

Alabama Archaeological Society

Stones & Bones

Volume 37, Issue 1

NADB DOC # - 4,058,771

January 1995

Editor:

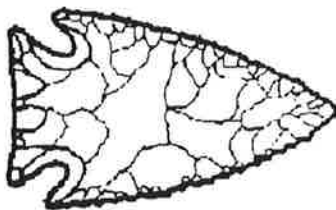
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1994 Winter Meeting

The AAS Winter meeting was held on Saturday, December 10, 1994, in Troy, Alabama, at Troy State University's Adams Center. It proved to be a success with sixteen speakers giving exciting and informative accounts of sites excavated all across the state in 1994.

A silent book auction & sale were held during the meeting generating \$776.80 for the AAS. We would like to thank the following publishers for their generous contributions to our cause, without which the success of our book sale would not have been possible; Univ. Press of Florida, Smithsonian Institution Press, Peabody Museum Publications, LSU Press, Univ. of Tenn. Press, Univ. of Georgia Press, Univ. of AL Press, & Academic Press.

The crew here in Troy would like to thank everyone who attended. Your presence helped make the meeting a success!



1995 AAS Officers and Board Members

The members of the Alabama Archaeological Society would like to extend a warm welcome to our newly elected officers. We look forward to working with them and enjoying an exciting new year in Alabama Archaeology.

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John Van Valkenburg
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Orange Beach, AL 36561
205-981-2013

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(2 YEAR TERM)**

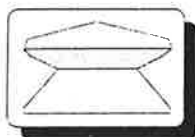
Joe Watkins
29-336 One Blvd.
Orange Beach, AL 36561
205-981-8533

(Serving the remaining 2 years of Dan Shinn's term. Dan has left Alabama for graduate school)

Chapter Officers

Since it is the beginning of the new year some chapters have probably elected new officers. If your chapter has recently done so, please send a list of their names, addresses, and phone numbers to the *Stones & Bones*. Also, if you have not sent a list of your current officers please do so.

A Letter From the Editors



Boy, time sure does fly fast when you're having fun! It seems like only yesterday that we slaved over that first issue of the *Stones & Bones*. That was two years ago! Since that first issue we have changed the bone to a stone (projectile point), changed our format, and acquired new computer equipment which has enabled us to do a more professional looking newsletter in far less time. Back in January, 1993, we did not have a laser printer and we were **clueless** about word processing. Thanks to the *Stones & Bones*, Gwen has gotten over her paralyzing fear of computers and finally learned what a disc was by June, 1993. Garnet has learned how to count (see August and September, 1993). Her electro-shock therapy was a success! In addition, April - has discovered that she has some sort of raation or something that is emitted from her body which kills computers. If anyone has any information on this phenomenon, please let us know. We are desperate and are considering sending her to a medium to exorcise her demon. We have also learned the meaning of stress, hair loss, and deadlines!

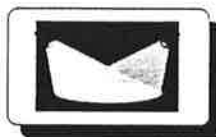
We just have one more thing to say. The *Stones & Bones* is the Alabama Archaeological

Society's newsletter. **not** Mac, April, Garnet, or Gwen's newsletter. So let's all work together to make this **everyone's** newsletter by sending in comments, articles, pictures, stories, and chapter news. Have a great 1995!



The Editors

Archaeological Highlights of 1994



January/February

* Near an imperial tomb of the Western Han dynasty (206 BC.- AD. 24) in Shaanix Province, China, some fifty terra-cotta statues of women warriors were discovered. This is the first time terra-cotta statues of women have been found. (*Archaeology Magazine*)

March/April

***Vampire Burial?** Researchers from the University of British Columbia and the Tenth Ephoreia of Prehistoric and Classical Antiquities uncovered the well-preserved skeletal remains of a middle-aged man, nailed to his coffin with eight-inch spikes. The nineteenth-century Turkish cemetery in which he was discovered is near Mytilene, the main city of the Greek islands. The man had been nailed through his neck, pelvis, and ankles. According to travelers from the eighteenth

and nineteenth centuries Vampires were nailed to their coffins to keep them from rising from the dead. (*Archaeology Magazine*)

May/June

*Tim White of U of C, Berkeley finds 3.4 million year old jaw of *Australopithecus Afarensis* in Maka, Ethiopia. Mandible demonstrates considerable differences in male and female sizes. (*Archaeology Magazine*)

*French Archaeologist, Antoinette Hesnard, discovers remains of three Roman ships and two Greek vessels found next to City Hall in Marseille, France. Abundant pottery, basketry, leather & wood were preserved by the site's humid clay sediments. (*Archaeology Magazine*)

*Largest collection of archaic *Homo Sapiens* bones ever found was excavated at a cave in Northern Spain. The cave find, called Sima de los Huesos, or pit of bones, is located in the Sierra de Atapuerca, near Burgos. Recorded as a transitional form between *Homo Erectus* and Neanderthals, these archaic *Homo Sapiens* roamed Europe more than 300,000 years ago. (*Archaeology Magazine*)

July/August

*AAS Summer Meeting was held on July 9th at Dust Cave!

*An ancient skeleton discovered in Colorado's White River National Forest six years ago has been made public this year. The skeleton is said to be an 8,000 year old male that is 5'4" tall. This skeletal find is 2,700 years older than the famous "Iceman". It is also the only ancient skeleton found in a cave over 10,000 feet above sea level (*Archaeology Magazine*).

*Town dating to the late third millennium BC. found on the island of Bahrain in the Arabian Gulf. Archaeologists working on the island have stated the town was probably abandoned around 1750 BC. as the sea inlet on which it relied on silted up (*Archaeology Magazine*).

September/October

*The Moundville Native American Festival took place September 26 to October 1. This year's theme was "Celebrating our Cultural Heritage".

*Research within the past year has revealed that rather than being 1 million years old, several *erectus* fossils from Southeast Asia are in fact almost 2 million years old. This is as old as the oldest African members of the species, and it would mean that *erectus* emerged from its home continent much earlier than has been thought - in fact, almost immediately after it first appeared (*Discover Magazine*).

November/December

*Gary Larson, author of the *The Far Side* retired and published his last syndicated comic.

*The AAS annual winter meeting was held at Troy State University on December 10th.

The Gulf Coast Indians

The Indians of America came from obscure places and at uncertain dates,
At best we can speculate they visited America across the Bering Straits.

The Gulf Coast natives show evidence of being here all through the cultural ages.
Their history confirms Paleo, Archaic, Woodland, and the Mississippian stages.

Before they were called Indians they were human beings, Ichi by name, with tribal differences unique

Later we come to know them as Choctaw, Muskogean and Creek

We learn of them at D'Olive and Dead Lake sites. Pensacola and Ochuse Bays.

They lived nomadic life styles moving freely
through woods, thickets and along
waterways.

From North to South and East to West they
hunted and gathered as individuals and in
bands.

Roaming here and there for food resources
spanning water and forest lands.

They traveled the streams in dugout canoes
carved from native logs of wood,

We find their artifacts preserved along their
paths and where villages and campsites
stood.

The family traveled along well worn paths that
later became frontier roads.

They took along their skills of living, cooking,
tanning and traditional spirit codes

At clan gatherings they commingled and
shared the wisdom of spirit survivals

A depth learned through generations , a
quality that impressed even the new Euro
pean arrivals.

The French and Spanish were to learn the hard
way the lessons the Indians had found

The Europeans often chose wrong locations in
selecting settlement and towns

They selected unwise locations often to
protect, control and fill their territorial
needs,

Many of the places were not adequate to sup
port basic living and the food cultivation
of new world seeds.

In the fifteenth century the Indians were just
beginning to reap new agricultural ways,

The white villages existed by stealing or
buying Indian stored grain and maize.

The Indians built a variety of homes, some on
stilts and some dwellings on more perma-
nent grounds

They fished and traveled the Mobile Delta
living where the abundance of game
abounds.

From West Mobile Bay to the Eastern shore

They visited special places like Bear Point,
Shellbanks and many more

Each group and age created items of imagery
of shell and bone,

Clay pottery incised and kilned and tools
carved of stone.

Once a year they traveled to area centers for
ceremonial rites

These larger villages had names like Mauvilla,
Moundville and a dozen other sites

In these group gatherings, children were in
structed of tribal life,

Of heritage, history, heroes and honor and
how the Indian family endured by struggle
and strife.

Studies have shown that there is much to
know, new information to seek

The Indians had no written language, their
artifacts are all that's left to speak

Each person who walks these southeastern
paths of woods, bluff and shoreline
landing

Has a special opportunity to collect and
contribute to our native American history
understanding.

By: *Dr. John Van Valkenburg*
Orange Beach, AL

Student Articles



As mentioned in previous issues of
the *Stones & Bones* we are soliciting
articles from elementary, high school,
undergraduate and graduate students
in an effort to get school students involved with
archaeology. Below is a copy of the letter being
sent to randomly selected high schools around the
state. If you happen to know a high school
teacher or student that you think might be inter-
ested in participating, please tell them about the
letter below.

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Fagan. New York: Simon & Schuster. 1995. 272 pp. (paper).

What's Happening Around the State

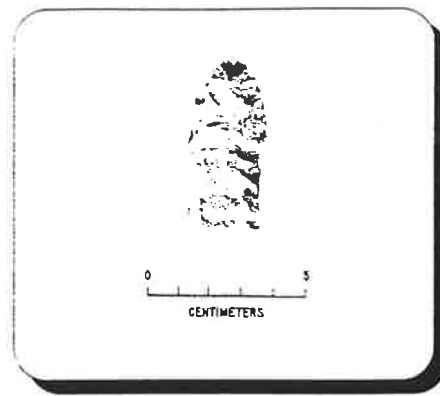


The *Alabama Museum of Natural History* is sponsoring a Museum Expedition at Fusihatchee, a 17th century Indian site near Wetumpka.

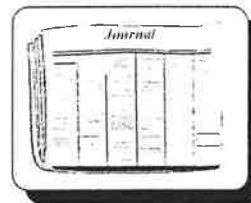
This program offers a unique summer field experience for high school students, teachers, parents, and other interested adults. The Expedition provides hand-on scientific field research in the areas of geology, archaeology, biology, and practical ecology. Operating from a large tent camp in a remote setting, the Expedition offers the participant a chance to experience scientific field research in much the same way it was conducted fifty years ago. The program runs from June 18 through July 15, 1995, with each session beginning on Sunday afternoon and ending the following Saturday. For more information please call (205)-348-2319.

Clovis Point from Hale County. The accompanying photograph shows the first point from Hale County reported to the Alabama Paleo Point Survey. This Clovis (APPS 88) was recently found in northern Hale County by AAS member Paul Clements and reported to the survey. The point is made of highly patinated coastal plain chert; probably Ocala chert. It measures fifty-six millimeters long (just about two inches) and is in excellent condition, with two small patinated breaks on one edge. The point is fluted on both sides. A remnant of a retouched impact fracture visible on the tip suggests that the original owner, far from any source of good quality raw material, was making the most of this artifact.

Studying the use and distribution of raw materials is one goal of the Alabama Paleo Point Survey and we thank Paul for bringing this interesting specimen to our attention.



Chapter News



Huntsville Chapter...

held their November meeting on Tuesday, November 22, 1994. Their speaker was Rev. Gene Moritz, a member of the Huntsville Chapter, who displayed artifacts from the Mississippi Delta and explained what to look for on an archaeological site. Rev. Moritz grew up in Natchez and for a time worked in the Delta, about 15 miles from the Poverty Point site.

Cullman County Chapter...

held their Christmas party at the home of Dewitt and Nancy Coleman. They would like to thank the Colemans for a wonderful party with lots of food and fun! Their January meeting was held on Monday, January 16 in the basement of the Colonel Cullman Home. Van King gave a fascinating program on flintknapping which was interesting for both young and old alike.

New Members



We would like to extend a special welcome to our 1st new AAS members for 1995!

Fran Milwee
Blountsville, Al

S A Herrod
Tuscaloosa, Al

Beverly and Robert Curry
Tuscaloosa, Al

Terry Lolley
Tuscaloosa, Al

Inez R. Hoffman
Tuscaloosa, Al

Rebecca Smith
Tuscaloosa, Al

Marian and Harold Foster
Montgomery, Al

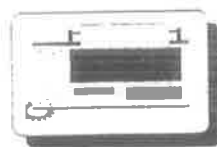
Bill Smith
Mobile, Al

David Smithwick
Mobile, Al

Matthew D. Hartzell
Linden, Al

William B. Turner
Auburn, Al

New Fax



The editors of the *Stones & Bones* would like to inform all AAS members that our new fax number is 334-670-3706.

Please do not hesitate to utilize this number when submitting news to the *Stones & Bones*. This number runs directly to our computer which will help us tremendously in our preparation of the newsletter. The line is open 24 hours a day, 7 days a week.

The Calendar



***American Society on Ethnohistory** will hold its Annual Meeting on November 2-5, 1995. It will be held at the Radisson Plaza Hotel at Kalamazoo Center, Kalamazoo, Michigan. Papers, Organized Sessions, Special Events, and Speakers that treat any world area are encouraged. Abstracts of 50-100 words on appropriate submission forms. Preregistration fees of \$45 (Non-Members), \$35 (Student/Retired) are due by June 2, 1995. Write for submission forms and return to ASE 1995 Meeting Chair, Dr. Donald L. Fixico, Department of History, Western Michigan, Kalamazoo, MI 49008-5020, Telephone: (616)-387-3999.

*** Dr. Donald Johanson**, America's best-known Paleoanthropologist and discoverer of *Lucy* in 1974, will present a free public lecture Monday, February 6, 1995, at 7:30 PM. The presentation will be held in Montgomery at Huntington College, Flowers Hall Chapel. For more information call (334)-265-0511.

Reminder



Just a little reminder to all AAS members that 1995 dues are due this month! If you want to continue receiving your *Stones & Bones* please send your dues in as soon as possible!!

Thanks!! - *The Editors*

Mail your dues and renewal form to:

Alabama Archaeological Society
c/o Eugene Futato
13075 Moundville Archaeological Park
Moundville, Al 35474

New Area Code

We would like to remind all AAS members of the change in area code from 205 to 334. This will affect the southern portion of Alabama, beginning this month. Several of the phone numbers which we have listed may fall under the new code. Please keep this in mind when dialing.

PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

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

Checks Should Be Made Payable To: **Alabama Archaeological Society**

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 Division of Archaeology
 13075 Moundville Archaeological Park
 Moundville, AL 35474

MEMBERSHIP

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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