

Alabama Archaeological Society

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

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STONES & BONES NEWSLETTER

NADB DOC # - 4056,676

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1971 SUMMER WORKSHOP MEETING

This year the Summer Workshop Meeting will be held on SATURDAY, JULY 17TH, in the University of South Alabama Conference Center and the Archaeology Lab, both located on the "old" Brookley Air Force Base at Mobile. So get busy and make your plans to be on hand, making up carloads of members of your Chapter for the trip down, and take advantage of the program being prepared for your enjoyment!

Following a short business meeting commencing at 10:00 AM, the workshop on archaeological techniques will start, conducted by Read Stowe, Dr. Eugene Wilson (Professor of Geography at the University of South Alabama who has a strong background in archaeology), students participating in the archaeological research program, and members of our State Society. Subjects to be covered are: Pottery Types; Projectile Point Identification; Topographic Maps and Site Mapping; Archaeological Report Writing; Identification of Faunal Remains from Archaeological Sites; Cleaning, Preservation and Restoration of Historic Artifacts; and Archaeological Excavation Techniques at a small historic site near the lab. These should be of interest to everyone.

For those who will stay over, on Sunday AM there will be either a tour of some archaeological sites in the Mobile vicinity; or an archaeological tour of the Mobile Delta in the University's boat "The Alice" (the boat tour not for sure as of now).

To reach Brookley Air Force Base, exit from I-10 at either Broad Street or Michigan Avenue and turn south down Bay Front Drive. Entering the Main Gate, go to the Conference Center. The Archaeology Lab, which is Building 245-D, is 2 buildings west.

The nearest motel to the Base (1½ miles) is the new Roadway Inn, located at the junction of I-10 and Michigan Avenue; the address is 1724 Michigan Avenue, Mobile 36605, Phone 471-6281; the motel has a restaurant and lounge. Other motels are downtown, being the Admiral Semmes Motor Hotel, 250 Government Street, Phone 432-4441; Holiday Inn, 255 Church Street, Phone 433-6923; and the Albert Pick Motor Hotel, 1119 Government Street, Phone 432-7613.

Prior to the meeting, any additional information desired may be obtained from N. Read Stowe at his home phone, Mobile 438-4020; at the Sociology Department of the University, Mobile 460-6347; or the Archaeology Lab, Mobile 433-8216.

Once again, the meeting date is SATURDAY, JULY 17, 1971; the place is the University of South Alabama Conference Center and Archaeology Lab located at "old" Brookley Air Force Base on Bay Front Drive, Mobile. You will have a chance to meet new folks, see new sights (also sites), pick up some interesting archaeological information, and enjoy seeing many old friends again. Don't miss these opportunities! COME!

JULY 1971

OUR TWELFTH ANNUAL ARCHAEOLOGICAL FUND DRIVE

The dig donations listed below make a total of 28 received so far this year, and we greatly appreciate the participation of these fine folks in our effort during the summer of 1971 to search out and test for the best possible archaeological excavations for next year and possibly several years years ahead. YOUR contribution is earnestly solicited to bring our drive to a successful conclusion like all previous drives!

Crawford Badham, Birmingham, sends in his SEVENTH check since 1960, letting us know of his continued interest in the aims and purposes of our State Society.

Mr. & Mrs. John H. Gustafson, Decatur, for the SECOND consecutive year, generously add to our fund from a financial angle, also to our enthusiasm for success.

Mr. & Mrs. Roy J. Cochran Jr., Huntsville, also for the SECOND consecutive year, put us on notice that they back us in trying to keep Alabama archaeologically active.

Mrs. Jack D. McSpadden, Birmingham, one of our real faithful supporters, makes her fine and helpful donation for the TENTH consecutive year. Thanks a million!

Miss Alice A. DeLamar, from far-away Connecticut, and FIRST donor to our FIRST fund, joins our highly appreciated contributors for the TWELFTH consecutive year. Her generosity and moral support over the years have been a real inspiration! This year, she asks that her check be added to the increasing Dan Josselyn Memorial Fund.

Dr. John E. Wood, Haleyville, sends in his ELEVENTH check over a SIX year period, which indicates his constant interest in the success of our archaeological endeavors.

We will be most proud to list YOUR name in a future issue of STONES & BONES, and hope you will make up your mind shortly that since you are going to do it eventually, NOW is the time to use the coupon at the bottom of the inside back page of this issue to let your donation come forward. Below are initial reports on site surveys, illustrative of the work being accomplished by \$\$\$ from this year's fund:

THE SEARCH IS ON!

NORTHWEST ALABAMA: Charles Hubbard has reported on the survey work he has done so far in northwest Alabama as part of our program to locate sites for excavating in future summers. He has located one bluff shelter that sounds promising, having a substantially deep midden and having a field site located nearby which has produced points from the Paleo and Transitional-Paleo Periods. Another bluff shelter has only a shallow midden while a third has been robbed and gutted by "pot hunters".

Two open sites (not bluff shelters) have been examined, one of which may call for further exploration since worked flint is found there in a strata 32" to 38" below the present surface under seemingly sterile soil. If this sterile soil is not erosional wash, then the site may be of greater antiquity than other sites in the area.

We congratulate Charles in getting off to a good start in his search for sites. If anyone knows of sites in northwest Alabama, especially bluff shelters, please notify him at 443 Seymore Ave., Florence, Ala. 35630; Phone 764-8870. He can travel!

SOUTH ALABAMA: During June the Univ. of South Alabama Archaeological Research Program began a site survey of south Alabama. The survey is being conducted by 18 students from the University under the direction of Read Stowe. Sonny Curron, a graduate student in anthropology at the Tuscaloosa Campus, is Project Field Supervisor.

At this time, 23 new sites have been found in Mobile and Baldwin Counties and a large number of sites discovered in the 1930's have been revisited. Test excavations have been conducted at several of the sites to determine if the stratified midden is

deep enough to warrant excavation. Artifacts collected from the sites indicate Late Archaic, Woodland, Mississippian and early Historic occupations. Several naturally stratified, "buried" sites have been found in the Mobile Delta, and a Historic French Fort has been located on Dauphin Island.

One of the most interesting aspects of surveying South Alabama has been visiting the Mobile Delta. In addition to finding sites while "slogging" through the mud in 90 degree plus temperatures, we have discovered sizeable populations of cottonmouth moccasins (Agkistrodon piscivorus). However, the nasty little "deer flies" which attack by the hundreds and have an extremely nasty bite, have caused us much more discomfort than the cottonmouths.

During July the survey will be extended into the "highlands" which surround the Delta where we may find sites which are earlier than the Late Archaic period. We also plan to begin surveying in Washington and Clarke Counties and hope to find a site that will shed light on the Hopewell problem in south Alabama.

On July 19 the Deep South Girl Scout Council "Archy" program will join forces with us. The Girl Scouts under professional supervision will conduct test excavations at several sites.

(NOTE: See Page 7 for another survey report.)

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SALVAGE BILLS RE-INTRODUCED IN CONGRESS

Senate Bill S. 1245 introduced by Senator Frank E. Moss

House Bill H.R. 6257 introduced by Congressman Charles E. Bennett

The bills are to amend Public Law 86-523 of June 27, 1960.

A measure basically similar to this present amendment was introduced into the last session of Congress (S. 2893, H.R. 15453) (a copy of this bill will be found in STONES & BONES, Jan. 1970) and, at the request of the House and Senate Committees on Interior and Insular Affairs, was commented upon by all Federal Agencies concerned. The present bill incorporates improvements which satisfy all of the recommendations made by those Federal Agencies.

The bill amends and broadens the 1960 act as follows:

(1) Coverage is extended to all Federal and Federally assisted or licensed programs which alter the terrain and thus potentially cause loss of scientific, prehistorical, historical or archaeological data.

(2) Federal Agencies are directed to notify the Secretary of the Interior if in their operations archaeological or other scientific data are revealed or threatened.

(3) The Secretary of the Interior upon notification by any responsible authority that a Federal program is threatening, damaging or destroying such data shall evaluate the situation and cause a survey or other investigation to be made to the extent necessary to protect the public interest.

(4) Federal Agencies whose programs are causing damage or destruction of scientific, prehistorical, historical or archaeological data are authorized to transfer to the Secretary of the Interior a small portion of the program funds to protect or recover such data prior to its loss.

This, basically, is a conservation bill designed to facilitate and promote the protection and recovery of one of America's great non-renewable resources - the evidence of the past. The need for action is urgent for it is estimated that a majority of our archaeological sites will be damaged or destroyed within the next 25 years.

A letter to your Senators and your Congressmen now, expressing your interest in the bills would aid in speedy hearing on them.

Bob McGimsey, University of Arkansas, worked closely with those doing the revision of the old bills and also talked with the staffs of some 50 Senators and between 40 & 50 Congressmen, as well as the staffs of the House and Senate Committees on Interior and Insular Affairs about the new bill. At present approximately one-quarter of the Senate and one-eighth of the House are co-sponsoring the legislation, but as good as that sounds, it is no cause for resting on our laurels. If the legislation is going to be successfully gotten out of Committee and brought to a vote, it will only be because interested persons in each State have made a determined effort to ac-

quaint their representatives with their desires regarding the legislation. It is for this reason that you are being provided with the facts to date so that you can acquaint others whom you feel are interested and willing to make their interests known. (The above partly from Missouri Archaeological Society Newsletter #250, April 1971)
(Marjorie Gay, East Alabama Chapter)

"ADVENTURE TO ANTIQUITY"

In the June 1971 FIELD & STREAM, a popular hunting and fishing magazine, appears an article touching on archaeological problems by Robert John Graham, titled as above. It tells the sportsmen that they have an obligation to our historic past to help archaeologists locate sites, also to learn something of the archaeology of their area so that their own private collections take on historic and scientific meaning and worth. Best of all, the article points out that the first obligation a collector of artifacts has is to catalogue his collection. Also, we are glad to read in a popular magazine that excavating is not to be carried out except under the guidance of experienced archaeologists. (This Newsletter cannot, however, underwrite the entire article because it winds up with advice on how to obtain services of archaeological institutions to excavate your site and then "split the loot with you", and talks also about buying artifacts to round out your collection.)

As we are all aware, archaeological sites are being destroyed by the thousands, and it is good to see a popular magazine contain a word of advice on cataloguing site collections, since many of the sites from which these collections are made will most likely be destroyed before they can be inspected by scientific institutions. At least, then, the collections, carefully catalogued as to individual site locations, will be available for future study. Quoting from the article:

"To many professional archaeologists, finds that are not catalogued are considered worthless. In fact, following the monthly program of one local archaeological association, the president of the group, who happened also to be the staff anthropologist at the museum, placed a large box of heavy stone artifacts on the front table and invited the members to help themselves to a 'souvenir'. It turned out to be a private collection which had been donated to the museum. Upon examining the items, the curator had discovered that not one of them was catalogued and therefore the collection was of absolutely no scientific importance. Rather than simply throw the materials in the trash heap, the curator had decided to give them away.

Similar practices undoubtedly occur more frequently than professional archaeologists or institutions would care to admit. Yet, this incident points up dramatically the value of carefully cataloguing all archaeological discoveries."

(S. B. Wimberly, Birmingham Chapter)

"PEBBLE" TOOL INFORMATION?

"Thoughts on the Calico Mountains Site", by Dr. Robert L. Stephenson, is the first report I have seen of the 3 day conference held at this site in October 1970. Appearing in the University of South Carolina publication NOTEBOOK, Vol. 3, No. 1, Jan-Feb 1971, it is an expanded version of a paper presented by Dr. Stephenson at SEAC during October 1970. The author first visited the site in south central California in Aug. 1968. This important conference in 1970 gave him and many of the world's most competent specialists an opportunity to see and discuss all aspects of this very controversial site, excavated by Miss Ruth DeEtta Simpson with Dr. L. S. B. Leakey as her constant advisor and consultant. Dr. Stephenson says: "I found myself consistently expressing a minority opinion among the group but was pleased to have some very good company in this minority view."

It was agreed by all that Miss Simpson has done an excellent excavation, with well preserved material and accurately recorded data. There was controversy as to the archaeological and geological interpretation of the data. Are the specimens artifacts or not? Is there "pattern" to them? Are the 2 rock clusters, found toward

the bottom of the excavation, but without signs of charcoal or burning, hearths or not? (Testing of one rock for differential magnetism, suggests that the end of the rock toward the center of the cluster had been subjected to greater heat than the end away - more tests are necessary.) Is there other evidence of man's having been at this site? Did the mud flow or flows, which laid down the Yermo Fan, cause enough action to make the chipping found on specimens? Is the Yermo Fan one or more than one fan and what would the age of the deposits be? The site will undoubtedly have to be dated by geological means since non-geological methods of dating are missing.

Dr. Stephenson describes the site; discusses the archaeological and geological aspects and emphasizes that the study has just begun! Every new technique for study and analysis should be used! He says: "If it is not an archaeological site, the work done there has been nothing more than an expensive exercise in field techniques. If it is an archaeological site, if the specimens actually are artifacts and man occupied this locality during the deposition of the Yermo Fan, it is the most significant site yet known in the New World."

This paper should be of interest to everyone, whether or not a "Crude Tool Enthusiast". Dr. Stephenson says: "My personal opinion, and it is ONLY A REASONED opinion, is that these ARE artifacts; that this IS an archaeological site of more than 20,000 years ago and that it IS worth every possible effort that can be made to demonstrate the validity of the specimens, or their lack of validity - I do believe that we have human occupation at this site and I would not be even slightly surprised to learn of good substantial evidence for its age being within the range of 30,000 to 60,000 years ago."

(Marjorie Gay, East Alabama Chapter)

GREENSTONE IN THE ASSEMBLAGE

Greenstone is a hard, tough, fine-grained stone that takes a smooth and beautiful polish when properly prepared. It is hard enough to hold its form when used for many types of tools and yet soft enough to permit the chipping, pecking and grinding necessary in the manufacture of the many and diversified artifacts found in Archaic, Woodland and Mississippian cultures. Various sources of greenstone are known in the southeast; however, to the majority of sites, greenstone is an exotic material, since its occurrence in geologic formations is not nearly so common as flints and cherts so commonly used in chipped artifacts.

Probably the best known artifact made of greenstone is the greenstone celt. The celt is an ungrooved axe which was commonly hafted in a wooden handle. The monolithic axe is a reproduction of a hafted celt, and considering the tremendous amount of work involved in the manufacture of a monolithic axe, the hafted celt must have been held in high esteem. The grooved axe, which is often wider, thicker and heavier than the celt, is also often made of greenstone.

Atlatl weights in their many forms, were commonly made of greenstone. Bannerstones and boatstones, being 2 of the more common types, are among the most beautiful artifacts encountered in these cultures. The core grinding, done with reed and sand to provide the hafting hole, together with chipping, pecking and grinding to provide the final form and finish of a bannerstone type atlatl weight, surely cost some aborigine a tremendous amount of time and hard work.

Beads, plummets, gorgets, discoidals and blow tubes (thought to be used to suck out evil spirits) made of greenstone, are generally well made and have a high polish from grinding, while spades and hoes are simply slabs of stone with little or no forming, which are polished at the bit from use.

There is no doubt that the uses made of greenstone would reflect a greater assemblage of artifacts than those mentioned above. Of the sites I collect from in the Wheeler Basin that contain components of Archaic, Woodland or Mississippian cultures, few if any have failed to produce greenstone artifacts of some sort. Greenstone artifacts are common burial offerings in the burials of these cultures, as shown in excavation reports.

When collecting from a site, all greenstone artifacts and fragments of artifacts

should be saved and recorded. If a number of greenstone artifacts have not been recovered from a site, then a number of greenstone flakes and fragments of the material should be saved if found in order to reflect distribution of the stone geographically by man and indication of its use by the culture the site represents.

(Thomas F. Moebes, Morgan-Limestone Chapter)

(Editor's Note: This is the third of a series on this subject. More to come.)

NEW SEAC PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

Miss Bettye J. Broyles, Editor for the Southeastern Archaeological Conference, has been very busy bringing the Conference publications up to date. The following are now available from Miss Broyles, W. Va. Geological Survey, P O Box 879, Morgantown, W. Va. 26505. Checks should be made payable to the SEAC.

Newsletter Vol. 10, No. 2, has probably been "in press" longer than any other publication on record. It covers the 18th SEAC 18th Annual Meeting at Macon in Nov. 1961 almost in its entirety. The subject under discussion was "The Origin, Development and Dispersal of Mississippian Culture" and "The Lamar Culture". Those giving papers and taking part in the discussion were Stephen Williams, Robert Wauchope, Clarence Webb, Richard Marshall, Gregory Perino, James Ford, Lewis Larson, Charles Fairbanks, William Sears William Haag, John Goggin, Carl Miller, Douglas Schwartz, Ripley Bullen, Lewis Binford, Harold Huscher, William Lazarus, William Gardener, Bettye Broyles and A. R. Kelly. Price: \$1.00.

Newsletter Vol. 11 contains the Current Research, Laboratory Activities, New Research, New Facilities and Personnel, and New Publications during 1970 for the southeastern Area, and keeps you up to date on activities. Price: \$1.00.

Bulletin No. 9 is the report of the SEAC meeting (25th) in Knoxville, Nov. 1968. This was an informal type meeting on the topic: "What Can We Learn from Lithic Technology?" It is reported in its entirety. Those taking part were John Witthoft, Joseph Caldwell, Joseph Benthall, John Cotter, Ripley Bullen, Gerald Smith, Edward Jelks, Howard MacCord, Don Wyckoff, Robert Stephenson, Richard Marshall, Alfred Guthe, Calvin Jones, Bettye Broyles, Ben McCary, Robert Wauchope, R. Burle Clay and Samuel Lang Jr. Also on the program were 2 papers, one by George Neumann "Problems in Physical Anthropology" and another by Bettye Broyles "The Sluicing System Used at St. Albans". This publication contains 3 other papers not presented at the meeting: "Comments on the Copena Point and its Distribution" by Charles Faulkner; "Notes on Two Human Vertebrae with Projectile Points" by Bettye Broyles; and "A Simple Ammonium Chloride Generator for Use in Observing and Photographing Chipping Details and Wear Evidence in Artifacts" by Herbert Kraft. Price: \$2.00.

Bulletin No. 10 was reviewed in STONES & BONES, Feb. 1971. Price: \$2.00

Special Publication No. 2, the Index for Newsletters Vols. 1-9, is 80 pages long and divided into 5 sections: (1) Table of Contents; (2) List of Illustrations; (3) Author Index; (4) Subject Index; and (5) Bibliography of the Southeastern Archaeological Conference, 1939-1971. Price: \$2.00.

Most of the past publications of the SEAC are still available, many having been reprinted. Plans are under way to reprint all or parts of those that are out of print. Also in preparation now are 4 Bulletins and a Newsletter. Even though you are unable to attend the meetings of the SEAC (this year to be held in Macon, Ga., Nov. 12 & 13, 1971) a membership is a good investment! Send a check for \$3.00 payable to the SEAC, to Miss Broyles at the above address. Miss Broyles now has an Editorial Committee made up of Joffre L. Coe, Gohn W. Griffin, William G. Haag, Howard A. MacCord and Stephen Williams. (Marjorie Gay, East Alabama Chapter)

MORE ON THE ST. ALBANS SITE

Those who heard Miss Bettye J. Broyles discuss the St. Albans Site at our Winter Annual Meeting last December, will appreciate hearing about the just published "Second

Preliminary Report: The St. Albans Site, Kanawha County, W. Va." by Miss Broyles, a copy of which may be obtained from the W. Va. Geological Survey, Morgantown, W. Va. 26505. Price: \$3.50 (members of the W. Va. Archaeological Society allowed a 20% discount). This report of 104 pages and 55 illustrations, describes in detail the excavations, various zones, the features, the artifacts and the significance of the site.

Five appendices include other important data. The 1st, by Miss Broyles, is a more complete description of projectile point types recovered from the site, plus a new type, Amos Corner Notched (not found at St. Albans); the 2nd, by Sigfus Olafson: "Late Pleistocene Climate and the St. Albans Site"; the 3rd: "Recent Geological History of the St. Albans Site" by James A. Barlow, Coal Geologist with the W. Va. Geological Survey; the 4th, by W. Va. University student George E. Snider Jr. is an analysis of the hearths at the site; the 5th is the core drilling data obtained from various sources. This report is being released by the W. Va. Geological and Economic Survey as "Report of Archaeological Excavations No. 3".

ANOTHER SURVEY REPORT

CENTRAL ALABAMA: This survey is just under way, with only 7 days spent in the field. Plans are to extend the survey another $2\frac{1}{2}$ weeks. Surveying is now concentrated on the north bank of the Alabama River, just east of Selma, with field HQ at Gilmer's Riverside Campground. The project also calls for a survey of the creeks flowing into the river from the north, the north edge of the river's flood plain, and the banks of old meander channels north of the present channel.

The goal is to intensively survey part of the country near the Durante's Bend site excavated last summer by the Research Association and the UAB. Hopefully, the survey will discover single component Woodland sites which, when excavated, will contribute to our understanding of the Durante's Bend sequence. Also, as territory away from the Alabama River will be covered, it is hoped that something will be learned of local prehistoric settlement patterns. How were the different prehistoric cultures distributed over the landscape? Did they tend to concentrate on the major waterways, or did they maintain villages on tributaries and/or uplands as well?

To date, the survey has located 6 sites; several may be preceramic, the rest Woodland. One site appears especially promising and may be a shell midden buried under 8 feet of alluvium. Finally, we should add to the record one 5'8" water moccasin, slain while on duty guarding a hoard of potsherds.

(Dr. C. Roger Nance & Marvin D. Jeter, UAB)

CHAPTER NEWS

Birmingham Chapter OUTING: A field trip is planned for Wednesday, July 7 to visit a Dave DeJarnette supervised dig in Mound M, near the Museum Building at Moundville. The University student crew is in the field from 8:00 AM to 12 Noon weekdays. Members may go independently or meet a group in the parking lot behind Reid Chapel at Samford University at 8:00 AM. Bring a lunch; invite a friend. If you need a ride or can carry others, please phone Helen Mabry at 592-6404.

Cullman County Chapter meets at 7:30 PM on the 3rd Monday of each month at Cullman City Hall. At the June meeting, Horace J. Holland, Muscle Shoals Chapter, conducted a workshop on "Point Type Identification", displaying many of his own and assisting Chapter members in identifying theirs.

Huntsville Chapter meets at 7:30 PM on the 3rd Tuesday of each month in the 3rd floor conference room, Madison County Courthouse. Chapter member Houston Wright gave a talk and slide presentation at the June meeting on "Physical Anthropology" which was most interesting and informative. Exploratory digging on the "Old Constitutional Hall" site in downtown Huntsville is about completed and work on a report of findings will be commenced shortly.

Montgomery Chapter meets at 7:30 PM on the 1st Wednesday of each month at the Montgomery Museum of Fine Arts. Chapter member Fred Roush featured the June meeting with a talk on "North American Languages and Diffusion".

Morgan-Limestone Chapter meets at 7:30 PM on the 1st Tuesday of each month in Decatur City Court Room. At the June meeting, State Society President Amos Wright gave a most informative talk, well illustrated with color slides, on "Late Cultures of the Upper Mississippi Valley". Fletcher Jolly III, Muscle Shoals Chapter, will discuss "Exploratory Salvage Excavations at the Buzzard Roost Shelter" at the July meeting, covering his preliminary analysis of recovered eluvial materials, especially ceramics, in a site report he is preparing for our JOURNAL.

Muscle Shoals Chapter meets at 7:30 PM on the 4th Monday of each month in Room 100, Science Hall, Florence State University. A business meeting was held in May to find out what type of programs and projects the membership desired, also discussing how to increase membership, communications with the public, and the Chapter's responsibility in its area of operations.

ANNOUNCEMENTS - STATE NEWS

NEW MEMBERS DURING JUNE:

Mr. & Mrs. Bob McKinnon, Route 1 Box 316-B 23, Anniston, Ala. 36201 (Family)
Royce L. Porter Jr., 4066 Idlevale Drive, Tucker, Ga. 30084
Henry W. Royal, P O Box 246, Sardis, Ga. 30456
Mr. & Mrs. Robert J. Scruggs, 1104 Saulter Road, Birmingham, Ala. 35209 (Family)
Mr. & Mrs. William H. Thain, P O Box 2525, Satellite Beach, Fla. 32937 (Family)

STATE SOCIETY 1971 WINTER ANNUAL MEETING: 2nd Vice President B. Bart Henson reports plans for the meeting progressing nicely, with the date set for Saturday, December 4th, and the place to be Brookhaven Middle School in Decatur, a new school to open in September with an auditorium for 500, adequate display space, audio-visual equipment and fully carpeted. Sounds most excellent. Speakers are being scheduled and a good program is planned for a full day. Mark this on your calendar!!!

"Tunstall R. Gray has been appointed Director of Planning at Woodward Co., a Division of Mead Corp...received his BS degree from Birmingham Southern...is a member of the American Institute of Mining Engineers, the American Foundry Society, the Alabama Geological Society and has served as President of the Alabama Archaeological Society." Our 1969 President seems to be doing himself (and us) right proud!

T. E. (Tom) Johnson, State Society member from Stone Mountain, Ga., sends in a well illustrated article from the INDEPENDENT ANDERSON S.C. newspaper dated June 2, about artifacts recovered by 2 amateur archaeologists from 200 sites around the shoreline of Lake Hartwell, S.C., indicating an area rich in material for S.C. archaeologists.

AMERICAN SOCIETY FOR ETHNOHISTORY announces its 19th Annual Meeting at the Ga. Center for Continuing Education, University of Ga., Athens, Ga., October 13-16, 1971. They call for papers and any of our readers who would care to submit a paper are welcome. Abstracts should be mailed before August 1 to Michael D. Olien, Program Chairman, Department of Sociology & Anthropology, University of Georgia, Athens, Ga. 30601.

"TOO SMALL WILDERNESS AREA, SURROUNDED BY ASPHALT TRAILS" is the description by Dr. Prigmore, President of the Alabama Conservancy, of the Bee Branch Wilderness area proposed by the bills just introduced in the House by Representatives Robert Jones and Tom Beville. According to recent editorials and news reports in the BIRMINGHAM NEWS, these bills would preserve 1,240 acres as the actual wilderness area but the 11,000 acres around this "core" would be open for indiscriminate camping. No timber cutting

would be allowed. This differs from the Senate bill introduced by Sen. Sparkman (see STONES & BONES, June 1971) in that it cuts the actual wilderness area to about 1/10 its original size and surrounds it by roads, campsites and modern improvements not conducive to protecting the wilderness. There is now "evidence" of tourists everywhere, and more "lobbying" is a must!!! (Marjorie Gay, East Alabama Chapter)

EDUCATIONAL ARTICLE

ARCHAEOLOGY TEENAGE STYLE

"Impossible as it may seem, an organization known at the Platteville Student Archaeologists, made up of one 8th grade science teacher and 60 high school boys was formed. This sincere, dedicated group has been recognized by experts from several Universities and has been supported by local merchants and service groups. This organization has been recognized and given a grant by the National Endowment for the Humanities, a Federal Agency.

It began in 1968 when Bob Nelson, an 8th grade science teacher of Platteville, Wisconsin, conducted a survey of Indian sites for the Wisconsin State Historical Society. At that time, he was interested in rocks and fossils and had studied geology and paleontology in college. Because he had little interest in Indian cultures, he conducted the survey primarily for his rock hobby. A local resident suggested that a cave nearby was supposed to have been occupied by Indians. Mr. Nelson was not especially impressed as artifacts had been found in many places in southwestern Wisconsin for many years.

Some time later, while he and 4 of his students were fishing in the Platte River near the location of the cave, he permitted the boys to do some exploring. When they found the cave and found some arrow points and fragments of pottery, their interest was aroused. Mr. Nelson consulted with a number of experts in this field. Robert Wiley, an anthropology major at the Madison campus of the University of Wisconsin, became interested, and plans were made to explore the cave scientifically.

At the time the cave was discovered and work on the project was started, the opening in the St. Peter sandstone was less than 3 feet high and 10 feet long. If the cave had ever been large enough for Indians to have lived there, it must have been filled with silt and material deposited by the Platte River which flows about 25 yards from the opening into the cave. In spring when melting ice and snow changed the slow moving Platte River into a torrent, the water level is high enough to flood the cave and deposit large amounts of silt and waste material. Since this activity has been in progress over several thousands of years, it seems that this explanation is worth considering.

The cave is 10 miles from the nearest town and 1 mile from the highway. The only access from the highway is through a thick growth of brush and weeds as thick as jungle growth. Removal of tons of debris from the entrance to the cave seemed to be an almost insurmountable task. When news of the discovery of the cave was passed around through the usual teenage channels, many other boys became interested. The number of helpers increased rapidly.

It was necessary to do some repair work on sections of the surrounding rock before it was safe to remove silt and debris from the mouth of the cave. This rock had eroded badly and made it hazardous to explore the cave. By ingenuity and the use of materials found on the spot, the cave was made safe.

Sizeable fissures caused by seepage of water through the relatively soft sandstone had been created. This left the outer wall of the cave supported only by the silt deposited by the river. It was necessary to remove this material before excavation could proceed. The removal of this clay would cause several hundred tons of rock from the outer wall to fall to the floor of the cave.

Since this left a rent of nearly 3 feet in the ceiling, some means of protecting the project from the elements had to be found. The boys laid slabs of dolomite ranging in size from 6 inches square to one foot square found in the locality, at an

angle that would transfer the weight down to the outside wall. Lack of funds prevented the purchase of a sufficient amount of cement necessary for this work. Thus it was necessary for the young excavators to use a minimum of cement mixed with local sand as a bonding agent.

By workmanship that would rival that of the builders of the aqueducts, a roof using the keystone principle was finally completed. Interior pillars were also constructed with the dry mortar technique. These pillars served as a support for walls and low hanging roof.

With only hatchets and axes, a road was chopped through the woods one mile from the highway to the site. A large tree blocked the proposed access. Each member of the work crew gave a chop as he walked to the site and another chop as he left. After nearly 2 years the tree was finally felled.

Because of school duties of both Bob Nelson and the crew, during most of the week, Sunday became the day to work on the project. Each Sunday for the past 3 years a work crew can always be found at work on the project. During vacation periods part of the team has found it possible to work on other days of the week also.

After having removed several tons of debris from the entrance to the cave and floor, in 5 gallon buckets, the work crew arrived one day to find that the site had been almost wrecked. This incident may have contributed to the workers' becoming a close-knit, dedicated group.

The explorers found it necessary to build a protective shelter at the mouth of the cave, including a locked door. There have been several other break-ins since the work began. However, little damage has been done. One group, seeing all the strange pipes leading into the entrance and empty gallon jugs on the trash pile, arrived with shotguns. They apparently suspected something besides archaeological excavation!

Electricity was installed in the cave for light and pumping water. In order to heat the cave during the subzero weather of Wisconsin winters, an old furnace was hauled into the tool shed. An attractive work wall built outside of the cave entrance, of dolomite rocks hauled in from a nearby quarry served as an attractive patio as well as a much needed flood wall.

The whole procedure for excavating and cataloguing material found by the group was planned carefully. The whole cave was laid out in a grid system of five-foot squares. These grids were worked one at a time. Each worker is given a clip board on which to record his finds accurately. Each discovery is recorded on an artifact worksheet. The exact grid location, depth and other data is recorded. Trowel and brush are used for excavating. All dirt removed is screened first through a $\frac{1}{2}$ inch mesh, then through a $1/16$ inch mesh in order to preserve the smallest fragments. The first washing is done at the nearby river. As much as 15 gallons of material a day is taken back to Plattville where it is again screened and observed.

The artifacts found so far extend over a period of 5,000 years. Positive identification of the more recent Woodland culture has been definitely made from typical tools and pottery. In the lower levels, artifacts of the Archaic cultures have been found. Lack of funds has made it impossible to obtain the necessary tests to accurately determine the age of materials. The time of habitation will be determined by carbon dating of several pieces of material. The Univ. of Wisconsin, the Milwaukee Museum, Northwestern Univ., and others have given valuable assistance.

Bob Nelson's enthusiasm is limitless. He is completely dedicated to his task, but doubtless more because of the young archaeologists than to the project itself. His proteges respond to this enthusiasm and dedication with a faith in their leader that is fantastic. When one considers the accomplishments of this crew, none of whom are graduate students in Archaeology, one wonders what possibilities exist.

Mr. Nelson, who has studied social behavior in graduate school, has compared the needs and functions of street gangs with his group. Comparing them point by point, the needs and mode of operation is strikingly similar. But how different the results!"

(The above article quoted from "NWAAS The Arkansas AMATEUR, Vol. X, No.5, May 1971")

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