform buttons, an 1836 dime and the basal portion of a fluted point. The Huntsville Chapter meets the third Tuesday of each month in the Arts Council Conference Room, north end of the Von Braun Civic Center, at 7 p.m.

Muscle Shoals Chapter: The Chapter held its October meeting on the 8th at the Indian Mound Museum in Florence. A discussion and study session on the Madison and Hamilton points was led by Al Beinlich. Carey Oakley presented an excellent lecture and slide narration on Moundville. He also told the Chapter about the new laboratory under construction there. Twenty-four members and guests attended the meeting.

WRITING IN AMERICA BEFORE COLUMBUS

A "Conference on Writing in America before Columbus" was held in Columbus, Georgia, October 18-20. The conference, sponsored by Columbus College and financially assisted by the Committee for the Humanities in Georgia through a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, was attended by 74 pre-registered individuals and an estimated 30 more who registered at the conference.

Papers given were illustrated with slides, and in several instances included the exhibition of rare artifacts believed to represent a positive "old world" contact with pre-Columbian America. Papers included the following: "The Hearn Tablet - a Sumerian Notation from Lagrange, Georgia" (Dr. Curtiss Hoffman); "... Neolithic Frame of Reference Relating to American Inscriptions" (Dr. Cyclone Covey); "Writing on Metal in the New World" (Dr. Paul Cheesman); "Yuchi Symbols Related to the Minoan Linear A and Semitic Alphabet" (Dr. Joseph Mahan); "Finding and Identifying American Epigraphic Materials" (Ms. Gloria Farley); "Origins of Old World Scripts" (Dr. Normal Totten); and several papers by consultants and panelists. Individuals with photographs, slides, plaster casts, and artifacts indicating pre-Columbian old-world contacts who did not appear on the program exhibited their materials during the informal sessions and evening.

One of the most popular artifacts exhibited was the Hearn Tablet from Lagrange, Georgia. Dr. Hoffman believes this tiny cuneiform tablet found 16 years ago by Mrs. Joseph Hearn of Lagrange may be an important link between ancient Chattahoochee Valley cultures and the third dynasty of Sumer in the Middle East. The tablet is less than 1 1/2 inches square and has a cuneiform inscription giving details of animals for sacrifice. The tablet is cast in Georgia lead as determined by spectographic analysis. When or why it was cast is not known. The original mold for the tablet was cast in 2050 B. C. "give or take a year".

If the effect and impact of the meeting could be summarized in a few words, it would be that there is a substantial body of evidence in script, cultural traditions, language, and numerous artifacts to support the thesis of pre-Columbian contact with the Americas by people of Asia, Africa and Europe.

Papers of the conference will be published by: The Epigraphic Society; 6 Woodland Street; Arlington, Massachusetts 02174.

The Editors

PINSON MOUND STATE PARK

The park is located on the flood plain of the South Forked Deer River about 20 miles southeast of Jackson, Tennessee, near the town of Pinson on U. S. Highway 45. The mound group originally numbered 35 mounds, but due to farming at least 15 have been destroyed. Gone, also, is the six-mile-long palisade wall that the Indians built that surrounded the mounds. The wall was still standing when Joel Pinson led a survey group into the area of Madison County about 1818. As late as 1880 there were 35 mounds still evident.

Saul's Mound, one of the 20 remaining mounds, is 75 feet high. It is the second-tallest Indian mound in the United States. Monk's Mound, in the Cahokia group near East St. Louis, Illinois, is the tallest, about 100 feet high. It is also the largest earthwork structure in the world.

A zigzag set of steps is being built beside Saul's Mound (being careful not to destroy the mound), and the area is being developed into a state park which is scheduled to be opened to the public late next year.

Sidelight: Mound B at Moundville is 68 1/2 feet high and the highest mound of the Moundville group. The mound at Florence is 43 feet high.

(Abstracted from an article by Dan Henderson in The Commercial Appeal Mid South Magazine; Memphis, Tennessee; June 17, 1979.)

Al Beinlich
Sheffield

ANTHROPOLOGY SERIES "ODYSSEY" TO AIR ON PBS NEXT MARCH

Michael Ambrosino, creator of NOVA, the most successful science series on television, is producing the first American series on anthropology and archaeology for broadcast on the Public Broadcasting Service (PBS) next March. The 13-week program, called ODYSSEY, will feature a few of the fascinating stories about people living throughout the world today and people who preceded us hundreds and even thousands of years ago.

The series has received major support from the National Endowment for the Humanities (\$1.2 million) and additional funding has been provided by the Corporation for Public Broadcasting (\$750,000) and Polaroid Corporation.

ODYSSEY will take its viewers to all parts of the globe where human beings have left their mark - the edge of the Arctic Circle and the jungles of Indonesia, the 12,000 foot peaks of the Peruvian Andes and a sunken Spanish galleon off the coast of Ireland. Along the way, ODYSSEY programs will uncover evidence of America's earliest inhabitants, trace 26 years in the life of a !Kung bushwoman in the Kalahari Desert, and unravel the mysteries of two highly organized societies of the New World - the Inca Empire in Peru and the pueblo-dwelling people of Chaco Canyon.

With a grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities, Ambrosino spent two years researching and planning ODYSSEY. He consulted with many of the nation's most eminent anthropologists and archaeologists, nine of whom now form his advisory committee.

One ODYSSEY program will focus on the role of women among the Masai of Kenya, while another will explore how the lifeways of the Cree Indians in Canada are being threatened by the demands of modern civilization. Other programs will trace the life and work of the irascible Franz Boas, one of the founders of American anthropology, and the fascinating story behind the deciphering of the Egyptian hieroglyphs. A program on historical archaeology will demonstrate that written accounts of our history are often inaccurate and even untrue!

PBA is now planning a full-color, 64-page viewer magazine to be distributed by libraries across the country. The ODYSSEY magazine will give viewers additional insight into the series and our human heritage. It will contain production stories, photographs, maps, and articles written by experts on anthropological issues. PBA will also publish a poster and a descriptive brochure about ODYSSEY.

The Editors

VOLUNTEERS WANTED

If you can volunteer work with an archaeologist on weekends, send your name, address, telephone number and area within Alabama that you can work to the Editor of the Newsletter. This would be considered as an on-going list for the next few years, dealing with area surveys, impact statements, etc.

Howard King
Cullman

NEW MEMBERS

Hanna, Mr. and Mrs. Kenneth M. - P. O. Box 65; Hollywood, Alabama 35752

PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

Archaeological Salvage in the Walter F. George Basin of the Chattahoochee River in Alabama, a hardbound report, published by University of Alabama Press (\$2.50 to members)	\$5.00 pp
Available issues of <i>Journal of Alabama Archaeology</i> Vol. 13-18	\$1.00 pp
Vol. 20-24 (\$2.50 to Members)	\$4.00 pp
<i>Stanfield-Worley Bluff Shelter Excavations</i> (Journal of Alabama Archaeology) . Vol. VIII Nos. 1 & 2 - Reprint)	\$5.00 pp
Special Publication 1 — Fort Mitchell	\$2.00 pp
Special Publication 2 — <i>The Archaeological Sequence at</i> <i>Durant Bend, Dallas County, Alabama</i>	\$4.50 pp
<i>Handbook of Alabama Archaeology Part I, Point Types</i>	\$7.35 pp
Lively, Long, Josselyn - <i>Pebble Tool Paper</i>	\$3.00 pp
<i>Investigations in Russell Cave</i> , published by the National Parks Service	\$5.00 pp
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MAIL CHECKS TO: MR. EUGENE FUTATO, Drawer BA, University, Alabama 35486	

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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 appropriate boxes are checked.

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