

Alabama Archaeological Society

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STONES & BONES NEWSLETTER

Editor

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2602 Green Mountain Rd.
Huntsville, Alabama 35803

Volume 27

MEMBER OF THE EASTERN STATES ARCHEOLOGICAL FEDERATION

Number 7

EDWARD C. MAHAN

Edward C. Mahan of Guntersville, Alabama, died June 21, 1985 at the age of 73. Mr. Mahan was a founding member of the Alabama Archaeological Society and served in various offices during the Society's formative years. He was a prime mover in the formation of several Society Chapters in north Alabama—Morgan-Limestone Chapter, Huntsville Chapter and the Marshall County Chapter. On Monday, April 16, 1956, he was elected first president of the Huntsville Chapter when the State Charter was received. It was in Huntsville, and Guntersville where he later moved, that most of his archaeological work was accomplished.

A keen observer and dedicated field explorer, he traveled the length and breadth of the Tennessee Valley in search of Paleo Man. Along the way, he gained recognition as an authority on the archaeological history of the valley. A much sought after speaker on early man, he willingly obliged the many schools, historical societies and archaeological societies requests to speak on his discoveries. He contributed papers to the Journal of Alabama Archaeology, the Tennessee Archaeologist, the Anthropological Journal of Canada and other publications. His contributions to projectile point typology appear in Handbook of Alabama Archaeology Part I Point Types and Guide to the Identification of Certain American Indian Projectile Points (Oklahoma). The "Redstone" point is perhaps Mahan's most noted contribution to typology.

For more than a decade, beginning in the early sixties, he conducted extensive field surveys on behalf of the Society. University excavations of many bluff shelters discovered by Mahan helped define the archaeological sequence in north Alabama.

Mr. Mahan's maps, site reports and field collections from hundreds of catalogued sites were thoughtfully donated to the Department of Anthropology at the University of Alabama in Birmingham some time ago. The archaeological community will certainly miss Ed, but his contributions will continue to be of value to future generations of archaeologists.

He is survived by his wife Mary, a daughter, two grandchildren and innumerable friends.

The Editors

July 1985

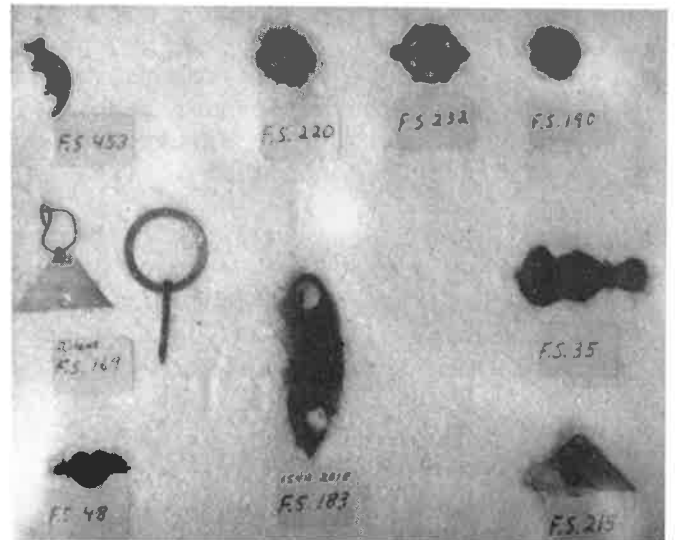
MODERN TUMULI

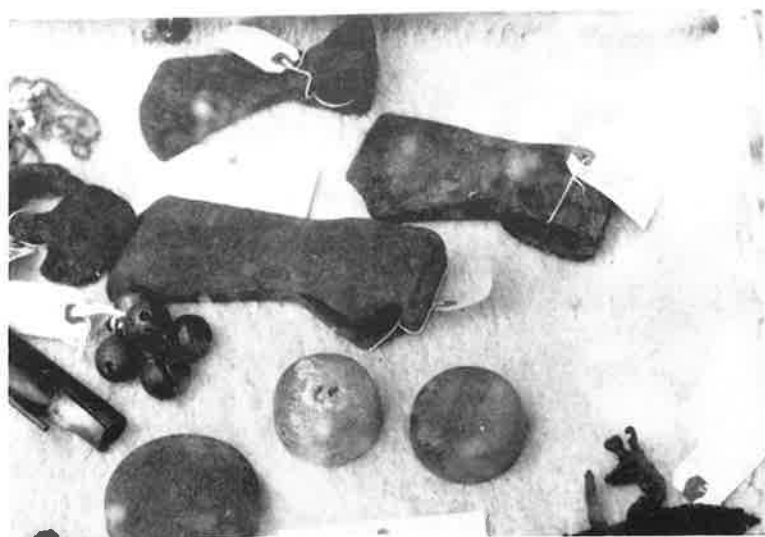
According to the June 17 issue of "Newsweek", a mining company and the State of Illinois will share the expense of an unusual project: the construction of five large earthworks. The earthworks, "Buffalo Rock Effigy Tumuli", are the creation of artist Michael Heizer, who says he felt inclined to pick up where the ancient Indians left off. Heizer's tumuli are "geometric versions of a water spider, a frog, a catfish, a turtle and a snake - all animals native to the region". Each mound is about 1,000 feet long and 25 feet high and will incorporate "paths around them for the public". They will be located on a plateau ravaged by coal mining, and are to be finished by next spring. "You have to have proper respect for the place", says Heizer, "and not create some jarring disturbance".

Ironic, isn't it? While Indian sites all across America are being destroyed - deliberately or accidentally - Illinois is spending \$1 million to erect modernistic reminders of ancient treasures. Wouldn't it be nice if the state governments were willing to spend that kind of money to preserve the genuine treasures they already have?

The Editors

PHOTOGRAPHS here and on the following page show typical scenes from the Society's Summer Field Activity in Elmore County on May 18-19, 1985. Work will be continuing on this very productive site throughout the summer.





CHAPTER NEWS

Cullman Chapter

The June meeting was held on Monday the 17th at the courthouse. Members brought artifacts for a discussion of point identification.

Muscle Shoals Chapter

The chapter held its annual picnic meeting on top of the Indian Mound at Florence. The chapter provided hamburgers, and members brought covered dishes, potato chips, etc. After a fine meal, the 25 members and guests present proceeded into the Indian Mound Museum for the meeting.

Dorothy Luke of Huntsville presented a very interesting slide narration of her recent archaeological tour to Belize. Along with seeing and understanding the archaeology of the area, we were able to get the "feel" for present-day society in Belize.

The Muscle Shoals Chapter will break for the summer and resume meetings in October.

Tuscaloosa Chapter

The Tuscaloosa Chapter's June meeting was held at the town library. Guest speaker was Mr. Tim Mistovich from the Office of Archaeological Research in Moundville, Alabama. Mr. Mistovich spoke on underwater archaeology in the southeastern United States.

NEW MEMBERSHIPS - JUNE 1985

<u>Name</u>	<u>Type</u>	<u>Address</u>
Bangham, Mr. Dennis E.	(I)	10016 West Leigh Drive SE, Huntsville, AL 35803
Blackwood, Ms. Jean	(I)	Route Two, Aladdin # 70, Laceys Spring, AL 35754
Crosson, Ms. Sherron	(I)	Route One, Box 176-A, Delta, AL 36258
Evans, Mr. Lanny D.	(S)	Apartment # 524, Graystone, Scottsboro, AL 35768
Gould, Mr. Jon H.	(I)	4923 Windwood Circle, Birmingham, AL 35243
Hilliard, Mr. Jerry	(I)	1601 Adrian Road, Dothan, AL 36303
Kilborn, Mr. Edgar	(I)	813 Ferry Street NE, Decatur, AL 35601
Quintavalle, Mr. Dennis	(I)	219 Mark Street SW, Decatur, AL 35601

Rea, Mrs. Alice	(F)	1507 Pennylane SE, Decatur, AL 35601
Sanders, Mr. Joel E.	(I)	3025 Edinburgh Drive, Virginia Beach, VA 23452
Sanford, Mr. Joe P.	(I)	Route One, Box 276, Fayette, AL 35555
Sims, Mr. Stanley E.	(I)	148 Parsons Drive SE, Huntsville, AL 35803
Walburn, Dr. James D.	(S)	41 Ridgeland, Tuscaloosa, AL 35406
Weller, Mrs. Cyndi W.	(I)	4814 Cypress Creek Avenue East, Tuscaloosa, AL 35405
Woods, Ms. Josephine	(I)	3010 Wood Lawn Drive SW, Huntsville, AL 35802

Betty T. Henson
Huntsville

CURRENT RESEARCH - O. A. R.

(Continued from April Issue)

Carey B. Oakley (OAR/UA) conducted excavations to expose the foundations of the Rotunda (1831-1865), the first building on The University of Alabama campus. The Rotunda was designed by William Nichols, who was successively the State Architect of North Carolina, Alabama and Mississippi. The Rotunda served as the chapel, commencement hall, library, and natural history museum of The University until burned by Gen. J. T. Croxton.

Robert H. Lafferty, III and Jeffrey L. Otinger (OAR/UA), and Charles M. Hoffman (U. of Arkansas) completed the report of excavations of the F. L. Brinkley Midden for NPS. The site was a 1.5-meter-deep midden in the Yellow Creek drainage, northeast Mississippi. Analysis focused on Archaic lithic technology and the interpretation of large features tentatively interpreted as semisubterranean structures.

OAR/UA, in cooperation with the AHC, has developed computer data banks for recorded archaeological sites and standing structures in the state. Approximately 6,000 of 7,500 sites and 5,500 of 22,000 structures have been entered into the files. The file is maintained at the UA Seebeck Computer Center and is accessed by remote terminals at OAR/UA and the AHC.

Carey B. Oakley
Moundville

NOTES ON ALABAMA MOUNDS AND ANTIQUITIES

The West Greene correspondent of the Eutaw "Whig" writes as follows: "In an open field near Sardis church, in this county, some person, while plowing, unearthed a number of skeletons, some of them preserved to a great extent. They were buried in a circle - their heads pointing to a centre. The field had been cultivated over 50 years, and of course, the remains were

deposited there long before the white men had possession of the country; and, besides, the form of burial is altogether different from ours. I suppose there must have been 25 or 30 in the burial place, and, from their position, all had been put there at the same time; and as many relics in the shape of their war implements, have been found about the place, it is probable that one of their great battles was fought there, and these skeletons were the slain upon one side." - The West Alabamian, October 27, 1875.

(From "Transactions of the Alabama Historical Society, 1899-1903" - Volume IV, Edited by Thomas M. Owen.)

Arthur Page
Montgomery

GRAVE ROBBING PROMPTS TVA EDUCATIONAL PARK

How does a public agency discourage grave robbers who come like thieves in the night to steal artifacts - destroying information about the Tennessee Valley's prehistory in the process?

The Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) is applying an ounce of prevention to a problem that presently has no quick cure. It is developing an interpretive minipark on Kentucky Dam Reservation on top of a well-robbed - or looted - prehistoric cemetery and inviting the public to visit. The park, which is scheduled to open September 30, is an educational demonstration of how such sites can help define prehistoric lifeways and cultures.

Located about one-half mile from Kentucky Dam near Grand Rivers, Kentucky, the one-acre minipark is an attempt to describe a way of life from the Mississippian culture around A.D. 900. Objects and details like those probably present before looting are displayed.

The park features a prehistoric coffin, a stone burial box with a top large enough to accommodate a human body. Remnants of a prehistoric house floor have been prepared as the house would have appeared during a scientific excavation. Interpretive signs describing the birth, adolescence, adulthood, and death in an Indian's life will be placed along a trail through the park.

"The approach is an educational one", explains TVA archaeologist J. Bennet Graham. "People visit national parks to study wildflowers in their natural context, but they do not pick the flowers. Many people are aware of early burial customs in which people who believed in life after death had their valuables buried with them for use in their next life. But I'm not sure they know that each time they loot a grave in search of these valuables, they destroy important historic records. And looting is not limited to burial sites, either", Graham says.

(From an article in the Tennessee Archaeological Society Newsletter, Vol. 29, Numbers 3-4; May-August 1984. Article was written by Brenda F. Glasgow, TVA Information Services.)

The Editors

BOOK REVIEW

"People of the High Country, Jackson Hole Before the Settlers". By Gary A. Wright, American University Studies, Series 11, Volume 7, 1984. Paperback, 181 pages plus tables and illustrations. Price \$20 from Peter Lang Publishing, Inc., New York.

This book covers the archaeological work performed over several years at Jackson Hole, Wyoming, and in the Grand Teton National Park.

The Editors

PUBLICATION AVAILABLE

"Meadowcroft - Collected Papers on the Archaeology of Meadowcroft Rockshelter and the Cross Creek Drainage" - edited by R. C. Carlisle and J. M. Adovasio.

Meadowcroft Rockshelter in Washington County, Pennsylvania, was excavated by the University of Pittsburgh between 1973 and 1978. It has produced an astounding array of prehistoric and historic period artifacts representing virtually all phases in the human occupation of the Cross Creek drainage. This volume is a collection of 15 papers on the geo-archaeological investigation of Meadowcroft Rockshelter and the archaeological survey of Cross Creek.

This handsome, 270-page bound volume represents the latest information on Meadowcroft, which has produced the earliest certain radiocarbon dates for the presence of humans in northeastern North America. Available for \$11 plus \$1.50 postage per volume from: R. C. Carlisle; Meadowcroft Collected Papers; Department of Anthropology; University of Pittsburgh; Pittsburgh, PA 15260.

The Editors

SYMPOSIUM ON OHIO VALLEY

URBAN AND HISTORIC ARCHAEOLOGY

Containing the presented and contributed papers resulting from the Third Annual Symposium on Ohio Valley Urban and Historic Archaeology held at the Ohio Historical Center in Columbus, Ohio, in March 1985, this volume represents a continuation of the effort started in Louisville in 1983 to bring together those colleagues actively engaged in historic archaeological research within the region. It is estimated that this volume will exceed 250 pages. Available for \$14 per copy, postpaid, from: Philip J. DiBlasi; ATTN: Historic Sites Symposium; Archaeological Survey; University of Louisville; Louisville, Kentucky 40292. Shipment expected in November 1985.

The Editors

PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

Available issues of <i>Journal of Alabama Archaeology</i> Vol. 20-29 each issue	(\$2.50 to Members) \$5.00 pp
<i>Stanfield-Worley Bluff Shelter Excavations</i> (<i>Journal of Alabama Archaeology</i>) Vol. VIII Nos. 1 & 2 - Reprint, each issue	\$5.00 pp
Special Publication 1 — Fort Mitchell	\$2.00 pp
Special Publication 2 — <i>The Archaeological Sequence at Durant Bend, Dallas County, Alabama</i>	\$4.50 pp
Special Publication 3 — <i>Archaeological Investigations at Horseshoe Bend</i>	\$6.50 pp
<i>Handbook of Alabama Archaeology Part 1, Point Types</i>	\$10.00 pp
Lively, Long, Josselyn - <i>Pebble Tool Paper</i>	\$3.00 pp
<i>Investigations in Russell Cave</i> , published by the National Park Service	\$7.50 pp
<i>Exploring Prehistoric Alabama through Archaeology</i> (Juvenile)	\$7.00 pp

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