

# Alabama Archaeological Society

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## STONES & BONES NEWSLETTER

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### 1991 ANNUAL MEETING

Congratulations to Van King and his Program Committee for a fine meeting on November 23 in Huntsville. You did a good job in selecting speakers and topics. And thanks too to those members of the Huntsville Chapter who helped with registration, publicity, book sales, program design and printing. Beth and Don Justice deserve special thanks for hosting the speakers and guests at a dinner at their house after the meeting. Congratulations to all on a job well done!

### NOTE TO CHAPTER PRESIDENTS

Please remember to notify the A.A.S. of your 1991 chapter officers. Send the list to me - Dorothy Luke - at the address at the top right of this page, and I will publish the lists in the STONES & BONES. You are reminded that chapter presidents are members of the Alabama Archaeological Society Board of Directors for the year that they are in office. This is an excellent opportunity for chapters to bring the rest of the Society up to date on their activities, as chapters may make a brief report at the Board meetings. (Please include an address for the chapter president, so we can invite him or her to the Board meetings.)

### LETTER FROM JIM FARRIOR

We are delighted to publish the latest in a series of letters from our long-time member James S. Farrior:

13 November 1991

Dear Dorothy,

This year, I dug again with the University of Texas team. The field work was under the direction of Dr. Fred Valdez, a long time member of the team. As before, our camp site was at Ixcantio, an old abandoned chiclero camp, in the north-eastern corner of, and not many kilometers through the jungle from our excavation sites.

December 1991

Some of the team dug at Rio Azul, but I, and some others worked again at Kinal. Last year, it had rained nearly every day, and the trip through the jungle to and from Kinal had averaged about three hours each way. That year, the mud had been awful, and each day, we had had at least one detour to cut through the jungle. This year, however, there was little rain, and it took only 25 minutes each way. Needless to say, it was far less taxing, and we got much more work done. Thankfully, there were no serious problems, such as the snake bite last year which cost a native his leg.

Kinal, a late classic site, has about 20 courtyards with buildings, walls, stairs, etc. For the second year, I worked with Oscar Guiterrez, a highly qualified Guatemalan archaeologist. Oscar doesn't speak English, which presented a good opportunity to practice Spanish. Our activities were confined to one plaza and the surrounding architecture, and the task was to explore, survey, clear out, and document some of the structures. We also cleared some stairs and put down test pits to check the level of the plaza floors and to obtain a sampling of sherds. One room that we cleared contained some fantastic graffiti.

Kinal is a most interesting site; however, project rules prohibit my writing more about it until the project report has been released.

This year held additional archaeological experiences. In September, Peggy and I returned from a three week trip to Israel. Although we boated on the Sea of Galilee, and swam in the Dead Sea, our time was mostly spent visiting archaeological and historical sites. We went to all parts of the country, including some where we probably shouldn't have been. Over a week was spent in Jerusalem, taking four-hour walking and lecture tours each day. On one of these, we were viewing an archaeological site in the City of David area, just south of the Temple Mount, when a rifle shot rang out. It came from an Arab area just across a ravine from where we were standing, and some Israeli soldiers quickly hustled us out of the area. Peggy can move out fast when she is motivated!


Bus tours were available to essentially every interesting place, except the important archaeological site of Askelon, which is on the coast near the Gaza strip. We hired a taxi driver in Jerusalem to take us to Askelon, and to wait several hours while we explored the site. It was really worth it.

We were surprised to see a large number of high quality, high rise apartment buildings being built at Askelon, and were told that they were to house the Ethiopian Jews. Earlier, we had visited a beautiful new housing development on the West Bank, where many Russian Jews are being settled.

It was a fantastic trip, and after talking to many people, we have a lot better feeling for what is going on in that part of the world.

We wish you and all of our Alabama Archaeological Society friends all the best during the coming holiday season.

Sincerely,

  
James S. Farrior

## CHAPTER NEWS

### Birmingham Chapter

The Birmingham Chapter kicked off its 1991-92 season with a meeting on September 12. Speaker was Mr. Tim Mistovich of Panamerican Consultants, who made a presentation on his recent excavations of New Hope in north Alabama.

On October 10 the chapter met to hear Carey Oakley speak on the excavations along the bank of the Warrior River inside Moundville State Park.

The chapter met on November 2 at the Lynn Henley Research Library; Professors Leonor Merino and Angel Garcia Cook of the Mexican National Institute of Anthropology and History were featured speakers. Their program was on the History of Cacaxtla's Conquest: Murals from Ancient Mexico, AD 700-900.

Bobby Hawkins

### Coosa Valley Chapter

The Coosa Valley Chapter started its new year of programs and meetings September 26, 1991. At this meeting the new officers were elected. They are:

President: Dr. Phillip E. Koerper  
1st Vice President: Don Jrapier  
2nd Vice President: Tom Mullendore  
Secretary/Treasurer: Brigitte Cole

The guest speaker for the evening was Chris Hill, who presented the members with a slide presentation of the Jacksonville State University Archaeological Research Laboratory excavations at Cold Water Creek, Buttahatchea and Blue Hole.

The second meeting of the club was held October 28, 1991. It was announced that Dr. Harry Holstein will receive a faculty research grant to study the Davis Farm site if permission can be obtained from the owners.

The guest speaker for the evening was Mr. Tom Mullendore, who presented a slide show and explanation of a dig that was conducted in the 1960's at Morgan Mountain.

The Coosa Valley Chapter meets the fourth Thursday of each month in the Archaeology Lab located in Martin Hall on the campus of Jacksonville State University, at 7 p.m.

Brigitte Cole

### Cullman Chapter

The chapter met September 16 to hear Van King present a program on the Clovis cache found in 1988 in an orchard in Washington State.

On October 21 the chapter met for a discussion and display of artifacts. A similar meeting was held on November 18.

Howard King

### East Alabama Chapter

Our November program was presented by Frank Schnell, Archaeologist of the Columbus Museum, at Columbus, Georgia. Schnell gave a slide presentation on archaeological sites along the Flint River in southwestern Georgia. Particular attention was given to two areas in which the Columbus Museum has been conducting digs. One is near Montezuma in Macon County. The other is the Lake Blackshear area in Sumter, Lee and Crisp Counties. These sites represent primarily the Middle to Late Woodland periods.

our next meeting will be January 8th at 7 p.m. in the Alabama Power Company auditorium; 230 N. Gay Street, Auburn; at which time Dr. John Cottier, Archaeologist at Auburn University, will show a film and have discussion on "The Myth of the Mound-builders." Visitors are welcome.

Caroline R. Dean

### Huntsville Chapter

The Huntsville Chapter hosted the Alabama Archaeological Society Annual Meeting on November 23. Van King, chapter member, was the state Program Chairman; he and his Program Committee put together a fine selection of speakers and topics. Other chapter members helped with registration, book sales, publicity, program design and printing. Beth and Don Justice opened their home for a dinner that evening for the speakers and other guests.

On December 6, the chapter met for a covered-dish dinner at Dottie Luke's house. Regular chapter meetings will resume in January.

The Huntsville Chapter meets the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Auditorium of the Public Library on St. Clair Avenue. The public is welcome.

Dorothy Luke

## Troy Chapter

The Troy Chapter met October 3rd to discuss plans for the year and to watch a slide presentation of the Southwest trip taken August 7th through 17th by nine Troy State students and Professor McDonald Brooms. Sites visited included Mesa Verde, Chaco Canyon, Aztec and Salmon Ruins, Canyon de Chelly, Zuni ruins, Taos Pueblo, Bandelier, the Painted Desert, the Petrified Forest, and much more.

Elections of new officers for the year were held; congratulations to President Tray Earnest, Vice President April Smith, Secretary Lynn Hoffman, and Treasurer Sibylle Rabinovicz.

The Troy Chapter meets the first Thursday of each month at 3 p.m. in the Archaeology Lab located in Smith Hall at Troy State University. The public is welcome.

Lynn Hoffman



The overhangs at Mesa Verde's cliff dwellings provide protection from the elements



The cave dwellings at Bandelier are interesting to explore

## PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

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Vol. 20-31, each issue .....	\$3.50 pp
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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
Handbook of Alabama Archaeology Part 1, <i>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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