

# Alabama Archaeological Society

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

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## STONES & BONES NEWSLETTER

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#### EARLY MAN IN ETHIOPIA

From the information obtained from a recent release by the French Press Agency, it appears that another piece of the Mosaic of human development has been found. Dr. Carl Johanson, whose institutional affiliation is not given, made the find in the Hadar River Basin of Ethiopia. The fossils consisted of portions of the upper and lower leg bones together with the knee joint, of an erect-walking hominid.

The most significant facet of the discovery, is that the stratum in which the fossils were found are dated between 3 to 5 million years. Even the earliest date in this range exceeds by a half million years the oldest previously known Hominid fossil which was an Australopithecine skull fragment found by Richard Leakey in Kenya.

The remains have been sent to Case Western Reserve University, an institutional member of the Society, for further examination.

(John O'Hear, Moundville)

#### THE MOUNDVILLE COMPLEX NOW AVAILABLE

The Tribute Press, P.O. Box 4461 in Red Bank, Tennessee has reprinted a portion of the long out of print Bulletin 129 of the Bureau of American Ethnology. THE MOUNDVILLE COMPLEX IN THE PICKWICK BASIN by William S. Webb and David L. DeJarnette is now available for \$5.50 and is of exceptional quality almost unknown in reprints. This book contains a detailed report of the excavation of four outstanding sites inhabited during Mississippian times in northern Alabama on the Tennessee River plus a highly interesting discussion on the occurrence of special artifact forms.

"Superconservationists must learn people are more important than land," Bettye Lane, from the NATIONAL OBSERVER, December 1, 1973.

## IN MEMORIUM

### E. CARL SENSENIG

When he was asked, he gave of himself and his knowledge. A man's life is reflected in the mirror of himself and the regard of all who knew him. Each person who had the privilege of friendship or even acquaintance with Dr. Carl Sensenig, carries in his mind the sum of each contact, to be reflected upon and to be remembered. Carl died on January 4, 1974 and a memorial service in his honor was held January 11th at the New Basic Science Building on the campus of the University of Alabama in Birmingham. Dr. Joseph Volker, President of the University of Alabama in Birmingham, was asked by the family to conduct the memorial service.

As a senior faculty member and long time Chairman of the Department of Anatomy, he led and sustained important activities at the University of Alabama Dental and Medical Schools. He found or made the time to be actively involved with the Veterans Administration the Marine Environmental Sciences Consortium and the Gulf Universities Research Consortium. He encouraged many students in archaeological studies. He helped personally in many studies at Moundville; on the five year "Stones and Bones" ETV program; bringing such men as T. Dale Stewart and Raymond Dart to our area for the benefit of students, faculty and the community. He was past president and strongly active in the Alabama Academy of Science. He was Chairman of the State Anatomical Board from its inception to his retirement. He chaired the Alabama Board of Examiners in the Basic Sciences with understanding and compassion. He was a member of many professional organizations and accepted and discharged all his responsibilities with rare good judgement.

His widow, Betty, and his sons, Stephen and James, have the sympathy of Carl's many friends. Can any man hope to have said of him more than: "His many friends will remember him often and with warmth!" ?

### BOARD OF DIRECTORS MEETING

On February 20 at the All-Steak Restaurant in Cullman at 7:00pm, all Directors, Chapter Presidents and Committee Members are urged to attend the first Board of Directors Meeting for 1974.

### THE LIFE AND LEGEND OF GEORGE McJUNKIN

Franklin Folsom has put it all together in a new publication from Thomas Nelson, Inc., Nashville/New York. From THE INTERAMERICAN, Dr. Carl B. Compton, Director, informs us in Volume 20, No. 6, November-December 1973, of this new book on the man who set in motion the chain of events which led to the discovery of the Folsom projectile point. The discovery of this point proved that man was in the Americas thousands of years before the date then accepted for his earliest appearance here. This highly informative and enjoyable publication is available for \$5.95 and is highly recommended.

### EDUCATIONAL TELEVISION SPECIAL

On February 6th and again on the 10th at 7:00pm and 5:30 respectively, a special on the archaeological excavations in the Bear Creek Watershed will be aired. The majority of the program is devoted to the stone mound excavations and hopefully this will be the start of a series on Alabama Archaeology.

## THE FATHERLAND SITE

Ten years after the initial major mound excavation by Stu Neitzel, this site, at Natchez, Mississippi, was revisited and excavated in the summer of 1972. The site has been placed on the National Register and is to be developed into a state park. Current Research in the NEWSLETTER of the Society for Historical Archaeology, Volume 6, No. 4, December 1973, contains a brief summary of the season's work. At least 3 plaza house sites and what appears to be a 4th burial mound were discovered on the 8 acre site. Between mounds B and C, what is believed to be part of the fortification constructed by the French in 1730 has been uncovered. The occupation layer of the French is from 3 inches to 1 foot in depth and contains historic trade items as well as native material. The fortification appears to consist of an elevated causeway flanked by lateral ditches. The approach trench was dug in support of an artillery position on one of the mounds. An abandoned temple was used as headquarters during the siege, by the French Commander. The Fatherland Site was supposed to be the most important site of the Natchez Indians who lived in southwest Mississippi. They were noted for their advanced culture and artistic handwork. They massacred many of the French settlers and wiped out Fort Rosalie (now Natchez) in 1729. The French returned the attack in 1730 and scattered the tribe. Some of the Natchez moved eastward to settle with the Cherokees and the Creeks. Since Fatherland Natchez pottery has been found at excavations in northeast Alabama, the report that many of the refugees settled on the Tallahassee Creek which empties into the Coosa River, may be correct. Hawkins reports (in 1799) that they occupied all of the town of Natchez and part of Abikudshi, which was located near the present town of Childersburg, Alabama, reputed location of De Soto's "Coosa" province.

(Marjorie Gay, East Alabama Chapter)

## FRENCH VILLAGE ON DAUPHINE ISLAND (1Mb61)

Approximately one year ago Roger Bishop, a resident of Dauphine Island, Alabama, began construction of a new home on the island. During the excavation of the footings, a large number of artifacts were uncovered. Bishop called Don Bland, known locally as the "Indian Man", who identified the artifacts as Indian and French. Don notified the University of South Alabama and subsequently salvage investigations were begun at the site.

Dating from the early 1700's, this site is probably one of the earliest colonial settlements on the Gulf Coast. The entire village can be located on Du Sault's Carte De L'Isle Dauphine, 1717. The village is depicted as "ruins" on Roman's map of 1771. In the early 1700's the entire site consisted of approximately twenty houses, several warehouses, a church and a small wooden fort. The location of this settlement has in recent years been divided into private lots and development has begun. It is only a matter of time before this site is destroyed. Funds are being sought by the University of South Alabama to conduct extensive salvage excavations at this site so that this valuable information will not be permanently lost.

(Read Stowe, Mauvilla Chapter)

## ATTENTION ALL MOVERS !!!

Your Society personnel would appreciate prompt notification of a planned change of address. Newsletter cannot be forwarded by the post office so to avoid delay in receiving your publications... let us know when you relocate.

## TREASURERS OF CHINESE ART (WEN WU)

An exhibition which was on display at the Musee du Petit Palais in Paris, France, from May 1973 until September 1973 is now being shown at the Royal Academy in London from September 29, 1973 to January 23, 1974. These are not art objects obtained from collectors and dealers, but is truly an archaeological show. All the objects were found in caves, tombs or excavated scientifically and represent only a small part of artifacts from sites in China. All objects on display have been discovered since the beginning of the People's Republic of China in 1949, and all have a significant historical background. Many other objects have been left "in situ". The exhibition is supposed to come to the United States in 1974. There are some 373 pieces, selected from 2,000 which are on display at Peking's Forbidden City. There are also chronological tables, explanatory charts, excavation photographs, maps and detailed drawings. The display covers a time span from Paleolithic (part of a skull, stone tools of Lan-tien Man who antedates Peking Man by some 100,000 years) to the Yuan Dynasty of the 14th century. Smithsonian, September 1973 and Archaeology, October 1973 both have well illustrated articles about the artifacts. Perhaps one of the most noteworthy is the shroud of Princess Tou Wan, made of 2,156 pieces of jade sewn together with gold thread (Smithsonian pp. 34-35). Quoted from Smithsonian, "It is one of those rare occasions when an artistic event is clearly as important scientifically as it is esthetically...can only serve to remind Westerners of the immense age, splendor and refinement of Chinese civilization."

(Marjorie Gay, East Alabama Chapter)

## MILITARY BUTTONS OF THE GULF COAST

Dan Jenkins, a student in anthropology at the University of South Alabama, has published a booklet on Military Buttons of the Gulf Coast: 1711-1830. The study contains descriptions and photographs of 32 military buttons from the following sites: Cantonment Clinch (Pensacola, Florida), Fort Conde, Fort Mims and the Spanish governor's house in Pensacola.

Buttons are extremely useful to the historic archaeologist for determining the cultural period and dates for historic sites and this publication is especially useful since reference books dealing with buttons are often difficult to obtain.

This booklet, published as Museum Publication Number 2, may be purchased for \$2.00 and is available from The Museum of the City of Mobile, P.O. Box 1827, Mobile, Alabama 36601.

(Dan Jenkins, Mauvilla Chapter)

## IT'S THAT TIME AGAIN

DUES 'R DUE: Again, let us remind you that regardless of when you paid previous year's dues, 1974 dues were due as of January 1, 1974 and will be delinquent after March 31. If you haven't paid up, knuckle down and do us all a favor while you are thinking about it - get it off your mind, save a lot of time and labor for your Society personnel and avoid the possibility of missing any Society publications!

## EDITORS' REQUEST

Articles are requested for the newsletter FROM ALL THE MEMBERSHIP not just a few dedicated individuals...write something and submit it by the 15th of the month...PLEASE!

### NEEDED

A Society of Paleopathology is needed to provide coordination between scientists of the different disciplines who are attempting to learn how the many forms of disease that afflict man today have evolved. A study of the diseases which plagued man in ancient times is essential. A two day meeting was held in Detroit, Michigan on February 1 and 2, 1973 and reported in Science, August 3, 1973, pp. 470-471) by T. Aiden Cockburn (Smithsonian). "The symposium began with an eight hour unwrapping and autopsy of an Egyptian mummy (tentatively dated about 700 B.C.) loaned by the University Museum, University of Pennsylvania." The purpose of this study was to use the latest forms of technology as well as a multidisciplinary approach which included physical anthropology, Egyptology, medicine, pathology, microbiology, parasitology, physiology, radiology, electron microscopy and dentistry. The body was wrapped in about twelve layers, partially soaked in resin, some having to be removed with hammer and chisel. It was in excellent condition; some eyelashes remained, and eyeball was removed intact and the heart with a segment of trachea, aorta and diaphragm were in situ. Specimens were taken and a wide range of studies are planned. There were discussions about diseases of antiquity, mummification, methods of dating the mummies and studies of tissue samples. A mummified hand, dating from about 400 B.C., was examined by electron microscopy. The mummy autopsy was recorded on color videotape. An edited one hour tape will be available to universities for teaching purposes.

(Marjorie Gay, East Alabama Chapter)

### INDIANA PUBLICATION

A new publication has recently become available from the Office of University Publications, Ball State University, Muncie, Indiana 47306. INDIANA'S PREHISTORIC PAST by B. K. Swartz, Jr., Professor of Anthropology at Ball State University, may be purchased for \$1.00 prepaid.

### NEWS FROM HORSESHOE BEND

Horseshoe Bend National Military Park: George R. Fischer, Southeast Archaeological Center, Tallahassee, reports that archaeological excavations conducted at Horseshoe Bend by Dr. Roy S. Dickens, Jr., of Georgia State University, under contract to the National Park Service, located evidence for a 120 foot long section of the Red Stick barricade which was the focal point of the 1814 Battle of Horseshoe Bend.

Historical Indian Villages: Dr. Dickens also conducted test excavations at Nuyaka, a highly acculturated Upper Creek village (1777-1813), and Tohopeka, the refuge village of the Red Sticks (1813-14). The latter excavations may prove to be of considerable anthropological interest, for, on the basis of preliminary field analysis, it appears that the Red Sticks had truly followed the teachings of their nativistic prophets and abandoned most items connected with white man's material culture. (From the NEWSLETTER of the Society for Historical Archaeology, Volume 6, No. 4, December 1973, under Current Research for Alabama.)

(Marjorie Gay, East Alabama Chapter)

## FOURTEENTH ANNUAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL FUND DRIVE

One more dig donor: Received too late in December to be included in the January 1974 Newsletter, the following donation was received and is hereby acknowledged:

Mr. and Mrs. Philip C. Jackson, Jr., Birmingham, with this generous check, bring to FOURTEEN the number of additions they have made toward financing our excavations.

And with this, we officially close our 1973 Fourteenth Annual Archaeological Fund Drive, with grateful appreciation to all who participated.

## WHEN THE CAT'S AWAY, THE RATS WILL PLAY

December 17, 1973---"CAVE IN PINSON YIELDS SECOND ARCHEALOGICAL FIND" is the Birmingham News headline, spelling and all. (Note: it was spelled this way twice). 14 members of Boy Scout Troop 75 with their scoutmaster Charles Johnson, "went to the cave for an all-day outing of digging." According to the article, they found a section of a skull beneath 8 or 9 inches of dirt and also what appeared to be human vertebrae. The lower part of the skull is missing. Just because they are Boy Scouts, we cannot be assured this was really an archaeological find and not a pot hunter's "outing of digging." Surely someone realized the importance of this site as the article states the cave "is reported to be the burial ground of Indians from the Hamiltonian Period about 1,000 years ago." Our sites must be protected. It requires more than a law, especially when a fine is collected after the destruction. I have found that many believe it is perfectly right for them to dig after the professional has done some work, as surely he has taken "everything" of any importance and they can then have their turn. Let us try to educate: that the archaeologist is looking for information in the ground, information which is destroyed when the soil is disturbed; that seldom is a site completely excavated. There are many reasons, but chiefly lack of funds and time; if there is no immediate threat of destruction by our rapid industrial expansion or pot hunting and perhaps most important we always are hoping that at some future date improved methods and techniques will yield more information than we can now obtain. Think of all the lost carbon dates and pollen samples!

(Marjorie Gay, East Alabama Chapter)

## GEORGIA ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE TOUR

Smithsonian Associates have an opportunity to participate in a nearby "domestic study tour" in February, led by Smithsonian Institution curators or other experts. The "specialized, quality tours offer a combination of study, vacation, discovery and adventure to Associates and their families" states the article in the December 1973 issue of Smithsonian.

Mound Builders of Georgia: Trace the prehistoric mound-building cultures of Georgia by exploring undeveloped sites, archaeological excavations and museums. February 17-23.

For detailed information, write Mrs. Diana Parker, Room SI 106, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, D.C. 20560. Many of us know quite a bit about the mound builders of Alabama and this seems like an excellent opportunity to visit various sites in Georgia. Such a tour would enable the discerning individual to compare and contrast the archaeological sites in Alabama with those in Georgia and thereby aid in the understanding of Alabama Indian cultures.



## ANNOUNCEMENTS - STATE NEWS

### NEW MEMBERS DURING JANUARY:

Simon Fraser University Library, Burnaby 2, British Columbia, CANADA  
Glenn House, 1617 11th Street, Tuscaloosa, Alabama 35401 (Family)  
Sheryl Hove, 4458 Dunhaven Road, Chamblee, Georgia 30341 (Associate)  
Dr. Bennie C. Keel, 1651 Aero Avenue, Kettering, Ohio 45429  
Curtis L. Mann, Route 2, Faris, Tennessee 38242  
Larry Fierson, 4302 21st Street, Holt, Alabama 35401 (Associate)  
Anne M. Rushing, 616 6th Street, Montgomery, Alabama 36110 (Associate)

### BAD ADDRESS:

J. G. Stelzenmuller - Life Member - formerly 806 Wingate Circle, Birmingham, Alabama. Can anybody furnish information?

## CHAPTER NEWS

Birmingham Chapter meets at 7:30pm on the first Thursday of each month in Room 213 Reid Chapel, Samford University. The speaker for the February 7th meeting will be Dr. Samuel Pezzillo, Head of the Classics Department at Birmingham Southern College, who will speak on "Classical Influences of Architecture in Alabama". Officers elected for 1974 at the January meeting are: Elisabeth McNair, President; Sandra Son, Secretary; E. M. Harris, Treasurer.

Choccolocco Chapter had as their speaker at the January 17 meeting Rabbi Alan Lachtman of Temple Beth'El in Anniston. Rabbi and Mrs. Lachtman spent a year in Palestine and he spoke on new archaeological finds in Palestine. His talk was illustrated with color slides. Cullman Chapter welcomed Billie Guedon, a park ranger, as their speaker for the January meeting. Guedon spoke on Russell Cave National Monument and demonstrated the Indian's technique in making projectile points and tools. 1974 officers are: Charles Wells, President; C. B. Chamblee, 1st Vice-President; Eulis King, 2nd Vice-President; Vira Fox, Secretary; James Fox, Treasurer; Howard King, Newsletter Editor; Terrell Swindall, Special Projects; Frank Shikles, Gary Moore and Rickie Schmale, Board of Directors; Mrs. Wells, Refreshments.

East Alabama Chapter will have as the speaker on February 13 at Comer Hall Auditorium, Auburn, at 7:30pm Ned Jenkins of the University of Alabama Anthropology Department. Huntsville Chapter, which held their January meeting on the 15th at the Twickenham Hotel, had as their speaker the 1974 president of the chapter, John Martz, who spoke on "Alabama From 1644 in Maps".

Muscle Shoals Chapter meeting on January 14 at the Indian Mound Museum in Florence featured Carey Oakley as their speaker. Oakley gave a very informative talk on the ~~Widows~~ Creek Area and the Bear Creek Watershed Part II. Ned Jenkins will speak on "Ceramic Sequence" at the February 11 meeting at the Indian Mound Museum. Chapter officers for 1974 are: Charles Hubbert, President; Jim Miller, Program Chairman; Mary Lindsey, Librarian; Jerry Hester, Secretary-Treasurer.

Tuscaloosa Chapter which holds its meetings the first Tuesday of each month at 7:30pm in Room 314 Ferguson Center will have as the February 5th speaker Ned Jenkins who will talk on "Pottery" and how it is important to the archaeologist. The January speaker was Charles Hubbert who spoke on "Paleo Indian".



## 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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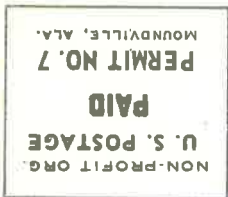


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C/O MR. & MRS. JERRY J. NIELSEN

*Alabama Archaeological Society*



### PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

- Handbook of Alabama Archaeology Part I, Point Types* ..... \$7.35 pp  
*Handbook of Alabama Archaeology Part II, Uniface Blade and Flake Tools* ..... 2.25 pp

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