

Alabama Archaeological Society

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STONES & BONES NEWSLETTER

Editor
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2602 Green Mountain Rd.
Huntsville, Alabama 35803

MEMBER OF THE EASTERN STATES ARCHEOLOGICAL FEDERATION

NEWS

NEWS

NEWS

RADIOCARBON DATES FOR MOUNDVILLE

The Archaeological Research Association of Alabama, Inc., announces the results of Carbon 14 tests run on two charcoal samples from archaeological excavations conducted some years ago at the well-known mound, dwelling, and burial site officially known as "Mound State Monument" at Moundville, Alabama. Dr. John Walthall of the University of Alabama's Department of Anthropology selected the samples from the collection of Moundville archaeological material stored at Mound State Monument, one sample from the roadway area excavations and another sample from one of the mounds.

The two samples were dated by the Geochronology Laboratory, University of Georgia, who furnished the following data:

Sample	Date
Mound "W" Excavation	1260 AD \pm 85 years
Roadway Excavation	1465 AD \pm 160 years

More information concerning these dates and dates from other Alabama archaeological sites related to Moundville will be forthcoming soon.

The project for dating Moundville and related sites was conceived by Dr. Walthall and is being funded by the Archaeological Research Association. It is made possible by gifts from you, the readers of "Stones & Bones", and other interested individuals. You can donate to this project by writing a check to the Archaeological Research Association of Alabama, Inc., and mailing it to Mr. Wm. M. Spencer; Suite 1510, First National - Southern Natural Building; 1900 5th Ave. North; Birmingham, Alabama 35203.

Steve Wimberly
Birmingham

September 1977

1977 DIG FUND DONATIONS

Your Research Association has really hit the jackpot since the last report, which appeared in the July Newsletter, and we most proudly list the following appreciated donations:

Mr. and Mrs. N. H. Holmes, Jr., Mobile, their TWELFTH donation over recent years.

Liberty National Life Insurance Co., Birmingham, their 17th consecutive generous contribution!

J. Andrew Douglas, Mobile, Charter Donor, now increases his fine donations to TWENTY-TWO.

William M. Spencer, Birmingham, another Charter Donor, adds his 19th consecutive check.

Mr. and Mrs. James H. McCary, III, Birmingham, make their 18th consecutive contribution, as Charter Donors.

Anonymous Business Donor #2, Birmingham, make their 14th consecutive addition to our funds.

Lively-Long-Josselyn Pebble Tool Papers, their fifth 1977 contribution to the Dan Josselyn Memorial Fund.

The above-listed contributors permit us to most happily report our 1977 total now exceeds the fine figure of \$800.00, and there are still many months to go for other regular participators to use the portion of the inside back page of this Newsletter to join in the tax deductible 1977 Dig Fund.

Milt Harris
Birmingham

NEW SOCIETY MEMBERS

Arinder, Mr. Pat (I) - Box 145; Houston, Mississippi 38851

Clements, Dr. Martha (I) - P. O. Box 516; Pine Mountain, Georgia 31822

Edwards, Mr. Robert A. (I) - 1226 South 29th Street; Birmingham, Alabama 35205

King, Mr. Vandle Jr. (L) - Route 3; Oneonta, Alabama 35121

McLaughlin, Mr. Chris S. (I) - 351 Robert E. Lee Avenue; Leeds, Alabama 35094

Rich, Mr. Gary (A) - 917 Weeks Road; Fort Walton Beach, Florida 32548

Sargent, Mr. Robert (I) - Route One, Box 558; Trussville, Alabama 35173

Stanley, Mr. John B. (A) - Box 990, 31 McAlister; New Orleans, Louisiana 70118

Weeks, Mr. Warren D. (A) - 912 MacFarland Avenue; Fort Walton Beach, Florida 32548

Whitehead, Mr. Cecil - Shannon, Mississippi 38868

TENTH PRESERVATION CONFERENCE

The Alabama Archaeological Society was well represented at the Tenth Annual Preservation Conference of the Alabama Historical Commission, held in Huntsville August 12-13, 1977. In addition to the general sessions, there were concurrent workshops on both days, giving those who attended the Conference a choice between topics of historical or archaeological interest. On Friday morning Mr. Steve Winberly chaired a workshop (also participated in by Dr. Bennie Keel; Chief, Interagency Archaeological Services, Southeast Region) on "Archaeology and the Historic Preservation Act of 1974". On Friday afternoon Dr. Richard Krause chaired a question-and-answer session entitled "Archaeologists Record and Report". Other panelists for this session were Mr. Bennet Graham of TVA, Society President Howard King, and Mr. John Cottier.

On Saturday morning Messrs. Jerry Neilsen, Mack Brooms (chairman of this session), David Chase, Greg Spies, Mike Rushing and Bennie Keel answered attendees' questions on "Assessments of Alabama's Cultural Resources". The Huntsville Chapter, A. J. Wright presiding, hosted the afternoon session, which included a talk on "Archaeology and the Grants Program" by Mr. Mike Barnes of the National Park Service, Washington, D. C. The final session on Saturday was a panel discussion on "Guarding Our Heritage into the Future - the Role of the Planner and A-95 Review", chaired by Mr. Bill Starnes, Director, State Planning, Alabama Development Office. Among his fellow panelists were Dr. Bennie Keel and Ms. Randy Cottier.

Among those honored at the awards banquet on Saturday night were Mr. David Chase and Mr. and Mrs. Bart Henson, who received awards in recognition of their endeavors in the field of archaeology.

CHAPTER NEWS

Cullman Chapter - The August program was presented by Miss Yelma Self, who showed slides on her travels through Europe.

Muscle Shoals Chapter - The Muscle Shoals Chapter held its August meeting on the 8th at the Indian Mound Museum in Florence. Charles E. Moore of Florence presented a program entitled "Ceramics of the Pickwick Basin".

East Alabama Chapter - At the August 10th meeting, John Cottier gave a very descriptive report of the work at the site where several chapter members had worked a few hours in July. This is a site which has never been in cultivation. In preparation for the

September meeting, quadrangle maps of Lee County and surrounding area have been ordered and will be used in locating known local sites. Areas will be selected for actual field work and the describing and recording of sites. The meeting will be Wednesday, September 14 in Thach Auditorium at 7:30 p.m.

Huntsville Chapter - The August program, on historical archaeology, was given by Miss Cindy Sims, Secretary/Treasurer of the Chapter. Cindy, while digging in her back yard as part of a high school science project some time ago, uncovered the foundations of a house and some rubble which turned out to be the remains of the house of the 13th governor of Alabama. Cindy narrated a very interesting slide presentation on her "find". The next meeting will be on September 20 at 7 p.m. at the Senior Center on Church Street. The speaker will be Mr. James Farrior, who will give a program on Yucatan, which he has visited several times.

EARLY ROAD SIGNS

Before Rand McNally and superhighway signs, the American Indians had a more natural approach to markers: they bent young trees. Misshapen trees once spanned the area from the East Coast to the Ozarks, indicating fresh water sources or secondary trails. Water was too difficult to haul on long treks, so trees were pointed toward known seep springs along the way. Bent trees were also used to mark branch paths or return routes not as well-worn as a main trail. Although many of these guideposts have died or been lost to development, some still stand as curiosities on woodland paths or, perhaps, as favorite playing places on suburban lawns.

Identifying a trail tree is not difficult. These distinctive trees are found on ridges, which is where trails were usually established, and they are white oak, selected by the Indians as saplings for their flexibility and strength. Today, a trail tree is generally smaller than other trees of similar age due to the early bending. The trail tree's form depends on whether the Indians buried or tied the tree.

A buried tree was shaped by simply pushing the sapling down and covering the middle with rocks, dirt, or sand, allowing the rest of the tree to turn and grow vertically. Eventually, the tree formed a hump and a horizontal section along the ground, and then grew almost straight upright. A good example of a buried tree is found in Wilmette, Illinois, part of Chicago's North Shore suburbs. The Green Bay Trail, a main Indian route, ran through that area, and a number of trail trees have been identified there.

A tied tree was bent at a right angle two to three feet off the ground. Forked sticks, strong vines, or strips of hide held the bend

and the growing point. The tree was pruned at the tip, but two branches were allowed to grow vertically from the horizontal trunk. Eventually, the support or tie disintegrated, but the form of the tree was already set. This can be seen from the tied trail tree with one upright missing in Missouri's Clark National Forest. Trees shaped this way made convenient frames for stretching hides.

Skeptics who might argue that these deformed trees are only acts of nature should do some tree tracking themselves. They will find trees in the Mississippi Valley and Ozarks with the same characteristics as those on the Green Bay Trail. Some bear identifying plaques while others stand unmarked, recognizable only to the savvy modern scout.

(By Leslie D. Bruning, from AMERICANA, July/August 1977)

BLAKELEY ENCAMPMENT

Senior and Cadet Scouts, all from Region III, traveled from North Carolina, Florida, Louisiana, Mississippi and Alabama, including Baldwin and Mobile counties, to begin their outing July 11. Arriving with only their personal possessions, the group made camp with equipment supplied by the local Girl Scout Council, "all bought with cookie money", according to chaperone Laverne McMillan of Mobile.

Pitching tents, cooking over open fires, digging latrines and bathing in the Tensaw River were all part of the day's happenings at the campsite. Outside of camp, the scouts shoveled and sifted layers of dirt to retrieve artifacts.

Their finds include Indian and colonial pottery, Indian flint points (spearheads and arrowheads), colonial smoking pipes, pre-Civil War buttons, several jaw harps, wine bottle fragments, thimbles, a lock and key, numerous Old Blakeley bricks and "lots of square nails".

The expedition, sponsored by the Deep South Girl Scout Council, was held in conjunction with the University of South Alabama. The school's archaeology department is currently working to excavate the historic Blakeley site. Faculty and students of Faulkner State Junior College in Bay Minette are also involved in the Blakeley project.

(From Mobile Press Register, July 28, 1977)

MEETINGS

October 26-29 - Southeastern Archaeological Conference - Conference on Historic Site Archaeology Annual Meeting, College Inn, University of Southwestern Louisiana; Lafayette, Louisiana. Deadline for paper and symposium abstract, September 1. Contact: Jon L. Gibson, SEAC Program Chairperson, Box 4-0198, USL Station, Lafayette, Louisiana 70504.

Conference on Historic Site Archaeology - The 18th annual conference will be held in Lafayette, Louisiana on October 26, 1977 in conjunction with the Southeastern Archaeological Conference at the College Inn. The deadline for submitting titles is September 1. Send to Stanley South, Chairman; The Conference on Historic Site Archaeology; The Institute of Archeology and Anthropology, University of South Carolina; Columbia, South Carolina 29208. The Conference Papers, Volume 10 (1975, 16th Conference, Gainesville, Florida and Historical Archaeology Forum) and Volume 11 (1976, 17th Conference, Tuscaloosa, Alabama and the John M. Goggin Award Paper) are available from the above address for \$8 a copy.

The Annual Meeting of the Archaeological Institute of America will be held in Atlanta, Georgia on December 28-30, 1977. For information write AIA; 260 West Broadway; New York, New York 10013.

Marjorie Gay
Standing Rock

FROST-FREE INDIAN GARDENS

Anthropologists have never been able to determine the purpose of the long rows of ridges and furrows built up by Native Americans in southern Wisconsin and Michigan. Although everyone is content that the ridges served as gardens, no one has been able to understand why the furrows were so unusually deep and the ridges so wide. Ordinary gardens do not have furrows three feet deep and ridges three feet wide.

Tom Riley and Glenn Freimuth at the University of Illinois now contend that the odd shape served to drain cold air from the ground on top of the ridges to the deep furrows, enabling the planters to gain a few more frost-free growing days each year. To test their hypothesis, they duplicated the ridge and furrow in a garden on the Urbana campus. Using a number of temperature and humidity recording devices, they found that on cool, clear nights, which farmers call "moon frost" nights, the mounding dissipated the colder temperatures on the ridge and drained the cold air into the furrow.

There's still quite a leap from tests at a garden in Urbana to the actual practices of farmers in Wisconsin 500 to 1,000 years ago. The researchers point out that one distribution of known ridges coincides nicely with the 120-day frost-free line, while another runs along the 150-day frost-free line, indicating that the ridges do conform to at least present-day climatological data. Riley also notes that the Enga tribe of New Guinea and other peoples in South America have constructed similar mounds to ward off the frost.

Riley is still cautious about the results. He now wants to perform tests on the actual ridges and establish more solid information

about the local climate of the past. This may prove difficult since no agreement exists about the date and origin of the builders of the ridges and furrows.

(From SCIENCE NEWS - February 12, 1977)

PUBLICATIONS

Dr. Martha A. Rolingson, associate professor of anthropology at the University of Arkansas, in association with Ann Early, survey archaeologist at Henderson State University, has written an article that describes the "successful Arkansas program of teaching scientific archaeology as an avocation". The program, which attracts people from all parts of the country, "has over 100 participants each year". This program is considered to be a model for the whole country. The article, entitled "A Field Training Program for Amateur Archeologists: The Arkansas Example", was published in a collection edited by William P. McHugh called "Teaching and Training in American Archeology: A Survey of Programs and Philosophies" (Southern Illinois University Museum Studies, Number 10). Dr. Rolingson is Associate Archaeologist of the Arkansas Archaeological Survey.

FORT BLISS GETS AN ARCHAEOLOGIST

In a somewhat unusual move, an archaeologist has been made part of the staff of Fort Bliss at El Paso, Texas. He is Glenn De Garmo, Ph.D. from U.C.L.A. Largely through the efforts of the El Paso Archaeological Society, the region of which El Paso is the center has become more and more important, archaeologically, in the past few years.

(From THE ARKANSAS AMATEUR, August 1977)

BOOK REVIEWS

UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGY, TREASURES BENEATH THE SEA - by Roy Pinney. Hawthorn Pub., New York, c. 1970. Price \$4.95.

Pinney, an anthropologist, has written an easy-to-read and quite interesting book. He tells that underwater explorations have been done for centuries, but modern man has vastly improved on techniques and equipment. There are chapters on numerous explorations such as the Mayan cenotes, caves, cities beneath the seas, sunken Viking ships, etc.

Of particular interest are the explorations in Florida done by Dr. John Goggin. He teaches methods and field study for his students at the University of Florida. The final chapter is about treasure maps for underwater archaeologists and where they may be obtained.

Margaret Perryman Smith
Atlanta

ISHI IN TWO WORLDS, by Theodora Kroeber - University of California Press, Berkeley and L. A., 1961, 1976.

The last "wild Indian" in the United States, sole survivor of the Yahai tribe, wandered into the corral of a slaughterhouse near Oroville, California, in 1911, thereby ending a self-imposed concealment which had lasted roughly 40 years. ISHI IN TWO WORLDS is the compassionately-told account of the "savage's" life in the inhospitable back country near Oroville and his surprisingly complete adaptation to 20th-century life. Ishi spent the last four years of his life as a resident of the University of California's Museum of Anthropology, working with linguists and anthropologists on the Yahai (Southern Yana) language and customs, giving demonstrations of bow-hunting, fire-making, arrow and arrowhead fashioning (but not of basketry, considered "women's work"!). Descriptions and photographs of his techniques and tools appear in this fascinating book. Ishi comes alive as a proud but sensitive and gentle man; his untimely death deprived science of its only first-hand source on the Yahai tribe.

TEXAS HAS UNDERWATER ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITUATION UNDER CONTROL

After private entrepreneurs in the 1960s succeeded in finding ancient treasures in wrecks of Spanish ships off Padre Island, Texas, suits were filed and attempts were made to control the activities. When the situation settled down, the state had a new Antiquities Code which became effective September 10, 1969. Now the Texas Antiquities Committee has all activities under tight supervision. The Committee recently issued a packet of information regarding the 1977 field season of the Padre Island Underwater Archeological Research Project. Test excavations have been made on 20 to 30 possible wreck sites. They are concentrated in the area near where the Laguna Madre empties into the Gulf of Mexico. Some 15 professional and student archaeologists are working on the project.

(From SEA TECHNOLOGY, July 1977)

THE ALABAMA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Following are the objectives stated in our Constitution, slightly modified for emphasis: To promote informed interest in the study of Archaeology in Alabama and neighboring States; to encourage careful scientific archaeological research in such ways as surface scouting, mapping, marking, studying and especially reporting; to promote and support professionally directed excavations and discourage unsupervised "digging"; to promote the conservation of archaeological sites and to favor the passage of laws prescribing such; to oppose the sale of antiquities, and the manufacture and sale of fraudulent artifacts; to encourage and develop a better understanding of archaeology through providing Newsletters, Journals, Chapter and State meetings, helpful associates and good fellowship; to serve as a bond between individual archaeologists in the State, both non-professional and professional; and perhaps most importantly, to give everyone the opportunity to "do something about archaeology" through the accomplishment and enjoyment of these high aims.

The Society needs and welcomes as members, all persons whose ideals are in accord with the objectives set forth above. Active members receive the JOURNAL OF ALABAMA ARCHAEOLOGY, devoted to articles on the archaeology of Alabama and nearby States, and also receive the STONES & BONES NEWSLETTER, published monthly, containing news of members and their activities, also State, national and worldwide events of archaeological importance.

The Society is a non-profit corporation and all contributions are deductible when making your income tax return.

THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATION OF ALABAMA, INC.

This Association, an affiliate of our State Society, is a non-profit corporation, whose aim and purpose is to finance archaeological advancement in Alabama, the FIRST State to provide such financial support through popular subscription. All contributions to this association are deductible in making your income tax return (if, of course, you itemize your deductions). Your check should be made payable to the association as shown above.

MAIL TO:

Mr. Wm. M. Spencer, Suite 1510, First National - Southern Natural Bldg., 1900 - 5th Ave., No., Birmingham, AL. 35203

Journals and Special Publications

Available back issues of the Society's Journal *THE JOURNAL OF ALABAMA ARCHAEOLOGY*, and all Special Publications are available from the Journal Editor. Please see back of this page for listing.

Stones and Bones Newsletter

Comments, news items, reviews and other material for inclusion in the Newsletter should be addressed to:

Stones and Bones Editor / Amos J. Wright

2602 Green Mountain Road • Huntsville, Alabama 35803

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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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JOURNAL EDITOR

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Available issues *Journal of Alabama Archaeology* prior to June 1974 (each) 1.00 pp
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Special Publication 2 — *The Archaeological Sequence at Durant Bend, Dallas County, Alabama* 4.50 pp

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Handbook of Alabama Archaeology Part II, Uniface Blade and Flake Tools 2.25 pp
Lively, Long, Josselyn - Pebble Tool Papers 3.00 pp

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