

Alabama Archaeological Society

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**STONES & BONES
NEWSLETTER**

Editor

Amos J. Wright
2602 Green Mountain Rd.
Huntsville, Alabama 35803

MEMBER OF THE EASTERN STATES ARCHEOLOGICAL FEDERATION

ANNUAL MEETING

The East Alabama Chapter, Auburn, looks forward to hosting the annual meeting this winter, December 10 and 11. We hope that you will come and bring your friends.

The Auburn Union Building is in the center of the campus, just off College, on Thach. College Street is Highway 29 if you're coming from Interstate I-85 or from 280. (There's a JACKS on the corner of College and Thach.)

Instead of having the banquet in the evening, we now plan to have it during the lunch hour, so that you may have the evening free to meet with old friends or to return home. The Heart of Auburn (205/887-3462) is close to campus, and the Jovann (205/821-7000) is about two miles distant, should you care to spend the night. If you do, please plan to join us for a tour of Fort Toulouse to see the updated facilities.

If you plan to bring an exhibit and need any kind of equipment (tables, etc.), please let us know as soon as possible.

In addition to being able to pay your membership dues for next year, we will have a Program Help Table with suggestions for programs and activities for your club. Please feel free to bring your own ideas to share.

There will also be a suggestion box for more membership participation in the state society. This is your chance to gripe or compliment - and to make recommendations for the coming year.

If you have not made your reservations (we need a head count for the banquet immediately), please mail the attached flyer, or call Dru McGowen, 205/826-4075 or 821-2595 as soon as possible.

Dru McGowen
Auburn

ANNUAL MEETING

December 10, 1977

- 9 a.m. Registration, UNION LOBBY
Coffee, Exhibits - ROOM 246
- 9:30 Board Meeting - ROOM 213
- 10:45 "Archaeology and the Planning Process" - THACH AUDITORIUM
Warner Floyd, Director, Alabama Historical Commission
- 11:30 "Cultural Resources Inventory"
Carey Oakley, University of Alabama
- 12:15 Banquet and Business Meeting - ROOM 213
Installation of Officers
Presentation of Awards
"Pattern Recognition in Historical Archaeology"
Stanley South, Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology
University of South Carolina, Columbia
- 2:15 Archaeology in Action - Mini-Papers - THACH AUDITORIUM
"Archaeological Research: 1977 Investigations"
Charles Hubbert, University of Alabama
"Stalking the Central Alabama Woodland"
John Cottier, Auburn University
"Recent Archaeological Research in Southwest Alabama"
Read Stowe, University of South Alabama
"An Interim Report on Lewis Jones Copena Ossuary"
Ken Turner, University of Alabama
- 3:30 Coffee Break
- 3:45 "An Archaeological Salvage Project Near Montgomery"
David Chase, Auburn University at Montgomery
"Coordination and Cooperation in Alabama Archaeology"
Mack Brooms, Alabama Historical Commission
"Salvage Archaeology at 1-JE 57a: Late Archaic Site, B'ham"
Roger Nance, University of Alabama, Birmingham
"1977 Excavation in Gainsville Reservoir, Tenn-Tombigbee"
Ned Jenkins, University of Alabama
"Update on Fort Toulouse"
Jim Parker, Alabama Historical Commission
- 5:30 General Wrap-Up, Announcements

December 11, 1977

- 9 a.m. Leave Union Building for Fort Toulouse - Tour Directed
by Jim Parker and Mack Brooms

Mr. Stanley South, one of the better known historical archaeologists of our time, will be a featured speaker during our winter meeting. He will discuss "Pattern Recognition in Historical Archaeology" following our banquet and business meeting Saturday, December 10.

Mr. South is archaeologist at the Institute of Archaeology and Anthropology, University of South Carolina. He is the founder of the Conference on Historic Site Archaeology, and editor of 11 volumes of "The Conference on Historic Site Archaeology Papers".

Mr. South is author of over 100 published articles. A book, "Method and Theory in Historical Archaeology", was published this year, as was "Research Strategies in Historical Archaeology", of which he is editor.

Mr. South has 20 years' experience as a research archaeologist in the south, and is a member of the Editorial Review Board for Historical Archaeology, the journal of the Society for Historical Archaeology.

He has been chairman and treasurer of The Conference on Historic Site Archaeology since 1960 and is secretary/treasurer of the Society of Professional Archaeologists.

SALVAGE ARCHAEOLOGY - A RIP-OFF OR SALVATION?

A series of articles appearing in the Kansas City Times in April of this year leads one to think that there may be a rip-off of the taxpayer in the area of salvage archaeology - or as some call it - public archaeology. The staff writer, James Fisher, apparently did a fair job of investigation and gathering of information - he at least discussed the topic with a large number of leading archaeologists and officials nationwide. His investigation telescoped primarily on Missouri projects and, especially, those conducted by the University of Missouri. His articles cite a number of alleged abuses which were strongly denied by William Marquardt, Director of American Archaeology Division, University of Missouri. It does appear that some of the projects, especially the Jacobson site, were poorly managed along with inadequate record keeping.

Funds available for salvage archaeology are estimated to be as high as \$25 million a year, compared with about \$3 million in 1971. An article on public archaeology in an early August issue of the Wall Street Journal gives a good balanced account of the situation, but no doubt there are large sums available. The Journal article, for example, says TVA has spent \$960,000 and the National Park Service another \$500,000 for archaeological work in the Tellico Dam reservoir area. Where funds availability and inadequate planning are combined, it sets the stage for mismanagement and misuse of Federal funds. As with all professions and occupations, there are a few who will take advantage of the opportunity to "make some

easy money", but this does not condemn - taint perhaps - but not condemn the whole profession, and this is the case with salvage archaeology. All archaeologists are having various problems in adjusting to the so-called "new prosperity": the fragmented Government channels they must deal with; the uncertainty of funding; the lack of Government guidelines and standards; insufficient Governmental staffing and expertise in overseeing salvage contracts, etc., etc. As with all new programs there needs to be a "shakedown" period, and we are going through this now and may continue to do so for some time in the future. However, some order is beginning to come out of this chaos; e.g., almost all Corps of Engineers Districts now have on their staff a full-time archaeologist; the National Highway Commission has hired its first archaeologists and steps are being taken to penalize poor performance such as the withholding of 25 per cent of the contract costs by the Tulsa District until an acceptable report is made.

The Times article does highlight one point that needs more attention, and that is that millions of taxpayers' dollars are being spent each year on contract archaeology and the results will, in most cases, never be seen or known by the public. These reports are printed in very limited numbers, usually 50-100 copies, and end up on shelves not generally available to the public; however, the public would not likely understand them in any case as they are fraught with the technical jargon the discipline has developed over the past years. In most cases some degree of technical writing is needed to adequately describe the contents or subject matter, but if the trend continues, we may need an "expert" to interpret the "experts'" technical reports. Probably it was best said by Albert M. Joseph, President of Industrial Writing Institute, in a recent interview with "Government Executive" (October 1977, Vol. 9, No. 10), wherein he says we tend to invent private languages (e.g., Citizens Band radio jargon) which is ego-satisfying and that it occurs at all socio-economic levels. One copy of all reports is supposed to be sent to NTIS (National Technical Information Service), Springfield, Va., where copies may be obtained by anyone willing to pay the price.

Also, much archaeological work has gone on in years past with no final report being made - only field notes, sketchy maps and boxes of artifacts remain as evidence of the work; but here again, this is changing. Hardly any responsible archaeologist today would fail to produce a final report - perhaps somewhat belatedly, but a report nonetheless.

There is one area of potential conflict of interest that may deserve a closer look; and this refers to those archaeologists, especially those that have formed a consulting "business", that perform the survey, determine site significance and then get the contract to do the work. This provides for a built-in conflict of interest condition that may be hard for the archaeologist to avoid; however, for Government agencies having a staff archaeologist, this situation can be better monitored.

We do not feel that the abuses reported in the Times have "blanket" application to Alabama archaeologists. We feel that generally archaeologists are doing a good and conscientious job - granted, some do better than others; but overall, someday, future generations will be thankful for the job done when we no longer have a heritage "to dig up".

COPENA CAVE - A READER'S REACTION

A recent letter from Mr. Howard A. MacCord, Sr., an archaeologist from Richmond, Virginia, took to task those involved in the Copena Cave (St. Clair County) episode that was reported in our October issue. Mr. MacCord feels that there was some degree of laxity by all those involved and asks these questions: "Why could not Turner have had the authority to hire guards to post at the site until a crew could arrive? Why did it take until July 23 (more than two weeks) for a crew to be mobilized to begin work at the site? Why were not local members of the Alabama Archaeological Society called to the scene and deputized to guard the site? What should we do now to prevent recurrence?"

Mr. MacCord feels there should be some agency within the state with the necessary archaeological expertise to react to such emergency situations and that members of the Society should be used more for these situations - perhaps an "emergency rescue squad" could be created of both professionals and amateurs to react to archaeological emergencies.

We think the rescue squad idea is a good one and feel that amateurs over the state would be willing to participate if the professionals would take the initiative and establish such a group.

CHAPTER NEWS

Birmingham Chapter: The Chapter meets the first Wednesday of each month at the Red Mountain Museum, 1425 22nd Street South. Call Tom Hutto for further information at 956-1895.

Cullman Chapter: The November program at the Cullman Chapter was a slide presentation by Mr. Tom Hutto of Birmingham on Central Mexico. Elections were held for Chapter officers for the coming year.

East Alabama Chapter: The Chapter meets on the second Wednesday of the month in Thach Auditorium at 7:30 p.m. In November, John Cottier showed film strips on the Indians of North America, followed by a discussion period. The plans for the Annual Meeting of the State Society to be held at Auburn on Saturday, December 10, with a tour of Fort Toulouse on Sunday, December 11, were reviewed in detail. Announcement of the Chapter December meeting will be made at the annual meeting.

Huntsville Chapter: The Huntsville Chapter meets the third Tuesday of each month at 7 p.m. at the Senior Center, 300 Church Street, N. W. Chapter officers for 1978 were elected at the

November meeting: President, Mr. O. D. Hartley; 1st Vice President, Miss Janie Zopfi; 2nd Vice President, Mrs. Sophie Zelabowski; Secretary/Treasurer, Miss Cindy Sims; and Librarian, Mrs. Georgia Dunn. The speaker at the December meeting will be Mr. Richard Wright.

Montgomery Chapter: The Chapter will have a meeting on Tuesday, December 6, 1977. The meeting place, which will be specified on posters prior to the meeting, will either be at the Auburn University at Montgomery (AUM) campus or the Tumbling Waters Museum. The program will be a "lithic workshop" in which members and other interested persons can learn about chipping and flaking of stone to create lithic tools and also try their hand at it. Bring a deer antler and some chert and/or quartzite if possible. Everyone is invited to attend.

MEETING

The joint meeting of the Society for Historical Archaeology and the Conference for Underwater Archaeology will be held in San Antonio, Texas, on January 3-8, 1978, at the St. Antony Hotel. The following is the tentative symposia with the organizer: "Spanish Colonial Archaeology", Mark Barnes; "Teaching Historical Archaeology", Dr. John Cotter; "Settlement Archaeology and Historic Period Sites", Lee Minnerly; "Industrial Archaeology", Dr. Allen Comp; "U. S. Military Posts in the Southwest", David Ing and Art Black; "Historic Site Archaeology and Architectural Restoration", Eugene George; "19th Century Chinese Site Archaeology", Alton K. Briggs; "Conservation of Historic Antiquities", Don L. Hamilton; "Archaeology of Kilns: Pottery, Brick and Lime", Georgeanna Greer.

Membership in the Society for Historical Archaeology is on the calendar year at the rate of \$7.50 for individual. This includes the annual publication "Historical Archaeology" and the quarterly "Newsletter". Send check payable to Society for Historical Archaeology; Michael J. Rodeffer, Secretary/Treasurer; Ninety Six Historic Site; Ninety Six, South Carolina 29666.

Marjorie Gay
Standing Rock

ONE PONANZA: EARLY BIRD AND MASTODON

Some of history's most significant old bones have cropped up in the western United States during the past several weeks. In western Colorado's Dry Mesa quarry, Brigham Young University archaeologists have come upon the 140 million-year-old remains of what they are calling "the oldest bird ever found." And in Sequim, Washington, Washington State University researchers have uncovered the first direct evidence that mastodons were hunted by humans 11,000 to 14,000 years ago.

The discovered rear-leg bird femur (and, subsequently, two connected shoulder bones) is some 60 million years older than the previously found "oldest bird" fossils, says BYU's James A. Jensen. The newly discovered bone is of the same period (Upper Jurassic) as the Archaeopteryx - a small, winged dinosaur thought by some to be an ancestor to the true bird. However, "it is obvious that we must now look for the ancestors of flying birds in a period of time much older than that in which the Archaeopteryx lived," says Yale University's John H. Ostrom, who positively identified the specimen from Jensen's excavation site.

One of the key clues that this was a true bird and not another winged dinosaur was found in the portion of the femur that attaches to the hip socket, Jensen says. "A bird has a relatively weak hip socket connection," he notes, while the Archaeopteryx has a stronger less flexible ball and socket joint and a "ground dweller's femur." Lacking the deep keel on its breast bone to which flying muscles must attach, the Archaeopteryx was incapable of powered flight, but probably could glide, Jensen suggests. Its feathers served mainly to keep it warm. Jensen's find was made at the same site where, in 1972, he discovered the fossils of the largest known dinosaur - more than 50 feet tall, with 8-foot shoulder blades. The quarry has been mapped and dated by geologists. Although the bird fossils were found near the surface, Jensen believes they were once buried 16,000 feet underground before erosion gradually uncovered them.

At Washington State University's anthropology department, Richard Daugherty received a phone call in early August from Claire Manis, the wife of Sequim landowner Emanuel Manis. Her husband, she told Daugherty, was excavating to build a duck and goose pond on his 5-acre plot. After removing three feet of top soil, Manis came upon a tusk and other assorted mastodon bones. Daugherty rushed to the scene and found an unexpected prize - a broken rib fragment with an apparent projectile extending three-quarters of an inch out from it. X-rays showed the projectile also extended into the bone for three-quarters of an inch and was indeed a spearhead.

While there have been similar finds with mammoths, this was the first such direct evidence of human hunting of mastodons, Daugherty says adding, "This is great evidence. It could not have been done by accident."

Meanwhile, in eastern Siberia, Soviet scientists dug out a chunk of ice containing a perfectly preserved baby mammoth, about six months old with reddish fur, big feet and small ears.

(From SCIENCE NEWS, September 24, 1977)

A 1538 MAP OF THE WORLD!

Several old maps are available in photocopy from the Georgia Surveyor General Department. Some of the following might be of interest. These are \$2 a copy.

World. 1538. Gerardus Mercator.
 Americas. (c. 1545). Sebastian Munster.
 Virginia.(1558). John White.
 Florida. 1591. Jacques le Moyne de Morques.
 World. 1618. Jan Jansson.
 Mexico and Florida. 1703. Guillaume Delisle.
 Carolina. 1729. Herman Moll.
 Carolina. (c. 1736). Herman Moll.
 Georgia - the Southeast. (1732)
 North America (Georgia portion). 1733. Henry Popple.
 Georgia. 1748. Emanuel Bowen.
 Cherokee County. Loose Plat. Lot 124, District 14, Section 3.
 1832.
 Indian Spring Reserve. 1828. Hugh MacDonald.

The following are \$4 a copy.

North America (Georgia portion). 1755. John Mitchell.
 Georgia-Alabama Boundary. 1826. Edward Lloyd Thomas.
 Cherokee County. Plat of District 14, Section 3. 1832.

There are various other maps relating to Georgia dating from 1717-1977. To order, add \$2 per order for postage and handling and make check payable to Surveyor General Department. Mail order to:

Ms. Janice Blake
 Surveyor General Department
 Archives and Records Building
 Atlanta, Georgia 30334

Marjorie Gay
 Standing Rock

1978 DUES

Why not take a minute right now to pay your 1978 membership dues? Use the form at the bottom of the inside back cover of the Stones & Bones.

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 Society is a non-profit corporation and all contributions are deductible when making your income tax return.

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.

MAIL TO:

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

Journals and Special Publications

Available back issues of the Society's Journal *THE JOURNAL OF ALABAMA ARCHAEOLOGY*, and all Special Publications are available from the Journal Editor. Please see back of this page for listing.

Stones and Bones Newsletter

Comments, news items, reviews and other material for inclusion in the Newsletter should be addressed to:

Stones and Bones Editor / Amos J. Wright

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— CUT HERE —

MEMBERSHIP

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JOURNAL EDITOR

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CHECKS FOR JOURNALS AND SPECIAL PUBLICATIONS TO BE MADE PAYABLE TO:

Special Publication 2 — *The Archaeological Sequence*
at Durant Bend, Dallas County, Alabama 4.50 pp
Special Publication 1 — *Fort Mitchell* 2.00 pp
Available issues of *Journal of Alabama Archaeology* prior to June 1974 (each) 1.00 pp
Available issues of *Journal of Alabama Archaeology* June 1974 Forward (each) \$4.00 pp

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Alabama Archaeological Society

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NEWSLETTER

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