

Alabama Archaeological Society

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STONES & BONES NEWSLETTER

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MEMBER OF THE EASTERN STATES ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEDERATION

File
Stones & Bones

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OUR SURFACE SURVEY OF THE KLEINE SITE DRAINAGE AREA

"I like the program the Society is undertaking. The basic thing for any sustained and substantial archaeological program is a thorough survey, getting a broad grasp of what you have to deal with, and once you have the foundation properly laid, it is so much easier to build on it. Spectacular sites like the Stanfield-Worley shelter are excellent things for bringing to us the realization of the potentialities of a region and arousing our enthusiasm, but it is only one course of bricks in the structure that will eventually be built. And I think Alabama may be the most favorable area on the continent for working out Early Man problems because of its topography, geographical position, and climate." --- Sigfus Olafson, Vice-President, Eastern States Archaeological Federation.

Mr. Olafson has filled his office well by taking a very constructive interest, from distant N.Y., in our new approach to archaeology from the beginning. And again he serves with an excellent summary. Our Stanfield-Worley was indeed spectacular proof of our potential, and a wonderful "selling point" for financing future operations. But we had a bit of luck in our selection, too, and selection was what made this the most important dig in Alabama.

Now is the time to quit counting on luck and make a science of selection - a thorough surface survey of a drainage area where Early Man artifacts are numerous: Clovis, Cumberland, Quad, Beaver Lake, Lerma, Angostura, Dalton, Wheeler, Hardaway Side Notched, Jeff, Morrow Mountain or Gypsum Cave, Big Sandy I, Browns Valley, and one of the most possible Sandia points reported in the East! Beat that list of old projectile points - anywhere in America!

Dr. Charles H. Nash, State Parks Archaeologist, Chucalissa Indian Museum, Memphis, wrote us: "I think it should be more generally recognized that perhaps as high as 80% of the important recorded archaeological finds of the world have been made by amateurs" (July 1961 Newsletter). Such is the generously accorded reputation of amateurs as scouts - a great tradition which we have the opportunity to prove again. And with all the above old points in one area, how can we miss making history, and pre-history?

North Alabama may well be one of the most favorable areas on the continent "for working out Early Man problems", as Mr. Olafson says. The early evidence in the West is covered by many feet of loess, the Mississippi Valley and Gulf regions by many feet of alluvial deposit - found only by rare happenstances of erosion. Glaciers obliterated all evidence down to the Ohio River some 18,000 years ago, and were not out of the Great Lakes 10,000 years ago - making for unfriendly climate up that way when Dalton Man was chipping flints in the Stanfield-Worley shelter. And we have the Tennessee Valley, most likely East-West highway in Early Man times! Our KLEINE SITE DRAINAGE AGEA, Town Creek and its tributaries, draining Northward into the Tennessee near shoals where the river might be crossed,

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and extending Southward almost to the headwaters of the Sipsey River as one of the best highways to South Alabama (and fluted points are found on the Sipsey) - well, this could be it!

Our scouts will have to use their heads as well as eyes. For example, where we find the mostest is not necessarily the bestest. Such sites may be shallow, with most of the old points plowed or eroded out. Fewer old points, evidence of good soil depth above clay subsoil, and an ideal campsite (as a flat knoll by a spring, or a good shelter) - here may be the best place to sink a test excavation when Dave gets on the job. Or a good camping spot now in woodland, with nothing visible, might be the least disturbed of all and worth a small trial test. We want a buried Early Man site, in situ as he left it - plowed-up points get us nowhere. We must also study our topographical maps - an experienced surface hunter can almost say from the map where Early Man ought to be. On large sites, inhabited also by later cultures, the usually small area where Early Man artifacts are found must be pinpointed - a 10-acre site is hardly practical for test excavation.

One problem is to get all parties organized and coordinated for a systematic, thorough survey. Our far-flung Chapters will have to depend largely on the Muscle Shoals (who did such a swell job preparing the Stanfield-Worley last year) and Decatur groups, and H. J. Holland and his remarkable science students at Colbert County High School, Leighton. We hope they can all get together for a joint meeting to discuss matters. Spring is on the way, at last, and the "deep freeze" and rains of winter should make for good looking indeed. That is, if they beat the "collectors" to the sites. And be sure to turn in your artifacts from this area to Jack Cambron for typing as soon as possible - he has undertaken a tremendous job.

Remember that there is name and fame for the amateurs in this. And we need to "come through" again for our good donors - our 1963 fund-raising campaign will need another "success story". But, as we say, how can we miss - if we do an organized, systematic, thorough job? Personally, our money is on SOMETHING EVEN BIGGER this year!

And thanks indeed to Sig Olafson for reminding us that we are working on the biggest national problem of American archaeology, and that the good wishes of the entire archaeological world are with us - their eyes fairly popping!

--- D. W. Josselyn

H O N O R R O L L R O L L S
(Dollars and Sense)

"SOUTHERN LIFE AND HEALTH INSURANCE COMPANY, Birmingham, Alabama

Dear Mr. Josselyn:

Enclosed is our company's contribution towards the very fine work you....are doing. We here at this company have been very interested in your findings and have kept up to date on the developments in this field through our past president, Mr. J. H. McCary, Jr., who has been so interested in your organization.

I would like to offer....our congratulations on the work you have done in 1961, and to wish you the very best of luck on your 1962 dig.

Sincerely yours,

W. R. Lathrop, Jr., President"

It is surely nice of Mr. Lathrop to take the time to thus send "the giver with the gift". And SOUTHERN LIFE AND HEALTH also considered our results worthy of a raise over their generous contribution of last year!

It is good to know that the wonderful people who are making possible the long overdue search for America's "missing link" in Alabama have won the unstinted appreciation of the entire archaeological world. To quote one of many, famous Dr. H. M. Wormington, author of the classic ANCIENT MAN IN NORTH AMERICA (now in its 4th edition), wrote us that we in Alabama "should be very proud of all that you have accomplished and American archaeology is really in your debt". And as we are all well aware, DONORS made the DIFFERENCE!

And, as we are learning, archaeology had neglected to interest the American business man. We are further indebted to SOUTHERN LIFE for the father & son team, the J. H. McCarys,

ANNOUNCEMENTS - STATE NEWS

STONES & BONES E.T.V. PROGRAM: The schedule for March follows:

March 5th, William M. Massey, who is the owner of the Dismal Gardens in Franklin County, a natural botanical curiosity, is going to briefly mention some of the unusual things in this lovely spot and display some of the artifacts from that area which are to be exhibited in his museum.

March 12th, Jack Cambron, of Decatur, our authority in the classification field, is going to discuss the cultural association of projectile points.

March 19th, Adrian Thompson, a florist from the Tri-City area, who has recently been in Europe enjoying and photographing the archaeological attractions there, is going to tell us some of the legends and show us some of the pictures from his last 2 trips.

March 26th, the attraction will be some person who has not yet volunteered.

STONES & BONES PROJECTILE POINT PRIMER. As Edward VIII said in his memorable radio address just prior to abdicating the throne of England, so, also, can we say "At long last", the "Primer" has been published. We do feel we should mail out requests that have been made in the past months first, but rest assured, all of those who have dropped a note to "Stones & Bones" ETV program will receive a copy. Though the "Primer" is modest in size and contains only some 30 odd points out of the over 100 that are typed by our famous local taxonomist, Jack Cambron, it is a start and it will help categorize the differing periods and cultures that are indigenous to our locality.

It seems fitting to thank particularly Oscar Brock, a student at the University of Alabama, who made the pen sketches of the points; Jack Cambron, who classified the points; Dan Josselyn, who perpetrated the technology and has been kind enough to continue to include us as a friend, even though we adjusted and edited much of the script that he wrote; the Messrs. Romeo and Simmons, who did the art, had the whole thing varityped and printed; and, lastly, Steve Wimberly, who was kind enough to permit us to add one crowded page of pottery to the "Point Primer" to help round it out.

We hope those of you who have received it will enjoy it. Do read the last 2 pages so that you can encourage other folks to join our Society and to help us in collecting contributions and volunteers for work for this coming summer's dig.

LET'S REPAY OUR DEBTS! Our sister State of Tennessee has given us 2 very important things through the Tennessee Archaeological Society:

No. 1, - Information in their latest Newsletter tells us they have 562 members. We must grow considerably to equal the size of their Society. Since Tennessee is only a little larger in total population than Alabama, this should be no problem whatsoever, if all of us really make a drive to add new members and Chapters throughout the year. Let's accept that challenge!

No. 2, - And perhaps the most important thing which Tennessee has done for us through the good offices of Prof. & Mrs. T. M. N. Lewis, is to encourage us in Alabama in scientific archaeology and in presenting papers, so that what we know, regardless of how meager it may be, can be shared through Journals.

(Editor's Note: Many years ago we attended a class that had to do with Management, and the lesson that stands out most clearly is a simple story told as follows: If you have a dollar and I have a dollar and we trade dollars, we each still have one dollar; but if I have an idea and you have an idea, then we both have two ideas.)

Several of us who are members of both Societies should be encouraged to contribute not only to the Alabama, but also to the Tennessee Journal. Prof. Lewis' successor, Dr. A. K. Guthe, is more than willing to cooperate with and continue to help us. After all, the Indians didn't know where the Tennessee-Alabama line was, and so we should share our information.

GIRL SCOUTS HELP AT STANFIELD-WORLEY SHELTER. We never had adequate information to report on this properly, but now (thanks to Mrs. J. A. Livingston & Jim McCary) we can report that it has been reported, at least. The lead article in the GIRL SCOUT LEADER, February 1962, by Mary Louise Andridge & David DeJarnette, titled PROJECT "ARCHY", ably tells the story of this remarkable Girl Scout archaeological project - begun 5 years ago by the DEEP SOUTH GIRL SCOUT COUNCIL (Mobile), and now including Senior Scouts from 5 States.

They began with Dave at Mound State Park, the museum, lectures, visiting excavations,

ETOWAH CHAPTER???? Mr. Carl Brannon, who has been collecting in the Guntersville-Gadsden area for many years, and who, incidentally, also has a fine gun collection, called a special meeting on Feb. 11th at the Court House in Gadsden, which was attended by some 35 persons in the area who had evinced an interest in archaeology. The Gadsden folks believe that it is to their interest to organize a Chapter. Rodger Schaefer, Secretary of the State Society, told something of the history of the group; Brittain Thompson told about the Newsletter and the ETV programs that are produced; Jack Cambron discussed the Society activities covering both last year's Stanfield-Worley dig and something of the plans for next year's digging and the need for a site survey; and Al Beinlich, President of the State Society, discussed the organization and operation of a local Chapter.

This program was very well received as evidenced by the interest in the publications, and the many questions asked by the persons attending. Six persons at the meeting joined the State Society then and there, and several others said they planned to send in their applications. A committee of 5 headed by Mr. Brannon, plans to draw up a tentative constitution, and expects to have this discussed at a general meeting to be held on Washington's birthday, Feb. 22nd, at the Court House. At this time, it is hoped that a petition will be drawn up by the Etowah group to the State Society for the purpose of initiating a local Chapter. We sincerely wish them the best of luck, and are certain that there will be no problems involved in their being accepted in short order into the State Society. There are many folks in this group who have a deep interest, not only for themselves, but also for their children, in approaching archaeology the right way. They will be a welcome addition and help spread interest in the field in that area.

(Editor's Note: The Stones & Bones ETV program is a MUST in the family of Dr. E. M. Lindsey of Gadsden, and as a result, their oldest daughter, Cindy (8?), flatteringly asked for an autograph, the first such request to his best recollection. Being unused to this, he took a 3 x 5 card, carefully tore it in half, and said "I'll write my name on this half if you will write yours on your half". The transfer was made, and young Cindy had written the word "Yours" on her card. Southern girls have "tease" built in.)

THE EASTERN STATES ARCHAEOLOGICAL FEDERATION. The Exhibits Committee of the Federation, in continuing its slide library project, is now working on sets of slides of ceramic pipes on both a temporal and an areal basis. They are hopeful that anyone possessing such slides will donate one of each, giving full information concerning them. The complete sets would be made available to Societies, Chapter and individual members at a reasonable price, and should have considerable educational value. All slides, prints and correspondence should be addressed to: Elwood S. Wilkins, Jr., Chairman, Exhibits Committee, R.D.#2, Newark, Delaware.

NEW MEMBERS THIS MONTH: Welcome to each of one of the largest groups EVER:

Garet Aldridge, Jr., 2551 S. Durham Drive, Mobile, Ala.
Eugene Baker, 3505 Maripose Road, Huntsville, Ala.
Mr. & Mrs. W. J. Barker, 1202 Randall, Gadsden, Ala.
Evelyn Brannon, 1225 S. 10th St., Gadsden, Ala.
Mr. & Mrs. T. L. Clontz, 811 S. 4th St., Gadsden, Ala.
Mr. & Mrs. Joe S. Dozier, 1546 Gilmer Ave., Montgomery, Ala.
Mr. & Mrs. James W. Fly, 3443 Princeton Drive, Montgomery, Ala.
Ernest Goldman, St. Stephens, Ala.
Mr. & Mrs. O. Bruce Gregory, 851 Portland Drive, Montgomery, Ala.
Mr. Harold A. Huscher, River Basin Surveys, Bureau of American Ethnology,
Smithsonian Institution, Washington 25, D.C.
Roy Hallenbeck, 604 Kennan Road, Huntsville, Ala.
Mr. & Mrs. J. W. Hawkins, 205 Azalea Drive, Gadsden, Ala.
Milo Howard, Dept. of Archives & History, State of Ala., Montgomery, Ala.
Mr. & Mrs. P. C. Jackson, 112 Pine Ridge Circle, Birmingham 13, Ala.
Aaron H. Lewis, P O Box 221, Dothan, Ala.
Dr. & Mrs. E. M. Lindsey, 173 Azalea Drive, Gadsden, Ala.
Tommy Lindsey, Route 1, Gadsden, Ala.
Mr. & Mrs. Ralph McClendon, Route 3, Attalla, Ala.
J. B. Mitchell, 2254 Shade Ave., Florence, Ala.
Mrs. Hollis B. Parrish, Jr., 620-21 Massey Bldg., Birmingham 3, Ala.
Sister Mary Paul, O.S.B., P O Box 9103, Birmingham 13, Ala.

of the State Society in Birmingham. At the next meeting, Mr. E. V. Knotts will show films and slides on Guatemalan archaeology. 1962 Officers are: O. P. Grogan, President; H. J. Holland, Vice President; and S. E. Smith, Secretary-Treasurer.

The Tuscaloosa Chapter meets the 2nd Tuesday of each month in Comer Hall at the University of Alabama. No report received.

LETTERS: (This ONE not directly to the Editor)

Mr. Melvin M. Payne, Executive Vice President of the National Geographic Society, wrote the following most appreciated letter to our Bill Spencer, who had discussed our 1961 dig with Mr. Payne on one of his recent visits to Washington, D.C.:

"I am returning herewith the preliminary report on the excavations at the Stanfield-Worley Bluff Shelter which you left with me recently.

I first read it and then passed it along to an archaeologist-associate of mine at the Smithsonian. Both of us found the report extremely interesting and informative.

All of those identified with the project, and particularly the Alabama Archaeological Society, deserve much credit for their alertness and diligence, first in recognizing the potential and afterwards seeing it through the excavation stage."

We are, of course, much elated to learn that advance information on our accomplishments of last summer is reaching appreciative hands, and are looking forward to the publishing of a final report on our dig which we are sure will result in more exclamatory verbiage.

DATING BY RIVER TERRACES

Early Man had no "modern plumbing", so he lived close to a source of water. During glacial run-offs and pluvial periods, rivers were much wider than they are today. Also, being younger rivers then, they were less deeply worn. So the ancient bank of a modern river may be miles back from the present bank, and much higher - constituting what we call a "terrace". As rivers progressively shrunk, and wore deeper channels, they often left a series of these terraces - rising like steps, back from the present river.

These terraces therefore become of great importance in dating the archaeological remains on them. If geologists can pin a certain terrace down to, say, the melting of the third glacial icecap, archaeologists know the first hatchets found in this terrace are some 130,000 years old (pending, of course, more precise clarification of these still controversial glacial estimates).

To cite a practical example, such terraces ascend like steps from the Potomac and Anacostia Rivers. The Pentagon is on the first, or modern, terrace, nearest the present channel. On the second terrace stands the Washington Monument. Above that, on the third terrace, is the White House; and on the fourth terrace, the Capitol. The Lee Mansion, in Virginia, is well back on the fifth terrace. So, by simple arithmetic, archaeologists of the future can determine that Lee lived several geological epochs, or hundreds of thousands of years, before the labyrinthian Pentagon was built. And, muzzle loader to atom bomb, an immense time interval will be further evident on the basis of technology. George Washington - preglacial man in America.

It just goes to show how easy archaeology really is.

--- D. W. Josselyn

FINALE

Seems as though our "pitches" in this Newsletter for new Society members, brought advance results - judging from the nearly astounding total of 26 listed herein! Keep up the good work, and really astound yourselves and us this month! But please don't overlook working on contributions for our 1962 dig, or submitting "Mud-Town" collections of material for classification and registration.

THE ALABAMA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

Objectives of the Society: "To promote the study of archaeology of Alabama and of neighboring States; to encourage careful scientific archaeological research and excavation; to discourage careless digging without records; to promote the conservation of important archaeological sites and to favor the passage of laws proscribing such; to oppose the manufacture and sale of fraudulent antiquities; to encourage the establishment of local archaeological knowledge by means of publications and meetings; to develop a better understanding of the archaeology of the State by making systematic surface surveys and collections, and to serve as a bond between individual archaeologists in the State, both non-professional and professional."

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 neighboring States, and also receive the STONES AND BONES NEWSLETTER, published monthly, containing news of members & their activities, also State, National and worldwide events of archaeological importance.

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 checkmarks appear in applicable blanks!!!

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To THE ALABAMA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, for
_____ New Membership
_____ Payment of Annual Dues
_____ Reporting New Address

Mail to: Rodger L. Schaefer,
1114 - 15th Ave., S.E.,
Decatur, Ala.

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THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATION OF ALABAMA, INC.

This association, a subsidiary 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 checks should be made payable to the association as shown above.

The coupon below, after being completed to show information in each blank, should accompany your contribution, to insure proper credit and acknowledgment.

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