

# Alabama Archaeological Society

UNIVERSITY OF ALABAMA P.O. BOX 6135, UNIVERSITY, AL. 35486

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## STONES & BONES NEWSLETTER

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3-9-74

### !!!!!!SPECIAL NOTICE!!!!!!

Special Publication #1 of the Alabama Archaeological Society entitled "Fort Mitchell: An Archaeological Exploration in Russell County, Alabama" by David W. Chase is now available. Society members for 1974 have been sent their one free copy each as agreed upon by the membership. All paying their dues by March 31, 1974 will be sent a free copy, those paying dues after March 31 will be charged \$2.00 per copy. If you have any doubts as to whether or not your 1974 dues have been paid, look at the mailing label on this issue of the newsletter and if an "x" appears this means dues have been paid. Extra copies of Special Publication # 1 are available for sale at \$2.00 each and may be ordered from David L. DeJarnette, Box 66, Moundville, Alabama 35474. Please make your checks payable to the Alabama Archaeological Society.

### SUMMER MEETING

The Muscle Shoals Chapter of the Alabama Archaeological Society has invited us to hold our summer meeting at Florence State University, the host institution. Tentative plans are for the meeting to be held in mid-June. Complete details concerning the summer meeting will appear in next month's newsletter. Since we have only a short time between now and the meeting, Dr. Albert Trowse, Jr., 275 Oak Street, Auburn, Alabama 36830, who is our Program Chairman, requests that those members wishing to give papers at this meeting send their titles to him by the 15th of March. This will give him time to get this information into the newsletter for the April issue.

### CALIFORNIA'S PETROGLYPHS

The wholesale destruction of petroglyphs in California is being publicized by national television programs and by newspapers and magazines. Congressman Jerry L. Pettis, from the 33rd District in California, has proposed new laws in the United States Congress concerning the enforcement of laws on Federal Lands in California. He is particularly interested in protecting petroglyphs in desert areas where they are now being destroyed. The DESERT WATCH, which is a fine group of concerned California citizens that are attempting to patrol and protect petroglyphs in one desert where the vandalism is unbelievable, is a step in the right direction.

The enormity of the desperate situation concerning destruction of petroglyphs is not prevalent only in California, because in every state where there are or were stones, the problem is the same. For instance, in Georgia throughout the years, petroglyphs have been destroyed by every type of vandalism, construction activities, etc. The so called treasure hunters have even dynamited several stones.

(Margaret Perryman Smith)

#### FURTHER NOTES ON THE NATCHEZ

"The Natchez tribe was more compactly organized than most of the Indian tribes. It understood subordination to its chiefs, and, indeed, in many other regards, showed a higher civilization than that of most of the Indian nations. The conjecture has always seemed probable that it was an offshoot from that superior Mexican race, the civilization of which, as described in the exaggerated accounts of the companions of Cortez, is still one of the problems and wonders of history. The Natchez worshipped the sun. His temple was of oval shape, built of clay, without windows, and arched in a dome. It was about one hundred feet in circumference, and, to defend it from the rain, was covered with three layers of woven mats. Above it were three wooden eagles, one red, one white, one yellow. No person was permitted to live in it, but the Guardian of the Temple had a little shed without, where he lodged. The whole was surrounded by a palisade on which were exposed the skulls which had been brought back from battle. In this temple a perpetual fire was kept, supplied from time to time by the Guardian of the Temple. It was his duty to feed the fire with logs, to see that they did not blaze, and that the fire did not go out.

The palace of the great chief, who took the name of the Brother of the Sun, was similar to the temple. It was raised on an artificial mound, that he might better converse with his brother in the heavens each morning. The door of the palace fronted the east, and, when the sun rose, his brother saluted him with howls, ordered that his calumet (peace pipe) should be lighted, offered to him the three first puffs of smoke, and raised his hands, turning from east to west, to direct his course for that day through the heavens.

On the death of the supreme chief his sister's son succeeded. The princesses of the blood espoused none but men of obscure family, and had the right of dismissing a husband whenever they pleased. The power of the Brother of the Sun was absolute; no man would refuse him his head if he asked for it, and if he appointed a guard to wait upon the French, none of these men were permitted to receive any wages. He had a sort of bodyguard, or personal staff, appointed even at his birth. For, so soon as an heir presumptive was born, a certain number of infants was chosen from the infants of the tribe near his age, and these were assigned for the service of the young prince. They hunted, fished, planted, and farmed for him, - they were his servants, and they furnished his table. That they might serve him in another world, they all sacrificed themselves to follow him, when he died. In a religious rite of great solemnity they were strangled that they might go at once to be his servants in the world of spirits. All these customs, and many others, described in the early writers, are analogous to those ascribed in the Spanish writers to the Mexican tribes. Charlevoix observed bas-relief carvings, 'not so badly done as one expects,' among the chiefs of a neighboring tribe." (From Bryant's (William Cullen) Popular History of the United States by Charles Scribner's Sons 1878, Chapter XXII, pp. 540-541; circa 1722.)

(John Martz - Huntsville Chapter)

#### PUBLICATION AVAILABLE

Flint Run Paleo-Indian Complex: A Preliminary Report 1971-73 Field Seasons, William M. Gardner, Editor, is currently available from Dr. William M. Gardner, Department of Anthropology, Catholic University, Washington, D.C., 20017 at a cost of \$2.50 each. This book contains ten articles which are expanded and illustrated versions of papers read at a symposium at the 1973 American Anthropological Association meetings in New Orleans.

#### ANOTHER ADVANCEMENT AT UAB

The Department of Anthropology and Sociology of the University of Alabama in Birmingham would like to announce the expansion of a program in Physical Anthropology. In addition to courses in general Physical Anthropology, Human Evolution, Osteology, and Human Disease Patterns, the department has initiated a research program in Dental Anthropology and Human Osteology. Due to the recent development of this laboratory program, we are in need of human skeletal remains for a comparative collection and student instruction in the analysis of human remains. Consequently, we would greatly appreciate any donations or loans of such material which would be stored, used, and cared for in the Anthropology Laboratory. We would also be happy to assist any Society member in the analysis of human skeletal material.

The program in Physical Anthropology at UAB began in 1968 with an introductory course taught by the late Dr. E. Carl Sensenig of the UAB Medical School Department of Anatomy. He was joined by Dr. William Coleman, formerly of the Anatomy Department, who began offering advanced courses. Mrs. Valli Nance (Mrs. C. Roger), a graduate student in Anatomy (with an MA in Cultural Anthropology from the University of Texas) currently teaches both introductory Cultural and Physical Anthropology. She is also doing dissertation research on the embryological development of the human soft palate. In 1973, Dr. Jerry Rose joined the faculty as UAB's first full-time Physical Anthropologist. He recently completed his Ph.D. dissertation at the University of Massachusetts on the comparative dental histology of prehistoric Indian populations from Dickson Mounds, Illinois.

(Jerry Rose and Valli Nance)

#### RENOWNED ANTHROPOLOGIST DIES

Joseph R. Caldwell, 57, professor of anthropology at the University of Georgia, died December 23 in an Athens hospital after a short illness.

A member of the graduate faculty and author or editor of numerous books and papers, including four articles for the *ENCYCLOPEDIA BRITANNICA*, Caldwell did extensive work throughout the southeastern United States in archaeology and anthropology. He had participated recently in investigations at St. Catherine's Island, Trotter's Shoals, and Little Tybee Island. The anthropologist held the MA and Ph.D. degrees from the University of Chicago.

Caldwell specialized in comparative archaeology and cultural history. He worked near Savannah during the depression years as supervisor of a WPA financed excavation of Indian sites. In 1948, Caldwell went on an expedition to the head of the Persian Gulf in Iran, he travelled to the southeastern part of the country, where he located the site of a prehistoric settlement. In 1966, he led an international expedition to the settlement, which dated back at least to 4500 BC. The site yielded evidence of a copper smelting industry - the oldest such evidence ever discovered.

Caldwell once said that he found it difficult to consider any of his work very important. Instead, he said he emphasized teaching and worked closely with students in the hope that they might make the major contributions. "I may not make it, but maybe one of my students will," he said. "I'm piling up little grains of sand for the future." (From the University of Georgia Community News, January 7, 1974, Volume I, No. 13, COLUMNS).

## ALABAMA ARCHAEOLOGY ON TELEVISION

Did you remember to watch the special on Alabama Archaeology? The dates were given in the February issue of the STONES AND BONES. I hope this may be the first of a series on Alabama Archaeology which will cover the whole state. If you agree with me, write your local Educational Television Station or to the Alabama Educational Network in Birmingham. The program, "Bear Creek Digs" was on Wednesday, February 6 at 7:00pm and again on Sunday the 10th at 5:30pm with Carey Oakley explaining some of his work in the Bear Creek Watershed. With the help of maps, slides and artifacts, he told of the survey; locating the sites; the carefully controlled excavation techniques; the accurate records and an explanation of what was found in the village area and at several mound sites. He emphasized that much of the information recovered could not be saved in the artifact bags, but was recorded in the records, photos and the analysis of the soil content.

We have an objection of sorts. We believe that maps of the area to be flooded by the Bear Creek, with the many sites they found, carefully pinpointed, should not have been displayed on television, nor for that matter, should such information be available to anyone but those qualified and who will protect such sites. Perhaps we shouldn't describe the precise location of sites to anyone as we say, "everyone knows about this site!" Often "everyone" does not and to show accurately on TV certainly gives the opportunity to many unqualified persons to learn where to look for such sites. We have found that many individuals honestly believe there is no harm in digging at a site when professional excavations have stopped or been interrupted. Just recently a phone call to ask me for the location of sites that had been dug so "they could finish digging" --a metal detector had been received for Christmas and now they planned to roam the country! This is not an isolated case! Not only are pot holes found on the sites which have not been investigated and on those partially investigated, but "intruders" are a constant threat during excavation, often going beyond potting to actual vandalism and destruction of the equipment. Every possible effort must be made to keep the locations of sites as confidential as possible, especially those that are unprotected and of greatest importance. We must educate the people as to the importance of what is being destroyed when indiscriminate digging is done by uninformed persons and without adequate records being made. LET'S NOT TEMPT OTHERS BY BEING TOO CASUAL WITH SITE LOCATIONS AND INFORMATION!

(Marjorie Gay - East Alabama Chapter)

## SELMA AREA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SURVEY UPDATE

The Selma Area Archaeological Survey was continued into the summer of 1973. Under the sponsorship of UAB and the Archaeological Research Association of Alabama, Inc., the survey was carried out by Mr. Cecil McBride, UAB student and resident of Wilsonville. McBride's survey centered on the Tuscaloosa Formation of the Fall Line Hills in southern Chilton County. We predicted that the high density of sites found just south of this physiographic sub-region would not occur here, because much of this northern area is not suitable for agriculture. McBride's work supports our hypothesis: he found only eight sites in fourteen days of work and most are relatively small. The 1973 survey coupled with the 1971 and 1972 surveys, carried out by Marvin Jeter, Mark Raab and Craig Ray, provide the basis for ecologically oriented research through excavation of selected sites, possibly during the summer of 1975.

(Roger Nance - Birmingham)

### AERIAL PHOTOS AID ARCHAEOLOGISTS

The following article by Robert Carr, Bureau of Historic Sites and Properties, was contained in the September-October, 1973, Vol. 4, No. 5, issue of ARCHIVES & HISTORY NEWS. Carr states in part, "Sometimes a search for archaeological sites can most efficiently be conducted from a perspective of 2,000 feet or so above the ground. This in essence is what is done by inspection and skilled interpretation of aerial photographs as a first step in surveying large tracts of land for archaeological sites. By proper interpretation of patterns and features in an aerial photograph, archaeologists are able to spot sites such as Indian Mounds, collapsed and overgrown forts, and other land alterations caused by man in centuries past."

### FROM OUR FAVORITE GEORGIA CORRESPONDENT

BOOK REVIEWS: The Plundered Past, by Karl E. Meyer, Atheneum Publishers. This is an interesting and informative book. The enormous and profitable trade of all kinds of antiquities is related. Art thefts, looting of archaeological sites, destruction of sites, etc., makes good reading. The story of the illegal international traffic in works of all kinds of art is most enlightening.

-----Pots and Robbers by Dora Jane Hamblin, Simon and Schuster, Publishers, 1970. Here is another good book on what is going on in Italy concerning archaeological looting. The author gives details of unbelievable finds in that country and the looting of sites by grave robbers and how they are apprehended. Carlo Lerici's inventions are discussed and his methods of using his engineering and industrial experience in discovering ancient Etruscan tombs. Information is given over to many other of Lerici's inventions that can explore beneath the earth with space-age equipment and cameras.

-----Mysterious Places by Daniel Cohen, Dood Mead 1969.

With all the furor presently going on concerning UFO's, etc., here is a book giving information about Atlantis, Lemuria, Easter Island, Stonehenge, Arthur's Britain, Mohenjo, Daro, Kingdom of Prester John, Zimbalowe, Olmec, El Dorado...Makes the reader want to know more about the above.

(Margaret Perryman Smith)

### WINKLE PICKERS

From the INTERAMERICAN, Volume 20, No. 6, November-December, 1973, come the following two articles:

Made from small slivers of flint, winkle pickers have been found on a Bronze Age site near Argyle, Scotland, along with some 10,000 winkle shells. We have never picked a winkle but these are said to be more efficient than pins for winkle picking. Conceivably they could also be used for escargot picking instead of toothpicks. The pickers are curved and date from circa 1500 B.C. A large range of pottery was also found along with flint projectile points.

MAMMALIAN OSTEO-ARCHAEOLOGY: NORTH AMERICA by Miles Gilbert, University of Missouri. Over 2/3 of this book is devoted to beautiful illustrations, almost all meticulous drawings. Maps showing the maximum known range of numerous species are given. We would be tempted to call this a field manual except for the size. Since bones are all brought back to the lab, however, likely a field manual is not much of a necessity. If you like to look at bones, as we do, it is a delight just to look at this volume. This is a must for any individual or group working on sites where animal bones are found.



### MORE LESS-THAN-PROFESSIONAL ACTIVITY

In the June 1973 NEWSLETTER of the Archaeological Society of North Carolina, was a report of the present conditions at the Hardaway and Deerschuk sites which were excavated and reported by Dr. Joffre Coe (The Formative Cultures of the Carolina Piedmont, The American Philosophical Society, Philadelphia, 1964). "September 2, 1972---Hardaway Site---two obvious paths---hear digging activity closeby---A man and his brother---a hole about three feet deep and four feet wide. Approximately two feet below the surface was a thick (approximately one foot) layer containing numerous flakes. ---given up bottle collecting to become pot hunters---about a year and a half. ---hard workers---outlast most---morning's work productive---one Guilford and three Palmer points---we---ordered them to stop digging---they cooperated and said they were unaware the University had the land on the point leased. Pot hunter glad to know how to get in touch---he had left a productive hole---returned---found other people in "his hole". Had he known how to contact us he would've so we could have run the unprincipled rascals out. ---Deerschuk Site---evidence of heavy vehicular traffic. ---green GMC pick-up---adjacent to the site---several pick-ups and one trail bike---two men were in one hole---two husband and wife teams---three little kids---couple of the holes were so big that you could successfully bury a truck in them. They were obviously suspicious and immediately wanted to know our business there. ---ordered them to stop digging. ---they seemed impressed by the fact that a civil suit could be instituted. Two boys in a Toyota---one very articulate---a man paid people to collect artifacts. ---also was a lady---who bought artifacts from collectors. She supposedly had the previous no trespassing signs removed from the Hardaway Site." And it had been expected to obtain more information from these sites!

(Marjorie Gay - East Alabama Chapter)

(Editor's Note: Please - All of us - keep drilling the thought that we are destroying pages of history when the digging is not done through an authorized group.)

### THE DICTIONARY DEFINES...

Pot hunter: 1) a hunter who kills game indiscriminately, disregarding the rules of sport. 2) a person who enters contests merely to win prizes. (Editor's Note: Also a digging cochon.)

(Marjorie Gay - East Alabama Chapter)

### GOVERNOR THOMAS McCALL TO SPEAK

Circle April 5 and 6 on your calendars and save these dates for the Annual Meeting in Montgomery of the Alabama Conservancy. The Nation's outstanding environmentalist in office, Governor Thomas McCall will speak. Governor McCall will open the meeting on Friday night, April 5, with the keynote address. The dinner and all sessions will be held at the Governor's House Motel in Montgomery. A challenging program has been arranged around the theme of Equilibrium, the need for a balanced society and stabilized economy on a planet with finite resources. (From the NEWSLETTER of the Birmingham Chapter of the Alabama Conservancy).

From the Birmingham News, January 5, 1974 we learn that the oldest living thing on earth may be a 4,900 year old bristlecone pine in California's White Mountains and the world's largest prehistoric cemetery with scores of thousands of burial mounds is located on Bahrain, a tiny island off the Arabian Coast of the Persian Gulf.

### HUNTER STATION (1Mt99)

Hunter Station is a productive Woodland shellfish gathering station of the Hope Hull Phase located on the south bank of the Alabama River north of Montgomery.

Reconnaissance in the early spring of 1973 uncovered four large shell dumps associated with the Woodland component. Tests revealed a deeper campsite of Early Archaic provenience as well.

Project excavation of the site began later in the spring and revealed evidence of a long period of Woodland occupation. A major find consisted of a mass burial of six adults, all extended. All but one had been decapitated and the skulls were not recovered. The one complete skeleton was that of a senile female. Three of the bodies had apparently been thrown into the pit face down. The only burial furniture recovered was a conch shell dipper and ocean shell beads about the wrist of the female. Other objects in the grave pit were several hundred potsherds of both Adams Plain and Montgomery Red Filmed. Several Sand Mountain projectile points were also found among the bones.

A second find, also of a ceremonial connotation was that of a cache pit containing 27 objects. These included: "worked" as well as worn hematite and silica concretions in forms of cups and shallow trays, two perforated silica disks, three pottery trays featuring tetrapodal feet, a stone sphere, and an unusual animal effigy pipe. The ceremonial implications of such an assemblage was most evident although its full meaning may never be known. The tetrapodal trays, ultimately vessel bases, had been smoothed along the edges to create new rims.

In levels as deep as three feet in certain parts of the site and separated from the Woodland evidence by a thick blanket of almost sterile alluvial sand, was extensive evidence of an Early Archaic campsite. A great number of scrapers (small end, side, and larger pebble bias-fractured type), drills and very small flake tools were found in close association with 23 Big Sandys, 3 Kirk Corner Notched, 3 Daltons and 2 Decatur. Considering all of these to be of one provenience, it was surprising to note the presence of milling stones and metate type grinding stones. The latter have been regarded as later Archaic artifacts.

This remarkable site has contributed much to our knowledge of both the Woodland and the Early Archaic life ways in Central Alabama.

(David Chase - Montgomery Chapter)

(Editor's Note: The above is an abstract of a lecture to be given at the April meeting of the Alabama Academy of Science in Birmingham.)

### NEW MICCOSUKEE INDIAN DICTIONARY

The Miccosukee Indians have hunted and fished in the Florida Everglades for centuries. Now, for the first time the tribe has a written language. Cy Maus, an educator, has developed a system of grammar and a dictionary under a federal education grant. There was some objection by the medicine men who didn't want certain things written down. Only one new letter had to be invented, a "crossed L" which is an aspirant. Incidentally "alligator" is "halpate" in Miccosukee. From THE INTERAMERICAN, Volume 20, November-December 1973, which is the newsletter of the Instituto Interamericano and is issued bi-monthly. There is no subscription rate but is supported by voluntary contributions. Director, Carl B. Compton, 5133 NT, Denton, Texas 76203.

## ANNOUNCEMENTS - STATE NEWS

### NEW MEMBERS DURING FEBRUARY

Arthur D. DeShazo, Rt. 1, Box 247, Leeds, Alabama 35094  
Don Lindsey, 1113 Malcomb Street, Savannah, Tennessee 38372 (Family)  
Adrian M. Clift, 1051 Beauregard Avenue, Apt. E-5, Atlanta, Georgia 30316  
Mrs. Ellen Brown, P.O. Box 48, Opelika, Alabama 36831  
A. Radney Ratcliff, 310 Samford Avenue, Opelika, Alabama 36830  
James C. Cooley, 6616 Seminole Drive, Fairfield, Alabama 35064 (Family)  
Zane Guffey, P.O. Box 542, Bristol, Tennessee (Associate)  
Philip H. Smith, P.O. Box 15, Talladega, Alabama 35160  
John C. Bullard, 318 South Anton Drive, Montgomery, Alabama 36105 (Family)  
Frank Kent Reilly, III, Drake Student Health Center, 345 W. Magnolia Avenue, Auburn, Alabama 36830  
Mrs. Louis Mason, 4273 Old Leeds Road, Birmingham, Alabama 35223 (Family)  
John R. Machamer, 5575 Swamp Street, NE, Hartsville, Ohio 44632  
Charles A. Richardson, Route 4, Box 96, Jasper, Alabama 35501  
Gerald R. Hester, Route 10, Box 653, Florence, Alabama 35630 (Family)  
J.L. Bedsole Library, Mobile College, P.O. Box 13220, Mobile, Alabama 36613 (Inst.)  
J. Dean Moore, P.O. Box 398, Leeds, Alabama 35094 (Family)

### CHAPTER NEWS

Choccolocco Chapter meets at 7:30pm on the third Thursday of each month in Regar Museum, Anniston. The February 21st meeting will be a planning session for the Chapter's work through next fall.

Cullman Chapter met February 18 at 7:30pm at City Hall. The program for the evening was entitled "Lacandon" and showed the life of the Lacandon Indians who are members of the Mayan group of American Indians. Meetings are held the 3rd Monday of each month.

Montgomery Chapter meets the second Thursday of each month in the Forum Room, Del-champs Student Center at Huntingdon College. The February 14th speaker was David Chase who spoke on "Just Who Did Discover America?" Miss Mae Belle Gay will be speaker at the March 14th meeting and her topic will be "The Belief Systems of the Creek and the Cherokee." This will be based on research she has done toward her doctorate. Miss Gay was 1972 President of the Chapter. The meeting begins at 7:30pm.

Morgan-Limestone Chapter meets on the fourth Thursday of each month at 7:30pm at the Decatur City Courtroom. The speaker for the February 28th meeting will be Tom Cornell of Huntsville and he will talk on Site MA-10, "An Archaic Shell Mound." Officers for 1974 are Robert Doherty, President; Joe Webb, Vice-President; Tom Moebs, Sr., Program Chairman; R. L. Schaefer, Secretary-Treasurer.

Muscle Shoals Chapter meets on the second Monday of each month at 7:30pm at the Indian Mound Museum in Florence. Ned Jenkins spoke at the February 11 meeting on "Pottery Sequence". "Faunal Remains in the Pickwick Basin" will be the topic of Jim Curren's talk on March 11.

Tuscaloosa Chapter meets the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30pm in Room 314 Ferguson Center will have as the March 5th speaker Dr. John Walthall. His topic will be the Woodland Period in Alabama. At the February 5th meeting Ned Jenkins presented a very informative program on the pottery of the southeast.



## 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.



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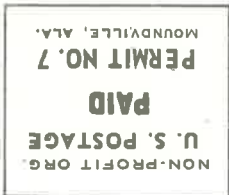


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