Alabama Archaeological Society

Associate Editors Bart Henson Dorothy Luke



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

MEMBER OF THE EASTERN STATES ARCHEOLOGICAL FEDERATION

AAS 1979 SUMMER MEETING

The program and arrangements for the Summer Meeting have been completed, reports Dr. George Tanton, President of the hosting Huntsville Chapter. Mark your calendar for <u>Saturday</u>, <u>July 14</u>, <u>1979</u>, at the Hilton Inn in downtown Huntsville.

The Program Committee has scheduled a variety of subjects to be presented by outstanding scientific investigators from the southeast.

Regardless of your particular interest in the area of archaeology and anthropology, there will undoubtedly be a presentation with new and valuable information which you will especially enjoy. If your interest is in lithics and lithic technology, you will certainly want to hear Dr. Barbara Purdy, an authority on this subject from the University of Florida, describe the results of her years of research and experimentation in the heat treatment of lithics.

Be you "for" or "against" the Tennessee Tombigbee Waterway - the biggest Civil engineering project since the Panama Canal - you will want to hear Mr. Carey Oakley, Director of the Office of Archaeological Research at the University of Alabama, summarize the results of several years or archaeological salvage work in the waterway. Or, perhaps, the presentation by Dr. Charles Faulkner, Professor of Anthropology at the University of Tennessee, on the aboriginal history of eastern Tennessee and adjacent states, with emphasis on current research in the Middle Woodland, would be to your liking.

How about pre-Columbian visits or migrations to America by Europeans? Not sure? Better listen to Dr. Albert Casey's evidence before you make any bets. Dr. Casey, Pathologist at the University of Alabama Medical School in Birmingham, has gathered information through the analysis of tens of thousands of blood groups and physical measurements which suggest that some European cultures strongly identify with native Americans, including the Alabama Shell Mound People in the Tennessee Valley!

Don't forget the archaeological exhibits table; Journal Editor Eugene Futato will also have a table where he will display available Society publications. Enjoy the films on lithic technology.

Interested in the historic? Be sure to take the guided tour of Historic Huntsville. If you stay over until Sunday, perhaps you can tour the world's largest space museum - Huntsville's Space and Rocket Center - or visit the Burritt Museum on Monte Sano; or the Museum of Art at the Von Braun Civic Center. Russell Cave National Monument is approximately one hour's drive from Huntsville on Highway 72 East. Information on these and other local attractions will be available at the meeting.

Displays

Archaeological exhibits and displays are welcome, and tables will be provided for this purpose. Descriptive technical information (area, type, culture, use, etc.) should be an integral part of each display for maximum effectiveness. Cased displays are recommended where practical.

There is a registration fee of \$3.00, which covers all activities. To save meeting attendees' time and reduce driving, a luncheon has been arranged in a room adjacent to the meeting room. The luncheon is \$5.50 and includes tax and gratuity. Pre-registration is encouraged to save time Saturday morning and to assist those planning the noon meal and seating arrangements. A form is enclosed with this newsletter for your convenience in advance registration.

If overnight accommodations are desired, please contact the motel of your choice directly. Rooms at the Hilton cost \$28 single; \$34 double. Several area motels are:

Hilton Inn (Meeting Location) - Freedom Plaza at Williams Street - Tel. 533-1400
Ramada Inn - 3502 Memorial Parkway, S. W. (Highway 431) - Tel. 881-4151
Carriage Inn - 3811 University Drive, N. W. (Highway 72 West) - Tel. 837-5555
Sheraton Motor Inn - 4404 University Drive, N. W. (Highway 72 West) - Tel. 837-3250

Holiday Inn - 3810 University Drive, N. W. (Highway 72 West) - Tel. 837-7171

The Huntsville Convention and Visitors Bureau maintains a 24-hour tourist information line (533-5723) and can supply information on the many other motels in the area. Please use their enclosed flyer for an area map and note that the Hilton Inn is across the street from the Art Museum/Von Braun Civic Center.

TENTATIVE SCHEDULE - AAS 1979 SUMMER MEETING

Saturday, July 14, 1979 Hilton Inn - on Freedom Plaza Across from the Von Braun Civic Center

8:30 a.m 9:30 a.m.	Registration, Coffee and Donuts, View Displays
9:30 a.m 9:45 a.m.	Welcoming Remarks
9:45 a.m11:00 a.m.	Dr. Barbara Purdy, University of Florida, "The Place of the Chipped Stone Tool Industry in the Broader Culture"
11:00 a.m12:00 p.m.	Mr. Carey Oakley, University of Alabama, 'Status of Archaeological Research along the Tennessee-Tombigbee Waterway'
12:00 p.m 1:00 p.m.	Lunch and Presentation of Awards*
1:00 p.m 2:00 p.m.	Dr. Charles Faulkner, University of Tennessee, "The Owl Hollow - McFarland Projects: On-Going Middle Woodland Research on the Highland Rim of Tennessee"
2:00 p.m 3:15 p.m.	Dr. Albert Casey, University of Alabama Medical School in Birmingham, "Odyssey of the Irish Docu- mented by Differential Craniometry and Blood Group Analysis"
3:15 p.m 3:30 p.m.	Break - Refreshments
3:30 p.m 4:30 p.m.	Selected Films on Lithic Technology** (Meeting of the Alabama Archaeological Society Board of Directors Concurrent with Film Presentation)
4:30 p.m 6:00 p.m.	Guided Walking Tour of Historic Huntsville (A 15-passenger mini-bus is available for those who prefer not to walk.)

^{*}Lunch will be served in a dining room adjacent to the meeting room, followed by the Luncheon Speaker.

**Requested Films:

- 1. "Blades and Pressure Flaking" Dr. Francois Bordes, Professor of Prehistory at the University of Bordeaux, France.
- 2. "Early Stone Tools" Dr. Bordes and Don Crabtree, an expert in lithic technology.

CHAPTER NEWS

- Birmingham Chapter The Birmingham Chapter meets the second Thursday of each month at the Red Mountain Museum. Call Tom Hutto at 956-1895 for further information.
- Cullman Chapter The speaker at the May meeting of the Cullman Chapter was

 Mr. Howard King, who presented a program on Cullman County archaeology. The next Chapter meeting will be June 18.
- East Alabama Chapter The Chapter meets the second Wednesday of each month in Thach Auditorium, Auburn University, at 7:30. For information, call Dru McGowen at 821-2595.
- Huntsville Chapter The program at the May Huntsville Chapter meeting was presented by Mr. Roy Cochran, a native Huntsvillean with a B.A. and Masters in Anthropology from the University of Arkansas. Mr. Cochran's topic was "Mississippian Indians in Northeastern Arkansas". The Huntsville Chapter meets the third Tuesday of each month in the Arts Council Conference Room, Von Braun Civic Center, at 7:00 p.m.
- Muscle Shoals Chapter The Muscle Shoals Chapter held its June meeting on the 11th at the Indian Mound and Museum in Florence. The Chapter had a hamburger cookout on top of the Indian Mound. Twenty-five members and guests attended. For the program, color slides that the Chapter had made a few years ago for point identification were shown. The Chapter hopes to continue to make more slides and upgrade its slide collection and make it available to other chapters.

SEVEN MILE ISLAND AREA ADDED TO THE NATIONAL REGISTER

The Seven Mile Island Area in Pickwick Lake has recently been added to the National Register. This area should now receive better protection from industrial and commercial developments. A number of interested persons helped make this registration possible. At the risk of omitting some, I would like to mention many of those who participated in the project: Al Beinlich of Sheffield; Jimmy Walden, Tom Hendrix, Alfred McCroskey and Charles Moore of Florence; Charles Hubbert of Collinwood, Tennessee; Bennett Graham of Chattanooga; Carey Oakley, Bob Lafferty and Blaine Ensor of the University of Alabama; Ned Jenkins and Eugene Futato of Moundville; Warner Floyd and members of the Alabama Historical Commission.

Charles Moore Florence

COOSA RIVER STUDY

Auburn University will be conducting a cultural resource reconnaissance of the Coosa River valley this year. This investigation will provide a first-stage planning document for the Mobile District, Corps of Engineers. The research area will include a five-mile-wide corridor within the Coosa River valley from Fort Toulouse to Gadsden. While not all of the known or unknown archaeological and historical sites within this corridor will be visited, it is expected that a sufficient number will be evaluated so as to gather general impressions of the archaeology, history, and geography of the region. Members of the Alabama Archaeological Society who wish to have input in this reconnaissance should notify:

Greg Waselkov (or John Cottier)
Department of Sociology and Anthropology
Auburn University
Auburn, Alabama 36830

Tel. (205) 826-5049/5050

Needed is information on the location of archaeological sites, events of the local history, and other items of local data. Members of the Alabama Archaeological Society living within the general area are being asked to assist, as possible, with this study - either by providing information or in various aspects of the field work.

John Cottier Auburn

1979 SUMMER FIELD SCHOOL

The Fenster School Archaeology Program will conduct a Summer Field School July 2 to August 10 on prehistoric archaeology: investigations into Sabino Canyon Ruin, a prehistoric Hohokam village. Contact Fenster School; 8500 Ocotillo Drive; Tucson, Arizona 85715.

WHERE DID CHIEF JOSEPH GET A CUNEIFORM TABLET?

Among the effects of Chief Joseph, the famed leader of the Nez Perce Indians, was a clay tablet bearing a cuneiform inscription. The tablet transmits no startling message, being merely a receipt for one lamb changing hands. But where did a Northwest Indian chief get a 3,000-year-old clay tablet? The tablet first came to light around 1878, long before cuneiform tablets became common on the artifacts market. Still, it could have been a gift from some missionary or tourist - or even planted as a hoax.

(From Science Frontiers, June 1979)

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RAMSES HOOKED ON TOBACCO

French scientists examining the stomach of Egyptian Pharoah Ramses II found fragments of tobacco leaves. Further analysis of the 3,200-year-old mummy indicated the presence of nicotine in the body. Conventional wisdom has it that tobacco was unknown in the Old World until the Spanish brought it back from the Americas in the 16th century.

(From Science Frontiers, June 1979)

ARCHAEOLOGICAL SITE NOW NATIONAL LANDMARK

Etowah Mounds Archaeological Area has been designated a National Historical Landmark. Located at Cartersville, Georgia, it is open to the public. A museum exhibits artifacts from the site. Recent excavations (1964-1965) have uncovered more than 200 ceremonial burials in Mound C. An in-situ exhibition shows some of the excavated area.

Marjorie Gay Standing Rock

LATE WISCONSINAN SEA LEVELS

Late Wisconsinan Sea Levels on the Southeast U. S. Atlantic Shelf Based on In-Place Shoreline Indicators -

Shoreline indicators obtained in vibracores permit new observations concerning Wisconsinan sea levels. Establishment of sea-level curves has generally been hampered by the difficulties involved in obtaining in-place shoreline indicators.

Pleistocene-Holocene sea-level curves commonly used for the U. S. Atlantic Coast are those of Milliman and Emery and Curray. Milliman and Emery have a much lower sea level from 16,000 to 11,000 years before present (B. P.) than Curray.

From 25,000 to 18,000 years B.P., Milliman and Emery have a higher sea level than Curray. All curves are water depth-location curves because they are attempts to locate past sea levels on the shelf or slope.

In 1975 a series of vibra-cores was obtained on two cross-shelf transects, a 10-core transect across the southern North Carolina shelf and an 11-core transect across the shelf at Charleston, South Carolina. From the cores, seven fixed shoreline dates were obtained for materials that were deposited at sea level and were not subsequently transported.

Our data indicate that at approximately 36,000 years B.P., sea level stood at the present-day shoreline (0m). From 36,000 until 22,500 years B.P., there was a lowering of the sea to between -10 and -20m. We lack data on the maximum low stand, which presumably occurred at 18,000 to 19,000 years B.P.

From 17,000 to 10,000 years B. P., sea level climbed from about -60 to -22m in relation to present sea level.

The proposed sea levels apply scientifically to the South Carolina continental shelf area. Shelves in other areas may have had different histories, particularly shelves adjacent to glaciated areas. The South Carolina shelf area has apparently been tectonically stable over the last 30,000 years, and the proposed sea levels should be applicable to the entire southeastern United States. Compared to other sea-level curves, our data indicate that substantially less ice was present from 17,000 to 10,000 years B.P. Our data strongly suggest that the late Wisconsinan maximum regression was not as profound as has been indicated in the literature. Within the time span represented by our sea-level data, a low stand as great as 100m or more would require catastrophic rates of regression and transgression.

(By Blake W. Blackwelder, Orrin H. Pilkey and James D. Howard, from SCIENCE, 11 May 1979)

NOTE

Mr. Thomas Cornell; 2621 Bonita Circle, S. W.; Huntsville, Alabama 35801, tel. 534-8926, is a member of the 1979 AAS Publicity Committee. Mr. Cornell's name was inadvertently omitted from the listing of the Society's committees published in the June issue of STONES & BONES.

PUBL	ICATIO	NS AVAILABLE			
Archaeological Salvage in the Walter F. George					
a hardbound report, published by University of	Alabama Pro	ess (\$2.50 to members)	\$5.00 pp		
Available issues of Journal of Alabama Archaeolo Vol. 20-24 (\$2.50 to Members)	<i>gy</i> Vol. 13-1	8	\$1.00 pp \$4.00 pp		
Stanfield-Worley Bluff Shelter Excavations (Journ Vol. VIII Nos. 1 & 2 - Reprint)		377	\$5.00 pp		
Special Publication 1 — Fort Mitcheil					
Special Publication 2 — The Archaeological Sec Durant Bend, Dallas County, Alabama	,		\$4.50 pp		
Handbook of Alabama Archaeology Part I, Point 1					
Lively, Long, Josselyn - Pebble Tool Paper					
Investigations in Russell Cave, published by the National Parks Service					
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Mr. Amos J. Wright 2602 Green Mountain Road SE Huntsville, Alabama 35803

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