

Alabama Archaeological Society

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STONES & BONES NEWSLETTER

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MEMBER OF THE EASTERN STATES ARCHEOLOGICAL FEDERATION

STATE SOCIETY SUMMER MEETING

Early Man Conference

The meeting will be held July 15, 1978, in the Great Hall of the Student Union Building at the University of North Alabama in Florence, Alabama. Registration begins at 8:30 a.m. Please see the June issue of the Stones and Bones for the complete agenda, which includes papers by Don F. Morse, Cailup B. Curren, Robert H. Lafferty, Jefferson Chapman, and Charles Hubbert.

Registration for the day-long conference is \$2.00. The noon meal of Indian dishes is \$4.60. Menu: buffalo steak, hominy, succotash, wild greens, bean bread, blueberries sweetened with wild honey, and sassafras tea.

In order to assure yourself of a luncheon ticket for the Summer Meeting, please send your reservation (with check). Since the meal will be prepared as Indians prepared it, the College Food Service needs to know for how many to prepare. We will, of course, have some extra servings prepared, and they will be available on a first-come, first-served basis. But to assure yourself of a "buffalo steak" dinner, mail your reservation by Monday, June 10. For your convenience, a reservation form is included in this issue of the Stones and Bones.

DIRECTIONS TO MEETING LOCATION

The Great Hall, which is the meeting room of the Student Union Building of the University of North Alabama, will be the site of the Early Man Conference. To get there, go north on Court Street in downtown Florence until Court Street terminates, then take a right and follow the projectile point signs marked "A.A.S.". Seminary Street runs parallel to Court Street, one block east of Court, and you can go north on Seminary Street until it terminates, and follow the signs. You may park on Wesleyan Ave. in front of the Student Union Building, or behind the building in a large parking lot that is accessible by going north on Pine Street, which is parallel to, and one block west of, Court Street.

July 1978

SUGGESTED MOTELS

For those who might want to stay overnight either Friday and/or Saturday, we suggest the following motels.

Holiday Inn - located on Court Street, which is the main north-south street in Florence. It is also on U. S. Highways 72 and 43 as you enter Florence from the south.

Motel 6 - across the street and one block north of Holiday Inn.

Howard Johnson's and Tourway Inn - located on the same highways on the east side of town.

DISPLAYS

Members are invited to bring for display exhibits of publications and archaeological materials of interest to Conference attendees. In keeping with the Early Man theme of the Conference, lithic artifacts of the Paleo and Early Archaic Periods are particularly encouraged. The Muscle Shoals Chapter will provide exhibit tables and security personnel.

INDIAN MOUND MUSEUM

After Conference adjournment, the Indian Mound Museum, operated by the city of Florence, will be open - admission free - to anyone registered for the Summer Meeting.

Charles Moore
Florence

As is obvious from the foregoing information furnished by Charles E. Moore, the Muscle Shoals Chapter has done an outstanding job of preparing for the Summer Meeting. See you there.

THE BELLEFONTE REPORT

The report on the Bellefonte site, 1JA300, located in Jackson County, Alabama, is now available. This report is Research Series No. 2, Office of Archaeological Research, University of Alabama, and written by Eugene M. Futato. It is available for \$11.00 from Mapping Services Branch, TVA; 200 Haney Building, Chattanooga, Tennessee 37401. All Tennessee residents please add sales tax. The report contains 257 pages, 21 figures, 22 tables and 37 plates. Carey Oakley and J. B. Graham were the principal investigators, with Graham acting as Field Supervisor. The work at Bellefonte was the first excavation in the lower Gunterville Basin since the WPA days of the 1930's. Chronology of the site begins with Early Archaic, identified by Kirk Corner Notched projectile points, which places the dates between 7500-6500 B. C. Middle Archaic contained Eva and Morrow Mountain points, indicating site use between 5000-4000 B. C. Late Archaic was identified by Pickwick and Wade points. Also, steatite sherds were found in

association with this period. The Early Woodland Period contained Copena, Camp Creek, Greeneville and Nolichucky points. This period also contained Long Branch Fabric Marked and Mulberry Creek Plain pottery.

Numerous shell middens were encountered and burials of the Colbert Culture were also present. Middle Woodland was characterized by the Copena Culture, which included large amounts of Mulberry Creek Plain, Wright Check Stamped, Bluff Creek Simple Stamped and Pickwick Complicated Stamped. A charcoal sample was dated to A. D. 420 \pm 60. Copena Triangular and Bradley Spike points were present. Late Woodland was identifiable from Hamilton points and Flint River ceramics. The Mississippian period was represented by Plain Shell pottery and a semi-subterranean structure. Dates obtained from burials were A.D. 700 \pm 165 years.

The report is well written and comprehensive; nine chapters cover:

1. The Site and Surroundings
2. The Excavation
3. Toward a Formal Account of Projectile Point Morphology
4. Lithic Artifacts
5. Ceramic Artifacts
6. Faunal Remains, Bone and Shell Artifacts
7. Plant Remains
8. The Human Skeletal Remains
9. Conclusions

CHAPTER NEWS

Birmingham Chapter: The Chapter meets the first Thursday of each month at the Red Mountain Museum, 1425 22nd Street South. Call Tom Hutto for further information at 956-1895.

Cullman Chapter: At the June 19 meeting of the Cullman County Archaeological Society, a representative from Russell Cave spoke on "The Significance of Russell Cave in Southeastern Archaeology". The presentation included slides and a most interesting program. Thirteen Chapter members traveled to Russell Cave last month and enjoyed touring and learning about this famous national monument.

East Alabama Chapter: At the June meeting, John Cottier gave a brief outline of the Summer Field Schools and some of the projects of Auburn University, Auburn at Montgomery and the University of Alabama. Members are especially urged to attend the July and August meetings, which have been moved to the Saturday after the regular meeting night and will be special meetings. For the July meeting, members are encouraged to attend the State Society Summer

East Alabama Chapter (Continued)

Meeting, Early Man Conference, which will be held in Florence on Saturday, July 15. The August meeting will be on August 12 (Saturday). This will be a Field Trip to the Ivy Creek Summer Field School Sites under the direction of John Cottier. Watch the local news for an announcement. Chapter members will be notified of details. For additional information, contact the president, Dr. Ralph Strength, at 821-0484.

Huntsville Chapter: At the June meeting of the Huntsville Chapter, Dr. Frances C. Roberts, Chairman of the History Department at UAH, spoke on the "Historical Background of Constitution Hall". This program was of special interest to those Chapter members who plan to participate in the Chapter's proposed summer "dig" at the Constitution Hall site. The Huntsville Chapter meets the third Tuesday of each month at 7:00, in the Arts Council Conference Room, at the north end of the Von Braun Civic Center.

Montgomery Chapter: The next Chapter meeting will be held July 11 at 7:30 p.m. at the AUM campus. We are meeting on the second Tuesday this time because the first Tuesday (our usual meeting day) is July 4th. Our speaker for July will be Mr. Hank Willett, a Folklorist. Mr. Willett is with the Alabama State Council on Arts and Humanities in Montgomery. Everyone is invited to attend.

Muscle Shoals Chapter: The Chapter held its June meeting on June 12 at the Indian Mound Museum in Florence. Thirty-eight members and guests attended the meeting. We now have sixth-three members who have paid dues this year. Three members led the study and discussion of three early periods - Robert Walker, the Lost Lake; Jim Miller, the Plevna; and Al Beinlich, the Eva. We then discussed plans for the Early Man Conference of July 15 and assigned heads of the various committees to apply the plans. The next meeting will be held July 10 when Mack Brooms of Montgomery will be the speaker.

NOTE

The AAS is very appreciative of the special contribution by an "anonymous donor" for archaeological research.

NEW SOCIETY MEMBERS

Blackmon, Dr. and Mrs. Sumpter D. (F) - P. O. Box 651; Camden,
Alabama 36726

EARLY MAN CONFERENCE PRE-REGISTRATION

ALABAMA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY'S ANNUAL SUMMER MEETING

SATURDAY, JULY 15, 1978

GREAT HALL AT UNIVERSITY OF NORTH ALABAMA

FLORENCE, ALABAMA

The 1978 Annual Summer Meeting is being hosted by the Muscle Shoals-Florence Chapter of the Alabama Archaeological Society. With the subject, "Early Man Conference", the slate of interesting speakers planned, and the "Early Man Menu" Luncheon; the Host Chapter has made an all-out effort to have a most interesting and enjoyable summer meeting for the Society and its members.

Pre-registration is necessary for the University to plan and prepare the Special Indian Meal which includes:

Buffalo Steak
Hominy
Succotash
Wild Greens
Bean Bread
Blueberries (Sweetened with Wild Honey)
Sassafras Tea

Please take advantage of this pre-registration form and fill it out, and mail with your check (made payable to the Muscle Shoals-Florence Chapter) by July 10, 1978, to:

Mr. Charles E. Moore
Program Committee of AAS
887 Riverview Drive
Florence, Alabama 35630

NAME: _____ ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

REGISTRATION FEE: \$2.00 NUMBER: _____ AMOUNT: _____

LUNCHEON TICKET : \$4.60 NUMBER: _____ AMOUNT: _____

AFFILIATION: _____ TOTAL: _____

DISPLAY: YES ___ NO ___ SPACE AND TYPE REQUIRED: _____

THIS PRE-REGISTRATION FORM SHOULD BE MAILED BY JULY 10, 1978.

***** MAIL TODAY *****

NOMINATIONS FOR OUTSTANDING MEMBER OF THE
ALABAMA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY FOR 1978

Please nominate the one member of the Society who, in your opinion, has done the most for the Society during 1977-78. Then give a brief write-up on what they have done. Every entry will be considered by the committee. Mail to Rodger Schaefer; 1414 15th Avenue, S. E.; Decatur, Alabama 35601.

EARLIER AMERICANS

The Meadowcroft site is a rock shelter near Avella, Pa., where James Adovasio of the University of Pittsburgh and his associates began digging in 1973. Whereas the Folsom find is believed to date back to about 8,000 B.C. and the Clovis find to about 10,000 B. C., the Meadowcroft shelter was occupied as early as 14,000 B. C. Moreover, Adovasio considers that an initial occupation date of about 20,000 B. C. is not improbable.

Like similar rock shelters in the Old World, the Meadowcroft site was not occupied continuously but evidently served as a seasonal way station for Paleo-Indians on the move. People used the shelter during the Archaic period; their camp was occupied in about 3500 B. C. The last Paleo-Indian visits seem to have been in about 9000 or 8000 B. C. The visitors killed game; the largest identified remains are those of the elk. They also seem to have been hardworking seed collectors: carbonized seeds representing 40 different edible varieties have been identified.

One of the eight Santa Barbara Islands off the coast of southern California, Santa Rosa, has long been known for the remains of pygmy mammoths found there. Because some of the mammoth skulls show signs of damage, it has been suggested that residents of the area in the days when the Santa Barbara Islands were part of the mainland preyed on these long extinct animals. What has remained an open question is exactly when such hunts might have taken place.

Recently what appeared to be a cooking site on Santa Rosa was found by John Wooley, one of the owners of the island. Rainer Berger of the University of California at Los Angeles began to excavate the site in 1976 and has now announced the results of carbon 14 analyses of four charcoal samples from a hearth that contained the leg bone of a pygmy mammoth. No detectable traces of carbon 14 were found in the charcoal. This suggests that the fire was kindled at least 40,000 years ago, the span of time needed for the radioactive carbon to have decayed to nearly the vanishing point.

Berger found what are by Paleolithic standards rather advanced stone tools in the hearth area; they suggest that the site was used for both butchering and cooking. Noting that Santa Rosa

represents the first association of a hearth, mammoth remains and human artifacts, Berger says he will try to apply refined techniques capable of detecting 50,000-year-old traces of carbon 14 to other samples from the hearth.

(From SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN, June 1977)

SOIL MANAGEMENT

If there is any single key to the dilemmas of the human species, it is the soil. I believe that a more accurate and instructive history of civilization could be written based on soil management than on any other factor or group of factors. The rate and composition of silt settling at the mouth of rivers and in lakes, for example, should tell a story of the rise and fall of a civilization. Robert Rodale points out that except for the Chinese, no civilization has been able to farm in one place for more than two thousand years without ruining the soil. Even that continued cultivation on now mostly marginal land depends on careful management including the return of animal and vegetable wastes to the soil. A recent news report on research in Africa suggests that a technologically advanced civilization that smelted fine steels may have contributed to its demise by excessive deforestation as a source of charcoal.

(Frederick Scott, Editor, American Laboratory, October 1977)

BOOK REVIEWS

ARCHAEOLOGY FOR EVERYONE - by Mark Feldman, N. Y. Times Bk., c. 1977, \$12.50

This is quite a nice book that is full of information that the amateur archaeologists would be interested in. The author discusses the training of archaeologists, how to excavate, a list of schools and field schools. Numerous archaeological organizations are listed in the U. S. Many good museums are mentioned, and there is a glossary of archaeological terms. A list of magazines on the subject is provided.

THE SOUTHEASTERN INDIANS - by Charles Hudson, University of Tennessee Press, Knoxville, c. 1976. 570 pp., \$23.50

This is a long book and really should be read a chapter at a time. The author, a professor at the University of Georgia, has done an enormous amount of research in order to write this excellent book.

This is a good source book, really more a reference book. There are chapters on prehistory, history, social organizations, ceremonies, subsistence, etc. There is a particularly good chapter concerning the treaties and the Indian Removal.

This book is similar to and more up to date than John R. Swanton's Bureau of American Ethnology Bulletin No. 137 entitled "The Indians of the Southeastern United States".

Margaret Perryman Smith
Atlanta

AN ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY OF THE OCMULGEE BIG BEND REGION - by
Frankie Snow

This report is a careful accounting of archaeological sites in Coffee, Telfair, Jeff Davis, Wheeler, Atkinson and 12 surrounding counties in central south Georgia. Two new ceramic series are reported, an Ocmulgee Cord Marked Series and a Satilla (fiber tempered) Series. A brief introductory essay by C. T. Trowell is included for readers who are unfamiliar with the cultural prehistory of Georgia. Over 65 pages of text, 22 pages of site lists, 34 pages of illustrations, a bibliography and an index. Plastic ring binding. Only 300 copies were printed. Send check for \$5.00 made payable to South Georgia College, to Bookstore, South Georgia College; Douglas, Georgia 31533.

Marjorie Gay
Standing Rock

GETTING THE AXE

What gave the Neolithic period its name was the recognition that at that stage in human history a new kind of tool had emerged: a stone axe with a smooth or even polished surface. Many thousands of such axes have come to light all over the Old World at sites where excavated materials show that the people who used the axes were not nomadic hunters but were growing crops, tending animals and leading settled lives. The areas where the axes are found, however, are often devoid of the kinds of stone the axes are made of. A study of some 3,300 stone axes from Neolithic sites in Britain is now revealing, among other things, the remarkable lengths to which the island's early farmers went to get good stone and bring it home.

A succession of geologists analyzed stone axes from controlled excavations throughout Britain for decade after decade, until now, some 40 years after the work began, the petrological collection is representative of almost all parts of the country.

At a recent symposium convened by the Council for British Archaeology, it was noted that whereas British axes could be traced to 20 separate quarry areas, these sources of stone were not all equally popular. Twenty-seven percent of those analyzed so far are made of a hornstone available only from outcroppings close to Scafell Pike, a mountain in the Lake District of north-western England. The next-largest group of axes, representing

more than 9 percent of the total, are of a greenstone found only near Penzance in Cornwall. A further 9 percent are of a stone found only at Graig Llwyd in northern Wales. None of the 17 other quarries provided stone for more than 2 percent of the collection.

(From SCIENTIFIC AMERICAN, January 1978)

PALEOCLIMATE: KEEPING STEP WITH THE SUN

In attempts to explain the parade of past climatological anomalies, scientists have often looked outside the earth for causes. Two geologists have found that an 8,327-year-old terraced coastline on the eastern side of Hudson Bay in Canada may be evidence that the sun and planets had a hand in triggering climatic phenomena like glacial advances. Since there are 187 regularly spaced ledges in the coastal terracing, Rhodes W. Fairbridge of Columbia University and Claude Hillaire-Marcel of the Universite de Quebec at Montreal surmise that the related terrestrial mechanism waxes and wanes every 45 years.

Each ledge was, at some time, a beach that could have been sculpted by unusually stormy weather that came and went according to this cycle. "Such a regular succession of climatically related geomorphic phenomena...invite(s) a search for an exogenetic (cosmic) cause. The solar cycle seems to be the most obvious candidate", the authors report in the Aug. 4 NATURE. Peaks in the well-known, 11-year sunspot cycle themselves seem to grow and shrink every 45 years.

Although the coastal ledges are largely similar to one another - archaeological testimony to the cyclic precision of the their cause - there are slight variations that suggest the effects of other, more sluggish periodicities. One of these may be 1,134 years long - the time between conjunctions of the major planets. "The great mid-Holocene glacial readvance...coincides precisely with the fourth (1,134 year) cycle back from A. D. 1433. Other dates are less than compelling. At present we can only say the results look interesting", the authors conclude.

(From SCIENCE NEWS, August 20, 1977)

NOTE

The June 1978 issue of the Journal of Alabama Archaeology has been mailed - all AAS members should have their copy by now. If you have not received your copy, contact the Journal Editor, Mr. Eugene Futato.