

Alabama Archaeological Society

Associate Editor
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STONES & BONES NEWSLETTER

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CREEK INDIANS CAUGHT DIGGING GRAVES

Creek Indians were recently caught digging at Hickory Ground, a former Creek Indian town now on the National Register of Historic Places. Through a \$165,000 grant from the Alabama Historical Commission and donation by the landowner, the Poarch Band of Creek Indians obtained title to the site in order to preserve it and eventually build a museum. Hickory Ground was an important Creek town located near Wetumpka, Alabama, on the Coosa River, and was considered by some as the capital of the Creeks until Removal.

The Creeks caught digging had unearthed two graves and three house foundations, and had made off with the artifacts. They were ordered to stop further digging, but they were back the next day, digging again. The Creeks recently announced that they planned to build a bingo palace on the site. This is a violation of all the reasons why the Creeks claimed they wanted the site, plus being illegal under the 1966 Historic Preservation Act.

(Extracted from the "Huntsville Times", March 26, 1991.)

ARCHAEOLOGY AT DUST CAVE

For the last four summers, the Alabama State Museum's Division of Archaeology, in conjunction with the University of North Alabama and the Tennessee Valley Authority, has conducted an archaeological field school near Florence, Alabama. Under the direction of Dr. Boyce Driskell of the Museum's staff, students and volunteers have systematically explored, mapped and probed over a dozen caves in the area. Of particular note is Dust Cave.

Initially investigated during the summer of 1990, the small, low present-day cave opening at Dust Cave belies the much larger entrance room, passages, and inner chambers of some 12,000 years ago, a time just prior to its use by some of Alabama's earliest inhabitants. Archaeological deposits began accumulating in the entrance room at least 10,500 years ago and possibly earlier. Successive occupations in the cave resulted in a series of layers (strata) of residential debris, mostly stone artifacts and manufacturing detritus, but also including bone and charred plant remains from fires and cooking, bone tools, and features such as

April 1991



Dr. Boyce Driskell - senior archaeologist at the Office of Archaeological Research - does microscopic useware analysis on artifacts from Dust Cave

fire hearths, pits, and graves. Up to four meters in thickness, these strata testify to prehistoric use of the cave until about 6,000 years ago, when the massive accumulation of occupational debris probably made the available living space too restrictive. Subsequently, additional detritus from cave walls and ceiling accumulated on top of the archaeological deposits, which remained sealed until recent explorations.

The field school will return to Dust Cave June 3 to July 13 for additional testing of the deposits. Adults in the community (ages 15 and over), and children accompanied by a parent or guardian can participate as non-credit continuing education students through the Continuing Education Office at the University of North Alabama (Telephone 205/760-4862). Several tuition plans ranging from a single day (\$19) to the full term (\$89) are offered.

Dr. Boyce Driskell
Moundville

CHAPTER NEWS

Birmingham Archaeological Society

Our March meeting was held on Thursday the 14th. Speaker was Dr. Roger Nance of The University of Alabama in Birmingham. Dr. Nance made a slide presentation on his past excavations in Guatemala and discussed his plans for this summer.

Bobby Hawkins

Cullman County Chapter

The March chapter meeting was held on Monday the 18th; the program was a discussion on how to locate Paleo sites.

Dewitt T. Coleman

Huntsville Chapter

H. Blaine Ensor was the speaker at the March 26 chapter meeting. Blaine presented an archaeological overview of portions of east and central Texas.

The Huntsville Chapter meets the fourth Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. in the Auditorium of the Public Library on St. Clair Avenue. The public is welcome. For more information on chapter activities call President Dee Hubbert at 880-1113, or Secretary/Treasurer Beth Justice at 880-2836.

Dorothy Luke

ALABAMA INDIAN RESOURCE CENTER OPENS

The Alabama Indian Resource Center celebrated its move into permanent headquarters on the grounds of Mound State Monument on March 20. Dr. Douglas Jones, Director of the Alabama State Museum of Natural History, introduced the speakers, which included Chief Howard White of the Echota Cherokees. Native American Butch Fuller and his daughter Heather also participated in the ceremony by planting a hickory tree outside the new center. Also on hand for the grand opening were Chief of Archaeology Carey Oakley and Dr. John Hall, Chief of the Division of Natural History at the Alabama State Museum of Natural History.

Activities of the Alabama Indian Resource Center include the Moundville Native American Festival in the fall; the "Alabama Indian Messenger, a quarterly newsletter for teachers; "Traveling Trunk" displays; Native American Artists in Residence; a lending library; weekend classes; guided tours of Mound State Monument; teacher information packets; and an archaeological associates program. For further information on any of these activities, call 205/371-2234 or 205/348-7774.

INDIAN DAY AT RUSSELL CAVE

The Sixth Annual Indian Day will be held at Russell Cave National Monument on Saturday, April 20, 1991. The theme will be the lifeway of the prehistoric Native Americans in the Tennessee River Valley and Russell Cave.

The event will begin at 10 a.m. and go on to 4 p.m. Special programs and demonstrations are scheduled throughout the day. Visitors are encouraged to come see or try some of the activities.

Frank Villegas, a Native American employed by Red Clay State Park, will talk on Native Ceremonies. Frank Chambless, a freelance teacher of prehistoric lifeways ecology, will demonstrate historic Indian costumes and aboriginal tools and lifeways.

Beth Justice from Huntsville will demonstrate beadwork and finger weaving. Candy Shaffer is the Storyteller for the day. An all-day special exhibit in the audio-visual room in the museum will feature petroglyph pictures of Alabama. Many of these rock carvings and paintings were recorded by Bart Henson of Huntsville.

Other exhibits will include buckskin tanning by Kenny Berry (see the article on Kenny in the "Birmingham Post-Herald", Thursday, March 21, 1991); flintknapping by Stuart Daw and Van King; blowgun making and use with Tom Shouse; pottery making by Patsy Hanvey. Atlatl use will be demonstrated by Paul Gray, and oak splint basket making by Lawrence Alexander. Indian crafts, herbal use and firemaking techniques will be shown.

Hamburgers, hot dogs and soft drinks will be available on the grounds of Russell Cave. For more information call 205/495-2672.

Larry Beane
Russell Cave

OLD STONE FORT KNAP-IN

There will be a "knap-in" at the Old Stone Fort State Archaeological Area in Manchester, Tennessee on Saturday, May 4 and Sunday, May 5, 1991. It will be held on the rooftop observation deck of the visitor center. Experienced and novice flintknappers are encouraged to attend and bring some of your work and raw materials to show and trade. Some time may be set aside for the public to observe the activities during the two-day event: possibly either or both afternoons. Campsites are available, and there are several motels in the area.

For more information on this activity contact Larry N. Beane; 822 Brummel Avenue; Bridgeport, AL 37540; 205/495-3307; or Ward Weems - Superintendent, Old Stone Fort State Archaeological Area; Rt. 7, Box 7400; Manchester, TN 37355; 615/723-5073.

NEW MEMBERS - 1991

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Jan Whaley - Ozark
Linda Williford - Troy

PUBLICATION AVAILABLE

PRE-COLUMBIAN CONTACTS WITH THE AMERICAS ACROSS THE OCEANS: AN ANNOTATED BIBLIOGRAPHY - by John L. Sorenson and Martin H. Raish. Preface and introduction; 110-page index. Hardbound - 7 x 10 inches; 1,375 pages, 2 volumes. Available from Research Press; Box 7113, University Station; Provo, Utah 84602. \$89 plus \$3 per set for shipping.

PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

Available issues of *Journal of Alabama Archaeology*

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

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SEND CHECKS TO:

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1 Mound State Monument; Moundville, AL 35474

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