

Alabama Archaeological Society

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

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STONES & BONES NEWSLETTER

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MARCH 1975

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Each of these committees has a lot to accomplish during the year and the full cooperation of each society member will be needed if their goals are to be met.

1975 MEMBERS TAKE SPECIAL NOTE

Unfortunately automation will in the future be taking away one of our personal touches in the newsletter. Our new label machine is so designed that x-ing of the labels of those members who have paid their dues is impossible without the x remaining a permanent part of the label. According to the literature with the machine, the master for the labels will last approximately 3 years so the x we would put on for this year would be meaningless next year. The only way to mark the x on the newsletter would be to do it by hand after comparing each newsletter with our files. The time involved in this prohibits the x-ing and of course would completely negate the automatic nature of the machine.

1974 members who have not yet gotten around to paying their 1975 dues are respectfully requested, urged, solicited, invited and begged to do so right away! The cut-off date for non-paying 1974 members is April 1st so to insure the continuation of your newsletters and to save the secretary and newsletter staff a lot of unnecessary work, please mail your dues in today.

THE UNBELIEVABLE SITE

Some five or six years ago, while out on a field trip with the Georgia Mineral Society we found this site. It was a rainy wintry day, but we rock-hounds never let the weather stop us. We had been looking for and finding geodes in a swamp that was full of mud and water.

Before leaving the swamp, someone told us about another geode site up the road a piece. And that's right where we found this unbelievable site. We not only found geodes but we found bits of worked black flint all over the place. The area had been used for years to gather road material for Floyd County roads and scattered about were worn old iron equipment pieces.

We gave up looking for geodes and concentrated on looking for items made by prehistoric man. We sloshed around in the mud for hours, knowing well we were on an enormous workshop site as we picked up broken and worked flint nodules, cores and other items. But darkness soon overcame us and we had to leave. But we made plans to return on the next Saturday.

The weather was warm and sunny that Saturday and we unloaded our cameras, buckets, garden rakes and Tammy the Scottie who loved Indian sites as much as we did. Hour after hour we combed the area. We filled our buckets with all kinds of worked material. We knew then and there, that we were on the largest quarry site we had ever seen, since it well covered some 15 or more acres.

Late in the afternoon we sat down on a grassy spot to eat our lunch. It was there that my husband spied the almost perfect fluted point at his feet. We left our lunch and began looking in an ever widening circle around the find spot. We had hopes of finding another such point or even fragments of one. We had no luck but we now had the energy to further explore the area farther up the hill which looked undisturbed. The gully in this hill, with good exposed strata yielded many worked items.

For many months we went back to this site and always found it of interest. There was a rich strata towering some 20 feet cut into a hill. We could see clearly dirt mixed with pieces of black flint. At the bottom level of this strata, I poked into with a child's garden rake and here I began to find the tiny tools. Dan Josselyn later identified them as microliths when he examined them. "An unbelievable site", he named it when he looked at some of our material and photographs.

We never did find a sherd or any other fluted points, but we found hand-axes, pieces of spear and arrow points, cores, half worked broken nodules and fragments that had some work on them and apparently discarded. Most pieces were black flint since the site evidently was the source for the material, but we did find some brown.

The site was our favorite one for a long time. Finally, I hoped to get some professional interested. After taking some of my material to show a

couple of professionals, they showed no interest and brushed me off. Later it was my hope to get interest aroused elsewhere, but no one was interested except our good friend, Dan Josselyn.

Today, I have a pan full of my choicest items on my porch table to admire and dream over. We have the photographs that Dr. Long made for Dan showing some of the microliths. The fluted point is kept in a box for display and the other material is stored and labeled.

We have not been back to this site recently due to a busted ankle. We do know that numerous roads in this county have Indian artifacts in their make-up. This will give future archaeologists quite a headache! And this site located a few miles west of Rome, Georgia, is still an unbelievable site, just like Dan said it was.

(Margaret Perryman Smith, Georgia)

CHINESE TREASURES

Archaeological treasures from the People's Republic of China are on display, at last, in the United States. The exhibit opened on December 13, 1974 at the National Gallery of Art in Washington, D. C. I gave a brief description of the objects and the significance of this display in the February 1974 Stones & Bones. Mrs. Ford, the President's wife, after viewing the exhibit was quoted in the Birmingham News (12/12/74) "We view this exhibition as an impressive symbol of the important ties of friendship between our two peoples." The exhibition will be at the National Gallery through March 30, 1975. From April 20 through June 8, it may be seen at the Nelson-Atkins Gallery in Kansas City, the only other place it is scheduled to be on view in the United States.

(Marjorie Gay, East Alabama Chapt).

A SECCND CPINION

Eugene Futato's article Some Open Thoughts on Some Open Questions (Stones & Bones Newsletter February 1975) deserves comment. Much of what Eugene says is true. Archaeology does get a bad name because of pot-hunters who pose or have "small town reputations" as archaeologists. However, there is another view of whether non-salvage archaeology is important or not.

In priority order, salvage archaeology comes first. The order of this priority should be dictated in terms of: when will the site be destroyed? and how much of it will be destroyed? When viewed in the light of these questions, we might be justified in saying: almost all sites are doomed and are therefore salvage sites per se. If Charles McGimsey's gloomy prediction that, "Those of us alive today will be the last ever to see any significant portion of our soil in an undisturbed state" has any truth in it, and I suspect that it does, then we can say with conviction all sites are salvage sites.

I maintain that the pot hunter is as much of a threat to a site as is the bull dozer. For example, the sites of Tuckabatchee, Talasi, Atasi, Ulibahali and Savanauca - all critically important to both historians and archaeologists - were totally wrecked by pot hunters. Some forty years ago, when these sites were still more or less unharmed, I would have said at that time, yes, they are indeed salvage sites of the first order and someone had better get at the archaeology on them without delay!

(David Chase, Montgomery)

ARTIFACTS - WANTED: DEAD OR ALIVE

There is an alarming increase in museum thefts and all persons involved in public display and ownership of antiquities should become increasingly prepared to prevent a theft of their collections from occurring. As the market grows larger for the sale of artifacts to both private and public museums and collectors, the problem of supply and demand changes and the need for a supply increases. This takes place in three areas - one, fake artifacts; two, pot hunting; and three, museum thefts. None of these is in any way beneficial to the study of historical mankind.

Thefts of parts of or entire collections whether private or public is obviously wrong and stringent measures should be taken to discourage these activities. Several measures could be taken. First, a national registry of stolen artifacts should be established, which would have to issue a clearance report for the subsequent sale of any artifacts valued over \$1,000.00. Second, museum security systems should be reappraised and upgraded where necessary. Third, artifacts of extreme historical value should not be allowed to be housed in unprotected museum facilities. And lastly, thefts from museums should receive more public notice so that these "artifacts - wanted: dead or alive" could be returned to their rightful place in the history of a particular geographical area.

(From Wm. Jack Hranicky, editor of Popular Archaeology)

SPECIAL NOTICE

This will be of particular interest to those who attended the Southeastern Archaeological Conference and the Conference on Historic Site Archaeology in Atlanta in 1974. Dr. Charles Fairbanks made this announcement at the meeting of the Society for Historical Archaeology recently held in Charleston, S. C. The Southeastern Archaeological Conference, the Conference on Historic Site Archaeology and the American Society for Ethnohistory will meet in Gainesville, Florida on November 7, 8, and 9, 1975. Tentative plans were presented at the Atlanta meeting for the 1975 Southeastern Archaeological Conference and Conference on Historic Site Archaeology to be held in Tuscaloosa, but when it was learned that the American Society for Ethnohistory was to be in Gainesville, the plans were changed in order for the meetings to all be held in one place at one time. A lot of societies are taking advantage of combining conferences not only to facilitate attendance but also in order to enable those in various fields to keep abreast of current research in related areas.

(Marjorie Gay, East Alabama Chapter)

SAFER AT LAST

The Alabama Historical Commission reports that the Bottle Creek Indian Mounds in Baldwin County have been added to the National Register of Historic Places as of January 21, 1975.

The ceremonial complex at Bottle Creek is the largest temple mound complex in Southern Alabama and the village site is the largest in the area remaining from the Mississippian cultural period which existed from about A.D. 800 to A.D. 1600.

The prehistoric Indian site originally consisted of a number of temple mounds and a village covering approximately seven acres. The mounds are not burial mounds but were built as foundations for the temples or houses of chiefs or priests. The largest temple mound was at one time about 50 feet high.

Today the Bottle Creek Site is composed of six mounds and the largest is 45 feet high. To the west and north of the mounds is the village area. At present little is known about the people who inhabited the Bottle Creek Site which was occupied from about A.D. 1400 to A.D. 1600.

During recent years the mounds and village area have been disturbed by logging operations and treasure hunters. Pot hunters continue to dig and portions of the site are heavily pitted and several mounds are eroding.

W. Warner Floyd, executive director of the Alabama Historical Commission, commended Noel Read Stowe of the University of South Alabama for the background information researched for the Bottle Creek Indian Mounds nomination form.

(Cathy Donelson, AHC, News Release)

SAD NEWS

The appearance of the excursion steam locomotive in Eufaula during the 10th Annual Eufaula Pilgrimage has been cancelled. See the article in the Stones and Bones Newsletter, February 1975. Mr. Douglas Clare Purcell, executive director of the Historic Chattahoochee Commission has advised us of this change. This will be a disappointment not only to the youngsters who have never had the thrill of riding behind an iron horse but also those more advanced in age who were planning on a few moments of nostalgia.

COMING EVENTS AT WESTVILLE

March 15 - The Historic Vegetable Gardening is to be at the Patterson-Mauett Farm Complex and it is a seminar on vegetable gardening.

April 5 - Wild Foods and Medicines. Learn to identify edible and medicinal wild plants used in the early 19th century.

Further information: Westville, Box 1850, Lumpkin, Georgia 31815.

(Above two articles from Marjorie Gay, East Alabama Chapter)

SURPRISE: A 1975 DIG FUND DRIVE!!!

Without any previous announcement on the part of anyone, our most faithful and much appreciated donors have taken it for granted that there would be a SIXTEENTH Annual Fund Drive; so here we go again! And we are off to a really fine start, with the following SIX contributors during January and part of February:

William B. Stepp, Huntsville, for the SIXTH consecutive year.

Mr. and Mrs. Thomas R. McClellan, Birmingham, who are both NEW MEMBERS and NEW DONORS!

Fred L. Ingate, Mobile, who increases to FOUR his total donations.

Crawford Badham, Birmingham, a CHARTER DONOR now making his ELEVENTH gift.

Mr. and Mrs. Rodger L. Schaefer, Decatur, and for the FIFTEENTH consecutive year.

Dr. John E. Wood, Haleyville, who obviously thinks of us often - this being his EIGHTEENTH contribution over a period of TEN consecutive years!

We are hopeful to be able to announce the project for 1975 in the near future, and in the meantime, we very respectfully and most hopefully refer you to the bottom section of the inside back cover of this newsletter for instructions as to how you can join other members and friends in financing our summer digs.

T. M. N. LEWIS

We were saddened to learn of the death of T. M. N. Lewis in a recent letter received from Dr. Charles Faulkner of the University of Tennessee. Many members are well acquainted with the accomplishments of Tom Lewis and Madeline Kneberg Lewis. Among his many fine contributions to archaeology was the founding of the Tennessee Archaeological Society, with which the Alabama Archaeological Society has had many close relationships over the years. The fine work of the Lewis' has been extremely beneficial not only to Tennessee archaeologists but to anyone working in the Tennessee Valley area and the southeastern United States. Tom's publications on his work in the Tennessee Valley area are primary references and guides for today's students. The example set by Tom is one archaeologists strive for today. Our deepest sympathy and warm wishes go to Madeline Kneberg Lewis.

MORE SAD NEWS

During the month of February we also learned of the deaths of two long time Society members, E. S. Ginnane and Jesse Tom Hurt. Our heartfelt sympathy goes to their families and friends.

SPECIAL REQUEST BY THE SECRETARY

All chapter presidents are requested to send a list of the 1975 officers of their chapter to Rodger Schaefer as soon as possible as this information is needed for the society records which must be kept accurate and up to date.

ANNOUNCEMENTS - STATE NEWS

NEW MEMBERS DURING FEBRUARY

Charles R. Mixon, Sr., 4663 Bit and Spur Road, Mobile, Alabama 36608
Mark Yerby, Route 3, Box 26, Vernon, Alabama 35592 (Associate)
Lisa Dubose, Route 6, Box 163, Vernon, Alabama 35592 (Associate)
Debbie Johnson, Route 3, Vernon, Alabama 35592 (Associate)
Gaye Brock, Route 2, Vernon, Alabama 35592 (Associate)
Bobbie Honeycutt, Route 3, Box 262, Vernon, Alabama (Associate)
Kathy Stapp, Route 2, Box 3, Vernon, Alabama 35592 (Associate)
Patty Holland, General Delivery, Vernon, Alabama 35592 (Associate)
Scotty Perkins, Route 6, Box 94, Fayette, Alabama 35555 (Associate)
Mark J. Hoverzak, 1103 Dale Drive, Huntsville, Alabama 35801 (Associate)
John H. Davis, Route 9, Box 435, Florence, Alabama 35630
Historic Chattahoochee Commission, Box 33, Eufaula, Alabama (Institutional)
R.P. Stephen Davis, Jr., Dept. of Archaeology, University of Calgary, Calgary, Alberta 12N 1N4, Canada (Associate)
Hope Dowd, Route 1, Box 196, Silver Springs, Florida 32688
Johnny M. Tate, 5758 Hwy. 85, Apt. 3-E, Riverdale, Georgia 30274
Kathleen W. Huttlinger, Dept. of Anthropology, University of Alabama, Box 6135, University, Alabama 35486
Pritchett Ford Co., P.C. Box 200, Albany, Georgia 31701
John F. Ventulett, Box 1787, Albany, Georgia 31702
Tommy Walde, Box 1787, Albany, Georgia 31702

CHAPTER NEWS

Birmingham Chapter meets at 7:30pm on the 1st Thursday of each month in Room 217 of Beeson Hall at Samford University. The March 6th program will be a talk on digs along the Tallapoosa River and will be given by one or two students involved in this work.

Choccolocco Chapter meets on the 3rd Thursday of each month in the Regar Museum. The February 20th program was a tape by Dr. John Clayton entitled "God, Man and Cave Man" which was an explanation of the origin of man.

Cullman Chapter met February 17th at City Hall Auditorium and were treated to a talk by Charles Moore who spoke on the Regional Indian History of the Florence area. Charles brought a display of artifacts from the area for exhibit.

East Alabama Chapter meets the 2nd Wednesday of each month at 7:30pm in Comer Hall Auditorium in Auburn. Mark Raab will speak at the March 12 meeting on Stone Tool Manufacturing Techniques, and the April 9th meeting will feature Ned Jenkins with a talk on the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway Excavation

Huntsville Chapter's February 18th meeting in the Huntsville Public Library Auditorium featured Charles Moore who spoke on the Florence area's Regional Indian History. Regular meeting time is the 3rd Tuesday of each month at 7:00pm. Muscle Shoals Chapter meets the 2nd Monday of each month in conjunction with Charles Hubbert's "Artifacts of the Tennessee Valley" class at UNA, Visual Arts Building, Room 121.

Noccalula Chapter meets each month in a different member's home. In December they purchased 5 archaeology books and donated them to the Gadsden Public Library.

A STUDY OF GROWTH AND CHANGE IN THE A.A.S. YOUR CHANCE TO PARTICIPATE

This survey is a follow up study to one made several years ago. With the exception of county, and additions to Section E, the forms are identical. If you cannot answer a question, leave it blank. Results will appear in the Newsletter. Please give a few minutes' time, it's your Society. Thank you.

A. PERSONAL DATA

Age: _____ Sex: Male _____; Female _____; Marital Status: Single _____; Married _____; Divorced _____
Number of Children: 0-12 years - Boys _____; Girls _____; 13-18 years - Boys _____; Girls _____
Education: Grade School _____; High School _____; College _____; Present Occupation: _____
Have you ever studied archaeology in school? Yes _____ No _____
Annual income: Less than \$5,000 _____; \$5,000 - \$10,000 _____; \$10,000 - \$15,000 _____;
\$15,000 - \$20,000 _____; More than \$20,000 _____
County of Residence: _____

B. ARCHAEOLOGY AND YOU

How did you initially become interest in archaeology? Friends _____; Family _____; School _____;
Magazine _____; Other _____

Which category best describes your present archaeological interest? Active collector _____;
Family recreation _____; Scientific _____; Scientific/collector _____; Others _____

What are your active collecting months? (Mark all which apply): Do not collect _____;
January-February _____; March-April _____; May-June _____; July-August _____;
September-October _____; November-December _____

During your most active months, how many hours per month do you spend collecting? _____
How do your family's interests in archaeology compare to your own? Much greater _____;
Greater _____; Same _____; Less _____; Much less _____

How many sites do you - Work actively? _____; Work occasionally? _____; Know of? _____

Which best describes the materials you collect at a site? Projectile points _____;
Representative cultural materials _____; Most cultural materials _____; All known cultural materials _____

What do you do with your artifacts? (Mark all which apply): Display _____; Study _____;
Store _____; Sell or trade _____; Mark prized artifacts _____; Mark every artifact _____;
Separate artifacts by site _____; Record every artifact _____

What will happen to your collection upon your death? Do not know _____; Probably sold _____;
Retained by family _____; Donated to a museum or educational institution as indicated in will _____

Would you support a strictly confidential state site recording system? Yes _____ No _____

Is your collection available for use in any legitimate study? Yes _____ No _____

In the field of archaeology and related sciences, estimate the number of the following you have in your "Library": Books _____; Journals _____; Papers _____

Estimate the average number of hours you spend per month studying archaeology and related sciences: _____ Would you like to spend more? Yes _____ No _____

How many papers or books have you contributed to or written in archaeology? _____

Do you have information or artifacts which you feel should be reported but you require assistance in doing so? Yes _____ No _____

C. THE ALABAMA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SOCIETY (A.A.S.) AND YOU

How many years have you been an A.A.S. member? _____

How many other state archaeological societies do you belong to? _____

<u>Activities</u>	<u>Publications</u>	<u>Services</u>	<u>Organization</u>
Better ____	Better ____	Better ____	Better ____
Same ____	Same ____	Same ____	Same ____
Poorer ____	Poorer ____	Poorer ____	Poorer ____

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____

Do you feel that the A.A.S. serves all areas of the State equally? Yes ☐ No ☐

How many A.A.S. State meetings have you attended? Summer _____ Winter (annual) _____

If you have missed A.A.S. State meetings, what were the three main reasons?

How many digs have you helped with? ; How many of these were State Society sponsored? ; Chapter sponsored? ; Private?

Where: Anywhere ; North ; South ; East ; West ; Central

D. THE CHAPTER AND YOU (answer only if you live in the State of Alabama)

What is your interest level in Chapter activities? High ; Moderate ; Low

Meeting night ; Programs ; Inadequate membership ; Activities ;
Leadership ; Financial ; Other

Have you held a Chapter office? Yes No

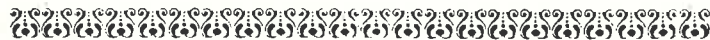
Please enclose your ideas on the following, just a few words will do. Complete sentences are not necessary. 1. How has your archaeological interest changed in the last 5 years? 2. How has the A.A.S. changed in the last 5 years? 3. How could the A.A.S. be improved?

Please Mail to: Eugene Futato, Drawer BA, University, Alabama 35486

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!

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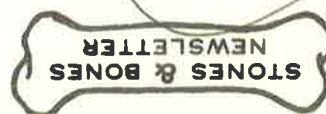
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