

Alabama Archaeological Society

C/O Mr. & Mrs. Jerry J. Nielsen, P.O. Box 306, Daphne, Al. 36526

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7608 Teal Drive, SW
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STONES & BONES NEWSLETTER

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ATTENTION STATE BOARD MEMBERS

By this time you should have received your notice of the meeting of the Board of Directors of the Alabama Archaeological Society on Saturday, May 8, at 12 noon, at the Kings Inn, Birmingham. Plans for the summer meeting will be on the agenda along with other pertinent matters up for discussion. Please give this priority. The more central location and daylight time was set in order to meet the needs of all sections of the state.

NOMINATION

The Jere Shine Site (1Mt6, 1Mt9) has been nominated to the National Register of Historic Places and the nomination awaits approval in Washington, D.C. by the United States Department of the Interior.

According to W. Warner Floyd, executive director of the Alabama Historical Commission, Alabama now has more than 200 properties on the National Register, a prestigious listing of historically significant sites and structures.

The Montgomery County site consists of two separate but adjacent complexes which constitute a good cultural continuum ranging from Late Archaic to Woodland on one site and from Early Mississippian to proto-historic on the other. The three-mound complex of 1Mt6 is the largest in the central Alabama area.

The mounds originally were four-sided, flat-topped temple mounds, but erosion has rendered them roughly circular. A fourth mound that was located at the river's edge was destroyed both by the erosion of the river and the construction of the water-intake pipe for the Clarence T. Perry Water Purification Plant in 1965.

In 1963-64 one of the mounds and the land immediately around the water-intake pipe were excavated. This project uncovered 29 prehistoric burials and enough evidence to establish the existence of house pits and artifacts indicating a village site occupied by two distinct cultures of prehistoric peoples.

Floyd commended David Chase for the background information on the Jere Shine Site.

(Cathy Donelson, Alabama Historical Comm.)

MONEY NEEDED! MONEY NEEDED! MONEY NEEDED!

TO SEARCH FOR EARLY MAN IN ALABAMA

A year-long field study will soon begin across lower central Alabama to establish sites where remains of early man most likely can be found.

The "Black Belt" region of Alabama is the area to be studied and the Pleistocene deposits of that region will be the target.

The "Black Belt" has long been noted for its fossil deposits, but focus has been on the Cretaceous chalk formations containing myriads of fossil SEA animals. Little attention has been given the overlying and sometimes "intrusive" Pleistocene deposits containing remains of extinct LAND animals, mastodon, horse, tapir, etc.

In these Pleistocene deposits over the state line in Mississippi have been found remains of these fossil animals, and in one Mississippi deposit a fragment of human skull was found. A few pieces of chipped flint have been found also, further indication of early man's presence in the "Black Belt" region during Pleistocene times. For these reasons, the year-long study is to be undertaken in Alabama, cooperatively funded by the University of Alabama, the Alabama Historical Commission and the Archaeological Research Association of Alabama, Inc. The Research Association is asking for funds to finance its end of the study, so send your contribution to The Archaeological Research Association of Alabama, Inc. in care of Mr. William M. Spencer, Suite 1510 First National - Southern Natural Building, 1900 5th Avenue North, Birmingham, Alabama 35203.

Dr. Richard Krause will be project chairman and Cailup B. (Sonny) Curren, Jr. will serve as project director. Dr. Krause is the chairman of the Department of Anthropology at the University of Alabama and Sonny is a project archaeologist on his staff. They will welcome your participation in the field during this project. Some underwater studies will be involved. Any "Scuba Divers" reading this?

The Pleistocene study will get underway sometime prior to the coming September. You will be reading more about it in STONES & BONES. In the meantime, send in your contributions. Without even hearing about the study, two donors have already sent in donations for our 1976 archaeological work, an exchange member in Massachusetts and Mrs. Petronella Culivan, of Cullman, Alabama. We welcome with thanks these two new donors to our list of those who have contributed toward furthering archaeological research in Alabama.

(Steve Wimberly, Birmingham)

1976 ARCHAEOLOGICAL RESEARCH

Back in the days when our dearly beloved Dan Josselyn wrote these "Dig Articles" with such lavish verbiage that so splendidly encouraged our members to donate funds most generously, one of his favorite people were "New Donors," that is, first contributions from members who were sending us excavation funds. Dan would have been most proud of our folks, for among the following donors last month are TWO of his most admired:

LIVELY-LONG-JOSSELYN PAPERS, their second appearance.

Dr. Philip Phillips, Bolton, Mass., a splendid NEW DONOR, and the first this year.

Harold S. Biggs, Huntsville, his EIGHTH over the years.

Petronella Culivan, Cullman, the SECOND 1976 NEW DONOR

Mr. and Mrs. R. L. Schaefer, Decatur, their SIXTEENTH consecutive.

Dr. and Mrs. W. R. Sutton, Blountsville, their FOURTH.

THE FLINT ARROWHEAD

O'er fields of new turned sod,
Communing with my God,
I tramped along.

And in a furrowed bed,
I found an arrowhead,
Chiseled from stone.

Then fancy fled on wings,
Back to primeval things,
Seeking the light.
What warrior drew the bow,
Sighted and let it go
On its last flight?

How oft' this flinten head
On deadly errand sped,
I may not know.
Nor will the silent flint reveal
The slightest hint,
How long ago.

Were its grim story told,
What tales it would unfold,
Tales that would chill.
I know but this one thing
Beyond all questioning.
'Twas made to kill.

Ages have worn away,
Warriors gone their way.
Their bones are dust,
Proof of a craftsman's skill,
Survives the ages still,
Left in my trust.

As things are created by man,
And nature and trees
From man are everlasting
Such as these.

(Mrs. James L. McBride, Jr., Birmingham)

INDUSTRIAL ARCHAEOLOGY

Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute announces two summer credit courses in industrial archaeology - - a course in field archaeology, including laboratory and field methods in the historic industrial Poestenkill Gorge Site in Troy (New York) and a multi-discipline lecture and reading course in industrial archaeology. The courses are to run concurrently July 8 through August 20, 1976 and carrying 3 credit hours each. For further information and brochure contact the Office of Continuing Studies, Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute, Troy, New York 12181, (518) 270-6442.

(Marvin Clark, RPI, Troy, New York)

ARCHAEOLOGICAL INVESTIGATIONS IN THE LITTLE BEAR CREEK RESERVOIR

In recent months the Tennessee Valley Authority (TVA) has closed the floodgates of the Little Bear Creek Dam, A Bear Creek Watershed project located in northwest Alabama. However, prior to its completion, the University of Alabama's Office of Archaeological Research (OAR) expended two field seasons in the excavation of 12 prehistoric sites in an effort to obtain a representative sample of the cultural prehistory of the area. This work, financed by TVA, has contributed significantly to our present knowledge about the prehistory of the area.

Often the archaeologist is asked what were the most significant observations made during his investigation of a given area. Certainly for the Little Bear Creek project this query would have to be answered in multiple terms since the sites excavated cover a broad spectrum of time and function.

The investigation of the Champion Site (1Fr318) presented a rare opportunity to obtain a relatively pure sample of Late Woodland pottery. This high percentage of McKelvey ceramics consisted of both plain and cord marked sherds. Also in association, occurred a number of small triangular projectile points in sufficient quantity to make a detailed study as to their form and function. This habitation site was probably occupied between A.D. 800 and A.D. 900. Also, the occurrence of Benton Stemmed and related projectile points indicate that the Champion Site was initially occupied during the Archaic Period.

The Dam Axis Site (1Fr524) was a habitation area which was probably occupied on a seasonal basis beginning during the Archaic and continuing through Mississippian times. Numerous pits prepared for storage, cooking and other purposes were associated with virtually every occupation of the site. Of particular interest was the occurrence of deep, Late Archaic, storage pits -- many of which contained varying quantities of hickory nut shells and other occasional botanical remains. One such pit was radiocarbon dated at 1650[±]180 B.C.

The investigation of three limestone slab mortuary mounds has produced exciting new data about a previously unknown mortuary complex which appeared in the Early Middle Woodland Period about 100 B.C. and lasted until about A.D. 300. The similarities observed between these stone mounds and others, particularly those of the Ohio Valley Region, indicates that they are elements of a larger mortuary manifestation. In comparing the stone mounds of Little Bear Creek with the later Copena mounds, there seems to be little or no direct relationship. However, this statement may be revised pending additional research of these unusual mortuary practices.

Finally, one of the most important observations made during this project is the verification that thermal treatment of lithic artifacts did occur and was in use at least during Archaic and Woodland times. Analysis of archaeological specimens fashioned from yellow and red chert as well as experimental studies utilizing naturally occurring chert samples reveal that heat treatment was an important step in the manufacture of many of the lithic artifacts found within the Bear Creek Watershed.

The above statements are a few of the highlights of this 300 page, well illustrated report which may be obtained at a cost of \$10.00 each from OAR, Drawer BA, University of Alabama, University, Alabama 35486.

(Carey Oakley and Eugene Futato, OAR)

DIGGERS STRIKE IT RICH IN GARBAGE

Roy Dickens is an archaeologist at Georgia State University. But he's not interested in flying off to the Mexican jungles to hunt for Aztec tombs or diving for sunken galleons. In fact, it is a matter of some concern to Dr. Dickens that so many people hold to the "very, very mistaken view" that this kind of exotic, faraway traipsing is the archaeological norm. State students are involved in a different kind of study - an examination of artifacts found along the MARTA construction route right here in Atlanta. The biggest find so far: a late 19th century garbage dump, which has yielded an estimated 20,000 to 30,000 artifacts, ranging from bottles to chicken bones. "We're interested in learning about human behavior. We're not trying to find the unique or unusual - we're really interested in the commonplace, the things that will show how people behaved and lived in the past," explains the archaeologist. "The written records - like newspapers - will tell us who was elected mayor and when new hotels were erected, but what do they tell us about low-income and middle-class people and how their culture developed? Our written history doesn't record the daily lives of people, the common man, the industrial worker. We want to find out how they lived and what they had to do with making Atlanta what it is." The 19th century garbage dump was discovered by MARTA workmen in late November at the site of the new underpass being built at Arizona and DeKalb avenues. A team of about 18 persons, headed by Dickens, has just completed a six week "dig" at the site, recovering every conceivable artifact from two pits, 10 feet square and eight feet deep. The artifacts will be processed and analyzed at Georgia State's archaeological laboratory.

The lab is stuffed with cardboard boxes and brown paper bags, all neatly labeled to show what stratum of the pit the contents came from. The bags hold another generations garbage and this generation's archaeological treasure. "The dump apparently was a natural ravine that people filled up. We think that it dates back to about 1890 to 1910, although we aren't sure about that yet, and we hope the items in the sample will be enough to quantify patterns of life during that time," explains Dickens, an assistant professor in the anthropology department. An example, the diggers recovered a number of bottles. They'll record the number of pharmaceutical bottles versus drink bottles, and the specific kinds of bottles within each group (did it hold a patent-medicine elixir? a prescription drug? cherry pop? Jack Daniel's sour mash whisky?) These dirt encrusted pieces of "junk" from another era thus will tell Atlantans something about the medicinal habits and drinking preferences of their forefathers. Food habits will also be studied. Even beef bones, pork bones and chicken bones are likely to show up in the garbage and be elevated to the status of artifacts.

It is not entirely out of the goodness of their hearts that MARTA officials have arranged the archaeological work, although Dickens says transit people and contractors have been generally cooperative. Federal law requires the transit agency to arrange for archaeological surveys along the construction route, and to the extent feasible, permit investigation or preservation of significant archaeological sites. So far MARTA has contracted about \$12,900 worth of archaeological work to Georgia State, with Dickens in charge, and along with Gary Barber and Kelly Lohman who are assisting him, are about 15 archaeology students who are volunteering their time. "It is a tremendous bargain for MARTA," says Dickens. Where else along the MARTA line will the archaeologists work? Anywhere significant sites are found. That is one reason Dickens is so excited about the work: it permits the sampling of cultural material from an inner-city to suburb, and likely through several time periods. "Urban archaeology is a new field which has just come into its own in the last 10 years," adds the professor.

(From the Atlanta Journal and Constitution, Sunday, February 29, 1976)

INDUSTRIAL EVOLUTION:
NEW ARCHAEOLOGY BREED STUDIES MANUFACTURING

If you carefully avoid looking out of the corner of your eye, you can almost imagine that you're watching the excavation of some ancient Ionian city. The site of the archaeological "dig" is carefully marked by a grid of white string and stakes. A group of sweating college students and local laborers hacks away with pick and shovel in a four-foot-deep pit, carefully uncovering crumbling brick and stone walls. It takes only a glance upward, however, to dispel any notion this is the site of ancient Ephesus. Instead, it is a vacant lot in a litter-strewn, partially abandoned industrial district only a few blocks from downtown Paterson (New Jersey). In the distance can be seen streams of rushing traffic along Interstate 80, and constantly there is the roar of diesel-powered city buses pulling in and out of an old trolley barn nearby. Yet, Ed Rutsch, a bearded giant of a man, is an archaeologist, and several months ago, when this scene took place, he was overseeing a true "dig." He and his crew of 20 were uncovering the ruins of the boiler shop of the Rogers Locomotive Works, an enterprise that, beginning in the 1830s, built many of the steam railroad engines that conquered the West, supplied the armies of the Civil War and even hurtled along the new tracks of the Trans-Siberian Railroad.

Poking around in the remains of an old factory may not seem as romantic as uncovering an ancient Greek amphitheater. But it is a pursuit that is intriguing a growing group of scholars ranging from architects and engineers to historians and anthropologists. Dubbing themselves "industrial archaeologists" and using the same techniques used to unravel the mysteries of ancient civilizations, these researchers are trying to discover and record how American industry moved from colonial cottages to the vast mechanized and automated complex it is today. Although the industrial revolution began in the U.S. only about 200 years ago, there already are tremendous gaps in the knowledge of how it occurred. Records and artifacts of entire industrial processes, including some in use as recently as the 1920s, either have been lost or, often, were never made. And the machines and buildings which would give clues to how an industry evolved are rapidly being destroyed or buried by parking lots, housing developments and new factories. If Paterson is any indication, American cities are being buried several times faster than ancient Troy; the archaeologists in Paterson found foundations barely a century old at depths of eight to 12 feet, Mr. Rutsch says. It took 5,000 years for 50 feet of debris to build up over ancient Troy.

The fact that the dig took place at all is due to a rare and costly bit of cooperation between the highway builders and the archaeologists. Originally, the highway builders had planned a combination tunnel and ditch drain costing about \$100,000, a spokesman for the New Jersey Department of Transportation says. But when the historic value of the district was realized, the state and the U.S. Department of Transportation not only shelled out \$340,000 for the archaeological study but, afterwards, decided to tunnel completely underneath the district at a cost of \$997,000 in order to avoid the archaeologists' discoveries. (From the Wall Street Journal, Thursday, June 26, 1975, submitted by Justin M. Salyards, Pass Christian, Mississippi)

FROM THE VALLEY NEWS DIGEST

The Alabama Historical Commission has requested bids for the first phase of restoration of Fendall Hall in Eufaula. Plans for restoration of the Barbour Street Antebellum mansion were drawn by Mobile architect, Nicholas H. Holmes, Jr., who is well known for his restoration of historic structures.

FIBER TEMPERED POTTERY

A Florida publication which is the revised versions of four contributions to a seven paper symposium held at the 68th Annual Meeting of the AAA in New Orleans in 1969, is titled "Fiber Tempered Pottery in Southeastern United States and Northern Colombia: Its Origins, Context and Significance," edited by Ripley P. Bullen and James B. Stoltman. This study goes further than to just describe the pottery and addresses the controversial problem of cultural contact between South America and the southeastern United States. Sites are not known which would indicate this contact, though it must always be recognized that such could exist under the Gulf of Mexico off Florida's coast where sites with fiber tempered pottery are known to be underwater. This pottery can be objected to as trait-unit intrusion, if not of independent invention. The report does not contain very much data about fiber tempered pottery in Alabama. John Griffin touches on the Wheeler Series very lightly for North Alabama in the Tennessee Valley. He points out that more information must be uncovered from adjacent areas, namely perhaps the Tombigbee drainage.

In a later Florida publication, The Florida Anthropologist, Vol. 28, No. 1, March 1975, Ned Jenkins has updated the archaeological record for west central Alabama with a detailed report on the Wheeler Series. Recent work in the Tombigbee drainage yielded more information on the Wheeler Series which leads Jenkins to feel that the fiber tempered pottery was brought from the Georgia-Carolina coast along the Gulf, north of Peninsular Florida to the Pearl-Pascagoula drainage by the movement of the Stallings Island people. From the Gulf, these people moved to the interior east Mississippi and then over to the Tombigbee drainage and eventually to the headwaters of this river to the western Tennessee Valley where John Griffin had reported it.

In the center of this distribution area, a curious blank is strikingly apparent, the Chattahoochee Valley where fiber tempered pottery has been reported over a period of the last fifteen years, a continuous distribution in excavated finds from the Florida line well up above the fall line. Some of these reports are: The King's Pond Site, Fort Benning (Chase, David W. Manuscript, University of Georgia, Athens), other sites in the Chattahoochee Valley (DeJarnette, David L., 1975, Archaeological Salvage in the Walter F. George Basin of the Chattahoochee River in Alabama, University of Alabama Press, University), The Archaic of the Walter F. George Reservoir Area (Huscher, Harold A., 1964, Proceedings of the 19th Southeastern Archaeological Conference, 1962, Bulletin 1,) and The Standing Boy Flint Industry (Huscher, Harold A., 1964, Southern Indian Studies, Volume XVI, October). The important point is that the fiber tempered pottery is found in sites throughout the central area, but just as one or two sherds in test holes at salvage sites for which no further funding is available. Surface collections and sherds from a couple of test holes are not satisfactory enough to document a background for the importance of the ware in the Chattahoochee Valley. More of these sites must be intelligently tested, analyzed and reported and published. Most of the excavations in the valley have been at well known bottom sites, farmed for centuries. The lesser recognized sites in the uplands are eroded and usually recognized only after the soil and gravel have been removed. We are not collecting enough good evidence for all our conclusions because of the lack of comprehensive surveys and because sites are not recognized until their complete destruction...if then. We might be able to locate more of these sites if reference was made more often to some earlier reports such as those of the Smithsonian.

(Marjorie Gay, East Alabama Chapter)

ANNOUNCEMENTS - STATE NEWS

NEW MEMBERS IN APRIL

Arizona State University, Library Periodicals, Tempe, Arizona 85281 (Inst)
Philip Phillips, Old Sugar Road, Bolton, Mass. 01740 (Sustaining)
Mrs. Bibs Page, Box 371, Watervliet, Michigan 49098
Joe Washington, 2213 Madison Avenue, Montgomery, Alabama 36107 (Family)
Rucker Agee, #2 Beechwood Road Mt. Brook, Birmingham, Alabama 35213
Robert A. Strozier, Jr., 2068 Vestavia Lake Drive, Birmingham, Alabama (Associate)

CHAPTER NEWS

Birmingham, Red Mountain Museum Complex, 1st Wednesday, 7:30pm, Tom Hutto 595-7106.
A special meeting was held April 4th during which Randy Gray, a professional geologist, gave a lecture about Red Mountain Geology. Later that same day a flint knapping session was held for members in the K-Mart East parking lot by T. J. Hutto. The May 5th meeting will be conducted by Dr. Roger Nance and the subject will be "Current Methods Used in Field Work."

Cullman, City Hall, 3rd Monday, 7:30pm, Eulis King 734-4548.

The April 19th meeting was presented by Amos Wright from Huntsville on the Mound Builders of the Ohio Valley.

East Alabama, Comer Hall Auditorium, 2nd Wednesday, 7:30pm, Dru McGowan 821-2595.
Dendochronology and its uses was discussed at a lively meeting of the chapter at the April 14th meeting. Dr. Harold O. Beales, associate professor of forestry at Auburn University, and a real authority on woods and woods products, related tree-ring dating techniques to the Lindberg kidnapping case as well as illustrating its application to archaeology. Watch the local media for information on the program for the May 12th meeting.

Huntsville, Fellowship Center, Senior Citizens Bldg., 3rd Tues., 7pm, Cindy Sims 536-2939. The March 16th meeting was conducted by William Wesley who gave a fine talk on the Constitution Hall excavations. At the April 20th meeting each member is bringing an artifact or slides to show the other members. Seven members of the chapter are presently taking a course at UAH on Southeastern Archaeology being taught by Carey B. Oakley, Jr., of the University of Alabama.

Morgan-Limestone, Decatur City Hall, 3rd Thursday, 7:00pm, Rodger Schaefer.

The April 22nd meeting featured Tom Moebs who gave an interesting lecture on the Archaic Culture. This is the third talk in the series on the various cultures found in northern Alabama.

Muscle Shoals, Indian Mound Museum, 2nd Monday, Gerald Hester 764-2249.

Tuscaloosa, Ferguson Center, 2nd Tuesday, 7:30pm, Eugene Futato 345-8724.

ARTICLES NEEDED

Following our last request a great deal of information for upcoming issues of the STONES & BONES was received. Still more is needed, however, if we are to have something other than blank pages to send out each month. You would be surprised just how many words it takes to fill up eight pages. Our thanks is extended to those who have contributed and we will be watching the mails for additional information.

SHARE WITH A FRIEND

Remove the back page of this issue of the newsletter and give it to a friend so they may join our society. Show them a copy of our Journal and the newsletter and make a special effort to share the society and archaeology with a friend.

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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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.

The coupon below, after being completed to show information in each blank, should accompany your contribution, to insure proper credit and acknowledgment.

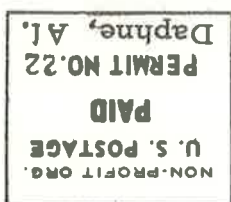
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Alabama Archaeological Society
C/O MR. & MRS. JERRY J. NIELSEN
P. O. BOX 306
Daphne, Alabama 36526

PUBLICATIONS AVAILABLE

<i>Handbook of Alabama Archaeology Part I, Point Types</i>	\$7.35 pp
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