

Alabama Archaeological Society

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STONES & BONES NEWSLETTER

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⌞ A. A. S. Summer Meeting ⌞

The Alabama Archaeological Society meeting will be held Saturday, July 10, 1993, at Dust Cave near Florence, Alabama. The summer meeting will be held in conjunction with the University of Alabama / A. A. S. Summer Dig.

There is no admission charge to attend the summer meeting. The site of the meeting is not accessible by private car, as it located inside a locked gate and 1.5 miles off the paved road. If you would like to attend the meeting, be at the south side of the Indian Mound in Florence before 8 a. m. on the day of the meeting; a van will ferry people to and from the site. A second run to the site will be made at 10 a. m. Return trips to the Indian Mound will be made at 2 p. m. and 4 p. m., or as necessary.

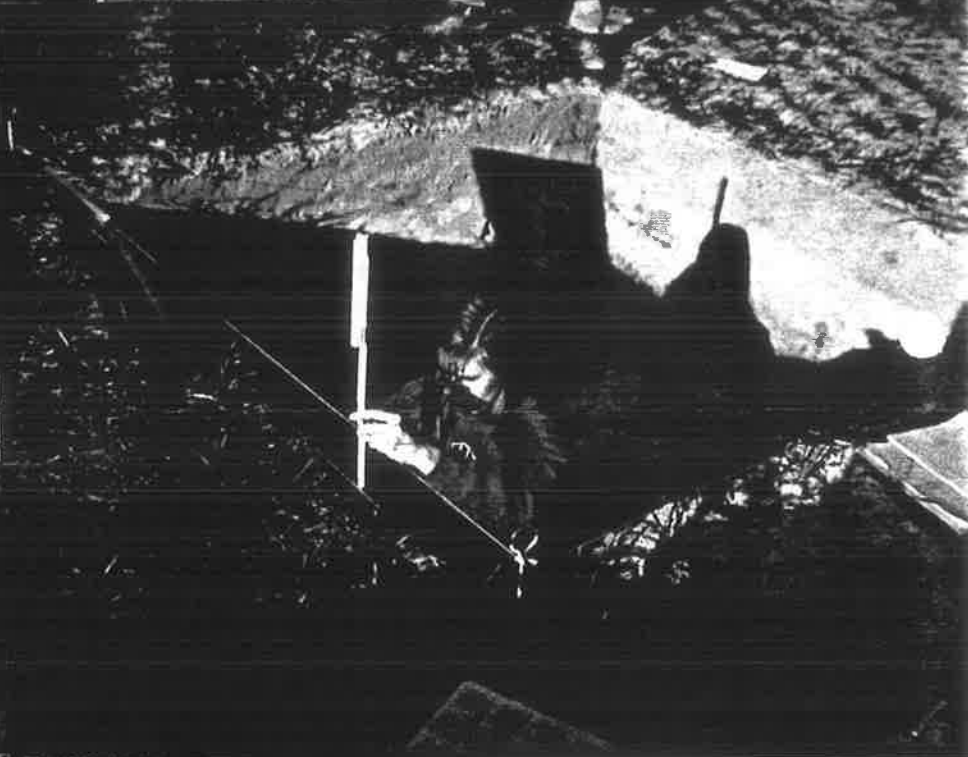
Hotels in the area include the Comfort Inn, 400 South Court Street, Florence: Telephone (205)766-8888; the Florence /Tourway Inn, 1915 Florence Blvd.; Telephone (205)766-2620, and the Best Western located at 504 South Court Street (US 43 and 72 at SR 17 and 157). Their toll-free reservation number is 1-800-248-5336.

As was noted in past issues of the *Stones and Bones*, archaeological deposits began accumulating in Dust Cave over 10,000 years ago. Successive occupations by prehistoric Native Americans resulted in a series of layers of residential debris, mostly stone artifacts, bones and charred plant food remains, bone tools, and hearths. These layers measure up to four meters in thickness, showing evidence that the cave was used as living quarters as late as 6,000 years ago. Dr. Boyce Driskell of the University of Alabama has been excavating at Dust Cave for three summers in conjunction with students from the University of Alabama and the University of North Alabama.

Excavations at 1Co54

The photographs on page 2 are field excavations and lab operations at 1Co54 in Enterprise, and the Troy State Archaeology Lab. Left to right: (Top) Field Supervisor Tray Earnest instructs Brandon Brazil on setting up a transit. Mike Nichols carefully excavates a large fire hearth located 15 c.m. below the surface. (Middle) Instructor Mac Brooms identifies and analyzes a projectile point recently brought in from the field. Heather Wilson measures levels and zones while drawing a profile. (Bottom) Waterscreen activities near the creek result in some very wet students!

** Editors Note- the editors hope that these photos will spark some interest in our site, and we welcome A.A.S. members will join our excavation this summer.*



New Publications

" *The Last Redoubt: Archaeological Investigations at Fort Tyler, Troup County, Georgia*" has been prepared by Garrow and Associates, Inc. under contract with the Fort Tyler Association in West Point, Georgia. The study was done to determine the boundaries of the fort and assess its state of preservation. Fort Tyler was the last earthen fort to fall during the Civil War. In 1897, the area was covered by the West Point Reservoir. Most of the original walls and ditches remain on the western and part of the southern sides of the fortification. Interpretive signs and a trail are being prepared to guide visitors around the area. The trail was opened for the anniversary of the Battle of Fort Tyler on April 16. A copy of the archaeological report is available for review at the Troup County Archives in LaGrange, Georgia and at the Cobb Memorial Archives in Valley, Alabama. (Taken from Chattahoochee Tracings, (Spring 1993)

The Earth Does Not Belong to a Man, Man Belongs to the Earth

The President in Washington sends word that he wishes to buy our land. But how can you buy or sell the sky? The land? The idea is strange to us. If we do not own the freshness of the air and the sparkle of the water, how can you buy them?

Every part of this earth is sacred to my people. Every shining pine needle, every sandy shore, every mist in the dark woods, every meadow, every humming insect. All are holy in the memory and experience of my people.

We know the sap which courses through the trees as we know the blood that courses through our veins. We are part of the earth and it is part of us. The perfumed flowers are our sisters. The bear, the deer, the great eagle, these are our brothers. The rocky crests, the juices in the meadow, the body heat of the pony, and man, all belong to the same family.

The shining water that moves in the streams and rivers is not just water, but the blood of our ancestors. If we sell you our land, you must remember that it is sacred. Each ghostly reflection in the clear waters of the lakes tells of events and memories in the life of my people. The water's murmur is the voice of my father's father.

The rivers are our brothers. They quench our thirst. They carry our canoes and feed our children. So you must give to the rivers the kindness you would give to any brother.

If we sell you our land, remember that the air is precious to us, that the air shares its spirit with all the life it supports. The wind that gave our grandfather his first breath also receives his last sigh. The wind also gives our children the spirit of life. So if we sell you our land, you must keep it apart and sacred, as a place where man can go to taste the wind that is sweetened by the meadow flowers.

Will you teach your children what we have taught our children? That the earth is our mother? What befalls the earth befalls all the sons of the earth.

This we know: the earth does not belong to a man, man belongs to the earth. All things are connected like the blood that unites us all. Man did not weave the web of life, he is merely a strand in it. Whatever he does to the web, he does to himself.

One thing we know: our God is also your God. The earth is precious to him and to harm the earth is to heap contempt on its creator.

Your destiny is a mystery to us. What will happen when the buffalo are all slaughtered? The wild horses tamed? What will happen when the secret corners of the forest are heavy with the scent of many men and the view of the ripe hills is blotted out by talking wires? Where will the thicket be? Gone! Where will the eagle be? Gone! And what is it to say goodbye to the swift pony and the hunt? The end of living and the beginning of survival.

When the last Red Man has vanished with his wilderness and his memory is only the shadow of a cloud moving across the prairie, will these shores and forest still be here? Will there be any of the spirit of my people left?

We love this earth as a newborn loves its mother's heartbeat. So, if we sell you our land, love it as we have loved it. Care for it as we have cared for it. Hold in your hand the memory of the land as it is when you receive it. Preserve the land for all children and love it, as God loves us all.

As we are part of the land, you too are part of the land. This earth is precious to us. It is also precious to you. One thing we know: there is only one God. No man, be he Red Man, or White Man, can be apart. We are brothers after all.

Chief Seattle

What's Happening Around the State

Troy State University . . .

. . . recently received two Carbon - 14 dates from charcoal found in features excavated at the Enterprise site, (1Co54) in Coffee County. The first feature was a Middle Archaic cylindrical pit that dated at 7250 B.P. (+/- 100). The Middle Archaic component on the site is associated with both Eva and Morrow Mountain Projectile Points.

The second Carbon - 14 date came from a feature containing late Fiber Tempered Pottery, and a Little Bear Creek Projectile Point. This feature is representative of the terminal Gulf Formational Period with a date of 2160 B.P. (+/- 70). TSU is awaiting the return of more dates from features associated with Bolen Beveled and Hardaway Projectile Points as well as very early fiber tempered ceramics.

Excavations at 1Co54 are in full force now that the summer months are here with a crew of over 30 students in the field each day. Alabama Archaeological Society members are welcome to visit the excavation. Please call the Archaeology Lab at TSU: ☎ (205) 670-3517.

Dothan Chapter . . .

. . . is hosting an " Artifact Identification " day at Landmarks Park on Sunday, June 27th. Their June meeting will be held at Landmarks and they have agreed to assist in identification of artifacts that the public may bring in. The hours are 1-4 p.m. and members are asked to come at 12:45 in order to set up.

In the Alabama Archaeological Society's Past

Fifteen years ago in the June 1978 issue, Society members were informed of the recent evidence for "very early" contact between Europeans and Eskimo ancestors in the Canadian Arctic. A sunken floor of an ancient pit house was discovered on Baffin Island in the Hudson Strait. The evidence is in the form of a two-and-one-eighth-inch-high wood carving of what is believed to be 13th century Viking man. Though Eskimo carvings have been found on several sites in Greenland, the Baffin Island figurine is the first of its kind found in North America, according to Moreau S. Maxwell, professor of anthropology at Michigan State University.

MSU team members Deborah Sabo and George Sabo identified the relic last July, during an excavation supported by the National Science Foundation. The carving, of fine-grained wood (probably fir), depicts a figure wearing a long hooded robe, pleated in the front, and below the waist a cross rests on the chest. That particular style was unique to Vikings at the time and differed identifiably from costumes worn by Norsemen in later centuries, according to Maxwell and several other independent experts.

The conclusion is further supported by the presence of other artifacts at the Baffin site, almost identical to those found at other sites, confirmed 13th century Canadian Thule (ancestors of present-day Eskimos) Eskimos. This evidence of early contact between Vikings and Baffin Eskimos "introduces new horizons to the study of the effects and influences of Europeans upon the aboriginal culture of Canadian Thule Eskimos", Maxwell says. (Taken from June 1978 Newsletter)

Chapter News

Troy State Chapter

Troy State held its last meeting of the year in May, due to the fact that many chapter members travel home for the summer. Members plan to attend the A.A.S summer meeting at Dusk Cave, and are involved in excavations at 1Co54, and contract survey work around the state. The first fall meeting will be held in September, when new officers will be elected.

April Smith

East Alabama Chapter

Chapter members held their April meeting on April 14th. Their guest speaker was Cathy Edgemon, Dept. of History, Auburn University. Ms. Edgemon gave a slide presentation on " Sports and Games of the Southeastern Indians ". She is conducting research for her Master of Arts Degree in History on recreation activities of the "Backcountry " peoples of Virginia, Carolina, and Georgia during the early American colonial period about 1700 to 1783. These frontier folks had significant contact with the native Indians and the various sports and games which they played.

Chapter members met on May 11th. Their guest speaker was long-time Alabama Archaeological Society member George Thurlow, of Huntsville, who presented a slide lecture on the " The Mayan Civilization ", based on several trips which he has made to Mesoamerica in recent years.

On June 9th, Mary Aviles, University of Illinois, Champaign-Urbana, presented a slide program entitled, " Recent Investigations of an Early Olmec site near Veracruz, Mexico ". Ms. Aviles is a doctoral student in archaeology who has been involved in excavations of Olmec ruins at San Lorenzo on the Gulf of Mexico near present-day Veracruz. The Olmec represent the earliest of the Mesoamerican cultures as a civilized society. The San Lorenzo site is located in the Veracruz-Tabasco area about 80 miles from the famous Olmec ceremonial center at La Venta.

Our next meeting will be Tuesday, July 13th, at Alabama Power Company Hospitality Room, in Auburn. Cameron Wesson will present the program. Visitors are welcome.

Members of our chapter will be making a trip to northwestern Alabama to visit Dust Cave, Smith Bottom Cave and the Stanfield-Worley Bluff Shelter, on Saturday and Sunday, June 19-20. Hosting this visit will be Charles Moore, Archaeologist for the City of Florence and former director of the Indian Mound Museum at Florence.

Caroline Dean

☺ Member News ☺

Society member Eugene Futato will be participating in excavations in Israel during the summer. He promises to send the *Stones and Bones* a report of his work in the future.

The Importance of Local Chapters

Local chapters are the backbone of our society. They give us unity and strength and provide strong friendship ties. What has happened to our chapters? Through the years our membership has trailed off as local chapters have dissolved. Fifteen years ago chapters such as the Birmingham Anthropological Society, the Choccolocco Chapter, the Cullman County Chapter, Choctawhatchee Chapter, the Marshall County Chapter, the Mauvilla Chapter, the Montgomery Archaeological Society, the Morgan-Limestone Chapter, the Noccalula Society, the Selma Archaeological Society, the East Alabama Chapter, the Huntsville Chapter, the Muscle Shoals Chapter, and the Tuscaloosa Chapter were all active and going strong. Today, only a few of the chapters are still in existence. Although Troy State, University of South Alabama, and Dothan have developed new chapters in the past few years, we are still far behind where we were fifteen years ago.

The A. A. S. Membership Committee and the editors of the *Stones and Bones* see the decline in active chapters as a serious problem. The Membership Committee has outlined three major chapter goals for the immediate future:

1. Establish new chapters and reactivate old ones
2. Increase membership in all existing chapters
3. Require all chapter members to become members of the State Society.

How can we accomplish these goals? We can't assume that just because we want it to happen it will. It will require work, coordination, and planning. Where do we start? Working with existing chapters seems to be a logical first step. The Membership Committee and the editors of the *Stones and Bones* would like to see a meeting of all A.A.S. chapter presidents held in the future. Perhaps an initial meeting could be held in conjunction with the Fall Board of Directors meeting in Birmingham with sufficient time given to the discussion of existing chapter problems in maintaining an active membership.

In the meantime what can chapter presidents do to help out? Send the *Stones and Bones* the names and addresses of all chapter officers as well as the person responsible for submitting Chapter News. We need this information to establish a list of local chapter contacts. Second, send us your chapter news so that we can let others in the state know what your chapter is doing. Third, develop local membership drives. Finally, organize a chapter trip to the Summer Meeting at Dust Cave. While you are there, talk with members from other chapters and find out what activities they are engaged in.

If we work together in this endeavor, we can accomplish our goals.

1992 December A.A.S Journal

The 1992 December Journal is still in the process of being typed, members can expect a copy late summer or early fall. The subjects for this journal include an article by Nancy White on shell mounds of the lower Apalachicola River, a history of the "Ten Islands", and a description by Vin Steponaitis of a false rattlesnake disk supposedly from the Moundville Area.

Last Chance to Pay Dues

What more can we say about late dues.... except please pay your 1993 dues as soon as possible. Only 1/3 of the society has renewed their membership this year, and this is your last chance. The June *Stones and Bones* newsletter will be your last unless your money is received by the end of the month. The society needs to receive these funds in order to continue to print our publications so we will have something to send you. Before you forget, send a check to Eugene Futato and you will not have to be bothered with dues for another year.

The Calendar

Chattahoochee Trace will hold an exhibit titled "Among Our Own:" at Cobb Memorial Archives, Valley, Al. The exhibit includes some of the Archives holdings, artifacts, clothing, photographs, maps, and documents. June 1-30, 1993, Monday thru Saturday, 10a.m.- 5p.m. Contact Miriam Syler, 205-768-2161.

✍ A Note to the Chapters ✍

Please send all Chapter News and other information to be included in the July newsletter to the *Stones and Bones* editorial offices by the 30th of June.

PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

Available issues of *Journal of Alabama Archaeology*

Vol. 20-31, each issue	\$3.50 pp
Vol. 32 & up, each issue	\$6.00 pp
<i>Stanfield-Worley Bluff Shelter Excavations</i> (Journal of Alabama Archaeology; Vol. VIII Nos 1 & 2 - Reprint)	\$7.50 pp
Special Publication 2 — <i>The Archaeological Sequence at Durant Bend, Dallas County Alabama</i>	\$6.00 pp
Special Publication 3 — <i>Archaeological Investigations at Horseshoe Bend</i>	\$8.00 pp
<i>Handbook of Alabama Archaeology Part 1, Point Types</i>	\$15.00 pp
Lively, Long, Josselyn - <i>Pebble Tool Paper</i>	\$3.00 pp
<i>Investigations in Russell Cave</i> , published by the National Park Service	\$10.00 pp
<i>Exploring Prehistoric Alabama through Archaeology</i> (Juvenile)	\$9.00 pp

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Journal Editor, A.A.S.

Division of Archaeology

1 Mound State Monument; Moundville, AL 35474

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