

Alabama Archaeological Society

STONES & BONES NEWSLETTER

MEMBER OF THE EASTERN STATES ARCHEOLOGICAL FEDERATION

EDITOR

Mr. Brittain Thompson
3609 Montrose Road
Birmingham, Alabama 35213

ASSOCIATE EDITORS

Mr. & Mrs. Jerry J. Nielsen
P.O. Box 306
Daphne, Alabama 36526

EDITORIAL BOARD

Mrs. Doris Allegri, Daphne
Mr. Jack Cambron, Decatur
Mrs. Robert Gay, Standing Rock
Mr. E. M. Harris, Birmingham
Mr. Bart Henson, Huntsville
Mr. Howard King, Cullman
Mrs. E. M. Lindsey, Gadsden

Mr. James H. McCary III, Birmingham
Mrs. Dru McGowan, Auburn
Mr. Charles Moore, Florence
Mr. Carey Oakley, Tuscaloosa
Mr. Joseph Watkins, Birmingham
Mr. Steve Wimberly, Birmingham
Mr. Amos Wright, Huntsville



PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

Handbook of Alabama Archaeology, Part I, Point Types \$7.35pp
Handbook of Alabama Archaeology, Part II, Uniface Blade and Flake Tools. \$2.25pp
Lively-Long-Josselyn, Pebble Tool Papers \$3.00pp

CHECKS FOR ABOVE TO BE MADE PAYABLE TO:
ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATION OF ALABAMA, INC.

Available Back Issues of the Journal of Alabama Archaeology (thru 1973). \$1.00pp
Available Back Issues of the Journal of Alabama Archaeology (1974-) . . \$4.00pp
Special Publication 1 - Fort Mitchell \$2.00pp

CHECKS FOR THE ABOVE TO BE MADE PAYABLE TO:
ALABAMA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY

MAIL ALL CHECKS TO: MR. DAVID L. DeJARNETTE
BOX 306
DAPHNE, ALABAMA 36526

CHAPTER NEWS

BIRMINGHAM, Red Mountain Museum Complex, 1st Wed., 7:30pm Tom Hutto 956-1895. The November 3rd meeting will feature two movies: THE ATOM AND ARCHAEOLOGY and NUCLEAR FINGERPRINTING OF ANCIENT POTTERY. This should be of special interest to those wishing to learn more about dating methods.

CULLMAN, 3rd Mon., 7:30pm, Eulis King, 734-4548. The October 18th meeting featured William Miller who presented a slide demonstration on the KOSTER SITE and the DIXON MOUND SITES; as well as a business session concerning the upcoming Society Annual Meeting to be hosted by the Cullman Chapter.

EAST ALABAMA, Comer Hall Auditorium, Auburn, 2nd Wed., 7:30pm, Dru McGowan 821-2595. The October 13th meeting featured John Cottier who presented a program on ceremonial civic centers in Missouri. The chapter assisted Harold Huscher in investigating an area for an environmental impact statement.

HUNTSVILLE, Fellowship Center, Senior Citizens Building, 3rd Tues., 7pm, Cindy Sims 536-2939. The October 19th meeting featured John Martz speaking on Mythology and Petroglyphs.

MORGAN-LIMESTONE, Decatur City Hall, 4th Thurs., 7pm, Rodger Schaefer 353-5828.

MUSCLE SHOALS, Indian Mound Museum, 2nd. Mon., 7pm, Gerald Hester 764-2249. John Martz presented the October 11th program on the Weeden Home and slides of the Cedar Creek Furnace in Franklin County.

TUSCALOOSA, Ferguson Center, 2nd Tues., 7:30pm, Eugene Futato 345-8724.

NEW MEMBERS

Mr. John R. Hall, Jr., 211 Junaluska Avenue, Dothan, Al. 36301
Mr. J. Charles Hearn, 7133 Cheshire Drive, Knoxville, Tn. 37919
Mr. J. A. Honea, Rt. 1, Box 173, Sterrett, Al. 35147
Brother James McPike, S.T., Box 30, Silver Spring, Md. 20910
Mr. Monte A. Harding, Rt. 3, Box 220, Leeds, Alabama 35094
Mr. James W. Parker, 728 Mary Ethel Drive, Montgomery, Al. 36609

1976 - LISTING OF DIG FUND DONORS - 1976

Here they are! The fine folks who once again have encouraged your Research Association to obligate itself to finance an archaeological investigation in our State and bring honor to our membership for worthwhile accomplishment. Those donors not previously listed, but included in this listing are indicated by an asterisk. The figure at the extreme right of the listing is the number of years over which donations were made, or if over SEVENTEEN, include more than a single contribution during 1 or more years:

ANONYMOUS BUSINESS DONOR #2, Birmingham	13
Harold S. Biggs, Huntsville	8
BIRMINGHAM ANTHROPOLOGICAL SOCIETY, Birmingham	14*
Kenneth C. Carstens, St. Louis, Missouri	1
Mr. and Mrs. Tom W. Cornell, Huntsville	21
Miss. Petronella C. Culivan, Cullman	1
Mr. and Mrs. H. E. Douglas, Birmingham	7
J. Andrew Douglas, Mobile	21
Mr. and Mrs. Arthur B. Dunning, Birmingham	11
Dr. Albert M. Fisher, Decatur	17
Mr. and Mrs. Robert Gay, Standing Rock	13*
Mr. and Mrs. E. M. Harris, Birmingham	15*
Mr. and Mrs. Philip C. Jackson, Jr., Birmingham	16
LIBERTY NATIONAL LIFE INSURANCE COMPANY, Birmingham	16
Lively-Long-Josselyn Pebble Tool Papers	6
Mr. and Mrs. James H. McCary III, Birmingham	17
Mr. and Mrs. Jack D. McSpadden, Birmingham	15
Dr. Philip Phillips, Bolton, Mass.	1
Mr. and Mrs. Rodger L. Schaefer, Decatur	16
SOUTHERN LIFE AND HEALTH INSURANCE COMPANY, Birmingham	15
William M. Spencer, Jr., Birmingham	18
William B. Stepp, Huntsville	8
Mr. and Mrs. T. E. Stonecypher, Huntsville	9*
Dr. and Mrs. M. R. Sutton, Blountsville	4
Mr. and Mrs. Brittain Thompson, Birmingham	17*
Dr. John E. Wood, Haleyville	21

Your Research Association will, of course, be most happy to continue to receive dig donations, using the coupon at the bottom of the inside back cover of this or any other newsletters, and acknowledgements will continue to be included in future issues of the newsletter. Our total contributions are still short of the amount needed to meet our commitment on the cost of this year's work, which is at present locating numerous Dalton sites in sections of the state not previously investigated. So please keep the funds coming in.

Every contribution, large or small is greatly appreciated; not only by those of us worried about coming up with our share of the bill for this work, but also those interested in learning more about early man in the state...plus remember IT IS TAX DEDUCTIBLE and that time is fast approaching.

NASHVILLE'S OLDEST CAT - UPDATE

Permit me to make some corrections of the information carried in your article, "Nashville's Oldest Cat." In that I have not yet published a full report on the site, it must remain my fault, of course, that exact information is not generally available. However, I am working on this report as time permits.

On the day of discovery, I was informed later, one of the workmen on the site of the new bank building noticed some whitish material in the dipper of his power shovel. He and some of his co-workers stopped work to examine the material. It proved to be bone. One of the workers cleaned one (which was the maxillary canine of Smilodon) and said, "Boys, we have a saber-tooth tiger here." Tom Seigenthaler called Vanderbilt Anthropology Section, but it was summer vacation and he was referred to me. Tom located me and someone also called Dick Weesner, for we both showed up about the same time at the construction headquarters.

What we saw, lying on an 8 1/2 by 11 piece of white paper on a large drafting table was an assemblage of bone material calculated to cause palpitation of the heart: parts of a saber-tooth, alright, plus teeth of some other Late Pleistocene fauna, the proximal end of a human humerus and a couple of human teeth. The material was not found together. Various workers had turned the separate parts in.

The problem was set out clearly: Were the materials of the same time period? What animals were represented? Could the bank give us time to find the answer to these questions of provenience and chronology? It did. Furthermore, the bank preserved the site, providing access, built around it and saved it for further study.

I organized a disciplined approach to the study of this site. We had two months to make all determinations. Several of the best local archaeologists were called in to work: Buddy Brehm, John Dowd and others. When Dr. Ronald Spores returned from his work in Oaxaca, Mexico, I asked if he would co-direct the site work with me. Thus were we organized, beginning our work day at 4:30pm, when the construction people stopped for the day.

For the sake of brevity, I will now summarize our findings:

AGE OF THE SMILODON (SABER-TOOTH TIGER): Working with John E. Guilday, we obtained a date from Teledyne Isotopes (Sample I-6125). Samples were rib and vertebrae pieces. A second sample was submitted to Geochron (Sample GX-2562). This was the proximal end of Smilodon humerus. For comparative purposes the two dates can be written this way:

GX-2562
I-6125

9385 to 10,685 years B.P.
9255 to 9,565 years B.P.

Garage Floor Level

Bigby-Cannon Limestone

Bedding Stratum:

Bedding Stratum.

Original Cavern Wall Dome

23 Contractors Wall Level Line

Lowest Floor Level

Clay and Rock

Water Outlets

 is 450.04' above sea level.

Scale
Feet:

Limits 8-20-1971



The two dates overlap in the range 9385 to 9565 years. I agree with Richard H. Reesman of Geochron that the "two analyses show quite good agreement, considering the magnitudes of the measured ages." Thus our "Nashville Cat" dates about 7500 B.C.

AGE OF THE HUMAN MATERIAL: A human tibia submitted to Geochron (Sample GX-2471) was dated at 1690⁺¹¹⁵ C-14 years B.P. A human tibia was also submitted to the University of Georgia Geochronology Laboratory (Betty Lee Brandau) (Sample UGA-334). The date obtained was 2390⁺¹⁴⁵ B.P., 440 B.C. Given the disparity in these datings, one may assume the time of Christ as central - or more generally the Woodland Period as usually understood. Minimally they were deposited some 6000 years after the saber-tooth tiger.

PROVENIENCE OF DATED SAMPLES: (Please refer to the vertical profile sketch which suggests the cavern) The dated Smilodon materials were excavated from Feature #1. The dated human materials were excavated from Feature #9 (a reburial of several individuals) many feet above the location of the Pleistocene materials. In the years between the deposition of the Smilodon and the burial of the human bones, clay had filled the cavern to within a few feet of its ceiling. The human bones were in the top foot of dirt, which also contained humic materials and small animal bones.

SUMMARY: Archaeological, geological and radiocarbon age determination data all indicate a wide separation in time between the deposition of the Pleistocene and the human bones.

There is much more of interest in the story of this site and I hope John Guilday and I complete it soon. I am certain much remains to be discovered when work resumes in the cavern, so thoughtfully preserved by the First American National Bank in Nashville.

(Robert B. Ferguson, Box 12392, Nashville, Tennessee 37212)

BOOK REVIEWS

ZAKROS: The Discovery of a Lost Palace of Ancient Crete, by Nicholas Platon. Scribners, New York, 1971, \$19.95. This is an interesting and informative book. It is well written and nicely illustrated and makes very worthwhile reading. The amazing number of rooms in this palace and the wealth of artifacts shows that this palace was quite important. The author tells why, when and how they excavated the site. The excavations are still being made. Platon is an expert on Cretan prehistory.

BURIED CITIES AND ANCIENT TREASURES, by Dora Jane Hamblin. Simon and Schuster Publishers, 1973, \$7.95. Turkey has hundreds of ancient sites dating from Neolithic to Roman cultures. Miss Hamblin travels to see some of the sites, particularly Nemrud Dag where there are enormous stone carved heads of ancient kings and gods. Good descriptions and illustrations.

(Margaret Perryman Smith, Atlanta)

REPRINTED
FROM THE MISSOURI ARCHAEOLOGIST
THE FIRST TEN YEARS 1935-1944

We are often told that one of the characteristics of man is his inability to learn the experience of others. Perhaps there is some foundation for this pessimistic outlook, but our newly organized State Archaeological Society has an opportunity of adding some evidence to the more optimistic theory that such a belief is a mere superstition.

Missouri's belated entry into the field of American prehistory may be more fortunate than would appear on the surface. A survey of the results achieved by similar organizations in other states emphasizes the need of most careful planning if our efforts and money are to be spent to the greatest advantage. Can we learn from these other instances just what an organization can hope to accomplish; how it can best proceed, both in planning a sound program and in carrying it out, avoiding the pitfalls and errors which have so frequently negated the results of these others? The writer sincerely believes that such is possible, provided we "get off on the right foot."

Go back to the early reports of many of these State Societies and you will find a theoretically sound statement of the aims and objectives of the organization. Follow up the history of the society and far too often these excellent plans have come to naught. This failure to carry out the objectives which were methodically sound was due in the main, I believe, to being too anxious to get under way. They lacked a practical and comprehensive program; their insight into the significant problems was often superficial. Good intentions alone will not carry through a hastily planned or impractical program.

Let me review briefly what I believe to be the task of a State Archaeological Society, giving a few very general suggestions as to how it can be accomplished. The purposes of such an organization can be grouped under two headings: first, the preservation of antiquities, and second, the accumulation of scientific knowledge in order that these prehistoric remains and the cultures they represent can be best understood - understood not only for their own sake, but as an integral part of the aboriginal history of America. We are well aware of the causes for the disappearance and destruction of Indian remains. The inroads of civilization - cities, roads, dams, farming, etc. - have all contributed to the destruction of sites. The curio hunter has not only destroyed mounds in his endeavor to obtain relics, but has also scattered beyond recovery many valuable local collections.

Our primary concern, then, is education; teaching conservation. But we cannot stay the hand of civilization, nor of nature, which unwittingly obliterates these evidences of earlier cultures. Neither can we stop the sale and subsequent loss of significant collections. Plainly, then, we must accompany our propaganda for conservation with a program for the study of these sites and collections before they are destroyed. This is not as simple as it sounds. It requires not only the untiring and active interest of every member of the Society, but eventually the expenditure of considerable sums of money.

Look back at the work of other states again and see what they have done. We find altogether too many instances of files and desks and basement shelves cluttered with masses of unorganized references to sites, too inaccurate and insufficient to be of any great value. A site which cannot be re-located for careful excavation at a later date is of little value to anyone attempting to work out the archaeology of a region. Look again at the records of the collections. We find occasional photographs of excellent arrow-heads and a few wierd objects, but seldom the exact site from which they came. Once you have tried to work out the very intricate movements and overlappings of the many tribes which inhabited the Mississippi Basin during the past few centuries, you will immediately realize that one must know the exact provenience of every object if he is to be successful at all.

You will ask at this time, no doubt, "Where does our fun come in? Is it to be all work and no play?" We picture the "romance" of archaeology as pertaining solely to the unearthing of the unexpected. Has the second phase of archaeology - excavation - a place in the program of a state archaeological society? To a considerable extent, YES, but we may as well face the issue at the outset and realize that proper excavation is a highly technical and exacting procedure and should be indulged in only by those who are properly trained and who are willing to take as much pains with a small bit of charcoal or broken sherd as with a whole pot. The proper excavation of a single skeleton may require several days. Once more we can learn from the experience of past workers that insufficient and inaccurate data are little better than none at all, we must remember that once a site has been excavated it can never be redone - it is lost forever.

With a few trained archaeologists, and so little money to carry on the scientific work, occasions will arise in which excavation should be undertaken by a member of the Society in order that the record may be saved. For this reason it is hoped that through the meetings of the Society and through the future issues of this bulletin, the fundamentals of proper excavation and recording can be given; to be used primarily only in emergencies.

It seems to me that the task of the members of the Society is to educate those in their communities to the necessity of preserving their antiquities; to aid the Survey in obtaining accurate and useful information concerning sites and collections; to be ever on the alert for unexpected discoveries in their neighborhood; and to build up and keep alive the interest in our antiquities so that funds can be made available for future careful excavations.

The immediate problem facing the Society is to work out a program which will enable the members to properly carry out their part in the task of unravelling the history of our aboriginal cultures, and to devise a workable system whereby this material can be filed, classified, and made available to students of prehistory.

ANNUAL MEETING SPEAKER'S ABSTRACTS

Howard King: THE CULLMAN MUSEUM

The Cullman Museum was the brainchild of my father, Eulis King, back in 1970 while trying to come up with something special for the 1972 Cullman Centennial Celebration. Through the work of several clubs, Chamber of Commerce and countless other people, the Museum was finished and dedicated in August, 1975. It shows what can be done by total involvement of the people of a community.

Albert C. Trowse, Jr: THE IMPORTANCE OF AGRICULTURE TO THE DEVELOPMENT OF CIVILIZATIONS

Hard archaeological evidence indicates that man has only recently replaced his hunting and gathering instincts with an agricultural system. Through the domestication of certain plants and animals, the need for constant mobility decreased. He could better exploit nearby land to his needs and with improvements in agricultural technology gained time to develop "permanent" cities and cultural centers. Of the some 80 billion man-type creatures that have lived out their life spans on earth, only about six percent depended on agriculture. This percentage is now rapidly increasing. The requirements for balanced nutrition and sustained food production is critically challenged by an unprecedented population expansion. We will not cover the methods of stabilization of the population here, but will observe the development of balanced nutrition in the crops of ancient man in America. The introduction of crops domesticated by the original Americans has more than doubled the diet selection of the peoples of the old world since 1492.

B. Bart Henson: NORTH ALABAMA PETROGLYPH SURVEY

This report summarizes the progress made to date in locating and recording petroglyphs in the north Alabama area. Distribution, quantities, and typical examples will be illustrated by 35mm slides and by plaster casts of selected examples. It is noted that most of the petroglyphs are Southeastern Ceremonial Complex motifs, many of which are of classical form and still have traces of the original paint.

Britt Thompson: WALUM OLUM OR "RED STICKS"

The Algonquin Indians were known as the "Grandfather Tribe." They had a very ancient culture and they also had a group of "Red Sticks" which contained the pictographs of three major items of their history. These will be illustrated. First was their story of creation. Second, the deluge and third a recounting of peace and war, chiefs and what amounted to a brief diary of what happened during the time they were chiefs. The finding of the Walum Olum and its subsequent loss, as well as the translation of part of it is of interest to those who find ethnography a field of interest.

Charles Moore: THE INDIAN MOUND MUSEUM IN FLORENCE, ALABAMA

The Florence Museum represents a good example of what cooperation and good planning between city officials and interested citizens can accomplish. The history of the organization and development of the Florence Museum and the methods of operation and financing furnish much information that could be very useful for other groups wishing to establish community museums.

Cailup Curren, Jr.: RECENT RESEARCH INTO THE LATE PLEISTOCENE IN ALABAMA

The past three years have been devoted to a considerable effort to examine the interrelationships between man, animals, plants and climate of the Late Pleistocene in Alabama. Emphasis has been placed in the lower half of the state with rather encouraging results. The

funding agencies for the work include the Archaeological Research Association of Alabama, Inc, the University of Alabama and funds administered by the Alabama Historical Commission. This paper will update the research discoveries of this project.

W. Edward Luttges: ENVIRONMENT PAST AND PRESENT AS AFFECTS ARCHAEOLOGY
(abstract not received in time for publication)

Bettye Broyles: THE BENNER HASSETT HISTORIC ISLAND

The Benner Hassett Mansion was located on an island in the Ohio River. The mansion was completed in 1800 and Aaron Burr was a visitor for a brief period before destruction by fire in 1811. Most of the foundation of the mansion has been excavated.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE

8:00am to 11:00am - Registration and visiting Museum (\$2.50 per person)
9:00am to 11:00am - Board of Director's Meeting
11:00am to 11:05am - Welcome by State and Chapter Presidents
11:05am to 11:30am - Howard King
11:30am to 12:30pm - Dr. Albert Trowse
12:30pm to 1:30pm - lunch on your own at any of several local restaurants
1:30pm to 2:00pm - General Meeting
2:00pm to 2:15pm - B. Bart Henson
2:15pm to 2:30pm - Britt Thompson
2:30pm to 2:45pm - Charles Moore
2:45pm to 3:30pm - Cailup Curren
3:30pm to 4:00pm - Break
4:00pm to 4:45pm - Edward Luttges
4:45pm to 5:45pm - Bettye Broyles

The final schedule will be handed out at registration, beginning at 8:00am at the John G. Cullmann House, Cullman Home Museum, 211 Second Avenue, Cullman, Alabama 35055

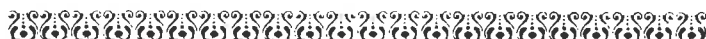
We hope to see everyone there at the November 20, 1976 Annual Meeting of the Alabama Archaeological Society. This will be a fine opportunity to meet some of the other members of the Alabama Archaeological Society, as well as some of the many very interesting speakers which have made themselves available not only for this meeting, but also for chapter programs.

SEE YOU ON THE 20th OF NOVEMBER, 1976 ! ! ! ! !

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.



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!

----- cut here -----

To THE ALABAMA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY, for

_____ New Membership
_____ Payment of Annual Dues
_____ Reporting of New Address

MAIL TO:

Mrs. Bettye T. Henson
7608 Teal Drive, SW
Huntsville, Alabama 35802

NAME: _____ DATE: _____

STREET ADDRESS, ROUTE or P.O. BOX: _____

CITY: _____ ZIP: _____ STATE: _____

_____ Life (Individual)	\$120.00	_____ Associate (Students under age 22) ...	\$ 4.00
_____ Joint Life (husband & wife)	150.00	_____ Sustaining (individual)	10.00
_____ Annual (individual)	7.00	_____ Sustaining (husband & wife)	12.00
_____ Annual, Family (husband, wife and children under age 18)	8.00	_____ Annual (institutional)	7.00

(Residents of Foreign Countries, including Canada & Mexico: \$1.00 additional for Regular, Associate or Institutional membership, \$10.00 additional for Individual Life and \$15.00 additional for Joint Life Membership)

----- cut here -----

THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATION OF ALABAMA, INC.

This Association, an affiliate 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 check 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.

----- cut here -----

To THE ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH ASSOCIATION OF ALABAMA, INC.

NAME: _____ AMOUNT: \$ _____

ADDRESS: _____ CITY: _____ STATE: _____

Mail to: Mr. Wm. M. Spencer, Suite 1510, First National — Southern Natural Bldg.,
1900 - 5th Ave. No., Birmingham, AL 35203

Alabama Archaeological Society

C/O MR. & MRS. JERRY J. NIELSEN

P. O. BOX 306

Daphne, Alabama 36526

**STONES & BONES
NEWSLETTER**

NON-PROFIT ORG.

U. S. POSTAGE

PAID

PERMIT NO.22

Daphne, Al.