

# Alabama Archaeological Society

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## STONES & BONES NEWSLETTER

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MEMBER OF THE EASTERN STATES ARCHEOLOGICAL FEDERATION

### ARCHAEOLOGY IN THE GAINESVILLE RESERVOIR: TENN - TOM WATERWAY

During the month of May, the 1976 season of archaeological investigations within the Gainesville Reservoir was begun. This reservoir is to be one of a series of locks and dams comprising the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway currently under construction by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers. The Corps of Engineers is financing the excavation of five prehistoric Indian sites to mitigate the adverse impacts the Gainesville Lock and Dam will have on the cultural resources of the project area.

A wealth of archaeological information was recovered from three sites between May 10 and December 23, 1976. The archaeological material gathered from these sites indicates they were occupied from approximately 8,000 B.C. until A.D. 1500. This material is currently undergoing analysis at The University of Alabama. Ned Jenkins has adopted a type-variety system of analysis for the study of all ceramics which will not pass through a one-half-inch screen mesh. Ceramic specimens smaller than one half inch are counted by temper group only. Hopefully these methods will allow use to delineate the regional ceramic development as well as measure the interaction of the Tombigbee population with groups in regions surrounding the Tombigbee River Basin.

The lithic artifacts are being studied by Blaine Ensor. A major goal of the lithic analysis will be to isolate culture - specific technologies - through functional and technomorphological assemblage studies, and relate them to the environment in both space and time. Lithic complexes will also be temporally correlated with known ceramic complexes and associated floral and faunal assemblages.

At Sites 1Gr1X1 and 1Pi61 a total of five prehistoric Indian houses were found. The structure located at Site 1Gr1X1 was a Middle Woodland house more than 30 feet in diameter with a central oven. At Site 1Pi61 four rectangular semi-subterranean houses were discovered which had small posts set around the interior edge of the depressed floor. These structures are almost identical to structures being built at Cahokia and in the Normandy Reservoir at approximately A.D.

May 1977

1000. Also this season it was learned that the Miller Culture population attached handles to their ceramic vessels from approximately A.D. 100 to A.D. 900 but primarily between A.D. 100 and A.D. 500. These appear to be the earliest known handles to be found north of Mesoamerica.

Fieldwork is planned to resume this spring when a Mississippian hamlet will be excavated.

*Ned Jenkins*

### EARLY ANIMAL EXTINCTIONS

We've all read of the "overkill" hypothesis during the termination of the Pleistocene: man's predation to extinction of large mammals of North America. Dr. D. K. Grayson, Department of Anthropology University of Washington, seriously doubts the validity of this hypothesis. In an article in Science, February 18, 1977, he states that this same short period saw the extinction of at least ten genera of birds - 45 percent of those known to have become extinct during the entire Pleistocene. This is about the same percentage as types of mammals - 32 genera - to become extinct during the same period. Only one of these extinct birds (Merriam's teratorns) was possibly dependent for food upon the mammals that became extinct.

Dr. Grayson states that if the early North American human population hunted to extinction such a population of such a large array of birds as diverse as these, they could not have been dependent upon big game to the degree required for overkill. He concludes that we need another explanation to explain the extinction of so many genera of fauna. It is difficult to see early hunters as responsible for the overkill of such a range of mammals from the extinct pocket gopher to the mammoth, from the extinct blackbird to the teratorns during this short period.

*Al Trowse*

### 1977 DIG DONATIONS

Exciting and informative articles which appeared on Pages 1 and 7 of the April Newsletter will hopefully influence many of our regular contributors to add their 1977 donations to their previous years' totals. The following did so last month:

Col. W. J. Given, Foley, made his 8th.

Dr. Philip Phillips, Bolton, Mass., made his 2nd consecutive annual contribution.

Lively-Long-Jesselyn Pebble Tool Papers, their 3rd addition to the Dan Jesselyn Memorial Fund in 1977.

Now is the time to make your tax deductible contribution to your Research Association's 1977 archaeological endeavor using instructions on the inside back cover of this Newsletter.

*Milt Harris*

## NOTICE

The "Search for Pleistocene Man in Alabama" needs your help. The way you can help right now is to send \$\$\$'s to help finance the work Dr. Dick Krause and Sonny Curren are now doing and have been doing over the past months. When they publish a report on their progress very soon, our Society should be able to become involved in searching out likely locations for Pleistocene Man once Dick and Sonny have told us the geographic setting and soil type to look for.

To hasten the day when we can all be involved in this exciting search, send your \$\$\$'s to: The Archaeological Research Association of Alabama, Inc., c/o Mr. William M. Spencer; Suite 1510, First National-Southern Natural Bldg.; 1900 Fifth Ave. North; Birmingham, Alabama 35203.

*Steve Wimberly*

## MEETING

The Spring Meeting of the Society for Georgia Archaeology will be held on Saturday, May 7, in Athens, Georgia, in Baldwin Hall, University of Georgia. The morning session, from 10:00 a.m. until noon, will be devoted to the business meeting. The paper session will commence at 1:30 (Eastern Time). Dr. Betty Smith, Kennesaw Junior College, is Program Chairman. Papers will include: Donald Smith of the Geochronology Laboratory of the University of Georgia, on C-14 dating; Dr. Jim Darrell, Geology Department, Georgia Southern College, palynology and the archaeologist; Dr. Bruce Smith, Department of Anthropology, University of Georgia, on faunal evidence and the faunal collection in the Laboratory of Archaeology at UGA. It is hoped that EARLY GEORGIA, Volume 3 Number 2 will be ready for this meeting.

*Marjorie Gay*

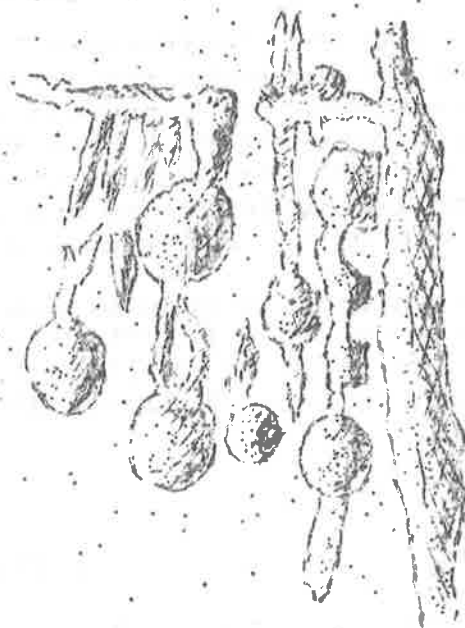
## THE QUIPU

One of the few memory or recording devices used by natives in the new world was called "quipu". Unlike the painted and carved stick bundles of the North American Indian, the quipu was made of knotted strings and used principally by the Inca in the Central Andean region of South America.

With considerable variation the quipu may be described as having a heavy main cord a few centimeters to over a meter in length, to which from one to over one hundred pendant cords of cotton or wool are attached. The pendants are rarely over one half meter in length, and are attached with a loop to the main cord. Different colors of natural or dyed yarns were used in the pendant strands, the significance of color relative to the individual usage of the quipu. White perhaps represented days to come, or silver to be paid as tax to royalty; black might represent nights of time or number dead from battle; yellow for gold; red for war or number of warriors alive; and so on....



Peruvian Rope Quipu



Monteagle, Tenn. Petroglyph

The number of knots on a single strand and their relative distance from the main cord determined the value of numbers or event importance in time. Records of population, livestock, land production, stores, as well as items of history, poetry, and family chronicles might be kept in mind with the assistance of the quipu. Unless the information was passed from generation to generation along with the same quipu, that information became lost, as there was no phonetic alphabet at the time of the quipu. The quipu was not a calculating device. Unlike the abacus with its movable beads, the knots would prove quite difficult to tie and untie with changing quantity.

The quipu came to my attention on a field trip with Bart Henson to Monteagle, Tennessee. We were investigating a series of petroglyphs found in a small bluff shelter. One of the petroglyphs had the resemblance of a quipu carved into stone inside the shelter. Whether in fact it is a stone quipu remains to be deciphered. Perhaps the shaman who had the shelter left a record of number of lodges or other record as the Incas above did many years ago.

*John Martz*

#### SUMMER PROGRAMS

Office of Archaeological Research, U.A.T., plans three digs this summer starting in May and June. Three reports on previous work will be coming off the press in the next few weeks.

*Eugene Futato*

## PUBLICATIONS - STILL AVAILABLE

University of Georgia Publications  
Laboratory of Archaeology Series

1962 - #5 Survey of Archaeological Sites in Clay and Quitman Counties, Georgia, by A. R. Kelly, Richard Nonas, Bettye Broyles, Clemens de Bailou, David W. Chase, Frank T. Schnell, Jr. - 36 pages, four tables, five maps, 25 plates. \$3 per copy from

Publication Secretary  
Department of Anthropology  
Baldwin Hall  
University of Georgia  
Athens, Georgia 30602

*Marjorie Gay*

## BOOK REVIEW

POPOL VUH, The Sacred Book of the Ancient Quiche Maya - University of Oklahoma Press, Norman, 1975 - \$6.98.

The first complete English version of the Quiche "Bible", generally regarded as America's oldest book. The Popol Vuh was first transcribed in the Quiche language (but in Latin characters) in the mid 16th century by an unknown Quiche Maya Indian, probably from the oral traditions of his people. It comprises the mythology, traditions, cosmogony and history of the Quiche Maya, including the chronology of their kings down to 1550. The original manuscript is now lost, but it was copied in the late 1800's by the parish priest of Santo Tomas Chichicastenango in the western highlands of Guatemala. Adrian Recinos, a noted Guatemalan diplomat and scholar, translated this second manuscript into Spanish in 1947; from his Spanish version it was translated into English by Delia Goetz and Maya authority Sylvanus Morley. Recinos' introduction to the 1947 Spanish version has also been translated and appears in the English version and is a valuable contribution to the understanding of the document.

## NOW AVAILABLE - 1977 FIELDWORK OPPORTUNITIES BULLETIN

Contains listings of archaeological programs in the U. S. and abroad as well as opportunities for volunteers, field schools and staff positions. Available from Archaeological Institute of America, 260 West Broadway, New York, N. Y. 10013. Price in the U. S. for non-members of AIA is \$2; for members, \$1 (for first class postage add \$.35). Foreign for non-members is \$3.50 pp; and for members, \$2.50 pp. SEND PAYMENT WITH ALL ORDERS.

*Marjorie Gay*

## TREE RING DATING

TREE RINGS AND CLIMATE by H. C. Fritts (Academy Press) is the first complete and authentic treatment of a rapidly-developing subject - dendroclimatology, or the use of tree rings to study past and present climate. It introduces the reader to the basic facts, concepts and principles of the field, describes the techniques, procedures and models currently in use, and draws together a variety of studies into a systematic and unified treatment of the subject. Emphasis is placed upon first obtaining an understanding of the botanical and statistical bases of the science before attempting to infer and reconstruct past climate. Accordingly, the important details of plant structures and processes are described and relevant statistical concepts and techniques are carefully developed. Information that has previously been widely scattered is brought together for the first time. Fritts is with the Laboratory of Tree-Ring Research, the University of Arizona.

*Al Trowse*

## NEEDED: NEW HOMES FOR OLD BRIDGES

The Alabama Historical Commission, on occasion, obtains old steel trestle bridges from county and/or state projects that would otherwise be destroyed for scrap. We are trying to find these bridges new homes as they are considered historically and architecturally important to the early days of Alabama's transportation needs. If you are undertaking a public interest preservation or restoration project or constructing a historic park and have need for these old bridges, please contact the Alabama Historical Commission at 725 Monroe Street; Montgomery, Alabama for further details.

*Mack Brooms*

## CHAPTER NEWS

Tuscaloosa: The Tuscaloosa Chapter meets on the second Thursday of each month, 7:00 p.m., in the Anthropology Seminar Room, TenHoor Hall, University of Alabama. The speaker for the May program will be Ann Noble, who will give a talk, with slides, of her work at the Koster Site, Illinois. Ann is a faunal analyst, currently working on the materials from the 1976 excavations in the Gainesville Reservoir.

Birmingham: The Birmingham 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.

Huntsville: The Huntsville Chapter meets the third Tuesday of each month at the Senior Citizens Center, 300 Church Street, N. W. At the April meeting, Pat and Deloris Roys narrated a slide presentation showing the excavation of a late Classic

Mayan village on the Rio Maria Linda in southern Guatemala. They spent three weeks in January helping uncover the remains of this village site, which contained stone tools, burials, and ceramics. The archaeological investigation was conducted under the auspices of Earthwatch with scientists from the University of Missouri. The May program will be presented by Howard King, Society President.

A special meeting of the Huntsville Chapter was called for April 7 to provide the membership a rare opportunity to hear Dr. Vernon Leslie lecture on the "Archaeology of Northeast Pennsylvania". Dr. Leslie is Director of the Pennsylvania Institute of Anthropology, Honesdale, Penn. His presentation was illustrated with slides of both typical and classic artifacts from his personal meticulously catalogued collection from that area.

Eighteen members of the Huntsville Chapter went on a field trip April 3 to the Kinlock Spring petroglyph site in the Bankhead Forest. Despite intermittent rain, the participants spent several interesting hours photographing and discussing the site.

#### POPULAR ARCHAEOLOGY MEMORIAL SERIES

A new reprint series, "Readings in American Archaeology", announces that the first volume will be the "Ripley P. Bullen Memorial Edition". While these will be reprints, the editor feels very few people will have them all in their personal library. Reprints from out-of-print journals will be included.

The volume will be about 50 pages, 8 1/2"xx 11" format, plastic bound. Prepublication price, \$2.75. After publication, \$3.75. At all times, library and group purchase of 10 copies or more, \$2.75. Order from

Popular Archaeology  
P. O. Box 4190  
Arlington, Virginia 22204

Marjorie Gay

#### THE BARTRAM TRAIL

On October 17, 1976, a bill was signed into law by President Ford which authorizes the Department of the Interior to study the feasibility of developing the Bartram Trail into a National Scenic Trail. On November 11-12 the Bartram Trail Conference was organized. At this meeting in Darien, Georgia, Martha McInnis, executive director of the Alabama Environmental Quality Association, was elected Chairman. If you are interested in membership in the Bartram Trail Conference, contact the AEQA, P. O. Box 11000, Montgomery, Alabama 36111.



Alabama has been active in leading the development of the trail. Earlier this year, the first section to receive recognition was through the Tuskegee National Forest in Macon County. Because of the interest of the Forest Service, this section is now open. In October, at Sherling Lake Park near Greenville, about 30 miles through Butler County were officially dedicated. On December 3, the Garden Club of Alabama, Inc., sponsored ground breaking for the William Bartram Arboretum at Fort Toulouse.

*Marjorie Gay*

HELP!

HELP!

HELP!

We need your help in further building our archives of the Society since it was formed. Anyone having photos, newspaper pictures or articles, or other mementos of past annual meetings and other gatherings of the Society is requested to donate these items to our archives. We are in the process of preparing an album with these items to display at our meetings so that everyone can reminisce over the "good ole days". Please send anything you may want to donate to the Chairman of the Archives Committee - Amos J. Wright; 2602 Green Mountain Road; Huntsville, Alabama 35803.

#### SPECIAL SCHOLARSHIP AND PUBLICATION FUNDS

The special funds for scholarships and publications established by the Society's Board of Directors at its February 1977 meeting are off to an excellent start, thanks largely to the generosity of Mr. Roger Schaefer. The purpose of these two special funds is to provide in each case an individual interest-bearing source which the Society may use to finance its scholarship and special publication programs. Although the principal for these accounts is to be established primarily by contributions, all income from Special Publication No. 1 and all income from Special Publication No. 2 received after December 31, 1977, goes into the Special Publications Fund. Contributions for these two special funds cannot be used for any other purpose, except for emergency situations as approved and directed by the Board. After only a brief mention of the establishment of these funds and in summary of the Board's actions in the February newsletter, the total of the two funds now stands at \$75, thanks to Roger's initiative, and will be even higher when funds from the special publications are added.



## 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.

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### 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

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### 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.

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### 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**

**2602 Green Mountain Road • Huntsville, Alabama 35803**

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### MEMBERSHIP

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 appropriate boxes are checked.

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Available issues of *Journal of Alabama Archaeology* (each) ..... \$4.00 pp  
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*Handbook of Alabama Archaeology Part II, Uniface Blade and Flake Tools* ..... 2.25 pp  
*Lively, Long, Josselyn - Pebble Tool Papers* ..... 3.00 pp

## PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

## Alabama Archaeological Society

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