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Alabama Archaeological Society

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LETTER FROM JIM FARRIOR

Again this year I was invited by Dr. Richard Adams, director of the Rio Azul Archaeological Project, to dig with them in Guatemala. The dig lasted from February 10 until April 25, which gave me enough time to work out some of my archaeological frustrations. Apparently, my previous efforts were judged not to have too much of a detrimental impact on the field of archaeology, as this year I was elevated from my previous status of "Archaeologist's Helper" to that of "Archaeologist".

The April issue of the "National Geographic Magazine" carried an excellent article entitled "Rio Azul, Lost City of the Maya", which describes the interpretations resulting from all of the work that has been done at Rio Azul through last year's digging season. I am shown in the picture on Page 428 with Jack Eaton, who is a well known Maya archaeologist who specializes in Maya structures and their use.

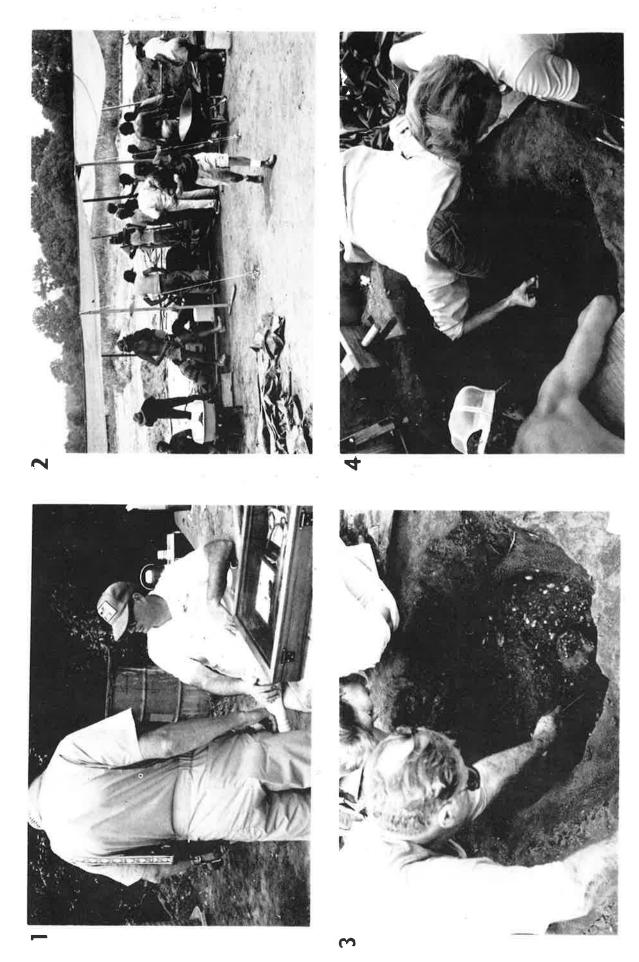
I dug with Jack at Colha, Belize, in 1983, and last year at Rio Azul. This year, we investigated a "palace complex", which was a complex of structural ruins surrounding a raised plaza. A long raised platform connects this site to a high pyramid-temple, where the richly decorated tomb of "Ruler X" is located. Jack had thought that this complex had been the living site of "Ruler X", who was born on September 29, A.D. 417, and the excavations we conducted this year disclosed structures and pottery that appear to confirm that belief.

Another hobby of mine is amateur radio, and I have held the call W4FOK since 1938. Rio Azul is located deep in the jungle in the remote northeastern corner of Peten, so I took with me a small Morse Code transceiver to provide emergency communications and to permit personal messages between the staff and their families and friends at home. This worked fine, and about 200 messages were handled during the season.

In the last week of the dig, after backfilling had begun on some of the excavations, a tomb was found. This was a problem, as there was not sufficient time to clear it and, because of looters, it would have been very risky to leave it until next year. However, within a few hours after finding the tomb, we had contacted Wilbur Garrett, Editor of the "National Geographic Magazine", and had obtained support for a week's extension.

Peggy and I want to send our regards to all of our archaeological friends in Alabama.

James S. Farrior Merritt Island, Florida



Views from the Summer Dig, July 19 & 20, 1986 - FUSIHATCHEE

- Jim Parker President, AAS
 Wayne & Joy Bell, Phenix City note the infant skull.
- 2. Everyone heads for the shade 4. Kent Eckman - Auburn Student; Greg
- Kent Eckman Auburn Student; Greg Waselkov Auburn University; Joy Bell - Phenix City

2



John Cottier - Auburn Harold Huscher - Standing Rock; Dave Chase - Montgomery Dr. John Wood - Haleyville; Randy Cottier - Auburn; 9

8

Randy Cottier - Auburn; John Cottier - Auburn (Note burial).

Linda Stiefelmeyer - Troy

5.

NEWS FROM ISRAEL

Eugene and Polly Futato are spending the summer in Israel. Following are postcards received from Eugene.

"If you are wondering why the December Journal was a little later than usual, or your order hasn't been filled, it's because Polly and I have been preparing for this trip. We are in Israel for two months working at Tell Halif. Polly is the assistant photographer; I am in charge of the lithic lab. This year the excavations focus on the early bronze age, but I am looking at material from copper through iron ages. This is the sixth field season here, so the camp is really nice. Each year the camp gets a little fancier. The weather is not that hot compared to Alabama. The nights are cool and breezy; we sleep under a quilt and sleeping bag. The sun is hot and bright, but except for late morning, there is always a breeze."

"We are finishing the first week of work. It was mostly cleanup, so not much is happening in the field. Our work day goes like this: Wake up at 4:30, half an hour for a drink and biscuits (the kind we call crackers), to work at 5:00. Four hours of work, then second breakfast, a full meal, at 9:00. Back to work from 9:30 to 1:30, then lunch. Everyone is off till 4:00 for rest, laundry, etc. A hammock under the trees is great then. 4:00 till 4:30 is drink and biscuit time again. We work in the camp then, mostly washing the day's finds, until 6:00. Supper is at 7:00, a lecture at 8:00, lights out at 9:30. All in all, a full day. Looking forward to the weekend in Jerusalem."

"I just learned that in addition to the stamp, you should write air mail on the postcard. So you may not get my first postcard for several weeks unless some observant postal clerk puts it in the air mail bag. It was just hello from Israel, everything is fine, etc. Last weekend in Jerusalem was a lot of fun. We did some sightseeing and shopping in the old city and we rested a lot. We will be back a couple of times, so no need to rush around so much. Spent 2 1/2 hours in the archaeology section of the Israel Museum. Wonderful stuff, all the way from Lower Paleolithic through Roman times. Here the bronze age is considered historic archaeology. Work should get more interesting next week as excavation hits full stride."

"We had our second weekend in Jerusalem. This time we saw the Rockefeller Museum and the Jewish and Armenian sections of the Old City. Each quarter is completely different. Excavations are in full stride now. We are working in four areas. Two are producing copper and early bronze age materials; one is late bronze age and one is just going from late iron age to early iron age. There are structural remains everywhere, but the most impressive is a 15-meter section of the iron age glacis, part of the city wall. Much lithic material is coming into the lab. The most common artifacts are the sickle blades many people are familiar with, but there are also scrapers, gravers, awls or drills and other flake tools and many small cores. The tools are very ad hoc except for the blades, and even these degenerate quickly after the early bronze period. The days are warming up now. Yesterday was between 115-118 degrees, but it still gets cool after about 5:00; with no humidity and a breeze it is still pretty comfortable."

Eugene Futato Tell Halif, Israel

CONGRATULATIONS!

One of our long-term members and former Director has recently had two honors bestowed on him.

Tom Hutto of Birmingham was recently elected Principal Chief of the Echota Cherokee Tribe - a group of about 6,000 members, mostly located in Alabama, but with scattered membership in about 20 states. This tribe is one of seven Indian tribes recognized by the State of Alabama.

Also, Tom was recently appointed to a four-year term as Commissioner on the Alabama Indian Affairs Commission by Gov. George C. Wallace.

The Commission is involved in Indian activities of all kinds throughout the state. If you have any problems or questions about Indian activities or education, call on Tom!

The Editors

THANK YOU

We would like to acknowledge the generous contribution of Mr. Timothy E. Stevens of Montgomery, Alabama to the Edward C. Mahan Research Fund. Thank you, Mr. Stevens.

The Editors

1986 SOUTHEASTERN ARCHAEOLOGICAL CONFERENCE

The 1986 Southeastern Archaeological Conference will be held in Nashville, Tennessee at the Radisson Plaza Hotel. The meeting dates are set for November 5-8, 1986. For any additional information contact Carl Kuttruff, Tennessee Division of Archaeology; 5103 Edmonson Pike; Nashville, Tennessee 37211 (Phone 615/741-1588. Proposals and abstracts for symposia are due August 1, 1986 (this is a change from the originally published date of July 1); abstracts for contributed papers and research reports are due August 15, 1986. All proposals and abstracts for symposia, contributed papers and research reports should be sent to Robert C. Mainfort, Jr.; Pinson Mounds Archaeological Area; Route 1, Box 316; Pinson, Tennessee 38366.

The Editors

CHAPTER NEWS

Huntsville Chapter

Carey Oakley, Director of the Office of Archaeological Research (OAR), Moundville, was the speaker at the chapter meeting on July 15. Carey gave a most interesting review of some of the OAR's recent archaeological investigations.

Work was carried out at the site of Fort Harker in Stevenson - a Civil War fortification slated to become a city park. The fort will not be reconstructed, as had earlier been suggested, but major features have been identified and will be marked for visitors.

Another fort, this one in the Talladega area, was Fort Lashley. Most of the site has been destroyed by construction; its very existence had long been disputed. A community project was undertaken to identify the site. Excavation of the small portion of the fort still extant revealed about 100 feet of stockade and a dump, which yielded gun flints, beads, late aboriginal pottery, china, etc.

In other activities, Carlos Solis has been working at El Morro in San Juan, Puerto Rico; and Dr. Dick Krause and Ned Jenkins worked on a 1717 French fort at Fort Toulouse/Jackson. Federal contract procurement is down.

There are two projects under way on Redstone Arsenal in northern Alabama, about a mile apart. Activity is expected to begin within the next three to four weeks on these sites, and chapter participation will be invited. More information will be forthcoming as soon as details are available.

The Huntsville Chapter meets the third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the conference room of the United Way office on Traylor Island. For more information on chapter meetings, call program chairman Houston Wright at 881-2485.

Dorothy Luke

Muscle Shoals Chapter

The Muscle Shoals Chapter held its May meeting on the 12th at the Indian Mound Museum in Florence. Twenty-five members and guests attended.

Doug Puckett of Sheffield presented a paper on Indian ceremonial artifacts. He showed several interesting examples of ceremonial relics. Doug also discussed several point types whose differences had been matters of controversy.

The June meeting was a picnic supper on top of the Indian Mound, with 30 members and guests attending. After a delicious picnic supper of grilled hamburgers and many varied dishes, we moved into the museum, where Mary-Jane McDaniel of Florence presented an interesting paper on Tecumseh's visits to Alabama. Miss McDaniel is a history professor at the University of North Alabama.

The Chapter will suspend its meetings during the summer and will resume its normal meetings on October 13.

Charles Moore

BOOK REVIEW

RIPPLES IN THE CHICHIMEC SEA - Edited by Frances Joan Mathieu and Randall H. McGuire, Southern Illinois University Press. P. O. Box 3697, Carbondale, Illinois 62901. 1986. 320 pages. \$32.50. Hardbound. 19 tables, maps and figures.

A collection of papers on Mesoamerican - Southwestern interaction presented at the 1983 symposium held in Pittsburgh at the annual meeting of the Society of American Archaeology. Titles and authors are as follows.

- 1. Adrift in the Chichimec Sea Frances J. Mathieu and Randall H. McGuire.
- 2. A Historical Analysis of the Problem of Southwestern Mesoamerican Connections Daniel R. Wilcox.
- An Overview of the Greater Southwest in Protohistoric Period Carroll L. Ripley.
- 4. The Mesoamerican Connection: A View from the South Michael S. Foster.
- 5. Ojo de Agua, Sonora, and Casas Grandes, Chihuahua: A Suggested Chronology Beatriz Braniff.
- 6. The Mobile Merchants of Molino J. Charles Kelley.
- 7. Aspects of Southwestern Prehistory: AD 900-1400 Steven A. LeBlanc.
- 8. The Tepiman Connection: A Model of Mesoamerican Southwestern Interaction David R. Wilcox.
- Pochtecas and Prestige: Mesoamerican Artifacts in Hohokam Sites Richard S. Nelson.
- 10. New World Precolumbian World Systems Joseph W. Whitecotton and Richard A. Pailes.
- 11. Imperialists, Isolationists, World Systems and Political Realities: Perspectives on Mesoamerican Southwestern Interaction Steadman Upham.
- 12. External contacts and the Chaco Anasazi Frances J. Mathieu.
- 13. Economics and Modes of Production in the Prehistoric Southwestern Periphery Randall H. McGuire.
- 14. Perspectives on the Peripheries of Mesoamerica Barbara L. Stark.
- 15. Mesoamerican Southwestern Relationships: Issues and Future Directions Stephen Plog.

This book, although a little expensive, contains an in-depth review of the relationship between Meosamerica and the Southwestern U.S. As more data becomes available, the evidence grows of a strong trade relationship between the two areas. This book is for professional archaeologists and serious students of the Southwest.

The Editors

PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE		
Available issues of Journal of Alabama Archaeology Vol. 20-29 each issue		
Stanfield-Worley Bluff Shelter Excavations (Journal of Alabama Archaeology) Vol. VIII Nos. 1 & 2 - Reprint, each issue \$5.00 pp		
Special Publication 1 — Fort Mitchell		
Special Publication 2 — The Archaeological Sequence at Durant Bend, Dallas County, Alabama		
Special Publication 3 — Archaeological Investigations at Horseshoe Bend		
Handbook of Alabama Archaeology Part 1, Point Types		
Lively, Long, Josselyn - Pebble Tool Paper \$3,00 pp		
Investigations in Russell Cave, published by the National Park Service		
Exploring Prehistoric Alabama through Archaeology (Juvenile)		
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